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On left-invariant Einstein metrics that are not geodesic orbit



Sur les métriques d'Einstein invariantes à gauche, qui ne sont pas à orbites géodésiques

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ABSTRACT

In this article, we prove that compact simple Lie groups SO(n) (n > 12) admit at least two left-invariant Einstein metrics that are not geodesic orbit, which gives a positive answer to a problem recently posed by Nikonorov.

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RÉSUMÉ

Dans cette Note, nous démontrons que les groupes de Lie simples, compacts, SO(n) (n > 12) admettent au moins deux métriques d'Einstein invariantes à gauche, dont des géodésiques maximales ne sont pas des orbites de sous-groupes à un paramètre du groupe d'isométries complet. Ceci répond par l'affirmative à une question récemment posée par Nikonorov. © 2019 Académie des sciences. Published by Elsevier Masson SAS. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

Recall that a Riemannian metric on a connected manifold M is said to be a geodesic orbit metric if any maximal geodesic of the metric is the orbit of a one-parameter subgroup of the full group of isometries (in this case, the Riemannian manifold is called a geodesic orbit space). It is well known that any naturally reductive metric must be geodesic orbit, but the converse is not true.

In [1], A. Arvanitoyeorgos, K. Mori, and Y. Sakane constructed non-naturally reductive Einstein metrics on compact Lie groups SO(*n*) ($n \ge 11$), Sp(*n*) ($n \ge 3$), E_6 , E_7 , and E_8 . In [3], Z. Chen and K. Liang found three naturally reductive and one non-naturally reductive Einstein metrics on the compact Lie group F_4 , and I. Chrysikos and Y. Sakane obtained lots of non-naturally reductive Einstein metrics on exceptional Lie groups [4]. Moreover, based on the classification of standard homogeneous Einstein manifolds, Z. Yan and S. Deng found many non-naturally reductive Einstein metrics on compact simple Lie groups [8]. Besides, the authors constructed non-naturally reductive Einstein–Randers metrics on Sp(*n*) [7].

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However, there are only few examples of left-invariant Einstein metrics that are not geodesic orbit. In [6], Y. Nikonorov proved that there exists a left-invariant Einstein metric on compact simple Lie group G_2 that is not a geodesic orbit metric. The following problem is posed in [6].

Problem 1.1. Is there any other compact simple Lie group admitting a left-invariant Einstein metric that is not geodesic orbit?

In [2], H. Chen, Z. Chen and S. Deng obtained some left-invariant and not geodesic-orbit Einstein metrics on compact simple Lie groups that are arising from three locally symmetric spaces. They proved that the compact simple Lie groups SU(n) for $n \ge 6$, SO(n) for $n \ge 7$, Sp(n) for $n \ge 3$, E_6 , E_7 , E_8 , and F_4 admit left-invariant Einstein metrics that are not geodesic orbit.

In this short article, we construct new metrics that are distinct from the metrics with the same property obtained in [2], and we prove the following.

Theorem 1.1. The compact simple Lie groups SO(n) (n > 12) admits at least two left-invariant Einstein metrics, which are not geodesic orbit.

2. Preliminaries

In this section, we will recall some basic facts and the Ricci tensor for reductive homogeneous spaces.

Lemma 21. ([5]) Let M be a homogeneous Riemannian manifold and G the identity component of the full group of isometries. Write M = G/H, where H is the isotropic subgroup of G at $x \in M$, and suppose the Lie algebra of G has a reductive decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} + \mathfrak{m}$, where $\mathfrak{g} = Lie(G)$, $\mathfrak{h} = Lie(H)$, and \mathfrak{m} is the orthogonal complement subspace of \mathfrak{h} in \mathfrak{g} with respect to an Ad(H)-invariant inner product on \mathfrak{g} . Then M is a geodesic orbit space if and only if, for any $X \in \mathfrak{m}$, there exists $Z \in \mathfrak{h}$ such that $([X + Z, Y]_{\mathfrak{m}}, X) = 0$ for all $Y \in \mathfrak{m}$.

