

# Maximal Tori in Lie Groups: Definition, Properties and Applications

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## Introduction

In mathematics, a torus is a geometric shape that is topologically equivalent to a doughnut. A torus can be defined as the surface of a cylinder with a circular cross-section that is rotated around an axis that lies in the same plane as the circle. In group theory, a maximal torus is a subgroup of a Lie group that is isomorphic to the product of several copies of the circle group. In this article, we will discuss the concept of a maximal torus in more detail, including its definition, properties and applications.

## Description

Let  $G$  be a Lie group and let  $T$  be a subgroup of  $G$ .  $T$  is called a torus if it is isomorphic to the product of several copies of the circle group  $S^1$ . A maximal torus of  $G$  is a torus that is maximal with respect to inclusion, meaning that it is not properly contained in any other torus of  $G$ . Equivalently, a maximal torus of  $G$  is a maximal abelian subgroup of  $G$ . The dimension of a maximal torus is called the rank of  $G$ . The rank is a fundamental invariant of  $G$  that is used to classify Lie groups. A maximal torus is always abelian, since it is isomorphic to the product of several copies of the circle group, which is abelian. Every torus of  $G$  is conjugate to a maximal torus. This means that for any torus  $T$  of  $G$ , there exists an element  $g$  in  $G$  such that  $gTg^{-1}$  is a maximal torus of  $G$  [1].

If  $H$  is a closed subgroup of  $G$  that contains a maximal torus  $T$  of  $G$ , then  $H$  also contains a maximal torus of  $G$ . This means that the maximal tori of  $G$  are precisely the maximal abelian subgroups of  $G$ . If  $G$  is compact, then every maximal torus of  $G$  is a maximal abelian subgroup of  $G$ . This follows from the fact that every closed subgroup of a compact Lie group is compact. The concept of a maximal torus is central to the classification of Lie groups. The rank of a Lie group is used to classify Lie groups up to isomorphism. Maximal tori play a key role in the study of Lie algebra, which is the algebraic structure that underlies the Lie group. In particular, the root system of a Lie algebra can be defined in terms of a maximal torus of the corresponding Lie group [2].

Maximal tori are used in the study of symmetric spaces, which are spaces that are invariant under the action of a Lie group. The geometry of symmetric spaces is closely related to the structure of the maximal tori of the corresponding Lie group. The Weyl group of a Lie group is a group that acts on the maximal torus of the Lie group. The Weyl group plays an important role in the representation theory of Lie groups, which is the study of how Lie groups act on vector spaces. Maximal tori are used in the construction of the Cartan matrix, which is a matrix that encodes the structure of the root system of a Lie algebra. The Cartan matrix is a fundamental tool in the study of Lie algebras and Lie groups. In this article, we have discussed the concept of a maximal torus in Lie groups. We have seen that a maximal torus is a maximal abelian subgroup of a Lie group that is isomorphic to the product of several copies of the circle group. Maximal tori play a key role

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in the classification of Lie groups, the study of Lie algebra, the construction of the Cartan matrix and the representation theory of Lie groups [3,4].

One important property of maximal tori is that they are connected and their Lie algebra is abelian. This means that the Lie algebra of a maximal torus can be identified with a direct sum of copies of the Lie algebra of the circle group. The Lie algebra of a Lie group is the tangent space at the identity element, equipped with the Lie bracket operation, which measures the extent to which the group multiplication fails to commute. The Lie algebra of a maximal torus plays a key role in the study of the Lie algebra of the corresponding Lie group, since the root system of the Lie algebra can be defined in terms of the maximal torus.

Maximal tori are also used in the study of Lie group homomorphisms. If  $G$  and  $H$  are Lie groups and  $f: G \rightarrow H$  is a Lie group homomorphism, then the image of a maximal torus of  $G$  is a maximal torus of  $H$ . This property allows one to classify Lie group homomorphisms in terms of their action on maximal tori [5].

Another important application of maximal tori is in the study of the topology of Lie groups. The topology of a Lie group is determined by its maximal torus, since any two maximal tori of a Lie group are conjugate. In particular, the maximal torus of a compact Lie group determines its homotopy type, which is a fundamental topological invariant that measures the extent to which a space can be continuously deformed into another space. This property allows one to classify compact Lie groups up to homotopy equivalence.

Maximal tori also play a key role in the study of Lie group representations. A representation of a Lie group  $G$  on a complex vector space  $V$  is a homomorphism from  $G$  to the group of invertible linear transformations of  $V$ . The representation theory of Lie groups studies the properties of such representations and how they can be decomposed into irreducible components. The maximal torus of a Lie group acts on the vector space  $V$  through its action on the Lie algebra of  $G$ , which allows one to decompose the representation into irreducible components known as weight spaces.

## Conclusion

In summary, maximal tori are a fundamental concept in the study of Lie groups, Lie algebras and their representations. They are maximal abelian subgroups of a Lie group that are isomorphic to the product of several copies of the circle group. Maximal tori play a key role in the classification of Lie groups, the study of Lie algebra, the construction of the Cartan matrix and the representation theory of Lie groups. They are also used in the study of Lie group homomorphisms, the topology of Lie groups and the decomposition of Lie group representations into irreducible components.

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## Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.

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