

# ON DIFFERENTIABLY SIMPLE ALGEBRAS<sup>(1)</sup>

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**1. Introduction.** It is known (see Albert [1]) that every simple commutative power-associative algebra of degree  $t > 2$  over an algebraically closed field  $\mathfrak{F}$  of characteristic  $p > 5$  is a Jordan algebra. Moreover, in the partially stable case, a characterization of the simple algebras of degree two is given by Albert in [3]. In his theory Albert expresses the structure of simple partially stable algebras in terms of certain commutative associative algebras  $\mathfrak{B}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$ . These commutative associative algebras have unity elements, and each algebra  $\mathfrak{B}$  is differentially simple relative to some set of derivations of  $\mathfrak{B}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$ . In this paper we shall determine the structure of the algebras  $\mathfrak{B}$  and derive a property of simple partially stable algebras which follows from Albert's characterization.

Let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be a commutative associative algebra with unity element  $e$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$ . We shall now define a commutative power-associative algebra  $\mathfrak{X}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$  which is the essential subalgebra of a partially stable commutative power-associative algebra  $\mathfrak{S}$  as defined by Albert in [3]. Let  $m \geq 2$  and let  $y_i\mathfrak{B}$  denote a homomorphic image of the vector space  $\mathfrak{B}$  for  $i=0, \dots, m$ . Then  $\mathfrak{X}$  will be the vector space direct sum

$$(1) \quad \mathfrak{X} = \mathfrak{B} + \mathfrak{L}$$

where  $\mathfrak{L}$  is the sum, not necessarily direct, of the component spaces  $y_0\mathfrak{B}, \dots, y_m\mathfrak{B}$ . Select elements  $b_{ij}$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$  and derivations  $D_{ij}$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$  such that

$$(2) \quad b_{ij} = b_{ji}, \quad b_{00} = e, \quad b_{0j} = 0 \quad (j \neq 0),$$

$$(3) \quad D_{ij} = -D_{ji}$$

for  $i, j=0, \dots, m$  where then  $D_{ii}=0$  for  $i=0, \dots, m$ . We now define products in  $\mathfrak{X}$  by assuming that  $\mathfrak{B}$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{X}$ , that

$$(4) \quad (y_i a)b = y_i(ab) = b(y_i a) \quad (i = 0, \dots, m)$$

for all elements  $a$  and  $b$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$ , and finally that

$$(5) \quad (y_i a)(y_j b) = b_{ij}ab + (aD_{ij})b - a(bD_{ij})$$

for all  $a$  and  $b$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$  and  $i, j=0, \dots, m$ . The result will be a commutative power-associative algebra of degree two over  $\mathfrak{F}$ .

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We shall also require that the  $b_{ij}$  and the  $D_{ij}$  be chosen so that:

- (A) The algebra  $\mathfrak{B}$  is  $\{D_{ij}\}$ -simple.  
 (B) If  $g$  is in  $\mathfrak{L}$  and  $gu = 0$  for all  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{L}$ , then  $g = 0$ .

It is one of the principal results of Albert in [3] that these conditions are equivalent to the simplicity of the partially stable algebra  $\mathfrak{S}$  mentioned above. It is known [2] that condition (A) implies that

$$(6) \quad \mathfrak{B} = e\mathfrak{F} + \mathfrak{N}$$

where  $\mathfrak{N}$  is the radical of  $\mathfrak{B}$  and  $x^p = 0$  for every element  $x$  in  $\mathfrak{N}$ . We shall completely determine the structure of  $\mathfrak{B}$ , and we state our main result as

**THEOREM 1.** *Let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be a commutative associative algebra with unity  $e$  over an algebraically closed field  $\mathfrak{F}$ , and let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be differentially simple relative to a set of derivations of  $\mathfrak{B}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{B} = \mathfrak{F}[e, x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is an algebra with generators  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$  which are independent except for the relations  $x_1^p = \dots = x_n^p = 0$  where  $p > 0$  is the characteristic of  $\mathfrak{F}$ .*

In all examples of the algebras  $\mathfrak{T}$  given to date the space  $\mathfrak{L}$  has been a direct sum of the components  $y_0\mathfrak{B}, \dots, y_m\mathfrak{B}$ . As our final result we shall construct a class of examples of the algebras  $\mathfrak{T}$  in which  $\mathfrak{L} = (y_0\mathfrak{B}, \dots, y_m\mathfrak{B})$  with  $m = 2$  and  $\mathfrak{L}$  is not a direct sum and cannot be represented as a direct sum in this manner.