Let G be a compact simple Lie group, consider the following inner product on the Lie algebra g,

$$\langle,\rangle = u_1(-B)|_{\mathfrak{p}_1} + u_2(-B)|_{\mathfrak{p}_2} + \dots + u_s(-B)|_{\mathfrak{p}_s},\tag{2.1}$$

where *B* is the Killing form of \mathfrak{g} , u_1, \ldots, u_s are pairwise distinct, and $u_j > 0$, $j = 1, 2, \ldots, s$. A Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{k} of \mathfrak{g} is called adapted for (2.1), if \mathfrak{k} is the direct sum of its ideals $\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{p}_i$, $i = 1, 2, \cdots, s$, (some of these ideals could be trivial) and the *B*-orthogonal complement to $\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{p}_i$ in \mathfrak{p}_i is $ad(\mathfrak{k})$ -invariant for every $i = 1, 2, \ldots, s$. It is clear that there is a maximal by-inclusion-adapted subalgebra among all subalgebras adapted for (2.1).

Now, we recall a sufficient and necessary condition for a left-invariant Riemannian metric on a compact simple Lie group to be a geodesic orbit metric.

Theorem 2.1. ([6]) The inner product (2.1) generates a geodesic orbit left-invariant Riemannian metric on compact simple Lie group G if and only if there is a maximal by-inclusion-adapted Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{k} such that, for any $X \in \mathfrak{g}$, there exists $W \in \mathfrak{k}$ such that, for any $Y \in \mathfrak{g}$, the equality ([X + W, Y], X) = 0 holds or, equivalently, [A(X), X + W] = 0, where $A : \mathfrak{g} \to \mathfrak{g}$ is a metric endomorphism.

The following theorem will be useful in the proof of our main theorem.

Theorem 2.2. ([6]) Suppose that the inner product (2.1) generates a geodesic orbit left-invariant Riemannian metric on compact simple Lie group G, $\mathfrak{k}_i = \mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{p}_i$, and that \mathfrak{n}_i is the B-orthogonal complement to \mathfrak{k}_i in \mathfrak{p}_i . Then there is a maximal by-inclusion-adapted Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{k} such that one of the following assertions holds:

- (1) there is no more than one index i such that $\mathfrak{k}_i \neq \mathfrak{p}_i$; in this case (2.1) generates a naturally reductive left-invariant Riemannian metric on *G*;
- (2) $rank(\mathfrak{k}) \geq 2$, and $[\mathfrak{n}_i, \mathfrak{n}_j] \subset \mathfrak{n}_i \oplus \mathfrak{n}_j$ for $i \neq j$;
- (3) there is only one non-zero $\mathfrak{k}_i = \mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{p}_i$, hence, $\mathfrak{k}_i = \mathfrak{k}$; moreover, rank $(\mathfrak{k}) = 1$ and either $[\mathfrak{n}_i, \mathfrak{n}_j] \subset \mathfrak{n}_i$ or $[\mathfrak{n}_i, \mathfrak{n}_j] \subset \mathfrak{n}_j$ for $i \neq j$.

Next, we recall some definitions and fundamental results for a *G*-invariant Riemannian metric on a reductive homogeneous space, whose isotropy representation is decomposed into the sum of non-equivalent irreducible summands. Let *G* be a compact semisimple Lie group, *K* a connected closed subgroup of *G*, and let \mathfrak{g} and \mathfrak{k} be the corresponding Lie algebras. The Killing form *B* of \mathfrak{g} is negative definite, so we can define an Ad(G)-invariant inner product *B* on \mathfrak{g} . Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ be a reductive decomposition of \mathfrak{g} with respect to *B*, such that $[\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{m}] \subset \mathfrak{m}$ and $\mathfrak{m} \cong T_0(G/K)$. We assume that \mathfrak{m} admits a decomposition into mutually non-equivalent irreducible Ad(K)-modules as follows:

$$\mathfrak{m} = \mathfrak{m}_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{m}_q. \tag{2.2}$$

Then any G-invariant metric on G/K can be expressed as

$$\langle , \rangle = x_1(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_1} + \dots + x_q(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_q},$$
 (2.3)

for positive real numbers $(x_1, ..., x_q) \in \mathbb{R}^q_+$.

