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## **School and Conference on Algebraic K-Theory and its Applications**

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**Linear algebraic groups over fields**

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## May 16: 2. Linear algebraic groups over fields

2.1

Def A linear algebraic  $k$ -group is an affine  $k$ -variety  $G$ ,  
together with  $k$ -morphisms  $(x, y) \mapsto xy$  of  $G \times G$  into  $G$   
and  $x \mapsto x^{-1}$  of  $G$  into  $G$ , satisfying the  
usual group axioms, s.t. the unit element  
is  $k$ -rational. ( $k$  = field or comm. ring)

This makes  
 $G(k')$   
a group  
for every  $k'/k$

Notation: For  $k'/k$  (field or comm. ring extension)  
with  $G_{k'} = G(k')$  for the  $k'$ -rational points of  $G$ .

Convention from now:

$k$ -group,  $k$ -subgroup etc will always mean  
"alg.  $k$ -group", "alg.  $k$ -subgroup" which  
are  $k$ -closed  $k$ -subvarieties

Homom of  $k$ -groups =  $k$ -morphism of the  
underlying  $k$ -varieties  
inducing group homom. etc.

Ex:  $GL_n$  is a linear  $k$ -group, since

$$GL_n(k) = \{ (x_{ij}, y) \in k^{n^2+1} \mid \det(x_{ij}) \cdot y = 1 \neq 0 \}$$

$$SL_n(k) = \{ (x_{ij}) \mid \det(x_{ij}) = 1 \neq 0 \}$$

$$- G_a = \text{additive group: } G_a(k) = k^+ \quad \{ (x, y) \in k^2 \mid xy = 1 \}$$

$$- G_m = \text{mult. group: } G_m(k) = k^\times = GL_1(k)$$

OVER:

$O(q), SO(q)$  are linear  $k$ -groups for quad forms  $q: \mathbb{A}^q \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$

Remark: The connected  $e$ -component  $G^0$  of a linear alg  
 $k$ -group is a normal  $k$ -subgroup of finite index.

Expl.  $O(q) = SO(q) \cup O^-(q)$ ,  $O^-(q) = \{ x \in O(q) \mid \det(x) = -1 \}$   
is a normal isolated

Overall structure of linear alg. groups  $G$ :  
 $k$  perfect:

- i)  $G$  has a unique maximal connected linear solvable normal  $k$ -subgroup

$$G_1 = \text{radical of } G = \text{rad } G$$

$G/G_1$  is semisimple, i.e., connected, linear, with radical =  $\{1\}$

- ii)  $G_1$  has a unique maximal connected unipotent  $k$ -subgroup  $G_2$ : "unipotent radical of  $G$ "

$$G_2 = \text{rad}_u G$$

$G_1/G_2$  is a torus, i.e.  $\cong G_{m, \bar{k}}^r$  over  $\bar{k}$

General picture:

con-linear  $G$   
 $\nabla$   
 con solvable  $= G_1 = \text{rad } G$   
 $\nabla$

con unipotent  $G_2 = \text{rad}_u G$   
 $\nabla$   
 $\downarrow$

Quotient:

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{semi-simple} \\ = \text{almost direct} \\ \text{product of almost} \\ \text{simple factors} \end{array} \right\} \text{reductive:}$   
 $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{torus} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} G = T \cdot G' \text{ 'almost direct'} \\ T = \text{central torus} \\ G' \text{ semi-simple} \end{array}$

For  $\dim k = 0$ :

