

28. On Invariant Groups of m -forms

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1. The algebraic dimensions of invariant groups (orthogonal groups) of quadratic forms are uniquely determined by the number of their variables. But, those of the invariant groups of m -forms ($m \geq 3$) are not uniquely determined with the number of their variables.

We shall determine two types of invariant groups of m -forms, the one's algebraic dimension is zero¹⁾ and the other's is not zero.

2. Let k be a field of characteristic 0, and V be an n -dimensional vector space over k . We shall say, $F(X)$ is an m -form defined on V , if there exists a symmetric m -linear form $f(X^{(1)}, X^{(2)}, \dots, X^{(m)})$ defined on the direct product of m -copies of V , such that $F(X) = f(X, X, \dots, X)$. Every homogeneous polynomial with n -variables and of degree m is an m -form.

For an m -form $F(X)$, the F -radical N_F of V , is a subspace of V consisting of all vectors X , which satisfy the equation $f(X^{(1)}, X^{(2)}, \dots, X^{(m-1)}, X) = 0$, for any vectors $X^{(1)}, X^{(2)}, \dots, X^{(m-1)}$, in V .

If $N_F \neq 0$ then we shall say that $F(X)$ is non-degenerate, and if $N_F = 0$, degenerate. When $F(X)$ is degenerate, there exists the non-degenerate m -form defined on V/N_F , induced by $F(X)$.

We shall use $E(V)$ to denote the ring of k -linear endomorphisms of V , and $G(F)$, the subset of $E(V)$ consisting of all endomorphisms A which leave $F(X)$ invariant, i.e. $F(X) = F(X \cdot A)$.

Proposition 1. *If $F(X)$ is non-degenerate, $G(F)$ is a group.*

Proof. We have to show that every endomorphism A , belonging to $G(F)$ is an automorphism of V .

If A is not an automorphism, there exists a non-zero vector X in V , which satisfies $X \cdot A = 0$. Then

$f(X^{(1)}, X^{(2)}, \dots, X^{(m-1)}, X) = f(X^{(1)} \cdot A, X^{(2)} \cdot A, \dots, X^{(m-1)} \cdot A, X \cdot A) = 0$
for any vectors $X^{(1)}, X^{(2)}, \dots, X^{(m-1)}$. This implies that N_F contains non-zero vector X . And this contradiction shows that A is an automorphism.

If $F(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x_i^m$, then we shall say that $F(X)$ is a diagonal form.

Proposition 2. *When $F(X)$ is a diagonal form, then $F(X)$ is non-*

1) The algebraic dimensions of the invariant groups of m -forms are zero, if and only if the group is a finite group (cf. C. Chevalley: *Théorie des Groupes de Lie*, 2, Hermann, Paris (1951)).

degenerate, if and only if $\prod_{i=1}^n a_i \neq 0$.

Proof. We can prove easily from the definitions.

Let C_m be the cyclic group generated by a primitive m -th root of 1, and S_n be the symmetric group of n -letters. The multiplicative group of non-zero elements of k will be denoted by k^* . And we shall use $C_m^{(k)}$ to denote $k^* \frown C_m$.

Proposition 3. Let $m \geq 3$. If k is algebraically closed and $F(X)$ is a non-degenerate diagonal form, then $G(F)$ is isomorphic to the semi-direct product of S_n and the direct product of n -copies of C_m .

Proof. It follows immediately from Prop. 2 and the condition of Prop. that we can assume all a_i 's are 1. And we shall represent an automorphism A of V as a non-singular matrix (λ_{ij}) . If (λ_{ij}) belongs to $G(F)$, then, comparing the coefficients of the terms $x_\mu \cdot x_\alpha \cdot x_\beta^{m-2}$ (where $\alpha \neq \beta$, $1 \leq \mu \leq n$) of $F(X)$ and $F(X \cdot A)$, we have the following equations:

$$\sum_{\nu=1}^n \lambda_{\mu\nu} (\lambda_{\alpha\nu} \cdot \lambda_{\beta\nu}^{m-2}) = 0$$

for all $1 \leq \mu \leq n$.

