Subalgebras of $W_{1+\infty}$ and their quasifinite representations

Subalgebras of $W_{1+\infty}$ and their quasifinite representations

Hidetoshi Awata†*, Masafumi Fukuma‡, Yutaka Matsuo§ and
Satoru Odake‖

† Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606, Japan
‡ Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606, Japan
§ Uji Research Center, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University, Uji 611, Japan
‖ Department of Physics, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Shinshu University, Matsumoto 390, Japan

Abstract. We propose a series of new subalgebras of the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra parametrized by polynomials $p(w)$, and study their quasifinite representations. We also investigate the relation between such subalgebras and the $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ algebra. As an example, we investigate the W_∞ algebra which corresponds to the case $p(w) = w$, presenting its free field realizations and Kac determinants at lower levels.

1. Introduction

It is known that there are several types of W infinity algebras, including the w_∞ algebra as the algebra of the area preserving diffeomorphism of a two-dimensional cylinder [1], the W_∞ algebra as its deformation [2], and the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra by adding a spin-1 current to W_∞ [3]. The $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra may be regarded as the most fundamental because all other W infinity algebras are obtained as its subalgebras [4] (see also [5]).

The representation theories of these algebras had not been developed after the early works [6, 7], because of the difficulty that there might exist infinitely many states at each energy level reflecting the infinite number of currents. The requirement that there exist only a finite number of states at each energy level is quite natural from the view point of the free-field realization, since such quasifiniteness condition is actually ensured when states are generated by (a finite number of) free-field oscillators. Recently Kac and Radul gave an elegant framework for setting up the quasifinite condition for the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra, and studied such representations in detail [8]. On the basis of their analysis, further studies were made for the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra [9–12] and the super $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra [13].

In this paper, we propose a systematic method to construct a family of subalgebras of the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra, and then study their quasifinite representations. In particular, we investigate the W_∞ algebra as a special case, and present the free field realizations and the Kac determinant formula at lower levels.

* JSPS fellow.
  E-mail addresses: awata@kurims.kyoto-u.ac.jp
  fukuma@yukawa.kyoto-u.ac.jp
  yutaka@yukawa.kyoto-u.ac.jp
  odake@jpnyitp.yukawa.kyoto-u.ac.jp

2. Subalgebras of $W_{1+\infty}$

The $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra is defined as a one-dimensional central extension of the Lie algebra of differential operators on the circle whose classical generators are $z^n D^k$ ($D \equiv z\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}z}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geqslant 0}$). We denote the corresponding generators in the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra by $W(z^n D^k)$ and the central charge by C. The commutation relations are defined [8] by

$$
\begin{aligned}
\big[W(z^n & f(D)), \, W(z^m g(D)) \big] \\
&= W(z^{n+m} f(D+m)g(D)) - W(z^{n+m} f(D)g(D+n)) \\
&\quad + C\delta_{n+m,0} \left(\theta(n \geqslant 1) \sum_{j=1}^{n} f(-j)g(n-j) - \theta(m \geqslant 1) \sum_{j=1}^{m} f(m-j)g(-j) \right)
\end{aligned}
\tag{1}
$$

where $\theta(P) = 1$ (or 0) when the proposition P is true (or false).

In the above expression, $f(D)$ and $g(D)$ are arbitrary polynomials. However, the commutation relations still close even for a class of the polynomials which can be divided by a polynomial $p(D)$. In fact, if we set

$$
\widetilde{W}(z^n D^k) = W(z^n D^k p(D))
\tag{2}
$$

then their commutation relations will be written as

$$
\begin{aligned}
\big[\widetilde{W}(z^n & f(D)), \, \widetilde{W}(z^m g(D)) \big] \\
&= \widetilde{W}(z^{n+m} p(D+m)f(D+m)g(D)) - \widetilde{W}(z^{n+m} p(D+n)f(D)g(D+n)) \\
&\quad + C\delta_{n+m,0} \bigg(\theta(n \geqslant 1) \sum_{j=1}^{n} p(-j)p(n-j)f(-j)g(n-j) \\
&\qquad\qquad\qquad - \theta(m \geqslant 1) \sum_{j=1}^{m} p(-j)p(m-j)f(m-j)g(-j) \bigg).
\end{aligned}
\tag{3}
$$

We call the subalgebra obtained $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$. The motivation for our construction of such subalgebras is as follows. In the W_∞ algebra, there is no spin-1 current. Since the current is expressed as $W(z^n)$ in $W_{1+\infty}$, the W_∞ algebra will be obtained from $W_{1+\infty}$ simply by omitting this current. However, it is equivalent to taking $p(D) = D$ in the above expression.

