

Post-Lie algebra structures on classes of nilpotent Lie algebras

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Contents

- 1 Definitions
- 2 Post-Lie algebra structures on 2-step nilpotent Lie algebras
- 3 Post-Lie algebra structures on filiform Lie algebras
- 4 Post-Lie algebra structures on strictly upper triangular matrices

Post-Lie algebra structures

Definition (Vallette 2007, Burde–Dekimpe–Vercammen 2010)

Let $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot]), (\mathfrak{n}, \{\cdot, \cdot\})$ be two Lie algebras on a k -vector space V . A **post-Lie algebra structure (PA-structure)** on the pair $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{n})$ is a k -bilinear map $V \times V \rightarrow V, (x, y) \mapsto x \cdot y$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}x \cdot y - y \cdot x &= [x, y] - \{x, y\} \\ [x, y] \cdot z &= x \cdot (y \cdot z) - y \cdot (x \cdot z) \\ x \cdot \{y, z\} &= \{x \cdot y, z\} + \{y, x \cdot z\}\end{aligned}$$

for all $x, y, z \in V$.

All Lie algebras will be finite-dimensional and over $k = \mathbb{C}$.

Special cases

- (i) If $\{\mathfrak{n}, \mathfrak{n}\} = 0$ (\mathfrak{n} is an **abelian** Lie algebra), a post-Lie algebra structure on $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{n})$ is a **pre-Lie algebra structure** on \mathfrak{g} .
- (ii) If $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$ (\mathfrak{g} is an **abelian** Lie algebra), a post-Lie algebra structure on $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{n})$ is an **LR-structure** on \mathfrak{n} .
- (iii) If $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{n}$ (i.e. $[x, y] = \{x, y\}$ for all $x, y \in V$), then by the first identity, $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$. So we call those post-Lie algebra structures **commutative post-Lie algebra structures** or **CPA-structures** on \mathfrak{g} .

Commutative post-Lie algebra structures

Definition (Burde–Dekimpe 2016)

Let $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot])$ be a k -Lie algebra. A **commutative post-Lie algebra structure (CPA-structure)** on \mathfrak{g} is a k -bilinear map $\mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$, $(x, y) \mapsto x \cdot y$ such that

$$x \cdot y = y \cdot x$$

$$[x, y] \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z) - y \cdot (x \cdot z)$$

$$x \cdot [y, z] = [x \cdot y, z] + [y, x \cdot z]$$

for all $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{g}$.

Special CPA-structures

"Some" CPA-structure on a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} satisfy

$$\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$$

or the stronger condition

$$\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}),$$

with $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \text{span}\{[g, h] : g, h \in \mathfrak{g}\}$ the **commutator algebra** of \mathfrak{g}

and $Z(\mathfrak{g}) = \{g \in \mathfrak{g} : [g, h] = 0 \quad \forall h \in \mathfrak{g}\}$ the **center** of \mathfrak{g} .

Poisson algebras

A **Poisson algebra** is a vector space $(A, \cdot, \{\cdot, \cdot\})$ with a bilinear, associative and commutative map $\cdot : A \times A \rightarrow A$ and a Lie bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ such that

$$\{x, y \cdot z\} = \{x, y\} \cdot z + y \cdot \{x, z\}$$

for all $x, y, z \in A$.

Poisson-admissible algebras

An algebra (V, \cdot) is called **Poisson-admissible** (Goze–Remm 2008), if $(V, \circ, [\cdot, \cdot])$, given by

$$[x, y] := x \cdot y - y \cdot x,$$
$$x \circ y := \frac{1}{2}(x \cdot y + y \cdot x)$$

is a Poisson algebra.

Proposition (Goze–Remm, 2008)

There is a bijective correspondence between Poisson-admissible algebras and Poisson algebras.

