

## On centralizers of elements in the Lie algebra $W_2(K)$

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ABSTRACT. Let  $K$  be a field of characteristic zero and  $K[x, y]$  the polynomial ring. Denote by  $W_2(K)$  the Lie algebra of all  $K$ -derivations of  $K[x, y]$ . Centralizers of elements and maximal abelian subalgebras of the algebra  $W_2(K)$  are studied. The structure of a centralizer  $C_{W_2}(D)$  depends on the  $\ker D$  in the field of rational functions  $K(x, y)$  (the derivation  $D$  can be naturally extended on  $K(x, y)$ ). In particular, if  $\ker D$  in  $K(x, y)$  coincides with  $K$  or does not contain nonconstant polynomials, then  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is of finite dimension over  $K$ .

### Introduction

Let  $\mathbb{K}$  be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero and  $\mathbb{K}[x, y]$  be the polynomial algebra over  $\mathbb{K}$ . The Lie algebra  $W_2 = W_2(\mathbb{K})$  of all  $\mathbb{K}$ -derivations of  $\mathbb{K}[x, y]$  was studied by many authors (its finite dimensional subalgebras were described by S. Lie in case  $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$  [2], see also [3], [4]). The structure of subalgebras of the Lie algebra  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$  is of great interest because its elements can be considered as vector fields on  $\mathbb{K}^2$  with polynomial coefficients. In this paper, we give a characterization of centralizers of elements in the Lie algebra  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$ . Given a derivation  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  one can consider its extension on the field  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  of rational functions by the rule  $D(\frac{f}{g}) = \frac{D(f)g - fD(g)}{g^2}$  and the subfield of constants  $\ker D$ . We prove (Theorem 1) that  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is one-dimensional or two-dimensional (over  $\mathbb{K}$ ) in case  $\ker D = \mathbb{K}$ . If  $\ker D$  contains a nonconstant polynomial then  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is infinite dimensional, its structure is described. The last case when  $\ker D$  contains a rational function, but not a nonconstant polynomial yields against finite dimensional centralizers but of more complicated structure. Using these results we give a characterization of maximal abelian subalgebras of  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$  (Theorem 2).

We use standard notations, the ground field  $\mathbb{K}$  is algebraically closed of characteristic zero. A nonzero derivation  $D$  will be called reduced if from any equality  $D = hD_1, h \in \mathbb{K}[x, y], D_1 \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  it follows that  $h \in \mathbb{K}^*$ . It is obvious that every derivation  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  can be written in the form  $D = hD_0$  where  $h \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  and  $D_0$  is reduced. The field  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  will be denoted by  $R$ .

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Every polynomial  $p \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  defines a derivation  $D_p \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  (it is called a Jacobi derivation) by the rule:  $D_p(h) = \det J(p, h)$ , where  $J(p, h)$  is the Jacobi matrix of the polynomials  $p, h$ . If  $p$  is irreducible we denote by  $\delta_p$  a reduced derivation corresponding to  $D_p$ . Analogously every irreducible fraction  $p/q \in \mathbb{K}(x, y)$  defines a Jacobi derivation  $D_{p,q} = qD_p - pD_q \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$ , a reduced derivation corresponding to the last one will be denoted by  $\delta_{p,q}$ .

### 1. On centralizers of elements in $W_2(\mathbb{K})$

Let  $D$  be a nonzero derivation of  $\mathbb{K}[x, y]$ . It is obvious that  $D$  satisfies one of the following conditions: (1)  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  coincides with  $\mathbb{K}$ . (2)  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  contains a nonconstant polynomial. (3)  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  is different from  $\mathbb{K}$  and does not contain any nonconstant polynomial. We consider these cases in Lemmas 2, 4 and 5.

The next statement can be directly proved.

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\varphi(t) = u(t)/v(t) \in \mathbb{K}(t)$  be an irreducible fraction,  $\deg u = m$ ,  $\deg v = n$ . If the polynomials  $p, q \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  are algebraically independent over  $\mathbb{K}$  and irreducible, then the rational function  $\varphi(p/q)$  from  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  can be written in the form  $\varphi(p/q) = \bar{u}/\bar{v}$ , where  $\bar{u}, \bar{v}$  are homogeneous polynomials in  $p, q$  of the same degree  $\max(m, n)$ . These polynomials can be chosen to be coprime.*

