

The Algebra of Grand Unified Theories

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Oral Exam Presentation

This talk is an introduction to the representation theory used in

- ▶ The Standard Model of Particle Physics (SM);
- ▶ Certain extensions of the SM, called Grand Unified Theories (GUTs).

There's a lot I won't talk about:

- ▶ quantum field theory;
- ▶ spontaneous symmetry breaking;
- ▶ any sort of dynamics.

This stuff is *essential* to particle physics. What I discuss here is just one small piece.

There's a loose correspondence between particle physics and representation theory:

- ▶ Particles \rightarrow basis vectors in a representation V of a Lie group G .
- ▶ Classification of particles \rightarrow decomposition into irreps.
- ▶ Unification $\rightarrow G \hookrightarrow H$; particles are “unified” into fewer irreps.
- ▶ Grand Unification \rightarrow as above, but H is simple.
- ▶ The Standard Model \rightarrow a particular representation V_{SM} of a particular Lie group G_{SM} .

The Standard Model group is

$$G_{\text{SM}} = \text{U}(1) \times \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(3)$$

- ▶ The factor $\text{U}(1) \times \text{SU}(2)$ corresponds to the *electroweak force*. It represents a unification of electromagnetism and the weak force.
- ▶ Spontaneous symmetry breaking makes the electromagnetic and weak forces look different; at high energies, they're the same.
- ▶ $\text{SU}(3)$ corresponds to the *strong force*, which binds quarks together. No symmetry breaking here.

Standard Model Representation		
Name	Symbol	G_{SM} -representation
Left-handed leptons	$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \\ e_L^- \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbb{C}_{-1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}$
Left-handed quarks	$\begin{pmatrix} u_L^r, u_L^g, u_L^b \\ d_L^r, d_L^g, d_L^b \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbb{C}_{\frac{1}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$
Right-handed neutrino	ν_R	$\mathbb{C}_0 \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}$
Right-handed electron	e_R^-	$\mathbb{C}_{-2} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}$
Right-handed up quarks	u_R^r, u_R^g, u_R^b	$\mathbb{C}_{\frac{4}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$
Right-handed down quarks	d_R^r, d_R^g, d_R^b	$\mathbb{C}_{-\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$

Here, we've written a bunch of $G_{\text{SM}} = \text{U}(1) \times \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(3)$ irreps as $U \otimes V \otimes W$, where

- ▶ U is a $\text{U}(1)$ irrep \mathbb{C}_Y , where $Y \in \frac{1}{3}\mathbb{Z}$. The underlying vector space is just \mathbb{C} , and the action is given by

$$\alpha \cdot z = \alpha^{3Y} z, \quad \alpha \in \text{U}(1), z \in \mathbb{C}$$

- ▶ V is an $\text{SU}(2)$ irrep, either \mathbb{C} or \mathbb{C}^2 .
- ▶ W is an $\text{SU}(3)$ irrep, either \mathbb{C} or \mathbb{C}^3 .

Physicists use these irreps to classify the particles:

- ▶ The number Y in \mathbb{C}_Y is called the *hypercharge*.
- ▶ $\mathbb{C}^2 = \langle u, d \rangle$; u and d are called *isospin up* and *isospin down*.
- ▶ $\mathbb{C}^3 = \langle r, g, b \rangle$; r , g , and b are called *red*, *green*, and *blue*.

For example:

- ▶ $u_L^r = 1 \otimes u \otimes r \in \mathbb{C}_{\frac{1}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$, say “the red left-handed up quark is the hypercharge $\frac{1}{3}$, isospin up, red particle.”
- ▶ $e_R^- = 1 \otimes 1 \otimes 1 \in \mathbb{C}_{-2} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}$, say “the right-handed electron is the hypercharge -2 isospin singlet which is colorless.”

- ▶ We take the direct sum of all these irreps, defining the reducible representation,

$$F = \mathbb{C}_{-1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{C}_{-\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$$

which we'll call the *fermions*.

