

Def 1: Let $\delta \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$. Let C_δ be the C -algebra generated by ("fermions") $\{\psi_m | m \in \delta + \mathbb{Z}\}$ subject to the relations

$$[\psi_m, \psi_n]_+ := \psi_m \psi_n + \psi_n \psi_m = \delta_{m,-n}$$

C_0 is called the Ramond sector, $C_{\frac{1}{2}}$ - the Neveu-Schwarz sector

Prop 1: C_δ is the Clifford algebra (on the vector space V with the basis $\{\psi_m | m \in \delta + \mathbb{Z}\}$) and the bilinear form $(\psi_m, \psi_n) = \delta_{m,-n}$

Then, the algebra C_δ acts naturally on

$$V_\delta := \Lambda \{ \xi_n | n \geq 0, n \in \delta + \mathbb{Z} \} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{the space of polynomials} \\ \text{in anticommuting variables} \end{array}$$

where $\xi_m \xi_n = -\xi_n \xi_m \forall m, n$

Explicitly, $C_\delta \curvearrowright V_\delta$ via:

$\psi_{-n} \xrightarrow{n \geq 0} \xi_n$	\leftarrow left multiplication by ξ_n
$\psi_n \xrightarrow{n \geq 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_n}$	\leftarrow given by $\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_n} (\xi_{i_1} \wedge \xi_{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge \xi_{i_k}) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } n \notin \{i_1, \dots, i_k\} \\ (-1)^{i_1+i_2+\dots+i_k} \cdot \xi_{i_1} \wedge \xi_{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge \xi_{i_k}, & \text{if } i_1 < \dots < i_k \text{ and } n = i_k \end{cases}$
$\psi_0 \xrightarrow{\text{Only for } \delta=0} \frac{1}{i_2} \left(\xi_0 + \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_0} \right)$	

Exercise: Verify that these formulas indeed define an action $C_\delta \curvearrowright V_\delta$.

Proposition 1: For $\delta \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$, define endomorphisms $\{L_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ of V_δ via

$$L_n := \delta_{n,0} \cdot \frac{1-\delta}{16} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in \delta + \mathbb{Z}} j : \psi_j \psi_{j+n} :$$

where $: \psi_i \psi_j : := \begin{cases} \psi_i \psi_j, & \text{if } i \leq j \\ -\psi_j \psi_i, & \text{if } i > j. \end{cases}$

Then: (1) $[\psi_m, L_n] = (m + \frac{n}{2}) \psi_{m+n}$

(2) $[L_n, L_m] = (n-m) L_{n+m} + \delta_{n,-m} \cdot \frac{m^3 - m}{24} \Rightarrow$ obtain $V_{\text{irr}} \curvearrowright V_\delta$ with $c = \frac{1}{2}$.

Exercise (Hwk3): Prove this proposition!

Note that V_δ is \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded via $\deg(\xi_i) = i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, while each L_n preserves this grading.

Hence, the splitting $V_\delta = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} V_\delta^+$ is actually a splitting of V_{irr} -reps, i.e. $V_{\text{irr}} : V_\delta \otimes \mathbb{C}$.

The following nontrivial result (which we will not prove) holds:

Theorem 1: For $\delta \in \{0, \frac{1}{2}\}$, the actions of V_{irr} on V_δ^+ and V_δ^- are irreducible.

• If $\delta=0$, then $\xi \in V_\delta^+$ is the highest weight vector of h.wt. $(\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2})$ $\xrightarrow[\xi \in V_\delta^- \text{ is the highest weight vector of h.wt. } (\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2})]{\text{THM1}} V_\delta^+ \cong V_\delta^- \cong L_{\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2}}$.

• If $\delta=\frac{1}{2}$, then $\xi \in V_\delta^+$ is the h.wt. vector of h.wt. $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ $\xrightarrow[\xi \in V_\delta^- \text{ is the h.wt. vector of h.wt. } (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})]{\text{THM1}} V_{\frac{1}{2}}^+ \cong L_{0, \frac{1}{2}}$.

$$V_{\frac{1}{2}}^- \cong L_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}}$$

Finally, to relate this to the previous discussion of unitary representations, we note:

Lemma 1: Consider the Hermitian form (\cdot, \cdot) on V_δ under which all monomials $\{\xi_{i_1} \wedge \xi_{i_2} \wedge \dots \wedge \xi_{i_k} \mid i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k\}$ form an orthonormal basis.

