

2 May 2021

The infinite-dimensional geometric story: Kac-Moody groups, affine flag varieties, and D-modules

Melbourne Representation Theory seminar, talk 2

- Last week:
- motivation: no BB localisation in Kac-Moody setting, but still can examine D-modules
 - Def'n of Kac-Moody groups, following Kumar
 - Questions about different constructions of $\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow$ What's the point of Kumar's construction?
Can we consider analytic manifold instead?

- Today:
- flag varieties for general KM groups (still following Kumar)
 - the affine case - KM groups as central extensions of loop groups
 - aside: types of loop groups + an analogy
 - the lattice model for SL_n
 - example: SL_2

Next time (after Ann): • When do we get equivalences w/ categories of D-modules?

↑
if there is still interest... • Sketch of proof of Kashiwara-Tanisaki negative level equivalence
I'm happy to shut up if other people want to speak or if we're bored of this...

Recall our construction last week:

• input: $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ Kac-Moody Lie algebra

• construct: $\mathcal{U} =$ pro-unipotent pro-group with $\text{Lie } \mathcal{U} = \widehat{\mathfrak{n}} = \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$ completed nilpotent radical

$$\mathcal{U}_i = \text{'' '' '' } \text{Lie } \mathcal{U}_i = \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta \setminus \{\alpha_i\}} \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$$

$$T = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{Z}}^*, \mathbb{C}^*) \text{ torus (finite-dim)}$$

$$B = \mathcal{U} \ltimes T \quad N = \langle T, \{\tilde{S}_i\} \rangle$$

$$G_i = \text{connected reductive alg. group w/ } \text{Lie } G_i = \mathbb{C}f_i \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathbb{C}e_i$$

$$P_i = \mathcal{U}_i \ltimes G_i \text{ parabolic subgroups}$$

\rightsquigarrow The Kac-Moody group G of \mathfrak{g} is the amalgamated product of $(N, P_i; i=1, \dots, \ell)$

nice properties: • Fits into a Tits system (G, B, N, S) (Bruhat decomp, etc)

• $\{\text{pro-reps of } G\} \xleftrightarrow{1:1} \{\text{pro-reps of } \mathfrak{g} \text{ w/ integrable } \mathfrak{h}\text{-action}\}$

Flag Varieties

(I'll be brief/vague here so I can be more explicit in the affine case, which is what we really care about.)

- The homogeneous space G/B can be given the structure of a projective ind-variety s.t. the Schubert varieties $X_w = \bigsqcup_{v \leq w} BvB/B$ are closed projective subvarieties.

\downarrow
 A set X w/ filt'n $X_0 \subseteq X_1 \subseteq \dots$
 \rightarrow all X_n are projective

- $\cup X_n = X$
- X_n f.d. variety
- $X_n \hookrightarrow X_{n+1}$ closed

- A sketch of this construction:

- $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ dominant integral, $V(\lambda)$ integrable highest wt \mathfrak{g} -module, $G \curvearrowright V(\lambda)$ by previous theorem
- orbit through highest weight vector in $\mathbb{P}(V(\lambda))$ gives map $i_{V(\lambda)}: G/B \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}(V(\lambda)) = \text{lines in } V(\lambda)$
- G/B has filt'n by $X_n = \bigcup_{\ell(v) \leq n} BvB/B$
- show $i_{V(\lambda)}(X_n)$ and $i_{V(\lambda)}(X_w)$ are closed in $\mathbb{P}(V(\lambda))$ for any $n \geq 0$

\Rightarrow gives G/B a (unique) projective ind-variety structure w/ filt'n $\{X_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ s.t. $i_{V(\lambda)}$ is closed embedding

- a priori depends on λ , but can show that for \mathfrak{g} symmetrizable, \exists biregular iso

$$G/B(\lambda + \mu) \xrightarrow{\sim} G/B(\lambda) \text{ for any dominant integral } \mu \in \mathfrak{h}^*$$

- The T -fixed points in G/B are $\{\bar{w}B\}_{w \in W} \subset G/B$

- $U^- \curvearrowright G/B$ and $U^- \cdot \text{id} \subset G/B$ is open, inherits from G/B ind-variety structure making it into an affine ind-group.

