

## On the Lusternik–Schnirelmann category of symmetric spaces of classical type

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We determine the Lusternik–Schnirelmann category of the irreducible, symmetric Riemann spaces  $SU(n)/SO(n)$  and  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  of type AI and AII respectively.

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### 1 Introduction

For a topological space  $X$ , the Lusternik–Schnirelmann category, L-S category for short and denoted by  $\text{cat}(X)$ , is defined to be the least integer  $n$  such that there exists an open covering  $\{A_1, \dots, A_{n+1}\}$  of  $X$  with each  $A_i$  contractible in  $X$ . This homotopy invariant is known to be related to various problems; for instance, some geometric applications can be found in Korbaš and Szűcs [5].

First of all we recall a theorem due to Singhof [7]:

**Theorem**  $\text{cat}(SU(n)) = n - 1$

The purpose of this note is to prove the following theorem along the line of idea of the proof of Singhof's theorem.

**Theorem 1.1**

- (1)  $\text{cat}(SU(n)/SO(n)) = n - 1$
- (2)  $\text{cat}(SU(2n)/Sp(n)) = n - 1$

One can prove the following theorem by the entirely similar method.

**Theorem 1.1'**

- (1)  $\text{cat}(U(n)/O(n)) = n$
- (2)  $\text{cat}(U(2n)/Sp(n)) = n$

Observe that (1) of Theorem 1.1 for  $n = 4$  improves the estimate of the L-S category of the oriented Grassmann manifold  $\tilde{G}_{6,3} = SO(6)/(SO(3) \times SO(3))$  given by Korbaš [4, Corollary C (a)].

Let  $J = \begin{pmatrix} O & -E_n \\ E_n & O \end{pmatrix} \in SU(2n)$ , where  $E_n$  denotes the  $n \times n$  identity matrix.

We need the following lemma to give a proof of our result.

**Lemma 1.2** *There are matrix representations:*

- (1)  $SU(n)/SO(n) = \{X \in SU(n) \mid {}^tX = X\}$
- (2)  $SU(2n)/Sp(n) = \{X \in SU(2n) \mid {}^tX = JX^tJ\}$

By Lemma 1.2, we can regard  $SU(n)/SO(n)$  and  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  as subspaces of  $SU(n)$  and  $SU(2n)$  respectively.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we will prove (1) of Theorem 1.1. In Section 3 we will prove (2) of Theorem 1.1. In Section 4 we study the L-S category of the irreducible symmetric Riemann spaces of classical type other than AI and AII. We will give a proof of Lemma 1.2, which may be a folklore, in the Appendix just for completeness.

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## 2 L-S category of $SU(n)/SO(n)$

In this section, we will prove (1) of Theorem 1.1. The mod 2 cohomology ring of  $SU(n)/SO(n)$  is given as follows (see for example Mimura and Toda [6]):

$$H^*(SU(n)/SO(n); \mathbb{Z}/2) = \Lambda(x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n),$$

where  $\Lambda$  denotes exterior algebra. Since the cup-length gives a lower bound of the L-S category (see for example Whitehead [8]), we have

$$n - 1 = \text{cup}_{\mathbb{Z}/2}(SU(n)/SO(n)) \leq \text{cat}(SU(n)/SO(n)).$$

Thus in order to determine  $\text{cat}(SU(n)/SO(n))$ , it is sufficient to show the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.1**  $\text{cat}(SU(n)/SO(n)) \leq n - 1$

**Proof** Let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  be different complex numbers with  $|\lambda_r| = 1$  such that  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_n \neq 1$ . For  $1 \leq r \leq n$  we define

$$A_r = \{X \in SU(n)/SO(n) \mid \lambda_r \text{ is not an eigenvalue of } X\}.$$

Observe here that we regard  $X \in SU(n)/SO(n)$  as a matrix in  $SU(n)$  by Lemma 1.2. Then the  $A_r$ 's are clearly open sets, and form a covering of  $SU(n)/SO(n)$ , since the property  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_n \neq 1$  implies that the  $\lambda_r$ 's cannot all appear as the eigenvalues of any matrix in  $SU(n)/SO(n)$ .

