

Transitive Lie algebras

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$$\Phi_{*,x} \Sigma_x = \Sigma_{\Phi(x)}, \quad x \text{ close to } p_1.$$

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- ▶ A local homogeneous subset $T\mathbb{C}^n$ (holomorphic tangent bundle):

replace \mathbb{R}^n by \mathbb{C}^n and local diffeos by local biholomorphisms.

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- ▶ \mathfrak{a}_2 and \mathfrak{b}_2 (Abelian and non-Abelian 2-dim Lie algebras)
- ▶ **Claim.** There is a natural way to identify:

Local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{R}^n$ up to diffeos	Subset of an n-dim Lie algebra up to automorphisms
Local homogeneous Riemannian metric on \mathbb{R}^2 with zero, resp. <u>negative</u> curvature	ellipse in \mathfrak{a}_2 , resp. \mathfrak{b}_2
Local homogeneous hyperbolic structure in $T\mathbb{R}^2$ with zero, positive or negative curvature	hyperbola in \mathfrak{b}_2 if zero curvature also hyperbola in \mathfrak{a}_2

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- ▶ All ellipses, resp. hyperbolas in \mathfrak{a}_2 are automorphic. If $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{a}_2$ we obtain homogeneous “flat” elliptic or hyperbolic structure, “flat” = zero curvature.

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- ▶ The classification of ellipses and hyperbolas in \mathfrak{b}_2 and the corresponding homogeneous elliptic and hyperbolic structures are as follows:

Ellipses and hyperbolas in $\mathfrak{b}_2 : [e_1, e_2] = e_2$ up to automorphisms	Local homogeneous subsets of $T\mathbb{R}^2$ up to diffeomorphisms
Ellipse $x_1^2 + \theta x_2^2 = 1$ $\theta > 0$	Riemannian metrics with <u>negative</u> curvature $-\theta$
Hyperbola $x_1^2 - \theta x_2^2 = 1$ $\theta > 0$	Hyperbolic structure with <u>negative</u> curvature $-\theta$
Hyperbola $x_2^2 - \theta x_1^2 = 1$ $\theta > 0$	Hyperbolic structure with <u>positive</u> curvature θ
Hyperbola $x_1 x_2 = 1$	Hyperbolic structure with <u>zero</u> curvature

- ▶ Take a Lie group G with the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{a}_2$ or $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{b}_2$ and push forward an ellipse or hyperbola in \mathfrak{g} by the flows of left-invariant vector fields to a nbhd of $id \in G$.

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- ▶ Generalization (not modest)
 - Replace $T\mathbb{R}^2$ by $T\mathbb{R}^n$, resp. $T\mathbb{C}^n$
 $T\mathbb{C}^n$: holomorphic tangent bundle
 - replace \mathfrak{a}_2 or \mathfrak{b}_2 by any real, resp. complex n -dim Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}
 - Replace an ellipse or hyperbola by any subset of \mathfrak{g} .

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We obtain a local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{R}^n$, resp. $T\mathbb{C}^n$.

- ▶ A local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{R}^n$, resp. $T\mathbb{C}^n$ will be called **special** if it cannot be obtained in this way, up to an analytic diffeo, resp. biholomorphism.

Problem. To find all **special** local homogeneous subsets of $T\mathbb{R}^n$, resp. $T\mathbb{C}^n$, if any.

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- 3. In $T\mathbb{C}^3$ within local homogeneous linear subsets (plane fields, affine plane fields, line fields, affine line fields) there are no special ones.
- 4. In $\mathbb{T}C^4$ within local homogeneous linear subsets the only special one is the most involved class of affine line fields.
The symmetry algebra for this class is ∞ -dim.

► **5.** In $T\mathbb{R}^3$ and in $T\mathbb{C}^3$:

there are special local homogeneous (non-linear) subsets
their symmetry algebra can be explicitly
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two single symmetry algebras and two 1-parameter families;
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- I do not know an example of a special local homogeneous
subset of $T\mathbb{C}^n$ with finite-dim symmetry algebra.

Working doubtful conjecture: such example does not exist.

A local affine line field in $T\mathbb{K}^n$, $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$
can be defined by two vector field germs A, B
where B shows direction and A is “drift”.

A and B are defined up to $B \rightarrow H_1 B$, $A \rightarrow A + H_2 B$, $H_1(0) \neq 0$.

Within local homogeneous affine line fields:

the simplest class can be called “flat”, it is defined by:

$[A, B](x) \in \text{span}(B(x))$ for any x .

