# Lie groups as multiplication groups of topological loops

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#### Abstract

In this short survey we give some new results about the question whether or not a Lie group can be represented as the multiplication group of a 3-dimensional topological loop. We deal with the classes of quasi-simple Lie groups and nilpotent Lie groups.

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### 1. Introduction

A loop  $(L, \cdot)$  is a quasigroup with identity element  $e \in L$ . The left translations  $\lambda_a : y \mapsto a \cdot y$  and the right translations  $\rho_a : y \mapsto y \cdot a, a \in L$ , are bijections of L. The group generated by all left and right translations of L is called the multiplication group Mult(L) of L. The stabilizer of  $e \in L$  in the group Mult(L) is the inner mapping group Inn(L) of L. The multiplication group and the inner mapping group of a loop L are important tools for research in loop theory since there are strict relations between the structure of the groups Mult(L), Inn(L) and that of L. If the group Mult(L) is simple, then the loop L is also simple and the group Inn(L) is a maximal subgroup of Mult(L) (cf. [1], [4], [15]). The nilpotency of the group Mult(L)implies the centrally nilpotency of L (cf. [4]).

The subgroup  $G_l$  of Mult(L) generated by all left translations of L is the group of left translations of L. Topological loops L such that the groups  $G_l$  of L are Lie groups have been studied in [14] and they are treated as continuous sharply transitive sections  $\sigma : G_l/H_l \to G_l$ , where  $H_l$  is the stabilizer of the identity element  $e \in L$  in  $G_l$ .

For infinite groups in any studied category there is till now only one feasible criterion for the decision whether a group  $\Gamma$  is the multiplication group of a loop L, namely the criterion of Niemenmaa and Kepka ([15]).

**Proposition 1.** A group  $\Gamma$  is the multiplication group of L if and only if there exists a maximal subgroup K of  $\Gamma$  containing no non-trivial proper normal subgroup of  $\Gamma$  and two left transversals A and B of K in  $\Gamma$  such that  $a^{-1}b^{-1}ab \in K$  for every  $a \in A$  and  $b \in B$  and the set  $\{A, B\}$  generates  $\Gamma$ . This criterion has been successfully applied in particular in the case of Lie groups. The multiplication group Mult(L) of a topological loop L is mostly a differentiable transformation group of infinite dimension. This is the case for every 1-dimensional topological loop ([14], Theorem 18.18, p. 248). For 2-dimensional topological loops L the group Mult(L) is a Lie group precisely if it is an elementary filiform Lie group  $\mathcal{F}_n$  with  $n \ge 4$ , i. e. if the Lie algebra  $\mathbf{mult}(\mathbf{L})$  of Mult(L) has a basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_n\}$  such that  $[e_1, e_i] = e_{i+1}$  for  $2 \le i \le n-1$  ([9], Theorem 1, p. 420).

In contrast to this there does not exist 3-dimensional connected simply connected topological loop L having an elementary filiform Lie group as its multiplication group (cf. Proposition 5). The 4-dimensional indecomposable Lie groups are not multiplication groups of L. There are only two classes of the 5-dimensional nilpotent Lie groups which are multiplication groups of L. The corresponding loops L are centrally nilpotent of class 2 (cf. Proposition 6).

In the last section we treat quasi-simple Lie groups acting transitively and effectively on 3-dimensional manifolds. None of the at most 8-dimensional quasi-simple Lie groups occurs as the multiplication group of a connected topological proper loop. However, the group  $SL_4(\mathbb{R})$  is the multiplication group of connected topological loops homeomorphic to  $S^3$ .

#### 2. Preliminaries

A binary system  $(L, \cdot)$  is called a loop if there exists an element  $e \in L$  such that  $x = e \cdot x = x \cdot e$  holds for all  $x \in L$  and the equations  $a \cdot y = b$  and  $x \cdot a = b$  have precisely one solution, which we denote by  $y = a \setminus b$  and x = b/a. A loop L is proper if it is not a group.

