

# 群與表示論簡介

## Introduction to Groups and Representations

1998 年台灣大學理學院暑期課程

### 近代數學導論

(對象: 數學系與物理系高年級大學部學生)

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#### 摘要

群表示理論是現代數學中最重要的方法之一。他在數論與理論物理都有重要的地位。因此愈早開始接觸它, 建立良好的基本觀念, 對於學習數學與物理都是刻不容緩的事。有鑑於此, 這個介紹性課程只假設同學具有線性代數, 微積分, 以及最基本的群論知識。我們希望透過具體的例子與計算闡釋群表示理論中最為基本的元素, 並導引同學日後追求一般性理論的方向。

#### 內容

### CHAPTER III

#### Representation Theory of Finite Groups

### CHAPTER IV

#### Elementary Representation Theory of Compact Lie Groups

### CHAPTER V

#### Semi-Simple Lie Algebras

# CHAPTER III

## REPRESENTATION THEORY OF FINITE GROUPS

### REPRESENTATIONS

$V$  finite dim vector space /  $\mathbb{C}$

$\rho: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  group homomorphism  
is called a representation of  $G$

$G$ -invariant inner product; let  $G$  be finite

$$\langle v, w \rangle := \sum_{g \in G} \langle \rho(g)v, \rho(g)w \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \langle \rho(g)v, \rho(g)w \rangle = \langle v, w \rangle \quad \forall g \in G$$

So in fact,  $\rho: G \rightarrow U(n)$ ,  $n = \dim V$

### Basic constructions

$G$  acts on  $V_1, V_2$  then

$G$  acts on  $V_1 \oplus V_2$ :  $\rho_1 \oplus \rho_2$

$$g(v_1, v_2) = (gv_1, gv_2)$$

$G$  acts on  $V_1 \otimes V_2$ :  $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2$

$$g(v_1 \otimes v_2) = gv_1 \otimes gv_2$$

### Basic examples

I. 1-dimensional repr<sup>n</sup>  $\rho: G \rightarrow S^1 = \{ |z|=1 \}$   
trivial repr<sup>n</sup>  $\rho: G \rightarrow \{1\}$

II. Permutation repr<sup>n</sup>: Let  $G$  acts on  $X$ ,  
 $\Rightarrow G$  acts on  $\mathbb{C}^{|X|}$  by permuting basis.

Regular repr<sup>n</sup>  $\rho_{\text{reg}}$ : the case  $X = G$ .  
 $\cong \mathbb{C}[G]$

## IRREDUCIBLE REPRESENTATIONS

$\rho: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  is irreducible if the only  $G$ -invariant subspace is  $V$  or  $\{0\}$ . This is equivalent to  $V \neq V_1 \oplus V_2$  as repr<sup>n</sup>s of  $G$

Pf: If  $W \subset V$  is  $G$ -inv then  $W^\perp$  is also  $G$ -inv.

Complete reducibility

Every repr<sup>n</sup> is a direct sum of irreducible repr<sup>n</sup>s.

$$V = V_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus V_2^{\oplus a_2} \oplus \dots \oplus V_k^{\oplus a_k}$$

## PROBLEMS

I. Describe all the irreducible repr<sup>n</sup>s of  $G$

II. Find the direct sum decomposition of any repr<sup>n</sup>  $V$  together with multiplicities

III. Generalized Clebsch-Gordan Problem:

Decompose  $V \otimes W$  into irreducibles  
 $\text{Sym}^k(V)$   
 $\Lambda^k(V)$

(may assume that  $V, W$  are irreducible)

Trivial case — Abelian groups

$G$  abelian  $\Rightarrow$  all irred. repr<sup>n</sup>s are 1-dim'l

Pf:  $gh = hg \Rightarrow \rho(g), \rho(h) \in GL(V)$  are simultaneously diagonalizable.

# SCHUR'S LEMMA

— The key to the study of irred. repr<sup>n</sup>s

Let  $T: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$  be a  $G$ -linear map of two irred. repr<sup>n</sup>s of  $G$ , then

- $V_1 \cong V_2$  as  $G$  repr<sup>n</sup>s and  $T = \lambda I$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$
- or if  $V_1 \not\cong V_2$  then  $T \equiv 0$

pf: Since  $\ker T$ ,  $\text{Im } T$  are all  $G$ -inv

So  $T \neq 0 \Rightarrow V_1 \cong V_2$

Now let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of  $T$

then  $\ker(T - \lambda I) \neq 0$ ,  $\Rightarrow T - \lambda I \equiv 0$ .

Main consequences

Given any linear map  $H: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$

$$T = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho_2(g)^{-1} H \rho_1(g) \quad \text{is } G\text{-linear}$$

( since  $\rho_2(h)^{-1} T \rho_1(h) = T \Rightarrow T \rho_1(h) = \rho_2(h) T$  )

so  $V_1 \not\cong V_2 \Rightarrow T = 0$

$$V_1 = V_2 = V \Rightarrow T = \frac{1}{n} \text{Tr}(H) \cdot I_n$$

Recall that

$$\text{Tr} \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} := \sum_{k=1}^n a_{kk}$$

and  $\text{Tr}(AB) = \text{Tr}(BA)$ ,

Hence that

$$\text{Tr}(S^{-1}AS) = \text{Tr}(A)$$

$$\text{Now } \text{Tr}(T) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \text{Tr}(\rho_2(g)^{-1} H \rho_1(g)) = \text{Tr}(H)$$

$$T = \lambda I_n \Rightarrow \lambda = \frac{1}{n} \text{Tr}(H).$$

## Explicit matrix form

$$\text{Let } \rho_1(g) = A = [A_{ij}(g)] ; H = [H_{ij}]$$

$$\rho_2(g) = B = [B_{ij}(g)], \text{ since unitary}$$

$$\text{so } \rho_2(g)^{-1} = \bar{B}^t = [\bar{B}_{ji}(g)], \text{ then}$$

$$0 = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \bar{B}_{is}^t H_{st} A_{tj} = 0 \quad H \text{ arbitrary}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \bar{B}_{si}(g) A_{tj}(g) = 0 \quad \forall s, i, t, j$$

