

Component groups of the stabilizers of nilpotent orbit representatives

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If e is a nilpotent element of \mathfrak{g} then all the elements of the orbit $G \cdot e$ are nilpotent. In this case, the orbit is said to be nilpotent.

Theorem (Jacobson-Morozov)

For a nilpotent $e \in \mathfrak{g}$ there are h, f such that

$$[h, e] = 2e, [h, f] = -2f, [e, f] = h.$$

The triple (h, e, f) is called an \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triple.

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Theorem

Representatives of the component group of $Z_G(h, e, f)$ are also representatives of the component group of $Z_G(e)$.

Fix a base $\Delta = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$ of the root system Φ of \mathfrak{g} and a canonical generating set $\{h_i, x_{\pm\alpha_i}\}$.

Let π be a permutation of $\{1, \dots, l\}$ such that $\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \rangle = \langle \alpha_{\pi(i)}, \alpha_{\pi(j)} \rangle$. It follows that there is a unique automorphism σ_π of \mathfrak{g} such that $\sigma_\pi(h_i) = h_{\pi(i)}$, $\sigma_\pi(x_{\pm\alpha_i}) = x_{\pm\alpha_{\pi(i)}}$.

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Definition

The automorphism σ_π , constructed as above, is called diagram automorphism.

Since $\sigma_{\pi_1\pi_2} = \sigma_{\pi_1}\sigma_{\pi_2}$, we can define a (finite) group of diagram automorphisms of \mathfrak{g} denoted Γ .

Proposition

With the notation above, we have the following:

$$\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) = G \rtimes \Gamma.$$

Classical Lie Algebras

- $A_n := \mathfrak{sl}(n+1) = \{x \in \mathfrak{gl}(n+1) : \text{tr}(x) = 0\}$
- $B_n := \mathfrak{so}(2n+1) = \left\{ x \in \mathfrak{gl}(2n+1) : sx = -sx^T, s = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_n \\ 0 & I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$
- $C_n := \mathfrak{sp}(2n) = \left\{ x \in \mathfrak{gl}(2n) : sx = -sx^T, s = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$
- $D_n := \mathfrak{so}(2n) = \left\{ x \in \mathfrak{gl}(2n) : sx = -sx^T, s = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$

For the above Lie algebras we can compute the component group explicitly by constructing an algorithm which follows the theoretical approach given by J. C. Jantzen (2004).

Let $\hat{G} = O(V)$ and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}(V)$.

Let \mathfrak{a} be the subalgebra spanned by an \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triple in \mathfrak{g} , say (h, e, f) . Then $V = V_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_m$, where V_i is an irreducible \mathfrak{a} -module of dimension d_i .

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- 1 $f \cdot v_i = 0$;
- 2 $h \cdot v_i = (-d_i + 1)v_i$;
- 3 $e^{d_i} \cdot v_i = 0$ and $e^k \cdot v_i$ for $0 \leq k \leq d_i - 1$ is a basis of V_i .

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Theorem

$$Z_{\hat{G}}(h, e, f) \longrightarrow \prod_{s \text{ odd}} O(M_s) \times \prod_{s \text{ even}} Sp(M_s)$$

is an isomorphism of groups.

For the explicit computation:

- For any odd s , find an element $g_s \in O(M_s)$ such that $\det(g_s) = -1$;

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- Check whether $\sigma_g \in Z_G^0(h, e, f)$ to determine $Z_G(h, e, f)/Z_G^0(h, e, f)$.
- In general, the component group is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^a$, where a is the number of even integers appearing among the d_i .

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Exceptional Lie algebras

From now on, let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra of type G_2, F_4, E_6, E_7 or E_8 .

Nilpotent orbits of such Lie algebras were characterized by *A.V. Alekseevskii* (1978) and Sommers (1998). Moreover, R. Lawther and D. M. Testerman made some impressive hand computations of component groups (2011).

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Our goal is to overcome limits of the last point, providing a unified strategy and developing computational methods to find generators for component groups.

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- 1 \mathfrak{c}_1 is trivial;
- 2 \mathfrak{c}_1 has a trivial center, i.e. it is semisimple;
- 3 \mathfrak{c}_1 has a non-trivial center.

c_1 is trivial

Observe that in this case $Z_G(h, e, f)$ is a finite group since its Lie algebra is zero.

