

volume 211

lecture notes in pure and applied mathematics



# nonassociative algebra and its applications

edited by

Roberto Costa  
Alexander Grishkov  
Henrique Guzzo, Jr.  
Luiz A. Peresi

# nonassociative algebra and its applications

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# nonassociative algebra and its applications

the fourth international conference

edited by

Roberto Costa  
Alexander Grishkov  
Henrique Guzzo, Jr.  
Luiz A. Peresi

***University of São Paulo  
São Paulo, Brazil***



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## Preface

The Fourth International Conference on Nonassociative Algebra and Its Applications was held in São Paulo (Brazil). The three previous Conferences were in: Novosibirsk (Russia, 1988), Tashkent (Russia, 1990), and Oviedo (Spain, 1993).

The Organising Committee members were Roberto Costa, Alexander Grishkov, Henrique Guzzo, Jr., and Luiz Antonio Peresi, from the University of São Paulo. The Scientific Committee was made up of the following members:

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Zelmanov, E. (Yale University, U.S.)

Nearly 100 people came to the conference. Several topics in nonassociative algebra were presented, including applications to population genetics theory and physics.

During the five days of the conference, 14 plenary talks were delivered by members of the Scientific Committee and also some invited speakers. Twelve conferences on some special topics were presented, as well as 35 short communications.

The editors would like to thank Professor L. A. Ferreira, who was in charge of the conferences in the field of physics. We regret the death of Professor M. V. Saveliev some months after the meeting.

The editors want also to express thanks to the following institutions for their financial support: The Institute of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of São Paulo, Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), Sociedade Brasileira de Matemática (SBM), CAPES, and CCInt-USP.

The editors also thank the referees for their invaluable work of revision of the written version of the conferences and communications.

Roberto Costa  
Alexander Grishkov  
Henrique Guzzo, Jr.  
Luiz A. Peresi

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# New approach to octonions and Cayley algebras

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**ABSTRACT** We announce a new approach to the octonions as *quasiassociative* algebras. We strip out the categorical and quasi-quantum group considerations in our longer paper and present here (without proof) some of the more algebraic conclusions.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Usually one recognises the nonassociativity of the octonions by saying that they are instead alternative algebras. While this is true, the property of being alternative has a much weaker character than associativity and, as a result, many standard ideas and constructions for associative algebras do not go through in the alternative case. In our paper [1], to which this note is a short introduction, we have introduced a full solution to this problem based on modern ideas from category theory and Drinfeld's theory of quasiquantum groups.

Without going into any details (see [1]), the new formulation is that the octonions and other Cayley algebras live naturally as objects in a monoidal category[2][3]. For any three objects  $V, W, Z$  in such a category there is an associator isomorphism  $\Phi_{V,W,Z} : (V \otimes W) \otimes Z \rightarrow V \otimes (W \otimes Z)$  which performs the rebracketing. Mac Lane's pentagon condition on  $\Phi$  ensures that *we can do all constructions as if there*

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are no brackets (i.e. as if  $\otimes$  is strictly associative). After writing any desired constructions as the composition of various maps, we simply insert  $\Phi$  as needed for the compositions to make sense, and all different ways to do this will give the same result (this is Mac Lane's coherence theorem). So working in such a category is no harder than usual associative linear algebra. For example, an algebra  $A$  in such a category means

$$\bullet \circ (\bullet \otimes \text{id}) = \bullet \circ (\text{id} \otimes \bullet) \circ \Phi_{A,A,A}$$

for the product  $\bullet$ , where  $\Phi$  is inserted for the bracketing to make sense. So, recognizing the octonions as such a *quasiassociative algebra* (or *quasialgebra* for short) makes them as good as associative in the precise sense explained above.

In [1] we introduce and study a class of such quasialgebras that contain composition algebras and more general algebras obtained by a generalised Cayley-Dickson process. All algebras are considered over a field  $k$  of characteristic different from 2. The required class of quasialgebras arises naturally by a certain 'Drinfeld twisting'[4][3] or deformation of classical group algebras, as follows.

## 2 QUASIALGEBRAS $k_F G$

First of all, we know that if we consider the set of complex numbers, the quaternions or the octonions, all these algebras have something in common: If we choose a suitable basis and remove the  $\pm$  signs from the multiplication tables of these algebras, we have the tables of the additive groups  $G = \mathbf{Z}_2$  (for complex numbers),  $G = \mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$  (for quaternions) and  $G = \mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2 \times \mathbf{Z}_2$  (for octonions)[5]. We view the signs in the multiplication tables as an invertible 2-cochain  $F : G \times G \rightarrow k$  (a nowhere-zero function which is 1 when either argument is the group identity  $e \in G$ ). Writing  $F(x, y) = (-1)^{J(x,y)}$ , one has explicitly[1],

$$G = \mathbf{Z}_2, \quad f(x, y) = xy, \quad x, y \in \mathbf{Z}_2 \quad (\text{Complex numbers}),$$

$$G = (\mathbf{Z}_2)^2, \quad f(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = x_1 y_1 + (x_1 + x_2) y_2 \quad (\text{Quaternions}),$$

where  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2) \in G$  is a vector notation and the components  $x_1, x_2$  are viewed in the field  $\mathbf{Z}_2$ .

$$G = (\mathbf{Z}_2)^3, \quad f(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \sum_{i \leq j} x_i y_j + y_1 x_2 x_3 + x_1 y_2 x_3 + x_1 x_2 y_3 \quad (\text{Octonions}),$$

where  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3) \in G$  is a vector notation. Similarly for higher Cayley algebras where  $G = (\mathbf{Z}_2)^n$ .

From the group  $G$  and the cochain  $F$  we recover the complex, quaternion and octonion algebras as the 'deformation'  $k_F G$  of the group algebra of the appropriate  $G$ . This is the vector space with basis labeled by  $G$  and the product

$$x \bullet y = F(x, y)xy$$

for  $x, y \in G$ , where  $xy$  is the group product in  $G$ . So this is a kind of deformation of the usual group algebra of  $G$ . In quantum groups we do the deformation by introducing a parameter  $q$  such that when  $q$  tends to 1 we have the original algebras. Here we do the deformation by introducing a cochain  $F$ .

PROPOSITION 1 [1] *Let  $G$  be a group and  $F$  any invertible 2-cochain. Then  $k_F G$  is a  $G$ -graded quasialgebra with associator  $\Phi$  determined by the coboundary  $\phi$  of  $F$ . Explicitly, it is quasiassociative in the sense*

$$(x \bullet y) \bullet z = \phi(x, y, z)x \bullet (y \bullet z)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in G$ , and

$$\phi(x, y, z) = \frac{F(x, y)F(xy, z)}{F(y, z)F(x, yz)}.$$

To explain the setting here, for  $G$  a group and  $\phi : G \times G \times G \rightarrow k$  an invertible group 3-cocycle, the category of  $G$ -graded vector spaces becomes monoidal with the associator  $\Phi$  determined by the 3-cocycle  $\phi$  and the grading. A quasialgebra with this form of  $\Phi$  is called a  $G$ -graded quasialgebra. It consists of an algebra  $A$ , a  $G$ -grading which respects the product and unit (so the degree of  $1 \in A$  is  $e \in G$ , the group identity), and the quasiassociativity law

$$(a \bullet b) \bullet c = \phi(|a|, |b|, |c|)a \bullet (b \bullet c)$$

for all elements  $a, b, c \in A$  of degree  $|a|, |b|, |c|$ . In our case,  $k_F G$  is such a  $G$ -graded quasialgebra with  $\phi$  built from  $F$  and with  $|x| = x$  for  $x \in G$ .

For the complex number and the quaternion algebras,  $F$  is closed, i.e.  $\phi$  is trivial and the algebras happen to be strictly associative. This is because  $f$  in these cases is quadratic. As soon as we introduce a cubic or higher ‘interaction’ term in  $f$ , as in the case of the octonions,  $\phi$  typically becomes nontrivial and the algebra  $k_F G$  nonassociative. In the case of the Octonions it is

$$\phi(\vec{x}, \vec{y}, \vec{z}) = (-1)^{(\vec{x} \times \vec{y}) \cdot \vec{z}}$$

(the vector cross product and vector dot product in the exponent, i.e. the determinant  $|\vec{x} \ \vec{y} \ \vec{z}|$ ). On the other hand, if we simply drop the cubic or higher terms in the above family, we clearly obtain the corresponding Clifford algebra with negative signature<sup>3</sup> (the relations are immediate and the dimensions match) i.e. these are obtained as  $k_F G$  with

$$G = (\mathbb{Z}_2)^n, \quad f(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \sum_{i \leq j} x_i y_j \quad (\text{Clifford algebras}),$$

as the associative version of the octonion or Cayley algebra, which is another way to see the close relationship between these and Clifford algebras. The positive signature algebras are obtained similarly with  $i < j$  in  $f$ .

<sup>3</sup>We would like to thank Tony Smith for asking us to clarify this point

Also, we are mainly interested in  $G$  Abelian and specialise to this case from now on. For  $\phi$  of the coboundary form, the category of  $G$ -graded spaces is symmetric[2], i.e. for any two objects  $V, W$  there is a generalised transposition isomorphism  $\Psi_{V,W} : V \otimes W \rightarrow W \otimes V$ . A quasialgebra  $A$  is *quasicommutative* if  $\bullet = \bullet \circ \Psi_{A,A}$ . This is the case for all  $k_F G$  with  $\Psi$  determined by a function  $\mathcal{R}(x, y) = F(x, y)/F(y, x)$ . Explicitly,

$$x \bullet y = \mathcal{R}(x, y)y \bullet x,$$

for all  $x, y \in G$ . For complex numbers, quaternions and octonions, etc., the function  $\mathcal{R}$  has the simple form

$$\mathcal{R}(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = e \text{ or } y = e \text{ or } x = y \\ -1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We call this important case *altercommutative*. By contrast, for the Clifford algebras one has

$$\mathcal{R}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = (-1)^{\sum_{i \neq j} x_i y_j}$$

which is not in general altercommutative (for  $n > 2$ ).

### 3 ALGEBRAIC PROPERTIES OF $k_F G$

We have just seen that the functions  $\phi, \mathcal{R}$  built from  $F$  allow for the categorical setting of the algebras  $k_F G$  as quasiassociative and quasicommutative. In particular, the algebra is associative iff  $\phi = 1$  and commutative iff  $\mathcal{R} = 1$ . We now summarise less obvious results expressing the more conventional algebraic properties of  $k_F G$  in terms of these functions  $\phi, \mathcal{R}$ . We refer to [1] for proofs and details.

