

FQM problem Sheet 13 in WS 2022/2023

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1. Killing form of $\mathfrak{gl}(N, \mathbb{R})$ (9)

We consider the group $\text{Gl}(N, \mathbb{R})$ of all real valued regular matrices and the associated Lie algebra $\mathfrak{gl}(N, \mathbb{R})$. Prove

- (a) The dimension of the Lie algebra is N^2 .
(b) The Killing form as introduced in the lecture is related to the matrix trace of the defining representation by

$$B(x, y) = 2n\text{Tr}(XY) - 2\text{Tr}(X)\text{Tr}(Y) \quad (1)$$

where x, y denote the elements of the abstract Lie algebra and X, Y are their representing $N \times N$ matrices.

- (c) Is the Killing form degenerate?

Hint: For the solution a calculation is necessary with transparent book keeping. Take as a basis of the Lie algebra all $N \times N$ matrices $E_{i,j}$ which have all matrix elements zero except for the (i, j) -element which is 1. Then calculate the application of $\text{ad}(E_{i,j})\text{ad}(E_{k,l})$ onto an element $E_{g,h}$ by using rules like

$$\text{ad}(E_{k,l}) \cdot E_{g,h} = [E_{k,l}, E_{g,h}] = \delta_{l,g}E_{k,h} - \delta_{h,k}E_{g,l} \quad (2)$$

The result of $\text{ad}(E_{i,j})\text{ad}(E_{k,l}) \cdot E_{g,h}$ will be a linear combination of all E_{\dots} . Identify the coefficient of the $E_{g,h}$ term and sum over all g, h .

Alternative hint:

Follow the above idea, but use for $E_{i,j}$ in the calculations $|i\rangle\langle j|$ and $\text{Tr}[(|i\rangle\langle j|)^+ \sum_{k,l} c_{k,l} |k\rangle\langle l|] = c_{i,j}$.

2. Lorentz algebra (10)

Use the generators of the Lorentz algebra as in section 1.7 of the lecture, namely as

$$\eta \cdot \omega_{\mu,\nu}, \quad \omega_{\mu,\nu} = |\mu\rangle\langle\nu| - |\nu\rangle\langle\mu| \quad \text{and } |\mu\rangle, \langle\nu| \text{ are column and row vectors} \quad (3)$$

where η is the diagonal matrix with diagonal elements $(1, -1, -1, -1)$. In total 6 independent elements exist ($0 \leq \mu < \nu \leq 3$).

- (a) The Killing form for two elements a, b of the algebra can be *calculated* to give

$$B(a, b) = 2\text{Tr}(AB) \quad (4)$$

where A, B are the representing 4×4 matrices as given above.

Hint: The calculation is like for the previous problem on $\mathfrak{gl}(N, \mathbb{R})$, but more involved. We still have a useful relation like $\text{Tr}[\omega_{\mu\nu}^+ \sum_{0 \leq \alpha < \beta \leq 3} c_{\alpha\beta} \omega_{\alpha\beta}] = 2c_{\mu\nu}$. The $\omega_{\mu\nu}$ however, do not factor “into left and right”, they are sums of two such elements.

- (b) If you do not get the calculation done, check the result by use of the explicit adjoint representations of the elements b_3 and d_3 of the lecture.
(c) Is the Killing form degenerate? Is it positive (or negative) definite? What might be the consequences?