

A NOTE ON SEMISIMPLE DERIVATIONS OF  
COMMUTATIVE ALGEBRAS

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**Abstract.** A concept of a slice of a semisimple derivation is introduced. Moreover, it is shown that a semisimple derivation  $d$  of a finitely generated commutative algebra  $A$  over an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0 is nothing other than an algebraic action of a torus on  $\text{Max}(A)$ , and, using this, that in some cases the derivation  $d$  is linearizable or admits a maximal invariant ideal.

**Introduction.** Let  $A$  be a commutative algebra over an algebraically closed field  $k$ . Recall that a *derivation* of the algebra  $A$  is a  $k$ -linear map  $d : A \rightarrow A$  such that  $d(xy) = d(x)y + xd(y)$  for all  $x, y \in A$ . If  $d$  is a derivation of  $A$  and  $t \in k$ , then we denote by  $A_t$  the subspace  $\{a \in A; d(a) = ta\} \subset A$ . It is known that  $A_0 = \text{Ker } d$  is a subalgebra of  $A$  called the *algebra of constants* of  $d$ . A derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  is said to be *semisimple* if it is semisimple as a linear map, that is, if  $A = \bigoplus_{t \in k} A_t$ . Denote by  $k^+$  the additive group of the field  $k$ . It is easily seen that for every semisimple derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  the decomposition  $A = \bigoplus_{t \in k} A_t$  is a  $k^+$ -grading of the algebra  $A$ , i.e.,  $1 \in A_0$  and  $A_t A_{t'} \subset A_{t+t'}$  for all  $t, t' \in k$ . Conversely, if  $A = \bigoplus_{t \in k} A_t$  is a  $k^+$ -grading of the algebra  $A$ , then one easily verifies that the map  $d : A \rightarrow A$ ,  $d(x = \sum_t x_t) = \sum_t tx_t$ , is a semisimple derivation of  $A$  with  $A_t = \{a \in A; d(a) = ta\}$  for all  $t \in k$ . So, a semisimple derivation of the algebra  $A$  is nothing other than a  $k^+$ -grading of  $A$ . This observation implies (see Lemma 1) that if  $A$  is finitely generated and  $\text{char}(k) = 0$ , then the semisimple derivations of  $A$  are in one-to-one correspondence with the rational actions of a torus on the algebraic variety  $\text{Max}(A)$  of all maximal ideals in  $A$ . The same observation permits introducing a concept of a slice for semisimple derivations which is an analog of the well known concept of a slice for locally nilpotent derivations. This is done in Section 1, where also a corresponding structure theorem is proved. In Section 2 the linearization problem and existence of maximal invariant ideals for semisimple derivations is considered in some special cases. The main theorems of this section

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are basically translations (into the language of derivations) of some results concerning actions of the algebraic tori on the affine spaces  $\mathbb{A}^n$  or actions of Hopf algebras on algebras.

**1. Slices and a structure theorem.** In what follows,  $k$  denotes a fixed algebraically closed field, and  $A$  denotes a fixed commutative  $k$ -algebra with unity.

Given a derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$ , we denote by  $E(d)$  the set of eigenvalues of  $d$ , and by  $G(d)$  the subgroup of  $k^+$  generated by  $E(d)$ . Notice that if  $\text{char}(k) = 0$ , then  $G(d)$  is a torsion free abelian group, and if  $\text{char}(k) = p > 0$ , then  $G(d)$  is a vector space over the simple field  $\mathbb{F}_p \subset k$ . The *rank* of  $d$  (we write  $\text{rk}(d)$ ) is meant to be the rank of the abelian group  $G(d)$  provided  $\text{char}(k) = 0$ , and  $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} G(d)$  provided  $\text{char}(k) = p > 0$ . It is clear that the group  $G(d)$  is important for semisimple derivations, because then  $A = \bigoplus_{t \in G(d)} A_t$ . Observe that if  $A$  is a domain, then  $E(d)$  is a submonoid of  $G(d)$ .

EXAMPLES. 1. If  $A = k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in k$ , then the derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  given by  $d(X_i) = t_i X_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , is semisimple and  $G(d) = \mathbb{Z}t_1 + \dots + \mathbb{Z}t_n \subset k^+$ .

