

### 3.4 The exponential map

The exponential map of a Lie group is a powerful computational tool that links a Lie group to its Lie algebra. It is obtained from the simple observation, that a left invariant vector field generates a one parameter group of diffeomorphisms of a special type.

We will start by discussing the special case of  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$  which requires less background from differential geometry. In this case, the Lie group exponential turns out to be the matrix exponential.  
We will prove this statement later!

Choose any norm  $\| \cdot \|$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and embed  $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$  with the so called operator norm

$$\|A\| := \sup_{\|v\| \leq 1} \|Av\|.$$

The operator norm satisfies  $\|AB\| \leq \|A\| \|B\|$ .

### Proposition 3.44

1) The series  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{A^n}{n!}$  converges uniformly on balls with finite radius in  $M_{n,n}(\mathbb{R})$  to a smooth map called  $\text{Exp}$ . In fact  $\text{Exp}$  is real analytic.

2) For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$   $A, B$  with  $[A, B] = 0$   
 $\text{Exp}(A+B) = \text{Exp}(A) \cdot \text{Exp}(B)$ .

In particular  $\text{Exp}$  takes values in  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ .

3) For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$   $A \in M_{n,n}(\mathbb{R})$  the map

$$\rho: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{R})$$

$$t \longmapsto \text{Exp}(tA)$$

is a smooth homeomorphism with

$$\rho'(0) = A.$$

4) Any smooth homeomorphism

$$\psi: \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{R})$$

is of the form  $\psi(t) = \text{Exp}(t\psi'(0))$

### Proof

1) For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$   $A$  with  $\|A\| \leq R$  and  $N \gg 1$ ,

we have  $\| \frac{A^N}{N!} \| \leq \frac{R^N}{N!}$

The uniform convergence of the series on compact sets follows since  $\sum \frac{R^N}{N!} < \infty$ .

In order to show the uniform convergence of the derivatives we note that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{ij}} X^n = \sum_{k_1+k_2=n-1} X^{k_1} E_{ij} X^{k_2} \quad (*)$$

Hence  $\| \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{ij}} X^n \| \leq n \cdot \| X^{n-1} \|$ .

Applying (\*) iteratively it is possible to get explicit estimates for

higher order partial derivatives,

and show that for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}^i$

and all partial derivatives  $\frac{\partial^k}{\partial x_{ij}^k}$  of order  $k$ .

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\partial^k}{\partial x_{ij}^k} \frac{X^n}{n!}$$

converges uniformly on compact sets.

Hence  $\text{Exp}$  is smooth. A similar

argument proves real analyticity.  $\square$

2) If  $AB = BA$  then:

$$(A+B)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} A^k B^{n-k}.$$

↳ (Can use this to prove commutativity, not true in general!)

In particular:

$$I = \text{Exp}(0) = \text{Exp}(A) \cdot \text{Exp}(-A),$$

which shows that  $\text{Exp}$  takes values in  $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ .

3) Follows immediately from 1) and 2).

↳ derivative of the power series. End of lecture

4) Let  $\psi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{R})$  be a smooth homomorphism. Then:

$$\psi'(t) = \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} \psi(t+s)$$

$$= \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} \psi(t) \psi(s)$$

$$= \psi(t) \dot{\psi}(0)$$

↳ ODE on  $M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{R})$ .

Note that  $\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} \text{Exp}(t \psi(0)) = \psi(0)$  by 3).

Hence the statement follows by uniqueness of solutions of ODEs.  $\square$

Now we turn to the construction of the exponential map for a general Lie group.

We need to recall an existence result about integral curves of smooth vector fields.

**Definition 3.45** [Integral curve]

An integral curve of a smooth vector field  $X$  on  $M$  is a smooth map  $\gamma: I \rightarrow M$  with  $\gamma'(t) = X_{\gamma(t)} \quad \forall t \in I$ .

Here  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  is an open interval, and  $\gamma'(t) := (D_t \gamma)(1) \quad 1 \in T_t \mathbb{R}$ .