Now we fix  $A_r$  and let  $B$  be a connected component of  $A_r$ . In order to show that  $A_r$  is contractible in  $SU(n)/SO(n)$ , it is sufficient to show that  $B$  is so, since  $SU(n)/SO(n)$  is pathwise connected.

Next, let  $\mathfrak{u}(n) = \{X \in M(n, \mathbb{C}) \mid X^* = -X\}$ , and we will define a map  $\log: B \rightarrow \mathfrak{u}(n)$  as follows. Let  $X \in B \subset A_r$  and  $\lambda_r = e^{i\alpha}$ , where  $0 \leq \alpha < 2\pi$ . Then  $X$  can be diagonalized by a suitable matrix  $P \in U(n)$  as  $X = PD(e^{i\theta_1}, \dots, e^{i\theta_n})P^*$ , where  $D(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  denotes a diagonal matrix defined by

$$D(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & a_n \end{pmatrix},$$

and we may take  $\alpha < \theta_j < \alpha + 2\pi$  for each  $j$ , since  $X$  does not have  $\lambda_r = e^{i\alpha}$  as its eigenvalue. We define a function  $\log: B \rightarrow \mathfrak{u}(n)$  by

$$\log X = PD(i\theta_1, \dots, i\theta_n)P^*,$$

where it is easy to see that the definition does not depend on the choice of  $P$ , and the function  $\log$  is clearly continuous. Since  $X = \exp(\log X)$  by definition, we have

$$1 = \det X = \det(\exp(\log X)) = \exp(\text{tr}(\log X)).$$

Since the maps  $\text{tr}: M(n, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , which is the trace function, and  $\log: B \rightarrow \mathfrak{u}(n)$  are continuous and since  $B$  is connected, there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $\text{tr}(\log X) = 2\pi i k$  for all  $X \in B$ .

Now we define a constant matrix  $X_0$  in  $SU(n)/SO(n)$  by

$$X_0 = \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i k}{n}\right) \cdot E_n,$$

and we show that  $B$  is contractible to  $X_0$ . In order to define a contracting homotopy, we use the fact that  $\mathfrak{u}(n)$  is a vector space, which allows us to construct linear homotopies.

We define a homotopy  $F: B \times [0, 1] \rightarrow SU(n)/SO(n)$  by

$$F(X, s) = \exp \left( (1-s) \log X + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} E_n \right).$$

Clearly, the function  $F$  is continuous such that  $F(X, 0) = \exp(\log X) = X$  and  $F(X, 1) = X_0$  for all  $X \in B$ . Here we need to check that  $F(X, s) \in SU(n)/SO(n)$  for all  $X \in B$  and  $s \in [0, 1]$ . Since  $\mathfrak{u}(n)$  is the Lie algebra of  $U(n)$ , we have  $F(X, s) \in U(n)$ . Hence it is sufficient to show that  $\det(F(X, s)) = 1$  and that  ${}^tF(X, s) = F(X, s)$ . The former equality can be seen as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \det(F(X, s)) &= \det \left( \exp \left( (1-s) \log X + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} E_n \right) \right) \\ &= \exp \left( \operatorname{tr} \left( (1-s) \log X + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} E_n \right) \right) \\ &= \exp \left( (1-s) \operatorname{tr}(\log X) + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} \operatorname{tr}(E_n) \right) \\ &= \exp(2\pi i k(1-s) + 2\pi i k s) \\ &= \exp(2\pi i k) \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

The latter equality can be seen as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} {}^tF(X, s) &= {}^t \exp \left( (1-s) \log X + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} E_n \right) \\ &= \exp \left( (1-s) \log {}^tX + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} {}^tE_n \right) \\ &= \exp \left( (1-s) \log X + s \frac{2\pi i k}{n} E_n \right) \\ &= F(X, s). \end{aligned}$$

□

### 3 L-S category of $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$

In this section, we will prove (2) of Theorem 1.1. The integral cohomology ring of  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  is given as follows (see for example [6]):

$$H^*(SU(2n)/Sp(n); \mathbb{Z}) = \Lambda(x_5, x_9, \dots, x_{4n-3}),$$

where  $\Lambda$  denotes exterior algebra. Since the cup-length gives a lower bound of the L-S category, we have

$$n - 1 = \text{cup}_{\mathbb{Z}}(SU(2n)/Sp(n)) \leq \text{cat}(SU(2n)/Sp(n)).$$

Thus in order to determine  $\text{cat}(SU(2n)/Sp(n))$ , it is sufficient to show the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.1**  $\text{cat}(SU(2n)/Sp(n)) \leq n - 1$

In order to prove Proposition 3.1, we need some lemmas.

