

# An Overview of Lie Superalgebras

## Graduate Algebraic Representation Theory Seminar

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# Structure

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- Background
- Definitions & Examples
- Structure & Representation Theory
- Supersymmetry
- My recent work

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- In physics: Supersymmetry regarding particles of different statistics (Bosons & Fermions)

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- In physics: Supersymmetry regarding particles of different statistics (Bosons & Fermions)
- In mathematics: Graded Lie algebras in deformation theory

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It appears that at least in particle physics, there is no experimental evidence that any supersymmetric extension to the standard model is correct...

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Still, it finds applications to various other fields beyond particle physics.

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Still, it finds applications to various other fields beyond particle physics.

Super Lie theory still has a lot of unsolved mysteries. It lives on as some pure mathematical pursuit.

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## General Principle of Superization

A (good)  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -grading for everything!

$$\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}\} = \{\text{even}, \text{odd}\}$$



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## General Principle of Superization

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$$\mathbb{Z}_2 = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}\} = \{\text{even}, \text{odd}\}$$

Let's review Lie algebras!

# Lie Algebras

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## Definition ([Hum78])

A *Lie algebra* is a vector space  $\mathfrak{g}$  with a bilinear map  $[-, -] : \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  which is skew symmetric and satisfies the Jacobi identity, that is

- 1  $[X, Y] = -[Y, X]$
- 2  $[[X, Y], Z] = [X, [Y, Z]] - [Y, [X, Z]]$

Classic example:  $\text{End } V$  equipped with the usual commutator ( $[A, B] = AB - BA$ ). As a Lie algebra, we denote it as  $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ .

# A bit of rep theory

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## Definition

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra. A representation is a pair  $(\pi, V)$  such that  $\pi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  is a linear map preserving the Lie bracket, i.e.  $\pi([X, Y]) = [\pi(X), \pi(Y)]$ . We say  $V$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module.

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Weyl's Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is complex semisimple, then any finite dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module is completely reducible.

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Know simples, know all.

# A bit of rep theory

## Definition

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra. A representation is a pair  $(\pi, V)$  such that  $\pi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V)$  is a linear map preserving the Lie bracket, i.e.  $\pi([X, Y]) = [\pi(X), \pi(Y)]$ . We say  $V$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module.

Weyl's Theorem: If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is complex semisimple, then any finite dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module is completely reducible.

Know simples, know all.

## “Redefine” $\mathfrak{g}$

Jacobian id.  $\iff \mathfrak{g}$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module.

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## Definition

A *vector superspace*  $V$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded vector space  $V = V_0 \oplus V_1$ . A vector  $v \in V_0$  (resp.  $V_1$ ) is said to be *even* (resp. *odd*) and write  $|v| = 0$  (resp.  $1$ ). Denote the vector superspace over  $k$  with even subspace  $k^m$  and odd subspace  $k^n$  as  $k^{m|n}$ . Its *dimension* is denoted as  $(m|n)$  while the *superdimension* is defined as  $m - n$ .

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A linear map  $f : V \rightarrow W$  is *even* if it preserves parity, that is,  $|f(v)| = |v|$  is even. If  $|f(v)| = -|v|$ , it is defined to be *odd*. An even or odd map is said to be *homogeneous*. We have

$$\begin{cases} \text{Hom}(V, W)_{\bar{0}} := \text{Hom}(V_{\bar{0}}, W_{\bar{0}}) \oplus \text{Hom}(V_{\bar{1}}, W_{\bar{1}}) \\ \text{Hom}(V, W)_{\bar{1}} := \text{Hom}(V_{\bar{0}}, W_{\bar{1}}) \oplus \text{Hom}(V_{\bar{1}}, W_{\bar{0}}) \end{cases}$$



# SVect

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Just a quick comment:

**SVect**

The category of all vector superspaces, denoted as  $\mathbf{SVect}$ , is a rigid symmetric monoidal category.

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Just a quick comment:

## SVect

The category of all vector superspaces, denoted as  $\mathbf{SVect}$ , is a rigid symmetric monoidal category.

