ON THE IRREDUCIBILITY OF ASSOCIATED VARIETIES OF W-ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. We investigate the irreducibility of the nilpotent Slodowy slices that appear as the associated variety of W-algebras. Furthermore, we provide new examples of vertex algebras whose associated variety has finitely many symplectic leaves.

Dedicated to the 60th birthday of Professor Efim Zelmanov

1. INTRODUCTION

It is known [Li05] that every vertex algebra V is canonically filtered and therefore it can be considered as a quantization of its associated graded Poisson vertex algebra gr V. The Zhu's C_2 -algebra R_V of V [Z96] is a generating subalgebra of the differential algebra gr V and has the structure of a Poisson algebra. Its maximal spectrum

$$X_V := \operatorname{Specm} R_V$$

is called the *associated variety* of V ([A12]). The associated variety X_V is a fundamental invariant of V that captures some important properties of the vertex algebra V itself (see e.g. [BFM, Z96, ABD04, Mi04, A12, A15a, A15b, AM15, AM16].

As a Poisson variety, the associated variety of a vertex algebra is a finite disjoint union of smooth analytic Poisson manifolds, and it is stratified by its symplectic leaves. The case where the associated variety has finitely many symplectic leaves is particularly interesting. This happens for instance when V is an admissible affine vertex algebra¹ ([A15a]), when V is the simple affine vertex algebra associated with a simple Lie algebra that belongs to the the Deligne exceptional series [D96] at level $k = -h^{\vee}/6 - 1$ ([AM15]) with h^{\vee} the dual Coxeter number, or when V is the (generalized) Drinfeld-Sokolov reduction ([FF90, KRW03]) of the latter affine vertex algebras provided that it is nonzero ([A15a]). This is also expected to happen for the vertex algebras obtained from four dimensional N = 2 superconformal field theories ([BLL⁺15]), where the associated variety is expected to coincide with the spectrum of the chiral ring of the Higgs branch of the four dimensional theory. Of course, it also happens when the associated variety of V is a point, that is, when V is *lisse* (or C_2 -cofinite).

²⁰¹⁰ Mathematics Subject Classification. 81R10, 17B08, 14L30.

 $Key\ words\ and\ phrases.$ Associated variety of vertex algebras, W-algebras, branching, nilpotent Slodowy slice.

 $^{^1{\}rm that}$ is, the simple affine vertex algebras associated with admissible representations of affine Kac-Moody algebras.

In our previous paper [AM16] we conjectured that, under reasonable assumptions on the vertex algebra V, the associated variety X_V is irreducible if it has only finitely many symplectic leaves (see Conjecture 1).

One of the aims of this paper is to verify this irreducibility conjecture for the known cases where X_V has finitely many symplectic leaves. It turns out this is a subtle problem for the associated varieties of (conjecturally simple) *W*-algebras, and some deep results on the geometry of nilpotent orbits are needed for the verifications. More precisely, the associated variety in question has the form

$$\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f} := \mathbb{O} \cap \mathscr{S}_f,$$

where \mathbb{O} is a nilpotent orbit in a simple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and \mathscr{S}_f is the Slodowy slice at a nilpotent element f of \mathfrak{g} . The variety $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is called a *nilpotent Slodowy slice* ([FJLS15]). It is not irreducible in general. On the other hand, not every nilpotent Slodowy slice appears as the associated variety of some W-algebra. We investigate in detail the irreducibility of the variety $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ that appears as the associated variety of a W-algebra and confirm the irreducibility for all the known cases.

Another aim of this paper is to provide new examples of vertex algebras whose associated variety has finitely many symplectic leaves. We do this by proving a conjecture stated in our previous article [AM16, Conjecture 2] (Theorem 6.1) and also by showing that the associated variety of the simple affine vertex algebra associated with \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1} at level -2 is the short nilpotent orbit closure (Theorem 7.1). Theorems 6.1 and 7.1 give new examples of non-admissible affine vertex algebras whose associated variety is contained in the nilpotent cone.

Acknowledgments. We thank very much Daniel Juteau for his explanations about branchings and nilpotent Slodowy slices. We thank Drazen Adamović for inviting us to the University of Zagreb in June 2016, and the CIRM Luminy for its hospitality during our stay as "Research in pairs" in August, 2016.

The first named author is supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Numbers 25287004 and 26610006. The second named author is supported by the ANR Project GeoLie Grant number ANR-15-CE40-0012.

2. KNOWN EXAMPLES OF VERTEX ALGEBRAS WHOSE ASSOCIATED VARIETY HAS FINITELY MANY SYMPLECTIC LEAVES

Let V be a vertex algebra, and let

$$V \to (\operatorname{End} V)[[z, z^{-1}]], \quad a \mapsto a(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{(n)} z^{-n-1},$$

be the state-field correspondence. The Zhu's C_2 -algebra is by definition the quotient space $R_V = V/C_2(V)$, where $C_2(V) = \operatorname{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{a_{(-2)}b \mid a, b \in V\}$, equipped with the Poisson algebra structure given by

$$\bar{a}.\bar{b} = \overline{a_{(-1)}b}, \quad \{\bar{a},\bar{b}\} = \overline{a_{(0)}b},$$

for $a, b \in V$ with $\bar{a} := a + C_2(V)$. The associated variety X_V of V is the reduced scheme of the spectrum of R_V , $X_V = \text{Specm}(R_V)$.

In [AM16, Conjecute 1 (2)], we stated the following conjecture.

Conjecture 1. Let $V = \bigoplus_{d \ge 0} V_d$ be a simple, finitely strongly generated (i.e., R_V is finitely generated), positively graded conformal vertex operator algebra such that

 $V_0 = \mathbb{C}$. Assume that X_V has finitely many symplectic leaves. Then X_V is irreducible.

In the following we list the known examples of vertex algebras whose associated variety has finitely many symplectic leaves.

2.1. Lisse vertex algebras. Recall [Z96] that a vertex algebra is *lisse* (or C_2 -*cofinite*) if dim $X_V = 0$. Under the assumptions on V of Conjecture 1, $R_V = \bigoplus_{d \ge 0} (R_V)_d$ and $(R_V)_0 = \mathbb{C}$, so X_V is conic, that is, admits a \mathbb{C}^* -action that is
contracting to a point. Therefore, under the assumptions on V of Conjecture 1, Vis lisse if and only if $X_V = \{\text{point}\}$. Hence, if so, X_V is a trivial symplectic variety
and is irreducible.

2.2. Affine vertex algebras. Let \mathfrak{g} be a complex simple Lie algebra, and $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ the affine Kac-Moody algebra associated with \mathfrak{g} :

$$\widehat{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] \oplus \mathbb{C}K \oplus \mathbb{C}D,$$

where the commutation relations are given by

$$\begin{split} [x \otimes t^m, y \otimes t^n] &= [x, y] \otimes t^{m+n} + m(x|y) \delta_{m+n,0} K, \quad [K, \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}] = 0, \quad [D, x \otimes t^m] = mx \otimes t^n \\ \text{for } x, y \in \mathfrak{g}, \ m, n \in \mathbb{Z}. \text{ Here } (\ | \) &= \frac{1}{2h^{\vee}} \times \text{Killing form of } \mathfrak{g}. \text{ For } k \in \mathbb{C}, \text{ set} \\ V^k(\mathfrak{g}) &= U(\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t] \oplus \mathbb{C}K \oplus \mathbb{C}D)} \mathbb{C}_k, \end{split}$$

where \mathbb{C}_k is the one-dimensional representation of $\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t] \oplus \mathbb{C}K \oplus \mathbb{C}D$ on which K acts as multiplication by k and $\mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[t] \oplus \mathbb{C}D$ acts trivially. As it is well-known $V_k(\mathfrak{g})$ is naturally a vertex algebra, called the *universal affine vertex algebra* associated with \mathfrak{g} at level k. The unique simple (graded) quotient $V_k(\mathfrak{g})$ is called the *simple affine vertex algebra* associated with \mathfrak{g} at level k.