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $X$  be any matrix in  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$ . If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $X$ , then*

$$\dim W_{\lambda} \geq 2,$$

where  $W_{\lambda} \subset \mathbb{C}^{2n}$  denotes the corresponding eigenspace.

**Proof** There exists an eigenvector  $v \neq 0$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{2n}$  such that  $Xv = \lambda v$ . Since  $X$  satisfies  $XX^* = E_{2n}$  and  ${}^tX = JX^tJ$ , it follows by an easy calculation that  $X(J\bar{v}) = \lambda(J\bar{v})$ . Consequently we have that if  $v$  is an eigenvector of  $\lambda$ , so is  $J\bar{v}$ . Hence it is sufficient to prove that  $v$  and  $J\bar{v}$  are linearly independent. If  $av + bJ\bar{v} = 0$  ( $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ ), we have  $\bar{a}\bar{v} + \bar{b}Jv = 0$ , and by solving the simultaneous equations, we see  $(|a|^2 + |b|^2)v = 0$ , which implies  $a = b = 0$ .  $\square$

Let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$  be different complex numbers with  $|\lambda_r| = 1$  such that  $\lambda_1^2 \lambda_2^2 \cdots \lambda_n^2 \neq 1$ . For  $1 \leq r \leq n$  we define

$$A_r = \{X \in SU(2n)/Sp(n) \mid \lambda_r \text{ is not an eigenvalue of } X\}.$$

**Lemma 3.3** *A family  $\{A_r\}_{1 \leq r \leq n}$  forms an open covering of  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$ :*

$$SU(2n)/Sp(n) = \bigcup_{r=1}^n A_r.$$

**Proof** Let  $X \in (SU(2n)/Sp(n)) \setminus \bigcup_{r=1}^n A_r = \bigcap_{r=1}^n \{(SU(2n)/Sp(n)) \setminus A_r\}$ . Then  $X$  has  $\lambda_r$  as its eigenvalue. Furthermore we see by Lemma 3.2 that the multiplicity of the eigenvalue  $\lambda_r$  is 2 for each  $r$ . Consequently,  $X$  can be diagonalized by a suitable matrix  $P \in U(2n)$ :

$$X = PD(\lambda_1, \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_n)P^*.$$

Therefore we have that  $\det X = \lambda_1^2 \lambda_2^2 \cdots \lambda_n^2 \neq 1$  which contradicts the fact  $X \in SU(2n)$ .  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 3.1** By Lemma 3.3, it is sufficient to show that each  $A_r$  is contractible in  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$ ; but since  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  is pathwise connected, it is sufficient to show that any connected component of  $A_r$  is contractible in  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$ . Now we fix  $A_r$  and let  $B$  be a connected component of  $A_r$ . We will show that  $B$  is contractible in  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$ .

In a similar way to that in Section 2, we can define a continuous function  $\log: B \rightarrow \mathfrak{u}(2n)$  such that  $\exp(\operatorname{tr}(\log X)) = 1$  for  $X \in B$ . Then, as was seen before, there exists an integer  $k$  such that  $\operatorname{tr}(\log X) = 2\pi i k$  for all  $X \in B$ .

Now define a constant matrix  $X_0$  in  $SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  by

$$X_0 = \exp\left(\frac{\pi i k}{n}\right) \cdot E_{2n}$$

and a contracting homotopy  $F: B \times [0, 1] \rightarrow SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  by