**2. The algebra  $\mathfrak{B}$ .** Let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be a commutative associative algebra with unity element  $\bar{e}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$ , and let  $\mathfrak{B}$  be  $\overline{\mathfrak{D}}$ -simple for some set  $\overline{\mathfrak{D}}$  of derivations of  $\mathfrak{B}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$ . Then by (6) we may write

$$(7) \quad \mathfrak{B} = \bar{e}\mathfrak{F} + \overline{\mathfrak{N}}$$

where  $x^p = 0$  for each  $x$  in  $\overline{\mathfrak{N}}$ . The algebra  $\mathfrak{B}$ , being finite dimensional, is finitely generated. Let  $\{\bar{e}, \bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n\}$  be a set of generators of  $\mathfrak{B}$  which is minimal in the sense that no set containing  $\bar{e}$  and having fewer elements generates  $\mathfrak{B}$ . Also let

$$\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{F}[e, x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

be the commutative associative algebra generated over  $\mathfrak{F}$  by generators  $e, x_1, \dots, x_n$  which are independent except for the relations  $e^2 = e$ ,  $ex_i = x_i$ , and  $x_i^p = 0$  which hold for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . It is clear that the mappings  $e \rightarrow \bar{e}$ ,  $x_i \rightarrow \bar{x}_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ) define a homomorphism  $\phi$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$  onto  $\mathfrak{B}$ . We let  $\mathfrak{M}$  be the kernel of  $\phi$ . We see that Theorem 1 will be proved if we can show that  $\mathfrak{M} = 0$ .

We now note some properties of  $\mathfrak{A}$ . We may write

$$(8) \quad \mathfrak{A} = e\mathfrak{F} + \mathfrak{N}$$

where  $\mathfrak{N} = \mathfrak{F}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  is the radical of  $\mathfrak{A}$  and consists of all polynomials in the  $x_i$  with constant term zero. We observe that every element of  $\mathfrak{A}$  which is not in  $\mathfrak{N}$  has an inverse. For if  $a = \alpha + u$  with  $\alpha$  in  $\mathfrak{F}$ ,  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{N}$ ,  $\alpha \neq 0$ , then  $a^{-1} = (\alpha^p)^{-1}(\alpha + u)^{p-1}$ . Also it is known [4] that the derivation algebra of  $\mathfrak{A}$  consists of all linear transformations  $D = D(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$  defined by

$$(9) \quad aD = (\partial a / \partial x_1)a_1 + \dots + (\partial a / \partial x_n)a_n$$

where  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  are in  $\mathfrak{A}$  and  $\partial a / \partial x_i$  denotes the ordinary partial derivative of the polynomial  $a$  with respect to  $x_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). Thus  $x_i D = a_i$  and the derivations of  $\mathfrak{A}$  are completely determined by the images of the  $x_i$  and these images may be arbitrarily chosen.

**THEOREM 2.** *Let  $D$  be a derivation of  $\mathfrak{A}$ . Then the transformation  $\bar{D}$  defined by*

$$(10) \quad \varphi(u)\bar{D} = \phi(uD)$$

*is a derivation of  $\mathfrak{B}$  if and only if  $\mathfrak{M}D \subseteq \mathfrak{M}$ . Moreover, every derivation of  $\mathfrak{B}$  is induced in this manner by a derivation of  $\mathfrak{A}$ .*

**Proof.** Every  $\bar{u}$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$  is the image under  $\phi$  of some  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{A}$ , whence  $\bar{D}$  is defined on all of  $\mathfrak{B}$ . Now assume  $\mathfrak{M}D \subseteq \mathfrak{M}$ . Suppose  $\bar{u} = \phi(u) = \phi(v)$  for elements  $u$  and  $v$  in  $\mathfrak{A}$ . Then  $u = v + a$  where  $a$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,  $uD = vD + aD$ , and  $\phi(uD) = \phi(vD) + \phi(aD)$ . But  $aD$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ , so  $\phi(aD) = 0$ ,  $\phi(uD) = \phi(vD)$ . Thus  $\bar{D}$  is well-defined. Conversely, if  $\bar{D}$  is well-defined, then  $\phi(u) = \phi(v)$  implies  $\phi(uD) = \phi(vD)$ . Thus, if  $a$  is any element of  $\mathfrak{M}$  we have

$$\phi(uD) = \phi((u + a)D) = \phi(uD) + \phi(aD)$$

from which it follows that  $\phi(aD) = 0$  and  $aD$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ . We conclude that  $\bar{D}$  is well-defined if and only if  $\mathfrak{M}D \subseteq \mathfrak{M}$ . We will now show that  $\bar{D}$  is a derivation of  $\mathfrak{B}$ .

Let  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  be elements of  $\mathfrak{B}$  and let  $\alpha, \beta$  be in  $\mathfrak{F}$ . Then  $\bar{u} = \phi(u), \bar{v} = \phi(v)$  for some  $u$  and  $v$  in  $\mathfrak{A}$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} (\alpha\bar{u} + \beta\bar{v})\bar{D} &= [\phi(\alpha u + \beta v)]\bar{D} = \phi((\alpha u + \beta v)D) \\ &= \alpha\phi(uD) + \beta\phi(vD) = \alpha(\bar{u}\bar{D}) + \beta(\bar{v}\bar{D}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\bar{D}$  is linear. We also have

$$\begin{aligned} (\bar{u}\bar{v})\bar{D} &= [\phi(uv)]\bar{D} = \phi((uv)D) \\ &= \phi((uD)v + u(vD)) = (\bar{u}\bar{D})\bar{v} + \bar{u}(\bar{v}\bar{D}), \end{aligned}$$

so  $\bar{D}$  is a derivation.

