

# RIEMANNIAN SYMMETRIC SPACE

BOWEN LIU

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## Part 1. Riemannian symmetric space

### 1. GEOMETRIC VIEWPOINTS

#### 1.A. Basic definitions and properties.

##### 1.A.1. Riemannian symmetric space.

**Definition 1.1** (Riemannian symmetric space). A Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  is called a Riemannian symmetric space if for each  $p \in M$  there exists an isometry  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M$ , which is called a symmetry at  $p$ , such that  $\varphi(p) = p$  and  $(d\varphi)_p = -\text{id}$ .

**Remark 1.2.** Theorem C.8 implies if symmetry at point  $p$  exists, then it's unique.

**Proposition 1.3.** The following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space.
- (2) For each  $p \in M$ , there exists an isometry  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M$  such that  $\varphi^2 = \text{id}$  and  $p$  is an isolated fixed point of  $\varphi$ .

*Proof.* From (1) to (2). Let  $\varphi$  be a symmetry at  $p \in M$ . Since  $(d\varphi^2)_p = (d\varphi)_p \circ (d\varphi)_p = \text{id}$  and  $\varphi^2(p) = p$ , one has  $\varphi^2 = \text{id}$  by Theorem C.8. If  $p$  is not an isolated fixed point, then there exists a sequence  $\{p_i\}_{i=1}^\infty$  converging to  $p$  such that  $\varphi(p_i) = p_i$ . For  $0 < \delta < \text{inj}(p)$ , there exists sufficiently large  $k$  such that  $p_k \in B(p, \delta)$ , and we denote  $v = \exp_p^{-1}(p_k)$ . Since  $\varphi$  is an isometry, one has  $\varphi(\exp_p(tv))$  and  $\exp_p(tv)$  are two geodesics connecting  $p$  and  $p_k$ , and thus

$$\varphi(\exp_p(tv)) = \exp_p(tv)$$

by uniqueness. In particular, one has  $v = (d\varphi)_p v$ , which is a contradiction.

From (2) to (1). From  $\varphi^2 = \text{id}$  we have  $(d\varphi)_p^2 = \text{id}$ , so only possible eigenvalues of  $(d\varphi)_p$  are  $\pm 1$ . Now it suffices to show all eigenvalues of  $(d\varphi)_p$  are  $-1$ . Otherwise if it has an eigenvalue  $1$ , there exists some non-zero  $v \in T_p M$  such that  $(d\varphi)_p v = v$ . Since  $\varphi$  is an isometry, one has  $\varphi(\exp_p(tv))$  and  $\exp_p(tv)$  are geodesics with the same direction at  $p$ . Thus

$$\varphi(\exp_p(tv)) = \exp_p(tv)$$

for  $0 < t < \text{inj}(p)$ . In particular,  $p$  is not an isolated fixed point, which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Proposition 1.4.** The fundamental group of a Riemannian symmetric space is abelian.

**Corollary 1.5.** A surface of genus  $g \geq 2$  does not admit a Riemannian metric with respect to which it is a symmetric space.

##### 1.A.2. Locally Riemannian symmetric space.

**Definition 1.6** (locally Riemannian symmetric space). A Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  is called a locally Riemannian symmetric space if each  $p \in M$  has a neighborhood  $U$  such that there exists an isometry  $\varphi : U \rightarrow U$  such that  $\varphi(p) = p$  and  $(d\varphi)_p = -\text{id}$ .

**Theorem 1.7.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold. Then the following statements are equivalent:

- (1)  $(M, g)$  is a locally Riemannian symmetric space.

(2)  $\nabla R = 0$ .

*Proof.* From (1) to (2). If  $\varphi$  is the symmetry at point  $p \in M$ , then it's an isometry such that  $(d\varphi)_p = -\text{id}$ , and thus for  $u, v, w, z \in T_p M$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} -\nabla_u R(v, w)z &= (d\varphi)_p (\nabla_u R(v, w)z) \\ &= \nabla_{(d\varphi)_p u} ((d\varphi)_p v, (d\varphi)_p w) (d\varphi)_p z \\ &= \nabla_u R(v, w)z \end{aligned}$$

This shows  $(\nabla R)_p = 0$ , and thus  $\nabla R = 0$  since  $p$  is arbitrary.

From (2) to (1). For arbitrary  $p \in M$ , it suffices to show

$$\varphi = \exp_p \circ \Phi_0 \circ \exp_p^{-1} : B(p, \delta) \rightarrow B(p, \delta)$$

is an isometry, where  $0 < \delta < \text{inj}(p)$  and  $\Phi_0 = -\text{id} : T_p M \rightarrow T_p M$ . For  $v \in T_p M$  with  $|v| < \delta$  and  $\gamma(t) = \exp_p(tv)$ ,  $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = \exp_p(t\Phi_0(v))$ , if we define

$$\Phi_t = P_{0,t;\tilde{\gamma}} \circ \Phi_0 \circ P_{t,0;\gamma}$$

then direct computation shows

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_t^* R_{\tilde{\gamma}(t)} &= (P_{t,0;\gamma})^* \circ \Phi_0^* \circ (P_{0,t;\tilde{\gamma}})^* R_{\tilde{\gamma}(t)} \\ &\stackrel{(a)}{=} (P_{t,0;\gamma})^* \circ \Phi_0^* R_{\tilde{\gamma}(0)} \\ &\stackrel{(b)}{=} (P_{t,0;\gamma})^* R_{\gamma(0)} \\ &\stackrel{(c)}{=} R_{\gamma(t)} \end{aligned}$$

where

(a) and (c) holds from Proposition C.12.

(b) holds from  $\tilde{\gamma}(0) = \gamma(0)$  and  $R$  is a  $(0, 4)$ -tensor.

Then by Theorem C.9, that is Cartan-Ambrose-Hicks's theorem,  $\varphi$  is an isometry, which completes the proof.  $\square$

**Remark 1.8.** The proof for locally Riemannian symmetric space has parallel curvature tensor can be applied to other situations. For example, one can easy show if a  $p$ -form  $\omega$  is invariant under isometries, that is  $\varphi^* \omega = \omega$  for arbitrary isometry, then  $d\omega = 0$ , and in Section 9 we will use this idea to show any almost Hermitian symmetric space is Kähler.

### 1.B. Transvection.

**Definition 1.9** (transvection). Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space and  $\gamma$  be a geodesic. The transvection along  $\gamma$  is defined as

$$T_t = s_{\gamma(\frac{t}{2})} \circ s_{\gamma(0)},$$

where  $s_p$  is the symmetry at point  $p$ .

**Proposition 1.10.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space and  $T_t$  be the transvection along geodesic  $\gamma$ . Then

- (1) For any  $a, t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $s_{\gamma(a)}(\gamma(t)) = \gamma(2a - t)$ .
- (2)  $T_t$  translates the geodesic  $\gamma$ , that is  $T_t(\gamma(s)) = \gamma(t + s)$ .

- (3)  $(dT_t)_{\gamma(s)} : T_{\gamma(s)}M \rightarrow T_{\gamma(t+s)}M$  is the parallel transport  $P_{s,t+s;\gamma}$ .  
(4)  $T_t$  is one-parameter subgroup of  $\text{Iso}(M, g)$ .

*Proof.* For (1). It follows from the uniqueness of geodesics with given initial value.

For (2). By (1) one has

$$\begin{aligned} T_t(\gamma(s)) &= s_{\gamma(\frac{t}{2})} \circ s_{\gamma(0)}(\gamma(s)) \\ &= s_{\gamma(\frac{t}{2})}(\gamma(-s)) \\ &= \gamma(t + s). \end{aligned}$$

For (3). Let  $X$  be a parallel vector field along  $\gamma$ . By uniqueness of parallel vector fields with given initial data, we have  $(ds_{\gamma(0)})_{\gamma(s)}X_{\gamma(s)} = -X_{\gamma(-s)}$  for all  $s$ , since  $(ds_{\gamma(0)})_{\gamma(0)}X_{\gamma(0)} = -X_{\gamma(0)}$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} (dT_t)_{\gamma(s)}X_{\gamma(s)} &= (ds_{\gamma(\frac{t}{2})})_{\gamma(-s)}(-X_{\gamma(-s)}) \\ &= X_{\gamma(t+s)}. \end{aligned}$$

This shows  $(dT_t)_{\gamma(s)} = P_{s,t+s;\gamma}$ .

For (4). In order to show  $T_{t+s} = T_t \circ T_s$ , it suffices to check they're same at some point, so do their derivatives, since isometry can be determined by these two values. Note that

$$\begin{aligned} T_{t+s}(\gamma(0)) &= \gamma(t + s) \\ &= T_t \circ T_s(\gamma(0)), \\ (dT_{t+s})_{\gamma(0)} &= P_{0,t+s;\gamma} \\ &= P_{s,t+s;\gamma} \circ P_{0,s;\gamma} \\ &= (dT_t)_{\gamma(s)} \circ (dT_s)_{\gamma(0)} \\ &= (d(T_t \circ T_s))_{\gamma(0)}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. □

### 1.C. Holonomy group.

**Definition 1.11** (holonomy). *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold and  $\gamma$  be a piecewise smooth loop centered at  $p \in M$ . Then the parallel along  $\gamma$  gives an isometry on  $T_pM$ , and the set of all such isometries forms a group called holonomy group, denoted by  $\text{Hol}_p(M, g)$ .*

**Remark 1.12.** Note that if  $q$  is another base point, and  $\gamma$  is a path from  $p$  to  $q$ , then  $\text{Hol}_q = P_\gamma \text{Hol}_p P_\gamma^{-1}$ , and thus they are isomorphic, so for convenience we just denote it by  $\text{Hol}$ .

**Theorem 1.13.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold. Then*

- (1)  $\text{Hol}$  is a Lie group and its identity component  $\text{Hol}^0$  is compact.
- (2)  $\text{Hol}^0$  is given by parallel transport along null homotopic loops. As a consequence, if  $M$  is simply-connected, then  $\text{Hol} = \text{Hol}^0$ .

**Proposition 1.14.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space with  $G = \text{Iso}(M, g)$  and  $K = G_p$  for some  $p \in M$ . Then  $\text{Hol}_p \subseteq K$ .*

*Proof.* Note that holonomy group is the group of parallel transports along all piecewise smooth loops centered at  $p$ , and such a loop  $\gamma$  be written as a limit of geodesic polygons  $\gamma_i$ . The parallel transport along any edge of the polygon is given by applying a transvection

along that edge, and so the parallel transport along the full polygon is a composition of isometries which sends  $p$  back to itself, hence it is an element of the isotropy group  $K$ . Since  $K$  is compact, the sequence of parallel transports along geodesic polygons approximating the given loop has a convergent subsequence, and thus  $\text{Hol}_p \subseteq K$ .  $\square$

**1.D. Symmetric space, locally symmetric space and homogeneous space.** In this section, we will show any complete locally Riemannian symmetric space is a quotient of Riemannian symmetric space (Corollary 1.16), and any Riemannian symmetric space is a Riemannian homogeneous space (Corollary 1.20).