The fundamental existence and uniqueness

theorem for first order ordinary differential equations in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  implies (see for instance [Boothby "An introduction to Differentiable Manifolds and Riemannian Geometry", Chapter IV.4])

### Theorem 3.46

Let  $X \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$ . For every  $m \in M$ , there exist  $a(m), b(m) \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\pm\infty\}$  and a smooth curve

$$j_m: (a(m), b(m)) \rightarrow M.$$

such that:

- 1)  $0 \in (a(m), b(m))$  and  $j(0) = m$ .
- 2)  $j_m$  is an integral curve of  $X$ .
- 3) If  $\mu: (c, d) \rightarrow M$  is a smooth curve satisfying 1) and 2) then  $(c, d) \subset (a(m), b(m))$  and

$$j|_{(c, d)} = \mu.$$

### Definition 3.47

The vector field  $X \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$  is complete if  $\forall m \in M. (a(m), b(m)) = \mathbb{R}$ .

that is, the integral curves given by  
Theorem 3.46 are defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ .

### Proposition 3.48

Let  $X \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$  be complete. Then  
the map

$$\Phi^X : \mathbb{R} \times M \longrightarrow M \\ (t, m) \longmapsto \gamma_m(t)$$

is a smooth map satisfying

$$(*) \quad \Phi^X(t_1 + t_2, m) = \Phi^X(t_2, \Phi^X(t_1, m)) \\ \forall t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \forall m \in M.$$

One can see  $t \longmapsto \Phi^X(t, \cdot)$  a 1-  
parameter family of diffeomorphisms.

Check that they are  
diffeomorphisms!

### Proof

We prove the "semigroup law" (\*).

The map  $t \longmapsto \gamma_m(t_2 + t)$  is  
an integral curve of  $X$  such that  
 $0 \longmapsto \gamma_m(t_2)$ . By the uniqueness

part of **Theorem 3.46.** we get.

$$\partial_m(t_2 + t) = \partial_{\partial_m(t_2)}(t)$$

Reformulating this in terms of  $\Phi^X$  gives (\*).

The proof of the smoothness of the flow map  $\Phi^X$  follows from the smooth dependence from the initial conditions of solutions of ODEs in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , see again [Boothby, Chapter IV.4] for the details.  $\square$

We can use flows of vector fields to compute derivatives of other vector fields.

Given a (smooth) vector field  $X$  on  $M$  and a smooth function  $f: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , we already defined the derivative of  $f$  in the direction of  $X$  by  $X(f)$

This generalises from  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to an arbitrary

manifold. the notion of directional derivative of a function.

If we wish to determine the rate of change of a vector field  $Y$  at  $p \in M$  in the direction of  $X_p$  we get into trouble as soon as we leave  $\mathbb{R}^n$  as there is no clear way to compare the values of  $Y$  at different points as we would like to be in order to compute its rate of change.

A key observation is the following. Assume for the sake of simplicity that  $X$  is complete. Consider its flow  $\Phi^X$ . Set  $\Phi_t^X := \Phi^X(t, \cdot)$ .

For each  $p \in M$  and each  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  there is an induced isomorphism

$$D_p \Phi_t^X : T_p M \rightarrow T_{\Phi_t^X(p)} M.$$

We can use these isomorphisms to compare values of  $\gamma$  at different points. This leads to the following

### Definition 3.49

Let  $x, \gamma \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$  and assume that they are complete. For simplicity, then the Lie derivative of  $\gamma$  with respect to  $X$  at  $p$  is:

$$(L_X \gamma)_p := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \left[ \left( \mathcal{D}_{\Phi_t^x}^x \Phi_{-t}^x \right) \left( \gamma_{\Phi_t^x}^x \right) - \gamma_p \right]$$

Then we have the following:

### Theorem 3.50

Under the same assumptions above, it holds

$$L_X \gamma = [X, \gamma]$$

We address the reader to [Boothby, Thm 7.8 Chapter IV] for a proof.

This new perspective on the Lie bracket is very helpful for proving the following

### Proposition 3.51

Let  $X, Y \in \text{Vect}^\infty(M)$  be complete.

Then  $\Phi_t^X \circ \Phi_s^Y = \Phi_s^Y \circ \Phi_t^X$   
 $\forall t, s \in \mathbb{R}$  if and only if  $[X, Y] = 0$ .