$$F(X, s) = \exp\left((1-s)\log X + s\frac{\pi i k}{n}E_{2n}\right).$$

Clearly,  $F$  is continuous such that  $F(X, 0) = \exp(\log X) = X$  and  $F(X, 1) = X_0$  for all  $X \in B$ . Here we need to check that  $F(X, s) \in SU(2n)/Sp(n)$  for all  $X \in B$  and  $s \in [0, 1]$ . Since  $\mathfrak{u}(2n)$  is the Lie algebra of  $U(2n)$ , we have  $F(X, s) \in U(2n)$ . Hence it is sufficient to show that  $\det(F(X, s)) = 1$  and that  ${}^tF(X, s) = JF(X, s)J$ . The former equality can be seen as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \det(F(X, s)) &= \det\left(\exp\left((1-s)\log X + s\frac{\pi i k}{n}E_{2n}\right)\right) \\ &= \exp\left(\operatorname{tr}\left((1-s)\log X + s\frac{\pi i k}{n}E_{2n}\right)\right) \\ &= \exp\left((1-s)\operatorname{tr}(\log X) + s\frac{\pi i k}{n}\operatorname{tr}(E_{2n})\right) \\ &= \exp(2\pi i k(1-s) + 2\pi i k s) \\ &= \exp(2\pi i k) \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

The latter equality can be seen as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}^tF(X, s) &= {}^t\exp\left((1-s)\log X + s\frac{\pi ik}{n}E_{2n}\right) \\
 &= \exp\left((1-s)\log {}^tX + s\frac{\pi ik}{n}{}^tE_{2n}\right) \\
 &= \exp\left((1-s)\log(JX{}^tJ) + s\frac{\pi ik}{n}E_{2n}\right) \\
 &= \exp\left((1-s)J(\log X){}^tJ + s\frac{\pi ik}{n}E_{2n}\right) \\
 &= \exp\left(J\left((1-s)\log X + s\frac{\pi ik}{n}E_{2n}\right) {}^tJ\right) \\
 &= J\exp\left((1-s)\log X + s\frac{\pi ik}{n}E_{2n}\right) {}^tJ \\
 &= JF(X, s) {}^tJ. \quad \square
 \end{aligned}$$

#### 4 Lusternik–Schnirelmann category of the irreducible symmetric Riemann space of classical type

First let us recall a theorem due to Ganea (for a proof see [1]):

**Proposition 4.1** *If  $X$  is an  $(r - 1)$ -connected CW-complex for  $r \geq 1$ , then*

$$\text{cat}(X) \leq \dim(X)/r.$$

We show the following

**Proposition 4.2** *If  $V$  is a simply connected, complex  $d$ -manifold which admits a Kähler metric, then*

$$\text{cat}(V) = d.$$

In fact, following James [3], it is proved as follows; we have  $\text{cat}(V) \leq d$  by Proposition 4.1, since  $V$  is simply connected. But with any Kähler metric, there exists a closed 2-form on  $V$  whose  $d$ th power is the volume element and so cannot be cohomologous to zero. Hence we have  $\text{cat}(V) \geq d$ , since the cup-length gives a lower bound of the L-S category.

According to Helgason [2, page 518], the irreducible symmetric Riemann spaces of classical type which has a Hermitian structure are known to be of type

A III, BDI( $q = 2$ ), BDII( $n = 2$ ), DIII, CI.

Now we also recall from Proposition 4.1 of [2] the following

**Proposition 4.3** *The Hermitian structure of a Hermitian symmetric space is Kählerian.*

It follows from this proposition that the spaces of above type have Kähler metric. Hence we see the L-S category of these spaces by Proposition 4.2, since a Hermitian symmetric space is a complex manifold by definition (see [2, page 372]). Thus, with Theorem 1.1, the L-S category of the irreducible symmetric Riemann space of classical type, except that of type BDI( $q \neq 2$ ), is determined as follows:

	$G/K$	Kähler	dimension	$\text{cat}(G/K)$
A I	$SU(n)/SO(n)$ ( $n > 2$ )	no	$(n-1)(n+2)/2$	$n-1$
A II	$SU(2n)/Sp(n)$ ( $n > 1$ )	no	$(n-1)(2n+1)$	$n-1$
A III	$U(p+q)/(U(p) \times U(q))$ ( $p \geq q \geq 1$ )	yes	$2pq$	$pq$
BD I	$SO(p+q)/(SO(p) \times SO(q))$ ( $p \geq q \geq 2, p+q \neq 4$ )	yes ( $q = 2$ ) no ( $q \neq 2$ )	$pq$	$p$ ( $q = 2$ ) ? ( $q \neq 2$ )
BD II	$SO(n+1)/SO(n)$ ( $n \geq 2$ )	yes ( $n = 2$ ) no ( $n \neq 2$ )	$n$	1
D III	$SO(2l)/U(l)$ ( $l \geq 4$ )	yes	$l(l-1)$	$l(l-1)/2$
CI	$Sp(n)/U(n)$ ( $n \geq 3$ )	yes	$n(n+1)$	$n(n+1)/2$
C II	$Sp(p+q)/(Sp(p) \times Sp(q))$ ( $p \geq q \geq 1$ )	no	$4pq$	$pq$