Now let  $\bar{D}$  be any derivation of  $\mathfrak{B}$ . We shall show that  $\bar{D}$  is the induced derivation  $\bar{D}$  of some derivation  $D$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$ . Any element  $\bar{u}$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$  may be written as a polynomial in the generators  $\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n$ . And, as in  $\mathfrak{A}$ ,  $\bar{D}$  is completely

determined by its action on the  $\bar{x}_i$  according to the formula

$$(11) \quad \bar{u}\bar{D} = (\partial\bar{u}/\partial\bar{x}_1)(\bar{x}_1\bar{D}) + \cdots + (\partial\bar{u}/\partial\bar{x}_n)(\bar{x}_n\bar{D}).$$

Choose elements  $y_i$  in  $\mathfrak{A}$  so that  $\phi(y_i) = \bar{x}_i\bar{D}$  for  $i=1, \dots, n$ . We can define a derivation  $D$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$  by specifying that  $x_i D = y_i$  ( $i=1, \dots, n$ ). Now let  $\bar{D}$  be induced by  $D$  according to formula (10). Then  $\bar{x}_i\bar{D} = \bar{x}_i\bar{D}$  for  $i=1, \dots, n$ . Thus if  $\bar{D}$  is a derivation we shall have  $\bar{D} = \bar{D}$ . Therefore it remains only to show that  $\mathfrak{M}D \subseteq \mathfrak{M}$ .

It is readily seen that if  $f=f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  is any polynomial over  $\mathfrak{F}$  in  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ , then  $\bar{f}=\phi(f)=f(\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n)$  is the same polynomial with  $x_i$  replaced by  $\bar{x}_i$  for  $i=1, \dots, n$ . Thus we may write  $\partial f/\partial x_i = g_i(x_1, \dots, x_n)$  and

$$(12) \quad \phi(\partial f/\partial x_i) = \phi(g_i) = g_i(\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n) = \partial\bar{f}/\partial\bar{x}_i$$

for  $i=1, \dots, n$ . Now let  $u$  be any element of  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Then  $\bar{u}=\phi(u)=0$ , and by (9), (11), and (12) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(uD) &= \phi(\partial u/\partial x_1)\bar{y}_1 + \cdots + \phi(\partial u/\partial x_n)\bar{y}_n \\ &= (\partial\bar{u}/\partial\bar{x}_1)\bar{y}_1 + \cdots + (\partial\bar{u}/\partial\bar{x}_n)\bar{y}_n = \bar{u}\bar{D} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $uD$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and the theorem is proved.

We noted earlier that every element of  $\mathfrak{A}$  which is not in  $\mathfrak{N}$  has an inverse. From this it follows that every proper ideal of  $\mathfrak{A}$  is contained in  $\mathfrak{N}$ . Thus  $\mathfrak{M} \subseteq \mathfrak{N}$ . Recalling that  $\mathfrak{B}$  is  $\mathfrak{D}$ -simple for a set  $\mathfrak{D}$  of derivations of  $\mathfrak{B}$  we now state

**THEOREM 3.** *Let  $\mathfrak{D}$  be the set of all derivations  $D$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$  over  $\mathfrak{F}$  such that the induced derivations  $\bar{D}$  are in  $\mathfrak{D}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{M}$  is a maximal  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal of  $\mathfrak{A}$ , and an element  $u$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  if and only if  $u$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$  and the elements  $uD_1 \cdots D_k$  are in  $\mathfrak{N}$  for all values of  $k$  and all derivations  $D_i$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$ .*

**Proof.** By Theorem 2, if  $D$  induces  $\bar{D}$  then  $\mathfrak{M}$  is a  $D$ -ideal. Thus  $M$  is a  $D$ -ideal for every  $D$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$  and hence is a  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal. Let  $\mathfrak{N} \neq \mathfrak{A}$  be a  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal properly containing  $\mathfrak{M}$  and let  $\bar{\mathfrak{N}}=\phi(\mathfrak{N})$ . It is easily verified that  $\bar{\mathfrak{N}}$  is a nontrivial  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal in  $\mathfrak{B}$  contradicting  $\mathfrak{D}$ -simplicity. Hence  $\mathfrak{M}$  is a maximal  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal. It is also easily seen that the sum of two  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideals is a  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal from which it follows that  $\mathfrak{M}$  is maximal in the strong sense that it contains all other  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideals.

Now let  $u$  be any element of  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Then  $u$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$  and  $uD_1 \cdots D_k$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$  for all  $k$  and all  $D_i$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$ . Conversely, suppose  $u$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$  and  $uD_1 \cdots D_k$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$  for every product  $D_1 \cdots D_k$  of derivations in  $\mathfrak{D}$ . The ideal generated by  $u$  and all  $uD_1 \cdots D_k$  is a  $\mathfrak{D}$ -ideal and hence is contained in  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Thus  $u$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ , and the proof is complete.

