

TORI, WEIGHTS AND ROOTS

The proof of the following theorem can be found in the lecture notes for which a link is given on the course web site. See Proposition 13.1, Lemma 13.2 and Proposition 13.3 in these notes:

Theorem 5.1 Any connected abelian Lie group G is isomorphic to $(\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})^m \times \mathbf{R}^k$ for non-negative integers k and m . In particular, if G is compact, it is isomorphic to $(\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})^m$ for some m .

Definition A compact connected abelian Lie group T is called a torus. By the previous theorem, $T \cong (\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})^m$ for some m .

If T is a torus as in the definition, its Lie algebra \mathfrak{t} can be identified with \mathbf{R}^m , and its exponential map is given by

$$\exp : \mathfrak{t} = (t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m) \in \mathbf{R}^m \mapsto \mathbf{z} = (z_1, z_2, \dots, z_m), \quad (*)$$

where $z_j = e^{2\pi i t_j}$. Observe that this is just a way how to explicitly describe the quotient map $\mathbf{R}^m \rightarrow (\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})^m$, where \mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z} is identified with the circle $S^1 = \{z \in \mathbf{C}, |z| = 1\}$.

Theorem 5.2 Any 1-dimensional representation $\Phi : T = (\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})^m \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is given in the form

$$\mathbf{z} = (z_j)_j \in (S^1)^m \mapsto \mathbf{z}^\lambda = z_1^{\lambda_1} z_2^{\lambda_2} \dots z_m^{\lambda_m},$$

where the numbers $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots$ are integers.

Proof. Let $\mathfrak{t} = \mathbf{R}^m$ be the Lie algebra of T . Then the Lie algebra map $\phi : \mathbf{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is linear, hence of the form

$$(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m) \mapsto \sum_j \tilde{\lambda}_j z_j,$$

for some scalars $\tilde{\lambda}_j$. Hence

$$\Phi(\mathbf{z}) = \Phi(\exp(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m)) = \exp(\phi(t_1, \dots, t_m)) = \exp\left(\sum_j \tilde{\lambda}_j t_j\right). \quad (1)$$

Now observe that if we take for \mathfrak{t} one of the standard basis vectors \mathbf{e}_k , i.e. $t_j = \delta_{kj}$, then $\exp \mathfrak{t} = 1$ by (*). This also forces $\Phi(\exp \mathfrak{t}) = e^{\tilde{\lambda}_k} = 1$, from which we conclude that $\tilde{\lambda}_j = 2\pi i \lambda_j$ for some integer λ_j . Hence we get from (1)

$$\Phi(\mathbf{z}) = \prod_j e^{2\pi i \lambda_j t_j} = \prod_j z_j^{\lambda_j},$$

by definition of z_j , below (*).