Then: (1) $(\psi_m v, w) = (v, \psi_{-m} w) \quad \forall m \in \delta + \mathbb{Z}, v, w \in V_\delta$.

(2) $(L_n v, w) = (v, L_{-n} w) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}, v, w \in V_\delta$

Exercise: Verify this!

Hence, V_δ and therefore V_δ^\pm are unitary.

Corollary 1: The representations $L_{0, \frac{1}{2}}, L_{\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2}}, L_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}}$ are unitary.

Let us conclude this discussion by computing $\text{ch } L_{h, \frac{1}{2}}$ for $h = 0, \frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2}$

$$\sum_{\lambda \in C} \dim \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{λ-generalized} \\ \text{eigenspace} \\ L_0 \cap L_{h, \frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdot q^\lambda$$

$$\underline{\underline{\delta=0}}: 2 \cdot \text{ch } L_{\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2}} = \text{ch}(V_0^+ \oplus V_0^-) = \text{ch } V_0 = q^{1/16} \cdot (1+1)(1+q)(1+q^2) \dots = 2 \cdot q^{1/16} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} (1+q^k) \quad \text{Prop 3(i).}$$

$$\underline{\underline{\delta=0}}: \boxed{\text{ch } L_{\frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{2}} = q^{1/16} \prod_{k=1}^{\infty} (1+q^k)}$$

$$\underline{\underline{\delta=\frac{1}{2}}}: \text{ch } L_{0, \frac{1}{2}} + \text{ch } L_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} = \text{ch}(V_0^+ \oplus V_0^-) = \text{ch } V_0 = (1+q^{1/2})(1+q^{3/2})(1+q^{5/2}) \dots = \prod_{k \in \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} (1+q^k)$$

$$\underline{\underline{\delta=0}}: \boxed{\begin{aligned} \text{ch } L_{0, \frac{1}{2}} &= \underbrace{\text{Integer part of } \prod_{n \geq 0} (1+q^{n+\frac{1}{2}})}_{\text{taking } q \text{ integer}} \\ \text{ch } L_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} &= \underbrace{\text{Half-integer part of } \prod_{n \geq 0} (1+q^{n+\frac{1}{2}})}_{\text{taking } q^{1/2} + \text{integer}} \end{aligned}}$$

The following result is beyond the scope of our class:

Theorem 2: (1) For $c = 1 - \frac{6}{(n+2)(n+3)}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, there are finitely many h s.t. $L_{h,c}$ -unitary

(2) For $0 < c < 1$ not of the form as in (1), there are no h s.t. $L_{h,c}$ -unitary.

Let us now take a short detour, where we will discuss the previous formulas from the perspective of quantum fields (as it is usually done in physics).
 or in vertex algebras

Recall: If V is a \mathbb{C} -space, one can associate $\mathbb{C}[z]$ -modules $V[z], V[z^{-1}], V[z, z^{-1}], V((z)), V[[z, z^{-1}]]$.

Moreover, if V is an algebra, then the first four of those are also algebras.

But: $\sqrt{\mathbb{F}[z, z^{-1}]}$ is more delicate (also note that it has torsion: $(1-z) \cdot \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} Vz^n = 0$).

For either of the above five $\mathbb{C}[z]$ -modules, one can define the linear operator

We shall also need the series, called "delta-function":

$$\delta(w-z) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} z^{-n-1} w^n$$

Motivation: If $f(z) \in V[z, z']$, then $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{|z|=1} \delta(w-z) f(z) dz = f(w)$.

- Let us now encode all the generators a_n of the Heisenberg algebra \mathfrak{h} into the so-called quantum field $a(z) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n z^{-n-1} \in A[[z, z^{-1}]] \subset U(A)[[z, z^{-1}]]$.

