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**Daniel Beltita, Sasmita Patnaik\*** (sasmita@iitk.ac.in) and **Gary Weiss**. *CARTAN SUBALGEBRAS OF OPERATOR IDEALS*.

Denote by  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{I}}(\mathcal{H})$  the group of all special unitary operators  $V \in \mathbf{1} + \mathcal{I}$  where  $\mathcal{H}$  is a separable infinite-dimensional complex Hilbert space and  $\mathcal{I}$  is an ideal of  $B(\mathcal{H})$ . An ideal has a natural structure of a Lie algebra where the Lie bracket is defined as the commutator of operators. For every Cartan subalgebra  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{I}$  (maximal abelian self-adjoint subalgebra of  $\mathcal{I}$ ), its conjugacy class is defined as the set of Cartan subalgebras  $\{VCV^* \mid V \in \mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{I}}(\mathcal{H})\}$ . For nonzero proper ideals  $\mathcal{I}$  we construct an uncountable family of Cartan subalgebras  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathcal{I}$  with distinct conjugacy classes under the action of the group  $\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{I}}(\mathcal{H})$ . This is in contrast to the by now classical observation of P. de La Harpe who showed that when  $\mathcal{I}$  is any of the Schatten ideals, there is precisely one conjugacy class under the action of the full group of unitary operators. (Received February 07, 2014)