

## **Algebraic Structures and Operator Calculus**

# Mathematics and Its Applications

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Volume 347

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# Algebraic Structures and Operator Calculus

## Volume III: Representations of Lie Groups

by

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The MAPLE programming code pertaining to this book is available by anonymous ftp from:  
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[ftp://ftp.wkap.nl/software/algebraic\\_structures/lie-mapl.zip](ftp://ftp.wkap.nl/software/algebraic_structures/lie-mapl.zip).



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*To our families and friends*

## Table of Contents

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <b>Preface</b> .....  | ix  |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....                                     | .   |
| I. General remarks .....                                      | 1   |
| II. Notations .....   | 5   |
| III. Lie algebras: some basics .....                          | 8   |
| <b>Chapter 1 Operator calculus and Appell systems</b>         |     |
| I. Boson calculus .....                                       | 17  |
| II. Holomorphic canonical calculus .....                      | 18  |
| III. Canonical Appell systems .....                           | 23  |
| <b>Chapter 2 Representations of Lie groups</b>                |     |
| I. Coordinates on Lie groups .....                            | 28  |
| II. Dual representations .....                                | 29  |
| III. Matrix elements .....                                    | 37  |
| IV. Induced representations and homogeneous spaces .....      | 40  |
| <b>Chapter 3 General Appell systems</b>                       |     |
| I. Convolution and stochastic processes .....                 | 44  |
| II. Stochastic processes on Lie groups .....                  | 46  |
| III. Appell systems on Lie groups .....                       | 49  |
| <b>Chapter 4 Canonical systems in several variables</b>       |     |
| I. Homogeneous spaces and Cartan decompositions .....         | 54  |
| II. Induced representation and coherent states .....          | 62  |
| III. Orthogonal polynomials in several variables .....        | 68  |
| <b>Chapter 5 Algebras with discrete spectrum</b>              |     |
| I. Calculus on groups: review of the theory .....             | 83  |
| II. Finite-difference algebra .....                           | 85  |
| III. $q$ -HW algebra and basic hypergeometric functions ..... | 89  |
| IV. $su_2$ and Krawtchouk polynomials .....                   | 93  |
| V. $e_2$ and Lommel polynomials .....                         | 101 |
| <b>Chapter 6 Nilpotent and solvable algebras</b>              |     |
| I. Heisenberg algebras .....                                  | 113 |
| II. Type-H Lie algebras .....                                 | 118 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| III. Upper-triangular matrices .....                       | 125        |
| IV. Affine and Euclidean algebras .....                    | 127        |
| <b>Chapter 7 Hermitian symmetric spaces</b>                |            |
| I. Basic structures .....                                  | 131        |
| II. Space of rectangular matrices .....                    | 133        |
| III. Space of skew-symmetric matrices .....                | 136        |
| IV. Space of symmetric matrices .....                      | 143        |
| <b>Chapter 8 Properties of matrix elements</b>             |            |
| I. Addition formulas .....                                 | 147        |
| II. Recurrences .....                                      | 148        |
| III. Quotient representations and summation formulas ..... | 149        |
| <b>Chapter 9 Symbolic computations</b>                     |            |
| I. Computing the pi-matrices .....                         | 153        |
| II. Adjoint group .....                                    | 154        |
| III. Recursive computation of matrix elements .....        | 154        |
| IV. Symbolic computation of Appell systems .....           | 155        |
| <b>MAPLE output and procedures .....</b>                   | <b>157</b> |
| <b>References .....</b>                                    | <b>221</b> |
| <b>Index .....</b>   | <b>225</b> |

## Preface

The discovery of quantum theory showed that non-commutative structures are a fundamental feature of the physical world. One of the points we would like to emphasize is that the same is true in mathematics: non-commutative structures are natural and essential in mathematics. In fact, they explain many properties of mathematical objects — at a profound level.

In this work we answer some basic questions about Lie algebras and Lie groups.

- 1) Given a Lie algebra, for example, in matrix terms, or by prescribed commutation relations, how can one get a realization that gives some idea of what it ‘looks like.’ We present a concrete theory of representations with an emphasis on techniques suitable for (efficient) symbolic computing.
- 2) How do classical mathematical constructs interact with Lie structures? We take stochastic processes as an example. One can think of a Lie group as a non-commutative ‘black box’ and map functions, such as processes or trajectories of a dynamical system via the Lie algebra, and see what comes out.

Although some familiarity with groups is prerequisite, the basic methods used to find representations do not involve advanced knowledge. In fact, this is one of our main points. This book provides the reader techniques with which doing calculus on non-commutative structures can become as basic a tool as calculus on Euclidean space is presently.

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