

**DERIVATIONS OF THE SUBALGEBRAS INTERMEDIATE  
THE GENERAL LINEAR LIE ALGEBRA  
AND THE DIAGONAL SUBALGEBRA  
OVER COMMUTATIVE RINGS**

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**ABSTRACT.** Let  $R$  be an arbitrary commutative ring with identity,  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  the general linear Lie algebra over  $R$ ,  $d(n, R)$  the diagonal subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$ . In case 2 is a unit of  $R$ , all subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$  are determined and their derivations are given. In case 2 is not a unit partial results are given.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $R$  be a commutative ring with identity,  $R^*$  the subset of  $R$  consisting of all invertible elements in  $R$ ,  $I(R)$  the set consisting of all ideals of  $R$ . Let  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  be the general linear Lie algebra consisting of all  $n \times n$  matrices over  $R$  and with the bracket operation:  $[x, y] = xy - yx$ . We denote by  $d(n, R)$  (resp.,  $t(n, R)$ ) the subset of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  consisting of all  $n \times n$  diagonal (resp., upper triangular) matrices over  $R$ . Let  $E$  be the identity matrix in  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$ ,  $RE$  the set  $\{rE \mid r \in R\}$  consisting of all scalar matrices, and  $E_{i,j}$  the matrix in  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  whose sole nonzero entry 1 is in the  $(i, j)$  position. For  $A \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$ , we denote by  $A'$  the transpose of  $A$ .

For  $R$ -modules  $M$  and  $K$ , we denote by  $\text{Hom}_R(M, K)$  the set of all homomorphisms of  $R$ -modules from  $M$  to  $K$ .  $\text{Hom}_R(M, M)$  is abbreviated to  $\text{Hom}_R(M)$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,  $\chi_i: d(n, R) \rightarrow R$ , defined by  $\chi_i(\text{diag}(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)) = d_i$ , is a standard homomorphism from  $d(n, R)$  to  $R$ .

Recently, significant work has been done in studying automorphisms and derivations of matrix Lie algebras (or sometimes matrix algebras) and their subalgebras (see [1]–[7]). Derivations of the parabolic subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  were described in [7]. Derivations of the subalgebras of  $t(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$  were determined in [6]. In this article, when 2 is a unit of  $R$ , all subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$  are determined and their derivations are given. In case 2 is not a unit partial results are given.

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2. THE SUBALGEBRAS OF  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  CONTAINING  $d(n, R)$ 

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \in I(R) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  be a subset of  $I(R)$  consisting of  $n^2$  ideals of  $R$ . We call  $\Phi$  a *flag* of ideals of  $R$ , if

- (1)  $A_{i,i} = R$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ .
- (2)  $A_{i,k}A_{k,j} \subseteq A_{i,j}$  for any  $i, j, k$  ( $1 \leq i, j, k \leq n$ ).

**Example 2.2.** If  $i \neq j$ , let  $A_{i,j}$  be 0, and let  $A_{i,i} = R$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Then  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  is a flag of ideals of  $R$ .

**Example 2.3.** If all  $A_{i,j}$  are taken to be  $R$ , then  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  is a flag of ideals of  $R$ .

**Theorem 2.4.** If  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  is a flag of ideals of  $R$ , then  $L_\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i,j}E_{i,j}$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  is a flag of ideals of  $R$  and  $L_\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i,j}E_{i,j}$ . Let

$$x = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi, \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n b_{i,j}E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi,$$

where  $a_{i,j}, b_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ . It is obvious that  $rx + sy \in L_\Phi$  for any  $r, s \in R$ . Notice that

$$[x, y] = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_{i,j}E_{i,j}, \quad \text{where } c_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{i,k}b_{k,j} - b_{i,k}a_{k,j}).$$

By assumption (2) on  $\Phi$ , we know that  $(a_{i,k}b_{k,j} - b_{i,k}a_{k,j}) \in A_{i,j}$ , forcing  $c_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$  and  $[x, y] \in L_\Phi$ . Hence  $L_\Phi$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$ . Assumption (1) on  $\Phi$  shows that  $L_\Phi$  contains  $d(n, R)$ .  $\square$

The following result shows that these  $L_\Phi$  nearly exhaust all subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$ .