It means  $\otimes$  is well-defined as follows:

$$(V \otimes W)_i := \bigoplus_{j+k=i} V_j \otimes W_k$$

with a natural isomorphism from  $V \otimes W$  to  $W \otimes V$ :

$$s_{V,W} : v \otimes w \mapsto (-1)^{|v||w|} w \otimes v$$

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What do the matrices look like?

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What do the matrices look like?

$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{m \times m} & 0_{m \times n} \\ \hline 0_{n \times m} & D_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$  correspond to even linear maps, and

$\left( \begin{array}{c|c} 0_{m \times m} & B_{m \times n} \\ \hline C_{n \times m} & 0_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$  to odd linear maps.

# Lie Superalgebras

## Definition ([Kac77])

A *Lie superalgebra* is a vector superspace  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}}$  with a bilinear map  $[-, -] : \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  which is skew supersymmetric and satisfies the super Jacobi identity:

- 1  $[X, Y] = -(-1)^{|X||Y|}[Y, X]$
- 2  $[[X, Y], Z] = [X, [Y, Z]] - (-1)^{|X||Y|}[Y, [X, Z]]$

Note:

- 1 Everything looks similar!
- 2 The sign can be explained by  $\mathbf{SVect}$ .
- 3  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$  is just a Lie algebra,  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}}$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$ -mod.
- 4 The bracket is symmetric on  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}}$ .

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We write  $\text{End}(\mathbb{C}^{m|n})$  as  $\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$ . As matrices:  $\left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{m \times m} & B_{m \times n} \\ \hline C_{n \times m} & D_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$

$$\mathfrak{gl}_{\bar{0}}: \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{m \times m} & 0_{m \times n} \\ \hline 0_{n \times m} & D_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathfrak{gl}_{\bar{1}}: \left( \begin{array}{c|c} 0_{m \times m} & B_{m \times n} \\ \hline C_{n \times m} & 0_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$$

The superbracket is the supercommutator  $[X, Y] := XY - (-1)^{|X||Y|}YX$ .

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# Classification

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We aim to give an overview of the classification of complex, simple, and finite dimensional Lie superalgebras.

“Simple  $\iff$  no non-trivial ideals” as usual.



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7 types:

- 1  $A_n, B_n, C_n, D_n$ : classical, (countably!) infinite families;
- 2  $E_{6,7,8}, F_4, G_2$ : exceptional. Dimensions: 78, 133, 248, 52, 14

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$\mathfrak{sl}(n+1)$  = the Lie algebra of  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  traceless matrices; *special linear Lie algebra*;  $\boxed{A_n}$

$\mathfrak{so}(n) := \{X \in \text{End}(k^n) : f(Xv, w) = -f(v, Xw), \forall v, w\}$ , where  $f$  is a non-degenerate symmetric bilinear form; *orthogonal Lie algebra*;  $\boxed{B_n}$  for  $2n+1$  and  $\boxed{D_n}$  for  $2n$ . **VERY DIFFERENT DESPITE THEIR SIMILAR APPEARANCES**

$\mathfrak{sp}(2n) := \{X \in \text{End}(k^{2n}) : f(Xv, w) = -f(v, Xw), \forall v, w\}$ , where  $f$  is a non-degenerate symplectic bilinear form. Non-degeneracy  $\Rightarrow$  dim must be even; *symplectic Lie algebra*;  $\boxed{C_n}$

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The condition  $f(Xv, w) = -f(v, Xw)$  comes from the corresponding Lie group condition

$$f(gv, gw) = f(v, w)$$

with  $g = e^{tX}$  and differentiating at  $t = 0$ .

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with  $g = e^{tX}$  and differentiating at  $t = 0$ .

Matrix form of  $f$ :

1 Orthogonal:  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & I_n \\ 0 & I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

2 Symplectic:  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & I_n \\ -I_n & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

The condition:  $fX = -X^\top f$

# Classification Scheme

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So what do with the LSAs?

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<sup>1</sup>also includes  $\mathfrak{gl}$ !

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So what do with the LSAs?

Remember, simple Lie algebras are simple Lie superalgebras already. That's already a quarter of the zoo of LSA!

