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**Adjoint varieties and their secant varieties.** (English) Zbl 1064.14041

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Summary: The purpose of this article is to show how the graded decomposition of complex simple Lie algebras can be applied to studying adjoint varieties  $X$  and their secant varieties  $\text{Sec}(X)$ . Firstly quadratic equations defining adjoint varieties are explicitly given. Secondly it is shown that  $\dim \text{Sec}(X) = 2 \dim X$  for adjoint varieties  $X$  in two ways: one is based on Terracini's lemma, and the other is on some explicit description of  $\text{Sec}(X)$  in terms of an orbit of the adjoint action. Finally it is shown that the contact loci of the secant variety to its embedded tangent space have dimension two if  $X$  is adjoint.

**MSC:**

[14J40](#)  $n$ -folds ( $n > 4$ )

[14M17](#) Homogeneous spaces and generalizations

[14N05](#) Projective techniques in algebraic geometry

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**Full Text:** [DOI](#)

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