

Received on (09-12-2017) Accepted on (21-04-2018)

Parametrization of the orbits of the real forms $SU(p, q)$ and $SO(p, q)$ in Grassmannian

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Abstract

Let G be a complex semi-simple Lie group with real form G_0 . Let $Z = G/P$ be identified with $Gr(k, n)$, the Grassmannian of k planes in C^n . Equivalently, P is a maximal parabolic subgroup defined by the dimension sequence $(k, n - k)$. Consider the action of G_0 on the Grassmannian $Gr(k, n)$. It is known that G_0 has only finitely many orbits in G/P and therefore it has a unique closed orbit and at least one open orbit ([2],[6]).

In this paper we will prove that the G_0 -orbits in $Gr(k, n)$ are parameterized by signature, where G_0 is $SU(p, q)$ and $SO(p, q)$ a real form of $SL(n, C)$ and $SO(p, q)$ respectively.

Keywords:

Grassmannian, orbit,
degenerate subspace,
non-degenerate subspace,
isotropic.

1. Introduction:

A real form G_0 of a complex semisimple Lie group G has only finitely many orbits in any given compact G -homogeneous projective algebraic manifold $Z = G/Q$ and therefore there are open orbits, and a unique closed orbit γ^{cl} ([2],[6]).

In our paper we study the orbits of the real form $SU(p, q)$ and $SO(p, q)$ when they acts on the Grassmannian spaces. In both cases we study the parametrization of the closed orbit and the open orbits which play a role in understanding the geometry of Grassmannian spaces, see ([2],[6] and [8]).

1 The parametrization of $SU(p, q)$ -Orbits in Grassmannian $Gr(r, n)$

1.1 Some basics in Linear Algebra

Let V be a vector space C^n . Let $b(v, w)$, $v, w \in V$, be a bilinear form defined V and $h(v, w) = b(v, w)$ is its Hermitian form.²

Definition 2.1. Any two nonzero vectors $v_1, v_2 \in V$ are orthogonal if they satisfy that

$$h(v_1, v_2) = 0.$$

Definition 2.2. For any vector $v \in V$ if $h(v, v) > 0$, we call v a positive vector, if $h(v, v) < 0$, we call v a negative vector and if $h(v, v) = 0$, we call v an isotropic vector.

For the basic information in this section and more see[3].

Definition 2.3. A set $\beta = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is an orthonormal basis of (V, h) if

1. $h(v_i, v_j) = 0, \forall i, j$ with $i \neq j$,
2. $h(v_i, v_i) = \pm 1$.

Remark 2.4. By using Definition 2.3, we can write V as $V = W^+ \oplus W^-$ where W^+ is a maximal positive subspace of V generated by positive vectors in β , and W^- is a maximal negative subspace of V generated by negative positive vectors in β . So W^- is the orthogonal complement of W^+ .

Definition 2.5. A subspace $W \subseteq V$ is called nondegenerate if and only if $W \cap W^\perp = \{0\}$, and called maximally degenerate if $W \subset W^\perp$.

Notation 2.6. We will denote the Hermitian form in the subspace W to be $\tilde{h} = h|_{W \times W}$.

Definition 2.7. If V is nondegenerate space of dimension n such that $V = W^+ \oplus W^-$, then the signature of V is $sign(V) = (dim W^+, dim W^-)$.

Question 1. How can we find an orthogonal basis for any subspace (W, h) of dimension r ?

To answer this question we have three cases:-

Case 1:- If W is maximally degenerate subspace, then

$$\forall w_i, w_j \in W, \quad \tilde{h}(w_i, w_j) = 0.$$

So we need only to choose r -linearly independent vectors and then we finish.

Case 2:- If W is nondegenerate, fix a nonisotropic vector $w_1 \in W$. Let $X_1 = Cw_1$, then

$$X_1 \cap X_1^{\perp \tilde{h}} = \{0\}$$

Choose nonisotropic vector $w_2 \in X_1^{\perp \tilde{h}}$ so $\tilde{h}(w_1, w_2) = 0$.

Let $X_2 = span\{w_1, w_2\}$, then

$$X_2 \cap X_2^{\perp \tilde{h}} = \{0\}$$

Choose nonisotropic vector $w_3 \in X_2^{\perp \tilde{h}}$, so $\tilde{h}(w_3, w_i) = 0 \forall i = 1, 2$.

