

§0: Notation & References

Throughout these notes, I attempted to use notation consistent with Perrin's notes. We let k denote an algebraically closed field of arbitrary characteristic, although all of the examples will take place in characteristic zero. We will take a *variety* to be a reduced separated scheme of finite type over k .

The primary reference for these notes is [4]. (And [3] as a supplement) For facts concerning Lie groups and Lie algebras, see [1], and for general algebraic geometry facts, [2] was used.

§1: What is an Algebraic Group?

Definition 1. An algebraic group is a variety G which is also a group. We require also that the maps defining the group structure of G :

- (Multiplication) $\mu : G \times G \rightarrow G$ with $\mu(x, y) = xy$
- (Inverses) $i : G \rightarrow G$ with $i(x) = x^{-1}$
- (Identity) $e_G : \text{Spec}(k) \rightarrow G$ with image e_G of G

are regular maps on the variety G .

Now that we have a proper definition for an *algebraic group*; we assume that G is an algebraic group throughout these notes unless stated otherwise.

We also have the following definitions / facts:

- We call G a *Linear Algebraic Group* if G is an affine variety.
- A connected ¹ algebraic group which is also complete is called an *abelian variety*.
- If $\varphi : G \rightarrow G'$ is a morphism of varieties between two algebraic groups G, G' such that φ is a group homomorphism, then we say that φ is a *homomorphism of algebraic groups*.
- A *closed subgroup* H of an algebraic group G is a closed subvariety of G which is also a subgroup of G .
- Given two algebraic groups G, G' , the product $G \times G'$ with the group structure of a direct product is an algebraic group.

Definition 2. If we assume that $G = \text{Spec} A$ for a finitely generated algebra A , (ie. G is a linear algebraic group with $k[G] = A$) the morphisms μ, i, e_G defined above induce the following algebra homomorphisms:

- μ induces $\Delta : k[G] \rightarrow k[G] \otimes k[G] = k[G \times G]$ (comultiplication)

¹By 'connected' I mean 'connected in the Zariski topology'. Perhaps this is obvious, but a connected algebraic group need not be connected as a Lie group. Take for example \mathbb{R}^\times , which is a connected algebraic group but is *not* connected as a Lie group.

- i induces $\iota : k[G] \rightarrow k[G]$ (antipode)
- e_G induces $\epsilon : k[G] \rightarrow k$ (coidentity)

A k -algebra A with morphisms defined as above is called a Hopf Algebra, which we will denote as $k[G]$.

Recall that associated to an affine variety X , we have the *coordinate ring* of X - the global sections of the structure sheaf of X . The *Hopf algebra* associated to an algebraic group G is much like the coordinate ring of an affine variety, but also encodes information about the group structure of G .

Examples.

- $G = \mathbb{A}_k^1 \cong k$ (The *additive group*, denoted \mathbb{G}_a)

In this case, $k[G] = k[T]$ for some variable T . The Hopf algebra maps are the following:

- $\Delta : k[T] \rightarrow k[T] \otimes k[T]$ given by $\Delta(T) = T \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes T$ (comultiplication)
- $\iota : k[T] \rightarrow k[T]$ given by $\iota(T) = -T$ (antipode)
- $\epsilon : k[T] \rightarrow k$ given by $\epsilon(T) = 0$ (coidentity)

- $G = \mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\} \cong k^\times$ (The *multiplicative group*, denoted \mathbb{G}_m) This is GL_1 .

Here, $k[G] = k[T^{\pm 1}]$. The Hopf algebra maps are given by the following:

- $\Delta(T) = T \otimes T$
- $\iota(T) = T^{-1}$
- $\epsilon(T) = 1$

- $G = \mathrm{GL}_2 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mid ad - bc \neq 0 \right\}$.

Here, G is a linear algebraic group. Notice that $G = \mathrm{Spec} A$, where $A = \frac{k[a,b,c,d,x]}{((ad-bc) \cdot x - 1)}$.

