

## Symplectic group.

Let  $V$  be a vector space of dim  $N$  over a field  $K$ . A bilinear form  $\langle, \rangle: V \times V \rightarrow K$  is said to be symplectic if  $\langle x, x \rangle = 0 \forall x \in V$ . (This implies  $\langle x, y \rangle = -\langle y, x \rangle$  for  $x, y \in V$ .) We say that  $\langle, \rangle$  is non-degenerate if  $\langle x, y \rangle = 0 \forall y \Rightarrow x = 0$ ;  $\langle x, y \rangle = 0, \forall x \Rightarrow y = 0$ . Assume that on  $V$  we are given a fixed non-degenerate symplectic form  $\langle, \rangle$ . Then  $N = 2n$ . Let  $Sp(V) = \{g \in GL(V) \mid \langle gx, gy \rangle = \langle x, y \rangle, \forall x, y \text{ in } V\}$ , the symplectic group.

For a subspace  $V'$  of  $V$  we set  $V'^{\perp} = \{x \in V \mid \langle x, y \rangle = 0, \forall y \in V'\}$ . Then  $\dim V' + \dim V'^{\perp} = 2n$ . A complete flag  $V_0 \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_{2n}$  in  $V$  is said to be isotropic if  $V_i^{\perp} = V_{2n-i}$  for  $i = 0, \dots, 2n$ . (It follows that  $V_i \subset V_i^{\perp}$  for  $i = 0, \dots, n$  so that  $\langle, \rangle: V_i \times V_i \rightarrow K$  is 0.) Let  $\mathcal{B}_{is}$  be the set of isotropic flags in  $V$ . Now  $Sp(V)$  acts on  $\mathcal{B}_{is}$  by  $g: (V_0 \subset V_1 \subset \dots \subset V_{2n}) \rightarrow (gV_0 \subset gV_1 \subset \dots \subset gV_{2n})$ .

2) This action is transitive. We describe the  $Sp(V)$ -orbits on  $B_{2n} \times B_{2n}$ . For  $V = (v_1 \dots v_{2n})$ ,  $V' = (v'_1 \dots v'_{2n})$  in  $B_{2n}$ , the permutation  $\sigma$  of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2n\}$  is defined by

$$V_{\sigma(i)-1} \cap v'_i \subset V_{\sigma(i)} \cap v'_i \quad \text{for } i=1, \dots, 2n.$$

We claim that  $\sigma$  satisfies  $\sigma(2n+1-i) = 2n+1-\sigma(i)$  for  $i=1, \dots, 2n$ . In other words, we have

$$V_{2n+1-\sigma(i)-1} \cap V'_{2n+1-i} \subset V_{2n+1-\sigma(i)} \cap V'_{2n+1-i}$$

for  $i=1, \dots, 2n$ , that is

$$V_{\sigma(i)}^{\perp} \cap V'_{i-1}^{\perp} \supset V_{\sigma(i)-1} \cap V'_{i-1},$$

that is

$$(*) \quad V_{\sigma(i)} + V'_{i-1} \supset V_{\sigma(i)-1} + V'_{i-1}.$$

Recall that there are lines  $L_1, \dots, L_{2n}$  such that

$$V_i = L_1 \oplus \dots \oplus L_i, \quad V'_i = L_{\sigma(1)} \oplus \dots \oplus L_{\sigma(i)}.$$

$$\text{Then } V_{\sigma(i)} + V'_{i-1} = (L_1 + \dots + L_{\sigma(i)}) + (L_{\sigma(1)} + \dots + L_{\sigma(i-1)})$$

contains  $L_{\sigma(i)}$  and

$$V_{\sigma(i)-1} + V'_{i-1} = (L_1 + \dots + L_{\sigma(i)-1}) + (L_{\sigma(1)} + \dots + L_{\sigma(i-1)})$$

does not contain  $L_{\sigma(i)}$ . Thus (\*) holds.

3)

We see that  $\text{pos}(V_+, V'_+) \in S'$  for two isotropic flags belongs to the subgroup  $S_{is} = \{ \sigma \in S \mid \sigma(2n+1-i) = 2n+1-\sigma(i), \forall i \}$  of  $S$ . For any  $\sigma \in S_{is}$  we denote by  $O_{is, \sigma}$  the set of all  $(V_+, V'_+) \in \mathcal{B}_{is} \times \mathcal{B}_{is}$  such that  $\text{pos}(V_+, V'_+) = \sigma$ . One can show that  $O_{is, \sigma}$  ( $\sigma \in S_{is}$ ) are precisely the orbits of  $S_p(V)$  on  $\mathcal{B}_{is} \times \mathcal{B}_{is}$ .