

## §8 Bimodules with involution

A bimodule with involution or \*-bimodule for a \*-algebra  $A$  is a bimodule  $M$  together with an endomorphism  $m \mapsto \bar{m}$  of period 2 such that

$$a \oplus m \mapsto \bar{a} \oplus \bar{m}$$

induces an involution on the split null extension  $E = A \oplus M$ , turning it into a \*-algebra. Because  $\overline{xy} = \bar{y}\bar{x}$  already holds for  $x, y \in A$  (if  $A$  is a \*-algebra) or for  $x, y \in M$  (as  $M^2 = 0$ ), the condition amounts to

$$(8.1) \quad \overline{am} = \bar{m}\bar{a} \quad \overline{ma} = \bar{a}\bar{m}.$$

This makes it clear that the negative of an involution on  $M$  is again an involution. Also, the regular bimodule  $M = A$  with the natural involution becomes a \*-bimodule.

We have obvious notions of \*-sub-bimodule, \*-irreducible, \*-completely reducible, \*-homomorphism etc. One convenient fact about \*-homomorphisms: if  $M \xrightarrow{F} N$  satisfies  $F(am) = aF(m)$  and  $F(\bar{m}) = \overline{F(m)}$ , it automatically satisfies  $F(ma) = F(m)a$ :  $\overline{F(ma)} = \overline{F(m)\bar{a}} = \overline{F(m)}\bar{\bar{a}} = \bar{a}\overline{F(m)} = \overline{aF(m)} = \overline{F(m)a}$ .

For a composition algebra  $A$  we thus obtain the regular \*-bimodules  $\text{reg}_+(A)$  and  $\text{reg}_-(A)$  obtained from the regular bimodule  $M = A$  by taking the usual involution or its negative. The Cayley-Dickson \*-bimodules  $\text{cay}_+(A)$  and  $\text{cay}_-(A)$  are obtained from the Cayley-Dickson bimodule  $M = A \otimes A$  by taking the usual involution (namely  $-I$ ) induced from the involution on  $C(A) = A \oplus A^2$ , or its negative (namely  $+I$ ).

As an example, we consider the possible involutions on the regular and Cayley bimodules for the composition algebras.

8.2 Proposition. If  $\mathbb{C}$  is an ordinary composition algebra of dimension 1, 4, 8 over a field  $\Phi$  then the only involutions on  $\text{reg } \mathbb{C}$  are  $\pm$  the standard involution; if  $\mathbb{C}$  has dimension 2 the involutions are of the form  $f(a) = c_f \bar{a}$  where  $n(c_f) = 1$ , and in this case  $\mathbb{C}_f$  is  $*$ -isomorphic to  $\text{reg}_+ \mathbb{C}$ . If  $\mathbb{C} = \Phi e_1 \oplus \Phi e_2$  is split of dimension 2 there are no involutions on the module  $\Phi e_1$ .

If  $\mathbb{C}$  is a division algebra of dimension 1, 2, 4 then the only involutions on  $\text{cay } \mathbb{C}$  are  $\pm$  the standard involution (i.e.  $\mp 1$ ); if  $\mathbb{C} = e_1 \mathbb{C} + e_2 \mathbb{C}$  is split of dimension 2 or 4, the only involutions on  $\text{cay } (e_i \mathbb{C})$  are  $\pm$  the restrictions of the standard involutions (i.e.  $\mp 1$ ).

Proof. According to the Commuting Criterion 3.19, in the regular bimodule  $\text{reg } \mathbb{C}$  of dimension 1, 4, 8 the only commutators are the elements of  $\Phi 1$ , so an involution must have  $f(1) = \alpha 1$ ; since  $f^2(1) = 1$  we see  $\alpha^2 = 1$ , so  $\alpha = \pm 1$  and by (8.1)  $f(a) = f(a \cdot 1) = f(1) \bar{a} = \pm \bar{a}$ . Thus  $f$  is  $\pm$  the standard involution. In dimension 2, if  $f(1) = c$  then  $f(a) = f(a \cdot 1) = f(1) \bar{a} = c \bar{a}$  and  $1 = f(f(1)) = f(c) = c \bar{c}$ . The map  $a \mapsto \bar{c} a$  is a  $*$ -isomorphism  $\mathbb{C}_f \xrightarrow{F} \mathbb{C}_+$ ; it is a linear bijection with  $F(a \cdot b) = \bar{c} a b = \bar{c} b a = a F(b)$  and  $F(b \cdot a) = \bar{c} b a = F(b) a$  and  $F(f(a)) = F(c \bar{a}) = \bar{c} c \bar{a} = \bar{a}$ . Since  $f(e_i) = f(e_i e_i) = f(e_i) \bar{e}_i = f(e_i) e_j \in \Phi e_i e_j$ , there are no involutions on  $\Phi e_i$ .

