

REAL LIE GROUPS AND O-MINIMALITY

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ABSTRACT. We characterize, up to Lie isomorphism, the real Lie groups that are definable in an o-minimal expansion of the real field. For any such group, we find a Lie-isomorphic group definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} for which any Lie automorphism is definable.

1. INTRODUCTION AND PRELIMINARIES

In a seminal work ([17]), Anand Pillay proved that any group definable in an o-minimal expansion of the real closed field \mathbb{R} was a Lie group. In this paper we completely specify this relation by characterizing which Lie groups G are Lie isomorphic to a group which is definable in an o-minimal expansion of $(\mathbb{R}, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$. Since groups definable in o-minimal structures are subject to be studied with the powerful tools of o-minimality, we believe that this characterization will prove to be quite useful.

We will always work in o-minimal expansions of $(\mathbb{R}, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$. The o-minimal exponential field $(\mathbb{R}, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1, \exp)$ is denoted by \mathbb{R}_{exp} . We consider real Lie groups G and refer to *Lie isomorphisms* simply by *isomorphisms*. We will say that G is *definable* when G is definable in an o-minimal expansion of $(\mathbb{R}, <, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$. When we say that G has a *definable copy* we mean that G is isomorphic to a definable group, and we will usually denote a definable copy of G by G_{def} . By saying that G has a *semialgebraic copy*, we mean that there is a copy G_{def} definable in $(\mathbb{R}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$.

This paper concludes and builds upon results by many researchers. Any Lie group G contains a maximal connected normal solvable subgroup $\mathcal{R}(G)$, its solvable radical, and maximal connected semisimple subgroups S (all conjugates) called the Levi subgroups. When G is connected, then G can be decomposed as the product of its solvable radical and any Levi subgroup, a product which is known as a *Levi decomposition of G* . It is therefore natural, if one is to study the existence of definable copies of a Lie group, to begin by understanding when semisimple and solvable Lie groups admit definable copies.

It is well known that if G is definable then so is its solvable radical $\mathcal{R}(G)$. In [14, Theorem 4.5] the authors proved that if G is a definable linear group then Levi subgroups are definable and by [6, Theorem 1.1] in general Levi subgroups of definable groups are a countable union of definable sets (see Example 1.8).

By Theorem 4.3 in [14] any semisimple matrix group is semialgebraic and by [13, Corollary 3.3] the quotient of a definable group by its center has a faithful representation. This line of research was extended in [9] where

the authors established criteria for when a central extension of a definable semisimple group was definable. We combine these results in Theorem 2.3 showing that a central extension H of a connected semisimple Lie group has a definable copy if and only if both H and its center $\mathcal{Z}(H)$ have finitely many connected components. Moreover, when it exists, such a definable copy can be found to be semialgebraic. In Section 4 we show that any automorphism of the connected component of such a semialgebraic copy is semialgebraic as well.

On the solvable side of the problem, any definable group G contains a maximal normal definable torsion-free subgroup $\mathcal{N}(G)$ ([5, Proposition 2.6]) that is definably connected and solvable ([16, Corollary 2.4 & Claim 2.11]), so $\mathcal{N}(G) \subseteq \mathcal{R}(G)$. The quotient $\mathcal{R}(G)/\mathcal{N}(G)$ is compact and abelian (see [3, Theorem 3.1], [7, Theorem 5.12] and [15, Corollary 5.4]). Since compact groups admit a faithful representation whose image is algebraic, the solvable radical of any group with a definable copy must be isomorphic to an extension of a compact linear algebraic group by a torsion-free group with a definable copy. This characterization of the solvable case was completed in [4], where it is shown that $\mathcal{N}(G)$ is supersolvable and that a solvable connected Lie group has a definable copy if and only if it is triangular-by-compact (see Fact 1.2).

In [12], the second and third author showed that a connected Lie group whose Levi subgroups have finite center has a definable copy if and only if its solvable radical has a definable copy (see Fact 1.3).

In Theorem 4.1 we generalize the previous results and show that a Lie group G has a definable copy if and only if:

- G has finitely many connected components,
- the center $\mathcal{Z}(G)$ of G has finitely many connected components, and
- there is a normal simply-connected subgroup N which admits a triangular representation and such that $\mathcal{R}(G)/N$ is compact.

The sketch of the proof is as follows. We first prove the connected case in Theorem 3.3, by showing that any connected group G satisfying the above conditions can be realized as a quotient of a semidirect product of a definable solvable group and a definable central extension of a linear semisimple group. The former is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} and we will prove the latter has a semialgebraic copy (Theorem 2.3), which then allows us to build the definable copy of G in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .

The generalization from the connected case to the general case is mainly about understanding finite order automorphisms of definably connected groups. In Theorem 4.2 we prove that any connected Lie group that has a definable copy is isomorphic to a definable group *for which any Lie group automorphism is definable*. The general case follows.

1.1. Notation. Let G be either a real Lie group or a group definable in an o-minimal expansion of a real closed field. If G is definable, the connected component G^0 of the identity is definable and the notions of connectedness and definable connectedness coincide. As above, we will denote by $\mathcal{R}(G)$

the solvable radical of G (that is, the largest solvable normal –definable– connected subgroup of G), and by $\mathcal{Z}(G)$ the center of G .