The Ricci tensor r of a G-invariant Riemannian metric on G/K is of the same form as (2.3), that is

$$r = y_1(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_1} + \dots + y_q(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_q},$$
(2.4)

for some real numbers $y_1, ..., y_q$.

Let e_{α} be a (-B)-orthonormal basis adapted to the decomposition of m, i.e. $e_{\alpha} \in \mathfrak{m}_{i}$ for some *i*, and $\alpha < \beta$ if i < j. We put $A_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma} = B([e_{\alpha}, e_{\beta}], e_{\gamma})$ such that $[e_{\alpha}, e_{\beta}]_{\mathfrak{m}} = \sum_{\gamma} A_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma} e_{\gamma}$, and set $\begin{bmatrix} k \\ ij \end{bmatrix} = \sum (A_{\alpha\beta}^{\gamma})^{2}$, where the sum is taken over all indices α , β , γ with $e_{\alpha} \in \mathfrak{m}_{i}$, $e_{\beta} \in \mathfrak{m}_{j}$, $e_{\gamma} \in \mathfrak{m}_{k}$, and $[,]_{\mathfrak{m}}$ denotes the m-component. Then the positive numbers $\begin{bmatrix} k \\ ij \end{bmatrix}$ are independent of the *B*-orthonormal bases chosen for \mathfrak{m}_{i} , \mathfrak{m}_{j} , \mathfrak{m}_{k} , and $\begin{bmatrix} k \\ ij \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} j \\ ki \end{bmatrix}$, because of the operation law of bracket and Killing form.

3. Non-geodesic orbit Einstein metrics on the compact lie groups SO(n)

For $G = SO(k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4)$, $K = diag(SO(k_1) \times SO(k_2) \times SO(k_3) \times SO(k_4))$, we take into account the diffeomorphism:

$$G/e \cong (G \times \mathrm{SO}(k_1) \times \mathrm{SO}(k_2) \times \mathrm{SO}(k_3) \times \mathrm{SO}(k_4)) / \mathrm{diag}(\mathrm{SO}(k_1) \times \mathrm{SO}(k_2) \times \mathrm{SO}(k_3) \times \mathrm{SO}(k_4)),$$

where $G \times K$ acts on G by $(g, k)y = gyk^{-1}$. We denote $\mathfrak{so}(k_1)$ as \mathfrak{m}_1 , $\mathfrak{so}(k_2)$ as \mathfrak{m}_2 , $\mathfrak{so}(k_3)$ as \mathfrak{m}_3 , $\mathfrak{so}(k_4)$ as \mathfrak{m}_4 . We denote by M(p,q) the set of all $p \times q$ matrices,

where A'_{ij} denotes the transposed matrix of the matrix A_{ij} , $1 \le i, j \le 4$. Note that the action of Ad(k) ($k \in K$) on \mathfrak{m} is given by

$$Ad(k)\begin{pmatrix} 0 & A_{12} & A_{13} & A_{14} \\ -A'_{12} & 0 & A_{23} & A_{24} \\ -A'_{13} & -A'_{23} & 0 & A_{34} \\ -A'_{14} & -A'_{24} & -A'_{34} & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & h'_1A_{12}h_2 & h'_1A_{13}h_3 & h'_1A_{14}h_4 \\ -h'_2A'_{12}h_1 & 0 & h'_2A_{23}h_3 & h'_2A_{24}h_4 \\ -h'_3A'_{13}h_1 & -h'_3A'_{23}h_2 & 0 & h'_3A_{34}h_4 \\ -h'_4A'_{14}h_1 & -h'_4A'_{24}h_2 & -h'_4A'_{34}h_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

here $\begin{pmatrix} h_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & h_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & h_4 \end{pmatrix} \in K$, hence the subspaces $m_{12}, m_{13}, m_{23}, m_{24}, m_{34}$ are irreducible $Ad(K)$ -submodules.