2. Let  $A = k[X, Y]/(X^2 - Y^3)$ , and let  $d$  be the derivation of  $A$  determined by  $d(X) = 3X$ ,  $d(Y) = 2Y$ . Then  $d$  is semisimple and  $G(d) = 2\mathbb{Z}1_k + 3\mathbb{Z}1_k = \mathbb{Z}1_k$ .

LEMMA 1. *Assume that the algebra  $A$  is finitely generated and  $d$  is a semisimple derivation of  $A$ . Then the group  $G(d)$  is finitely generated, and  $\text{rk}(d) \leq n(d)$ , where  $n(d)$  is the minimal number of eigenvectors of  $d$  which generate the algebra  $A$ . In particular, if  $n = \text{rk}(d)$ , then  $G(d) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^n$  when  $\text{char}(k) = 0$ , and  $G(d) \simeq \mathbb{F}_p^n$  when  $\text{char}(k) = p > 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $E = E(d)$ . As  $A = \bigoplus_{t \in E} A_t$  and  $A$  is finitely generated, there exist  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in E$  and eigenvectors  $a_i \in A_{t_i}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , such that  $A = k[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ . It is sufficient to show that  $E \subset \mathbb{N}t_1 + \dots + \mathbb{N}t_n$ . Let  $J$  be the subset of  $\mathbb{N}^n$  such that  $\{a^\alpha; \alpha \in J\}$  is a basis of  $A$  as a vector space over  $k$ , where  $a^\alpha = a_1^{\alpha_1} \dots a_n^{\alpha_n}$  for  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ . Now let  $t \in E$ . This means that  $d(a) = ta$  for some nonzero  $a \in A$ . But  $a = \sum_{\alpha \in J} l_\alpha a^\alpha$  for some  $l_\alpha \in k$ . It follows that  $\sum_{\alpha \in J} t l_\alpha a^\alpha = ta = d(a) = \sum_{\alpha \in J} (\alpha_1 t_1 + \dots + \alpha_n t_n) l_\alpha a^\alpha$ , whence  $t l_\alpha = (\alpha_1 t_1 + \dots + \alpha_n t_n) l_\alpha$  for all  $\alpha \in J$ . Consequently,  $t = \alpha_1 t_1 + \dots + \alpha_n t_n$  for some  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) \in J$ , because  $a \neq 0$ . The lemma is proved.

COROLLARY (of the proof). *In the situation of the lemma, if the algebra  $A$  is a domain and the eigenvectors  $a_1 \in A_{t_1}, \dots, a_n \in A_{t_n}$  generate  $A$ , then the monoid  $E(d)$  is generated by  $t_1, \dots, t_n$ .*

In view of the above, the lemma implies that if the algebra  $A$  is finitely generated, then a semisimple derivation of  $A$  is simply a  $G$ -grading of  $A$ , where  $G$  is a finitely generated subgroup of  $k^+$ .

Below,  $U(A)$  stands for the group of units of the algebra  $A$ .

DEFINITION. Let  $d : A \rightarrow A$  be a semisimple derivation. A *slice* of  $d$  is a homomorphism of groups  $\sigma : G(d) \rightarrow U(A)$  such that  $\sigma(t) \in A_t$  for all  $t \in G(d)$ .

It is easy to see that if  $d$  admits a slice, then  $G(d) = E(d)$ .

EXAMPLES. 3. Let  $A = k[X_1, \dots, X_n, X_1^{-1}, \dots, X_n^{-1}]$ . Then for any  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in k$  the derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  determined by  $d(X_i) = t_i X_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , is semisimple and  $G(d) = \mathbb{Z}t_1 + \dots + \mathbb{Z}t_n$ . If  $\text{char}(k) = 0$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_n$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Z}$ , then  $\sigma : G(d) \rightarrow U(A), \sigma(t_i) = X_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ , is a slice of  $d$ .

4. If  $A = k[X]$  and  $d(X) = X$ , then  $G(d) = \mathbb{Z}1_k$ , but  $d$  does not admit any slice: if  $\sigma : G(d) \rightarrow U(A)$  were a slice, then  $\sigma(1_k) \in U(A) \cap A_1 = \emptyset$ , because  $U(A) = k^* (= k - \{0\})$  and  $A_1 = kX$ .

Given an algebra  $B$  and a group  $G$ ,  $BG$  denotes the group algebra of  $G$  over  $B$ .