**Theorem 2.5.** If  $L$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$ , then there exists a flag  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  of ideals of  $R$  such that

$$2L \subseteq L_\Phi \subseteq L.$$

**Proof.** Let  $L$  be a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$ . For  $\forall i, j$  ( $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ ), define

$$A_{i,j} = \{a_{i,j} \in R \mid a_{i,j}E_{i,j} \in L\},$$

and set

$$\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\},$$

$$L_\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i,j}E_{i,j}.$$

In the following, we will prove that  $\Phi$  is a flag of ideals of  $R$ , and  $2L \subseteq L_\Phi \subseteq L$ . It's obvious that all  $A_{i,j}$  are ideals of  $R$  and  $A_{i,i} = R$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . If  $i \neq j$

and  $a_{i,k} \in A_{i,k}$ ,  $a_{k,j} \in A_{k,j}$ , then by  $[a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, a_{k,j}E_{k,j}] = a_{i,k}a_{k,j}E_{i,j} \in L$ , we see that  $a_{i,k}a_{k,j} \in A_{i,j}$ , forcing  $A_{i,k}A_{k,j} \subseteq A_{i,j}$ . If  $i = j$ , since  $A_{i,i} = R$ , we also have that  $A_{i,k}A_{k,j} \subseteq A_{i,j}$ . Thus  $\Phi$  is a flag of ideals of  $R$ . It is easy to see that  $L_\Phi \subseteq L$ . On the other hand, for  $x = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j} \in L$ , if  $k \neq l$ , then by

$$[E_{k,k}, [E_{l,l}, -x]] = a_{k,l}E_{k,l} + a_{l,k}E_{l,k} \in L,$$

$$[E_{k,k}, a_{k,l}E_{k,l} + a_{l,k}E_{l,k}] = a_{k,l}E_{k,l} - a_{l,k}E_{l,k} \in L,$$

we see that  $2a_{k,l}E_{k,l} \in L$ ,  $2a_{l,k}E_{l,k} \in L$ . This shows that  $2a_{k,l} \in A_{k,l}$ ,  $2a_{l,k} \in A_{l,k}$ , forcing  $2x \in L_\Phi$ . So  $2L \subseteq L_\Phi$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.6.** *Assume that  $2 \in R^*$ , then  $L$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$  if and only if there exists a flag  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  of ideals of  $R$  such that  $L = L_\Phi$ .*

**Remark 2.7.** Without the assumption  $2 \in R^*$ , Corollary 2.6 does not hold. The following is an example. Let  $R$  be  $Z/2Z$  ( $Z$  is the ring of all integer numbers), then  $R$  has only two ideals: 0 and  $R$ . Set  $L = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & c \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b, c \in Z/2Z \right\}$ . Then  $L$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(2, Z/2Z)$  containing  $d(2, Z/2Z)$ , but  $L \neq L_\Phi$  for any flag  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq 2\}$  of ideals of  $R$ .

### 3. CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN DERIVATIONS OF $L_\Phi$

Let  $L_\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i,j}E_{i,j}$  be a fixed subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$ , with  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \in I(R) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  a flag of ideals of  $R$ . We denote by  $\text{Der } L_\Phi$  the set consisting of all derivations of  $L_\Phi$ . We now construct certain derivations of  $L_\Phi$  for building the derivation algebra  $\text{Der } L_\Phi$  of  $L_\Phi$ . For  $A_{i,j} \in \Phi$ , let  $B_{i,j}$  denote the annihilator of  $A_{i,j}$  in  $R$ , i.e.,  $B_{i,j} = \{r \in R \mid rA_{i,j} = 0\}$ .

#### (A) Inner derivations

Let  $x \in L_\Phi$ , then  $\text{ad } x: L_\Phi \rightarrow L_\Phi$ ,  $y \mapsto [x, y]$ , is a derivation of  $L_\Phi$ , called the *inner derivation* of  $L_\Phi$  induced by  $x$ . Let  $\text{ad } L_\Phi$  denote the set consisting of all  $\text{ad } x$ ,  $x \in L_\Phi$ , which forms an ideal of  $\text{Der } L_\Phi$ .

#### (B) Transpose derivations

**Definition 3.3.** Let  $\Pi = \{\pi_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}_R(A_{i,j}, A_{j,i}) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  be a set consisting of  $n^2$  homomorphisms of  $R$ -modules. We call  $\Pi$  *suitable for transpose derivations*, if the following conditions are satisfied for all  $i, j$  ( $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ ):

- (1)  $\pi_{i,i} = 0$ ;
- (2)  $\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,k}A_{k,j}) = 0$  for all  $k$  which satisfies  $k \neq i$  and  $k \neq j$ ;
- (3)  $\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) \subseteq B_{k,j}$  and  $\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) \subseteq B_{i,k}$  for all  $k$  which satisfies  $k \neq i$  and  $k \neq j$ ;
- (4)  $2\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) = 0$ .

