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 srep_n(C) for all unipotent classes $C \subseteq \text{Spin}(n)$

• Detect patterns and derive theoretical results

The Setting



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The Setting



Algebraic Geometry

studies solution sets of polynomial equations



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The Setting



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

Definition

An affine variety (over K) is the common zero locus in K^n of a set of polynomials $S \subseteq K[X_1, \ldots, X_n]$.

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Definition

An affine variety (over K) is the common zero locus in K^n of a set of polynomials $S \subseteq K[X_1, \ldots, X_n]$.

Definition

A group G is a linear algebraic group if it is an affine variety and the group operations $G \times G \rightarrow G$, $(x, y) \mapsto xy$ 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

Example

- (K, +) is zero locus of $0 \in K[X]$ and a linear algebraic group
- $GL(n) \cong \{(A, y) \in K^{n \times n} \times K \mid \det A \cdot y = 1\}$ 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 GL(r) for some $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.

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Alternative Definition

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

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Example

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

$$SO(n) = \{A \in GL(n) \mid AA^{\top} = Id_n, \det A = 1\}$$

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)!



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Spin Groups

- Among simple linear algebraic groups is family of spin groups Spin(n)
- Important objects of study
- "Problem": not constructed as a subgroup of GL, but abstractly
- To study Spin(n), use representations



Spin Representation

Definition

A (matrix) representation of a group G is a group homomorphism $G \rightarrow GL(m)$ 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

$$\operatorname{srep}_n \colon \operatorname{Spin}(n) \to \operatorname{GL}(2^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor})$$

that arises naturally

Unipotent Elements

Definition

 $A \in GL(n)$ 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



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Main Problem of my Thesis

Main Problem, 1st Formulation

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

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Main Problem, 1st Formulation

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

- Observation: If A, B ∈ GL(m), then A and BAB⁻¹ have same Jordan normal form
- Suffices to consider conjugacy classes {xux⁻¹ | x ∈ Spin(n)} of unipotent elements u

Main Problem

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

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Construction of Spin(n)

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

Definition

The Clifford algebra of Q is $Cliff(n) := T(V)/\langle v \otimes v - Q(v) | v \in V \rangle$

Note: $V \subseteq \text{Cliff}(n)$ generates Cliff(n), $v^2 = Q(v) \in \text{Cliff}(n)$

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Definition

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

Example (Low dimensions)

$$Spin(1) = \{\pm 1\}, Spin(2) \cong K^{\times}, Spin(3) \cong SL(2).$$

Construction of Spin(n)

Definition

 $\mathsf{Spin}(n) := \{x \in \mathsf{Cliff}(n)^{\times} \mid xVx^{-1} \subseteq V, \text{ plus some normalizing condition}\}$

• For $x \in \text{Spin}(n)$ let $\varphi_x \colon V \to V, \ v \mapsto xvx^{-1}$. Get exact sequence

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

- Closely relates Spin(n) and SO(n)!
- Have generating system:

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

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Spin Representation

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

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- srep_n can be computed on generating system of Spin(n)

Example (n = 2)

Here, can give full description:

$$\mathsf{srep}_2\colon \mathsf{Spin}(2)\cong \mathcal{K}^{ imes}
ightarrow\mathsf{GL}(2), \ t\mapsto egin{pmatrix}t&&\\&t^{-1}\end{pmatrix}$$

For bigger *n* more complicated and less explicit!

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Determining the Unipotent Classes of Spin(n)

- Group homomorphism φ: Spin(n) → SO(n) induces bijection between unipotent classes of Spin(n) and SO(n)
- Unipotent conjugacy classes of SO(*n*) well-known! Are described in terms of Jordan normal forms
- Finitely many and can easily be computed

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathsf{Spin}(n) \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathsf{SO}(n) \\ \{\mathsf{unip. classes of } \mathsf{Spin}(n)\} \xleftarrow{1:1} \{\mathsf{unip. classes of } \mathsf{SO}(n)\} \\ & \swarrow \\ & \mathsf{easy!} \end{array}$$

Situation for very small n

Example (n = 1)

Only one unipotent class in Spin(1), the class of the identity element e. Have srep $_1(e) = (1) \in \mathsf{GL}(1) \checkmark$

Example (n = 2)

Again only the class of $e \in \text{Spin}(2)$. Here, $\operatorname{srep}_2(e) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \checkmark$

- For $n \ge 3$ more than one unipotent class
- Cannot compute srep_n explicitly for all classes

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Approach to the Problem

 For 1 ≤ r < n established inclusion Spin(r) ⊆ Spin(n) and group homomorphism

$$\beta$$
: Spin(r) × Spin(n - r) \rightarrow 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 β ?

Q1: How does restriction of srep_n look like?

Known result:

Theorem (Meinrenken)

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

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

$$\beta$$
: Spin(r) × Spin(n - r) \rightarrow Spin(n)!

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Q1: How does restriction of srep_n look like?

General statement needs:

Definition

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

$$A \otimes B := \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}B & \cdots & a_{1s}B \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{s1}B & \cdots & a_{ss}B \end{pmatrix} \in \mathsf{GL}(st).$$

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Definition

Let $\rho: G \to GL(s), \sigma: H \to GL(t)$ representations of groups G, H. Then

 $\rho \otimes \sigma \colon G \times H \to \mathsf{GL}(st), \ (g,h) \mapsto \rho(g) \otimes \sigma(h)$

is a representation of $G \times H$, the tensor product of ρ and σ .