Because (λ_{ij}) is non-singular, we have

$$(1) \quad \lambda_{\alpha\nu} \cdot \lambda_{\beta\nu} = 0$$

for all $\alpha \neq \beta$, $1 \leq \nu \leq n$.

It is easily seen that all permutation matrices are contained in $G(F)$. So, we can assume $\lambda_{ii} \neq 0$, multiplying some permutation matrix to the right side of A . Then from (1), $\lambda_{\mu 1} = 0$ for all $2 \leq \mu \leq n$. By the induction with respect to μ , we can find a permutation matrix P and a diagonal matrix D , whose product is equal to A . If $D = (d_{ij})$ (where $d_{ij} = 0$, if $i \neq j$), then from the fact that A and P belong to $G(F)$, D belongs to $G(F)$. So $d_{ii} = 1$, for all $1 \leq i \leq n$. Thus $G(F)$ is generated by the direct product of n -copies of C_m and S_n .

It is easily seen that the direct product of n -copies of C_m is the normal subgroup of $G(F)$, and the intersection of S_n and the direct product of n -copies of C_m , contains only the identity matrix. This completes the proof.

For non-zero elements a, b , in k , we shall say a and b to be in the same class, if there exists an m -th root of a/b in k . And, if a and b are in the same class, we denote $a \equiv b$. When $F(X)$ is a diagonal form, for the coefficients of $F(X)$ we can assume that

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &\equiv a_2 \equiv \dots \equiv a_\alpha \\ a_{\alpha+1} &\equiv \dots \equiv a_{\alpha+\beta} \\ &\dots \dots \dots \\ &\dots \equiv a_{(\alpha+\beta+\dots+\tau)} \\ a_{(\alpha+\beta+\dots+\tau)+1} &\equiv \dots \equiv a_{(\alpha+\beta+\dots+\tau+\delta)} \end{aligned}$$

number of J , which contains α ($1 \leq \alpha \leq m$). And, among the α which has the largest $e(\alpha)$, we pick the minimal one and denote it to be α_0 .

Let $\{J'_v\}$ be all J_v 's that do not contain α_0 . And we determine β_0 from these $\{J'_v\}$ just as α_0 from $\{J_v\}$, and so on. Thus, we have the system $(\alpha_0, \beta_0, \dots, \gamma_0)$, where $2 \leq \alpha_0, \beta_0, \dots, \gamma_0 \leq n$ and $e(\alpha_0) + e(\beta_0) + \dots + e(\gamma_0) = r - 1$. For this system, comparing the coefficients of the term $x_1^{m-r+1} \cdot x_{\alpha_0}^{e(\alpha_0)} \cdot x_{\beta_0}^{e(\beta_0)} \cdot \dots \cdot x_{\gamma_0}^{e(\gamma_0)}$ of $F(X)$ and $F(XA)$, we have $\lambda_{1r+1} \cdot \lambda_{1r+2} \cdot \dots \cdot \lambda_{1n} = 0$. So, we can assume $\lambda_{1r+1} = 0$, multiplying a permutation matrix to A . Thus, we have proved that $\lambda_{12} = \lambda_{13} = \dots = \lambda_{1n} = 0$. Then, from this it is easily seen that $\lambda_{21} = \lambda_{31} = \dots = \lambda_{n1} = 0$. By the induction with respect to m , we can prove that A is equal to the product of a diagonal matrix D and a permutation matrix P .

Let \mathfrak{D} be the subgroup of $G(F)$ generated by all diagonal matrices of $G(F)$. Then it is easily seen that \mathfrak{D} is the normal subgroup of $G(F)$ and is isomorphic to the direct product of $(m-1)$ copies of k^* , and $\mathfrak{D} \cap S_m = (I)$. This completes the proof.