**1.D.1. Riemannian symmetric space and locally Riemannian symmetric space.**

**Theorem 1.15.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete, simply-connected locally Riemannian symmetric space. Then  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space.*

*Proof.* For  $p \in M$  and  $0 < \delta < \text{inj}(p)$ , suppose  $\varphi : B(p, \delta) \rightarrow B(p, \delta)$  is an isometry such that  $\varphi(p) = p$  and  $(d\varphi)_p = -\text{id}$ . For arbitrary  $q \in M$ , we use  $\Omega_{p,q}$  to denote all curves  $\gamma$  with  $\gamma(0) = p, \gamma(1) = q$ , and for  $c \in \Omega_{p,q}$  we choose<sup>1</sup> a covering  $\{B(p_i, \delta_i)\}_{i=0}^k$  of  $c$  such that

- (1)  $0 < \delta_i < \text{inj}(p_i)$ .
- (2)  $B(p_0, \delta_0) = B(p, \delta)$  and  $p_k = q$ .
- (3)  $p_{i+1} \in B(p_i, \delta_i)$ .

If we set  $\varphi = \varphi_0$ , then we can define isometries  $\varphi_i : B(p_i, \delta_i) \rightarrow M$  such that  $\varphi_i(p_i) = \varphi_{i-1}(p_i)$  and  $(d\varphi_i)_{p_i} = (d\varphi_{i-1})_{p_i}$  by using Cartan-Ambrose-Hicks's theorem successively, and by Theorem C.8 one has  $\varphi_i$  and  $\varphi_{i+1}$  coincide on  $B(p_i, \delta_i) \cap B(p_{i+1}, \delta_{i+1})$ . The covering together with isometries we construct is denoted by  $\mathcal{A} = \{B(p_i, \delta_i), \varphi_i\}_{i=0}^k$ . For arbitrary  $x \in [0, 1]$ , if  $c(x) \in B(p_m, \delta_m)$ , we may define

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(c(x)) &:= \varphi_m(c(x)), \\ (d\varphi_{\mathcal{A}})_{c(x)} &:= (d\varphi_m)_{c(x)}.\end{aligned}$$

In particular,  $\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(q) := \varphi_k(q)$ . If  $\mathcal{B} = \{\tilde{B}(\tilde{p}_i, \tilde{\delta}_i), \tilde{\varphi}_i\}_{i=0}^l$  is another covering of  $c$ , let's show  $\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(q) = \varphi_{\mathcal{B}}(q)$ . Consider

$$I = \{x \in [0, 1] \mid \varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(c(x)) = \varphi_{\mathcal{B}}(c(x)), (d\varphi_{\mathcal{A}})_{c(x)} = (d\varphi_{\mathcal{B}})_{c(x)}\}.$$

It's clear  $I \neq \emptyset$ , since  $0 \in I$ . Now it suffices to show it's both open and closed to conclude  $1 \in I$ .

(a) It's open: For  $x \in I$ , we assume  $c(x) \in B(p_m, \delta_m) \cap \tilde{B}(\tilde{p}_n, \tilde{\delta}_n)$ , that is

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_m(c(x)) &= \tilde{\varphi}_n(c(x)), \\ (d\varphi_m)_{c(x)} &= (d\tilde{\varphi}_n)_{c(x)}.\end{aligned}$$

Then one has

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_m \circ \exp_{c(x)}(v) &= \exp_{\varphi_m(c(x))} \circ (d\varphi_m)_{c(x)}(v) \\ &= \exp_{\tilde{\varphi}_n(c(x))} \circ (d\tilde{\varphi}_n)_{c(x)}(v) \\ &= \tilde{\varphi}_n \circ \exp_{c(x)}(v).\end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>Since injective radius is a continuous function, it has a positive minimum on curve  $c$ , so such covering exists.

Since  $\exp_{c(x)}$  maps onto a neighborhood of  $c(x)$ , it follows that some neighborhood of  $x$  also lies in  $I$ , and thus  $I$  is open.

(b) It's closed: Let  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \subseteq I$  be a sequence converging to  $x$ . Without loss of generality we may assume  $\{x_i\}_{i=1}^\infty \subseteq B(p_m, \delta_m) \cap \tilde{B}(\tilde{p}_n, \tilde{\delta}_n)$ , then one has

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_m(c(x_i)) &= \tilde{\varphi}_n(c(x_i)), \\ (d\varphi_m)_{c(x_i)} &= (d\tilde{\varphi}_n)_{c(x_i)}.\end{aligned}$$

By taking limit we obtain the desired results.

Since  $\varphi_{\mathcal{A}}(q)$  is independent of the choice of coverings, we use  $\varphi(q)$  to denote it for convenience, and as a consequence we obtain the following map

$$\begin{aligned}F : \Omega_{p,q} &\rightarrow M \\ c &\mapsto \varphi(q).\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $F(c)$  is locally constant, and thus it's independent of the choice of homotopy classes of  $c$ . Since  $M$  is simply-connected, one has  $F : \Omega_{p,q} \rightarrow M$  is constant, so we obtain a local isometry  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M$  which extends  $\varphi : B(p, \delta) \rightarrow B(p, \delta)$ . By Proposition C.10  $\varphi$  is a Riemannian covering map since  $M$  is complete, and thus  $\varphi$  is a diffeomorphism since  $M$  is simply-connected, which implies  $\varphi$  is an isometry.  $\square$

**Corollary 1.16.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete locally Riemannian symmetric space. Then it's isometric to  $(\tilde{M}/\Gamma, \tilde{g})$  where  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  is a Riemannian symmetric space and  $\Gamma \cong \pi_1(M)$  is a discrete Lie group acting on  $\tilde{M}$  freely, properly and isometrically.*

*Proof.* Let  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  be the universal covering of  $(M, g)$  with pullback metric. Then  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  is a simply-connected Riemannian manifold with parallel curvature tensor. Moreover, by Proposition C.13 it's complete, hence it is symmetric.  $\square$

### 1.D.2. Riemannian symmetric space and Riemannian homogeneous space.

**Definition 1.17** (Riemannian homogeneous space). *A Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  is called a Riemannian homogeneous space, if  $\text{Iso}(M, g)$  acts on  $M$  transitively.*

**Proposition 1.18.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian homogeneous space. If there exists a symmetry at some point  $p \in M$ , then  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space.*

*Proof.* Let  $\varphi$  be a symmetry at  $p \in M$ . For arbitrary  $q \in M$ , there exists an isometry  $\psi : M \rightarrow M$  such that  $\psi(p) = q$  since  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian homogeneous space. Then

$$\varphi_q := \psi \circ \varphi \circ \psi^{-1}$$

is the desired symmetry at  $q$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.19.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space. Then*

- (1)  $(M, g)$  is complete.
- (2) the identity component of isometry group acts transitively on  $M$ .

*Proof.* For (1). For arbitrary geodesic  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  with  $\gamma(0) = p, \gamma'(0) = v$ , the curve  $\beta(t) = \varphi(\gamma(t)) : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  is also a geodesic with  $\beta(0) = p$  and  $\beta'(0) = -v$ . Now we

obtain a smooth extension  $\gamma' : [0, 2] \rightarrow M$  of  $\gamma$ , given by

$$\gamma'(t) = \begin{cases} \beta(1-t), & t \in [0, 1] \\ \gamma(t-1), & t \in [1, 2]. \end{cases}$$

Repeat above process to extend  $\gamma$  to a geodesic defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ , which shows completeness.

For (2). For  $p, q \in M$ , let  $\gamma$  be a geodesic connecting  $p, q$ . Then the transvection along  $\gamma$  gives an isometry which maps  $p$  to  $q$ . Since the transvection lies in the identity component of isometry group, one has the identity component of isometry group acts transitively on  $M$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 1.20.** *The Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian homogeneous space.*



## 2. ALGEBRAIC VIEWPOINTS

### 2.A. Riemannian symmetric space as a Lie group quotient.

**Definition 2.1** (involution). *An automorphism  $\sigma$  of a Lie group  $G$  is called an involution if  $\sigma^2 = \text{id}_G$ .*

**Definition 2.2** (Cartan decomposition). *Let  $G$  be a Lie group and  $\sigma$  be an involution of  $G$ . The eigen-decomposition of  $\mathfrak{g}$  given by  $(d\sigma)_e$  is called Cartan decomposition, that is,*

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m},$$

where

$$\mathfrak{k} = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid (d\sigma)_e(X) = X\},$$

$$\mathfrak{m} = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid (d\sigma)_e(X) = -X\}.$$

**Proposition 2.3.** *Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  be the Cartan decomposition given by  $\sigma$ . Then*

$$[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{k}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}, \quad [\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m}, \quad [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}.$$

*Proof.* Since  $\sigma$  is a Lie group homomorphism,  $(d\sigma)_e$  gives a Lie algebra homomorphism, and thus

$$(d\sigma)_e([X, Y]) = [(d\sigma)_e(X), (d\sigma)_e(Y)],$$

where  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ . □

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $G$  be a Lie group and  $K \subseteq G$  be a closed subgroup. A left invariant metric on  $G$  which is also right invariant under  $K$  gives a left-invariant metric on  $G/K$ .*

**Theorem 2.5.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space and  $G = (\text{Iso}(M, g))_0$ . For  $p \in M$ ,  $K$  denotes the isotropic group of  $G_p$ .*

- (1) *The mapping  $\sigma : G \rightarrow G$ , given by  $\sigma(g) = s_p g s_p$  is an involution automorphism of  $G$ .*
- (2) *If  $G^\sigma$  is the set of fixed points of  $\sigma$  in  $G$ , then  $(G^\sigma)_0 \subseteq K \subseteq G^\sigma$ .*
- (3) *If  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  is the Cartan decomposition given by  $\sigma$ , then  $\mathfrak{k}$  is the Lie algebra of  $K$ , and thus  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$  as vector spaces.*
- (4) *There is a left invariant metric on  $G/K$  such that  $G/K$  with this metric is isometric to  $(M, g)$ .*

*Proof.* For (1). It's clear  $\sigma$  preserves  $G$ , and it's an involution since for arbitrary  $g \in G$ , one has  $\sigma^2(g) = \sigma(s_p g s_p) = s_p^2 g s_p^2 = g$ .

For (2). It follows from the following two steps:

- (a) To show  $K \subseteq G^\sigma$ . For any  $k \in K$ , in order to show  $k = s_p k s_p$ , it suffices to show they and their differentials agree at some point by Theorem C.8, since both of them are isometries, and  $p$  is exactly the point we desired.
- (b) To see  $(G^\sigma)_0 \subseteq K$ . Suppose  $\exp(tX) \in (G^\sigma)_0$  is a one-parameter subgroup. Since  $\sigma(\exp(tX)) = \exp(tX)$ , one has

$$\exp(tX)(p) = s_p \exp(tX) s_p(p) = s_p \exp(tX)(p).$$

But  $p$  is an isolated fixed point of  $s_p$ , which implies  $\exp(tX)(p) = p$  for all  $t$ . This shows the one-parameter subgroup lies in  $K$ . Since exponential map of Lie group is a diffeomorphism in a small neighborhood of identity element  $e$  and  $(G^\sigma)_0$  can be generated by a neighborhood of  $e$ , which implies the whole  $(G^\sigma)_0 \subseteq K$ .

For (3). Note that  $(G^\sigma)_0 \subseteq K \subseteq G^\sigma$ , it suffices to show  $\mathfrak{k} \cong \text{Lie } G^\sigma$ . For  $X \in \mathfrak{k}$ , we claim  $\gamma_2(t) = \sigma(\exp(tX)) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$  is a one-parameter subgroup. Indeed, note that

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_2(t) \cdot \gamma_2(s) &= s_p \exp(tX) s_p \cdot s_p \exp(sX) s_p \\ &= \sigma(\exp(tX + sX)) \\ &= \gamma_2(t + s).\end{aligned}$$

Moreover,  $\gamma_2(t) = \sigma(\exp(tX))$  and  $\gamma_1(t) = \exp(tX)$  are two one-parameter subgroups of  $G$  such that  $\gamma_1(0) = \gamma_2(0)$  and  $\gamma_2'(0) = (d\sigma)_e(X) = X = \gamma_1'(0)$ . Then  $\gamma_1(t) = \gamma_2(t)$ , and thus  $\exp(tX) \in G^\sigma$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . This shows  $\mathfrak{k} \subseteq \text{Lie } G^\sigma$ , and the converse inclusion is clear, so one has  $\mathfrak{k} = \text{Lie } G^\sigma$ .