Key property: $\forall z \in F_\mu \quad \exists N: \alpha_{\geq N} z = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha(z): F_\mu \rightarrow F_\mu((z))}$

Note that the defining relation of A implies the following formula:

$$[\alpha(z), \alpha(w)] = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} n z^{-n-1} w^n = \underbrace{\partial_w \delta(w-z)}_{=: \delta'(w-z)} = -\partial_z \delta(w-z)$$

which holds both as an equality in $\mathcal{U}(\mathfrak{f}_\mu) \llbracket z, z', w, w' \rrbracket$ and in $\text{Hom}(F_\mu, F_\mu((z))(w))$.

Likewise, we also have

$$a(z)a(w) - :a(z)a(w): = \sum_{n \geq 0} [a_n, a_{-n}] z^{-n-1} w^{n+1} \underset{C=1}{=} \sum_{n \geq 0} n z^{-n-1} w^{n+1} = \frac{1}{z^2} \cdot \underbrace{(1 - \frac{w}{z})^{-2}}_C = \left(\frac{1}{z-w}\right)^2.$$

$$\text{So : } \alpha(z)\alpha(w) = :\alpha(z)\alpha(w): + \frac{1}{(z-w)^2}$$

can think of as a "regular part", can think of as a "singular part"

- Let us now encode all the generators & L_{inf} of the Witt algebra \mathcal{W} into

$$T(z) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} L_n z^{-n-2}$$

The defining relations in TW imply

$$\begin{aligned} [T(z), T(w)] &= \sum_{n,m \in \mathbb{Z}} (n-m) L_{\substack{n+m \\ =k}} z^{-n-2} w^{-m-2} = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} L_k \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (k-2m) z^{m-k-2} w^{-m-2} \\ &= \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} L_k \cdot (k+2) z^{-k-3} \right) \left(\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} z^{m+1} w^{-m-2} \right) - 2 \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} L_k z^{-k-2} \right) \left(\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (m+1) z^m w^{-m-2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\underline{\text{So}} : [\Gamma(z), \Gamma(w)] = -\Gamma'(z) \cdot \delta(w-z) + 2\Gamma(z) \cdot \delta'(w-z)$$

Exercise: Verify that this relation implies the refs in T

• Finally, we also encode all $\{L_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ of Virasoro alg. Vir into $T(z) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} L_n z^{-n-2}$

Then, the formula for $[T(z), T(w)]$ is obtained from that for \tilde{W} by adding $\sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{n^3 - n}{12} C z^{-n-2} w^{-n-2} = \frac{C}{12} \partial_w^3 \delta(w-z) = \frac{C}{12} \delta'''(w-z)$

$$\text{So: } [T(z), T(w)] = -T'(z) \cdot \delta(w-z) + 2T(z) \cdot \delta'(w-z) + \frac{C}{12} \delta'''(w-z)$$

Exercise: Verify the converse, i.e. that this simple rel- α implies all rels in Vir
+ C-central

Recall now the construction of $\text{Vir} \bowtie \mathfrak{A} \curvearrowright F_\mu$ from last time. We shall view now L_n, a_m as endomorphisms of F_μ . Then:

- the relation $[L_n, a_m] = -m a_{n+m}$ ($\forall n, m$) (see Lemma 1 of Lecture 5) can be encoded by a simple equality in $\text{Hom}(F_\mu, F_\mu[[z]]((w)))$:

$$[T(z), a(w)] = \sum_{n, m} -m a_{n+m} z^{-n-2} w^{-m-1} = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} a_k \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-m) z^{m-k-2} w^{-m-1} \\ = \left(\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} a_k z^{-k-1} \right) \left(\sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} (-m) z^{m-1} w^{-m-1} \right) = a(z) \delta'(w-z)$$

↓

$$[T(z), a(w)] = a(z) \delta'(w-z)$$

- the defining formula for the corresponding $\text{Vir} \curvearrowright F_\mu$ (note: $\lambda=0$ in that discussion) is equivalent to the following simple formula:

$$T(z) = \frac{1}{2} :a(z)^2:$$

Rank 2: As before, we note that $:a(z)^2:$ is a well-defined element of $\text{Hom}(F_\mu, F_\mu[[z, \bar{z}]])$ [unlike the unordered square $a(z)^2$, which does not make sense]

Exercise: (a) Verify that $\forall \beta \in \mathbb{C}$, the formula

$$T(z) = \frac{1}{2} :a(z)^2: + \beta \cdot a'(z)$$

defines a representation of Vir on F_μ with $c = 1 - 12\beta^2$.