Assume that we have $r - 1$ nonisotropic orthogonal vectors w_1, \dots, w_{r-1} . Let

$$X_{r-1} = span\{w_1, \dots, w_{r-1}\},$$

then

$$X_{r-1} \cap X_{r-1}^{\perp \tilde{h}} = \{0\}$$

Choose nonisotropic vector $w_r \in X_{r-1}^{\perp \tilde{h}}$, so

$$\tilde{h}(w_r, w_i) = 0, \forall i = 1, \dots, r - 1.$$

Hence we have r orthogonal vectors and these vectors spans W .

Case 3:- If $W \cap W^{\perp \tilde{h}} \neq \{0\}$ and $W \cap W^{\perp \tilde{h}} \subset W$, then

$$W = Q_t \oplus B_s$$

where $dim Q_t = t, dim B_s = s, t + s = r$ and

$$B_s = W \cap W^\perp = W^{\perp \tilde{h}} \text{ and } Q_t \cap Q_t^{\perp \tilde{h}} = \{0\}.$$

From case 1, any s linearly independent vectors $\{v_1, \dots, v_s\}$ from B_s spans B_s , and from case 2, we can find an orthogonal basis $\{w_1, \dots, w_t\}$ for Q_t .

Therefore, $\{v_1, \dots, v_s, w_1, \dots, w_t\}$ is an orthogonal basis for W .

Example 2.8. Consider the vector space $V = C^6$. Let the hermitian form h to be defined as

$$h(v, w) = b(v, \sigma(w)) = - \sum_{i=1}^3 v_i \sigma(w_i) + \sum_{i=4}^6 v_i \sigma(w_i)$$

Fix the standard basis $\{e_1, e_2, e_3, e_4, e_5, e_6\}$ to be the orthonormal basis of V .

The subspace $W_1 = \text{span}\{e_1 + e_6, e_2 + e_5\}$ is a degenerate subspace with the orthonormal basis $\{e_1 + e_6, e_2 + e_5\}$ since $h(e_1 + e_6, e_2 + e_5) = 0$, $h(e_1 + e_6, e_1 + e_6) = 0$ and $h(e_2 + e_5, e_2 + e_5) = 0$. On the other hand, the subspace $W_2 = \text{span}\{e_1, e_4\}$ is nondegenerate subspace with the orthonormal basis $\{e_1, e_4\}$ since $h(e_1, e_4) = 0$, $h(e_1, e_1) = -1$ and $h(e_4, e_4) = 1$, and e_1, e_4 is an orthonormal basis.

Define the subspace $W_3 = W_1 \oplus W_2 = \text{span}\{e_1 + e_6, e_2 + e_5, e_1, e_4\}$, by Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalisation Process we can find orthonormal basis for W_3 to be $W_3 = \text{span}\{e_1, e_6, e_4, e_2 + e_5\}$ which means that we can write $W_3 = B \oplus Q$ where $B = \text{span}\{e_2 + e_5\}$ and $Q = \text{span}\{e_1, e_6, e_4\}$, where B is degenerate subspace and Q is non-degenerate subspace.

2.2 The Orbit Structure of the nondegenerate subspaces

Let (V, h) be the complex nondegenerate vector space \mathbb{C}^n of signature (p, q) , where $p+q = n$. Let $G = SL(n, \mathbb{C})$, and P be a maximal parabolic subgroup of G . In this case the homogenous space $Z = G/P$ can be identified with the set of all subspaces with dimension r called the Grassmannian $Gr(r, n)$. Define the bilinear form b on V to be

$$b(v, w) = - \sum_{i=1}^q v_i w_i + \sum_{i=q+1}^n v_i w_i$$

Consider the real form $G_0 = SU(p, q)$ of $SL(n, \mathbb{C})$ where $p + q = n$. The Hermitian form $h : \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined $SU(p, q)$ is the standard Hermitian form of signature (p, q) defined by

$$h(v, w) = - \sum_{i=1}^q v_i \bar{w}_i + \sum_{i=q+1}^n v_i \bar{w}_i, \quad \forall v, w \in \mathbb{C}^n$$

then $SU(p, q)$ is the group of isometries of V associated to h , that is if $T \in SU(p, q)$, then

$h(Tv, Tw) = h(v, w)$. Let us concerned with the action of the real form $SU(p, q)$ on $Gr(r, n)$,

$$SU(p, q) \times Gr(r, n) \rightarrow Gr(r, n).$$

By the results given by Wolf in [6], this action has finitely many orbits with a unique closed orbit and an open orbit exists. Here a question arise: How can we parameterize the orbits of this action? In the following sections we prove that the orbits of the above action parameterized by signature.