- Any closed (under the Zariski topology) subgroup of GL_n

§2: Basic Properties of Algebraic Groups

Theorem 1. (Chevalley) *Let G be an algebraic group. There exists a maximal linear algebraic subgroup G_{aff} of G ; this subgroup is normal and the quotient G/G_{aff} is an abelian variety.*

Proposition 1. *Let G an algebraic group.*

1. *There exists a unique irreducible component G^0 of G containing the identity e_G . It is a closed normal subgroup of G , and has finite index. We call this the identity component of G .*
2. *The subgroup G^0 is the unique connected component containing e_G . The connected components and the irreducible components of G coincide.*

3. Any closed subgroup of G with finite index contains G^0 .

Lemma 1. Let U, V be dense open subsets of G . Then, $UV = G$.

Lemma 2. Let H be a subgroup of G .

- The closure \overline{H} of H is a subgroup of G .
- If H contains a non-empty open subset of \overline{H} , then H is closed.

Proposition 2. Let $\phi : G \rightarrow G'$ a morphism of algebraic groups.

- The kernel $\ker \phi$ is a closed normal subgroup.
- The image $\phi(G)$ is a closed subgroup of G .
- $\phi(G^0) = \phi(G)^0$.

Definition 3. Let H and K be subgroups of G . The subgroup generated by the commutators, ie. elements of the form $hkh^{-1}k^{-1}$ is denoted by (H, K) .

Proposition 3. If H and K are closed subgroups of G and one of H, K is connected, then (H, K) is closed and connected.

Examples. A few important examples of closed subgroups.

- Upper triangular matrices in GL_n .
- Diagonal matrices in GL_n .

§3: Actions on Varieties

Definition 4. Let X be a variety with an action of an algebraic group G .

- Let $a_X : G \times X \rightarrow X$ with $a_X(g, x) = g \cdot x$ be the map given by the action of G on X . We say that X is a G -variety, or a G -space if a_X is a morphism.
- A G -space with a transitive action (ie. for any $x, y \in X$ there exists $g \in G$ so that $g \cdot x = y$) of G is called a homogeneous space.
- A morphism $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ between G -spaces is called equivariant if the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G \times X & \xrightarrow{a_X} & X \\ \mathrm{Id} \times \phi \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi \\ G \times Y & \xrightarrow{a_Y} & Y \end{array}$$

- Let X be a G -space and $x \in X$. The orbit of $x \in X$ is the image $G \cdot x = a_X(G \times \{x\})$. The isotropy group of $x \in X$ (or stabilizer of x) is the subgroup $G_x = \{g \in G \mid g \cdot x = x\}$.
- If X is a homogeneous space for the action of G , and all of the isotropy groups are trivial, then we say that X is a principal homogeneous space or a torsor.

Examples.

- The group G itself can be viewed as a G -space. To see this, let $a_G : G \times G \rightarrow G$ be given by $(g, h) \mapsto ghg^{-1}$. In this case, the orbits of the action are conjugacy classes, and the isotropy subgroups are centralizers.
- G can also act on itself via translation. Define $a_G : G \times G \rightarrow G$ by $(g, h) \mapsto gh$ (or $(g, h) \mapsto hg$). In this case, the action is transitive.
- Let V a finite dimensional vector space. Define $a_V : \mathrm{GL}(V) \times V \rightarrow V$ to be given by $(f, v) \mapsto f(v)$. This gives a $\mathrm{GL}(V)$ -space structure on V .