$\text{rad}_u G$  has a reductive complement  $H$ :

$$G_1 = H \cdot \text{rad}_u G \text{ (semi-direct)}$$

Examples:

$$i) \quad G = GL_n : \text{rad } G = \text{centr } G \simeq G_m, \\ G/G_m \simeq PGL_n \text{ simple} \\ \text{rad}_u G = 1$$

$$ii) \quad G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \overset{r}{\tilde{x}} & \overset{s}{x} \\ 0 & x \end{pmatrix} \in GL_n \right\} = \text{Stab}(ke, \oplus \dots \oplus ke_r)$$

$$\text{rad } G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \backslash 0 & x \\ 0 & \alpha \backslash - \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & \beta \backslash \beta \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$\text{rad}_u G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \backslash 0 & x \\ 0 & 1 \backslash - \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 \backslash 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

$$G/\text{rad}_u G \simeq GL_r \times GL_s$$

$$G/\text{rad } G \simeq PGL_r \times PGL_s$$

$$\text{rad } G/\text{rad}_u G \simeq G_m \times G_{\frac{r+s}{r+s}}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ 0 & 0 & g \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q \\ c \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} aq \\ dq \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Tori:  $T$  is a torus if, over some field ex.  $k'/k$ ,  
 $T \times_k k' \simeq \prod G_m$  (extend. fields)

If so, then  $T \times_k k_{sep} \simeq \prod G_m$

$T$  is split if  $T \simeq \prod G_m$  (over  $k$ )

$T$  is anisotropic if it does not contain  
 any split subtorus

\* Ex. 1:  $T(\mathbb{R}) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ -y & x \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1 \right\} \simeq O(1) \text{ (circ.)}$

$\rightarrow$  Base change  $T \times_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C} \simeq \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{C}) \mid \lambda \neq 0 \right\} \simeq \mathbb{C}^*$

$X(T) = \text{Hom}(T, G_m)$  is a free  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module

and a  $\Gamma = \text{Gal}(k_{sep}/k)$ -module

$T$  split  $\Leftrightarrow \Gamma$  operates trivially on  $X(T)$

$T$  anisotropic  $\Leftrightarrow X(T)^{\Gamma} = \{0\}$  (see ex. 1 above)

$T$  arbitrary:  $T = T_a \cdot T_s$ ,  $T_a \cap T_s$  finite

$T_a = \max \text{ anisotropic } k\text{-subtorus}$  } both  
 unique.

$T_s = \max \text{ split } k\text{-subtorus}$

~~\*  $T/T(R)$~~

Ex. 2. Let  $k':k$  be a field extension  
 Then the group of norm-1 elements  
 is a torus

Thm (Borel 19(2))  $G$  connected linear alg  $k$ -group

- i) All max tori in  $G$  are conjugate over  $k$ .  
Every semi-simple element of  $G$  is contained in a torus; the centralizer of a torus in  $G$  is connected.
- ii) All max connected solvable subgroups (= Borel-subgrps) are conjugate. Every element of  $G$  is in such a group.
- iii)  $P \subset G$  closed subgroup:  
 $G/P$  projective  $\Leftrightarrow P$  contains a Borel subgroup.  
 Subgroups  $P$  are called parabolic.  
 $P$  parabolic  $\Rightarrow P$  connected and  $N_G(P) = P$ .  
 $P, Q$  parabolic  $\supset B$ , conjugate  $\Rightarrow P = Q$ .

Expl:  $G = GL_n$

$$T = \text{diag} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ max torus}$$

$$B = U = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * & \\ 0 & \ddots & \\ & & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} \text{ upper triang} = \text{Borel}$$

$$P = \text{stab}(ke_1) = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & & & \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} \supset B,$$

$$G/P \simeq \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$$

Def  $G$  reductive  $\Leftrightarrow \text{Rad}_u G = 1$

$G$  semisimple  $\Leftrightarrow \text{Rad } G = 1$

Thm:  $G$  alg group. Equivalent:

- i)  $G^0$  reductive
- ii)  $G^0 = S \cdot G'$  almost direct,  $S = \text{central torus}$   
 $G'$  semisimple
- iii)  $G^0$  has a locally faithful <sup>reducible</sup> rational representation
- iv)  $\text{char } k = 0$ : all rational reps of  $G$  are fully reducible.