

More precisely: let for $A \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$, $A^* \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ be defined by:

$$\langle Av, w \rangle = \langle v, A^*w \rangle \quad \forall v, w \in V.$$

Then \mathfrak{g} self-adjoint means that $\forall A \in \mathfrak{g}$, $A^* \in \mathfrak{g}$.

Proof of Thm.

In the sequel if $T \in \text{End}(W)$ we will denote by $\text{tr}_W(T)$ the trace of T as endomorphism of W .

In the proof we assume $K = \mathbb{R}$; $K = \mathbb{C}$ is analogous.

With \langle, \rangle and $A \mapsto A^*$ as above

We define a scalar product on $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$:

$$\langle\langle A, B \rangle\rangle := \text{tr}_V(A \cdot B^*), \quad A, B \in \mathfrak{gl}(V).$$

Let's just verify ~~non~~ positivity:

$$\begin{aligned} &= \text{tr}_V (A B^* x) - \text{tr}_V (A x B^*) \\ &= \text{tr}_V (A ((x^* B)^* - (B x^*)^*)) \\ &= \text{tr}_V (A [x^*, B]^*) \\ &= \langle\langle A, \text{ad}_y(x^*) B \rangle\rangle \end{aligned}$$

which shows the claim.

Thus $\text{ad}(y)$ is a Θ -invariant subalg. of $\mathfrak{gl}(y)$. Let then E_1, \dots, E_m be an orthonormal basis of y wrt $\langle\langle \rangle\rangle$. Then if $A \in \mathfrak{gl}(m, \mathbb{R})$, $\Theta(A) = \epsilon A$.

Hence $\forall x \in y$:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}_y (\underbrace{\text{ad}(x)}_A \underbrace{\text{ad}(x^*)}_A) &= \text{tr}_y (\underbrace{\text{ad}(x)}_A \Theta(\underbrace{\text{ad}(x^*)}_A)) \\ &= \text{tr}(A^t A) \geq 0 \quad \text{with equality} \Leftrightarrow A=0 \end{aligned}$$

that is $\text{ad}_y(x) = 0$; hence $x \in \mathcal{Z}(y) = \{0\}$.



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Let e_1, \dots, e_n be an orthonormal basis of V

then if $A = (a_{ij})$, $A^* = {}^t(a_{ij})$

$$\text{and } \text{tr}_V(AA^*) = \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{ij}^2 \geq 0$$

with equality $\Leftrightarrow A = 0$.

Now we restrict this scalar product to

\mathfrak{g} ; let $\theta: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$

be the adjoint, that is ~~if $T, S \in \mathfrak{g}$~~

if $T \in \mathfrak{g}$, $A, B \in \mathfrak{g}$ then:

$$\langle T(A), B \rangle = \langle A, \theta(T)(B) \rangle$$

$$\forall A, B \in \mathfrak{g}.$$

We claim: $\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(x^*) = \theta(\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(x)) \quad \forall x \in \mathfrak{g}$.

Indeed $\forall A, B \in \mathfrak{g}$:

$$\langle \text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(x^*)A, B \rangle = \text{tr}_V([x, A]B^*)$$

$$= \text{tr}_V(xAB^*) - \text{tr}_V(AXB^*) =$$

Thm 4.58 now easily leads to families of examples of semisimple Lie algebras.

Example 4.55.

(1) $sl(n, \mathbb{R}) \subset gl(n, \mathbb{R})$ is invariant under $A \mapsto {}^t A$ and $Z(sl(n, \mathbb{R})) = \{0\}$.

(2) $sl(n, \mathbb{C}) \subset gl(n, \mathbb{C})$ is invariant under $A \mapsto {}^t \bar{A}$ and $Z(sl(n, \mathbb{C})) = \{0\}$.

