

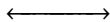
# Unitary Representations of Nilpotent Super Lie groups

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# The orbit method

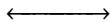
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There is a dictionary :

Algebraic operation	Geometric operation
$\text{Res}_H^G \pi$	$p(O)$ where $p : \mathfrak{g}^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}^*$
$\text{Ind}_H^G \pi$	$p^{-1}(O)$ where $p : \mathfrak{g}^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}^*$
$\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2$	$O_1 + O_2$
...	...

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- 1 Fix  $\lambda \in \mathcal{O}$ . Consider the skew-symmetric form

$$\Omega_\lambda : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

defined by  $\Omega_\lambda(X, Y) = \lambda([X, Y])$ .

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- 3 Set  $M = \exp(\mathfrak{m})$  and define  $\chi_\lambda : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  by

$$\chi_\lambda(\exp(X)) = e^{\lambda(X)\sqrt{-1}} \quad \text{for every } X \in \mathfrak{m}.$$



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- 4 Set  $\pi = \text{Ind}_M^G \chi_\lambda$ .

## Example : the Schrödinger model

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  - $\Omega$  is nondegenerate,
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The group law is given by

$$(v_1, s_1) \bullet (v_2, s_2) = (v_1 + v_2, s_1 + s_2 + \frac{1}{2}\Omega(v_1, v_2)).$$

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- $\dim \mathcal{Z}(H_n) = 1$  and  $H_n / \mathcal{Z}(H_n)$  is commutative (i.e.,  $H_n$  is two-step nilpotent).

## Example : the Schrödinger model (cont.)

- Consider a **polarization** of  $(W, \Omega)$ , i.e., a direct sum decomposition

$$W = X \oplus Y \text{ such that } \Omega(X, X) = \Omega(Y, Y) = 0.$$

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- Fix a nonzero  $a \in \mathbb{R}$  and define a representation  $\pi_a$  of  $H_n$  on  $\mathcal{H}$  via

$$\begin{aligned} (\pi_a(v, 0)f)(y) &= e^{a\Omega(y,v)\sqrt{-1}}f(y) && \text{if } v \in X, \\ (\pi_a(0, v)f)(y) &= f(y + v) && \text{if } v \in Y, \\ (\pi_a(0, s)f)(y) &= e^{as\sqrt{-1}}f(y) && \text{otherwise.} \end{aligned}$$

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Facts:

- For every  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\pi_a$  is an **irreducible** unitary rep. of  $H_n$ .



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Theorem (Stone-von Neumann, 1930's)

Up to unitary equivalence, an irreducible unitary representation of  $H_n$  is one of the following :

- 1 A one-dimensional representation (which factors through  $H_n/\mathcal{Z}(H_n)$ ),
- 2  $\pi_a$ , for some  $a \in \mathbb{R}^\times$ .

# Example : Schrödinger model and the orbit method

Recall that :

$$H_n = \{ (v, s) \mid v \in W \text{ and } s \in \mathbb{R} \}$$

Set  $\mathfrak{h}_n = \text{Lie}(H_n)$  and fix  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathfrak{h}_n)$ .

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$H_n$ -orbits in  $\mathfrak{h}_n^*$  are :

- $\{\lambda\}$  where  $\lambda(Z) = 0$   $\iff$  one-dimensional representations of  $H_n$ .
- $\{\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_n^* \mid \lambda(Z) = a\}$   $\iff$  the representation  $\pi_a$ .

# Solvable and semisimple groups

## Theorem (Auslander - Kostant)

Suppose  $G$  is a solvable, connected, simply connected, type I Lie group. Then

$$\widehat{G} = \bigcup_{\mathcal{O} \subset \mathfrak{g}^*} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{O}}$$

where each  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{O}}$  is a torus of dimension  $b_1(\mathcal{O}) =$  first betti number of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

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## Semisimple Groups

- Elliptic orbits  $\leftrightarrow$  Discrete series
- Nilpotent orbits  $\leftrightarrow$  associated varieties of unitary rep's
- . . .

# Crash course on Lie superalgebras

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- A *Lie superalgebra* is a superalgebra  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$  with a “bracket”

$$[\cdot, \cdot] : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$$

satisfying

$$[X, Y] = -(-1)^{|X||Y|}[Y, X]$$

and

$$(-1)^{|X||Z|}[X, [Y, Z]] + (-1)^{|Y||X|}[Y, [Z, X]] + (-1)^{|Z||Y|}[Z, [X, Y]] = 0$$

# Crash course on Lie superalgebras (cont.)

## Examples of Lie superalgebras

- $\mathfrak{gl}(m|n)$  :

$V = V_0 \oplus V_1$  and  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{End}(V) = \text{End}_0(V) \oplus \text{End}_1(V)$   
where

$$\text{End}_i(V) = \left\{ T \in \text{End}(V) \mid T(V_s) \subseteq V_{s+i \pmod{2}} \text{ for any } s \in \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

and for homogeneous  $X$  and  $Y$ , the bracket is given by

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$\mathfrak{sl}(m|n)$ ,  $\mathfrak{osp}(m|2n)$ ,  $\mathfrak{f}(4)$ ,  $\mathfrak{g}(3)$ ,  $\mathfrak{p}(n)$ ,  $\mathfrak{q}(n)$ , ...