**PROPOSITION 2** [1]  $k_F G$  is an alternative algebra iff

$$\phi^{-1}(y, x, z) + \mathcal{R}(x, y)\phi^{-1}(x, y, z) = 1 + \mathcal{R}(x, y)$$

$$\phi(x, y, z) + \mathcal{R}(z, y)\phi(x, z, y) = 1 + \mathcal{R}(z, y)$$

for all  $x, y, z \in G$ . In this case,

$$\phi(x, x, y) = \phi(x, y, y) = \phi(x, y, x) = 1$$

for all  $x, y \in G$ .

Next we consider involutions. Since we have a special basis of  $k_F G$  it is natural to consider involutions diagonal in this basis.

**PROPOSITION 3** [1]  $k_F G$  admits an involution which is diagonal in the basis  $G$  iff  $\mathcal{R}(x, y) = \frac{s(x)s(y)}{s(xy)}$  for some 1-cochain  $s : G \rightarrow k$  (a nowhere-zero function with  $s(e) = 1$ ) obeying  $s^2 = 1$ . In this case, one has  $\mathcal{R}(x, y) = \mathcal{R}(y, x)$  and  $\phi(x, y, z) = \phi(z, y, x)^{-1}$  for all  $x, y, z \in G$ .

The corresponding involution here is  $\sigma(x) = s(x)x$  for all  $x \in G$ . Let  $A$  be a finite dimensional algebra with identity element 1 and let  $\sigma$  be an involution in  $A$ . We say that  $\sigma$  is a strong involution if  $a + \sigma(a)$ ,  $a \bullet \sigma(a) \in k1$  for all  $a \in A$ .

**PROPOSITION 4** [1]  $k_F G$  admits a diagonal strong involution  $\sigma$  iff

- i)  $G \simeq (\mathbf{Z}_2)^n$  for some  $n$ ,
- ii)  $\sigma(e) = e$ ,  $\sigma(x) = -x$  for all  $x \neq e$ ,
- iii)  $k_F G$  is altercommutative.

Given  $k_F G$  we have a natural function  $s(x) = F(x, x)$  and consider now the possibility of defining a strong involution using this. For all statements of simplicity in the following we assume  $|G| > 2$ .

**PROPOSITION 5** [1] If  $\sigma(x) = F(x, x)x$  for all  $x \in G$  defines a strong involution, then the algebra  $k_F G$  is simple and the following are equivalent

- i)  $k_F G$  is an alternative algebra,
- ii)  $k_F G$  is a composition algebra.

Finally, it is possible to characterize a natural class of  $k_F G$  algebras that are composition algebras,

**PROPOSITION 6** [1] Let  $k_F G$  admit a strong diagonal involution  $\sigma(x) = s(x)x$ . Then  $q(x) = x \bullet \sigma(x)$  makes  $k_F G$  a composition algebra iff

- i)  $s(xy)F(x, y)^2 F(xy, xy) = s(x)s(y)F(x, x)F(y, y)$ , for all  $x, y \in G$ .
- ii)  $F(x, xz)F(y, yz)F(z, z)s(z) + F(x, yz)F(y, xz)F(xyz, xyz)s(xyz) = 0$ , for all  $x, y \in G$  with  $x \neq y$ .

An important corollary of the last result is:

**COROLLARY 7** [1] If  $G \cong (\mathbf{Z}_2)^n$  then the Euclidean norm quadratic function defined by  $q(x) = 1$  for all  $x \in G$  makes  $k_F G$  a composition algebra iff

- i)  $F^2(x, y) = 1$  for all  $x, y \in G$
- ii)  $F(x, xz)F(y, yz) + F(x, yz)F(y, xz) = 0$ , for all  $x, y, z \in G$  with  $x \neq y$ .

In this case  $\sigma(x) = F(x, x)x$  for all  $x \in G$  is a strong involution and  $k_F G$  is simple and alternative.

#### 4 CAYLEY-DICKSON PROCESS FOR $k_F G$

We have a generalisation of the Cayley-Dickson process as follows. Again, details are in [1].

**DEFINITION 8** Let  $G$  be an Abelian group  $F$  a 2-cochain on it. For any 1-cochain  $s : G \rightarrow k$  and  $\alpha \neq 0$  we define  $\bar{G} = G \times \mathbf{Z}_2$  and on it the 2-cochain  $\bar{F}$  and 1-cochain  $\bar{s}$ ,

$$\bar{F}(x, y) = F(x, y), \quad \bar{F}(x, vy) = s(x)F(x, y), \quad \bar{F}(vx, y) = F(y, x),$$

$$\bar{F}(vx, vy) = \alpha s(x)F(y, x), \quad \bar{s}(x) = s(x), \quad \bar{s}(vx) = -1$$

for all  $x, y \in G$ . Here  $x \equiv (x, e)$  and  $vx \equiv (x, \nu)$  denote elements of  $\bar{G}$ , where  $Z_2 = \{e, \nu\}$  with product  $\nu^2 = e$ .

We say that  $k_{\bar{F}}\bar{G}$  is the *generalised Cayley-Dickson extension* of  $k_F G$  associated to  $s, \alpha$ . The motivation is that if  $\sigma(x) = s(x)x$  is a strong involution, then  $k_{\bar{F}}\bar{G}$  is the usual Cayley-Dickson extension of  $k_F G$  associated to  $\sigma, \alpha$ . Note that since all unital composition algebras over  $k$  are obtained by repeated Cayley-Dickson extension[6], they are all of the form of a quasialgebra  $k_F G$  in the last proposition of the preceding section with  $G$  a power of  $Z_2$ .

The natural application for our generalised Cayley-Dickson process is when  $k_F G$  admits a diagonal involution  $\sigma(x) = s(x)x$  (but not necessarily strong). In this case we have:

PROPOSITION 9 [1] *The 3-cocycle  $\bar{\phi}$  of  $k_{\bar{F}}\bar{G}$  is given by*

$$\bar{\phi}(x, y, z) = \phi(x, y, z), \quad \bar{\phi}(vx, y, z) = \mathcal{R}(y, z)\phi(x, y, z),$$

$$\bar{\phi}(x, vy, z) = \mathcal{R}(y, z)\mathcal{R}(xy, z)\phi(x, y, z), \quad \bar{\phi}(x, y, vz) = \mathcal{R}(x, y)\phi(x, y, z),$$

$$\bar{\phi}(vx, vy, z) = \mathcal{R}(xy, z)\phi(x, y, z), \quad \bar{\phi}(vx, y, vz) = \mathcal{R}(y, z)\mathcal{R}(x, y)\phi(x, y, z),$$

$$\bar{\phi}(x, vy, vz) = \mathcal{R}(x, yz)\phi(x, y, z), \quad \bar{\phi}(vx, vy, vz) = \mathcal{R}(xy, z)\mathcal{R}(x, y)\phi(x, y, z),$$

for  $x, y, z \in G$ .

Using this calculation, one may show under the same assumptions:

PROPOSITION 10 [1]

- i)  $k_{\bar{F}}\bar{G}$  is associative iff  $k_F G$  is associative and commutative.
- ii) If  $k_F G$  has trivial centre then  $k_{\bar{F}}\bar{G}$  is alternative iff  $k_F G$  is associative and  $s(x) = -1$  for all  $x \in G$  and  $x \neq e$ .
- iii) If  $s$  defines a strong diagonal involution then  $k_{\bar{F}}\bar{G}$  is alternative iff  $k_F G$  is associative.

This extends to more general  $k_F G$  some well-known considerations for octonions and higher Cayley algebras.

## 5 CONCLUDING REMARKS

We conclude with some remarks about other classes of quasialgebras. In fact, the input data for our  $k_F G$  construction is clearly very general. If we denote the elements of the finite group  $G$  by  $\{x_1 = e, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$  then we can represent the cochain  $F$  by an  $n \times n$  matrix with entries  $F_{ij} = F(x_i, x_j)$ . It has 1 in the first row and column and all entries non-zero. Conversely, any such matrix will do for a cochain and yield a quasialgebra. Therefore it is a wide-open question what other groups and cochains might be interesting; here we list just a few natural classes.

First of all, motivated by composition algebras for the Euclidean norm (isomorphic to complex, quaternions or octonions), where the cochain is represented by certain normalized Hadamard matrices, a natural more general class of examples is  $k_F G$  where  $F$  is a general normalised Hadamard matrix. Some results for (and low-dimensional examples of) this kind of  $k_F G$  are given in [1]. Hadamard matrices have even dimension but odd dimensional examples of  $k_F G$  can be obtained by taking  $F$  with first column and row 1 and the rest an Hadamard matrix.

Another general choice of  $F$ , overlapping with the extended Hadamard case, is (for  $G$  any group),

$$F(x, y) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x = e \text{ or } y = e \text{ or } x \neq y, \\ -1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

where one may show that  $k_F G$  is simple, commutative and in general nonassociative.

Other interesting examples of  $k_F G$  quasialgebras come from the theory of finite fields, and include the generalisations of octonions based on Galois sequences in [5].

Finally, we would also like to recall that our approach answers such questions as what means a representation of the octonions. Following the method explained in the introduction, a representation of the quasialgebra  $k_F G$  means a  $G$ -graded vector space  $V$  and a degree-preserving action  $\triangleright$  obeying

$$(x \bullet y) \triangleright v = \phi(x, y, |v|) x \triangleright (y \triangleright v)$$

for all  $v \in V$ . This is explained in [1], where it is also shown that a representation is equivalent to an algebra map from  $k_F G$  to a certain quasialgebra  $\text{End}_\phi(V)$  of *quasimatrices* associated to any  $V$ .

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# Identities of graded alternative algebras

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*Dedicated to Alexei Ivanovich KOSTRIKIN on his 70th birthday*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In this paper we study identities of alternative algebras over a field.

The main results are Theorems 1, 2, 3. In Theorem 1 we prove that for any constant  $a > 0$  and any alternative PI-algebra  $A$  the growth of identities of  $A$  is asymptotically less  $\frac{n!}{a^n}$ . The statement of this result is similar to a theorem about Lie algebras due to A. Grishkov [7], but we leave open the question about the possibility of bounding the growth from above by a function of the form  $b^n$  for a suitable  $b$ . In the class of associative algebras this estimate had been obtained more than 20 years ago (see [10]).