$\text{Cay } \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C} \ell$  is not an alternative bimodule if  $\mathbb{C}$  has dimension 8. Let  $\mathbb{C}$  be a division algebra of dimension 1, 2, or 4. If  $f(\ell) = c \ell$  then  $f(a \ell) = f(\ell) \bar{a} = (c \ell) \bar{a} = (c a) \ell$ , where  $\ell = f(f \ell) = f(c \ell) = c^2 \ell$ . But  $c^2 = 1$  in a division algebra implies  $c = \pm 1$  (as  $(c-1)(c+1) = 0$ ), so  $f(a \ell) = \pm a \ell$ . In this case the only involutions are  $\pm 1$ . If  $\mathbb{C}$  is split of dimension 2

or 4,  $\mathbb{C} = e_1\mathbb{C} \oplus e_2\mathbb{C}$ , then  $\text{cay } \mathbb{C}$  is not irreducible and has lots of involutions  $f(a\ell) = (ca)\ell$  for  $c^2 = 1$ . However,  $\text{cay } (e_1\mathbb{C})$  is irreducible. If  $f$  is an involution on  $(e_1\mathbb{C})\ell$  we have  $f(e_1\ell) = c\ell$  ( $c = e_1c$ ) and  $f((e_1a)\ell) = f(a(e_1\ell)) = f(e_1\ell)\bar{a} = (c\ell)\bar{a} = (ca)\ell$ . In particular  $c\ell = f(e_1\ell) = f((e_1c_1)\ell) = (ce_1)\ell$ , so  $c = ce_1$  and  $c = e_1ce_1$  belongs to the Peirce space  $e_1\mathbb{C}e_1 = \phi e_1$ :  $c = \gamma e_1$ . From  $f(f(e_1\ell)) = e_1\ell$  we see  $c^2 = e_1$ ,  $\gamma^2 = 1$ ,  $\gamma = \pm 1$ ,  $c = \pm e_1$ . Thus  $f((e_1a)\ell) = \pm(e_1a)\ell$ , and  $f$  is  $\pm I$ .  $\square$

Strange things happen with involutions in characteristic 2 (since + and - are the same), so we first consider the characteristic  $\neq 2$  case.

8.3 \*-Bimodule Theorem. (First Version) Every \*-bimodule for an ordinary composition algebra  $\mathbb{C}$  over a field  $\phi$  of characteristic  $\neq 2$  is completely \*-reducible, with \*-irreducible sub-bimodules isomorphic to the \*-sub-bimodules of the regular and Cayley-Dickson \*-bimodules. We thus obtain the following list of \*-irreducibles:

- I.  $\mathbb{C} = \phi 1$ :  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{reg}_-(\mathbb{C})$
- IIa.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \mu_1)$  division algebra:  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{cay}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{cay}_-(\mathbb{C})$
- IIb.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, 1)$  split:  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{cay}_+(\phi e_1)$ ,  $\text{cay}_-(\phi e_1)$ ,  $\text{cay}_+(\phi e_2)$ ,  $\text{cay}_-(\phi e_2)$
- IIIa.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \mu_1, \mu_2)$  division algebra:  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{reg}_-(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{cay}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{cay}_-(\mathbb{C})$
- IIIb.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, 1, 1)$  split:  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{reg}_-(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{cay}_+((e_1\mathbb{C})\ell)$ ,  $\text{cay}_-((e_1\mathbb{C})\ell)$
- IV.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3)$ :  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $\text{reg}_-(\mathbb{C})$ .

Proof. Once more the essential part of the proof is that every  $*$ -bimodule is a sum of images of regular and Cayley-Dickson  $*$ -bimodules. The difference of the present list from that in the Bimodule Theorem is due to the fact that for  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \nu)$  we don't need both involutions since  $\text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C}) \cong \text{reg}_-(\mathbb{C})$  under the map  $a \rightarrow ia$  in characteristic  $\neq 2$ :  $\text{reg } \mathbb{C} = \phi 1 + \phi i$ ,  $i^2 = \nu 1$  so  $F(a) = ia$  is a homomorphism of bimodules which is also a  $*$ -homomorphism since  $\overline{ia} = \overline{i}a = -i\overline{a}$ ; moreover this is irreducible as  $*$ -bimodule even in the split case as  $\phi e_1, \phi e_2$  alone don't form  $*$ -bimodules.