THEOREM 1. Let  $d : A \rightarrow A$  be a semisimple derivation with  $G = G(d)$ . If  $d$  admits a slice  $\sigma : G \rightarrow U(A)$ , then  $f : A_0 \otimes kG \rightarrow A, f(a \otimes t) = a\sigma(t), a \in A_0, t \in G$ , is an  $A_0$ -linear isomorphism of algebras. The inverse isomorphism  $g : A \rightarrow A_0 \otimes kG$  is given by

$$g\left(a = \sum_{t \in G} a_t\right) = \sum_{t \in G} a_t \sigma(-t) \otimes t.$$

In particular,  $A$  is isomorphic to the group algebra  $A_0G$ .

*Proof.* The proof is an easy exercise and we omit it.

From now on, we assume that  $\text{char}(k) = 0$ . By  $\text{Dim } A$  we denote the Krull dimension of  $A$ . If  $A$  is a finitely generated domain, then it is known that  $\text{Dim } A = \text{tr.deg}_k Q(A)$ , where  $Q(A)$  is the quotient field of  $A$ . Given a multiplicative system  $S$  in  $A$ ,  $A_S$  denotes the localization of  $A$  with respect to  $S$ .

THEOREM 2. Assume that  $A$  is a domain and  $d$  is a semisimple derivation of  $A$  with  $G = G(d)$ . Let  $S = \bigcup_t A_t - \{0\}$ . Then  $S$  is a multiplicative system in  $A$ , the induced derivation  $\tilde{d} : A_S \rightarrow A_S$  is semisimple with  $G(\tilde{d}) = G$ , and  $K = (A_S)_0 (= \text{Ker } \tilde{d})$  is a field containing  $A_0$ . Moreover, if  $A$  is finitely generated, then the derivation  $\tilde{d}$  admits a slice and  $A_S \simeq K[X_1, \dots, X_n, X_1^{-1}, \dots, X_n^{-1}]$ , where  $n = \text{rk}(d)$ . In particular,

$$\text{tr.deg}_k K + \text{rk}(d) = \text{Dim } A.$$

*Proof.* The first part of the theorem is a simple calculation. Notice only that  $\text{Ker}(\tilde{d} - t\text{Id}) = \{a/b \in A_S; \exists t \in G \ a \in A_{s+t}, b \in A_s\}$ . If  $A$  is finitely generated, then  $G$  is a free group of finite rank, by Lemma 1. Let  $g_1, \dots, g_n$  be free generators of  $G$ . As  $G$  is generated by the set  $E(d)$  of eigenvalues of  $d$  and  $E(d)$  is a submonoid of  $G$ ,  $g_i = t_i - t'_i$  for some  $t_i, t'_i \in E(d)$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Now for each  $i$  choose a nonzero  $a_i \in A_{t_i}$ , a nonzero  $s_i \in A_{t'_i}$ , and set  $y_i = a_i/s_i$ . Then  $\tilde{d}(y_i) = g_i y_i$ , which implies that the mapping  $\sigma : G(\tilde{d}) = G \rightarrow U(A_S)$  determined by  $\sigma(g_i) = y_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , is a slice of the derivation  $\tilde{d} : A_S \rightarrow A_S$ . Hence, by Theorem 1,  $A_S$  is isomorphic to the group algebra  $KG$ , where  $K = (A_S)_0$ . The conclusion is that  $A_S \simeq K[X_1, \dots, X_n, X_1^{-1}, \dots, X_n^{-1}]$ , because  $G \simeq \mathbb{Z}^n$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.

REMARK. Theorems 1 and 2 were motivated by [7, Sections I, III]. Besides, they can be deduced from [7, Section I].

**2. Linearization and existence of maximal invariant ideals.** As above, the field  $k$  is assumed to be of characteristic 0. If the algebra  $A$  is finitely generated, we denote by  $\mu(A)$  the minimal number of generators of  $A$ . A derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  is called *linearizable* if there exist eigenvectors  $a_1, \dots, a_{\mu(A)}$  of  $d$  which generate the algebra  $A$ . Notice that if  $A = k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ , then a derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  is linearizable if there is a change of variables  $\{X_i\} \rightarrow \{Y_i\}$  such that  $d(Y_i) = \alpha_i Y_i$  for some  $\alpha_i \in k$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ .

If  $(A, m)$  is a local (noetherian) algebra, then a derivation  $d$  of  $A$  is called *linearizable* if there are eigenvectors  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of  $d$  which form a minimal system of generators of the maximal ideal  $m$ . Recall that for a given derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  an ideal  $J \subset A$  is said to be *invariant* if  $d(J) \subset J$ .

Let  $d$  be a derivation of the algebra  $A$ . If  $A$  is finitely generated or local, then obviously the following two problems are of interest.

*The linearization problem:* When is  $d$  linearizable?

*Existence of maximal invariant ideals:* When does  $d$  admit a maximal invariant ideal  $m$  (i.e.,  $m$  is maximal in  $A$  and invariant)?

In general, a given derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  is neither linearizable nor admits a maximal invariant ideal. For example, this is the case for  $A = k[X]$  and  $d = \partial/\partial X$ . Observe that this  $d$  is not semisimple. So, some positive results can be expected for semisimple derivations. Let us start with the local case.

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $d$  be a derivation of the algebra  $A$ , and let  $m$  be a maximal invariant ideal in  $A$ .*

- (1) If  $(A, m)$  is a complete local ring,  $k = A/m$ , and for each  $s \geq 2$  the induced derivation  $d_s : A/m^s \rightarrow A/m^s$  is semisimple, then the derivation  $d$  is linearizable.
- (2) If the derivation  $d$  is semisimple and the algebra  $A$  is finitely generated, then the induced derivation  $d : A_m \rightarrow A_m$  is linearizable, where  $A_m$  is the localization of  $A$  at the maximal ideal  $m$ .

*Proof.* (1) Let  $n = \dim_k(m/m^2)$ . Since the induced derivation  $d_2 : A/m^2 \rightarrow A/m^2$  is semisimple and  $k = A/m$ , we can find a minimal system  $x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_n^{(1)}$  of generators of the ideal  $m$  with  $d(x_i^{(1)}) = t_i x_i^{(1)} \pmod{m^2}$  for some  $t_1, \dots, t_n \in k$  and  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Now, proceeding by induction on  $j \geq 1$ , we construct sequences  $x_1^{(j)}, \dots, x_n^{(j)}$ ,  $j \geq 1$ , such that  $d(x_i^{(j)}) = t_i x_i^{(j)} \pmod{m^j}$  and  $x_i^{(j+1)} = x_i^{(j)} \pmod{m^j}$  for all  $j$ . Suppose that  $j \geq 2$ , and that the components  $x_1^{(i)}, \dots, x_n^{(i)}$  have already been constructed for  $i = 1, \dots, j-1$ . Denote by  $p$  the linear map  $A/m^j \rightarrow A/m^{j-1}$ ,  $a + m^j \mapsto a + m^{j-1}$ . As  $d_{j-1}p = pd_j$ , and the induced derivations  $d_{j-1} : A/m^{j-1} \rightarrow A/m^{j-1}$  and  $d_j : A/m^j \rightarrow A/m^j$  are semisimple, it is easy to see that there exist  $x_1^{(j)}, \dots, x_n^{(j)} \in m$  such that  $p(x_i^{(j)} + m^j) = x_i^{(j-1)} + m^{j-1}$  and  $d(x_i^{(j)}) = t_i x_i^{(j)} \pmod{m^j}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . This means that the inductive procedure gives us sequences  $x_1^{(j)}, \dots, x_n^{(j)}$ ,  $j \geq 1$ , with the required properties. Now, since the local ring  $(A, m)$  is complete, we can consider the limits  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of the respective sequences. It is obvious that  $d(x_i) = t_i x_i$  for each  $i$ . Moreover,  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  form a minimal system of generators of the maximal ideal  $m$ , because so do  $x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_n^{(1)}$  and  $x_i = x_i^{(1)} \pmod{m^2}$  for all  $i$ . Thus, part (1) of the theorem is proved.

(2) Assume that the derivation  $d$  is semisimple and  $A$  is finitely generated. As  $d(m) \subset m$ , we have  $m = \bigoplus_{t \in k} m_t$ , where  $m_t = \{a \in m; d(a) = ta\}$ . It follows that there exist eigenvectors  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of  $d$  such that  $x_1 + m^2, \dots, x_n + m^2$  is a basis of the  $k = A/m$ -vector space  $m/m^2$ , because  $\bigcup_{t \in k} m_t$  generates the vector space  $m$ . This in turn implies that  $x_1/1, \dots, x_n/1 \in A_m$  is a minimal system of generators of the maximal ideal  $M = mA_m$  of the local ring  $A_m$ , because  $M/M^2 = mA_m/m^2A_m \simeq m/m^2$ . Obviously  $x_1/1, \dots, x_n/1$  are eigenvectors of the induced derivation  $d : A_m \rightarrow A_m$ . This proves part (2), and thus the proof of the theorem is complete.

