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# On the Clebsch-Gordan Series of Semisimple Lie Algebras 

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#### Abstract

Starting from a formula of Steinberg, we derive a simple representation theorem for the highest weights in the decomposition of a tensor product of irreducible modules into irreducible constituents which is valid for arbitrary split semisimple Lie algebras (over a field of characteristic 0 ). Furthermore we use the formula of Steinberg to evaluate the multiplicities of the irreducible modules corresponding to these highest weights for special Lie algebras.


## Introduction

In the physical literature, there exist quite a few papers about the Clebsch-Gordan series of $S U_{\mathbf{3}}{ }^{\mathbf{1}}$ ). But it seems that it has been overlooked that Steinberg ${ }^{2}$ ) has given a formula for the decomposition of a tensor product of irreducible modules into irreducible constituents which is valid for arbitrary split semisimple Lie algebras over a field of characteristic 0 . The formula of Steinberg expresses the multiplicities of the irreducible constituents by a double sum over the Weyl group $W$. Hence to determine the multiplicities, one only has to know the root system.

In § 1 we discuss briefly the formula of Steinberg. Starting from this formula, we prove a general representation theorem for the highest weights in the decomposition of the tensor product in $\S 2$. With the help of this theorem, we can easily determine the multiplicities of the irreducible modules corresponding to these highest weights for special Lie algebras. This is carried out in $\S 3$ for the algebras $A_{2}, G_{2}$, and $A_{3}$.

## § 1. The Formula of Steinberg

Let $\mathfrak{M}_{\Lambda^{\prime}}$ and $\mathfrak{M}_{\Lambda^{\prime \prime}}$ be two finite dimensional irreducible modules with the highest weights $\Lambda^{\prime}$ and $\Lambda^{\prime \prime}$ of a finite dimensional semisimple Lie algebra $\mathfrak{L}$ over a field of characteristic 0 . Further we assume that $\mathfrak{L}$ has a splitting Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{H}$ (the characteristic roots of every $a d(h), h \in \mathfrak{H}$, are in the base field). If the base field is algebraically closed, any finite dimensional Lie algebra is of course split.

The tensor product $\mathfrak{M}_{\Lambda^{\prime}} \otimes \mathfrak{M}_{\Lambda^{\prime \prime}}$ is, according to a general theorem, completely reducible (this is the case for arbitrary finite dimensional Lie algebras over a field of characteristic 0). Let

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathfrak{M}_{A^{\prime}} \otimes \mathfrak{M}_{A^{\prime \prime}}=\underset{A}{\oplus} m_{\Lambda} \mathfrak{M}_{\Lambda} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

be its decomposition into irreducible modules with the multiplicities $m_{A}$, then the formula of Steinberg reads

$$
\begin{equation*}
m_{\Lambda}=\sum_{S, T \in W} \operatorname{det}(S T) P\left[S\left(\Lambda^{\prime}+\delta\right)+T\left(\Lambda^{\prime \prime}+\delta\right)-(\Lambda+2 \delta)\right] . \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The sum on the right hand side of (2) extends over the Weyl group $W$. This group is finite and is generated by the reflections at the simple roots (hence det $(S T)= \pm 1$ ). $\delta$ is one half of the sum of all positive roots: $\delta=1 / 2 \sum_{\alpha>0} \alpha . P[M]$ is the number of solutions of $\sum_{\alpha>0} k_{\alpha} \alpha=M$, where the $k_{\alpha}$ are non-negative integers. From this definition follows that $P[M]$ is different from zero only if $M$ is an integral linear function over the Cartan algebra $\mathfrak{S}^{*}$ ).

It is perhaps useful to see how one can immediately obtain from (2) the usual Clebsch-Gordan series for the Lie algebra $A_{1}$. Let $\alpha$ be the only positive root; $\lambda=\alpha / 2$ is the fundamental dominant weight; $\delta=\alpha / 2$. The Weyl group consists simply of $I$ and $S_{\alpha}\left(S_{\alpha}\right.$ : reflection at the root $\left.\alpha\right)$, i.e. $W$ is the cyclic group $Z_{2}$. We put $\Lambda^{\prime}=m^{\prime} \lambda$, $\Lambda^{\prime \prime}=m^{\prime \prime} \lambda, \Lambda=m \lambda ; m, m^{\prime}, m^{\prime \prime}$ non-negative integers. If we assume that $m^{\prime} \geqslant m^{\prime \prime}$, then the only terms which contribute to the sum of the right hand side of (2) are $(S, T)=(1,1)$ and $(S, T)=(1, S)$. We obtain