(3) $p+q=n$, $\mathfrak{u}(p, q) = \left\{ X \in gl(n, \mathbb{R}) : \begin{matrix} {}^t X J_{p,q} + J_{p,q} X = 0 \end{matrix} \right\}$

where $J_{p,q} = \begin{pmatrix} I_p & 0 \\ 0 & -I_q \end{pmatrix}$ is invariant under

$X \mapsto {}^t X$: indeed from ${}^t X J_{p,q} + J_{p,q} X = 0$

we obtain by multiplying on the left and

right with $J_{p,q}$: $J_{p,q} {}^t X + X J_{p,q} = 0$

since $J_{p,q}^2 = I_n$.

One verifies that $Z(\mathfrak{u}(p, q)) = \{0\}$.

$$(4) \Delta_{\mathbb{P}}(\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R})) = \{ X \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R}) : [X, J] + JX = 0 \}$$

with $J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, is invariant under

$X \mapsto \pm X$, as a verification analogous

to the one in (3) shows. Also $Z(\mathfrak{sp}(2n, \mathbb{R}) | = \mathfrak{b})$.

It will turn out to be important to have a description of all ideals of a semisimple Lie algebra.

Prop. 4.50 Let $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \mathfrak{g}_i$ be a direct sum of simple ideals. Then any ideal ~~in~~ \mathfrak{g}

is of the form $\bigoplus_{i \in J} \mathfrak{g}_i$ for some $J \subset I$.

Proof: Let $J \subset I$ be minimal with $\mathfrak{h} \subset \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathfrak{g}_j$.

Since $\mathfrak{g}_j \triangleleft \mathfrak{g}$, $[\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{g}_j] \subset \mathfrak{g}_j$ and since

\mathfrak{g}_j is simple either $[\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{g}_j] = \mathfrak{g}_j$ implying

$\mathfrak{g}_j = [\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{g}_j] \subset \mathfrak{h}$ since \mathfrak{g} is an ideal,

or $[\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{g}_j] = 0$. Let's exclude the latter

case; let $x \in \mathfrak{h}$ and write $x = \sum_{j \in J} x_j$.

Then $[\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{g}_j] = 0$ implies $\forall Y_j \in \mathfrak{g}_j$:

$0 = [x, Y_j] = [x_j, Y_j]$ which implies

$x_j \in Z(\mathfrak{g}_j) = (0)$. This would hold

for any $x \in \mathfrak{h}$ and contradict the mini-

mality of J . Thus we are in the first

case, hence $\mathfrak{g}_j \subset \mathfrak{h} \quad \forall j \in J$ which

implies $\mathfrak{h} = \bigoplus_{j \in J} \mathfrak{g}_j$. \square

Now we are going to put everything together

and obtain a structure theorem for

semisimple connected groups.

Let G be connected semisimple; then its Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{g}_r$ is a direct sum of simple ideals. In general one can not expect G to be a direct product of simple Lie groups.

Example 4.1 Let $Z = \{(\pm I_2)\}$ be

the center of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ and let

$$D = \{(I_2, I_2), (-I_2, -I_2)\} \subset Z^2$$

Define $G = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R}) / D$.

$$\text{Let } G_1 = \text{pr}(SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times \{I_2\})$$

$$G_2 = \text{pr}(\{I_2\} \times SL(2, \mathbb{R}))$$

$$\text{then } \text{Lie}(G_1) = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R}) \oplus (0)$$

$$\text{Lie}(G_2) = (0) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$$

but $G_1 \cap G_2 = Z \times Z / D$ which has order two.

In fact this example reflects the general case:

Thm 4.62 Let G be a connected semisimple Lie group and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{g}_r$ the

decomposition of its Lie algebra into simple ideals. Then there are closed connected normal subgroups $G_i \triangleleft G$ with

$\text{Lie}(G_i) = \mathfrak{g}_i$ such that the product

$$\begin{aligned} \text{map } \mu &: G_1 \times \dots \times G_r \longrightarrow G \\ & (g_1, \dots, g_r) \longmapsto g_1 \dots g_r \end{aligned}$$

is a surjective homomorphism with

$$\text{Kern} \subset \prod_{i=1}^r Z(G_i).$$

Remark 4.63 Since $\text{Lie } Z(G_i) = Z(\mathfrak{g}_i) = 0$

the subgroup $Z(G_i) < G_i$ is discrete;

for the same reason $Z(G)$ is a discrete subgroup of G .

