

Bielefeld University Faculty of Physics	Symmetries in Physics WS 2025/2026	Prof. Dr. Jürgen Schnack jschnack@uni-bielefeld.de
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12 Problem sheet

12.1 IN CLASS: Jacobi identity

- a. State the Jacobi identity.
- b. Prove the Jacobi identity for angular momenta (spins, orbital angular momenta). This is actually somewhat trivial.
- c. Therefore, prove the Jacobi identity for linear maps A, B, C on some vector space V .

12.2 AT HOME: $O(2)$

We consider the group $O(2)$. This group contains matrices of two types

$$A_1(\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix}, \quad (19)$$

$$A_2(\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & -\cos \alpha \end{pmatrix}. \quad (20)$$

- a. Show that both matrices fulfill the definition of $O(2)$.
- b. What is the difference between the two types in terms of what they do and mathematically?
- c. Calculate the distance of both types to $\mathbf{1}$. Repeat the matrix definition of distance.
- d. Determine the generators? How many do you get? Give a geometrical interpretation.
- e. **extra:** How do you like the equations (4.34a), (4.34b) und (4.35b) in the book of Böhm?

12.3 AT HOME: Heisenberg group

We consider the Heisenberg group.

- a. The three operators \tilde{x}, \tilde{p} , and $i\hbar\mathbf{1}$ form a real Lie algebra (the Heisenberg algebra) which is closed under taking commutators. Give the commutation relations.

- b. The Heisenberg group has a three-dimensional representation by upper triangular matrices of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & c \\ 0 & 1 & b \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (21)$$

where $a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$. Show that this matrix group is a Lie group with Lie algebra isomorphic to the one considered in (a).

- c. Is the Heisenberg group a simple or semi-simple Lie group? This is a real challenge!!! Look into the book of Ludwig and Falter pages 273 and 274.