To fill  $M$  up with regular or Cayley-Dickson  $*$ -bimodules we need only fill it up with symmetric and skew commutators and  $*$ -commutators. Indeed, a symmetric (resp. skew) commutator  $m$  generates a  $*$ -bimodule  $\{m\}$  which is an image of  $\text{reg}_+A$  (resp.  $\text{reg}_-A$ ) since the module homomorphism  $a \rightarrow am$  of 7.2 is automatically a  $*$ -homomorphism:  $\overline{a} \rightarrow \overline{am} = + \overline{am} = \overline{ma} = \overline{am}$  (resp.  $\overline{a} \rightarrow - \overline{am}$ ). Similarly a skew (resp. symmetric)  $*$ -commutator generates a  $*$ -bimodule  $\{m\}$  which is an image of  $\text{cay}_+A$  (resp.  $\text{cay}_-A$ ) since  $a\lambda \rightarrow am$  as in 7.4 is a  $*$ -homomorphism:  $\overline{a\lambda} = -a\lambda \rightarrow -am = -\overline{ma} = \overline{ma} = \overline{am}$  (resp.  $\overline{a\lambda} \rightarrow - \overline{am}$ ).

In characteristic  $\neq 2$  it is easy to fill  $M$  with such elements: since  $m \rightarrow \overline{m}$  is an anti-automorphism on  $E = A \oplus M$ , if  $m$  is a commutator or  $*$ -commutator so is its image  $\overline{m}$  and hence also its symmetric and skew parts  $m_+ = \frac{1}{2}(m + \overline{m})$ ,  $m_- = \frac{1}{2}(m - \overline{m})$ . Thus every commutator (resp.  $*$ -commutator) is the sum of a symmetric and a skew commutator (resp.  $*$ -commutator)  $m = m_+ + m_-$ , and such elements fill up (i.e. generate)  $M$ .  $\square$

We now develop an alternate approach which works in all characteristics.

Instead of filling a bimodule  $M$  up with homomorphic images of the 4 basic bimodules  $\text{reg}_{\pm} A$  and  $\text{cay}_{\pm} A$  we fill it up with homomorphic images of two bimodules  $\text{reg}(A)$  and  $\text{cay}(A)$  with exchange involution.

Suppose  $M$  is any bimodule (not necessarily with involution) for a  $*$ -algebra  $A$ . Then we can imbed  $M$  in the exchange  $*$ -bimodule

$$\text{ex}(M) = M \oplus M^*$$

with  $A$ -module structure

$$a(m, n) = (am, n\bar{a})$$

$$(m, n)a = (ma, \bar{a}n)$$

and exchange involution

$$\overline{(m, n)} = (n, m) .$$

This is indeed an involution of the module structure since  $\overline{a(m, n)} = \overline{(am, n\bar{a})} = (n\bar{a}, am) = (n, m)\bar{a} = \overline{(m, n)\bar{a}}$ . To see  $\text{ex}(M)$  is an alternative  $A$ -bimodule, notice that  $M \subseteq \text{ex}(M)$  carries its given bimodule structure while the representation on  $M^*$  is given by  $\ell_a^* = r_a$ ,  $r_a^* = \ell_a$  in terms of  $\ell, r$  on  $M$ . Now we know we can give  $M$  the structure of an  $A^{\text{op}}$ -bimodule  $M^{\text{op}}$  by  $\ell_a^{\text{op}} = r_a$ ,  $r_a^{\text{op}} = \ell_a$  (the split null extension is then just  $A^{\text{op}} \oplus M^{\text{op}} = (A \oplus M)^{\text{op}}$ , which is alternative if  $A \oplus M$  is). Composing this with the isomorphism  $A \rightarrow A^{\text{op}}$  by  $a \rightarrow \bar{a}$ , we get a birepresentation  $\ell^*: a \rightarrow \bar{a} \rightarrow \ell_a^{\text{op}} = r_a$  and  $r^*: a \rightarrow \bar{a} \rightarrow r_a^{\text{op}} = \ell_a$ . Thus as bimodule  $\text{ex}(M)$  is just the direct sum of the two bimodules  $M$  and  $M^*$ .

Note that this construction is additive.

$$\text{ex}(\oplus_1 M_i) \cong \oplus_1 \text{ex}(M_i).$$

The usefulness of the exchange bimodule resides in its universal property.