By introducing $z^n e^{xD}$ as a generating series for $z^n D^k$, the above commutation relation can be rewritten in a simpler form:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\big[\widetilde{W}(z^n & e^{xD}), \, \widetilde{W}(z^m e^{yD}) \big] \\
&= \left(p(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x})e^{mx} - p(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}y})e^{ny} \right) \widetilde{W}(z^{n+m} e^{(x+y)D}) - Cp(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x})p(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}y})\frac{e^{mx} - e^{ny}}{e^{x+y} - 1}\delta_{n+m,0} \, .
\end{aligned}
\tag{4}
$$

The basis of $W_{1+\infty}$ given in [3], $V_n^i = W_n^{i+2}$, is expressed as $W_n^{k+1} = W(z^n f_n^k(D))$ ($k \geqslant 0$)

$$
f_n^k(D) = \binom{2k}{k}^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{k} (-1)^j \binom{k}{j}^2 [-D-n-1]_{k-j}[D]_j
\tag{5}
$$

where $[x]_n = \prod_{j=0}^{n-1}(x-j)$ and $\binom{x}{n} = [x]_n/n!$. On the other hand, the basis of W_∞ given in [2], $\widetilde{V}_n^i = \widetilde{W}_n^{i+2}$, is now expressed as $\widetilde{W}_n^{k+2} = \widetilde{W}(z^n \tilde{f}_n^k(D))$ $(k \geqslant 0)$

$$\tilde{f}_n^k(D) = -\binom{2(k+1)}{k+1}^{-1} \sum_{j=0}^{k}(-1)^j \binom{k}{j}\binom{k+2}{j+1}[-D-n-1]_{k-j}[D-1]_j. \tag{6}$$

We remark that the Virasoro generators exist only if $\deg p(w) \leqslant 1$. In the case of W_∞, the Virasoro generator L_n is given by $L_n = -\widetilde{W}(z^n)$ whose central charge, $\tilde{c}_{Vir}$, is related to C as $\tilde{c}_{Vir} = -2C$ [4]. For $\deg p(w) \geqslant 2$, we extend the algebra introducing the L_0 operator such as to count the energy level, $[L_0, \widetilde{W}(z^n f(D))] = -n\widetilde{W}(z^n f(D))$.

3. Quasifinite representations

We consider the irreducible quasifinite highest-weight representations of $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$, following [8].

The highest-weight state $|\lambda\rangle$ is characterized by

$$\widetilde{W}(z^n D^k)|\lambda\rangle = 0 \qquad (n \geqslant 1, k \geqslant 0)$$

$$\widetilde{W}(D^k)|\lambda\rangle = \widetilde{\Delta}_k|\lambda\rangle \qquad (k \geqslant 0). \tag{7}$$

It is convenient to introduce the generating function for the highest weights $\widetilde{\Delta}_k$

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(x) = -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \widetilde{\Delta}_k \frac{x^k}{k!} \tag{8}$$

which is the eigenvalue of $-\widetilde{W}(e^{xD})$; $\widetilde{W}(e^{xD})|\lambda\rangle = -\widetilde{\Delta}(x)|\lambda\rangle$. By definition, $\widetilde{\Delta}(x)$ must be regular at $x = 0$. To study the representation of $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$, we first consider the representation of $W_{1+\infty}$ whose restriction agrees with the representation of $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$. Such a representation of $W_{1+\infty}$ always exists. The weight $\Delta(x)$, which is defined by $W(e^{xD})|\lambda\rangle = -\Delta(x)|\lambda\rangle$, satisfies

$$p\left(\tfrac{d}{dx}\right)\Delta(x) = \widetilde{\Delta}(x). \tag{9}$$

The representation of the $W_{1+\infty}$ associated with that of $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$ is not uniquely determined, and we will fix one representative $\Delta(x)$.

