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JET SCHEMES AND INVARIANT THEORY

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ABSTRACT. — Let G be a complex reductive group and V a G -module. Then the m th jet scheme G_m acts on the m th jet scheme V_m for all $m \geq 0$. We are interested in the invariant ring $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ and whether the map $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}((V//G)_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ induced by the categorical quotient map $p : V \rightarrow V//G$ is an isomorphism, surjective, or neither. Using Luna's slice theorem, we give criteria for p_m^* to be an isomorphism for all m , and we prove this when $G = \mathrm{SL}_n, \mathrm{GL}_n, \mathrm{SO}_n$, or Sp_{2n} and V is a sum of copies of the standard module and its dual, such that $V//G$ is smooth or a complete intersection. We classify all representations of \mathbb{C}^* for which p_∞^* is surjective or an isomorphism. Finally, we give examples where p_m^* is surjective for $m = \infty$ but not for finite m , and where it is surjective but not injective.

RÉSUMÉ. — Soient G un groupe réductif complexe et V un G -module. Alors G_m , le schéma des jets d'ordre m de G , opère dans V_m , le schéma des jets d'ordre m de V , pour tout $m \geq 0$. Nous nous intéressons à l'anneau des invariants $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ et au morphisme $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}((V//G)_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ induit par le morphisme du quotient catégorique $p : V \rightarrow V//G$: ce morphisme est-il un isomorphisme, surjectif, ou non ? En utilisant le théorème du slice de Luna, nous obtenons des critères pour que p_m^* soit un isomorphisme pour tout m . Nous montrons que c'est bien le cas lorsque $G = \mathrm{SL}_n, \mathrm{GL}_n, \mathrm{SO}_n$, ou Sp_{2n} et V est un somme directe de copies du module standard et de son dual, pourvu que $V//G$ soit lisse ou une intersection complète. Nous classifions toutes les représentations de \mathbb{C}^* telles que p_∞^* soit surjectif ou un isomorphisme. Enfin, nous donnons des exemples où p_m^* est surjectif pour $m = \infty$ mais non surjectif pour m fini, et d'autres exemples où p_m^* est surjectif mais non injectif.

1. Introduction

Given an irreducible scheme X of finite type over an algebraically closed field k , the first jet scheme X_1 is just the total tangent space of X . For $m >$

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1, the m^{th} jet scheme X_m is a higher-order generalization that is determined by its functor of points. For every k -algebra A , we have a bijection

$$\text{Hom}(\text{Spec}(A), X_m) \cong \text{Hom}(\text{Spec}(A[t]/\langle t^{m+1} \rangle), X).$$

When X is nonsingular, X_m is irreducible for all $m \geq 1$, and is an affine bundle over X with fiber an affine space of dimension $m \dim(X)$. If X is singular, the jet schemes are much more subtle and carry information about the singularities of X . The structural properties of X_m are of interest, in particular the question of when X_m is irreducible for all m . Mustata has shown that this holds when X is locally a complete intersection with rational singularities, although these are not necessary conditions [22].

There are projections $X_{m+1} \rightarrow X_m$, and the *arc space* is defined to be

$$X_\infty = \varprojlim X_m.$$

Even though it is generally not of finite type, X_∞ has some nicer properties than X_m ; for example, it is always irreducible [14]. Arc spaces were originally studied by Nash in an influential paper [23], in which he asked whether there is a bijection between the irreducible components of X_∞ lying over the singular locus of X , and the essential divisors over X . This question is known as the *Nash problem*. It has been answered affirmatively for many classes of singular varieties, although counterexamples are known [12]. Arc spaces are also important in Kontsevich's theory of *motivic integration* [15]. Given a complex algebraic variety X and a resolution of singularities $Y \rightarrow X$ such that the discrepancy divisor D has simple normal crossings, the motivic integral of X is the integral of a certain function F_D defined on the arc space Y_∞ , with respect to a measure on Y_∞ . Unlike ordinary integration, this measure takes values not in \mathbb{R} , but in a certain completion of the Grothendieck ring of algebraic varieties. Motivic integration was originally used by Kontsevich to prove that birationally equivalent Calabi-Yau manifolds have the same Hodge numbers. This theory was subsequently developed by many authors including Batyrev, Denef, Loeser, Looijenga, Craw, and Veys [1][6][18][5][26]. A survey of these ideas and some of their applications can be found in [7].

Our goal in this paper is to establish some foundational results on the interaction between jet schemes, arc spaces, and *classical invariant theory*. If G is a complex reductive group, G_m is an algebraic group which is a unipotent extension of G . Let Y be an affine G -variety and let $p: Y \rightarrow Y//G = \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}(Y)^G)$ be the categorical quotient. Then p induces a morphism $p_m: Y_m \rightarrow (Y//G)_m$ and a homomorphism

$$(1.1) \quad p_m^*: \mathcal{O}((Y//G)_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{G_m},$$

which was studied in some special cases by Eck in [8] and by Frenkel-Eisenbud in the appendix of [22]. We will find criteria for when this map is an isomorphism, surjective, or neither. First, using Luna's slice theorem, we show that all of these are local conditions (see Corollary 3.3). We are most interested in the case where Y is a G -module V . Under mild hypotheses (see Corollary 3.20), we show that when $V//G$ is smooth, p_m^* is an isomorphism for all m . In Section 4, we give a more refined criterion for p_m^* to be an isomorphism for all m (see Theorem 4.3) and we show that it holds when $G = \mathrm{SL}_n$, GL_n , SO_n , or Sp_{2n} and V is a sum of copies of the standard representation and its dual, such that $V//G$ is a complete intersection. In Section 5, we consider representations of \mathbb{C}^* . Using techniques of standard monomial theory, we classify all cases where p_∞^* is surjective, and we show that p_∞^* is an isomorphism whenever it is surjective. In Section 6, we show that for $G = \mathrm{SL}_n$ and $V = \ell\mathbb{C}^n$, p_∞^* is surjective, even though p_m^* generally fails to be surjective for finite values of m . For $n = 2$, p_∞^* is injective, but it is not injective for $n \geq 3$. The question of whether p_∞^* is surjective for arbitrary representations $V = k\mathbb{C}^n \oplus \ell(\mathbb{C}^n)^*$ of SL_n , and similar questions for the other classical groups, remain open.

Note that $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ is finitely generated as a differential algebra whenever p_∞^* is surjective, since $\mathcal{O}((V//G)_\infty)$ is generated by $\mathcal{O}(V//G)$ as a differential algebra. An interesting problem is to find sufficient conditions for $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ to be finitely generated as a differential algebra even if p_∞^* is not surjective. There are currently no examples where this is known to occur. Computer experiments suggest that this is the case for $G = \mathbb{C}^*$ and $V = \mathbb{C}^2$ with weights 2 and -3 (see Example 3.10).

Our results have a number of applications to the theory of *vertex algebras* that appear in separate papers. Vertex algebras are a class of nonassociative, noncommutative algebras that arose out of conformal field theory in the 1980s, and in the work of Borcherds [3] on the Moonshine conjecture. They were developed mathematically from several different points of view in the literature [2][10][11][13]. An *abelian* vertex algebra is just a commutative ring equipped with a derivation. For any variety X , the ring $\mathcal{O}(X_\infty)$ has a derivation D which makes it an abelian vertex algebra. On the other hand, many nonabelian vertex algebras \mathcal{A} possess filtrations for which the associated graded algebra $\mathrm{gr}(\mathcal{A})$ is abelian and can be interpreted as $\mathcal{O}(X_\infty)$ for some X .

The first application of our results is to the *commutant problem*. Given a vertex algebra \mathcal{V} and a subalgebra $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{V}$, the commutant $\mathrm{Com}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V})$ is the subalgebra of \mathcal{V} that commutes with \mathcal{A} . In [17], interesting examples of

commutants were described using the fact that $\text{gr}(\text{Com}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{V}))$ is isomorphic to $\mathcal{O}((V//G)_\infty)$ for a certain choice of V and G . This leads to vertex algebra analogues of the classical Howe pairs of types $\text{GL}_n - \text{GL}_m$, $\text{SO}_n - \mathfrak{sp}_{2m}$, and $\text{Sp}_{2n} - \mathfrak{so}_{2m}$. The second application of our results is to the *chiral de Rham complex* [21]. This is a sheaf of vertex algebras on any nonsingular variety or complex manifold X that contains the ordinary de Rham sheaf at weight zero, and captures stringy invariants of X such as the elliptic genus. Using the fact that p_∞^* is an isomorphism for $G = \text{SL}_2$ and $V = \ell\mathbb{C}^2$, Song gave a complete description of the global section algebra when X is a Kummer surface; it is isomorphic to the $N = 4$ superconformal algebra with $c = 6$ [25]. Previously, the only nontrivial case where a description was known was \mathbb{CP}^n [20].

2. Jet schemes

Throughout this paper our base field will be \mathbb{C} . We recall some basic facts about jet schemes, following the notation in [9]. Let X be an irreducible scheme of finite type. For each integer $m \geq 0$, the jet scheme X_m is determined by its functor of points: for every \mathbb{C} -algebra A , we have a bijection

$$\text{Hom}(\text{Spec}(A), X_m) \cong \text{Hom}(\text{Spec}(A[t]/\langle t^{m+1} \rangle), X).$$

Thus the \mathbb{C} -valued points of X_m correspond to the $\mathbb{C}[t]/\langle t^{m+1} \rangle$ -valued points of X . If $p > m$, we have projections $\pi_{p,m} : X_p \rightarrow X_m$ and $\pi_{p,m} \circ \pi_{q,p} = \pi_{q,m}$ when $q > p > m$. Clearly $X_0 = X$ and X_1 is the total tangent space $\text{Spec}(\text{Sym}(\Omega_{X/\mathbb{C}}))$. The assignment $X \mapsto X_m$ is functorial, and a morphism $f : X \rightarrow Y$ induces $f_m : X_m \rightarrow Y_m$ for all $m \geq 1$. If X, Y are nonsingular, X_m is irreducible and nonsingular for all m . Moreover, if X, Y are nonsingular and $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a smooth surjection, f_m is surjective for all m .

If $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ where $R = \mathbb{C}[y_1, \dots, y_r]/\langle f_1, \dots, f_k \rangle$, we can find explicit equations for X_m . Define new variables $y_j^{(i)}$ for $i = 0, \dots, m$, and define a derivation D by $D(y_j^{(i)}) = y_j^{(i+1)}$ for $i < m$, and $D(y_j^{(m)}) = 0$, which specifies its action on all of $\mathbb{C}[y_1^{(0)}, \dots, y_r^{(m)}]$. In particular, $f_\ell^{(i)} = D^i(f_\ell)$ is a well-defined polynomial in $\mathbb{C}[y_1^{(0)}, \dots, y_r^{(m)}]$. Letting $R_m = \mathbb{C}[y_1^{(0)}, \dots, y_r^{(m)}]/\langle f_1^{(0)}, \dots, f_k^{(m)} \rangle$, we have $X_m \cong \text{Spec}(R_m)$. By identifying y_j with $y_j^{(0)}$, we see that R is naturally a subalgebra of R_m . There is a $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -grading $R_m = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} R_m[n]$ by weight, defined by $\text{wt}(y_j^{(i)}) = i$. For all m , $R_m[0] = R$ and $R_m[n]$ is an R -module.

Given a scheme X , define

$$X_\infty = \lim_{\leftarrow} X_m,$$

which is known as the *arc space* of X . For a \mathbb{C} -algebra A , we have a bijection $\text{Hom}(\text{Spec}(A), X_\infty) \cong \text{Hom}(\text{Spec}A[[t]], X)$. We denote by ψ_m the natural map $X_\infty \rightarrow X_m$. If $X = \text{Spec}(R)$ as above,

$$X_\infty \cong \text{Spec}(R_\infty), \text{ where } R_\infty = \mathbb{C}[y_1^{(0)}, \dots, y_j^{(i)}, \dots] / \langle f_1^{(0)}, \dots, f_\ell^{(i)}, \dots \rangle.$$

Here $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $D(y_j^{(i)}) = y_j^{(i+1)}$ for all i . By a theorem of Kolchin [14], X_∞ is irreducible whenever X is irreducible.

3. Group actions on jet schemes

We establish some elementary properties of jet schemes and quotient mappings for reductive group actions. Mainly we see what one can say using Luna’s slice theorem [19]. Let G be a complex reductive algebraic group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . For $m \geq 1$, G_m is an algebraic group which is the semidirect product of G with a unipotent group U_m . The Lie algebra of G_m is $\mathfrak{g}[t]/t^{m+1}$. Given an affine G -variety Y , there is the quotient $Z := Y//G = \text{Spec}(\mathcal{O}(Y)^G)$ and the canonical map $p: Y \rightarrow Z$ (sometimes denoted p_Y) which is dual to the inclusion $\mathcal{O}(Y)^G \subset \mathcal{O}(Y)$. We have a natural action of G_m on Y_m , and we are interested in the invariant ring $\mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{G_m}$, the morphism $p_m: Y_m \rightarrow Z_m$ and whether $p_m^*: \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism, surjective, or neither. If $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism of affine G -varieties, then $\varphi//G$ will denote the induced mapping of $X//G$ to $Y//G$.

Recall that a morphism of varieties is *étale* if it is smooth with fibers of dimension zero. If $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ is a morphism where X and Y are smooth, then φ is étale if and only if $d\varphi_x: T_x X \rightarrow T_{\varphi(x)} Y$ is an isomorphism for all $x \in X$.

DEFINITION 3.1. — *Let G be a reductive complex algebraic group and let $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ be an equivariant map of affine G -varieties. We say that φ is excellent if the following hold.*

- (1) φ is étale.
- (2) $\varphi//G: X//G \rightarrow Y//G$ is étale.
- (3) The canonical map $(\varphi, p_X): X \rightarrow Y \times_{Y//G} X//G$ is an isomorphism.

Note that condition (1) is a consequence of conditions (2) and (3). Let us say that X is *m -very good* if $p_m^*: \mathcal{O}((X//G)_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(X_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism. We say that X is *m -good* if p_m^* is surjective, so that

$\mathcal{O}(X_m)^{G_m} = p_m^* \mathcal{O}((X//G)_m)$, and we say that X is m -bad if p_m^* is not surjective. Here m is finite or ∞ . Usually we drop the m . We say that X is D -finite if $\mathcal{O}(X_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ is finitely generated as a differential algebra.

LEMMA 3.2. — *Suppose that $\varphi: X \rightarrow Y$ is excellent. Then*

- (1) $X_m \simeq X//G \times_{Y//G} Y_m$.
- (2) $(X//G)_m \simeq X//G \times_{Y//G} (Y//G)_m$.

If Y is very good (resp. good or D -finite), then so is X , and conversely if φ is surjective.

Proof. — Since φ is étale, $X_m \simeq X \times_Y Y_m$. Since φ is excellent,

$$\begin{aligned} X \times_Y Y_m &\simeq X//G \times_{Y//G} Y \times_Y Y_m \\ &\simeq X//G \times_{Y//G} Y_m \end{aligned}$$

and since $\varphi//G$ is étale, $(X//G)_m \simeq X//G \times_{Y//G} (Y//G)_m$. Thus we have (1) and (2).

If Y is very good, then by (1) and (2)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}(X_m)^{G_m} &\simeq \mathcal{O}(X//G) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(Y//G)} \mathcal{O}((Y//G)_m) \\ &\simeq \mathcal{O}((X//G)_m), \end{aligned}$$

hence X is very good. Similarly, Y good implies that X is good.

Conversely, if φ is surjective and $\mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{G_m} \neq p_{Y,m}^* \mathcal{O}((Y//G)_m)$, then, since $\varphi//G$ is faithfully flat, we have that

$$\mathcal{O}(X//G) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(Y//G)} \mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{G_m} \neq \mathcal{O}(X//G) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(Y//G)} p_{Y,m}^* \mathcal{O}((Y//G)_m)$$

and hence that $\mathcal{O}(X_m)^{G_m} \neq p_{X,m}^* \mathcal{O}((X//G)_m)$. Hence Y is good if X is good. The proof that Y is very good if X is very good is similar.

Now

$$\mathcal{O}(X_\infty)^{G_\infty} \cong \mathcal{O}(Y_\infty)^{G_\infty} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(Y)G} \mathcal{O}(X)^G.$$

Thus if Y is D -finite, then clearly so is X . Conversely, assume that X is D -finite and that φ is surjective. Set $A := \mathcal{O}(X_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. Then we have the weight grading $A = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} A_n$ where $A_0 = \mathcal{O}(X)^G$. Let B denote $\mathcal{O}(Y_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. Then B is graded and the isomorphism $A \cong B \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(Y)G} \mathcal{O}(X)^G$ is an isomorphism of graded rings. Let $f_i \otimes h_i$ be generators of $A \simeq B \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(Y)G} \mathcal{O}(X)^G$ as differential graded algebras. We may assume that each f_i has weight n_i for some $n_i \in \mathbb{N}$. Let p_1, \dots, p_d be generators of $\mathcal{O}(X)^G$. Then $Dp_j = \sum f_{ij} \otimes h_{ij}$ where the h_{ij} are elements of $\mathcal{O}(X)^G$ and the f_{ij} are in B_1 . Now take the collection of elements f_i and f_{ij} in B . An induction argument shows that D applied repeatedly to the elements $f_i \otimes h_i$ ends up in the $\mathcal{O}(X)^G$ -submodule of A generated by D applied to products of the elements

f_i and f_{ij} . Since φ is faithfully flat, this shows that the B_0 -submodule of B_n generated by the elements f_i and f_{ij} is B_n since this submodule tensored with $\mathcal{O}(X)^G$ is A_n . Hence the f_i and f_{ij} generate B_n for all n and Y is D -finite. \square

A subset S of X is G -saturated if $S = p^{-1}(p(S))$; equivalently, S is a union of fibers of p .

COROLLARY 3.3.

- (1) Suppose that $X = \cup X_\alpha$ where the X_α are Zariski open and G -saturated. Then X is very good (resp. good or D -finite) if and only if each X_α is very good (resp. good or D -finite).
- (2) Let W be a G -module and $U = W_f$ where $f \in \mathcal{O}(W)^G$ and $f(0) \neq 0$. Then W is very good (resp. good or D -finite) if and only if U is very good (resp. good or D -finite).

Proof. — For (1) we may assume that we have a finite cover. Then the canonical map $\coprod X_\alpha \rightarrow X$ is excellent and surjective and (1) follows from Lemma 3.2. For (2) we may assume that U is very good (resp. good or D -finite). Now W is the union of U and finitely many translates U_λ where $U_\lambda = \lambda \cdot U$ for $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$. Clearly each U_λ is very good (resp. good or D -finite) since U is. Thus we can apply (1). \square

Let H be a reductive subgroup of G and Y an affine H -variety. Then $G \times^H Y$ denotes the quotient of $G \times Y$ by the H -action sending (g, y) to (gh^{-1}, hy) for $(g, y) \in G \times Y$ and $h \in H$. We denote the orbit of (g, y) by $[g, y]$. We have an action of G on the left on $G \times Y$ which commutes with the action of H and induces a G -action on $G \times^H Y$. Then $(G \times^H Y) // G \simeq Y // H$. Note that $G \rightarrow G/H$ is a principal H -bundle, hence trivial over pullback via an étale surjective map to G/H .

LEMMA 3.4. — Let H be a reductive subgroup of G and Y an affine H -variety. Then

$$\mathcal{O}((G \times^H Y)_m)^{G_m} \simeq \mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{H_m}.$$

Hence $G \times^H Y$ is very good (resp. good or D -finite) if and only if Y is very good (resp. good or D -finite).

Proof. — For a trivial principal H bundle $U \times H$, we have $(U \times H)_m = U_m \times H_m$ is a trivial H_m -bundle with quotient U_m . Thus $(G \times^H Y)_m$ is the quotient of $G_m \times Y_m$ by the action of H_m (it is a principal bundle).

Consider the action of G_m on $G_m \times Y_m$. Then the quotient is clearly just projection to Y_m , so that $\mathcal{O}(G_m \times Y_m)^{G_m} \simeq \mathcal{O}(Y_m)$. Thus

$$\mathcal{O}(G_m \times Y_m)^{G_m \times H_m} \simeq \mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{H_m}$$

so that $\mathcal{O}((G \times^H Y)_m)^{G_m} \simeq \mathcal{O}(Y_m)^{H_m}$. □

Let X be a smooth affine G -variety and suppose that Gx is a closed orbit. Then the isotropy group $H := G_x$ is reductive and we have a splitting of H -modules $T_x X = T_x(Gx) \oplus N$. The representation (N, H) is called *the slice representation at x* . Here is Luna’s slice theorem [19] in our context.

THEOREM 3.5.

- (1) *There is a locally closed affine H -stable and H -saturated subvariety S of X containing x such that $U := G \cdot S$ is a G -saturated affine open subset of X . Moreover, the canonical G -morphism*

$$\varphi : G \times^H S \rightarrow U, \quad [g, s] \mapsto gs$$

is excellent.

- (2) *S is smooth at x and the H -modules $T_x S$ and N are isomorphic. Possibly shrinking S we can arrange that there is an excellent surjective H -morphism $\psi : S \rightarrow N_f$ which sends x to 0, inducing an excellent G -morphism*

$$\tau : G \times^H S \rightarrow G \times^H N_f$$

where $f \in \mathcal{O}(N)^H$ and $f(0) \neq 0$.

Combining 3.2–3.5 we obtain

COROLLARY 3.6. — *Suppose that X is smooth. Let (W, H) be a slice representation of X .*

- (1) *If X is very good (resp. good or D -finite) then so is W .*
- (2) *If W is very good (resp. good or D -finite) for each slice representation (W, H) of X , then X is very good (resp. good or D -finite).*

From Lemma 3.2 we obtain

COROLLARY 3.7. — *Suppose that X is smooth and that $f \in \mathcal{O}(X)^G$.*

- (1) *If the slice representations of X_f are very good, then*

$$(\mathcal{O}(X_m)^{G_m})_f \simeq \mathcal{O}((X//G)_m)_f.$$

- (2) *If the slice representations of X_f are good, then*

$$(\mathcal{O}(X_m)^{G_m})_f \simeq (p_m^* \mathcal{O}((X//G)_m))_f.$$

Our main focus in this paper will be on the case where X is a finite-dimensional G -module V . Choose a basis $\{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ for V^* , so that

$$\mathcal{O}(V) \cong \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n], \quad \mathcal{O}(V_m) = \mathbb{C}[x_1^{(i)}, \dots, x_n^{(i)}], \quad 0 \leq i \leq m.$$

The action of G_m on V_m induces the following action of its Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}[t]/t^{m+1}$ on $\mathcal{O}(V_m)$. For $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$,

$$\xi t^r(x_j^{(i)}) = \lambda_i^r(\xi(x_j))^{(i-r)}, \quad \lambda_i^r = \begin{cases} \frac{i!}{(i-r)!} & 0 \leq r \leq i \\ 0 & r > i \end{cases}.$$

The invariant ring $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{\mathfrak{g}[t]/t^{m+1}}$ coincides with $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ when G is connected.

LEMMA 3.8. — *Suppose that $V \oplus W$ is a representation of G . If W is bad (resp. not D -finite) then so is $V \oplus W$.*

Proof. — If W is bad there is a G_m -invariant polynomial on W_m which does not come from $\mathcal{O}((W//G)_m)$. Then clearly it cannot come from an element of $\mathcal{O}(((V \oplus W)//G)_m)$. Now minimal generators of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty \oplus W_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ can clearly be chosen to be bihomogeneous in the variables of V_∞ and W_∞ . Thus if $V \oplus W$ is D -finite, then so is W . \square

The results above say that a representation is bad (resp. not D -finite) if a subrepresentation or slice representation is bad (resp. not D -finite). Now let us consider some examples.

Example 3.9. — Let $(V, G) = (\mathbb{C}, \pm 1)$. Then V is bad. Let z be a coordinate function on V . Then V_1 has coordinates $z = z^{(0)}$ and $z^{(1)}$. The invariants of $G = G_1$ are generated by $z^2, zz^{(1)}$ and $(z^{(1)})^2$. The invariants coming from the quotient are z^2 and $2zz^{(1)}$. If one goes to degree 2, then from $\mathbb{C}[z^2]$ we get $z^2, 2zz^{(1)}$ and $2(z^{(1)})^2 + 2zz^{(2)}$. But among the G_2 -invariants we have $z^2, zz^{(1)}, zz^{(2)}, (z^{(1)})^2, z^{(1)}z^{(2)}$ and $(z^{(2)})^2$. Things are only getting worse. See Theorem 3.13 for the general case.

Example 3.10. — Let $G = \mathbb{C}^*$ and let $V = \mathbb{C}^2$ with weights 2 and -3 . Then $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ is generated by $z = x^3y^2$, so that $V//G \cong \mathbb{C}$. For $m = 1, w := (D(z))^2/z = x(3yx^{(1)} + 2xy^{(1)})^2$ is not a function on $(V//G)_1$, but it is a G_1 -invariant function on V_1 . Hence V is 1-bad. In fact, it is m -bad for any $m \geq 1$. See Theorem 3.15 for a generalization. Computer calculations suggest that V is D -finite with generators z and w . Thus this is likely an example where V is bad yet D -finite.

Example 3.11. — Let $G = \text{SL}_3$ and let V be the direct sum of 6 copies of the standard representation \mathbb{C}^3 , with basis $\{x^{(a,0)}, y^{(a,0)}, z^{(a,0)} \mid a = 1, \dots, 6\}$. The generators of $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ are 3×3 determinants $[abc]$ corresponding to a choice of three distinct indices $a, b, c \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$. Let $x^{(a,1)} = Dx^{(a,0)}$ and similarly for y and z , and define

$$f = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_6} \text{sgn}(\sigma) x^{(\sigma(1),0)} y^{(\sigma(2),0)} z^{(\sigma(3),0)} x^{(\sigma(4),1)} y^{(\sigma(5),1)} z^{(\sigma(6),1)},$$

where σ runs over the group \mathfrak{S}_6 of permutations of $\{1, \dots, 6\}$. Note that f has degree 6 and weight 3 and lies in $\mathcal{O}(V_1)^{G_1}$, but $f \notin p_1^* \mathcal{O}((V//G)_1)$, since elements of $p_1^* \mathcal{O}((V//G)_1)$ of degree 6 can have weight at most 2. Hence V is 1-bad, and in fact it is m -bad for all finite $m \geq 1$. However, f can be expressed (up to a constant multiple) in the form

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_6} [\sigma(1)\sigma(2)\sigma(3)][(\sigma(4)\sigma(5)\sigma(6))]^{(3)},$$

so $f \in p_3^* \mathcal{O}((V//G)_3)$. In Theorem 6.5 and Example 6.6 below we show that p_∞^* is surjective but not injective.

Remark 3.12. — The surjectivity of p_∞^* is equivalent to the condition that every element of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ of weight m lies in $p_m^* \mathcal{O}((V//G)_m)$.

THEOREM 3.13. — *Suppose that $G \subset \text{GL}(V)$ is finite and nontrivial. Then V is m -bad for any $m \geq 1$ and V is not D -finite.*

Proof. — Note that $G_m = G$ for all m . Let $k > 0$ be minimal such that there is a homogeneous generator of $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ of degree k . Let f_1, \dots, f_ℓ be a basis of the generators of degree k . We have $V_1 \simeq TV = V \oplus V'$ where V' is a G -module isomorphic to V . Using the isomorphism we obtain minimal generators f'_1, \dots, f'_ℓ of $\mathcal{O}(V')^G$ which are linearly independent. The f'_i exist in every $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^G$ for $m \geq 1$. They are not in $p_m^* \mathcal{O}((V/G)_m)$ because the only possibility is that $f'_i = D^k f_i$ for all i where the latter have terms involving the variables of V_k not in V_1 . Thus V is m -bad for all $m \geq 1$.

Let f be a homogeneous element of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^G$ of minimal positive degree, say m . Let $1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_m \leq s$. Then there is a polarization f_{i_1, \dots, i_m} which is multilinear and invariant on the copies of V in V_s corresponding to the indices i_1, \dots, i_m . Now consider $i_j = rm + j$ for $r \geq 1$. If $f := f_{i_1, \dots, i_m}$ is in the differential subalgebra of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^G$ generated by $\mathcal{O}(V_{rm})^G$, then we must have that f is a sum of D to some powers applied to invariants of degree m lying in $\mathcal{O}(V_{rm})^G$. But it is easy to see that such a sum can never give f . □

COROLLARY 3.14. — *If X is a smooth affine G -variety and (W, H) is a slice representation of X with H finite and acting nontrivially on W , then X is bad and not D -finite.*

We need some more background on the action of G , see [19]. The points of $V//G$ are in one to one correspondence with the closed orbits $Gv, v \in V$. Let $H := G_v$ be the isotropy group (which is reductive) and let (W, H) be the slice representation. The fiber $p^{-1}(p(v))$ is isomorphic to $G \times^H \mathcal{N}(W)$ where $\mathcal{N}(W) := p_W^{-1}(p_W(0))$ is the null cone of W . For the rest of this section, we

set $Z := V//G$. Let (H) denote the conjugacy class of H in G and let $Z_{(H)}$ denote the closed orbits Gv' such that $G_{v'} \in (H)$. Then there are finitely many strata $Z_{(H)}$ each of which is smooth and irreducible. For reductive subgroups H_1 and H_2 of G , write $(H_1) \leq (H_2)$ if H_1 is G -conjugate to a subgroup of H_2 . Then among the isotropy classes of closed orbits, there is a unique minimum (H) with respect to \leq , called the *principal isotropy class*. We also call H a *principal isotropy group* and corresponding closed orbits are called *principal orbits*. Then $Z_{(H)}$ is the unique open stratum in Z and we also denote it by Z_{pr} . Let Gv be a principal orbit with $G_v = H$. Then the fiber of p through v is of the form $G \times^H W$ where W is the nontrivial part of the slice representation of H at v and $\mathcal{O}(W)^H = \mathbb{C}$. We say that a G -module is *stable* if the general G -orbit is closed. Then the slice representations of the principal isotropy groups are trivial and $V_{\text{pr}} := p^{-1}(Z_{\text{pr}})$ is open and consists of principal orbits.

Let S be an irreducible hypersurface in Z . Then the ideal of S is generated by an invariant f . Write $f = f_1^{a_1} \dots f_n^{a_n}$ where the f_i are irreducible polynomials in $\mathcal{O}(V)$. We say that the irreducible component $\{f_i = 0\}$ of $p^{-1}(S)$ is *schematically reduced* if $a_i = 1$. Equivalently, the differential df does not vanish at some point of $\{f_i = 0\}$. We say that $p^{-1}(S)$ is schematically reduced if all of its irreducible components are. Equivalently, f generates the ideal of $p^{-1}(S)$ in $\mathcal{O}(V)$. The *codimension one strata* of V are the inverse images in V of the codimension one strata of Z .

THEOREM 3.15. — *Let V be a G -module such that $\dim Z = 1$. Then $Z \simeq \mathbb{C}$.*

- (1) *If $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m} = p_m^* \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C}_m)$ for some $m \geq 1$, then an irreducible component of $\mathcal{N}(V)$ is schematically reduced.*
- (2) *If an irreducible component of $\mathcal{N}(V)$ is schematically reduced, then $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m} = p_m^* \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C}_m)$ for all $m \geq 1$.*

Proof. — Since Z is normal of dimension one, we have $Z \simeq \mathbb{C}$ and $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ is generated by a homogeneous invariant p . Write $p = p_1^{a_1} \dots p_n^{a_n}$ where the p_i are irreducible polynomials in $\mathcal{O}(V)$. Suppose that no irreducible component of $\mathcal{N}(V)$ is schematically reduced. Then $a_i \geq 2$ for all i and $(Dp)^2$ is divisible by p , yet $(Dp)^2/p$ is not the pullback of an element of $\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C}_m)$ and we have (1).

Now suppose that an irreducible component of $\mathcal{N}(V)$ is schematically reduced and that V is stable. Let $V' = \{v \in V \mid dp(v) \neq 0\}$. Then V' is G -stable, open and dense in V . Since dp does not vanish somewhere on $\mathcal{N}(V)$, p is a smooth mapping of V' onto \mathbb{C} . Hence $p_m : V'_m \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_m$ is smooth and surjective. The principal fibers of $p : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are homogeneous spaces

G/H where H is reductive. Since $G \rightarrow G/H$ is a principal H -bundle, $G_m \rightarrow (G/H)_m$ is a principal H_m -bundle and $(G/H)_m \simeq G_m/H_m$. It follows that the fibers of p_m in $(V_{\text{pr}})_m$ are homogeneous spaces G_m/H_m . Hence any $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is the pullback of a rational function \tilde{h} on \mathbb{C}_m . If \tilde{h} has poles, then so does $p_m^* \tilde{h} = h$. Hence \tilde{h} is in $\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C}_m)$ and we have proved (2) in case V is stable.

Now suppose that V is not stable. Then the principal fibers are $G \times^H W$ where $\mathcal{O}(W)^H = \mathbb{C}$. Since $\mathcal{O}(W)^H = \mathbb{C}$, by Hilbert-Mumford there is a 1-parameter subgroup $\lambda: \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow H$ such that $HW_\lambda = W$ where W_λ is the sum of the strictly positive weight spaces of λ . There is a dense open subset W'_λ of W_λ such that $H \times W'_\lambda \rightarrow W' \subset W$ is surjective and smooth where W' is open in W . Then $H_m \times W'_{\lambda,m} \rightarrow W'_m$ is surjective and smooth where λ has only positive weights on $W'_{\lambda,m} := (W'_\lambda)_m$. Hence the H_m -invariants of W_m are just the constants. It follows that the G_m -invariants on $G_m \times^{H_m} W_m$ are constants and the proof above goes through. \square

Remark 3.16. — Whenever Z_m is irreducible and reduced, p_m^* is injective since p_m is dominant. Hence good and very good are equivalent in this case.

COROLLARY 3.17 (Eck). — *Let V be a stable G -module with $\dim Z = 1$. Assume that the generating invariant p is irreducible. Then V is very good.*

We say that the G -module V is *coregular* if Z is smooth. Equivalently, $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ is a polynomial ring [16, II.4.3 Lemma 1]. In this case, good and very good are equivalent by Remark 3.16.

COROLLARY 3.18. — *Let V be coregular. Then V is very good if and only if each codimension one stratum of V has a schematically reduced irreducible component.*

Proof. — If a codimension one stratum has no schematically reduced irreducible component, then the corresponding slice representation is of the form $(W + \theta, H)$ where θ is a trivial representation, $W^H = 0$, $\dim W//H = 1$ and $\mathcal{N}(W)$ has no schematically reduced irreducible component. Then Corollary 3.6 and Theorem 3.15 show that V is bad.

Now assume that each codimension one stratum has a schematically reduced irreducible component. Let V' be the set of points of V where dp has maximal rank and let $Z' \subset Z$ be the image. Then the complement of Z' has codimension at least 2 in $Z \simeq \mathbb{C}^k$. As in the case $k = 1$, any G_m -invariant polynomial on V_m is the pullback of a rational function on $(\mathbb{C}^k)_m$ which has no poles on Z'_m . But the complement of Z'_m in $(\mathbb{C}^k)_m$ has

codimension at least 2. Hence our G_m -invariant polynomial is the pullback of a polynomial on $(\mathbb{C}^k)_m$. \square

Now let G be a connected complex reductive group and let V be a G -module. We impose a mild technical condition which is automatic if G is semisimple; we assume that $\mathcal{O}(V)$ contains no nontrivial one-dimensional invariant subspaces. Equivalently, we assume that every semi-invariant of G is invariant.

LEMMA 3.19. — *Assume that G is connected and that every semi-invariant of $\mathcal{O}(V)$ is invariant.*

- (1) *A function $f \in \mathcal{O}(V)^G$ is irreducible in $\mathcal{O}(V)$ if and only if it is irreducible in $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$. In particular, $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ is a UFD.*
- (2) *The codimension one strata of V are irreducible and schematically reduced.*
- (3) *Let $S \subset V//G$ have codimension at least 2. Let f_1 and f_2 be relatively prime elements of $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ which vanish on S . Then f_1 and f_2 are relatively prime elements of $\mathcal{O}(V)$, hence $p^{-1}(S)$ has codimension at least 2 in V .*

Proof. — We only need to prove (1) since this implies both (2) and (3). Let $f \in \mathcal{O}(V)^G$ and let $f = p_1 \cdots p_k$ be its prime factorization in $\mathcal{O}(V)$. Since every semi-invariant of G is invariant, each $g \in G$ must permute the factors of f , so f determines a homomorphism from G to the permutation group on k letters. But G is connected and this map is continuous, so it must be trivial. Therefore each $p_i \in \mathcal{O}(V)^G$. \square

COROLLARY 3.20. — *Suppose that V is coregular, G is connected and every semi-invariant of $\mathcal{O}(V)$ is invariant. Then V is very good.*

As above, let V' be the set of points in V where dp has maximal rank, and let $Z' \subset Z$ be the image of V' .

LEMMA 3.21. — *Assume that G is connected and that every semi-invariant of $\mathcal{O}(V)$ is invariant. Let S be a codimension one stratum of Z .*

- (1) *The rank of dp is $\dim Z$ on an open dense subset of $p^{-1}(S)$.*
- (2) *$V \setminus V'$ has codimension at least 2 in V .*

Proof. — Let $F = p^{-1}(p(v))$ where Gv is closed and $p(v)$ lies in S . Since $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ is a UFD, the closure of S is defined by an irreducible invariant f . Hence $p^{-1}(\bar{S})$ is irreducible and $df \neq 0$ on an open dense subset of $p^{-1}(S)$. Now F is isomorphic to $G \times^H \mathcal{N}(W)$ where W is the slice representation of $H = G_v$. This fiber is the same everywhere over S and $p^{-1}(S)$ is a

fiber bundle over S with fiber F . Thus $f^{-1}(0)$ is schematically reduced if and only if F is schematically reduced, i.e., the G -invariant polynomials vanishing at $p(v)$ generate the ideal of F in $\mathcal{O}(V)$. Thus at a smooth point of F the rank of dp must be maximal. It follows that dp has maximal rank on an open dense subset of $p^{-1}(S)$ and we have (1). By Lemma 3.19(3), if T is a stratum of Z where $\text{codim}_Z T \geq 2$, then $\text{codim}_V p^{-1}(T) \geq 2$. Hence (2) follows from (1). \square

COROLLARY 3.22. — *Let (U, K) be a slice representation of V and let $S = (U//K)_{(H)}$ be a codimension one stratum where $H \subset K$. Then $p_U^{-1}(\bar{S})$ is schematically reduced.*

Proof. — Over a point of S , the schematic fiber of p_U is $K \times^H \mathcal{N}(W)$ where W is the slice representation of H . The schematic fiber of p_V is $G \times^H \mathcal{N}(W)$ over points of $S' := (V//G)_{(H)}$. Thus the ranks of dp_U and dp_V are the same on the inverse images of S and S' , respectively, and it follows that the hypersurface $p_U^{-1}(\bar{S})$ is schematically reduced. \square

PROPOSITION 3.23. — *Let H be reductive and W an H -module such that the codimension one strata are schematically reduced. Set $Y := W//H$. Suppose that $W' \cap \mathcal{N}(W) \neq \emptyset$. Then W is coregular and very good, and $p_W(W') = Y$.*

Proof. — Since dp_W has maximal rank at a point of $\mathcal{N}(W)$, the image point $0 \in Y$ is smooth. But Y has a cone structure (induced by the scalar action of \mathbb{C}^* on W). It follows that Y is smooth, i.e., W is a coregular representation of H . By Corollary 3.18 we have that $\mathcal{O}(W_m)^{H_m} = p_{W,m}^* \mathcal{O}(Y_m)$. Since $W' \cap \mathcal{N}(W) \neq \emptyset$, $p_W(W')$ contains a neighborhood of $0 \in Y$. Since W' and Y are cones, $p_W(W') = Y$. \square

THEOREM 3.24. — *Assume that G is connected and that every semi-invariant of $\mathcal{O}(V)$ is invariant. Then for all $m \geq 1$, we have $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m} = p_m^* \mathcal{O}(Z'_m)$.*

Proof. — Let Gv be a closed orbit such that $p^{-1}(p(v))$ intersects V' . Let (W, H) be the slice representation at v . Then Proposition 3.23 and Corollary 3.22 show that $\mathcal{O}(W_m)^{H_m} = p_{W,m}^* \mathcal{O}((W//H)_m)$. Using the slice theorem we see that this implies that $\mathcal{O}(U_m)^{G_m} = p_m^* \mathcal{O}(\tilde{Z}_m)$ where U is a G -saturated neighborhood of Gv and $\tilde{Z} := p(U)$ is a neighborhood of $p(v)$. Thus given $f \in \mathcal{O}(V'_m)^{G_m}$ there is a unique $h \in \mathcal{O}(Z'_m)$ such that $p_m^* h = f$ on V'_m . Since $\text{codim}_V V \setminus V' \geq 2$, f extends to an element of $\mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$. \square

4. Classical representations of classical groups

Let $G = \mathrm{SL}_n$ and $V = k\mathbb{C}^n + \ell(\mathbb{C}^n)^*$. For applications to vertex algebras it would be nice to show that $p_\infty^* \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty) = \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. But we don't know if this is true for general k and ℓ . On the positive side we are able to show that p_∞^* is surjective when k or ℓ is zero or when Z is a complete intersection. In this section we concentrate on the complete intersection case. We also handle the complete intersection classical representations of the other classical groups (with O_n excluded, since it is not connected).

Let G be reductive and let $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$ be a sum of G -modules. If $Z_i := V_i // G$ is not a complete intersection for some i , then neither is $Z = V // G$. This is clear because the generators and relations of $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ can be chosen to be bihomogeneous in the generators of $\mathcal{O}(V_i)$, so a minimal set of generators and relations for $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ will contain minimal sets of generators and relations for each $\mathcal{O}(V_i)^G$.

LEMMA 4.1. — *Suppose that Z is a complete intersection. Then $W // H$ is a complete intersection for every slice representation (W, H) of V .*

Proof. — Let y denote the image of $0 \in W$ in $W // H$. By Luna's slice theorem, up to étale mappings (which preserve the property of being a complete intersection), we have an isomorphism of a neighborhood of y with a neighborhood of some $z \in Z$. It follows that $W // H$ is a complete intersection in a neighborhood of y . Let p_1, \dots, p_d be minimal homogeneous generators of $\mathcal{O}(W)^H$. Then their relations are minimally generated by polynomials $h_j(y_1, \dots, y_d)$ which are homogeneous when we give y_i the degree of p_i . Since $W // H$ is a complete intersection near y , the number of h_j is $d - \dim W // H$. Hence $W // H$ is a complete intersection. \square

Now consider $(V, G) = (k\mathbb{C}^n, \mathrm{SL}_n)$, $n \geq 3$. If $k = n + 2$, then $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ has $\binom{n+2}{2}$ minimal generators and $\binom{n+2}{4}$ minimal relations. Its dimension is $2n + 1 > \binom{n+2}{2} - \binom{n+2}{4}$, which shows that we don't have a complete intersection for $k \geq n + 2$. We say that there are *too many relations*. For the case $n = 2$ we don't have a complete intersection for $k \geq 5$ but we do for $k = 4$. Note that here the representations of SL_2 on \mathbb{C}^2 and $(\mathbb{C}^2)^*$ are isomorphic.

Let H_1, \dots, H_r be representatives for the conjugacy classes of isotropy groups of closed orbits in V . We say that H_i is *maximal proper* if $H_i \neq G$ and every other H_j besides G is conjugate to an isotropy group of the slice representation of H_i . Of course, in general, such an isotropy group does not exist.

LEMMA 4.2. — *Let $(V, G) = (k\mathbb{C}^n + \ell(\mathbb{C}^n)^*, \mathrm{SL}_n)$, $n \geq 3$ where $k\ell \neq 0$. Then the maximal proper isotropy group is SL_{n-1} with slice representation $(k-1)\mathbb{C}^{n-1} + (\ell-1)(\mathbb{C}^{n-1})^*$ (up to trivial factors).*

Proof. — We may assume that $k \geq \ell$. Write $V = V_1 \oplus \dots \oplus V_\ell \oplus (k-\ell)\mathbb{C}^n$ where each V_i is a copy of $\mathbb{C}^n \oplus (\mathbb{C}^n)^*$. Then [24, 3.8] implies that any proper isotropy class (H) of V is contained in a proper isotropy class (L) of one of the V_i or $(k-\ell)\mathbb{C}^n$. By [27, Theorem 2.6.A], the invariants of any V_i are generated by the contraction of \mathbb{C}^n with $(\mathbb{C}^n)^*$. The nonzero orbits where the invariant does not vanish are closed and have isotropy class (SL_{n-1}) . Again by [27, Theorem 2.6.A] the nonconstant invariants of $(k-\ell)\mathbb{C}^n$ are generated by determinants (this only happens for $k-\ell \geq n$) in which case the orbits where a determinant does not vanish are closed and have trivial isotropy groups. Hence SL_{n-1} is maximal proper. Let W be the slice representation of SL_{n-1} . Then we have that

$$W \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_n/\mathfrak{sl}_{n-1} = V \text{ as } \mathrm{SL}_{n-1}\text{-modules.}$$

This gives that $W = (k-1)\mathbb{C}^{n-1} + (\ell-1)(\mathbb{C}^{n-1})^*$ (up to trivial factors). \square

Now suppose that (V, G) is as in the lemma above and that $k = n + 1$, $n \geq 3$, and that Z is a complete intersection. If $\ell = n$, then there are again too many relations. Thus we must have $\ell < n$. In fact we can have $\ell = (n - 1)$. Consider the action of SL_{n+1} on $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^{n+1}, \mathbb{C}^n) \simeq (n + 1)\mathbb{C}^n$ and SL_{n-1} on $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^{n-1}, (\mathbb{C}^n)^*) \simeq (n-1)(\mathbb{C}^n)^*$. Then $\mathrm{SL}_{n+1} \times \mathrm{SL}_{n-1}$ acts on the G -invariants and the generators transform by the representations $\wedge^n(\mathbb{C}^{n+1})$ (the determinants) and $\mathbb{C}^{n+1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{n-1}$ (the contractions). By [27, Theorem 2.14.A], the relations are generated by those corresponding to

$$\mathbb{C}^{n-1} \simeq \wedge^{n+1}(\mathbb{C}^{n+1}) \otimes \mathbb{C}^{n-1} \subset \wedge^n(\mathbb{C}^{n+1}) \otimes (\mathbb{C}^{n+1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{n-1}).$$

We have a complete intersection since

$$\binom{n+1}{n} + n^2 - 1 - (n-1) = n^2 + 1 = \dim Z = \dim V - \dim G = 2n^2 - (n^2 - 1).$$

Now we state a general theorem enabling us to show that $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for all $m \geq 0$. Let G be connected reductive and V a G -module such that every semi-invariant is an invariant and such that Z is a complete intersection. As before, let Z' denote the image of the points V' of V where dp has maximal rank. Let $Z_{m,0}$ denote $Z_m \setminus Z'_m$. Recall that Z'_m consists of smooth points of Z_m .

THEOREM 4.3. — *Let G and V be as above. Let (W, H) be a nontrivial slice representation and write $W = W^H \oplus W_1$ where W_1 is an H -module. Let $q : W_1 \rightarrow Y := W_1 // H$ be the quotient mapping and suppose that*

$\pi_m^{-1}(q(0)) \cap Y_{m,0}$ has codimension at least 2 in Y_m for all $m \geq 0$ and all (W, H) . Then Z_m is normal for all m and $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.

Proof. — By Boutot [4], it is known that Z has rational singularities. Then [22] shows that each Z_m is irreducible, reduced and a complete intersection, and Z_∞ is reduced and irreducible. We thus need only show that $Z_m \setminus Z'_m$ has codimension at least two in Z_m for all m . Let $S \subset Z$ be the stratum corresponding to H . Then Luna’s slice theorem shows that a neighborhood of S in Z is locally isomorphic to $S \times Y$ (up to étale mappings). Thus $(S \times Y)'_m \simeq S_m \times Y'_m$. Now the points of $Y_{m,0}$ either lie over the stratum $\{q(0)\}$ of Y or they lie over a stratum $T \subset Y$ with a smaller isotropy group. By induction we can assume that $\pi_m^{-1}(T) \cap Y_{m,0}$ has codimension at least two in Y_m . By hypothesis, $\pi_m^{-1}(q(0)) \cap Y_{m,0}$ has codimension at least two in Y_m . Thus $Y_{m,0}$ has codimension two in Y_m and $Z_{m,0}$ has codimension two in Z_m over a neighborhood of S . Since this is true for all strata S , we find that $Z_{m,0}$ has codimension two in Z_m , i.e., Z_m is normal. Thus $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m \leq \infty$. □

THEOREM 4.4. — *Let $(V, G) = ((n + 1)\mathbb{C}^n + (n - 1)(\mathbb{C}^n)^*, \text{SL}_n)$, $n \geq 2$. Then Z_m is normal for all $m \geq 0$ and $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.*

Proof. — Let us call our $n - 1$ relations f_1, \dots, f_{n-1} . Then the f_j are bilinear, being linear in the determinants and the contractions. Let

$$(\omega(t), \alpha(t)) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^m t^i \omega_i, \sum_{i=1}^m t^i \alpha_i \right)$$

be elements of $\pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ where the ω_i correspond to the determinants and the α_i to the contractions. Then for $j = 1, \dots, n - 1$ we have the equations $f_j(\omega(t), \alpha(t)) = 0 \pmod{t^{m+1}}$. Thus we get the equations

$$\begin{aligned} f_j(\omega_1, \alpha_1) = 0, \quad f_j(\omega_2, \alpha_1) + f_j(\omega_1, \alpha_2) = 0, \quad \dots \\ \dots, f_j(\omega_{m-1}, \alpha_1) + \dots + f_j(\omega_1, \alpha_{m-1}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We have no conditions on ω_m and α_m , and the equations above on the ω_i and $\alpha_{i'}$ for $1 \leq i, i' \leq m - 1$ give something isomorphic to Z_{m-2} . Thus the dimension of $\pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ is $\dim Z_{m-2} + (n^2 + n)$ for $m \geq 2$ and the codimension of $\pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ in Z_m is

$$\begin{aligned} \dim Z_m - (\dim Z_{m-2}) - (n^2 + n) &= (m + 1 - (m - 1))(n^2 + 1) - (n^2 + n) \\ &= n^2 - n + 2 \geq 4. \end{aligned}$$

For $m = 1$ we get the same codimension and for $m = 0$ the codimension is $n^2 + 1 \geq 5$. Now we can use Lemma 4.2 and Theorem 4.3 to finish the proof. \square

We consider later the case of $(n(\mathbb{C}^n + (\mathbb{C}^n)^*), \text{SL}_n)$ whose quotient is a complete intersection.

THEOREM 4.5. — *Let $(V, G) = (k\mathbb{C}^{2n}, \text{Sp}_{2n})$, $n \geq 1$. Then V is coregular for $k \leq 2n + 1$, Z is a hypersurface for $k = 2n + 2$ and is not a complete intersection for $k \geq 2n + 3$. When $k = 2n + 2$, Z_m is normal for all m and $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.*

Proof. — The group G preserves a canonical non-degenerate skew form on \mathbb{C}^{2n} . If we use indices $1 \leq i < j \leq k$ for pairs of copies of \mathbb{C}^{2n} , then the invariants of V give a 2-form $\omega = \sum \omega_{ij} e_i \wedge e_j$ and the relations of the ω_{ij} are given by the vanishing of $\omega^{n+1} \in \wedge^{2n+2}(\mathbb{C}^k) \otimes \mathbb{C}[\omega_{ij}]$. It follows that V is coregular for $k \leq 2n + 1$ and has too many relations for $k \geq 2n + 3$. Thus we need only consider the hypersurface case $k = 2n + 2$. The noncoregular slice representations of V are of the same form as V with n replaced by a smaller $n' \geq 1$, modulo trivial representations. We show that $Z_{m,0}$ has codimension 4 in Z_m which, by Theorem 4.3, establishes our result.

First consider the case where m is at least $n + 1$. Let

$$\omega = \sum_{i=1}^m t^i \omega_i \in \pi_m^{-1}(p(0)).$$

Here the ω_i are elements of $\wedge^2(\mathbb{C}^{2n+2})_i$. Then we have the equations $\omega_1^{n+1} = 0, \omega_1^n \wedge \omega_2 = 0, \dots$. The equations applied to $n + 1$ of the ω_i such that the sum of the indices does not exceed m gives a set isomorphic to Z_{m-n-1} , and there are no conditions on $\omega_{m-n+1}, \omega_{m-n+2}, \dots, \omega_m$. Now Z has dimension $\binom{2n+2}{2} - 1$ and it follows that the codimension of $\pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ in Z_m is

$$\begin{aligned} ((m + 1) - (m - n)) \left(\binom{2n + 2}{2} - 1 \right) - n \binom{2n + 2}{2} &= \binom{2n + 2}{2} - n - 1 \\ &= 2n^2 + 2n \geq 4. \end{aligned}$$

For the cases $m = 0, \dots, n$ one gets that $\text{codim } \pi_m^{-1}(p(0)) = \dim Z - m$ which is even better. This completes the proof. \square

THEOREM 4.6. — *Let $(V, G) = (k\mathbb{C}^n + \ell(\mathbb{C}^n)^*, \text{GL}_n)$, $n \geq 1, k \geq \ell$. Then V is coregular if $\ell \leq n$, there are too many relations if $\ell \geq n + 1$ and $k + \ell \geq 2n + 3$ and Z is a hypersurface if $k = \ell = n + 1$. In this last case we have that Z_m is normal for all m and $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.*

Proof. — The invariants are just the contractions α_{ij} , $1 \leq i \leq k$, $1 \leq j \leq l$ and the relations are $\det_{r,s=1}^{n+1} \alpha_{i_r,j_s} = 0$ where the i_r are distinct and the j_s are distinct. This shows that V is coregular for $\ell \leq n$ and that Z is not a complete intersection for $\ell \geq n + 2$ or $\ell = n + 1$ and $k > n + 1$. We now consider the case $k = \ell = n + 1$. Then all the nontrivial slice representations have the same form, with n replaced by a smaller $n' \geq 1$. The codimension of $p(0)$ in Z_0 is $\dim Z = (n + 1)^2 - 1 \geq 3$. For $m \geq n + 1$ one can use the techniques as above to show that the codimension of $\pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ in Z_m is at least

$$\begin{aligned} \dim Z_m - \dim Z_{m-n-1} - n(n + 1)^2 \\ &= ((m + 1) - (m - n))((n + 1)^2 - 1) - n(n + 1)^2 \\ &= n(n + 1) \geq 2. \end{aligned}$$

For $1 \leq m \leq n$ the codimension is at least as great. Thus, as before, we find that Z_m is normal for all m and the theorem follows. \square

THEOREM 4.7. — *Let $(V, G) = (k\mathbb{C}^n, \text{SO}_n)$, $n \geq 2$. Then V is coregular for $k < n$ and has too many relations if $k > n$. If $k = n$, then Z is a hypersurface and Z_m is normal for all m . Hence $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.*

Proof. — We leave it to the reader to show that there are too many relations if $k > n$ and that V is coregular for $k < n$. Consider the case that $k = n$. The invariants of V are generated by the inner products α_{ij} , $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ and the determinant d . The relation is $\det_{i,j=1}^n \alpha_{ij} = d^2$. The nontrivial slice representations of V are just those for n replaced by n' where $2 \leq n' < n$, up to trivial factors, so it is enough to show that $Y_m := \pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ has codimension at least 2 in Z_m for $m \geq 0$. Let $\alpha(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m t^i \alpha_i$ and $d(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m t^i d_i$ be elements of Y_m where $m \geq n$. For now suppose that $n = 2l$ is even. Then the equations $\det(\alpha(t)) = d(t)^2$ force $d_1 = \dots = d_{l-1} = 0$. The n th equation is $\det(\alpha_1) = d_1^2$ and one can see that the dimension of Y_m is $\dim Z_{m-n} + (n - 1)(\dim Z + 1) - (n - 2)/2$ so that the codimension of Y_m in Z_m is

$$\begin{aligned} \dim Z - (n - 1) + (n - 2)/2 &= \frac{1}{2}n(n + 1) - n + 1 + \frac{1}{2}(n - 2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}n^2 \end{aligned}$$

which is at least 2. If $m < n$, then we get the estimate that $\text{codim } Y_m \leq \dim Z - m + \lfloor \frac{m}{2} \rfloor$ which is even better.

Now we consider the case that $n = 2l + 1$ is odd. Then looking at the coefficient of t^n we get the equation $\det(\alpha_1) = 0$ since the equations with lower powers of t force $d_1 = \dots = d_l = 0$. The coefficient of t^{n+1} gives an inhomogeneous equation for α_1 and α_2 with right hand side d_{l+1}^2 . But the solution space of the inhomogeneous equation has dimension at most that of the homogeneous equation. Hence we can estimate the dimension of Y_m by replacing the inhomogeneous equations by the homogeneous equations. Thus we get the estimate $\dim Y_m = \dim Z_{m-n} + (n-1)(\dim Z + 1) - (n-1)/2$ and for the codimension we get

$$\begin{aligned} \dim Z - (n - 1) + \frac{n - 1}{2} &= \frac{1}{2}n(n + 1) - n + 1 + \frac{1}{2}(n - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}n^2 + \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

As before, the estimates for $0 \leq m < n$ are even better, so Y_m has codimension 2 and Z_m is normal. □

There is one case left, which needs no new techniques.

THEOREM 4.8. — *Let $(V, G) = (n\mathbb{C}^n + n(\mathbb{C}^n)^*, \text{SL}_n)$, $n \geq 2$. Then Z_m is normal and $p_m^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_m) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_m)^{G_m}$ is an isomorphism for $m = 0, 1, \dots, \infty$.*

Proof. — The generators of $\mathcal{O}(V)^G$ are the contractions α_{ij} and the determinants d and e of the n copies of \mathbb{C}^n and its dual. The relation is $\det(\alpha_{ij}) = de$. The nontrivial slice representations, up to trivial factors, have the same form, with n replaced by a smaller $n' \geq 2$. As above, one can show that $\pi_m^{-1}(p(0))$ always has codimension at least 4 in Z_m which gives the result. □

5. Representations of \mathbb{C}^*

The main theorem of this section is the following.

THEOREM 5.1. — *Let $G = \mathbb{C}^*$ and let V be a G -module all of whose weights are ± 1 . Then $p_\infty^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ is an isomorphism and $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ is integrally closed.*

COROLLARY 5.2. — *Let V be a $G = \mathbb{C}^*$ module with nonzero positive weights $r_1 \leq \dots \leq r_d$, $d \geq 1$, and nonzero negative weights $-s_1 \leq \dots \leq -s_e$, $e \geq 1$, where we may assume that the greatest common divisor of the r_i and s_j is one. Then p_∞^* is surjective only in the following cases.*

- (1) $d = 1$ and $r_1 = 1$ or $e = 1$ and $s_1 = 1$. Here $Z' = Z$ so that p_m^* is an isomorphism for all m .
- (2) All the r_i and s_j are 1.

Proof. — Suppose that there are weights r_i and $-s_j$ neither of which is 1. Let W be the corresponding two dimensional submodule of V . Then the null cone of W consists of two non-reduced hypersurfaces, hence W is not good and neither is V . Thus, without loss of generality, we can assume that $r_i = 1$ for all i . If $d = 1$, then we are in case (1) and one easily sees that $Z' = Z$. Suppose that $d > 1$. If $s_j = s \neq 1$ for some j , then V contains a submodule W with weights 1, 1 and $-s$. Let x_1, x_2 and y be the corresponding coordinate functions. The generators of the invariants have degree $s + 1$. Now $(x_1 D x_2 - x_2 D x_1) x_1^{s-2} y$ is an invariant of G_∞ of weight one and degree $s + 1$ but is not D applied to a generator of $\mathcal{O}(W)^{G_\infty}$. Hence W is not good. Thus we have to be in case (2). \square

We now prove the theorem. We may assume that $V^G = (0)$ and that the weights 1 and -1 have multiplicity n . Let x_1, \dots, x_n be coordinate functions corresponding to the positive weights and let y_1, \dots, y_n be coordinate functions corresponding to the negative weights. Set $x_i^{(k)} := D^k x_i$ and $y_j^{(k)} = D^k y_j$ for $k \geq 0$. Then the $x_i^{(k)}$ and $y_j^{(k)}$ are coordinate functions on V_∞ . We order the $x_i^{(k)}$ so that $x_i^{(k)} < x_j^{(\ell)}$ if $k < \ell$ or $k = \ell$ and $i < j$. We similarly order the $y_i^{(k)}$. The G -invariants of $R := \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)$ are linear combinations of monomials $W := u_1 \cdots u_r v_1 \cdots v_r$ where each u_i is an $x_j^{(k)}$ and each v_i is some $y_j^{(k')}$ and we have that $u_1 \leq \dots \leq u_r$ and $v_1 \leq \dots \leq v_r$. We say that W is a word in *standard form*. We define the weight $\text{wt}(W)$ of W to be the sums of the exponents of the $x_i^{(k)}$ and $y_j^{(\ell)}$ occurring in W . Let $W' = u'_1 \cdots u'_r v'_1 \cdots v'_r$ be another monomial in standard form. We say that $W < W'$ if

- (1) $\text{wt}(W) < \text{wt}(W')$,
- (2) $\text{wt}(W) = \text{wt}(W')$, $u_1 \cdots u_s v_1 \cdots v_s = u'_1 \cdots u'_s v'_1 \cdots v'_s$ and $u_{s+1} < u'_{s+1}$ where $0 \leq s < r$, or
- (3) $\text{wt}(W) = \text{wt}(W')$, $u_1 \cdots u_{s+1} v_1 \cdots v_s = u'_1 \cdots u'_{s+1} v'_1 \cdots v'_s$ and $v_{s+1} < v'_{s+1}$ where $0 \leq s < r$.

We say that W is *admissible* if it is in standard form, v_1 is some y_j and for $1 \leq s < r$, $D(v_s) > v_{s+1}$. Given $0 \neq h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ of degree $2r$ and weight m it is a sum $\sum_i c_i W_i$ where the W_i are distinct and in standard form, the c_i are nonzero scalars and $\text{wt}(W_i) = m$ and $\text{deg}(W_i) = 2r$ for all i . We define the leading term $M(h)$ to be the greatest W_i . We will eventually show that $M(h)$ is admissible.

The ring $\mathcal{O}(Z)$ has generators f_{ij} (corresponding to $x_i y_j$) and relations $R_{ab,cd} = f_{ab} f_{cd} - f_{ad} f_{cb}$, $1 \leq a, b, c, d \leq n$ and $a \neq c, b \neq d$. Then $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ has generators $f_{ij}^{(k)} := D^k f_{ij}$ and relations generated by the $D^k R_{ab,cd}$. Of course, $p_\infty^* f_{ij}^{(k)} = D^k(x_i y_j)$. We define a partial order on the $f_{ij}^{(k)}$ where $f_{ij}^{(k)} \leq f_{i'j'}^{(k')}$ if

- (1) $k + 2 \leq k'$,
- (2) $k + 1 = k'$ and $i \leq i'$ or $j \leq j'$, or
- (3) $k = k'$ and $i \leq i'$ and $j \leq j'$.

We say that a monomial $f_{i_1, j_1}^{(k_1)} \cdots f_{i_r, j_r}^{(k_r)}$ is *standard* if $f_{i_1, j_1}^{(k_1)} \leq \cdots \leq f_{i_r, j_r}^{(k_r)}$.

LEMMA 5.3. — *The algebra $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ is spanned by the standard monomials.*

Proof. — Suppose that $f_{ab}^{(k)} f_{cd}^{(\ell)}$ and $f_{cd}^{(\ell)} f_{ab}^{(k)}$ are not standard. First suppose that $k = \ell$. We may assume that $a > c$ and $b < d$. Consider the relation $D^{2k}(f_{ab} f_{cd} - f_{ad} f_{cb}) = 0$. It is a sum $\sigma + f_{ab}^{(k)} f_{cd}^{(k)} - f_{ad}^{(k)} f_{cb}^{(k)}$ where the terms in σ are standard and involve an f with weight higher than k . We replace $f_{ab}^{(k)} f_{cd}^{(k)}$ by $f_{ad}^{(k)} f_{cb}^{(k)} - \sigma$. The new expression is a sum of standard terms and is “larger” than $f_{ab}^{(k)} f_{cd}^{(k)}$ in that each term has a factor with a higher weight or contains the term $f_{ad}^{(k)}$ which is larger than $f_{ab}^{(k)}$ and $f_{cd}^{(k)}$ in our partial order.

Now suppose that $\ell = k + 1$ and our terms are not standard. Then $a > c$ and $b > d$. Consider the relation $D^{2k+1}(f_{ab} f_{cd} - f_{ad} f_{cb}) = 0$. Expanding we get a sum

$$\sigma + f_{ab}^{(k)} f_{cd}^{(k+1)} + f_{ab}^{(k+1)} f_{cd}^{(k)} - f_{ad}^{(k)} f_{cb}^{(k+1)} - f_{ad}^{(k+1)} f_{cb}^{(k)}$$

where σ is a sum of standard terms with a factor of weight at least $k + 2$. Now the term $f_{ab}^{(k+1)} f_{cd}^{(k)}$ is standard and the factor $f_{ab}^{(k+1)}$ is larger than $f_{ab}^{(k)}$ and $f_{cd}^{(k+1)}$ in our partial order. Similarly, $f_{ad}^{(k)} f_{cb}^{(k+1)}$ is standard with $f_{cb}^{(k+1)}$ larger than $f_{ab}^{(k)}$ and $f_{cd}^{(k+1)}$. Similarly for $f_{ad}^{(k+1)} f_{cb}^{(k)}$. Hence we can replace $f_{ab}^{(k)} f_{cd}^{(k+1)}$ by larger standard terms.

Now it follows by induction that any monomial in the $f_{ij}^{(k)}$ is a sum of standard monomials. □

Let $w = f_{i_1, j_1}^{(k_1)} \cdots f_{i_r, j_r}^{(k_r)}$ be standard. We construct a word

$$L(w) = u_1 \cdots u_r v_1 \cdots v_r$$

such that

- (1) $u_1 \leq \cdots \leq u_r$ and $v_1 \leq \cdots \leq v_r$, i.e., $L(w)$ is a standard word.
- (2) $u_s v_s$ is a monomial occurring in $p_\infty^*(f_{i_s, j_s}^{(k_s)})$, $1 \leq s \leq r$.

(3) v_1 is a y_i and $Dv_s > v_{s+1}$, $1 \leq s < r$, i.e., $L(w)$ is admissible.

Clearly we must have that $u_1 v_1 = x_{i_1}^{(k_1)} y_{j_1}^{(0)}$. Suppose that we have determined u_1, \dots, u_{r-1} and v_1, \dots, v_{r-1} satisfying (1)–(3) for r replaced by $r - 1$. We have that $u_{r-1} = x_{i_{r-1}}^{(a)}$ and $v_{r-1} = y_{j_{r-1}}^{(b)}$ where $a + b = k_{r-1}$. Suppose that $k_r = k_{r-1}$. Then $i_{r-1} \leq i_r$ and $j_{r-1} \leq j_r$ so $u_r = x_{i_r}^{(a)}$ and $v_r = y_{j_r}^{(b)}$ satisfy our conditions. If $k_r = k_{r-1} + 1$ and $i_{r-1} > i_r$, then $j_{r-1} \leq j_r$ and we set $u_r = x_{i_r}^{(a+1)}$ and $v_r = y_{j_r}^{(b)}$. The case where $j_{r-1} > j_r$ is similar. If $i_{r-1} \leq i_r$ and $j_{r-1} \leq j_r$, then we set $u_r = x_{i_r}^{(a+1)}$, $v_r = y_{j_r}^{(b)}$. The case $k_r \geq 2 + k_{r-1}$ is handled similarly.

PROPOSITION 5.4. — *Let w be as above. Then $L(w) = M(p_\infty^*(w))$.*

Proof. — We have that $L(w) = u_1 \cdots u_r v_1 \cdots v_r$ where $u_s = x_{i_s}^{(a_s)}$ and $v_s = y_{j_s}^{(b_s)}$ and $a_s + b_s = k_s$, $1 \leq s \leq r$. Now $M := M(p_\infty^*(w)) = u'_1 \cdots u'_r v'_1 \cdots v'_r$ where each u'_s is some $x_{i'_s}^{a'_s}$ and each v'_s is some $y_{j'_s}^{b'_s}$.

First we prove that $u'_1 = u_1$ and that $v'_1 = v_1$ where $u_1 = x_{i_1}^{(k_1)}$ and $v_1 = y_{j_1}^{(0)}$. Since $f_{i_1, j_1}^{(k_1)}$ is a factor of w , some u'_s is $x_{i'_s}^a$ where $a \leq k_1$. Hence $u'_1 \leq u_1$ and by maximality of M we must have equality. It follows that the monomial of $p_\infty^*(f_{i_1, j_1}^{(k_1)})$ which occurs in M is $x_{i_1}^{(k_1)} y_{j_1}^{(0)}$. Hence some v'_s is $y_{j_1}^{(0)}$ and $v'_1 \leq y_{j_1}^{(0)}$. By maximality of M we have $v'_1 = v_1$.

Now suppose by induction that $u_i = u'_i$ and $v_i = v'_i$ for $i < r$. Then $u'_r v'_r$ is a monomial $x_{i'_r}^{(a'_r)} y_{j'_r}^{(b'_r)}$ occurring in $p_\infty^*(f_{i_r, j_r}^{(k_r)})$ where $a'_r + b'_r = k_r$. If $j_{r-1} \leq j_r$, then the largest possible a'_r is $a_r = k_r - b_{r-1}$ and we have that $M = L(w)$. If $j_{r-1} > j_r$, one has $a'_r = a_r = k_r - b_{r-1} - 1$ and again $M = L(w)$. Hence we always have $L(w) = M(p_\infty^*(w))$. \square

If W is admissible, then it is clear that there is a unique w with $W = L(w)$, hence we have the following

LEMMA 5.5. — *The function $w \mapsto L(w)$ is a bijective mapping from standard monomials to admissible monomials. Hence the standard monomials are linearly independent.*

Since the smallest possible $u_1 v_1$ is $f_{11} = x_1 y_1$, multiplication by f_{11} is injective on linear combinations of standard monomials. Hence f_{11} is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ and the mapping from $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ to its localization $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)_{f_{11}}$ is injective. By Corollary 3.7 this localization is isomorphic to $(\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty})_{(x_1 y_1)}$. Hence we have

PROPOSITION 5.6. — *Let $G = \mathbb{C}^*$ and let V be a G -module with weights ± 1 of multiplicity n , as above. The mapping $p_\infty^* : \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ is*

injective, hence $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ is reduced. Given $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ there is an $s \geq 0$ and an $f \in \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ such that $(x_1 y_1)^s h = p_\infty^*(f)$.

COROLLARY 5.7. — *Let $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. Then $M(h)$ is admissible.*

Proof. — There is an $s \geq 0$ such that $(x_1 y_1)^s h$ is in the image of $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$. Hence $M((x_1 y_1)^s h)$ is admissible. But $M((x_1 y_1)^s h) = (x_1 y_1)^s M(h)$ and hence $M(h)$ is admissible. □

Proof of Theorem 5.1. — Let $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ have a fixed degree and weight. Let $W = M(h)$. Then, as we saw before, there is a canonical standard monomial w such that $M(p_\infty^*(w)) = W$. Then for some constant c , $M(h - p_\infty^*(cw)) < M(h)$. By induction, then, we get that $h \in p_\infty^* \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$. Since the group G_∞ is connected, one shows as usual that $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$ is integrally closed, hence so is $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$. □

6. Some representations of SL_n

In this section we consider the case where $(V, G) = (\ell\mathbb{C}^n, SL_n)$. We use a version of standard monomial theory to prove that $p_\infty^* \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty) = \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. For $n = 2$ one can show that p_∞^* is injective, but for $n \geq 3$ this fails, as we show in Example 6.6.

Consider pairs (j, k) where $1 \leq j \leq \ell$ and $k \geq 0$. For each j let $\{x_i^{(j,0)}\}_{i=1}^n$ denote the usual coordinate functions on the j th copy of \mathbb{C}^n . Let $x_i^{(j,k)}$ denote $(1/k!) D^k x_i^{(j,0)}$. Then the $x_i^{(j,k)}$ are coordinate functions on V_∞ . Let $\omega = (j, k)$. Then we write $\omega < \omega' = (j', k')$ if $k < k'$ or $k = k'$ and $j < j'$. We write $x_i^\omega < x_{i'}^{\omega'}$ if $\omega < \omega'$ or $\omega = \omega'$ and $i' < i$. Thus we have $x_1^\omega > \dots > x_n^\omega$ for any ω . We inductively define a monomial order as follows. Let $M = m x_i^\omega$ (resp. $M' = m' x_{i'}^{\omega'}$) be a monomial where x_i^ω (resp. $x_{i'}^{\omega'}$) is the largest variable occurring in M (resp. M'). If $\deg(M) < \deg(M')$ or $\deg M = \deg(M')$ and $\text{wt}(M) < \text{wt}(M')$, then $M < M'$. If M and M' have the same degree and weight, then $M < M'$ if $x_i^\omega < x_{i'}^{\omega'}$ or $x_i^\omega = x_{i'}^{\omega'}$ and $m < m'$. If $h \neq 0$ is in $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$, we let $L(h)$ denote the lowest monomial occurring with nonzero coefficient in the expression of h in the x_i^ω .

Let x^ω denote the vector $(x_1^\omega, \dots, x_n^\omega)$. By classical invariant theory, the algebra $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^G$ is generated by determinants $[x^{\omega_1}, \dots, x^{\omega_n}]$.

Remarks 6.1.

- (1) We have $L([x^{\omega_1}, \dots, x^{\omega_n}]) = x_1^{\omega_1} \dots x_n^{\omega_n}$ where $\omega_1 < \dots < \omega_n$.

- (2) Let $1 \leq j_1 < \dots < j_n \leq \ell$ and let $k = na + b$ where $a, k \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ and $0 \leq b < n$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} L(D^k([x^{(j_1,0)}, \dots, x^{(j_n,0)}])) \\ = L([x^{(j_{b+1},a)}, \dots, x^{(j_n,a)}, x^{(j_1,a+1)}, \dots, x^{(j_b,a+1)}]). \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$(6.1) \quad W = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_{1,1} & \omega_{1,2} & \dots & \omega_{1,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \omega_{i,j} & \vdots \\ \omega_{s,1} & \omega_{s,2} & \dots & \omega_{s,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

where the $\omega_{i,j}$ are pairs as above. We call W a *tableau* and we say that W is *standard* if the rows are strictly increasing and the columns are non-decreasing. To each row $\omega_{r,1}, \dots, \omega_{r,n}$ of W we associate the determinant $[x^{\omega_{r,1}}, \dots, x^{\omega_{r,n}}]$ and to W we associate the product $P(W)$ of the determinants determined by the rows. Let $Q(W)$ denote $\prod_s \prod_{t=1}^n x_t^{\omega_{s,t}}$.

PROPOSITION 6.2.

- (1) The $P(W)$ for W a standard tableau are a basis of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^G$.
- (2) The mapping $W \mapsto Q(W)$ is injective and $Q(W) = L(P(W))$.
- (3) If $0 \neq h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^G$, then $L(h) = Q(W)$ for a standard W .

Proof. — Part (1) is just standard monomial theory and (2) is obvious. Let h be as in (3). Then h is a sum $\sum_i c_i P(W_i)$ where the c_i are nonzero and the W_i are standard and distinct. Then the $Q(W_i)$ are distinct and $L(h)$ is the minimum of the $Q(W_i)$. □

For $\omega = (j, k)$ with $\text{wt}(\omega) = k > 0$, let $\tilde{\omega}$ denote $(j, k-1)$. Let $X \in \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_n$ be the element which sends $x_n \rightarrow x_1$ and annihilates x_i for $i < n$. Here the x_i are the usual coordinate functions on \mathbb{C}^n . Let F denote $tX \in \mathfrak{g}[t]$. Then F and \mathfrak{g} generate $\mathfrak{g}[t]$ so that $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty} = \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{\mathfrak{g}[t]} = \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^G \cap \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^F$. Now F annihilates the $x_n^{(j,0)}$ and the x_i^ω for $i \neq n$, and it sends x_n^ω to $x_1^{\tilde{\omega}}$ when $\text{wt}(\omega) > 0$. For $\text{wt}(\omega) > 0$ let y_2^ω denote x_n^ω and let y_1^ω denote $x_1^{\tilde{\omega}}$. Then the action of F on the y_i^ω is the standard action of the Lie algebra of the maximal unipotent subgroup U of SL_2 . Consider the symmetric algebra A in the y_i^ω for $\text{wt}(\omega) > 0$. For fixed ω , the invariants of U acting on the subalgebra generated by y_1^ω and y_2^ω are generated by y_1^ω . Then it follows from [27, Theorem 2.5.A] that the U -invariants of A are generated by the y_1^ω and the determinants $I_{\omega'}^\omega := [y^\omega, y^{\omega'}] = y_1^\omega y_2^{\omega'} - y_1^{\omega'} y_2^\omega$. Then we have the following relations:

$$I_{\omega_2}^{\omega_1} = -I_{\omega_1}^{\omega_2}, \quad I_{\omega_2}^{\omega_1} I_{\omega_4}^{\omega_3} = I_{\omega_2}^{\omega_3} I_{\omega_4}^{\omega_1} + I_{\omega_3}^{\omega_1} I_{\omega_4}^{\omega_2}, \quad I_{\omega_2}^{\omega_1} y_1^{\omega_3} = I_{\omega_2}^{\omega_3} y_1^{\omega_1} + I_{\omega_3}^{\omega_1} y_1^{\omega_2}$$

where $\text{wt}(\omega_i) > 0, i = 1, \dots, 4$. Let

$$(6.2) \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 & \omega'_1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \omega_q & \omega'_q \\ \omega_{q+1} & \\ \vdots & \\ \omega_{q+r} & \end{pmatrix}$$

be an array of our pairs (j, k) (a tableau) where $k > 0$. As usual, we say that Y is *standard* if the pairs are strictly increasing in the rows and nondecreasing as one goes down the columns. Let $\tilde{P}(Y)$ denote the polynomial $[y^{\omega_1}, y^{\omega'_1}] \dots [y^{\omega_q}, y^{\omega'_q}] y_1^{\omega_{q+1}} \dots y_1^{\omega_{q+r}}$. We say that $\tilde{P}(Y)$ is a *standard monomial*. Then the relations above show that $A^F = A^U$ has basis the standard monomials.

We have the induced monomial order on $A \subset \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)$. Then for $\omega < \omega'$ we have

$$L([y^\omega, y^{\omega'}]) = y_1^{\omega'} y_2^\omega = x_1^{\tilde{\omega}'} x_n^\omega.$$

LEMMA 6.3. — *Let Y be as above. Then the leading term of $L(\tilde{P}(Y))$ is*

$$(6.3) \quad y_1^{\omega'_1} y_2^{\omega_1} \dots y_1^{\omega'_q} y_2^{\omega_q} y_1^{\omega_{q+1}} \dots y_1^{\omega_{q+r}} = x_1^{\tilde{\omega}'_1} x_n^{\omega_1} \dots x_1^{\tilde{\omega}'_q} x_n^{\omega_q} x_1^{\omega_{q+1}} \dots x_1^{\omega_{q+r}}.$$

Let A' be the subalgebra of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)$ generated by A and the $x_n^{(j,0)}, 1 \leq j \leq \ell$, and let B be the subalgebra of $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)$ generated by the x_i^ω for $1 < i < n$. Then $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)$ is the tensor product $A' \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} B$.

COROLLARY 6.4.

- (1) *Let $h \in (A')^F$. Then $L(h)$ is of the form $fL(\tilde{P}(Y))$ where Y is standard and f is a homogeneous polynomial in the $x_n^{(j,0)}$.*
- (2) *Let $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^F$. Then $L(h)$ is of the form $fL(\tilde{P}(Y))$ where Y is standard and f is a homogeneous polynomial in the $x_n^{(j,0)}$ and x_t^ω for $1 < t < n$.*
- (3) *Let $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. Then $L(h) = L(P(W))$ where $W = (\omega_{ij})$ is as in (6.1). For any i with $1 \leq i \leq s$, if $\text{wt}(\omega_{i,n}) > 0$, then $\tilde{\omega}_{i,n} < \omega_{i,1}$.*

Proof. — Parts (1) and (2) are immediate. Let h be as in (3). Then we know that there is a standard $W = (\omega_{ij})$ as in (6.1) such that $L(h) = L(P(W))$. On the other hand, we also know that there is a standard Y as in (6.2) such that $L(h) = f(x_n^{(j,0)}, x_t^\omega)L(\tilde{P}(Y))$ where f is homogeneous. Suppose that $\text{wt}(\omega_{i,n}) > 0$ for $i > i_0$. Then for $i > i_0$ there is an $\omega_{i',1}$ such

that $\tilde{\omega}_{i,n} < \omega_{i',1}$ and for $i_0 < i < j$ we have that $\omega_{i',1} \leq \omega_{j',1}$ and that $i' \neq j'$. It follows that we have $\tilde{\omega}_{i,n} < \omega_{i,1}$ for $i > i_0$. \square

THEOREM 6.5. — *Let $(V, G) = (\ell\mathbb{C}^n, \mathrm{SL}_n)$. Then*

$$p_\infty^* \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty) = \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}.$$

Proof. — Let $h \in \mathcal{O}(V_\infty)^{G_\infty}$. We may assume that h is homogeneous of a fixed weight. By Corollary 6.4, $L(h) = L(P(W))$ where in the i th row of W we have $\omega_{i,1} > \tilde{\omega}_{i,n}$ if $\mathrm{wt}(\omega_{i,n}) > 0$. Whenever we have $\omega_{i,1} > \tilde{\omega}_{i,n}$ we have that $\omega_{i,1} < \cdots < \omega_{i,n}$ is of the form $(j_1, k_1) < \cdots < (j_n, k_n)$ where $k_1 = k_n$ or $k_n = k_1 + 1$ and $j_n < j_1$. In the former case we have a sequence $(j_1, a) < \cdots < (j_n, a)$ where $a > 0$ and $j_1 < \cdots < j_n$. In the latter case we have a sequence $(j_{b+1}, a) < \cdots < (j_n, a) < (j_1, a+1) < \cdots < (j_b, a+1)$ where $j_1 < \cdots < j_n$ and $a \geq 0$. Thus the factor of $L(h)$ corresponding to the i th row of W is $L(D^k([x^{(j_1,0)}, \dots, x^{(j_n,0)}]))$ where k is the sum of the k_j . Hence there is a homogeneous element f of $p_\infty^* \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ of the same weight and degree as h such that $L(h - p_\infty^*(f)) > L(h)$. By induction we see that $h \in p_\infty^* \mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$. \square

We have not shown that p_∞^* is injective, hence we have not shown that $\mathcal{O}(Z_\infty)$ is reduced. Using techniques as in §5 one can show that p_∞^* is an isomorphism when $n = 2$. We now show that this is not the case for $n = 3$.

Example 6.6. — Let $(V, G) = (6\mathbb{C}^3, \mathrm{SL}_3)$. Let $[abc]$ denote the determinant $[x^{(a,0)}, x^{(b,0)}, x^{(c,0)}]$ where $1 \leq a < b < c \leq 6$. Consider the corresponding element $f_{abc} \in \mathcal{O}(Z)$. Now the generators and relations transform by representations of SL_6 . The generators transform by $\bigwedge^3(\mathbb{C}^6)$ and the relations are generated by quadratic expressions which transform by the adjoint representation of SL_6 . The relations involving all six indices are those fixed by the maximal torus T of SL_6 and these span a space of dimension $\dim T = 5$. Now consider all the possible terms $f_{abc} Df_{def}$ and $(Df_{abc})f_{def}$ where $\{a, b, c, d, e, f\} = \{1, \dots, 6\}$. It is easy to see that there are six cases where the pullback of these terms to $\mathcal{O}(V_1)$ contains a non-standard monomial. Since we only have 5 relations to straighten with, we see that one of the straightening relations in $\mathcal{O}(V_\infty)$ does not come from the relations of $\mathcal{O}(Z)$. Hence p_∞^* is not injective. Since p_∞ is dominant, the kernel of p_∞^* consists of nilpotent elements. Hence Z_∞ is not reduced.

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