

## SUBALGEBRAS OF A $q$ -ANALOG FOR THE VIRASORO ALGEBRA

KI-BONG NAM AND MOON-OK WANG

ABSTRACT. We define subalgebras  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  of  $V_q$  where  $V_q$  are in the paper [4]. We show that the Lie algebra  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is simple and maximally abelian decomposing. We may define a Lie algebra is maximally abelian decomposing, if it has a maximally abelian decomposition of it. The  $F$ -algebra automorphism group of the Laurent extension of the quantum plane is found in the paper [4], so we find the Lie automorphism group of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  in this paper.

### 1. Preliminaries

Let  $N$  be the set of all negative integers and  $Z$  be the set of all integers. Let  $F$  be a field of characteristic zero. Let  $q \in F$  be a fixed non-root of unity ( $q^n \neq 1$  for any  $n \in N$ .) Throughout the paper, let us denote that  $mN$  and  $nN$  are additive submonoids of  $Z$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  are fixed non-negative integers. Similarly, let  $mZ$  and  $nZ$  denote additive subgroups of  $Z$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  are fixed non-negative integers. The skew polynomial ring  $F_q[x, y]$ , where  $yx = qxy$ , has been called the quantum plane and it has the Laurent extension  $F_q[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$ .  $F_q[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$  has a subring  $F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}] = \{x^{ma}y^{nb} \mid a, b \in N\}$ , where  $m$  and  $n$  are fixed non-negative integers.

$F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}]$  can be localized at the Ore set of powers of  $x$  and  $y$  to give a ring of Laurent polynomials  $F_q[x^{mZ}, y^{nZ}]$ . The center of  $F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}]$  or  $F_q[x^{mZ}, y^{nZ}]$  is  $F$ .

Let  $A$  be an associative  $F$ -algebra. We may define a Lie algebra  $A_{[,]}$  on  $A$  using the commutator  $[, ]$  on  $A$  defined by  $[a, b] = ab - ba$  for any

---

Received November 11, 2002.

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification: Primary 17B40, 17B56.

Key words and phrases: simple Lie algebra, maximally abelian decomposing, algebra automorphism, Lie automorphism, isomorphism.

The Second author wishes to acknowledge the financial support of Hanyang University, Korea made in the program year of 2002.

$a, b \in A$ . The  $F$ -algebra  $F_q[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$  gives the Lie algebra  $F_{q,[\cdot]}[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$ , and it has the Lie algebra decompositions as follows;

$$(1) \quad F_q[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}] = F \bigoplus_q V_q^{mZ \times nZ},$$

where the Lie subalgebra  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  has the standard basis  $\{x^{mi}y^{nj} | i, j \in Z, \text{ at least } i \text{ or } j \text{ is not zero}\}$ . The Lie algebra  $V_q$  in the paper [4] is isomorphic to the Lie algebra  $V_q^{Z^2}$ . The Lie algebra  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is generated by  $x^{-m}y^{-n}, x^m$ , and  $y^n$  [4].

### 2. Simplicity

The monomial of the form  $x^{mi}y^{nj}$  form a vector space basis of  $F_q[x^{mZ}, y^{nZ}]$ .

**THEOREM 1.** *The  $F$ -algebra  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is simple.*

*Proof.* It is straightforward. So let us omit the proof of the theorem. □

**THEOREM 2.** *The Lie algebra  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is simple.*

*Proof.* The proof of this theorem is similar to the proof of the Theorem 1.3 in the paper [4] or it can be easily proved by induction on the number of terms of an element in a non-zero ideal of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  [6]. Let us omit the proof of the theorem. □

**COROLLARY 1.** *The Lie algebra  $V_q^{Z^2}$  is simple.*

*Proof.* This is the Theorem 1.3 in the paper [4]. □

Theorem 2 can be proved by a result of I. N. Herstein [2], [4], i.e.  $F_q[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}] = F \bigoplus_q V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ .

**LEMMA 1.** *The map  $D_{\alpha, \beta}(x^{mi}y^{nj}) = (\alpha mi + \beta nj)x^{mi}y^{nj}$  induces a derivation of  $F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}]$  for any  $\alpha, \beta \in F$ . The derivation  $D_{\alpha, \beta}$  is not an inner derivation of  $F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}]$ .*

*Proof.* It is standard (please refer the proof of Lemma 1.1 in the paper [4].) □

**THEOREM 3.** *Every derivation of the  $F$ -algebra  $F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}]$  is the sum of inner and  $D_{\alpha, \beta}$  where  $D_{\alpha, \beta}$  is the derivation in the Lemma 1.*

*Proof.* It is standard by Lemma 1. □

**COROLLARY 2.** *The Lie algebra of derivations of  $F$ -algebra  $F_q[x^{mN}, y^{nN}]$  is generated by the inner and the derivations  $D_{\alpha,\beta}$  in Lemma 1.*

*Proof.* It is standard (please refer the proof of Theorem 1.2 in the paper [4].) □

### 3. Abelian decomposition of a Lie algebra

A Lie algebra  $L$  has a decomposition of abelian subalgebras of it, if  $L = \bigoplus_{i \in I} A_i$  such that  $A_i, i \in I$ , is an abelian subalgebra of  $L$  and  $I$  is an index set.

A Lie algebra  $L$  is maximally abelian decomposing, if it holds the following two conditions:

- (i)  $L = \bigoplus_{i \in I} A_i$  such that  $A_i, i \in I$ , is an abelian subalgebra of  $L$  and  $I$  is an index set.
- (ii) If any element  $l \in L$  such that  $l = \sum_{l_i \in A_i, i \in J \subset I} l_i$  and  $|J| \geq 2$ , then the centralizer of  $l$  is one dimensional vector space.

The Lie algebra  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is maximally abelian decomposing, since

$$(2) \quad V_q^{mZ \times nZ} = \bigoplus_{(i,j) \in Z \times N} A_{(i,j)}$$

is a required maximally abelian decomposition where  $A_{(i,j)}$  is the subalgebra of it spanned by  $x^{mik}y^{nj^k}, k \in Z$ , where we may choose the minimal integers  $i$  and  $j$  for  $A_{(i,j)}$  using the absolute values of them.

**LEMMA 2.** *The units of  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  are monomials of the form  $cx^iy^j$  for  $0 \neq c \in F, i \in mZ$ , and  $j \in nZ$ .*

*Proof.* It is standard (please refer the proof of Lemma 1.4 in the paper [4].) □

Each element  $(\alpha, \beta) \in F^\bullet \times F^\bullet$  induces an automorphism of  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ , namely  $\sigma_{(\alpha,\beta)}(x^{mi}y^{nj}) = (\alpha x)^{mi}(\beta y)^{nj}$ . Each element of  $Sl(2, Z)$  induces an automorphism of  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ} : \begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix}$  corresponds to the automorphism which maps to  $x^m$  to  $x^{mh}y^{nk}$  and  $y^n$  maps to  $x^{mi}y^{nj}$  (note that  $\sigma(x^m y^n) = q^{njmh}x^{mi+mh}y^{nk+nk}$  and  $\sigma(y^n x^m) = q^{mn+njmh}x^{mi+mh}y^{nk+nk}$ , we have that  $jh - ik = 1$ .) We show that these automorphisms generate the automorphism group.

**THEOREM 4.** *The automorphism group  $Aut_F(F_q^{mZ \times nZ})$  of  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is isomorphic to the semidirect of  $Sl(2, Z)$  and  $F^\bullet \times F^\bullet$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\sigma$  is an automorphism of  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  it take  $x^m$  and  $y$  to units. So by Lemma 2,  $\sigma(x^m) = \lambda x^{mh} y^{nk}$  and  $\sigma(y^n) = \mu x^{mi} y^{nj}$  for  $\lambda, \mu \in F^\bullet \times F^\bullet$  and  $h, k, i, j \in Z$ . As the above note, we have that  $\det \begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix} = 1$ . Since

$$(3) \quad \sigma_{(\alpha, \beta)} \begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix} \sigma_{(\alpha^h \beta^k, \alpha^i \beta^j)},$$

it follows that the product is a semidirect. □

The following lemma for the Lie automorphism group  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  of corresponds to the Lemma 2 for the automorphism group of  $F_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ .

LEMMA 3. For any Lie automorphism  $\theta$  of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ ,  $\theta(x^m) = x^{mh} y^{nk}$  and  $\theta(y^n) = x^{mi} y^{nj}$  hold for some  $h, k, i$ , and  $j \in Z$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\theta$  be an Lie automorphism of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ . It is enough to show that  $\theta(x^m) = x^{mh} y^{nk}$  for some  $h, k \in Z$ . Since  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is maximally abelian decomposing,  $\theta(x^m)$  should be in  $A_{(i,j)}$  by 4 for some  $(i, j) \in Z \times N$ . Similarly, for any element  $x^u y^v \in V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ ,  $\theta(x^u y^v) \in A_{(i,j)}$  for some  $(i, j) \in Z \times N$ . Assume that there is  $x^u y^v \in V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ , such that  $\theta(x^u y^v)$  has  $p$  non-zero terms in  $A_{(i,j)}$  such that  $p$  is maximal, i.e. for any element  $x^b y^s \in V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ , the number of terms of  $\theta(x^b y^s)$  is less than or equal to  $p$ ,  $p > 1$ . There is  $t \in mZ$  such that  $\theta([x^t, x^u y^v]) = (1 - q^{vt}) \theta(x^{t+u} y^v)$  has  $p$  terms, since  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  is maximally abelian decomposing.  $\theta([x^u y^v, x^{t+u} y^v])$  has  $p^2$  terms. Since  $p^2 > p$ , this contradicts the fact that  $\theta(x^u y^v)$  has the maximal number of non-zero terms. This shows that  $p = 1$ . Therefore we have proven the lemma. □

Let  $Aut_{Lie}(V_q^{mZ \times nZ})$  be the group of all Lie automorphisms of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ .

Each element  $(\alpha, \beta) \in F^\bullet \times F^\bullet$  induces an automorphism of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ , namely  $\sigma_{(\alpha, \beta)}(x^{mi} y^{nj}) = (\alpha x)^{mi} (\beta y)^{nj}$ . Each element of  $Sl(2, Z)$  induces an automorphism of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$  :  $\begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix}$  corresponds to the automorphism which maps to  $x^m$  to  $x^{mh} y^{nk}$  and  $y$  maps to  $x^{mi} y^{nj}$ . From  $\theta([x^m, y^n]) = \theta(x^m y^n - y^n x^m) = (1 - q^{mn}) \theta(x^m y^n)$ , we have that  $[\theta(x^m), \theta(y^n)] = (1 - q^{mn}) \theta(x^m y^n)$ . This implies that  $[x^{mh} y^{nk}, x^{mi} y^{nj}] = (1 - q^{mn}) x^{mh} y^{nk} x^{mi} y^{nj}$ . This implies that  $q^{njmh} = q^{nkmj+nm}$ . We have that  $nm(\det \begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix}) = nm$ . This implies that  $\det \begin{pmatrix} h & k \\ i & j \end{pmatrix} = 1$ . We

show that these Lie automorphisms generate the automorphism group of  $V_q^{mZ \times nZ}$ .

**THEOREM 5.**  *$Aut_{Lie}(V_q^{mZ \times nZ})$  is isomorphic to the semidirect of  $Sl(2, Z)$  and  $F^\bullet \times F^\bullet$ .*

*Proof.* The proof of this theorem is similar to the proof of Theorem 4 by Lemma 3 and the above note. Thus let us omit the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**LEMMA 4.** *For  $F$ -algebra isomorphism  $\theta$  from  $F_{q_1}[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$  to  $F_{q_2}[u^{\pm 1}, v^{\pm 1}]$ ,  $\theta(x) = c_1 u^h v^k$  and  $\theta(y) = c_2 u^i v^j$  hold for some  $h, k, i$ , and  $j \in Z$  where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are non-zero scalars.*

*Proof.* It is straightforward from the that the unit of  $F_q[u^{\pm 1}, v^{\pm 1}]$  has the form  $u^s v^t$  for  $s, t \in Z$ . Therefore we have proven the lemma.  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 1.** *Let  $F_{q_1}[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$  and  $F_{q_2}[u^{\pm 1}, v^{\pm 1}]$  be simple  $F$ -algebras. If  $q_1 \neq q_2$ , then  $F_{q_1}[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$  is not isomorphic to  $F_{q_2}[u^{\pm 1}, v^{\pm 1}]$  as  $F$ -algebras.*

*Proof.* Let us assume that there is an isomorphism  $\theta$  from  $F_{q_1}[x^{\pm 1}, y^{\pm 1}]$  to  $F_{q_2}[u^{\pm 1}, v^{\pm 1}]$ . Then  $\theta(x) = c_1 u^a v^i$  and  $\theta(y) = c_2 u^b v^j$  hold by Lemma 4. By  $\theta(xy) = q_1 \theta(yx)$ , we have that  $c_1 c_2 q_2^{bi} u^{a+b} v^{i+j} = c_1 c_2 q_1 q_2^{aj} u^{a+b} v^{i+j}$ . This implies that

$$(4) \quad q_1 q_2^{aj} = q_2^{bi}.$$

By  $\theta(xy^2) = q_1^2 \theta(x^3 y)$ , we have that

$$(5) \quad q_1^2 q_2^{2bi} = q_2^{2aj}.$$

By (4) and (5), we have that  $q_1^4 = 1$ . This contradicts the fact that  $q_1$  is not a root of unity. Therefore, there does not exist such an isomorphism. Therefore, we have proven the proposition.  $\square$

