

Re: Diagonalization of an orthogonal matrix with determinant 1

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I have just seen that every matrix in the special orthogonal group $SO(n, \text{Complexnumbers}) = \{ A \text{ in } M(n, \mathbb{C}) \text{ where } \text{Transpose}(A)A = A\text{Transpose}(A) = \text{identity-matrix and } \det(A) = 1 \}$, can be diagonalized using Lie-group theory. Does any body know how to show this in a simpler way for example using linear algebra?

Orthogonal matrices are unitary, and thus normal. Use the Spectral Theorem.

How do you see that orthogonal matrices are unitary? I agree for the real matrices but how about the complex matrices?