In the case  $V_1 = V_2 = V$ , for any  $H$

$$\frac{1}{n} \text{Tr}(H) I = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \bar{A}_{si}(g) H_{st} A_{tj}(g)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \bar{A}_{si}(g) A_{tj}(g) = 0 \quad \text{if } i \neq j \text{ or } s \neq t$$
$$\frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \bar{A}_{ji}(g) A_{ji}(g) = \frac{1}{n}$$

Inner product on  $\mathbb{C}^{|G|}$

Let  $\varphi, \psi$  two functions  $G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$$(\varphi, \psi) := \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \varphi(g) \overline{\psi(g)}$$

$$\Rightarrow (A_{ij}, B_{kl}) = 0$$
$$(A_{ij}, A_{kl}) = \frac{1}{n} \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl}$$

the orthogonality of irred. repr<sup>n</sup>s. !

How to make use of it ?

# CHARACTERS

$$\rho : G \longrightarrow GL(V)$$

$$\chi_\rho = \text{Tr} \circ \rho : G \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad \text{character of } \rho$$

Naive point of view

$\text{Tr}(A)$  does not determine  $A$ , but

$\text{Tr}(A), \text{Tr}(A^2), \text{Tr}(A^3), \dots$  does!

And now  $\chi_\rho$  is a function on  $G$

Actual reason

Orthogonality  $\Rightarrow$  for irred. characters



$$(\chi_{\rho_1}, \chi_{\rho_2}) = 0 \quad \text{if } \rho_1 \not\cong \rho_2$$

$$(\chi, \chi) = 1 \quad \text{for isomorphic irred. repr}^n\text{s}$$

Consequences

- In an irreducible decomposition

$$V = V_1^{\oplus a_1} \oplus V_2^{\oplus a_2} \oplus \dots \oplus V_k^{\oplus a_k}$$

$$a_i = (\chi_\rho, \chi_i) \quad \text{where } \chi_i = \text{char of } V_i.$$

- Hence two representations are isomorphic

$\Leftrightarrow$  they have the same character

- In general,  $(\chi_\rho, \chi_\rho) = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i^2 \in \mathbb{N}$

and  $\rho$  is irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow (\chi_\rho, \chi_\rho) = 1$ .

$$\text{since } \chi_\rho = a_1 \chi_1 + \dots + a_k \chi_k$$

- Since  $|G| < \infty$ , the number of irred. characters are finite. Call them

$\chi_1, \dots, \chi_h$ . Will show that

$h = \#$  of conjugacy classes of  $G$ . ( $\leq$  is clear)

# EXAMPLES

$G = S_3$  : 3 conj classes  $[1], [(12)], [(123)]$

1-dim'l repr's

trivial repr  $\rightarrow (1, 1, 1) = \chi_U$

Alternating repr  $\rightarrow (1, -1, 1) = \chi_{U'}$

Higher dim'l repr's

Permutation repr  $\rightarrow (3, 1, 0) = \chi$

$S_3$  acts on  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\} = \mathbb{C}^3$

not irreducible since

$$(\chi, \chi) = \frac{3^2 + 3 \cdot 1^2 + 2 \cdot 0^2}{|S_3|} = \frac{12}{6} = 2 \neq 1$$

Geometrically :

$\mathbb{C}^3 = U \oplus V$ ,  $V$  2-dimension.

$U$  is the invariant line :  $e_1 + e_2 + e_3$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \chi_V &= \chi_{\mathbb{C}^3} - \chi_U = (3, 1, 0) - (1, 1, 1) \\ &= (2, 0, -1) \end{aligned}$$

Character Table :

$S_3$		1	3	2
		1	(12)	(123)
trivial	$U$	1	1	1
alternating	$U'$	1	-1	1
<u>standard</u>	$V$	2	0	-1

That's all.

Since  $h \leq 3$ .

or  $1^2 + 1^2 + 2^2 = 6$

see next page.

It is easy to decompose  $V^{\otimes n}$  :

Solve  $\chi_{V^{\otimes n}} = a \chi_U + b \chi_{U'} + c \chi_V$

## DECOMPOSITION OF THE REGULAR REPRESENTATION

Recall  $\rho_{\text{reg}} : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{|G|} = \bigoplus_{g \in G} \mathbb{C} e_g$

such that  $\rho(h)e_g = e_{hg}$

Let  $r_G = \text{Tr } \rho_{\text{reg}} : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

since diagonal of  $\rho(h) \equiv 0$  if  $h \neq e$ . So

$$r_G(1) = |G|$$

$$r_G(h) = 0 \quad h \neq 1$$

### Consequences

Every irred. repr<sup>n</sup>  $V_i$  is contained in  $\rho_{\text{reg}}$  with multiplicity  $= \dim V_i =: n_i$ , Hence

$$\mathbb{C}[G] = n_1 V_1 + \dots + n_h V_h$$

so  $\sum_{i=1}^h n_i^2 = |G|$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^h n_i \chi_i(g) = 0, g \neq 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pf: } (r_G, \chi_i) &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} r_G(g) \overline{\chi_i(g)} = \frac{1}{|G|} r_G(1) \overline{\chi_i(1)} \\ &= \overline{\chi_i(1)} = \dim V_i. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

In fact,  $\dim V_i = n_i |G|$ . (Harder to prove)

## CLASS FUNCTIONS

$f: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a class function if

$$f(h^{-1}gh) = f(g) \quad \forall g, h \in G$$

Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be the space of class functions

**THEOREM:**  $\chi_1, \dots, \chi_h$  form an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}$ . In particular,  $h = \#$  of conjugacy classes of  $G$ .