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  be a derivation such that  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  is equal to  $\mathbb{K}$ . Then the centralizer  $C = C_{W_2}(D)$  coincides with  $\mathbb{K}D$ , or  $C = \mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1$  for a derivation  $D_1$  such that  $D, D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ .*

PROOF. Let first  $C = C_{W_2}(D)$  have rank 1 over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . If  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} C = 1$ , then  $C = \mathbb{K}D$  and all is done. Let  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} C > 1$  and  $D_1$  be such an element of  $C$  that  $D, D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}$ . Since  $\text{rk}_R C = 1$ , there exist polynomials  $f, g \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  such that  $fD + gD_1 = 0$  (at least one of the polynomials is nonconstant). Then there exist a reduced derivation  $D_0$  and polynomials  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  such that  $D = \alpha D_0, D_1 = \beta D_0$ . Since  $D, D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}$ , at least one of the polynomials  $\alpha, \beta$  is nonconstant, and  $\alpha/\beta$  is a nonconstant rational function. Further,

$$0 = [D, D_1] = [\alpha D_0, \beta D_0] = (\alpha D_0(\beta) - D_0(\alpha)\beta)D$$

and therefore  $\alpha D_0(\beta) - D_0(\alpha)\beta = 0$ . But then  $D(\frac{\alpha}{\beta}) = 0$  and since  $\frac{\alpha}{\beta} \notin \mathbb{K}$  we get a contradiction to our assumption on  $D$ . Therefore  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} C = 1$  and  $C = C_{W_2}(D) = \mathbb{K}D$ .

Let now  $C$  be of rank 2 over  $R = \mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . Then there exists an element  $D_1 \in C$  such that  $D_1, D$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . Let  $D_2$  be an arbitrary element of  $C$ , write  $D_2 = uD + vD_1$  for some  $u, v \in \mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . We have

$$[D, D_2] = D(u)D + D(v)D_1 = 0,$$

and taking into account the linear independence of  $D, D_1$  over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  we get  $D(u) = 0$  and  $D(v) = 0$ . Since  $\ker D = \mathbb{K}$  (in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ ) we see that  $u, v \in \mathbb{K}$  and  $D_2 \in \mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1$  i.e  $C \subseteq \mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1$ . As it holds obviously  $\mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1 \subseteq C$  we obtain  $C = \mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** ([1]) *Let  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  be a derivation such that  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  contains a nonconstant polynomial. Then  $D = h\delta_p$ , where  $h \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ ,  $\delta_p$  is a reduced derivation corresponding to the Jacobi derivation  $D_p$  for an irreducible polynomial  $p = p(x, y) \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ .*

*Definition 1.* (see also [1]). (1) Let  $p = p(x, y) \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  be an irreducible polynomial. A polynomial  $f = f(x, y)$  will be called  $p$ -free if  $f$  is not divisible by any polynomial in  $p$  of positive degree. Every polynomial  $g \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  can be written in the form  $g = g_0g_1$ , where  $g_0$  is a  $p$ -free polynomial and  $g_1 = g_1(p)$  is a polynomial of  $p$  (may be  $g_1 = \text{const}$ ). The degree of the polynomial  $g_1(p)$  in  $p$  will be called the  $p$ -degree of  $g$  and denoted by  $\deg_p g$ .

(2) Let  $p$  and  $q$  be algebraically independent irreducible polynomials from the ring  $\mathbb{K}[x, y]$ . A polynomial  $f(x, y) \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  will be called  $p$ - $q$ -free if  $f$  is not divisible by any homogeneous polynomial in  $p$  and  $q$  of positive degree. As earlier one can write every polynomial  $g \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  in the form  $g_0g_1$ , where  $g_0$  is a  $p$ - $q$ -free polynomial and  $g_1 = h(p, q)$  for some homogeneous polynomial  $h(s, t) \in \mathbb{K}[s, t]$ . The (total) degree of  $h$  in  $s, t$  will be called the  $p$ - $q$ -degree of  $g$  and denoted by  $\deg_{p-q} g$ .

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  be a derivation such that  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  contains a nonconstant polynomial. Then  $D = hf(p)\delta_p$  where  $p$  is an irreducible polynomial from  $\ker D$ ,  $h$  is a  $p$ -free polynomial and  $\delta_p$  is a reduced derivation corresponding to the Jacobi derivation  $D_p$ . The centralizer  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is one of the following algebras:*

- (1)  $C_{W_2}(D) = \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$
- (2)  $C_{W_2}(D) = \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p + \mathbb{K}[p]D_1$

for some  $D_1 \in C_{W_2}(D)$  such that  $D_1, D$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ .

**PROOF.** Using Lemma 3 we can write the derivation  $D$  in the form  $D = g\delta_p$ , where  $\delta_p$  is a reduced derivation corresponding to  $D_p$ . We write the polynomial  $g = g(x, y)$  in the form  $g = hf(p)$ , where  $f(p)$  is a polynomial of  $p$  (may be  $f(p) = \text{const}$ ) and  $h = h(x, y)$  is a  $p$ -free polynomial. Let first  $\text{rk}_R C = 1$ . Then any derivation  $D_1 \in C_{W_2}(D)$  is of the form  $D_1 = g_1\delta_p$ , for some polynomial  $g_1 \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ . It follows from the equality

$$0 = [D, D_1] = [hf(p)\delta_p, g_1\delta_p] = (f(p)\delta_p(h)g - hf(p)\delta_p(g_1))\delta_p$$

that  $\delta_p(h)g_1 - h\delta_p(g_1) = 0$  and therefore  $\delta_p(g_1/h) = 0$ . But then  $g_1/h = \varphi(p)$  for some rational function  $\varphi(t) \in \mathbb{K}(t)$  (since  $\ker \delta_p = \mathbb{K}(p)$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ ). Thus  $g_1/h = u(p)/v(p)$  for some polynomials  $u(t), v(t) \in \mathbb{K}[t]$  (these polynomials can be chosen coprime). From

the last equality we get  $g_1v(p) = hu(p)$ . If the polynomial  $v(t)$  is nonconstant, then taking into account the condition  $\mathbb{K} = \overline{\mathbb{K}}$  we see that every divisor of  $v(p)$  of the form  $p - \lambda_i, \lambda_i \in \mathbb{K}$  divides the polynomial  $h$ . But the latter is impossible because of choice of  $h$  and therefore  $v(p) = \text{const}$ . Denote  $u_1(t) = u(t)/v \in \mathbb{K}[t]$ . We get  $g_1 = hu_1(p)$  and  $D_1 = g_1\delta_p = hu_1(p)\delta_p \in \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$ . Since the element  $D_1$  was chosen arbitrarily we obtain  $C_{W_2}(D) \subseteq \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$ . It is obvious that  $\mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p \subseteq C_{W_2}(D)$  and therefore  $C_{W_2}(D) = \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$ . The centralizer  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is of type 1.

Let now  $C_{W_2}(D)$  be of rank 2 over  $R = \mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . Note that for any derivation  $D_1 \in C_{W_2}(D)$  satisfying the condition  $DD_1 = D_1D$  it follows that  $D_1(p) \in \ker D$ . Since  $\ker D = \mathbb{K}[p]$  (in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ ), then  $D_1(p) = f_1(p)$  for some polynomial  $f_1(t) \in \mathbb{K}[t]$ . Take an element  $D_1 \in C_{W_2}(D)$  such that the polynomial  $f_1(t)$  has the possible lowest degree. Take now any derivation  $D_2 \in C_{W_2}(D)$  and let  $D_2(p) = f_2(p)$ . Let us show that the polynomial  $f_2(t)$  is divisible by  $f_1(t)$ . Really, let this is not the case and for some  $f_2(t) \in \mathbb{K}[t]$  the greatest common divisor  $\gcd(f_2, f_1) = g(t)$  be of degree less than  $\min(\deg f_1, \deg f_2)$ . Then there exist polynomials  $a(t), b(t) \in \mathbb{K}[t]$  such that  $g(t) = a(t)f_1(t) + b(t)f_2(t)$ . The derivation  $D_3 = a(p)D_1 + b(p)D_2$  satisfies obviously the condition  $[D, D_3] = 0$  and  $D_3(p) = g(p)$ . The latter contradicts to the choice of the derivation  $D_1$ . Therefore  $f_2(t)$  is divisible by  $f_1(t)$ . Set  $\mu(t) = f_2(t)/f_1(t)$ . It is easy to see that