**Remark.** In case 2 is a unit, (4) means that  $\pi_{i,j}$  are necessarily zero maps.

Using the homomorphism  $\Pi = \{\pi_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}_R(A_{i,j}, A_{j,i}) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  which is suitable for transpose derivations, we define  $\phi_\Pi: L_\Phi \rightarrow L_\Phi$  by sending any  $\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi$  to  $\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** *The map  $\phi_\Pi$  as defined above, is a derivation of  $L_\Phi$ .*

**Proof.** Let

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi, & a_{i,j} &\in A_{i,j}, \\ y &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n b_{i,j} E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi, & b_{i,j} &\in A_{i,j}. \end{aligned}$$

Obviously,  $\phi_\Pi(rx + sy) = r\phi_\Pi(x) + s\phi_\Pi(y)$  for  $\forall r, s \in R$ . Write

$$[x, y] = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_{i,j} E_{i,j}, \quad \text{where } c_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{i,k} b_{k,j} - b_{i,k} a_{k,j}).$$

Because  $\Pi$  is suitable for transpose derivations, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_\Pi([x, y]) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \pi_{i,j}(c_{i,j}) E_{j,i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \pi_{i,j} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{i,k} b_{k,j} - b_{i,k} a_{k,j}) \right) E_{j,i} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n [(a_{i,i} - a_{j,j}) \pi_{i,j}(b_{i,j}) + (b_{j,j} - b_{i,i}) \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})] E_{j,i} \\ &\quad \text{(by assumption (2)).} \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} [\phi_\Pi(x), y] + [x, \phi_\Pi(y)] &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n (\pi_{k,j}(a_{k,j}) b_{k,i} - b_{j,k} \pi_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \pi_{k,j}(b_{k,j}) a_{k,i} + a_{j,k} \pi_{i,k}(b_{i,k}) \right] E_{j,i} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n [(a_{j,j} - a_{i,i}) \pi_{i,j}(b_{i,j}) + (b_{i,i} - b_{j,j}) \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})] E_{j,i} \\ &\quad \text{(by assumption (3)).} \end{aligned}$$

By assumption (4) on  $\Pi$ , we see that  $\phi_\Pi([x, y]) = [\phi_\Pi(x), y] + [x, \phi_\Pi(y)]$ . Hence  $\phi_\Pi$  is a derivation of  $L_\Phi$ .  $\square$

$\phi_\Pi$  is called a *transpose derivation* of  $L_\Phi$ .

### (C) Ring derivations

**Definition 3.5.** Let  $\Sigma = \{\sigma_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}_R(A_{i,j}), \sigma \in \text{Hom}_R(d(n, R)) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$  be a set consisting of  $n^2 + 1$  endomorphisms of  $R$ -modules. We call  $\Sigma$  *suitable for ring derivations* if the following conditions are satisfied for  $\forall i, j$  ( $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ ):

- (1)  $\chi_i(\sigma(D)) - \chi_j(\sigma(D)) \subseteq (B_{i,j} \cap B_{j,i})$  for  $\forall D \in d(n, R)$ ;
- (2)  $\sigma(a_{i,j} a_{j,i} (E_{i,i} - E_{j,j})) = (\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) a_{j,i} + a_{i,j} \sigma_{j,i}(a_{j,i})) (E_{i,i} - E_{j,j})$ ,  $\forall a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}, \forall a_{j,i} \in A_{j,i}$ ;
- (3)  $\sigma_{i,i} = 0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$

(4) When  $i \neq j$ ,  $\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,k}a_{k,j}) = \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k})a_{k,j} + a_{i,k}\sigma_{k,j}(a_{k,j})$  for  $\forall k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n$ ),  $\forall a_{i,k} \in A_{i,k}$  and  $\forall a_{k,j} \in A_{k,j}$ .

Using  $\Sigma = \{ \sigma_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}_R(A_{i,j}), \sigma \in \text{Hom}_R(d(n, R)) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n \}$  which is suitable for ring derivations, we define  $\phi_\Sigma: L_\Phi \rightarrow L_\Phi$  by sending any  $\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi$  to  $\sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{i,j} + \sigma(\sum_{k=1}^n a_{k,k}E_{k,k})$ .

