

# Generators of classical $\mathcal{W}$ -algebras

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## Affine Poisson vertex algebra $\mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{g})$

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equipped with the derivation  $\partial$ ,

$$\partial(X_i^{(r)}) = X_i^{(r+1)}$$

for all  $i = 1, \dots, d$  and  $r \geq 0$ .

Introduce the  $\lambda$ -bracket on  $\mathcal{V}$  as a linear map

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and the **Leibniz rule** ( $a, b, c \in \mathcal{V}$ ):

$$\{a_\lambda bc\} = \{a_\lambda b\}c + \{a_\lambda c\}b.$$

# Hamiltonian reduction

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For a triangular decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{n}_- \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{n}_+$

set  $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{n}_- \oplus \mathfrak{h}$  and define the projection

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The **classical  $\mathcal{W}$ -algebra**  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g}) = \{P \in \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}) \mid \rho\{X_{\lambda}P\} = 0 \text{ for all } X \in \mathfrak{n}_+\}.$$

The classical  $\mathcal{W}$ -algebra  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})$  is a Poisson vertex algebra equipped with the  $\lambda$ -bracket

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**Motivation:** Hamiltonian equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \{H \lambda u\} \Big|_{\lambda=0}$$

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De Sole, Kac and Valeri, 2013-14; Drinfeld and Sokolov, 1985.

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The Hamiltonian equation with  $H = \frac{u^2}{2}$  is equivalent to the **KdV equation**

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = 3uu' - \frac{1}{2}u'''.$$

## Generators of $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$

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The invariant symmetric bilinear form on  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$  is defined by

$$(X|Y) = \text{tr} XY, \quad X, Y \in \mathfrak{gl}_n.$$

Expand the determinant with entries in  $\mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}) \otimes \mathbb{C}[\partial]$ ,

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} \partial + E_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ E_{21} & \partial + E_{22} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ E_{n-11} & E_{n-12} & E_{n-13} & \dots & \dots & 1 \\ E_{n1} & E_{n2} & E_{n3} & \dots & \dots & \partial + E_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \partial^n + w_1 \partial^{n-1} + \dots + w_n.$$

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**Theorem.** All elements  $w_1, \dots, w_n$  belong to  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ . Moreover,

$$\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{gl}_n) = \mathbb{C}[w_1^{(r)}, \dots, w_n^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

Example. For  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}_2$  we have

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Taking  $w_1 = 0$ , for  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$  we find

$$w_2 = -u = -\frac{h^2}{4} - \frac{h'}{2} - f.$$

# MacMahon Master Theorem

Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ a_{n-11} & a_{n-12} & a_{n-13} & \dots & \dots & 1 \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & a_{n3} & \dots & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} .$$

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Define elements  $e_m$  by the expansion

$$\det(1 + tA) = \sum_{m=0}^n e_m t^m .$$



The elements  $e_m$  are then found by

$$e_m = \sum_{s=1}^m \sum_{i_k < j_{k+1}} (-1)^{m-s} a_{i_1 j_1} \cdots a_{i_s j_s},$$

summed over  $i_1, \dots, i_s$  and  $j_1, \dots, j_s$  such that

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Example.

$$e_1 = a_{11} + \cdots + a_{nn},$$

$$e_2 = \sum_{i < j} a_{ii} a_{jj} - \sum_i a_{i+1 i},$$

$$e_3 = \sum_{i < j < k} a_{ii} a_{jj} a_{kk} - \sum_{i+1 < j} a_{i+1 i} a_{jj} - \sum_{i < j} a_{ii} a_{j+1 j} + \sum_i a_{i+2 i}.$$

Set

$$h_m = \sum_{s=1}^m \sum_{i_k \geq j_{k+1}} a_{i_1 j_1} \dots a_{i_s j_s},$$

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Equivalently, for  $m \geq 1$

$$h_m - h_{m-1} e_1 + h_{m-2} e_2 - \cdots + (-1)^n h_{m-n} e_n = 0,$$

assuming  $h_m = e_m = 0$  for  $m < 0$ .