To Theorem 3 we have the following immediate

COROLLARY. *If  $u$  is an element of  $\mathfrak{A}$ , then  $\bar{u} = \phi(u)$  is a nonzero element of  $\mathfrak{B}$  if and only if there is some product  $D_1 \cdots D_k$  of derivations  $D_i$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$  such that  $uD_1 \cdots D_k$  is nonsingular.*

THEOREM 4. *Let  $u$  be an element of  $\mathfrak{A}$  whose terms of degree one are not all zero. Then  $u$  is not in  $\mathfrak{M}$ .*

**Proof.** We assume without loss of generality that  $u$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and its term of degree one in  $x_1$  is not zero. Then we may write  $u = ax_1 + v$  where  $a$  is nonsingular and  $v$  is in  $\mathfrak{F}[x_2, \dots, x_n]$ . Thus

$$(13) \quad x_1 = a^{-1}u - a^{-1}v = u_0 + v_0$$

where  $u_0 = a^{-1}u$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $v_0 = -a^{-1}v$  is in the ideal  $\mathfrak{B}$  generated by  $x_2, \dots, x_n$ . We observe that every element  $f$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$  is a polynomial with terms of the form  $x_1^r y$  where  $y$  is a monomial in  $\mathfrak{F}[x_2, \dots, x_n]$  of degree  $t \geq 1$ . If  $f$  is not in  $\mathfrak{F}[x_2, \dots, x_n]$  we associate with  $f$  the number  $N(f)$  which is the minimum of the degrees of  $y$  for all terms  $x_1^r y$  of  $f$  with  $r \neq 0$ . Note that  $1 \leq N(f) \leq (n-1)(p-1)$ . Now assume it impossible to write  $x_1 = u_1 + v_1$  where  $u_1$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $v_1$  is in  $\mathfrak{F}[x_2, \dots, x_n]$ . Then we may write  $x_1 = u_2 + v_2$  where  $u_2$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,  $v_2$  is in  $\mathfrak{B}$ , and  $N(v_2)$  is maximal. Let  $x_1^r y$  be any term of  $v_2$  with  $r \neq 0$  and  $y$  of degree  $N(v_2)$ . By (13) we have for each such  $x_1^r y$

$$(14) \quad x_1^r y = x_1^{r-1}(u_0 + v_0)y = x_1^{r-1}u_0y + x_1^{r-1}v_0y$$

where  $x_1^{r-1}u_0y$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $x_1^{r-1}v_0y$  is a polynomial each term of which has the form  $x_1^s z$  with  $z$  in  $\mathfrak{F}[x_2, \dots, x_n]$  and the degree of  $z$  greater than  $N(v_2)$ . Hence by means of substitutions as in (14) we may obtain  $x_1 = u_3 + v_3$  with  $u_3$  in  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,  $v_3$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$ , and  $N(v_3) > N(v_2)$ . Thus  $x_1 = u_1 + v_1$  with  $u_1$  in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $v_1$  in  $\mathfrak{F}[x_2, \dots, x_n]$ . But from this it follows that  $\bar{x}_1 = \phi(x_1) = \phi(v_1)$  is in  $\mathfrak{F}[\bar{x}_2, \dots, \bar{x}_n]$  contradicting the hypothesis that  $\{\bar{x}_1, \dots, \bar{x}_n\}$  is a minimal set of generators of  $\mathfrak{B}$ . This proves our theorem.

Before we can prove our next theorem we must develop some notation and prove two lemmas on the combinatorial properties of derivations. Let  $S = \{n_1, \dots, n_s\}$  be an ordered set of positive integers, the ordering being the natural one. Let  $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_r$  be ordered subsets of  $S$  such that  $\pi_1 \cup \dots \cup \pi_r = S$  and  $\pi_i \cap \pi_j = 0$  (the empty set) if  $i \neq j$ . We shall call the ordered  $r$ -tuple  $\pi = (\pi_1, \dots, \pi_r)$  an  $r$ -partition of  $S$ . We now have

LEMMA 1. *Let  $a_1, \dots, a_r$  be elements of  $\mathfrak{A}$  and let  $D_1, \dots, D_s$  be derivations in  $\mathfrak{D}$ . Let*

$$T(\pi_i) = D_{i_1} \cdots D_{i_r} \quad (i = 1, \dots, r)$$

*if  $\pi_i = \{i_1, \dots, i_r\}$  is a nonempty ordered subset of the ordered set  $S = \{1, \dots, s\}$ ; and if  $\pi_i = 0$ , then  $T(\pi_i)$  is to be the identity transformation  $I$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$ . We now assert that*

$$(15) \quad (a_1 \cdots a_r)D_1 \cdots D_s = \sum_{\pi} [a_1 T(\pi_1)] \cdots [a_r T(\pi_r)]$$

where  $\pi$  ranges over all  $r$ -partitions of  $S$ .