**Lemma 3.6.** *The map  $\phi_\Sigma$ , as defined above, is a derivation of  $L_\Phi$ .*

**Proof.** Let  $x = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j} E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi$ ,  $y = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n b_{i,j} E_{i,j} \in L_\Phi$ , where  $a_{i,j}, b_{i,j}$  lie in  $A_{i,j}$ . It is obvious that  $\phi_\Sigma(rx + sy) = r\phi_\Sigma(x) + s\phi_\Sigma(y)$  for any  $r, s \in R$ . We know  $[x, y] = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n c_{i,j} E_{i,j}$ , where  $c_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{i,k}b_{k,j} - b_{i,k}a_{k,j})$ . Because  $\Sigma$  is suitable for ring derivations, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_\Sigma([x, y]) &= \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n (\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,k}b_{k,j} - b_{i,k}a_{k,j})) \right] E_{i,j} \\ &\quad + \sigma \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{i,k}b_{k,i} - b_{i,k}a_{k,i}) E_{i,i} \right] \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n (\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,k}b_{k,j} - b_{i,k}a_{k,j})) \right] E_{i,j} \\ &\quad + \sigma \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n a_{i,k}b_{k,i} (E_{i,i} - E_{k,k}) \right) \\ \text{(note that)} \quad &\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n (a_{i,k}b_{k,i} - b_{i,k}a_{k,i}) E_{i,i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n a_{i,k}b_{k,i} (E_{i,i} - E_{k,k}) \\ &= \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n (\sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k})b_{k,j} + a_{i,k}\sigma_{k,j}(b_{k,j}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sigma_{i,k}(b_{i,k})a_{k,j} - b_{i,k}\sigma_{k,j}(a_{k,j}) \right] E_{i,j} \\ &\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n [\sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k})b_{k,i} + a_{i,k}\sigma_{k,i}(b_{k,i})] (E_{i,i} - E_{k,k}), \\ &\text{(by assumption (2) and (4)).} \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} [\phi_\Sigma(x), y] + [x, \phi_\Sigma(y)] &= \left[ \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) E_{i,j} + \sigma \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_{i,i} E_{i,i} \right), y \right] \\ &\quad + \left[ x, \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \sigma_{i,j}(b_{i,j}) E_{i,j} + \sigma \left( \sum_{i=1}^n b_{i,i} E_{i,i} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left[ \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) E_{i,j}, y \right] + \left[ x, \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \sigma_{i,j}(b_{i,j}) E_{i,j} \right] \\
&\quad \text{(by assumption (1))} \\
&= \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) E_{i,j}, y \right] + \left[ x, \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{i,j}(b_{i,j}) E_{i,j} \right] \\
&\quad \text{(by assumption (3))} \\
&= \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) b_{k,j} - b_{i,k} \sigma_{k,j}(a_{k,j}) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sigma_{i,k}(b_{i,k}) a_{k,j} + a_{i,k} \sigma_{k,j}(b_{k,j}) \right] E_{i,j} \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) b_{k,i} + b_{k,i} \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sigma_{i,k}(b_{i,k}) a_{k,i} - a_{k,i} \sigma_{i,k}(b_{i,k}) \right] E_{i,i} \\
&= \sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) b_{k,j} - b_{i,k} \sigma_{k,j}(a_{k,j}) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \sigma_{i,k}(b_{i,k}) a_{k,j} + a_{i,k} \sigma_{k,j}(b_{k,j}) \right] E_{i,j} \\
&\quad + \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^n \left[ \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) b_{k,i} + b_{k,i} \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k}) \right] (E_{i,i} - E_{k,k}).
\end{aligned}$$

We see that

$$[\phi_{\Sigma}(x), y] + [x, \phi_{\Sigma}(y)] = \phi_{\Sigma}([x, y]).$$

Hence  $\phi_{\Sigma}$  is a derivation of  $L_{\Phi}$ .  $\square$

$\phi_{\Sigma}$  is called a *ring derivation* of  $L_{\Phi}$ .

#### 4. THE DERIVATION ALGEBRA OF $L_{\Phi}$

If  $n > 1$ , for each fixed  $k$  ( $1 \leq k \leq n-1$ ), we assume that  $n = kq + p$  with  $q$  and  $p$  two non-negative integers and  $p \leq k-1$ . Let  $D_k = \text{diag}(E_k, 2E_k, \dots, qE_k, (q+1)E_p) \in d(n, R)$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$  (where  $E_k$  denotes the  $k \times k$  identity matrix). Let  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \in I(R) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$  be a flag of ideals of  $R$ , we denote  $\sum_{1 \leq i \neq j \leq n} A_{i,j} E_{i,j}$  by  $w$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $R$  be an arbitrary commutative ring with identity,  $n \geq 1$ ,*

$$L_{\Phi} = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n A_{i,j} E_{i,j}$$

*a subalgebra of  $\text{gl}(n, R)$  containing  $d(n, R)$  with  $\Phi = \{A_{i,j} \in I(R) \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n\}$  a flag of ideals of  $R$ . Then every derivation of  $L_{\Phi}$  may be uniquely written as the*

sum of an inner derivation induced by an element in  $w$ , a transpose derivation and a ring derivation.