Lemma 3. *Let X be a G -space.*

- *Any orbit is open in its closure.*
- *There is at least one closed orbit in X .*

As expected, a G -space X with X affine descends to a map of algebras. Write $X = \mathrm{Spec}(k[X])$. The action $a_X : G \times X \rightarrow X$ is given by a map $a_X^\# : k[X] \rightarrow k[G] \otimes k[X]$. We define a representation of abstract groups $r : G \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}(k[X])$ defined by $(r(g)f)(x) = f(g^{-1}x)$. An element $g \in G$ gives a map $ev_g : k[G] \rightarrow k$, and we get the following composition:

$$r(g) : k[X] \xrightarrow{a_X^\#} k[G] \otimes k[X] \xrightarrow{ev_{g^{-1}}} k \otimes k[X] = k[X].$$

Proposition 4. *Let V a finite dimensional subspace of $k[X]$.*

- *There is a finite dimensional subspace W of $k[X]$ so that $V \subset W$ and W is stable under the action of $r(g)$ for all $g \in G$.*
- *The subspace V is stable under the action of $r(g)$ for all $g \in G$ if and only if $a_X^\#(V) \subset k[G] \otimes V$. If this is the case, then $r_V : G \times V \rightarrow V$ given by $(g, f) \mapsto (ev_g \otimes \mathrm{Id}) \circ a_X^\#(f)$ is a rational representation.*

Of particular importance to us will be the action of G on $k[G]$ via left and right translation.

Notation. For $g \in G$, we define λ and ρ as follows:

$$\lambda(g) : k[G] \rightarrow k[G] \quad \rho(g) : k[G] \rightarrow k[G].$$

These are just the representations of G in $\mathrm{GL}(k[G])$ induced by left and right translation respectively. More explicitly, for $g \in G$ and $f \in k[G]$, we have:

$$(\lambda(g)f)(x) = f(g^{-1}x) \quad \text{and} \quad (\rho(g)f)(x) = f(xg),$$

for all $x \in G$.² Notice that λ and ρ are faithful representations.

Theorem 2. (!!) *Any linear algebraic group is a closed subgroup of GL_n for some n .*

§4: Derivations & Tangent Spaces

Definition 5. *Let R a commutative ring, A and R -algebra, and M and A -module. An R -derivation of A in M is a linear map $D : A \rightarrow M$ such that for all $a, b \in A$, we have the following:*

$$D(ab) = aD(b) + D(a)b$$

We denote the set of all such derivations by $\mathrm{Der}_R(A, M)$. Notice that $\mathrm{Der}_R(A, M)$ is an A -module; in particular, if D, D' are derivations, then so is $D + D'$. Similarly, for any $a \in A$ and any derivation D , we have that aD is a derivation.

Proposition 5. *Let $\phi : A \rightarrow B$ a morphism of R -algebras, and $\varphi : M \rightarrow N$ a morphism of modules.*

- *The map $\mathrm{Der}_R(B, M) \rightarrow \mathrm{Der}_R(A, M)$ given by $D \mapsto D \circ \phi$ is well defined. It is a morphism of A -modules, and its kernel is $\mathrm{Der}_A(B, M)$.*
- *The map $\mathrm{Der}_R(A, M) \rightarrow \mathrm{Der}_R(A, N)$ given by $D \mapsto \varphi \circ D$ is well defined and a morphism of A -modules.*
- *Given a multiplicative subset S of A , and M an $S^{-1}A$ -module, there is a natural isomorphism $\mathrm{Der}_R(S^{-1}A, N) \rightarrow \mathrm{Der}_R(A, N)$.*
- *Let A_1, A_2 be two R -algebras. Write $A = A_1 \otimes_R A_2$ and M an A -module. Then, we have that*

$$\mathrm{Der}_R(A, M) \cong \mathrm{Der}_R(A_1, M) \oplus \mathrm{Der}_R(A_2, M).$$

Definition 6. *Let X an algebraic variety and $x \in X$. The tangent space of X at x is the vector space $\mathrm{Der}_k(\mathcal{O}_{X,x}, k(x))$, where $k(x) := \mathcal{O}_{X,x}/\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}$.³ We write this as $T_x X$.*

We have the following facts concerning derivations and tangent spaces.

- When X is an affine variety, we have that $T_x X = \mathrm{Der}_k(k[X], k(x))$.
- Let $x \in X$ and $U \subset X$ and open subvariety with $x \in U$. Then, we have that $T_x U = T_x X$. (Since $\mathcal{O}_{U,x} = \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$)

²These are both *left* actions, despite their names.