For \mathfrak{g} affine, we can realise all of this more explicitly.

• Let \mathfrak{g}° = f.d. simple Lie algebra, \mathfrak{g} = corresponding affine Lie algebra (central extension of loop algebra $\mathfrak{g}^{\circ}[[t^{\pm 1}]]$)

\mathring{G} = connected, simply con'd alg. gp G = Kac-Moody group w/ Lie $G = \mathfrak{g}$
w/ Lie $\mathring{G} = \mathfrak{g}^{\circ}$

def'n For R = associative \mathbb{C} -algebra, $\mathring{G}(R)$ = set of R -rational points of \mathring{G} ; i.e. set of \mathbb{C} -algebra homs $\mathbb{C}[\mathring{G}] \rightarrow R$. $\mathring{G}(R)$ has canonical group structure.

• e.g. if $\mathring{G} = SL_n(\mathbb{C})$, $\mathring{G}(R) = SL_n(R)$

• For $R = \mathbb{C}((t))$ Laurent series (i.e. finitely many powers of t^{-1} , infinitely many powers of t), this yields the loop group of \mathring{G} :

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathring{G}) := \mathring{G}(\mathbb{C}((t)))$$

• Extend $\mathcal{L}(\mathring{G})$ by "exp d": should be "exp c" ?!

- consider group hom $\gamma: \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{C}\langle t \rangle)$, $\gamma(z)(p(t)) = p(zt)$ "loop rotation"

- get $\gamma_{\mathring{G}}: \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow \text{Aut} \mathcal{L}(\mathring{G})$

- Define $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G}) := \mathbb{C}^* \ltimes \mathcal{L}(\mathring{G})$

• Relationship between $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G})$ and G : center of \mathring{G}

Theorem: \exists group hom $\psi: G \rightarrow \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G}) / \mathbb{C}$ s.t. ψ is surjective and $\ker \psi = \text{center of } G$,

\Rightarrow We can study $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G})$ instead of G and we basically lose no information

• subgroups of $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G})$: $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G})$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \cup & & \\ \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{G}(\mathbb{C}\langle t \rangle) & \xrightarrow{\text{ev}_0} & \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{G} \\ \cup & & \cup \end{array}$$

Standard Iwahori $\mathcal{I} := \text{ev}_0^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{B}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{B}$

unipotent radical $\mathcal{U} \xrightarrow[\psi]{\text{iso: } f \mapsto 0} \mathcal{I}_u := \text{ev}_0^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{N}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{N}$

\uparrow pro-unipotent pro-group defined earlier w/ $\text{Lie } \mathcal{U} = \hat{\mathfrak{n}}$ (completion)

$\mathring{T} := \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\mathring{h}_0^*, \mathbb{C}^*) \subset \mathring{G}$ maximal torus

$T := \mathbb{C}^* \times \mathring{T} \subset \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G})$
Standard maximal torus

Then: ψ induces bijection

$G / \mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{\sim} \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathring{G}) / \mathcal{I}$

A quick remark on central extensions:

set-up w/ central extension:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \bar{I}(\mathring{G}) & \\
 & \cup & \\
 \text{all} & \mathbb{C}^x \times \mathring{G}(\mathbb{C}[t]) & \xrightarrow{ev_0} \mathbb{C}^x \times \mathring{G} \\
 \text{contain} & \cup & \cup \\
 \mathbb{C}^x & \bar{I} := ev_0^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^x \times \mathring{B}) & \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^x \times \mathring{B} \\
 & \cup & \cup \\
 & \bar{I}_u := ev_0^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^x \times \mathring{N}) & \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^x \times \mathring{N}
 \end{array}$$

• Flag varieties don't see the difference:

"the affine flag variety"

$$\bar{I}(\mathring{G}) / \bar{I} = \mathring{G}(t) / I$$

set-up w/o central extension:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \bar{I}(\mathring{G}) = \mathring{G}(t) & & \\
 \cup & & \\
 \mathring{G}(\mathbb{C}[t]) & \xrightarrow{ev_0} & \mathring{G} \\
 \cup & & \cup \\
 I & \longrightarrow & \mathring{B} \\
 \cup & & \cup \\
 I_u & \longrightarrow & \mathring{N}
 \end{array}$$

"the affine grassmannian"

$$\bar{I}(\mathring{G}) / \mathbb{C}^x \mathring{G}(\mathbb{C}[t]) = \mathring{G}(t) / \mathring{G}(\mathbb{C}[t])$$

• Also, as Kari pointed out in his email, flag varieties also don't see the completion:

$$\bar{I}(\mathring{G}) / \bar{I} = \mathring{G}(t) / I = \mathring{G}[t^{\pm 1}] / I \cap \mathring{G}[t]$$

What's the point of introducing the central extension? Or completing?

• $\bar{I}(\mathring{G})$, $\mathring{G}(t)$, and $\mathring{G}[t^{\pm 1}]$ act on these homogeneous spaces. There are certain line bundles which are not $\mathring{G}(t)$ -equivariant, but are $\bar{I}(\mathring{G})$ -equivariant. So it's good to remember the $\bar{I}(\mathring{G})$ -action.

But I don't understand this very well so I can't really tell you more...

(6)

Aside: types of loop groups

K compact Lie group

We called $\mathring{G}(\mathbb{R})$ a "loop group." What does this have to do with loops?
↑
reductive alg.-gp/ \mathbb{C}
Aren't there "more loopy" definitions?

• What are "loops in K "? Well, they're

$$\mathcal{L}K = \text{Maps}(S^1, K)$$

• But what kind of maps?

• continuous? ← As Kari pointed out, perhaps this is the most natural.

• differentiable? ← These showed up originally in physics as "gauge groups/current groups,"
corresponding loop groups have significance in 2D quantum field theory

• real analytic?

• polynomial? Will explain what this means in a moment...

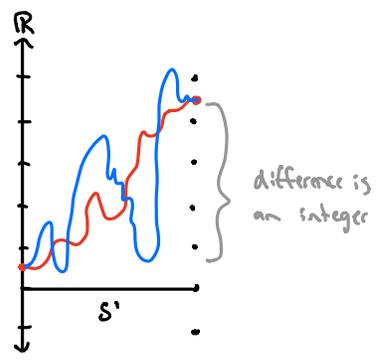
↓

"In fact, it is not much of an exaggeration to say that the mathematics of two-dimensional quantum field theory is almost the same thing as the representation theory of loop groups" Segal, Loop groups

• Let's think in the simplest example, $K = S^1$

$$\text{Maps}(S^1, S^1) = \text{Maps}(S^1, \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})$$

⇒ There are tons of maps!

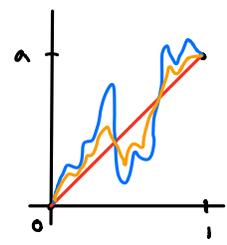


• For $a \in \mathbb{Z}$, consider $\text{Maps}_{0,a} := \{f: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \mid f(0)=0, f(1)=a\}$

↓ contracts to a single map

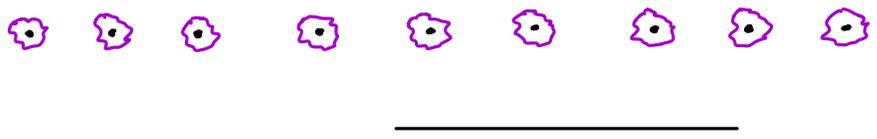
corresponds to $\mathbb{Z} \in S^1 \mapsto \mathbb{Z}^a$
"polynomial loop"

$$f_a: [0,1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, x \mapsto ax$$



• So if we look at the space of basepoint preserving maps (smooth, continuous, whatever), it contracts the space of polynomial loops:

$$\text{Maps}(S^1, S^1)_{\text{id} \rightarrow \text{id}} = \bigsqcup_{a \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Maps}_{0,a} \xrightarrow[\text{homotopic}]{\sim} \underbrace{\{f_a, a \in \mathbb{Z}\}}_{\text{polynomial loops}} \xrightarrow[\text{isomorphic}]{\sim} \mathbb{Z}$$



