

99. Groups of Isometries of Pseudo-Hermitian Spaces. II

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In the previous paper [4] we have given Theorem 4, in which the assumption $n \neq 3$, $n > 1$ must be added. The notation and assumptions being as in the previous, we can state the following theorem including the case $n=3$.

THEOREM 4. *Let G/H be a homogeneous pseudo-Hermitian space of dimension $2n$ and $\dim G = n^2 + 2n - 1$ ($n > 1$). If $n \neq 3$, G/H is flat and homeomorphic to E^{2n} and the group G is isomorphic to $S\mathcal{M}_H(n)$. If $n=3$, G/H is flat or of positive constant curvature.*

In case $n=3$ and G/H is flat, the conclusion is the same as in the general case. In case $n=3$ and G/H is of positive constant curvature, G/H is homeomorphic to a sphere S^6 of dimension 6 and the group G is isomorphic to a compact exceptional simple group of type (G).

PROOF. Since H is isomorphic to $SU(n)$, there exists in the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} a subspace \mathfrak{m} such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{g} &= \mathfrak{m} + \mathfrak{h} && \text{(direct sum as vector space),} \\ [\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{m}] &\subset \mathfrak{m}, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathfrak{h} is the subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} corresponding to the subgroup H and $[\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{m}]$ denotes the subspace spanned by all elements of the form $[U, X]$, $U \in \mathfrak{h}$, $X \in \mathfrak{m}$.

First, we have easily

$$[\mathfrak{h}, [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}]] \subset [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}],$$

where $[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}]$ denotes the subspace spanned by all elements of the form $[X, Y]$, $X, Y \in \mathfrak{m}$. Since \mathfrak{h} is simple, one of the following four cases occurs:

$$[\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] = \{0\}, \quad [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{m}, \quad [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{h}, \quad [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{g}.$$

The first three cases have been discussed in the previous paper. When the last case occurs, it is easily seen that \mathfrak{g} is simple and $\dim \mathfrak{g} = n^2 + 2n - 1$. Looking over the table of simple Lie algebras due to É. Cartan [2, p. 49], we see that, if there exists such a simple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , n must be 3 and \mathfrak{g} the exceptional simple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}_{14} of type (G) which is of rank 2 and of dimension 14. Thus Theorem 4 is proved for $n \neq 3$.

To prove Theorem 4 for $n=3$, assume that \mathfrak{g} has the structure of the exceptional simple Lie algebra of type (G). It has been proved by É. Cartan [3, pp. 292-298] that there exist exactly two