The quasifinite representation of $W_{1+\infty}$ with $\Delta(x)$ is characterized by characteristic polynomials $b_n(w)$ $(n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots)$ [8] (see also [11]):

$$b_n(w) = \text{LCM}(b(w), b(w-1), \ldots, b(w-n+1)) \tag{10}$$

where $b(w) = b_1(w)$ is the minimal-degree monic polynomial satisfying the differential equation

$$b\left(\tfrac{d}{dx}\right)\left((e^x - 1)\Delta(x) + C\right) = 0. \tag{11}$$

The quasifinite condition is the requirement that there exists a finite number of states at each energy level. This means that $\widetilde{W}(z^{-n}f(D))|\lambda\rangle$ is a null state for a polynomial $f(w)$ of sufficiently high degree. In other words, the set

$$\tilde{I}_{-n} = \left\{ f(w) \in \mathbb{C}[w] | \widetilde{W}(z^{-n}f(D))|\lambda\rangle = \text{null state} \right\}$$

contains an ideal of $\mathbb{C}[w]$ generated by some polynomial. We can show that if there exists a finite number of states at level 1, then this is also the case at any level. Suppose that $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1}f(D))|\lambda\rangle$ is a null state, then

$$0 = \widetilde{W}(ze^{x(D+1)})\widetilde{W}(z^{-1}f(D))|\lambda\rangle$$

$$= f\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)\left(\left(p(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x})e^x - p(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}-1)\right)\widetilde{\Delta}(x) + Cp(0)p(-1)\right)|\lambda\rangle$$

$$= f\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)p\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)p\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}-1\right)\left((e^x - 1)\Delta(x) + C\right)|\lambda\rangle. \tag{12}$$

Therefore, $\Delta(x)$ is the weight for the quasifinite representation.

For $\deg p(w) \leqslant 2$, we can prove that $\tilde{I}_{-n}$ is an ideal of $\mathbb{C}[w]$, as is the case for $W_{1+\infty}$. However, this is no longer true when $\deg p(w) \geqslant 3$. In what follows, we make an assumption that $\tilde{I}_{-n}$ is an ideal of $\mathbb{C}[w]$. Since $\mathbb{C}[w]$ is a principal ideal domain, $\tilde{I}_{-n}$ is generated by a monic polynomial $\tilde{b}_n(w)$. We call the $\tilde{b}_n(w)$'s ($n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$) the characteristic polynomials for the highest-weight representation.

The characteristic polynomials $\tilde{b}_n(w)$ are related to each other as follows†

(i) $\tilde{b}_n(w)$ divides both of $p(w+m)\tilde{b}_{n+m}(w+m)$ and $p(w-n-m)\tilde{b}_{n+m}(w)$, $^\forall m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geqslant 0}$,
(ii) $p(w)p(w-n)\tilde{b}_n(w)$ is divided by $f_n(w)$.

The $\tilde{b}_n(w)$'s are determined as minimal-degree monic polynomials satisfying (i) and (ii). Here $f_n(w)$ is the minimal-degree, monic polynomial satisfying the following differential equation:

$$f_n\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)\sum_{j=0}^{n-1}e^{jx}\left((e^x - 1)\Delta(x) + C\right) = 0. \tag{13}$$

Note that $f_1(w) = b(w)$, and $b_n(w)$ is divided by $f_n(w)$. Property (i) is derived from the null state condition, $\widetilde{W}(z^m e^{xD})\widetilde{W}(z^{-n-m}\tilde{b}_{n+m}(D))|\lambda\rangle = $ null state. The property (ii) is derived from the following null state condition:

$$0 = \widetilde{W}(z^n e^{x(D+n)})\widetilde{W}(z^{-n}\tilde{b}_n(D))|\lambda\rangle$$

$$= \tilde{b}_n\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)p\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)p\left(\tfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}x}-n\right)\sum_{j=0}^{n-1}e^{jx}\left((e^x - 1)\Delta(x) + C\right)|\lambda\rangle. \tag{14}$$