The kernel of a homomorphism  $\alpha : (L, \cdot) \to (L', *)$  of a loop L into a loop L' is a normal subloop N of L. The centre Z(L) of a loop L consists of all elements z which satisfy the equations  $zx \cdot y = z \cdot xy$ ,  $x \cdot yz = xy \cdot z$ ,  $xz \cdot y = x \cdot zy$ , zx = xz for all  $x, y \in L$ . If we put  $Z_0 = e, Z_1 = Z(L)$  and  $Z_i/Z_{i-1} = Z(L/Z_{i-1})$ , then we obtain a series of normal subloops of L. If  $Z_{n-1}$  is a proper subloop of L but  $Z_n = L$ , then L is centrally nilpotent of class n. In [4] it was proved that if Mult(L) is a nilpotent group of class n, then L is centrally nilpotent of class at most n.

The connections between the normal subgroup structure of Mult(L) and the normal subloop structure of L are the following. Let L be a loop with multiplication group Mult(L) and identity element e. Let N be a normal subloop of L and M(N) be the set  $\{m \in Mult(L); xN = m(x)N \text{ for all } x \in L\}$ . Then M(N) is a normal subgroup of Mult(L) containing the multiplication group Mult(N) of the loop N and the multiplication group of the factor loop L/N is isomorphic to Mult(L)/M(N). Conversely, for every normal subgroup  $\mathcal{N}$  of Mult(L) the orbit  $\mathcal{N}(e)$  is a normal subloop of L. Moreover,  $\mathcal{N} \leq M(\mathcal{N}(e))$ . (cf. [1], Theorems 3, 4 and 5 and in [5], IV.1, Lemma 1.3). Let L be a loop and let  $G_l$ , respectively  $G_r$  the group of left, respectively of right translations of L. We have  $G_l = G_r = Mult(L)$  if and only if for the stabilizers  $H_l$ , respectively  $H_r$  of  $e \in L$  in  $G_l$ , respectively in  $G_r$  one has  $H_l = H_r = Inn(L)$  and for all  $x \in L$  the map  $f(x) : y \mapsto \lambda_x^{-1} \lambda_y x : L \to L$  is an element of Inn(L).

A loop L is called topological if L is a topological space and the binary operations  $(x, y) \mapsto x \cdot y$ ,  $(x, y) \mapsto x \setminus y$ ,  $(x, y) \mapsto y/x : L \times L \to L$  are continuous. Every connected topological loop L having a Lie group  $G_l$  as the group of left translations of L is obtained on a homogeneous space  $G_l/H_l$ , where  $H_l$  is a closed subgroup of  $G_l$  with  $Co_{G_l}(H_l) = 1$  and  $\sigma : G_l/H_l \to G_l$ is a continuous section such that  $\sigma(H_l) = 1 \in G_l$ , the subset  $\sigma(G_l/H_l)$ generates  $G_l$  and the set  $\sigma(G_l/H_l)$  operates sharply transitively on  $G_l/H_l$ , which means that to any  $xH_l$  and  $yH_l$  there exists precisely one  $z \in \sigma(G_l/H_l)$ with  $zxH_l = yH_l$ . The multiplication of L on the manifold  $G_l/H_l$  is defined by  $xH_l * yH_l = \sigma(xH_l)yH_l$ .

For any connected topological loop there exists universal covering which is simply connected (cf. [12], IX.1.).

A 2-dimensional connected simply connected loop  $L_{\mathcal{F}}$  is called an elementary filiform loop if its multiplication group is an elementary filiform group  $\mathcal{F}_n$ ,  $n \geq 4$  ([10]).

A Lie group is called indecomposable if it is not the direct product of two proper ideals of positive dimension.

A quasi-simple connected Lie group is a connected Lie group G such that any normal subgroup of G is discrete and central in G. A connected loop L is quasi-simple if any normal subloop of L is discrete in L. According to [12], p. 216, all discrete normal subloops of a connected loop are central.

# 3. Nilpotent Lie groups as multiplication groups of topological loops

Lemma 3.3 in [9], p. 390, says the following.

**Lemma 2.** Let L be a 3-dimensional proper connected topological loop such that its multiplication group is a solvable Lie group. If L is simply connected, then it is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

Assume that the group Mult(L) of a 3-dimensional proper connected topological loop L is nilpotent. For the centre Z of Mult(L) one has dim  $Z \in \{1,2\}$  (cf. Lemma 3.5. in [9], p. 391). By Theorem 11 in [1] the orbit Z(e) is the centre Z(L) of L. From Proposition 3.7. in [9], p. 392, one gets:

**Proposition 3.** Let L be a 3-dimensional proper connected simply connected topological loop such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is a nilpotent Lie group and the centre Z of Mult(L) has dimension 2. Then Mult(L) is a semidirect product of a group  $Q \cong \mathbb{R}$  by the abelian group  $M = Z \times Inn(L) \cong \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $m \geq 3$ , where  $\mathbb{R}^2 = Z \cong Z(L)$ . For every 1-dimensional connected subgroup N of the centre Z of Mult(L) the orbit N(e) is a 1-dimensional connected normal subloop of L containing in Z(L) (cf. Lemma 3.6. (a) in [9], p. 392).

