# Jordan Blocks of Unipotent Elements in Spin Groups 

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26 March 2021


## Outline

1. Introduction to the Topic

- Overview
- The Protagonists
- Main Problem

2. Tackling the Main Problem

- Construct and analyze Spin(n) and srep $n$
- Determine the unipotent classes of Spin( $n$ )
- Find a way to compute the Jordan normal form of $\operatorname{srep}_{n}(C)$ for all unipotent classes $C \subseteq \operatorname{Spin}(n)$
- Detect patterns and derive theoretical results


## The Setting

Groups
fundamental

math. objects | Matrices |
| :---: |
| tool to study |
| math. objects |

## The Setting



Algebraic Geometry
studies solution sets of polynomial equations


## The Setting



## Linear Algebraic Groups

Throughout: $K$ algebraically closed field with $\operatorname{char}(K) \neq 2, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, $\mathrm{GL}(n):=\mathrm{GL}(n, K)$

## Definition

An affine variety (over $K$ ) is the common zero locus in $K^{n}$ of a set of polynomials $S \subseteq K\left[X_{1}, \ldots, X_{n}\right]$.

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## Definition

A group $G$ is a linear algebraic group if it is an affine variety and the group operations $G \times G \rightarrow G,(x, y) \mapsto x y$ and $G \rightarrow G, x \mapsto x^{-1}$ are given by polynomial equations in the coordinates.

- Analogous to Lie groups, topological groups
- Methods from both group theory and algebraic geometry available, giving powerful theory


## Linear Algebraic Groups

## Example

- $(K,+)$ is zero locus of $0 \in K[X]$ and a linear algebraic group
- $\mathrm{GL}(n) \cong\left\{(A, y) \in K^{n \times n} \times K \mid \operatorname{det} A \cdot y=1\right\}$ is linear algebraic group

Term "linear" refers to the following fact:

## Theorem

Every linear algebraic group is isomorphic to a linear algebraic group contained in $\mathrm{GL}(r)$ for some $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

## Linear Algebraic Groups

## Alternative Definition

A linear algebraic group (over $K$ ) is a subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}(n)$ that is defined by polynomial equations for the matrix entries.

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## Example

- Special linear group $\mathrm{SL}(n)=\{A \in \mathrm{GL}(n) \mid \operatorname{det} A=1\}$
- Special orthogonal group

$$
\mathrm{SO}(n)=\left\{A \in \mathrm{GL}(n) \mid A A^{\top}=\operatorname{ld}_{n}, \operatorname{det} A=1\right\}
$$

Have connections to many areas of algebra, e.g. number theory and finite group theory

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## Classification

- Every linear algebraic group can be "split up" into a finite part, a solvable part and a semisimple part
- Every semisimple group is product of simple linear algebraic groups
- Simples are building blocks for semisimples


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- Every semisimple group is product of simple linear algebraic groups
- Simples are building blocks for semisimples
- Simples can be classified by combinatorial data (Dynkin Diagrams)!



## Spin Groups

- Among simple linear algebraic groups is family of spin groups $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$
- Important objects of study
- "Problem": not constructed as a subgroup of GL, but abstractly

- To study $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$, use representations


## Spin Representation

## Definition

A (matrix) representation of a group $G$ is a group homomorphism
$G \rightarrow G L(m)$ for some $m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

- Allows to study groups via matrices and linear algebra which we know well!
- In case of spin groups, study the spin representation

$$
\operatorname{srep}_{n}: \operatorname{Spin}(n) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}\left(2^{\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor}\right)
$$

that arises naturally

## Unipotent Elements

## Definition

$A \in \mathrm{GL}(n)$ is called unipotent if all its eigenvalues are 1 .