---

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Remember, simple Lie algebras are simple Lie superalgebras already. That's already a quarter of the zoo of LSA!

$$\text{Simple} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Classical} \\ \mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}} \text{ is a completely reducible } \mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}\text{-mod} \\ \text{The Cartan Series} \\ \text{weird ones} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Basic} \\ \text{even non-deg. inv. form} \\ \text{Strange} \end{array} \right. \quad ^1$$

Good references: [Mus12, CW12]

---

<sup>1</sup>also includes  $\mathfrak{gl}$ !

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Good references: [Mus12, CW12]

not so good reference:[Kac77]

---

<sup>1</sup>also includes  $\mathfrak{gl}$ !



# Special Linear LSA

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Define the *supertrace* of  $X = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{m \times m} & B_{m \times n} \\ \hline C_{n \times m} & D_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$ , denoted  $\text{str}(X)$ , as  $\text{tr}(A) - \text{tr}(D)$ .<sup>2</sup>

Define  $\mathfrak{sl}(m|n) := \{X \in \mathfrak{gl}(m|n) : \text{str}(X) = 0\}$ . Guaranteed to be simple, except...

---

<sup>2</sup>Makes sense! Think  $\text{sdim}$ .

# Special Linear LSA

Define the *supertrace* of  $X = \left( \begin{array}{c|c} A_{m \times m} & B_{m \times n} \\ \hline C_{n \times m} & D_{n \times n} \end{array} \right)$ , denoted  $\text{str}(X)$ , as  
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Define  $\mathfrak{sl}(m|n) := \{X \in \mathfrak{gl}(m|n) : \text{str}(X) = 0\}$ . Guaranteed to be simple, except...

when  $m = n$ , then  $I_{n|n} = \text{diag}(I_n, I_n) \in \mathfrak{sl}(n|n)$  which is central. We take the quotient to get  $\mathfrak{psl}(n|n) := \mathfrak{sl}(n|n) / \mathbb{C}I_{n|n}$ .

---

<sup>2</sup>Makes sense! Think  $\text{sdim}$ .

# Special Linear LSA

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when  $m = n$ , then  $I_{n|n} = \text{diag}(I_n, I_n) \in \mathfrak{sl}(n|n)$  which is central. We take the quotient to get  $\mathfrak{psl}(n|n) := \mathfrak{sl}(n|n)/\mathbb{C}I_{n|n}$ .

This is the Type *A* analog.

**A**

$A(m, n) := \mathfrak{sl}(m+1|n+1)$ ,  $m > n \geq 0$  and  $A(n, n) := \mathfrak{psl}(n+1|n+1)$ .

---

<sup>2</sup>Makes sense! Think  $\text{sdim}$ .

# Orthosymplectic LSA

Let's look at Type  $BCD$  analogs all at once.

## Definition

Let  $V_{\bar{0}} \oplus V_{\bar{1}}$  be a vector superspace. A bilinear form  $f : V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is said to be *even* if  $f(V_i, V_{\bar{1}-i}) = 0$ .

In terms of matrices,  $f$  has top-right and bottom-left blocks equal to 0 matrices.

## Definition

A bilinear form  $f$  is said to be *supersymmetric* if  $f(v \otimes w) = f(s_{V,V}(v \otimes w))$ <sup>3</sup> for any  $v, w \in V$ .

If  $f$  is even, then  $f|_{V_{\bar{0}} \times V_{\bar{0}}}$  is symmetric and  $f|_{V_{\bar{1}} \times V_{\bar{1}}}$  is skew-symmetric.

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<sup>3</sup>slight abuse of notation

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Skew-symmetric + non-degeneracy = symplectic

**$\mathfrak{osp}$**

For  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\mathfrak{osp}(V)_i := \{X \in \text{End}(V)_i : f(Xv, w) = -(-1)^{i|v|}f(v, Xw), \forall v, w\}$

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**osp**

For  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ ,  $\mathfrak{osp}(V)_i := \{X \in \text{End}(V)_i : f(Xv, w) = -(-1)^{i|v|} f(v, Xw), \forall v, w\}$

Matrix form of  $f$ :

$$\mathbf{1} \quad V = \mathbb{C}^{2m+1|2n}: \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & & & \\ 0 & 0 & I_m & & & \\ 0 & I_m & 0 & & & \\ & & & 0 & I_n & \\ & & & -I_n & 0 & \end{pmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{2} \quad V = \mathbb{C}^{2m|2n}$ : delete the first row and column.

