

This week

1) Classify all finite dimensional Lie algebras.

A Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is a complex vector space with a bilinear map $[\cdot, \cdot]: \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ such that $[X, Y] = -[Y, X]$ and

$$[X, [Y, Z]] + [Y, [Z, X]] + [Z, [X, Y]] = 0$$

2) Classify all representations of \mathfrak{g} .

A \mathbb{C} -representation of \mathfrak{g} is a linear map $\pi: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})$ such that

$$\pi([X, Y]) = \pi(X)\pi(Y) - \pi(Y)\pi(X)$$

Why do we care? In Mathematics we always encounter group actions:

$$G \times X \rightarrow X \quad (\text{such that } e \cdot u = u \text{ and } g \cdot (h \cdot u) = (g \cdot h) \cdot u) \\ (g, u) \mapsto g \cdot u$$

Theme 1 of Representation theory: fix a class of objects X and ask which symmetries of G can arise.

Example: $SO(3)$ acts on \mathbb{R}^3 , preserving length

Fix $X \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ such that $G_X = \{g \in SO(3) : g(X) = X\}$ is finite.

Which finite groups arise this way?

Example: if X is the square, then $G_X = D_4$.

Answers: Simply laced Dynkin diagrams.

Example: $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ acts on \mathbb{R}^n . Fix $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ such that $G_X = \{g \in GL(n, \mathbb{R}) : g(X) = X\}$ is a compact and connected subset of \mathbb{R}^{n^2} .

Theme 2: classify all \mathbb{C} -representations of a fixed class of G , i.e.,

homomorphisms $\pi: G \rightarrow GL(V) \cong GL(n, \mathbb{C})$

Why is this interesting? Given G acting on X , consider $f(X) = \{f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$.

Get a representation $\pi: G \rightarrow GL(f(X))$

$$g \mapsto \pi(g)$$

$$(\pi(g) f)(u) = f(g^{-1} \cdot u)$$

$\rho(X)$ is reducible (for example, the ~~subset~~ subspace of constant functions is invariant).

Idea: decompose $\rho(X)$ into irreducible representations.

Example: Quantum mechanics

To a classical mechanical system X (with symmetry group G_X), get a Hilbert space of states of X , \mathcal{H} , like functions on X .

\mathcal{H} becomes a representation of G_X

The main equation of quantum mechanics describes the states $|\psi\rangle$ with fixed energy E .

$$H|\psi\rangle = E|\psi\rangle$$

(Schrödinger operation)

$H: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ respects group representation:

$$H\pi(g) = \pi(g)H, \forall g \in G_X$$

~~The E -eigenspace~~

~~the E -eigenspace of H is an invariant subspace of~~

These lectures are most interested in groups $G = GL_n(F)$, where $F = \mathbb{R}$ or $F = \mathbb{C}$.
There is a powerful tool: $\exp: M_n(F) \rightarrow M_n(F)$.

$$\exp(X) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} X^k$$

There is a nice norm on $M_n(F)$:

$$\|X\|^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n |X_{ij}|^2 \quad (\exp(X) \text{ converges in this norm})$$

The map \exp has many of the ~~power~~ usual properties of e^u , with $u \in \mathbb{R}$.

$$(1) \exp(-X)\exp(X) = \text{Id}$$

but $\exp(X)\exp(Y) = \exp(X+Y)$ fails.

In fact, $\exp(aX)\exp(bY) = \exp(aX+bY)$ if and only if $[X,Y]=0$, that is, $XY=YX$.

We are interested in solving $\exp(X)\exp(Y) = \exp(Z)$.

So $Z = \log(\exp(X)\exp(Y))$, where

$$\log(g) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k} (g - \text{Id})^k \quad (\text{this converges in } \|\cdot\| \text{ when } \|g - \text{Id}\| < 1)$$

Lemma: $X = \log \exp X$ if $\|X\| < \log 2$.

$$(\|e^X - \text{Id}\| \leq e^{\|X\|} - 1 \text{ and } e^{\|X\|} - 1 < 1 \Leftrightarrow \|X\| < \log 2)$$

Conclude that \exp is a nice bijection between a neighborhood of 0 in $M_n(F)$ and a neighborhood of Id in $M_n(F)$.

$$\begin{aligned} Z = \log(\exp(X)\exp(Y)) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k} \left[\left(1 + X + \frac{X^2}{2!} + \dots\right) \left(1 + Y + \frac{Y^2}{2!} + \dots\right) - \text{Id} \right]^k \\ &= X + Y + \frac{1}{2}[X, Y] \end{aligned}$$

Theorem: All the terms on RHS can be expressed as ^{iterated} brackets of X and Y .
The bracket operation on $M_n(F)$ determines the group multiplication in a neighborhood of Id in $GL_n(F)$.

Consider $G \subset GL_n(F)$ as a subgroup of $GL_n(F)$. We want to define a Lie Algebra of (over F) attached to G .

(If $G = GL_n(F)$, $\mathfrak{g} = M_n(F)$ with $[X, Y] = XY - YX$)

$\mathfrak{g} = \{ X \in M_n(F) : \exists \gamma :]-\epsilon, \epsilon[\rightarrow G \text{ differentiable such that } \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = X \}$

Lemma: (1) $\alpha X + \beta Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ whenever $\alpha, \beta \in F$ and $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$.
(2) If $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$, then $[X, Y] = XY - YX \in \mathfrak{g}$, ~~therefore~~ \mathfrak{g} is a Lie algebra.

Proof: (1) Suppose $X = \frac{d\gamma_x}{dt} \Big|_{t=0}$ and $Y = \frac{d\gamma_y}{dt} \Big|_{t=0}$. Set $\gamma(t) = \gamma_x(at) \gamma_y(bt)$.

$$\frac{d\gamma}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = \alpha X + \beta Y$$

(2) Consider $\gamma(s, t) = \gamma_x(s) \gamma_y(t) \gamma_x(s)^{-1}$.

$$\frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = [X, Y]$$

Theorem: There is a bijection between connected subgroups of $GL(n, F)$ and Lie subalgebras of $\mathfrak{gl}(n, F)$, where \mathfrak{g} is a Lie subalgebra