We have $X_{V^k(\mathfrak{g})} = \mathfrak{g}^*$, and therefore the associated variety $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ is a Poisson subscheme of \mathfrak{g}^* which is *G*-invariant and conic, where *G* is the adjoint group of \mathfrak{g} . Thus, identifying \mathfrak{g} with \mathfrak{g}^* through (|), the symplectic leaves of $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ are exactly the adjoint orbits of *G* in $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$, and $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ has finitely many symplectic leaves if and only if $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ is contained in the nilpotent cone \mathcal{N} of \mathfrak{g} .

We list in Table 1 the known pairs (\mathfrak{g}, k) where $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \subset \mathcal{N}$. We do not claim that the list is exhaustive.

	type of \mathfrak{g}	k	$X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$
(1)	any	$-h^{ee}$	\mathcal{N}
(2)	any	admissible	$\overline{\mathbb{O}}_q$
(3)	G_2	-1	$\overline{\mathbb{O}_{min}}$
(4)	D_4, E_6, E_7, E_8	$k \in \mathbb{Z}, \ -\frac{h^{\vee}}{6} - 1 \leqslant k \leqslant -1$	$\overline{\mathbb{O}_{min}}$
(5)	D_r with $r \ge 5$	-2, -1	$\overline{\mathbb{O}_{min}}$
(6)	D_r with r an even integer	2-r	$\overline{\mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}}$
(7)	B_r	-2	$\overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$

TABLE 1. Known pairs (\mathfrak{g}, k) for which $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \subset \mathcal{N}$

In case (1) of Table 1, $V_{-h^{\vee}}(\mathfrak{g})$ does not satisfy the assumption of Conjecture 1 since it is not conformal, but the irreducibility of $X_{V_{-h^{\vee}}(\mathfrak{g})}$ holds.

In case (2) of Table 1, \mathbb{O}_q is a nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{g} described by Tables 2–10 of [A15a] which only depends on the denominator q of the admissible level $k \in \mathbb{Q}$.

In cases (3)–(5) of Table 1, \mathbb{O}_{min} is the minimal nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{g} .

The statement of the case (6) of Table 1 was conjectured in [AM16] and will be proven in Section 6. Here $\mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}$ denotes the nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{so}_{2r} corresponding to the partition $(2^{r-2},1^4)$ of 2r (see Section 4).

In case (7) of Table 1, \mathbb{O}_{short} is the unique *short* nilpotent orbit in \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1} . Here by *short nilpotent orbit* we mean the orbit of a short nilpotent element, and a nilpotent element e of \mathfrak{g} is called *short* if for (e, f, h) an \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triple,

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1,$$

where $\mathfrak{g}_j = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [h, x] = 2jx\}$. The fact that $X_{V_{-2}(\mathfrak{so}_{2r+1})} = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$ is new and will be proven in Theorem 7.1.

In all the cases of Table 1, $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ is the closure of some nilpotent orbit in \mathcal{N} and so Conjecture 1 holds.

2.3. Simple W-algebras. Let $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ be the *affine* W-algebra associated with a nilpotent element f of \mathfrak{g} defined by the generalized quantized Drinfeld-Sokolov reduction [FF90, KRW03]:

$$\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f) = H^0_{DS, f}(V^k(\mathfrak{g})).$$

Here $H^{\bullet}_{DS,f}(M)$ denotes the BRST cohomology of the generalized quantized Drinfeld-Sokolov reduction associated with $f \in \mathcal{N}$ with coefficients in a $V^k(\mathfrak{g})$ -module M.

We have [DSK06, A15a] a natural isomorphism $R_{\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g},f)} \cong \mathbb{C}[\mathscr{S}_f]$ of Poisson algebras, so that

$$X_{\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g},f)} = \mathscr{S}_f.$$

Here \mathscr{S}_f is the Slodowy slice at f as in the introduction (cf. Section 3.2). It has a natural Poisson structure induced from that of \mathfrak{g}^* ([GG02]).

Let $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ be the unique simple (graded) quotient of $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$. Then $X_{\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)}$ is a \mathbb{C}^* -invariant Poisson subvariety of the Slodowy slice \mathscr{S}_f .

Let \mathcal{O}_k be the category \mathcal{O} of $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$ at level k. We have a functor

$$\mathcal{O}_k \to \mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$$
-Mod, $M \mapsto H^0_{DS, f}(M)$,

where $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ -Mod denotes the category of $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ -modules.

Let KL_k be the full subcategory of \mathcal{O}_k consisting of objects M on which \mathfrak{g} acts locally finitely. Note that $V^k(\mathfrak{g})$ and $V_k(\mathfrak{g})$ are objects of KL_k .

Theorem 2.1 ([A15a]). (1) $H^i_{DS,f}(M) = 0$ for all $i \neq 0, M \in \mathrm{KL}_k$. In particular, the functor $\mathrm{KL}_k \to \mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ -Mod, $M \mapsto H^0_{DS,f}(M)$, is exact.

(2) For any quotient V of $V^k(\mathfrak{g})$,

$$X_{H^0_{DS,f}(V)} = X_V \cap \mathscr{S}_f.$$

In particular

- (a) $H^0_{DS,f}(V) \neq 0$ if and only if $\overline{G.f} \subset X_V$,
- (b) $H^0_{DS,f}(V)$ is lisse if $X_V = \overline{G.f}$.

By Theorem 2.1 (1), $H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is a quotient vertex algebra of $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ if it is nonzero. Conjecturally [KRW03, KW08], we have

$$\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f) \cong H^0_{DS, f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$$
 provided that $H^0_{DS, f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g})) \neq 0$.

(This conjecture has been verified in many cases [A05, A07, A11].)

By Theorem 2.1 (2), when $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \subset \mathcal{N}$, then $X_{H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))}$ is contained in $\mathscr{S}_f \cap \mathcal{N}$ and so has finitely many symplectic leaves.

One of the purposes of the paper is to investigate the irreducibility of X_V for $V = H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ with $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \subset \mathcal{N}$.

3. Branching and Nilpotent Slodowy slices

We collect in this section the results that we need about branchings and nilpotent Slodowy slices. We refer to [Gr61, Chap. III, §4.3] for the original definition of *unibranchness*, and to [KP82] or [FJLS15] for further details on branchings and nilpotent Slodowy slices.

3.1. Smoothly equivalent singularities, cross sections. Consider two varieties X, Y and two points $x \in X, y \in Y$. The singularity of X at x is called *smoothly* equivalent to the singularity of Y at y if there is a variety Z, a point $z \in Z$ and two maps $\varphi: Z \to X, \psi: Z \to Y$, such that $\varphi(z) = x, \psi(z) = y$, and φ and ψ are smooth in z ([Hes76]). This clearly defines an equivalence relation between pointed varieties (X, x). We denote the equivalence class of (X, x) by Sing(X, x).