**Proposition 4.** Let L be a 3-dimensional proper connected simply connected topological loop such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is an indecomposable nilpotent Lie group. Then there exists a 1-dimensional central subgroup N(e) of L isomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Moreover, one of the following possibilities holds:

a) If the factor loop L/N(e) is isomorphic to the abelian group  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , then the centre Z of Mult(L) has dimension 1 and N(e) = Z(e) = Z(L). Moreover, Mult(L) is a semidirect product of a group  $Q \cong \mathbb{R}^2$  by the abelian group  $P = Z \times Inn(L) \cong \mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $m \ge 2$ .

b) If the factor loop L/N(e) is isomorphic to a 2-dimensional elementary filiform loop  $L_{\mathcal{F}}$ , then there is a normal subgroup S of Mult(L) containing  $N \cong \mathbb{R}$  such that the factor group Mult(L)/S is an elementary filiform Lie group  $\mathcal{F}_n$  with  $n \ge 4$ .

**Proposition 5.** There does not exist any 3-dimensional connected simply connected topological loop having an elementary filiform Lie group as its multiplication group.

The classification of the indecomposable nilpotent Lie algebras of dimension 5 can be found in [11], pp. 167-168.

**Proposition 6.** Let L be a connected simply connected topological proper loop of dimension 3 such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is a 5dimensional indecomposable nilpotent Lie group. Then L contains a central subgroup  $C \cong \mathbb{R}$  such that the factor loop  $L/C \cong \mathbb{R}^2$ . Moreover, the following Lie groups are the multiplication groups Mult(L) and the following subgroups are the inner mapping groups Inn(L) of L:

1)  $Mult(L)_1$  is the direct product  $\mathcal{F}_3 \times_Z \mathcal{F}_3$  with amalgamated centre Z the multiplication of which is given by  $g(q_1, z_1, w_1, x_1, y_1)g(q_2, z_2, w_2, x_2, y_2) =$ 

 $g(q_1 + q_2 + z_1x_2 + w_1y_2, z_1 + z_2, w_1 + w_2, x_1 + x_2, y_1 + y_2).$ 

Inn(L) is the subgroup  $\{g(0, z, w, 0, 0), z, w \in \mathbb{R}\}$ . 2) Mult(L)<sub>2</sub> is represented on  $\mathbb{R}^5$  by the multiplication

$$g(x_1, y_1, q_1, z_1, w_1)g(x_2, y_2, q_2, z_2, w_2) =$$

 $g(x_1 + x_2 + q_1z_2 + w_1y_2 + \frac{w_1^2q_2}{2}, y_1 + y_2 + w_1q_2, q_1 + q_2, z_1 + z_2, w_1 + w_2).$   $Inn(L)_2 \text{ is one of the subgroups } Inn(L)_{2,1} = \{g(0, y, q, 0, 0), y, q \in \mathbb{R}\},$  $Inn(L)_{2,2} = \{g(0, y, 0, z, 0), y, z \in \mathbb{R}\}.$ 

## 4. Quasi-simple Lie groups as multiplication groups of topological loops

The following lemma is proved in [15], Lemma 2.6.

**Lemma 7.** Let S be a proper subgroup of a simple group K and let A and B be S-connected transversals in K. Then S is maximal in K.

**Proposition 8.** If L is a 3-dimensional connected simply connected topological loop having a quasi-simple Lie group as the multiplication group Mult(L)of L, then one of the following cases can occur:

(a) L is homeomorphic to  $S^3$  and the group Mult(L) is one of the following Lie groups:  $SL_2(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $SU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ ,  $SL_4(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $SO_5(\mathbb{R}, 1)$ ,  $Sp_4(\mathbb{R})$ , the universal covering of  $SL_3(\mathbb{R})$ .

(b) L is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and the group Mult(L) is the group  $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ .

The proof of this Proposition can be found in [10], Proposition 3.2, p. 389.