If G is connected, then a *Levi decomposition* of G is a decomposition of the form $G = RS$ where S is a maximal connected semisimple group, called a *Levi subgroup* of G . We know the following:

- $R \cap S$ is discrete.
- If G is a Lie group, then S is a maximal connected semisimple subgroup of G , and unique up to conjugation ([19, Theorem 3.18.13]).
- If G is a definable group, then S is a maximal connected ind-definable subgroup of G , and unique up to conjugation ([6, Theorem 1.1]).

We denote by G^0 the (definably) connected component of G . If G is a definable group, G/G^0 is finite. If G is a Lie group, G/G^0 is a discrete (possibly infinite) group.

We will say that a Lie group G is *linear* if it has a continuous and faithful finite dimensional representation ρ and we will call the image $\rho(G)$ a *matrix group*.

Recall that a connected Lie group G is *triangular* or *supersolvable* when for any element $g \in G$ all eigenvalues of the linear operator $\text{Ad } g$ are real, where $\text{Ad } g$ is the adjoint representation. When we say that G is *triangular-by-compact* we mean that G has a simply-connected triangular closed subgroup N such that G/N is compact. Finally, let $T_n^+(\mathbb{R})$ be the subgroup of upper triangular matrices with positive elements on the diagonal for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

We will need the following lemma.

Lemma 1.1. *An action of a compact linear group K on a closed subgroup N of $T_n^+(\mathbb{R})$ is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .*

Proof. Let K and N be as in the statement. Assume that K is a closed subgroup of $GL_k(\mathbb{R})$. Any action of K on N induces an action of K on the Lie algebra \mathfrak{n} of N which by construction is a vector subspace of $M_n(\mathbb{R})$. Therefore, $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{n}) \subseteq GL_{n^2}(\mathbb{R})$ is a matrix group and the graph of the representation of K in $\text{GL}(\mathfrak{n})$ is a subgroup of the matrix space $GL_k(\mathbb{R}) \times GL_{n^2}(\mathbb{R})$. This graph is a matrix group isomorphic to K hence it is algebraic (see [1, Theorem 2.6.4]). The exponential map from \mathfrak{n} to N is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , which completes the proof. \square

Fact 1.2. *Let G be a solvable connected real Lie group. Then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) G is isomorphic to a semidirect product $N \rtimes K$ where N is a closed subgroup of $T_n^+(\mathbb{R})$ and K is isomorphic to $\text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$, for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$.
- (2) G is triangular-by-compact.
- (3) G has a definable copy.
- (4) G has a copy $G_{\text{def}} = N \rtimes K$ definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , where $N < T_n^+(\mathbb{R})$ for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $K = \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. The equivalence of the first three is Theorem 5.4 in [4].

(4) implies (3) is clear.

Finally, suppose (1) holds and notice that Lemma 1.1 implies that the action of K on N is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} . So $N \rtimes K$ is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , and (4) holds. \square

Fact 1.3. *Suppose G is a connected semisimple Lie group. Then G has a definable copy if and only if it has a semialgebraic copy and if and only if its center is finite.*

Proof. If G is centerless, then it is semialgebraic by [14]. The finite center case follows from Theorem 6 in [12]. \square

Finally, the following is Theorem 3 (and its proof) in [12]¹.

Fact 1.4. *Suppose G is a connected Lie group whose Levi subgroups have finite center.² Then G has a definable copy if and only if it has a definable copy in \mathbb{R}_{exp} if and only if its solvable radical has a definable copy.*

Remark 1.5. Under the above assumptions, if $G = RS$ is a Levi decomposition of G , we can build a definable copy G_{def} by obtaining definable copies R_{def} and S_{def} of R and S respectively. Notice that R has necessarily a matrix copy but not S : there are definable non linearizable connected semisimple groups (even with finite center, think of the double cover of $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$). Then G will be isomorphic to a quotient of the definable semidirect product $R_{\text{def}} \rtimes_{\varphi} S_{\text{def}}$ by a finite subgroup F isomorphic to $R \cap S$. It so happens that the action $\varphi: S_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R_{\text{def}}$ that mimicks the conjugation action of S on R is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} and its kernel is precisely F .

Using Fact 1.2, the complete characterization of Lie groups that have a definable copy will be achieved by the following theorem:

Theorem 1.6. *A real Lie group G has a definable copy if and only if both G and its center have finitely many connected components and the solvable radical of G is triangular-by-compact. Moreover, there is a copy definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} for which any Lie automorphism is definable.*

Remark 1.7. Let $G = RS$ be a Levi decomposition of a connected Lie group G . Suppose $R \cap S$ is finite. Then

$$G \text{ has a definable copy} \iff R \text{ and } S \text{ have a definable copy}$$

That is, G has a definable copy if and only if R is triangular by compact and $Z(S)$ is finite.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) If S does not have a definable copy, then $Z(S)$ is infinite, by [12, Theo 3]. Therefore $S/(R \cap S)$ has infinite center too, since $R \cap S$ is finite. It follows that $S/(R \cap S) \cong G/R$ does not have a definable copy, contradiction. (\Leftarrow) If S has a definable copy, then $Z(S)$ is finite, and G has a definable copy by Fact 1.4. \square

Therefore, when $R \cap S$ is finite, a characterization of connected Lie groups with a definable copy reduces to the solvable (Fact 1.2) and semisimple (Fact 1.3) cases.

So we need to concentrate in the case where $R \cap S$ is infinite. Note that $R \cap S$ is a discrete normal subgroup of S , therefore central in S . It follows that if $R \cap S$ is infinite then S cannot be definable, because definable semisimple

¹These results appears in the Ph.D. thesis of the third author.