**Proof.** We induce on  $s$ . If  $s = 1$ , each partition has the form  $\pi = (0, \cdots, 0, 1, 0, \cdots, 0)$  and formula (15) becomes

$$(a_1 \cdots a_r)D_1 = \sum_{i=1}^r a_1 \cdots a_{i-1}(a_i D_1)a_{i+1} \cdots a_r$$

which is correct. Now assume (15) correct for  $s$  derivations. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (a_1 \cdots a_r)D_1 \cdots D_{s+1} &= \sum_{\pi} \{ [a_1 T(\pi_1)] \cdots [a_r T(\pi_r)] \} D_{s+1} \\ &= \sum_{\pi} \sum_i [a_1 T(\pi_1)] \cdots [a_{i-1} T(\pi_{i-1})] \\ &\quad \cdot [a_i T(\pi_i \cup \{s+1\})] [a_{i+1} T(\pi_{i+1})] \cdots [a_r T(\pi_r)]. \end{aligned}$$

But if  $\pi = (\pi_1, \cdots, \pi_r)$  is a general  $r$ -partition of  $\{1, \cdots, s\}$ , then  $\theta = (\pi_1, \cdots, \pi_{i-1}, \pi_i \cup \{s+1\}, \pi_{i+1}, \cdots, \pi_r)$  is a general  $r$ -partition of  $\{1, \cdots, s+1\}$ . Hence

$$(a_1 \cdots a_r)D_1 \cdots D_{s+1} = \sum_{\theta} [a_1 T(\theta_1)] \cdots [a_r T(\theta_r)]$$

where  $\theta = (\theta_1, \cdots, \theta_r)$  ranges over all  $r$ -partitions of  $\{1, \cdots, s+1\}$ . This is formula (15) for  $s+1$  derivations, and the lemma is proved.

We also have

LEMMA 2. Let  $S_1 = \{i_1, \cdots, i_q\}$  and  $S_2$  be ordered subsets of the set  $S = \{1, \cdots, s\}$  such that  $S_1 \cap S_2 = 0$  and  $S_1 \cup S_2 = S$ , and let  $R$  be the set of all  $r$ -partitions  $\pi$  of  $S$  with  $\pi_t = S_2$  for some fixed  $t$ . If  $a_1, \cdots, a_r$  are in  $\mathfrak{A}$  and  $D_1, \cdots, D_s$  in  $\mathfrak{D}$ , then

$$(16) \quad \sum_{\pi \text{ in } R} [a_1 T(\pi_1)] \cdots [a_r T(\pi_r)] = [(a_1 \cdots a_{t-1} a_{t+1} \cdots a_r) D_{i_1} \cdots D_{i_q}] [a_t T(\pi_t)].$$

**Proof.** If  $\pi = (\pi_1, \cdots, \pi_r)$  with  $\pi_t = S_2$ , then

$$\theta = (\pi_1, \cdots, \pi_{t-1}, \pi_{t+1}, \cdots, \pi_r)$$

is an  $(r-1)$ -partition of  $S_1$ . Moreover, the correspondence  $\pi \leftrightarrow \theta$  is a 1-1 correspondence of  $R$  with the set of all  $(r-1)$ -partitions of  $S_1$ . Our result now follows from Lemma 1.

We are now able to prove

THEOREM 5. The ideal  $\mathfrak{M}$  contains no monomial.

**Proof.** Theorem 4 asserts that  $\mathfrak{M}$  contains no monomial of total degree one in  $x_1, \cdots, x_n$ . Assume that  $\mathfrak{M}$  contains no monomial of degree  $r-1$  but

that  $u = x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_n^{r_n}$  has degree  $r = r_1 + \cdots + r_n$  and is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Then for each  $i$  for which  $r_i \neq 0$  we may write  $u = a_i x_i$  where  $a_i$  is not in  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Thus, by the corollary to Theorem 3, there is a product  $G_i$  of  $t_i$  derivations in  $\mathfrak{D}$  such that  $a_i G_i$  is nonsingular. We let  $i_0$  be a value of  $i$  for which  $t = t_i$  is minimal. There is clearly no loss of generality if we assume  $i_0 = 1$  and  $G = G_1 = D_1 \cdots D_t$  so that  $a_1 G$  is nonsingular. We now apply  $G$  to the element  $u$ , and by Lemma 1 we obtain

$$(17) \quad \begin{aligned} uG &= (x_1^{r_1} \cdots x_n^{r_n}) D_1 \cdots D_t \\ &= \sum_{\pi} [x_1 T(\pi_{11})] \cdots [x_1 T(\pi_{1r_1})] \cdots [x_n T(\pi_{n1})] \cdots [x_n T(\pi_{nr_n})]. \end{aligned}$$

We observe that the constant term of  $uG$  is zero since  $u$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$  and  $uG$  is in  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Let us now compute the linear term in  $x_1$  of  $uG$ . Consider first all summands in (17) with  $\pi_{1j} = 0$  for some fixed index  $j$ . By Lemma 2 the sum of these summands is  $(a_1 G)x_1$  which has a term  $\alpha x_1$  where  $\alpha \neq 0$  is the constant term of the nonsingular element  $a_1 G$ . Letting  $j = 1, \cdots, r_1$  we find that the total coefficient of  $x_1$  from this source is  $r_1 \alpha \neq 0$ . Note that any summand in (17) in which  $\pi_{ij} = 0$  with  $i \neq 1$  has  $x_i$  as a factor and therefore does not have a linear term in  $x_1$ . Thus there remains only the consideration of those summands of (17) in which all  $\pi_{ij}$  are nonempty. For such a summand to have a linear term in  $x_1$  it must be that some  $x_i T(\pi_{ij})$  has a linear term in  $x_1$  and all other  $x_h T(\pi_{hk})$  are nonsingular. But again it follows from Lemma 2 that the sum of all summands in (17) having  $x_i T(\pi_{ij})$  as a factor is  $w = (a_i H)[x_i T(\pi_{ij})]$  where  $H$  is a product of fewer than  $t$  derivations. Hence  $a_i H$  is singular and  $w$  has no linear term. We conclude that  $uG$  has a linear term  $r_1 \alpha x_1$  contrary to Theorem 4.