- Unipotent elements play important role in structure theory of linear algebraic groups
- Are interested in their Jordan normal form because it encodes a lot of information


Jordan Blocks

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## Main Problem of my Thesis

## Main Problem, 1st Formulation

For $u \in \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ unipotent, find the Jordan normal form of $\operatorname{srep}_{n}(u)$

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## Main Problem, 1st Formulation

For $u \in \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ unipotent, find the Jordan normal form of $\operatorname{srep}_{n}(u)$

- Observation: If $A, B \in \mathrm{GL}(m)$, then $A$ and $B A B^{-1}$ have same Jordan normal form
- Suffices to consider conjugacy classes $\left\{x u x^{-1} \mid x \in \operatorname{Spin}(n)\right\}$ of unipotent elements $u$


## Main Problem

For $C \subseteq \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ unipotent class, find the Jordan normal form of $\operatorname{srep}_{n}(C)$

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- Construct and analyze $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$ and $\operatorname{srep}_{n}$
- Determine the unipotent classes of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$
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- Detect patterns and derive theoretical results


## Construction of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$

$V:=K^{n}, Q:=\sum_{i=1}^{n} X_{i} X_{n+1-i}$ quadratic form on $V$. $T(V)=K \oplus V \oplus(V \otimes V) \oplus(V \otimes V \otimes V) \oplus \cdots$ tensor algebra of $V$

## Definition

The Clifford algebra of $Q$ is $\operatorname{Cliff}(n):=T(V) /\langle v \otimes v-Q(v) \mid v \in V\rangle$
Note: $V \subseteq \operatorname{Cliff}(n)$ generates $\operatorname{Cliff}(n), v^{2}=Q(v) \in \operatorname{Cliff}(n)$

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## Definition

$\operatorname{Spin}(n):=\left\{x \in \operatorname{Cliff}(n)^{\times} \mid x V x^{-1} \subseteq V\right.$, plus some normalizing condition $\}$
Example (Low dimensions)
$\operatorname{Spin}(1)=\{ \pm 1\}, \quad \operatorname{Spin}(2) \cong K^{\times}, \quad \operatorname{Spin}(3) \cong \operatorname{SL}(2)$.

## Construction of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$

## Definition

$\operatorname{Spin}(n):=\left\{x \in \operatorname{Cliff}(n)^{\times} \mid x V x^{-1} \subseteq V\right.$, plus some normalizing condition $\}$

- For $x \in \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ let $\varphi_{x}: V \rightarrow V, v \mapsto x v x^{-1}$. Get exact sequence

$$
\begin{gathered}
1 \longrightarrow\{ \pm 1\} \longrightarrow \operatorname{Spin}(n) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathrm{SO}(n) \longrightarrow 1 \\
x \longmapsto \varphi_{x}
\end{gathered}
$$

- Closely relates $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$ and $\mathrm{SO}(n)$ !
- Have generating system:

$$
\operatorname{Spin}(n)=\langle u v \mid u, v \in V, Q(u)=Q(v)=-1\rangle .
$$

## Spin Representation

- Depending on parity of $n, \operatorname{Cliff}(n)$ only has 1 resp. 2 irreducible representations
- Spin representation $\operatorname{srep}_{n}: \operatorname{Spin}(n) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}\left(2^{\left\lfloor\frac{n}{2}\right\rfloor}\right)$ is restriction of irreducible representation of $\operatorname{Cliff}(n)$ (independent of choice)


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- $\operatorname{srep}_{n}$ can be computed on generating system of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$


## Example $(n=2)$

Here, can give full description:

$$
\operatorname{srep}_{2}: \operatorname{Spin}(2) \cong K^{\times} \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(2), t \mapsto\left(\begin{array}{ll}
t & \\
& t^{-1}
\end{array}\right)
$$

For bigger $n$ more complicated and less explicit!

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## Determining the Unipotent Classes of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$

- Group homomorphism $\varphi: \operatorname{Spin}(n) \rightarrow \mathrm{SO}(n)$ induces bijection between unipotent classes of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$ and $\mathrm{SO}(n)$
- Unipotent conjugacy classes of $\mathrm{SO}(n)$ well-known! Are described in terms of Jordan normal forms
- Finitely many and can easily be computed

$$
\operatorname{Spin}(n) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathrm{SO}(n)
$$

$\{$ unip. classes of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)\} \stackrel{1: 1}{\longleftrightarrow}\{$ unip. classes of $\operatorname{SO}(n)\}$ easy!