²This is always the case for linear groups.

groups have finite center. We know that Levi subgroups S are all conjugate to each other, but in all the examples from the literature of definable groups with no definable Levi subgroups [3, Ex 5.7-5.9], there is actually only one Levi subgroup (that is, the Levi subgroup is normal in the group). So a natural question is whether all connected Lie group where $R \cap S$ is infinite that have a definable copy always have a unique (normal) Levi subgroup. A negative answer is given by the following example:

Example 1.8. Denoted by $\pi: \widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ the universal covering map of $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, let $s: \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R})$ be a section for it. Then the 2-cocycle $h_s: \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}(\widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R}))$ given by $h_s(A, B) = s(A)s(B)s(AB)^{-1}$ is a definable map with finite image by [9, Theo 8.5] (see section 2).

On the set $G = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ consider the group operation given by

$$(t, \bar{x}, A) * (s, \bar{y}, B) = (t + s + h_s(A, B), A\bar{y} + \bar{x}, AB)$$

where $\mathcal{Z}(\widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R}))$ has been identified with $(\mathbb{Z}, +)$. Given $H = \mathbb{R}^2 \rtimes \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ (where $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ acts on \mathbb{R}^2 by matrix multiplication), the definable group $(G, *)$ is a central extension of H by $(\mathbb{R}, +)$. A Levi subgroup is $S = \mathbb{Z} \times \{\bar{0}\} \times \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, and is isomorphic to $\widetilde{\mathrm{SL}}_2(\mathbb{R})$ by construction. Since $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ is not normal in $G/\mathcal{Z}(G)$, then S is not normal in G .

Fact 1.9. *Let G be a connected definable group and $Z = \mathcal{Z}(G)$ the center of G . Then G/Z and G/Z^0 have definable Levi subgroups.*

Proof. By [13, Cor 3.3], G/Z is a matrix group, and by [14, Theo 4.5] matrix definable groups have a definable Levi decomposition. Since Z is a finite extension of Z^0 , it follows that G/Z^0 has definable Levi subgroups too. \square

Corollary 1.10. *Let G be a connected real Lie group with center Z and S a Levi subgroup. If G is definable then ZS and Z^0S are definable subgroups of G .*

Proof. If G is definable, then ZS and Z^0S are pre-images in G of definable Levi subgroups in G/Z and G/Z^0 , respectively. \square

We will characterize when a connected real Lie group G is isomorphic to a group definable in an o-minimal expansion of the real field as follows. Let R be the solvable radical of G , S a Levi subgroup of G and Z the center. We will show that whenever Z has a definable copy, there is a semialgebraic copy of ZS (Section 2) so that if R also has a definable copy (which can be defined in $\mathbb{R}_{\mathrm{exp}}$ by Fact 1.2) we can build a definable (in $\mathbb{R}_{\mathrm{exp}}$) copy of G as a quotient of a definable semidirect product of definable copies of R and ZS mod out by a definable group isomorphic to $R \cap ZS$ (Section 3).

In the proof of Theorem 4.1 we will reduce to the connected case, and then generalise using the following lemma, which is probably well known but we could not find a reference for it.

Lemma 1.11. *Let G be a group and H a normal subgroup of finite index. Assume that H is definable in a structure \mathcal{M} and that for a set $\mathcal{G} := \{g_\sigma\}_{\sigma \in G/H}$ of representatives of the H -coclases in G there are definable (in \mathcal{M}) maps $f_\sigma: H \rightarrow H$ such that $f_\sigma(h) = g_\sigma h g_\sigma^{-1}$.*

Then G is isomorphic to group definable in \mathcal{M} .

Proof. Let g_σ, g_μ be any two elements of \mathcal{G} , and let $g_{\sigma\mu} \in \mathcal{G}$ and $h_{\sigma\mu} \in H$ be such that $g_\sigma g_\mu = g_{\sigma\mu} h_{\sigma\mu}$. Let $x, y \in H$.

$$\begin{aligned} g_\sigma x g_\mu y &= g_{\sigma\mu} g_{\sigma\mu}^{-1} (g_\sigma x g_\sigma^{-1}) (g_\sigma g_\mu) y \\ &= g_{\sigma\mu} (g_{\sigma\mu}^{-1} f_\sigma(x) g_{\sigma\mu}) h_{\sigma\mu} y \\ &= g_{\sigma\mu} f_{\sigma\mu}^{-1}(f_\sigma(x)) h_{\sigma\mu} y. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if we define G_{def} as $\mathcal{G} \times H$ with multiplication in G_{def} defined by

$$(g_\sigma, x) \odot (g_\mu, y) := (g_{\sigma\mu}, f_{\sigma\mu}^{-1}(f_\sigma(x)) h_{\sigma\mu} y),$$

then G_{def} is a definable group and the map $G_{\text{def}} \rightarrow G$ defined by $(g_\sigma, x) \mapsto g_\sigma x$ is an isomorphism. \square

Remark 1.12. If G is a Lie group and \mathcal{M} is an o-minimal structure over the real numbers, then Lemma 1.11 provides a Lie isomorphism with a definable Lie group, since any group definable in an o-minimal structure with domain \mathbb{R} is a Lie group by [17] and any bijective homomorphism of Lie groups is a Lie isomorphism (see [10, Theorem 3.4 pg.18]).