CPA-structures and associative algebras

Lemma

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra and $x \cdot y$ a CPA-structure on \mathfrak{g} . Then:

$$\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0 \Leftrightarrow (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) \text{ is an associative algebra.}$$

Proof: By commutativity and a property of PA-structures, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (x \cdot y) \cdot z - x \cdot (y \cdot z) &= z \cdot (x \cdot y) - x \cdot (y \cdot z) \\ &= x \cdot (z \cdot y) + [z, x] \cdot y - x \cdot (y \cdot z) \\ &= x \cdot (y \cdot z) - x \cdot (y \cdot z) + [z, x] \cdot y \\ &= y \cdot [z, x], \end{aligned}$$

meaning $\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0 \Leftrightarrow (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot)$ is an associative algebra.

CPA-structures and Poisson(-admissible) algebras

Similarly, one can prove:

Lemma

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra and $x \cdot y$ a CPA-structure on \mathfrak{g} . Then:

$$\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0 \Leftrightarrow (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) \text{ is a Poisson-admissible algebra}$$

Lemma

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra and $x \cdot y$ a CPA-structure on \mathfrak{g} . Then:

$$\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}) \Leftrightarrow (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) \text{ is a Poisson-algebra}$$

LR-structures and associative/Poisson-admissible algebras

For LR-structures, one can prove a similar statement:

Lemma

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra and $x \cdot y$ an LR-structure on \mathfrak{g} . Then:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}) &\Leftrightarrow (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) \text{ is an associative algebra} \\ &\Leftrightarrow (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) \text{ is a Poisson-admissible algebra} \end{aligned}$$

Corollary

If (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) is an associative LR-structure, then \mathfrak{g} is 2-step nilpotent. Moreover, (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) is complete (i.e., all right-multiplication operators are nilpotent).

CPA-structures

This suggests to study CPA-structures satisfying $\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$ and $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g})$.

We want to present some classification results in this direction.

Theorem (Burde–Dekimpe–Moens 2019)

All CPA-structures on the free-nilpotent Lie algebras $\mathfrak{g} = F_{3,3}, F_{2,c}, 3 \leq c \leq 10$ (and most likely also for most other $F_{n,c}$) satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g})$, thus are **Poisson-algebras**.

Nilpotent Lie algebras

Given a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , we call

$$\mathfrak{g}^0 := \mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^1 := [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^0], \mathfrak{g}^2 := [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^1], \dots, \mathfrak{g}^k := [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}^{k-1}]$$

its **lower central series**.

We say that \mathfrak{g} is **nilpotent**, if there is a k with $\mathfrak{g}^k = 0$. The smallest such k is called the **nilpotency class** $c(\mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{g} .

Nilpotent Lie algebras

Examples:

- $c(\mathfrak{g}) = 1$ (i.e. $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$): \mathfrak{g} is called **abelian**.
- $c(\mathfrak{g}) = 2$: \mathfrak{g} is called **two-step nilpotent**.
- $c(\mathfrak{g}) = \dim(\mathfrak{g}) - 1$: \mathfrak{g} is called **filiform**.
- The Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of **strictly upper triangular matrices** of size $n \times n$ is nilpotent of class $c(\mathfrak{g}) = n - 1$.

We want to understand/classify (commutative) post-Lie algebra structures (CPA-structures) on nilpotent Lie algebras.

2-step nilpotent Lie algebras

A Lie algebra (\mathfrak{g}, \cdot) is called 2-step nilpotent, if $[\mathfrak{g}, [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]] = 0$.

Example

The **Heisenberg algebra** of dimension $2k + 1$ has a basis $\{p_1, \dots, p_k, q_1, \dots, q_k, z\}$ and Lie brackets $[p_i, q_i] = z, i = 1, \dots, k$.

2-step nilpotent Lie algebras

Theorem (Burde–E.–Moens)

Let \mathfrak{g} be a 2-step nilpotent Lie algebra.

Then there is a bijective correspondence between associative CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} and LR-structures on \mathfrak{g} with $\mathfrak{g} \cdot Z(\mathfrak{g}) = 0$ (and also to certain pre-Lie algebra structures on \mathfrak{g}).

2-step nilpotent Lie algebras

Proposition

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Heisenberg algebra of dimension $n \geq 5$.