- ▶ We also have the *antifermions*, F^* , which is just the dual of F .
- ▶ Direct summing these, we get the *Standard Model representation*

$$V_{\text{SM}} = F \oplus F^*$$

The GUTs Goal:

- ▶ $G_{\text{SM}} = \text{U}(1) \times \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(3)$ is a mess!
- ▶ $V_{\text{SM}} = \mathbb{C}_{-1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{C}_{\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{3*}$ is a mess!
- ▶ Explain the hypercharges!
- ▶ Explain other patterns:
 - ▶ $\dim V_{\text{SM}} = 32 = 2^5$;
 - ▶ symmetry between quarks and leptons;
 - ▶ asymmetry between left and right.

The GUTs trick: if V is a representation of G and $G_{\text{SM}} \subseteq G$, then

- ▶ V is also representation of G_{SM} ;
- ▶ V may break apart into more G_{SM} -irreps than G -irreps.

More precisely, we want:

- ▶ A homomorphism $\phi: G_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow G$.
- ▶ A unitary representation $\rho: G \rightarrow U(V)$.
- ▶ An isomorphism of vector spaces $f: V_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow V$.
- ▶ Such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & G \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \rho \\
 U(V_{\text{SM}}) & \xrightarrow{U(f)} & U(V)
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

In short: V becomes isomorphic to V_{SM} when we restrict from G to G_{SM} .

The SU(5) GUT, due to Georgi and Glashow, is all about “2 isospins + 3 colors = 5 things”:

- ▶ Take $\mathbb{C}^5 = \langle u, d, r, g, b \rangle$.
- ▶ \mathbb{C}^5 is a representation of SU(5), as is the 32-dimensional exterior algebra:

$$\Lambda \mathbb{C}^5 \cong \Lambda^0 \mathbb{C}^5 \oplus \Lambda^1 \mathbb{C}^5 \oplus \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}^5 \oplus \Lambda^3 \mathbb{C}^5 \oplus \Lambda^4 \mathbb{C}^5 \oplus \Lambda^5 \mathbb{C}^5$$

- ▶ **Theorem** There's a homomorphism $\phi: G_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow \text{SU}(5)$ and a linear isomorphism $h: V_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow \Lambda \mathbb{C}^5$ making

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \text{SU}(5) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ U(V_{\text{SM}}) & \xrightarrow{U(h)} & U(\Lambda \mathbb{C}^5) \end{array}$$

commute.

Proof

- ▶ Let $S(U(2) \times U(3)) \subseteq SU(5)$ be the subgroup preserving the $2 + 3$ splitting $\mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C}^3 \cong \mathbb{C}^5$.
- ▶ Can find $\phi: G_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow S(U(2) \times U(3)) \subseteq SU(5)$.
- ▶ The representation $\wedge \mathbb{C}^5$ of $SU(5)$ is isomorphic to V_{SM} when pulled back to G_{SM} .

We define ϕ by

$$\phi: (\alpha, g, h) \in U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3) \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^3 g & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha^{-2} h \end{pmatrix} \in SU(5)$$

ϕ maps G_{SM} onto $S(U(2) \times U(3))$, but it has a kernel:

$$\ker \phi = \{(\alpha, \alpha^{-3}, \alpha^2) \mid \alpha^6 = 1\} \cong \mathbb{Z}_6$$

Thus

$$G_{\text{SM}}/\mathbb{Z}_6 \cong S(U(2) \times U(3))$$

The subgroup $\mathbb{Z}_6 \subseteq G_{\text{SM}}$ acts trivially on V_{SM} .