Now specialize the matrix  $A$ ,

$$a_{ij} = \delta_{ij} \partial + E_{ij}, \quad i \geq j,$$

and write

$$e_m = e_{m0} + e_{m1} \partial + \cdots + e_{mm} \partial^m,$$

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In particular,

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**Corollary.** All elements  $h_{mi}$  belong to  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ . Moreover,

$$\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{gl}_n) = \mathbb{C}[h_{10}^{(r)}, \dots, h_{n0}^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

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$$f = F_{21} + F_{32} + \cdots + F_{n+1n} \in \mathfrak{o}_{2n+1}.$$

Expand the determinant of the matrix

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as a differential operator

$$\partial^{2n+1} + w_2 \partial^{2n-1} + w_3 \partial^{2n-2} + \dots + w_{2n+1}, \quad w_i \in \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}).$$

**Theorem.** All elements  $w_2, \dots, w_{2n+1}$  belong to  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{o}_{2n+1})$ .

Moreover,

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One proof is based on the **folding procedure**. The subalgebra  $\mathfrak{o}_{2n+1} \subset \mathfrak{gl}_{2n+1}$  is considered as the fixed point subalgebra for an involutive automorphism of  $\mathfrak{gl}_{2n+1}$ .

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$$f \mapsto \tilde{f} = E_{21} + E_{32} + \dots + E_{n+1n} - E_{n+2n+1} - \dots - E_{2n+12n}.$$

## Generators of $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{sp}_{2n})$

The Lie subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{gl}_{2n}$  spanned by the elements

$$F_{ij} = E_{ij} - \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j E_{j'i'}, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 2n,$$

is the **symplectic Lie algebra**  $\mathfrak{sp}_{2n}$ , where

$\varepsilon_i = 1$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  and  $\varepsilon_i = -1$  for  $i = n + 1, \dots, 2n$ .

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$$f = F_{21} + F_{32} + \dots + F_{n,n-1} + \frac{1}{2} F_{n'n} \in \mathfrak{sp}_{2n}.$$

Expand the determinant of the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial + F_{11} & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ F_{21} & \partial + F_{22} & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ F_{n1} & F_{n2} & \dots & \partial + F_{nn} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ F_{n'1} & F_{n'2} & \dots & F_{n'n} & \partial + F_{n'n'} & -1 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ F_{2'1} & F_{2'2} & \dots & F_{2'n} & F_{2'n'} & \dots & \dots & \partial + F_{2'2'} & -1 \\ F_{1'1} & F_{1'2} & \dots & F_{1'n} & F_{1'n'} & \dots & \dots & F_{1'2'} & \partial + F_{1'1'} \end{bmatrix}$$



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as a differential operator

$$\partial^{2n} + w_2 \partial^{2n-2} + w_3 \partial^{2n-3} + \dots + w_{2n}, \quad w_i \in \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}).$$

**Theorem.** All elements  $w_2, \dots, w_{2n}$  belong to  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{sp}_{2n})$ .

Moreover,

$$\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{sp}_{2n}) = \mathbb{C} [w_2^{(r)}, w_4^{(r)}, \dots, w_{2n}^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

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$$f \mapsto \tilde{f} = E_{21} + E_{32} + \dots + E_{n+1n} - E_{n+2n+1} - \dots - E_{2n2n-1}.$$

## Generators of $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{o}_{2n})$

Introduce the algebra of pseudo-differential operators

$$\mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}) \otimes \mathbb{C}((\partial^{-1})),$$

$$\partial^{-1} F_{ij}^{(r)} = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} (-1)^s F_{ij}^{(r+s)} \partial^{-s-1}.$$

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Take the principal nilpotent element  $f \in \mathfrak{o}_{2n}$  in the form

$$f = F_{21} + F_{32} + \cdots + F_{nn-1} + F_{n'n-1}.$$

Remark. Under the embedding  $\mathfrak{o}_{2n} \subset \mathfrak{gl}_{2n}$ ,  $f \mapsto \tilde{f}$ ,

$\tilde{f}$  is **not** a principal nilpotent in  $\mathfrak{gl}_{2n}$ :

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$$\tilde{f} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \mathbf{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \mathbf{-1} & \mathbf{-1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & \mathbf{-1} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