We come back to Lie groups and invariant vector fields.

### Proposition 3.52

Let  $G$  be a Lie group.

1) Left invariant vector fields are complete.

2) For every  $v \in T_e G$  let  $v^\leftarrow \in \text{Vect}^\infty(G)^G$  be the corresponding left invariant vector field and

$\rho_v : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$  be the integral curve of  $v^\leftarrow$  through  $e$ . Then  $\rho_v$  is a smooth homomorphism.

3) The one parameter group of

diffeomorphisms

is given by  $\Phi^{\nu^L} : \mathbb{R} \times G \rightarrow G$ .  
 $\Phi^{\nu^L}(t, g) = g \rho_r(t)$ .

Proof

Let  $j_e : (a(e), b(e)) \rightarrow G$  be the integral curve of  $\nu^L$  through  $e$  given by Theorem 3.46. We claim that

(\*)  $j_g(t) := g j_e(t)$ ,  $t \in (a(e), b(e))$  is an integral curve of  $\nu^L$  through  $g$ .

Indeed:

$$\begin{aligned} j_g(t) &= D_{j_e(t)} L_g(j_e(t)) = D_{j_e(t)} L_{g j_e(t)} \\ &= \nu^L_{g j_e(t)} \end{aligned}$$

↑  
 $j_e$  is an integral curve.

$\nu^L$  is left-invariant by definition.

Let now  $\delta > 0$  be such that  $(-\delta, \delta) \subset (a(e), b(e))$  and define

$$j(t) := \begin{cases} j_e(t) & t \in (a(e), b(e)) \\ \rho_c(\delta) \cdot j_e(t - \delta) & t \in (a(e) + \delta, b(e) + \delta) \end{cases}$$

This curve  $\gamma$  is well-defined, since by (\*)  
 $t \mapsto \gamma_c(t)$  and  $t \mapsto \gamma_c(\delta) \cdot \gamma_c(t-\delta)$   
 are both integral curves of  $v^L$  through  
 $\gamma_c(\delta)$ , hence they coincide on any  
 common interval of definition by  
 the uniqueness part of [Theorem 3.46](#).

It follows that  $\gamma$  is an integral curve of  $v^L$   
 through  $e$  defined on  $(a(e), b(e) + \delta)$ ,  
 which by [Theorem 3.46](#) again implies  
 that  $b(e) = +\infty$ .

A similar argument gives  $a(e) = -\infty$ .

Thus by (\*),  $v^L$  is complete. In particular  
 $\Phi^{v^L}$  is defined on  $\mathbb{R} \times G$  and it follows  
 from (\*) again that:

$$\Phi^{v^L}(t, g) = g \cdot \Phi^{v^L}(t, e).$$

This completes the proofs of 1) and 3).

Concerning 2) since  $\Phi^{v^L}$  is a 1-

parameter group of diffeomorphisms

$$\Phi(t_1 + t_2, g) = \Phi(t_1, \Phi(t_2, g))$$

$$3) \quad \rightarrow = \Phi(t_2, g) \Phi(t_1, e)$$

Since obviously  $t_1 + t_2 = t_2 + t_1$  we obtain.

$$\Phi(t_1 + t_2, e) = \Phi(t_1, e) \Phi(t_2, e)$$

which completes the proof of 2) since:

$$p_v(t) = \Phi_{v_2}(t, e) \quad \square$$

In this context it seems natural to introduce the following.

### Definition 3.53

A one parameter group in  $G$  is a smooth homomorphism  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$ .

We have seen thanks to Proposition 3.52, that a tangent vector  $v \in T_e G$  leads via the corresponding left-invariant vector field, to a one parameter group

$$p_v: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$$

Also the converse is true. Namely,

**Corollary 3.54.**

If  $p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$  is a one parameter group then  $p = p_v$  where  $v = \dot{p}(0)$ .

Proof

Let  $v := \dot{p}(0) \in T_e G$  and  $v^\leftarrow$  be the corresponding left-invariant vector field.

We have.