Our second result treats the identities of *graded* alternative algebras. It is well-known [6] that if  $A = \bigoplus_{g \in G} A_g$  is an associative algebra graded by a finite semigroup  $G$  and any subalgebra  $A_e$ , where  $e$  is an idempotent element in  $G$ , satisfies a non-trivial identity then also  $A$  is a PI-algebra. It is known also that the degree of identity guaranteed for  $A$  does not depend on the algebra itself and is completely determined by the degrees of identities satisfied by  $A_e$ 's and the order of  $G$  [2]. Later similar results had been obtained for Lie algebras, special Jordan algebras and some other types of algebras (see [4], [5]). In Theorem 2 we prove that alternative algebras graded also enjoy a similar property ( $G$  commutative).

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Our third main result, Theorem 3, shows that the matrix algebra over an alternative *PI*-algebra is a non-associative algebra with a non-trivial identity of a very specific form. This theorem can be viewed as a generalization of the classical result from [8] saying that any matrix algebra over an associative *PI*-algebra is a *PI*-algebra itself.

## 2 DEFINITIONS AND PRELIMINARY RESULTS

We recall some basic notions. Let  $A$  be an algebra over a field  $\Phi$ . It is called *alternative* if the following identities hold:

$$(xx)y = x(xy) \quad , \quad y(xx) = (yx)x \quad . \quad (1)$$

It follows from (1) that a sufficient condition for an algebra to be alternative is the associativity of any 2-generator subalgebra. By a well-known Artin's Theorem (see, for example, [13]) this condition is also necessary

We introduce the following notation:  $x \circ y = xy + yx$ . The linearization procedure applied to the second of identities (1) after a change of notation yields a relation of the form:

$$a(x \circ y) = (ax)y + (ay)x, \quad (2)$$

which will be repeatedly used in what follows. Following [13] we write also  $\langle a_1 a_2 \dots a_k \rangle$  for the left - normed product of the elements  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  of an alternative algebra. Specifically,  $\langle a_1 a_2 \rangle = a_1 a_2$  and  $\langle a_1 \dots a_k \rangle = \langle a_1 \dots a_{k-1} \rangle a_k$ . We will also omit the brackets in the left - normed Jordan product and write  $a_1 \circ a_2 \circ \dots \circ a_k = (a_1 \circ a_2 \circ \dots \circ a_{k-1}) \circ a_k$ .

According to a conventional definition (see [13]) an algebra  $A$  is called an alternative *PI*-algebra, if it satisfies an *essential* identity

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \equiv 0.$$

A non-associative polynomial  $f$  from a free alternative algebra is called essential if after forgetting all brackets it becomes a non-trivial associative polynomial.

We need a result about the identities in alternative algebras. If  $\text{char } F \neq 2$  this easily follows from Lemma 5.14 of [13].

**LEMMA 1.** *Any alternative PI - algebra satisfies an identity of the form*

$$\langle x_0 x_1 \dots x_m \rangle \equiv \sum_{1 \neq \sigma \in S_n} \alpha_\sigma \langle x_0 x_{\sigma(1)} \dots x_{\sigma(m)} \rangle. \quad (3)$$

**Proof.** Let  $A$  be an alternative *PI*-algebra and  $V = \text{var } A$  the variety generated by  $A$ . We denote by  $B$  the relatively free 2-generator algebra from  $V$ . Then  $B$  is an the *PI*-algebra. Since the growth of identities of any associative variety is at most exponential  $B$  satisfies an identity of the form

$$f = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \beta_\sigma y \circ x_{\sigma(1)} \circ \dots \circ x_{\sigma(n)} \equiv 0. \quad (4)$$

One can assume that the coefficient of the Jordan monomial  $y \circ x_1 \circ \dots \circ x_n$  in (4) is non-zero. We perform in (4) a substitution  $\varphi(y) = x \circ y^{(t_0)}, \varphi(x_1) = x \circ y^{(t_1)}, \dots, \varphi(x_n) = x \circ y^{(t_n)}$ , where  $t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n$ , and  $x \circ y^{(k)}$  is a Jordan monomial  $x \circ y \circ \dots \circ y$  of degree  $k$  in  $y$ . If we introduce the lexicographic order on the monomials in  $x, y$  in the free associative algebra by setting  $x > y$  then the leading monomial of the element  $(x \circ y^{(t_0)}) \circ (x \circ y^{(t_1)}) \circ \dots \circ (x \circ y^{(t_n)})$ , written associatively, is equal to  $a = xy^{t_0}xy^{t_1} \dots xy^{t_n}$  since  $t_0 < t_1, \dots, t_n$ . On the other hand, the leading term of any  $(x \circ y^{(t_{\sigma(1)})}) \circ \dots \circ (x \circ y^{(t_{\sigma(n)})})$  is strictly less than  $a$ , as soon as  $\sigma \neq 1$ . This means, that  $\varphi(f) \equiv 0$  is a non-trivial identity in  $B$ , while  $\varphi(f)$  is a Jordan polynomial in two variables. Hence, in  $A$  we have an identity  $\varphi(f) \equiv 0$ , and the also  $z\varphi(f) \equiv 0$ . After a linearization of this identity by  $x, y$  in the free alternative algebra and making a change of variables, considering (2) we obtain a relation

$$\sum_{\sigma \in S_m} \alpha_{\sigma} \langle x_0 x_{\sigma(1)} \dots x_{\sigma(m)} \rangle \equiv 0. \quad (5)$$

The non-triviality of the coefficients in (5) follows since the associative polynomial

$$\sum_{\sigma \in S_m} \alpha_{\sigma} x_{\sigma(1)} \dots x_{\sigma(m)}$$

is a linearization in the free associative algebra of a Jordan polynomial  $\varphi(f)$ . Since not all coefficients in (5) are zero, it easily implies (3), and Lemma 1 has been proven.  $\square$

### 3 MAIN RESULTS

We denote by  $\text{Alt}(Y)$  the free alternative algebra with the free generating set  $Y = \{y_1, y_2, \dots\}$ . As before, let  $A$  be an alternative PI-algebra,  $I$  the ideal of identities of  $A$  in  $\text{Alt}(Y)$ . We consider in  $\text{Alt}(Y)$  the subspace  $P_n$  of multilinear elements in  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ .

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $A$  satisfy an identity (3) of degree  $m$ . Then for any  $c > 0$  there exists  $n$ , depending only on  $m$  and  $c$ , such that*

$$\dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I} < \frac{n!}{c^n}.$$

**Proof.** We first consider the subspace  $Q_n \subset P_{n+1}$  spanned by all left - normed monomials  $\langle y_0 y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_n} \rangle$ . A monomial  $\langle y_0 y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_n} \rangle$  from  $Q_n$  is called *k-decomposable*, if there exist indices  $1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_k \leq n$ , such that  $i_{j_s} > i_{1+j_s} > i_{2+j_s} > \dots > i_{j_k}$  for all  $s = 1, \dots, k$ . In other words, in our monomial we can find  $k$  variables, each of which greater than all the variables between it and the last one, and also greater then the last,  $k$ -th variable. All the rest monomials in  $Q_n$  we will call *k-indecomposable*. For the proof of Theorem 1 we need the following.

LEMMA 2. *Let  $A$  satisfy an identity of the form (3). Then modulo  $I$  the subspace  $Q_n$  coincides with the linear span  $V$  of  $m$ -indecomposable monomials.*

**Proof.** We order the variables  $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n$  by setting  $y_0 < y_1 < \dots < y_n$  and extend this order to the lexicographic order on the monomials from  $Q_n$ , comparing the letters from the left to the right. Then there exists a counterexample which is minimal in the sense of this order, that is, an  $m$ -decomposable left-normed monomial  $a$  which is not in  $I + V$ . Let  $a = \langle y_0 y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_n} \rangle$  and  $j_1 < \dots < j_m$  be a set of indices determining an  $m$ -decomposition on  $a$ . We introduce the following notation. If  $j_1 > 1$  then we set  $a_0 = \langle y_0 y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_l} \rangle$  where  $l = i_{j_1-1}$ . If  $j_1 = 1$  then  $a_0 = y_0$ . Further, we denote by  $b_r, 1 \leq r \leq m-1$  the left-normed Jordan product of the variables  $y_s$  with the indices running from  $i_{j_r}$  to  $i_{j_{r+1}-1}$ . For  $r = m$  we set  $b_m = y_l, l = i_{j_m}$ . By  $a_{m+1}$  we will for the convenience denote the multiplication from the right by the remaining variables  $y_i$ , with the indices  $s = j_m + 1, \dots, n$ , if  $j_m < n$ . From (2) it follows that for any  $c, z_1, \dots, z_r$  from  $\text{Alt}(Y)$  we have an equation

$$c \langle z_1 \circ z_2 \circ \dots \circ z_r \rangle - \langle cz_1 \dots z_r \rangle = \sum_{1 \neq \sigma \in S_n} \langle cz_{\sigma(1)} \dots z_{\sigma(r)} \rangle. \quad (6)$$

By the minimality of the counterexample selected, it follows from (6) that we have

$$a \equiv \langle a_0 b_1 \dots b_m a_{m+1} \rangle \pmod{(I + V)}.$$

Now (3) implies:

$$a \equiv \sum_{1 \neq \sigma \in S_n} \alpha_\sigma \langle a_0 b_{\sigma(1)} \dots b_{\sigma(m)} a_{m+1} \rangle \pmod{(I + V)}. \quad (7)$$

If we apply (2) to each summand on the right hand side of (7) we will obtain an expression for  $a$  modulo  $I + V$  in the form of a linear combination of left-normed products  $\langle y_0 y_{k_1} \dots y_{k_n} \rangle$ , each of which is lexicographically less than  $a$  and thus belongs to  $I + V$ . The contradiction thus obtained completes the proof of Lemma 2.  $\square$

We continue the proof of Theorem 1. By a Theorem of A. I. Shirshov (see [13])  $P_n$  is the linear span of the products  $\langle y_1 \dots y_k \rangle$ , where each  $y_i$  in its turn is a left-normed product of some of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,  $y_i = x_{\alpha_1} \dots x_{\alpha_s}$ , with  $\alpha_1 < \dots < \alpha_s$ . From here it follows, that if we denote by  $S(n, k)$  the Stirling number of the second kind, that is, the number of decompositions of an  $n$ -element set into the disjoint union of  $k$  subsets then

$$\dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I} \leq \sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k) n \dim \frac{Q_{n-1}}{Q_{n-1} \cap I}. \quad (8)$$