Various geometric properties of X at x only depends on the equivalence class Sing(X, x), for example: smoothness, normality, seminormality (cf. [KP82, §16.1]), unibranchness (cf. §3.3), Cohen-Macaulay, rational singularities.

Assume that the algebraic group G acts regularly on the variety X. Then $\operatorname{Sing}(X, x) = \operatorname{Sing}(X, x')$ if x and x' belongs to the same G-orbit \mathbb{O} . In this case, we denote the equivalence class also by $\operatorname{Sing}(X, \mathbb{O})$.

A cross section (or transverse slice) at the point $x \in X$ is defined to be a locally closed subvariety $S \subset X$ such that $x \in S$ and the map

$$G \times S \longrightarrow X, \quad (g,s) \longmapsto g.s,$$

is smooth at the point (1, x). We have $\operatorname{Sing}(S, x) = \operatorname{Sing}(X, x)$.

In the case where X is the closure of some nilpotent G-orbit of \mathfrak{g} , there is a natural choice of a cross section as we explain next subsection.

3.2. Nilpotent Slodowy slice. Let \mathbb{O}, \mathbb{O}' be two nonzero nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{g} and pick $f \in \mathbb{O}'$. By the Jacobson-Morosov Theorem, we can embed f into an \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triple (e, h, f) of \mathfrak{g} . The affine space

$$\mathscr{S}_f := f + \mathfrak{g}^e$$

is a transverse slice of \mathfrak{g} at e, called the *Slodowy slice* associated with (e, h, f). There is a \mathbb{C}^* -action on \mathscr{S}_f contracting to f (cf. [GG02]). The variety

$$\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f} := \overline{\mathbb{O}} \cap \mathscr{S}_{f}$$

is then a transverse slice of $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ at f, which we call, following the terminology of [FJLS15], a *nilpotent Slodowy slice*.

Note that $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f} = \{f\}$ if and only if $\mathbb{O} = G.f.$ Moreover, since the \mathbb{C}^* -action on \mathscr{S}_f is contracting to f and stabilizes $\mathscr{S}_{f,\mathbb{O}}, \mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f} = \emptyset$ if and only if $G.f \not\subseteq \overline{\mathbb{O}}$. Hence

we can assume that $\mathbb{O}' \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{O}}$, that is, $\mathbb{O}' \leq \mathbb{O}$ for the Chevalley order on nilpotent orbits. The variety $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is equidimensional, and

$$\dim \mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f} = \operatorname{codim}(\mathbb{O}',\overline{\mathbb{O}}).$$

Since any two \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triples containing f are conjugate by an element of the isotropy group of f in G, the isomorphism type of $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is independent of the choice of such \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triples. Moreover, the isomorphism type of $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is independent of the choice of $f \in \mathbb{O}'$. By focussing on $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$, we reduce the study of $\operatorname{Sing}(\overline{\mathbb{O}}, \mathbb{O}')$ to the study of the singularity of $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ at f.

The variety $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is not always irreducible. We are now interested in sufficient conditions for that $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is irreducible.

3.3. **Branching.** Let X be an irreducible algebraic variety, and $x \in X$. We say that X is unibranch at x if the normalization $\pi: (\tilde{X}, x) \to (X, x)$ of (X, x) is locally a homeomorphism at x [FJLS15, §2.4]. Otherwise, we say that X has branches at x and the number of branches of X at x is the number of connected components of $\pi^{-1}(x)$ [BS84, §5,(E)].

As it is explained in [FJLS15, Section 2.4], the number of irreducible components of $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is equal to the number of branches of $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ at f.

If an irreducible algebraic variety X is normal, then it is obviously unibranch at any point $x \in X$. Hence we obtain the following result.

Lemma 3.1. Let \mathbb{O}, \mathbb{O}' be nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{g} , with $\mathbb{O}' \leq \mathbb{O}$ and $f \in \mathbb{O}'$. If $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ is normal, then $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is irreducible.

The converse is not true. For instance, there is no branching in type G_2 but one knowns that the nilpotent orbit \tilde{A}_1 of G_2 of dimension 8 is not normal [LS88].

The number of branches of $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ at f, and so the number of irreducible components of $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$, can be determined from the tables of Green functions in [Sh80, BS84], as discussed in [BS84, Section 5,(E)-(F)]. We indicate in Table 2 the nilpotent orbits \mathbb{O} which have branchings in types F_4 , E_6 , E_7 and E_8 (there is no branching in type G_2). The nilpotent orbits are labelled using the Bala-Carter classification.

Type F_4	$C_3, C_3(a_1).$
Type E_6	$A_4, 2A_2, A_2 + A_1.$
Type E_7	$D_6(a_1), (A_5)'', A_4, A_3 + A_2, D_4(a_1) + A_1.$
Type E_8	$E_7(a_1), E_6, E_6(a_1), E_7(a_4), A_6, D_6(a_1), D_5 + A_1, E_7(a_5), A_4, A_3 + A_2, D_4,$
	$D_4(a_1), A_3 + A_1, 2A_2 + A_1.$

TABLE 2. Branching in exceptional cases

We indicate below the (conjectural) list a non-normal nilpotent orbit closures in the exceptional types. These results are extracted from [LS88, Kr89, B98a, B98b, So03]. The list is known to be exhaustive for the types G_2 , F_4 and E_6 . It is only conjecturally exhaustive for the types E_7 and E_8 .

4. Normality of nilpotent orbit closures in Lie algebras of classical type

In view of Lemma 3.1, we recall in this section some useful results about the normality of nilpotent orbit closures in the classical types. The normality question in this setting is now completely answered ([KP79, KP79, So05]).

Type G_2	$ ilde{A}_1$.
Type F_4	$C_3, C_3(a_1), \tilde{A}_2 + A_1, \tilde{A}_2, B_2.$
Type E_6	$A_4, A_3 + A_1, A_3, 2A_2, A_2 + A_1.$
Type E_7	$D_6(a_1), D_6(a_2), (A_5)'', A_4, A_3 + A_2, D_4(a_1) + A_1, A_3 + 2A_1,$
	$(A_3 + A_1)', (A_3 + A_1)'', A_3.$
Type E_8	$E_7(a_1), E_7(a_2), D_7(a_1), E_7(a_3), E_6, D_6, E_6(a_1), E_7(a_4), D_6(a_1),$
	$A_6, D_5 + A_1, E_7(a_5), E_6(a_3) + A_1, D_6(a_2), D_5(a_1) + A_2, A_5 + A_1,$
	$D_5, E_6(a_3), D_4 + A_2, D_5(a_1) + A_1, A_5, D_5(a_1), D_4 + A_1, A_4,$
	$A_3 + A_2, A_3 + 2A_1, D_4, D_4(a_1) A_3 + A_1, 2A_1 + A_1, A_3.$

TABLE 3. Non-normal nilpotent orbits in exceptional cases

First of all, by [KP79], if $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_n$, then all nilpotent orbit closures are normal. So we only focus on the orthogonal and symplectic Lie algebras. We assume in the rest of the section that \mathfrak{g} is either the Lie algebra \mathfrak{o}_n of the orthogonal group O(n), or the Lie algebra \mathfrak{so}_n of the special orthogonal group SO(n), or the Lie algebra \mathfrak{sp}_n of the symplectic group SP(n).