EXAMPLE :  $G = S_4$

# in conj class		1	6	8	6	3
	$S_4$	1	(12)	(123)	(1234)	(12)(34)
trivial	$U$	1	1	1	1	1
Alt.	$U'$	1	-1	1	-1	1
std.	$V$	3	1	0	-1	-1
$V \otimes U' = V'$		3	-1	0	1	-1
unknown	$W$	2	0	-1	0	2

$$V: \chi_{\mathbb{C}^4} = (4, 2, 1, 0, 0)$$

$$\chi_V = \chi_{\mathbb{C}^4} - \chi_U = (3, 1, 0, -1, -1)$$

$V'$ : Irred  $\otimes$  1-dim'l must be irred

$$\text{because } \chi_{p_1 \otimes p_2} = \chi_{p_1} \cdot \chi_{p_2}$$

and by the irred criterion  $(p, p) = 1$ .

$$W: |S_4| = 24 = 1^2 + 1^2 + 3^2 + 3^2 + \textcircled{2^2}$$

$W$  is in principle determined by the orthogonality relation, but ...

Here is the place to use regular repr<sup>n</sup> :

(to get a formula not related to it !)

$$\sum_i n_i \chi_i(g) = 0 \quad g \neq 1$$

e.g. For (12)(34), get

$$0 = 1 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot 1 + 3 \cdot (-1) + 3 \cdot (-1) + 2 \chi_W(g)$$

$$\Rightarrow \chi_W([(12)(34)]) = 2.$$

## CHAPTER IV

# ELEMENTARY REPRESENTATION THEORY OF COMPACT LIE GROUPS

## LIE GROUPS

A Lie group  $G$  is a group such that  $G$  is a differentiable manifold and the product map  $(g, h) \mapsto gh$ :

$$G \times G \longrightarrow G$$

and the inverse map  $G \longrightarrow G : g \mapsto g^{-1}$  are all  $C^\infty$  mappings

## Matrix groups

$$GL_n(\mathbb{R}), O_n(\mathbb{R}), SL_n(\mathbb{R}), SO(n)$$

$$GL_n(\mathbb{C}), U(n), SL_n(\mathbb{C}), SU(n)$$

are all Lie groups

## THEOREM (Ado)

Every compact Lie group can be realized as closed subgroup of Matrix groups  $O(n)$ .

## Lie algebra (of matrix groups)

$$\text{Let } G = O(n)$$

$$T_e G = \text{tangent space of } G \text{ at } e = I_n$$

$A \in T_e G$  is given by a curve

$$\alpha : (-1, 1) \longrightarrow O(n), \text{ st } A = \alpha'(0), \alpha(0) = I_n$$

$$\text{ie. } \alpha(t)^t \cdot \alpha(t) = I_n$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha'(t)^t \alpha(t) + \alpha(t)^t \alpha'(t) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow A^t \cdot I_n + I_n \cdot A^t = 0$$

$$\text{So } \underline{\text{Lie}(G) = \mathfrak{g} = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{R}) \mid A^t + A = 0\}}$$

with  $[A, B] := AB - BA$

For  $SO(n)$ ,  $\det \alpha(t) = 1 \Rightarrow \text{Tr} A = 0$

$$\underline{\text{Lie}(SU(n)) = \{A \in M_n(\mathbb{C}) \mid \bar{A}^t + A = 0, \text{Tr} A = 0\}}$$

Left  $G$  invariant metric on compact group

Let  $A, B \in T_e G$

$$\langle A, B \rangle := \text{Tr}(\bar{B}^t A) = \text{Euclidean metric in } \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}$$

$G$  invariance:

$$\langle gA, gB \rangle = \text{Tr}(\bar{B}^t \underbrace{g^t g}_{=1} A) = \text{Tr}(\bar{B}^t A) = \langle A, B \rangle$$

$\Rightarrow$  Riemannian metric on  $G$

$\Rightarrow$  Left invariant measure (Haar measure)

$$(**) \int_G \cdot dg : C^\infty(G) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

play the role as in the finite group case  
average over  $G$ .

Representations of  $G$

is a continuous group homomorphism

$$\rho : G \longrightarrow GL(V)$$

$V$  a finite dim'l v.s. /  $\mathbb{C}$ , may assume in  $U(N)$

by using  $G$ -inv inner product

$$\langle v, w \rangle = \int_G \langle gv, gw \rangle dg$$

Schur's lemma

Complete reducibility

Characters

Orthogonality relation

irreducibility criterion

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$\Rightarrow$  OK, with the same proof

Regular representation?  $\infty$ -dim'l

All irreducible representation?  $\infty$ -many

Formal analogue  $\longrightarrow$  Peter-Weyl Thm  
as generalized Fourier analysis

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Explicit construction

$G = SU(2)$ :

$V_0 =$  trivial repr<sup>n</sup> on  $\mathbb{C}$

$V_1 =$  standard repr<sup>n</sup> on  $\mathbb{C}^2$

Let  $V_n = \text{Sym}^n(V_1) \cong \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$

More explicitly:

$V_n =$  homogeneous polynomials of deg =  $n$   
in two variables  $z_1, z_2$

$$= \langle z_1^n, z_1^{n-1}z_2, \dots, z_1z_2^{n-1}, z_2^n \rangle$$

for  $P \in \mathbb{C}[z_1, z_2]$ ,  $g = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $z = (z_1, z_2)$

$$(gP)(z) := P(z \cdot g) = P(az_1 + cz_2, bz_1 + dz_2)$$

THEOREM:  $V_n$  are all irreducible repr<sup>n</sup>s.