Let  $q_n = \dim \frac{Q_{n-1}}{Q_{n-1} \cap I}$ . From Lemma 2 it follows that  $q_n$  does not exceed the number of  $m$ -indecomposable monomials in  $Q_{n-1}$ . It has been shown in [3] (see also [1]) that for any  $a > 0$  there exists  $n_0$ , depending only on  $m$  and  $a$ , such that

$$q_n < \frac{n!}{a^n}$$

for all  $n > n_0$ . In order to obtain the upper bound for the sum on the right side of (8), we first consider the sum

$$\sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k) \frac{k!}{a^k}, \quad (9)$$

in which  $a = 6c$ , and  $c$  is the constant from the proof of our Theorem. It is well-known (see [12], Ch.1), that for any natural  $t \geq n$  we have

$$t^n = \sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k)(t)_k,$$

in which  $(t)_k = t(t-1)(t-2)\dots(t-k+1)$ . From here one can obtain an estimate for the value (9):

$$\sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k) \frac{k!}{a^k} < \frac{1}{a^n} \sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k)k! < \frac{1}{a^n} \sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k)(n)_k = \frac{n^n}{a^n}. \quad (10)$$

From Stirling's formula for  $n!$  it is easy to derive  $n^n < 3^n n!$  hence, from (10), it follows inequality

$$\sum_{k=0}^n S(n, k) \frac{k!}{a^k} < \frac{n!}{b^n}, \quad (11)$$

where  $b = \frac{a}{3} = 2c$ .

We now split the sum on the right side of (8) into two components

$$A = \sum_{k=0}^{n_0} S(n, k) n q_k; \quad B = \sum_{k=n_0+1}^n S(n, k) n q_k.$$

Then, as it follows from (11),  $B < n \frac{n!}{b^n}$ . In order to estimate  $A$  we notice, that the values  $S(n, k)$  satisfy the inequalities:  $S(n, 2) \leq 2^n$ ,  $S(n, k) \leq 2^n S(n, k-1)$ . It follows then that  $S(n, k) \leq t^n$ , where  $t = 2^{n_0}$ , for all  $k \leq n_0$ . Considering an obvious inequality  $q_k \leq (k-1)!$ , we obtain

$$A \leq n(n_0)! n_0 t^n = D n t^n, \quad (12)$$

where  $D$  and  $t$  are some constants depending only on  $c$  and  $m$ . Now from (8), (11) and (12) we have the bound

$$\dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I} \leq D n t^n + B < D n t^n + n \frac{n!}{b^n} = D n t^n + n \frac{n!}{2^n c^n}.$$

For given  $c, D$  and  $t$  one can select  $n_1 = n_1(D, t, c)$ , such that  $D n t^n < \frac{1}{2} \frac{n!}{c^n}$  for all  $n \geq n_1$ . Since  $\frac{n}{2^n} \leq \frac{1}{2}$  for all natural  $n$ ,

$$\dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I} < \frac{1}{2} \frac{n!}{c^n} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{n!}{c^n} = \frac{n!}{c^n},$$

and Theorem 1 has been proven.  $\square$

Let now  $G$  be a commutative semigroup and

$$A = \sum_{g \in G} A_g$$

a  $G$ -graded alternative algebra, that is,  $A_g A_h \subset A_{gh}$ . We will say that  $A$  is an algebra with a finite grading, if  $A_g \neq 0$  only for a finite number of elements  $g \in G$ .

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $A = \sum_{g \in G} A_g$  be a alternative algebra over a field  $\Phi$  with a finite grading. If for any idempotent  $e \in G$  the subalgebra  $A_e$  is a PI-algebra then also  $A$  is an alternative PI-algebra. Moreover, the degree of the nontrivial identity in  $A$  is bounded from above by a function only on the degrees of non-trivial identities in  $A_e$  and on the number of elements  $g \in G$ , for which  $A_g \neq 0$ .*

**Proof.** We introduce some necessary notation. Let  $H = \{g_1, \dots, g_t\}$  be a subset of all elements from  $G$ , for which  $A_g \neq 0$ . We consider a  $G$ -graded set of the variables  $X = \cup_{g \in G} X_g$ , where  $X_g = \{x_1^g, x_2^g, \dots\}$ , and generate by this the set a free alternative algebra  $\text{Alt}(X)$ . By  $\overline{\text{Alt}}(Y)$  we denote the alternative subalgebra in  $\text{Alt}(X)$  generated by the elements  $\{y_1, y_2, \dots\}$ , where  $y_i = x_i^{g_1} + \dots + x_i^{g_t}$ . It is obvious that  $\overline{\text{Alt}}(Y)$  is a free alternative algebra and  $\text{Alt}(X)$  is endowed by a natural  $G$ -grading,

$$\text{Alt}(X) = \bigoplus_{g \in G} \text{Alt}_g(X).$$

We denote by  $\Psi$  the set all homomorphisms  $\psi : \overline{\text{Alt}}(Y) \rightarrow A$ , and by  $\Psi_0$  the set all homomorphisms  $\psi_0 : \text{Alt}(X) \rightarrow A$ , for which  $\psi_0(x_i^g) \in A_g$ . We set

$$I = \bigcap_{\psi \in \Psi} \text{Ker } \psi \triangleleft \overline{\text{Alt}}(Y), \quad J = \bigcap_{\psi_0 \in \Psi_0} \text{Ker } \psi_0 \triangleleft \text{Alt}(X).$$

The elements from  $I$  (resp.,  $J$ ) are the *non-graded* (resp., *graded*) identities of algebra  $A$ .

Let  $e$  be an idempotent of  $G$ . By a hypothesis of Theorem  $A_e$  is PI-algebra. Repeating verbatim the argument of Lemma 1, one can observe, that for any  $g \in G$  and  $x_0 \in A_g$  the elements  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in A_e$  satisfy a left-normed identity of the form (3), and, moreover, from the proof of Lemma it follows, that the degree  $m$  of this identity depends only on the degree of the initial identity of  $A_e$ . Since  $A$  is a algebra with finite grading one can assume that for all  $e$  and  $g$  there exists  $m$  such that we have a graded identity

$$\langle x_0^g x_1^e \dots x_m^e \rangle \equiv \sum_{1 \neq \sigma \in S_n} \alpha_{\sigma}^{e,g} \langle x_0^g x_{\sigma(1)}^e \dots x_{\sigma(m)}^e \rangle,$$

that is, we have an inclusion

$$\langle x_0^g x_1^e \dots x_m^e \rangle - \sum_{1 \neq \sigma \in S_n} \alpha_{\sigma}^{e,g} \langle x_0^g x_{\sigma(1)}^e \dots x_{\sigma(m)}^e \rangle \in J. \quad (13)$$

We denote now by  $P_n$  subspace in  $\overline{\text{Alt}}(Y)$  of multilinear polynomials in  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ , and by  $P_{n,q}$  a subspace of multilinear polynomials in  $x_1^{q_1}, \dots, x_n^{q_n}$  in  $\text{Alt}(X)$ , where  $q = (q_1, \dots, q_n) \in G^n$ . In order to prove the theorem it is sufficient for some  $n$ , bounded by a function of  $m$  and  $t$ , to obtain the inequality

$$\dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I} < n!, \quad (14)$$

since if (14) holds the ideal  $I$  cannot be zero. .

We show first, that  $P_n \cap I = P_n \cap J$  in  $\text{Alt}(X)$ . Let  $f = f(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in I$ ,  $\psi_0$  is a homomorphism  $\text{Alt}(X) \rightarrow A$ . We consider a homomorphism  $\psi : \overline{\text{Alt}}(Y) \rightarrow A$ , for which  $\psi(y_i) = \psi(x_i^{g_1} + \dots + x_i^{g_t}) = \psi_0(x_i^{g_1}) + \dots + \psi_0(x_i^{g_t}) = \psi_0(y_i)$ . As  $f \in I$  we have  $\psi_0(f) = \psi(f) = 0$ , so that  $f \in \text{Ker } \psi_0$ . Hence, we have proved the inclusion  $I \subset J$ . Let now  $f = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  be a multilinear polynomial in  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ , an element in  $J$ , and  $\psi$  is an arbitrary homomorphism from  $\overline{\text{Alt}}(Y)$  into  $A$ . Then  $\psi(y_i) = b_i^{g_1} + \dots + b_i^{g_t}$ , where  $b_i^{g_j} \in A_{g_j}$ ,

$$\psi(f) = \sum_{\alpha, \beta, \dots, \gamma} f(b_1^{g_\alpha}, b_2^{g_\beta}, \dots, b_n^{g_\gamma}).$$

But all summands on the right side equal zero hence  $f \in I$  and then  $P_n \cap I = P_n \cap J$  has been verified.

Now, considering the inclusion  $P_n \subset \bigoplus_{q \in G^n} P_{n,q}$ , we obtain the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I} &= \dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap J} = \dim \frac{P_n + J}{J} \leq \sum_{q \in G^n} \dim \frac{P_{n,q} + J}{J} = \\ &= \sum_{q \in G^n} \dim \frac{P_{n,q}}{P_{n,q} \cap J} = \sum_{q \in H^n} \dim \frac{P_{n,q}}{P_{n,q} \cap J}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The inequality (14) will follow from (15) if we prove, that for some  $n$ , depending only on  $m$  and  $t$ , for any  $q \in G^n$  we have

$$\dim \frac{P_{n,q}}{P_{n,q} \cap J} < \frac{n!}{t^n}, \quad (16)$$

since the number of the summands on the right side (15) is equal to  $|H| = t^n$ .

The proof of (16) is similar to the proof of Theorem 1. Change  $n$  by  $n + 1$ , fix a tuple  $q = (q_1, \dots, q_{n+1})$  and write, for convenience,

$$x_1^{q_1} = x_0, \dots, x_{n+1}^{q_{n+1}} = x_n.$$

We introduce on  $x_0, \dots, x_n$  an order by setting  $x_0 < x_1 < \dots < x_n$ . As before, we denote by  $Q_{n,q}$  subspace in  $P_{n,q}$ , spanned by the monomials  $\langle x_0 x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_n} \rangle$  and consider  $k$ -indecomposable monomials, where the number  $k$  will be chosen later. We prove now an analogue of Lemma 2 for the graded case.