## Situation for very small $n$

## Example ( $n=1$ )

Only one unipotent class in Spin(1), the class of the identity element $e$. Have $\operatorname{srep}_{1}(e)=(1) \in G L(1) \checkmark$

Example $(n=2)$
Again only the class of $e \in \operatorname{Spin}(2)$. Here, $\operatorname{srep}_{2}(e)=\left(\begin{array}{cc}1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1\end{array}\right) \checkmark$

- For $n \geq 3$ more than one unipotent class
- Cannot compute srep $_{n}$ explicitly for all classes $^{2}$


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## Approach to the Problem

- For $1 \leq r<n$ established inclusion $\operatorname{Spin}(r) \subseteq \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ and group homomorphism

$$
\beta: \operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) \rightarrow \operatorname{Spin}(n)
$$

- Idea to tackle Main Problem: Restrict spin representation and use induction!
- Two questions arising:

1. How does restriction of srep $_{n}$ look like?
2. Which unipotent classes are in the image of $\beta$ ?

## Q1: How does restriction of srep $_{n}$ look like?

Known result:
Theorem (Meinrenken)

$$
\left.\operatorname{srep}_{n}\right|_{\operatorname{Spin}(n-1)}= \begin{cases}\operatorname{srep}_{n-1} \oplus \operatorname{srep}_{n-1}, & n \text { even } \\ \operatorname{srep}_{n-1}, & n \text { odd }\end{cases}
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$$

- Proof relies on representation theory of Clifford algebras
- Approach can be adapted to the situation

$$
\beta: \operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) \rightarrow \operatorname{Spin}(n)!
$$

Q1: How does restriction of srep $_{n}$ look like?
General statement needs:

## Definition

Let $A \in \mathrm{GL}(s), B \in \mathrm{GL}(t)$. The Kronecker product of $A$ and $B$ is

$$
A \otimes B:=\left(\begin{array}{ccc}
a_{11} B & \cdots & a_{1 s} B \\
\vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\
a_{s 1} B & \cdots & a_{s s} B
\end{array}\right) \in \mathrm{GL}(s t) .
$$

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\end{array}\right) \in \mathrm{GL}(s t)
$$

## Definition

Let $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(s), \sigma: H \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(t)$ representations of groups $G, H$. Then

$$
\rho \otimes \sigma: G \times H \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(s t), \quad(g, h) \mapsto \rho(g) \otimes \sigma(h)
$$

is a representation of $G \times H$, the tensor product of $\rho$ and $\sigma$.

## Q1: How does restriction of srep $_{n}$ look like?

## Restriction Theorem (A.)

Let $1 \leq r<n$ and $\beta: \operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) \rightarrow \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ as before. Then

$$
\operatorname{srep}_{n} \circ \beta= \begin{cases}\left(\operatorname{srep}_{r} \otimes \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}\right) \oplus\left(\operatorname{srep}_{r} \otimes \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}\right), & n \text { even, } r \text { odd } \\ \operatorname{srep}_{r} \otimes \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}, & \text { else }\end{cases}
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$$

- For $r=1$ retrieve old result
- Can be refined for irreducible constituents of srep ${ }_{n}$
- Thus in im $\beta \subseteq \operatorname{Spin}(n)$ can use lower-dimensional results! Kronecker product easy to compute

Q2: Which unipotent classes are in the image of $\beta$ ?

- Have commutative diagram with simple map on the SO-side

$$
\begin{array}{r}
\operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) \xrightarrow{\beta} \operatorname{Spin}(n) \\
\stackrel{\downarrow}{\operatorname{SO}(r) \times \mathrm{SO}(n-r)} \longrightarrow \\
(A, B) \longmapsto\left(\begin{array}{cc}
A & \\
& B
\end{array}\right)
\end{array}
$$

Q2: Which unipotent classes are in the image of $\beta$ ?

- Have commutative diagram with simple map on the SO-side

- Turns out: Except for one unipotent class, a member of every class is in the image of beta!
- Remains to compute Jordan blocks for exceptional class


## Dealing with the Exceptional Class

- Determined root subgroups $U_{i}$ of spin group which reveal a lot of its structure
- Can be described using generating
 system of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$


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- Determined root subgroups $U_{i}$ of spin group which reveal a lot of its structure
- Can be described using generating
 system of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$
- Exceptional class has explicit description in terms of the $U_{i}$ and therefore in terms of the generators of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$
- Jordan blocks of exceptional class can be computed directly!