$$
m_{\Lambda}=P\left[\frac{m^{\prime}+m^{\prime \prime}-m}{2} \alpha\right]-P\left[\frac{m^{\prime}-m^{\prime \prime}-m-2}{2} \alpha\right]
$$

which means: $m_{A}=1$ for $m=m^{\prime}+m^{\prime \prime}, m^{\prime}+m^{\prime \prime}-2, \ldots m^{\prime}-m^{\prime \prime}$ and $m_{A}=0$ in all other cases.

## §2. A Representation Theorem for $\boldsymbol{\Lambda}$ in (1)

In this paragraph we prove the following
Theorem. The highest weights in (1) necessarily have the form

$$
\Lambda=\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}-\sum_{j=1}^{l} n_{j} \alpha_{j}
$$

with non-negative integers $n_{j}$ and the simple system of roots $\pi=\left(\alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}, \ldots \alpha_{l}\right)$.
Proof: To prove this theorem, we need the following

[^0]Lemma. For $S \in W$ and $S \neq I, \delta-S \delta$ is a non zero sum of distinct positive roots*).
This lemma can be found in ${ }^{3}$ ). For reasons of completeness repeat the short proof:
Since the Weyl group simply permutes the roots, $S \delta=\delta-\Sigma \beta$, where the summation is taken over the $\beta=-S \alpha>0$. If there would be no such $\beta$, then $S \alpha>0$ for all $\alpha$. Then simple roots would be carried over into simple ones (compare footnote pag. 57), i.e. $S \pi=\pi$. According to a well known theorem ${ }^{4}$ ), we could conclude $S=I$, contrary to hypothesis.

Since also the weights are simply permuted under the Weyl group, especially $S \Lambda$ is a weight if $\Lambda$ is the highest weight (dominant integral linear function on $\mathfrak{H}$ ) of an irreducible module. According to a well known theorem it can be represented as $S \Lambda=\Lambda-\sum_{j=1}^{l} k_{j} \alpha_{j}$ with non-negative integers $k_{j}$.

Hence, using the lemma, we get for $S \neq I$

$$
S(\Lambda+\delta)=\Lambda+\delta-\sum k_{j} \alpha_{j}-(\delta-S \delta)=\Lambda+\delta-\sum \varkappa_{j} \alpha_{j}
$$

where the $\varkappa_{j}$ are non-negative integers which do not vanish simultaneously.
The general argument of $P$ in (3), which we simply denote with $X_{S, T}$, is for $(S, T) \neq(1,1)$ therefore of the form

$$
\begin{gathered}
X_{S, T}=\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}-\Lambda-\sum w_{j} \alpha_{j} \\
w_{j} \text { non-negative integers, not all }=0 .
\end{gathered}
$$

From this one easily concludes, that a necessary condition for $m_{A} \neq 0$ is

$$
\begin{equation*}
P\left[\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}-\Lambda\right] \neq 0 \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

In order to translate this condition into an explicit form, we put

$$
\Lambda^{\prime}=\sum m_{s}^{\prime} \lambda_{s}, \Lambda^{\prime \prime}=\sum m_{s}^{\prime \prime} \lambda_{s}, \Lambda=\sum m_{s} \lambda_{s}
$$

$\lambda_{s} ; s=1, \ldots l$ are the fundamental dominant weight (compare footnote pag. 57). If we expand the $\lambda_{s}$ in terms of the simple roots, the condition $\lambda_{j}\left(h_{i}\right)=\delta_{i j}$ immediately shows that the expansion matrix is the inverse Cartan matrix, i.e.

$$
\begin{equation*}
\lambda_{i}=\sum\left(A^{-1}\right)_{j i} \alpha_{i} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{i j}^{\text {Def. }}=\frac{2\left(\alpha_{i}, \alpha_{j}\right)}{\left(\alpha_{i}, \alpha_{i}\right)}=\alpha_{j}\left(h_{i}\right) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

hence

$$
\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}-\Lambda=\sum \alpha_{j}\left(\sum_{s}\left(A^{-1}\right)_{j s} \Delta m_{s}\right)
$$

with

$$
\Delta m_{s}=m_{s}^{\prime}+m_{s}^{\prime \prime}-m_{s}
$$

[^1](4) requires that
$$
\sum_{s}\left(A^{-1}\right)_{j s} \Delta m_{s}=n_{j}
$$
with non-negative $n_{j}$. From this we get
\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
m_{s}=m_{s}^{\prime}+m_{s}^{\prime \prime}-\sum A_{s j} n_{j} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

or

$$
\Lambda=\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}-\sum A_{s j} n_{j} \lambda_{s}
$$

and with (5)

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Lambda=\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}-\sum n_{j} \alpha_{j} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

what we intended to prove.
We remark that not for every $\Lambda$ of the form (8) (with $\Lambda$ dominant) $m_{\Lambda}$ has to be different from zero. Indeed, one easily finds counter examples. On the other hand, the weight $\Lambda=\Lambda^{\prime}+\Lambda^{\prime \prime}$ always appears with multiplicity one. For practical purposes the formula (7) is more useful. Of course, the $n_{j}$ are restricted by the condition

$$
\sum A_{s j} n_{j} \leq m_{s}^{\prime}+m_{s}^{\prime \prime}
$$

## § 3. Evaluation of Steinberg's Formula for Special Lie algebras

To decompose the tensor product (1), we can now, according to the theorem of $\S 2$, restrict ourself to dominant weights $\Lambda$ of the form (8). For the calculation of the multiplicities $m_{A}$, we have to know explicitly the $X_{S, T}$, i.e. we have to determine expressions of the type $S(\Lambda+\delta)(\Lambda=$ highest weight, $S \epsilon W)$.

We first derive a generally valid recursion formula which is useful for this purpose.
A reflection $S_{i}$ at a simple root $\alpha_{i}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{i} \alpha_{j}=\alpha_{j}-A_{i j} \alpha_{i} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now, the following equation holds: $S_{i} \delta=\delta-\alpha_{i}$. This is due to the fact that $S_{i} \alpha>0$ if $\alpha>0$, except for $\alpha=\alpha_{i}$, where of course $S_{i} \alpha_{i}=-\alpha_{i}\left(\right.$ compare $\left.{ }^{5}\right)$ ). Hence

$$
S_{i} \delta=\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{\alpha>0 \\ \alpha \neq \alpha_{i}}} \alpha-\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{i}=\delta-\alpha_{i}
$$

From this we get

$$
S_{i}(\Lambda+\delta)=\sum_{s, j} m_{s}\left(A^{-1}\right)_{j s} S_{i} \alpha_{j}+\delta-\alpha_{i}
$$

or with (9)

$$
\begin{equation*}
S_{i}(\Lambda+\delta)=\Lambda+\delta-\left(m_{i}+1\right) \alpha_{i} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now we put for $S \epsilon W$

$$
S(\Lambda+\delta)-(\Lambda+\delta)=-\sum_{i} \sigma_{j}(S) \alpha_{j}
$$

then we get from (10) the following recursion formula

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{j} \sigma_{j}\left(S_{i} S\right) \alpha_{j}=\left(m_{i}+1\right) \alpha_{i}+\sum_{j} \sigma_{j}(S) \alpha_{j}-\sum_{j} \sigma_{j}(S) A_{i j} \alpha_{i} \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

We turn now to special Lie algebras.

## 1. Example: $A_{2}$

Let $\alpha_{1}$ and $\alpha_{2}$ be the two simple roots for $A_{2}$. The Cartan matrix is

$$
\left(A_{i j}\right)=\left(\begin{array}{rr}
2 & -1 \\
-1 & 2
\end{array}\right)
$$

(7) reads in this case

$$
\begin{aligned}
& m_{1}=m_{1}^{\prime}+m_{1}^{\prime \prime}-\left(2 n_{1}-n_{2}\right) \\
& m_{1}=m_{2}^{\prime}+m_{2}^{\prime \prime}-\left(2 n_{2}-n_{1}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$n_{1}, n_{2}$ non-negative integers.
The Weyl group consists of the following six elements: $W=\left\{1, S_{1}, S_{2}, S_{1} S_{2}\right.$, $\left.S_{1} S_{2} S_{1},\left(S_{1} S_{2}\right)^{2}\right\}$. The defining relation (beside $S_{1}^{2}=S_{2}^{2}=1$ ) is $S_{2}=\left(S_{1} S_{2}\right)^{2} S_{1}$. We also remark here that the Weyl group for $A_{l}$ is isomorphic to the symmetric group $\left.S_{l+1}{ }^{6}\right)$. With the help of the recursion formula (11), we obtain now for the multiplicities the following explicit expression

$$
\begin{equation*}
m_{A}=\sum_{S, T \in W} \operatorname{det}(S, T) P\left[\sum_{i}\left(n_{i}-\sigma_{i}^{\prime}(S)-\sigma_{i}^{\prime \prime}(T)\right) \alpha_{i}\right] \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

$\sigma_{i}^{\prime}(S)$ and $\sigma_{i}^{\prime \prime}(S)$ can be read off in table 1 (substitute for $m_{j}$ in $\sigma_{i}(S)$ respectively $m_{i}^{\prime}$ and $\left.m_{i}^{\prime \prime}\right)$.

Table 1

| $S$ | $\sigma_{1}(S)$ | $\sigma_{2}(S)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 0 | 0 |
| $S_{1}$ | $1+m_{1}$ | 0 |
| $S_{2}$ | 0 | $1+m_{2}$ |
| $S_{1} S_{2}$ | $1+m_{1}$ | $2+m_{1}+m_{2}$ |
| $S_{1} S_{2} S_{1}$ | $2+m_{1}+m_{2}$ | $2+m_{1}+m_{2}$ |
| $\left(S_{1} S_{2}\right)^{2}$ | $2+m_{1}+m_{2}$ | $1+m_{2}$ |

For concrete examples the sum in (13) is carried out immediately. We illustrate this for the tensor product $(1,1) \otimes(3,0)$. (For a more general example compare the appendix). The possible $n$-values in (12) are: $n \equiv\left(n_{1}, n_{2}\right)=(3,2),(2,1),(2,0),(1,1),(1,0)$, $(0,0)$. For $n=(3,2)$ the following terms contribute in (13): $(S, T)=(1,1),\left(1, S_{2}\right)$, $\left(S_{1}, 1\right),\left(S_{2}, 1\right),\left(S_{1}, S_{2}\right)$ and one gets

$$
\begin{aligned}
m_{\Lambda(0,0)}= & P\left[3 \alpha_{1}+2 \alpha_{2}\right]-P\left[3 \alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}\right]-P\left[\alpha_{1}+2 \alpha_{2}\right]- \\
& -P\left[3 \alpha_{1}\right]+P\left[\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}\right]=3-2-2-1+2=0
\end{aligned}
$$

Still easier one sees that $m_{A(0,3)}=0$ (corresponding to $\left.n=(2,0)\right)$, while in all other cases $m_{\Lambda}=1$. Thus we get the well known decomposition

$$
(1,1) \otimes(3,0)=(1,1) \oplus(3,0) \oplus(2,2) \oplus(4,1)
$$

or

$$
8 \otimes 10=8 \oplus 10 \oplus 27 \oplus 35
$$

$$
\text { 2. Example: } G_{2}
$$

From the Dynkin diagram: $\bigcirc_{\alpha_{1}}^{3} \bar{\Longrightarrow} \bigcirc_{\alpha_{2}}^{1}$ one can read off the Cartan matrix

$$
A_{i j}=\left(\begin{array}{rr}
2 & -1 \\
-3 & 2
\end{array}\right)
$$

The Weyl group and $\sigma_{i}(S) i=1,2$ are given in table 2. For low dimensional representations only few terms contribute in (13).

Table 2

| $S$ | $\sigma_{1}(S)$ | $\sigma_{2}(S)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 0 | 0 |
| $S_{1}$ | $\left(m_{1}+1\right)$ | 0 |
| $S_{2}$ | 0 | $m_{2}+1$ |
| $S_{2} S_{1}$ | $m_{1}+1$ | $3 m_{1}+m_{2}+4$ |
| $S_{1} S_{2} S_{1}$ | $3 m_{1}+m_{2}+4$ | $3 m_{1}+m_{2}+4$ |
| $\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{2}$ | $3 m_{1}+m_{2}+4$ | $3\left(2 m_{1}+m_{2}+3\right)$ |
| $S_{1}\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{2}$ | $4 m_{1}+2 m_{2}+6$ | $3\left(2 m_{1}+m_{2}+3\right)$ |
| $\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{3}$ | $4 m_{1}+2 m_{2}+6$ | $6 m_{1}+4 m_{2}+10$ |
| $S_{1}\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{3}$ | $3 m_{1}+2 m_{2}+5$ | $6 m_{1}+4 m_{2}+10$ |
| $\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{4}$ | $3 m_{1}+2 m_{2}+5$ | $3 m_{1}+3 m_{2}+6$ |
| $S_{1}\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{4}$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $3 m_{1}+3 m_{2}+6$ |
| $\left(S_{2} S_{1}\right)^{5}=S_{1} S_{2}$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{2}+1$ |

## 3. Example: $A_{3}$

Because the Lie algebra $A_{3}$ is possibly of physical interest, we give here the explicit expressions for this example. From the Dynkin diagram

one obtains for the Cartan matrix

$$
A_{i j}=\left(\begin{array}{rrr}
2 & -1 & 0 \\
-1 & 2 & -1 \\
0 & -1 & 2
\end{array}\right)
$$

(8) reads here

$$
\begin{gathered}
m_{1}=m_{1}^{\prime}+m_{1}^{\prime \prime}-\left(2 n_{1}-n_{2}\right) \\
m_{2}=m_{2}^{\prime}+m_{2}^{\prime \prime}-\left(2 n_{2}-n_{1}-n_{3}\right) \\
m_{3}=m_{3}^{\prime}+m_{3}^{\prime \prime}-\left(2 n_{3}-n_{2}\right) .
\end{gathered}
$$

The construction of the Weyl group from the reflections at the simple roots is here somewhat tedious. Beside $S_{j}^{2}=1, i=1,2,3$, the defining relations of this group are:

$$
\begin{gathered}
S(13)=S(31), S(121)=S(212), S(232)=S(323), \text { where for example } \\
S(231) \equiv S_{2} S_{3} S_{1} .
\end{gathered}
$$

The different elements of the Weyl group and $\sigma_{i}(S) i=1,2,3$ are given in table 3. For given $n=\left(n_{1}, n_{2}, n_{3}\right)$ only those terms contribute of course to $m_{A}$ for which the inequalities $\sigma_{j}^{\prime}(S)+\sigma_{j}^{\prime \prime}(T) \leqslant n_{j}, j=1,2,3$, are fulfilled. This condition restricts the summation over the Weyl group in many cases to a few terms only.

Table 3

| $S$ | $\sigma_{1}(S)$ | $\sigma_{2}(S)$ | $\sigma_{3}(S)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| $S_{1}$ | $m_{1}+1$ | 0 | 0 |
| $S_{2}$ | 0 | $m_{2}+1$ | 0 |
| $S_{3}$ | 0 | 0 | $m_{3}+1$ |
| $S(12)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{2}+1$ | 0 |
| $S(21)$ | $m_{1}+1$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | 0 |
| $S(13)$ | $m_{1}+1$ | 0 | $m_{3}+1$ |
| $S(23)$ | 0 | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ | $m_{3}+1$ |
| $S(32)$ | 0 | $m_{2}+1$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ |
| $S(121)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | 0 |
| $S(123)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ | $m_{3}+1$ |
| $S(231)$ | $m_{1}+1$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{3}+1$ |
| $S(132)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{2}+1$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ |
| $S(321)$ | $m_{1}+1$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ |
| $S(232)$ | 0 | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ |
| $S(1231)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{3}+1$ |
| $S(3121)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ |
| $S(1232)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ |
| $S(2321)$ | $m_{1}+1$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ |
| $S(2312)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{1}+2 m_{2}+m_{3}+4$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ |
| $S(12321)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ |
| $S(12312)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{1}+2 m_{2}+m_{3}+4$ | $m_{2}+m_{3}+2$ |
| $S(21321)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+2$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ |  |
| $S(123121)$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ | $m_{1}+2 m_{2}+m_{3}+4$ | $m_{1}+m_{2}+m_{3}+3$ |

## Final Remarks

In the derivation of Steinberg's formula, an explicit formula of Konstant ${ }^{7}$ ) for the multiplicities $n_{M}$ of the weights $M$ in the irreducible module with highest weight
$\Lambda$ is essential ( $n_{M}=$ dimensionality of the weight space if $M$ is a weight, and $n_{M}=0$ if $M$ is not a weight). This formula too is very useful also for practical purposes. Because Konstant's formula has not yet been used in the physical literature, we give it here

$$
n_{M}=\sum_{S \in W} \operatorname{det}(S) P[S(\Lambda+\delta)-(M+\delta)]
$$

With the earlier formulas, we can immediately evaluate the right hand side for special Lie algebras. For a weight $M=\Lambda-\sum_{j=1} n_{j} \alpha_{j}$ we obtain

$$
n_{M}=\sum_{S \in W} \operatorname{det}(S) P\left[\sum_{i}\left(n_{i}-\sigma_{i}(S) \alpha_{i}\right)\right]
$$

with the same tables for $\sigma_{i}(S)$.
Finally, we would like to remark that the algebraic theory of characters for Lie algebras ${ }^{8}$ ) certainly gives simple formulae (which only contain the root system) for the following problem: Let $\mathfrak{L}^{\prime}$ be a sub-algebra of $\mathfrak{L}$ and let be given an irreducible module for $\mathfrak{L}$. This module is then completely reducible for $\mathfrak{L}^{\prime}$ (for semisimple $\mathfrak{L}^{\prime}$ ). One can now ask for the irreducible constituents with respect to $\mathfrak{L}^{\prime}$. This question will be discussed in a future paper.

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## Appendix

To demonstrate the power of the method which we have presented in this paper, we show in detail how one can immediately decompose the tensor product $\left(m_{1}, m_{2}\right) \otimes$ $(1,1)$ of a general irreducible representation $\left(m_{1}, m_{2}\right)$ of $A_{2}$ with the eightdimensional representation (1,1). The possible $n$-values in (12) are $n \equiv\left(n_{1}, n_{2}\right)=(0,0),(0,1),(1,0),(1,1)$, $(1,2),(2,1),(2,2),(2,3),(2,4) \ldots$. If both $m_{1}, m_{2}>1$ it is easy to see from table 1 , that for the above first seven $n$ 's only the following term contribute in $(13):(S, T)=$ $(1,1),\left(1, S_{1}\right),\left(1, S_{2}\right)$. Furthermore, the corresponding multiplicities are respectively:

$$
\begin{aligned}
m= & P[0], P\left[\alpha_{2}\right], P\left[\alpha_{1}\right], P\left[\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}\right], P\left[\alpha_{1}+2 \alpha_{2}\right]- \\
& -P\left[\alpha_{1}\right], P\left[2 \alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}\right]-P\left[\alpha_{2}\right], P\left[2 \alpha_{1}+2 \alpha_{2}\right]-P\left[\alpha_{1}\right]-P\left[\alpha_{2}\right],
\end{aligned}
$$

i.e. $m_{\Lambda}=1$ except for $n=(1,1)$, where $m_{\Lambda}=2$. But these seven irreducible constituents give the complete decomposition as one can see for instance by comparing the dimensions. We remember that the dimension of an irreducible module $\mathfrak{M}_{\Lambda\left(\mu_{2}, \mu_{1}\right)}$ with the highest weight $\Lambda=\left(\mu_{1}, \mu_{2}\right)$ is given by

$$
\operatorname{dim} \mathfrak{M}_{A\left(\mu_{1}, \mu_{2}\right)}=\left(\mu_{1}+1\right)\left(\mu_{2}+1\right)\left[1+\frac{\mu_{1}+\mu_{2}}{2}\right]
$$

The special cases where $m_{1}$ and $m_{2}$ are not both larger than one are easily discussed. For example, in the case $n=(1,1)$, we get for $\left(m_{1}, m_{2}\right) \neq(0,0) m_{\Lambda}=P\left[\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}\right]=2$. If $m_{1}=0, m_{2} \neq 0$ one obtains $m_{1}=P\left[\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}\right]-P\left[\alpha_{2}\right]=1$; the same holds for $m_{1} \neq 0, m_{2}=0$, while for $m_{1}=m_{2}=0$ we get $m_{\Lambda}=0$.

Thus we have the following result:

$$
\left(m_{1}, m_{2}\right) \otimes(1,1)=(1) \oplus(2) \oplus \cdots(7)
$$

where
$(1)=\left(m_{1}+2, m_{2}-1\right)$ with $m_{\Lambda}=0$, except for $m_{2}=0$.
$(2)=\left(m_{1}-1, m_{2}-1\right)$ with $m_{\Lambda}=0$, except for $m_{1}$ or $m_{2}=0$.
(3) $=\left(m_{1}-2, m_{2}+1\right)$ with $m_{\Lambda}=0$, except for $m_{1}=0,1$.
(4) $=\left(m_{1}+1, m_{2}+1\right)$ with $m_{\Lambda}=0$.
(5) $=\left(m_{1}-1, m_{2}+2\right)$ with $m_{A}=0$, except for $m_{1}=0$.
(6) $=\left(m_{1}+1, m_{2}-2\right)$ with $m_{\Lambda}=0$, except for $m_{2}=0,1$.
(7) $=\left(m_{1}, m_{2}\right)$ with $m_{\Lambda}=2$ for $\left(m_{1}, m_{2}\right) \neq(0,0)$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& m_{\Lambda}=1 \text { for } m_{1}=0, m_{2} \neq 0 \text { or } m_{1} \neq 0, m_{2}=0 \\
& m_{\Lambda}=0 \text { for } m_{1}=m_{2}=0
\end{aligned}
$$

## References

${ }^{1}$ ) J. J. De Swart, Revs. Mod. Phys. 35, 916 (1963).
${ }^{2}$ ) N. Jacobson, Lie Algebras, pag. 259, Interscience Tracts in Pure and Applied Mathematics Nr. 10.
${ }^{3}$ ) N. Jacobson, op. cit. Lemma 2., pag. 248.
$\left.{ }^{4}\right)$ N. Jacobson, op. cit. Theorem 2., pag. 242.
${ }^{5}$ ) N. Jacobson, op. cit. Lemma 1, pag. 241.
$\left.{ }^{6}\right)$ N. Jacobson, op. cit. pag. 226.
${ }^{7}$ ) N. Jacobson, op. cit. pag. 261.
${ }^{8}$ ) N. Jacobson, op. cit. chapter VIII. See also: Séminaire «Sophus Lie», 1re année 1954/55, Théorie des Algèbres de Lie, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris; exposés $\mathrm{n}^{\circ} 18$ et $\mathrm{n}^{\circ} 19$.


[^0]:    $\left.{ }^{*}\right) M$ is an integral linear function over $\mathfrak{G}$ if $M \in \mathfrak{H}^{*}\left(\mathfrak{H}^{*}\right.$ dual space of $\left.\mathfrak{G}\right)$ has the property $M\left(h_{i}\right)$ integer for $i=1,2, \ldots l(l=$ rank of $\mathfrak{L})$. Here the $h_{i}$ are those elements of the Cartan algebra which belong to the set of canonical generators. They are defined in the following way: Let $\pi=\left(\alpha_{1}, \ldots \alpha_{l}\right)$ be a simple system of roots with the characteristic property that every root $\alpha=\sum_{i=1}^{l} k_{i} \alpha_{i}, \alpha_{i} \in \pi$, where the $k_{i}$ are all either non-negative or non-positive integers. To every linear function $\alpha_{i} \in \mathfrak{S}^{*}$ we attribute the vector $h_{\alpha_{i}} \in \mathfrak{H}$ such that $\alpha_{i}(h)=\left(h_{\alpha_{i}}, h\right)$ for all $h \in \mathfrak{H}$ (scalar product $=$ Killing form); then $h_{i}=2 h_{\alpha_{i}} l\left(\alpha_{i}, \alpha_{i}\right)$. The integral linear functions form a lattice with the fundamental dominant weights (defined by the property $\lambda_{i}\left(h_{j}\right)=\delta_{i j}$ ) as a basis. There is a $1: 1$ correspondence between the isomorphism classes of finite dimensional irreducible modules for $\mathfrak{L}$ and the set of dominant integral linear functions of $\mathfrak{S}$ ( $\Lambda$ dominant integral function if $\left.\Lambda\left(h_{i}\right) \geqslant 0\right)$.

[^1]:    *) In the subspace $\mathfrak{H}_{0}^{*} \subset \mathfrak{S}^{*}$ over the rationals with basis $\alpha_{1} \ldots \alpha_{l}$, we introduce the usual ordering: $\alpha=\Sigma \lambda_{i} \alpha_{i}>0$ if $\lambda_{1}=\ldots=\lambda_{h}=0, \lambda_{h+1}>0, h<l . \alpha>\beta$ if $\alpha-\beta>0$. The simple roots then can not be written as a sum of positive roots.

