



Lie Algebras and Lie Groups: 1964 Lectures given at Harvard University (Lecture Notes in Mathematics)

Jean-Pierre Serre

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The main general theorems on Lie Algebras are covered, roughly the content of Bourbaki's Chapter I. I have added some results on free Lie algebras, which are useful, both for Lie's theory itself (Campbell-Hausdorff formula) and for applications to pro-Lie groups. Time prevented me from including the more precise theory of Lie semisimple Lie algebras (roots, weights, etc.); but, at least, I have given, as a last Chapter, the typical case of a reductive Lie algebra. This part has been written with the help of F. Raggi and J. Tate. I want to thank them, and also Sue Golan, who did the typing for both parts.

Jean-Pierre Serre Harvard, Fall 1964 Chapter I. Lie Algebras: Definition and Examples Let \mathfrak{L} be a commutative ring with unit element, and let A be a \mathfrak{L} -module, then A is said to be a Lie algebra if there is given a \mathfrak{L} -bilinear map $A \times A \rightarrow A$ (i.e., a \mathfrak{L} -homomorphism $A \otimes A \rightarrow A$). As usual we may define left, right and two-sided ideals and therefore quotients.

Definition 1. A Lie algebra over \mathfrak{L} is an algebra with the following properties: 1) The map $A \otimes A \rightarrow A$ admits a factorization $A \otimes A \rightarrow A \otimes A \rightarrow A$ i.e., if we denote the image of (x, y) under this map by $[x, y]$ then the condition becomes for all $x, y \in A$: $[x, x] = 0$ 2) $([x, y], z) + (y, [x, z]) + (z, [x, y]) = 0$ (Jacobi's identity) The condition 1) implies $[x, 1] = -[1, x]$

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