**Proof.** If  $n = 1$ , then it's easy to determine  $\text{Der } L_\Phi$ . From now on, we assume that  $n > 1$ . Let  $\phi$  be a derivation of  $L_\Phi$ . In the following we give the proof by steps.

**Step 1:** There exists  $W_0 \in w$  such that  $d(n, R)$  is stable under  $\phi + \text{ad } W_0$ .

For  $k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , we set  $v_k = \sum_{i=k}^n \sum_{j=1}^{i-k+1} A_{i,j} E_{i,j}$ . Denote  $L_\Phi \cap t(n, R)$  by  $t$ . For any  $H \in d(n, R)$ , suppose that

$$\phi(H) \equiv \left( \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} a_{j,i}(H) E_{j,i} \right) \pmod{t},$$

where  $a_{j,i}(H) \in A_{j,i}$  are relative to  $H$ . By  $[D_1, H] = 0$ , we have that

$$[H, \phi(D_1)] = [D_1, \phi(H)],$$

which follows that

$$\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\chi_j(H) - \chi_i(H)) a_{j,i}(D_1) E_{j,i} = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (\chi_j(D_1) - \chi_i(D_1)) a_{j,i}(H) E_{j,i}.$$

This yields that

$$(\chi_j(H) - \chi_i(H)) a_{j,i}(D_1) = (\chi_j(D_1) - \chi_i(D_1)) a_{j,i}(H), \quad \forall i, j (1 \leq i < j \leq n-1).$$

In particular, we have that

$$a_{i+1,i}(H) = (\chi_{i+1}(H) - \chi_i(H)) a_{i+1,i}(D_1), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Let  $X_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} a_{i+1,i}(D_1) E_{i+1,i} \in L_\Phi$ , then  $(\phi + \text{ad } X_1)(d(n, R)) \subseteq t + v_3$ . If  $n = 2$ , this step is completed. If  $n > 2$ , for any  $H \in d(n, R)$ , we now suppose that

$$(\phi + \text{ad } X_1)(H) \equiv \left( \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n-1} b_{j+1,i}(H) E_{j+1,i} \right) \pmod{t},$$

where  $b_{j+1,i}(H) \in A_{j+1,i}$  are relative to  $H$ . By  $[D_2, H] = 0$ , we have that

$$[H, (\phi + \text{ad } X_1)(D_2)] = [D_2, (\phi + \text{ad } X_1)(H)],$$

which follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n-1} (\chi_{j+1}(H) - \chi_i(H)) b_{j+1,i}(D_2) E_{j+1,i} \\ = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n-1} (\chi_{j+1}(D_2) - \chi_i(D_2)) b_{j+1,i}(H) E_{j+1,i}. \end{aligned}$$

This yields that

$$(\chi_{j+1}(H) - \chi_i(H)) b_{j+1,i}(D_2) = (\chi_{j+1}(D_2) - \chi_i(D_2)) b_{j+1,i}(H),$$

for all  $i, j (1 \leq i < j \leq n - 1)$ . In particular, we have that

$$b_{i+2,i}(H) = (\chi_{i+2}(H) - \chi_i(H)) b_{i+2,i}(D_2), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n - 2.$$

Let  $X_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} b_{i+2,i}(D_2) E_{i+2,i}$ , then  $(\phi + \text{ad } X_1 + \text{ad } X_2)(d(n, R)) \subseteq t + v_4$ . If  $n = 3$ , this step is completed. If  $n > 3$ , we repeat above process. After  $n - 2$  steps,

we may assume that  $(\phi + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \text{ad } X_i)(d(n, R)) \subseteq t + v_n$ . For any  $H \in d$ , suppose that  $(\phi + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \text{ad } X_i)(H) \equiv c_{n,1}(H)E_{n,1} \pmod{t}$ , where  $c_{n,1}(H) \in A_{n,1}$  is relative to  $H$ . By  $[D_{n-1}, H] = 0$ , we have that

$$\left[ H, \left( \phi + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \text{ad } X_i \right) (D_{n-1}) \right] = \left[ D_{n-1}, \left( \phi + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} \text{ad } X_i \right) (H) \right],$$

which follows that

$$(\chi_n(H) - \chi_1(H))c_{n,1}(D_{n-1}) = (\chi_n(D_{n-1}) - \chi_1(D_{n-1}))c_{n,1}(H).$$