4.1. Notations. We fix in this subsection some notations relative to nilpotent orbits in simple Lie algebras of classical type. Our main references are [KP82, CM93]. We follow the notations of [MY16, Appendix]; see therein for more details.

Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, and denote by $\mathscr{P}(n)$ the set of partitions of n. As a rule, unless otherwise specified, we write an element λ of $\mathscr{P}(n)$ as a decreasing sequence $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r)$ omitting the zeroes. Thus,

$$\lambda_1 \ge \cdots \ge \lambda_r \ge 1$$
 and $\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_r = n$.

Let us denote by \geq the partial order on $\mathscr{P}(n)$ relative to dominance. More precisely, given $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r), \boldsymbol{\eta} = (\mu_1, \dots, \mu_s) \in \mathscr{P}(n)$, we have $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \geq \boldsymbol{\eta}$ if $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i \geq \sum_{i=1}^k \mu_i$ for $1 \leq k \leq \min(r, s)$.

Case \mathfrak{sl}_n . By [CM93, Theorem 5.1.1], nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{sl}_n are parametrized by $\mathscr{P}(n)$. For $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}(n)$, we shall denote by \mathbb{O}_{λ} the corresponding nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{sl}_n . If $\lambda, \eta \in \mathscr{P}(n)$, then $\mathbb{O}_{\eta} \subset \overline{\mathbb{O}_{\lambda}}$ if and only if $\eta \leq \lambda$.

Cases \mathfrak{o}_n and \mathfrak{so}_n . For $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, set

 $\mathscr{P}_1(n) := \{ \lambda \in \mathscr{P}(n) ; \text{ number of parts of each even number is even} \}.$

By [CM93, Theorems 5.1.2 and 5.1.4], nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{so}_n are parametrized by $\mathscr{P}_1(n)$, with the exception that each *very even* partition $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_1(n)$ (i.e., λ has only even parts) corresponds to two nilpotent orbits. For $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_1(n)$, not very even, we shall denote by $\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}$, or simply by \mathbb{O}_{λ} when there is no possible confusion, the corresponding nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{so}_n . For very even $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_1(n)$, we shall denote by $\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}$ the two corresponding nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{so}_n . In fact, their union forms a single O(n)-orbit. Thus nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{o}_n are parametrized by $\mathscr{P}_1(n)$.

If $\lambda, \eta \in \mathscr{P}_1(n)$, then $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{1,\eta}^{\bullet}} \subsetneq \overline{\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}^{\bullet}}$ if and only if $\eta < \lambda$, where $\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}^{\bullet}$ is either $\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}$, $\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}^I$ or $\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}^{II}$ according to whether λ is very even or not.

Given $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}(n)$, there exists a unique $\lambda^+ \in \mathscr{P}_1(n)$ such that $\lambda^+ \leq \lambda$, and if $\eta \in \mathscr{P}_1(n)$ verifies $\eta \leq \lambda$, then $\eta \leq \lambda^+$.

Case \mathfrak{sp}_n . For $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, set

 $\mathscr{P}_{-1}(n) := \{ \lambda \in \mathscr{P}(n) ; \text{ number of parts of each odd number is even} \}.$

By [CM93, Theorem 5.1.3], nilpotent orbits of \mathfrak{sp}_n are parametrized by $\mathscr{P}_{-1}(n)$. For $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r) \in \mathscr{P}_{-1}(n)$, we shall denote by $\mathbb{O}_{-1,\lambda}$, or simply by \mathbb{O}_{λ} when there is no possible confusion, the corresponding nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{sp}_n . As in the case of \mathfrak{sl}_n , if $\lambda, \eta \in \mathscr{P}_{-1}(n)$, then $\mathbb{O}_{-1,\eta} \subset \overline{\mathbb{O}_{-1,\lambda}}$ if and only if $\eta \leq \lambda$.

Given $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}(n)$, there exists a unique $\lambda^- \in \mathscr{P}_{-1}(n)$ such that $\lambda^- \leq \lambda$, and if $\eta \in \mathscr{P}_{-1}(n)$ verifies $\eta \leq \lambda$, then $\eta \leq \lambda^-$.

Definition 4.1. Let $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(n)$. An ε -degeneration of λ is an element $\eta \in \mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(n)$ such that $\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta} \subseteq \overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}$, that is, $\eta \leq \lambda$.

4.2. Some general facts. Let \mathbb{O} be a nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{g} . Recall that the singular locus of $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ is $\overline{\mathbb{O}} \setminus \mathbb{O}$. This was shown by Namikawa [N04] using results of Kaledin and Panyushev [Ka06, P91]; see [Hen15, Section 2] for a recent review. This result also follows from Kraft and Procesi's work in the classical types [KP81, KP82], and from the main theorem of [FJLS15] in the exceptional types.

Theorem 4.2 ([KP82, Theorem 1]). Let \mathbb{O} be a nilpotent orbit in \mathfrak{o}_n or \mathfrak{sp}_n .

- (1) $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ is normal if and only if it is unibranch.
- (2) $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ is normal if and only if it is normal in codimension 2.

In particular, $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ is normal if it does not contain a nilpotent orbit $\mathbb{O}' \leq \mathbb{O}$ of codimension 2. Theorem 4.2 does not hold if $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2n}$ and if $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}$, with λ very even.

Theorem 4.3 ([Hes79]). Let $\varepsilon \in \{-1, 1\}$ and $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(n)$.

- (1) Assume $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{o}_n$. If $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 4$, then $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}}$ is normal.
- (2) Assume $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}_n$. If $\lambda_1 \leq 2$, then $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{-1,\lambda}}$ is normal.

Theorem 4.3 does not hold if $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2n}$ and if $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{O}_{1,\lambda}$ with λ very even.

4.3. Minimal ε -degeneration. We present in this subsection the combinatorial method developed in [KP82] to determine the equivalence class $\operatorname{Sing}(\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}, \mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta})$, for $\varepsilon \in \{-1, 1\}$ and $\eta < \lambda$.

Definition 4.4 ([KP82, Definition 3.1]). An ε -degeneration $\eta \leq \lambda$ is called *minimal* if $\eta \neq \lambda$ and there is no $\nu \in \mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(n)$ such $\eta < \nu < \lambda$ (i.e., $\nu < \lambda$ are adjacent in the ordering on $\mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(n)$).

In geometrical terms this means that the orbit $\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta}$ is open in the complement of $\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}$ in $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}$.

By Theorem 4.2, for the normality question, it is enough to consider minimal ε -degeneration of codimension 2 (except for the very even nilpotent orbits in \mathfrak{so}_{2n}). Kraft and Procesi introduced a combinatorial equivalence on ε -degenerations [KP82].

Proposition 4.5 ([KP82, Proposition 3.2]). Let $\eta \leq \lambda$ be an ε -degeneration. Assume that for two integers r and s the first r rows and the first s columns of η and λ coincide and that $(\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_r)$ is an element of $\mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_r)$. Denote by η' and λ' be the partitions obtained by erasing these common rows and columns of η and λ respectively and put $\varepsilon' := (-1)^s \varepsilon$. Then $\eta' \leq \lambda'$ is an ε' -degeneration and

$$\operatorname{codim}(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon',\eta'},\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon',\lambda'})=\operatorname{codim}(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta},\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}).$$

Definition 4.6 ([KP82, Definition 3.3]). In the setting of Proposition 4.5 we say that the ε -degeneration $\eta \leq \lambda$ is obtained from the ε' -degeneration $\eta' \leq \lambda'$ by adding rows and columns.

