

— LECTURES 17–18 —

- * Last time:
 - Category \mathcal{O} and formal characters for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ -simple f.d.m.
 - Generalization to any $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ by extending $\mathfrak{g}(A) \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{\text{ext}}(A) = \mathbb{C}^\times \otimes \mathfrak{g}(A)$, $\eta \mapsto \eta_{\text{ext}} = \eta \otimes \mathbb{C}^\times$
 - A -indecomposable, symmetric and unique (up to a scalar) invariant degree ZERO pairing $(\cdot, \cdot): \mathfrak{g}(A) \times \mathfrak{g}(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $\tilde{\eta}(A) \times \tilde{\eta}(A) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
 - $\gamma: F := \mathbb{Q} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C} \hookrightarrow \eta$, $\alpha_i \mapsto d^i h$; s.t. $(h_\alpha, h) = \tilde{\gamma}(h)$.
 - Nondegenerate inner product on $P := \eta^* \oplus F$
 - ↓
 - Nondegenerate symm. invariant pairing on $\mathfrak{g}_{\text{ext}}(A)$.

* Casimir operator for $\mathfrak{g}(A)$

Def 1: Define $\rho \in \eta^*$ via $\rho(h_i) = \frac{\alpha_{ii}}{2} \quad \forall i$

Note: For Kac-Moody algebras $\alpha_{ii} = 2 \Rightarrow \rho(h_i) = 1$.

Recall $(\cdot, \cdot): P \times P \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is nondegenerate, $P \cong \mathfrak{g}_{\text{ext}}^*$; hence $\exists! h_0 \in \mathfrak{g}_{\text{ext}}$ s.t. $(\rho, \mu) = \mu(h_0) \quad \forall \mu \in \eta^*$

Recalling the pairing (\cdot, \cdot) on P from the end of Lecture 16, we get:

$$(\rho, \rho) = 0, \quad (\rho, \alpha_i) = \frac{\alpha_{ii}}{2} = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha_i, \alpha_i)$$

We would like to generalize the Casimir element for a simple f.d. $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ to any contragredient $\mathfrak{g}(A)$.

$$C = \sum_{\alpha \in B \text{-orthonormal basis of } \mathfrak{g}} \alpha^2 = \sum_{x_i \text{-orthonormal basis of } \mathfrak{g}} x_i^2 + \sum_{\alpha > 0} (\text{f.a.}_\alpha + \text{e.a.}_\alpha) = \sum_{i=1}^r x_i^2 + h_{\text{ad}} + 2 \sum_{\alpha > 0} \text{f.a.}_\alpha$$

renormalized via $(e_\alpha, f_\alpha) = 1$

But for general $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ this does not make sense as the sum $\sum_{\alpha > 0}$ may be infinite!

Instead: We shall obtain a Casimir operator acting on any module $M \in \mathcal{O}$ and commuting with $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -action!

For any $\alpha \in \Delta_+$, let $\{e_\alpha^{(i)}\}_i$ and $\{f_\alpha^{(i)}\}_i$ be dual bases of \mathfrak{g}_α and $\mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}$, respectively:

$$(e_\alpha^{(i)}, f_\alpha^{(j)}) = \delta_{ij} \quad \leftarrow \text{Recall: } \forall \alpha \in \Delta, \text{ the pairing } (\cdot, \cdot): \mathfrak{g}_\alpha \times \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ is nondegenerate.}$$

Define

$$\Delta_+ := 2 \sum_{\alpha > 0} \sum_{i=1}^{\dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha} f_\alpha^{(i)} e_\alpha^{(i)} \quad - \text{well-defined operator } M\mathbb{Q} \text{ for any } M \in \mathcal{O}$$

$$\Delta_0 := \sum_{x_i \text{-orthonormal basis of } \mathfrak{g}_{\text{ext}}} x_i^2 + h_{\text{ad}} : M\mathbb{Q} \quad \text{or more explicitly } \Delta_0|_{M\mathbb{Q}} = (\mu, \mu + 2\rho) \quad \forall \mu \in \eta^*$$

Def 2: For any $M \in \mathcal{O}$, the Casimir operator $\Delta: M \rightarrow M$ is defined via $\Delta = \Delta_+ + \Delta_0$

Theorem 1: (a) The operator Δ commutes with the $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -action,

(b) Δ acts on M_λ by $(\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho) \cdot \text{Id}_{M_\lambda}$.

↑ Verma module

Rmk 1: (a) If M is a $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -module of highest weight $\lambda \in P$, then Δ acts on M via $(\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho) \cdot \text{Id}_M$.