The condition is now  $fX = -X^{\text{sT}} f$  where  $(-)^{\text{sT}} : \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} A^{\text{T}} & C^{\text{T}} \\ -B^{\text{T}} & D^{\text{T}} \end{pmatrix}$  is called the *supertranspose*.

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*BCD*

$B(m, n) := \mathfrak{osp}(2m + 1|2n)$ ,  $m \geq 0, n \geq 1$ ;  $D(m, n) := \mathfrak{osp}(2m|2n)$ ,  
 $m \geq 2, n \geq 1$ ;  $C(n) := \mathfrak{osp}(2|2n - 2)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ .

# Exceptional LSAs (still basic!)

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- 1  $D(2, 1, \alpha)$ , a (continuum) one-parameter family,  $\dim = (6|8)$ ;
- 2  $F(4)$ , aka  $AB(1|3)$ ,  $\dim = (24|16)$ ;
- 3  $G(3)$ , aka  $AG(1|2)$ .  $\dim = (17|14)$ .



# $D(2, 1, \alpha)$

Denote  $\mathfrak{g} = D(2, 1, \alpha)$ . Let  $\mathfrak{g}^{(i)} = \mathfrak{sl}(2)$  and  $V^{(i)}$  be the standard representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Then  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}} := \mathfrak{g}^{(1)} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{(2)} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{(3)}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}} := V^{(1)} \otimes V^{(2)} \otimes V^{(3)}$  (an irreducible  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$ -module).

# $D(2, 1, \alpha)$

Denote  $\mathfrak{g} = D(2, 1, \alpha)$ . Let  $\mathfrak{g}^{(i)} = \mathfrak{sl}(2)$  and  $V^{(i)}$  be the standard representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Then  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}} := \mathfrak{g}^{(1)} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{(2)} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{(3)}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}} := V^{(1)} \otimes V^{(2)} \otimes V^{(3)}$  (an irreducible  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$ -module).

Not enough to define a Lie superalgebra. Need to define the *symmetric* bracket from  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}} \times \mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}}$  to  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$ . Do that by using three parameters  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ . Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$ . Must have  $\sum \alpha_i = 0$ .

# $D(2, 1, \alpha)$

Denote  $\mathfrak{g} = D(2, 1, \alpha)$ . Let  $\mathfrak{g}^{(i)} = \mathfrak{sl}(2)$  and  $V^{(i)}$  be the standard representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . Then  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}} := \mathfrak{g}^{(1)} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{(2)} \oplus \mathfrak{g}^{(3)}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{1}} := V^{(1)} \otimes V^{(2)} \otimes V^{(3)}$  (an irreducible  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$ -module).

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**Redundancy:**  $\mathfrak{g}(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) = \mathfrak{g}(c\alpha_1, c\alpha_2, c\alpha_3) = \mathfrak{g}(\alpha_{\sigma(1)}, \alpha_{\sigma(2)}, \alpha_{\sigma(3)})$  for any non-zero  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and any  $\sigma \in S_3$ .

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It turns out that

$$D(2, 1, \alpha)$$

$$D(2, 1, \alpha) := \mathfrak{g}(\alpha, 1, -1 - \alpha)$$

is simple when  $\alpha \neq -1, 0$ . Regarding the name, notice

$$D(2, 1, 1) = D(2, 1) = \mathfrak{osp}(4|2).$$

# $F(4)$ aka $AB(1|3)$ , and $G(3)$ aka $AG(1|2)$

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$F(4)_{\bar{0}} := \mathfrak{sl}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(7)$ .  $F(4)_{\bar{1}} :=$  Natural Rep. of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2) \otimes$  Spin Rep. of  $\mathfrak{so}(7)$ .