2. CENTRAL EXTENSIONS OF SEMISIMPLE GROUPS

In this section we focus on Lie groups G that are central extensions of a connected semisimple group. We show that G has a semialgebraic copy if and only if G and its center have finitely many connected components. The following fact allows us to find a direct complement of G^0 , whenever G is abelian:

Fact 2.1. [18, 5.2.2] *Let $H < G$ be abelian groups. If H is divisible, then $G = H \times K$ for some $K < G$.*

Central extensions of definable groups have been previously studied by Hrushovski, Peterzil and Pillay in [9]. As they recall, given a central group extension $1 \rightarrow A \rightarrow H \xrightarrow{\pi} G$, if $s: G \rightarrow H$ is a section for π , and $h_s(x, y) = s(x)s(y)s(xy)^{-1}$, then h_s is a 2-cocycle from $G \times G$ to A and the group H is isomorphic to the group H' whose underlying set is $A \times G$ and whose group operation is given by $(t, x) \cdot (s, y) = (t + s + h_s(x, y), xy)$. In this context, assume that G be a definably connected group definable in an o-minimal expansion \mathcal{M} of the real field (therefore G is a connected Lie group) and suppose $\pi: H \rightarrow G$ is a covering homomorphism with kernel Γ , for some connected Lie group H . Given an injective homomorphism $f: \Gamma \rightarrow A$ into an abelian group A , one can form the group $H_A = H \times_\Gamma A$, given by the amalgamated direct product of H and A , where isomorphic subgroups $\Gamma < H$ and $f(\Gamma) < A$ have been identified. The group H_A is therefore isomorphic to a group whose underlying set is $A \times G$ and whose group operation is determined by a 2-cocycle h_s as above.

We will use the following Fact from [9]. In the setting described in the previous paragraph, the following holds:

Fact 2.2. [9, Theo 8.5] *The 2-cocycle $h_s: G \times G \rightarrow \Gamma$ induced by a section s of the cover $\pi: H \rightarrow G$ is definable in \mathcal{M} with finite image in Γ . It follows*

that the group $H_A = H \times_{\Gamma} A$ is definable in the two-sorted structure consisting of \mathcal{M} and $(A, +)$.

Theorem 2.3. *Let G be a real Lie group. Suppose G is a central extension of a (possibly trivial) connected semisimple group. Then G has a definable copy if and only if both G and its center have finitely many connected components. If this condition holds, then G admits a semialgebraic copy.*

Proof. Let $Z = \mathcal{Z}(G)$ be the center of G . If G is definable, then G^0 , Z and Z^0 are definable too. Since G/G^0 and Z/Z^0 are discrete groups, they need to be finite.

Conversely, suppose both G and Z have finitely many connected components. We will define G_{def} as an extension of a semisimple connected matrix group S by an abelian group $A = F \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$ for some $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ and finite F . The underlying set of G_{def} will be $A \times S$ and the group operation given in terms of a definable 2-cocycle.

Assume first G is connected. It is well known that any abelian connected Lie group is isomorphic to $\mathbb{R}^n \times \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$ for some $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$. This completes the case when the semisimple group is trivial.

Suppose now G is a connected central extension of an infinite connected semisimple group. If Z is finite, then G is semisimple and has a definable copy by Fact 1.3.

Assume $\dim Z > 0$. Note that the connected component of the center Z^0 is the solvable radical R of G , since otherwise R/Z^0 would be an infinite connected solvable normal subgroup of a semisimple group, contradiction.

Since connected semisimple Lie groups are perfect, it follows that the commutator subgroup G' is the unique Levi subgroup of G and $G = ZG'$ is the unique Levi decomposition of G . Note that $\mathcal{Z}(G') = G' \cap Z$, so the quotient group $G/Z \cong G'/(G' \cap Z) = G'/\mathcal{Z}(G')$ is a centerless semisimple group, and therefore has a semialgebraic copy S .

Hence G is Lie isomorphic to a group $H = A \times_{\Gamma} H'$, where $A = \mathcal{Z}(H) = F \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$ (for some finite F and $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ by Fact 2.1), $S = H'/Z(H')$ is a semialgebraic group and $\Gamma = A \cap H' = Z(H')$. As $(A, +)$ is semialgebraic, then $H = A \times_{\Gamma} H'$ is semialgebraic by Fact 2.2.

That is, given $s: S \rightarrow H'$ a section for the canonical projection $\pi: H' \rightarrow S$ and $h_s: S \times S \rightarrow \Gamma$ be the 2-cocycle induced by s , h_s is a semialgebraic map and has finite image. So we can consider on $H_{\text{def}} := A \times S$ the group operation given by

$$(t, x) \odot (s, y) = (t + s + h_s(x, y), xy)$$

As observed before, the resulting semialgebraic group (H_{def}, \odot) is isomorphic to H and therefore to G .

Suppose now G is not connected and let $\pi: G \rightarrow G/Z$ be the canonical projection. As G/Z is connected semisimple, it follows that $\pi(S_1) = G/Z$ for any Levi subgroup S_1 of G^0 . Therefore $G = ZS_1$ and, as for connected groups, there is some Lie group $H = A \times_{\Gamma} H'$ ($\Gamma = A \cap H' = Z(H')$) isomorphic to G such that A and $S = H'/Z(H')$ are semialgebraic. So one

can build a semialgebraic copy H_{def} with underlying set $A \times S$ and group operation given by the same construction as in the connected case. \square

3. THE CONNECTED CASE

In this section we give a characterization of connected Lie groups with a definable copy and we show that when it exists, such a definable copy can be found in \mathbb{R}_{exp} . The following fact holds for both Lie and definable groups.

