

On algebraic groups, their Lie algebras, and nilpotent pieces

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Setup

■ k - algebraically closed field



- k algebraically closed field,
- lacksquare G connected reductive algebraic group over ${f k}$



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Example

■ $G = GL_n(\mathbf{k})$, $G = SL_n(\mathbf{k})$, and closed subgroups of $GL_n(\mathbf{k})$ are algebraic groups.



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- $G = GL_n(\mathbf{k})$, $G = SL_n(\mathbf{k})$, and closed subgroups of $GL_n(\mathbf{k})$ are algebraic groups.
- $\operatorname{Sp}_4(\mathbf{k}) := \{ A \in \operatorname{GL}_4(\mathbf{k}) \mid A^{tr} J_4 A = J_4 \}, \text{ where } J_4 := \begin{pmatrix} \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot \end{pmatrix}.$



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- All tori are isomorphic to $T := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & 0 \\ 0 & t_n \end{pmatrix} \middle| t_i \in \mathbf{k}^{\times} \right\}$, and
- $lue{}$ Borel subgroups are closed, connected, solvable subgroups of G.



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Example

$$T := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & \vdots & \vdots \\ \vdots & t_2 & \vdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & t_2^{-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{pmatrix} \middle| t_1, t_2 \in \mathbf{k}^{\times} \right\} \subseteq \mathsf{Sp}_4(\mathbf{k}) \text{ is a maximal torus}$$



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- $B := \operatorname{Sp}_4(\mathbf{k}) \cap \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & \cdots & * \\ 0 & \ddots & * \\ * & * \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ is a Borel subgroup.



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- $\Phi \subseteq \text{Hom}(T, \mathbf{k}^{\times})$ root system wrt T, $\Pi \subseteq \Phi$ simple roots wrt B



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Example

$$\begin{split} \alpha: T &\longrightarrow \mathbf{k}^{\times}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & . & . & . \\ . & t_2 & . & . \\ . & . & t_2^{-1} & . \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto t_1 t_2^{-1}, \\ \beta: T &\longrightarrow \mathbf{k}^{\times}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & . & . & . \\ . & t_2 & . & . \\ . & . & t_1^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto t_2^2. \end{split}$$



Setup

lacksquare $\mathfrak{g} \coloneqq \mathsf{Lie}(G) - \mathsf{Lie}$ algebra of G



Setup

 $\mathfrak{g} := \operatorname{Lie}(G) - \operatorname{Lie} \operatorname{algebra} \operatorname{of} G$

Example

$$\mathsf{Lie}(\mathsf{Sp}_4(\mathbf{k})) = \{ A \in M_4(\mathbf{k}) \mid J_4 A + A^{tr} J_4 = 0 \}$$



- $\mathfrak{g} := \text{Lie}(G) \text{Lie algebra of } G$,
- G acts on \mathfrak{g} via $Ad : G \longrightarrow GL(\mathfrak{g})$, where $Ad(g) = dInt_g$ for $g \in G$.



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Example (Adjoint map for $GL_n(\mathbf{k})$)

We have the map

$$Ad: GL_n(\mathbf{k}) \mapsto GL(\mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbf{k})), A \mapsto (B \mapsto ABA^{-1}).$$



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- \mathfrak{g}_{α} **root subspace**, a one-dimensional subspace (the *weight space*) for each root $\alpha \in \Phi$; $\mathfrak{g} = \operatorname{Lie}(T) \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$,



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Example

$$\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha} = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cc} \cdot & a & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & - \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & - a \end{array} \right) \middle| \ a \in \mathbf{k} \right\}, \qquad \mathfrak{g}_{\beta} = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{cc} \cdot & \cdot & a & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & a & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{array} \right) \middle| \ a \in \mathbf{k} \right\},$$

$$\mathfrak{g}_{\alpha+\beta} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & a \\ \cdots & a \\ \cdots & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \middle| a \in \mathbf{k} \right\}, \qquad \mathfrak{g}_{2\alpha+\beta} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \cdots & a \\ \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots \end{pmatrix} \middle| a \in \mathbf{k} \right\},$$



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- lacksquare $e_{\alpha} \in \mathfrak{g}$ such that $\langle e_{\alpha} \rangle = \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}$,
- $U_{\alpha} \subseteq G$ the **root subgroups**; Lie(U_{α}) = \mathfrak{g}_{α} , $G = \langle T, U_{\alpha} \mid \alpha \in \Phi \rangle$



Bad Characteristic



Bad Characteristic

For certain primes p, we call p a **bad prime**, depending on the type of the root system:

Root system type	prime
$B_n(n \geqslant 3), C_n(n \geqslant 2), D_n(n \geqslant 4)$	2
G ₂ , F ₄ , E ₆ , E ₇	2,3
E ₈	2,3,5



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 with simple roots $\Pi := \{ \alpha, \beta \}, \text{ type } C_2.$

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$$\left[\begin{pmatrix}1&a&\cdot&\cdot\\\cdot&1&\cdot&\cdot\\\cdot&1&-a\\\cdot&\cdot&1&1\end{pmatrix},\begin{pmatrix}1&\cdot&b&\cdot\\\cdot&1&\cdot&b\\\cdot&\cdot&1&\cdot\\\cdot&\cdot&1&1\end{pmatrix}\right]$$



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(And what does this have to do with orbits?)



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Maybe there is a way to get a picture that is very similar to the orbits in good characteristic and holds in both good and bad characteristic!







In good characteristic





In good characteristic



In bad characteristic





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In bad characteristic



The problem with the orbits



In good characteristic



In bad characteristic



Nilpotent orbits can be linked to maps $\Delta \coloneqq \{\delta: \Phi \to \mathbb{Z}\}$. In good characteristic a map $\delta \in \Delta$ uniquely determines a nilpotent orbit.



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Conjecture

$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\delta} = \bigcup_{\substack{\delta' \in \Delta \\ \delta' = \delta}} \mathcal{O}_{\delta'}$$



Nilpotent Pieces

Theorem (V.)

Let G be a simple algebraic group of type G_2, F_4 , and E_6 and \mathcal{O}_{δ} denote the nilpotents orbit with map $\delta \in \Delta$. Then the nilpotent piece with respect to map δ and the group G is given by

$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\delta} = \bigcup_{\substack{\delta' \in \Delta \\ \delta' = \delta}} \mathcal{O}_{\delta'},$$

In particular, the nilpotent pieces $\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\delta}$ form a partition of $\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}}$ and are in bijection with the nilpotent orbits in good characteristic.