We know that g admits a decomposition into mutually non-equivalent irreducible Ad(K)-modules as follows:

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{m}_1 + \mathfrak{m}_2 + \mathfrak{m}_3 + \mathfrak{m}_4 + \mathfrak{m}_{12} + \mathfrak{m}_{13} + \mathfrak{m}_{14} + \mathfrak{m}_{23} + \mathfrak{m}_{24} + \mathfrak{m}_{34}$$
(3.1)

and consider left-invariant metrics on *G* that are determined by the $Ad(SO(k_1) \times SO(k_2) \times SO(k_3) \times SO(k_4))$ -invariant scalar products on $\mathfrak{so}(k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4)$ given by

w

$$\langle,\rangle = x_1(-B)|_{\mathfrak{so}(k_1)} + x_2(-B)|_{\mathfrak{so}(k_2)} + x_3(-B)|_{\mathfrak{so}(k_3)} + x_4(-B)|_{\mathfrak{so}(k_4)} + x_{12}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_{12}} + x_{13}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_{13}} + x_{14}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_{14}} + x_{23}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_{23}} + x_{24}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_{24}} + x_{34}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{m}_{34}}.$$
(3.2)

Proposition 3.1. The submodules in the decomposition (3.1) satisfy the following bracket relations:

$[\mathfrak{m}_1,\mathfrak{m}_1]=\mathfrak{m}_1$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_2,\mathfrak{m}_2]=\mathfrak{m}_2$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_3,\mathfrak{m}_3]=\mathfrak{m}_3,$	$[\mathfrak{m}_4,\mathfrak{m}_4]=\mathfrak{m}_4$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_1,\mathfrak{m}_{12}]=\mathfrak{m}_{12}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_2,\mathfrak{m}_{12}]=\mathfrak{m}_{12}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_3,\mathfrak{m}_{13}]=\mathfrak{m}_{13},$	$[\mathfrak{m}_4,\mathfrak{m}_{14}]=\mathfrak{m}_{14}$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_1,\mathfrak{m}_{13}]=\mathfrak{m}_{13},$	$[\mathfrak{m}_2,\mathfrak{m}_{23}]=\mathfrak{m}_{23},$	$[\mathfrak{m}_3,\mathfrak{m}_{23}]=\mathfrak{m}_{23},$	$[\mathfrak{m}_4,\mathfrak{m}_{24}]=\mathfrak{m}_{24}$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_1,\mathfrak{m}_{14}]=\mathfrak{m}_{14}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_2,\mathfrak{m}_{24}]=\mathfrak{m}_{24}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_3,\mathfrak{m}_{34}]=\mathfrak{m}_{34},$	$[\mathfrak{m}_4,\mathfrak{m}_{34}]=\mathfrak{m}_{34}$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_{12},\mathfrak{m}_{23}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{13}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{12},\mathfrak{m}_{24}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{14}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{13},\mathfrak{m}_{34}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{14}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{13},\mathfrak{m}_{23}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{12}$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_{14},\mathfrak{m}_{24}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{12}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{14},\mathfrak{m}_{34}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{13}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{12},\mathfrak{m}_{13}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{23}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{23},\mathfrak{m}_{34}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{24}$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_{23},\mathfrak{m}_{24}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{34}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{24},\mathfrak{m}_{34}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_{23}$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{12},\mathfrak{m}_{12}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_1+\mathfrak{m}_2,$	$[\mathfrak{m}_{13},\mathfrak{m}_{13}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_1+\mathfrak{m}_3$,
$[\mathfrak{m}_{14},\mathfrak{m}_{14}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_1+\mathfrak{m}_4$,	$[\mathfrak{m}_{23},\mathfrak{m}_{23}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_2+\mathfrak{m}_3,$	$[\mathfrak{m}_{24},\mathfrak{m}_{24}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_2+\mathfrak{m}_4,$	$[\mathfrak{m}_{34},\mathfrak{m}_{34}]\subset\mathfrak{m}_3+\mathfrak{m}_4,$

and all the other pairs of subspaces not appearing in the above list are all multiply commutative.

From [9], we know that the compact simple Lie group SO(*n*) (n > 12) admits at least two left-invariant non-naturally reductive Einstein metrics ρ_i , i = 1, 2, which both correspond to the coefficients of the metric (3.2) satisfying the conditions

$$x_{12} = x_{13} = x_{14} = 1, x_{24} = x_{34} = x_{23}, x_2 = x_3 = x_4, x_2 \neq x_{23}, x_{23} \neq 1$$

Moreover, it is easy to see that x_1, x_2, x_{23}, x_{12} are pairwise distinct ([9]).