So we have that

$$c_{n,1}(H) = (\chi_n(H) - \chi_1(H))c_{n,1}(D_{n-1}).$$

Let  $X_{n-1} = c_{n,1}(D_{n-1})E_{n,1}$ , then  $(\phi + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \text{ad } X_i)(d(n, R)) \subseteq t$ . If we choose  $X_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} X_i$ , then  $(\phi + \text{ad } X_0)(d(n, R)) \subseteq t$ .

Similarly, we may further choose  $Y_0 \in \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} A_{i,j}E_{i,j}$  (the process is omitted) such that  $(\phi + \text{ad } X_0 + \text{ad } Y_0)(d(n, R)) \subseteq d(n, R)$ .

Thus we may choose  $W_0 = X_0 + Y_0 \in w$  such that  $(\phi + \text{ad } W_0)(d(n, R)) \subseteq d(n, R)$ . Denote  $\phi + \text{ad } W_0$  by  $\phi_1$ , then  $\phi_1(d(n, R)) \subseteq d(n, R)$ .

**Step 2:** If  $k \neq l$ , then  $A_{k,l}E_{k,l} + A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$  is stable under  $\phi_1$ .

For any fixed  $b_{k,l} \in A_{k,l}$ , we suppose that  $\phi_1(b_{k,l}E_{k,l}) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j}$ , where  $a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ . By applying  $\phi_1$  to  $[E_{k,k}, b_{k,l}E_{k,l}] = b_{k,l}E_{k,l}$ , we have that

$$[\phi_1(E_{k,k}), b_{k,l}E_{k,l}] + [E_{k,k}, \phi_1(b_{k,l}E_{k,l})] = \phi_1(b_{k,l}E_{k,l}).$$

This follows that

$$(*) \quad [\phi_1(E_{k,k}), b_{k,l}E_{k,l}] + \left[ E_{k,k}, \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j} \right] = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j} \dots$$

Note that  $\phi_1(E_{k,k}) \in d(n, R)$  (by Step 1), thus  $[\phi_1(E_{k,k}), b_{k,l}E_{k,l}] \in A_{k,l}E_{k,l}$ . It is easy to see that  $[E_{k,k}, \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n a_{i,j}E_{i,j}] = \sum_{j=1}^n a_{k,j}E_{k,j} - \sum_{i=1}^n a_{i,k}E_{i,k}$ . By comparing the two sides of (\*), we see that  $a_{i,j} = 0$  when  $i \neq k$  and  $j \neq k$ . For the same reason, we know that  $a_{i,j} = 0$  when  $i \neq l$  and  $j \neq l$ . Hence  $\phi_1(b_{k,l}E_{k,l}) \in A_{k,l}E_{k,l} + A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$ , which leads to  $\phi_1(A_{k,l}E_{k,l}) \subseteq A_{k,l}E_{k,l} + A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$ . Similarly,  $\phi_1(A_{l,k}E_{l,k}) \subseteq A_{k,l}E_{k,l} + A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$ . So  $A_{k,l}E_{k,l} + A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$  is stable under  $\phi_1$ .

**Step 3:** There exists a ring derivation  $\phi_\Sigma$  such that each  $A_{k,l}E_{k,l}$  ( $k \neq l$ ) is sent by  $\phi_1 - \phi_\Sigma$  to  $A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$  and  $d(n, R)$  is sent by it to 0.

We denote the restriction of  $\phi_1$  to  $d(n, R)$  by  $\sigma$ , and let  $\sigma_{i,i}: A_{i,i} \rightarrow A_{i,i}$  be zero. By Step 2, we know that  $A_{k,l}E_{k,l} + A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$  is stable under  $\phi_1$  if  $k \neq l$ . Now for any  $k, l$  ( $1 \leq k, l \leq n$ ) we define the map  $\sigma_{k,l}$  from  $A_{k,l}$  to itself according to the following rule:

- (a)  $\sigma_{k,l} = 0$  when  $k = l$ ;
- (b) If  $k \neq l$ , define  $\sigma_{k,l}: A_{k,l} \rightarrow A_{k,l}$  such that for any  $a_{k,l} \in A_{k,l}$ ,  $\sigma_{k,l}(a_{k,l})$  satisfies the condition:  $\phi_1(a_{k,l}E_{k,l}) \equiv \sigma_{k,l}(a_{k,l})E_{k,l} \pmod{A_{l,k}E_{l,k}}$ .