• This is a good approximation the general picture:

$$\text{Maps}(S^1, K) \xrightarrow[\text{homotopic}]{\sim} \Omega_{\text{poly}}(S^1, K)$$

• An analogy:

$G_{\mathbb{R}}$ real Lie group	\supset	$K_{\mathbb{R}}$ maximal compact	\rightsquigarrow	$G_{\mathbb{R}}/K_{\mathbb{R}}$ contractible	• To understand $G_{\mathbb{R}}$, we better understand $K_{\mathbb{R}}$ first
in our setting,		$\mathbb{Z}_{\text{cts}} K / \Omega_{\text{poly}} K$	\rightsquigarrow	is contractible	• so maybe it's good to study Ω first

• What are polynomial loops in general?

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \xrightarrow{f} & K \\ \cap & & \cap \\ \mathbb{C}^\times & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & G \end{array}$$

complexification of K

f is polynomial if it is the restriction of an algebraic map $\tilde{f}: \mathbb{C}^\times \rightarrow G$

• We saw this for $K = S^1$. What do polynomial loops look like in general?

• A bigger example: $K = SU_2$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \xrightarrow{f} & SU_2 \\ \cap & & \cap \\ \mathbb{C}^\times & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & SL_2(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{f}: \mathbb{C}^\times & \longrightarrow & SL_2(\mathbb{C}) \text{ algebraic map s.t. } \tilde{f}(S^1) \subset SU_2 \\ & & \downarrow \\ \tilde{f}: a & \longmapsto & \begin{pmatrix} f_1(a) & f_2(a) \\ f_3(a) & f_4(a) \end{pmatrix} \text{ for some } f_i \in \mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}] \\ & & \Rightarrow \tilde{f} \in SL_2(\mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]) \end{array}$$

• The condition $\tilde{f}(S^1) \subset SU_2$ amounts to a set of equations (maybe involving complex conjugation)

$\rightsquigarrow \Omega_{\text{poly}}(S^1, K)$ has the structure of a real algebraic ind-variety

• Because $\Omega_{\text{poly}}(S^1, K) \subset G(\mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}])$, get map

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega_{\text{poly}}(S^1, K) & \longrightarrow & G(\mathbb{C}[t^{\pm 1}]) / G(\mathbb{C}[t]) \\ \text{real ind-variety} & & \text{complex ind-variety} \end{array}$$

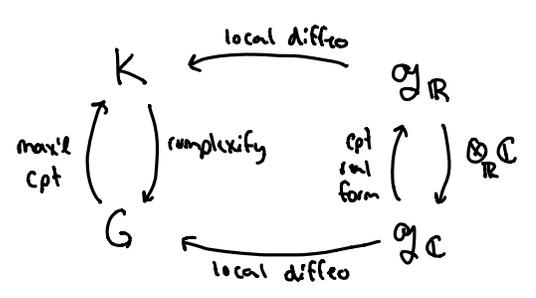
affine Grassmannian

Fact: This map is a homeomorphism $\Omega_{\text{poly}}(S^1, G) \cong \text{Gr}$ (see Zhu's notes on affine Grassmannians)

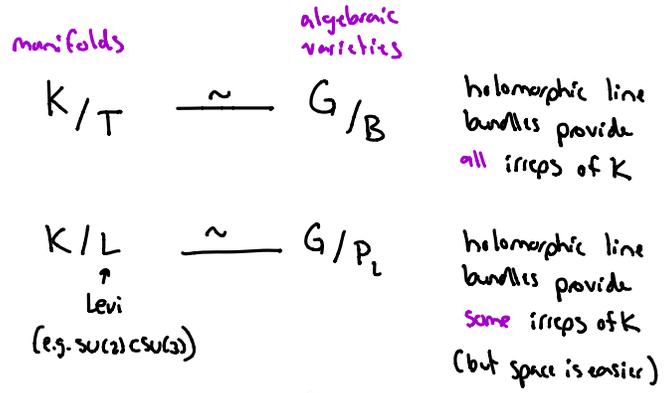
Moral: "Something that looks real is actually complex"

