

criminant of  $P(A, z)$  is zero, the set of  $A$ 's in  $GL_n$  whose  $P(A, z)$  has a double root is a subvariety of  $GL_n$ .  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is dense.

Clearly  $\mathcal{A}$  is in  $K$ , which is path-connected.

$$f(A) = G(P'(A), \dots, P^{(n)}(A)) \text{ for all } A \in K.$$

Thus since  $GL_n$  is open (in  $M_n$ ) and connected,

$$f(A) = G(P'(A), \dots, P^{(n)}(A)) \text{ for all } A \in M_n. \quad \square$$

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Comment on  $\pi_0(GL_n) = 0$

See P 55.7 of Lecture notes on  $K$ -theory.  $\square$

Now, a  $k$ -linear form

$$\tilde{P}: M_n \times \dots \times M_n \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

is called invariant if for any  $A_1, \dots, A_k \in M_n$ ,  $g \in GL_n$ ,

$$\tilde{P}(A_1, \dots, A_k) = \tilde{P}(gA_1g^{-1}, \dots, gA_kg^{-1}).$$

An invariant form  $\tilde{P}$  clearly gives an invariant polynomial  $P$  by

$$P(A) = \tilde{P}(A, \dots, A).$$

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$$P(gAg^{-1}) = P(A) \quad P(a_{11} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + a_{12} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \dots)$$

$$= \tilde{P}(\dots) = a_{11} \dots a_{11} \tilde{P}(\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \dots) + \dots$$

which is a polynomial in  $A$   $\square$

In fact, the converse is also true: any invariant polynomial  $P$  of degree  $k$  can be realized as the restriction of a symmetric invariant  $k$ -linear form  $\tilde{P}$  on  $M_n \times \dots \times M_n$  to the diagonal. The form  $\tilde{P}$ , called the polarization of  $P$ , is uniquely determined