We are now essentially through. Albert has shown [2] that for any non-zero element  $u$  of  $\mathfrak{N}$  there exists an element  $v$  of  $\mathfrak{A}$  such that  $uv = x_1^{p-1} \cdots x_n^{p-1}$ . Thus if  $\mathfrak{M} \neq 0$  then  $\mathfrak{M}$  contains a monomial, contrary to Theorem 5. Therefore  $\mathfrak{M} = 0$  from which Theorem 1 follows.

3. **Some consequences of condition (B).** Let  $\mathfrak{A}$  be the commutative power-associative algebra described in §1. By (1) we see that

$$\mathfrak{A} = \mathfrak{B} + \mathfrak{L} = \mathfrak{B} + (y_0 \mathfrak{B}, \cdots, y_m \mathfrak{B}),$$

and, having determined the structure of  $\mathfrak{B}$ , we are now in a position to investigate that of  $\mathfrak{A}$ .

Let  $u$  be any element of  $\mathfrak{L}$ . Then  $u = \sum_{j=0}^m y_j b_j$  where  $b_j$  is in  $\mathfrak{B}$ . From condition (B) we see that  $u = 0$  if and only if  $(y_i a)u = \sum_{j=0}^m (y_i a)(y_j b_j) = 0$  for all  $a$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$  and  $i = 0, 1, \cdots, m$ . From this it follows that  $u = 0$  if and only if the relations

$$(18) \quad \sum_{j=0}^m (b_{ij} b_j - b_j D_{ij}) = 0 \quad (i = 0, \cdots, m),$$

$$(19) \quad \sum_{j=0}^m (aD_{ij})b_j = 0 \quad (i = 0, \dots, m)$$

hold for every  $a$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$ .

It should be noted that the requirement that the algebra  $\mathfrak{X}$  satisfy condition (B) is never inconsistent with the definition of multiplication in  $\mathfrak{X}$ . The effect of condition (B) is to completely determine the algebra  $\mathfrak{X}$  by determining the kernels of the vector space homomorphisms  $\mathfrak{B} \rightarrow y_i\mathfrak{B}$  for  $i = 0, \dots, m$  and the nature of the sum  $\mathfrak{X}$ . To demonstrate this we let

$$\mathfrak{X}^* = \mathfrak{B} + \mathfrak{X}^* = \mathfrak{B} + z_0\mathfrak{B} + \dots + z_m\mathfrak{B}$$

where each vector space  $z_i\mathfrak{B}$  is an isomorphic copy of  $\mathfrak{B}$ . Let products in  $\mathfrak{X}^*$  be defined in terms of the same elements  $b_{ij}$  and derivations  $D_{ij}$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$  which determined products in  $\mathfrak{X}$ . Since  $\mathfrak{X}^*$  is a direct sum we see that multiplication is well-defined. Now let  $\mathfrak{U}$  be the set of all elements  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{X}^*$  such that  $uw = 0$  for all  $w$  in  $\mathfrak{X}^*$ . The set  $\mathfrak{U}$  is an ideal of  $\mathfrak{X}^*$ . The algebra  $\mathfrak{X}$  is equivalent to  $\mathfrak{X}^* - \mathfrak{U}$  and hence exists and is uniquely determined by condition (B) and the choice of the elements  $b_{ij}$  and derivations  $D_{ij}$  of  $\mathfrak{B}$ .

**4. A special case with  $m = 2$ .** In this section we shall construct a class of examples of the algebras  $\mathfrak{X}$  in which  $\mathfrak{X} = (y_0\mathfrak{B}, \dots, y_m\mathfrak{B})$  with  $m = 2$  and  $\mathfrak{X}$  is not a direct sum. We let  $\mathfrak{B} = \mathfrak{F}[e, x, y]$ ,  $\mathfrak{X} = \mathfrak{B} + (y_0\mathfrak{B}, y_1\mathfrak{B}, y_2\mathfrak{B})$  and let

$$(20) \quad xD_{01} = e, \quad yD_{01} = x^{p-1},$$

$$(21) \quad xD_{02} = x^2y, \quad yD_{02} = xy,$$

$$(22) \quad xD_{12} = -x, \quad yD_{12} = xy^2,$$

$$(23) \quad b_{11} = 0, \quad b_{12} = e, \quad b_{22} = -x^2.$$

The algebra  $\mathfrak{B}$  is  $D_{01}$ -simple [2] and hence is  $\{D_{ij}\}$ -simple. Thus  $\mathfrak{X}$  satisfies condition (A). We complete the definition of  $\mathfrak{X}$  by imposing condition (B). As a routine consequence of formulas (18) and (19) we now have Lemma 3 which we state without proof.