In almost all cases, the relation $f_n(w) = b_n(w)$ holds. Then, we can prove that the characteristic polynomials $\tilde{b}_n(w)$ are given by

$$\tilde{b}_n(w) = \frac{b_n(w)}{\mathrm{GCD}(b_n(w),\, p(w)p(w-n))}. \tag{15}$$

Although equation (15) satisfies both (i) and (ii) in general, it might not be minimal-degree polynomials. Therefore, for such special cases, we must solve (i) and (ii) directly. In contrast to $W_{1+\infty}$, the $\tilde{b}_n(w)$'s may not be determined by $\tilde{b}_1(w)$ (and $p(w)$) alone.

4. Correspondence with $\hat{gl}(\infty)$

As was demonstrated in [8, 11], the quasifinite representation of W_∞ can be alternatively expressed in terms of the $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ algebra. Since $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ has a simpler structure, it is useful to carry out some explicit calculation by using this correspondence. As we show in this section, it is also useful to understand the structure of subalgebras in terms of $\hat{gl}(\infty)$.

† We can also show that $\tilde{b}_{n+m}(w)$ divides $p(w-m)\tilde{b}_n(w-m)\tilde{b}_m(w)$.

Let us start from the special case in which the differences of any roots of $\tilde{b}(w) = 0$ and $p(w) = 0$ are integers. We assume that $\tilde{b}(w)$ has the following form:

$$\tilde{b}(w) = \prod_{i=1}^{N}(w - \lambda - k_i)^{\mu_i} \prod_{j=1}^{M}(w - \lambda - s_j)^{\nu_j} \qquad p(w) = \prod_{j=1}^{M}(w - \lambda - s_j)^{\rho_j} \qquad (16)$$

where k_i, $s_j \in \mathbb{Z}$ and μ_i, ν_j, ρ_j are positive integers with $m \equiv \mathrm{Max}(\mu_i, \nu_j + \rho_j)$. We remark that general cases can also be handled by making their tensor products.

The $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ algebra we consider is defined by the commutation relation

$$\left[E^{(\mu)}(i, j), E^{(\nu)}(k, \ell) \right]$$

$$= \theta(m - \mu - \nu \geqslant 0)\left(\delta_{j+k,0} E^{(\mu+\nu)}(i, \ell) - \delta_{i+\ell,0} E^{(\mu+\nu)}(k, j) \right.$$

$$\left. + c^{(\mu+\nu)} \delta_{j+k,0} \delta_{\ell+i,0}(\theta(i \geqslant 0) - \theta(k \geqslant 0)) \right) \qquad (17)$$

where μ and ν run from 0 to m. The quasifinite representation of $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ is defined by the highest-weight state

$$E^{(\mu)}(i, j)|\lambda\rangle = 0 \quad (i + j > 0) \qquad \text{and} \qquad E^{(\mu)}(i, -i)|\lambda\rangle = q_i^{(\mu)}|\lambda\rangle. \qquad (18)$$

If we introduce $h_i^{(\mu)} = q_i^{(\mu)} - q_{i-1}^{(\mu)} + c^{(\mu)}\delta_{i,0}$, the quasifiniteness of the module is achieved only when a finite number of the $h_i^{(\mu)}$ are non-vanishing [8].

The relation between the generators of $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ and $W_{1+\infty}$ is given by

$$W(z^r f(D)) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{\mu=0}^{m} \frac{f^{(\mu)}(\lambda + k)}{\mu!} E^{(\mu)}(r + k, -k) \qquad (19)$$

for $r \neq 0$ [8]. For zero modes, we need to introduce c-number corrections [8, 11].