As for the remaining cases;

Firstly, the space of type BDII, the real Stiefel manifold  $SO(n+1)/SO(n)$ , is homeomorphic to  $S^n$ , and hence we have  $\text{cat}(SO(n+1)/SO(n)) = 1$ .

Secondly, it is known that the space of type CII, the symplectic Grassmann manifold  $Sp(p+q)/(Sp(p) \times Sp(q))$ , is 3-connected. Hence by Proposition 4.1, we obtain an upper bound  $\text{cat}(Sp(p+q)/(Sp(p) \times Sp(q))) \leq 4pq/4 = pq$ . It is also known that the cohomology ring of the symplectic Grassmann manifold  $Sp(p+q)/(Sp(p) \times Sp(q))$  is similar to that of the complex Grassmann manifold  $U(p+q)/(U(p) \times U(q))$  (see



for example [6]), so we have that  $\text{cup}(Sp(p+q)/(Sp(p) \times Sp(q))) = \text{cup}(U(p+q)/(U(p) \times U(q)))$ , which is given by  $pq$ , since the cup-length of  $U(p+q)/(U(p) \times U(q))$  is equal to the L-S category of it. Hence we obtain a lower bound  $\text{cat}(Sp(p+q)/(Sp(p) \times Sp(q))) \geq pq$ .

Concluding remark: the mod 2 cohomology of type  $\text{BD I}(q \neq 2)$ ,  $SO(p+q)/(SO(p) \times SO(q)$ ,  $p \geq q > 2$ , is not known yet.

## Appendix A

### Proof of Lemma 1.2

(1) Let  $K_n = \{X \in SU(n) \mid {}^tX = X\}$  and define an action of  $P \in SU(n)$  on  $K_n$  by

$$P \cdot X = PX{}^tP \quad (X \in K_n).$$

We will show that  $X \in K_n$  is represented as follows:

$$X = P{}^tP = PE_n{}^tP \quad (P \in SU(n)).$$

Let  $X \in K_n$ . Since  $X + \bar{X}$  and  $i(X - \bar{X})$  are real symmetric matrices which commute with each other, they can be diagonalized by a suitable matrix  $B \in SO(n)$ :

$${}^tB(X + \bar{X})B = D(a_1, \dots, a_n), \quad {}^tBi(X - \bar{X})B = D(b_1, \dots, b_n).$$

Then we have

$${}^tBXB = D((a_1 - ib_1)/2, \dots, (a_n - ib_n)/2),$$

where  $|(a_k - ib_k)/2| = 1$  for  $1 \leq k \leq n$ , since  ${}^tBXB \in SU(n)$ . Now we can take complex numbers  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  such that  $c_k^2 = (a_k - ib_k)/2$  and  $c_1 \cdots c_n = 1$ . Then we have  ${}^tBXB = CC = C{}^tC$ , where  $C = D(c_1, \dots, c_n) \in SU(n)$ . By taking  $P = BC$ , we have

$$X = BC{}^tC{}^tB = P{}^tP \quad (P \in SU(n)),$$

which implies that the action is transitive.

On the other hand, the isotropy group at  $E_n$  is given by

$$\{P \in SU(n) \mid P{}^tP = E_n\} = \{P \in SU(n) \mid \bar{P} = P\} = SO(n).$$

Since  $SU(n)$  is compact, we obtain

$$SU(n)/SO(n) = \{X \in SU(n) \mid {}^tX = X\}.$$

(2) There is an embedding  $c': Sp(n) \rightarrow SU(2n)$  defined by

$$c'(X) = \begin{pmatrix} A & -\bar{B} \\ B & \bar{A} \end{pmatrix} \quad (X = A + jB)$$

such that  $Sp(n) = \{X \in SU(2n) \mid XJ^tX = J\}$ .