(b) To see $\mu(h_\alpha) = (\lambda, \mu) \quad \forall \alpha \in F \subseteq P, \mu \in P$, it suffices to treat $\alpha = \alpha_i$ and $\mu \in \eta^*$ or $\mu = \alpha_j$.

If $\mu \in \eta^* \Rightarrow (\mu, \alpha_i) = \mu(h_\alpha)$ by definition. If $\mu = \alpha_j$, then $(\alpha_j, \alpha_i) = (h_\alpha, \alpha_i) = \alpha_i^\vee \alpha_\alpha = \alpha_j^\vee \alpha_\alpha = \alpha_j(h_\alpha)$

Proof of Theorem 1

(b) Let v_λ be the highest weight vector of M_λ . Then: $\Delta_+(v_\lambda) = 0$, $\Delta_0(v_\lambda) = (\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho) \cdot v_\lambda \Rightarrow \Delta(v_\lambda) = (\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho) \cdot v_\lambda$. But M_λ is $g(\mathfrak{a})$ -generated by v_λ and Δ commutes with $g(\mathfrak{a})$ -action by (a) $\Rightarrow \Delta|_{M_\lambda} = (\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho) \cdot \text{id}_{M_\lambda}$.

(a) It suffices to verify that Δ commutes with f_{dk}, g_{dk} (as these el's generate $g(\mathfrak{a})$).

• For $v \in M_{M_\lambda}$, we have:

$$[\Delta_0, e_k](v) = \{(m+dk, m+2\rho+dk) - (m, m+2\rho)\} \cdot e_k(v) = \{(2m+2\rho, dk) + (dk, dk)\} \cdot e_k(v)$$

$$\stackrel{(2\rho, dk) = (dk, dk)}{=} 2(m+dk, dk) \cdot \underbrace{e_k(v)}_{\in M_{(M+dk)}} = 2h_{dk} e_k(v).$$

$$\Leftrightarrow [\Delta_0, e_k] = 2h_{dk} e_k \quad (\text{as endomorphisms of } M).$$

• Let us now prove $[\Delta_+, e_k] = -2h_{dk} e_k$

$$[\Delta_+, e_k] = 2 \sum_{d>0}^i [f_d^{(i)}, e_d^{(i)}] \cdot e_k = 2 \sum_{d>0}^i (f_d^{(i)} [e_d^{(i)}, e_k] - \underbrace{[e_k, f_d^{(i)}] e_d^{(i)}}_{\text{if } d=dk \Rightarrow i=1 \Rightarrow [e_k, f_d^{(i)}] = h_k \cdot \frac{d}{dk} = h_{dk} \text{ as we need } (e_k, f_d) = 1}) \equiv$$

$$\equiv -2h_{dk} e_k + 2 \left(\sum_{d>0}^i f_d^{(i)} [e_d^{(i)}, e_k] - \underbrace{\sum_{d>0}^i [e_k, f_d^{(i)}] e_d^{(i)}}_{d \neq dk} \right)$$

Claim: this is ZERO!

To prove this claim, it suffices to verify that if $d \in \Delta_+$ is s.t. $d+dk \in \Delta_+$, then we have:

$$\sum_i f_d^{(i)} \otimes [e_d^{(i)}, e_k] = \sum_j [e_k, f_{d+dk}^{(j)}] \otimes e_{d+dk}^{(j)}$$

Now we argue as in [Lecture 13, Lemmas 2, 2']:

$$[e_d^{(i)}, e_k] = \sum_j ([e_d^{(i)}, e_k], f_{d+dk}^{(j)}) \cdot e_{d+dk}^{(j)} \Rightarrow \sum_i f_d^{(i)} \otimes [e_d^{(i)}, e_k] = \sum_j \left(\sum_i f_d^{(i)} \cdot ([e_d^{(i)}, e_k], f_{d+dk}^{(j)}) \right) \otimes e_{d+dk}^{(j)} = \sum_j [e_k, f_{d+dk}^{(j)}] \otimes e_{d+dk}^{(j)}.$$

$$\text{Thus: } [\Delta, e_k] = [\Delta_+ + \Delta_0, e_k] = 0.$$

Applying completely analogous argument, we also get $[\Delta, g_k] = 0$.

Exercise: For $g(\mathfrak{a}) = \mathfrak{g}$ (log-simple f.d.) show that $\Delta = 2ik_{\mathfrak{a}} h^{(i)}(h_0+d)$, h_0 -th Sugawara operator.