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- Heisenberg-Clifford Lie superalgebras.

# Heisenberg-Clifford Lie superalgebra

Let  $(W, \Omega)$  be a *supersymplectic* space, i.e.,

- $W = W_0 \oplus W_1$ .
- $\Omega : W \times W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies
  - $\Omega(W_0, W_1) = \Omega(W_1, W_0) = 0$
  - $\Omega|_{W_1 \times W_1}$  is a nondegenerate symmetric form.
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- $\mathfrak{h}_W$  is two-step nilpotent and  $\dim(\mathcal{Z}(\mathfrak{h}_W)) = 1$ .

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## Proposition

The category of Super Lie groups is equivalent to a category of *Harish-Chandra pairs*, i.e., pairs  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  such that :

- 1  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$  is a Lie superalgebra over  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- 2  $G_0$  is a real Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  which acts on  $\mathfrak{g}$  smoothly via  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear automorphisms.
- 3 The action of  $G_0$  on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is the adjoint action. The adjoint action of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  on  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the differential of the action of  $G_0$  on  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

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- For simplicity, from now on we assume that  $G_0$  is connected and simply connected.

# Super Hilbert spaces

**“Wrong” definition :** A super Hilbert space is a  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -graded Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 \oplus \mathcal{H}_1$  where  $\mathcal{H}_0$  and  $\mathcal{H}_1$  are closed subspaces and  $\mathcal{H}_0 \perp \mathcal{H}_1$ .

**“Right” definition :** Indeed  $\mathcal{H}$  is endowed with an even super Hermitian form:

$$\langle x, y \rangle_{super} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x, y \text{ are of opposite parity,} \\ \langle x, y \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_0} & \text{if } x, y \in \mathcal{H}_0, \\ \sqrt{-1} \langle x, y \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_1} & \text{if } x, y \in \mathcal{H}_1. \end{cases}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle y, x \rangle_{super} &= (-1)^{|x||y|} \overline{\langle x, y \rangle_{super}} \\ \langle x, x \rangle_{super} &> 0 \text{ for } x \in \mathcal{H}_0, x \neq 0 \\ \sqrt{-1} \langle x, x \rangle_{super} &< 0 \text{ for } x \in \mathcal{H}_1, x \neq 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Unitary representations of super Lie groups

- Let  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  be a super Lie group. We want to consider unitary representations of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  on super Hilbert spaces, i.e.,

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But if  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_1$ , then

$$\pi([X, X]) = \pi(X)\pi(X) + \pi(X)\pi(X) = 2\pi(X)^2$$

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- A natural choice of representation space is  $\mathcal{H}^\infty$  (the subspace of smooth vectors) defined as

$$\mathcal{H}^\infty = \left\{ v \mid v \in \mathcal{H} \text{ and the map } g \mapsto \pi(g)v \text{ is smooth} \right\}$$

But then one needs to know that  $\pi(X)\mathcal{H}^\infty \subseteq \mathcal{H}^\infty$ .

# Unitary representations of super Lie groups (cont.)

Definition ([Carmeli, Cassinelli, Toigo, Varadarajan])

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- $\rho^\pi|_{\mathfrak{g}_0} = \pi^\infty$  and  $\rho^\pi(\text{Ad}(g)(X)) = \pi(g)\rho^\pi(X)\pi(g^{-1})$ .

# Restriction and induction

Let  $(H_0, \mathfrak{h})$  be a sub super Lie group of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$ . One can formally define restriction and induction functors.

$$(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H}) \text{ unitary rep. of } (G_0, \mathfrak{g}) \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \text{Res}_{(H_0, \mathfrak{h})}^{(G_0, \mathfrak{g})}(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma, \rho^\sigma, \mathcal{K}) \text{ unitary rep. of } (H_0, \mathfrak{h}) \\ \mathfrak{g}_1 = \mathfrak{h}_1 \end{aligned} \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad \text{Ind}_{(H_0, \mathfrak{h})}^{(G_0, \mathfrak{g})}(\sigma, \rho^\sigma, \mathcal{K})$$

## Not So Obvious Fact :

These functors are well defined.