Because G_{SM} respects the $2 + 3$ splitting

$$\Lambda \mathbb{C}^5 \cong \Lambda(\mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C}^3) \cong \Lambda \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \Lambda \mathbb{C}^3$$

As a G_{SM} -representation,

$$\Lambda \mathbb{C}^2 \cong \mathbb{C}_0 \otimes \Lambda^0 \mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C}_1 \otimes \Lambda^1 \mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C}_2 \otimes \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}^2$$

As a G_{SM} -representation,

$$\Lambda \mathbb{C}^3 \cong \mathbb{C}_0 \otimes \Lambda^0 \mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \mathbb{C}_{-\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \Lambda^1 \mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \mathbb{C}_{-\frac{4}{3}} \otimes \Lambda^2 \mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \mathbb{C}_{-2} \otimes \Lambda^3 \mathbb{C}^3$$

Then tensor them together, use $\mathbb{C}^2 \cong \mathbb{C}^{2*}$ and $\mathbb{C}_{Y_1} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{Y_2} \cong \mathbb{C}_{Y_1+Y_2}$ to see how

$$V_{\text{SM}} \cong \Lambda \mathbb{C}^5$$

as G_{SM} -representations.

Thus there's a linear isomorphism $h: V_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow \Lambda \mathbb{C}^5$ making

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \text{SU}(5) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{U}(V_{\text{SM}}) & \xrightarrow{\text{U}(h)} & \text{U}(\Lambda \mathbb{C}^5) \end{array}$$

commute.

The idea of the Pati–Salam model, due to Pati and Salam:

- ▶ Unify the $\mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \mathbb{C}$ representation of $SU(3)$ into the irrep \mathbb{C}^4 of $SU(4)$.
- ▶ This creates explicit symmetry between quarks and leptons.
- ▶ Unify the $\mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}$ representations of $SU(2)$ into the representation $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ of $SU(2) \times SU(2)$.
- ▶ This treats left and right more symmetrically.

Standard Model Representation		
Name	Symbol	G_{SM} -representation
Left-handed leptons	$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \\ e_L^- \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbb{C}_{-1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}$
Left-handed quarks	$\begin{pmatrix} u_L^r, u_L^g, u_L^b \\ d_L^r, d_L^g, d_L^b \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbb{C}_{\frac{1}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$
Right-handed neutrino	ν_R	$\mathbb{C}_0 \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}$
Right-handed electron	e_R^-	$\mathbb{C}_{-2} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}$
Right-handed up quarks	u_R^r, u_R^g, u_R^b	$\mathbb{C}_{\frac{4}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$
Right-handed down quarks	d_R^r, d_R^g, d_R^b	$\mathbb{C}_{-\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$

The Pati–Salam representation		
Name	Symbol	$SU(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(4)$ - representation
Left-handed fermions	$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_L, u_L^r, u_L^g, u_L^b \\ e_L^-, d_L^r, d_L^g, d_L^b \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$
Right-handed fermions	$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_R, u_R^r, u_R^g, u_R^b \\ e_R^-, d_R^r, d_R^g, d_R^b \end{pmatrix}$	$\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$

- ▶ Write $G_{PS} = SU(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(4)$.
- ▶ Write $V_{PS} = \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^4 \oplus \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^4 \oplus \text{dual}$.

To make the Pati–Salam model work, we need to prove

Theorem There exists maps $\theta: G_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow G_{\text{PS}}$ and $f: V_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow V_{\text{PS}}$ which make the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\theta} & G_{\text{PS}} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ U(V_{\text{SM}}) & \xrightarrow{U(f)} & U(V_{\text{PS}}) \end{array}$$

commute.

Proof

- ▶ Want $\theta: G_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(4)$:
- ▶ Pick θ so G_{SM} maps to a subgroup of $\text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(4)$ that preserves the $3 + 1$ splitting

$$\mathbb{C}^4 \cong \mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \mathbb{C}$$

and the $1 + 1$ splitting

$$\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \cong \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}$$

We need some facts:

- ▶ $\text{Spin}(2n)$ has a representation $\Lambda\mathbb{C}^n$, called the *Dirac spinors*.
- ▶ $\text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(2) \cong \text{Spin}(4)$, and $\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \cong \Lambda\mathbb{C}^2$
- ▶ $\text{SU}(4) \cong \text{Spin}(6)$, and $\mathbb{C}^4 \oplus \mathbb{C}^{4*} \cong \Lambda\mathbb{C}^3$.
- ▶ $V_{\text{PS}} \cong \Lambda\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \Lambda\mathbb{C}^3$ as a representation of $G_{\text{PS}} \cong \text{Spin}(4) \times \text{Spin}(6)$.
- ▶ $\mathbb{C}^4 \cong \Lambda^{\text{odd}}\mathbb{C}^3 \cong \Lambda^1\mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \Lambda^3\mathbb{C}^3$ has a $3 + 1$ splitting — the grading!
- ▶ $\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \cong \Lambda^{\text{ev}}\mathbb{C}^2 \cong \Lambda^0\mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \Lambda^2\mathbb{C}^2$ has a $1 + 1$ splitting — the grading!

Build θ so that

- ▶ θ maps G_{SM} onto the subgroup $S(U(3) \times U(1)) \subseteq \text{Spin}(6)$ that preserves the $3 + 1$ splitting:

$$(\alpha, x, y) \in U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3) \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \alpha y & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha^{-3} \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ θ maps G_{SM} onto the subgroup $SU(2) \times S(U(1) \times U(1)) \subseteq \text{Spin}(4)$ that preserves the $1 + 1$ splitting:

$$(\alpha, x, y) \in U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3) \mapsto \left(x, \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^3 & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha^{-3} \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

The payoff:As a G_{SM} -representation,

$$\Lambda C^2 \cong C_{-1} \otimes \Lambda^0 C^2 \oplus C_0 \otimes \Lambda^1 C^2 \oplus C_1 \otimes \Lambda^2 C^2$$

Earlier, we had

$$\Lambda C^2 \cong C_0 \otimes \Lambda^0 C^2 \oplus C_1 \otimes \Lambda^1 C^2 \oplus C_2 \otimes \Lambda^2 C^2$$

As a G_{SM} -representation,

$$\Lambda C^3 \cong C_1 \otimes \Lambda^0 C^3 \oplus C_{\frac{1}{3}} \otimes \Lambda^1 C^3 \oplus C_{-\frac{1}{3}} \otimes \Lambda^2 C^3 \oplus C_{-1} \otimes \Lambda^3 C^3$$

Earlier, we had

$$\Lambda C^3 \cong C_0 \otimes \Lambda^0 C^3 \oplus C_{-\frac{2}{3}} \otimes \Lambda^1 C^3 \oplus C_{-\frac{4}{3}} \otimes \Lambda^2 C^3 \oplus C_{-2} \otimes \Lambda^3 C^3$$

We can recycle the fact that $V_{\text{SM}} \cong \Lambda\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \Lambda\mathbb{C}^3$ from the $SU(5)$ theory.

Thus there's an isomorphism of vector spaces

$f: V_{\text{SM}} \rightarrow \Lambda\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \Lambda\mathbb{C}^3$ such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\theta} & \text{Spin}(4) \times \text{Spin}(6) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 U(V_{\text{SM}}) & \xrightarrow{U(f)} & U(\Lambda\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \Lambda\mathbb{C}^3)
 \end{array}$$

commutes.

Extend the $SU(5)$ theory to get the Spin(10) theory, due to Georgi:

- ▶ In general,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} SU(n) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & Spin(2n) \\ & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & U(\Lambda\mathbb{C}^n) \end{array}$$

- ▶ Set $n = 5$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} SU(5) & \xrightarrow{\psi} & Spin(10) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ U(\Lambda\mathbb{C}^5) & \xrightarrow{1} & U(\Lambda\mathbb{C}^5) \end{array}$$