Then all LR-structures on \mathfrak{g} satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot Z(\mathfrak{g}) = 0$ and all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} are **associative**.

Corollary

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Heisenberg algebra of dimension $n \geq 5$.

Then there is a **bijjective correspondence** between LR-structures on \mathfrak{g} and CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} .

2-step nilpotent Lie algebras

Let \mathfrak{g} be a Heisenberg algebra of dimension $n \geq 5$.
Then the correspondence is given as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \{\text{LR-structures on } \mathfrak{g}\} &\longleftrightarrow \{\text{CPA-structures on } \mathfrak{g}\}, \\ x \cdot y &\longmapsto x \cdot y + \frac{1}{2}[x, y], \\ x \circ y - \frac{1}{2}[x, y] &\longleftarrow x \circ y. \end{aligned}$$

As CPA-structures on stem $(Z(\mathfrak{g}) \subseteq [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}])$ nilpotent Lie algebras are always **complete** (Burde–Dekimpe–Moens 2019), we obtain that all LR-structures on Heisenberg algebras of dimension ≥ 5 are complete.

2-step nilpotent Lie algebras

Classification of CPA-structures on the 3-dimensional Heisenberg algebra (Burde–E.–Moens)

With respect to the basis $\{p, q, z\}$, $[p, q] = z$, all CPA-structures on the 3-dimensional Heisenberg algebra are given by the three types

$$(i) \quad p \cdot q = q \cdot p = \frac{1}{2}z, \quad q \cdot q = \alpha p + \beta z;$$

$$(ii) \quad p \cdot p = \alpha p + \beta q + \gamma z, \\ p \cdot q = q \cdot p = -\alpha^2/\beta p - \alpha q + \delta z, \\ q \cdot q = \alpha^3/\beta^2 p + \alpha^2/\beta q + (2\alpha\beta\delta - \alpha^2\gamma)/\beta^2 z, \beta \neq 0;$$

$$(iii) \quad p \cdot p = \alpha z, \quad p \cdot q = q \cdot p = \beta z, \quad q \cdot q = \gamma p + \delta z; \quad \alpha\gamma = 0;$$

where $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{C}$ arbitrary.

Filiform Lie algebras

An n -dimensional Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is called **filiform**, if \mathfrak{g} is $(n - 1)$ -step nilpotent.

Theorem (Burde–E.)

Let \mathfrak{g} be a filiform Lie algebra. Then

- (i) all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$ (are associative) if and only if \mathfrak{g} is **non-metabelian** and
- (ii) all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} satisfy $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$.

Filiform Lie algebras

Every filiform Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} has an **adapted basis** (Vergne, 1970), that is, a vector space basis $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} [e_1, e_i] &= e_{i+1}, & i &= 2, \dots, n-1 \\ [e_i, e_j] &\in \text{span}(e_{i+j}, \dots, e_n), & i, j &\geq 2, i+j \leq n \\ [e_{i+1}, e_{n-i}] &= (-1)^i \alpha e_n, & 1 &\leq i < n-1 \end{aligned}$$

with a scalar α , which is always 0 if n is odd.

Define $l_k := \text{span}(e_k, \dots, e_n)$. The **lower central series** of \mathfrak{g} is given by

$$\mathfrak{g} = l_1 \geq l_3 \geq l_4 \geq \dots \geq l_n \geq l_{n+1} = 0.$$

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Lemma

Let $(\mathfrak{g}, [\cdot, \cdot], \cdot)$ be a CPA-structure on a filiform Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and (e_1, \dots, e_n) be an adapted basis of \mathfrak{g} with $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq l_3$ and $\mathfrak{g} \cdot l_2 \subseteq l_4$. Suppose that for some $\ell \geq 0$ we have

$$e_1 \cdot e_j \in l_{j+\ell+2} \text{ for all } 3 \leq j \leq n,$$

$$e_i \cdot e_j \in l_{i+j+\ell} \text{ for all } (i, j) \neq (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2).$$

Then the same is true for $\ell + 1$, i.e., we have

$$e_1 \cdot e_j \in l_{j+\ell+3} \text{ for all } 3 \leq j \leq n,$$

$$e_i \cdot e_j \in l_{i+j+\ell+1} \text{ for all } (i, j) \neq (1, 1), (1, 2), (2, 1), (2, 2).$$

Filiform Lie algebras

Theorem (Burde–E.)