And every irreducible (unitary) repr<sup>n</sup> of

$SU(2)$  is isomorphic to one of the  $V_n$ .

Pf:  $V_n$  is irreducible:

Enough to show that if  $A: V_n \rightarrow V_n$  is  $SU(2)$  equivariant, then  $A = \lambda I$ .

$$\text{Let } P_k(z_1, z_2) = z_1^k z_2^{n-k} \quad 0 \leq k \leq n$$

I.  $g_a = \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in SU(2)$ , then

$$g_a P_k = a^{2k-n} P_k, \text{ also}$$

$$g_a (AP_k) = A g_a P_k = A a^{2k-n} P_k = a^{2k-n} (AP_k)$$

Pick  $a$  st  $a^{2k-n}, 0 \leq k \leq n$  all distinct

$$\text{then } \Rightarrow AP_k = c_k P_k \quad c_k \in \mathbb{C}$$

We need to show that  $c_0 = c_1 = \dots = c_n$

II.  $r_t := \begin{pmatrix} \cos t & -\sin t \\ \sin t & \cos t \end{pmatrix} \in SU(2) \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$

$$A r_t P_n = A (z_1 \cos t + z_2 \sin t)^n$$

$$\parallel = \sum_k C_k^n \cos^k t \cdot \sin^{n-k} t \cdot A P_k$$

$$\parallel = \sum_k C_k^n \cos^k t \cdot \sin^{n-k} t \cdot \underline{c_k} P_k$$

$$r_t A P_n = \sum_k C_k^n \cos^k t \cdot \sin^{n-k} t \cdot \underline{c_n} P_k$$

$$\Rightarrow c_k = c_n \quad \forall k. \text{ done}$$

CLAIM:  $\chi_n$  the character of  $V_n$  are uniformly dense in the space of class functions on  $SU(2)$ .

Any element of  $SU(2)$  is conjugate to

$$\text{III. } e(it) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{it} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-it} \end{pmatrix}$$

Moreover,  $e(s)$  conjugate to  $e(t)$

$$\Leftrightarrow s \equiv \pm t \pmod{2\pi}$$

So if  $f: SU(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a class function

$$\Rightarrow f \circ e: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

is an even periodic function, period =  $2\pi$

In the same way

$C^\infty$  class function  $\leftrightarrow$  even  $2\pi$ -periodic function

$$\chi_n \circ e(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n e^{i(n-2k)t}$$

$$\left( = e^{+nit} + e^{(n-1)t} \cdot e^{-it} + \dots + e^{-nit} \right)$$

But this implies that

$\chi_0 \circ e(t), \dots, \chi_n \circ e(t)$  generate the same space

as  $1, \cos t, \cos(2t), \dots, \cos(nt)$

which have the density property by

classical Fourier analysis.  $\square$

Now we are almost done:

Let  $\chi$  be the character of  $W$  which

is irreducible and  $\not\cong V_n \quad \forall n$

$$\text{then } \langle \chi, \chi_n \rangle = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{---}$$

$$\langle \chi, \chi \rangle = 1$$

since  $\chi_n$  generate an uniformly dense subspace. Q.E.D.

EXAMPLE :  $G = SO(3)$

There is a double covering map

$$SU(2) = Sp(1) \xrightarrow{\pi} SO(3)$$

$\parallel$   
norm = 1 elements in  $\mathbb{H}$  (quaternions)

Topologically, this is just  $S^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}P^3$

$$\text{via } \pi(g)(v) = gv g^{-1}$$

by viewing  $\mathbb{R}^3 = \mathbb{R}i \oplus \mathbb{R}j \oplus \mathbb{R}k \subset \mathbb{H}$

$\ker \pi = \{I, -I\} \subset SU(2)$ , so

There is a 1-1 correspondences

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{irred. } SO(3) \\ \text{repr}^n\text{'s} \end{array} \right) \longleftrightarrow \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{irred. } SU(2) \\ \text{repr}^n\text{'s st.} \\ -I \text{ acts trivially} \end{array} \right)$$

So get  $W_n \longleftrightarrow V_{2n} \quad \dim W_n = 2n+1$

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Geometrical realization of  $W_n$  :

Spherical Harmonics

$P_\ell :=$   $\mathbb{C}P^X$  v.s. of homogeneous polynomials  
in  $x_1, x_2, x_3$  (functions on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ )

$\Delta =$  Laplace on  $\mathbb{R}^3$

$$= \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_1^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_2^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_3^2}$$

$H_\ell := \{ f \in P_\ell \mid \Delta f = 0 \}$  harmonic poly  
of degree =  $\ell$

$H_\ell \int_{S^2}$  called spherical harmonics.

Since  $\Delta$  commutes with  $SO(3)$  action on  $\mathbb{R}^3 \Rightarrow H_\ell \subset P_\ell$  is  $SO(3)$  invariant

THEOREM:  $H_\ell \cong W_\ell$

Notice first that the dimension is correct:

$\dim H_\ell = 2\ell + 1$  since if

$$f = \sum_{k=0}^{\ell} \frac{x_1^k}{k!} f_k(x_2, x_3)$$

$$\Delta f = 0 \iff f_{k+2} = - \left( \frac{\partial^2 f_k}{\partial x_2^2} + \frac{\partial^2 f_k}{\partial x_3^2} \right) \text{ homog. of}$$

so  $f \in H_\ell$  is uniquely determined by  $f_0, f_1$

so  $\dim H_\ell = (\ell+1) + \ell = 2\ell + 1$ .