* Locally finite and integrable modules

Now we shall develop the repr. theory. We start from the following definition:

Def 3: (a) For a Lie alg. \mathfrak{g} and its module V , we say that $v \in V$ is of finite type if $\dim(U(\mathfrak{g})v) < \infty$
(b) We say that V is locally finite if every $v \in V$ is of finite type

Exercise: V is locally finite iff V is a sum of fin. dim. \mathfrak{g} -modules.

Def 4: A module V over a Kac-Moody algebra $g(\mathfrak{a})$ is integrable if it is locally finite under each $sl_2^{(i)}$ (generated by e_i, h_i, f_i)

Rmk 2: Note that an sl_2 -module M is loc. finite iff $M \cong \bigoplus L_n$ ($n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$) and all such modules can be lifted (integrated) to an action of SL_2 , hence, the terminology.

Prop 1: $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ is an integrable module over itself.

First, we claim that each $f_j \in \mathfrak{g}(A)$ is of finite type.

Indeed, for $i=j$: the $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ -module generated by f_j is 3-dimensional.

for $i \neq j$: the $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ -module generated by f_j is $(1-\alpha_{ij})$ -dimensional, due to Serre rels.

Completely analogously: all $e_j \in \mathfrak{g}(A)$ are also of finite type.

As $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ is generated by e_j, f_j , it remains to notice an obvious fact:

If $x, y \in \mathfrak{g}$ are of finite type \Rightarrow so is $[x, y]$.

Prop 2: A $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -module V is integrable iff there is a set $\{v_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{Z}}$ of generators of V over $\mathfrak{g}(A) = \mathfrak{g}$, such that each v_j is of finite type over each $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$.

\Rightarrow : Obvious as we may take for $\{v_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{Z}}$ all els of V .

\Leftarrow : Let $v \in V$ and $i \in \mathbb{Z}, -\infty$. We want to show that v is of finite type over $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$.

We may choose v_1, \dots, v_N from our generating set, so that $v \in U(\mathfrak{g})v_1 + \dots + U(\mathfrak{g})v_N =: V' \subseteq V$.

Let $W \leq V'$ be a f.dim. $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ -submodule s.t. $v_1, \dots, v_N \in W$ (such exists as all v_i are of fin. type).

Then: there is a surjective $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ -morphism $U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes W \rightarrow V'$, $x \otimes w \mapsto xw$

restriction of adjoint \mathfrak{g} -action to $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$.

It suffices to show that $U(\mathfrak{g})$ is loc. finite $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ -module (as then $U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes W$ - loc. fin. $\Rightarrow V'$ - loc. fin.).

But: by PBW $U(\mathfrak{g}) \cong S(\mathfrak{g})$ as \mathfrak{g} -modules and $S(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} S^k(\mathfrak{g})$, $S^k(\mathfrak{g}) \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^{\otimes k}$ - loc. finite $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ -module as a tensor product of loc. finite (see Prop 1). \checkmark

Prop 3: Let L_λ be the irreducible highest weight module over $\mathfrak{g}(A)$. Then:

$$L_\lambda \text{-integrable} \iff \lambda(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \quad \forall i \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

\Rightarrow : If L_λ -integrable $\Rightarrow v_\lambda$ is of finite type for each $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$, $1 \leq i \leq r$.

But $e_i(v_\lambda) = 0$, $h_i(v_\lambda) = \lambda(h_i)v_\lambda$ $\xrightarrow{\text{sl}_2\text{-theory}}$ $U(\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)})v_\lambda$ is f.d. only if $\lambda(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$.

\Leftarrow : If $\lambda(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, then $v'_\lambda := f_i^{1+\lambda(h_i)}v_\lambda$ satisfies $e_j(v'_\lambda) = 0 \quad \forall j$, $v'_\lambda \in L_\lambda[\lambda - (1+\lambda(h_i))\alpha_i]$

Indeed: for $j \neq i$ this is immediate as $[e_j, f_i] = 0$ and $e_j(v_\lambda) = 0$

for $j = i$ this follows from \mathfrak{sl}_2 -theory.

But then if $v'_\lambda \neq 0$, it would generate a proper graded submodule of $L_\lambda \Rightarrow \text{No}$.

Hence: $v'_\lambda = 0 \Rightarrow v_\lambda$ is of fin. type over $\mathfrak{sl}_2^{(i)}$ $\forall i$.

Applying Prop 2, we see that L_λ -integrable

Write $\lambda \in P_+$

Def 5: The weights λ s.t. $\lambda(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \quad \forall i$ are called dominant integral weights (for $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ or $\mathfrak{g}_{\text{ext}}(A)$)

Rmk 3: If $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ -simple f.d. then L_λ -integrable $\iff L_\lambda$ - f. dim!

