

Proposition. All eigenvalues for  $H$  are integers, and we can write

$$V = V_n \oplus V_{n-2} \oplus V_{n-4} \oplus \dots \oplus V_{-n}.$$

pf) Let  $v$  be primitive, and suppose

$$Y^n v \neq 0, \quad Y^{n+1} v = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad H v = \lambda v.$$

Then  $X v = 0$ ,

$$X Y v = Y X v + H v = \lambda v$$

$$\begin{aligned} X Y^2 v &= Y X Y v + H Y v = Y \lambda v + (\lambda - 2) Y v \\ &= (2\lambda - 2) Y v, \end{aligned}$$

and in general

$$X Y^m v = Y X Y^{m-1} v + H Y^{m-1} v, \text{ so we have}$$

$$\begin{aligned} X Y^m v &= (\lambda + (\lambda - 2) + (\lambda - 4) + \dots + (\lambda - 2(m-1))) Y^{m-1} v \\ &= (m\lambda - m^2 + m) Y^{m-1} v, \end{aligned}$$

and since  $Y^n v \neq 0$ ,  $Y^{n+1} v = 0$ .

$$X Y^{n+1} v = ((n+1)\lambda - (n+1)^2 + n+1) Y^n v = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda - (n+1) + 1 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda = n, \quad \text{Q.E.D.}$$

In summary, the irreducible  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$  modules are indexed by nonnegative integers  $n$ ; for each such  $n$ , the corresponding  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -module  $V(n)$  has dimension  $n+1$ . Explicitly,

$V(n) \cong \text{Sym}^n(\mathbb{C}^2)$   $\left( \begin{smallmatrix} \mathbb{F} & 2H_n = n+1 \\ \mathbb{C} & n = n+1 \\ \mathbb{C} & 2+n-1 \end{smallmatrix} \right)$  is the  $n$ -th symmetric power of the vector space  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . The eigenvalues of  $H$  acting on  $V(n)$  are  $-n, -n+2, \dots, n-2, n$ , each appearing with multiplicity 1.

For any  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -module  $V$ , not necessarily irreducible, we define the Lefschetz decomposition of  $V$  as follows: let  $PV = \text{Ker}(X)$ ; then

$$V = PV \oplus YPV \oplus Y^2PV \oplus \dots, \quad \text{and}$$