$$(D_2 - \mu(p)D_1)(p) = D_2(p) - \mu(p)D_1(p) = f_2(p) - \mu(p)f_1(p) = 0.$$

The latter means in view of Lemma 1 that  $D_2 - \mu(p)D_1 = g\delta_p$  for some polynomial  $g \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ . Since  $D_2 - \mu(p)D_1 \in C$ , it follows from above proven that  $g = u(p)h$  for some  $u(p) \in \mathbb{K}[p]$ . Thus,  $D_2 \in \mathbb{K}[p]D_1 + \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$ . The inverse inclusion holds obviously and therefore  $C_{W_2}(D) = \mathbb{K}[p]D_1 + \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  be such a derivation that  $\ker D \neq \mathbb{K}$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  and  $\ker D$  does not contain any nonconstant polynomial. Then  $D = hf(p, q)\delta_{p,q}$ , where  $p, q$  are algebraically independent over  $\mathbb{K}$  irreducible polynomials such that  $\ker D = \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})$ ,  $f(p, q)$  is a homogeneous polynomial in  $p$  and  $q$  of degree  $m \geq 0$ , the polynomial  $h$  is  $p$ - $q$ -free and  $\delta_{p,q}$  is a reduced derivation corresponding to  $qD_p - pD_q$ . The centralizer  $C = C_{W_2}(D)$  is one of the following algebras:*

- (1)  $C = \mathbb{K}[p, q]_m h\delta_{p,q}$ , where  $\mathbb{K}[p, q]_m$  is the space of all homogeneous polynomials in  $p, q$  of degree  $m = \deg_{p-q} f$ , in particular  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} C = m + 1$ .
- (2)  $C = (\mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})D + \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})D_1) \cap W_2(\mathbb{K})$ , where  $D_1 \in C$ , such that  $D, D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . The subalgebra  $C$  is finite dimensional over  $\mathbb{K}$ , and if  $D = P\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $D_1 = P_1\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q_1\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $\Delta = PQ_1 - P_1Q$ , and  $\deg_{p-q}\Delta = s$ , then  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} C \leq m + s + 2$ , where  $m = \deg_{p-q} f$ .

PROOF. Since  $\ker D \neq \mathbb{K}$ , the subfield  $\ker D$  contains a nonconstant rational function. Note that  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  is algebraically closed in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ , so  $\text{tr.deg}_{\mathbb{K}} \ker D = 1$ . The Gordan's Theorem (see [6], Th. 3) yields now that  $\ker D = \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})$  for a nonconstant rational function  $p/q$ . The polynomials  $p$  and  $q$  can be chosen to be irreducible (see, for example [5]). It can be easily shown that  $D = hf(p, q)\delta_{p,q}$  where  $\delta_{p,q}$  is a reduced derivation correspond to  $qD_p - pD_q$ ,  $h$  is  $p$ - $q$ -free and  $f(p, q)$  is a homogeneous polynomial in  $p, q$ . Set  $m = \deg_{p-q} f$ .

Let first  $C = C_{W_2}(D)$  be of rank 1 over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . Take any element  $D_1 \in C$ . Then  $D_1 = d_1\delta_{p,q}$  for some polynomial  $d_1$ , the polynomial  $d_1$  can be written in the form  $d_1 = f_1h_1$ , where  $f_1 = f_1(p, q)$  is a homogeneous polynomial in  $p, q$  and  $h_1$  is  $p$ - $q$ -free. The derivations  $D$  and  $D_1$  satisfy the condition

$$[D, D_1] = [hf(p, q)\delta_{p,q}, h_1f_1\delta_{p,q}] = 0.$$

But then  $\delta_{p,q}(hf)h_1f_1 - hf\delta_{p,q}(h_1f_1) = 0$  and therefore  $\delta_{p,q}(hf/h_1f_1) = 0$ . The latter means that  $\frac{hf}{h_1f_1} \in \ker D = \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})$  and  $hf/h_1f_1 = u(p, q)/v(p, q)$  for some homogeneous (in  $p, q$ ) polynomials  $u, v$  of the same degree (see Lemma 1). We can choose these polynomials to be coprime as polynomials in  $p, q$ . But then they are coprime as polynomials in  $x, y$  because  $p - \lambda_i q$  and  $p - \lambda_j q$  are coprime provided that  $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$ .