For (4). Let  $\pi : G \rightarrow M$  be the natural projection given by  $\pi(g) = gp$ . Then for  $k \in K$  and  $X \in \mathfrak{g}$  one has

$$\begin{aligned}(d\pi)_e(\text{Ad}(k)X) &= (d\pi)_e \left( \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} k \exp(tX) k^{-1} \right) \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \pi(k \exp(tX) k^{-1}) \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} k \exp(tX) k^{-1} \cdot p \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} k \exp(tX) \cdot p \\ &= (dL_k)_p (d\pi)_e(X).\end{aligned}$$

By using the equivalent isomorphism  $(d\pi)_e|_{\mathfrak{m}} : \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow T_p M$ , one has an  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant metric on  $\mathfrak{m}$ , and then we can extend it to an  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant metric on  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  by choosing<sup>2</sup> arbitrary  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant metric on  $\mathfrak{k}$  such that  $\mathfrak{m} \perp \mathfrak{k}$ . This shows one has a left-invariant metric on  $G$  which is also right invariant with respect to  $K$ , and by Lemma 2.4 it gives a left-invariant metric on  $G/K$ . Now it suffices to show  $G/K$  with this metric is isometric to  $(M, g)$ . For any  $gK \in G/K$ , consider the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{m} = T_{eK} G/K & \xrightarrow{(d\pi)_e|_{\mathfrak{m}}} & T_p M \\ \downarrow dL_g & & \downarrow dL_g \\ T_{gK} G/K & \longrightarrow & T_{gp} M \end{array}$$

Since both  $(d\pi)_e|_{\mathfrak{m}}$  and  $(dL_g)$  are linear isometries, one has  $T_{gK} G/K$  is isometric to  $T_{gp} M$ , and thus  $G/K$  with this metric is isometric to  $(M, g)$ .  $\square$

**2.B. Riemannian symmetric pair.** In Theorem 2.5 one can see that if  $(M, g)$  is a symmetric space, then it gives a pair of Lie groups  $(G, K)$  with an involution  $\sigma$  on  $G$  such that

$$(G^\sigma)_0 \subseteq K \subseteq G^\sigma.$$

Moreover, there exists a left-invariant metric on  $G/K$  such that  $G/K$  with this metric is isometric to  $(M, g)$ . This motivates us a useful way to construct Riemannian symmetric

<sup>2</sup>Such metric exists since  $K$  is compact.

spaces from a pair of Lie groups with certain properties, and such a pair is called a Riemannian symmetric pair.

**Definition 2.6** (Riemannian symmetric pair). *Let  $G$  be a connected Lie group and  $K \subseteq G$  be a closed subgroup. The pair  $(G, K)$  is called a symmetric pair if there exists an involution  $\sigma : G \rightarrow G$  with  $(G^\sigma)_0 \subseteq K \subseteq G^\sigma$ . If, in addition, the group  $\text{Ad}(K) \subseteq \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$  is compact, then  $(G, K)$  is said to be a Riemannian symmetric pair.*

**Remark 2.7.** The first condition of above definition means  $K$  is compact up to the center of  $G$  since the kernel of  $\text{Ad}$  is the center of  $G$ . By Theorem 2.5 every Riemannian symmetric space gives a Riemannian symmetric pair.

**Definition 2.8** (associated). *If  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space,  $G = (\text{Iso}(M, g))_0$  and  $K$  is the isotropy group  $G_p$  of some point  $p \in M$ , then  $(G, K)$  is a Riemannian symmetric pair. In this case  $(G, K)$  is called the Riemannian symmetric pair associated to  $(M, g)$ .*

**Proposition 2.9.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ . Then there is an isomorphism as Lie algebras*

$$\mathfrak{k} \cong \text{Lie } K,$$

*and an isomorphism as vector spaces*

$$\mathfrak{m} \cong T_{eK}G/K$$

*Proof.* It's the same as proof of (3) in Theorem 2.5.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.10.** *Let  $\tilde{\sigma} : G/K \rightarrow G/K$  be the automorphism given by  $\tilde{\sigma}(gK) = \sigma(g)K$ . Then  $(d\tilde{\sigma})_{eK} = -\text{id}_{G/K}$ .*

*Proof.*  $\tilde{\sigma}$  is well-defined since  $K \subseteq G^\sigma$ , and by construction one has  $(d\tilde{\sigma})_{eK} = (d\sigma)_e|_{\mathfrak{m}}$ . Then  $(d\tilde{\sigma})_{eK} = -\text{id}_{G/K}$  since  $\mathfrak{m} = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid (d\sigma)_e X = -X\}$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.11.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ . Then there exists a left-invariant metric on  $M = G/K$  making it to be a Riemannian symmetric space.*

*Proof.* Since  $\text{Ad}(K) \subseteq \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$  is a compact subgroup, by averaging trick there exists an inner product on  $\mathfrak{g}$  which is also  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant, and thus it gives a left-invariant metric on  $M$  by Lemma 2.4. Moreover, by Corollary 2.10 one has  $(d\tilde{\sigma})_{eK} = -\text{id}_M$ .

Now it suffices to show for any  $gK \in M$ ,  $(d\tilde{\sigma})_{gK} : T_{gK}M \rightarrow T_{\sigma(g)K}M$  is an isometry. Note that  $\tilde{\sigma}(ghK) = \sigma(g)\sigma(h)K = \sigma(g)\tilde{\sigma}(hK)$  holds for all  $h \in G$ . This shows  $\tilde{\sigma} \circ L_g = L_{\sigma(g)} \circ \tilde{\sigma}$ , where  $L_g : M \rightarrow M$  is given by  $L_g(hK) = ghK$ . By taking differential one has the following commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_{eK}M & \xrightarrow{(d\tilde{\sigma})_{eK}} & T_{eK}M \\ (dL_g)_{eK} \downarrow & & \downarrow (dL_{\sigma(g)})_{eK} \\ T_{gK}M & \xrightarrow{(d\tilde{\sigma})_{gK}} & T_{\sigma(g)K}M \end{array}$$

Since  $(dL_g)_{eK}, (dL_{\sigma(g)})_{eK}, (d\tilde{\sigma})_{eK}$  are isometries, one has  $(d\tilde{\sigma})_{gK}$  is also an isometry as desired.  $\square$

**Remark 2.12.** In Theorem 3.4 we will see the curvature tensor of  $G/K$  is independent of the choice of the left-invariant metric on it, so here we only care about existence, which is guaranteed by  $\text{Ad}(K)$  is compact.

## 2.C. Examples of Riemannian symmetric pair.

**Example 2.13.**  $G = \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})$  together with  $K = \mathrm{SO}(n)$  gives a Riemannian symmetric pair, where  $\sigma$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma : \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) &\rightarrow \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}) \\ g &\mapsto (g^{-1})^T.\end{aligned}$$

Indeed, note that

$$(\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R}))^\sigma = \mathrm{SO}(n).$$

Thus  $\mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})/\mathrm{SO}(n)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space, and it can be viewed as a generalization of hyperbolic plane  $\mathbb{H}^2$ , since  $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})/\mathrm{SO}(2) \cong \mathbb{H}^2$ .

**Example 2.14.**  $G = \mathrm{SO}(n+1)$  together with  $K = \mathrm{SO}(n)$  gives a Riemannian symmetric pair, where  $\sigma$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma : \mathrm{SO}(n+1) &\rightarrow \mathrm{SO}(n+1) \\ a &\mapsto I_{1,n} a I_{1,n}^{-1},\end{aligned}$$

where  $I_{1,n} = \mathrm{diag}\{-1, 1, \dots, 1\}$ . Indeed, a direct computation shows

$$\mathrm{SO}(n+1)^\sigma = \{a \in \mathrm{SO}(n+1) \mid I_{1,n} a = a I_{1,n}\} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \pm 1 & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{SO}(n+1) \mid b \in \mathrm{O}(n) \right\},$$

which implies  $(\mathrm{SO}(n+1)^\sigma)_0 = \mathrm{SO}(n) \subseteq \mathrm{SO}(n+1)$ . Thus  $S^n \cong \mathrm{SO}(n+1)/\mathrm{SO}(n)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space.

**Example 2.15** (compact Grassmannian). Consider the Grassmannian of oriented  $k$ -planes in  $\mathbb{R}^{k+l}$ , denoted by  $M = \widehat{Gr}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+l})$ . It's clear that  $\mathrm{SO}(k+l)$  acts on  $M$  transitively with isotropy group  $\mathrm{SO}(k) \times \mathrm{SO}(l)$ , and thus  $M \cong \mathrm{SO}(k+l)/\mathrm{SO}(k) \times \mathrm{SO}(l)$ . Consider the involution

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma : \mathrm{SO}(k+l) &\rightarrow \mathrm{SO}(k+l) \\ a &\mapsto I_{k,l} a I_{k,l}^{-1},\end{aligned}$$

where  $I_{k,l} = \underbrace{\mathrm{diag}\{-1, \dots, -1\}}_{k \text{ times}} \underbrace{\mathrm{diag}\{1, \dots, 1\}}_{l \text{ times}}$ . A direct computation shows

$$\mathrm{SO}(k+l)^\sigma = \mathrm{S}(\mathrm{O}(k) \times \mathrm{O}(l)).$$

Then  $(\mathrm{SO}(k+l)^\sigma)_0 = \mathrm{SO}(k) \times \mathrm{SO}(l) \subseteq \mathrm{SO}(k+l)^\sigma$ , and thus  $M$  is a Riemannian symmetric space, called compact Grassmannian. In particular,  $S^n = \widehat{Gr}_1(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ .

**Example 2.16** (hyperbolic Grassmannian). In  $\mathbb{R}^{k,l}$  with  $k \geq 2, l \geq 1$ , let's consider the following quadratic form

$$v^t I_{k,l} w = v^t \begin{pmatrix} I_k & 0 \\ 0 & -I_l \end{pmatrix} w = \sum_{i=1}^k v_i w_i - \sum_{j=k+1}^{k+l} v_j w_j.$$

The group of linear transformation  $X$  that preserves this quadratic form is denoted by  $\mathrm{O}(k, l)$ , that is

$$X I_{k,l} X^t = I_{k,l},$$

and  $\mathrm{SO}(k, l)$  are those with positive determinant. Now consider set consisting of those oriented  $k$ -dimensional subspaces of  $\mathbb{R}^{k,l}$  on which quadratic form  $I_{k,l}$  are positive

definite. This space is called the hyperbolic Grassmannian  $M = \widehat{Gr}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k,l})$ , which is also an open subset of  $\widehat{Gr}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+l})$ . It's clear  $G = \text{SO}(k, l)$  acting transitively on  $M$  with isotropy group  $G_p = \text{SO}(k) \times \text{SO}(l)$ . As in Example 2.15 one can also construct an involution  $\sigma$  to show  $\widehat{Gr}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k,l})$  is a Riemannian symmetric space.