LEMMA 3. *Modulo  $J$  the subspace  $Q_{n,q}$  coincides with the linear span  $V$  of all  $k$  - indecomposable monomials, where  $k = \frac{t^{N-1}}{t-1}$ , and  $N = t(m-1) + 1$ .*

**Proof.** As in Lemma 2, consider the lexicographically minimal counterexample

$$a = \langle x_0 x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_n} \rangle,$$

that exists if Lemma is wrong. Let  $j_1 < \dots < j_k$  be a set of indices defining a  $k$ -decomposition for  $a$ . We set  $a_0 = \langle x_0 x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_l} \rangle$ , where  $l = i_{j_1-1}$ . We denote by  $b_r, 1 \leq r \leq k-1$  a left-normed Jordan product of the variables  $x_s$  where  $s = i_{j_r}, \dots, i_{j_{r+1}-1}$ . If  $r = k$  we will assume  $b_k = x_{i_s}$  where  $s = j_k$ . As before, for brevity by  $a_{k+1}$  we denote the right multiplication by all remaining variables  $x_{i_s}$ . As in Lemma 2,

$$a \equiv \langle a_0 b_1 \dots b_k a_{k+1} \rangle (\text{mod}(J + V)).$$

By construction, the elements  $b_1, \dots, b_k$  are homogeneous relative the  $G$  - grading. Let  $B_i \in \text{Alt}_{p_i}(X), i = 1, \dots, k$ . We consider the product  $p_1 p_2 \dots p_k$  in  $G$ . By Lemma 1 from [5] for  $k$  selected by us there exist  $1 \leq t_0 < \dots < t_m \leq k$  such that

$$p_{t_0} p_{t_0+1} \dots p_{t_1-1} = p_{t_1} p_{t_1+1} \dots p_{t_2-1} = \dots = p_{t_{m-1}} p_{t_{m-1}+1} \dots p_{t_m} = e$$

$e^2 = e$  in  $G$ . Now we set  $c_0 = \langle a_0 b_1 \dots b_{t_0-1} \rangle, c_1 = b_{t_0} \circ b_{t_0+1} \circ \dots \circ b_{t_1-1}, \dots, c_m = b_{t_{m-1}} \circ b_{t_{m-1}+1} \circ \dots \circ b_{t_m}$ , and by  $c_{m+1}$  we denote the right multiplication by all remaining  $b_i$  and by the operator  $a_{k+1}$ . As before, by (2), the lexicographically leading term of  $\langle c_0 c_1 \dots c_{m+1} \rangle$  is equal to the leading term of  $\langle a_0 b_1 \dots b_k a_{k+1} \rangle$  and leading term of  $a$  hence

$$a \equiv \langle c_0 c_1 \dots c_{m+1} \rangle (\text{mod}(J + V))$$

by the minimality of the counterexample  $a$ . But according to (13)

$$\langle c_0 c_1 \dots c_{m+1} \rangle \equiv \sum_{1 \neq \sigma \in S_n} \beta_\sigma \langle c_0 c_{\sigma(1)} \dots c_{\sigma(m)} c_{m+1} \rangle (\text{mod}(J + V)).$$

The leading term of any product  $\langle c_0 c_{\sigma(1)} \dots c_{\sigma(m)} c_{m+1} \rangle$  strictly less than  $a$  as soon as  $\sigma \neq 1$ , from so that we have  $a \in J + V$ , contradicting the choice of  $a$ . Lemma 3 has been proven.  $\square$

The remaining portion of the proof of Theorem 2 completely repeats the proof of Theorem 1 with a reference to Lemma 3 in place of Lemma 2.  $\square$

#### 4 SOME COROLLARIES

Now we list a number of consequences from the results obtained.

COROLLARY 1. *The growth of identities of any alternative PI - algebra is asymptotically less than  $\frac{n!}{\alpha^n}$  for of any constant  $\alpha$ .*

This result follows from of Theorem 1 and of Lemma 1, since by definition the growth of identities of an algebra  $A$  is the growth of the sequence

$$c_n(A) = \dim \frac{P_n}{P_n \cap I},$$

where  $I$  is the ideal of identities of  $A$  in the free alternative algebra.

**COROLLARY 2.** *Let  $G$  be a finite solvable group of the automorphisms of an alternative algebra  $A$  over an arbitrary field such that  $\text{char } F$  is not a divisor of the order  $|G|$ . If the subalgebra of  $G$ -fixed points  $A^G$  is a PI-algebra with a non-trivial identity of degree  $d$  then  $A$  itself satisfies a non-trivial identity whose degree depends only on  $d$  and the order  $|G|$ .*

We omit the proof of this corollary since it is standard in all similar situations for various classes of algebras (see., for example, [4]). It should be remarked that A.P.Semenov [11] proved a similar result, with  $G$  arbitrary finite but without the connection between the degrees of identities in  $A^G$  and  $A$ .

The techniques developed above enable us also to consider the question about the existence of identities in matrices over alternative algebras. We prove first a more general result, of independent interest.

**LEMMA 4.** *Let  $A$  be a non-associative algebra, the growth of identities of which is asymptotically less than  $\frac{n!}{a^n}$  for of any constants  $a > 0$ . Let also  $B$  be a finite - dimensional algebra. Then the tensor product  $A \otimes B$  satisfies a non-trivial identity of the form*

$$\sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \alpha_\sigma \langle z_{\sigma(1)} \dots z_{\sigma(n)} \rangle \equiv 0, \tag{17}$$

where  $\langle z_1 \dots z_n \rangle$  stands for the left-normed product of the elements  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  of a non-associative algebra.

**Proof.** Let  $e_1, \dots, e_m$  be a basis of the algebra  $B$ , and  $\mathcal{A}(X)$  a relatively free algebra of countable rank in the variety  $\text{var } A$ , where  $X = \{x_i^j; i, j = 1, 2, \dots\}$ . We notice first that if on the elements  $x_1^1 \otimes e_1, \dots, x_1^m \otimes e_m, \dots, x_n^1 \otimes e_1, \dots, x_n^m \otimes e_m$  of the tensor product  $\mathcal{A}(X) \otimes B$  a relation

$$g(x_1^1 \otimes e_1, \dots, x_1^m \otimes e_m, \dots, x_n^1 \otimes e_1, \dots, x_n^m \otimes e_m) = 0, \tag{18}$$

holds then also for any  $a_i^j \in A$  we have a similar relation

$$g(a_1^1 \otimes e_1, \dots, a_1^m \otimes e_m, \dots, a_n^1 \otimes e_1, \dots, a_n^m \otimes e_m) = 0. \tag{19}$$

The reason is that for any algebras  $P, Q, R, S$  and any homomorphisms of algebras  $\varphi : P \rightarrow R, \psi : Q \rightarrow S$  the natural linear map  $\varphi \otimes \psi : P \otimes Q \rightarrow R \otimes S$  defined by

$(\varphi \otimes \psi)(p \otimes q) = \varphi(p) \otimes \psi(q)$ , is a homomorphism of algebras :

$$\begin{aligned} (\varphi \otimes \psi)((p \otimes q)(p' \otimes q')) &= (\varphi \otimes \psi)(pp' \otimes qq') = \\ &= \varphi(pp') \otimes \psi(qq') = \varphi(p)\varphi(p') \otimes \psi(q)\psi(q') = \\ &= (\varphi(p) \otimes \psi(q))(\varphi(p') \otimes \psi(q')) = ((\varphi \otimes \psi)(p \otimes q))((\varphi \otimes \psi)(p' \otimes q')). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathcal{A}(X)$  is a free algebra of the variety  $\text{var } A$ , the map  $x_j^i \mapsto a_j^i$  extends to a homomorphism  $\varphi : \mathcal{A}(X) \rightarrow A$ . Taking  $\psi$  equal to the identity map  $B \rightarrow B$  we obtain a homomorphism of algebras  $(\varphi \otimes \psi) : \mathcal{A}(X) \otimes B \rightarrow A \otimes B$ .

We consider now in  $\mathcal{A}(X)$  the elements

$$z_i = \sum_{j=1}^m x_i^j \otimes e_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \dots$$

If

$$\begin{aligned} f(z_1, \dots, z_n) &= \\ f(x_1^1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + x_1^m \otimes e_m, \dots, x_n^1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + x_n^m \otimes e_m) &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

then, as noticed above,

$$f(a_1^1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + a_1^m \otimes e_m, \dots, a_n^1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + a_n^m \otimes e_m) = 0$$

for any  $a_1^1, \dots, a_n^m \in A$ . Since any element from  $A \otimes B$  is a sum of the form  $c_1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + c_m \otimes e_m$  then  $f$  is identically equal to zero on  $A \otimes B$ . In other words, it is sufficient to prove, that a relation of the form (17) holds for the elements selected by us:  $z_1, z_2, \dots$ .

We consider a multilinear non-associative polynomial  $f = f(y_1, \dots, y_n)$ . If  $f$  is a monomial then its value

$$f(x_1^1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + x_1^m \otimes e_m, \dots, x_n^1 \otimes e_1 + \dots + x_n^m \otimes e_m)$$

can be expressed linearly through

$$f(x_1^{i_1}, \dots, x_n^{i_n}) \otimes e_k$$

where  $1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq m$ . Hence the value of any multilinear polynomial  $f$  in  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  can be linearly expressed through the tensors of the form

$$p(x_1^{i_1}, \dots, x_n^{i_n}) \otimes e_k, \quad 1 \leq k, i_1, \dots, i_n \leq m,$$

where  $p(x_1^{i_1}, \dots, x_n^{i_n})$  is a monomial in  $x_1^{i_1}, \dots, x_n^{i_n}$ . We denote by  $P_{n,q}$  the linear span of all monomials of  $\mathcal{A}(X)$  in  $x_1^{i_1}, \dots, x_n^{i_n}$ , if  $q = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$ . By the hypothesis of Lemma, starting with some  $n$  the following inequality holds

$$\dim P_{n,q} < \frac{n!}{(2m)^n}.$$

But then

$$\dim \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_q P_{n,q} \otimes e_k \leq n!m^n \dim P_n < \frac{(n+1)!}{2^n} < n!.$$

This means that the left - normed products  $\langle z_{\sigma(1)} \dots z_{\sigma(n)} \rangle$  are linearly dependent, that is, satisfy the relation (17), and Lemma 4 has been proven.