Then  $\sigma, \sigma_{k,l}$  ( $k \neq l$ ) are all endomorphism of the  $R$ -modules. Set  $\Sigma = \{\sigma_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}_R(A_{i,j}), \sigma \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$ . We intend to prove that  $\Sigma$  is suitable for ring derivations.

For all  $D \in d(n, R)$ ,  $a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ , by applying  $\phi_1$  to  $[D, a_{i,j}E_{i,j}] = (\chi_i(D) - \chi_j(D))a_{i,j}E_{i,j}$ , we have that  $a_{i,j}(\chi_i(\sigma(D)) - \chi_j(\sigma(D))) = 0$ , leads to  $\chi_i(\sigma(D)) - \chi_j(\sigma(D)) \in B_{i,j}$ . Similarly, we may prove that  $\chi_i(\sigma(D)) - \chi_j(\sigma(D)) \in B_{j,i}$ .

For all  $i, j$  ( $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ ),  $\forall a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ ,  $a_{j,i} \in A_{j,i}$ , by applying  $\phi_1$  to  $[a_{i,j}E_{i,j}, a_{j,i}E_{j,i}] = a_{i,j}a_{j,i}(E_{i,i} - E_{j,j})$ , we have that  $\sigma(a_{i,j}a_{j,i}(E_{i,i} - E_{j,j})) = (\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j})a_{j,i} + a_{i,j}\sigma_{j,i}(a_{j,i}))(E_{i,i} - E_{j,j})$ .

When  $i \neq j$ , for all  $a_{i,k} \in A_{i,k}$ ,  $a_{k,j} \in A_{k,j}$ , by applying  $\phi_1$  to  $[a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, a_{k,j}E_{k,j}] = a_{i,k}a_{k,j}E_{i,j}$ , we have that

$$[\sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k})E_{i,k}, a_{k,j}E_{k,j}] + [a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, \sigma_{k,j}(a_{k,j})E_{k,j}] = \sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,k}a_{k,j})E_{i,j}.$$

This shows that

$$\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,k}a_{k,j}) = \sigma_{i,k}(a_{i,k})a_{k,j} + a_{i,k}\sigma_{k,j}(a_{k,j}).$$

Now we see that  $\Sigma$  is suitable for ring derivations. Using  $\Sigma$  we construct the ring derivation  $\phi_\Sigma$  as in Section 3, and denote  $\phi_1 - \phi_\Sigma$  by  $\phi_2$ . Then we see that  $\phi_2(A_{k,l}E_{k,l}) \subseteq A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$  for all  $k, l$  satisfy  $k \neq l$  and  $\phi_2$  sends  $d(n, R)$  to 0.

**Step 4:**  $\phi_2$  exactly is a transpose derivation.

By Step 3, we know that  $A_{k,l}E_{k,l}$  is send by  $\phi_2$  to  $A_{l,k}E_{l,k}$  when  $k \neq l$  and  $d(n, R)$  is send by it to 0. Now for any  $k, l$  ( $1 \leq k, l \leq n$ ) we define the map  $\pi_{k,l}$  from  $A_{k,l}$  to  $A_{l,k}$  according to the following rule:

- (a)  $\pi_{k,l} = 0$  when  $k = l$ ;
- (b) If  $k \neq l$ , define  $\pi_{k,l}: A_{k,l} \rightarrow A_{l,k}$  such that for any  $a_{k,l} \in A_{k,l}$ ,  $\sigma_{k,l}(a_{k,l})$  satisfies the condition:  $\phi_2(a_{k,l}E_{k,l}) = \pi_{k,l}(a_{k,l})E_{l,k}$ .

Then  $\sigma_{k,l}$  is an homomorphism from the  $R$ -module  $A_{k,l}$  to  $A_{l,k}$ . Set  $\Pi = \{\pi_{i,j} \in \text{Hom}_R(A_{i,j}, A_{j,i}) \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n\}$ . We intend to prove that  $\Pi$  is suitable for transpose derivations. If  $i \neq j$ , for  $\forall a_{i,k} \in A_{i,k}$ ,  $\forall a_{k,j} \in A_{k,j}$ , by applying  $\phi_2$  to  $[a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, a_{k,j}E_{k,j}] = a_{i,k}a_{k,j}E_{i,j}$ , we have that

$$[\pi_{i,k}(a_{i,k})E_{k,i}, a_{k,j}E_{k,j}] + [a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, \pi_{k,j}(a_{k,j})E_{j,k}] = \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,k}a_{k,j})E_{j,i}.$$

If  $k \neq i$ ,  $k \neq j$ , we see that the left side of above is 0, then  $\pi_{i,j}(a_{i,k}a_{k,j}) = 0$ , leads to  $\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,k}A_{k,j}) = 0$ .