**Example 2.17.** Suppose  $K$  is a compact connected Lie group. Then  $(K \times K, \Delta K)$  is a Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ , where  $\sigma : K \times K \rightarrow K \times K$  is given by  $(x, y) \mapsto (y, x)$ , since

$$(K \times K)^\sigma = \{(a, a) \mid a \in K\} = \Delta K.$$

Then any compact Lie group is a Riemannian symmetric space.

### 3. CURVATURE OF RIEMANNIAN SYMMETRIC SPACE

**3.A. Formulas.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space with isometry group  $G$  and isotropy group  $G_p$ . On one hand, there is a Cartan decomposition of Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  given by involution  $\sigma : G \rightarrow G$ , that is

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$  as vector spaces, and  $\mathfrak{k}$  is the Lie algebra of isotropy group  $G_p$ . On the other hand, by Corollary C.6 there is another decomposition of  $\mathfrak{g}$  given by

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k}' \oplus \mathfrak{m}',$$

where

$$\mathfrak{k}' = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid X_p = 0\},$$

$$\mathfrak{m}' = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid (\nabla X)_p = 0\}.$$

In fact, for any complete Riemannian manifold, the following proposition shows  $\mathfrak{k} \cong \mathfrak{k}'$ , and thus above two Cartan decompositions are exactly the same.

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete Riemannian manifold with isometry group  $G$  and isotropy group  $G_p$ . Then the Lie algebra of  $G_p$  is*

$$\{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid X_p = 0\}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $X \in \mathfrak{g}$  with  $X_p = 0$  and  $\varphi_t : M \rightarrow M$  be the flow of  $X$ . If we denote  $\gamma_p(t) = \varphi_t(p)$ , then it suffices to show  $\gamma_p(t) \equiv p$ . For any smooth function  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_p'(s)f &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=s} f \circ \gamma_p(t) \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} f \circ \gamma_p(s+t) \\ &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} (f \circ \varphi_s)(\gamma_p(t)) \\ &= X_p(f \circ \varphi_s) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space and  $G = \text{Iso}(M, g)$  with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . For any  $p \in M$ , one has Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . Then for any  $S \in \mathfrak{k}$ , one has*

$$B(S, S) \leq 0,$$

where  $B$  is the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Moreover, the identity holds if and only if  $S = 0$ .

*Proof.* Since a Killing field is determined by  $X_p$  and  $(\nabla X)_p$ , one has elements in  $\mathfrak{k}$  are determined by  $(\nabla X)_p$ , and note that  $\nabla X$  is a skew-symmetric matrix, so

$$\mathfrak{k} \cong \{(\nabla X)_p \in \mathfrak{so}(T_p M) \mid X \in \mathfrak{k}\}.$$

By using this identification, there is a natural inner product on  $\mathfrak{k}$  given by

$$\langle S_1, S_2 \rangle = \text{tr}(S_1 S_2^T) = -\text{tr}(S_1 S_2).$$

By adding inner product on  $\mathfrak{m}$  obtained from  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$  and the one on  $\mathfrak{k}$  constructed as above together, one can construct an inner product on  $\mathfrak{g}$  such that  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  is orthogonal. For any  $S \in \mathfrak{k}$ , we claim with respect to this metric,  $\text{ad}(S) : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is skew-symmetric. Indeed, for  $X_1, X_2 \in \mathfrak{k}$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \text{ad}(S)X_1, X_2 \rangle &= -\text{tr}((\text{ad}(S)X_1)X_2) \\ &= -\text{tr}((SX_1 - X_1S)X_2) \\ &= \text{tr}(X_1(SX_2 - X_2S)) \\ &= -\langle X_1, \text{ad}(S)X_2 \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

For  $Y_1, Y_2 \in \mathfrak{m}$ , since  $S_p = 0$  and  $(\nabla S)_p$  is skew-symmetric, one has

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \text{ad}(S)Y_1, Y_2 \rangle &= \langle \nabla_S Y_1 - \nabla_{Y_1} S, Y_2 \rangle \\ &= -\langle \nabla_{Y_1} S, Y_2 \rangle \\ &= \langle \nabla_{Y_2} S, Y_1 \rangle \\ &= -\langle Y_1, \nabla_S Y_2 - \nabla_{Y_2} S \rangle \\ &= -\langle Y_1, \text{ad}(S)Y_2 \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

If  $X \in \mathfrak{k}$  and  $Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ , since  $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{k}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}$  and  $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \text{ad}(S)X, Y \rangle &= 0, \\ \langle X, \text{ad}(S)Y \rangle &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Similarly one has

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \text{ad}(S)Y, X \rangle &= 0, \\ \langle Y, \text{ad}(S)X \rangle &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof of our claim. Then one has

$$B(S, S) = \text{tr}(\text{ad}(S) \circ \text{ad}(S)) = \sum_i \langle \text{ad}(S) \circ \text{ad}(S)e_i, e_i \rangle = -\sum_i \langle \text{ad}(S)e_i, \text{ad}(S)e_i \rangle \leq 0.$$

Moreover, if  $B(S, S) = 0$ , then  $\text{ad}(S) = 0$  and for any  $X \in \mathfrak{g}$ , one has

$$0 = \text{ad}(S)X = \nabla_S X - \nabla_X S = -\nabla_X S,$$

since  $S_p = 0$ . This implies  $(\nabla S)_p = 0$ , and thus  $S = 0$ . □

**Remark 3.3.** For  $S \in \mathfrak{k}$ , the most important part of the proof of  $B(S, S) = 0$  if and only if  $S = 0$  is  $\text{ad}(S) = 0$  if and only if  $S = 0$ . In other words,  $\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{z} = \{0\}$ , where  $\mathfrak{z}$  is the center of Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

**Theorem 3.4.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space and  $G = \text{Iso}(M, g)$ . For any  $p \in M$ ,  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  with  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$ .

(1) For any  $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{m}$ , there holds

$$\begin{aligned}R(X, Y)Z &= -[Z, [Y, X]], \\ \text{Ric}(Y, Z) &= -\frac{1}{2}B(Y, Z).\end{aligned}$$

(2) If  $\text{Ric}(g) = \lambda g$ , then for  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ , one has

$$2\lambda R(X, Y, Y, X) = -B([X, Y], [X, Y]).$$

*Proof.* For (1). For any  $X, Y, Z \in \mathfrak{m}$ , direct computation shows

$$\begin{aligned}
R(X, Y)Z &\stackrel{(a)}{=} R(X, Z)Y - R(Y, Z)X \\
&\stackrel{(b)}{=} \nabla_Z \nabla_Y X - \nabla_{\nabla_Z Y} X - \nabla_Z \nabla_X Y + \nabla_{\nabla_Z X} Y \\
&\stackrel{(c)}{=} -\nabla_Z [X, Y] \\
&\stackrel{(d)}{=} -[Z[X, Y]],
\end{aligned}$$

where

(a) holds from the first Bianchi identity.

(b) holds from (2) of Proposition C.1.

(c) holds from  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ , and thus  $(\nabla X)_p = (\nabla Y)_p = 0$ .

(d) holds from

$$\nabla_Z [X, Y] - \nabla_{[X, Y]} Z = [Z, [X, Y]],$$

and  $(\nabla Z)_p = 0$ .

To see Ricci curvature, note that for  $Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ ,

$$\text{ad}(Y) : \mathfrak{k} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}, \quad \text{ad}(Y) : \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{k}.$$

Thus if  $Y, Z \in \mathfrak{m}$ , one has  $\text{ad}(Z) \circ \text{ad}(Y)$  preserves the decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}(\text{ad}(Z) \circ \text{ad}(Y)|_{\mathfrak{m}}) &= \text{tr}(\text{ad}(Z)|_{\mathfrak{k}} \circ \text{ad}(Y)|_{\mathfrak{m}}) \\
&= \text{tr}(\text{ad}(Y)|_{\mathfrak{m}} \circ \text{ad}(Z)|_{\mathfrak{k}}) \\
&= \text{tr}(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad}(Z)|_{\mathfrak{k}}).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence we obtain

$$B(Y, Y) = \text{tr}(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad} Y|_{\mathfrak{k}}) + \text{tr}(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad} Y|_{\mathfrak{m}}) = 2\text{tr}(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad}(Y)|_{\mathfrak{m}}).$$

Since Ricci tensor is trace of curvature tensor, and thus

$$\text{Ric}(Y, Y) = -\text{tr}(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad}(Y)|_{\mathfrak{m}}) = -\frac{1}{2}B(Y, Y).$$

Then by using polarization identity, one has  $\text{Ric}(Y, Z) = -B(Y, Z)/2$ .

For (2). If  $\text{Ric}(g) = \lambda g$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}
2\lambda g(R(X, Y)Y, X) &= -2\lambda g(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad}(Y)X, X) \\
&= -2\text{Ric}(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad}(Y)X, X) \\
&= B(\text{ad}(Y) \circ \text{ad}(Y)X, X) \\
&= -B(\text{ad}(Y)X, \text{ad}(Y)X) \\
&= -B([X, Y], [X, Y]).
\end{aligned}$$

□

**Corollary 3.5.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space which is an Einstein manifold with Einstein constant  $\lambda$ . Then*

- (1) *If  $\lambda > 0$ , then  $(M, g)$  has non-negative sectional curvature.*
- (2) *If  $\lambda < 0$ , then  $(M, g)$  has non-positive sectional curvature.*
- (3) *If  $\lambda = 0$ , then  $(M, g)$  is flat.*



*Proof.* By Theorem 3.4 one has

$$2\lambda R(X, Y, Y, X) = -B([X, Y], [X, Y]) \geq 0,$$

since  $[X, Y] \in [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}$  and  $B$  is negative definite on  $\mathfrak{k}$ . This shows (1) and (2). If  $\lambda = 0$ , one has  $B([X, Y], [X, Y]) \equiv 0$  for arbitrary  $X, Y$ . Then by Proposition 3.2 one has  $[X, Y] \equiv 0$  for arbitrary  $X, Y$ , and thus  $(M, g)$  is flat.  $\square$

### 3.B. Computations.

**Example 3.6.** In Example 2.13 we have already shown that  $M = \mathrm{SL}(n, \mathbb{R})/\mathrm{SO}(n)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space. Consider its Cartan decomposition

$$\mathfrak{sl}(n) = \mathfrak{so}(n) \oplus \mathfrak{m},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m}$  consists of symmetric matrices and  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$  for  $p \in M$ . On  $\mathfrak{m}$  we can put the usual Euclidean metric, that is for  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ , we define

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = \mathrm{tr}(XY^T) = \mathrm{tr}(XY) = \frac{1}{2n} B(X, Y),$$

where  $B$  is the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{sl}(n)$ . By Theorem 3.4 the corresponding metric on  $M$  has the curvature formulas

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Ric}(g) &= -\frac{B}{2} = -ng, \\ R(X, Y, Y, X) &= \frac{B([X, Y], [X, Y])}{2n} \leq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Hence it has non-positive sectional curvatures. One can also show its sectional curvature is non-positive by computing curvature tensor as follows

$$\begin{aligned} R(X, Y, Z, W) &= \mathrm{tr}([Z, [X, Y]]W) \\ &= \mathrm{tr}(Z[X, Y]W - [X, Y]ZW) \\ &= \mathrm{tr}(WZ[X, Y] - [X, Y]ZW) \\ &= \mathrm{tr}([X, Y][Z, W]) \\ &= -\mathrm{tr}([X, Y][Z, W]^T) \\ &= -\langle [X, Y], [Z, W] \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.7** (compact Grassmannian). In Example 2.15 we have already shown that  $M = \widehat{Gr}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k+l})$  is a Riemannian symmetric space with Cartan decomposition

$$\mathfrak{so}(k+l) = \mathfrak{so}(k) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(l) \oplus \mathfrak{m},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$  for  $p \in M$ . Note that one has the block decomposition of matrices in  $\mathfrak{so}(k+l)$  as follows

$$\mathfrak{so}(k+l) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} X_1 & B \\ -B^T & X_2 \end{pmatrix} \mid X_1 \in \mathfrak{so}(k), X_2 \in \mathfrak{so}(l), B \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{R}) \right\}.$$

Then one has  $\mathfrak{m} \cong \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ -B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid B \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{R}) \right\}$ . If we put the usual Euclidean metric on  $\mathfrak{m}$ , that is

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ -A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ -B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle &= \text{tr} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ -A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ -B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}^T \right) \\ &= -\text{tr} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ -A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{k+l-2} B \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ -A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ -B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $B$  is the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{so}(n)$ . Then the corresponding metric on  $M$  has the curvature formulas

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ric}(g) &= -\frac{B}{2} = \frac{k+l-2}{2}g, \\ R(X, Y, Y, X) &= -\frac{B([X, Y], [X, Y])}{k+l-2} \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ . This shows the compact Grassmannian has the non-negative sectional curvature.

