



Let  $V$  be an  $\mathbb{F}$ -vector space.

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A bilinear form on  $V$  is a map  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  such that

$$\langle c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2, v_3 \rangle = c_1 \langle v_1, v_3 \rangle + c_2 \langle v_2, v_3 \rangle, \text{ and}$$

$$\langle v_1, c_1 v_2 + c_2 v_3 \rangle = c_1 \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle + c_2 \langle v_1, v_3 \rangle$$

for  $v_1, v_2, v_3 \in V$ ,  $c_1, c_2, c_3 \in \mathbb{F}$ . A bilinear form

$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  is symmetric if

$$\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle = \langle v_2, v_1 \rangle, \text{ for } v_1, v_2 \in V,$$

and skew-symmetric if

$$\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle = -\langle v_2, v_1 \rangle, \text{ for } v_1, v_2 \in V.$$

The orthogonal group is

$$O_n(\mathbb{F}) = O(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$$

$$= \{ g \in GL(V) \mid \langle g v_1, g v_2 \rangle = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle, \text{ for } v_1, v_2 \in V \}$$

The symplectic group is

$$Sp_n(\mathbb{F}) = Sp(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$$

$$= \{ g \in GL(V) \mid \langle g v_1, g v_2 \rangle = \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle, \text{ for } v_1, v_2 \in V \}$$

Let  $\mathbb{F}$  be a field with an involution  $-: \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ .  
 $z \mapsto \bar{z}$

Let  $V$  be a vector space over  $\mathbb{F}$ .

A sesquilinear form is a map  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$

such that

$$\langle c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2, v \rangle = c_1 \langle v_1, v \rangle + c_2 \langle v_2, v \rangle,$$

$$\langle w, a_1 w_1 + a_2 w_2 \rangle = \bar{a}_1 \langle w, w_1 \rangle + \bar{a}_2 \langle w, w_2 \rangle$$

for  $v_1, v_2, w_1, w_2 \in V$  and  $a_1, a_2, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{F}$ .

A Hermitian form on  $V$  is a sesquilinear form  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$  such that

$$\langle v_1, v_2 \rangle = \overline{\langle v_2, v_1 \rangle} \text{ for } v_1, v_2 \in V.$$

A positive Hermitian form on  $V$  is a Hermitian form such that

$$\langle v, v \rangle \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}, \text{ for all } v \in V$$

Let  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V \times V$  be a Hermitian form on  $V$ .

The unitary group

$$U_n = \left\{ g \in GL(V) \mid \langle v_1, v_2 \rangle = \langle g v_1, g v_2 \rangle \right. \\ \left. \text{for } v_1, v_2 \in V \right\}$$

Let

$$(V \otimes V)^* = \{ \text{bilinear forms on } V \}$$

$$S^2(V)^* = \{ \text{symmetric bilinear forms on } V \}$$

$$\Lambda^2(V)^* = \{ \text{skew-symmetric bilinear forms on } V \}.$$

The symmetric group  $S_2 = \{1, s\}$  with  $s^2 = 1$  acts on  $(V \otimes V)^*$  by

$$(s \cdot \langle \rangle)(v_1, v_2) = \langle v_2, v_1 \rangle, \text{ for } v_1, v_2 \in V.$$

Then

$$S^2(V)^* = \{ \langle \rangle \in (V \otimes V)^* \mid s \cdot \langle \rangle = \langle \rangle \}$$

$$\Lambda^2(V)^* = \{ \langle \rangle \in (V \otimes V)^* \mid s \cdot \langle \rangle = -\langle \rangle \}.$$

The group  $GL(V)$  acts on  $(V \otimes V)^*$  by

$$(g \cdot \langle \rangle)(v_1, v_2) = \langle g^{-1}v_1, g^{-1}v_2 \rangle,$$

for  $g \in GL(V)$ ,  $\langle \rangle \in (V \otimes V)^*$ ,  $v_1, v_2 \in V$ . The  $GL(V)$ -action on  $(V \otimes V)^*$  commutes with the  $S_2$ -action on  $(V \otimes V)^*$ ,

$$gs \cdot \langle \rangle = sg \cdot \langle \rangle, \text{ for } g \in GL(V), \langle \rangle \in (V \otimes V)^*$$

and

$$(V \otimes V)^* = S^2(V)^* \oplus \Lambda^2(V)^*, \text{ as } (GL(V), S_2)\text{-bimodules}$$

A choice of basis  $b_1, \dots, b_n$  of  $V$  provides a bijection

$$(V \otimes V)^* \rightarrow M_n(F)$$

$$\langle , \rangle \longmapsto A = (\langle b_i, b_j \rangle)_{1 \leq i, j \leq n}$$

and this bijection identifies

$$S^2(V)^* \text{ with } \text{Sym}_n(F) = \{A \in M_n(F) \mid A = A^t\}$$

$$\Lambda^2(V)^* \text{ with } \text{Skew}_n(F) = \{A \in M_n(F) \mid A = -A^t\}$$

The  $S_n$ -action and the  $GL(V)$ -action on  $(V \otimes V)^*$  become the actions of  $S_n$  and  $GL(V)$  on  $M_n(F)$  given by

$$s \cdot A = A^t \text{ and } g \cdot A = g^{-1} A (g^{-1})^t$$

for  $a \in M_n(F)$  and  $g \in GL_n(F)$ .