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Details see [Mus12]

# Strange Ones

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The previous ones all have even non-deg. invariant bilinear forms (e.g. Killing forms). They are called *basic*.

The strange ones do NOT!



# Periplectic LSA $\mathfrak{p}(n)$

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Let  $n \geq 2$ . We let

$\mathfrak{p}(n)$

$$\mathfrak{p}(n) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & -A^\top \end{pmatrix} \in \mathfrak{gl}(n+1|n+1) : \operatorname{tr} A = 0, B^\top = B, C^\top = -C \right\}.$$

$\mathfrak{p}(n)_{\bar{0}} \cong \mathfrak{sl}(n+1)$ , and  $\mathfrak{p}(n)_{\bar{1}} = \mathfrak{p}(n)_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{p}(n)_1$  as a  $\mathfrak{p}(n)_{\bar{0}}$ -module. Here  $\mathfrak{p}(n)_{\bar{0}}$  is the diagonal even part, while  $\mathfrak{p}(n)_{\pm 1}$  are the  $B$  and  $C$  parts respectively.

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Can be regarded as the subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{sl}(n+1|n+1)$  preserving certain odd symmetric form.

# Queer LSA $\mathfrak{q}(n)$

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Let  $n \geq 2$ . We let  $\hat{\mathfrak{q}}(n) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ B & A \end{pmatrix} \in \mathfrak{gl}(n+1|n+1) : \text{tr } B = 0 \right\}$ , and define

$\mathfrak{q}(n)$

$$\mathfrak{q}(n) := [\hat{\mathfrak{q}}(n), \hat{\mathfrak{q}}(n)] / \mathbb{C}I_{n+1|n+1}$$

# Queer LSA $\mathfrak{q}(n)$

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$$\mathfrak{q}(n) := [\hat{\mathfrak{q}}(n), \hat{\mathfrak{q}}(n)] / \mathbb{C}I_{n+1|n+1}$$

When people study  $\mathfrak{q}(n)$ , the  $\hat{\mathfrak{q}}(n)$  version is often used for computations.

# The Cartan Series

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# The Cartan Series

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$W(n), S(n), \tilde{S}(2n), H(n)$

Let  $\bigwedge(n)$  be the exterior algebra on  $n$  letters  $\xi_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ .  $\bigwedge(n)$  has a natural parity grading induced by  $\deg \xi_i = \bar{1}$ . Then we define

$$W(n) := \text{Der } \bigwedge(n)$$

with  $W(n)_i = \{D \in \text{End}_i(\bigwedge(n)) : D(ab) = D(a)b + (-1)^{i|a|}aD(b)\}$

# The Cartan Series

Those I just include for the sake of the completion of the discussion...

$W(n), S(n), \tilde{S}(2n), H(n)$

Let  $\Lambda(n)$  be the exterior algebra on  $n$  letters  $\xi_i, i = 1, \dots, n$ .  $\Lambda(n)$  has a natural parity grading induced by  $\deg \xi_i = \bar{1}$ . Then we define

$$W(n) := \text{Der } \Lambda(n)$$

with  $W(n)_i = \{D \in \text{End}_i(\Lambda(n)) : D(ab) = D(a)b + (-1)^{i|a|}aD(b)\}$

In particular, any homogeneous derivation can be expressed in the form of

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_i}$$

with  $p_i \in \Lambda(n)$ . The other three are subalgebras of  $W(n)$ .

# Classification Theorem

## Theorem

*The following is a complete list of finite dimensional simple Lie superalgebras over  $\mathbb{C}$ , up to some low rank isomorphisms:*

- 1** *A finite dimensional simple Lie algebra;*
- 2**  *$A(m, n)$ ,  $m > n \geq 0$ ;  $A(n, n)$ ,  $n \geq 1$ ;  $B(m, n)$ ,  $m \geq 0, n \geq 1$ ;  $C(n)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ ;  $D(m, n)$ ,  $m \geq 2, n \geq 1$  (basic);*
- 3**  *$D(2, 1, \alpha)$  for  $\alpha \neq -1, 0$ ,  $F(4)$ ,  $G(3)$  (exceptional, basic);*
- 4**  *$\mathfrak{p}(n)$ ,  $\mathfrak{q}(n)$  for  $n \geq 2$  (strange);*
- 5**  *$W(n)$ ,  $S(n)$ ,  $\tilde{S}(2n)$ ,  $H(n)$  (Cartan).*