**LEMMA 3.** *In this special case an element  $y_0b_0 + y_1b_1 + y_2b_2$  of  $\mathfrak{X}$  is zero if and only if  $b_0 = -b_2x$ ,  $b_1 = 0$ , and  $b_2 = x^{p-1}f(y) + y^{p-1}g(x)$  where  $f(y)$  and  $g(x)$  are polynomials over  $\mathfrak{F}$  in  $y$  and  $x$  respectively.*

It follows from Lemma 3 that  $\mathfrak{X}$  is not a direct sum. In fact we may write

$$(24) \quad \mathfrak{X} = \mathfrak{B} + (y_0\mathfrak{B} + y_1\mathfrak{B}, y_2\mathfrak{B})$$

and we see that  $(y_0\mathfrak{B} + y_1\mathfrak{B}) \cap y_2\mathfrak{B}$  is spanned by the independent vectors  $y_2x^{p-1}y^j$  and  $y_2x^iy^{p-1}$  where  $i = 0, \dots, p-1$  and  $j = 0, \dots, p-2$ . Hence  $\mathfrak{X}$  has dimension  $4p^2 - 2p + 1$ . We will show next that  $\mathfrak{X}$  not only fails to be a direct sum as presently represented, but, furthermore, *Albert's construction cannot yield a representation of  $\mathfrak{X}$  as a direct sum.*

Let  $\mathfrak{B} = \mathfrak{F}[\bar{z}, \bar{z}_1, \dots, \bar{z}_r] = \bar{e}\mathfrak{F} + \bar{\mathfrak{N}}$  be a polynomial algebra over  $\mathfrak{F}$  with



unity  $\bar{e}$  and generators  $\bar{z}_1, \dots, \bar{z}_r$  such that  $\bar{z}_i^p = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, r$  but which are otherwise independent. Suppose there exist  $x_0, \dots, x_m$  such that  $\mathfrak{X} = \bar{\mathfrak{B}} + \bar{\mathfrak{L}}$  where  $\bar{\mathfrak{L}} = x_0\bar{\mathfrak{B}} + \dots + x_m\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  is a direct sum. We will denote by  $\bar{a}, \bar{b}$ , etc. elements of  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  and by  $\bar{b}_{ij}$  and  $\bar{D}_{ij}$  the elements and derivations of  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  which define multiplication in this new representation of  $\mathfrak{X}$ . We observe that  $\bar{e} = e$  since  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  and  $\mathfrak{B}$  have the same unity element as  $\mathfrak{X}$ . We may write expressions for the  $x_k e$  in terms of the original representation of  $\mathfrak{X}$ . Thus

$$(25) \quad x_k e = a_k + y_0 b_k + y_1 c_k + y_2 d_k$$

where  $a_k, b_k, c_k, d_k$  are in  $\mathfrak{B}$  and  $k = 0, \dots, m$ . Since  $\mathfrak{X}$  is power-associative and  $p$  is an odd prime we have

$$(26) \quad (x_k b)^p = [(x^k \bar{b})^2]^{(p-1)/2} (x_k \bar{b}) = x_k (b_{kk}^{(p-1)/2} \bar{b}^p)$$

for  $k = 0, \dots, m$ , and similarly

$$(27) \quad (y_k b)^p = y_k (b_{kk}^{(p-1)/2} \bar{b}^p)$$

for  $k = 0, 1, 2$ . From (23), (25), (26), (27) and Lemma 3 we see that

$$x_0 e = (x_0 e)^p = a_0^p + y_0 b_0^p = \alpha + y_0 \beta$$

where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are in  $\mathfrak{F}$ . Since  $(x_0 e)^2 = e$  it follows that  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = \pm 1$ . Thus  $x_0 e = \pm y_0 e$  and we can now prove

LEMMA 4. *The algebras  $\mathfrak{B}$  and  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  coincide as do the spaces  $\mathfrak{L}$  and  $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $x_0 e = \pm y_0 e$  and  $(x_0 e)(x_k e) = 0$  for  $k = 1, \dots, m$ , we see by (25) that  $a_k = 0$  for  $k = 0, \dots, m$ . Hence  $\bar{\mathfrak{L}} \subseteq \mathfrak{L}$ . Since  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  is  $\{\bar{D}_{ij}\}$ -simple there is a derivation  $\bar{D}_{st}$  of  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  such that  $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$  is not a  $\bar{D}_{st}$ -ideal. From this it follows that each of  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}, x_s \bar{\mathfrak{B}}$ , and  $x_t \bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  has dimension  $p^r$ . Thus  $3p^r \leq 4p^2 - 2p + 1$  which implies  $r \leq 2$ . If  $r < 2$  the dimension of  $\bar{\mathfrak{L}}$  is seen to be greater than that of  $\mathfrak{L}$ . Thus  $r = 2$  and  $\bar{\mathfrak{L}} = \mathfrak{L}$ .

We have shown that  $\mathfrak{B} + \mathfrak{L} = \bar{\mathfrak{B}} + \bar{\mathfrak{L}}$ . Now let  $b$  be any element of  $\mathfrak{B}$ . Then  $b = \bar{b} + u$  for elements  $\bar{b}$  in  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}}$  and  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{L}$ . Let  $w$  be an arbitrary element of  $\mathfrak{L}$ . We see that  $uw = bw - \bar{b}w$  is in  $\mathfrak{B}$  and in  $\mathfrak{L}$ . Thus  $uw = 0$  for all  $w$  in  $\mathfrak{L}$ . Therefore  $u = 0$ , and the lemma is proved.

