

# **The intersection of two real forms in Hermitian symmetric spaces of compact type**

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## 1. Introduction

Tasaki studied the intersection of two real forms in the complex hyperquadric  $Q_n(\mathbb{C})$  which is isometric to the 2-oriented Grassmannian manifold  $\tilde{G}_2(\mathbb{R}^{n+2})$ . He determined the intersection of two real forms  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  in  $Q_n(\mathbb{C})$  (Tohoku Math. J., 2010).

$\implies$

- $L_1 \cap L_2$  is an antipodal set, i.e.,  $s_x(y) = y$  for  $\forall x, y \in L_1 \cap L_2$ .
- $\#(L_1 \cap L_2) = \min\{\#_2 L_1, \#_2 L_2\}$

where  $\#_2 L_i$  is  $\max\{\#A \mid A \subset L_i : \text{antipodal set}\}$ .

In order to extend Tasaki's result we studied the intersection of two real forms  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  in a Hermitian symmetric space  $M$  of compact type (J. Math. Soc. Japan, 2012).

$\implies$

- $L_1 \cap L_2$  is an antipodal set.
- If  $M$  is irreducible, the equality  $\#(L_1 \cap L_2) = \min\{\#_2 L_1, \#_2 L_2\}$  holds with one exception.

Application of these results to Floer homology (Iriyeh-Sakai-Tasaki)

Tanaka-Tasaki (preprint)

- correction of the proof of the antipodal property of  $L_1 \cap L_2$ .
- investigation into the case where  $M$  is **not** irreducible.

$\implies$  We can reduce the problem to either the case where  $M$  is irreducible or the case where  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are diagonal real forms.

## 2. Preliminaries

### Definitions

$M$  : a Riemannian symmetric space

$s_x$  : the geodesic symmetry at  $x \in M$

$S \subset M$  : an antipodal set  $\stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall x, y \in S, s_x(y) = y$

The 2-number  $\#_2 M$  of  $M$

$$\#_2 M := \sup\{\#S \mid S \subset M : \text{antipodal set}\}$$

An antipodal set  $S$  is great if  $\#S = \#_2 M$ .

### Remarks

(1) These notions were introduced by B. -Y. Chen - Nagano (Trans. A. M. S, 1988).

(2)  $\#_2 M < \infty$

(3) If  $M$  is a symmetric  $R$ -space,  $\#_2 M = \dim H_*(M, \mathbb{Z}_2)$  (Takeuchi)

## Examples

(1)  $M = S^n$

$S = \{x, -x\}$  : a great antipodal set

$$\#_2 S^n = 2$$

(2)  $M = \mathbb{R}P^n$

$e_1, \dots, e_{n+1}$  : an o.n.b. of  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$

$S = \{\langle e_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle e_{n+1} \rangle\}$  : a great antipodal set

$$\#_2 \mathbb{R}P^n = n + 1$$

(3)  $M = U(n)$

$S = \{\text{diag}\{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1\}\}$  : a great antipodal set

$$\#_2 U(n) = 2^n$$

## Definition

$M$  : a compact Riemannian symmetric space

$G$  : the identity component of the isometry group of  $M$

$K$  : the isotropy subgroup at  $o \in M$

$$F(s_o, M) = \{x \in M \mid s_o(x) = x\} = \bigcup_{j=0}^r M_j^+$$

where  $M_j^+$  is a connected component and we set  $M_0^+ = \{o\}$ .

Each connected component  $M_j^+$  is called a polar w.r.t.  $o$ .  
Every polar is a  $K$ -orbit.

## Examples

(1)  $M = S^n$ ,  $F(s_o, M) = \{o, -o\}$

(2)  $M = \mathbb{R}P^n$ ,  $o = \langle e_1 \rangle$

$$F(s_o, M) = \{o\} \cup \{1 - \dim \text{ subspace } \subset \langle e_2, \dots, e_{n+1} \rangle\} (\cong \mathbb{R}P^{n-1})$$

## Definition

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space

$\tau$  : an involutive anti-holomorphic isometry of  $M$

$F(\tau, M) = \{x \in M \mid \tau(x) = x\}$ , which is a connected totally geodesic Lagrangian submanifold of  $M$ , is called a real form in  $M$ .

The classification of real forms in irreducible Hermitian symmetric spaces of compact type was given by Leung and Takeuchi.

We will give the classification of real forms in non-irreducible Hermitian symmetric spaces of compact type (Theorem 3.3).