Let's take a step back and take stock of the big picture. We'll start with an analogy:

A familiar story: K compact Lie group, G complexification



study reps using geometry



Claim: (Milnor, Remarks on infinite-dim'l Lie groups, 1984)

We can't expect a good dictionary between infinite-dim'l Lie groups and infinite-dim'l Lie algebras in general

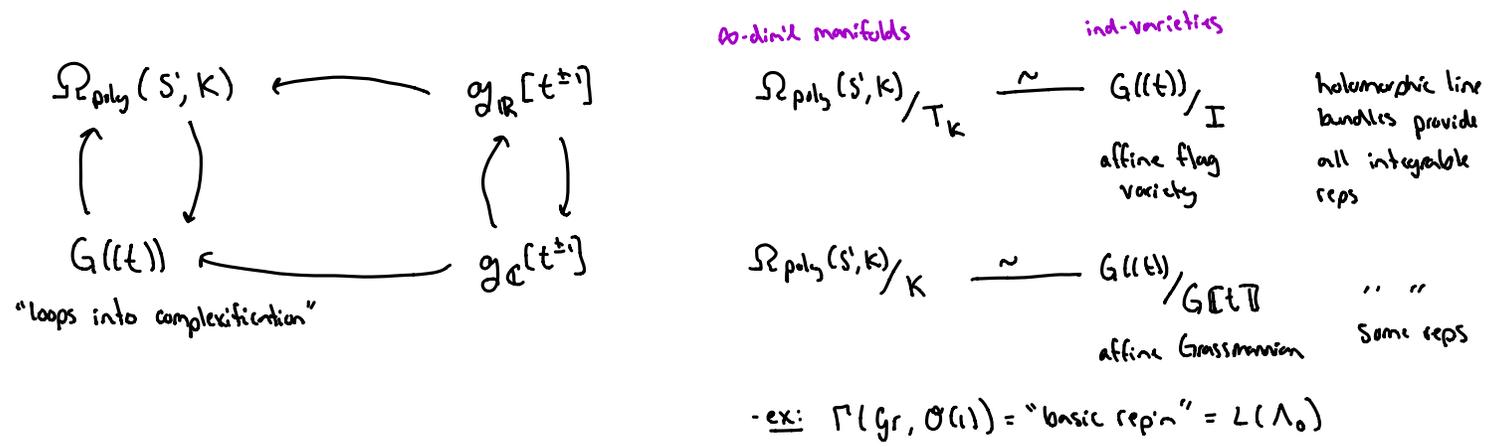
- e.g. $G = \text{diffeomorphisms of the circle}$ is bad (according to Segal, I don't really understand why...)

ex: $SU_n / SU_{n-1} \cong SL_n(\mathbb{C}) / \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \cong \mathbb{P}^{n-1}(\mathbb{C})$
 \uparrow
 $\mathcal{O}(1)$ provides natural rep'n

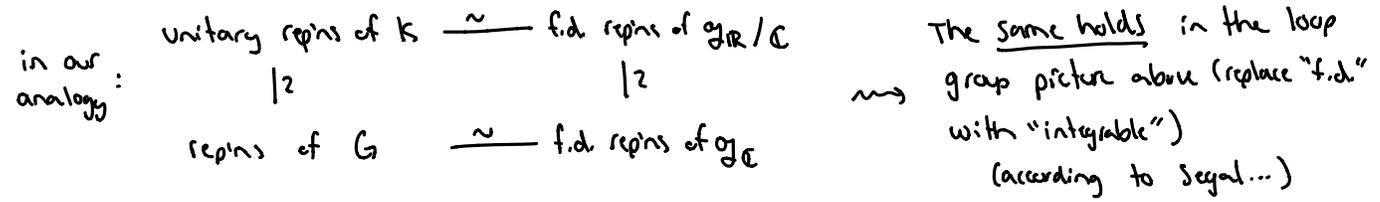
Amazing thing about loop groups: all of the above generalises



The loop group picture: (extracted from Segal "loop groups" - the spirit is this, but I may have a few details wrong...)