## Computation of the Jordan Blocks of Unipotent Classes

- $n=1,2 \checkmark$
- $n \geq 3$ : Jordan blocks for all unipotent classes except one can be computed inductively using Restriction Theorem
- Blocks of the exceptional class can be computed directly using knowledge on root subgroups

Gives recursive algorithm. Has been implemented in the Computer Algebra System GAP

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## Results - Notation

- Recall: all eigenvalues of unipotent elements are 1 . Same holds for image under spin representation
- If a block of size $s$ occurs with multiplicity $m$, write $s^{m}$, e.g.

- For simplicity, unipotent classes have no specific labels


## Results in Low Dimensions

| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | $C_{11}$ | 1 |
| 2 | $C_{21}$ | $1^{2}$ |
| 3 | $C_{31}$ | $1^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{32}$ | 2 |
| 4 | $C_{41}$ | $1^{4}$ |
|  | $C_{42}$ | $2^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{43}$ | $1^{2}, 2$ |
|  | $C_{44}$ | $1^{2}, 2$ |


| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 5 | $C_{51}$ | $1^{4}$ |
|  | $C_{52}$ | $2^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{53}$ | $1^{2}, 2$ |
|  | $C_{54}$ | 4 |
| 6 | $C_{61}$ | $1^{8}$ |
|  | $C_{62}$ | $2^{4}$ |
|  | $C_{63}$ | $1^{4}, 2^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{64}$ | $4^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{65}$ | $1^{2}, 3^{2}$ |

## Dependence on Characteristic

Blocks only depend on char $(K)$ up to a certain extent:

## Theorem (A.)

For each $n$ there exists a minimal bound $B_{n} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ such that the Jordan blocks for $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$ in any characteristic $\geq B_{n}$ are the same as the ones in characteristic 0 .

Have $B_{n}=0$ precisely for $n \leq 8$.

## Results in Low Dimensions

| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
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## Block Structure

## Theorem (Malle-A.)

For $n \geq 7$, every unipotent class has at least two Jordan blocks.

| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | $C_{71}$ | $1^{8}$ |
|  | $C_{72}$ | $2^{4}$ |
|  | $C_{73}$ | $1^{4}, 2^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{74}$ | $4^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{75}$ | $1^{2}, 3^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{76}$ | $1,2^{2}, 3$ |
|  | $C_{77}$ | 1,7 |

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For $n \geq 7$, every unipotent class has at least two Jordan blocks.

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|  | $C_{72}$ | $2^{4}$ |
|  | $C_{73}$ | $1^{4}, 2^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{74}$ | $4^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{75}$ | $1^{2}, 3^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{76}$ | $1,2^{2}, 3$ |
|  | $C_{77}$ | 1,7 |

## Theorem (A.)

- If $n \equiv 0,1,7 \bmod 8$, then even sized blocks occur with an even multiplicity.
- If $n \equiv 3,4,5 \bmod 8$, then odd sized blocks occur with an even multiplicity.


## Block Structure

## Theorem (Malle-A.)

For $n \geq 7$, every unipotent class has at least two Jordan blocks.

| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
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|  | $C_{72}$ | $2^{4}$ |
|  | $C_{73}$ | $1^{4}, 2^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{74}$ | $4^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{75}$ | $1^{2}, 3^{2}$ |
|  | $C_{76}$ | $1,2^{2}, 3$ |
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## Summary

## Context

- Linear algebraic groups combine group theory with algebraic geometry; one of their building blocks are spin groups
- Structure of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$ influenced by unipotent elements


## Results of Thesis

- Created algorithm that for every unipotent class $C$ of $\operatorname{Spin}(n)$ determines Jordan normal form of $\operatorname{srep}_{n}(C)$. Based on:
- Restriction Theorem $\rightarrow$ Induction
- Knowledge of root subgroups $\rightarrow$ Exceptional class
- Derived some theoretical results