Goal: Find $\text{ch}(L_\lambda)$, $\lambda \in P_+$, generalizing the Weyl character formula for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ -simple \mathfrak{g} .dim.

* Weyl group of $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -Kac-Moody

Recall $P = \mathbb{H}^* \oplus F$, endowed with a symm. nondeg. form (\cdot, \cdot) . Assume $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -Kac-Moody alg.

Def 6: For $i \in \mathbb{I}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{I}_+$, define a linear map $\tau_i: P \rightarrow P$ via $\boxed{\tau_i(y) = y - y(h_i)d_i}$

Lemma 1: (a) $\tau_i^2 = \text{Id}$

$$(b) (\tau_i x, \tau_i y) = (x, y) \quad \forall x, y \in P.$$

Exercise: $\forall x \in P \cong \mathbb{H}^*$, $x(h_i) = d_i \cdot (x, d_i)$ here we view x as an elt of $\mathbb{H}^* \cong P$.

$$\text{(a)} \quad \tau_i^2(y) = \tau_i(\underbrace{y - y(h_i)d_i}_{=y}) = y - y(h_i)d_i - (y(h_i) - y(h_i)\underbrace{d_i(h_i)}_{=2})d_i = y. \quad (\text{note: by above exercise, } \alpha_i(h_i) = d_i \cdot (\alpha_i, d_i) = d_i \cdot \frac{\alpha_{ii}}{d_i} = 2)$$

$$\text{(b)} \quad (\tau_i x, \tau_i y) = (x - x(h_i)d_i, y - y(h_i)d_i) = (x, y) - x(h_i) \cdot (y, d_i) - y(h_i) \cdot (x, d_i) + x(h_i)y(h_i) \cdot (d_i, d_i).$$

Claim: $x(h_i)y(h_i) \cdot (d_i, d_i) = x(h_i) \cdot (y, d_i) + y(h_i) \cdot (x, d_i)$.

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{If } x, y \in \mathbb{H}^* \subseteq P \Rightarrow (y, d_i) = y(h_{d_i}) = d_i \cdot y(h_i) \\ (x, d_i) = x(h_{d_i}) = d_i \cdot x(h_i) \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{RHS} = x(h_i)y(h_i) \cdot \frac{2}{d_i} = \text{LHS} \quad \text{as } (d_i, d_i) = \frac{\alpha_{ii}}{d_i} = \frac{2}{d_i}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{If } x \in \mathbb{H}^* \subseteq P, y = d_j \in P \Rightarrow (x, d_i) = d_i \cdot x(h_i) \\ (y, x_i) = (d_j, d_i) = \frac{\alpha_{ij}}{d_i} \\ y(h_i) = \alpha_{ij} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \text{RHS} = x(h_i) \cdot \alpha_{ij} \cdot \frac{2}{d_i} = \text{LHS} \quad \text{as above}$$

If $x = d_j, y = d_k \in P \Rightarrow$ same argument

Lemma 2: If V is an integrable $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ -module, then $\forall \mu \in P$ \exists isom. $V_{[\mu]} \cong V_{[\tau_i(\mu)]}$.
In particular, $\dim(V_{[\mu]}) = \dim(V_{[\tau_i(\mu)]})$

As V is integrable $\Rightarrow \mu(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}$. Moreover, $(\tau_i \mu)(h_i) = (\mu - \mu(h_i)d_i)(h_i) = -\mu(h_i)$.

Thus, we may assume wlog that $\mu(h_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. Then, the sl₂-theory implies that $f_i^{(\mu(h_i))}: V_{[\mu]} \xleftrightarrow{} V_{[\tau_i(\mu)]}: e_i^{\mu(h_i)}$ are mutually inverse isomorphisms. ■

Def 7: The Weyl group of $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ is the subgroup W of $GL(P)$ generated by simple reflections τ_i .

Rmk 4: (a) τ_i is a reflection in a codim=1 subspace given as $\ker(d_i, -)$.

(b) Note that $\tau_i(d_j) = d_j - \alpha_{ij}d_i \forall i, j$

(c) In particular, $F \subseteq P$ is W -invariant, while $W \cap P/F$ is trivial.

For that reason, some authors view $W \subseteq GL(F)$.

Lemma 3: (a) The form (\cdot, \cdot) on P is W -invariant.

(b) If V -integrable, $\mu \in P$, $w \in W$, then $V_{[\mu]} \cong V_{[w\mu]}$.

(c) The set Δ of roots of $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}(A)$ is W -invariant, and $\dim \mathfrak{g}_\alpha = \dim \mathfrak{g}_{w\alpha}$.