**Example 3.8** (hyperbolic Grassmannian). In Example 2.16 we have already shown that  $M = \widehat{Gr}_k(\mathbb{R}^{k,l})$  is a Riemannian symmetric space with Cartan decomposition

$$\mathfrak{so}(k, l) = \mathfrak{so}(k) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(l) \oplus \mathfrak{m},$$

where  $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$  for  $p \in M$ . Note that one has the block decomposition of matrices in  $\mathfrak{so}(k, l)$  as follows

$$\mathfrak{so}(k, l) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} X_1 & B \\ B^T & X_2 \end{pmatrix} \mid X_1 \in \mathfrak{so}(k), X_2 \in \mathfrak{so}(l), B \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{R}) \right\}.$$

Then one has  $\mathfrak{m} \cong \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid B \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{R}) \right\}$ . If we put the usual Euclidean metric on  $\mathfrak{m}$ , then

$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{k+l-2} B \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A \\ A^T & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right),$$

where  $B$  is the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{so}(k, l)$ . Then the corresponding metric on  $M$  has the curvature formulas

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ric}(g) &= -\frac{B}{2} = -\frac{k+l-2}{2}g, \\ R(X, Y, Y, X) &= \frac{B([X, Y], [X, Y])}{k+l-2} \leq 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$ . This shows the hyperbolic Grassmannian has non-positive sectional curvature.

**Remark 3.9.** Later we will see compact Grassmannian and hyperbolic Grassmannian are dual to each other in Example 6.4.

**Example 3.10.** In Example 2.17 one has a compact connected Lie group  $G \cong G \times G / G^\Delta$  is a Riemannian symmetric space with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}^\Delta \oplus \mathfrak{g}^\perp$ , where

$$\mathfrak{g}^\Delta = \{(X, X) \mid X \in \mathfrak{g}\},$$

$$\mathfrak{g}^\perp = \{(X, -X) \mid X \in \mathfrak{g}\}.$$

Then one has  $\mathfrak{m} \cong \mathfrak{g}^\perp$ , and thus curvature tensor can be computed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} R(X, Y)Z &= R((X, -X), (Y, -Y))(Z, -Z) \\ &= [(Z, -Z), [(X, -X), (Y, -Y)]] \\ &= ([Z, [X, Y]], -[Z, [X, Y]]). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we arrive at that the formula

$$R(X, Y)Z = [Z, [X, Y]].$$

**Remark 3.11.** If one computes the curvature tensor in the standard way using bi-invariant metric, then the formula has a factor  $1/4$  on it.

## Part 2. Classifications of Riemannian symmetric space

### 4. DECOMPOSITIONS

So far, we have seen that any Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$  gives a Riemannian symmetric pair  $(G, K)$  with involution  $\sigma$ , and any Riemannian symmetric pair gives a pair  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  of Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  and involution  $s$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . In this section, we will study such pairs of Lie algebras and prove decomposition theorems, which will give decomposition theorems for symmetric spaces.

#### 4.A. Orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

**Definition 4.1** (orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra). *An orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra is a pair  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  consisting of a real Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  and an involution  $s \neq \text{id}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  such that  $\mathfrak{k}$  is a compactly embedded subalgebra<sup>3</sup>, where  $\mathfrak{k}$  is given by Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ .*

**Remark 4.2.** For an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$ , the term "orthogonal" is motivated by the fact that Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  is an orthogonal direct sum with respect to the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

**Definition 4.3** (isomorphism). *Two orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}_1, s_1), (\mathfrak{g}_2, s_2)$  are called isomorphic to each other, if there exists a Lie algebra isomorphism  $\rho : \mathfrak{g}_1 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_2$  such that  $s_2 \circ \rho = \rho \circ s_1$ .*

**Definition 4.4** (effective). *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . It's called effective if  $\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{z} = 0$ , where  $\mathfrak{z}$  is the center of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .*

**Example 4.5.** Let  $(G, K)$  be a Riemannian symmetric pair given by involution  $\sigma$ . Then it gives an orthogonal symmetric pair  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$ , where  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie } G$  and  $s = (d\sigma)_e$ . Moreover, if  $(G, K)$  is given by a Riemannian symmetric space, then  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is effective.

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . Then the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is negative definite on  $\mathfrak{k}$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $B$  be the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $K \subseteq \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$  be the compact Lie group such that  $\text{Lie } K = \text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{k})$ . Without lose of generality we may assume  $K \leq \text{SO}(n)$ , and thus  $\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{k})$  consisting of skew-symmetric matrices. Hence for  $S \in \mathfrak{k}$ ,

$$B(S, S) = \text{tr}(\text{ad}(S) \circ \text{ad}(S)) = \sum_i \langle \text{ad}(S) \circ \text{ad}(S) e_i, e_i \rangle = - \sum_i \langle \text{ad}(S) e_i, \text{ad}(S) e_i \rangle \leq 0,$$

and the equality holds if and only if  $S \in \mathfrak{z} \cap \mathfrak{k} = 0$ . □

**Theorem 4.7.** *Every orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  gives a Riemannian symmetric pair  $(G, K)$  with  $G/K$  simply-connected.*

*Proof.* By Theorem B.1 there exists a unique connected and simply-connected Lie group  $\tilde{G}$  such that  $\text{Lie } \tilde{G} = \mathfrak{g}$  and there also exists a unique connected Lie subgroup  $\tilde{K} \subseteq \tilde{G}$  with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{k}$  by Theorem B.2. Moreover, by Theorem B.3 there exists a unique involution  $\sigma : \tilde{G} \rightarrow \tilde{G}$  such that  $(d\sigma)_e = s$ , and  $\tilde{K}$  is the identity component of  $\tilde{G}_\sigma$ . Then  $(\tilde{G}, \tilde{K})$  is

<sup>3</sup>See Definition B.7

the Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ . To see  $M = \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}$  is a simply-connected Riemannian symmetric space, we consider the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \tilde{K} \rightarrow \tilde{G} \rightarrow M \rightarrow 0,$$

which gives a long exact sequence of homotopy groups as

$$\cdots \rightarrow \pi_1(\tilde{G}) \rightarrow \pi_1(M) \rightarrow \pi_0(\tilde{K}) \rightarrow \cdots$$

Since  $\tilde{K}$  is connected and  $\tilde{G}$  is simply-connected,  $M$  is simply-connected as desired.  $\square$

**Remark 4.8.** In above case,  $G$ -action on  $M = G/K$  may not be effective, and it's almost effective<sup>4</sup> if and only if  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is effective.

#### 4.B. Decomposition into pieces of different types.

##### 4.B.1. Types.

**Definition 4.9** (types). Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  and Killing form  $B$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is of

- (1) of compact type if  $B|_{\mathfrak{m}} < 0$ ;
- (2) of non-compact type if  $B|_{\mathfrak{m}} > 0$ ;
- (3) of Euclidean type if  $B|_{\mathfrak{m}} = 0$ ;
- (4) of semisimple type if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple, or equivalently,  $B$  is non-degenerate.

**Remark 4.10.** It's clear is an effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra is of compact type or non-compact type, then it's of semisimple type, since by Proposition 4.6  $B|_{\mathfrak{k}} < 0$ , and  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  is an orthogonal direct sum with respect to  $B$ .

**Definition 4.11** (types).

- (1) A Riemannian symmetric pair is of one of above types if its corresponding orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra is.
- (2) A Riemannian symmetric space is of one of above types if its corresponding Riemannian symmetric pair is.

**Proposition 4.12.** Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . It's of Euclidean type if and only if  $[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] = 0$ .

*Proof.* If  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is of Euclidean type, then  $B(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}) = 0$  and  $B|_{\mathfrak{k}} < 0$  implies  $\mathfrak{m}$  is the kernel of Killing form  $B$ , and thus  $\mathfrak{m}$  is an ideal. Then

$$[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m} \cap \mathfrak{k} = 0.$$

Conversely, if  $[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] = 0$ , then by definition of Killing form it's clear  $B|_{\mathfrak{m}} = 0$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.13.** Let  $(G, K)$  be a Riemannian symmetric pair and  $M = G/K$ .

- (1) If  $(G, K)$  is of compact type, then  $M$  has non-negative sectional curvature.
- (2) If  $(G, K)$  is of non-compact type, then  $M$  has non-positive sectional curvatures.
- (3) If  $(G, K)$  is of Euclidean type, then  $M$  is flat<sup>5</sup>. In particular, if  $M$  is simply-connected, then it's isometric to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

<sup>4</sup>A group acting on a set almost effectively if only finite many elements act trivially.

<sup>5</sup>A Riemannian manifold is called flat, if its sectional curvatures are zero.

*Proof.* If  $(G, K)$  is of compact type, we may assume  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant inner product on  $\mathfrak{m}$  is given by  $-B|_{\mathfrak{m}}$ , and thus by 3.4 one has

$$\text{Ric} = -\frac{1}{2}B.$$

This shows  $M$  is Einstein with Einstein constant  $1/2$ , and thus by Corollary 3.5 one has  $M$  has non-negative sectional curvature. Similarly one can show if  $(G, K)$  is of non-compact type, then  $M$  has non-positive sectional curvatures, and  $(G, K)$  is of Euclidean type, then  $M$  is flat.  $\square$

#### 4.B.2. Decomposition of effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

**Theorem 4.14.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra and  $B$  be the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then there exists ideals  $\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_-$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_+$  with the following properties:*

- (1)  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_- \oplus \mathfrak{g}_+$ .
- (2)  $\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_-$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_+$  are invariant under  $s$  and orthogonal with respect to Killing form  $B$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .
- (3) Let  $s_0, s_-, s_+$  be the restrictions of  $s$  to  $\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_-$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_+$ . The pairs  $(\mathfrak{g}_0, s_0), (\mathfrak{g}_-, s_-)$  and  $(\mathfrak{g}_+, s_+)$  are effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebras of the Euclidean type, compact type and non-compact type, respectively.

*Proof.* See Theorem 1.1 in Chapter V of [Hel78].  $\square$

#### 4.B.3. Decomposition of Riemannian symmetric space.

**Theorem 4.15.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a simply-connected symmetric space. Then  $M = M_0 \times M_+ \times M_-$  is the Riemannian product of symmetric space of Euclidean, non-compact and compact types respectively.*

*Proof.* Let  $(G, K)$  with involution  $\sigma$  be the Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $(M, g)$  and  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be the corresponding effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra. Let  $p : \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$  be the universal covering and  $\tilde{K}$  be the identity component of  $p^{-1}(K)$ . Then it induces a covering map of  $\bar{p} : \tilde{G}/\tilde{K} \rightarrow G/K$  by  $g\tilde{K} \rightarrow p(g)\tilde{K}$ . Since  $M$  is simply-connected,  $M = \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}$ .