Let \mathfrak{g} be a filiform Lie algebra. Then

- (i) all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$ (are associative) if and only if \mathfrak{g} is **non-metabelian** and
- (ii) all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} satisfy $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = 0$.

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

On non-metabelian filiform Lie algebras \mathfrak{g} of dimension ≥ 4 , there is always a **non-associative CPA-structure**:

Let $\{e_1, e_2, \dots, e_n\}$ be an adapted basis of \mathfrak{g} . Let $[e_2, e_3] = \alpha_5 e_5 + \alpha_6 e_6 + \dots + \alpha_n e_n$. Then

$$e_1 \cdot e_i = [e_1, e_i], 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

$$e_2 \cdot e_j = [e_2, e_j], 3 \leq j \leq n,$$

$$e_2 \cdot e_2 = 2(\alpha_5 e_4 + \alpha_6 e_5 + \dots + \alpha_n e_{n-1})$$

is a CPA-structure on \mathfrak{g} which is **not associative**.

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

With this theorem, one can derive all possible CPA-structures on certain important classes of filiform Lie algebras (e.g.

L_n, Q_n, R_n, W_n).

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Definition

The Lie algebra L_n of dimension n has a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and

$$[e_1, e_i] = e_{i+1} \quad \text{for} \quad 2 \leq i \leq n-1.$$

Proposition (Burde–E.)

All CPA-structures on L_n , $n \geq 5$ are given by ...

Type 1:

$$e_1 \cdot e_1 = \alpha_2 e_2 + \dots + \alpha_n e_n,$$

$$e_1 \cdot e_2 = e_2 \cdot e_1 = \beta e_{n-1} + \gamma e_n,$$

$$e_1 \cdot e_3 = e_3 \cdot e_1 = \beta e_n,$$

$$e_2 \cdot e_2 = \delta e_n,$$

$\alpha_i, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\alpha_2 \delta + \beta = 0$.

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Definition

The Lie algebra L_n of dimension n has a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and

$$[e_1, e_i] = e_{i+1} \quad \text{for} \quad 2 \leq i \leq n-1.$$

Proposition (Burde–E.)

Type 2:

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 \cdot e_1 &= \alpha_2 e_2 + \dots + \alpha_n e_n, \\ e_1 \cdot e_2 &= e_2 \cdot e_1 = e_3 + \beta e_{n-1} + \gamma e_n, \\ e_1 \cdot e_3 &= e_3 \cdot e_1 = e_4 + \beta e_n, \\ e_1 \cdot e_k &= e_k \cdot e_1 = e_{k+1}, \quad 4 \leq k \leq n-1, \\ e_2 \cdot e_2 &= \delta e_n, \end{aligned}$$

$\alpha_i, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\alpha_2 \delta - \beta = 0$.

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Definition

The Lie algebra Q_n of dimension n even has basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} [e_1, e_i] &= e_{i+1} & \text{for } 2 \leq i \leq n-1, \\ [e_i, e_{n-i+1}] &= (-1)^{i+1} e_n & \text{for } 2 \leq i \leq n/2. \end{aligned}$$

Proposition (Burde–E.)

All CPA-structures on Q_n , $n \geq 6$ are given by

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 \cdot e_1 &= \alpha e_{n-1} + \beta e_n, \\ e_1 \cdot e_2 &= e_2 \cdot e_1 = -\alpha e_{n-1} + \gamma e_n, \\ e_2 \cdot e_2 &= \alpha e_{n-1} + \delta e_n, \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{C}.$$

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Definition

The Lie algebra R_n of dimension n has a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and

$$[e_1, e_i] = e_{i+1} \quad \text{for} \quad 2 \leq i \leq n-1,$$

$$[e_2, e_i] = e_{i+2} \quad \text{for} \quad 3 \leq i \leq n-2.$$

Proposition (Burde–E.)

