# Equivariant Structured Positional Rotations: Complete Algebraic Derivation

#### Abstract

This document provides a complete, boxed derivation of the relative-position property for equivariant structured positional rotations in attention mechanisms. Each step is recorded as a labelled statement  $[T\cdot]$  with explicit dependencies so that the argument can be followed mechanically.

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# 1 Tier 0: Linear-Algebra Primitives

$$\begin{bmatrix}
[T0.3 : \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}, (\cdot)^{\top}, (\cdot)^*, \text{tr}]
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbb{R}^{m \times n} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \text{ set of } m \times n \text{ real matrices}$$

$$A^{\top} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m} \quad (A \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$$

$$B^* \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \overline{B}^{\top} \quad (B \in \mathbb{C}^{m \times n})$$

$$\text{tr}(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \sum_{i=1}^{n} M_{ii} \quad (M \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n})$$

$$\det : \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \to \mathbb{C} \qquad [\text{deps} : T0.3]$$
 
$$\det(AB) = \det(A) \det(B)$$
 
$$\det(A^{\top}) = \det(A)$$
 
$$U \text{ invertible} \Rightarrow \det(UAU^{-1}) = \det(A)$$
 (multiplicativity, transpose invariance, similarity invariance)

$$\underbrace{\prod_{u=1}^{m} M_u \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \operatorname{diag}(M_1, \dots, M_m)}_{u=1} \quad \left[\operatorname{det}\left(\bigoplus_{u=1}^{m} M_u\right) = \prod_{u=1}^{m} \operatorname{det}(M_u)\right]$$

(block triangular matrices have determinant equal to product of block determinants)

$$[T0.6:O,SO,U] \quad O(n) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n} \mid Q^{\top}Q = I_n\} \qquad [\text{deps}:T0.2,T0.3,T0.4]$$
 
$$SO(n) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{Q \in O(n) \mid \det Q = 1\}$$
 
$$U(n) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{W \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n} \mid W^*W = I_n\}$$
 
$$Q \in O(n) \Rightarrow Q^{-1} = Q^{\top}$$

$$\boxed{[T0.7: \det O]} \ Q \in O(n) \Rightarrow (\det Q)^2 = \det(Q^\top Q) = \det(I_n) = 1 \qquad [\text{deps}: T0.6, T0.4]$$

$$\Rightarrow \det Q \in \{\pm 1\}$$

$$[T0.8:\sigma,\sigma_{\min},\operatorname{normal}] \qquad \sigma(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \exists x \neq 0: Mx = \lambda x\} \qquad [\text{deps}:T0.3]$$
 
$$M^*M = MM^* \Rightarrow M \text{ normal}$$
 Singular values  $s_i(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \sqrt{\sigma_i(M^*M)}$  
$$\sigma_{\min}(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \min_i s_i(M)$$
 
$$M \text{ normal} \Rightarrow s_i(M) = |\lambda_i| \text{ for } \lambda_i \in \sigma(M)$$

(unitary diagonalisation of normal matrices)

$$|x| \stackrel{\mathscr{D}}{=} \left(\sum_{u} x_{u}^{2}\right)^{1/2} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^{m}) \qquad [\text{deps}: T0.8]$$

$$|x|_{1} \stackrel{\mathscr{D}}{=} \sum_{u} |x_{u}|$$

$$|M| \stackrel{\mathscr{D}}{=} \sup_{v \neq 0} \frac{|Mv|}{|v|} \quad (M \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n})$$

$$|AB| \leq |A| |B|, \quad |A + B| \leq |A| + |B|$$

$$|a| \stackrel{\mathscr{D}}{=} |a| \quad (a \in \mathbb{R})$$

(overloaded notation chooses scalar, vector, or operator norm from context)

$$[T0.10:[A,B]]$$
  $[A,B] \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} AB - BA$   $[deps:T0.3]$ 