By Theorem 4.14, we obtain a decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_- \oplus \mathfrak{g}_+$ . By Theorem B.1, there exists simply-connected Lie groups  $G_0, G_-$  and  $G_+$  with Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_-$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_+$ . Then it gives a decomposition  $\tilde{G} = G_0 \times G_- \times G_+$ . If  $\tilde{K} = K_0 \times K_- \times K_+$  is the corresponding decomposition, then the spaces  $M_0 = G_0/K_0, M_- = G_-/K_-$  and  $M_+ = G_+/K_+$  gives the desired decomposition.  $\square$

## 5. IRREDUCIBILITY

### 5.A. Irreducible orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

**Definition 5.1** (irreducible). Suppose  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is called irreducible if

- (1)  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple and  $\mathfrak{k}$  contains no ideal of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ;
- (2) the Lie algebra  $\text{ad}(\mathfrak{k})$  acts irreducibly on  $\mathfrak{m}$ .

**Remark 5.2.** Any irreducible orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is effective, since  $\mathfrak{z} \cap \mathfrak{k}$  is an ideal in  $\mathfrak{k}$ , and thus vanishes.

**Definition 5.3** (irreducible).

- (1) A Riemannian symmetric pair is called irreducible if its corresponding orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra is.
- (2) A Riemannian symmetric space is called irreducible if its corresponding Riemannian symmetric pair is.

**Lemma 5.4** (Schur lemma). Let  $B_1, B_2$  be two symmetric bilinear forms on a vector space  $V$  such that  $B_1$  is positive definite. If a group  $K$  acts irreducibly on  $V$  such that  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  are invariant under  $K$ , then  $B_2 = \lambda B_1$  for some constant  $\lambda$ .

*Proof.* Since  $B_1$  is positive definite, there exists an endomorphism  $L : V \rightarrow V$  such that

$$B_2(u, v) = B_1(Lu, v),$$

where  $u, v \in V$ . Since  $B_1, B_2$  are invariant under  $K$ , one has for any  $k \in K$

$$B_1(kLu, v) = B_1(Lu, k^{-1}v) = B_2(u, k^{-1}v) = B_2(ku, v) = B_1(Lku, v),$$

holds for arbitrary  $u, v \in V$ , which implies  $Lk = kL$  for all  $k \in K$ . On the other hand, the symmetry of  $B_1, B_2$  implies

$$B_1(Lu, v) = B_2(u, v) = B_2(v, u) = B_1(Lv, u) = B_1(u, Lv).$$

Hence  $L$  is symmetric with respect to  $B_1$ , and thus the eigenvalues of  $L$  are real. If  $0 \neq E \subseteq V$  is an eigenspace with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , the fact  $kL = Lk$  implies  $E$  is invariant under  $K$ . Since  $K$  acts irreducibly on  $V$ , one has  $E = V$ , that is  $L = \lambda I$ , which implies  $B_2 = \lambda B_1$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 5.5.** Let  $(G, K)$  be an irreducible Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ . Then there is up to scaling a unique left-invariant metric on  $M = G/K$ .

*Proof.* It suffices to show there is up to scaling a unique  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant inner product on  $\mathfrak{m}$ . Since  $(G, K)$  is an irreducible Riemannian symmetric pair, then  $K$  acts on  $\mathfrak{m}$  irreducibly by adjoint representation, and thus by Lemma 5.4 any two  $\text{Ad}(K)$ -invariant inner product on  $\mathfrak{m}$  are scalar multiples of each other. In particular,  $-B|_{\mathfrak{m}}$  and  $B|_{\mathfrak{m}}$  give such an inner product in compact and non-compact cases respectively.  $\square$

### 5.B. Decomposition into irreducible pieces.

**Theorem 5.6.** Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$  such that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple and  $\mathfrak{k}$  does not contain an ideal of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then there are ideals  $(\mathfrak{g}_i)_{i \in I}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  such that

- (1)  $\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_i \mathfrak{g}_i$ .
- (2) The ideals  $\mathfrak{g}_i$  are mutually orthogonal with respect to Killing form  $B$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , and they are invariant under  $s$ .
- (3) Denoting by  $s_i$  the restriction of  $s$  to  $\mathfrak{g}_i$ , each  $(\mathfrak{g}_i, s_i)$  is an irreducible orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

*Proof.* See Proposition 5.2 in Chapter VIII of [Hel78]. □

As Theorem 4.15, this decomposition of effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra gives a decomposition of Riemannian symmetric space as follows.

**Theorem 5.7.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a simply-connected Riemannian symmetric space. Then  $M$  is a product*

$$(M, g) \cong (M_0, g_0) \times (M_1, g_1) \times \cdots \times (M_n, g_n),$$

*where  $(M_0, g_0)$  is a Riemannian symmetric space of Euclidean type and for  $i \geq 1$ , the factors  $(M_i, g_i)$  are irreducible Riemannian symmetric spaces.*

*Proof.* See Proposition 5.5 in Chapter VIII of [Hel78]. □



## 6. DUALITY

**Definition 6.1** (complexification). *Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a (real) Lie algebra. Then its complexification  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}$  is a complex Lie algebra, with Lie bracket*

$$[X_1 + \sqrt{-1}Y_1, X_2 + \sqrt{-1}Y_2] := [X_1, X_2] - [Y_1, Y_2] + \sqrt{-1}([Y_1, X_2] + [X_1, Y_2]).$$

Suppose  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . Then there are following bracketing relations:

- (1)  $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{k}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}$ .
- (2)  $[\mathfrak{k}, \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m}] = \sqrt{-1}[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m}$ .
- (3)  $[\sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m}, \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m}] = -[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}$ .

In particular,  $\mathfrak{g}^* := \mathfrak{k} \oplus \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m}$  is a real Lie subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Let  $s_{\mathbb{C}}$  be the  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear extension of  $s$  to  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$  and  $s^*$  be the restriction of  $s_{\mathbb{C}}$  to  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ . Then  $(\mathfrak{g}^*, s^*)$  is also an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra, which is defined to be the dual of  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$ .

**Theorem 6.2.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra with dual  $(\mathfrak{g}^*, s^*)$ .*

- (1) *If  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is of compact type, then  $(\mathfrak{g}^*, s^*)$  is of non-compact type, and vice versa.*
- (2) *If  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is of Euclidean type, then  $(\mathfrak{g}^*, s^*)$  is of Euclidean type.*
- (3)  *$(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is irreducible if and only if  $(\mathfrak{g}^*, s^*)$  is irreducible.*

*Proof.* For (1) and (2). It suffices to establish a relation between the respective Killing forms. Note that there is an isomorphism of vector spaces  $\Psi : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*$  given by  $X + Y \mapsto X + \sqrt{-1}Y$ . For  $Z_1, Z_2 \in \mathfrak{m}$ , a direct computation shows

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}(\sqrt{-1}Z_1)\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}(\sqrt{-1}Z_2)(X + \sqrt{-1}Y) &= [\sqrt{-1}Z_1, [\sqrt{-1}Z_2, X + \sqrt{-1}Y]] \\ &= -[Z_1, [Z_2, X]] - \sqrt{-1}[Z_1, [Z_2, Y]] \\ &= -\Psi([Z_1, [Z_2, X + Y]]) \\ &= -\Psi(\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(Z_1)\text{ad}_{\mathfrak{g}}(Z_2)(X + Y)). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $B_{\mathfrak{g}^*}(\sqrt{-1}Z_1, \sqrt{-1}Z_2) = -B_{\mathfrak{g}}(Z_1, Z_2)$ . As a consequence,  $B_{\mathfrak{g}}|_{\mathfrak{m}} > 0$  if and only if  $B_{\mathfrak{g}^*}|_{\sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m}} < 0$  and vice versa.

For (3). Note that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple if and only if its Killing form is non-degenerate, so  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple if and only if  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  is, and thus  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is irreducible if and only if  $(\mathfrak{g}^*, s^*)$  is irreducible.  $\square$

**Example 6.3.** Consider the orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R}), s)$ , where  $s : X \mapsto -X^T$ . Its Cartan decomposition is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{k} &= \{X \in \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid X^T + X = 0\}, \\ \mathfrak{m} &= \{X \in \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R}) \mid X^T = X\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{R})_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C})$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{k} + \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{m} &= \{Z \in \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C}) \mid Z = X + \sqrt{-1}Y, X^T + X = 0, Y^T = Y\} \\ &= \{Z \in \mathfrak{sl}(n, \mathbb{C}) \mid Z + \overline{Z}^T = 0\} \\ &= \mathfrak{su}(n). \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, the Riemannian symmetric space  $SL(n, \mathbb{R})/SO(n)$  and  $SU(n)/SO(n)$  are dual to each other. For  $n = 2$ , one has  $\mathbb{H}^2$  is dual to  $S^2$ , since  $SU(2)$  is the universal covering of  $SO(3)$ .

**Example 6.4.** Consider the orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{so}(n), s)$ , where  $s$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} s : \mathfrak{so}(n) &\rightarrow \mathfrak{so}(n) \\ X &\mapsto I_{k,l} X I_{k,l} \end{aligned}$$

where  $k + l = n$ . Its Cartan decomposition is given by

$$\mathfrak{so}(n) = \mathfrak{so}(k) \oplus \mathfrak{so}(l) \oplus \mathfrak{m},$$

where

$$\mathfrak{m} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & B \\ -B^T & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mid B \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{R}) \right\}.$$

Then

$$\mathfrak{g}^* = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} X_1 & \sqrt{-1}B \\ -\sqrt{-1}B^T & X_2 \end{pmatrix} \mid X_1 \in \mathfrak{so}(k), X_2 \in \mathfrak{so}(l), B \in M_{k \times l}(\mathbb{R}) \right\}.$$

It's easy to verify the mapping

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_1 & \sqrt{-1}B \\ -\sqrt{-1}B^T & X_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} X_1 & B \\ B^T & X_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is a Lie algebra isomorphism of  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  to  $\mathfrak{so}(p, q)$ . This shows compact Grassmannian and hyperbolic Grassmannian are dual to each other.

## 7. CLASSIFICATIONS OF RIEMANNIAN SYMMETRIC SPACE

### 7.A. Classifications of irreducible orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

**Theorem 7.1.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective semisimple orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra. Then it must be isomorphic to one of the following four cases:*

- CI  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a compact simple Lie algebra and  $s$  is an involution of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ;
- CII  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_2$ , where  $\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_2$  are compact simple Lie algebra and  $s(X, Y) = (Y, X)$ ;
- NI  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a non-compact simple Lie algebra such that its complexification  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$  is a complex simple Lie algebra, and  $s$  is an involution of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .
- NII  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a non-compact simple Lie algebra such that its complexification  $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}$  is not a complex simple Lie algebra, and  $s$  is an involution of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

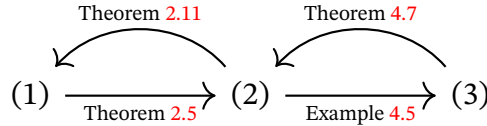
Moreover, CI and NI are dual to each other, while CII and NII are dual to each other.

