Homomorphisms from $\mathrm{SL}(2,k)$ to $\mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ in positive characteristic

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§1. Introduction

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As a continuation of our study of exponential matrices (and the Weitzenböck problem), we are interested in representations of SL(2,k) in positive characteristic. Representations of SL(2,k)behave differently whether or not the characteristic of k is zero. We begin with recalling such phenomena. We employ the following usual notations:

$$\begin{cases} k & : \text{ an algebraically closed field of characteristic } p \geq 0 \\ \mathbb{G}_a & : \text{ the additive group of } k \text{, i.e., } \mathbb{G}_a = (k,+) \\ \mathbb{G}_m & : \text{ the multiplicative group of } k \text{, i.e., } \mathbb{G}_m = (k \setminus \{0\}, \times) \end{cases}$$

Known results

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• If p=0, any representation $\rho: \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{GL}(n,k)$ is completely reducible, i.e.,

$$\rho = \rho_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \rho_r,$$

where each ρ_i is an irreducible representation of SL(2,k).

• If p > 0, not every representation $\rho : \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{GL}(n,k)$ is completely reducible. For example, if p=2, the following is not completely reducible:

$$\rho: \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{GL}(3,k), \quad \rho \left(\begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} a^2 & b^2 & a & b \\ \hline c^2 & d^2 & c & d \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right).$$

Present situations.

- I have not yet found general theory of representations of SL(2, k) in positive characteristic. Tilting theory can treat tilting SL(2, k)-modules, only.
- What is worse (or better?), I have not yet found abundant p-pathological examples of representations of SL(2, k) in positive characteristic.

Why we study representations of SL(2, k) in positive characteristic?

- Can we classify smooth projective SL(2, k)-threefolds in positive characteristic?
- Can we classify $\mathrm{SL}(2,k)$ -actions on \mathbb{P}^3 in positive characteristic?

Toward answering to the above questions, it would be helpful to describe homomorphisms $SL(2, k) \rightarrow GL(4, k)$.

We have the following one-to-one correspondence:

$$\operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{GL}(n,k)) \stackrel{\cong}{\longleftarrow} \operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))$$

$$\iota_{\operatorname{SL}(n,k)} \circ \sigma \stackrel{\longleftarrow}{\longleftarrow} \sigma$$

Now, our interest lies in the following problem:

Problem 1

Assume p > 0. Describe homomorphisms

$$SL(2,k) \to SL(n,k)$$
.

For $1 \le n \le 3$, we already have the answer.

In this talk, we give an answer to Problem 1 for n = 4.

§2. Reducing Problem 1

From now on, we assume that the characteristic p of k is positive. In this section, we shall reduce Problem 1.

(2.1) Subgroups of SL(2,k).

We consider the Borel subgroup of SL(2, k) defined by

$$\mathrm{B}(2,k) := \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) \in \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \;\middle|\; c = 0 \right\}.$$

We can identify the Borel subgroup B(2, k) with a semi-direct product $\mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m$, where the product of elements (t,u), (t',u') of $\mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m$ is given by

$$(t, u) \cdot (t', u') := (t + u^2 t', u u').$$

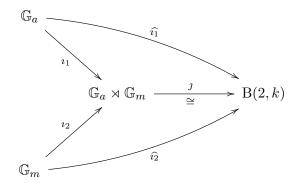
The identification is given by the following isomorphism:

$$j: \mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{B}(2,k) \qquad \jmath(t,u) := \left(\begin{array}{cc} u & t \, u^{-1} \\ 0 & u^{-1} \end{array} \right).$$

Let

$$\begin{cases}
\imath_1: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m & \imath_1(t) := (t, 1), \\
\imath_2: \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m & \imath_2(u) := (0, u), \\
\widehat{\imath_1}: \mathbb{G}_a \to B(2, k) & \widehat{\imath_1} := \jmath \circ \imath_1, \\
\widehat{\imath_2}: \mathbb{G}_m \to B(2, k) & \widehat{\imath_2} := \jmath \circ \imath_2.
\end{cases}$$

We have the following commutative diagram:



Let $\sigma: \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ be a morphism.

We can define the following morphisms:

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_{\sigma} : \mathbb{G}_{a} \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k) & \varphi_{\sigma}(t) := \sigma \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \omega_{\sigma} : \mathbb{G}_{m} \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k) & \omega_{\sigma}(u) := \sigma \begin{pmatrix} u & 0 \\ 0 & u^{-1} \end{pmatrix}, \\ \varphi_{\sigma}^{-} : \mathbb{G}_{a} \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k) & \varphi_{\sigma}^{-}(s) := \sigma \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ s & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

Clearly, if $\sigma: SL(2,k) \to SL(n,k)$ is a homomorphism, the morphisms φ_{σ} , ω_{σ} , φ_{σ}^{-} are homomorphisms.