## Thank you!

## Appendix - Results with Original Labels

| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | $(1)$ | 1 |
| 2 | $\left(1^{2}\right)$ | $1^{2}$ |
| 3 | $\left(1^{3}\right)$ | $1^{2}$ |
|  | $(3)$ | 2 |
| 4 | $\left(1^{4}\right)$ | $1^{4}$ |
|  | $(1,3)$ | $2^{2}$ |
|  | $\left(2^{2}\right)_{0}$ | $1^{2}, 2$ |
|  | $\left(2^{2}\right)_{1}$ | $1^{2}, 2$ |


| $n$ | Class | Jordan blocks |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| 5 | $\left(1^{5}\right)$ | $1^{4}$ |
|  | $\left(1^{2}, 3\right)$ | $2^{2}$ |
|  | $\left(1,2^{2}\right)$ | $1^{2}, 2$ |
|  | $(5)$ | 4 |
| 6 | $\left(1^{6}\right)$ | $1^{8}$ |
|  | $\left(1^{3}, 3\right)$ | $2^{4}$ |
|  | $\left(1^{2}, 2^{2}\right)$ | $1^{4}, 2^{2}$ |
|  | $(1,5)$ | $4^{2}$ |
|  | $\left(3^{2}\right)$ | $1^{2}, 3^{2}$ |

## Appendix - Results in Dimension 9

| Class | Jordan blocks |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\operatorname{char}(K) \neq 3$ | $\operatorname{char}(K)=3$ |
| $\left(1^{9}\right)$ | $1^{16}$ | $1^{16}$ |
| $\left(1^{6}, 3\right)$ | $2^{8}$ | $2^{8}$ |
| $\left(1^{5}, 2^{2}\right)$ | $1^{8}, 2^{4}$ | $1^{8}, 2^{4}$ |
| $\left(1^{4}, 5\right)$ | $4^{4}$ | $4^{4}$ |
| $\left(1^{3}, 3^{2}\right)$ | $1^{4}, 3^{4}$ | $1^{4}, 3^{4}$ |
| $\left(1^{2}, 2^{2}, 3\right)$ | $1^{2}, 2^{4}, 3^{2}$ | $1^{2}, 2^{4}, 3^{2}$ |
| $\left(1^{2}, 7\right)$ | $1^{2}, 7^{2}$ | $1^{2}, 7^{2}$ |
| $(1,3,5)$ | $3^{2}, 5^{2}$ | $3^{2}, 5^{2}$ |
| $\left(1,2^{4}\right)$ | $1^{5}, 2^{4}, 3$ | $1^{5}, 2^{4}, 3$ |
| $\left(1,4^{2}\right)$ | $1^{3}, 4^{2}, 5$ | $1^{3}, 4^{2}, 5$ |
| $\left(2^{2}, 5\right)$ | $3,4^{2}, 5$ | $3,4^{2}, 5$ |
| $\left(3^{3}\right)$ | $2^{4}, 4^{2}$ | $2^{2}, 3^{4}$ |
| $(9)$ | 5,11 | 7,9 |

## Appendix - Restriction Theorem

## Theorem (A.)

Let $n$ even. Then $\operatorname{srep}_{n}=\operatorname{srep}_{n}^{+} \oplus \operatorname{srep}_{n}^{-}$where srep $_{n}^{+}$and srep ${ }_{n}^{-}$are irreducible, inequivalent and of the same dimension. Let $1 \leq r<n$ and $\beta: \operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) \rightarrow \operatorname{Spin}(n)$. If $r$ is odd, then

$$
\operatorname{srep}_{n}^{ \pm} \circ \beta=\operatorname{srep}_{r} \otimes \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}
$$

If $r$ is even, then

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \operatorname{srep}_{n}^{+} \circ \beta=\left(\operatorname{srep}_{r}^{+} \oplus \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}^{+}\right) \otimes\left(\text { srep }_{r}^{-} \oplus \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}^{-}\right) \\
& \operatorname{srep}_{n}^{-} \circ \beta=\left(\operatorname{srep}_{r}^{+} \oplus \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}^{-}\right) \otimes\left(\text { srep }_{r}^{-} \oplus \operatorname{srep}_{n-r}^{+}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