Definition 2.9. Given a subspace $(W, h|_W)$ of (V, h) . We define a signature of the subspace W to be $\text{sign}(W) = (n^+, n^-, d)$ where n^+ is the dimension of maximal positive subspace of W and n^- is the dimension of maximal negative subspace of W and $d = \dim(W \cap W^\perp) = \dim(W^\perp|_W)$.

Definition 2.10. Given a subspace $(W, h|_W)$ of signature $\text{sign}(W) = (n^+, n^-, d)$ where $\dim W = n^+ + n^- + d = k$. A set $\beta = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ is a suborthonormal basis of $(W, h|_W)$ if:

1. v_1, \dots, v_{n^+} are orthonormal positive vectors .
2. $v_{n^++1}, \dots, v_{n^++n^-}$ are orthonormal negative vectors
3. $v_{n^++n^-+1}, \dots, v_k$ are linearly independent isotropic vectors and we will define the signature of this basis to be (n^+, n^-, d) .

Remark 2.11. Any orthogonal basis of the subspace $(W, h|_W)$ has the same signature as the subspace signature.

Proposition 2.12. Given $X_1, X_2 \in Gr(r, n)$ be nondegenerate subspaces such that $\text{sign}(X_1) = \text{sign}(X_2)$, then there exist $g \in SU(p, q)$ with $g(X_1) = X_2$

Proof. Given two nondegenerate subspaces $X_1, X_2 \in Z$ with orthonormal bases $\beta_1 = \{v_1, \dots, v_r\}$ for X_1 , and $\beta_2 = \{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$ for X_2 . These two bases have the same signature and we can rearrange

them to have firstly the positive vectors and then the negative.

Similarly for $X_1^\perp, X_2^\perp \in Z$ with orthonormal bases

$$\beta_1^\perp = \{v_{r+1}, \dots, v_n\}, \beta_2^\perp = \{u_{r+1}, \dots, u_n\}$$

for X_1^\perp, X_2^\perp respectively, these two bases $\beta_1^\perp, \beta_2^\perp$ have the same signature and we can rearrange them to have firstly the positive vectors and then the negative. So we can assume that v_i and u_i are both positive or both negative.

Now, since $V = X_1 \oplus X_1^\perp = X_2 \oplus X_2^\perp$, we can define a linear map

$$T : V \rightarrow V \text{ by } T(v_i) = u_i \text{ for } v_i \in \beta_1 \text{ and } u_i \in \beta_2,$$

and

$$T(\tilde{v}_i) = \tilde{u}_i$$

for $\tilde{v}_i \in \beta_1^\perp$ and $\tilde{u}_i \in \beta_2^\perp$, so $T(X_1) = X_2$.

To show that $h(T(w_i), T(w_j)) = h(w_i, w_j)$ $\forall w_i, w_j \in X_1$, start with bases vectors $v_i, v_j \in X_1$, if $i \neq j$, then

$$h(T(v_i), T(v_j)) = h(u_i, u_j) = 0 = h(v_i, v_j), \quad (1)$$

and if $i = j$, then

$$h(T(v_i), T(v_i)) = h(u_i, u_i) = 1 = h(v_i, v_i). \quad (2)$$

Let $w_1, w_2 \in V$ where $w_1 = \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_k v_k$ and

$w_2 = \sum_{t=1}^n \gamma_t v_t$, then

$$h(T(w_1), T(w_2)) = h\left(T\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_k v_k\right), T\left(\sum_{t=1}^n \gamma_t v_t\right)\right)$$

$$= h\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_k T(v_k), \sum_{t=1}^n \gamma_t T(v_t)\right)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^n \alpha_k \gamma_t h(T(v_k), T(v_t))$$

By (1) and (2)
$$= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^n \alpha_k \gamma_t h(v_k, v_t)$$

$$= h\left(\sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_k v_k, \sum_{t=1}^n \gamma_t v_t\right) = h(w_1, w_2).$$

Therefore $T \in SU(p, q)$.

Example 2.13. Let $G = SU(1, 2)$ and define the non-degenerate subspaces $X_1 = \text{span}\{e_1, e_3\}$ and $X_2 = \text{span}\{e_1, e_2\}$. The signature $\text{sign}(X_1) = \text{sign}(X_2) = (1, 1)$. Choose the matrix $g \in SU(1, 2)$ where

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

such that $g.e_1 = e_1$ and $g.e_3 = e_2$, which means that

$$g.X_1 = X_2.$$

2.3 The Orbit Structure of the degenerate subspaces

Recall that the signature of the vector space

$V = \mathbb{C}^n$ with respect to the group $SU(p, q)$ is (p, q) .

Lemma 2.14. Given any isotropic vector $v \in V$, then

$v = v^+ + v^-$ where v^+, v^- are orthogonal positive and negative vectors respectively.

