

Recall:

Root system $\Phi \subseteq E$:

a) $\text{span } \Phi = E$

b) If $\alpha \in \Phi$, then Φ contains $-\alpha$, but no other multiples of α (including 0).

c) For all $\alpha \in \Phi$, s_α preserves Φ

d) For all $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$, $\langle \beta, \alpha \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}$

Rank is $\dim E$

Weyl group is $W = \{s_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Phi\}$

Every root system has a choice of simple roots: $\Delta \subseteq \Phi$ s.t

a) Δ is a basis of E

b) If $\beta \in \Phi$, then $\beta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} k_\alpha \alpha$,

$k_\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$ for all α

or

$k_\alpha \in -\mathbb{N}$ for all α

Given Δ , we can write $\Phi = \Phi^+ \cup \Phi^-$ where

$$\Phi^+ = \left\{ \beta \in \Phi \mid \beta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} k_\alpha \alpha \text{ w/ } k_\alpha \geq 0 \right\} \text{ positive roots}$$

$$\Phi^- = \left\{ \beta \in \Phi \mid \beta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} k_\alpha \alpha \text{ w/ } k_\alpha \leq 0 \right\} \text{ negative roots}$$

The height of $\beta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} k_\alpha \alpha$ is $\sum_{\alpha \in \Delta} k_\alpha$.

Ex: $S = \{\alpha, \beta\}$ for all the rank 2 examples above

Properties (See Hall or Humphreys for proofs)

- $(\alpha, \beta) < 0$ for all $\alpha, \beta \in \Delta$
- Every root system has a unique highest root (w.r.t. a choice of simple roots)
- Given Δ , there exists a hyperplane $H \subseteq E$ s.t. Φ^+ and Φ^- lie on opposite sides of H .
- Let $\alpha, \beta \in \Phi$
 - If $(\alpha, \beta) < 0$, then $\alpha + \beta$ is a root
 - If $(\alpha, \beta) > 0$, then $\alpha - \beta$ and $\beta - \alpha$ are roots

• Every $\beta \in \Phi$ can be written $\beta = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_k$,
 $\alpha_i \in \Delta$ s.t. each partial sum $\alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_j$ is a root.

• W is generated by the set of simple reflections

$$S = \{s_\alpha \mid \alpha \in \Delta\}.$$

• Let $\alpha \in \Delta$. Then s_α permutes $\Delta \setminus \{\alpha\}$.

• A word for $w \in W$ is a product

$$w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_k}, \quad (s_{i_j} \in S)$$

The word is reduced if k is minimal (for w).

The length $l(w)$ of w is this k for a reduced word.

With this, we have:

$$l(w) = |\{\alpha \in \Phi^+ \mid w \cdot \alpha \in \Phi^+\}|$$

Classification of root systems

Let Φ be a root system, and fix an ordering $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n$ of its simple roots. The Cartan matrix of Φ is the matrix

$$C = C_{\Phi} := (\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \rangle)_{ij}$$

e.g.

$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -3 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$
$A_1 \times A_1$	A_2	B_2/C_2	G_2

The Dynkin diagram associated to Φ (or C_{Φ} or W) is the graph with n vertices with the following connectivity

$C_{ij}C_{ji}$	m_{ij} " m_{α_i, α_j} "	Angle	Length ratio	Dynkin diagram
0	2	90°	?	$\begin{matrix} i & j \\ \cdot & \cdot \end{matrix}$
1	3	120°	1	$\text{---}\bullet\text{---}\bullet\text{---}$
2	4	135°	$\sqrt{2}$	$\text{---}\bullet\text{---}\bullet\text{---}$ 
3	6	150°	$\sqrt{3}$	$\text{---}\bullet\text{---}\bullet\text{---}$  ↖ longer root

A root system is Φ irreducible if it can't be written $\Phi = \Phi_1 \cup \Phi_2$ with $\Phi_2 \subseteq \Phi_1^\perp$
 i.e. irreducible \Leftrightarrow conn. Dynkin diag.

Two root systems are equivalent if some rotation/scaling sends one to the other
 i.e. if they have the same Cartan matrix/Dynkin diagram

Thm 28 (Classification of root systems):

(see Hall/Humphreys for proof)

Up to equivalence, the irreducible root systems are:

Classical types:

A_n $\Phi = \{e_i - e_j \mid 1 \leq i, j \leq n+1, i \neq j\}$
 ($n \geq 1$) $E = \text{span } \Phi = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} \mid \text{sum of coeffs.} = 0\}$
 $\Delta = \{e_i - e_{i+1} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n\}$

$C_\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & \\ & -1 & 2 & \ddots & \\ & & & \ddots & -1 \\ & & & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ Dynkin diag.



$W \cong S_{n+1}$ (see HW3 #5a)

B_n
($n \geq 2$)

$$\Phi = \{ \pm e_i \pm e_j, \pm e_i \mid i \neq j \leq n \}$$

$$\Delta = \{ e_i - e_{i+1} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \} \cup \{ e_n \}$$

$$C_{\Phi} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & & \\ & -1 & 2 & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \ddots & -1 & \\ & & & & -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Dynkin diag.



$$W \cong \{ \text{signed permutations of } 1, \dots, n \}$$

C_n
($n \geq 2$)

$$\Phi = \{ \pm e_i \pm e_j, \pm 2e_i \mid i \neq j \leq n \}$$

$$\Delta = \{ e_i - e_{i+1} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-1 \} \cup \{ 2e_n \}$$

($C_2 \cong B_2$)

$$C_{\Phi} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & & & & \\ -1 & 2 & -1 & & & \\ & -1 & 2 & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & & \ddots & -2 & \\ & & & & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Dynkin diag.



$$W \cong \{ \text{signed permutations of } 1, \dots, n \}$$