Consider $Z_G(h) = \{g \in G \mid g(h) = h\}$. This group is connected and its Lie algebra is the reductive Lie algebra defined as follows:

$$\mathfrak{z}_{\mathfrak{g}}(h) = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Psi} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$$

where $\Psi = \{\alpha \in \Phi \mid \alpha(h) = 0\}$. Fix a base $\Pi = \{\beta_1, \dots, \beta_m\}$ and a canonical generating set $\{x_{\pm\beta_i}, h_{\beta_i}\}$ and let W_0 be the Weyl group of Ψ .

c_1 is trivial

Then

$$Z_G(h) = \bigsqcup_{w \in W_0} UHwU_w$$

where

$$U = \{e^{s_1 \text{ad}x_{\beta_1}} \dots e^{s_m \text{ad}x_{\beta_m}} \text{ for } s_1, \dots, s_m \in \mathbb{C}\}$$

H is a maximal torus of the form $\{h_1(t_1) \cdots h_l(t_l) \mid t_1, \dots, t_l \in \mathbb{C}^*\}$

$$h_i(t) = w_{\beta_i}(t)w_{\beta_i}(1)^{-1}, w_{\beta_i}(t) = e^{t \text{ad}x_{\beta_i}} e^{-t^{-1} \text{ad}x_{-\beta_i}} e^{t \text{ad}x_{\beta_i}}$$

$$U_w = \{e^{u_{i_1} \text{ad}x_{\beta_{i_1}}} \dots e^{u_{i_m} \text{ad}x_{\beta_{i_m}}} \text{ for } u_1, \dots, u_m \in \mathbb{C}\}$$

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$\Psi_w = \{\beta_{i_1}, \dots, \beta_{i_n}\} \subset \Phi$ the set of all β_i such that $w(\beta_i)$ is a negative root.

At this point it suffices to set $g(e) = e$ for $g \in Z_G(h)$ and solve with respect to the indeterminates $s_1, \dots, s_m, t_1, \dots, t_l, u_1, \dots, u_m$.

\mathfrak{c}_1 is semisimple

Set $\mathfrak{c} := \mathfrak{c}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{c}_2$ and $\mathfrak{c}^\perp = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid k(x, y) = 0 \text{ for all } y \in \mathfrak{c}\}$.

The Killing form is non-degenerate, being \mathfrak{g} semisimple. This implies that $\mathfrak{c} \cap \mathfrak{c}^\perp = 0$, hence $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{c} \oplus \mathfrak{c}^\perp$.

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Lemma

$[\mathfrak{c}, \mathfrak{c}^\perp] \subset \mathfrak{c}^\perp$, i.e. \mathfrak{c}^\perp is a \mathfrak{c} -module.

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- $\sigma|_{\mathfrak{c}_2} \in Z_{\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{c}_2)}(h, e, f)$ but its Lie algebra is $\mathfrak{z}_{\mathfrak{c}_2} \subset \mathfrak{z}_{\mathfrak{g}} \cap \mathfrak{c}_2 = 0$. Hence $Z_{\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{c}_2)}(h, e, f)$ is finite.

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All this implies that we can determine a finite set U of automorphisms of \mathfrak{c} that stabilize \mathfrak{c}_1 and \mathfrak{c}_2 and such that extending these automorphisms to all of \mathfrak{g} gives at least an element for each component of $Z_G(h, e, f)$.

It turns out that an arbitrary element τ of U can be extended in a finite number of ways.

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- Fix a canonical generating set $\{h_i, x_i, y_i \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq s\}$ and compute the maximal vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_m\}$, i.e. vectors such that $x_j \cdot v_i = 0$ for all j .

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- Consider the canonical generating set $\{\tau(h_i), \tau(x_i), \tau(y_i) \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq s\}$ and compute the maximal vectors $\{w_1, \dots, w_m\}$.

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$$h_i \cdot v_{i_0} = \nu_i^{i_0} v_{i_0}.$$
- If there is a j_0 such that $\tau(h_i) \cdot w_{j_0} = \nu_i^{i_0} w_{j_0}$ for $1 \leq i \leq s$ then the extension of τ has to map $v_{i_0} \rightarrow k_{i_0, j_0} w_{j_0}$. We get then a system of equations between generators of \mathfrak{g} in the indeterminates k_{i_0, j_0} .

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- Compute \mathfrak{c}_1 and then \mathfrak{c}_2 ;
- Compute the finite group of diagram automorphisms $Z_{Aut(\mathfrak{c}_2)}(h, e, f)$ as before;
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- We need to use different strategies case by case.