

32. Classical Lie Groups

Version 1.1

Notiztitel

(32.1) Real Lie Groups.

Lie group	dim.	Lie algebra
1° $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$	n^2	$\mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$
2° $SL(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : \det A = 1\}$	$n^2 - 1$	$\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{a : \text{tr} a = 0\}$
3° $O(n) = O(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : A^T A = \mathbb{1}_n\}$	$\frac{n}{2}(n-1)$	$\mathfrak{o}(n) = \{a : a^T + a = 0\}$
4° $SO(n) = SO(n, \mathbb{R}) = O(n, \mathbb{R}) \cap SL(n, \mathbb{R})$	"	$\mathfrak{o}(n)$
5° $Sp(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 2n} : A^T J A = J\}$ where $J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{1}_n \\ -\mathbb{1}_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$2n^2 + n$	$\mathfrak{sp}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{a \in \mathbb{R}^{2n \times 2n} : a^T J + J a = 0\}$
6° $O(3, 1; \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{4 \times 4} : A^T \eta A = \eta\}$ where $\eta = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{1}_3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	6	$\mathfrak{o}(3, 1; \mathbb{R}) = \{a^T \eta + \eta a = 0\}$
7° $O(l, k; \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : A^T \Phi A = \Phi\}$ where $\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{1}_l & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbb{1}_k \end{pmatrix}$	$\frac{n}{2}(n-1)$	$\mathfrak{o}(l, k; \mathbb{R}) = \{a^T \Phi + \Phi a = 0\}$
8° $Spin(n)$ universal cover of $SO(n)$ with two sheets	$\frac{n}{2}(n-1)$	$\mathfrak{o}(n, \mathbb{R})$
9° $U(m) = \{A \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m} : \bar{A}^T A = \mathbb{1}_m\}$	m^2	$\mathfrak{u}(m) = \{a \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times m} : \bar{a}^T + a = 0\}$
10° $SU(m) = \{A \in U(m) : \det A = 1\}$	$m^2 - 1$	$\mathfrak{su}(m) = \{a \in \mathfrak{u}(m) : \text{tr} a = 0\}$
11° $U(k, \mathbb{H}) = \{A \in \mathbb{H}^{k \times k} : \bar{A}^T A = \mathbb{1}_k\}$ $\mathbb{H} \cong \mathbb{R}^4 \quad x = x_0 + ix_1 + jx_2 + kx_3$ $\bar{x} = x_0 - ix_1 - jx_2 - kx_3$		

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Comments:

Ad 1°: $GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ open submanifold of $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \cong \mathbb{R}^{n^2}$.

In particular, $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is a real analytic manifold.

$$(A, B) \mapsto A \circ B^{-1}$$

is real analytic, since the components of $A \circ B^{-1}$ are rational functions in the components of A and B . Hence, $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is a real analytic Lie group.

For $G = GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ as an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ the tangent space $T_e G$ has a natural identification with $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. And this identification induces a Lie algebra homomorphism

$$\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie } GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} = \text{End}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

with the commutator of matrix multiplication as the Lie bracket of $\mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$. Hence, one writes

$$\text{Lie } GL(n, \mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} = \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R})$$

Ad 2° $\det : GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is smooth as a polynomial, and even analytic. Because of $\text{grad } \det A \neq 0$ for all $A \in SL(n, \mathbb{R}) = \det^{-1}(+1)$, $SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is a submanifold. (This follows by applying 29.12 since $SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is closed.) Using the fact that $SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is a subgroup as well, we conclude that

that $SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is a Lie group.

Let us deduce $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{X \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2} : \text{tr } X = 0\}$ in detail:

For a curve $A: J \rightarrow SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ with $A(0) = \text{id}_n = \mathbb{1}_n$ we may assume $\|A(t) - \mathbb{1}_n\| < 1$ for $t \in J$ by choosing J to be a small open interval containing 0. Hence, there exists a curve $B: J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ with $A(t) = \exp B(t)$. Because of $\det A = \det \exp B = \exp \text{tr } B$ (and the continuity of B) we have $\text{tr } B(t) = 0$. As a consequence, $\text{tr } \dot{B}(t) = 0$, since $0 = \frac{d}{dt} (\text{tr } B) = \text{tr } \dot{B}(t)$. In particular, $\text{tr } \dot{B}(0) = 0$. Finally, $\dot{A}(t) = \dot{B}(t) \exp B(t) = \dot{B}(t) A(t)$ and $\dot{A}(0) = \dot{B}(0) A(0) = \dot{B}(0)$. Thus $\dot{A}(0) \in \{X : \text{tr } X = 0\} = \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R})$. Conversely, let $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n^2}$ satisfy $\text{tr } X = 0$. $A(t) := \exp tX = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} t^n X^n$ is a well-defined smooth curve with $\det A(t) = \exp \text{tr } X = 1$, i.e. $A(t) \in SL(n, \mathbb{R})$.