Lemma 4.64. Let G be a Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and $\mathfrak{r}_1, \mathfrak{r}_2$ ideals in \mathfrak{g} with $[\mathfrak{r}_1, \mathfrak{r}_2] = 0$. Let $N_i = \overline{\langle \exp \mathfrak{r}_i \rangle}$. Then N_i are closed connected and $[N_1, N_2] = e$.

Proof: $\text{ad}(x_1)(x_2) = 0 \quad \forall x_i \in \mathfrak{r}_i$.

$$\int. \quad \underbrace{\text{Exp}(\text{ad}(x_1)(x_2))}_{\text{Ad}(\exp(x_1))}(x_2) = x_2$$

$$\text{But then: } \underbrace{\exp(\text{Ad}(\exp(x_1))(x_2))}_{\text{Int}(\exp(x_1))} = \exp x_2$$

that implies $\exp \mathfrak{r}_1$ commutes with

$\exp \mathfrak{r}_2$, so does $\langle \exp \mathfrak{r}_1 \rangle$ and

$\langle \exp \mathfrak{r}_2 \rangle$ and hence N_1 and N_2 commute.

□

Proof of Thm 4.62: We may assume that

$r \geq 2$. Then by Lemma 4.64, $G_i := \overline{\langle \exp \mathfrak{g}_i \rangle}$

is closed connected normal in G and

$$[G_i, G_j] = \{e\} \quad i \neq j.$$

But then $[\text{Lie}(G_i), \text{Lie}(G_j)] = 0$, $i \neq j$.

Now $\mathfrak{g}_i \subset \text{Lie}(G_i) \triangleleft \mathfrak{g}$ and if for

some i there is not equality, then by

Prop. 4.60 there is $j \neq i$ such that

$$\text{Lie}(G_i) \supset \mathfrak{g}_j.$$

But $\text{Lie}(G_j) \supset \mathfrak{g}_j$ and this would

imply $[\mathfrak{g}_j, \mathfrak{g}_j] = 0$ contradiction since

\mathfrak{g}_i is simple. Thus:

$$\text{Lie}(G_i) = \mathfrak{g}_i \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq r.$$

Since $\forall i \neq j$, $[G_i, G_j] = \{e\}$, the map

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$$m: G_1 \times \dots \times G_r \rightarrow G$$

$$(g_1, \dots, g_r) \mapsto g_1 \dots g_r$$

is a homomorphism.

Its derivative is then

$$\begin{aligned} D_e m(x_1, \dots, x_r) &= \sum_{i=1}^r D_e m(0, \dots, 0, x_i, 0, \dots, 0) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^r x_i \end{aligned}$$

and hence $D_e m$ implements the vector space isomorphism

$$g_1 \times \dots \times g_r \rightarrow g$$

$$(x_1, \dots, x_r) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^r x_i$$

Thus m near (e, \dots, e) is a local diffeomorphism which implies ~~on one~~

~~side that~~ $m(G_1 \times \dots \times G_r)$ is open in G

hence since G is connected

$$m(G_1 \times \dots \times G_r) = G.$$

Let now $(g_1, \dots, g_r) \in \text{Kern}$. Then

$$g_1 \cdots g_r = (e)$$

But then, $g_i^{-1} = g_1 \cdots g_{i-1} g_{i+1} \cdots g_r$

that is $g_i^{-1} \in G_i \cap m\left(\prod_{j \neq i} G_j\right)$

Since G_i and $m\left(\prod_{j \neq i} G_j\right)$ commute

we get $g_i \in Z(G_i)$ and thus

$$\text{Kern} \subset \prod_{i=1}^r Z(G_i). \quad \square$$