REMARK. The above theorem can be deduced from [4, Theorem 4].

Below, the algebra  $A$  is supposed to be finitely generated. Moreover, we assume that  $A$  is a domain.

THEOREM 4. Let  $d : A \rightarrow A$  be a semisimple derivation, and let  $m = \bigoplus_{t \neq 0} A_t$ . If  $A_0 = k$  and  $U(A) = k^*$ , then the following conditions hold.

- (1)  $m$  is the unique maximal invariant ideal in  $A$ .

- (2) There are eigenvectors  $a_1, \dots, a_r$  of  $d$  such that each  $a_i$  belongs to  $m$  and  $A = k[a_1, \dots, a_r]$ , where  $r = \dim_k(m/m^2)$ . In particular,  $d$  is linearizable whenever  $\dim_k(m/m^2) = \mu(A)$ .
- (3) If  $A$  is regular (as a ring) of Krull dimension  $n$ , then  $A \simeq k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ , and  $d$  is linearizable.

*Proof.* Part (1) follows from [8, Theorem 4.1]. For completeness we give the proof. Let, as above,  $E(d)$  be the set of eigenvalues of  $d$ . If  $m = \bigoplus_{t \in k^*} A_t$  is an ideal, then clearly  $m$  is the unique maximal and invariant ideal in  $A$ , because  $A/m \simeq k = A_0$  and  $m = d(A)$ . Therefore, we need only verify that  $m$  is an ideal. To this end, it is enough to show that given a nonzero  $t \in E(d)$ , we have  $t + t' \neq 0$  for all  $t' \in E(d)$ . Suppose that, on the contrary,  $t + t' = 0$  for some  $t' \in E(d)$ . Then  $t' \neq 0$ , whence there are nonzero  $a \in A_t$  and  $b \in A_{t'}$  with  $ab \in A_{t+t'} = A_0$ . As  $A$  is a domain and  $A_0 = k$ , it follows that  $ab \in k^*$ , which implies that  $a \in U(A) = k^* \subset A_0$ . This is impossible, because  $a \in A_t$  with  $t \neq 0$ . Thus, part (1) is proved.

For (2), it is clear that there exist eigenvectors  $a_1, \dots, a_r$  of  $d$  such that  $a_1 + m^2, \dots, a_r + m^2$  is a basis of the  $k = A/m$ -vector space  $m/m^2$ . Now in view of (1) and [5, Corollary 1.4 and statement 1.7],  $A = k[a_1, \dots, a_r]$ .

It remains to prove (3). By regularity of  $A$ , the Krull dimension of  $A$  equals  $\dim_k(m/m^2)$ . Therefore, from (2) we infer that there are eigenvectors  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  of  $d$  such that  $A = k[a_1, \dots, a_n]$ , where  $n = \text{Dim } A$ . Let, as above,  $Q(A)$  denote the quotient field of  $A$ . Then  $\text{Dim } A = \text{tr.deg}_k Q(A)$ , because  $A$  is a finitely generated domain. This implies that the elements  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are algebraically independent over  $k$ , which proves (3).

**COROLLARY.** Let  $A = k[X, Y]/(X^i - Y^j)$ , where  $(i, j) = 1$ ,  $i, j \geq 2$ , and let  $d$  be a semisimple derivation of  $A$ . Then  $d$  is linearizable (and admits an invariant maximal ideal).

*Proof.* Obviously one can assume that  $d \neq 0$ , whence  $\text{rk}(d) \geq 1$ . It is easy to see that  $U(A) = k^*$ ,  $\mu(A) = 2$ , and  $\dim_k(m/m^2) = 2$  for any maximal ideal in  $A$ . Furthermore, by Theorem 2,  $\text{rk}(d) + \text{tr.deg}_k K = \text{Dim } A = 1$ , where  $K$  is a subfield of  $Q(A)$  containing  $A_0$ . Hence  $\text{tr.deg}_k K = 0$ , which implies that  $A_0 \subset K = k$ , because the field  $k$  is algebraically closed. The conclusion now follows from part (2) of the theorem.