Ad 3°-7° similarly, with different β defining bilinear maps $\mathbb{R}^{n^2} \times \mathbb{R}^{n^2} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^T \beta B$ ($\beta = \mathbb{1}_n, \beta = \mathbb{F}, \beta = \eta, \beta = \bar{\Phi}$)

(32.2) Complex Lie Groups: 1°-7° as in (32.1) but with \mathbb{C} instead of \mathbb{R} . They carry a natural complex-analytic

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structure as a complex manifold.

(32.3) Compactness: $O(n, \mathbb{R}), SO(n, \mathbb{R}), U(m), SU(m), U(k, \mathbb{H})$ are compact Lie groups since they are bounded closed subsets of $\mathbb{K}^{n^2 \times n^2}$. The groups $GL(n, \mathbb{R}), SL(n, \mathbb{R}) (n \neq 1), SL(n, \mathbb{C}), O(3, 1; \mathbb{R}), O(n, \mathbb{C}) \cong O(n, \mathbb{R}) \times \mathbb{R}^n$ are not compact. $Spin(n)$ is compact.

(32.4) Connectedness: $SO(n, \mathbb{R}), U(m), SU(m), Spin(n), GL(n, \mathbb{C}), SL(n, \mathbb{C}), U(k, \mathbb{H}), SL(n, \mathbb{R})$ are connected. $SU(m), U(k, \mathbb{H})$ and $Spin(n)$ are simply connected. $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ has 2 connected components, $GL^+(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : \det A > 0\}$ and $GL^-(n, \mathbb{R}) = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} : \det A < 0\}$. The Lorentz group has the following 4 connected components

$$L_+^\uparrow := \{A : \det A = 1 \text{ \& } A_4^4 \geq 1\} \text{ (the proper Lorentz group; } A = (A_k^j))$$

$$L_-^\uparrow := \{A : \det A = -1 \text{ \& } A_4^4 \geq 1\}$$

$$L_+^\downarrow := \{A : \det A = 1 \text{ \& } A_4^4 \leq -1\}$$

$$L_-^\downarrow := \{A : \det A = -1 \text{ \& } A_4^4 \leq -1\}$$

Some useful examples and isomorphisms:

(32.5) $U(1) \cong SU(1) \cong SO(2, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{S}^1$, where \mathbb{S}^1 is the Lie group

with underlying manifold $\{e^{i\varphi} \mid \varphi \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{R}^2$
 and $e^{i\varphi} e^{i\psi} := e^{i(\varphi+\psi)}$.

(32.6) $U(2) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} z & -\bar{w}e^{i\varphi} \\ w & \bar{z}e^{i\varphi} \end{pmatrix} : (z, w) \in \mathbb{C}^2, \varphi \in \mathbb{R} \text{ \& } z\bar{z} + w\bar{w} = 1 \right\} \cong \mathbb{S}^3 \times \mathbb{S}^1$,
 where " \cong " denotes a manifold isomorphism.

(32.7) $SU(2) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} z & -\bar{w} \\ w & \bar{z} \end{pmatrix} : z\bar{z} + w\bar{w} = 1 \right\} \cong \mathbb{S}^3$ as mpls.

$SU(2) \cong U(1, \mathbb{H})$ as Lie groups.

(32.8) $Spin(3) \cong SU(2)$ as Lie groups.

$Spin(4) \cong SU(2) \times SU(2)$ as Lie group.

(32.10) $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ is connected and isomorphic to $\mathbb{S}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$ as a manifold. And $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ is the universal cover of L_+^\uparrow , the proper Lorentz group.

(32.11) Further Lie group isomorphisms:

$$Sp(1, \mathbb{C}) \cong SL(2, \mathbb{C})$$

$$Sp(1, \mathbb{R}) \cong SL(2, \mathbb{R})$$

$$Spin(5) \cong U(2, \mathbb{H})$$

$$Spin(6) \cong SU(4)$$