Proof. Assume that V_1 is a maximal positive subspace

$$h(w_1, w_1) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= h(v^+ + v^-, v^+ + v^-) \\ &= h(v^+, v^+) + h(v^+, v^-) + h(v^-, v^+) + h(v^-, v^-) \\ &= h(v^+, v^+) + h(v^-, v^-), \end{aligned}$$

in V then V_1^\perp is a maximal negative subspace where $V_1 \cap V_1^\perp = \{0\}$ because $sign(V) = (p, q, 0)$. Then any vector $x \in V$ is uniquely represented as $x = t^+ + t^-$, where $t^+ \in V_1$ and $t^- \in V_1^\perp$. Therefore any isotropic vector $v \in V$ can be written as $v = v^+ + v^-$

but

$$\begin{aligned} h(w_1, w_2) &= 0 \\ &= h(v^+ + v^-, \alpha_1 v^+ + \alpha_2 v^-) \\ &= h(v^+, \alpha_1 v^+) + h(v^+, \alpha_2 v^-) + h(v^-, \alpha_1 v^+) + h(v^-, \alpha_2 v^-) \\ &= \alpha_1 h(v^+, v^+) + \alpha_2 h(v^-, v^-) \end{aligned}$$

where $v^+ \in V_1$ and $v^- \in V_1^\perp$.

Notation 2.15. In the following lemmas E_i will be a nondegenerate subspace with $sign(E_i) = (1, 1, 0)$.

Lemma 2.16. Given two orthogonal isotropic vectors w_1, w_2 where $w_1 = v^+ + v^-$ and $E_1 = span\{v^+, v^-\}$, then $w_2 \in E_1^\perp$.

Proof. Firstly, since

$$so\ h(v^+, v^+) = -h(v^-, v^-).$$

Assume that $w_2 \in E_1$ then $w_2 = \alpha_1 v^+ + \alpha_2 v^-$, $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$,

which implies that $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2$ and $w_2 = \alpha_1 w_1$ which is a contradiction.

Also if $w_2 = a_1 v^+ + a_2 \hat{v}^-$, $\hat{v}^- \in E_1^\perp$,

or $w_2 = a_1 \hat{v}^+ + a_2 v^-$, $\hat{v}^+ \in E_1^\perp$

, then $h(w_1, w_2) \neq 0$.
Therefore, $w_2 \in E_1^\perp$.

Lemma 2.17. Let D be a degenerate subspace with dimension r , there exist r subspaces E_1, E_2, \dots, E_r such that

$$E_i \cap E_j = \{0\} \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq r \text{ and}$$

$$D \subset E_1 \oplus E_2 \oplus \dots \oplus E_r.$$

Proof. We will prove it by induction.

Step 1: If $\dim D = 1$, then $D = span\{w_1\}$ where w is an isotropic vector, so by Lemma 2.14 $w_1 = v^+ + v^-$ where $v^+ \perp v^-$ and $D \subset E_1 = span\{v^+, v^-\}$.

Step 2: If $\dim D = 2$, then $D = span\{w_1, w_2\}$ where $h(w_1, w_2) = 0$.

By step 1,
 $W = span\{w_1\} \subset E_1$

and by Lemma 2.16 $w_2 \in E_1^\perp$, then by Lemma 2.14 there exist $\hat{v}^+, \hat{v}^- \in E_1^\perp$ such that $w_2 = \hat{v}^+ + \hat{v}^-$. So we have a nondegenerate subspace $E_2 = span\{\hat{v}^+, \hat{v}^-\}$ where $w_2 \in E_2$, and $E_1 \cap E_2 = \{0\}$, then

$$D \subset E_1 \oplus E_2.$$

Step 3: Assume that the lemma is true if $\dim D < r$.

Step 4: If $\dim D = r$.

Choose any vector w in D , then $D = span\{w\} \oplus \tilde{D}$ where \tilde{D} is the orthogonal complement of $span\{w\}$ in D , So \tilde{D} is a subgroup of D with $\dim \tilde{D} = r - 1$ and by step 3 there exist E_1, E_2, \dots, E_{r-1} such that

$$E_i \cap E_j = \{0\} \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq r - 1 \text{ and}$$

$$\tilde{D} \subset E_1 \oplus E_2 \oplus \dots \oplus E_{r-1}.$$

By Lemma 2.16, $w \in E_r^\perp \quad \forall i$, so

$$w \in (E_1 \oplus E_2 \oplus \dots \oplus E_{r-1})^\perp$$

again by step 1, $w = v^{++} + v^{--}$ where $v^+ \perp v^-$ and $\text{span}\{w\} \subset E_r = \text{span}\{v^+, v^-\}$.