All CPA-structures on R_n , $n \geq 6$ are given by...

Type 1:

$$e_1 \cdot e_1 = \alpha_3 e_3 + \dots + \alpha_n e_n,$$

$$e_1 \cdot e_2 = e_2 \cdot e_1 = \alpha_3 e_4 + \dots + \alpha_{n-2} e_{n-1} + \beta e_n,$$

$$e_2 \cdot e_2 = \alpha_3 e_5 + \dots + \alpha_{n-3} e_{n-1} + \gamma e_n,$$

$$\alpha_i, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{C}.$$

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Definition

The Lie algebra R_n of dimension n has a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and

$$[e_1, e_i] = e_{i+1} \quad \text{for} \quad 2 \leq i \leq n-1,$$

$$[e_2, e_i] = e_{i+2} \quad \text{for} \quad 3 \leq i \leq n-2.$$

Proposition (Burde–E.)

Type 2:

$$e_1 \circ e_i = e_i \circ e_1 = e_1 \cdot e_i + [e_1, e_i], \quad 1 \leq i \leq n,$$

$$e_2 \circ e_2 = 2e_4 + e_2 \cdot e_2,$$

$$e_2 \circ e_i = e_i \circ e_2 = [e_2, e_i], \quad 3 \leq i \leq n,$$

where $e_i \cdot e_j$ is a CPA-structure of type 1.

CPA-structures on filiform Lie algebras

Definition

The Lie algebra W_n (Witt algebra) of dimension n has a basis $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$ and Lie brackets

$$[e_i, e_j] = (j - i)e_{i+j} \quad \text{for } i + j \leq n.$$

Proposition (Burde–E.)

All CPA-structures on the Witt algebra W_n , $n \geq 7$ are given by

$$e_1 \cdot e_1 = \left(\frac{n-2}{n-4} \right) \alpha e_{n-2} + \beta e_{n-1} + \gamma e_n,$$

$$e_1 \cdot e_2 = e_2 \cdot e_1 = \alpha e_{n-1} + \delta e_n,$$

$$e_2 \cdot e_2 = \varepsilon e_n,$$

$$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Lie algebras of strictly upper triangular matrices

Theorem (Burde–E.)

Let \mathfrak{g} be the $((n - 1)$ -step nilpotent) Lie algebra of **strictly upper triangular matrices** of size $n \times n$, $n \geq 5$. Then all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} are **associative** and satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^{n-3}$.

Proof: Inductively: Let \mathfrak{h} the Lie algebra of strictly upper triangular $(n - 1) \times (n - 1)$ -matrices.

For the ideals $\mathfrak{a} = \text{span}(E_{1,i} | 2 \leq i \leq n) + \mathfrak{g}^{n-3}$, $\mathfrak{b} = \text{span}(E_{i,n} | 1 \leq i \leq n - 1) + \mathfrak{g}^{n-3}$, we have $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a} \cong \mathfrak{h}/Z(\mathfrak{h})$, $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b} \cong \mathfrak{h}/Z(\mathfrak{h})$.

Induction gives us $(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a}) \cdot (\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a}) \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a})$ and $(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a}) \cdot [(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a}), (\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a})] = 0$.

This implies $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^{n-4}$ and $\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^{n-3}$; the CPA-identities and the structure of $\text{Der}(\mathfrak{g})$ further imply $\mathfrak{g} \cdot [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] \subseteq \mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g}^{n-4} = 0$.







Lie algebras of strictly upper triangular matrices





Theorem (Burde–E.)

Let \mathfrak{g} be the Lie algebra of **strictly upper triangular matrices** of size $n \times n$, $n \geq 5$. Then all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} are **associative** and satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^{n-3}$.

Corollary

Let \mathfrak{g} be the Lie algebra of **non-strictly upper triangular matrices** of size $n \geq 5$. Then all CPA-structures on \mathfrak{g} are **associative** and satisfy $\mathfrak{g} \cdot \mathfrak{g} \subseteq Z(\mathfrak{g}) + Z([\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}])$.

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