What about rep'n theory?



The Upshot: The natural thing to study is the loop group $LK = \text{Maps}_{\text{smooth}}(S', K)$ as Kari suggested in his email. But we can study the rep'n theory of LK by studying the rep'n theory of the loop algebra $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}[t^{\pm 1}]$, which is easier (in the same way semisimple Lie algebras are easy), and its rep theory can be described in terms of the complex ind-varieties $\mathfrak{F}\ell$ and Gr .

One last comment on this picture: **central extensions**

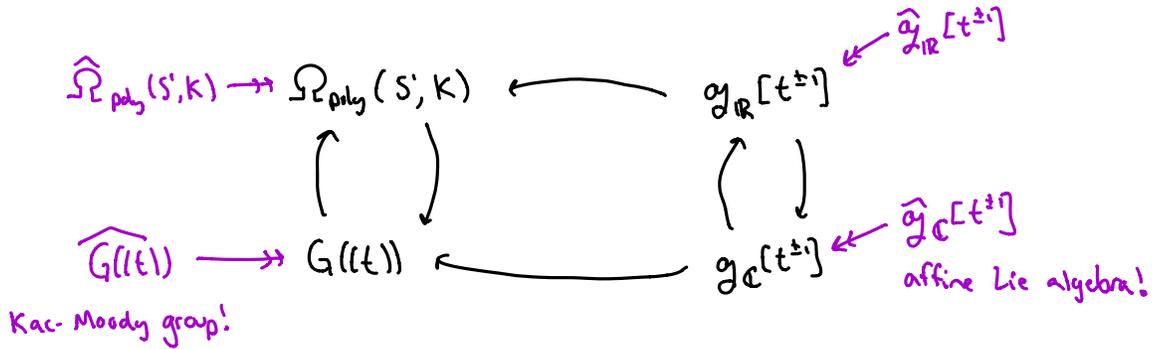
In analogy: What if K isn't simply connected? \rightarrow Take its universal cover, a central extension

e.g. $K = SO(3)$

e.g. $SU(2) \rightarrow SO(3)$

Then life is easier.

In loop groups: To make life easier, we also take a central extension:



- The central extension is not seen by the affine flag varieties, so the geometry doesn't change.

Lattice model for SL_n :

defn) A **lattice** in $\mathbb{C}((t))^n$ is a $\mathbb{C}[[t]]$ -submodule $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{C}((t))^n$ s.t. $\mathbb{C}((t)) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}[[t]]} \mathcal{L} \cong \mathbb{C}((t))^n$

- the **standard lattice** is $\mathcal{L}_0 = \mathbb{C}[[t]]^n$

Gr
ii affine Grassmannian

$$GL_n((t)) / GL_n[[t]] \cong \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{lattices} \\ \text{in} \\ \mathbb{C}((t))^n \end{array} \right\}$$

set-theoretically

• Have natural action $GL_n((t)) \curvearrowright \{ \text{lattices in } \mathbb{C}((t))^n \}$ \Rightarrow

- transitive. - $\text{stab}_{GL_n((t))} \mathcal{L}_0 = GL_n[[t]]$

• We can put an ind-scheme structure on $\{ \text{lattices} \}$ as follows:

- set $Gr^N = \{ \mathcal{L} \mid t^{-N} \mathcal{L}_0 \supset \mathcal{L} \supset t^N \mathcal{L}_0 \}$ lattices whose poles and zeroes have order $\leq N$

- Note that:

$$Gr^N \xrightarrow{1:1} \{ t\text{-stable subspaces of } t^{-N} \mathcal{L}_0 / t^N \mathcal{L}_0 \}$$

$$\mathcal{L} \longmapsto \text{image of } \mathcal{L} \text{ in } t^{-N} \mathcal{L}_0 / t^N \mathcal{L}_0$$

$$\varphi^{-1}(M) \longleftarrow M$$

here

$$\varphi: t^{-N} \mathcal{L}_0 \rightarrow t^{-N} \mathcal{L}_0 / t^N \mathcal{L}_0$$

- What does $t^{-N} \mathcal{I}_0 / t^N \mathcal{I}_0$ look like?