Since $D = \text{span}\{w\} \oplus \tilde{D}$, then

$$D \subset E_1 \oplus E_2 \oplus \dots \oplus E_r$$

Proposition 2.18. Given $Y_1, Y_2 \in Gr(r, n)$

be degenerate subspaces, i.e.

$$\text{sign}(Y_1) = \text{sign}(Y_2) = (0, 0, r),$$

then there exist $g \in SU(p, q)$ with $g(Y_1) = Y_2$

Proof. Assume we have two degenerate

subspaces Y_1, Y_2 . By Lemma 2.17 there

exist r subspaces

$$E_1, E_2, \dots, E_r$$

such that $E_i \cap E_j = \{0\}$, $1 \leq i < j \leq r$, and

$$Y_1 \subset E_1 \oplus E_2 \oplus \dots \oplus E_r,$$

where $E_i = \text{span}\{v_i^+, v_i^-\}$, then we have $2r$

orthogonal vectors of V ,

$$\beta_1 = \{v_1^+, v_1^-, \dots, v_r^+, v_r^-\},$$

it, namely $\hat{\beta}_1$, where it has $(p - r)$ positive vectors and $(q - r)$ negative vectors. We can rearrange the vectors in $\hat{\beta}_1$ to have the positive vectors firstly, i.e.

$$\hat{\beta}_1 = \{v_{r+1}^+, \dots, v_p^+, v_{r+1}^-, \dots, v_q^-\}.$$

Similarly, By Lemma 2.17 there exist r subspaces

$$\tilde{E}_1, \tilde{E}_2, \dots, \tilde{E}_r$$

such that

$$\tilde{E}_i \cap \tilde{E}_j = \{0\} \quad 1 \leq i < j \leq r$$

and

$$Y_2 \subset \tilde{E}_1 \oplus \tilde{E}_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \tilde{E}_r,$$

where $\tilde{E}_i = \text{span}\{u_i^+, u_i^-\}$, then we have $2r$ orthogonal vectors of V ,

$$\beta_2 = \{u_1^+, u_1^-, \dots, u_r^+, u_r^-\}.$$

Let

$$Q_2 = \text{span}\{u_1^+, u_1^-, \dots, u_r^+, u_r^-\},$$

then $V = Q_2 \oplus Q_2^\perp$, so we can extend β_2 to a basis for V by adding the basis of Q_2^\perp to it, namely $\hat{\beta}_2$, where it has $(p - r)$ positive vectors, and $(q - r)$ negative vectors and we can rearrange the vectors in $\hat{\beta}_2$ to have the positive vectors firstly, i.e.

$$\hat{\beta}_2 = \{u_{r+1}^+, \dots, u_p^+, u_{r+1}^-, \dots, u_q^-\}.$$

Finally, we can define a linear map

$$g : V \rightarrow V \text{ by } g(v_i^+) = u_i^+, \quad g(v_i^-) = u_i^-, \quad \forall i, j,$$

then $g(Y_1) = Y_2$, and by using the same method we use in the proof of Proposition 2.12

$$h(g(w_1), g(w_2)) = h(w_1, w_2).$$

Therefore $g \in SU(p, q)$.

Example 2.19. Let $G = SU(1, 2)$ and define the subspaces $Y_1 = \text{span}\{e_1 + e_3\}$ and $Y_2 = \text{span}\{e_1 + e_2\}$. The signature $\text{sign}(X_1) = \text{sign}(X_2) = (0, 0, 1)$. Choose the matrix $g \in SU(1, 2)$ where

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

such that $g.e_1 = e_1$ and $g.e_3 = e_2$, which means that

$$g.Y_1 = Y_2.$$

2.4 General Result

In this section we will prove our main theorem .

Theorem 2.20. *The $SU(p,q)$ -orbit in $Gr(r,n)$ are parameterized by signature. That is given $W_1, W_2 \in Gr(r,n)$ there exist $g \in SU(p,q)$ with $g(W_1) = W_2$ if and only if $sign(W_1) = sign(W_2)$.*