Expand the determinant of the  $(2n + 1) \times (2n + 1)$  matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial + F_{11} & 1 & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ F_{21} & \partial + F_{22} & \dots & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ F_{n1} - F_{n'1} & F_{n2} - F_{n'2} & \dots & \partial + F_{nn} & 0 & -2\partial & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \partial^{-1} & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ F_{n'1} & F_{n'2} & \dots & 0 & 0 & \partial + F_{n'n'} & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots & \dots \\ F_{2'1} & 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & F_{2'n'} - F_{2'n} & \dots & \partial + F_{2'2'} & -1 \\ 0 & F_{1'2} & \dots & \dots & 0 & F_{1'n'} - F_{1'n} & \dots & F_{1'2'} & \partial + F_{1'1'} \end{bmatrix}$$

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**Theorem.** All elements  $w_2, w_3, \dots, w_{2n-1}$  and  $y_n$  belong to

$\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{o}_{2n})$ . Moreover,

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We have

$$y_n = \det \begin{bmatrix} \partial + F_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ F_{21} & \partial + F_{22} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ F_{n-11} & F_{n-12} & F_{n-13} & \dots & \dots & 1 \\ F_{n1} - F_{n'1} & F_{n2} - F_{n'2} & F_{n3} - F_{n'3} & \dots & \dots & \partial + F_{nn} \end{bmatrix} 1.$$

## Generators of $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g}_2)$

$\mathfrak{g}_2$  is the simple Lie algebra of type  $G_2$  with the Cartan matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -3 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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We let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  be the simple roots, and the positive roots are

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The Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  is spanned by  $H_\alpha$  and  $H_\beta$ .



Consider the  $7 \times 7$  matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial + \tilde{F}_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{3} Y_{\beta} & \partial + \tilde{F}_{22} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{3} Y_{\alpha+\beta} & Y_{\alpha} & \partial + \tilde{F}_{33} & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{4}{9} Y_{\alpha+2\beta} & -\frac{2}{3} Y_{\alpha+\beta} & \frac{2}{3} Y_{\beta} & \partial & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{4}{9} Y_{\alpha+3\beta} & \frac{4}{9} Y_{\alpha+2\beta} & 0 & -\frac{2}{3} Y_{\beta} & \partial - \tilde{F}_{33} & -1 & 0 \\ \frac{4}{9} Y_{2\alpha+3\beta} & 0 & -\frac{4}{9} Y_{\alpha+2\beta} & \frac{2}{3} Y_{\alpha+\beta} & -Y_{\alpha} & \partial - \tilde{F}_{22} & -1 \\ 0 & -\frac{4}{9} Y_{2\alpha+3\beta} & \frac{4}{9} Y_{\alpha+3\beta} & -\frac{4}{9} Y_{\alpha+2\beta} & -\frac{1}{3} Y_{\alpha+\beta} & -\frac{1}{3} Y_{\beta} & \partial - \tilde{F}_{11} \end{bmatrix},$$

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where

$$\tilde{F}_{11} = -H_{\alpha} - \frac{2}{3} H_{\beta}, \quad \tilde{F}_{22} = -H_{\alpha} - \frac{1}{3} H_{\beta}, \quad \tilde{F}_{33} = -\frac{1}{3} H_{\beta}.$$

Write its determinant as a differential operator

$$\partial^7 + w_2 \partial^5 + w_3 \partial^4 + w_4 \partial^3 + w_5 \partial^2 + w_6 \partial + w_7, \quad w_i \in \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}).$$

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**Theorem.** The elements  $w_2, \dots, w_7$  belong to  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g}_2)$ . Moreover,

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## Chevalley-type theorem

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Let

$$\phi : \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{p}) \rightarrow \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{h})$$

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denote the homomorphism of differential algebras defined on the generators as the projection  $\mathfrak{p} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h}$  with the kernel  $\mathfrak{n}_-$ .

The restriction of  $\phi$  to  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})$  is injective. The embedding

$$\phi : \mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{h})$$

is known as the **Miura transformation**.

To describe the image  $\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{g}) = \phi(\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g}))$ , introduce the  
screening operators

$$V_i : \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{h}) \rightarrow \mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{h}), \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$



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Let  $h_1, \dots, h_n$  be basis elements of  $\mathfrak{h}$ . Then

$$V_i = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} V_{ir} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ji} \frac{\partial}{\partial h_j^{(r)}},$$

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$$V_i = \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} V_{ir} \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ji} \frac{\partial}{\partial h_j^{(r)}},$$

where  $A = [a_{ij}]$  is the Cartan matrix,

$$\sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{V_{ir} z^r}{r!} = \exp \left( - \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{h_i^{(m-1)} z^m}{\epsilon_i m!} \right),$$

and  $B = D^{-1}A$  is symmetric for  $D = \text{diag}[\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_n]$ .

## Proposition.

The restriction of the homomorphism  $\phi$  to the classical  $\mathcal{W}$ -algebra  $\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g})$  yields an isomorphism

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### Proposition.

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$$\phi : \mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{g}) \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{g}),$$

where  $\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{g})$  is the subalgebra of  $\mathcal{V}(\mathfrak{h})$  which consists of the elements annihilated by all screening operators  $V_i$ ,

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigcap_{i=1}^n \ker V_i.$$

For  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}_n$ , the image of the determinant

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} \partial + E_{11} & 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ E_{21} & \partial + E_{22} & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ E_{n-11} & E_{n-12} & E_{n-13} & \dots & \dots & 1 \\ E_{n1} & E_{n2} & E_{n3} & \dots & \dots & \partial + E_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

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equals

$$(\partial + E_{11}) \dots (\partial + E_{nn}) = \partial^n + \tilde{w}_1 \partial^{n-1} + \dots + \tilde{w}_n.$$

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Therefore, we recover the **Adler–Gelfand–Dickey generators**:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{gl}_n) = \phi(\mathcal{W}(\mathfrak{gl}_n)) = \mathbb{C} [\tilde{w}_1^{(r)}, \dots, \tilde{w}_n^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

Explicitly,

$$\tilde{w}_m = \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_m} (\partial + E_{i_1 i_1}) \dots (\partial + E_{i_m i_m}) 1.$$



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Define elements  $\tilde{u}_m$  by

$$\tilde{u}_m = \sum_{i_1 \geq \dots \geq i_m} (\partial + E_{i_1 i_1}) \dots (\partial + E_{i_m i_m}) 1.$$

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Then

$$\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{gl}_n) = \mathbb{C} [\tilde{u}_1^{(r)}, \dots, \tilde{u}_n^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

Drinfeld–Sokolov generators for  $\mathfrak{o}_{2n+1}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} &(\partial + F_{11}) \dots (\partial + F_{nn}) \partial (\partial - F_{nn}) \dots (\partial - F_{11}) \\ &= \partial^{2n+1} + \tilde{w}_2 \partial^{2n-1} + \tilde{w}_3 \partial^{2n-2} + \dots + \tilde{w}_{2n+1}, \end{aligned}$$

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$$\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{o}_{2n+1}) = \mathbb{C} [\tilde{w}_2^{(r)}, \tilde{w}_4^{(r)}, \dots, \tilde{w}_{2n}^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

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Then

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Miura transformation for  $\mathfrak{g}_2$ . Recall

$$\tilde{F}_{11} = -H_\alpha - \frac{2}{3}H_\beta, \quad \tilde{F}_{22} = -H_\alpha - \frac{1}{3}H_\beta, \quad \tilde{F}_{33} = -\frac{1}{3}H_\beta.$$

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Corollary.

$$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}(\mathfrak{g}_2) = \mathbb{C}[\tilde{w}_2^{(r)}, \tilde{w}_6^{(r)} \mid r \geq 0].$$

Center at the critical level

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The Feigin–Frenkel center consists of its  $\mathfrak{g}[t]$ -invariants,

$$\mathfrak{z}(\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}) = \{v \in V(\mathfrak{g}) \mid \mathfrak{g}[t]v = 0\}.$$

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where the classical  $\mathcal{W}$ -algebra  $\widetilde{\mathcal{W}}(L\mathfrak{g})$  is associated with the Langlands dual Lie algebra  $L\mathfrak{g}$  [Feigin and Frenkel, 1992].