$$[T0.11 : \exp, \log, \exp \text{ props}]$$
 
$$\exp(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \sum_{t \ge 0} \frac{1}{t!} M^t \qquad [\text{deps} : T0.3, T0.4, T0.5, T]$$

log(X) locally defined as  $exp^{-1}(X)$  near  $I_n$ 

$$[A, B] = 0 \Rightarrow \exp(A + B) = \exp(A)\exp(B)$$

$$(\exp M)^{\top} = \exp(M^{\top})$$

 $U \text{ invertible} \Rightarrow \exp(UMU^{-1}) = U \exp(M)U^{-1}$ 

$$\det(\exp M) = \exp(\operatorname{tr} M)$$

$$\exp\left(\bigoplus_{u=1}^{m} M_u\right) = \bigoplus_{u=1}^{m} \exp(M_u)$$

(all properties follow from the power-series definition)

$$[T0.12 : \mathcal{C}, O(\cdot), \approx_{\varepsilon}] \quad \mathcal{C} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{C, C', C'', \cdots \mid C \ge 0 \text{ finite constants} \}$$

$$f = O(g) \Leftrightarrow \exists C \in \mathcal{C} : f \le Cg$$

$$X \approx_{\varepsilon} Y \Leftrightarrow |X - Y| < \varepsilon$$

[T0.13 : BCH] 
$$\exp(M) \exp(N) = \exp(M + N + \frac{1}{2}[M, N] + R(M, N))$$
 [deps : T0.11, T0.10, T0.12, T0.9]  
 $|R(M, N)| = O(|[M, N]|^2)$ 

(Baker-Campbell-Hausdorff series (local version))

$$[T0.14 : \ker, \operatorname{im}, \operatorname{rank}] \ker(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{x \mid Mx = 0\}$$
 [deps :  $T0.3, T0.1$ ] 
$$\operatorname{im}(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{Mx \mid x\}$$
 
$$\operatorname{rank}(M) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \dim(\operatorname{im}(M))$$

[T0.15 : proj] 
$$P^2 = P \text{ and } P^{\top} = P \Rightarrow P \text{ orthogonal projector} \qquad [\text{deps}: T0.14, T0.3]$$
$$P, Q \text{ orthogonal projectors and } PQ = 0 \Rightarrow \text{im}(P) \perp \text{im}(Q)$$
$$\text{(characterisation via images)}$$

$$[T0.16: \text{skew}_{\text{spec}}]$$
 
$$S^{\top} = -S \Rightarrow S \text{ normal}$$
 
$$\sigma(S) \subset i\mathbb{R}$$
 
$$\lambda = i\mu \in \sigma(S) \Rightarrow -\lambda = -i\mu \in \sigma(S)$$
 (skew-symmetric spectra occur in conjugate-sign pairs)

$$\begin{bmatrix}
[T0.17: J, R_2]
\end{bmatrix} J \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \qquad R_2(\theta) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \exp(\theta J) \qquad [\text{deps}: T0.11]$$

$$[T0.18: R_2 \in SO(2)]$$

$$R_2(\theta)^{\top} R_2(\theta) = I_2 \qquad [deps: T0.17, T0.16, T0.11]$$

$$\det R_2(\theta) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow R_2(\theta) \in SO(2)$$

(uses  $J^{\top} = -J$  and properties of exp and the determinant)

$$[T0.19 : \text{Weyl}] |\sigma_{\min}(A+E) - \sigma_{\min}(A)| \le |E|$$
 [deps:  $T0.8, T0.9$ ]

$$[T0.20: (X^{-1})^{\top}]$$
 X invertible  $\Rightarrow (X^{-1})^{\top} = (X^{\top})^{-1}$  [deps: T0.3]