Proof. Let $W_1, W_2 \in Gr(r,n)$, then

$$W_1 = Q_1 \oplus B_1 \text{ and } W_2 = Q_2 \oplus B_2$$

where Q_1, Q_2 are nondegenerate subspaces and

$$B_1 = W_1 \cap W_1^\perp \text{ and } B_2 = W_2 \cap W_2^\perp.$$

By Proposition 2.12, there exist $g \in SU(p,q)$

such that

$$g(Q_1) = Q_2 \text{ and } g(Q_1^\perp) = Q_2^\perp.$$

But $g(B_1) = \tilde{B}_1 \subseteq Q_2^\perp$, by Proposition 2.18

there exist $\hat{g} \in SU(p,q)$ such that $\hat{g}(\tilde{B}_1) =$

B_2 . So we can define our map $\psi : V \rightarrow V$ as

$$\psi = (Id \oplus \hat{g}) \circ g,$$

where Id is the identity matrix, then

$$\psi(W_1) = W_2. \text{ Since } Id, g, \hat{g} \text{ are all in } SU(p,q),$$

then $\psi \in SU(p,q)$.

2 THE PARAMETRIZATION OF

$SO(p,q)$ -ORBITS IN

ISOTROPIC GRASSMANNIAN Z_k

In this section we will prove that $SO(p,q)$ -orbits in Z_k are parameterized by signature, where Z_k is the isotropic Grassmannian.

Consider the semisimple Lie group $G = SO(n, \mathbb{C})$ where $G_0 = SO(p,q)$, with complex bilinear form defined by

$$b(v, w) = - \sum_{i=1}^p v_i w_i + \sum_{i=p+1}^n v_i w_i$$

then the

Hermitian form which defines the real form is

$$h(v, w) = b(v, \bar{w})$$

, so G_0 is the subgroup of operators T in G satisfy $T = \bar{T}$

. Let (V, h) be the complex nondegenerate vector space of signature (p, q) . Define Z_k to be the isotropic Grassmannian which is the set of all-isotropic k - planes in \mathbb{C}^n where

$$1 \leq k \leq \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor.$$

Consider the action of the real form $SO(p,q)$ on the flag manifold Z_k ,

$$SO(p,q) \times Z_k \rightarrow Z_k$$

then $SO(p,q)$ has a unique closed orbit and finitely many open orbits on Z_k . In the following sections we will proof that the orbits of this action parameterized by signature.

3.1 Orbit structure

In this sections we will prove that the $SO(p, q)$ -orbits in Z_k are parameterized by signature $sign(W) = (n^+, n^-, d, r)$ by using our previous results about $SU(p, q)$.

Definition 3.1. Given a subspace $(W, h|_W)$ of (V, h) , We define a signature of W to be $sign(W) = (n^+, n^-, d, r)$ where n^+ is the dimension of maximal positive subspace of W and n^- is the dimension of maximal negative subspace of W and

$$d = \dim(W \cap W^\perp) = \dim(W^{\perp h|_W})$$

and $r = \dim(W \cap W)$.

We used this signature to parameterize the $SO(p, q)$ orbits while $SU(p, q)$ orbits parameterized by only (n^+, n^-, d) .

Remark 3.2. Given a non degenerate space with orthogonal basis β , then we can write V as $V = W^+ \oplus W^-$ where W^+ is a maximal positive subspace of V generated by positive vectors in β , and W^- is a maximal negative subspace of V generated by negative positive vectors in β , and W is the orthogonal complement of W^+ .

Definition 3.3. A subspace W is said to

be of maximal reality if $W = \bar{W}$ and

$$W = W_R \oplus W_R \quad \text{where } W_R \subset \mathbb{R}.$$

Lemma 3.4. Any subspace of maximal reality has a real basis.

Proof. Given a subspace X of maximal reality then

$X = \bar{X}$, i.e., $X = X_R \oplus X_R$ where X_R is a real subspace, so the basis of X_R is basis of X but the basis of X_R is real that mean we can find a real basis β for X where $u = \bar{u} \forall u \in \beta$.

If $(W, h|_W)$ is of signature $sign(W) = (n^+, n^-, d, r)$, then $W = W^+ \oplus W^- \oplus D$ where W^+ is a maximal positive subspace with $\dim W^+ = n^+$, W^- is a maximal negative subspace

with $\dim W^- = n^-$ and $D = W \cap W^\perp$ with $\dim D = d$. In this cases $W^+ \cap \bar{W}^+$, and $W^- \cap \bar{W}^-$ and $D \cap \bar{D}$ all of them have real bases β_1, β_2 and β_3 respectively. We can extend each of these bases to get bases for W^+, W^-, D respectively. So we can define a basis of $(W, h|_W)$, namely an ideal basis, to be as following:

Definition 3.5. Given a k -subspace $(W, h|_W)$

of signature $sign(W) = (n^+, n^-, d, r)$ where $\dim W = n^+ + n^- + d = k$. A set $\beta = \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is an ideal basis of $(W, h|_W)$ if:

1. v_1, \dots, v_{n^+} are orthonormal positive vectors with r_1 vectors of them are real.
2. $v_{n^++1}, \dots, v_{n^++n^-}$ are orthonormal negative vectors with r_2 vectors of them are real.
3. $v_{n^++n^-+1}, \dots, v_k$ are linearly independent vectors with r_3 vectors of them are real.
4. $r_1 + r_2 + r_3 = r$ and we will define the signature of this basis to be (n^+, n^-, d, r) .