8.4 (Universal Property of Exchange Bimodule) Any bimodule homomorphism  $M \xrightarrow{F} N$  of a bimodule  $M$  into a  $*$ -bimodule  $N$  extends uniquely to a  $*$ -homomorphism  $\text{ex}(M) \xrightarrow{\hat{F}} N$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} M & \xrightarrow{F} & N \\ & \searrow & \nearrow \hat{F} \\ & \text{ex}(M) & \end{array}$$

Proof. If we define  $\hat{F}(m,n) = F(m) + \overline{F(n)}$  we have a  $*$ -homomorphism because  $\hat{F}(a(m,n)) = \hat{F}(am, n\bar{a}) = F(am) + \overline{F(n\bar{a})} = aF(m) + a\overline{F(n)} = a\hat{F}(m,n)$  and  $\hat{F}(\overline{m,n}) = \hat{F}(n,m) = F(n) + \overline{F(m)} = \overline{F(n)} + F(m) = \overline{\hat{F}(m,n)}$ . This is unique since it is uniquely determined on the  $*$ -generating set  $M$  of  $\text{ex}(M)$ .  $\square$

8.5 Example. If  $\mathbb{C} = \phi e_1 \oplus \phi e_2$  is split of dimension 2 then

$$\text{ex}(\phi e_1) \cong \text{ex}(\phi e_2) \cong \text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$$

since the imbedding  $\phi e_1 \rightarrow \text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$  extends to a  $*$ -imbedding  $\text{ex}(\phi e_1) \rightarrow \text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$ .  $\square$

Thus we have a universal way of building  $*$ -bimodules out of ordinary bimodules. What happens if  $M$  already carries an involution, i.e. an endomorphism  $f$  of period 2 satisfying  $f(am) = f(n)\bar{a}$  and  $f(ma) = \bar{a}f(m)$ ? In this case the set of  $f$ -traces

$$t_f(M) = \{(m, f(m))\} \cong M_f$$

is a \*-sub-bimodule of  $\text{ex}(M)$  which is \*-isomorphic to  $M_f$ :  $m \xrightarrow{F} (m, f(m))$  is a linear bijection  $M_f \rightarrow t_f(M)$  with  $F(f(n)) = (f(m), f(f(n))) = (f(m), n) = \overline{(m, f(n))} = \overline{F(n)}$  and  $f(am) = (am, f(am)) = (am, f(m)a) = a(m, f(m)) = aF(m)$ .

Thus if  $M$  is a \*-bimodule it is \*-imbedded in  $\text{ex}(M)$ . What does the remaining part of  $\text{ex}(M)$  look like? We claim it looks like  $M$ , but relative to the involution  $-f$ :

$$\text{ex}(M)/t_f(M) \cong M_{-f}$$

Indeed, by the Universal Property 8.4 the isomorphism  $M \xrightarrow{I} M_{-f}$  induces an epimorphism  $\text{ex}(M) \xrightarrow{\hat{F}} M_{-f}$  by  $\hat{F}(m, n) = F(m) - f(F(n)) = m - f(n)$ , with kernel  $\{(m, n) \mid m = f(n)\} = \{(m, f(m))\} = t_f(M)$ . Thus  $F$  induces \*-isomorphism  $\text{ex}(M)/t_f(M) \rightarrow M_{-f}$ .

In characteristic  $\neq 2$  the exchange bimodule decomposes into the direct sum

$$(8.6) \quad \text{ex}(M) = t_f(M) \oplus t_{-f}(M) \cong M_f \oplus M_{-f}$$

of one copy of  $M$  under its given involution, and one copy with the negative of this involution. One way to see this splits is to observe that the bimodule isomorphism  $M \xrightarrow{f} M \xrightarrow{\text{in}} \text{ex}(M) \xrightarrow{*} \text{ex}(M)$  ( $F(m) = (0, f(m))$ ) extends to a \*-automorphism  $\text{ex}(M) \xrightarrow{\hat{F}} \text{ex}(M)$  of period 2 ( $F(m, n) = (f(n), f(m))$ ) by universality, so the  $\pm 1$  eigenspaces of  $\hat{F}$  are the \*-submodules  $t_f(M) = \{(m, n) \mid n = f(m)\} = \{(m, n) \mid (fn, fm) = (m, n)\}$  and  $t_{-f}(M) = \{(m, n) \mid n = -f(m)\} = \{(m, n) \mid (fn, fm) = -(m, n)\}$ , having  $\text{ex}(M)$  as their direct sum.