It follows from these considerations that  $hfv = h_1f_1u$  with homogeneous polynomials  $fv, f_1u$  in  $p, q$  and  $p$ - $q$ -free polynomials  $h, h_1$ . Since the decomposition into product of a  $p$ - $q$ -free polynomial and a homogeneous in  $p, q$  polynomial is unique up to nonzero scalar multiple it follows that  $h_1 = hc$  for some  $c \in \mathbb{K}^*$ . As  $\deg_{p-q} u = \deg_{p-q} v$  by the choice of these polynomials we see that  $\deg_{p-q} f_1 = \deg_{p-q} f = m$ . Then  $D_1 = f_1h_1\delta_{p,q} \in \mathbb{K}[p, q]_m h\delta_{p,q}$  where  $\mathbb{K}[p, q]_m$  is the vector space of all homogeneous polynomials in  $p, q$  of degree  $m$  in  $p, q$ . One can easily show that  $\mathbb{K}[p, q]_m h\delta_{p,q} \subseteq C$  and therefore  $C = \mathbb{K}[p, q]_m h\delta_{p,q}$ . The centralizer is of type 1 of Lemma.

Let now the rank  $C_{W_2}(D)$  be equal to 2 (over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ ). Write  $D = P\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $D_1 = P_1\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q_1\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  with  $P, Q, P_1, Q_1 \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  and let  $\Delta_1 = PQ_1 - P_1Q$ . Further, take an another element  $D_2 \in C$  such that  $D, D_2$  are also linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . Then  $D_2 = \alpha D + \beta D_1$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . It follows from the relations  $0 = [D, D_2] = [D, \alpha D + \beta D_1] = D(\alpha)D + D(\beta)D_1$  that  $D(\alpha) = D(\beta) = 0$  (because of linearly independence of  $D, D_1$ ). But then  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})$  (recall that  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  coincides with  $\mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})$ ) and therefore  $C \subseteq (\mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})D + K(\frac{p}{q})D_1) \cap W_2(\mathbb{K})$ . The inverse to this inclusion also holds, so we have  $C = (\mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})D + K(\frac{p}{q})D_1) \cap W_2(\mathbb{K})$ .

Write now the derivation  $D_2$  in the form  $D_2 = P_2\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q_2\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$  with  $P_2, Q_2 \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  and denote  $\Delta_2 = PQ_2 - P_2Q$ . Since  $P_2 = \alpha P + \beta P_1$  and  $Q_2 = \alpha Q + \beta Q_1$ , we have  $\Delta_2 = \beta\Delta_1$ . The rational function  $\beta \in \mathbb{K}(p/q)$  can be written in the form  $\beta = u/v$ , where  $u, v$  are homogeneous polynomials in  $p, q$  and  $\deg_{p-q} u = \deg_{p-q} v$  (see Lemma 1). Then we

obtain from the equality  $\Delta_2 = \beta\Delta_1$  and condition  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2 \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  that the polynomials  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  have the same  $p$ - $q$ -degree. Besides, these polynomials have the same  $p$ - $q$ -free part up to nonzero scalar multipliers. Let  $\deg_{p-q}\Delta_1 = s$ . Note that the vector space  $\mathbb{K}[p, q]_s$  of all homogeneous polynomials of degree  $s$  in  $p, q$  has dimension  $s + 1$  over  $\mathbb{K}$ . The centralizer  $C = C_{W_2}(D)$  has a  $\mathbb{K}$ -subspace  $C_0$  consisting of all derivations linearly dependent with  $D$ . By the above proven the subspace  $C_0$  is of dimension  $m$  over  $\mathbb{K}$  where  $m$  is the  $p$ - $q$ -degree of the polynomial  $f$  from the decomposition  $D = hf\delta_{p,q}$ . Take arbitrary derivations  $T_1, \dots, T_{s+2}$  from  $C$ , write down  $T_i = P_i\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q_i\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, s+2$ , and denote  $\Delta_i = PQ_i - P_iQ$ . Since the determinantes  $\Delta_i$  have the same  $p$ - $q$ -free part (up to nonzero scalar multipliers) and  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}}\mathbb{K}[p, q]_s = s + 1$ , there exist elements  $c_1, \dots, c_{s+2} \in \mathbb{K}$  such that  $c_1\Delta_1 + \dots + c_{s+2}\Delta_{s+2} = 0$  and at least one of  $c_i$  is nonzero. Consider the derivation  $T = c_1T_1 + \dots + c_{s+2}T_{s+2} = U\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + V\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $U, V \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$  from the centralizer  $C$ . It is obvious that  $PV - QU = 0$  and this equality implies that  $D$  and  $T$  are linearly dependent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ , i.e.  $T \in C_0$ . Therefore  $\dim C/C_0 \leq s + 1$ . But then the dimension of  $C$  over  $\mathbb{K}$  does not exceed  $(m + 1) + (s + 1) = m + s + 2$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $D$  be an arbitrary nonzero element of  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$ . Then the centralizer  $C = C_{W_2}(D)$  is a subalgebra of one of the following types:*