³Notational remark: Given an algebraic variety X and $x \in X$, we know that $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$ is a local ring. The notation $\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}$ is just the (unique) maximal ideal of $\mathcal{O}_{X,x}$.

- We have the following isomorphism: $T_x X \cong (\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}/\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^2)^\vee$.

Proposition 6. *Let $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ a morphism of varieties.*

- *There exists a linear map $d_x \phi : T_x X \rightarrow T_{f(x)} Y$. This is the differential of ϕ at x .*
- *Let $\varphi : Y \rightarrow Z$ a morphism of varieties. Then, we have the following:*

$$d_x(\varphi \circ \phi) = d_{f(x)}\varphi \circ d_x \phi.$$

- *If ϕ is an isomorphism or the identity, then so is $d_x \phi$.*
- *If ϕ is a constant map, then $d_x \phi = 0$ for any $x \in X$.*

Definition 7. *The cotangent space of X at x is $\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}/\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^2$. From the fact above, we see that it is isomorphic to $(T_x X)^\vee$.*

Lemma 4. *Let $\phi : X \rightarrow Y$ a closed immersion, then $d_x \phi$ is injective for any $x \in X$. Thus we are able to identify the tangent space $T_x X$ with a subspace of $T_{\phi(x)} Y$.*

Proposition 7. *Let X a closed subvariety of k^n and let I be the defining ideal of X . Assume also that I is generated by elements f_1, \dots, f_r . Then, for all $x \in X$ we have the following:*

$$T_x X = \bigcap_{k=1}^r \ker d_x f_k = \left\{ v \in k^n \mid \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \frac{\partial f_k}{\partial x_i}(x) = 0 \text{ for all } k \in [1, r] \right\}$$

Proposition 8. *Let $\phi : X \times Y \rightarrow Z$ a morphism of varieties, and let $x \in X$ and $y \in Y$. Then, we have the isomorphism: $T_{(x,y)} X \times Y \cong T_x X \oplus T_y Y$. Further, modulo this identification we have the following equality:*

$$d_{(x,y)} X \phi = d_x \phi_y + d_y \phi_x$$

where $\phi_x : Y \rightarrow Z$ is given by $\phi_x(y) = \phi(x, y)$ and $\phi_y : X \rightarrow Z$ is given by $\phi_y(x) = \phi(x, y)$.

Definition 8. *Let X a variety with $x \in X$, and $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Notice that we can identify $\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^\vee$ with:*

$$\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^\vee \cong \{\phi \in \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\vee \mid \phi(1) = 0\}.$$

We define the following vector spaces:

$$\text{Dist}_n(X, x) = \{\phi \in \mathcal{O}_{X,x}^\vee \mid \phi(\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^{n+1}) = 0\} \cong (\mathcal{O}_{X,x}/\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^{n+1})^\vee$$

$$\text{Dist}_n^+(X, x) = \{\phi \in \text{Dist}_n(X, x) \mid \phi(1) = 0\} \cong (\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}/\mathfrak{M}_{X,x}^{n+1})^\vee$$

Using this, we set:

$$\text{Dist}(X, x) = \bigcup_n \text{Dist}_n(X, x) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Dist}^+(X, x) = \bigcup_n \text{Dist}_n^+(X, x).$$

The elements of $\text{Dist}(X, x)$ are called the distributions of X with support in x . We have the identification $\text{Dist}_1^+(X, x) = T_x X$. Distributions provide an algebraic analogue of higher order differential operators on a differential manifold.

§5: The Lie Algebra of an Algebraic Group

Definition 9. A Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is a vector space together with a bilinear map $[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ (a Lie bracket) satisfying the following properties:

- $[x, x] = 0$
- (Jacobi Identity) $[x, [y, z]] + [z, [x, y]] + [y, [z, x]] = 0$ for all $x, y, z \in \mathfrak{g}$.