Since we are considering a subalgebra of $W_{1+\infty}$, we need to find a proper subalgebra of $\hat{gl}(\infty)$ associated with it. Let us replace $f(D)$ in (19) by $\tilde{f}(D)p(D)$. We recognize that the coefficients of

$$E^{(\mu)}(r, -s_j) \qquad (r \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \mu = 0, \ldots, \rho_j-1) \qquad (20)$$

vanish on the right-hand side of (19). This means that these generators will not appear in the image of the mapping (19). Thus, if we remove equation (20) from the algebra, we also have to remove the generators of the following form†:

$$E^{(\mu)}(s_j, r) \qquad (r \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \mu = m-\rho_j+1, \ldots, m). \qquad (21)$$

The remaining generators will form a subalgebra of $\hat{gl}(\infty)$, which from now on will be called $\hat{gl}(\infty)(\{s\})$.

The next step is to find a relation between the quasifinite representations of $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$ and $\hat{gl}(\infty)(\{s\})$. This is again carried out by studying equation (19) carefully. By putting $f(D) = \tilde{b}(D)p(D)$, $r = -1$, it should become a null field when acting on the highest-weight state. The only generators which may give non-vanishing states are $E^{(\mu)}(-1+k_i, -k_i)$ $(\mu = 0, \ldots, \mu_i - 1)$ and $E^{(\mu)}(-1+s_j, -s_j)$ $(\mu = \rho_j, \ldots, \rho_j + \nu_j - 1)$. Thus, applying the argument in [8], we can show that non-vanishing $h^{(\mu)}$ are given by $h_{k_i}^{(\mu)}$ $(\mu = 0, \ldots, \mu_i - 1)$ and $h_{s_j}^{(\mu)}$ $(\mu = \rho_j, \ldots, \rho_j + \nu_j - 1)$. This information is enough for constructing a $\hat{gl}(\infty)(\{s\})$ module from the highest-weight state, which can be shown to be equivalent to the $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$ module we gave in section 3.

† To prove this, we first remark that generators of the form, $E^{(\nu)}(*, -s_j)$ with $\nu = \rho_j, \ldots, m$, still remain in the algebra. The generators which have a non-vanishing inner product with them are given in the form $E^{(\nu)}(s_j, *)$ with $\nu = 0, \ldots, m-\rho_j$. The other generators (21) have zero inner product with any states.

5. Free-field realization of the W_∞ algebra

In this section, we investigate the W_∞ algebra ($p(D) = D$) as an example.

We first consider the free-field realization of W_∞, introducing complex bosons, $\bar\varphi(z) = \bar q + \bar\alpha_0 \log z - \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{n} \bar\alpha_n z^{-n}$, $\varphi(z) = q + \alpha_0 \log z - \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{n} \alpha_n z^{-n}$ with commutation relations $[\bar\alpha_n, \alpha_m] = n\delta_{n+m,0}$, $[\bar\alpha_0, q] = 1$, $[\alpha_0, \bar q] = 1$, i.e. with the propagator $\bar\varphi(z)\varphi(w) \sim \log(z - w)$. The W_∞ algebra with $C = -1$ ($\bar c_{Vir} = 2$) is then realized in the following way [6]:

$$\widetilde{W}(z^n f(D)) = - \oint \frac{dz}{2\pi i} : \partial\bar\varphi(z)z^{n+1}f(D+1)\partial\varphi(z) :$$

$$= - \sum_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} f(-m) : \bar\alpha_{n-m}\alpha_m : . \tag{22}$$

We remark that

$$\left[\widetilde{W}(z^n f(D)), \bar\alpha_m\right] = mf(m)\bar\alpha_{n+m} \qquad \left[\widetilde{W}(z^n f(D)), \alpha_m\right] = mf(-n-m)\alpha_{n+m} . \tag{23}$$

There are two kinds of highest-weight states for such a realization [6, 7]:

$$|p, \bar p\rangle =: \exp\left(p\bar\varphi(0) + \bar p\varphi(0)\right) : |0\rangle \tag{24}$$

$$|N\rangle = \begin{cases} (\alpha_{-1})^N |0\rangle & (N \geqslant 1) \\ |0\rangle & (N = 0) \\ (\bar\alpha_{-1})^{-N} |0\rangle & (N \leqslant -1) \end{cases} \tag{25}$$

where $p, \bar p \in \mathbb{C}$, $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $|0\rangle$ is defined by $\bar\alpha_n|0\rangle = \alpha_n|0\rangle = 0$ ($n \geqslant 0$). Using equation (23), we can show that the weight $\widetilde{\Delta}(x)$ and the characteristic polynomials $\bar b_n(w)$ are given by the following: for $|p, \bar p\rangle$

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(x) = p\bar p \tag{26}$$

$$\bar b_n(w) = \begin{cases} [w - 1]_{n-1} & \text{if } p\bar p = 0 \\ [w]_{n+1} & \text{if } p\bar p \neq 0 \end{cases} \tag{27}$$

and for $|N\rangle$

$$\widetilde{\Delta}(x) = |N|e^{\text{sgn}(N)x} \tag{28}$$

$$\bar b_n(w) = \begin{cases} [w - 1]_{n-1} \cdot (w - n - 1) & \text{if } N \geqslant 1 \\ [w - 1]_{n-1} & \text{if } N = 0 \\ [w - 1]_{n-1} \cdot (w + 1) & \text{if } N \leqslant -1 . \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

We can illustrate our general theory given in the previous section from this example. For $|p, \bar p\rangle$, we can take $\Delta(x) = p\bar p x$. Then $f_n(w)$ is equal to $b_n(w) = [w]_n$ for $p\bar p = 0$. Thus $\bar b_n(w)$ are given by equation (15). But for $p\bar p \neq 0$, $f_n(w) = [w]_{n+1}w(w-n)$ does not agree with $b_n(w) = ([w]_{n+1})^2$. So the polynomials in equation (15) may not be of minimal degree, and actually they are not.

Using equation (23) and a formula in [7, 14], we can write down the full character of the representation $|p, \bar{p}\rangle$ with $p\bar{p} \neq 0$ as

$$\text{ch}_{p,\bar{p}} = \text{tr}\exp\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k \widetilde{W}(D^k)\right)$$

$$= e^{-p\bar{p}g_0} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - \exp\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k n^{k+1}\right)\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \exp\left(-\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k(-n)^{k+1}\right)\right)^{-1} \quad (30)$$

and the generating function of the full characters of the representations $|N\rangle$, $\text{ch}_N = \text{tr}\exp\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k \widetilde{W}(D^k)\right) = \exp\left(-\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} |N|(\text{sgn}(N))^k g_k\right) \text{ch}'_N$, as

$$\sum_{N\in\mathbb{Z}} t^N \text{ch}'_N = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(1 - t^{-1}\exp\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k n^{k+1}\right)\right)^{-1} \left(1 - t\exp\left(-\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} g_k(-n)^{k+1}\right)\right)^{-1}. \quad (31)$$

We would like to point out here that the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra is known to be realized by free fermions or bc ghosts [15, 9]. By restricting quasifinite representations of $W_{1+\infty}$, we obtain those of W_∞ or more generally $W_{1+\infty}[p(D)]$.

6. Discussion

We have constructed a series of subalgebras of $W_{1+\infty}$ parametrized by polynomials $p(w)$, in which W_∞ corresponds to $p(w) = w$, and have studied their quasifinite representations.

Although W_∞ is a subalgebra of $W_{1+\infty}$, its representation theory is nontrivial. There exist more null states than the $W_{1+\infty}$ case. Although full character formulae of quasifinite representations of $W_{1+\infty}$ have recently been obtained [11, 12], it is difficult to derive the (full) character formulae of W_∞ directly from those of $W_{1+\infty}$. We intend to report on this issue in a future communication.

Acknowledgments

Appendix. Kac determinant at lower degrees

In this appendix, we give the Kac determinant for the $p(w) = w$ and $\bar{b}(w) = w - \lambda$ case. In this case, the generating function for the highest weight can be written as $\Delta(x) = C_1(e^{\lambda x} - 1)/(e^x - 1)$ with C_1 some complex number.