• Well, as a vector space it is $2N$ copies of \mathbb{C}^n , with a t -action given by:

$$\begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{t} \quad \xrightarrow{t} \quad \quad \quad \xrightarrow{t} \\ \mathbb{C}^n \oplus \mathbb{C}^n \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{C}^n \quad \cong \quad \mathbb{C}^{2nN} \\ \uparrow \quad \quad \uparrow \quad \quad \quad \uparrow \\ \text{coeffs of } t^{-N} \quad \text{coeffs of } t^{-N+1} \quad \text{coeffs of } t^N \end{array}$$

• The subspace corresponding to \mathcal{I}_0 is $0 \oplus 0 \oplus \dots \oplus 0 \oplus \overbrace{\mathbb{C}^n \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{C}^n}^N$ (a nN -dim'd subspace)
 $\uparrow \quad \quad \quad \uparrow$
coeffs of 1 coeffs of t^N

\Rightarrow get an embedding

$$\text{Gr}^N \hookrightarrow \text{Grass}(\mathbb{C}^{2nN}) = \bigsqcup_{d \geq 0} \text{Grass}(\mathbb{C}^{2nN}, d) \quad \text{Grassmannian of subspaces of } \mathbb{C}^{2nN}$$

• give Gr^N the necessary topology to make this embedding closed.

\Rightarrow Gr^N gains the structure of a finite-dim'd projective variety

So $\text{Gr} = \bigcup_{N \geq 0} \text{Gr}^N$ gains the structure of a projective ind-variety.

Theorem: This agrees w/ the ind-variety structure I sketched earlier

For SL_2 we can be even more explicit:

$$Gr_{SL_2} = \{ \text{lattices in } \mathbb{C}(t)^2 \text{ of det } 1 \}$$

• represent a lattice \mathcal{L} by a matrix

$$a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}(t)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \text{span of columns} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

- let $-m = \text{minimal valuation } (m \geq 0)$
 (i.e. $m = \text{max order of pole in } a, b, c, d$)

right action by $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ lets us do column operations, so can reduce to this form

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t^m & f \\ 0 & t^{-m} \end{pmatrix} : f = f_{-m} t^{-m} + \dots + f_{m-1} t^{m-1} \right\}$$

$\cong \mathbb{C}^{2m}$ cell \mathbb{C}^{2m}

min val occurs in 2nd row or both rows

min val occurs in 1st row

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t^{-m} & 0 \\ g & t^m \end{pmatrix} : g = g_{-m+1} t^{-m+1} + \dots + g_{m-1} t^{m-1} \right\}$$

$\cong \mathbb{C}^{2m-1}$ cell \mathbb{C}^{2m-1}

Get cell decomposition

$$Gr_{SL_2} = \mathbb{C}^0 \sqcup \mathbb{C}^1 \sqcup \mathbb{C}^2 \sqcup \mathbb{C}^3 \sqcup \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \overline{\mathbb{C}^i} = \bigsqcup_{j \leq i} \mathbb{C}^j$$

↑
Schubert cells of affine Grassmannian
(parametrized by cocharacter lattice)

Surely I've run out of time, but can also do this for any group $G \hookrightarrow SL_n$, and can consider $\{(\text{lattice}, \text{line } \mathcal{L} \subset \mathcal{L})\}$ as a model for $\widehat{Fl}_{SL_2} = SL_2(\mathbb{C}(t)) / \mathbb{I}$. More in two weeks!