Lie groups and representations, Fall 2009

Homework #5, due Wednesday, October 28.

1. Show that the multiplication map $m: G \times G \longrightarrow G$ on a Lie group induces the addition map on its Lie algebra, $m_*(X, Y) = X + Y$, and the map of taking the inverse $g \longmapsto g^{-1}$ induces the map $X \longmapsto -X$.

2. Prove that the tangent bundle to a Lie group is trivial.

3. Let L be the Lie algebra of a connected Lie group G.

(a) Prove that [X, Y] = 0 if and only if

 $\exp(tX)\exp(sY) = \exp(sY)\exp(tX) \quad \text{for all} \quad t, s \in \mathbb{R}.$

Here $X, Y \in L$.

(b) Show that L is abelian iff G is.

(c) Use (b) to classify connected abelian Lie groups and, more generally, abelian Lie groups (with finitely-many connected components).

4. Prove that L is solvable iff there exists a chain of subalgebras $L = L_0 \supset L_1 \supset L_2 \supset \cdots \supset 0$ such that L_{i+1} is an ideal of L_i and the quotients L_{i+1}/L_i are abelian.

5. Show that the sum of two nilpotent ideals is nilpotent and that any finite-dimensional Lie algebra has a unique maximal nilpotent ideal. Determine this ideal for the Lie algebra of upper-triangular $n \times n$ matrices.

6. Determine the adjoint action in the standard basis e, h, f of the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$, compute the Killing form in this basis and find its signature.

7. Prove that $\mathfrak{sl}(n,\mathbb{R})$ is simple if n > 1, that is, nonabelian with no proper ideals.