(2.3)
$$\omega_{\sigma}: \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$$

For all integers d_i $(1 \le i \le n)$ satisfying $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i = 0$, we can define a homomorphism $\omega_{d_1,\ldots,d_n}:\mathbb{G}_m\to\mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ as

$$\omega_{d_1,\ldots,d_n}(u) := \operatorname{diag}(u^{d_1},\ldots,u^{d_n}).$$

Let

$$\Omega(n) := \left\{ \begin{array}{c|c} \omega_{d_1,\dots,d_n} & d_1 \ge \dots \ge d_n, \\ d_i = -d_{n-i+1} & (1 \le i \le n) \end{array} \right\}.$$

For any regular matrix P of $\mathrm{GL}(n,k)$, we can define an isomorphism $\mathrm{Inn}_P:\mathrm{SL}(n,k)\to\mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ as

$$\operatorname{Inn}_P(A) := P^{-1} A P.$$

Lemma 2

For any homomorphism $\sigma: \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$, there exists a regular matrix P of $\mathrm{GL}(n,k)$ such that

$$\operatorname{Inn}_P \circ \omega_\sigma \in \Omega(n).$$

A homomorphism $\sigma: \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ is said to be anti-symmetric if $\omega_{\sigma} \in \Omega(n)$.

$$\operatorname{SL}(2,k) \xrightarrow{\sigma} \operatorname{SL}(n,k)$$
anti-symmetric Lnn_P
 $\operatorname{SL}(n,k)$

So, we have the following commutative diagram:

$$\operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))/\sim$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \parallel$$

$$\operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))/\sim$$

We can reduce Problem 1 to the following problem:

Problem 3

Describe anti-symmetric homomorphisms from SL(2, k) to SL(n,k), i.e., describe

$$\operatorname{Hom}^{a}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))/\sim.$$

In Section 3, we meet the following commutative diagram:

$$\operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))$$

§3. Homomorphisms $\mathrm{B}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$

(3.1) φ_{ψ} and ω_{ψ}

Given a morphism $\psi: \mathrm{B}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$, we can define the following morphisms:

$$\begin{cases}
\varphi_{\psi}: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k) & \varphi_{\psi}(t) := \psi \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\
\omega_{\psi}: \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k) & \omega_{\psi}(u) := \psi \begin{pmatrix} u & 0 \\ 0 & u^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.
\end{cases}$$

If ψ is a homomorphism, then φ_{ψ} and ω_{ψ} are homomorphisms.

A homomorphism $\psi: B(2,k) \to SL(n,k)$ is said to be anti-symmetric if $\omega_{\psi} \in \Omega(n)$.

Lemma 4

The following diagram is commutative:

$$\operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k))$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) / \sim \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) / \sim$$

$$\operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) / \sim \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(n,k)) / \sim$$

(3.2) $\psi_{\omega,\omega}$

Given morphisms $\varphi: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ and $\omega: \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$, we can define a morphism $\psi_{\varphi,\omega}:\mathbb{G}_a\rtimes\mathbb{G}_m\to\mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ as

$$\psi_{\varphi,\,\omega}(t,u) := \varphi(t) \cdot \omega(u).$$

Lemma 5

Let $\psi: B(2,k) \to SL(n,k)$ be a homomorphism. Then the following assertions (1) and (2) hold true:

- (1) $\psi \circ \jmath = \psi_{\varphi_{ij}, \omega_{ij}}$.
- (2) There exist unique homomorphisms $\varphi: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ and $\omega: \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ such that $\psi \circ \jmath = \psi_{\varphi,\omega}$.

Lemma 6

Let $\varphi: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ and $\omega: \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ be morphisms.

Then the morphism $\psi_{\varphi,\omega}: \mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ is a homomorphism if and only if the following conditions (1), (2), (3) hold true:

- $(1) \ \varphi \ \textit{is a homomorphism}.$
- (2) ω is a homomorphism.
- (3) $\omega(u) \varphi(t) \omega(u)^{-1} = \varphi(u^2 t)$ for all $(t, u) \in \mathbb{G}_a \times \mathbb{G}_m$.

(3.3) Anti-symmetric homomorphisms $\psi: B(2,k) \to SL(n,k)$

Recall $B(2,k) = \langle \mathbb{G}_q^+, \mathbb{G}_m \rangle$.

Lemma 7

Let $\psi: B(2,k) \to SL(n,k)$ be an anti-symmetric homomorphism.

Then the homomorphism $\varphi_{\psi}: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ satisfies the following condition:

For any $t \in \mathbb{G}_a$, the regular matrix $\varphi_{\psi}(t)$ is upper triangular.