The most involved class is defined by

$[B, [A, B]](x) \in \text{span} \{B(x), [A, B](x)\}$,

$[A, [A, [A, B]]](0) \notin \text{span} \{B(0), [A, B](0), [A, [A, B]](0)\}$,

$[B, [A, [A, [A, B]]]](x) \in \text{span} \{B(x), [A, B](x), [A, [A, B]](x)\}$

The symmetry algebra is

$f(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + f'(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + e^{x_3} f''(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} + (e^{2x_2} f'''(x_1) + e^{x_2} f''(x_1)) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4}$.

It is isomorphic to the Lie algebra of all vector field germs on \mathbb{K} .

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- ▶ **Def.** A Lie algebra L of vector field germs at $0 \in \mathbb{K}^n$ is called **transitive** if $\dim L(0) = n$.
- ▶ Thus the symmetry algebra of any local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{K}^n$ is transitive. **But not any transitive algebra of vector field germs is the symmetry algebra of some local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{K}^n$.**

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- ▶ Any Lie algebra of vector field germs at $0 \in \mathbb{K}^n$ has a very important subalgebra consisting of vector field germs vanishing at 0. It is called **isotropy subalgebra**.
- ▶ Recall the basic construction of local homogeneous subsets $\Sigma \subset T\mathbb{K}^n$:

Take an n -dim Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , a subset of \mathfrak{g} , and push this subset forward to a nbhd of id of $G = \exp(\mathfrak{g})$ by the flows of left-invariant vector fields. Bring the obtained local subset of TG to a local subset $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{K}^n$ by a local analytic diffeo ($\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{C}$: biholomorphism) $(G, id) \rightarrow (\mathbb{K}^n, 0)$.

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- ▶ Consider the symmetry algebra $sym(\Sigma)$ and its isotropy subalgebra $I \subset sym(\Sigma)$. The construction implies

$$sym(\Sigma) = \mathfrak{g} + I.$$

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Let L be a transitive Lie algebra
of vector field germs at $0 \in \mathbb{K}^n$.

Let I be its isotropy subalgebra.

Note that I is a subspace of L of codimension n .

Def. I will say that L has the **splitting property**
if I has a complement in L which is a Lie algebra,
i.e. $L = \mathfrak{g} + I$ for some n -dim Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} .

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- ▶ Recall that a local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{K}^n$ is called **special** if it cannot be obtained by the given construction.

Prop. A local homogeneous subset $\Sigma \subset T\mathbb{K}^n$ is **special**
if and only if its symmetry algebra $\text{sym}(\Sigma)$
does **not** have the **splitting property**.

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- ▶ **1.** Local Riemannian metrics (elliptic structure) on \mathbb{R}^2 with positive curvature.

The symmetry algebra, as an abstract Lie algebra, is $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{R})$. The isotropy subalgebra is 1-dimensional. The splitting property does **not** hold **simply because** $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{R})$ **does not contain any 2-dim subalgebras.**

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- ▶ **2.** The mentioned above class of local homogeneous affine line fields on \mathbb{K}^4 , with the ∞ -dim symmetry algebra

$$f(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + f'(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + e^{x_3} f''(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3} + (e^{2x_2} f'''(x_1) + e^{x_2} f''(x_1)) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4}$$

As an abstract Lie algebra it is isomorphic to the Lie algebra $Vect(1)$ of all vector field germs on \mathbb{K} . The splitting property does **not** hold **simply because** $Vect(1)$ **does not contain any 4-dim subalgebras (exercise).**

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- ▶ 2. Is it possible to deal with transitive Lie algebras of vector field germs as with abstract Lie algebras endowed with a subalgebra (corresponding to the isotropy subalgebra)?
- ▶ 2.1 Let (L, I) and (\tilde{L}, \tilde{I}) are transitive Lie algebras of vector field germs on \mathbb{K}^n , where I and \tilde{I} are isotropy subalgebras. Is it true that L and \tilde{L} are diffeomorphic (i.e. there exists a local diffeo Φ of \mathbb{K}^n such that $\Phi_*L = \tilde{L}$) **if and only if** (L, I) and (\tilde{L}, \tilde{I}) are isomorphic, i.e. there exists an isomorphism from L to \tilde{L} sending I to \tilde{I} ?