**Proof.** Follows from [Carmeli, Cassinelli, Toigo, Varadarajan].

# Unitary equivalence and parity

## Unitary equivalence

Two unitary representations  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  and  $(\pi', \rho^{\pi'}, \mathcal{H}')$  are said to be **unitarily equivalent** if there exists a linear isometry  $T : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}'$  such that :

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- $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  and  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, {}^\Pi\mathcal{H})$  are *not* necessarily unitarily equivalent.

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- 3 One needs to define “super” polarizing subalgebras (and prove that they exist).

# Nilpotent super Lie groups

- A super Lie group  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  is called *nilpotent* if the lower central series of  $\mathfrak{g}$  has finitely many nonzero terms (equivalently, if  $\mathfrak{g}$  appears in its own upper central series).

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## Lemma

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**Proof.** Observe that  $\sum_{i=1}^m \rho^\pi(X_i)^2 = 0$  and for every  $i$ , the operator  $e^{\frac{\pi}{4}\sqrt{-1}}\rho^\pi(X_i)$  is symmetric. For every  $v \in \mathcal{H}^\infty$  we have :

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \langle e^{\frac{\pi}{4}\sqrt{-1}}\rho^\pi(X_i)v, e^{\frac{\pi}{4}\sqrt{-1}}\rho^\pi(X_i)v \rangle = \langle v, e^{\frac{\pi}{2}\sqrt{-1}} \sum_{i=1}^m \rho^\pi(X_i)^2 v \rangle = 0.$$



## Reduced form

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We have

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$$\text{Set } \mathfrak{a} = \bigcup_{j \geq 1} \mathfrak{a}^{(j)}.$$

## Observation

- $\rho^\pi(\mathfrak{a}) = 0$  for every unitary representation  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$ .
- $\mathfrak{a}$  is  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ -graded, hence corresponds to a sub super Lie group  $(A_0, \mathfrak{a})$  of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$ . The quotient  $\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a}$  is reduced.

# Structure of nilpotent Lie superalgebras

## Lemma (Kirillov ?)

Let  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  be a nilpotent super Lie group such that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is *reduced* and  $\dim \mathcal{Z}(\mathfrak{g}) = 1$ . Then exactly one of the following statements is true :

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such that  $\text{Span}\{X, Y, Z\}$  is a three-dimensional Heisenberg algebra,  $Z \in \mathcal{Z}(\mathfrak{g})$ ,

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# Unitary representations as induced representations

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## Proposition (codimension one induction)

Let  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  be an irreducible unitary representation of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  whose restriction to  $\mathcal{Z}(G_0)$  is nontrivial. Then

$$(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H}) = \text{Ind}_{(G'_0, \mathfrak{g}')}^{(G_0, \mathfrak{g})} (\pi', \rho^{\pi'}, \mathcal{H}')$$

for some irreducible unitary representation  $(\pi', \rho^{\pi'}, \mathcal{H}')$  of  $(G'_0, \mathfrak{g}')$ .

# Unitary rep's of Heisenberg-Clifford super Lie groups

- Recall that  $\mathfrak{h}_W = W \oplus \mathbb{R}$  where

$$[(v_1, s_1), (v_2, s_2)] = (0, \Omega(v, w))$$

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## Theorem (generalized Stone-von Neumann)

Let  $\chi : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  be defined by  $\chi(t) = e^{at\sqrt{-1}}$  where  $a > 0$ . (The case  $a < 0$  is similar.)

- $\Omega_{|W_1 \times W_1}$  positive definite  $\Rightarrow$  up to unitary equivalence and parity there exists a unique unitary representation with central character  $\chi$ .
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Let  $(\pi_\chi, \rho^{\pi_\chi}, \mathcal{H}_\chi)$  denote the unitary representation with central character  $\chi$ .

$$\dim \mathfrak{g}_1 = 2k \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\pi_\chi, \rho^{\pi_\chi}, \mathcal{H}_\chi) \not\cong (\pi_\chi, \rho^{\pi_\chi}, \Pi \mathcal{H}_\chi)$$

$$\dim \mathfrak{g}_1 = 2k + 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\pi_\chi, \rho^{\pi_\chi}, \mathcal{H}_\chi) \cong (\pi_\chi, \rho^{\pi_\chi}, \mathcal{H}_\chi)$$

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### THEOREM (S.)

There exists a bijective correspondence

Irreducible unitary  
representations of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$

$\leftrightarrow$

$G_0$  – orbits  
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- $\mathfrak{m}_0 \cap \ker \Phi = \mathfrak{m}_0 \cap \ker \lambda$ .

## Proposition (everything is induced)

- Every irreducible rep  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  is **induced** from a polarizing system  $(M_0, \mathfrak{m}, \Phi, C_0, \mathfrak{c}, \lambda)$ , i.e.,

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- Moreover, if  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  is induced from two different polarizing systems

$$(M_0, \mathfrak{m}, \Phi, C_0, \mathfrak{c}, \lambda) \text{ and } (M'_0, \mathfrak{m}', \Phi, C'_0, \mathfrak{c}', \lambda')$$

then

- 1  $(C_0, \mathfrak{c}) \simeq (C'_0, \mathfrak{c}')$
- 2  $\lambda' = \text{Ad}^*(g)(\lambda)$  for some  $g \in G_0$ .