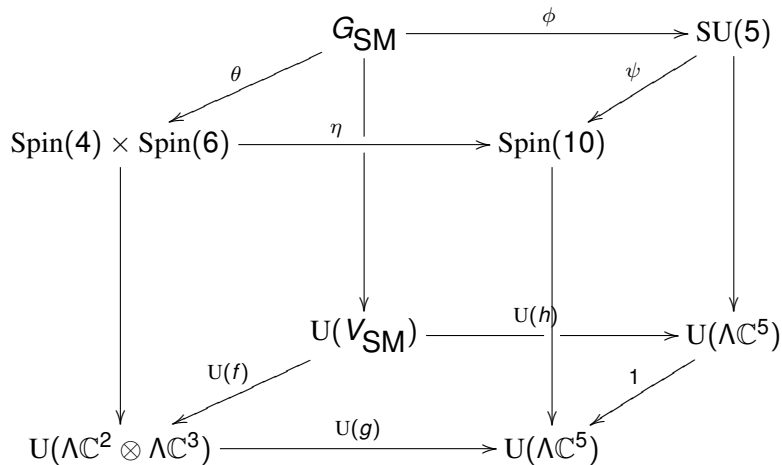
Or extend the Pati–Salam model:

- ▶ In general,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Spin}(2n) \times \text{Spin}(2m) & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \text{Spin}(2n + 2m) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{U}(\wedge \mathbb{C}^n \otimes \wedge \mathbb{C}^m) & \xrightarrow{\text{U}(g)} & \text{U}(\wedge \mathbb{C}^{n+m})
 \end{array}$$

- ▶ Set $n = 2$ and $m = 3$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{Spin}(4) \times \text{Spin}(6) & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \text{Spin}(10) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \text{U}(\wedge \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \wedge \mathbb{C}^3) & \xrightarrow{\text{U}(g)} & \text{U}(\wedge \mathbb{C}^5)
 \end{array}$$

Theorem The cube of GUTs

commutes.

Proof

- ▶ The vertical faces of the cube commute.
- ▶ The two maps from G_{SM} to $U(\Lambda\mathbb{C}^5)$ are equal:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \text{SU}(5) \\
 \theta \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi \\
 \text{Spin}(4) \times \text{Spin}(6) & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \text{Spin}(10) \longrightarrow \text{U}(\Lambda\mathbb{C}^5)
 \end{array}$$

- ▶ $\Lambda\mathbb{C}^5$ is a faithful representation of $\text{Spin}(10)$ — **the top face commutes:**

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{\phi} & \text{SU}(5) \\
 \theta \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi \\
 \text{Spin}(4) \times \text{Spin}(6) & \xrightarrow{\eta} & \text{Spin}(10)
 \end{array}$$

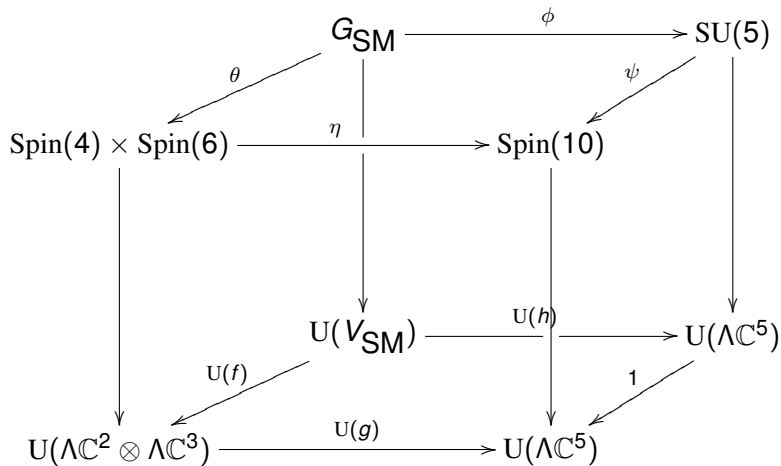
- ▶ The intertwiners commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V_{\text{SM}} & \xrightarrow{h} & \Lambda C^5 \\
 f \downarrow & \nearrow g & \\
 \Lambda C^2 \otimes \Lambda C^3 & &
 \end{array}$$

- ▶ **The bottom face commutes:**

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 U(V_{\text{SM}}) & \xrightarrow{U(h)} & U(\Lambda C^5) \\
 U(f) \downarrow & & \downarrow 1 \\
 U(\Lambda C^2 \otimes \Lambda C^3) & \xrightarrow{U(g)} & U(\Lambda C^5)
 \end{array}$$

Thus the cube



commutes.