In characteristic 2,  $+1$  coincides with  $-1$  so  $t_f(M) = t_{-f}(M)$  and

$\text{ex}(M)$  does not break up into their direct sum. All we can say is

$$t_f(M) \cong M_f \cong \text{ex}(M)/t_{\bar{f}}(M).$$

Next we investigate to what extent  $\text{ex}(M)$  preserves irreducibility.

8.7 Proposition. Let  $M$  be an irreducible  $A$ -bimodule. Then the only proper  $*$ -submodules of  $\text{ex}(M)$  are the submodules  $t_f(M)$  and the only nonzero  $*$ -homomorphic images of  $\text{ex}(M)$  are  $\text{ex}(M)$  and all possible  $t_f(M)$  for all involutions  $f$  on  $M$  (if such exist).

Proof. We begin by recalling the basic fact (Vol. I) that the only proper submodules of  $M_1 \oplus M_2$  when the  $M_i$  are irreducible are

$$M_1, M_2, t_f(M) = \{(m, f(m))\}$$

for all possible isomorphisms  $M_1 \xrightarrow{f} M_2$ . In our case an isomorphism  $M \xrightarrow{f} M^*$  satisfies  $f(am) = f(m)\bar{a}$ ,  $f(ma) = \bar{a}f(m)$ . If we demand proper  $*$ -sub-bimodules,  $M$  and  $M^*$  are ruled out, and  $t_f(M)$  is a  $*$ -bimodule only for those  $f$  of period 2:  $\overline{(m, f(m))} = (f(m), m) \in t_f(M)$  implies  $f(f(m)) = m$ . Thus the only proper  $*$ -submodules are the  $t_f(M)$  for the involutions  $f$  on  $M$ .

Since a  $*$ -homomorphic image of  $\text{ex}(M)$  is isomorphic to  $\text{ex}(M)/K$  for some  $*$ -submodule  $K$ , for  $K = 0, t_f(M), \text{ex } M$  we get  $\text{ex}(M), t_{-f}(M), 0$  respectively.  $\square$

For all characteristics, we can at least fill up a given  $*$ -bimodule  $M$  for a composition algebra  $\mathbb{C}$  with images of

$$\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}^*, \text{ex}(\mathbb{C}l) = \mathbb{C}l \oplus \mathbb{C}l^*.$$



Just as we can represent  $\text{cay}(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}\ell$  as  $\mathbb{C}$  with operations  $\ell_a = R_a$ ,  $r_a = R_{\bar{a}}$ , the formulas  $c(a\ell, b\ell) = ((ac)\ell, (bc)\ell)$ ,  $(a\ell, b\ell)c = ((a\bar{c})\ell, (b\bar{c})\ell)$  show we can represent  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}\ell)$  as  $\mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}$  with action  $c(a, b) = (ac, bc)$ ,  $(a, b)c = (a\bar{c}, b\bar{c})$ .

8.8 \*-Bimodule Theorem (2nd Version) Every \*-bimodule for an ordinary composition algebra  $\mathbb{C}$  over a field  $\phi$  is a sum of \*-homomorphic images of the regular and Cayley-Dickson exchange bimodules  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}\ell)$ . The list of images is

- I.  $\mathbb{C} = \phi 1$ :  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}), \text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C})$
- IIa.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \nu_1)$  division:  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}), \text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C}); \text{ex}(\mathbb{C}i), \text{cay}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C})$
- IIb.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \nu_1)$  split:  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}e_1) \cong \text{ex}(\mathbb{C}e_2) \cong \text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C});$   
 $\text{ex}((e_1\mathbb{C})j), \text{ex}((e_2\mathbb{C})j), \text{cay}_{\pm}(e_1\mathbb{C}), \text{cay}_{\pm}(e_2\mathbb{C})$
- IIIa.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \nu_1, \nu_2)$  division:  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}), \text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C}); \text{ex}(\mathbb{C}\ell), \text{cay}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C})$
- IIIb.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \nu_1, \nu_2)$  split:  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}e_1) \cong \text{ex}(\mathbb{C}e_2) \cong \text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C}),$   
 $\text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C}); \text{ex}((e_1\mathbb{C})\ell), \text{ex}((e_2\mathbb{C})\ell), \text{cay}_{\pm}(e_1\mathbb{C}), \text{cay}_{\pm}(e_2\mathbb{C})$
- IV.  $\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}(\phi, \nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3)$ :  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}), \text{reg}_{\pm}(\mathbb{C})$ .