**Theorem 7.2.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be an effective semisimple orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra of non-compact type. Then Riemannian symmetric space arisen from  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is unique up to isometry, the center of  $(\text{Iso}(M, g))_0 = \{e\}$  and  $M$  is simply-connected.*

**7.B. Relations between different viewpoints.** Along the lecture note, we have encountered three categories listed as follows:

- (1) Riemannian symmetric space.
- (2) Riemannian symmetric pair.
- (3) Orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

And the relations are shown in the following diagram



7.B.1. (1) and (2). Since any Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$  gives a Riemannian symmetric pair  $(G, K)$ , where  $G = (\text{Iso}(M, g))_0$  and  $K = G_p$  for some  $p \in G$ . In general, if a Riemannian symmetric pair  $(G, K)$  gives the Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$ ,  $G = (\text{Iso}(M, g))_0$  may be false.

**Example 7.3.**  $G = \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $K = \{0\}$ , then  $\sigma : x \mapsto -x$  makes  $(G, K)$  to be a Riemannian symmetric pair, which gives the Riemannian symmetric space  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , but the identity component of the isometry group is larger than  $G$ .

However, the following theorem shows it's essentially the only exception.

**Theorem 7.4.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a Riemannian symmetric pair of semisimple type and  $G$  acts effectively on  $M = G/K$ . Then  $G = (\text{Iso}(M, g))_0$ .*

*Proof.* See Theorem 4.1 in Chapter V of [Hel78]. □

7.B.2. (1) and (3). Given a Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$ , there is a Riemannian symmetric pair  $(G, K)$ , and thus we obtain an orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$ . If we use  $\tilde{M} = \tilde{G}/\tilde{K}$  to denote the Riemannian symmetric space given by  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$ , a natural question is what's the relationship between  $M$  and  $\tilde{M}$ ? Since  $\tilde{G}$  is simply-connected and has the same Lie algebra as  $G$ , there exists a covering map  $p : \tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ . Moreover,

since  $\tilde{K}$  and  $K$  also have the same Lie algebra,  $p(\tilde{K}) = K$  and thus  $p$  induces a covering map  $\bar{p}: \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$ , which gives an isomorphism  $T_{\bar{p}}\tilde{M} \cong \mathfrak{m} \cong T_p M$ . If we endow  $\tilde{M}$  with Riemannian metric obtained from  $\bar{p}$ , then  $\bar{p}$  is a local isometry, and thus  $\bar{p}$  is a Riemannian covering since  $\tilde{M}$  is complete. In particular, if  $M$  is simply-connected, then it's isometric to  $\tilde{M}$ .

Another thing is that we can show the correspondence between (1) and (3) is bijective under some hypothesis, which can help us to classify irreducible Riemannian symmetric space.

**Theorem 7.5.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  be a non-compact irreducible effective orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra. Then Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$  which can give  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is unique up to isometry. Moreover, the center of  $(\text{Iso}(M, g))_0$  is trivial and  $M$  is simply-connected.*

### 7.C. Summary.

## 8. MORE PROPERTIES OF NON-COMPACT TYPE

**Lemma 8.1.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a non-compact Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ . Then  $B^*(-, -) = -B(\sigma(-), -)$  on  $\mathfrak{g}$  has the following properties:*

- (1)  $B^*$  is positive definite.
- (2) If  $X \in \mathfrak{k}$ , then  $\text{ad}(X) : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is skew-symmetric.
- (3) If  $X \in \mathfrak{m}$ , then  $\text{ad}(X) : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$  is symmetric.

**Proposition 8.2.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a non-compact Riemannian symmetric pair given by  $\sigma$ . Then*

- (1)  $G$  is non-compact and  $K$  is connected.
- (2)  $K$  is a maximal compact subgroup of  $G$ .
- (3)  $Z(G) \subseteq K$ .
- (4)  $G$  is diffeomorphic to  $K \times \mathbb{R}^n$ , and  $G/K$  is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

**Proposition 8.3.** *Let  $G$  be a non-compact semisimple Lie group with finite center. Then there exists a maximal compact subgroup  $K$ , unique up to conjugacy, such that  $G$  is diffeomorphic to  $K \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . Moreover,*

### Part 3. Hermitian symmetric space

#### 9. HERMITIAN SYMMETRIC SPACE

**Definition 9.1** (Hermitian symmetric space). *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian symmetric space.  $(M, g)$  is said to be a Hermitian symmetric manifold if  $(M, g)$  is a Hermitian manifold and the symmetric at each point is a holomorphic isometry.*

**Lemma 9.2.** *Any almost Hermitian structure on a Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$  is integrable, and any Hermitian symmetric space is Kähler.*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\varphi$  is the symmetry at point  $p \in M$  and  $J$  is an almost Hermitian structure of  $(M, g)$ . Since  $\varphi$  is a holomorphic isometry one has  $(d\varphi)_p \circ J = J \circ (d\varphi)_p$ , and thus

$$\begin{aligned} -N_J(X, Y) &= (d\varphi)_p N_J(X, Y) \\ &= (d\varphi)_p ([JX, JY] - J[JX, Y] - J[X, JY] - [X, Y]) \\ &= [JX, JY] - J[JX, Y] - J[X, JY] - [X, Y] \\ &= N_J(X, Y). \end{aligned}$$

This shows  $N_J = 0$  at point  $p$ , and since  $p$  is arbitrary one has  $N_J \equiv 0$ , which implies  $J$  is integrable. By the same argument one can show  $\nabla J = 0$ , and thus  $(M, g)$  is Kähler.  $\square$

**Proposition 9.3.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a symmetric pair with Cartan decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ . If  $J : \mathfrak{m} \rightarrow \mathfrak{m}$  satisfies*

- (1)  *$J$  is orthogonal and  $J^2 = -\text{id}$ .*
- (2)  *$J \circ \text{Ad}(k) = \text{Ad}(k) \circ J$  for all  $k \in K$ .*

*Then  $M = G/K$  is a Hermitian symmetric space, and thus Kähler.*

**Corollary 9.4.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be a symmetric pair. Then*

- (1)  *$(G, K)$  is Hermitian symmetric if and only if its dual is Hermitian symmetric.*
- (2) *If  $(G, K)$  is irreducible and Hermitian symmetric, then it's Kähler-Einstein.*

**Proposition 9.5.** *Let  $(G, K)$  be an irreducible symmetric pair.*

- (1) *If  $(G, K)$  is of compact type, then it's Hermitian symmetric if and only if  $H^2(M, \mathbb{R}) \neq 0$ .*
- (2)  *$(G, K)$  is Hermitian symmetric if and only if  $K$  is not semisimple.*
- (3) *The complex structure  $J$  is unique up to a sign.*

*Proof.* For (1). It's clear if  $(G, K)$  is Hermitian symmetric, then  $H^2(M, \mathbb{R}) \neq 0$  since its Kähler form lies in it; Conversely, for  $0 \neq \omega \in H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$ , we may construct a new 2-form  $\tilde{\omega}$  by

$$\tilde{\omega}_p := \int_G \omega_{gP} dg.$$

It's clear  $\tilde{\omega}$  is invariant under isometries.  $\square$

## 10. BOUNDED SYMMETRIC DOMAINS

- 10.A. **The Bergman metrics.**
- 10.B. **Classical bounded symmetric domains.**
- 10.C. **Curvatures of classical bounded symmetric domains.**

## Part 4. Appendix

### APPENDIX A. REMARKS

A.A. **Effectivity.** In this section we try to explain the motivation of effectivity of orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra.

**Remark A.1.** Let  $(G, K)$  be a Riemannian symmetric pair associated to a Riemannian symmetric space  $(M, g)$ . Note that  $G$  acts on  $M$  effectively, and thus we claim  $K$  contains no non-zero subgroup of  $G$ . Otherwise if  $N$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$  contained in  $K$ , it suffices to show for any  $n \in N$ , it fixes every point of  $M$  since  $G$  acts on  $M$  effectively. For any  $q \in M$ , suppose  $q = gp$  for some  $g \in G$  and hence

$$nq = ngp = g(g^{-1}ng)p = gp = q.$$

In particular,  $Z(G) \cap K = \{e\}$ , and thus  $\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{z} = 0$ . As a consequence, if  $(G, K)$  is a Riemannian symmetric pair associated to a Riemannian symmetric space and  $(\mathfrak{g}, s)$  is the orthogonal symmetric Lie algebra given by  $(G, K)$ , then it's effective.



## APPENDIX B. LIE GROUP AND LIE ALGEBRA

### B.A. Fundamental theorems.

**Theorem B.1.** *Every finite-dimensional (real) Lie algebra is the Lie algebra of some simply-connected Lie group.*

**Theorem B.2.** *If  $G$  is a Lie group and  $\mathfrak{h} \subseteq \text{Lie } G$  is a Lie subalgebra, then there exists a unique connected Lie subgroup  $H \subseteq G$  with  $\text{Lie } H = \mathfrak{h}$ .*

**Theorem B.3.** *If  $\Phi : \text{Lie } G \rightarrow \text{Lie } H$  is a Lie algebra homomorphism and  $G$  is simply-connected, then there exists a unique Lie group homomorphism  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$  such that  $\Phi = (d\varphi)_e$ .*

**Lemma B.4.** *Suppose  $G, H$  are connected Lie groups with Lie algebras  $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}$  and  $\varphi : G \rightarrow H$  is a Lie group homomorphism. If  $(d\varphi)_e : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$  is bijective, then  $\varphi$  is a covering map.*

**Corollary B.5.** *If  $\tilde{G}, G$  are connected Lie groups having isomorphic Lie algebra and  $\tilde{G}$  is simply-connected, then  $\tilde{G}$  is the universal covering of  $G$ .*

**Corollary B.6.** *If connected and simply-connected Lie groups  $G, H$  have isomorphic Lie algebra, then  $G$  and  $H$  are isomorphic.*

### B.B. Adjoint action.

**Definition B.7** (compactly embedded). *Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a Lie algebra. A subalgebra  $\mathfrak{k} \leq \mathfrak{g}$  is compactly embedded if  $\text{ad}(\mathfrak{k})$  is the Lie algebra of a compact subgroup of  $\text{GL}(\mathfrak{g})$ .*

### B.C. Semisimple Lie algebras.

**Definition B.8** (semisimple). *A Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is called semisimple if the Killing form  $B$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is non-degenerate.*

**Definition B.9** (simple). *A Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is called simple if it's semisimple and has no ideals except  $\{0\}$  and  $\mathfrak{g}$ .*

**Definition B.10.** *A Lie group is called semisimple (simple) if its Lie algebra is semisimple (simple).*

**Proposition B.11.** *A semisimple Lie algebra has center  $\{0\}$ .*

**Proposition B.12.** *A semisimple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the direct sum*

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{g}_r.$$

*where  $\mathfrak{g}_i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq r$ ) are all the simple ideals in  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Every ideal  $\mathfrak{a}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the direct sum of certain  $\mathfrak{g}_i$ .*

**Proposition B.13.**

- (1) *Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a semisimple Lie algebra. Then  $\mathfrak{g}$  is compact if and only if the Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is negative definite.*
- (2) *Every compact Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a direct sum  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{z} \oplus [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$ , where  $\mathfrak{z}$  is the center of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and the ideal  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$  is semisimple and compact.*

## APPENDIX C. BASIC FACTS IN RIEMANNIAN GEOMETRY

### C.A. Killing fields.

#### C.A.1. Basic properties.

**Proposition C.1.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold and  $X$  be a Killing field.*

(1) *If  $\gamma$  is a geodesic, then  $J(t) = X(\gamma(t))$  is a Jacobi field.*

(2) *For any two vector fields  $Y, Z$ ,*

$$\nabla_Y \nabla_Z X - \nabla_{\nabla_Y Z} X + R(X, Y)Z = 0$$

*Proof.* For (1). Suppose  $\varphi_s$  is the flow generated by  $X$ . Then we obtain a variation  $\alpha(s, t) = \varphi_s(\gamma(t))$  consisting of geodesics, and thus

$$X(\gamma(t)) = \left. \frac{\partial \varphi_s(\gamma(t))}{\partial s} \right|_{s=0}$$

is a Jacobi field.