The rest is a character computation

using the map  $\pi: SU(2) \rightarrow SO(3)$ .  $\square$

Clebsch-Gordan Formula: In  $SU(2)$  case

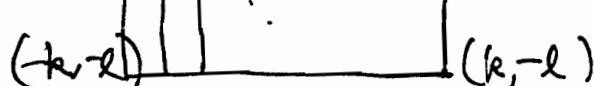
$$V_k \otimes V_\ell = \bigoplus_{j=0}^{\mathfrak{q}} V_{k+\ell-2j} \quad \mathfrak{q} = \min(k, \ell)$$

pf: Only need to check it for characters since that only depends on  $e(t)$ , so

reduce to:

$$\left( \sum_{\alpha=0}^k x^{k-2\alpha} \right) \left( \sum_{\beta=0}^{\ell} x^{\ell-2\beta} \right) = \sum_{j=0}^{\mathfrak{q}} \sum_{i=0}^{k+\ell-2j} x^{k+\ell-2j-2i}$$

then use  $(k, \ell)$   $(k, \ell)$   
 $(\text{let } \ell \leq k)$   $j = \text{constant}$



Q.E.D.



# CHAPTER V SEMI-SIMPLE LIE ALGEBRAS

## Lie Algebra

A Lie algebra is a vector space  $\mathfrak{g}$  with a bilinear map  $[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  st.

$$[X, Y] = -[Y, X] \quad \text{skew-symmetric}$$

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

(Jacobi identity)

## Examples

I. Abelian Lie algebra :  $[X, Y] = 0 \quad \forall X, Y$

II.  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathbb{R}^3$  with cross product

$$[v, w] := v \times w$$

(why the Jacobi id is true?)

III. Matrix algebra :  $\mathfrak{g} = M_n(\mathbb{R}) = \text{End}(\mathbb{R}^n)$

$$[A, B] = AB - BA$$

or use  $\mathbb{C}$

## Homomorphism

A Lie algebra homomorphism  $\varphi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$  is a linear mapping of vector spaces st

$$\varphi([X, Y]) = [\varphi(X), \varphi(Y)]$$

## Representation

is simply a Lie algebra homomorphism to a matrix algebra of some vector space

$$\varphi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{End}(V)$$

# Relations between Lie groups and Lie algebras

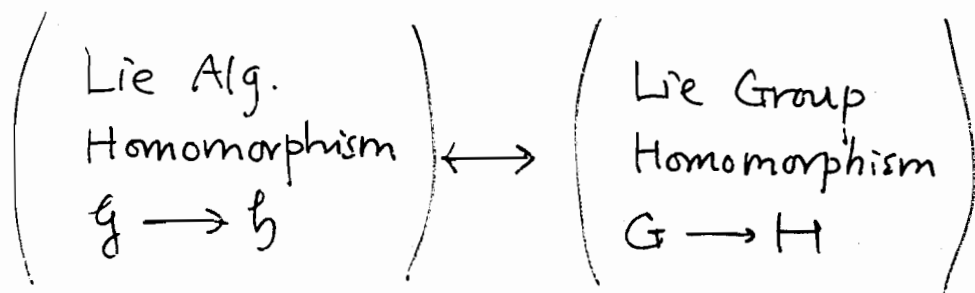
Let  $p: G \rightarrow H$  be a homomorphism of Lie groups. (For simplicity, consider  $G, H$  as subgroups of matrix groups) then the differential of  $p$  induces

$$\mathfrak{g} = T_e G \xrightarrow{p_*} T_e H = \mathfrak{h}$$

which is in fact a Lie algebra homomorphism

$$[X, Y] = [p_* X, p_* Y] \quad \text{Why??}$$

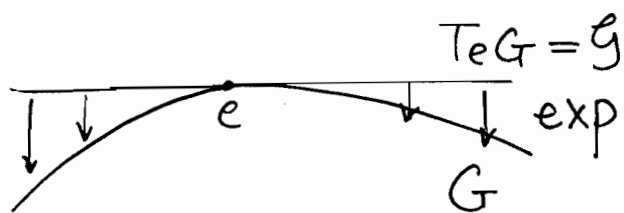
Moreover, if  $G$  is simply connected and connected, then there is a 1-1 correspondence of



The proof uses the so called Campbell-Hausdorff formula (The proof is NOT easy?)

$$e^{[X, Y]} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left( e^{\frac{X}{n}} e^{\frac{Y}{n}} e^{-\frac{X}{n}} e^{\frac{Y}{n}} \right)^{n^2}$$

Where  $e$  is the exponential map:  $T_e G \rightarrow G$



$$e^A = 1 + A + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \frac{A^3}{3!} + \dots$$

$$e^{X+Y} = e^X \cdot e^Y$$

Example:  $G = O(n) \rightarrow S : S^t S = I_n$

$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{o}(n) \rightarrow A : A^t + A = 0$

If  $A^t = -A$ , then  $(e^A)^t e^A = e^{A^t} e^A = \underline{e^{-A} e^A} = I_n$

Consequences of the 1-1 corresp.

I. Lie subgroups are 1-1 correspondant to Lie subalgebras.

II. the case that  $\rho : G \rightarrow H = GL(V)$  shows that Lie group representations are 1-1 corresp. to Lie algebra

representations  $\rho_* : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h} = \text{End}(V)$

This gives the basic reason to consider the (easier, linealized) Lie algebra.

MOST IMPORTANT : Adjoint representation

$\text{Ad} : G \rightarrow GL(\mathfrak{g})$  by  $g \in SO(n) \text{ tr} A = 0, A^t = -A$

$\text{Ad}(g)A := g A g^{-1} \quad (g A g^{-1})^t = g^{-t} A^t g^t$

$\text{ad} : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$  is given by taking differential

Let  $g(t) : (-1, 1) \rightarrow G, g(0) = I_n, g'(0) = X$

$(g(t) A g(t)^{-1})'_{t=0} = \underline{g'(0) A g(0)^{-1} - g(0) A g(0)^{-1} g'(0) g(0)} = XA - AX = [X, A] \quad (g(t)^{-1})'$

ie.  $\text{ad}(X)Y = XY - YX = [X, Y]$

Can check directly  $\text{ad}$  is a Lie alg. homomorphism

ie.  $\text{ad}([X_1, X_2]) = [\text{ad} X_1, \text{ad} X_2]$  Jacobi identity.

# Representations of $sl_2(\mathbb{C})$

$$sl_2(\mathbb{C}) = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in M_2(\mathbb{C}) \mid a+d=0 \right\}$$

is 3-dimensional, has a basis

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

with product table

$$\boxed{[H, X] = 2X, \quad [H, Y] = -2Y, \quad [X, Y] = H}$$

Let  $V$  be a finite dimensional irreducible representation of  $sl_2(\mathbb{C})$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \downarrow [H] X &= 2X \\ \alpha \downarrow [H] Y &= -2Y \end{aligned}$$

- Consider  $H$  acts on  $V = \bigoplus V_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$

$$v \in V_\alpha \Leftrightarrow H(v) = \alpha \cdot v$$

- Look at how  $X, Y$  acts on  $V_\alpha$ . Since  $H$  has the power that can dig out the location " $\alpha$ ":

Fundamental Calculation,  $v \in V_\alpha$

$$\boxed{H(X(v)) = (\alpha+2)(X(v))}$$

ie.  $X: V_\alpha \rightarrow V_{\alpha+2}$

pf:  $HX(v) = [H, X](v) + XH(v)$   
 $= 2X(v) + X(\alpha v) = (\alpha+2)X(v).$

Similarly  $\boxed{Y: V_\alpha \rightarrow V_{\alpha-2}}$

$V$  irreducible  $\Rightarrow$  all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  occur are different by  $2k, k \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \leftarrow & V_{n-6} & \xrightarrow{X} & V_{n-4} & \xrightarrow{X} & V_{n-2} & \xrightarrow{X} & V_n & \leftarrow & (n \in \mathbb{C}) \\ & \cup & & \cup & & \cup & & \cup & & \\ & H & & H & & H & & H & & \end{array}$$

Claim: Let  $v \in V_n$ , then  $\langle v, Y(v), Y^2(v), \dots \rangle = V$ .

since  $V$  is irred, only need to check that

$\{Y^k(v)\}_{k \geq 0}$  is stabilized by  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$

stabilized by  $Y \rightarrow$  trivial

stabilized by  $H \rightarrow$  trivial

stabilized by  $X$ : First of all,  $Xv = 0 \rightarrow X$

$$X Y(v) = [X, Y]v + Y X v \quad \begin{array}{l} V_{n-2} \\ \subset \\ V_n \\ \circlearrowleft \end{array}$$

$$= H v = n v$$

$$X Y^2(v) = [X, Y] Y v + Y X (Y v)$$

$$= H(Y v) + Y(n v)$$

$$= (n-2) Y v + n Y v$$

$$\Rightarrow X Y^m(v) = [n + (n-2) + (n-4) + \dots + (n-2m+2)] Y^{m-1}(v)$$

ie.  $X Y^m(v) = m(n-m+1) Y^{m-1}(v)$  OK.

Moreover, pick smallest  $m$  st  $Y^m(v) = 0$

then  $\Rightarrow n-m+1=0$  ie.  $m = n+1$  so  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

Consequences  $\begin{array}{c} V_{-n} \quad V_{-n+2} \quad \dots \quad V_{n-2} \quad V_n \\ \hline \end{array}$

I.  $\dim V_\alpha = 1, \forall \alpha, \alpha = -n, -n+2, \dots, n-2, n$

II.  $\dim V = n+1$ , Call it  $V^{(n)}$ .

Construction

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let  $V =$  standard repr<sup>n</sup>  $= \mathbb{C}x \oplus \mathbb{C}y = V_+ \oplus V_-$

$$V^{(n)} := \text{Sym}^n(V)$$

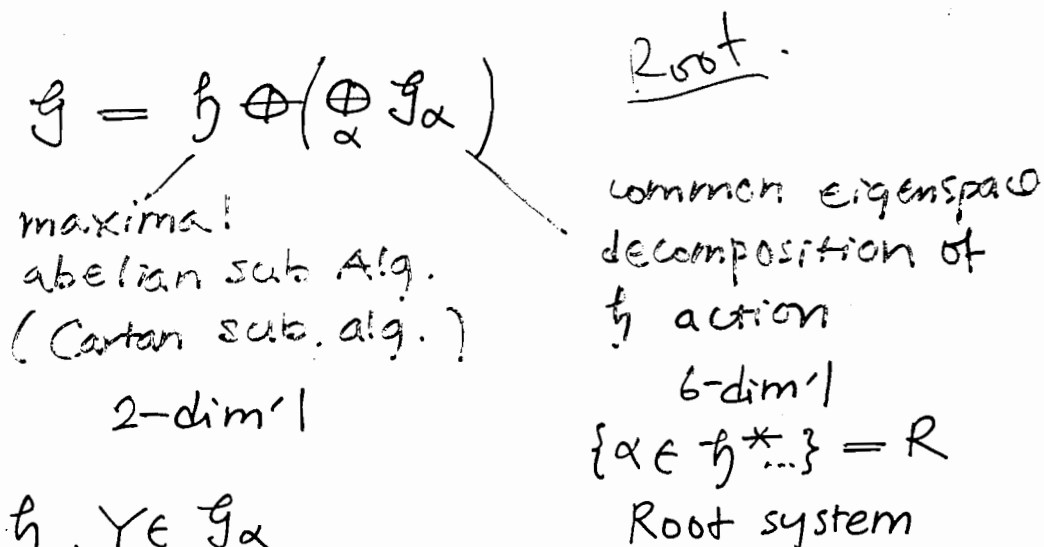
$H$  acts on it as derivations, hence

$$H(x^{n-k} y^k) = \dots = (n-2k) x^{n-k} y^k \text{ . done.}$$

Representations of  $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$ , or even more...