**Theorem 9.** There does not exist connected topological loop L such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is locally isomorphic to the group  $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ .

We consider the Lie groups which are locally isomorphic to  $SL_3(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Lemma 10.** If there exists a connected topological proper loop L such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is locally isomorphic to  $SL_3(\mathbb{R})$ , then we have the following possibility: the group Mult(L) of L as well as the group  $G_l$  of L is the group  $SL_3(\mathbb{R})$ , the stabilizer  $Inn(L) = H_l$  of  $e \in L$  in the group  $Mult(L) = G_l$  is the subgroup  $SO_3(\mathbb{R})$  and L is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^5$ .

**Theorem 11.** There does not exist any connected topological loop L such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is locally isomorphic to the Lie group  $SL_3(\mathbb{R})$ .

Now we treat the Lie groups G which are locally isomorphic to  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ . From [3], Satz 1, p. 251 and [6], Section 5, p. 276, we obtain the following:

**Proposition 12.** Any connected closed maximal subgroup of  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$  is one of the following groups

(1)  $H_1$  is isomorpic to the group  $Spin_3 \times SO_2(\mathbb{R})$ , (2)  $H_2$  is isomorphic to the 5-dimensional solvable group NG, where  $N = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & zi & z \\ \bar{z}i & 1+it-\frac{z\bar{z}}{2} & t+\frac{z\bar{z}}{2} \\ \bar{z} & t+\frac{z\bar{z}}{2} & 1-it+\frac{z\bar{z}}{2} \end{pmatrix}; z \in \mathbb{C}, t \in \mathbb{R} \right\} and$   $G = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} e^{-ik} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}(e^{-u}+e^{u})e^{\frac{1}{2}ik} & \frac{1}{2}(e^{u}-e^{-u})ie^{\frac{1}{2}ik} \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}(e^{-u}-e^{u})ie^{\frac{1}{2}ik} & \frac{1}{2}(e^{-u}+e^{u})e^{\frac{1}{2}ik} \end{pmatrix}; k, u \in \mathbb{R} \right\},$ (3)  $H_3$  is isomorphic to the group  $SU_2(\mathbb{C}, 1) \times SO_2(\mathbb{R}) \cong SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \times SO_2(\mathbb{R}),$ 

(4)  $H_4$  is isomorphic to the group  $SO_0(2,1) \cong PSL_2(\mathbb{R})$ .

**Proposition 13.** If there exists a connected topological proper loop L such that its multiplication group Mult(L) is locally isomorphic to  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ , then the following possibilities can occur:

(a) L is homeomorphic to  $\mathbb{R}^4$ , the group Mult(L) is the group  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ , the subgroup  $Inn(L) = H_l$  of Mult(L) is the subgroup  $H_1$  given in Proposition 12 (1).

(b) L is homeomorphic to  $S^3$ , the group Mult(L) as well as the group  $G_l$ of L is the group  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ , the subgroup  $Inn(L) = H_l$  of Mult(L) is the subgroup  $H_2$  given in Proposition 12 (2).

**Theorem 14.** There does not exist a connected topological loop L such that the group Mult(L) is the Lie group  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ .

Remark 15. Till now the only known quasi-simple Lie group which is the multiplication group of a 3-dimensional connected topological loop L is the group  $SL_4(\mathbb{R})$ . Such loops L are the multiplicative loops of locally compact connected topological quasifields Q such that the kernel of Q is the field of complex numbers and Q has dimension 2 over its kernel. These quasifields Q coordinatize non-desarguesian 8-dimensional topological translation planes and are determined by N. Knarr ([13], Section 6). Using the results of [13] we have proved that the multiplicative loops  $Q^*$  are the direct products of  $\mathbb{R}$  and a compact loop S homeomorphic to  $S^3$  and having the group  $SL_4(\mathbb{R})$  as its multiplication group (cf. [7]). There are two classes of such compact loops S. One is related to Rees algebras (cf. [14], Section 29.2).

The simple Lie groups  $PSL_2(\mathbb{C})$ ,  $PSU_3(\mathbb{C}, 1)$ ,  $SL_3(\mathbb{R})$  are the groups  $G_l$ topologically generated by all left translations for differentiable loops L. If the stabilizer  $H_l$  of  $e \in L$  in  $G_l$  is a maximal compact subgroup of  $G_l$ , then L is a Bruck loop of hyperbolic type (cf. [8]).

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