Example 3.6. Let $G = SU(2, 3)$ with the hermitian form h defined as

$$h(v, w) = b(v, \sigma(w)) = -\sum_{i=1}^2 v_i \sigma(w_i) + \sum_{i=3}^5 v_i \sigma(w_i).$$

Define the subspaces $W = \text{span}\{e_1, e_4, e_5, e_2 + ie_3\}$ with signature $sign(W) = (2, 1, 1, 3)$. The basis $\{e_1, e_4, e_5, e_2 + ie_3\}$ is called ideal basis since $h(e_1, e_1) = -1$ and $h(e_4, e_4) = h(e_5, e_5) = 1$ and $h(e_2 + ie_3, e_2 + ie_3) = 0$

and this basis has the same signature as the subspace W .

Lemma 3.7. If $W \in Z_k$ then

$$W \cap \bar{W} \subset W \cap W^\perp.$$

Proof. If $v \in W \cap W$, then $v \in \overline{W} \cap W$ and

$$b(v, \overline{v}) = 0 = h(v, v),$$

so $v \in W \cap W^\perp$. Therefore, $W \cap \overline{W} \subset W \cap W^\perp$.

Theorem 3.8. *The $SO(p, q)$ -orbits in Z_k are parameterized by signature (n^+, n^-, d, r) . i.e., given $Y_1, Y_2 \in Z_k$ there exist $g \in SO(p, q)$ with $g(Y_1) = Y_2$ if and only if $sign(Y_1) = sign(Y_2)$.*

Proof. Given $Y_1, Y_2 \in Z_k$ such that $sign(Y_1) = sign(Y_2) = (n^+, n^-, d, r)$, then

$$\dim(Y_1 \cap \overline{Y_1}) = \dim(Y_2 \cap \overline{Y_2}) = r.$$

Let β_1 be the real basis of $Y_1 \cap \overline{Y_1}$ and β_2 be

the real basis of $Y_2 \cap \overline{Y_2}$, then

$$u_i = u_i \forall u_i \in \beta_1, 1 \leq i \leq r \text{ and}$$

$$v_i = v_i \forall v_i \in \beta_2, 1 \leq i \leq r. \text{ Since}$$

$$Y_i \cap \overline{Y_i} \subset Y_i \cap Y_i^\perp$$

for $i \in \{1, 2\}$, then by Lemma 2.14,

$u_i = u_i^+ + u_i^-$ and by using the same procedure in the proof of Proposition 2.18 we can define T as

$$T(u_i^+) = v_i^+ \text{ and } T(u_i^-) = v_i^-,$$

and then extend T by defining it in the other vectors similarly as in Theorem 2.20. This implies that

$$T(Y_1) = Y_2 \text{ and } T(Y_1 \cap \overline{Y_1}) = Y_2 \cap \overline{Y_2}.$$

If $F_1 = Y_1 \cap \overline{Y_1}$ and $F_2 = Y_2 \cap \overline{Y_2}$, then $F_1 = \overline{F_1}$ and $F_2 = \overline{F_2}$, which implies that

$$T(F_1) = F_2 = \overline{F_2} = \overline{T(F_1)} = \overline{T(F_1)} = \overline{T(F_1)}.$$

Therefore $T(F_1) = \overline{T(F_1)}$ if and only if $T = \overline{T}$. Hence $T \in SO(p, q)$.

3.2 The closed $SO(p, q)$ -Orbit in Z_k

In this section we will describe the signature of the closed $SO(p, q)$ -Orbit in Z_k with a comparison between this closed orbit and the closed $SU(p, q)$ -orbit.

Proposition 3.9. *The closed $SO(p, q)$ -orbit in Z_k is the set of all degenerate subspaces with maximal reality. i.e. with signature $(0, 0, k, k)$.*

Proof. By theorem 3.8 $SO(p, q)$ acts transitively

on this set.

Define Z^r to be the set of all subspaces of maximal reality in Z_k . Let T be the closed $SU(p, q)$ -orbit in Z , then the set $\tilde{T} = T \cap Z^r$ is closed in Z^r . If O is the set of all degenerate subspaces with maximal reality then $O = \tilde{T} \cap Z_k$, so O is closed in Z_k .