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- 3**  *$D(2, 1, \alpha)$  for  $\alpha \neq -1, 0$ ,  $F(4)$ ,  $G(3)$  (exceptional, basic);*
- 4**  *$\mathfrak{p}(n)$ ,  $\mathfrak{q}(n)$  for  $n \geq 2$  (strange);*
- 5**  *$W(n)$ ,  $S(n)$ ,  $\tilde{S}(2n)$ ,  $H(n)$  (Cartan).*

Kac used non-degeneracy/degeneracy of Killing forms, rep. theory of  $\mathfrak{g}_{\bar{0}}$ , grading/filtration, etc. Pretty lengthy. Real forms and Kac–Moody superalgebras are studied by Vera Serganova [Ser83, Ser11].

# Not so good news

- 1 Recall we may construct a semisimple Lie algebra using Cartan matrix + Serre's relations. The same can be said for the basic LSAs. But it fails for other LSAs.
- 2 A result by Djokovic and Hochschild says that the only not purely even LSAs with Weyl's complete reducibility is  $\mathfrak{osp}(1|2n)$ .
- 3 Unlike the Lie algebra case, the Borel subalgebras are not conjugate to each other. The choice of positivity matters.

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Yes, I didn't talk about root systems but they exist.

# Root Systems

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We will look at Type  $A$  OF COURSE!

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We will look at Type  $A$  OF COURSE! ... and by that people usually mean  $\mathfrak{gl}$ .

One can “diagonalize” the adjoint action of the diagonal matrices in  $\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$  as usual. It’s the same as  $\mathfrak{gl}(n)$  in the non-super setting.

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The plot twist is the *form/inner product* on roots is different now. Remember we defined supertrace. Instead of  $(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) = \delta_{ij}$ , we now have

$$(\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j) = -(\delta_i, \delta_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad (\epsilon_i, \delta_j) = 0,$$

where  $\epsilon_i, \delta_j$  are standard coordinates of the diagonal matrices.

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where  $\epsilon_i, \delta_j$  are standard coordinates of the diagonal matrices.

Note  $\epsilon_m - \delta_1$  has ODD root space and its length is 0. This means it’s *isotropic*.



# Supersymmetry

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How do we capture symmetry of root systems/semisimple Lie algebras? How do we connect symmetric polynomials with characters of simple modules?

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How do we capture symmetry of root systems/semisimple Lie algebras? How do we connect symmetric polynomials with characters of simple modules?

We use Weyl groups! They are generated by reflections of simple roots. In the classical Type  $A$ , the Weyl group is just the symmetric group  $S_n$  on  $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n$ . What about LSAs?

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Remember,  $\epsilon_m - \delta_1$  is a simple root with length 0. The reflection is not well-defined.

## Remark

For other simple roots, they generate  $S_m \times S_n$  which just permutes  $\epsilon$ 's with  $\epsilon$ 's and  $\delta$ 's with  $\delta$ 's.

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In the non-super setting,

- 1 Any choice of positivity/Borel is determined by an  $\epsilon$  chain;

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Consider the natural rep. of  $\mathfrak{gl}(2)$  w.r.t. the standard and the opposite Borels.
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Schur polynomials are symmetric in the usual sense as the Weyl group is  $S_n$

Important question: how do we do these for  $\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$ ?

# Odd Reflections

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We want to reflect using those odd (and isotropic) roots.



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$\lambda' = \lambda - \alpha$  for  $(\lambda, \alpha) \neq 0$  else  $\lambda' = \lambda$ . So  $(\cdots, \overset{\times}{x}, \overset{\bullet}{y}, \cdots)$  becomes

- $(\cdots, \overset{\bullet}{y}, \overset{\times}{x}, \cdots)$  if  $x = -y$ , or
- $(\cdots, \overset{\bullet}{y} + 1, \overset{\times}{x} - 1, \cdots)$  if  $x \neq -y$ .