An ε -degeneration $\eta \leq \lambda$ is called *irreducible* if it cannot be obtained by adding rows and columns in a non trivial way.

In the setting of Proposition 4.5, when we obtain an irreducible pair (η', λ') , such a pair is called the *type of* $(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon, \eta}, \mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon, \lambda})$.

Remark 4.7. (1) In the previous setting, $\eta' \leq \lambda'$ is minimal if and only if $\eta \leq \lambda$ is minimal.

(2) Any ε -degeneration is obtained in a unique way from an irreducible ε' degeneration by adding rows and columns.

So for the classification of the minimal ε -degenerations, one needs to describe the minimal irreducible ε -degenerations. They are given in [KP82, Table 3.4]. We reproduce it (see Table 4) since it will be our main tool in Section 5. In the sixth line, "codim" refers to the codimension of $\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta}$ in $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}$. The meaning of the last column of the table is explained in [KP82, §§14.2 and 14.3]. For our purpose, what is important is that, except for the type e, the singularity of $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}$ in $\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta}$ is normal.

Type	Lie algebra	ε	λ	η	codim	$\operatorname{Sing}(\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\boldsymbol{\lambda}}},\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\boldsymbol{\eta}})$
a	\mathfrak{sp}_2	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	2	A_1
b	$\mathfrak{sp}_{2n}, n > 1$	-1	(2n)	(2n-1,2)	2	D_{n+1}
<i>c</i>	$\mathfrak{so}_{2n+1}, n > 0$	1	(2n+1)	(2n-1,1,1)	2	A_{2n-1}
d	$\mathfrak{sp}_{4n+2}, n > 0$	-1	(2n+1, 2n+1)	(2n, 2n, 2)	2	A_{2n-1}
e	$\mathfrak{so}_{4n}, n > 0$	1	(2n, 2n)	(2n-1, 2n-1, 1, 1)	2	$A_{2n-1} \cup A_{2n-1}$
f	$\mathfrak{so}_{2n+1}, n > 1$	1	$(2, 2, 1^{2n-1})$	(1^{2n+1})	4n - 4	b_n
g	$\mathfrak{sp}_{2n}, n > 1$	-1	$(2,1^{2n-2})$	(1^{2n})	2n	c_n
h	$\mathfrak{so}_{2n}, n > 2$	1	$(2, 2, 1^{2n-4})$	(1^{2n})	4n - 6	d_n

TABLE 4. Irreducible minimal ε -degenerations

The main result is the following.

Theorem 4.8 ([KP82, Theorem 12.3]). Let $\eta \leq \lambda$ be the ε -degeneration obtained from the ε' -degeneration $\eta' \leq \lambda'$ by adding rows and columns. Then

$$\operatorname{Sing}(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\boldsymbol{\lambda}},\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\boldsymbol{\eta}}) = \operatorname{Sing}(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon',\boldsymbol{\lambda}'},\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon',\boldsymbol{\eta}'}).$$

Since very even nilpotent orbits in \mathfrak{so}_{2n} do not appear as known associated varieties of vertex algebras, we do not give here the results about the normality question in this case: the question was partially answered in [KP82, Theorem 17.3], the remaining cases were dealt with in [So05].

5. IRREDUCIBILITY OF NILPOTENT SLODOWY SLICES AS ASSOCIATED VARIETIES

Using the results of the previous sections we are now in position to check the following: for any nilpotent orbit \mathbb{O} of \mathfrak{g} appearing in Table 1, and for any $f \in \overline{\mathbb{O}}$, $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is irreducible.

We prove the statement by cases in Table 1.

* Case (1). We have $\mathbb{O} = \mathcal{N}$. Here the result is well-known (or results from Lemma 3.1).

* Cases (2). First we assume that \mathfrak{g} is of exceptional type. Then we have to check that none of the nilpotent orbits appearing in Tables 4–10 of [A15a] appears in Table 2. We readily verify that it is true and so we are done. Actually, none of these nilpotent orbits (except the nilpotent orbit \tilde{A}_1 in G_2) even appears in Table 3.

For the classical types, we have more work to do. The result will follow from §5.1. * Cases (3), (4) or (5). Here $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{O}_{min}$ and so the result is clear since either $f \in \mathbb{O}_{min}$ or f = 0.

* Cases (6). Here $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}$. According to Theorem 4.3 (1), $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$ is normal and so it is unibranch by Theorem 4.2 (1). Hence for any $f \in \overline{\mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}}$, $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ is irreducible.

5.1. Admissible cases in the classical types. In this subsection, we give the necessary data to verify that all nilpotent orbits of Tables 2–3 of $[A15a]^2$ have normal closures. The case of \mathfrak{sl}_n is clear, so we only consider the cases where $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}_{2r}, \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1}$ and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r}$.

First of all, we observe that no very even nilpotent orbits in \mathfrak{so}_{2r} appear in these tables. Then results of Section 4 apply and our strategy is the following.

Let $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_{\varepsilon}(n)$ be anyone (as in the footnote 2) of the partitions appearing in Tables 2–3 of [A15a]. Then consider all minimal ε -degenerations η of λ such that

$$\operatorname{codim}(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\boldsymbol{\eta}},\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\boldsymbol{\lambda}}})=2.$$

It may happen that there are several such a η for a given λ , or that there is no such a η (in this case, $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}$ does not contain any nilpotent orbit in codimension 2, and so it is normal).

Then the type of the singularity of $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\lambda}}$ in $\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon,\eta}$ is obtained following the receipt of Proposition 4.5: we erase common rows and common columns in η and λ in order to get an irreducible pair (λ', η') and we set $\varepsilon' = (-1)^s$, where s is the number of common columns. The type of $(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon',\lambda'}, \mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon',\eta'})$ is described in Table 4 and we conclude thanks to Theorem 4.8.

According to Theorem 4.3, we can assume that $\lambda_1 \ge 3$ (λ_1 will be q is our tables).

For each λ as in Tables 1,2,3 of [A15a] (as in the footnote 2), we present in the Tables 5, 6 and 7 all possible η as above, the number ε' , the corresponding irreducible pair (λ', η') , and the type of $(\mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon', \lambda'}, \mathbb{O}_{\varepsilon', \eta'})$ following Table 4.

Case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}_{2r}$. Here $\varepsilon = -1$. According to [A15a, Tables 2-3], the different possibilities for $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_{-1}(2r)$ are the following:

I: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q \text{ odd}, s \text{ even.}$ II: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, q - 1, s), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q \text{ odd}, s \text{ even.}$ III: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q \text{ even}, s \text{ even.}$ IV: $\lambda = (q + 1, q, \dots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q \text{ odd}, s \text{ even.}$ V: $\lambda = (q + 1, q, \dots, q, q - 1, s), 2 \leq s \leq q - 1, q \text{ odd}, s \text{ even.}$

Case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1}$. Here $\varepsilon = 1$. According to [A15a, Tables 2-3] and the footnote 2, the different possibilities for $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_1(2r+1)$ are the following:

I: $\lambda = (q, \ldots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q, q$ odd with even multiplicity, s odd.

II: $\lambda = (q, \ldots, q, s, 1), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q$ odd with odd multiplicity, s odd.