(b) Verify that

$$L_n \mapsto L_n + \beta a_n \quad (n \neq 0), \quad L_0 \mapsto L_0 + \beta a_0 + \frac{\beta^2}{a} K, \quad C \mapsto C$$

defines a homomorphism $\varphi_\beta: \text{Vir} \rightarrow \text{Vir} \bowtie \mathfrak{A}$.

(c) Show that twisting repn of part (a) by the homom. of part (b), we obtain the representation $\text{Vir} \curvearrowright F_\mu$ with $\lambda = \beta/i$ from [Lecture 5, Prop. 1].

Our next discussion will concern repr-s of \mathfrak{g}_{∞} and \mathfrak{o}_{∞} .

Def 2: \mathfrak{g}_{∞} is the Lie algebra of all matrices $(a_{ij})_{i,j \in \mathbb{Z}}$ s.t. all but a finite number of a_{ij} are 0, with the Lie bracket being the usual commutator.

- Note that \mathfrak{g}_{∞} has a basis $\{E_{ij}\}_{i,j \in \mathbb{Z}}$ (E_{ij} has 1 at the $(i,j)^{\text{th}}$ entry and 0's elsewhere), with the commutator defined by $[E_{ij}, E_{mn}] = \delta_{jm} E_{in} - \delta_{in} E_{mj}$
- This algebra acts naturally on the vector space $V = \bigoplus_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C} v_j$ via usual f-la:

$$E_{ij}(v_k) = \delta_{jk} \cdot v_i \quad \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{multiplying an } \infty\text{-matrix} \\ \text{(with almost all entries=0)} \end{array} \quad \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{by an } \infty\text{-column} \\ \text{(with almost all entries=0)} \end{array}$$

Consequently, \mathfrak{g}_{∞} also acts on $S^m V, \Lambda^m V$.

- Note that \mathfrak{g}_{∞} may be viewed as a \mathbb{Z} -graded Lie alg. with $\deg(E_{ij}) = j-i$, so that

$$\mathfrak{g}_{\infty} = \bigoplus_{\substack{\text{strictly} \\ \text{lower} \\ \text{triangular}}} \mathfrak{n}_- \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \bigoplus_{\substack{\text{strictly} \\ \text{upper} \\ \text{triangular} \\ \text{matrices}}} \mathfrak{n}_+$$

- \mathfrak{h} -abelian \Rightarrow any $\lambda \in \mathbb{Y}^*$ defines a Verma module M_{λ} and its irreducible quotient L_{λ} , where $L_{\lambda} = M_{\lambda}/J_{\lambda}$ with $J_{\lambda} = \ker(\langle , \rangle_{\lambda})$, as always.
- There is an antilinear antiinvolution $t: \mathfrak{g}_{\infty} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{\infty}$ given by $E_{ij}^t = E_{ji}$
- V is a unitary \mathfrak{g}_{∞} -module, hence, so are all $S^m V, \Lambda^m V$.

However: In contrast to the previous discussions, none of $V, S^m V, \Lambda^m V$ have highest weights.

Exercise: Prove that all repr-s $\{S^m V, \Lambda^m V\}_{m \geq 1}$ are irreducible \mathfrak{g}_{∞} -representations.

Rmk 3: This can be generalized to any Schur modules of V . The latter are defined as follows.

Pick $n \geq 1$ and $\pi \in \text{Irr}(S_n)$ - irred. repn of Symmetric group. We define a representation $S_{\pi}(V)$ of \mathfrak{g}_{∞} via $S_{\pi}(V) := \text{Hom}_{S_n}(\pi, V^{\otimes n})$

\nwarrow π -th Schur module of V .