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- ▶ 2.2 Under which condition, if any, an abstract Lie algebra L endowed with a subalgebra I of codimension n can be realized as a transitive Lie algebra of vector field germs on \mathbb{K}^n with the isotropy subalgebra I ?

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- ▶ **Prop.** The isotropy subalgebra I of a transitive algebra L of vector field germs does not contain non-trivial ideals of L .
- ▶ **Def.** An abstract transitive Lie algebra is a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} endowed with a subalgebra I (called isotropy subalgebra) containing no non-trivial ideals of the whole algebra.

Two abstract transitive Lie algebras (\mathfrak{g}, I) and $(\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}, \tilde{I})$ are isomorphic if there exists an isomorphism $T : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ such that $T(I) = \tilde{I}$.

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- ▶ **Thm** (H.J. Sussmann, 1974) Two finite-dim transitive Lie algebras of vector field germs on \mathbb{K}^n are diffeomorphic if and only if they are isomorphic as abstract transitive Lie algebras.

Prop. The isotropy subalgebra I of a transitive algebra L of vector field germs does not contain non-trivial ideals of L .

PROOF. Let $R \in I$ be an ideal of L . Assume $R \neq \{0\}$. Take in R a vector field V whose Taylor series starts with terms of minimal possible order $d \geq 1$ (here we use analyticity):

$$R \supset V = V^{(d)} + h.o.t., \quad V^{(d)} \text{ homogeneous of order } d$$

Since L is transitive, L contains vector fields

$$a_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} + h.o.t.$$

Since R is an ideal, $[a_i, V] \in R$. We have

$$[a_i, V] = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}, V^{(d)} \right] + h.o.t.$$

If at least one of $\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}, V^{(d)} \right]$ is not zero we get contradiction to the assumption that d is minimal possible. Therefore

$$\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}, V^{(d)} \right] = 0, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Since $d \geq 1$ it follows $V^{(d)} = 0$. Contradiction.

Prop. Any finite-dim abstract transitive Lie algebra (\mathfrak{g}, I) can be realized by a transitive Lie algebra of vector field germs on \mathbb{K}^n , where $n = \text{codim } I$.

Proof. Let G be a nbhd of id of a Lie group of \mathfrak{g} . Factorize G by the equivalence $g_1 \sim g_2$ if $g_2 = g_1 e^\lambda$ for some $\lambda \in I$. We obtain an n -dimensional manifold M . The left-invariant vector fields on G define vector fields on M . We obtain a Lie algebra L of vector fields on M .

Let $\lambda \in I$. It defines a flow on M : $g \rightarrow e^{t\lambda} g$. We have $id \rightarrow e^{t\lambda} \sim id$. Therefore the left invariant vector field defined by vectors in I give, after the factorization, vector field on M which vanish at $id \in M$. Therefore they belong to the isotropy subalgebra of L . The fact that the isotropy subalgebra of L contains nothing else and $\dim L(id) = n$ follows from the condition that I contains no non-trivial ideals of \mathfrak{g} .

► Example: $(\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{C}), I)$, $\dim I = 1$

There are **two** such transitive Lie algebras, up to isomorphisms, corresponding to **singular** and non-singular directions $\text{span}(b)$ in $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{C})$. The singular directions are defined by: **$ad(b)$ is a nilpotent operator.**

In the standard basis $[e_1, e_2] = e_3$, $[e_2, e_3] = e_1$, $[e_3, e_1] = e_2$ the singular directions are spanned by vectors $r_1 e_1 + r_2 e_2 + r_3 e_3$ where $r_1^2 + r_2^2 + r_3^2 = 0$.

► Example: $(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), I)$, $\dim I = 1$

There are **three** such transitive Lie algebras, up to isomorphisms, corresponding to **singular**, **hyperbolic** and **elliptic** directions. The singular directions $\text{span}(b)$ are defined as for $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{C})$, but now they form a cone separating

$ad(b)$ has eigenvalues $0, \pm 1$ (up to a factor): hyperbolic

$ad(b)$ has eigenvalues $0, \pm i$ (up to a factor): elliptic

- **Claim.** Any transitive Lie algebra $(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), I)$ has the splitting property.

If $\dim I = 2$ it is obvious. If $\dim I = 1$ one has

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for \mathfrak{sl}_2 : $[a_1, a_2] = b$, $[a_1, b] = a_1$, $[a_2, b] = -a_2$

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- ▶ In $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{R})$, unlike $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{C})$, all directions I are equal (automorphic); they are equally bad because $(\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{C}), I)$ does not have the splitting property: $\mathfrak{so}_3(\mathbb{C})$ does not have any 2-dim subalgebras.