For (2). It's an equation of tensors, so we check it pointwisely and use normal coordinate  $\{x^i\}$  centered at  $p$ . Moreover, we assume  $X = X^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, Y = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j}, Z = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^k}$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_Y \nabla_Z X - \nabla_{\nabla_Y Z} X + R(X, Y)Z &= \nabla_j \nabla_k X + X^i R_{ijk}^l \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ki}^l}{\partial x^j} + X^i R_{ijk}^l \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \end{aligned}$$

since  $R_{ijk}^l = \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ik}^l}{\partial x^j} + \Gamma_{jk}^s \Gamma_{is}^l - \Gamma_{ik}^s \Gamma_{js}^l$ . Now it suffices to show  $\frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} \equiv 0$ . In order to show this, for arbitrary  $p \in M$ , consider a geodesic  $\gamma$  starting at  $p$  and consider Jacobi field  $J(t) = X(\gamma(t))$ . Direct computation shows

$$\begin{aligned} J'(t) &= \left( \frac{\partial X^i}{\partial x^k} \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} + X^i \Gamma_{ki}^l \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \Big|_{\gamma(t)} \\ J''(0) &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} \frac{d\gamma^j}{dt} \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ki}^l}{\partial x^j} \frac{d\gamma^j}{dt} \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} \right) \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \Big|_p \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ki}^l}{\partial x^j} \right) \frac{d\gamma^j}{dt} \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \Big|_p \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{ki}^l}{\partial x^j} - X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} \right) \frac{d\gamma^j}{dt} \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \Big|_p \\ &= \left( \frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} \right) \frac{d\gamma^j}{dt} \frac{d\gamma^k}{dt} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^l} \Big|_p - R(X, \gamma')\gamma' \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\frac{\partial^2 X^l}{\partial x^j \partial x^k} + X^i \frac{\partial \Gamma_{jk}^l}{\partial x^i} = 0$$

holds at point  $p$ , and since  $p$  is arbitrary, this completes the proof.  $\square$

**Corollary C.2.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete Riemannian manifold and  $p \in M$ . Then a Killing field  $X$  is determined by the values  $X_p$  and  $(\nabla X)_p$  for arbitrary  $p \in M$ .*

*Proof.* The equation  $\mathcal{L}_X g \equiv 0$  is linear in  $X$ , so the space of Killing fields is a vector space. Therefore, it suffices to show if  $X_p = 0$  and  $(\nabla X)_p = 0$ , then  $X \equiv 0$ . For arbitrary  $q \in M$ , let  $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow M$  be a geodesic connecting  $p$  and  $q$  with  $\gamma'(0) = v$ . Since  $J(t) = X(\gamma(t))$  is a Jacobi field, and a direct computation shows

$$(\nabla_v X)_p = J'(0)$$

Thus  $J(t) \equiv 0$ , since Jacobi field is determined by two initial values. In particular,  $X_q = J(1) = 0$ , and since  $q$  is arbitrary, one has  $X \equiv 0$ .  $\square$

**Corollary C.3.** *The dimension of vector space consisting of Killing fields  $\leq n(n+1)/2$ .*

*Proof.* Note that  $\nabla X$  is skew-symmetric and the dimension of skew-symmetric matrices is  $n(n-1)/2$ . Thus the dimension of vector space consisting of Killing fields  $\leq n + n(n-1)/2 = n(n+1)/2$ .  $\square$

C.A.2. *Killing field as the Lie algebra of isometry group.*

**Lemma C.4.** *Killing field on a complete Riemannian manifold  $(M, g)$  is complete.*

*Proof.* For a Killing field  $X$ , we need to show the flow  $\varphi_t : M \rightarrow M$  generated by  $X$  is defined for  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ . Otherwise, we assume  $\varphi_t$  is defined on  $(a, b)$ . Note that for each  $p \in M$ , curve  $\varphi_t(p)$  is a curve defined on  $(a, b)$  having finite constant speed, since  $\varphi_t$  is isometry. Then we have  $\varphi_t(p)$  can be extended to the one defined on  $\mathbb{R}$ , since  $M$  is complete.  $\square$

**Theorem C.5.** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete Riemannian manifold and  $\mathfrak{g}$  the space of Killing fields. Then  $\mathfrak{g}$  is isomorphic to the Lie algebra of  $G = \text{Iso}(M, g)$ .*

*Proof.* It's clear  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a Lie algebra since  $[\mathcal{L}_X, \mathcal{L}_Y] = \mathcal{L}_{[X, Y]}$ . Now let's see it's isomorphic to Lie algebra consisting of Killing field as Lie algebra.

- (1) Given a Killing field  $X$ , by Lemma C.4, one deduces that the flow  $\varphi : \mathbb{R} \times M \rightarrow M$  generated by  $X$  is a one parameter subgroup  $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$ , and  $\gamma'(0) \in T_e G$ .
- (2) Given  $v \in T_e G$ , consider the one-parameter subgroup  $\gamma(t) = \exp(tv) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow G$  which gives a flow by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi : \mathbb{R} \times M &\rightarrow M \\ (t, p) &\mapsto \exp(tv) \cdot p \end{aligned}$$

Then the vector field  $X$  generated by this flow is a Killing field.

This gives a one to one correspondence between Killing fields and Lie algebra of  $G$ , and it's a Lie algebra isomorphism.  $\square$

**Corollary C.6** (Cartan decomposition). *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete Riemannian manifold and  $G = \text{Iso}(M, g)$  with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  of  $G$  has a decomposition as vector spaces*

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\mathfrak{k} &= \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid X_p = 0\} \\ \mathfrak{m} &= \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid (\nabla X)_p = 0\}\end{aligned}$$

and they satisfy

$$[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{k}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}, \quad [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}, \quad [\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$$

*Proof.* The decomposition follows from Corollary C.2 and Theorem C.5, and it's easy to see

$$[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{k}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}, \quad [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{k}$$

For arbitrary  $X \in \mathfrak{k}, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$  and  $v \in T_p M$ , one has

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla_v [X, Y] &= \nabla_v \nabla_X Y - \nabla_v \nabla_Y X \\ &= -R(Y, v)X + \nabla_{\nabla_v X} Y + R(X, v)Y - \nabla_{\nabla_v Y} X \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

since  $X_p = 0$  and  $(\nabla Y)_p = 0$ . This shows  $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] \subseteq \mathfrak{m}$ .  $\square$

**C.B. Hopf theorem.** The argument about analytic continuation in Theorem 1.15 can be used to give a proof of Hopf's theorem.

**Theorem C.7 (Hopf).** *Let  $(M, g)$  be a complete, simply-connected Riemannian manifold with constant sectional curvature  $K$ . Then  $(M, g)$  is isometric to*

$$(\tilde{M}, g_{can}) = \begin{cases} (\mathbb{S}^n(\frac{1}{\sqrt{K}}), g_{can}) & K > 0 \\ (\mathbb{R}^n, g_{can}) & K = 0 \\ (\mathbb{H}^n(\frac{1}{\sqrt{-K}}), g_{can}) & K < 0 \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* For  $p \in M, \tilde{p} \in \tilde{M}$  and  $\delta < \min\{\text{inj}(p), \text{inj}(\tilde{p})\}$ . By Cartan-Ambrose-Hicks's theorem, there exists an isometry  $\varphi : B(p, \delta) \rightarrow B(\tilde{p}, \delta)$  such that  $\varphi(p) = \tilde{p}$  and  $(d\varphi)_p$  equals to a given linear isometry, since both  $(M, g)$  and  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  have constant sectional curvature  $K$ . By the same argument in proof of Theorem 1.15, there is an isometry  $\varphi : (M, g) \rightarrow (\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  which extends  $\varphi : B(p, \delta) \rightarrow B(\tilde{p}, \delta)$ . In particular, this completes the proof.  $\square$

### C.C. Other basic facts.

**Theorem C.8.** *Let  $\varphi, \psi : (M, g_M) \rightarrow (N, g_N)$  be two local isometries between Riemannian manifolds, and  $M$  is connected. If there exists  $p \in M$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(p) &= \psi(p) \\ (d\varphi)_p &= (d\psi)_p\end{aligned}$$

*then  $\varphi = \psi$ .*

**Theorem C.9 (Cartan-Ambrose-Hicks).** *Let  $(M, g)$  and  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  be two Riemannian manifolds and  $\Phi_0 : T_p M \rightarrow T_{\tilde{p}} \tilde{M}$  be a linear isometry, where  $p \in M, \tilde{p} \in \tilde{M}$ . For  $0 < \delta < \min\{\text{inj}_p(M), \text{inj}_{\tilde{p}}(\tilde{M})\}$ , The following statements are equivalent.*

(1) *There exists an isometry  $\varphi : B(p, \delta) \rightarrow B(\tilde{p}, \delta)$  such that  $\varphi(p) = \tilde{p}$  and  $(d\varphi)_p = \Phi_0$ .*

(2) For  $v \in T_p M$ ,  $|v| < \delta$ ,  $\gamma(t) = \exp_p(tv)$ ,  $\tilde{\gamma}(t) = \exp_{\tilde{p}}(t\Phi_0(v))$ , if we define

$$\Phi_t = P_{0,t;\tilde{\gamma}} \circ \Phi_0 \circ P_{t,0;\gamma} : T_{\gamma(t)} M \rightarrow T_{\tilde{\gamma}(t)} \tilde{M}$$

then  $\Phi_t$  preserves curvature, that is  $(\Phi_t)^* R = R$ .

**Proposition C.10.** Let  $(M, g_M), (N, g_N)$  be complete Riemannian manifolds and  $f : M \rightarrow N$  be a local diffeomorphism such that for all  $p \in M$  and for all  $v \in T_p M$ , one has  $|(df)_p v| \geq |v|$ . Then  $f$  is a Riemannian covering map.

**Theorem C.11** (Myers-Steenrod). Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold and  $G = \text{Iso}(M, g)$ . Then

- (1)  $G$  is a Lie group with respect to compact-open topology.
- (2) for each  $p \in M$ , the isotropy group  $G_p$  is compact.
- (3)  $G$  is compact if  $M$  is compact.

**Proposition C.12.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a Riemannian manifold,  $\gamma : I \rightarrow M$  a smooth curve and  $P_{s,t;\gamma} : T_{\gamma(s)} M \rightarrow T_{\gamma(t)} M$  is the parallel transport along  $\gamma$ . For any  $s \in I$  with  $v = \gamma'(s)$  and tensor  $T$ , one has

$$\nabla_v T = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=s} (P_{s,t;\gamma})^* T_{\gamma(t)}$$

In particular, if  $\nabla T = 0$  then

$$(P_{s,t;\gamma})^* T_{\gamma(t)} = T_{\gamma(s)}$$

holds for arbitrary  $t, s \in I$ .

**Proposition C.13.** If  $\pi : (\tilde{M}, \tilde{g}) \rightarrow (M, g)$  is a Riemannian covering, then  $M$  is complete if and only if  $\tilde{M}$  is.

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, BEIJING, 100084, P.R. CHINA,  
*Email address:* liubw22@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn