Dmitri I. PANYUSHEV & Oksana S. YAKIMOVA

A remarkable contraction of semisimple Lie algebras

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A REMARKABLE CONTRACTION OF SEMISIMPLE LIE ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. — Recently, E. Feigin introduced a very interesting contraction \( q \) of a semisimple Lie algebra \( g \) (see arXiv:1007.0646 and arXiv:1101.1898). We prove that these non-reductive Lie algebras retain good invariant-theoretic properties of \( g \). For instance, the algebras of invariants of both adjoint and coadjoint representations of \( q \) are free, and also the enveloping algebra of \( q \) is a free module over its centre.

Résumé. — E. Feigin a introduit la contraction \( q \) d’une algèbre de Lie semi-simple \( g \) dans arXiv :1007.0646 et arXiv :1101.1898. Nous démontrons que ces algèbres de Lie non-réductives conservent quelque unes des propriétés de \( g \). En particulier, les algèbres des invariants des représentations adjointe et respectivement coadjointe de \( q \) sont libres, et l’algèbre enveloppante de \( q \) est un module libre sur son centre.

Introduction

The ground field \( \mathbb{F} \) is algebraically closed and \( \text{char} \mathbb{F} = 0 \). Let \( G \) be a connected semisimple algebraic group of rank \( l \) with Lie algebra \( g \). Recently, E. Feigin introduced a very interesting contraction of \( g \) [2]. His motivation came from some problems in Representation Theory [4], and making use of this contraction he also studied certain degenerations of flag varieties [3]. Our goal is to elaborate on invariant-theoretic properties of these contractions of semisimple Lie algebras.

Fix a triangular decomposition \( g = u \oplus t \oplus u^- \), where \( t \) is a Cartan subalgebra. Then \( b = u \oplus t \) is the fixed Borel subalgebra of \( g \). The corresponding subgroups of \( G \) are \( B, U \), and \( T \). Using the vector space isomorphism \( g/b \simeq u^- \), we regard \( u^- \) as a \( B \)-module. If \( b \in b \) and \( \eta \in u^- \), then

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(b, η) → b ◦ η stands for the corresponding representation of b. That is, if
\( p_- : \mathfrak{g} \to \mathfrak{u}^- \) is the projection with kernel b, then \( b \circ \eta = p_-([b, \eta]) \).

Following [2, Sect. 2], consider the semi-direct product \( \mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{b} \ltimes (\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b})^a = \mathfrak{b} \ltimes (\mathfrak{u}^-)^a \), where the superscript ‘a’ means that the \( b \)-module \( \mathfrak{u}^- \) is regarded as an abelian ideal in \( \mathfrak{q} \). We may (and will) identify the vector spaces \( \mathfrak{g} \) and \( \mathfrak{q} \) using the decomposition \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{b} \oplus \mathfrak{u}^- \). If \( (b, \eta), (b', \eta') \in \mathfrak{q} \), then the Lie bracket in \( \mathfrak{q} \) is given by

\[
[(b, \eta), (b', \eta')] = ([b, b'], b \circ \eta' - b' \circ \eta).
\]

The corresponding connected algebraic group is \( Q = B \ltimes N \), where \( N = \exp((\mathfrak{u}^-)^a) \) is an abelian normal unipotent subgroup of \( Q \). The exponential map \( \exp : (\mathfrak{u}^-)^a \to N \) is an isomorphism of varieties, and elements of \( Q \) are written as product \( s \cdot \exp(\eta) \), where \( s \in B \) and \( \eta \in \mathfrak{u}^- \). If \( (s, \eta) \mapsto s \eta \) is the representation of \( B \) in \( \mathfrak{u}^- \), then the adjoint representation of \( Q \) is given by

\[
\text{Ad}_Q(s \cdot \exp(\eta))(b, \eta') = (\text{Ad}(s)b, s(\eta' - b \circ \eta)).
\]

In this note, we explicitly construct certain polynomials that generate the algebras of invariants \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}]^Q \) and \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}^*]^Q \), and thereby prove that these two algebras are free. Furthermore, we also show that these polynomials generate the corresponding fields of invariants, \( \mathbb{F}(\mathfrak{q})^Q \) and \( \mathbb{F}(\mathfrak{q}^*)^Q \), and that \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}] \) is a free \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}]^Q \)-module and \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}^*] \) is a free \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}^*]^Q \)-module. The last assertion implies that the enveloping algebra of \( \mathfrak{q} \), \( U(\mathfrak{q}) \), is a free module over its centre. The Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{q} \) is an Inönü-Wigner contraction of \( \mathfrak{g} \) (see [15, Ch. 7 § 2.5]), and we also discuss the corresponding relationship between the invariants of \( G \) and \( Q \).

Certain classes of non-reductive algebraic Lie algebras \( \mathfrak{q} \) such that \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}^*]^Q \) is a polynomial ring have been studied before. They include the centralisers of nilpotent elements in \( \mathfrak{sl}_{l+1} \) and \( \mathfrak{sp}_{2l} \) [9], \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-contractions of \( \mathfrak{g} \) [10], and the truncated seaweed (biparabolic) subalgebras of \( \mathfrak{sl}_{l+1} \) and \( \mathfrak{sp}_{2l} \) [7]. Our result enlarges this interesting family of Lie algebras.

Let \( \mathfrak{q}_{\text{reg}}^* \) denote the set of regular elements of \( \mathfrak{q}^* \), i.e., \( x \in \mathfrak{q}_{\text{reg}}^* \) if and only if \( \dim Q \cdot x \) is maximal. For many problems related to coadjoint representations, it is vital to have that \( \text{codim}(\mathfrak{q}^* \setminus \mathfrak{q}_{\text{reg}}^*) \geq 2 \) [10, 9]. However, we prove that if \( \mathfrak{g} \) is simple and not of type \( A_l \), then \( \mathfrak{q}^* \setminus \mathfrak{q}_{\text{reg}}^* \) contains a divisor.

Notation.
- the centraliser in \( \mathfrak{g} \) of \( x \in \mathfrak{g} \) is denoted by \( \mathfrak{g}^x \).
- \( \kappa \) is the Killing form on \( \mathfrak{g} \).
- \( \mathfrak{g}_{\text{reg}} \) is the set of regular elements of \( \mathfrak{g} \), i.e., \( x \in \mathfrak{g}_{\text{reg}} \) if and only if \( \dim \mathfrak{g}^x = l \).
If $X$ is an irreducible variety, then $\mathbb{F}[X]$ is the algebra of regular functions and $\mathbb{F}(X)$ is the field of rational functions on $X$. If $X$ is acted upon by an algebraic group $A$, then $\mathbb{F}[X]^A$ and $\mathbb{F}(X)^A$ denote the subsets of respective $A$-invariant functions.

- If $\mathbb{F}[X]^A$ is finitely generated, then $X//A := \text{Spec}(\mathbb{F}[X]^A)$ and $\pi: X \to X//A$ is determined by the inclusion $\mathbb{F}[X]^A \subset \mathbb{F}[X]$. If $\mathbb{F}[X]^A$ is graded polynomial, then the elements of any set of algebraically independent homogeneous generators will be referred to as basic invariants.

- $S^i(V)$ is the $i$-th symmetric power of the vector space $V$ and $S(V) = \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} S^i(V)$ is the symmetric algebra of $V$.

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1. On adjoint and coadjoint invariants of Inönü-Wigner contractions

The algebra $q = b \ltimes (u^-)^a$ is an Inönü-Wigner contraction of $g$. For this reason, we recall the relevant setting and then describe a general procedure for constructing adjoint and coadjoint invariants of Inönü-Wigner contractions. The $\mathbb{Z}_2$-contractions of $g$ (considered in [10, 11]) are special cases of Inönü-Wigner contractions, and for them such a procedure is exposed in [10, Prop. 3.1]. However, the more general situation considered here requires another proof.

For a while, we assume that $G$ is any connected algebraic group. Let $H$ be an arbitrary connected subgroup of $G$ and let $m$ be a complementary subspace to $h = \text{Lie} H$ in $g$. Using the vector space isomorphism $g/h \simeq m$, we regard $m$ as $H$-module. Consider the invertible linear map $c_t: g \to g$, $t \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$, such that $c_t(h + m) = h + tm$ ($h \in h$, $m \in m$) and define the Lie algebra multiplication $[\ ,\ ]_{(t)}$ on the vector space $g$ by the rule

$$[x, y]_{(t)} := c_t^{-1}([c_t(x), c_t(y)]), \quad x, y \in g.$$ 

Write $g_{(t)}$ for the corresponding Lie algebra. The operator $(c_t)^{-1} = c_{t^{-1}}: g \to g_{(t)}$ yields an isomorphism between the Lie algebras $g = g_{(1)}$ and $g_{(t)}$, hence all algebras $g_{(t)}$ are isomorphic. It is easily seen that $\lim_{t \to 0} g_{(t)} \simeq h \ltimes (g/h)^a = h \ltimes m^a$. 

TOME 62 (2012), FASCICULE 6
The resulting Lie algebra $\mathfrak{k} := \mathfrak{h} \ltimes \mathfrak{m}^a$ is called an Inönü-Wigner contraction of $\mathfrak{g}$, cf. Example 7 in [15, Chapter 7, § 2]. The corresponding connected algebraic group is $K = H \ltimes \exp(\mathfrak{m}^a)$. We identify the vector spaces $\mathfrak{g}$ and $\mathfrak{k}$ using the decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$.

Remark. — For $\mathfrak{g}$ semisimple, the contraction $\mathfrak{g} \sim b \ltimes \mathfrak{u}^-$ is presented in a more lengthy way, using structure constants, in [2, Remark 2.3].

1.1. To construct invariants of the coadjoint representation of $\mathfrak{k}$, we proceed as follows. Let $f \in S(\mathfrak{g}) = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]$ be a homogeneous polynomial of degree $n$. Using the decomposition $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$, we consider the bi-homogeneous components of $f$:

$$f = \sum_{a \leq i \leq b} f^{(n-i,i)},$$

where $f^{(n-i,i)} \in S^{n-i}(\mathfrak{h}) \otimes S^i(\mathfrak{m}) \subset S^n(\mathfrak{g})$, and both $f^{(n-a,a)}$ and $f^{(n-b,b)}$ are assumed to be nonzero. In particular, $f^{(n-b,b)}$ is the bi-homogeneous component having the maximal degree relative to $\mathfrak{m}$. Since $\mathfrak{g}(t)$ and $\mathfrak{k}$ are just the same vector spaces, we also can regard each $f^{(n-i,i)}$ as an element of $S^n(\mathfrak{g}(t))$ or $S^n(\mathfrak{k})$.

**Theorem 1.1.** — If $f \in S^n(\mathfrak{g})^G = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G$, then $f^{(n-b,b)} \in S^n(\mathfrak{k})^K = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}^*]^K$.

Proof. — The isomorphism of Lie algebras $\mathfrak{c}_{t^{-1}} : \mathfrak{g} \to \mathfrak{g}(t)$ implies that $\sum_{a \leq i \leq b} t^{-i} f^{(n-i,i)} \in S(\mathfrak{g}(t))^{G(t)}$ for all $t \neq 0$. It is harmless to replace the last expression with the $G(t)$-invariant $f_t := \sum_{a \leq i \leq b} t^{n-i} f^{(n-i,i)}$. Since $f_t$ is killed by $\mathfrak{g}(t)$ for all $t \neq 0$, its limit at 0, which is $f^{(n-b,b)}$, is killed by $\lim_{t \to 0} \mathfrak{g}(t) = \mathfrak{k}$. Hence $f^{(n-b,b)}$ is $K$-invariant. □

Let us say that $f^* := f^{(n-b,b)}$ is the highest component of $f \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G_n$ (with respect to the contraction $\mathfrak{g} \sim \mathfrak{k}$). Denote by $\mathcal{L}^*(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G_n)$ the linear span of $\{f^* \mid f \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G_n \text{ is homogeneous}\}$. Clearly, it is a graded algebra, and Theorem 1.1 implies that $\mathcal{L}^*(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G_n) \subset \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}^*]^K$. We say that $\mathcal{L}^*(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G_n)$ is the algebra of highest components for $\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}^*]^G_n$.

Invariants of the adjoint representation of $\mathfrak{k}$ can be constructed in a similar way. Set $\mathfrak{m}^* := \mathfrak{h}^\perp$, the annihilator of $\mathfrak{h}$ in $\mathfrak{g}^*$. Likewise, $\mathfrak{h}^* = \mathfrak{m}^\perp$. Then $\mathfrak{g}^* = \mathfrak{m}^* \oplus \mathfrak{h}^*$, and the adjoint operator $\mathfrak{c}_t^* : \mathfrak{g}^* \to \mathfrak{g}^*$ is given by $\mathfrak{c}_t^*(\mathfrak{m}^* + \mathfrak{h}^*) = t^{-1} \mathfrak{m}^* + \mathfrak{h}^*$. Having identified $\mathfrak{q}^*$ and $\mathfrak{k}^*$, we can play the same game with homogeneous elements of $S(\mathfrak{g}^*) = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]$. If $\tilde{f} \in S^n(\mathfrak{g}^*)$, then $\tilde{f}^{(i,n-i)}$ denotes its bi-homogeneous component that belongs to $S^i(\mathfrak{m}^*) \otimes S^{n-i}(\mathfrak{h}^*)$. The resulting assertion is the following:
Theorem 1.2. — For \( \tilde{f} \in S^n(\mathfrak{g}^*)^G \), let \( \tilde{f}^{(a,n-a)} \) be the bi-homogeneous component with minimal \( a \), i.e., having the maximal degree relative to \( \mathfrak{h}^* = \mathfrak{m}^\perp \). Then \( \tilde{f}^{(a,n-a)} \in S^n(\mathfrak{t}^*)^K \).

Likewise, we write \( \tilde{f}^* := \tilde{f}^{(a,n-a)} \) and consider the highest components, \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) \), which can be regarded as a graded subalgebra of \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \).

Lemma 1.3. — The graded algebras \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G \) and \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) \) have the same Poincaré series, i.e., \( \dim \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G_n = \dim \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G)_n \) for all \( n \in \mathbb{N} \); and likewise for \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G \) and \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) \).

Proof. — Actually, the assertion concerns vector spaces. Let \( \tilde{V} = \oplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \tilde{V}_i \) be a finite-dimensional \( \mathbb{Z} \)-graded vector space and \( V \) an arbitrary subspace of \( \tilde{V} \). For \( v \in V \), let \( v^\bullet \) denote the highest component of \( v \) with respect to the \( \mathbb{Z} \)-grading. Set \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(V) = \text{span}\{v^\bullet \mid v \in V\} \). We claim that there is a basis for \( V \), say \((v_1, \ldots, v_m)\), such that \((v_1^\bullet, \ldots, v_m^\bullet)\) is a basis for \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(V) \). (Left to the reader.) In particular, \( \dim V = \dim \mathcal{L}^\bullet(V) \).

Now, apply this claim to \( \tilde{V} = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]_n = \oplus_i \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]_{(i,n-i)} \) and \( V = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]_n^G \).

It is not always the case that \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \) or \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) = \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \).

For instance, we will see below that, for \( \mathfrak{g} \) semisimple and \( q = \mathfrak{b} \times (\mathfrak{u}^-)^a \), such an equality holds only for the invariants of the coadjoint representation. By the very construction, the algebras \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) \) and \( \mathcal{L}^\bullet(\mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G) \) are bi-graded. Moreover, it follows from [10, Theorem 2.7] that the algebras \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \) and \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \) are always bi-graded.

1.2. If \( \mathfrak{g} \) is semisimple, then we may identify \( \mathfrak{g} \) and \( \mathfrak{g}^* \) (and hence \( S(\mathfrak{g}) \) and \( S(\mathfrak{g}^*) \)) using the Killing form \( \varkappa \). If \( \mathfrak{h} \) is also reductive, then \( \varkappa \) is non-degenerated on \( \mathfrak{h} \) and one can take \( \mathfrak{m} \) to be the orthocomplement of \( \mathfrak{h} \) with respect to \( \varkappa \). Then \( \mathfrak{h}^\perp \simeq \mathfrak{m} \) and the decompositions of \( \mathfrak{g} \) and \( \mathfrak{g}^* \) considered in the general setting of Inönü-Wigner contractions coincide. Moreover, we can also identify the vector spaces \( \mathfrak{t} \) and \( \mathfrak{t}^* \). However, to obtain invariants of the adjoint and coadjoint representations of \( \mathfrak{q} \), one has to take the bi-homogeneous components of maximal degree with respect to different summands in the sum \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m} \). In this situation, Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 admit the following simultaneous formulation:

Suppose that \( f \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]_n^G \simeq S(\mathfrak{g})_n^G \) and \( f = \sum_{a \leq i \leq b} f^{(n-i,i)} \) is the bi-homogeneous decomposition relative to the sum \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{m} \). (That is, \( \text{deg}_\mathfrak{h} f^{(n-i,i)} = n - i \), etc.) Then, upon identifications of vector spaces \( \mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}, \) and \( \mathfrak{t}^* \), we have \( f^{(n-a,a)} \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \) and \( f^{(n-b,b)} \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{t}]^K \).
Such a phenomenon was already observed in the case of $\mathbb{Z}_2$-contractions of semisimple Lie algebras, i.e., if $\mathfrak{h}$ is the fixed-point subalgebra of an involution, see [10, Prop. 3.1].

2. Invariants of the adjoint representation of $Q$

In this section, we describe the algebra of invariants of the adjoint representation of $Q$.

To prove that a certain set of invariants generates the whole algebra of invariants, we use the following lemma of Igusa [6].

**Lemma 2.1** (Igusa). — Let $A$ be an algebraic group acting regularly on an irreducible affine variety $X$. Suppose that $S$ is an integrally closed finitely generated subalgebra of $\mathbb{F}[X]^A$ and the morphism $\pi : X \to \text{Spec } S =: Y$ has the properties:

(i) the fibres of $\pi$ over a dense open subset of $Y$ contain a dense $A$-orbit;

(ii) $\text{Im } \pi$ contains an open subset $\Omega$ of $Y$ such that $\text{codim}(Y \setminus \Omega) \geq 2$.

Then $S = \mathbb{F}[X]^A$. In particular, the algebra of $A$-invariants is finitely generated.

**Remark 2.2.** — A proof of the Igusa lemma is given, for example, in [11, Lemma 6.1]. This proof shows that the above condition (i) can be replaced with the condition that $S \subset \mathbb{F}[X]^A$ generates the field $\mathbb{F}(X)^A$. (In fact, it is not hard to prove that (i) holds if and only if $S$ separates $A$-orbits in a dense open subset of $X$ if and only if $S$ generates $\mathbb{F}(X)^A$.)

**Lemma 2.3.** — If $t \in \mathfrak{t}$ is regular and $u \in \mathfrak{u}$ is arbitrary, then (i) $t + u$ and $t$ belong to the same $\text{Ad } U$-orbit; (ii) $(t + u) \circ u^- = u^-$.  

**Proof.**

(i) Clearly, $(\text{Ad } U)t \subset t + u$ for all $t \in \mathfrak{t}$. If $t$ is regular, then $\dim(\text{Ad } U)t = \dim u$. It is also known that the orbits of a unipotent group acting on an affine variety are closed. Hence $(\text{Ad } U)t = t + u$.

(ii) This is obvious if $u = 0$. In general, this follows from (i).

**Theorem 2.4.** — We have $\mathbb{F}[q]^Q \simeq \mathbb{F}[t]$, and the quotient morphism $\pi_Q : \mathfrak{q} \to \mathfrak{t}$ is given by $(t + u, \eta) \mapsto t$.  

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Proof. — Clearly, $F[q]^Q = (F[q]^N)^B$. We prove that 1) $F[q]^N \simeq F[b]$ and 2) $F[b]^B \simeq F[t]$.

1) Consider the projection $\pi_N : q \to q/(u^-)^a \simeq b$. Clearly, $N$ acts trivially on $q/(u^-)^a$ and $\pi_N$ is a surjective $N$-equivariant morphism. Hence $F[b] \subset F[q]^N$. By Lemma 2.1, the equality $F[b] = F[q]^N$ will follow from the fact that general fibres of $\pi_N$ are $N$-orbits.

If $t \in t$ is regular and $u \in u$ is arbitrary, then $b = t + u$ is a regular semisimple element of $g$. By (0.2) with $s = 1$, we have

$$\text{Ad}_Q(N)(b, \eta) = (b, \eta + b \circ u^-).$$

It then follows from Lemma 2.3 that $\text{Ad}_Q(N)(b, \eta) = (b, u^-)$. On the other hand, $\pi_N^{-1}(b) = (b, u^-)$, i.e., $\pi_N^{-1}(b)$ is a single $N$-orbit whenever $b$ is regular semisimple.

2) Consider the projection $\pi_B : b \to b/u \simeq t$. Clearly, $B$ acts trivially on $b/u$ and $\pi_B$ is a surjective $B$-equivariant morphism. Hence $F[t] \subset F[b]^B$. By Lemma 2.1, the equality $F[t] = F[b]^B$ will follow from the fact that general fibres of $\pi_B$ are $B$-orbits. Again, it follows from Lemma 2.3 that if $t \in t$ is regular, then $(\text{Ad } B)t = t + u = \pi_B^{-1}(t)$.

Remark 2.5. — Theorem 2.4 can be proved in a less informative way. Notice that $[q, q] = u \ltimes (u^-)^a$ and therefore $F[t] \subset F[q]^Q$. Let $x \in t$ be regular semisimple. Then $q^x \simeq g^x = t$, since $g$ and $q$ are isomorphic as $T$-modules. The fibres of the morphism $\pi_Q : q \to t$, defined in Theorem 2.4, are linear spaces of dimension $\dim q - \dim t = \dim(\text{Ad } Q)x$. Hence a general fibre contains a dense $Q$-orbit and Lemma 2.1 applies. We also see that the algebra $F[t]$ separates $Q$-orbits in $q$ in general position and therefore $F(q)^Q = F(t)$.

Comparing with the adjoint representation of $g$, we see that, for $q$, the algebra of invariants remains polynomial, but the degrees of basic invariants drastically decrease! All the basic invariants in $F[q]^Q$ are of degree 1. This clearly means that here $\mathcal{L}^\bullet(F[g]^G) \subseteq F[q]^Q$.

3. Invariants of the coadjoint representation of $Q$

In this section, we describe the algebra of invariants of the coadjoint representation of $Q$. The coadjoint representation is much more interesting since $F[q^*] = S(q)$ is a Poisson algebra, $S(q)^Q$ is the centre of this Poisson algebra, and $S(q)$ is related to the enveloping algebra of $q$ via the Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt theorem.
Since \( q \) is isomorphic to \( b \oplus g/b \simeq b \oplus u^- \) as vector space, the dual vector space \( q^* \) is isomorphic to \( (g/b)^* \oplus b^* \). Using \( \kappa \), we identify \( b^* \) with \( b^- := t \oplus u^- \) and \( (g/b)^* \oplus u^- \) with \( u \). To stress that \( q^* \) is regarded as a \( Q \)-module and \( b^- \) appears to be a \( Q \)-stable subspace, we write \( q^* = u \ltimes b^- \).

If \((b, \eta) \in q \) and \((u, \xi) \in q^* \), i.e., \( u \in u \) and \( \xi \in b^- \), then the coadjoint representation of \( q \) is given by the formula:

\[
(b, \eta) \ast (u, \xi) = ([b, u], \phi(u, \eta) + b \ast \xi).
\]

Here \((b, \xi) \mapsto b \ast \xi \) is the coadjoint representation of \( b \), and

\[
\phi : u \times u^- \simeq u \times u^* \xrightarrow{\psi} b^* \simeq b^-,
\]

where \( \psi \) is the moment map associated with the \( b \)-module \( u \). Upon our identifications, the mapping \( \phi \) is directly defined by

\[
\kappa(b, \phi(u, \eta)) := \kappa([b, u], \eta) = -\kappa(u, b \circ \eta).
\]

Recall some well-known properties of the \( B \)-module \( u \):

- If \( \tilde{e} \in u \) is regular nilpotent, then \( g^\tilde{e} \subset u \) [8] and hence \((Ad B)\tilde{e} \) is dense in \( u \).
- For any \( e \in u \), the irreducible components of \((Ad G)e \cap u \) are called orbital varieties and each of them has dimension \( \frac{1}{2} \dim(Ad G)e \) [14, 4.3.11].

Let \( \text{Mor}_G(g, g) \) denote the \( \mathbb{F}[g]^G \)-module of polynomial \( G \)-equivariant morphisms \( F : g \to g \). By work of Kostant [8], \( \text{Mor}_G(g, g) \) is a free graded \( \mathbb{F}[g]^G \)-module of rank \( l \). It was noticed by Th. Vust [16, Char. III, § 2] (see also [12]) that a homogeneous basis of this module is obtained as follows. Let \( f_1, \ldots, f_l \) be homogeneous algebraically independent generators of \( \mathbb{F}[g]^G \). Each differential \( df_i \) determines a polynomial \( G \)-equivariant morphism (covariant) from \( g \) to \( g^* \). Identifying \( g \) with \( g^* \) via \( \kappa \) yields a homogeneous covariant (or, vector field) \( F_i = \text{grad} f_i : g \to g \). Then \( F_1, \ldots, F_l \) form a homogeneous basis for \( \text{Mor}_G(g, g) \). If \( \deg f_i = d_i \), then \( \deg F_i = d_i - 1 =: m_i \).

It is customary to say that \( \{m_1, \ldots, m_l\} \) are the exponents of (the Weyl group of) \( g \). Recall that if \( g \) is simple and \( m_1 \leq \cdots \leq m_l \), then \( m_1 = 1, m_2 \geq 2 \), and \( m_i + m_{l-i+1} \) is the Coxeter number of \( g \).

The covariants \( F_i \) have the following properties:

(i) \( F_i(x) \in g^x \) for all \( i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, l\} \) and \( x \in g \);

(ii) The vectors \( F_1(x), \ldots, F_l(x) \in g \) are linearly independent if and only if \( x \in g_{\text{reg}} \) [8, Theorem 9].

It follows that \( (F_1(x), \ldots, F_l(x)) \) is a basis for \( g^x \) if and only if \( x \in g_{\text{reg}} \).

**Lemma 3.1.** — If \( x \in b \), then \( F_i(x) \in b \). If \( y \in u \), then \( F_i(y) \in u \).
Proof. — If \( x \in b \cap g_{\text{reg}} \), then \( b^x \subset b \). (Indeed, \([b, x] \subset u\), hence \( \dim b^x \geq \text{rk } g \). On the other hand, \( b^x \subset g^x = \text{rk } g \).) Hence \( F_i(x) \in g^x \subset b \). Since \( b \cap g_{\text{reg}} \) is open and dense in \( b \), the assertion follows.

If \( y \in u \cap g_{\text{reg}}, \) i.e., \( y \) is regular nilpotent, then \( g^y \subset u \[8\]. The rest is the same. \( \Box \)

Consequently, letting \( P_i := F_i \mid_u \), we obtain the covariants \( P_1, \ldots, P_l \in \text{Mor}_B(u, u) \). Actually, we consider the \( P_i \)'s as \( B \)-equivariant morphisms \( P_i : u \to u \subset b \). Using these covariants, we define polynomials \( \hat{P}_i \in \mathbb{F}[q^*] = \mathbb{F}[u \rtimes b^-] \) by the formula

\[
(3.2) \quad \hat{P}_i(u, \xi) = \kappa(P_i(u), \xi), \quad i = 1, \ldots, l,
\]

where \( u \in u \) and \( \xi \in b^- \).

**Lemma 3.2.** — We have \( \hat{P}_i \in \mathbb{F}[q^*]^Q \).

**Proof.** — Since \( Q = B \times N \), it suffices to verify that \( \hat{P}_i \) is both \( B \) and \( N \)-invariant.

1) \( \hat{P}_i \) is \( B \)-invariant, since \( P_i \) is \( B \)-equivariant.

2) For polynomials obtained from covariants \( P_i \) as in (3.2), the invariance with respect to the commutative unipotent group \( N \) is equivalent to that \([P_i(u), u] = 0, u \in u\). Indeed, for \( \eta \in u^- \), the coadjoint action of \( \exp(\eta) \in N \) is given by \( \exp(\eta) \star (u, \xi) = (u, \xi + \phi(u, \eta)) \). Then

\[
\hat{P}_i(\exp(\eta) \cdot (u, \xi)) = \kappa(P_i(u), \xi + \phi(u, \eta)) = \kappa(P_i(u), \xi) + \kappa(P_i(u), \phi(u, \eta)) = \hat{P}_i(u, \xi) + \kappa([P_i(u), u], \eta).
\]

Hence \( \hat{P}_i(\exp(\eta) \cdot (u, \xi)) = \hat{P}_i(u, \xi) \) for all \( \eta \) if and only if \([P_i(u), u] = 0\). The latter follows from the corresponding property \( \text{(i) for } F_i \).

**Remark.** — We prove below that \( \hat{P}_i \) is the highest component of \( f_i \in \mathbb{F}[g^*]^G \). In view of Theorem 1.1, this also implies that \( \hat{P}_i \) is \( Q \)-invariant.

**Theorem 3.3.** — The algebra \( \mathbb{F}[q^*]^Q \) is freely generated by \( \hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l \), and \( \mathbb{F}(q^*)^Q \) is the fraction field of \( \mathbb{F}[q^*]^Q \).

**Proof.** — Consider the morphism

\[
\pi : q^* = u \rtimes b^- \to A^l,
\]

given by \( \pi(u, \xi) = (\hat{P}_1(u, \xi), \ldots, \hat{P}_l(u, \xi)) \). As in Section 2, to prove that \( \pi \) is the quotient by \( Q \), we are going to apply Lemma 2.1 to \( \pi \).
If $e \in u$ is regular, then $P_1(e), \ldots, P_l(e)$ are linearly independent and form a basis for $q^* = u^*$. Therefore, (3.2) implies that $\pi$ is onto, and condition (ii) in Lemma 2.1 is satisfied.

Let us prove that $\mathbb{F}(q^*)_Q = \mathbb{F}(\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l)$. Consider the morphism
\[
\hat{\pi}: q^* \to (q^*/b^-) \times \mathbb{A}^l = u \times \mathbb{A}^l
\]
defined by $\hat{\pi}(u, \xi) = (u, \hat{P}_1(u, \xi), \ldots, \hat{P}_l(u, \xi))$. If $e \in u \cap g_{\text{reg}}$, then Eq. (3.2) shows that $\hat{\pi}^{-1}(e, a)$ is an affine subspace of $q^*$ for any $a \in \mathbb{A}^l$, and $\dim \hat{\pi}^{-1}(e, a) = \dim b - l = \dim u$. As in the proof of Theorem 2.4, this implies that $\hat{\pi}^{-1}(e, a)$ is a sole $N$-orbit. Thus, the coordinate functions on $u$ and $\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l$ separate generic $N$-orbits of maximal dimension. By the Rosenlicht theorem [1, 1.6], this implies that all these functions generate the field of $N$-invariants on $q^*$, i.e., $\mathbb{F}(q^*)_N = \mathbb{F}(u)(\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l)$. Since $B$ has an open orbit in $u$, we have $\mathbb{F}(u)^B = \mathbb{F}$. Hence
\[
\mathbb{F}(q^*)_Q = (\mathbb{F}(u)(\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l))^B = \mathbb{F}(\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l).
\]
In view of Remark 2.2, this is sufficient for using Lemma 2.1, and we conclude that $\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l$ generate the algebra of $Q$-invariants on $q^*$.

**Remark 3.4.** Although we have proved that $\mathbb{F}(q^*)_N = \mathbb{F}(u)(\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l)$, it is not true that $\mathbb{F}(q^*)_N = \mathbb{F}(u)[\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l]$. The reason is that the morphism $\hat{\pi}$ defined in the previous proof does not satisfy condition (ii) of Lemma 2.1. That is, the closure of the complement of $\text{Im} \; \hat{\pi}$ contains a divisor. One can prove that this divisor is equal to $D \times \mathbb{A}^l$, where $D = u \setminus (\text{Ad} \; B)e = u \setminus (u \cap g_{\text{reg}})$. Actually, we can explicitly point out a function in $\mathbb{F}(q^*)_N \setminus \mathbb{F}(u)[\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l]$. Let $v$ be a non-zero vector in the one-dimensional space $b^U$. We can regard $v$ as a linear function on $b^-$ and hence on $q^*$. Making use of Eq. (0.1), it is not hard to check that the sub-algebra $(u^-) a \subset q$ commutes with $v$, i.e., $v$ is a required $N$-invariant in the symmetric algebra $S(q)$.

Recall that, for an algebraic group $A$ with Lie algebra $a$, the index of $a$, $\text{ind} \; a$, is defined as the minimal codimension of an $A$-orbit in the coadjoint representation. By the Rosenlicht theorem, one has $\text{ind} \; a = \text{trdeg} \; F(a^*)^A$. It is easily seen that the index cannot decrease under contractions, hence $\text{ind} \; q \geq \text{ind} \; g = l$. The above description of the field of $Q$-invariants implies that

**Corollary 3.5.** $\text{ind} \; q = l$.

**Theorem 3.6.** The polynomial ring $\mathbb{F}(q^*)$ is a free $\mathbb{F}(q^*)_Q$-module.
Proof. — Since it is already known that $\mathbb{F}[q^*]^Q$ is a polynomial algebra (of Krull dimension $l$), it suffices to prove that the quotient morphism $\pi: q^*/Q \to Q \simeq \mathbb{A}^l$ is equidimensional [13, Prop. 17.29]. This, in turn, will follow from the fact that the null-cone $N = \pi^{-1}(\pi(0))$ is of dimension $\dim q - l$. To estimate the dimension of $N$, consider the projection $p: N \to u$ and partition $u$ into finitely many orbital varieties (the irreducible components of $(\text{Ad } G)e_i \cap u)$, where $\{e_i\}$ runs over a finite set of representatives of all nilpotent $G$-orbits. Let $Z_i$ be an irreducible component of $(\text{Ad } G)e_i \cap u$. Since $\pi = (\widehat{P}_1, \ldots, \widehat{P}_l)$, Eq. (3.2) shows that

$$\dim p^{-1}(Z_i) = \dim Z_i + \dim b - \dim \text{span}\{P_1(e_i), \ldots, P_l(e_i)\}.$$  

As $\dim Z_i = \frac{1}{2} \dim (\text{Ad } G)e_i$, the condition that $\dim p^{-1}(Z_i) \leq \dim q - l$ can easily be transformed into

$$\dim g^{e_i} + 2 \dim \text{span}\{P_1(e_i), \ldots, P_l(e_i)\} \geq 3l. \tag{3.3}$$

Recall that $P_1, \ldots, P_l$ are just the restrictions to $u$ of basic covariants $F_1, \ldots, F_l$, and $F_j = \text{grad } f_j$. Consequently, $\dim \text{span}\{P_1(e_i), \ldots, P_l(e_i)\}$ equals the rank of the differential at $e$ of the quotient morphism $\pi_{g,G}: g \to g//G$. Therefore, (3.3) is precisely the inequality proved in [11, Theorem 10.6].

Corollary 3.7. — The enveloping algebra $\mathcal{U}(q)$ is a free module over its centre $\mathcal{Z}(q)$.

Proof. — This is a standard consequence of the fact that $\mathbb{F}[q^*] = S(q)$ is a free module over $S(q)^Q$, $S(q)^Q$ is the centre of the Poisson algebra $S(q)$, and $\text{gr } \mathcal{Z}(q) = S(q)^Q$, cf. [8, Theorem 21], [5, Theorem 3.3].

Remark 3.8. — By Theorem 3.6, the irreducible components of all fibres of $\pi: q^*/Q \to \mathbb{A}^l$ are of dimension $\dim q - l$. However, unlike the case of the (co)adjoint representation of $g$, the zero fibre of $\pi$ is highly reducible. For, if $\dim g^{e_i} + 2 \dim \text{span}\{P_1(e_i), \ldots, P_l(e_i)\} = 3l$, then every irreducible component of $(\text{Ad } G)e_i \cap u$ gives rise to an irreducible component of $\pi^{-1}(\pi(0))$. A complete classification of nilpotent elements of $g$ satisfying this equality is contained in [11, § 10].

Theorem 3.9. — We have $\mathcal{L}^\bullet(S(g)^G) = S(q)^Q$. The polynomials $\widehat{P}_1, \ldots, \widehat{P}_l \in \mathbb{F}[q^*]^Q = S(q)^Q$ are the highest components of $f_1, \ldots, f_l \in S(g)^G$ in the sense of Subsection 1.1.
Proof.

1) Since \( \deg \hat{P}_i = \deg f_i \) for all \( i \), it follows from Lemma 1.3 and Theorem 3.3 that \( L^\bullet(S(\mathfrak{g})^G) \) and \( S(\mathfrak{q})^Q \) have the same Poincaré series. Hence these algebras coincide.

2) Recall that \( \deg f_i = d_i = m_i + 1 \). According to Theorem 1.1, we have to take the decomposition \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{b} \oplus \mathfrak{u}^- \) and pick the bi-homogeneous component of \( f_i \) of maximal degree with respect to \( \mathfrak{u}^- \).

If the component \( f_i^{(0,d_i)} \in S^{d_i}(\mathfrak{u}^-) \) were non-trivial, then it would be a \( Q \)-invariant in \( S(\mathfrak{q}) \) and in particular a \( B \)-invariant (Theorem 1.1). Recall that if we work in \( \mathfrak{q} \), then \( \mathfrak{u}^- \simeq \mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b} \) as \( B \)-module. Since \( S(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{b}) \simeq \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{u}] \) and \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{u}]^B = \mathbb{F} \), we get a contradiction. Hence \( f_i^{(0,d_i)} = 0 \).

Then next possible component is \( f_i^{(1,m_i)} \in \mathfrak{b} \otimes S^{m_i}(\mathfrak{u}^-) \). Using the identifications \( \mathfrak{b}^* \simeq \mathfrak{b}^- \) and \( \mathfrak{u}^* \simeq \mathfrak{u}^- \), we have \( f_i^{(1,m_i)} \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{b}^-]_1 \otimes \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{u}]_{m_i} \).

That is, if considered as a function on \( \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{b}^- \oplus \mathfrak{u} \), it can be written as \( f_i^{(1,m_i)}(\xi, \mathfrak{u}) = \kappa(\hat{P}_i(u), \xi) \) for some morphism \( \hat{P}_i : \mathfrak{u} \rightarrow \mathfrak{b} \) of degree \( m_i \).

As we have already proved that \( f_i^{(0,d_i)} = 0 \), \( \hat{P}_i(u) \) is nothing but the value of \( \text{grad} f_i \) at \( u \). Hence \( \hat{P}_i = P_i \), and we are done. \( \square \)

4. Further properties of the coadjoint representation

4.1. For the classical Lie algebras, the basic covariants \( F_i : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \) (and hence \( P_i \)) have a simple description:

- if \( x \in \mathfrak{sl}_{i+1} \), then \( F_i(x) = x^i \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, l \);
- if \( x \in \mathfrak{sp}_{2l} \) or \( \mathfrak{so}_{2l+1} \), then \( F_i(x) = x^{2i-1} \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, l \);
- if \( x \in \mathfrak{so}_{2l} \), then \( F_i(x) = x^{2i-1} \), \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, l - 1 \). The covariant \( F_i \) that is related to the pfaffian is described as follows. Let \( x \) be a skew-symmetric matrix of order \( 2l \). For \( i \neq j \), let \( x_{[ij]} \) be the skew-symmetric sub-matrix of order \( 2l - 2 \) obtained by deleting \( i \)th and \( j \)th row and column. Set \( a_{ij} = Pf(x_{[ij]}) \) if \( i \neq j \), and \( a_{ii} = 0 \). Then \( F_i(x) = (a_{ij})_{2l, i,j=1} \). Clearly, \( \deg F_i = l - 1 \), as required.

Results of Sections 2 and 3 explicitly yield the bi-degrees of basic invariants for \( \mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{b} \ltimes (\mathfrak{u}^-)^0 \). For \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}]^Q \), all the basic invariants have bi-degrees \((1,0)\). For \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{q}^*]^Q \), the basic invariants have bi-degrees \((m_i,1)\), i.e., \( \hat{P}_i \in S^{m_i}(\mathfrak{u}^-) \otimes \mathfrak{b} \). In particular, for the coadjoint representation, the total degrees of the basic \( Q \)-invariants remain the same as for \( G \).

4.2. Hereafter we assume that \( \mathfrak{g} \) is simple and the basic invariants \( f_1, \ldots, f_l \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{g}]^G \) are numbered such that \( d_i \leq d_{i+1} \). Then \( d_l = \mathfrak{h} \) is
A REMARKABLE CONTRACTION OF SEMISIMPLE LIE ALGEBRAS

2065

the Coxeter number of $\mathfrak{g}$. We show that the corresponding $Q$-invariant $\hat{P}_l$ has a rather simple form. In fact, it turns out to be a product of linear forms.

Let $\Delta$ be the root system of $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t})$ and $\Delta^+$ the subset of positive roots corresponding to $u$. Let $\Pi = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_l\}$ (resp. $\theta$) be the set of simple roots (resp. the highest root) in $\Delta^+$. Then $\theta = \sum_{i=1}^l a_i \alpha_i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^l a_i = h - 1$. For any $\gamma \in \Delta$, $g_\gamma$ denotes the corresponding root subspace, and we fix a nonzero vector $e_\gamma \in g_\gamma$.

Lemma 4.1. — Up to a scalar multiple, we have

$$\hat{P}_l = e_{-\alpha_1} \cdots e_{-\alpha_i} e_\theta \in \mathbb{S}(q)^Q.$$

Proof. — Recall that $q = b \oplus u^-$ as vector space, and here $e_\theta \in b$ and $e_{-\alpha_i} \in u^-$. By the very construction, $\hat{P} := e_{-\alpha_1} \cdots e_{-\alpha_i} e_\theta$ is a $T$-invariant in $\mathbb{S}(q)$. Then, using Eq. (0.1), one readily verifies that $\hat{P}$ is both $U$-invariant and $N$-invariant. Hence $\hat{P}$ is a polynomial in $\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l$. Since $\text{bi-deg} \ P = (h-1, 1)$ and $m_i < m_l$ for $i < l$, the subspace of bi-degree $(m_l, 1) = (h-1, 1)$ in $\mathbb{S}(q)^Q$ is one-dimensional and spanned by $\hat{P}_l$. Hence the assertion. □

Since $\dim q = \dim \mathfrak{g}$, $\text{ind} q = \text{ind} \mathfrak{g}$, and the (total) degrees of the basic invariants of the coadjoint representations for $G$ and $Q$ coincide, we have the equality

$$\sum_{i=1}^l \deg \hat{P}_i = \frac{\dim q + \text{ind} q}{2}, \tag{4.1}$$

which is very useful in the study of the coadjoint representation, see e.g. [10, Theorem 1.2]. Unfortunately, $q$ does not always possess another important ingredient, the so-called codim-2 property. Recall that $x \in q^*$ is said to be regular if $\dim Q \cdot x$ is maximal. The set of all regular elements is denoted by $q^*_{\text{reg}}$. It is an open subset of $q^*$, and we say that $q$ has the codim-2 property if $\text{codim}(q^* \setminus q^*_{\text{reg}}) \geq 2$.

Theorem 4.2. — The algebra $q$ does not have the codim-2 property if $\mathfrak{g}$ is not of type $A_l$.

Proof. — Suppose that $q$ has the codim-2 property. Since (4.1) is satisfied, it follows from [10, Theorem 1.2] that the differentials $(d\hat{P}_i)_x$, $i = 1, \ldots, l$, are linearly independent if and only if $x \in q^*_{\text{reg}}$. In particular, any divisor $\hat{D} \subset q^*$ contains a point where the differentials of $\hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l$ are linearly independent.

On the other hand, Lemma 4.1 shows that if $a_i \geq 2$ for some $i$, then $d\hat{P}_l$ vanishes at the hyperplane $\{e_{-\alpha_i} = 0\}$, where $e_{-\alpha_i}$ is regarded as a linear
function on $u$ and hence on $q^*$. Thus, $q$ cannot have the $\text{codim}$-$2$ property unless $a_i = 1$ for all $i$, i.e., $\mathfrak{g}$ is of type $A_l$. \[\Box\]

To prove the converse of this theorem, we need some preparations. For $\alpha_i \in \Pi$, let $u_i \subset u$ denote the kernel of the linear form $u \mapsto \kappa(e_{-\alpha_i}, u)$. By [8], $u \setminus u \cap \mathfrak{g}_{\text{reg}} = \cup_i u_i$. Set
\[
(4.2) \quad \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}(q^*) = \left\{ x \in q^* \mid (d\hat{P}_1)_x, \ldots, (d\hat{P}_l)_x \text{ are linearly independent} \right\}.
\]

**Proposition 4.3.** — If $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_{l+1}$, then $\text{codim}(q^* \setminus \mathcal{Y}) \geq 2$.

**Proof.** — Let $a = (e, \xi)$ and $a' = (e', \xi')$ be typical elements of $q^*$, where $e, e' \in u$ and $\xi, \xi' \in b^-$. According to formulae of Subsection 4.1, $\hat{P}_1(e, \xi) = \kappa(e^i, \xi)$. Recall that $(d\hat{P}_1)_a \in q$ and $\langle (d\hat{P}_1)_a, a' \rangle$ is the coefficient of $t$ in the expansion of $\hat{P}_1(a + ta')$. Consequently,
\[
\langle (d\hat{P}_1)_a, a' \rangle = \kappa(e^i, \xi') + \kappa \left( \sum_{k+m=i-1} e^k e' e^m, \xi \right).
\]
The vector $(d\hat{P}_1)_a$ has the $b$- and $u^-$-components, and this equality shows that:

- the $b$-component of $(d\hat{P}_1)_a$ equals $e^i$;
- the $u^-$-component of $(d\hat{P}_1)_a$, say $(d\hat{P}_1)_a \{u^- \}$, is determined by the equation $\kappa((d\hat{P}_1)_a \{u^- \}, e') = \kappa(\sum_{k+m=i-1} e^k e' e^m, \xi)$.

Let $\mathcal{O}_{\text{reg}}$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\text{sub}}$ denote the regular and subregular nilpotent orbits in $\mathfrak{sl}_{l+1}$, respectively. Then $\mathcal{O}_{\text{sub}} \cap u = \cup_j \mathfrak{u}_j$. If $e \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{reg}} \cap u$, then the $b$-components of $(d\hat{P}_i)_{(e, \xi)}$, $i = 1, \ldots, l$, are linearly independent, regardless of $\xi$. Hence $(\mathcal{O}_{\text{reg}} \cap u) \times b^- \subset \mathcal{Y}$.

If $e \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{sub}} \cap u$, then the $b$-components of $(d\hat{P}_i)_{(e, \xi)}$, $i = 1, \ldots, l - 1$, are still linearly independent for any $\xi$, but $e' = \emptyset$. However, if $e$ is sufficiently general, then the $u^-$-component of $(d\hat{P}_i)_{(e, \xi)}$ appears to be nonzero for all $\xi$ that belong to a dense open subset of $b^-$. More precisely, suppose that $e \in u_j$ and $\kappa(e, e_{-\alpha_j}) \neq 0$ for $i \neq j$. Taking $e' = e_{\alpha_j}$, one readily computes that $\sum_{k+m=l-1} e^k e' e^m = e^j e^j e^{l-j}$ is a nonzero multiple of $e_{\alpha_j}$. Hence, one can take any $\xi$ such that $\kappa(\xi, e_{\alpha_j}) \neq 0$.

Thus, there is a dense open subset $\Omega \subset \cup_i u_i \times b^-$ such that $\Omega \subset \mathcal{Y}$, and the assertion follows. \[\Box\]

It turns out that Proposition 4.3 together with (4.1) is sufficient to conclude that for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_{l+1}$, $q$ has the $\text{codim}$-$2$ property. This follows from the following general assertion:
Theorem 4.4. — Let \( R \) be a connected algebraic group with Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{r} \). Suppose that (i) \( \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{r}^*]^R = \mathbb{F}[p_1, \ldots, p_m] \) is a graded polynomial algebra, (ii) \( \text{ind} \mathfrak{r} = m \), and (iii) \( \sum_{i=1}^{m} \deg p_i = (\dim \mathfrak{r} + \text{ind} \mathfrak{r})/2 \). Then the following conditions are equivalent:

1. \( \text{codim}(\mathfrak{r}^* \setminus \mathfrak{r}^*_\text{reg}) \geq 2 \);
2. \( \text{codim}(\mathfrak{r}^* \setminus \mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{r}^*)) \geq 2 \), where \( \mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{r}^*) \) is defined as in (4.2) via the \( p_i \)’s.

If these conditions are satisfied, then actually \( \mathfrak{r}^*_\text{reg} = \mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{r}^*) \).

Proof. — The implication (1) \( \Rightarrow \) (2) is already proved in [10, Theorem 1.2].

To prove the converse, one can slightly adjust the proof given in [10], see also the proof of Theorem 1.2 in [9]. Set \( n = \dim \mathfrak{r} \). Let \( T(\mathfrak{r}^*) \) denote the tangent bundle of \( \mathfrak{r}^* \). The main part of that proof consists in a construction of two homogeneous polynomial sections of \( \wedge^{n-m} T(\mathfrak{r}^*) \), denoted \( \mathfrak{V}_1 \) and \( \mathfrak{V}_2 \). Write \( (\mathfrak{V}_i)_x \) for the value of \( \mathfrak{V}_i \) at \( x \in \mathfrak{r}^* \). These sections have the following properties:

(a) There exist nonzero polynomials \( F_1, F_2 \in \mathbb{F}[\mathfrak{r}^*] \) such that \( F_1 \mathfrak{V}_1 = F_2 \mathfrak{V}_2 \);
(b) \( (\mathfrak{V}_1)_x \neq 0 \) if and only if \( x \in \mathfrak{r}^*_\text{reg} \);
(c) \( (\mathfrak{V}_2)_x \neq 0 \) if and only if \( x \in \mathcal{Y}(\mathfrak{r}^*) \);
(d) \( \deg \mathfrak{V}_1 = (n-m)/2 \) and \( \deg \mathfrak{V}_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{m} (\deg p_i - 1) \).

This only requires assumptions (i) and (ii). If (iii) is also satisfied, then \( \deg \mathfrak{V}_1 = \deg \mathfrak{V}_2 \). Therefore either of conditions (1),(2) implies the other. Moreover, properties (a) and (b) imply that if (1) is satisfied, then \( \deg F_2 = 0 \), i.e., \( F_2 \in \mathbb{F}^\times \). Likewise, (a) and (c) imply that if (2) is satisfied, then \( \deg F_1 = 0 \). This yields the last assertion. \( \square \)

Since \( \mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{b} \ltimes \mathfrak{u}^- \) does not have the codim-2 property if \( \mathfrak{g} \) is not of type \( A_l \), we cannot immediately conclude that in all cases \( x \in \mathfrak{q}^*_\text{reg} \) if and only if \( (d\hat{P}_1)_x, \ldots, (d\hat{P}_l)_x \) are linearly independent. Nevertheless, the fact that \( \hat{P}_1, \ldots, \hat{P}_l \) are the highest components of the basic \( G \)-invariants \( f_1, \ldots, f_l \) allows to circumvent this difficulty. It can be shown in general (see [17]) that the coadjoint representation \( (Q: \mathfrak{q}^*) \) has the following property:

Claim 4.5. — For \( x \in \mathfrak{q}^* \) the following conditions are equivalent:

- The orbit \( Q \cdot x \) is of maximal dimension, which is \( \dim \mathfrak{q} - l \) in this situation;
- The differentials \( (d\hat{P}_i)_x, i = 1, \ldots, l \), are linearly independent.

This generalise a result of Kostant obtained for semisimple Lie algebras [8, Theorem 9].
BIBLIOGRAPHY