Fact 3.1. *Let G be a connected centerless semisimple group. Then the only normal solvable subgroup of G is the trivial one.*

Proof. Suppose N is a solvable normal subgroup of G . We can prove that N is trivial by induction on $n = \dim N$. If $n = 0$, then N is discrete, therefore it is central, and it must be trivial. If $n > 0$, then N^0 is also solvable and normal in G . We know that N^0 cannot be abelian, because G is semisimple. So the derived subgroup of N^0 is a non-trivial connected solvable normal subgroup of G with dimension less than n , and it must be trivial by induction hypothesis. But then N^0 is abelian, contradiction. \square

Lemma 3.2. *Let $G = RS$ be a Levi decomposition of a connected real Lie group G . Set $H = ZS$, where Z is the center of G . Then $H \cap R = D \times Z^0$ for some discrete group D central in H . In particular, $H \cap R$ is abelian.*

Proof. Note that $\mathcal{Z}(H) = Z \cdot \mathcal{Z}(S)$, so $H/\mathcal{Z}(H) \cong S/\mathcal{Z}(S)$ is a centerless semisimple group, since S is a connected semisimple group. Because $H \cap R$ is a solvable normal subgroup of H , then $H \cap R \subseteq \mathcal{Z}(H)$ by Fact 3.1. \square

Theorem 3.3. *Let G be a connected real Lie group. Then G has a definable copy if and only if its center has finitely many connected components and its solvable radical has a definable copy. If this holds, G has a definable copy in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .*

Proof. The conditions are necessary because the center of any definable group is definable (and therefore it has finitely many connected components) and so is its solvable radical.

Conversely, let G be a connected Lie group with center Z and solvable radical R satisfying the hypothesis. Suppose $G = RS$ is a Levi decomposition of G . We will build a definable copy of G as a quotient of a semidirect product of definable copies of ZS and R . Set $H = ZS$ and $\bar{S} = H/Z \cong S/(S \cap Z)$. This construction will be done in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , so for the rest of the proof unless we explicitly say otherwise, by *definable* we mean *definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp}* .

Because R is a normal subgroup in G , the subgroup H acts on R by conjugation. That is, there is a homomorphism $\gamma: H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(R)$ such that $\gamma(x)(r) = x^{-1}rx$ for each $x \in H$ and each $r \in R$. Since $Z \subset \ker(\gamma)$, there is a homomorphism $\bar{\gamma}: \bar{S} \rightarrow \text{Aut}(R)$ such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & \text{Aut}(R) \\ \pi \downarrow & \nearrow \bar{\gamma} & \\ \bar{S} = H/Z & & \end{array}$$

That is, given $\bar{x} \in \bar{S}$ and $r \in R$, $\bar{\gamma}(\bar{x})(r) = x^{-1}rx$, for any $x \in H$ with $x \in \bar{x}$.

Claim 3.4. *There are definable copies R_{def} and \bar{S}_{def} , Lie isomorphisms $f: \bar{S}_{\text{def}} \rightarrow \bar{S}$ and $g: R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R$, and a definable action $\varphi: \bar{S}_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R_{\text{def}}$ mimicking $\bar{\gamma}$. That is, for any $x \in \bar{S}_{\text{def}}$ and $r_1, r_2 \in R_{\text{def}}$,*

$$\varphi(x, r_1) = r_2 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \bar{\gamma}(f(x))(g(r_1)) = g(r_2)$$

Moreover, R_{def} contains definable copies Z_{def}^0 and $(Z \cap R)_{\text{def}}$ as definable subgroups.

Proof. Consider the group $\bar{G} = R \rtimes_{\bar{\gamma}} \bar{S}$. It is a connected group with solvable radical R and Levi subgroup \bar{S} . Note that because \bar{S} is a subgroup of G/Z , it is a linear group, hence has finite center. Therefore, by Fact 1.4 there is a definable copy $\bar{G}_{\text{def}} = R_{\text{def}} \rtimes_{\varphi} \bar{S}_{\text{def}}$, Lie isomorphisms $f: \bar{S}_{\text{def}} \rightarrow \bar{S}$ and $g: R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R$ and a definable action $\varphi: \bar{S}_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R_{\text{def}}$ as required.

Note that both $(Z \cap R)_{\text{def}} = \{r \in \mathcal{Z}(R_{\text{def}}) : \varphi(\bar{x}, r) = r \ \forall \bar{x} \in \bar{S}_{\text{def}}\}$ and $(Z \cap R)_{\text{def}}^0 = Z_{\text{def}}^0$ are definable subgroups of R_{def} . \square

Set $A = Z_{\text{def}}^0 < R_{\text{def}}$. Our next step is to build a definable copy H_{def} of H having A as its solvable radical and a definable action $H_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R_{\text{def}}$ mimicking the conjugation map of H on R :

Claim 3.5. *There is a definable copy H_{def} with $\mathcal{Z}(H_{\text{def}})^0 = A$, a Lie isomorphism $h: H_{\text{def}} \rightarrow H$ and a definable action $\psi: H_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R_{\text{def}}$ such that*

$$\psi(x, r_1) = r_2 \quad \text{if and only if} \quad h(x)^{-1}g(r_1)h(x) = g(r_2)$$

where $g: R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R$ is the isomorphism from Claim 3.4.

As before, definability of every set and map is meant in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .

Proof. Since H is a central extension of a semisimple group, by Theorem 2.3 H has a definable (semialgebraic) copy if and only if H and its center have finitely many connected components. Note that the subgroup $Z^0 S$ is contained in H^0 , because both Z^0 and S are connected subgroups. Moreover $Z^0 S$ has finite index in ZS , as Z/Z^0 is finite by assumption. Therefore $H^0 = Z^0 S$ and H has finitely many connected components. Notice that G/Z is linear since Z is the kernel of the adjoint representation of G , and $H/Z \cong S/(S \cap Z)$ is a Levi subgroup of G/Z , since S is a Levi subgroup of G . Now, Levi subgroups of a linear groups are linear as well and have a finite center (see [8, Chap. 18 Proposition 4.1 and Theorem 4.2]). Therefore $\mathcal{Z}(H)$ is a finite extension of Z , which is a finite extension of Z^0 . It follows that $\mathcal{Z}(H)$ has finitely many connected components too and $\mathcal{Z}(H)^0 = Z^0$.

As done in the proof of Theorem 2.3, we can get a definable copy H_{def} where the underlying set of the group is $\mathcal{Z}(H)_{\text{def}} \times (H/\mathcal{Z}(H))_{\text{def}}$. By Fact 2.1, $\mathcal{Z}(H) = F_1 \times Z^0$ for some finite $F_1 < H$. Thus we can take $\mathcal{Z}(H)_{\text{def}} = F_1 \times A$ and $(H/\mathcal{Z}(H))_{\text{def}} = \bar{S}_{\text{def}}/\mathcal{Z}(\bar{S}_{\text{def}})$.

Note that $\mathcal{Z}(H)_{\text{def}} = \mathcal{Z}(H_{\text{def}})$ and $(H/\mathcal{Z}(H))_{\text{def}} = H_{\text{def}}/\mathcal{Z}(H_{\text{def}})$. Moreover, $\mathcal{Z}(H) = Z \cdot \mathcal{Z}(S)$, so we can take $Z_{\text{def}} = F_2 \times A$ (for some finite

subgroup F_2 of F_1) to be a definable subgroup of H_{def} and $H_{\text{def}}/Z_{\text{def}} = \overline{S}_{\text{def}}$ by construction. Denoted by $\pi: H_{\text{def}} \rightarrow H_{\text{def}}/Z_{\text{def}}$ the canonical projection, the map $\psi: H_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R_{\text{def}}$ defined by $\psi(x, r) = \varphi(\pi(x), r)$ is the required definable action. \square

Now in order to build a definable copy of G out of the definable copies R_{def} and H_{def} from before, we need to find a definable isomorphism between definable copies $(R \cap H)_{\text{def}}$ in them. This is provided by the following:

Claim 3.6. *H_{def} and R_{def} contain definable subgroups X and Y which are copies of $H \cap R$, and such that $X = A \times F_X$ and $Y = A \times F_Y$ where F_X and F_Y are both isomorphic to some finite abelian group F . In particular, there is a definable isomorphism $\alpha: X \rightarrow Y$.*

Proof. By Lemma 3.2 and the fact that H has a definable copy, $H \cap R = F \times Z^0$, for some finite abelian $F < H \cap R$. Then $X = h^{-1}(F) \times A$ and $Y = g^{-1}(F) \times A$ are definable copies (and definable subgroups) of $H \cap R$ in H_{def} and R_{def} respectively. Clearly, define $\alpha: X \rightarrow Y$ to be $\alpha(y, a) = (g^{-1}(h(y)), a)$ for each $y \in h^{-1}(F)$ and $a \in A$. \square

We can now put all together. Let R_{def} be as in Claim 3.4, and H_{def} and ψ as in the conclusion of Claim 3.5. Take the definable semi-direct product $H_{\text{def}} \ltimes_{\psi} R_{\text{def}}$ and the map

$$\Phi: H_{\text{def}} \ltimes_{\psi} R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow G$$

given by $\Phi(x, r) = h(x)g(r)$ where $h: H_{\text{def}} \rightarrow H$ and $g: R_{\text{def}} \rightarrow R$ are the isomorphisms from Claims 3.4 and 3.5. Note that Φ is a surjective smooth homomorphism and its kernel is the set of $(x, r) \in H_{\text{def}} \times R_{\text{def}}$ such that $h(x)g(r) = e$. In particular, the images of x and r belong to $H \cap R$, so $x \in X$ and $r \in Y$ and, if $\alpha: X \rightarrow Y$ is the definable map in Claim 3.6, then

$$\ker \Phi = \{(x, \alpha(x)^{-1}) : x \in X\}$$

is definable.

$(H_{\text{def}} \ltimes_{\psi} R_{\text{def}}) / \ker \Phi$ is therefore a definable copy of G , as required. This ends the proof of Theorem 3.3. \square

We now state a corollary summing up the work done in previous papers and above in a way that will be useful to study automorphisms.