3.3 Open $SO(p, q)$ -Orbits in Z_k

In this section we will describe the signature of open $SO(p, q)$ -Orbits in Z_k with a comparison between this open orbits and open $SU(p, q)$ -orbits.

Proposition 3.10. *Open $SO(p, q)$ -orbits in Z_k are parametrized by the signature $(n^+, n^-, 0, 0)$.*

Proof. Let D^\sim be an open $SU(p, q)$ -orbit in Z , then the set $D = D^\sim \cap Z_k$ is open in Z_k , and by Lemma 3.7 $D = D^\sim \cap Z_k$ is the set of all nondegenerate subspaces of minimal reality ($r = 0$), i.e of signature $(n^+, n^-, 0, 0)$.

Theorem 3.11. *Each $SU(p, q)$ open orbit contains a unique $SO(p, q)$ open orbit.*

Proof. By the proof of Proposition 3.10 if D^\sim is open orbit of $SU(p, q)$ then $D = D^\sim \cap Z_k$ is open of $SO(p, q)$ in Z_k .

Remark 3.12. Each $SU(p, q)$ open orbit has a nonempty intersection with Z_k .

3.4 Examples

Example 3.13. Let $Z = P_6(\mathbb{C})$ then $Z_1 = \{x \in P_6(\mathbb{C}) : -\sum_{i=1}^2 x_i^2 + \sum_{i=3}^6 x_i^2 = 0\}$. Consider the action of $SO(3, 4)$ on Z_1 , then the closed orbit of $SO(3, 4)$ on Z_1 is

$$Z_k \cap P_6(\mathbb{R}) := \{x \in P_6(\mathbb{R}) : h(x, x) = b(x, x) = 0\}$$

and open orbits of $SO(3, 4)$ in Z_1 are

$$D_1 = SO(3, 4) \cdot (e_1 - ie_2) \subset D^+$$

where D^+ is an open orbit of $SU(3, 4)$ on Z .

$$D_2 = SO(3, 4) \cdot (e_4 - ie_5) \subset D^-$$

where D^- is an open orbit of $SU(3, 4)$ on Z .

Example 3.14. Let $Z = Gr(2, 7)$, then $Z_2 = \{x \in Gr(2, 7) : x \text{ is } b\text{-isotropic}\}$. Consider the action of $SO(3, 4)$ on Z_2 , then the closed orbit of $SO(3, 4)$ on Z_2 is

$O := \{x \in Gr(2, 7) : x \text{ is a degenerate } b\text{-isotropic subspace}\}$

and open orbits of $SO(3, 4)$ in Z_2 are

$$D_{1,1} = SO(3, 4) \cdot \langle (e_1 - ie_2), (e_4 - ie_5) \rangle \subset \tilde{D}_{1,1}$$

where $\tilde{D}_{1,1}$ is an open orbit of $SU(3, 4)$ on Z .

$$D_{0,2} = SO(3, 4) \cdot \langle (e_4 - ie_5), (e_6 - ie_7) \rangle \subset \tilde{D}_{0,2}$$

where $\tilde{D}_{0,2}$ is an open orbit of $SU(3, 4)$ on Z .

CONCLUSION

The signature of the subspaces plays an important role of parametrization the G_0 orbits. In this paper we proved that the G_0 -orbits are parametrized by the signature of the subspaces in the orbit where $G_0 =$

$SU(p, q)$ and $G_0 = SO(p, q)$. In the future studies, we can use this parametrization to understand the geometry of the Grassmannian spaces and any flag manifold.

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المخلص:

تعرف المجموعة G على انها احدى مجموعات لي الكلاسيكية المركبة بحيث يرمز للمجموعة الحقيقي لها بالرمز Go . ليكن الفراغ G/P هو فراغ جرازمانيين $(Gr(k, n))$ من الدرجة k ، و المعروف بانه مجموعة الفراغات الجزئية من الفراغ من الدرجة k . نفرض ان Go تؤثر على الفراغ $(Gr(k, n))$ فان هذه المجموعة تقسم الفراغ $(Gr(k, n))$ إلى مجموعة منتهية من المدارات الغير متقطعة منها المفتوحة وواحدة فقط منها مغلقة توبولوجيا. في هذا البحث قمنا بعمل تصنيف لهذه المدارات بناء على إشارة المتجهات الرئيسة و المسمى بال **signature of flag domains** لكل من المجموعتين الحقيقيتين $(SO(p, q))$ و $(SP(2p, 2q))$.