Set $\mathfrak{p}_1 = \mathfrak{m}_1$, $\mathfrak{p}_2 = \mathfrak{m}_2 + \mathfrak{m}_3 + \mathfrak{m}_4$, $\mathfrak{p}_3 = \mathfrak{m}_{12} + \mathfrak{m}_{13} + \mathfrak{m}_{14}$, $\mathfrak{p}_4 = \mathfrak{m}_{23} + \mathfrak{m}_{24} + \mathfrak{m}_{34}$. Then the metric (3.2) reduces to

$$\langle,\rangle = x_1(-B)(,)|_{\mathfrak{p}_1} + x_2(-B)|_{\mathfrak{p}_2} + x_{12}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{p}_3} + x_{23}(-B)|_{\mathfrak{p}_4}.$$
(3.3)

Now we can give the proof of the main result of this paper.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let us consider Lie group SO(*n*) (n > 12) supplied with two left-invariant non-naturally reductive Einstein metrics ρ_i , i = 1, 2, generated with the inner product (3.3) (see [9]), now we show that the Riemannian manifolds (SO(*n*) (n > 12), ρ_i) are not geodesic orbit.

Choose any maximal by-inclusion subalgebra \mathfrak{k} adapted to (3.3); by the definition of $\mathfrak{k}_i = \mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{p}_i$, i = 1, 2, 3, 4, we have $[\mathfrak{k}_i, \mathfrak{k}_i] \subset \mathfrak{k}_i$ and $[\mathfrak{k}_i, \mathfrak{n}_i] \subset [\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{n}_i] \subset \mathfrak{n}_i$, where \mathfrak{n}_i is the orthogonal complement to \mathfrak{k}_i in \mathfrak{p}_i . On the other hand, $[\mathfrak{p}_3, \mathfrak{p}_3] \subset \mathfrak{p}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_4$ and $[\mathfrak{p}_4, \mathfrak{p}_4] \subset \mathfrak{p}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_4$. So $[\mathfrak{k}_3, \mathfrak{p}_3] = 0$, notice $[\mathfrak{k}_3, \mathfrak{k}_3] \subset \mathfrak{k}_3$; it is easy to get $\mathfrak{k}_3 = 0$. From $[\mathfrak{k}_4, \mathfrak{k}_4] \subset \mathfrak{k}_4$ and $[\mathfrak{k}_4, \mathfrak{n}_4] \subset \mathfrak{n}_4$, by Proposition 3.1, it is easy to get $\mathfrak{k}_4 = 0$. Thus, \mathfrak{k}_3 and \mathfrak{k}_4 are trivial and $\mathfrak{k} \subset \mathfrak{p}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_2$.

Suppose that the inner product (3.3) generates a geodesic orbit left-invariant Riemannian metric, take $X_{13} \in \mathfrak{m}_{13}$ and $X_{23} \in \mathfrak{m}_{23}$ such that $[X_{13}, X_{23}] \neq 0$. By Theorem 2.1, for $X_{13} + X_{23} \in \mathfrak{m}_{13} + \mathfrak{m}_{23}$, there exists $W \in \mathfrak{k} \subset \mathfrak{p}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_2$, such that $[A(X_{13} + X_{23}), X_{13} + X_{23} + W] = 0$, it is easy to see that $A(X_{13} + X_{23}) = x_{12}X_{13} + x_{23}X_{23}$. Then, we have

$$(x_{12} - x_{23})[X_{13}, X_{23}] + [x_{12}X_{13} + x_{23}X_{23}, W] = 0.$$

Since $[\mathfrak{m}_{13}, \mathfrak{m}_{23}] \subset \mathfrak{m}_{12}$, and $\mathfrak{m}_{13}, \mathfrak{m}_{23}$ is $ad(\mathfrak{p}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_2)$ -invariant submodules, we have $x_{12} = x_{23}$, which is impossible.

Thus, the Riemannian manifolds (SO(n) (n > 12), ρ_i), i = 1, 2 are not geodesic orbit. This completes the proof.

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