## Example

$M = G_k(\mathbb{C}^n)$  : the Grassmannian manifold of  $k$ -dim subspaces in  $\mathbb{C}^n$

The real forms in  $M$  :

$$\begin{cases} G_k(\mathbb{R}^n) \\ G_l(\mathbb{H}^m) \text{ (if } k = 2l \text{ and } n = 2m) \\ U(k) \text{ (if } n = 2k) \end{cases}$$



### 3. Real forms in a non-irreducible Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

#### Definition

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space

$\tau$  : an anti-holomorphic isometry of  $M$

A map  $M \times M \ni (x, y) \mapsto (\tau^{-1}(y), \tau(x)) \in M \times M$  is an involutive anti-holomorphic isometry of  $M \times M$ .

The real form determined by the map is

$$D_\tau(M) := \{(x, \tau(x)) \mid x \in M\}$$

and it is called a diagonal real form in  $M \times M$ .

$A(M)$  : the group of the holomorphic isometries of  $M$

#### Remark

$$(g_1, g_2)D_\tau(M) = D_{g_2\tau g_1^{-1}}(M) \quad (g_1, g_2 \in A(M))$$

$I(M)$  : the group of the isometries of  $M$

### **Proposition 3.1**

$M$  : an irreducible Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$\implies$

(1) Every element in  $I(M) - A(M)$  is an anti-holomorphic isometry.

(2) The connected components of  $I(M) - A(M)$  corresponds to the congruent classes of diagonal real forms bijectively by the correspondence  $\tau \mapsto D_\tau(M)$ .

Two diagonal real forms are congruent if there exists an element in  $A_0(M \times M)$  which maps one to another.

**Lemma 3.2** (Murakami, Takeuchi)

$M$  : an irreducible Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$I_0(M)$  : the identity component of  $I(M)$

$A_0(M)$  : the identity component of  $A(M)$

$\implies$

(A) If  $M = Q_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) or  $M = G_m(\mathbb{C}^{2m})$  ( $m \geq 2$ ),

$$I(M)/I_0(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad A(M)/A_0(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2.$$

(B) Otherwise,

$$I(M)/I_0(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 \quad \text{and} \quad A(M) = A_0(M).$$

**Remark**

Since  $M$  is a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type,  $I_0(M) = A_0(M)$ . Hence  $I(M)/A(M) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  in both cases (A) and (B).

In particular, there are two congruent classes of diagonal real forms in  $M \times M$  for  $M$  in (A) and there is one congruent class of diagonal real forms in  $M \times M$  for  $M$  in (B).

### **Theorem 3.3** (Tanaka-Tasaki)

A real form in a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type is a product of real forms in irreducible factors and diagonal real forms.

### **Theorem 3.4** (Tanaka-Tasaki)

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$M = M_1 \times \cdots \times M_m$  : the decomposition of  $M$  into a product of irreducible factors

$L_1, L_2$  : real forms in  $M$

$\implies$

Each  $L_i$  has a decomposition  $L_i = L_{i,1} \times \cdots \times L_{i,n}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) and

for each  $a$  ( $1 \leq a \leq n$ ) a pair of  $L_{1,a}$  and  $L_{2,a}$  is one of the following:

(1) Each  $L_{i,a}$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) is a real form in an irreducible factor of  $M$ .

(2) After renumbering  $M_j$ 's if we need,

$$L_{1,a} = N_1 \times D_{\tau_2}(M_2) \times D_{\tau_4}(M_4) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s}}(M_{2s}) \quad \text{and}$$

$$L_{2,a} = D_{\tau_1}(M_1) \times D_{\tau_3}(M_3) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-1}}(M_{2s-1}) \times N_{2s+1}$$

(or the opposite case) where  $N_1 \subset M_1$  and  $N_{2s+1} \subset M_{2s+1}$  are real forms and  $\tau_i : M_i \rightarrow M_{i+1}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 2s$ ) is an anti-holomorphic isometric map.

(3) After renumbering  $M_j$ 's if we need,

$$L_{1,a} = N_1 \times D_{\tau_2}(M_2) \times D_{\tau_4}(M_4) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-2}}(M_{2s-2}) \times N_{2s} \quad \text{and}$$

$$L_{2,a} = D_{\tau_1}(M_1) \times D_{\tau_3}(M_3) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-3}}(M_{2s-3}) \times D_{\tau_{2s-1}}(M_{2s-1})$$


(or the opposite case) where  $N_1 \subset M_1$  and  $N_{2s} \subset M_{2s}$  are real forms and  $\tau_i : M_i \rightarrow M_{i+1}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 2s-1$ ) is an anti-holomorphic isometric map.