Less precisely, given an algebraic group G , I think of the Lie algebra associated to G as being a vector space that is equal to the tangent space at e_G .

Definition 10. We have the following related definitions:

1. A morphism of Lie algebras is a linear map $\phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}'$ such that $\phi([x, y]) = [\phi(x), \phi(y)]$ for all $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$. (In other words, the brackets on \mathfrak{g} and \mathfrak{g}' play along nicely with ϕ .)
2. A representation of a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} in a vector space V is a morphism of Lie algebras $\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V) = \text{End}_k(V)$ where $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ has the Lie structure associated to the commutators.

Examples.

1. Consider $G = \text{GL}_n$. We view G as a subset of M_n ; ($n \times n$ matrices) in particular it is the complement of $\det = 0$. G is an open subset of M_n , and thus the tangent space is all of M_n . In this case, the Lie bracket is $[A, B] := AB - BA$.
2. If A is an associative algebra and

$$\text{Der}_k(A) = \{D \in \text{End}_k(A) \mid D(ab) = aD(b) + D(a)b\},$$

then $\text{Der}_k(A)$, together with the bracket $[D, D'] = D \circ D' - D' \circ D$ is a Lie algebra.

Proposition 9. The left and right actions of G on $\mathfrak{gl}(k[G])$ preserve the subspace of derivations. Further, the subspace $\text{Der}_k(k[G])^{\lambda(G)}$ of invariant derivations for the left action is a lie subalgebra of $\text{Der}_k(k[G])$.

Definition 11. The Lie algebra $L(G)$ of the group G is $\text{Der}_k(k[G])^{\lambda(G)}$.

We have the following facts:

- If H is a closed algebraic subgroup of G , then $L(H)$ is a Lie subalgebra of $L(G)$.
- The tangent space $T_{e_G}G$ is endowed with a Lie algebra structure which comes from the Lie algebra structure on $L(G)$.
- There is a natural Lie algebra structure on $\text{Dist}(G)$. The bracket is given by $[\eta, \xi] = \eta\xi - \xi\eta$.
- The subspace $\text{Dist}_1^+(G)$ is stable under the Lie bracket given in the previous fact, so it is a Lie subalgebra of $\text{Dist}(G)$. One can identify $\text{Dist}_1^+(G)$ with $T_{e_G}(G)$; the Lie algebra structures on these spaces agree.

- $\text{Dist}(G) = \text{Dist}(G^0)$, and $L(G) = L(G^0)$.

Definition 12. Let \mathfrak{g} be a finite dimensional Lie algebra. We define the universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{g} as the following quotient:

$$U(\mathfrak{g}) = T(\mathfrak{g}) / (x \otimes y - y \otimes x - [x, y]),$$

for all $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$. Here, $T(\mathfrak{g})$ denotes the tensor algebra constructed from \mathfrak{g} .

The universal enveloping algebra of a Lie group \mathfrak{g} can be thought of as being the most general associative algebra containing all representations of \mathfrak{g} . To clarify this, we have the following proposition:

Proposition 10. Let $\tau : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{g})$ be the natural map.

- Let A an associative algebra and let $\phi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow A$ be a Lie algebra morphism, where the Lie bracket on A is $[a, b] = ab - ba$. Then, there exists a unique algebra morphism $\Phi : U(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow A$ such that $\phi = \Phi \circ \tau$.
- There is an equivalence of categories between $\text{Rep}(\mathfrak{g})$, the category of Lie algebra representations of \mathfrak{g} , and $\text{Mod}(U(\mathfrak{g}))$, the category of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules.

Theorem 3. (Poincare-Birkhoff-Witt) Given a basis of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , a basis for the universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g})$ can be created.

§6: Semisimple & Unipotent Elements

Note: In this section, you need to be careful about the case $\text{char}(k) = p$.