# 2 Tier 1: Structured Generators

$$[T1.2 : \text{normal } L_k]$$
  $L_k^{\top} = -L_k \Rightarrow L_k \text{ normal}$   $[\text{deps} : T1.1, T0.16]$ 

$$\boxed{[T1.3:A(r)]} r \in \mathbb{R}^{d_c} \Rightarrow A(r) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \sum_{k=1}^{d_c} r_k L_k \qquad [\text{deps}:T1.1,T0.1]$$

$$[T1.4 : A(r)^{\top}] A(r)^{\top} = -A(r)$$
 [deps: T1.3, T1.1, T0.3]

$$[T1.5: [A(r), A(s)]]$$
  $[A(r), A(s)] = 0$  [deps:  $T1.3, T1.1, T0.10$ ]

$$[T1.6:R_{\text{STR}}]$$
  $R_{\text{STR}}(r) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \exp(A(r))$   $[\text{deps}:T1.3,T0.11]$ 

#### 3 Tier 2: Joint Block Structure

# 4 Tier 3: Cayley Post-Rotations

$$[T3.1: \text{Cayley}] S \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times d_h}, \ S^{\top} = -S \Rightarrow (I+S) \text{ invertible}$$
 [deps:  $T0.16, T0.3, T0.2$ ]
$$P_{\text{sp}} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} (I-S)(I+S)^{-1}$$

$$(I-S)(I+S) = (I+S)(I-S) = I-S^2$$

$$(\text{uses } \sigma(S) \subset i\mathbb{R} \text{ so } 1+i\mu \neq 0)$$

$$P_{\text{sp}}^{\top} = ((I+S)^{-1})^{\top} (I-S)^{\top} = I \qquad [\text{deps}: T3.1, T0.16, T0.20, T0.7, T0.6, T0.4]$$

$$\det(P_{\text{sp}}) = \prod_{u} \frac{1-i\mu_{u}}{1+i\mu_{u}} = 1$$

$$\mathcal{B} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \{(I-S)(I+S)^{-1} \mid S^{\top} = -S\} \subseteq SO(d_{h})$$

[T3.3 : Cayley surj] 
$$Q \in SO(d_h), -1 \notin \sigma(Q) \Rightarrow S_Q \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} (I-Q)(I+Q)^{-1} \qquad [\text{deps}: T0.16, T0.20, T0.5]$$
$$S_Q^{\top} = -S_Q, \quad (I-S_Q)(I+S_Q)^{-1} = Q$$
(Cayley transform bijection on  $SO(d_h)$  with no  $-1$  eigenvalues)

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|}\hline [T3.4:\mathcal{A}] & \mathcal{A} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \Big\{ U \operatorname{diag}(I_{2m}, R_{\operatorname{null}}) U^{\top} \middle| R_{\operatorname{null}} \in SO(d_{\operatorname{null}}) \Big\} \subseteq SO(d_h) & [\operatorname{deps}: T2.3, T0.6, T0.7, T0.5, T0.4, T0.5] \\
R_{\operatorname{null}} \in SO(d_{\operatorname{null}}), & -1 \notin \sigma(R_{\operatorname{null}}) \Rightarrow U \operatorname{diag}(I_{2m}, R_{\operatorname{null}}) U^{\top} \in \mathcal{B}
\end{array}$$

$$\overline{[T3.7:\Pi\text{-rel }R_{\mathrm{sp}}]} P_{\mathrm{sp}} \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \Pi_{\mathrm{act}} R_{\mathrm{sp}}(r_i)^{\top} R_{\mathrm{sp}}(r_j) \Pi_{\mathrm{act}} = \Pi_{\mathrm{act}} R_{\mathrm{STR}}(r_j - r_i) \Pi_{\mathrm{act}} \qquad [\mathrm{deps}: T3.6, T2.9, T3.5, T3.2, T3.2]$$

