



# Nilpotent Orbits In Semisimple Lie Algebra: An Introduction

By David .H. Collingwood, William .M. McGovern

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Through the 1990s, a circle of ideas emerged relating three very different kinds of objects associated to a complex semisimple Lie algebra: nilpotent orbits, representations of a Weyl group, and primitive ideals in an enveloping algebra. The principal aim of this book is to collect together the important results concerning the classification and properties of nilpotent orbits, beginning from the common ground of basic structure theory. The techniques used are elementary and in the toolkit of any graduate student interested in the harmonic analysis of representation theory of Lie groups. The book develops the Dynkin-Konstant and Bala-Carter classifications of complex nilpotent orbits, derives the Lusztig-Spaltenstein theory of induction of nilpotent orbits, discusses basic topological questions, and classifies real nilpotent orbits. The classical algebras are emphasized throughout; here the theory can be simplified by using the combinatorics of partitions and tableaux. The authors conclude with a survey of advanced topics related to the above circle of ideas. This book is the product of a two-quarter course taught at the University of Washington.

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