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Yes, super Schur polynomials exist!

# Supersymmetric Polynomials

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Let  $V$  be an  $m + n$  dimensional vector space with the standard basis  $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_m, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_n$  and coordinates  $x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_n$ . Let  $W_0$  be  $S_m \times S_n$  which acts on  $x_i$  and  $y_j$  separately. Let  $f \in \mathfrak{P}(V)$  be a polynomial on  $V$ . In  $V$ , we set  $\Pi_{\epsilon_i - \delta_j} := \{v \in V : x_i(v) + y_j(v) = 0\}$ .

We say  $f$  is *supersymmetric* if

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We say  $f$  is *supersymmetric* if

- 1  $f \in \mathfrak{P}(V)^{W_0}$ ;
- 2  $f(X + \epsilon_i - \delta_j) = f(X)$  if  $x_i + y_j = 0$ , i.e.  $f(X + \alpha) = f(X)$  for  $X \in \Pi_{\alpha = \epsilon_i - \delta_j}$ .

The first condition is the usual symmetry, while the second one captures some “odd” condition.

# Supersymmetric Polynomials

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- 2  $f(X + \epsilon_i - \delta_j) = f(X)$  if  $x_i + y_j = 0$ , i.e.  $f(X + \alpha) = f(X)$  for  $X \in \Pi_{\alpha = \epsilon_i - \delta_j}$ .

The first condition is the usual symmetry, while the second one captures some “odd” condition.

Super Schur polynomials appear as characters of *certain* simple f.d. modules. They are supersymmetric and basis for the ring of supersymmetric polynomials.

# Weyl Groupoids

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Group = Small category of one object with invertible morphisms.  
Groupoid = Multi-object version of a group!



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Group = Small category of one object with invertible morphisms.

Groupoid = Multi-object version of a group!

Group action: a group homomorphism from  $W$  to  $GL(V)$ , equiv. to a functor from  $W$  to  $GL(V)$ .

How?

The object is sent to  $V$ , while a morphism is sent to a linear isomorphism of  $V$ .

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Then how does a groupoid  $\mathfrak{W}$  act on a vector space  $V$ ?

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Let  $\mathcal{AF}(V)$  be the category in which

- 1 Objects: all affine subspaces of  $V$ ;
- 2 Morphisms:  $\text{Hom}(U, W) := \{\text{affine linear } f : U \rightarrow W\}$

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- 1 Objects: all affine subspaces of  $V$ ;
- 2 Morphisms:  $\text{Hom}(U, W) := \{\text{affine linear } f : U \rightarrow W\}$

Let  $\mathfrak{W}$  be a groupoid, then we say

## Groupoid Action

$\mathfrak{W}$  acts on  $V$  if there is a functor  $\mathbb{C}$  from  $\mathfrak{W}$  to  $\mathcal{AF}(V)$ .

This degenerates to the usual group action if there is only one object  $*$  and  $\mathbb{C}(*) = V$ .

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Denote the set of isotropic roots as  ${}_0\Sigma$ . Let  $W_0$  be the Weyl group which is generated by the reflections of anisotropic roots.

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Denote the set of isotropic roots as  ${}_0\Sigma$ . Let  $W_0$  be the Weyl group which is generated by the reflections of anisotropic roots.

The *isotropic roots groupoid*  ${}_0\mathcal{S}$  is a groupoid such that  $\text{Obj}({}_0\mathcal{S}) = {}_0\Sigma$ , with non-trivial morphisms  $\bar{\tau}_\alpha : \alpha \rightarrow -\alpha$ . Thus

$$\text{Hom}_{{}_0\mathcal{S}}(\alpha, \beta) = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } \beta \neq \pm\alpha \\ \{\bar{\tau}_\alpha\} & \text{if } \beta = -\alpha \\ \{\text{id}_\alpha\} & \text{if } \beta = \alpha \end{cases}$$