Let  $L_{2n} = \{X \in SU(2n) \mid {}^tX = -X\}$  and define an action of  $P \in SU(2n)$  on  $L_{2n}$  by

$$P \cdot X = PX^tP \quad (X \in L_{2n}).$$

We will show that  $X \in L_{2n}$  is represented as follows:

$$X = PJ^tP \quad (P \in SU(2n)).$$

Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of  $X \in L_{2n}$ . Here observe that  $|\lambda| = 1$ , since  $X \in SU(2n)$ . There exists an eigenvector  $v \in \mathbb{C}^{2n}$  such that  $Xv = \lambda v$  and  $|v| = 1$ . Since  $X$  satisfies  $XX^* = E_{2n}$  and  ${}^tX = -X$ , it follows by an easy calculation that  $X\bar{v} = -\lambda\bar{v}$ . Let  $W$  be the 2-dimensional subspace of  $\mathbb{C}^{2n}$  spanned by  $v$  and  $\bar{v}$ . By repeating this procedure to the orthogonal complement  $W^\perp$  of  $W$ , we can take consequently an orthonormal basis  $\{v_1, \bar{v}_1, \dots, v_n, \bar{v}_n\}$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{2n}$  such that

$$Xv_k = \lambda_k v_k, \quad X\bar{v}_k = -\lambda_k \bar{v}_k \quad (k = 1, \dots, n),$$

where  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are eigenvalues of  $X$ . Put

$$w_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(v_k + \bar{v}_k), \quad w_k' = \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}}(v_k - \bar{v}_k) \quad (k = 1, \dots, n).$$

Then  $\{w_1, w_1', \dots, w_n, w_n'\}$  forms an orthonormal basis in  $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$  such that

$$Xw_k = i\lambda_k w_k', \quad Xw_k' = -i\lambda_k w_k \quad (k = 1, \dots, n).$$

Thus we have the following:

$${}^tBXB = \begin{pmatrix} O & -D(i\lambda_1, \dots, i\lambda_n) \\ D(i\lambda_1, \dots, i\lambda_n) & O \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $B = (w_1, w_1', \dots, w_n, w_n') \in O(2n)$ . Observe that we can choose  $B$  in  $SO(2n)$  by replacing  $\lambda_1$  with  $-\lambda_1$ , if necessary.

Now we take complex numbers  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  such that  $c_k^2 = i\lambda_k$  for each  $k$ , and let  $C = D(c_1, \dots, c_n, c_1, \dots, c_n) \in U(2n)$ . Then we have

$$(A.1) \quad {}^tBXB = CJC = CJ^tC.$$

We can choose  $C$  in  $SU(2n)$ . In fact, since  ${}^tBXB \in SU(2n)$ , we have

$$\det({}^tBXB) = i^{2n}\lambda_1^2 \cdots \lambda_n^2 = (i^n\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_n)^2 = 1,$$

so  $i^n\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_n = \pm 1$ . Hence  $\det(C) = c_1^2 \cdots c_n^2 = i^n\lambda_1 \cdots \lambda_n = \pm 1$ . If  $\det(C) = -1$ , then replacing  $C$  with that multiplied by  $\begin{pmatrix} D(0, 1, \dots, 1) & D(1, 0, \dots, 0) \\ D(1, 0, \dots, 0) & D(0, 1, \dots, 1) \end{pmatrix}$ , we have  $\det(C) = 1$ .

By taking  $P = BC$ , we deduce by (A.1) that

$$X = BCJ^tC^tB = PJ^tP \quad (P \in SU(2n)),$$

which implies that the action is transitive.

On the other hand, the isotropy group at  $J$  is given by

$$\{P \in SU(2n) \mid PJ^tP = J\} = Sp(n).$$

Since  $SU(2n)$  is compact, we obtain

$$SU(2n)/Sp(n) = \{X \in SU(2n) \mid {}^tX = -X\}.$$

Further multiplying by  $J$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} SU(2n)/Sp(n) &= \{JX \in SU(2n) \mid {}^tX = -X\} \\ &= \{X \in SU(2n) \mid {}^t({}^tJX) = -{}^tJX\} \\ &= \{X \in SU(2n) \mid {}^tXJ = JX\} \\ &= \{X \in SU(2n) \mid {}^tX = JX^tJ\}. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

## References

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