

Info

This note, that [was found here](#), as a part of [a collection](#) is written (completely with human hands) by [Rupadarshi Ray](#), was created on June 29, 2025 6:52:59 PM, was last modified on September 1, 2026 11:43:42 PM, and was exported on September 7, 2026 2:50:40 PM.

$$GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$$

Definition. The transvection action $GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$

The smooth action

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{t} : GL(n, \mathbb{R}) &\curvearrowright \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}) \\ p &\xrightarrow{g} \mathbf{t}_g(p) := gpg^\top \end{aligned}$$

is called transvection.

Proposition: The action

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is called transvection.

is transitive with stabilizer of $I \in \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$ being $O(n, \mathbb{R})$.

🔑 Diagonalize A using a $O \in SO(n, \mathbb{R})$ so

$$OAO^\top = D \implies A = O^\top AO$$

now

$$g := O^\top \sqrt{D} O$$

means

$$g = g^\top, A = gg^\top$$

Thus

$$A = gIg^\top$$

homogeneous metric

Proposition:

- The action of $GL(n, \mathbb{R})$ is by isometries

$$GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright (\mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}), g_{\mathbf{Pd}})$$

- The complete metric space $(\mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}), d_{\mathbf{Pd}})$ is CAT(0).
- The exponential of matrices is the Riemannian exponential

$$\exp = \exp_I$$

- The inclusion

$$GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \text{Isom}(\mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}), g_{\mathbf{Pd}})$$

is open? and surjective? onto the connected component of isometry group with kernel

$$\{I, -I\}$$

- The map

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_I : \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}) &\rightarrow \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}) \\ q &\mapsto q^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

is an isometry which fixes I and whose differential at I is $-\text{Id}$. By homogeneity we get a geodesic symmetry at $p \in \mathbf{P}(n, \mathbb{R})$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_p : \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}) &\rightarrow \mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}) \\ q &\mapsto pq^{-1}p \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $(\mathbf{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R}), g_{\mathbf{Pd}})$ is a **CAT(0) symmetric space**.

dimension counts

Fix $n > 1$. Then

$$\dim GL(n, \mathbb{R}) = n^2$$

$$\frac{O(n, \mathbb{R})}{\{I, -I\}} \hookrightarrow O(\text{Sym}(n, \mathbb{R}))$$

whose difference in dimension is

$$\begin{aligned} \dim O(\text{Sym}(n, \mathbb{R})) &= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1 \right) \\ \dim O(n, \mathbb{R}) &= \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \\ \dim O(\text{Sym}(n, \mathbb{R})) - \dim O(n, \mathbb{R}) &= \frac{n(n+1)}{2} \left(\frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1 \right) - \frac{n(n-1)}{2} \\ &= \frac{n^2(n^2 + 2n - 3)}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Current note has 0 direct children and 0 total descendants.

- squishy
 - Pd
 - $\text{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$
 - $GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \text{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$

And it has 2 siblings.

- squishy
 - Pd
 - $\text{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$
 - $GL(n, \mathbb{R}) \curvearrowright \text{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$
 - Horospherical decomposition of $\text{Pd}(n, \mathbb{R})$