(d) $\tau_i(d_i) = -\alpha_i$ and τ_i permutes elements of $\Delta \setminus \{\alpha_i\}$.

(a) Follows from Lemma 1(b).

(b) Follows from Lemma 2.

(c) Follows from (b), since adjoint reprn is integrable by Prop 1.

(d) If $\alpha \in \Delta \setminus \{\alpha_i\}$, then $\alpha = \sum k_j d_j$, $k_j \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and $\exists j \neq i$ s.t. $k_j > 0$ (no roots $= m \cdot d_i$ for $m > 1$!).

But then $\tau_i(\alpha)$ has the same coeff. of $d_j \Rightarrow \tau_i(\alpha) \in \Delta^+$. As $\tau_i^2 = \text{Id} \Rightarrow \tau_i$ permutes $\Delta \setminus \{\alpha_i\}$. ■

* Weyl-Kac character formula

Theorem 2: Let $\lambda \in P_+$ - be a dominant integral weight of Kac-Moody algebra $g(A)$.

Let V be an integrable highest weight module (over $g_{\text{ext}}(A)$ or $g(A)$) with h.wt. λ .

Then: (1) $V \cong L_\lambda$

(2) The character of V is given by the following Weyl-Kac character formula:

$$\text{ch}(V) = \sum_{w \in W} \det(w) \text{ch} M_{w(\lambda + \rho) - \rho} = \sum_{w \in W} \frac{\det(w) \cdot e^{w(\lambda + \rho) - \rho}}{\prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})^{\dim g_\alpha}}$$

where:

- $\rho \in \mathbb{Q}_P^*$ is defined as before

- $\det(w) \in \pm 1$ is given by $\det(\tau_{i_1} \dots \tau_{i_k}) = (-1)^k$ which is clearly well-defined.

Rmk 5: (a) We always have an epimorphism $V \rightarrow L_\lambda$ for V -h.wt. module of h.wt. λ .

As L_λ ($\lambda \in P_+$) is integrable, we see that (2) \Rightarrow (1)!

(b) Define $L'_\lambda := M_\lambda / \langle f_i^{1+\lambda(h_i)} v_i \rangle_{i=1}^\infty$. Then the same argument as was used in the proof of Prop 3 shows that L'_λ is integrable. Hence, by (a):

For $\lambda \in P_+$, have: $L'_\lambda \cong L_\lambda$, i.e. L_λ is defined by the relations $f_i^{1+\lambda(h_i)} v_i = 0$ $\forall i$.

(c) As $L_{\alpha=0} \cong \mathbb{C}$ -trivial module $\Rightarrow \text{ch } L_0 = 1$. Hence, we get:

$$\sum_{w \in W} \det(w) e^{w\rho - \rho} = \prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})^{\dim g_\alpha} \quad \leftarrow \text{Weyl-Kac denominator formula}$$

(d) When $g \cong g(A)$ -simple f.dim, then $\dim g_\alpha = 1 \quad \forall \alpha \in \Delta \Rightarrow$
 \Rightarrow recover the Weyl character formula.

(e) Due to (c), for $\lambda \in P_+$ we have

$$\text{ch } L_\lambda = \frac{\sum_{w \in W} \det(w) e^{w(\lambda + \rho) - \rho}}{\sum_{w \in W} \det(w) e^{w\rho - \rho}}$$

Set $K := e^\rho \prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})^{\dim g_\alpha}$. Note that the Weyl group naturally acts on R . \leftarrow the ring where all $\text{ch}(T_w)$ belong to.

Lemma 4: K is W -anti-invariant, i.e. $wK = \det(w) \cdot K$

$\Rightarrow K = e^\rho (1 - e^{-\alpha}) \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta+1 \text{ dih}} (1 - e^{-\alpha})^{\dim g_\alpha}$. According to Lemma 3(c,d): $\tau_i (\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta+1 \text{ dih}} (1 - e^{-\alpha})^{\dim g_\alpha}) = \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta+1 \text{ dih}} (1 - e^{-\alpha})^{\dim g_\alpha}$.

Also: $\tau_i (e^\rho (1 - e^{-\alpha})) = e^{\rho - \rho(h_i)\alpha} \cdot (1 - e^{-\alpha}) = e^\rho (e^{-\alpha} - 1) = -e^\rho (1 - e^{-\alpha})$.

Hence: $\tau_i K = -K \quad \forall i \Rightarrow wK = \det(w) \cdot K \quad \forall w \in W$ ■

We will prove Theorem 2 next time!