Def 3: (a) An elementary $\frac{\infty}{2}$ -wedge is a formal infinite wedge product $v_{i_0} \wedge v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \dots$ with integers $i_0 > i_1 > i_2 > \dots$ satisfying $i_{k+1} = i_k - 1$ for $k \gg 1$.

(b) The semi-infinite wedge space $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}} V$ is the \mathbb{C} -vector space with the basis given by elementary semi-infinite wedges

Note: $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}} V = \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} \Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$, where $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V = \text{span} \{ v_{i_0} \wedge v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \dots \mid i_k = m-k \text{ for } k \gg 0 \}$

Rmk 4: Let me point out that this definition of $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$ depends on the choice of a basis of V .

Proposition 2: The usual Leibniz rule defines an action $\text{glos} \curvearrowright \Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$

$$\alpha(v_{i_0} \wedge v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \dots) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} v_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{i_{k-1}} \wedge \alpha(v_{i_k}) \wedge v_{i_{k+1}} \wedge \dots$$

Down-to-earth, this action is given via reorder garnish ± sign.

$$E_{rs}(v_{i_0} \wedge v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \dots) = \begin{cases} v_{i_0} \wedge \dots \wedge v_{i_{k-1}} \wedge v_{i_r} \wedge v_{i_{k+1}} \wedge \dots & \text{if } i_r = s \\ 0 & \text{if } s \notin \{i_0, i_1, i_2, \dots\} \end{cases}$$

Exercise: Prove Prop 2, i.e. verify that these formulas define an action $\text{glos} \curvearrowright \Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$.

Note: The conditions $i_0 > i_1 > i_2 > \dots$ & $i_k = m - k$ for $k \gg 0$ imply that the sequence $i_{k+1} - m$ is a partition, i.e. it is non-increasing and all but finitely many terms are 0.

Def 4: Define a grading on $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$ via

$$\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V = \bigoplus_{d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}} (\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V)[d], \text{ where } (\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V)[d] = \text{span} \left\{ v_{i_0} \wedge v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \dots \mid \begin{array}{l} i_0 > i_1 > \dots \\ i_k = m - k \text{ for } k \gg 0 \\ \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (i_{k+1} - m) = -d \end{array} \right\}$$

i.e. $\deg(v_{i_0} \wedge v_{i_1} \wedge v_{i_2} \wedge \dots) := -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (i_{k+1} - m)$

The observation made before the definition implies that the basis of $(\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V)[d]$ is parametrized by all partitions of $-d$ ($\forall d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\leq 0}$).

Lemma 2: (a) $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$ is a graded glos-module w.r.t. the grading on glos defined before.

(b) Consider $\psi_m := v_m \wedge v_{m-1} \wedge v_{m-2} \wedge \dots \in (\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V)[0]$.

Then: $n_+(\psi_m) = 0$ and $h(\psi_m) = \omega_m h \cdot \psi_m$ where

$$\omega_m = (\dots, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, \dots) \text{ - weight of glos.}$$

(c) ψ_m generates $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$.

► Obvious.

Proposition 3: For any $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$ is an irreducible highest weight repn L_{wm} of glos.
Moreover, L_{wm} is unitary.

► As we discussed last time, it suffices to check that $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$ is unitary (as it is h.u.t. by Lemma 2).

The latter is obvious: the Hermitian form in which $\frac{\infty}{2}$ wedges of $\Lambda^{\frac{\infty}{2}, m} V$ form an orthonormal basis is unitary and t -invariant, i.e. $(E_j w_1, w_2) = (w_1, E_j w_2)$.

Corollary 2: If $\lambda = (\lambda_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}}$, $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{R}$, $\lambda_{i+1} - \lambda_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and is zero if $|i| \gg 1$, then L_λ is unitary.

► If $\beta_i = \lambda_i \in \mathbb{R} \forall i$, then L_β is 1-dim ($X \mapsto \lambda \cdot t(X)$) and is clearly unitary.

Any λ as above can be written as $\beta + \sum_j n_j w_j$, $n_j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ $\xrightarrow[\text{all zero}]{} L_\beta \text{-summand in } L_\beta \otimes \bigotimes_j L_{w_j}^{\otimes n_j}$ \Rightarrow unitary. (6)