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²Not every nilpotent orbits of these tables appear as associated variety of admissible vertex algebras. Namely, in Table 2, the case where q is even in \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1} does not appear in such a way so we do not consider that case.

λ	q, s	η	ε'	λ'	η'	Type
I	$0\leqslant s\leqslant q-3$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,q-1,s+2)$	-1	(q-s,q-s)	(q-s-1, q-s-1, 2)	d
	$4 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 1$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,2)$	-1	(s)	(s-2,2)	b
	s = 2	$(q,\ldots,q,1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
II	$0 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 5$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-3,s+2)$	-1	(q - 1 - s)	(q-3-s,2)	b
	s = q - 3	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
	$4 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 1$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,s-2,2)$	-1	(s)	(s-2,2)	b
	s = 2	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
III	$0 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 2$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+2)$	-1	(q-s)	(q-s-2,2)	b
	s = q - 2	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,s+1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
	$4 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 1$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,2)$	-1	(s)	(s-2,2)	b
	s = 2	$(q,\ldots,q,1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
IV	$0 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 3$	$(q+1, q, \ldots, q, q-1, q-1, s+2)$	-1	(q-s,q-s)	(q-s-1, q-s-1, 2)	d
	$4 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 1$	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,s-2,2)$	-1	(s)	(s-2,2)	b
	s = 2	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
\mathbf{V}	$0 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 5$	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,q-3,s+2)$	-1	(q - 1 - s)	(q-3-s,2)	b
	s = q - 3	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a
	$4 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 1$	$(q+1, q, \dots, q, q-1, s-2, 2)$	-1	(s)	(s-2,2)	b
	s = 2	$(q+1, q, \dots, q, q-1, 1, 1)$	-1	(2)	(1,1)	a

TABLE 5. Data for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sp}_{2r}$

III: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q$ even, s odd. IV: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, q - 1, s, 1), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q$ even, s odd.

λ	q, s	η	ε'	λ'	η^\prime	Type
Ι	$0\leqslant s\leqslant q-4$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+2)$	-1	(q-s)	(q-s-2,2)	b
	$3 \leqslant s \leqslant q$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,1,1)$	1	(s)	(s-2, 1, 1)	c
	s = q - 2	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,q-1)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
II	$0 \leqslant s \leqslant q-4$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+2,1)$	-1	(q-s)	(q - s - 2, 2)	b
	$5 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 1$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,3)$	-1	(s - 1)	(s - 3, 2)	b
	s = 3	$(q,\ldots,q,2,2)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
III	$0 \leqslant s \leqslant q - 3$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,q-1,s+2)$	-1	(q-s,q-s)	(q-1-s, q-s-1, 2)	d
	$3 \leqslant s \leqslant q$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,1,1)$	1	(s)	(s-2, 1, 1)	c
IV	$1 \leqslant s \leqslant q-5$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-3,s+2,1)$	-1	(q - 1 - s)	(q-3-s,2)	b
	s = q - 3	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
	$5 \leqslant s \leqslant q-1$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,s-2,3)$	-1	(s - 1)	(s - 3, 2)	b
	s = 3	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,2,2)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a

TABLE 6. Data for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1}$

Case $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r}$. Here $\varepsilon = 1$. According to [A15a, Table 2], the different possibilities for $\lambda \in \mathscr{P}_1(2r)$ are the following:

I: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q, q$ odd with odd multiplicity, *s* odd. II: $\lambda = (q, \dots, q, s, 1), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q$ odd with even multiplicity, *s* odd. III: $\lambda = (q + 1, q, \dots, q, s), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q$ even, *s* odd. IV: $\lambda = (q + 1, q, \dots, q, q - 1, s, 1), 0 \leq s \leq q - 1, q$ even, *s* odd.

Remark 5.1. The above verifications show that, except for the non-normal nilpotent orbit \tilde{A}_1 of dimension 8 in G_2 that appears as the associated variety of simple affine vertex algebras of type G_2 at admissible levels with denominator 2 [A15a], all the other nilpotent orbits appearing in Table 1 are actually normal.

λ	q,s	η	ε'	λ'	η^\prime	Type
Ι	$0\leqslant s\leqslant q-4$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+2)$	-1	(q-s)	(q - s - 2, 2)	b
	$3 \leqslant s \leqslant q$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,1,1)$	1	(s)	(s-2,1,1)	c
	s = q - 2	$(q,\ldots,q,q-1,s+1)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
II	$0\leqslant s\leqslant q-4$	$(q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+2,1)$	-1	(q-s)	(q - s - 2, 2)	b
	$5\leqslant s\leqslant q-1$	$(q,\ldots,q,s-2,3)$	-1	(s - 1)	(s - 3, 2)	b
	s = 3	$(q,\ldots,q,2,2)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
III	$3\leqslant s\leqslant q-1$	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,s-2,1,1)$	1	(s)	(s-2, 1, 1)	c
	$0\leqslant s\leqslant q-3$	$(q+1, q, \dots, q, q-1, q-1, s+2)$	-1	(q-s,q-s)	(q-1-s, q-1-s, 2)	d
	s = 2	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
IV	$0\leqslant s\leqslant q-5$	$(q+1, q, \dots, q, q-3, s+2, 1)$	-1	(q-1-s)	(q - 3 - s, 2)	b
	s = q - 3	$(q+1,q,\ldots,q,q-2,s+1,1)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a
	$5\leqslant s\leqslant q-1$	$(q+1, q, \dots, q, q-1, s-2, 3)$	-1	(s - 1)	(s - 3, 2)	b
	s = 3	$(q+1, q, \dots, q, q-1, 2, 2)$	-1	(2)	(1, 1)	a

TABLE 7. Data for $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r}$

6. Proof of Conjecture 2 of [AM16]

In this section we prove the following assertion.

Theorem 6.1 (Conjecture 2 of [AM16]). Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r}$ with r even, $r \ge 4$, and let k = 2 - r. Then

$$X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2}, 1^4)}}.$$

Proof. Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r}$ with r even, $r \ge 4$. Let $\Delta = \{\pm \varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j \mid 1 \le i, j \le r, i \ne j\}$ be the root system of \mathfrak{g} and take $\Delta_+ = \{\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j \mid 1 \le i < j \le r\}$ for the set of positive roots.

By Theorem 1.3 of [AM16] we know that $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \subset \overline{\mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}}$. Hence it is sufficient to show that $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \supset \overline{\mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}}$. By Theorem 2.1 (1), this is equivalent to that

$$H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g})) \neq 0 \quad \text{for} \quad f \in \mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}.$$

Let $f \in \mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}$, and let (e, f, h) be an \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triple in \mathfrak{g} . The weighted Dynkin diagram of f is the following.