An immediate consequence of Theorem 1 and Lemma 4 is the following.

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $A$  be a alternative PI-algebra. Then the matrix algebra  $M_t(A)$  satisfies an identity of the form*

$$\sum_{\sigma \in S_n} \alpha_{\sigma} \langle x_{\sigma(1)} \dots x_{\sigma(n)} \rangle \equiv 0,$$

where  $\langle x_1 \dots x_n \rangle$  is a left - normed non - associative monomial in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .

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# Invariant connections on symmetric spaces

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**ABSTRACT:** A classical problem in Differential Geometry, the determination of the invariant affine connections in the simply connected irreducible symmetric spaces, is equivalent to the algebraic problem of computing the set  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} T, T)$  for any  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded simple Lie algebra  $L = S \oplus T$ . The algebraic problem is solved using known information about the Lie triple system structure on  $T$ , because the simple  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded Lie algebra  $L = S \oplus T$  is just the embedding for the simple Lie triple system  $T$ . It turns out that the set of homomorphisms contains non trivial elements if and only if  $T$  is related to a simple Jordan algebra. Now it is possible to come back to the geometric context to describe the affine connections and express the holonomy and torsion and curvature tensors in algebraic terms.

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

In another paper of these proceedings [1], it is explained how the geometrical problem of describing the invariant affine connections on a reductive homogeneous space  $M = G/H$  is equivalent to the algebraic problem of describing the multiplications  $\alpha : \mathfrak{m} \times \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}$  with  $(\text{Ad } h)\alpha(x, y) = \alpha((\text{Ad } h)(x), (\text{Ad } h)(y))$  for any  $h \in H$  and any  $x, y \in \mathfrak{m}$ , where  $\mathfrak{m}$  is a vector subspace of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  of  $G$  such that

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{m} \oplus \mathfrak{h}$$

(where  $\mathfrak{h}$  is the Lie subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  which corresponds to the closed subgroup  $H$

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of  $G$ ) and  $AdH(\mathfrak{m}) \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$ , a condition equivalent to  $[\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$  if  $H$  is connected. Such decomposition is called a *reductive decomposition*. This interplay between Geometry and Algebra was proved by Nomizu in [2].

The aim of this paper is to study the connection algebras  $(\mathfrak{m}, \alpha)$  that appear in the irreducible symmetric spaces, a special type of reductive homogeneous spaces.

If  $M$  is a manifold and  $\nabla$  an affine connection,  $(M, \nabla)$  is a *symmetric space* if for each point  $p \in M$  there exists a central symmetry  $S_p$  with center at  $p$ . Any symmetric space is isomorphic to a space of the form  $G/H$ , where the closed subgroup  $H \subseteq G$  is such that  $G_0^\sigma \subseteq H \subseteq G^\sigma$ , with  $\sigma$  an involutive automorphism of the Lie group  $G$ ,  $G^\sigma$  the subgroup of fixed points under  $\sigma$  and  $G_0^\sigma$  the connected component of the identity in  $G^\sigma$ .

For any symmetric space  $G/H$ , there exists a reductive decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  satisfying  $[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{h}$ , because  $d\sigma$  provides a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -gradation ( $\mathfrak{h}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}$ , as before, are the Lie algebras of  $H$  and  $G$  respectively). This kind of decomposition is called a *symmetric decomposition*. The converse is true.

For the simply connected irreducible symmetric spaces  $M = G/H$ , the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  is graded-simple. Therefore the geometric problem of computing invariant affine connections in a simply connected irreducible symmetric space  $M = G/H$  is equivalent, after applying Nomizu's result, to the algebraic problem of computing the set  $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{h}}(\mathfrak{m} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m})$ , where  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  is a graded-simple  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded Lie algebra, because each homomorphism of  $\mathfrak{h}$ -modules  $\tilde{\alpha} \in \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{h}}(\mathfrak{m} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m})$  determines an  $\mathbb{R}$ -bilinear multiplication  $\alpha : \mathfrak{m} \times \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}$  such that  $\text{ad } \mathfrak{h}|_{\mathfrak{m}} \subseteq \text{Der}(\mathfrak{m}, \alpha)$  and, since  $H$  is connected, this is equivalent to  $(\text{Ad } h)\alpha(x, y) = \alpha((\text{Ad } h)(x), (\text{Ad } h)(y))$  for any  $h \in H$  and any  $x, y \in \mathfrak{m}$ ; that is, it determines a connection algebra and so an invariant affine connection.

In the next section, we will present briefly the solution of the general problem of determining the set  $\text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{S}}(T \otimes_F T, T)$  for any simple finite-dimensional  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded Lie algebra  $L = S \oplus T$  over an arbitrary field  $F$  of characteristic zero. In particular, in the real case we will have obtained an algebraic description of all invariant affine connections in irreducible symmetric spaces (this was done previously in the Riemannian case, using different methods, by Laquer [3,4]). This description will be used in section 3 to determine the holonomy algebra and give explicit formulas for the torsion and curvature tensors associated to each connection.

## 2. THE SOLUTION OF THE ALGEBRAIC PROBLEM.

The determination of the set  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T)$  for any  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded simple Lie algebra  $L = S \oplus T$  has been done in [5], the purpose of this section is to present the main result in [5, Theorem 4.3] explaining briefly how the structure of a Lie triple system can be effectively used to compute those sets without decomposing  $T \otimes_F T$ .

From now on all the algebras and systems considered will be assumed to be finite-dimensional over a field  $F$  of characteristic 0.

### 2.1. Basic definitions.

A Lie triple system (L.t.s) is a vector space  $T$  endowed with a trilinear product  $[x, y, z]$  satisfying:

- i)  $[x, x, y] = 0$ ,
- ii)  $[x, y, z] + [y, z, x] + [z, x, y] = 0$ ,
- iii)  $[x, y, -] \in \text{Der } T$ ,

for any  $x, y, z \in T$ . The set  $S = \text{span} \langle [x, y, -] \mid x, y \in T \rangle$  is a Lie subalgebra of linear mappings on  $T$  and the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded Lie algebra  $L(T) = S \oplus T$ , whose bracket operation is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} [s_1, s_2] &:= s_1 s_2 \in S \text{ (the multiplication in } S) \\ [s, t] &:= s(t) \in T \text{ (the natural action)} \\ [t_1, t_2] &:= [t_1, t_2, -] \in S \end{aligned}$$

for any  $s, s_1, s_2 \in S$  and  $t, t_1, t_2 \in T$ , is called the *standard embedding* of  $T$ . Note that  $S$  and  $T$  are the even and odd part of the embedding and  $T$  is a faithful  $S$ -module. Thus any Lie triple system is nothing else but the odd part of a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded Lie algebra with product  $[x, y, z] = [[x, y], z]$ .

Among the Lie triple systems we are interested in the so called simple ones (without nontrivial ideals). They are just the odd part of simple  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded Lie algebras (see [6]). Consequently the problem now is to compute the set  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T)$  for any simple Lie triple system  $T$  with standard embedding  $L(T) = S \oplus T$ .

### 2.2. Examples.

It is not difficult to get elementary examples of simple L.t.s. We point out three of them which are specially relevant for our purposes. First we note that if  $T$  is a (simple) L.t.s. and  $\mu \in F \setminus \{0\} = F^*$ , the vector space  $T$  with the product  $[x, y, z]^\mu = \mu[x, y, z]$  is a (simple) L.t.s. (in case  $\mu \in F^2$  both systems are isomorphic).

**Example 1.** Any simple Lie algebra  $A$  is a simple L.t.s under the trilinear product  $[x, y, z] = [[x, y], z]$  ( $[, ]$  the Lie bracket in  $A$ ). In this case  $S = \text{ad } A = \text{Der } A \simeq A$  and the standard embedding is  $L(A) = \text{Der } A \oplus A \simeq A \oplus A$ . Moreover

$A$  is the adjoint module for  $S$  and therefore the Lie bracket in  $A$  is a nonzero skew-symmetric element in  $\text{Hom}_S(A \otimes A, A)$ . For any  $\mu \in F^*$ , we shall refer to the system  $(A, [\cdot, \cdot], \mu)$  as a L.t.s of *adjoint type*.

Over algebraically closed fields, it is known ([7,8]) that

$$\dim \text{Hom}_A(A \otimes A, A) = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if } A \text{ is of type } A_n \ (n \geq 2), \\ 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Consequently,  $\text{Hom}_S(A \otimes A, A)$  is spanned by the ‘‘Lie bracket in  $A$ ’’ for types other than  $A_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ). But, what happens in the remaining cases? The answer can be found in the following example.

**Example 2.** For any simple Jordan algebra  $J$  of degree  $n \geq 2$  with generic trace  $t$ , the set  $J_0$  of trace zero elements in  $J$  becomes a simple L.t.s via  $[x, y, z] = (xz)y - x(zy)$  (the associator of  $x, z$  and  $y$ ). Since  $[x, y, -] = [R_y, R_x]$  ( $R_x u = ux$ ), it follows that  $S = [R_J, R_J] = \text{Der } J$  and the standard embedding for this system is  $L(J_0) = \text{Der } J \oplus J_0 \simeq \text{Der } J \oplus R_{J_0}$ . In this case we can obtain a symmetric element in  $\text{Hom}_S(J_0 \otimes J_0, J_0)$  by means of

$$\begin{aligned} J_0 \times J_0 &\longrightarrow J_0 \\ x \otimes y &\mapsto x \cdot y = xy - \frac{1}{n}t(xy)1 \end{aligned}$$

(that is, the projection of the element  $xy$  onto  $J_0$ ) and this product is nontrivial if and only if  $n \geq 3$ . The systems  $(J_0, [\cdot, \cdot], \mu)$  will be said to be of *Jordan type*.

In case  $F$  is algebraically closed, if  $J$  is a simple Jordan algebra of degree  $n \geq 3$  over  $F$ , then either:

- i)  $J$  is the algebra of symmetric  $n \times n$  matrices. In this case  $\text{Der } J$  is isomorphic to the set of skew-symmetric matrices ([9, Theorem VI.9]) and  $L(J_0) \simeq \mathfrak{sl}(n, F)$ .
- ii)  $J$  is the algebra of symmetric  $2n \times 2n$  matrices with respect to the standard symplectic involution. Again in this case  $\text{Der } J$  is isomorphic to the skew-symmetric matrices with respect to this involution [9, Theorem VI.9] and  $L(J_0) \simeq \mathfrak{sl}(2n, F)$ .
- iii)  $J$  is the exceptional simple Jordan algebra,  $\text{Der } J$  is a Lie algebra of type  $F_4$  and  $L(J_0)$  is a Lie algebra of type  $E_6$  [9, Section IV.11].