# 5 Tier 4: Attention Queries, Keys, and Scores

$$[T4.1:W,q,k,v] \qquad W_Q,W_K,W_V \in \mathbb{R}^{d_h \times D} \qquad [\text{deps}:T0.1,T0.3]$$

$$x_i \in \mathbb{R}^D, \ r_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d_c}$$

$$q_i = W_Q x_i, \quad k_j = W_K x_j, \quad v_j = W_V x_j$$

$$[T4.2:q^{(\text{act})},k^{(\text{act})},d_{\text{act}}] \quad q_i^{(\text{act})} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \Pi_{\text{act}} q_i, \quad k_j^{(\text{act})} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \Pi_{\text{act}} k_j \qquad [\text{deps}:T2.10,T4.1]$$

$$d_{\text{act}} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} 2m$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline [T4.3:\tilde{q},\tilde{k}] & \tilde{q}_i = \Pi_{\rm act} R_{\rm sp}(r_i) q_i^{\rm (act)} & [{\rm deps}:T3.5,T4.2,T2.10] \\ & \tilde{k}_j = \Pi_{\rm act} R_{\rm sp}(r_j) k_j^{\rm (act)} & \end{array}$$

$$\alpha_{ij} \stackrel{\underline{\underline{\mathscr{G}}}}{=} \frac{\tilde{q}_i^{\top} \tilde{k}_j}{\sqrt{d_{\text{act}}}} \qquad [\text{deps}: T4.3, T4.2, T2.10, T0.3}]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{d_{\text{act}}}} (q_i^{(\text{act})})^{\top} (\Pi_{\text{act}} R_{\text{sp}}(r_i) \Pi_{\text{act}})^{\top} (\Pi_{\text{act}} R_{\text{sp}}(r_j) \Pi_{\text{act}}) k_j^{(\text{act})}$$

$$(\text{uses } \Pi_{\text{act}}^{\top} = \Pi_{\text{act}} = \Pi_{\text{act}}^2)$$

$$\boxed{[T4.5:\alpha_{ij} \text{ rel}]} P_{\text{sp}} \in \mathcal{A} \Rightarrow \alpha_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m}} (q_i^{(\text{act})})^{\top} \Big( \Pi_{\text{act}} R_{\text{STR}} (r_j - r_i) \Pi_{\text{act}} \Big) k_j^{(\text{act})} \qquad [\text{deps}: T4.4, T3.6, T3.7, T4.2, T3.6]$$

### 6 Tier 5: Stability Estimates

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
\hline [T5.1:\varepsilon \text{ comm}] & \varepsilon_{ab} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} |[L_a,L_b]|, \quad \varepsilon \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} \max_{a,b} \varepsilon_{ab} & [\text{deps}:T1.3,T1.1,T0.10,T0.9] \\
& |[A(r),A(s)]| \leq \sum_{a,b} |r_a||s_b|\varepsilon_{ab} \leq |r|_1|s|_1 \varepsilon
\end{array}$$

$$\boxed{[T5.2: \text{BCH err}]} \left| \log \left( \exp(A(r)) \exp(A(s)) \right) - (A(r) + A(s)) \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} |[A(r), A(s)]| + C|[A(r), A(s)]|^2 \qquad [\text{deps}: T0.1] + C|[A(r), A(s)]|^2 + C|[A(r), A($$

$$\overline{\left[T5.3:R_{\mathrm{STR}} \text{ rel approx}\right]} \left|R_{\mathrm{STR}}(r)^{\top}R_{\mathrm{STR}}(s) - R_{\mathrm{STR}}(s-r)\right| \le C \varepsilon |r|_1 |s|_1 + O(\varepsilon^2) \qquad [\text{deps}: T1.6, T1.4, T1.5, T5]$$

$$\boxed{ [T5.4:S=S_-+E] \ S=S_-+E, \quad S_-^\top=-S_-, \quad |E| \leq \eta, \quad 0 \leq \eta < 1 \qquad [{\rm deps}:T0.16,T0.9] }$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
[T5.5: \sigma_{\min}(I+S_{-})] \\
\Rightarrow |1+i\mu| \ge 1 \text{ for } \lambda = i\mu \in \sigma(S_{-}) \\
\sigma_{\min}(I+S_{-}) \ge 1
\end{bmatrix} \qquad [\text{deps}: T5.4, T0.16, T0.8]$$