**EXAMPLE 5.** If  $A = k[X, X^{-1}]$  and  $d : A \rightarrow A$  is the derivation defined by  $d(X) = X$ , then  $d$  is semisimple,  $A_0 = k$ , but  $d$  has no maximal invariant ideals (in view of the above theorem, the reason is that  $U(A) \neq k$ ). Notice that  $d$  is linearizable.

We mentioned above that a semisimple derivation of the algebra  $A$  is nothing other than a  $G$ -grading of  $A$ , where  $G$  is a finitely generated subgroup of the group  $k^+$ . But we have assumed that  $\text{char}(k) = 0$ . Therefore,

a semisimple derivation of  $A$  is simply a  $\mathbb{Z}^s$ -grading of  $A$ , where  $s = \text{rk}(d)$ . This means that a semisimple derivation of  $A$  of rank  $s$  induces an action of the algebraic torus  $T^s = k^* \times \dots \times k^*$  ( $s$  times) on the algebraic variety  $\text{Max}(A)$  of all maximal ideals in  $A$ . More precisely, if  $d : A \rightarrow A$  is a semisimple derivation of rank  $s$  and  $t_1, \dots, t_s$  are free generators of the group  $G(d)$ , then the corresponding action of  $T^s$  on  $\text{Max}(A)$  is defined as follows. For  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_s) \in T^s$  and  $m \in \text{Max}(A)$ ,

$$\alpha.m = \text{Ker}(p_m \phi_\alpha),$$

where  $\phi_\alpha : A \rightarrow A$  is the homomorphism of algebras given by  $\phi_\alpha(a) = \sum_{(u_1, \dots, u_s) \in \mathbb{Z}^s} a_u \alpha_1^{u_1} \cdots \alpha_s^{u_s}$  with  $a_u = a_{u_1 t_1 + \dots + u_s t_s}$  in the decomposition  $a = \sum_{t \in G(d)} a_t \in \bigoplus_t A_t$ , and  $p_m : A \rightarrow A/m = k$  is defined by  $p_m(y) = y + m$ . It is easy to see that each action of  $T^s$  on the variety  $\text{Max}(A)$  comes from a semisimple derivation  $d : A \rightarrow A$  in the above way. Also it is not difficult to prove that, given a semisimple derivation  $d$  of  $A$ , the maximal invariant ideals for  $d$  are precisely the fixed points of the corresponding action of the torus  $T^s$  on the variety  $\text{Max}(A)$ .

This translation of semisimple derivations into the language of algebraic geometry gives us the following.

**THEOREM 5.** *Let  $A = k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  and let  $d$  be a semisimple derivation of  $A$ .*

- (1) *The derivation  $d$  admits a maximal invariant ideal.*
- (2) *If  $\text{rk}(d) = n - 1$  or  $n$ , then  $d$  is linearizable. In particular,  $d$  is linearizable when  $n \leq 2$ .*
- (3) *If  $I = \bigoplus_{t \neq 0} A_t$  is an ideal in  $A$  and  $r = \text{Dim } A_0 \leq 2$ , then there exists a change of variables  $\{X_i\} \rightarrow \{Y_i\}$  such that  $A_0 = k[Y_1, \dots, Y_r]$ ,  $A = A_0[Y_{r+1}, \dots, Y_n]$ , and all  $Y_i$ 's are eigenvectors of  $d$ . In particular,  $d$  is linearizable.*
- (4) *If  $n = 3$ , then  $d$  is linearizable.*

*Proof.* Parts (1) and (2) are due to Białyński-Birula (see [2] and [3]). Part (3) was proved by Kambayashi and Russell in [5, proof of Theorem 3.4], and (4) is a joint result by Kaliman, Koras, Makar-Limanov, and Russell [6].

**REMARK.** If  $n = 4$ , then it is not known if every semisimple derivation of  $A = k[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  is linearizable. By [1], for each  $n > 4$  there is a semisimple derivation of the  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebra  $A = \mathbb{R}[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  (i.e.,  $d \in \text{Der}(A)$  such that  $A = \sum_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+} A_t$ , where  $A_t = \text{Ker}(d - t \text{Id})$ ) which is not linearizable.

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