**COROLLARY 3.** *Let  $V_{q_1}^{Z \times Z}$  and  $V_{q_2}^{Z \times Z}$  be given simple Lie algebras. If  $q_1 \neq q_2$ , then  $V_{q_1}^{Z \times Z}$  is not isomorphic to  $V_{q_2}^{Z \times Z}$ .*

*Proof.* It is straightforward by Proposition 1 and Theorem 1.  $\square$

#### 4. Subalgebras of skew polynomials

Let  $\lambda_{ij} \in F$ ; the skew polynomial ring  $R(\lambda) = F[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with relations  $x_i x_j = \lambda_{ij} x_j x_i$  has been called a quasipolynomial ring [1]. The corresponding Laurent polynomial ring  $P(\lambda) = F[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_n^{\pm 1}] = S$

obtained by inverting the  $x_i$  was studied by the paper [5].  $S$  is simple, if and only if the center is  $F$ , if and only if there does not exist  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in Z^n$  with  $\mathbf{u}$  non-zero such that for all  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$ ,  $(\lambda_{1j})^{u_1} \cdots (\lambda_{nj})^{u_n} = 1$ . The Laurent polynomial ring  $P(\lambda) = F[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_n^{\pm 1}] = S$  has a subring  $F[x_1^{m_1 Z}, \dots, x_n^{m_n Z}]$  where  $m_1, \dots, m_n$  are fixed non-negative integers. Similarly,  $F[x_1^{m_1 Z}, \dots, x_n^{m_n Z}]$  is simple, if and only if the center is  $F$ , if and only if there does not exist  $\mathbf{u} = (u_1, \dots, u_n) \in Z^n$  with  $\mathbf{u}$  non-zero such that for all  $j$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq n$ ,  $(\lambda_{1j})^{u_1} \cdots (\lambda_{nj})^{u_n} = 1$ . Using the commutator of  $F[x_1^{m_1 Z}, \dots, x_n^{m_n Z}]$ , we define the Lie algebra  $V_\lambda^{m_1 Z \times \cdots \times m_n Z}$  as  $V_q^{m Z \times n Z}$  in Section 1.

**THEOREM 6.** *If  $F$ -algebra  $F[x_1^{m_1 Z}, \dots, x_n^{m_n Z}]$  is simple, then the Lie algebra  $V_\lambda^{m_1 Z \times \cdots \times m_n Z}$  is simple.*

*Proof.* The proof of this theorem is similar to the proof of Theorem 2, so let us omit the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

Some infinite dimensional Lie algebra  $L$  has a proper subalgebra  $S$  of  $L$  such that there is a Lie isomorphism  $\theta$  from  $S$  to  $L$ . So the following is an interesting problem.

**QUESTION.** Does there exist an isomorphism from  $V_\lambda^{m_1 Z \times \cdots \times m_n Z}$  to  $V_\lambda^{Z \times \cdots \times Z}$ ?

## References

- [1] C. De Concini and V. G. Kac, *Representations of quantum groups at roots of 1. Operator algebras, unitary representations, enveloping algebras, and invariant theory*, 471–506, Progr. Math. **92**, Birkhauser, Boston, 1990.
- [2] I. N. Herstein, *Topics in ring theory*, University of Chicago Press, 1969.
- [3] N. Kawamoto, *On  $G$ -Graded automorphisms of generalized Witt algebras*, Contem. Math. Amer. Math. Soc. **184** (1995), 225–230.
- [4] E. Kirkman, C. Procesi, and L. Small, *A  $q$ -analog for the Virasoro algebra*, Comm. Algebra **22** (1999), no. 10, 3755–3774.
- [5] J. C. McConnell and J. J. Pettit, *Crossed products and multiplicative analogues of Weyl algebras*, J. London Math. Soc. (2) **38** (1988), no. 1, 47–55.
- [6] K.-B. Nam and M.-O. Wang, *Simple Lie algebras which generalizes KPS's Lie algebras*, Commun. Korean Math. Soc. **17** (2002), No. 2, 237–243.

KI-BONG NAM, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER, 800 WEST MAIN STREET, WHITEWATER, WI 53190, USA

*E-mail:* namk@mail.uww.edu

MOON-OK WANG, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, HANYANG UNIVERSITY, ANSAN  
425-791, KOREA  
*E-mail:* wang@hanyang.ac.kr