(4) After renumbering  $M_j$ 's if we need,

$$L_{1,a} = D_{\tau_2}(M_2) \times D_{\tau_4}(M_4) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s}}(M_{2s}) \quad \text{and}$$

$$L_{2,a} = D_{\tau_1}(M_1) \times D_{\tau_3}(M_3) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-1}}(M_{2s-1})$$

(or the opposite case) where  $\tau_i : M_i \rightarrow M_{i+1}$  ( $1 \leq i \leq 2s - 1$ ) and  $\tau_{2s} : M_{2s} \rightarrow M_1$  are anti-holomorphic isometric maps.

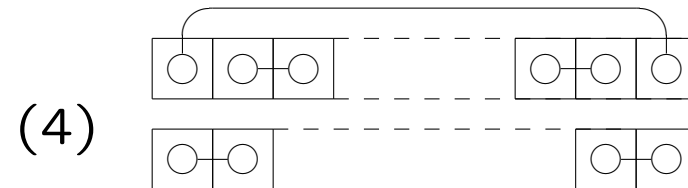
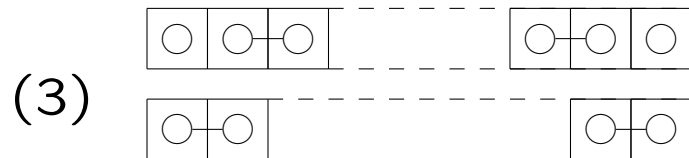
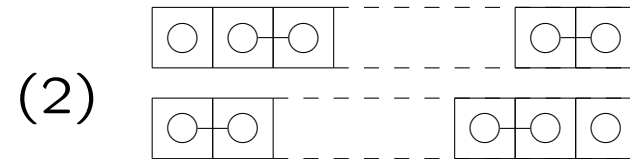
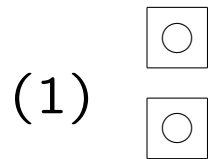
 : an irreducible H.s.s. of compact type

 : a real form in an irreducible H.s.s. of compact type

 : a product of two irreducible H.s.s. of compact type

 : a product of real forms in irreducible factors

 : a diagonal real form



## 4. The intersection of two real forms

### Theorem 4.1 (Tanaka-Tasaki)

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$L_1, L_2$  : real forms in  $M$

$L_1 \cap L_2$  : discrete

$\implies$

$L_1 \cap L_2$  is an antipodal set of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ .

### Outline of Proof

Since the holomorphic sectional curvatures of  $M > 0$ ,

$L_1 \cap L_2 \neq \emptyset$  (Tasaki).

We may assume that a base point  $o \in M$  is contained in  $L_1 \cap L_2$ .

We will prove  $s_o(p) = p$  for  $\forall p \in L_1 \cap L_2 - \{o\}$ .

Let  $A_i$  be a maximal torus of  $L_i$  containing  $o$  and  $p$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

Let  $\mathfrak{a}_i$  be a maximal abelian subspace corresponding to  $A_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ).



Let  $A'_i$  be a maximal torus of  $M$  containing  $A_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

Let  $\mathfrak{a}'_i$  be a maximal abelian subspace corresponding  $A'_i$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ).

$\text{Exp}_o t H_2$  ( $H_2 \in \mathfrak{a}_2$ ) : a shortest geodesic segment from  $o$  to  $p$  in  $A_2$

$\implies$  It is also shortest in  $A'_2$  (because of the convexity of  $A_2$ ).

$\implies$  We can choose a fundamental root system  $\Pi_2$  of the restricted root system of  $M$  w.r.t.  $\mathfrak{a}'_2$  so that the fundamental cell  $S_2$  determined by  $\Pi_2$  satisfies  $H_2 \in \overline{S_2}$ .

Since  $\overline{S_2} = \bigcup_{\Delta \in \Pi_2^\#} S_2^\Delta$  (direct sum),  $\exists^1 \Delta_2 \in \Pi_2^\#$  s.t.  $H_2 \in S_2^{\Delta_2}$ .

By using Takeuchi's result we obtain

$$\text{Exp}_o S_2^{\Delta_2} \subset A'_1 \cap A'_2$$

Irreducible cases :

Since the root system of  $M$  is of type  $C$  or type  $BC$ , we obtain

$$\text{Exp}_o S_2^{\Delta_2} \subset A_1 \cap A_2$$

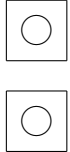
by using Takeuchi's result.