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{p}(t) &= \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} p(t+s) \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{ds} \right|_{s=0} p(t)p(s) \\ &\stackrel{p \text{ is homomorphism}}{=} D_e L_{p(t)} \underbrace{(\dot{p}(0))}_v = v^\leftarrow_{p(t)} \end{aligned}$$

Definition of  $v^\leftarrow$

Hence  $p$  is an integral curve through  $e$  of  $v^\leftarrow$  and therefore  $p = p_v$   $\square$

**Exercise 3.55.**

Understand one parameter groups we  $(\mathbb{R}^n, +)$   
and on  $T^2$ .

We are now ready to define the exponential  
on general Lie groups.

### Definition 3.56

Let  $G$  be a Lie group with Lie algebra  
 $\mathfrak{g}$ . The exponential map

$$\exp_G : \mathfrak{g} \longrightarrow G$$

is defined by  $\exp_G(v) := p_v(1)$   
where  $p_v$  is the integral curve of  $v^\leftarrow$   
through  $e$ .

### Corollary 3.57

The following properties hold:

$$1) \exp_G(tv) = p_v(t) \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R} \\ \forall v \in \mathfrak{g}$$

$$2) \text{ If } v, w \in \mathfrak{g} \text{ satisfy } [v, w] = 0 \\ \text{ then } \exp_G(v+w) = \exp_G(v) \exp_G(w).$$

For the proof of 2) we will require

### Lemma 3.58

Let  $m: G \times G \rightarrow G$  be the product map. Then under the identification of  $T_{(e,e)}(G \times G)$  with  $T_e G \times T_e G$  we have:

$$D_{(e,e)} m(v, w) = v + w.$$

### Proof

Since  $D_{(e,e)} m: T_e G \times T_e G \rightarrow T_e G$  is a linear map, we have:

$$D_{(e,e)} m(v, w) = D_{(e,e)} m(v, 0) + D_{(e,e)} m(0, w).$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{Consider now} & G & \xrightarrow{i_1} & G \times G & \xrightarrow{m} & G \\ & g & \longmapsto & (g, e) & \longmapsto & g \cdot e. \end{array}$$

Then  $m \circ i_1 = \text{id}_G$  and hence

$$D_{(e,e)} m \underbrace{D_e i_1(v)}_{(v, 0)} = v \quad \forall v \in T_e G$$

□

### Proof of Corollary 3.57

1) By definition

$$\exp_G(t \cdot v) = p(t \cdot v) \quad (1)$$

Consider now  $\psi(s) := p_v(ts)$

Then  $\psi$  is a one parameter group with  $\dot{\psi}(0) = t \dot{p}_v(0) = tv$  and hence by

[Corollary 3.54](#)  $\psi = p_{tv}$  which

implies  $p_v(ts) = p_{(tv)}(s) \quad \forall s$

and hence  $p_{tv}(1) = p_v(t)$ , that is

$$\exp_G(tv) = p_v(t)$$

2) If  $[v, w] = 0$  then by [Proposition 3.51](#)

$$\Phi_t^{v\langle} \circ \Phi_s^{w\langle} = \Phi_s^{w\langle} \circ \Phi_t^{v\langle} \quad \forall t, s$$

and hence by [Proposition 3.52 3\)](#)

$$p_w(t) p_v(s) = p_v(s) p_w(t) \quad \forall t, s$$

This implies that

$$\psi(t) := p_v(t) p_w(t) \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

is a one parameter group in  $G$  with  $\dot{\psi}(0) = \text{Deretm}(\dot{p}_v(0), \dot{p}_w(0))$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \Delta_{(\text{rel})} m(v, w) \\
 &= v + w \qquad \leftarrow \text{Lemma 3.58}
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\psi(t) = p_{v+w}(t)$  which implies  $\exp_G(v+w) = \exp_G(v) \exp_G(w)$ .  $\square$

The characterization of one parameter groups in terms of the exponential leads to the following

### Proposition 3.59

Let  $p: G \rightarrow H$  be a smooth homomorphism. Then the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G & \xrightarrow{p} & H \\
 \uparrow \exp_G & & \uparrow \exp_H \\
 T_c G & \xrightarrow{D_c p} & T_c H \\
 \downarrow \cong & & \downarrow \cong \\
 \mathfrak{g} & & \mathfrak{h}
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