We now have  $\bar{\mathfrak{B}} = \mathfrak{B} = \mathfrak{F}[e, x, y]$  and

$$\mathfrak{X} = \mathfrak{B} + (y_0 \mathfrak{B} + y_1 \mathfrak{B}, y_2 \mathfrak{B}) = \mathfrak{B} + x_0 \mathfrak{B} + \dots + x_m \mathfrak{B}.$$

We shall show that this leads to a contradiction. Setting  $a_k = 0$  ( $k = 0, \dots, m$ ) in (25) we obtain

$$(28) \quad x_k e = y_0 b_k + y_1 c_k + y_2 d_k \quad (k = 0, \dots, m).$$

LEMMA 5. *If  $\mathfrak{X} = \mathfrak{B} + x_0 \mathfrak{B} + \dots + x_m \mathfrak{B}$  is a direct sum, then  $m = 2$  and there exist elements  $v$  and  $w$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$  such that  $b_2 = -d_2 x + x y v$  and  $c_2 = x y w$ .*

**Proof.** The dimension of  $x_0\mathfrak{B}$  is always the same as that of  $\mathfrak{B}$ , and we noted earlier that this must also be true for at least one other  $x_k\mathfrak{B}$ . Hence we may assume that  $x_1\mathfrak{B}$  has dimension  $p^2$ . It follows that  $x_k\mathfrak{B}$  has dimension less than  $p^2$  for  $k=2, \dots, m$ . Hence if  $U=x^{p-1}y^{p-1}$ , then  $x_kU=0$  for  $k \geq 2$ , and we see from (28) and Lemma 3 that  $b_k$  and  $c_k$  are in  $\mathfrak{N}$  for  $k \geq 2$ . We see also that  $x_1U \mp x_0b_1U = y_1c_1U \neq 0$  since  $x_0e = \pm y_0e$  and  $x_0\mathfrak{B} + x_1\mathfrak{B}$  is a direct sum. Hence  $c_1$  is not in  $\mathfrak{N}$ .

Now let  $u_0, \dots, u_m$  be elements of  $\mathfrak{B}$  such that  $y_2e = x_0u_0 + \dots + x_mu_m$ . From (28) and Lemma 3 we see that  $c_1u_1 + \dots + c_mu_m = 0$ , and, since  $c_1$  is not in  $\mathfrak{N}$  but  $c_2, \dots, c_m$  are in  $\mathfrak{N}$ , this implies that  $u_1$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$ . Now, also by Lemma 3,  $d_1u_1 + \dots + d_mu_m - e$  is in  $\mathfrak{N}$  and hence  $d_k$  is not in  $\mathfrak{N}$  for some  $k \geq 2$ . Without loss of generality we assume  $d_2$  is not in  $\mathfrak{N}$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{E}$  be the subspace of  $\mathfrak{B}$  consisting of all elements  $u$  such that  $x_2u = 0$ . Since  $d_2$  is nonsingular, it follows from (28) and Lemma 3 that  $u = x^{p-1}F(y) + y^{p-1}G(x)$  for some polynomials  $F(y)$  and  $G(x)$ . Let  $s$  be the dimension of  $\mathfrak{E}$ . Then  $x_2\mathfrak{B}$  has dimension  $p^2 - s$ , and we see that  $s \geq 2p - 1$ . Thus  $x_2u = 0$  for all possible choices of the polynomials  $F(y)$  and  $G(x)$ . Thus  $x_2\mathfrak{B}$  has dimension  $p^2 - 2p + 1$  and  $m = 2$ .

We have shown that the space  $\mathfrak{E}$  consists of all  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$  of the form  $u = x^{p-1}F(y) + y^{p-1}G(x)$ . From Lemma 3 we see that  $c_2u = 0$  and  $(b_2 + d_2x)u = 0$  for all  $u$  in  $\mathfrak{E}$ . It therefore follows that  $c_2 = xyw$  and  $b_2 = -d_2x + xyv$  for some  $v$  and  $w$  in  $\mathfrak{B}$ . We can now obtain our main result which we state as

**THEOREM 6.** *The algebra  $\mathfrak{A}$  cannot be represented as a direct sum.*

**Proof.** We compute  $\bar{b}_{02}$  and single out those terms which possibly give rise to a linear term in  $x$  alone. We recall that  $\bar{b}_{02} = 0$  by (2). Using (20),  $\dots$ , (23) and Lemma 5 we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{b}_{02} &= (x_0e)(x_2e) = \pm (y_0e)(y_0b_2 + y_1c_2 + y_2d_2) \\ &= \pm (b_2 - c_2D_{01} - d_2D_{02}) = \mp d_2x + \Omega \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Omega$  is a sum of terms each having  $x^2$  or  $y$  as a factor. Since  $d_2$  is nonsingular  $\bar{b}_{02} \neq 0$ . This contradiction proves the theorem.

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