How to generalize  $H, X, Y$  pair in  $sl_2(\mathbb{C})$ ?

Root system in adjoint repr'n



For  $H \in \mathfrak{h}, Y \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$

$$[H, Y] = \text{ad } H(Y) = \alpha(H)Y$$

For a finite dim'l repr'n of  $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $V$

$$V = \bigoplus_{\alpha} V_{\alpha} \quad \text{weight decomposition wrt } \mathfrak{h} \text{ action}$$

Fundamental calculations

For root system:  $\text{ad}(\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}) : \mathfrak{g}_{\beta} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha+\beta}$

For weight system:

$$X \in \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} : V_{\beta} \rightarrow V_{\alpha+\beta}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Pf: } H(X(v)) &= [H, X](v) + XH(v) \\ &= \alpha(H)X(v) + X\beta(H)(v) \\ &= (\alpha + \beta)(H) \cdot X(v) \end{aligned}$$

Root decomposition:  $R = R_+ \cup R_-$

Highest weight vector:  $v \in V_{\alpha}$  if  $V$  irred.

$$V = \bigoplus_{\beta \in R_-} \mathfrak{g}_{\beta} V_{\alpha}$$

In  $sl_2(\mathbb{C})$  case

$H$  spans the maximal abelian subalgebra  
in fact, the eigen-decomposition of  
 $\text{ad}(H)$  on  $\mathfrak{g} = sl_2(\mathbb{C})$  gives

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus (\mathfrak{g}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{-2})$$
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow & \uparrow & \uparrow \\ H & X & Y \end{array}$$

because  $[H, H] = 0$ ,  $[H, X] = 2X$ ,  $[H, Y] = -2Y$

In  $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$  case

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{\alpha \in R} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} \right)$$
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \text{2-dim} & & \text{6-dim} \end{array}$$

$$\mathfrak{h} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a_3 \end{bmatrix} \mid a_1 + a_2 + a_3 = 0 \right\}$$

$$\text{so } \mathfrak{h}^* = \mathbb{C}\{L_1, L_2, L_3\} / (L_1 + L_2 + L_3 = 0)$$

where  $L_i$  is the linear functional  $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \end{bmatrix} \mapsto a_i$

In drawing pictures, may identify

$\mathfrak{h}^*$  with  $\mathfrak{h}$  via inner product

$$R = \{ \underline{L_i - L_j} \mid i \neq j \} \subset \mathfrak{h}^*$$

$$\mathfrak{g}_{L_i - L_j} = \mathbb{C} E_{ij} : \text{1-dim } 1 \times 6$$

$$E_{ij} = \begin{matrix} & & & j \\ \begin{matrix} i \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \end{matrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \dots & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & & \vdots \end{bmatrix} \end{matrix}$$

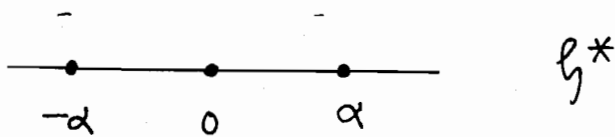
pf: Clearly  $L_i - L_j$  has  $\text{Tr} = 0$

Now let  $D$  be a diagonal matrix

then  $[D, M] = \lambda M \Rightarrow$  only one entry of  $M \neq 0$ .

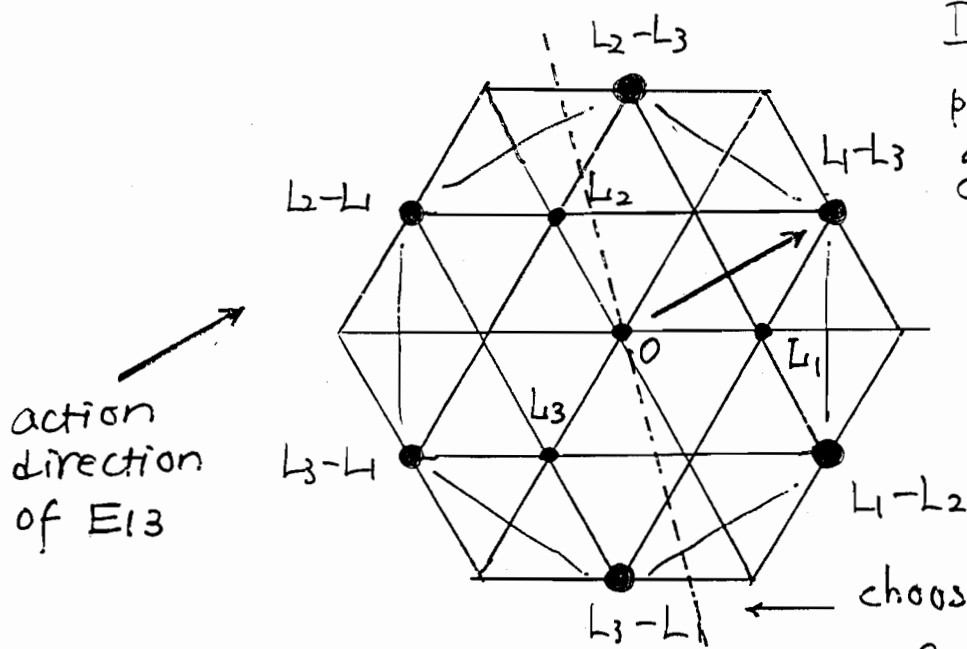
only place  $\neq 0$   
is the  $(i, j) = 1$