We obtain the forms of homomorphisms $\varphi: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ satisfying $1 \le n \le 5$ and the following condition: For any $t \in \mathbb{G}_a$, the regular matrix $\varphi(t)$ is upper triangular.

§4. $\operatorname{Hom}^{a}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(4,k))$

We can choose 26 pairs (φ^*, ω^*) from $\mathrm{Hom}^a(\mathrm{B}(2,k),\mathrm{SL}(4,k)).$

We label the types as (I), (II) - (XXVI).

(I) Assume $p \geq 5$. Let $e_1 \geq 0$. Let $d_1 := 3 p^{e_1}$ and $d_2 := p^{e_1}$. Let

$$\omega^*(u) := \operatorname{diag}(u^{d_1}, u^{d_2}, u^{-d_2}, u^{-d_1}).$$

Let $\varphi^*: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ be the homomorphism defined by

 $\omega^*:\mathbb{G}_m o \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ be the homomorphism defined by

$$\varphi^*(t) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2} t^{2 p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{6} t^{3 p^{e_1}} \\ 0 & 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2} t^{2 p^{e_1}} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(II) Assume p=3. Let $e_1\geq 0$. Let $d_1=p^{e_1+1}$ and $d_2=p^{e_1}$. Let $\omega^*:\mathbb{G}_m\to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ be the homomorphism defined by

$$\omega^*(u) := \operatorname{diag}(u^{d_1}, u^{d_2}, u^{-d_2}, u^{-d_1}).$$

Let $\varphi^*: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ be the homomorphism defined by

$$\varphi^*(t) := \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2} \, t^{2 \, p^{e_1}} & t^{p^{e_1+1}} \\ 0 & 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right).$$

(III) Assume $p\geq 3$. Let $e_1\geq 0$. Let $d_1=3$ p^{e_1} and $d_2=p^{e_1}$. Let $\omega^*:\mathbb{G}_m\to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ be the homomorphism defined by

$$\omega^*(u) := \operatorname{diag}(u^{d_1}, u^{d_2}, u^{-d_2}, u^{-d_1}).$$

Let $\varphi^*: \mathbb{G}_a \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ be the homomorphism defined by

$$\varphi^*(t) := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2} t^{2 p^{e_1}} & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & t^{p^{e_1}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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(XXVI)

The following assertions (1) and (2) hold true:

- (1) Let (φ^*, ω^*) be a pair of the form (ν) , where $\nu = I, \ldots, XXVI$. Then the morphism $\psi_{\varphi^*, \varphi^*}: \mathbb{G}_a \rtimes \mathbb{G}_m \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ is a homomorphism and $\omega^* \in \Omega(4)$.
- (2) Let $\psi : B(2,k) \to SL(4,k)$ be an antisymmetric homomorphism. Express ψ as $\psi \circ j = \psi_{\varphi,\omega}$ for some (φ,ω) of $\operatorname{Hom}(\mathbb{G}_a,\operatorname{SL}(4,k)) \times$ $\Omega(4)$. Then there exists an element (φ^*, ω^*) of $\operatorname{Hom}(\mathbb{G}_a, \operatorname{SL}(4, k)) \times$ $\Omega(4)$ such that the following conditions (a) and (b) hold true:
 - (a) $(\varphi, \omega) \sim (\varphi^*, \omega^*)$.
 - (b) (φ^*, ω^*) has one of the above forms (I) (XXVI).

Recall the following commutative diagram:

$$\operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(4,k)) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(4,k))$$

$$\downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{SL}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(4,k))/\sim \longrightarrow \operatorname{Hom}^a(\operatorname{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(4,k))/\sim$$

 $\operatorname{Hom}^a(\mathrm{B}(2,k),\operatorname{SL}(4,k))/\sim$ has at most 26 types.

Let $\imath_{\mathrm{B}(2,k)}:\mathrm{B}(2,k)\to\mathrm{SL}(2,k)$ be the inclusion homomorphism. A homomorphism $\psi:\mathrm{B}(2,k)\to\mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ is said to be *extendable* if there exists a homomorphism $\sigma:\mathrm{SL}(2,k)\to\mathrm{SL}(n,k)$ such that $\sigma\circ\imath_{\mathrm{B}(2,k)}=\psi$, i.e., the following diagram is commutative:

$$B(2,k) \xrightarrow{\psi} SL(n,k)$$

$$I_{B(2,k)} \int_{\sigma}$$

$$SL(2,k)$$

Lemma 9

Let (φ^*, ω^*) be of the form (I). Then $\psi_{(\varphi^*, \omega^*)}$ is uniquely extendable to the following $\sigma^* : \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$:

$$\sigma^* \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$:= \begin{pmatrix} a^3 p^{e_1} & a^2 p^{e_1} b^{p_{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2} a^{p_{e_1}} b^2 p^{e_1} & \frac{1}{6} b^3 p^{e_1} \\ 3 a^2 p^{e_1} c^{p_1} a^{p_{e_1}} \cdot (a d + 2 b c)^{p_1} & b^{p_1} \cdot (a d + \frac{1}{2} b c)^{p_1} \frac{1}{2} b^2 p^{e_1} d^{p_1} \\ 6 a^{p_1} c^2 p^{e_1} 4 c^{p_1} \cdot (a d + \frac{1}{2} b c)^{p_1} d^{p_1} \cdot (a d + 2 b c)^{p_1} b^{p_1} d^2 p^{e_1} \\ 6 c^3 p^{e_1} & 6 c^2 p^{e_1} d^{p_1} & 3 c^{p_1} d^2 p^{e_1} & d^3 p^{e_1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

This homomorphism σ^* is well known.

Lemma 10

Let (φ^*, ω^*) be of the form (II). Then $\psi_{(\varphi^*, \omega^*)}$ is uniquely extendable to the following $\sigma^* : \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$:

$$\sigma^* \left(\begin{array}{cc} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{cccc} a^{p^{e_1+1}} & a^{2\,p^{e_1}}\,b^{p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2}\,a^{p^{e_1}}\,b^{2\,p^{e_1}} & b^{p^{e_1+1}} \\ 0 & a^{p^{e_1}} & b^{p^{e_1}} & 0 \\ 0 & c^{p^{e_1}} & d^{p^{e_1}} & 0 \\ c^{p^{e_1+1}} & c^{2\,p^{e_1}}\,d^{p^{e_1}} & \frac{1}{2}\,c^{p^{e_1}}\,d^{2\,p^{e_1}} & d^{p^{e_1+1}} \end{array} \right).$$

Lemma 11

Let (φ^*, ω^*) be of the form (III). Then $\psi_{(\varphi^*, \omega^*)}$ is not extendable.

Theorem 12

Let $\sigma: SL(2,k) \to SL(4,k)$ be a homomorphism. Then there exists a homomorphism $\sigma^* : \mathrm{SL}(2,k) \to \mathrm{SL}(4,k)$ satisfying the following conditions (i) and (ii):

- (i) σ and σ^* are equivalent, i.e., $\sigma \sim \sigma^*$.
- (ii) σ^* has one of the forms (I)*, (II)*, (IV)*, (V)*, (VII)*, (IX)*, $(XI)^*$, $(XV)^*$, $(XIX)^*$, $(XXIV)^*$, $(XXVI)^*$.

p=2	p=3	$p \ge 5$	$p \ge 2$	d
		(I)*		(0,0)
	(II)*			(0,0)
(IV)*	(IV)*	(IV)*	(IV)*	(0,0)
(V)*				(1,1)
	(VII)*			(0,0)
	(IX)*	(IX)*		(1,1)
(XI)*				(1,2)
(XV)*	(XV)*	(XV)*	(XV)*	(0,0)
(XIX)*				(2,1)
(XXIV)*	(XXIV)*	(XXIV)*	(XXIV)*	(2,2)
(XXVI)*	(XXVI)*	(XXVI)*	(XXVI)*	(4,4)
7 types	7 types	6 types	4 types	

The following might be a new representation of $\mathrm{SL}(2,k)$.

Assume p=2. For all integer $e_1\geq 0$, we can define a homomorphism $\sigma_{({\rm V})^\sharp,\;e_1}:{\rm SL}(2,k)\to {\rm SL}(4,k)$ as

$$\sigma_{(V)^{\sharp}, e_{1}} \left(\begin{array}{c} a & b \\ c & d \end{array} \right) := \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ a^{p^{e_{1}}} b^{p^{e_{1}}} & a^{p^{e_{1}+1}} & b^{p^{e_{1}+1}} & 0 \\ c^{p^{e_{1}}} d^{p^{e_{1}}} & c^{p^{e_{1}+1}} & d^{p^{e_{1}+1}} & 0 \\ b^{p^{e_{1}}} c^{p^{e_{1}}} & a^{p^{e_{1}}} c^{p^{e_{1}}} & b^{p^{e_{1}}} d^{p^{e_{1}}} & 1 \end{array} \right).$$

Lemma 13

Let $e_1 \geq 0$, let σ^* be the homomorphism given in $(V)^*$ and let $P := P_{3,4} P_{1,2} \in GL(4,k)$. Then $Inn_P \circ \sigma^* = \sigma_{(V)\sharp, e_1}$.

Thank you very much for your attention.