Thus, we may assume that $h = \varpi_{2r-2}^{\vee}$, where ϖ_i^{\vee} is the *i*-th fundamental coweight of \mathfrak{g} . We have

(1)
$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{-1/2} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{1/2} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1,$$

where $\mathfrak{g}_j = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [h, x] = 2jx\}$. Set $\Delta_j = \{\alpha \in \Delta \mid x_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}_j\}$, so that $\Delta = \bigsqcup_j \Delta_j$. Set

$$D_h = D + \frac{1}{2}h,$$

and put $V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[d]} = \{v \in V_k(\mathfrak{g}) \mid D_h v = dv\}$. Since $\alpha(D_h) \ge 0$ for any positive real root α of $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ by (1), we have

$$V_k(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigoplus_{d \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[d]}.$$

The operator D_h extends to the grading operator of $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ as it commutes with the differential of the complex associated with the Drinfeld-Sokolov reduction ([KRW03, A05]). Thus,

$$H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g})) = \bigoplus_{d \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))_{[d]},$$

where $H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))_{[d]} = \{c \in H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g})) \mid D_h c = dc\}.$

Now, let \mathfrak{a} be the sualgebra of $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ generated by $x_{\alpha} \otimes t$, $\alpha \in \Delta_{-1}$, x_{β} , $\beta \in \Delta_0$, $x_{\gamma} \otimes t^{-1}$, $\gamma \in \Delta_1$. Then \mathfrak{a} is isomorphic to

$$\mathfrak{g}_{even} := \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1 \subset \mathfrak{g},$$

and \mathfrak{a} acts on the each homogeneous subspace $V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[d]}$ as its elements commute with D_h . We have

$$\mathfrak{g}_{even} \cong \mathfrak{so}_{2(r-2)} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2,$$

where $\mathfrak{so}_{2(r-2)}$ is the subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} corresponding to the roots $\pm \epsilon_i \pm \epsilon_j$ with $1 \leq i < j \leq r-2$, and $\mathfrak{sl}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2$ is the subalgebra corresponding to the roots $\pm \epsilon_{r-1} \pm \epsilon_r$.

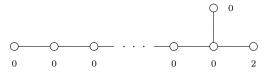
Let $\mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{l} \oplus \mathfrak{m}$ be the parabolic subalgebra of \mathfrak{a} whose nilradical \mathfrak{m} is $\{x_{\alpha} \otimes t \mid \alpha \in \Delta_{-1}\}$. The Levi subalgebra \mathfrak{l} is isomorphic to

$$\mathfrak{g}_0 \cong \mathfrak{gl}_{r-2} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2.$$

The \mathfrak{a} -module $V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[0]}$ is a highest weight representation of \mathfrak{a} with highest weight $((2-r)\varpi_{2(r-2)}, 0, 0)$ under the isomorphism $\mathfrak{a} \cong \mathfrak{so}_{2(r-2)} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2$. This weight verifies the conditions of the Jantzen's simplicity criterion [J77] (see also [Hu08, Section 9.13]). Thus from Jantzen's simplicity criterion one finds that

(2)
$$V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[0]} \cong U(\mathfrak{a}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{p})} \mathbb{C}[0)$$

The nilpotent element $f \otimes t \in \mathfrak{m} \subset \mathfrak{a}$ belongs to $\mathfrak{so}_{2(r-2)}$ under the isomorphism $\mathfrak{a} \cong \mathfrak{so}_{2(r-2)} \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2$, and is a very even nilpotent element that corresponds to the partition (2^{r-2}) . The weighted Dynkin diagram of $f \otimes t$ as nilpotent element of $\mathfrak{so}_{2(r-2)}$ is given by



From the definition of the Drinfeld-Sokolov reduction we find that

$$H^0_{DS,f}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))_{[0]} \cong H_0(\mathfrak{m}_-, V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[0]} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\chi}),$$

where \mathfrak{m}_{-} is the opposite algebra of \mathfrak{m} spanned by $x_{\alpha} \otimes t^{-1}$, $\alpha \in \Delta_1$, so that $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{m}_{-} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$, and \mathbb{C}_{χ} is the one-dimensional representation of \mathfrak{m}_{-} defined by the character $x \mapsto (x|f \otimes t)$. Since $V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[0]}$ is a free $U(\mathfrak{m}_{-})$ -module by (2), it follows that $H_0(\mathfrak{m}_{-}, V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[0]} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\chi}) \cong H_0(\mathfrak{m}_{-}, V_k(\mathfrak{g})_{[0]}) \cong \mathbb{C}$, and therefore $H_{DS,f}^0(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))_{[0]}$ is nonzero. Thus, $H_{DS,f}^0(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is nonzero, and this completes the proof. \Box

Let $f \in \mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}$. By Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 6.1, $\mathcal{W}_{2-r}(\mathfrak{so}_{2r}, f)$, for r even, is lisse. The central charge of $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{so}_{2r}, f)$ is given by

$$-\frac{(k+r-2)\left(3kr-6k+2r^2-12r+10\right)}{k+2r-2}$$

In particular the central charge of $\mathcal{W}_{2-r}(\mathfrak{so}_{2r}, f)$ is zero. Note that the central charge of $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ is zero if $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$ is trivial.

Conjecture 2. Let r be even, $r \ge 4$, and $f \in \mathbb{O}_{(2^{r-2},1^4)}$.

- (1) $\mathcal{W}_{2-r}(\mathfrak{so}_{2r}, f) = \mathbb{C}.$
- (2) $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{so}_{2r}, f)$ is lisse for any integer k such that $k \ge 2 r$.

Parts (1) and (2) of Conjecture 2 are true for r = 4 by [AM15]. Also, Part (2) of the conjecture is true for k = 2 - r as mentioned just above.

7. The short nilpotent orbit closure in type B

In this section, $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1}$ with $r \ge 3$. Let $\Delta = \{\pm \varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j, \pm \varepsilon_j \mid 1 \le i, j \le r, i \ne j\}$ be the root system of \mathfrak{g} and take $\Delta_+ = \{\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j, \varepsilon_k \mid 1 \le i < j \le r, 1 \le k \le r\}$ for the set of positive roots.

Denote by (e_i, h_i, f_i) the Chevalley generators of \mathfrak{g} in the Bourbaki numbering, and fix the root vectors $e_\alpha, f_\alpha, \alpha \in \Delta_+$ so that $(h_i, i = 1, \ldots, r) \cup (e_\alpha, f_\alpha, \alpha \in \Delta_+)$ is a Chevalley basis satisfying the conditions of [Ga82, Chapter IV, Definition 6]. Denote by $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_r$ the corresponding simple roots of \mathfrak{g} . Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{n}_- \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{n}_+$ be the corresponding triangular decomposition. For $\alpha \in \Delta_+$, denote by $h_\alpha = [e_\alpha, f_\alpha]$ the corresponding coroot.

Denote by $\varpi_1, \ldots, \varpi_r$ the fundamental weights and by $\varpi_1^{\vee}, \ldots, \varpi_r^{\vee}$ the corresponding fundamental co-weights. Note that ϖ_i^{\vee} and $\kappa^{\sharp}(\varpi_i)$ are proportional, with $\kappa^{\sharp} \colon \mathfrak{h}^* \to \mathfrak{h}$ the isomorphism induced from (|). In particular $\kappa^{\sharp}(\varpi_1) = \varpi_1^{\vee}$.

There is a unique short nilpotent orbit \mathbb{O}_{short} in \mathfrak{g} , which is the nilpotent orbit associated with the \mathfrak{sl}_2 -triple $(e_{\theta_s}, h_{\theta_s}, f_{\theta_s})$, where θ_s is the highest short root ε_1 and where $h_{\theta_s} = 2\varpi_1^{\vee}$. So,

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_{-1} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1,$$

where $\mathfrak{g}_j = \{x \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [h_{\theta_s}, x] = 2jx\}$. The nilpotent orbit \mathbb{O}_{short} is labeled by the partition $(3, 1^{2r-2})$, and its weighted Dynkin diagram is given by

We have

$$\mathfrak{g}^{\sharp} := \mathfrak{g}_0^{f_{\theta_s}} = \langle e_\alpha, f_\alpha \mid \alpha = \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j, \varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_j ; 2 \leqslant i < j \leqslant r \rangle \cong \mathfrak{so}_{2r-2}.$$

In particular, \mathfrak{g}^{\natural} is simple. As a module over $\mathfrak{g}^{\natural} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r-2}$, \mathfrak{g}_{-2} decomposes as $\mathfrak{g}_{-2} \cong \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}^{2r-2}$.