- (1)  $C = \mathbb{K}D$ , if  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  coincides with  $\mathbb{K}$ .
- (2)  $C = \mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1$ , if  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  coincides with  $\mathbb{K}$  and there exists  $D_1$  such that  $[D, D_1] = 0$  and  $D, D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ .
- (3)  $C = \mathbb{K}[p]h\delta_p$ , if  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  contains a nonconstant polynomial, this polynomial  $p$  can be chosen irreducible,  $D = hf\delta_p$ , where  $f$  is a polynomial in  $p$ ,  $h$  is  $p$ -free and  $\delta_p$  is a reduced derivation corresponding to  $D_p$ .
- (4)  $C = \mathbb{K}[p, q]_m h\delta_{p,q}$ , if  $\ker D$  contains a nonconstant rational function  $p/q$  and does not contain any nonconstant polynomial,  $\ker D = \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})$ ,  $D = hf\delta_{p,q}$ , where  $f$  is a homogeneous polynomial in  $p, q$  of degree  $m$ ,  $h$  is a  $p$ - $q$ -free polynomial and  $\delta_{p,q}$  is a reduced derivation corresponding to  $qD_p - pD_q$ .
- (5)  $C = (\mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})D + \mathbb{K}(\frac{p}{q})D_1) \cap W_2(\mathbb{K})$ , where  $D$  satisfies all the conditions of the previous part of Theorem,  $D$  and  $D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$   $[D_1, D] = 0$ . If  $D = P\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $D_1 = P_1\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + Q_1\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ , and  $\Delta = PQ_1 - P_1Q$  then  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} C \leq m + s + 2$ , where  $m$  as in part 4 of Theorem and  $s = \deg_{p-q}\Delta$ .

PROOF. See Lemmas 2, 4 and 5.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.** *If  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  and  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is infinite dimensional over  $\mathbb{K}$ , then  $\ker D$  contains a nonconstant polynomial which can be chosen to be irreducible.*

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $L$  be a maximal abelian subalgebra of the Lie algebra  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$ . Then  $L$  is one of the following algebras:*

- (1) One-dimensional of the form  $\mathbb{K}D$  where  $D \in W_2(\mathbb{K})$  and  $\ker D$  in  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  coincides with  $\mathbb{K}$ .
- (2) Two-dimensional of the form  $\mathbb{K}D + \mathbb{K}D_1$  where  $D, D_1$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ .
- (3) Finite dimensional of the form  $\mathbb{K}[p, q]_m h \delta_{p, q}$ , where  $h \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ ,  $\mathbb{K}[p, q]_m$  is the vector space of all homogeneous in  $p, q$  polynomials of degree  $m$  (see Theorem 1).
- (4) Infinite dimensional of the form  $\mathbb{K}[p] h \delta_p$ , where  $h \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$ ,  $\mathbb{K}[p]$  is the vector space of polynomials in  $p$  (see Theorem 1).

PROOF. Let  $L$  be a maximal abelian subalgebra of  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$ . If  $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{K}(x, y)} L = 2$  then  $L$  contains elements  $D_1, D_2$  which form a basis of  $W_2(\mathbb{K})$  over  $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$  (as a vector space). But then every element  $D$  of  $L$  can be written in the form  $D = \alpha_1 D_1 + \alpha_2 D_2$  for some  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{K}(x, y)$ . Since  $[D, D_1] = [D, D_2] = 0$  we have that  $D_1(\alpha_i) = 0, D_2(\alpha_i) = 0, i = 1, 2$ . The latter means that  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{K}$  and therefore  $L = \mathbb{K}D_1 + \mathbb{K}D_2$ . The Lie algebra  $L$  is of type 2 of this Theorem.

Let now  $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{K}(x, y)} L = 1$ . Take any nonzero element  $D \in L$ . If  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} L = \infty$ , then  $L \subseteq C_{W_2}(D)$  and  $C_{W_2}(D) = \mathbb{K}[p] h \delta_p$  by Theorem 1. Since  $C_{W_2}(D)$  is abelian we see that  $L = C_{W_2}(D)$  and  $L$  is of type 4. If  $\dim_{\mathbb{K}} L < \infty$  then one can analogously show that  $L$  is of type 1 or 3.  $\square$

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