One can define the semidirect product of  $W_0$  and  ${}_0\mathcal{S}$  via the action of  $W_0$  on  ${}_0\Sigma$ . Let us define the Weyl groupoid as follows

$$\mathfrak{W} := W_0 \sqcup W_0 \ltimes {}_0\mathcal{S}$$

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An action ([SV11]) of  $\mathfrak{W}$  on  $\mathfrak{h}^*$  is given by (loosely speaking),

- 1 sending  $* \in \text{Obj}(W_0)$  to the entire  $V$ , and  $W_0$  acts on  $V$  as usual;
- 2 sending  $\alpha \in \text{Obj}({}_0\mathcal{S}) = {}_0\Sigma$  to  $\Pi_\alpha := \{\mu \in \mathfrak{h}^* : (\mu, \alpha) = 0\}$ , and  $\bar{\tau}$  to  $\tau : \mu \mapsto \mu + \alpha$  in  $\Pi_\alpha$ ;
- 3 making sure that  $W_0$ 's action and  ${}_0\mathcal{S}$ 's action are compatible.

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A function  $f$  on  $V$  is  $W$ -invariant if  $f(wx) = f(x)$  for any  $w \in W$ . Similarly, we can define groupoid invariance:

## Invariance

Let  $\mathfrak{W}$  act on  $V$  via  $\mathfrak{C}$ . Then a function  $F$  defined on  $V$  is said to be  $\mathfrak{W}$ -invariant if  $F|_{\mathfrak{C}(x)} = F|_{\mathfrak{C}(y)} \circ \mathfrak{C}(f)$  for any  $f : x \rightarrow y$  in  $\mathfrak{W}$ . Thus,  $F(\mathfrak{C}(f)x) = F(x)$ .

## Punchline

Supersymmetric polynomials on  $\mathfrak{h}^*$  are  $\mathfrak{W}$ -invariant w.r.t. the action above.



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I started with  $\mathfrak{gl}$ , but ended up with Type  $BC$  supersymmetry (even supersymmetry) as I used restricted root systems.

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Let's consider  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(2m|2n)$ ,  $\mathfrak{k} = \mathfrak{gl}(m|n) \oplus \mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$ . Such a pair comes from certain symmetric superspace.

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$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{p}^- \oplus \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}^+$$

where  $\mathfrak{p}^\pm$  are abelian.

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$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{p}^- \oplus \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}^+$$

where  $\mathfrak{p}^\pm$  are abelian.

Turns out that as a  $\mathfrak{k}$ -module,  $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{p}^-) \otimes \mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{p}^+)$  is completely reducible and multiplicity free. The components  $W_\lambda^* \otimes W_\lambda$  are nicely parametrized by certain partitions/Young diagrams  $(\lambda)$ .

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One may choose “ $1 \in \text{End}_{\mathfrak{k}}(W_\lambda)\text{Id}_\lambda$ ” canonically.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W_\lambda^* \otimes W_\lambda \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{p}^-) \otimes \mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{p}^+) \rightarrow \mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{k}} \xrightarrow{\Gamma} \mathfrak{S}(\mathfrak{a})^{\mathfrak{W}_0} \\ 1 \longmapsto \hspace{15em} \longrightarrow D_\lambda \mapsto \Gamma(D_\lambda) \end{array}$$

Here  $\Gamma$  is the restricted root system version of Harish-Chandra isomorphism.

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## Proposition ([Zhu22])

*The algebra  $\text{Im } \Gamma$  consists precisely of the symmetric polynomials on  $\mathfrak{a}^*$  with Type BC supersymmetry property.*

Can be reformulated as

$$\text{Im } \Gamma = \mathfrak{S}(\mathfrak{a})^{\mathfrak{W}} \cong \mathfrak{P}(\mathfrak{a}^*)^{\mathfrak{W}}$$

## Theorem ([Zhu22])

*Assuming a conjecture, the Harish-Chandra image of the super Shimura operator associate with  $\mu$ ,  $\Gamma(D_\mu)$ , is equal to some non-zero multiple of a Type BC supersymmetric interpolation polynomial.*

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Thank you!



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