For the first three levels, the relevant ket states are

Level 1 $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1})|\lambda\rangle$

Level 2 $\widetilde{W}(z^{-2})|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-2}D)|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-2}D^2)|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1})^2|\lambda\rangle$

Level 3 $\widetilde{W}(z^{-3})|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-3}D)|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-3}D^2)|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-3}D^3)|\lambda\rangle$

          $\widetilde{W}(z^{-3}D^4)|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1})\widetilde{W}(z^{-2})|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1})\widetilde{W}(z^{-2}D)|\lambda\rangle$

          $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1})\widetilde{W}(z^{-2}D^2)|\lambda\rangle$ $\widetilde{W}(z^{-1})^3|\lambda\rangle$.

The corresponding bra states may be given by substituting z^r for z^{-r}.

We compute the Kac determinant up to level 4, and the result is

$$\det[1] \propto C_1 \lambda (\lambda - 1)$$

$$\det[2] \propto C_1^3 (C_1 + 1) C_2 (\lambda + 1) \lambda^5 (\lambda - 1)^5 (\lambda - 2)$$

$$\det[3] \propto C_1^7 (C_1 + 1)^3 (C_1 - 2) C_2^3 (\lambda + 2)(\lambda + 1)^4 \lambda^{14} (\lambda - 1)^{14} (\lambda - 2)^4 (\lambda - 3)$$

$$\det[4] \propto (C_1 + 1) C_1^{18} (C_1 - 1)^9 (C_1 - 2)^3 (C_1 - 3) C_2^9 (C_2 - 1)$$

$$\times (\lambda + 3)(\lambda + 2)^4 (\lambda + 1)^{13} \lambda^{42} (\lambda - 1)^{42} (\lambda - 2)^{13} (\lambda - 3)^4 (\lambda - 4)$$

where $C_2 \equiv C - C_1$.

References

[1] Bakas I 1989 *Phys. Lett.* **228B** 57–63
[2] Pope C N, Romans L J and Shen X 1989 *Phys. Lett.* **236B** 173–78; 1990 *Nucl. Phys.* B **339** 191–221
[3] Pope C N, Romans L J and Shen X 1990 *Phys. Lett.* **242B** 401–6
[4] Pope C N, Romans L J and Shen X 1990 *Phys. Lett.* **245B** 72–8
[5] Bakas I, Khesin B and Kiritsis E 1993 *Commun. Math. Phys.* **151** 233–43
[6] Bakas I and Kiritsis E 1990 *Nucl. Phys.* B **343** 185–204 (Erratum 1991 *Nucl. Phys.* B **350** 512); 1990 *Mod. Phys. Lett.* A **5** 2039–50; 1990 *Prog. Theor. Phys. Suppl.* **102** 15–38
[7] Odake S 1992 *Int. J. Mod. Phys.* A **7** 6339–55
[8] Kac V and Radul A 1993 *Commun. Math. Phys.* **157** 429–57
[9] Matsuo Y 1994 *Phys. Lett.* **326B** 95–100
[10] Awata H, Fukuma M, Matsuo Y and Odake S 1994 *Phys. Lett.* B **336**–44
[11] Awata H, Fukuma M, Matsuo Y and Odake S 1994 Character and determinant formulae of quasifinite representation of the $W_{1+\infty}$ algebra *Preprint* YITP/K-1060, YITP/U-94-17, SULDP-1994-3, hep-th/9405093 (*Commun. Math. Phys.* to be published)
[12] Frenkel E, Kac V, Radul A and Wang W 1994 $\mathcal{W}_{1+\inf}$ and $\mathcal{W}(gl_N)$ with central charge N *Preprint* hep-th/9405121
[13] Awata H, Fukuma M, Matsuo Y and Odake S 1994 Quasifinite highest weight modules over the super $\mathcal{W}_{1+\infty}$ algebra *Preprint* YITP/K-1055, UT-670, SULDP-1994-2, hep-th/9404041 (*Commun. Math. Phys.* to be published)
[14] Awata H, Fukuma M, Odake S and Quano Y 1994 *Lett. Math. Phys.* **31** 289–98
[15] Bergshoeff E, Pope C N, Romans L J, Sezgin E and Shen X 1990 *Phys. Lett.* **245B** 447–52