The  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}\ell)$  are never \*-irreducible, and are completely \*-reducible only in characteristic  $\neq 2$ .

Proof. From the ordinary Bimodule Theorem 7.1 we know  $M$  is a (direct) sum of homomorphic images  $M_i$  of regular or Cayley-Dickson bimodules  $\mathbb{C}$  or  $\mathbb{C}\ell$ . By the Universal Property 8.4 of the exchange bimodule, the homomorphisms  $\mathbb{C}s \rightarrow M_i$  in  $M$  extend to \*-homomorphisms  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}s) \rightarrow M$ . Thus  $M$  is a

sum of \*-homomorphic images of  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}^2)$ .

It remains to list the images. The regular bimodule is irreducible when  $\mathbb{C}$  is simple, i.e. in all cases but IIb; when  $\mathbb{C}$  is irreducible we know by 8.7 the only nonzero images of  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C})$  are  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\text{reg}_\pm(\mathbb{C})$  (recall by 8.2 the only involutions on  $\mathbb{C}$  are  $\pm$  the standard involution in dimensions 1, 4, 8, and in dimension 2 are all equivalent to the standard involution). In IIb we have  $\mathbb{C} = \phi e_1 \oplus \phi e_2$  and  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}) = \text{ex}(\phi e_1) \oplus \text{ex}(\phi e_2)$  for  $\text{ex}(\phi e_1) \cong \text{reg}_+(\mathbb{C})$  by 8.5, which by 8.7 are irreducible since there are no involutions  $f$  on  $\phi e_1$  according to 8.2. This classifies the regular images.

Turning to the Cayley-Dickson images, we know  $\text{cay } \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}^2$  is irreducible when  $\mathbb{C}$  has no right ideals, i.e. I, IIa, IIIa. When  $\mathbb{C}^2$  is irreducible, by 8.7 the only nonzero \* images are  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}^2)$  and  $\text{cay}_\pm(\mathbb{C})$  (by 8.2, the only involutions on  $\mathbb{C}^2$  are  $\pm$  the standard involution in these cases). In the split cases IIb and IIIb we have  $\mathbb{C}^2 = (e_1 \mathbb{C})^2 \oplus (e_2 \mathbb{C})^2$  for  $(e_1 \mathbb{C})^2$  irreducible, so  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}^2) = \text{ex}((e_1 \mathbb{C})^2) \oplus \text{ex}((e_2 \mathbb{C})^2)$ . The \* images of  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}^2)$  are thus sums of \*-images of  $\text{ex}((e_1 \mathbb{C})^2)$ , which by 8.7 and 8.2 are again either  $\text{ex}((e_1 \mathbb{C})^2)$  or  $\text{cay}_\pm(e_1 \mathbb{C})$ .  $\blacksquare$

## Exercises

- 8.1 Verify directly that  $l$  is an involution on  $\text{cay}(\mathbb{C})$ .
- 8.2 Let  $t(m) = m + \bar{m}$  in any  $*$ -bimodule. If  $m$  is a  $*$ -commuter, show  $t(\{m\})$  is a  $*$ -submodule, while if  $m$  is a commuter and  $A$  is a composition algebra with nontrivial involution then  $t(\{m\})$  generates  $\{m, \bar{m}\}$ .
- 8.3 Verify directly that if  $m$  is a commuter then  $(a, b) \mapsto am + \bar{b}\bar{m}$  is a  $*$ -homomorphism  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \{m, \bar{m}\}$ , and if  $m$  is a  $*$ -commuter then  $(a, b) \mapsto am + b\bar{m}$  is a  $*$ -homomorphism  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}l) \rightarrow \{m, \bar{m}\}$ .
- 8.4 In Proposition 8.2 construct infinitely many involutions on the 2-dimensional module  $\text{reg}(\mathbb{C})$  when  $\Phi = \mathbb{R}$ . Similarly construct infinitely many involutions on  $\text{cay}(\mathbb{C})$  when  $\mathbb{C}$  is split of dimension 2 or 4.
- 8.5 Verify  $F(ma) = F(m) \cdot a$  directly in 8.4, in  $\text{ex}(M)/t_{\bar{f}}(M) \cong M_{-f}$ , in  $t_{\bar{f}}(M) \cong M_{\bar{f}}$ .
- 8.6 Prove that the exchange bimodules  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\text{ex}(\mathbb{C}l)$  are definitely not completely  $*$ -reducible in characteristic 2.