Q1: How does restriction of srep_n look like?

Restriction Theorem (A.)

Let $1 \le r < n$ and β : Spin $(r) \times$ Spin $(n - r) \rightarrow$ Spin(n) as before. Then

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

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- For r = 1 retrieve old result
- Can be refined for irreducible constituents of srep_n
- Thus in im β ⊆ Spin(n) can use lower-dimensional results!
 Kronecker product easy to compute

Q2: Which unipotent classes are in the image of β ?

- Have commutative diagram with simple map on the SO-side
- Allows to check question for classes of SO where this is easy!

$$\begin{array}{c} \operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) & \xrightarrow{\beta} \operatorname{Spin}(n) \\ & \downarrow & \qquad \qquad \downarrow \varphi \\ \operatorname{SO}(r) \times \operatorname{SO}(n-r) & \longrightarrow \operatorname{SO}(n) \\ & (A,B) & \longmapsto & \begin{pmatrix} A \\ & B \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

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- 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 Spin(*n*)



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 Spin(*n*)



- Exceptional class has explicit description in terms of the U_i and therefore in terms of the generators of Spin(n)
- Jordan blocks of exceptional class can be computed directly!

Computation of the Jordan Blocks of Unipotent Classes

- $n = 1, 2 \checkmark$
- n ≥ 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	<i>C</i> ₂₁	1 ²
3	<i>C</i> ₃₁	1 ²
	<i>C</i> ₃₂	2
4	C_{41}	14
	C ₄₂	2 ²
	C ₄₃	1 ² , 2
	C ₄₄	1 ² , 2

n	Class	Jordan blocks
5	C ₅₁ C ₅₂ C ₅₃ C ₅₄	1 ⁴ 2 ² 1 ² , 2 4
6	$\begin{array}{c} C_{61} \\ C_{62} \\ C_{63} \\ C_{64} \\ C_{65} \end{array}$	1 ⁸ 2 ⁴ 1 ⁴ , 2 ² 4 ² 1 ² , 3 ²

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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 Spin(n) in any characteristic $\geq B_n$ are the same as the ones in characteristic 0.

Have $B_n = 0$ precisely for $n \le 8$.

Results in Low Dimensions

n	Class	Jordan blocks
1	<i>C</i> ₁₁	1
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3	C ₃₁	1 ²
	<i>C</i> ₃₂	2
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	C ₄₂	2 ²
	C ₄₃	1 ² , 2
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Block Structure

Theorem (Malle–A.)

For $n \ge 7$, 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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Block Structure

Theorem (Malle-A.)

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

n	Class	Jordan blocks
7	C ₇₁	18
	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 ≡ 0, 1, 7 mod 8, then even sized blocks occur with an even multiplicity.
- If n ≡ 3, 4, 5 mod 8, then odd sized blocks occur with an even multiplicity.

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	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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Summary

Context

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

Results of Thesis

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

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Thank you!

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Appendix – Results with Original Labels

n	Class	Jordan blocks
1	(1)	1
2	(1^2)	1 ²
3	(1^3)	1 ²
	(3)	2
4	(1^4)	14
	(1, 3)	2 ²
	$(2^2)_0$	1 ² , 2
	$(2^2)_1$	1 ² , 2

n	Class	Jordan blocks
5	(1^5)	14
	$(1^2, 3)$	$ 2^2$
	$(1, 2^2)$	1 ² , 2
	(5)	4
6	(1^6)	1 ⁸
	(1 ³ , 3)	2 ⁴
	$(1^2, 2^2)$	1 ⁴ , 2 ²
	(1, 5)	4 ²
	(3^2)	1 ² , 3 ²

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Appendix - Results in Dimension 9

	Jordan blocks		
Class	$char(K) \neq 3$	char(K) = 3	
(1 ⁹)	1^{16}	1^{16}	
$(1^{6}, 3)$	2 ⁸	2 ⁸	
$(1^5, 2^2)$	1 ⁸ , 2 ⁴	1 ⁸ , 2 ⁴	
$(1^4, 5)$	4 ⁴	4 ⁴	
$(1^3, 3^2)$	1 ⁴ , 3 ⁴	1 ⁴ , 3 ⁴	
$(1^2, 2^2, 3)$	1 ² , 2 ⁴ , 3 ²	1 ² , 2 ⁴ , 3 ²	
$(1^2,7)$	$1^2, 7^2$	$1^2, 7^2$	
(1, 3, 5)	3 ² , 5 ²	3 ² , 5 ²	
$(1, 2^4)$	1 ⁵ , 2 ⁴ , 3	1 ⁵ , 2 ⁴ , 3	
$(1, 4^2)$	1 ³ , 4 ² , 5	1 ³ , 4 ² , 5	
$(2^2, 5)$	3, 4 ² , 5	3, 4 ² , 5	
(3 ³)	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 β : $\operatorname{Spin}(r) \times \operatorname{Spin}(n-r) \to \operatorname{Spin}(n)$. If r is odd, then

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

If r is even, then

$$srep_{n}^{+} \circ \beta = (srep_{r}^{+} \oplus srep_{n-r}^{+}) \otimes (srep_{r}^{-} \oplus srep_{n-r}^{-}),$$

$$srep_{n}^{-} \circ \beta = (srep_{r}^{+} \oplus srep_{n-r}^{-}) \otimes (srep_{r}^{-} \oplus srep_{n-r}^{+}).$$