Ellipses and hyperbolas in $\mathfrak{b}_2 : [e_1, e_2] = e_2$ up to automorphisms	Local homog. subsets of $T\mathbb{R}^2$ up to diffeos	symm. algebra is transitive Lie algebra
Ellipse $x_1^2 + \theta x_2^2 = 1$ $\theta > 0$	Riemannian metric with <u>negative</u> curvature $-\theta$	$(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), I)$ elliptic 1-dim I
Hyperbola $x_1^2 - \theta x_2^2 = 1$ $\theta > 0$	Hyperbolic struct. with <u>negative</u> curvature $-\theta$	$(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), I)$ hyperb. 1-dim I
Hyperbola $x_2^2 - \theta x_1^2 = 1$ $\theta > 0$	Hyperbolic struct. with <u>positive</u> curvature θ	$(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), I)$ hyperb. 1-dim I
Hyperbola $x_1 x_2 = 1$	Hyperbolic struct. with <u>zero</u> curvature	$\left((\mathbb{R} + \mathfrak{a}^2)_{\pm 1}, \mathbb{R} \right)$ $[z, x] = x, [z, y] = -y,$ $[x, y] = 0$

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- ▶ For $(\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbb{R}), I)$ with singular I :
$$\tilde{L} = \left\{ f'(x_2) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + f(x_2) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \right\}.$$

► Central part of a transitive Lie algebra

Def. The central part of a Lie algebra (L, I) of vector field germs at $0 \in \mathbb{K}^n$ is the linear approximations of the vector fields $V \in I$ at 0.

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► If two abstract transitive Lie algebras are isomorphic then their central parts $\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2 \subset \mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{K})$ are **conjugate**: $T^{-1}\mathcal{A}_1 T = \mathcal{A}_2$ for some non-singular T , which is **much stronger** than isomorphic.

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- ▶ All α such that $\alpha(0) \neq 0$ and $d\alpha(0) \neq 0$ are locally diffeomorphic, for example to $\alpha = e^{x_1} dx_2$. The symmetry algebra of this α , i.e. the vector fields Z such that $\mathcal{L}_Z \alpha = d(Z \lrcorner \alpha) + Z \lrcorner d\alpha = 0$ is exactly $f'(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + f(x_1) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}$.

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- ▶ **Exercise.** Give an example of a finite-dimensional complex transitive Lie algebra which does not have the splitting property (refusing from (b)). **The simplest I know is $\text{span}(a_1, a_2, a_3, b)$, $[a_2, b] = a_1$, $[a_2, a_3] = b$, all other brackets are zero, the isotropy subalgebra is $\text{span}(b)$.**

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- ▶ But **unfortunately (or fortunately?)** this transitive Lie algebra is not the symmetry algebra of any local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{C}^4$.

- ▶ **Prop.** If Σ is a local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{K}^n$ and $\text{sym}(\Sigma)$ contains a transitive Lie algebra (L, I) which belongs to a bigger transitive Lie algebra (\tilde{L}, \tilde{I}) and the **central part** of these two transitive Lie algebras are the same or **geometrically-same** then $\text{sim}(\Sigma)$ also contains (\tilde{L}, \tilde{I}) .

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- ▶ **Definition of geometrically-same**

Two Lie subalgebras $\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_2 \subset \mathfrak{gl}_n(\mathbb{K})$, viewed as linear vector fields on $T_0\mathbb{K}^n$ (and therefore defined up to conjugacy rather than isomorphisms) are **geometrically same** if any \mathfrak{g}_1 -invariant subset of $T_0\mathbb{K}^n$ is also \mathfrak{g}_2 -invariant.

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- ▶ There are many other examples with much more involved subalgebras of $\mathfrak{gl}(n)$ defined up to conjugacy.

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Prop. A transitive Lie algebra is the symmetry algebra of a local homogeneous subset of $T\mathbb{R}^n$ if and only if it is geometrically-maximal.
- ▶ **Problem.** To find geometrically transitive Lie algebras which do not have the splitting property.

- ▶ **Thanks** to **Amos Nevo** for a number of conversations introducing me to the **magic of Lie algebras** and proving for me several lemmas I could not prove myself.
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- ▶ **Thanks** to **the listeners**.

Any comment will be strongly appreciated.

This talk is published in my homepage.