### Proof

The map  $\psi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow H$   
 $t \mapsto p(\exp_G(tv))$

is a 1-parameter group in  $H$  with

$$\dot{\psi}(0) = D_e \rho(v).$$

Hence by [Corollary 3.57 1\)](#) and [Corollary 3.54](#) we have

$$\psi(t) = \exp_H(t D_e \rho(v))$$

which proves the statement.  $\square$

### Exercise 3.60

Prove that  $\exp_{GL(n, \mathbb{R})}(tA) = \text{Exp}(tA)$

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, A \in \mathfrak{gl}(n, \mathbb{R}) = M_{\text{lin}}(\mathbb{R})$$

Hint: use [Proposition 3.44 3\)](#).

The exponential map gives a preferred chart at  $e$ . Namely we have:

### Corollary 3.61

Let  $G$  be a Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then the following hold:

1)  $D_e \exp_G = \text{Id}_{\mathfrak{g}}$

2) There is  $0 \in U \subset \mathfrak{g}$  open such that  
 $\exp_{\mathfrak{g}}(U) \subset G$  is open and  
 $\exp_{\mathfrak{g}} : U \rightarrow \exp_{\mathfrak{g}}(U)$   
 is a diffeomorphism.

Proof

For every  $X \in \mathfrak{g}$   $\frac{d}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} \exp_{\mathfrak{g}}(tX) = X$

which shows 1). Then 2) follows from  
 the inverse function Theorem  $\square$

**Theorem 3.62.** [Contin.]

If  $K$  is a compact and connected Lie  
 group then  $\exp_K : K \rightarrow K$  is  
 surjective.

— 0 —

It is an Exercise to show that

$$\text{Exp} : \mathfrak{u}(n) \rightarrow \text{U}(n)$$

is surjective.

Hint: combine the fact that every  
 $A \in \text{U}(n)$  is diagonalizable with

the formula  $g \text{Exp}(x) g^{-1} = \text{Exp}(g x g^{-1})$

valid for all  $X \in M_{n \times n}(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $g \in GL(n, \mathbb{C})$ .

A similar argument using Jordan's normal form implies that

Exp:  $gl(n, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow GL(n, \mathbb{C})$   
is surjective.

### Example 3.63

Let

$$N_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{pmatrix} : * \in \mathbb{R} \right\} \text{ with.}$$

the algebra

$$n_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 0 \end{pmatrix} : * \in \mathbb{R} \right\}.$$

Since  $X^n = 0 \quad \forall X \in n_1$ , we have

$$\text{Exp } X = I + X + \frac{X^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{X^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}.$$

Moreover if  $Y \in N_1$ , then we can write

$$Y = I + Y' \quad \text{with } Y' \text{ such that } (Y')^n = 0$$

Then if we define  $\log: N_1 \rightarrow n_1$  by

$$\log(y) = \log(1 + y') = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^{j-1} \frac{(y')^j}{j}$$

it is possible to verify that  $\text{Exp}: \mathfrak{n}_1 \rightarrow N_1$ , and  $\log: N_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}_1$  are (smooth and) inverse to each other. Hence  $\text{Exp}$  here is a smooth diffeomorphism, in particular it is surjective.

### Example 3.64

We claim that  $\text{Exp}: \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \text{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})$  is not surjective. Indeed, since

$$\left( \text{Exp} \left( \frac{X}{2} \right) \right)^2 = \text{Exp}(X).$$

every matrix in the image of  $\text{Exp}$  is a square. On the other hand

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ is not a square.}$$

— 0 —

We can use the properties of the exponential map to study the structure of connected

abelian Lie groups.

### Definition 3.65

A Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is abelian if  $[X, Y] = 0$ .

We have then:

### Proposition 3.66

1) Let  $G$  be a connected Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then  $G$  is abelian iff  $\mathfrak{g}$  is abelian.

2) Let  $G$  be a connected abelian Lie group

Then  $\exp_G : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow G$  is a smooth surjective homomorphism.

Its kernel  $\Gamma := \ker \exp_G$  is a discrete subgroup of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\exp_G$  induces an isomorphism of Lie groups

$$\mathfrak{g}/\Gamma \cong G.$$

### Proof

We are going to prove 1) and 2) of

the same time.

Assume that  $G$  is connected and abelian.

By Proposition 3.52, for all  $v, w \in \mathfrak{g}$  it holds:

$$\Phi_t^{v^L} \circ \Phi_s^{w^L} = \Phi_s^{w^L} \circ \Phi_t^{v^L} \quad \forall t, s$$

Hence Proposition 3.51 implies that

$$[v^L, w^L] = 0$$

that is  $[v, w] = 0 \quad \forall v, w \in \mathfrak{g}$ .

Assume now that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is abelian and  $G$  is connected. Corollary 3.57 2) implies

that  $\exp_G: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow G$  is a smooth

homeomorphism. By Corollary 3.61 2)

$\exp_G(G)$  is an open subgroup of  $G$

hence closed. Since  $G$  is connected

we obtain  $\exp_G(G) = G$  and  $G$  is

abelian.

Let  $U \ni 0$  be open in  $\mathfrak{g}$  such that  $\exp_G: U \rightarrow \exp_G(U)$  is a diffeomorphism given by Corollary 3.61 2) again. Then:

open in  $G$

$\Gamma \cap U = \{0\}$ , and  $\Gamma$  is a discrete group.

Then (Exercise), the induced group isomorphism

$$\mathfrak{g}/\Gamma \longrightarrow G$$

is a diffeomorphism.  $\square$

### Exercise 3.67

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional vector space and  $\Gamma < V$  a discrete subgroup. Show that there are  $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \in \Gamma$  linearly independent in  $V$  such that

$$\Gamma = \mathbb{Z}\gamma_1 + \dots + \mathbb{Z}\gamma_n.$$

### Exercise 3.68

Show that every connected Lie group  $G$  is isomorphic as a Lie group

to  $T^n \times \mathbb{R}^{n-m}$

where  $n = \dim G$  and  $T = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ .

We end this section about the exponential

map with an application related to Hilbert's fifth problem, that was discussed during the first lecture.

In the works of Gleason, Montgomery-Zippin, and Yamabe, where the problem was settled, and even earlier with the work of von Neumann, it was understood that a key notion for understanding the distinction between topological and Lie groups was that of a small subgroup.

### Definition 3.69 [Small subgroup]

A topological group  $G$  is said to have small subgroups if every neighborhood of the identity contains a non-trivial subgroup.

### Theorem 3.70

A connected locally compact topological group admits a Lie group structure if

and only if it has no non-trivial subgroups.

### Proof

We will only prove the implication  
Lie group  $\Rightarrow$  No non-trivial subgroups.

The proof of the converse implication goes beyond the scope of the course.

Let  $0 \in U \subset \mathfrak{g}$  be an open neighborhood in the Lie algebra of the Lie group  $G$  such that  $\exp_{\mathfrak{g}} : U \rightarrow \exp_{\mathfrak{g}}(U)$  is a diffeomorphism with its image, which is open in  $G$ , see [Corollary 3.6.1](#) 2). Let  $W := \exp_{\mathfrak{g}} \frac{1}{2} U$ . Note that  $W$  is an open neigh<sup>2</sup> of  $e \in G$ . We claim that  $W$  contains no non-trivial subgroups.  $H < G$ .

Suppose that  $\exists H < G$ ,  $H \subset W$ . Let  $e \neq h \in H$  and  $X \in \frac{1}{2} U$  such that  $\exp_{\mathfrak{g}} X = h$ .

Note that we could assume  $U$  to be bounded in the very first place.

We will show that there are powers of  $h$  not in  $H$ , this will contradict the fact that  $H$  is a subgroup.

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be such that  $2^n x \in \frac{1}{2}U$  and  $2^{n+1}x \notin \frac{1}{2}U$ . Note that since  $2^n x \in \frac{1}{2}U$  clearly  $2^{n+1}x \in U$ .

Then

$$R^{2^{n+1}} = \exp(2^{n+1}x) \in \exp(U \setminus \frac{1}{2}U)$$

However  $\exp(U \setminus \frac{1}{2}U) \subseteq \exp_G(U) \setminus W$

Hence  $R^{2^{n+1}} \notin W$ , a contradiction

since we assumed that  $H \subset W$   $\square$