$sl_2(\mathbb{C})$ :



with  $\alpha(H) = 2$ ;  $\mathfrak{g}_\alpha = \mathbb{C}X$ ,  $\mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha} = \mathbb{C}Y$

$sl_3(\mathbb{C})$ : Root system in  $\mathfrak{g}^* = \mathbb{R}$



Imagine as a plane in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  given by  $x+y+z=0$

not  $L_i$   
we want  $L_i - L_j$   $i \neq j$

And the corresponding eigenspace  $\mathfrak{g}_{L_i - L_j} = \mathbb{C}E_{ij}$

Let  $V$  be a representation of  $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $V = \bigoplus_{\alpha} V_{\alpha}$

Highest weight vector

Fix a direction so that  $R = R_+ \cup R_-$  as above

so for  $i < j$ :  $E_{ij}$  generate positive space

$E_{ji}$  generate negative space

Let  $H_{i,j} = [E_{ij}, E_{ji}] = E_{ii} - E_{jj} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & -1 \end{bmatrix}$

then there is a

$sl_2(\mathbb{C})$  piece inside  $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$ :

$$[H_{ij}, E_{ij}, E_{ji}] \leftrightarrow [H, X, Y]$$

A vector  $v \in V_{\alpha}$  is the highest weight vector if  $v$  is killed by  $E_{12}, E_{13}, E_{23}$ .



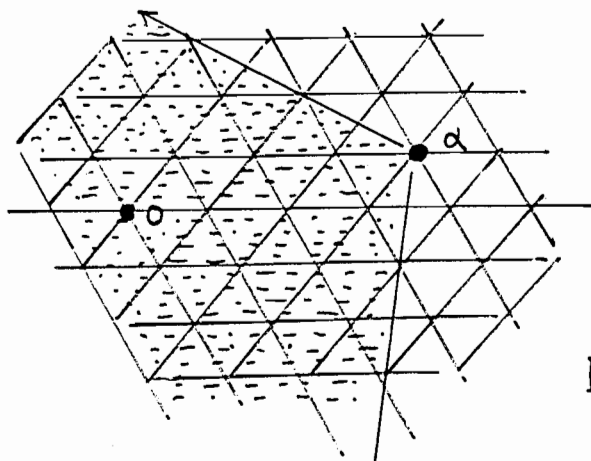
Notice that we have calculated

$$* \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{ad } \mathfrak{g}_\alpha : \mathfrak{g}_\beta \longrightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{\beta+\alpha} \\ \mathfrak{g}_\alpha : V_\beta \longrightarrow V_{\beta+\alpha} \end{array}$$

THEOREM: Let  $v$  be a highest weight vector, then the subrepresentation of  $V$  generated by successive applications of the three (negative) operators  $E_{23}, E_{31}, E_{32}$  is irreducible. Moreover, Any irreducible representation has a unique (up to scale) highest weight vector.

pf: Similar to the  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$  case via \*

$V = \bigoplus V_\alpha$   
weight  
lattice



$\alpha$  = highest  
weight  
vector

□

Moreover, using the subalgebra  $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{C})$  in various different places, one may also determine the shape of the weight lattice.

Apply to the case  $V = \mathfrak{g}$  itself. may even determine the Lie algebra structure of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3(\mathbb{C})$ .

# Root System for simple Lie algebras

$R$  is a root system if

- (1)  $R$  is a finite set spans  $E$
- (2)  $\alpha \in R \Rightarrow -\alpha \in R$  but  $k\alpha \notin R$  if  $k \neq \pm 1$
- (3)  $\alpha \in R \Rightarrow$  the reflection  $W_\alpha$  in the hyperplane  $\alpha^\perp$  maps  $R$  into  $R$  Weyl group
- (4) For  $\alpha, \beta \in R$ ,  $n_{\beta\alpha} := \frac{(\beta, \alpha)}{(\alpha, \alpha)} \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$\Rightarrow$  the only possible angle

$\theta = \pi/2$	no lines	$\circ \quad \circ$
$\theta = 2\pi/3$	one lines	$\circ \text{---} \circ$
$\theta = 3\pi/4$	two lines	$\circ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \circ$
$\theta = 5\pi/6$	3 lines	$\circ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \circ$

Dynkin Diagram: For positive root, assign  $\circ$

$A_n$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \dots \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ$	$n \geq 1$	$sl_{n+1}(\mathbb{C})$
$B_n$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \dots \text{---} \circ \text{---} \text{---} \circ$	$n \geq 2$	$so_{2n+1}(\mathbb{C})$
$C_n$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \dots \text{---} \circ \text{---} \text{---} \circ$	$n \geq 3$	$sp_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$
$D_n$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \dots \text{---} \circ \begin{matrix} \diagup \circ \\ \diagdown \circ \end{matrix}$	$n \geq 4$	$so_{2n}(\mathbb{C})$
$E_6$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \begin{matrix}   \\ \circ \end{matrix} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ$		
$E_7$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \begin{matrix}   \\ \circ \end{matrix} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ$		$F_4 \quad \circ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \circ$
$E_8$	$\circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \begin{matrix}   \\ \circ \end{matrix} \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ$		$G_2 \quad \circ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \circ$