$$\overline{[T5.7 : \text{Cayley Lip}]} P_{\text{sp}}(S) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} (I - S)(I + S)^{-1}, \quad P_{\text{sp}}(S_{-}) \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} (I - S_{-})(I + S_{-})^{-1} \qquad [\text{deps} : T5.6, T5.4, T0.20, T0] \\
|P_{\text{sp}}(S) - P_{\text{sp}}(S_{-})| \le C' \eta$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 [T5.8:\eta_{\text{mix}}]
 \end{bmatrix} P_{\text{sp}} = U \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} U^{\top}, \quad \eta_{\text{mix}} \stackrel{\varnothing}{=} |B| + |C| \qquad [\text{deps}: T3.2, T2.3, T2.10, T0.9, T0.6, T0.5, T0.7]$$

$$P_{\text{sp}} \in SO(d_h) \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}^{\top} \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} = I$$

$$\Rightarrow |A - I_{2m}| \le C'' \eta_{\text{mix}}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\Pi_{\text{act}} P_{\text{sp}} \Pi_{\text{act}} - \Pi_{\text{act}}| \le C'' \eta_{\text{mix}}$$

$$\Delta_{ij} \stackrel{\text{$\varnothing$}}{=} C\left(\varepsilon |r_i|_1 |r_j|_1 + \eta_{\text{mix}}\right) |q_i^{(\text{act})}| |k_j^{(\text{act})}| \qquad [\text{deps}: T4.4, T5.9, T5.3, T4.2, T5]$$

$$\left|\alpha_{ij} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m}} (q_i^{(\text{act})})^\top \left(\Pi_{\text{act}} R_{\text{STR}}(r_j - r_i) \Pi_{\text{act}}\right) k_j^{(\text{act})}\right| \leq \Delta_{ij}$$

#### 7 Tier 6: Conclusions

$$\boxed{[T6.1:\text{GOAL}]} \left(T1.1 \land T2.3 \land P_{\text{sp}} \in \mathcal{A}\right) \Rightarrow \alpha_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m}} (q_i^{(\text{act})})^{\top} \left(\Pi_{\text{act}} R_{\text{STR}}(r_j - r_i) \Pi_{\text{act}}\right) k_j^{(\text{act})} \qquad [\text{deps}: T4.5, T3]$$

$$\boxed{[T6.2: \text{GOAL}_{\text{rob}}]} \left( |[L_a, L_b]| \le \varepsilon \ \forall a, b, \quad P_{\text{sp}} \in SO(d_h) \text{ with mixing } \eta_{\text{mix}} \right) \Rightarrow \alpha_{ij} \approx_{\Delta_{ij}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m}} (q_i^{(\text{act})})^{\top} \left( \Pi_{\text{act}} R_{\text{STR}} (r_i) \right) \\
\Delta_{ij} \le C \left( \varepsilon |r_i|_1 |r_j|_1 + \eta_{\text{cot}} \right) \\
\Delta_{ij} \le C \left( \varepsilon |r_i|_1 |r_j|_1 + \eta_{\text{cot}} \right) \\
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\Delta_{ij} \le C \left( \varepsilon |r_i|_1 |r_j|_1 + \eta_{\text{cot}} \right) \\
\Delta_{ij} \le C \left( \varepsilon |r_i|_1 |r_j|_1 + \eta_{\text{cot}} \right)$$

#### Interpretation

- When  $P_{\text{sp}} \in \mathcal{A}$  (no mixing between active and null subspaces), the attention weights  $\alpha_{ij}$  depend only on the relative displacement  $r_j r_i$ .
- Departures from commuting generators or unmixed post-rotations introduce a bounded deviation captured by  $\Delta_{ij}$ .
- The construction leverages commuting skew generators to obtain an  $SO(d_h)$ -valued relative rotation, and Cayley transforms provide structured post-rotations that preserve orthogonality.