In all these cases,  $\dim \text{Hom}_S(J_0 \otimes J_0, J_0) \geq 1$ , and the main Theorem will assert that, in fact, it is 1.

- iv)  $J = \text{Mat}_n(F)^+$ . In this case  $J_0 = \mathfrak{sl}(n, F)$  and  $\text{Der } J = \text{ad } J_0$ . Then the triple system  $J_0$  is both of adjoint type ( $A_{n-1}$ ) and of Jordan type.

Therefore,  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T)$  is spanned by the ‘‘Lie bracket in  $S$ ’’ and the ‘‘Jordan product .’’ for the adjoint type  $A_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ). This is the answer to the question in Example 1.

The situation in iv) can be settled in a more general context over arbitrary fields of characteristic 0, as the following and final example ([9, Section V.7]) shows:

**Example 3.** Let  $(A, j)$  be a central simple associative involutorial algebra of degree  $n \geq 3$  with  $j$  an involution of second kind and center  $P = F[q]$ , a quadratic extension of the base field or isomorphic to  $F \times F$ . Then the Jordan algebra  $J = H(A, j)^+$  of  $j$ -symmetric elements of  $A$  is central simple of type  $A$  and degree  $n$  (that is, after extension by scalars it becomes a total  $n \times n$  matrix algebra) and the derived algebra  $S(A, j)_0 = [S(A, j), S(A, j)]$  of the Lie algebra  $S(A, j)^-$  of  $j$ -skew elements of  $A$  is a central simple Lie algebra of type  $A_{n-1}$  [10, Theorem X.8] (Note that if  $P = F \oplus F$ ,  $A = B \oplus B^{op}$ , with  $B$  a central simple associative algebra and  $j$  the exchange involution:  $j(b_1, b_2) = (b_2, b_1)$ . So we can identify  $H(A, j)^+ \simeq B^+$  and  $S(A, j)^- \simeq B^-$ ). The converse is also true: any central simple Jordan algebra of type  $A$  and degree  $n \geq 3$  can be obtained in this manner.

If we consider the L.t.s. of Jordan type  $T = J_0 = H(A, j)_0 = \{x \in H(A, j) \mid t(x) = 0\}$  ( $t$  the generic trace of  $H(A, j)$ ), we have that  $S = \text{Der } J = \text{ad } S(A, j)_0|_{H(A, j)_0}$  [9].

As the linear map  $x \mapsto qx$  of  $J_0$  onto  $S(A, j)_0$  is an isomorphism of  $S(A, j)_0$ -modules, our L.t.s. is both of adjoint type and of Jordan type, and the bracket in  $S(A, j)_0$  under this isomorphism provides the product

$$x * y = q[x, y],$$

which is a nonzero skew-symmetric element in  $\text{Hom}_{\text{Der } J}(J_0 \otimes J_0, J_0)$ . Consequently the dimension of this space is at least 2. We shall refer to the systems  $(H(A, j)_0, [ , , ]^\mu)$  as L.t.s. of *adjoint-Jordan type*.

### 2.3. The centroid of a Lie triple system.

A natural and useful tool in the study of simple algebraic structures is the centroid. Given any L.t.s.  $T$  we define the centroid of  $T$  in the natural way as  $\Gamma = \{\alpha \in \text{End}_F(T) \mid \alpha([x, y, z]) = [\alpha(x), y, z] = [x, \alpha(y), z] = [x, y, \alpha(z)] \quad \forall x, y, z \in T\}$ . If  $T$  is simple,  $\Gamma$  is a field contained in the centroid of  $L(T)$ , and  $T$  over  $\Gamma$  remains simple by scalars extensions.

A technical result in [5, Lemma 4.1] shows that for any simple Lie triple system  $T$  with centroid  $\Gamma$ , in order to determine  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T)$  it is enough to determine  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_\Gamma T, T)$ .

In this way, our problem is reduced to the special case of central simple L.t.s. for which we can extend scalars up to an algebraically closed field. Then, the problem becomes to compute the set of homomorphisms for simple L.t.s. over algebraically closed fields.

Now we shall sketch how to solve this situation.

#### 2.4. Solution in the algebraically closed case.

In this paragraph let  $T$  be a simple L.t.s. over an algebraically closed field  $F$  and  $L(T) = S \oplus T$  be its standard embedding.

The complete classification of such systems was obtained by Lister in 1952 [6]. In 1980 Faulkner [11] gave a method based on the use of the affine Dynkin diagrams (see [12, Ch.8]) that provides an useful and quicker classification. This one will be used here to deduce our results.

From [6,11] the algebra  $L(T)$  is a simple ungraded algebra unless  $T$  is of adjoint type, and  $S$  is a reductive algebra with  $\dim Z(S) \leq 1$ , consequently the derived subalgebra  $[S, S]$  of  $S$  is semisimple. In case  $Z(S) = 0$ ,  $T$  is an irreducible selfdual module for  $S$ ; otherwise  $T = T_1 \oplus T_2$ ,  $T_i$  being irreducible dual  $S$ -modules.

The central idea in Faulkner's classification is to associate a diagram to each simple L.t.s.  $T$ , starting with the Dynkin diagram of the semisimple algebra  $[S, S]$  and adding a node for each  $[S, S]$ -irreducible component of  $T$  (which represents its minimum weight). All the nodes in the diagrams are equipped by numerical labels representing the linear dependence of the roots of  $[S, S]$  and the weights of  $T$  involved in the diagrams. These weighted diagrams contain the whole information on the Lie algebra  $S$  and the  $S$ -module  $T$ . They can be grouped into four types.

i) Diagrams representing simple L.t.s. of adjoint type. For these ones, the problem was already solved.

ii) Diagrams representing non irreducible simple L.t.s.. Given such a system  $T$ , the center of  $S$  is one-dimensional and  $T = T_1 \oplus T_2$  with  $T_i$   $S$ -irreducible. In this case, there exists a nonzero central element  $z \in S$  with  $\text{ad } z|_{T_1} = 1$  and  $\text{ad } z|_{T_2} = -1$ . Therefore  $T \otimes T$  is the sum of the eigenspaces 2, 0,  $-2$  and so  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T) = 0$ .

iii) Diagrams representing irreducible simple L.t.s with trivial 0-weight space, and

iv) Diagrams representing irreducible simple L.t.s. with nontrivial 0-weight space.

In the two latter cases the corresponding L.t.s. are selfdual modules and the determination of the set  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T)$  can be reduced to the problem of bounding the dimension of a certain subspace in the 0-weight space of  $T$  (which is 0 for systems of type iii)) because of the following result [5, Lemma 3.3] and [8]:

**LEMMA** *Let  $S$  be a semisimple Lie algebra,  $H$  a Cartan subalgebra of  $S$ ,  $T = V(\lambda)$  an irreducible selfdual module with highest weight  $\lambda$  relative to  $H$ ,  $v_\lambda$  and  $v_{-\lambda}$  nonzero weight vectors for  $\lambda$  and  $-\lambda$ . For any root  $\alpha$  relative to  $H$  let  $S_\alpha$  be the corresponding root space. If  $T_0$  is the 0-weight space in  $T$ , the linear map*

$$\begin{aligned} \phi : \text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T) &\longrightarrow T_0^\lambda = \{v \in T_0 \mid S_\alpha \cdot v = 0 \quad \forall \alpha \perp \lambda\} \\ \varphi &\longmapsto \varphi(v_\lambda \otimes v_{-\lambda}) \end{aligned}$$

is well defined and one-to-one. That is,  $\dim \text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T) \leq \dim T_0^\lambda$ .

So, given a simple L.t.s.  $T$  of type iii), from the previous Lemma we get that  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T) = 0$ ; and given a  $T$  of type iv), by using the technical Lemma in [5, Lemma 3.4] and the information provided by the affine diagrams of types i), iii) and iv) it is possible to obtain that the space  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T)$  is trivial or one-dimensional, turning out that  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T) = 0$  unless  $T$  is a simple L.t.s. of Jordan type (the L.t.s. i), ii), iii) described in Example 2), in this case  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T)$  is spanned by the product  $\cdot$  ( $J$  is not of type  $A$ ).

### 2.5. The main Theorem.

Now, taking into account the considerations above, we can establish the main result in [5, Theorem 4.3]:

**THEOREM** *Let  $T$  be a simple Lie triple system over a field  $F$  of characteristic zero with centroid  $\Gamma$  and let  $L = S \oplus T$  be its standard embedding. Then  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T) = 0$  unless either:*

- a)  $T$  is of adjoint type with  $S$  being a central simple Lie algebra over  $\Gamma$  of type different from  $A_n$  ( $n \geq 2$ ). In this case  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T) \simeq \text{Hom}_S(S \otimes_F S, S)$ , which is spanned over  $\Gamma$  by the Lie multiplication in  $S$ , or
- b) there exists a central simple Jordan algebra  $J$  of degree  $n \geq 3$  over  $\Gamma$  and a nonzero scalar  $\mu \in \Gamma$  (which can be taken modulo  $\Gamma^2$ ) such that  $T$  is the Lie triple system  $(J_0, [\cdot, \cdot, \cdot]^\mu)$ . In this case either:
  - i)  $J$  is not of type  $A$  over  $\Gamma$ , then  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Der } J}(J_0 \otimes_F J_0, J_0)$  is spanned over  $\Gamma$  by the product  $x \cdot y$ ,
  - ii)  $J = H(A, j)$  for some central simple associative involutorial algebra  $(A, j)$  of second kind over  $\Gamma$ . Let  $P = \Gamma[q]$  ( $0 \neq q^2 \in \Gamma$ ) be the center of  $A$ . Then  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T) = \text{Hom}_{\text{Der } J}(J_0 \otimes_F J_0, J_0) = \text{Hom}_{S(A, j)_0}(H(A, j)_0 \otimes_F H(A, j)_0, H(A, j)_0)$  is spanned over  $\Gamma$  by the products  $\cdot$  and  $*$ .

From the point of view of nonassociative algebras, this result points out the central role played by the multiplication  $\cdot$ , defined in the set  $J_0$  of the trace zero elements in a Jordan algebra  $J$ , in the computation of the sets  $\text{Hom}_S(T \otimes T, T)$ .

The restriction of the Theorem to the real field gives us the invariant affine connections on the irreducible symmetric spaces. So, in a sense, we can say that the Jordan algebras are responsible for the existence of noncanonical connections on the symmetric spaces.

### 3. APPLICATIONS TO DIFFERENTIAL GEOMETRY.

In this section we are going to compute some important geometric objects in a symmetric space, namely, the torsion and curvature tensors and the holonomy algebra associated to the invariant affine connections on it.

First of all, we will get expressions for these objects in any reductive homogeneous space in terms of the multiplication in the associated connection algebra. Afterwards we will specialize the previous computations to the symmetric spaces, because for these spaces we know the concrete connection algebras (thanks to the central Theorem in Section 2).

The torsion and curvature tensors are the most important tensors associated to an affine connection  $\nabla$ , and they are given by the following formulas:

- Torsion tensor:  $T(X, Y) = \nabla_X Y - \nabla_Y X - [X, Y]$
- Curvature tensor:  $R(X, Y)Z = \nabla_X \nabla_Y Z - \nabla_Y \nabla_X Z - \nabla_{[X, Y]} Z$

Now, if  $M = G/H$  is a reductive homogeneous space with reductive decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  and  $\nabla$  is a  $G$ -invariant affine connection, let  $\alpha : \mathfrak{m} \times \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}$  be the associated multiplication by Nomizu's result. In this case the torsion and curvature tensors can be expressed in terms of the multiplication  $\alpha$  by means of:

$$T(X, Y) = \alpha(X, Y) - \alpha(Y, X) - [X, Y]_{\mathfrak{m}}$$

$$R(X, Y)Z = \alpha(X, \alpha(Y, Z)) - \alpha(Y, \alpha(X, Z)) - \alpha([X, Y]_{\mathfrak{m}}, Z) - [[X, Y]_{\mathfrak{h}}, Z]$$

for any  $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{m}$ , where  $Z_{\mathfrak{m}}$  and  $Z_{\mathfrak{h}}$  denote the projections of  $Z \in \mathfrak{g}$  onto  $\mathfrak{m}$  and  $\mathfrak{h}$  respectively, and we are identifying  $\mathfrak{m}$  with the tangent space  $T_{\bar{x}}M$ .

If  $M$  is symmetric, the projection over  $\mathfrak{m}$  of the bracket of two elements in  $\mathfrak{m}$  is zero, hence:

$$T(X, Y) = \alpha(X, Y) - \alpha(Y, X)$$

$$R(X, Y)Z = \alpha(X, \alpha(Y, Z)) - \alpha(Y, \alpha(X, Z)) - [[X, Y]_{\mathfrak{h}}, Z].$$

On the other hand, the holonomy algebra  $\text{Hol } \nabla$  is the smallest Lie subalgebra of  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathfrak{m})$  containing  $R(X, Y)$  for all  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$  and closed under commutation by  $\nabla_X$  for any  $X \in \mathfrak{m}$ .

The previous facts lead us to introduce the following definitions:

Given a Lie triple system  $T$  with standard embedding  $L(T) = S \oplus T$  and given  $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_F T, T)$ , we define:

- i) Torsion tensor:  $T^\alpha(x, y) = \alpha(x, y) - \alpha(y, x)$
- ii) Curvature tensor:  $R^\alpha(x, y)z = \alpha(x, \alpha(y, z)) - \alpha(y, \alpha(x, z)) - [x, y, z]$
- iii) Holonomy algebra:  $\text{Hol}^\alpha(T) =$  the smallest subalgebra of  $\text{End}_F T$  containing  $R^\alpha(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in T$  and closed under commutation by the operators  $\alpha(x, -)$ .

We are going to compute all these concepts for any simple Lie triple system  $T$  over an arbitrary field  $F$  of characteristic zero. In the particular case  $F = \mathbb{R}$ , each  $\alpha \in \text{Hom}_S(T \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} T, T)$  corresponds to an invariant affine connection in the symmetric space so that  $T^\alpha$ ,  $R^\alpha$  and  $\text{Hol}^\alpha$  are the true torsion tensor, curvature tensor and holonomy algebra associated to the connection.

According to the main theorem in Section 2 we can assume that  $T$  is a central simple Lie triple system over  $F$  with standard embedding  $L(T) = S \oplus T$  and the pair  $(T, \alpha)$  has one of the following forms:

I) **Trivial case:**  $\alpha = 0$

Clearly we have for any  $x, y \in T$ :

$$\begin{cases} T^\alpha(x, y) = 0 \\ R^\alpha(x, y) = -[x, y, -] \\ \text{Hol}^\alpha(T) = \text{alg}\langle [x, y, -] \mid x, y \in T \rangle = S \end{cases}$$

II) **Adjoint type:** there exists a central simple Lie algebra  $S$  and  $\mu, \eta \in F^* = F \setminus \{0\}$  such that  $T = S$  and for any  $x, y \in T$ :

$$\begin{cases} [x, y, -] = \mu \text{ad}[x, y] \\ \alpha(x, y) = \eta[x, y] \end{cases}$$

where  $[, ]$  is the product in  $S$ .

Immediately we obtain in this case

$$\begin{cases} T^\alpha(x, y) = 2\eta[x, y] \\ R^\alpha(x, y) = (\eta^2 - \mu) \text{ad}[x, y] \\ \text{Hol}^\alpha(T) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \mu = \eta^2 \\ \text{ad } S \simeq S & \text{if } \mu \neq \eta^2 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

III) **Jordan type:** there exists a central simple Jordan algebra  $J$  of degree  $n \geq 3$  with generic trace  $t$  and  $\mu, \eta \in F^*$  such that  $T = J_0 = \{x \in J \mid t(x) = 0\}$  is the set of trace zero elements and for any  $x, y \in J_0$ :

$$\begin{cases} [x, y, -] = \mu[R_x, R_y]|_{J_0} \\ \alpha(x, y) = \eta x \cdot y \end{cases}$$

where  $x \cdot y = xy - \frac{1}{n}t(xy)1$  and  $xy$  is the product in  $J$ .

In order to compute the holonomy we need a previous result:

**LEMMA** *Let  $J$  be a central simple Jordan algebra of degree  $n \geq 3$  with generic trace  $t$  and  $J_0 = \{x \in J \mid t(x) = 0\}$  in which we consider the product  $x \cdot y = xy - \frac{1}{n}t(xy)1$  and the trace form  $t(x, y) = t(xy)$ .*

*Then the derivation algebra and the Lie multiplication algebra of  $(J_0, \cdot)$  are the Lie algebras given by:*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Der}(J_0, \cdot) &= \{d|_{J_0} : d \in \text{Der } J\} \quad (\simeq \text{Der } J) \\ \text{Lie}(J_0, \cdot) &= \text{sl}(J_0) \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore,  $(J_0, \cdot)$  is simple.

*Proof:* If  $(a, b, c) = (ab)c - a(bc) = [R_c, R_a](b)$  is the associator in  $J$  and  $(a, b, c) = (a \cdot b) \cdot c - a \cdot (b \cdot c)$  the associator in  $(J_0, \cdot)$ , it is straightforward to check that

$$(a, b, c) = (a, b, c) - \frac{1}{n}(t(a, b)c - t(b, c)a) \quad (*)$$

for any  $a, b, c \in J_0$ . Therefore for any  $x, y \in J_0$

$$(x \cdot x, y, x) = \frac{1}{n}(t(x, y)x \cdot x - t(x \cdot x, y)x).$$

For any  $d \in \text{Der}(J_0, \cdot)$ , its action on this equality gives

$$(t(dx, y) + t(x, dy))x \cdot x - (t(d(x \cdot x), y) + t(x \cdot x, dy))x = 0$$

for any  $x, y \in J_0$ . Since the degree of  $J$  is  $\geq 3$ , the set of elements  $x \in J_0$  such that  $x$  and  $x \cdot x$  are linearly independent is a dense subset in the Zariski topology, we obtain from the above that

$$t(dx, y) + t(x, dy) = 0$$

for any  $x, y \in J_0$ . That is,  $\text{Der}(J_0, \cdot)$  is contained in the orthogonal Lie algebra related to  $t: \text{so}(J_0, t)$ . Now, extending  $d$  to  $J$  by means of  $d1 = 0$ , we get immediately that  $d \in \text{Der } J$ . Conversely, any derivation of  $J$  restricts to a derivation of  $(J_0, \cdot)$ , so that

$$\text{Der}(J_0, \cdot) = \{d|_{J_0} : d \in \text{Der } J\} \simeq \text{Der } J.$$

It is known that  $J_0$  is an irreducible  $\text{Der } J$ -module, therefore  $J_0$  is an irreducible  $\text{Der}(J_0, \cdot)$ -module, which implies that  $(J_0, \cdot)$  is simple and their derivations are inner ([13, Theorem 3.4] and [14, Lemma 1]), that is,  $\text{Der}(J_0, \cdot) \subseteq \text{Lie}(J_0, \cdot)$ .

We denote by  $R_x$  the multiplication operator in  $(J_0, \cdot)$  given by  $R_x(y) = x \cdot y$ . Since  $\text{trace}(R_x)$  is a multiple of  $t(x)$ , we have  $\text{trace}(R_x) = \text{trace}(R_x) = 0$  if  $x \in J_0$ , hence  $\text{Lie}(J_0, \cdot) \subseteq \text{sl}(J_0)$ .

In order to prove the converse, we note that (\*) is equivalent to:

$$[R_x, R_y] = [R_x, R_y] - \frac{1}{n}(t(x, -)y - t(y, -)x)$$

for any  $x, y \in J_0$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{n}(t(x, -)y - t(y, -)x) = \\ & = [R_x, R_y] - [R_x, R_y] \in \text{Lie}(J_0, \cdot) + \text{Der}(J_0, \cdot) \subseteq \text{Lie}(J_0, \cdot) \end{aligned}$$

since  $[R_x, R_y]$  is always a derivation of  $J$ . But the linear maps on the left hand side above span the orthogonal Lie algebra  $\text{so}(J_0, t)$ , so that  $\text{so}(J_0, t) \subseteq \text{Lie}(J_0, \cdot)$ . Now