Corollary 3.7. *Any connected Lie group satisfying the conditions of Theorem 3.3 is isomorphic to a group*

$$G_{\text{def}} := (H_{\text{def}} \ltimes_{\psi} R_{\text{def}}) / \{(x, \alpha(x)^{-1}) : x \in X\}$$

definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , such that the following hold:

- (1) *The center Z_{def} of G_{def} is a linear algebraic abelian group.*
- (2) *H_{def} is a semialgebraic group with underlying set $A \times \overline{S}$ where $A = \mathcal{Z}(H_{\text{def}}) = F \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$ and \overline{S} is a linear semisimple group isomorphic to $H_{\text{def}}/\mathcal{Z}(H_{\text{def}})$.*
- (3) *$R_{\text{def}} = K \ltimes N$ where K is an matrix algebraic compact group and N is a closed subgroup of upper triangular matrices,*
- (4) *α is a definable isomorphism between definable copies $(H \cap R)_{\text{def}}$ in H_{def} and R_{def} .*

- (5) H_{def} is definably isomorphic to $\mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})S$ where S is a Levi subgroup of G_{def} [$\mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})S$ is definable by Corollary 1.10].
- (6) The solvable radical of G_{def} is definably isomorphic to R_{def} .

Remark 3.8. Note that while we can always take R_{def} to be a linear group, H_{def} , although semialgebraic, may be not linear (see Example 1.8). The exponential function is needed to define R_{def} (see Lemma 1.1) and therefore the action ψ of H_{def} on R_{def} .

4. AUTOMORPHISMS AND THE GENERAL CASE

In this section we will prove the following.

Theorem 4.1. *Let G be a real Lie group. Then G has a definable copy if and only if G^0 has a definable copy and G has finitely many connected components. This is equivalent to G having a definable copy in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .*

We will first need the following, which is interesting in its own.

Theorem 4.2. *Let G be a connected Lie group definable in an o-minimal expansion of the reals. Then G has a definable copy G_{def} in \mathbb{R}_{exp} such that every Lie automorphism of G_{def} is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .*

Proof. By Theorem 3.3, G has a definable copy G_{def} . Let G_{def} be as described in Corollary 3.7, and let μ be a Lie automorphism of G_{def} .

Claim 4.3. *The restriction μ_R of μ to $\mathcal{R}(G_{\text{def}})$ (see Corollary 3.7) is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} .*

Proof. By Corollary 3.7, $\mathcal{R}(G_{\text{def}})$ is definably isomorphic to R_{def} which is a semidirect product of a compact matrix algebraic subgroup K and a subgroup N which is a definable closed subgroup of an upper triangular matrix group. Because the exponential from \mathfrak{n} to N is a diffeomorphism definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , the action of K on N can be defined from the action of K on the Lie algebra \mathfrak{n} (which will be a subspace of a matrix vector space) of N . Since \mathfrak{n} is a definable vector space, the automorphism group of \mathfrak{n} is linear, the graph of the action is a matrix group isomorphic to K , so it is compact and thus algebraic. The claim follows. \square

Claim 4.4. *Any automorphism of H_{def} is semialgebraic.*

Proof. Let σ be any automorphism of H_{def} . By hypothesis, H_{def} is a semialgebraic, definable extension of the linear semisimple group \bar{S} by $A = \mathcal{Z}(H_{\text{def}}) = F \times \mathbb{R}^n \times \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$, its universe is $A \times \bar{S}$ and the group operation given by h a definable (semialgebraic) 2-cocycle. We will assume that $h(x, e_S) = h(e_S, x) = e_A$. Let σ_A is the restriction of σ to A , τ is the automorphism of $H_{\text{def}}/A \cong \bar{S}$ induced by σ .

We will use additive notation for the group operation in A , multiplicative for \bar{S} , and \odot_H for the group operation in H_{def} .

Notice that the restriction of σ to A is semialgebraic: $A^0 = \mathbb{R}^n \times \text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$, \mathbb{R}^n is the maximal torsion free subgroup and $\text{SO}_2(\mathbb{R})^k$ is the maximal compact, so the restriction of σ to A^0 splits and it is the direct product of an element of $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ and an automorphism of a compact matrix algebraic

group which must be algebraic. The map τ is an isomorphism of semisimple connected linear groups, so its graph is a semisimple connected matrix group and therefore semialgebraic (1.3).

We now follow [20]. We will use some of the notation there so that the interested reader can check the computations.

Let $\gamma_1 : \bar{S} \rightarrow A$ be defined by $\sigma(e_A, x) = (\gamma_1(x), \tau(x))$ for all x (so that $\sigma(a, x) = (\sigma_A(x) + \gamma_1(x), \tau(x))$ for all $x \in \bar{S}$ and $a \in A$). Let γ be such that $\gamma(\tau(x)) = \gamma_1(x)$ so that $\sigma(a, x) = (\sigma_A(a) + \gamma(\tau(x)), \tau(x))$.

Applying σ to the identity $(a, x) \odot_H (b, y) = (a + b + h(x, y), xy)$, we get that

$$(1) \quad \gamma(xy) - \gamma(x) - \gamma(y) = h(x, y) - \sigma_A(F(\tau^{-1}(x), \tau^{-1}(y))).$$

Let $K(x, y)$ be the definable 2-cocycle $h(x, y) - \sigma_A(h(\tau^{-1}(x), \tau^{-1}(y)))$. $K(x, y)$ is a 2-cocycle in $C^2(\bar{S}, A)$ which by (1), is a co-boundary (witnessed by γ), so that the group H_K defined over $A \times \bar{S}$ by

$$(a, x) \odot_K (b, y) = (a + b + K(x, y), xy)$$

is isomorphic as a Lie group to the direct product $A \times \bar{S}$ which, being the direct product, has important properties that H_K will inherit:

First, $A \times \bar{S}$ has a subgroup $S = \{(e_A, x) : x \in \bar{S}\}$ isomorphic to \bar{S} . Moreover, since there are no non-trivial group morphisms from \bar{S} to A , S is the unique subgroup of $A \times \bar{S}$ isomorphic to \bar{S} . Lie subgroups are constant under Lie-group isomorphisms, so H_K also admits a unique subgroup

$$S_K := \{(\gamma'(x), x)\}$$

isomorphic to \bar{S} .