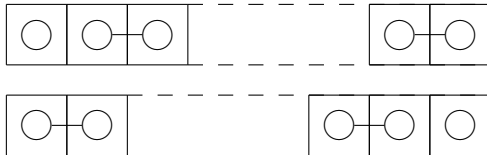
Since the intersection  $L_1 \cap L_2$  is discrete by the assumption,  $S_2^{\Delta_2}$  is a vertex of  $\overline{S_2}$ .

$$\implies s_o(p) = p$$

Non-irreducible cases :

It is sufficient to consider (1)-(4) in Theorem 3.4.

(1)   $\implies$  irreducible case

(2) 

$$N_1 \times D_{\tau_2}(M_2) \times D_{\tau_4}(M_4) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s}}(M_{2s})$$

$$D_{\tau_1}(M_1) \times D_{\tau_3}(M_3) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-1}}(M_{2s-1}) \times N_{2s+1}$$

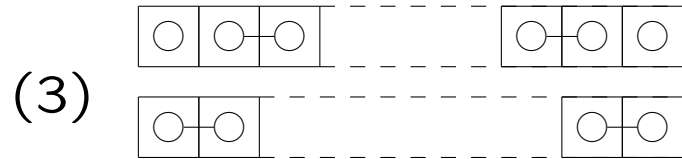
The intersection is

$$\{(x, \tau_1(x), \tau_2\tau_1(x), \dots, \tau_{2s}\tau_{2s-1} \cdots \tau_1(x)) \mid x \in N_1 \cap (\tau_{2s}\tau_{2s-1} \cdots \tau_1)^{-1}(N_{2s+1})\}$$

$\implies$  This case is reduced to an irreducible case.

**Remark**

$(\tau_{2s}\tau_{2s-1}\cdots\tau_1)^{-1}(N_{2s+1})$  is a real form in  $M_1$ .



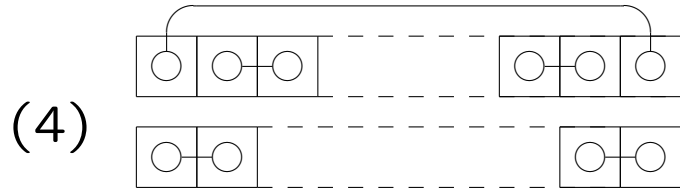
$$N_1 \times D_{\tau_2}(M_2) \times D_{\tau_4}(M_4) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-2}}(M_{2s-2}) \times N_{2s}$$

$$D_{\tau_1}(M_1) \times D_{\tau_3}(M_3) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-3}}(M_{2s-3}) \times D_{\tau_{2s-1}}(M_{2s-1})$$

The intersection is

$$\{(x, \tau_1(x), \tau_2\tau_1(x), \dots, \tau_{2s-1}\cdots\tau_1(x)) \mid x \in N_1 \cap (\tau_{2s-1}\cdots\tau_1)^{-1}(N_{2s})\}.$$

$\implies$  This case is reduced to an irreducible case.



$$D_{\tau_2}(M_2) \times D_{\tau_4}(M_4) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s}}(M_{2s})$$

$$D_{\tau_1}(M_1) \times D_{\tau_3}(M_3) \times \cdots \times D_{\tau_{2s-1}}(M_{2s-1})$$

The intersection is

$$\{(x, \tau_1(x), \tau_2\tau_1(x), \dots, \tau_{2s-1} \cdots \tau_1(x)) \\ | (x, \tau_{2s}^{-1}(x)) \in D_{\tau_{2s-1} \cdots \tau_1}(M_1) \cap D_{\tau_{2s}^{-1}}(M_1)\}.$$

$\implies$  This case is reduced to the case of two diagonal real forms which is the simplest case of (4).

To summarize, in the non-irreducible cases we only need to investigate the intersection of two diagonal real forms. And by the similar argument to the irreducible cases we obtain  $s_o(p) = p$ .

## Definition

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$L_1, L_2$  : real forms in  $M$

$L_1$  and  $L_2$  are congruent if  $\exists g \in A_0(M)$  s.t.  $g(L_1) = L_2$ .

## Theorem 4.2 (Tanaka-Tasaki)

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$L_1, L_2$  : real forms in  $M$ , congruent

$L_1 \cap L_2$  : discrete

$\implies$

$L_1 \cap L_2$  is a great antipodal set of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$ ,

i.e.,  $\#(L_1 \cap L_2) = \#_2 L_1 = \#_2 L_2$ .