# Nonnegativity condition

- Suppose  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H}) = \text{Ind}_{(M_0, \mathfrak{m})}^{(G_0, \mathfrak{g})}(\sigma \circ \Phi, \rho^{\sigma \circ \Phi}, \mathcal{K})$ .  
From  $\lambda(W) = \rho^\sigma \circ \Phi(W)$  and properties of Clifford modules we have :

for every  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_1$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} B_\lambda(X, X) = \lambda([X, X]) &= \rho^\sigma \circ \Phi([X, X]) \\ &= [\rho^\sigma \circ \Phi(X), \rho^\sigma \circ \Phi(X)] \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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- Conversely, we should show that every  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{g}_0^+$  fits into a polarizing system  $(M_0, \mathfrak{m}, C_0, \mathfrak{c}, \Phi, \lambda)$ .



## Proposition

For every  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{g}_0^+$  there exists a polarizing system

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The proof is based on the following lemma :

## Lemma

Let  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{g}_0^+$ . Then there exists a subalgebra  $\mathfrak{p}_0 \subset \mathfrak{g}_0$  such that :

- $\mathfrak{p}_0$  is a maximal isotropic subalgebra for the skew symmetric form  $\Omega_\lambda$ ,
- $\mathfrak{p}_0 \supset [\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1]$ .

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①  $\mathfrak{i} = [\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1]$  is an ideal of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ , hence there exists a sequence

$$\{0\} = \mathfrak{i}^0 \subset \mathfrak{i}^1 \subset \mathfrak{i}^2 \subset \cdots \subset \mathfrak{i}^s = \mathfrak{i} \subset \mathfrak{i}^{s+1} \subset \cdots \subset \mathfrak{i}^r = \mathfrak{g}_0$$

of ideals such that  $\dim(\mathfrak{i}^k / \mathfrak{i}^{k-1}) = 1$  for every  $k \geq 1$ .

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② **(M. Vergne)** Define  $\mathfrak{p}_0$  to be

$$\mathfrak{p}_0 := \sum_{k=1}^r \text{rad}(\Omega_\lambda|_{\mathfrak{i}^k \times \mathfrak{i}^k}).$$

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3 One can show that  $\Omega_\lambda([\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1], [\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1]) = 0$ , which implies that  $[\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1] \subset \mathfrak{p}_0$ .

# Irreducibility

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**Proof.** By induction on  $\dim \mathfrak{g}$ .

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Case II :  $\mathfrak{g}$  is reduced and  $\mathcal{Z}(\mathfrak{g}) \cap \ker \lambda \neq \{0\}$ . Find a 3-dimensional Heisenberg subgroup and use explicit formulas for its action.

# An observation

## Corollary

For every unitary representation  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  we have  $\rho^\pi([g_1, [g_1, g_1]]) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Get deep into the proof of classification!

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## Corollary

For every unitary representation  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  we have  $\rho^\pi([\mathfrak{g}_1, [\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1]]) = 0$ .

**Proof.** Get deep into the proof of classification!

## Observation (Neeb) :

- Suppose that  $\bigcap_{(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})} \ker(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H}) = \{0\}$ .
- $\mathfrak{g}^c := [\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_1] \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$ .
- $C_{\mathfrak{g}} :=$  closed convex cone in  $\mathfrak{g}_0^c$  generated by  $\{ [X, X] \mid X \in \mathfrak{g}_1 \}$ .

## An observation (cont.)

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**Problem.** Classify solvable Lie superalgebras  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$  for which  $C_{\mathfrak{g}}$  is pointed.



## Restriction of $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$ to $G_0$

Let  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  be an irr. unitary rep. of  $(G_0, \mathfrak{g})$  corresponding to  $O_\lambda := G_0 \cdot \lambda$ . Then

$$(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})|_{G_0} = \underbrace{\pi_\lambda \oplus \cdots \oplus \pi_\lambda}_{2^l \text{ time}}$$

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## When $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H}) \simeq (\pi, \rho^\pi, \Pi\mathcal{H})$ ?

If  $(\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H})$  is induced from a polarizing system

$$(M_0, \mathfrak{m}, C_0, \mathfrak{c}, \Phi, \lambda)$$

then

$$\dim \mathfrak{c} = \begin{cases} 2l & \text{if } (\pi, \rho^\pi, \mathcal{H}) \simeq (\pi, \rho^\pi, \Pi\mathcal{H}) \\ 2l + 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thank you !