We will prove first that $\gamma = \gamma'$, and then that S_K is definable, which will imply $\gamma'(x)$ is definable.

By definition of S_K , $(\gamma'(x), x) \odot_K (\gamma'(y), y) = (\gamma'(xy), xy)$ which by definition of \odot_K holds if and only if $\gamma'(xy) - \gamma'(x) - \gamma'(y) = K(x, y)$. It follows that $(\gamma - \gamma')(xy) = (\gamma - \gamma')(x) + (\gamma - \gamma')(y)$ and $(\gamma - \gamma')$ is a group homomorphism from \bar{S} to A which implies $(\gamma - \gamma')(x) = e_A$ and $\gamma = \gamma'$.

We will now show that S_K is definable in the real field. Since S_K is isomorphic to \bar{S} which is perfect, and because H_K is a central extension of S_K we know that $S_K = [H_K, H_K]$ and $[H_K, H_K]_n = [S_K, S_K]_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$. \bar{S} is definable, so $[\bar{S}, \bar{S}]_k = \bar{S}$ for some finite k (Fact 5.3 in [2]). It follows that

$$[H_K, H_K]_k = [S_K, S_K]_k = S_K.$$

Hence S_K is semialgebraic, and so is γ , γ_1 (τ is definable) and therefore σ . \square

Remark 4.5. As suggested by the anonymous referee, an alternative proof of Claim 4.4 can be obtained by noticing that any automorphism α of H_{def} is uniquely determined by the induced automorphisms on its center A and the quotient H_{def}/A . This is because If $A \rightarrow G \rightarrow B$ is a group extension and $\alpha : G \rightarrow G$ is an automorphism which is the identity on A and induces the identity on B , then the map $\alpha(g)g^{-1}$ gives a well defined function from B into A . If A is central then this is a group homomorphism and therefore if B is connected semisimple then this homomorphism is trivial so $\alpha = id$.

It follows that any automorphism σ of H_{def} is uniquely determined by the automorphisms σ induces on A and on H_{def}/A . These induced automorphisms can be defined in the real field, and by Beth's Definability Theorem, so is σ .

Claim 4.6. *Let $Z = \mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})$ and S be a Levi subgroup G_{def} , so that ZS is definably isomorphic to H_{def} (it is the image of any section of H_{def} in the quotient sending $H_{\text{def}} \rtimes_{\psi} R_{\text{def}}$ to G_{def}).*

Then the restriction μ_{ZS} of μ to $\mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})S$ is a definable map in \mathbb{R}_{exp} from ZS to G_{def} .

Proof. Any two Levi subgroups are conjugate so $\mu(S) = \gamma_{\mu} S \gamma_{\mu}^{-1}$ for some $\gamma_{\mu} \in G_{\text{def}}$.

Since μ must fix the center $Z := \mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})$ we know that

$$\mu(ZS) = Z\mu(S) = Z\gamma_{\mu} S \gamma_{\mu}^{-1} = \gamma_{\mu}(ZS)\gamma_{\mu}^{-1},$$

and $\eta_{\sigma} : x \mapsto \gamma_{\mu}^{-1} \mu(x) \gamma_{\mu}$ is an automorphism of ZS . This induces (modulo the definable isomorphism between ZS and H_{def}) an automorphism of H_{def} which by Claim 4.4 is definable.

So η_{μ} is definable and so is μ_{ZS} (conjugation in a definable group is always definable). \square

We know that $G_{\text{def}} = (\mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})S) \mathcal{R}(G_{\text{def}})$. So for any element $g \in G$ we have $g = sr$ with $s \in \mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})S$ and $r \in \mathcal{R}(G_{\text{def}})$, and both $\mathcal{Z}(G_{\text{def}})S$ and $\mathcal{R}(G_{\text{def}})$ are definable subgroups of G_{def} by construction.

Therefore $\mu(g) = \mu(sr) = \mu(s)\mu(r) = \mu_{ZS}(s)\mu_{\mathcal{R}}(r)$, μ is definable and this concludes the proof of Theorem 4.2. \square

To prove Theorem 4.1 we just need to realize that Theorem 4.2 gives us precisely the conditions to apply Lemma 1.11 and conclude.

Finally, in order to complete the proof of Theorem 1.6, we only need to extend Theorem 4.2 to the case where G is not connected. We use the following well-known fact (we could not find it in the literature but an explanation of the proof can be found in <https://mathoverflow.net/questions/150949/>).

Fact 4.7. *Let G be a Lie group with finitely many connected components. Then $G = FG^0$, for some finite $F < G$.*

Let G be a group satisfying the conditions of Theorem 4.1. We may assume that G itself is definable in \mathbb{R}_{exp} , and by Lemma 2.3 we may assume that G is a finite definable extension of G^0 satisfying the conditions of Corollary 3.7, so that by Theorem 4.2 every Lie automorphism of G^0 is definable.

Let $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(G)$. Now, F and $\sigma|_F$ are both definable (they are finite) and for any $a \in F$ and $x \in G^0$ we have

$$\sigma(ax) = \sigma(a)\sigma(x)$$

which is definable. This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.6.

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