### Theorem 4.3 (Tanaka-Tasaki)

$M$  : an **irreducible** Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$L_1, L_2$  : real forms in  $M$ ,  $\#_2 L_1 \leq \#_2 L_2$

$L_1 \cap L_2$  : discrete

$\implies$

(1) If  $M = G_{2m}(\mathbb{C}^{4m})$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) and  $L_1$  is congruent to  $G_m(\mathbb{H}^{2m})$  and  $L_2$  is congruent to  $U(2m)$ ,

$$\#(L_1 \cap L_2) = 2^m < \binom{2m}{m} = \#_2 L_1 < 2^{2m} = \#_2 L_2.$$

(2) Otherwise,

$$\#(L_1 \cap L_2) = \#_2 L_1 (\leq \#_2 L_2).$$

We prove Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 4.3 by induction on polars which is based on the next lemma.

## Lemma 4.4

$M$  : a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$o \in M$

$$F(s_o, M) = \bigcup_{j=0}^r M_j^+, \quad M_j^+ : \text{a polar}$$

(1)  $L$  : a real form in  $M$ ,  $o \in L$

$\implies$

(i) If  $\dim M_j^+ > 0$ ,  $M_j^+$  is a Hermitian symmetric space of compact type. Moreover, if  $L \cap M_j^+ \neq \emptyset$ ,  $L \cap M_j^+$  is a real form in  $M_j^+$ .

$$(ii) \quad F(s_o, L) = \bigcup_{j=0}^r L \cap M_j^+$$

$$\#_2 L = \sum_{j=0}^r \#_2(L \cap M_j^+)$$



(2)  $L_1, L_2$  : real forms in  $M$ ,  $o \in L_1 \cap L_2$

$L_1 \cap L_2$  : discrete

$\implies$

$$L_1 \cap L_2 = \bigcup_{j=0}^r \{(L_1 \cap M_j^+) \cap (L_2 \cap M_j^+)\}$$

$$\#(L_1 \cap L_2) = \sum_{j=0}^r \# \{(L_1 \cap M_j^+) \cap (L_2 \cap M_j^+)\}$$

### Theorem 4.5 (Tanaka-Tasaki)

$M$  : an irreducible Hermitian symmetric space of compact type

$\tau_1, \tau_2$  : anti-holomorphic isometries of  $M$

$D_{\tau_1}(M), D_{\tau_2^{-1}}(M) \subset M \times M$  : diagonal real forms

$D_{\tau_1}(M) \cap D_{\tau_2^{-1}}(M)$  : discrete

$\implies$

(1) If  $M = Q_{2m}(\mathbb{C})$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) and  $\tau_2\tau_1 \notin A_0(M)$ ,

$$\#(D_{\tau_1}(M) \cap D_{\tau_2^{-1}}(M)) = 2m < 2m + 2 = \#_2 M.$$

(2) If  $M = G_m(\mathbb{C}^{2m})$  ( $m \geq 2$ ) and  $\tau_2\tau_1 \notin A_0(M)$ ,

$$\#(D_{\tau_1}(M) \cap D_{\tau_2^{-1}}(M)) = 2^m < \binom{2m}{m} = \#_2 M.$$

(3) Otherwise,

$$\#(D_{\tau_1}(M) \cap D_{\tau_2^{-1}}(M)) = \#_2 M.$$

## Summing-up

To investigate the intersection number of two real forms  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  in a Hermitian symmetric space  $M$  of compact type is reduced to the following two cases:

- (1) both  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are real forms in a irreducible factor of  $M$ ,
- (2) both  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  are diagonal real forms.

For the case (1) we conclude that the intersection number of  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  coincides with  $\min\{\#_2 L_1, \#_2 L_2\}$  except for the case where

$$M = G_{2m}(\mathbb{C}^{4m}) \quad \text{and} \quad \{L_1, L_2\} = \{G_m(\mathbb{H}^{2m}), U(2m)\}.$$

For the case (2) we conclude that the intersection number of  $L_1 = D_{\tau_1}(M)$  and  $L_2 = D_{\tau_2^{-1}}(M)$  coincides with  $\#_2 M$  except for the cases where

$$M = Q_{2m}(\mathbb{C}) \quad \text{with} \quad \tau_2 \tau_1 \notin A_0(M) \quad \text{and}$$

$$M = G_m(\mathbb{C}^{2m}) \quad \text{with} \quad \tau_2 \tau_1 \notin A_0(M).$$