If  $i \neq k$ ,  $i \neq j$ ,  $\forall a_{i,k} \in A_{i,k}$ ,  $\forall a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ , by applying  $\phi_2$  to  $[a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, a_{i,j}E_{i,j}] = 0$ , we see that

$$[\pi_{i,k}(a_{i,k})E_{k,i}, a_{i,j}E_{i,j}] + [a_{i,k}E_{i,k}, \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}] = 0.$$

This shows that

$$\pi_{i,k}(a_{i,k})a_{i,j}E_{k,j} - a_{i,k}\pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,k} = 0.$$

Thus  $a_{i,k}\pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) = 0$ , leads to  $A_{i,k}\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) = 0$  for  $i \neq k$ . Similarly,  $A_{k,j}\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) = 0$  for  $k \neq j$ .

For all  $i \neq j, \forall a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ , by applying  $\phi_2$  to  $[E_{i,i}, a_{i,j}E_{i,j}] = a_{i,j}E_{i,j}$ , we have that

$$[E_{i,i}, \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}] = \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}.$$

Since  $[E_{i,i}, \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}] = -\pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}$ , we see that  $\pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) = -\pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i}$ . So  $2\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ . Then  $2\pi_{i,j}(A_{i,j}) = 0$  for  $\forall i, j$ .

Now we see that  $\Pi$  is suitable for transpose derivations. Using  $\Pi$  we construct the transpose derivation  $\phi_\Pi$  as in Section 3, and denote  $\phi_2 - \phi_\Pi$  by  $\phi_3$ . Then we see that  $\phi_3(A_{k,l}E_{k,l}) = 0$  for all  $k, l$  satisfy  $k \neq l$  and  $\phi_3(d(n, R)) = 0$ . So  $\phi_3 = 0$ .

Thus  $\phi = \phi_\Pi + \phi_\Sigma - \text{ad } W_0$ , as desired.

For the uniqueness of the decomposition of  $\phi$ , we first prove that if  $\phi_\Pi + \phi_\Sigma + \text{ad } W_0 = 0$ , then  $\phi_\Pi = \phi_\Sigma = \text{ad } W_0 = 0$ . Suppose that  $\phi_\Pi + \phi_\Sigma + \text{ad } W_0 = 0$ , where  $W_0 \in w$  and  $\phi_\Pi, \phi_\Sigma$  are the the transpose and the ring derivation of  $L_\Phi$ , respectively. By  $(\phi_\Pi + \phi_\Sigma + \text{ad } W_0)(d(n, R)) = 0$ , we easily see that  $W_0 = 0$ . Then we have that  $\phi_\Pi + \phi_\Sigma = 0$ . By applying  $\phi_\Pi + \phi_\Sigma$  to  $a_{i,j}E_{i,j}$  for  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq n, a_{i,j} \in A_{i,j}$ , we have that  $\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{i,j} + \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})E_{j,i} = 0$ , leads to  $\sigma_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) = \pi_{i,j}(a_{i,j}) = 0$ . This forces that  $\phi_\Pi = \phi_\Sigma = 0$ . Now suppose that

$$\phi = \phi_{\Pi_1} + \phi_{\Sigma_1} - \text{ad } W_1 = \phi_{\Pi_2} + \phi_{\Sigma_2} - \text{ad } W_2,$$

is two decompositions of  $\phi$ . Then we have that

$$(\phi_{\Pi_1} - \phi_{\Pi_2}) + (\phi_{\Sigma_1} - \phi_{\Sigma_2}) + (\text{ad } W_2 - \text{ad } W_1) = 0.$$

Note that  $\phi_{\Pi_1} - \phi_{\Pi_2}$  (resp.,  $\phi_{\Sigma_1} - \phi_{\Sigma_2}$ ) is also a transpose (resp., ring) derivation of  $L_\Phi$  and  $\text{ad } W_2 - \text{ad } W_1 = \text{ad } (W_2 - W_1)$ . This implies that  $\phi_{\Sigma_1} = \phi_{\Sigma_2}, \phi_{\Pi_1} = \phi_{\Pi_2}$  and  $\text{ad } W_1 = \text{ad } W_2$ . □

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