Definition 13. Let V be a vector space. We recall some definitions from linear algebra:

1. Any $x \in \text{End}(V)$ which is diagonalisable we will call semisimple. Equivalently, if the dimension of V is finite, the minimal polynomial is separable.
2. Any $x \in \text{End}(V)$ such that $x^n = 0$ for some $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ is called nilpotent. When $x - \text{Id}$ is nilpotent, we say x is unipotent.
3. Any $x \in \text{End}(V)$ such that for all $v \in V$, $\text{span}\{x^n(v) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ has finite dimension is called locally finite.
4. Any $x \in \text{End}(V)$ such that for all $v \in V$ there exists $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ so that $x^n(v) = 0$ we will call locally nilpotent. Similarly, for $x \in \text{End}(V)$ such that $\text{Id} - x$ is locally nilpotent, we will call locally unipotent.

Theorem 4. (Additive Jordan Decomposition) Let $x \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ locally finite. Let $x \in \mathfrak{gl}(V)$ be locally finite.

1. There exists a unique decomposition $x = x_s + x_n$ in $\mathfrak{gl}(V)$ such that x_s is semisimple, x_n is nilpotent, and x_s commutes with x_n .

2. There exists polynomials p and q in $k[T]$ such that $x_s = p(x)$ and $x_n = q(x)$. In particular, x_s and x_n commute with any endomorphism commuting with x .
3. If $U \subset W \subset V$ are subspaces such that $x(W) \subset U$, then x_s and x_n also map W into U .
4. If $x(W) \subset W$, then we have the following equalities: $(x|_W)_s = (x_s)|_W$, $(x|_W)_n = (x_n)|_W$, $(x|_{V/W})_s = (x_s)|_{V/W}$, $(x|_{V/W})_n = (x_n)|_{V/W}$.

Note: We also have a **Multiplicative Jordan Decomposition**. In this case, we have the decomposition $x = x_s x_u$; x_n in the above Theorem is replaced with x_u , the unipotent part of x .

Definition 14. The elements x_s are called the semisimple part of $x \in \text{End}(V)$. Similarly, the elements x_n are called the nilpotent part of $x \in \text{End}(V)$. The decomposition $x = x_s + x_n$ is called the Jordan-Chevalley decomposition.

Definition 15. • Let $g \in G$. We call g semisimple if $g = g_s$, and g is unipotent if $g = g_u$.

- Let $\eta \in \mathfrak{g}$. We say that η is semisimple if $\eta = \eta_s$, and nilpotent if $\eta = \eta_n$.
- We denote the semisimple elements of G as G_s , and the unipotent elements in G by G_u . Similarly, we denote the semisimple elements of \mathfrak{g} as \mathfrak{g}_s and the nilpotent elements of \mathfrak{g} as \mathfrak{g}_n .

Definition 16. Let G an algebraic group.

1. We say that G is unipotent if $G = G_u$.
2. We say that G is diagonalizable if there exists a faithful representation $G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ such that the image of G is contained in the subgroup of diagonal matrices.

Proposition 11. The following statements are equivalent.

1. G is diagonalizable.
2. G is a closed subgroup of \mathbb{G}_m^n .
3. G is commutative, and every element of G is semisimple.

To conclude the talk, we briefly discuss results concerning the structure of commutative groups, and a classification of algebraic groups of dimension one.

Theorem 5. (A structure theorem) Let G be a commutative group, and \mathfrak{g} its Lie algebra.

- G_s and G_u are closed subgroups of G , and are connected if G is connected. Additionally, the map $G_s \times G_u \rightarrow G$ given by $(x, y) \mapsto xy$ is an isomorphism. (The inverse is given by the Jordan decomposition)
- $L(G_s) = \mathfrak{g}_s$, $L(G_u) = \mathfrak{g}_u$, and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_s \oplus \mathfrak{g}_u$.

Theorem 6. (A classification theorem) Let G be a connected algebraic group of dimension 1. Then, we have that $G = \mathbb{G}_m$ or $G = \mathbb{G}_a$.

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