In this section we prove the following assertion.

Theorem 7.1. Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1}$, with $r \ge 3$, and let k = -2. Then

$$X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}.$$

Let w_2 be the singular vector with respect to the adjoint action of \mathfrak{g} as in [AM15, Theorem 4.2] which generates the irreducible representation W_2 of \mathfrak{g} with highest weight $\theta + \theta_2$ in $S^2(\mathfrak{g})$, where $S^2(\mathfrak{g})$ is the component of $S(\mathfrak{g})$ of degree 2 and θ_2 is the highest root of the simple Lie algebra generated by the roots $\alpha_3, \ldots, \alpha_r$. Namely,

$$w_2 = e_{\theta}e_{\theta_2} - \sum_{j=1}^2 e_{\beta_j + \theta_2}e_{\delta_j + \theta_2},$$

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with $\beta_1 := \alpha_2$, $\delta_1 := \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$, $\beta_2 := \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$, $\delta_2 := \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$. Then $\sigma(w_2)$ is a singular vector of $V^k(\mathfrak{g})$ if and only if k = -2 [AM15, Theorem 4.2] where σ is the natural embedding of \mathfrak{g} -modules from $S^2(\mathfrak{g})$ to $V^k(\mathfrak{g})_2 := \{v \in V^k(\mathfrak{g}) \mid Dv = -2v\}$ (see [AM15, Lemma 4.1]).

Denote by $V(W_2)$ the zero locus in $\mathfrak{g}^* \cong \mathfrak{g}$ of the ideal of $S(\mathfrak{g})$ generated by W_2 .

Lemma 7.2. We have $V(W_2) \cap \mathcal{N} \subset \overline{\mathbb{O}_{(3,1^{n-3})}}$.

Proof. We observe that that $(3, 1^{2r-2}) \in \mathscr{P}_1(2r+1)$ is the unique minimal 1degeneration of $(3, 2^2, 1^{2r-6}) \in \mathscr{P}_1(2r+1)$ (see Definitions 4.1 and 4.4). Therefore, it is enough to show that $V(W_2)$ do not contain $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{(3,2^2,1^{2r-6})}}$. To proceed, we apply [AM16, Lemma 3.3] and we argue as in the proofs of Lemma 7.6 and Lemma 9.2 of [AM16]. Since the verification are similar we omit the details here.

Set $S(\mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{h}} = \{x \in S(\mathfrak{g}) \mid [h, x] = 0 \text{ for all } h \in \mathfrak{h}\}$ and let $\Psi \colon S(\mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{h}} \to S(\mathfrak{h})$ be the Chevalley projection map.

Lemma 7.3. The zero weight space of W_2 has dimension r(r-1)/2.

Proof. It is easy to verify the statement for r = 3 and r = 4 where W_2 has highest weight $2\varpi_r$. For $r \ge 5$, W_2 has highest weight ϖ_4 . Hence $W_2 \cong \wedge^4 \mathbb{C}^{2r+1}$ and it is easy to show that the zero weight space of W_2 has dimension r(r-1)/2.

Set $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)} := \Psi(W_2 \cap S(\mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{h}})$. By Lemma 7.3, $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ has dimension r(r-1)/2.

Lemma 7.4. We can describe a set of generators of $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ by induction on r as follows. Set

$$p_1^{(3)} := h_1 h_3, \quad p_2^{(3)} := (2h_2 + h_3)h_3, \quad p_3^{(3)} := (h_1 + h_2)h_2 + (h_2 h_3)/2.$$

Assume that $r \ge 4$ and that generators $p_1^{(k)}, \ldots, p_{k(k-1)/2}^{(k)}$ of $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(k)}$ have been constructed for any $k \in \{3, \ldots, r-1\}$. Set:

$$p_j^{(r)} := h_1 h_{j+2}, \ j = 1, \dots, r-2, \quad p_k^{(r)} := p_k^{(r-1)}, \ k = r-1, \dots, r(r-1)/2 - 1,$$
$$p_l^{(r)} := (h_1 + h_2)h_2 + \tilde{p}_1^{(r)}, \ l = r(r-1)/2,$$

where $\tilde{p}_1^{(r)}$ is a homogeneous polynomial of degree 2 in the variables h_2, \ldots, h_r with no term in h_2^2 . Then $p_1^{(r)}, \ldots, p_{r(r-1)/2}^{(r)}$ generate $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$.

Proof. Since the r(r-1)/2 elements $p_i^{(r)}$ as described in the lemma are linearly independent, it suffices to prove that they are elements of $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ by Lemma 7.3.

First of all, we have the following relations whose verifications are left to the reader:

$$\begin{split} & [f_{\beta_1+\theta_2}, [f_{\delta_1+\theta_2}, w_2]] \equiv h_{\delta_1+\theta_2} h_{\beta_1+\theta_2}, \qquad [f_{\delta_2+\theta_2}, [f_{\beta_2+\theta_2}, w_2]] \equiv h_{\delta_2+\theta_2} h_{\beta_2+\theta_2}, \\ & [f_{\theta_2}, [f_{\theta}, w_2]] \equiv h_{\theta} h_{\theta_2}, \qquad [f_{\alpha_4}, [f_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4+2(\alpha_5+\cdots+\alpha_r)}, [f_{\theta}, w_2]]] \equiv h_{\theta} h_{\alpha_4}, \\ & [f_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4}, [f_{\alpha_4+2(\alpha_5+\cdots+\alpha_r)}, [f_{\theta}, w_2]]] \equiv h_{\theta} h_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4}, \end{split}$$

where \equiv means that the equality is modulo $(\mathfrak{n}_{-} + \mathfrak{n}_{+})S(\mathfrak{g})$. Moreover, if $r \geq 5$ then for any $j = 5, \ldots, r-1$:

$$[f_{\alpha_4+\dots+\alpha_j}, [f_{\alpha_3+\dots+\alpha_j+2(\alpha_{j+1}+\dots+\alpha_r)}, [f_{\theta}, w_2]]] \equiv h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4+\dots+\alpha_j}.$$

From this, we deduce that the elements

 $h_{\delta_1+\theta_2}h_{\beta_1+\theta_2}, \quad h_{\delta_2+\theta_2}h_{\beta_2+\theta_2}, \quad h_{\theta}h_{\theta_2}, \quad h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4}, \quad h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4}$

are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$. Moreover, if $r \ge 5$, then the element $h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4+\cdots+\alpha_j}$ is in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ for any $j = 5, \ldots, r-1$. For $r \ge 5$, $h_{\theta_2} = h_3 + 2h_4 + \cdots + 2h_{r-1} + h_r$, and for r = 4, $h_{\theta_2} = h_3 + h_4$. Then, since the elements $h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4+\cdots+\alpha_{r-1}}$, $h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4+\cdots+\alpha_j} - h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4+\cdots+\alpha_{j-1}}$ for $j = 5, \ldots, r-1$, and $h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4} - h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4}$ are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$, the elements $h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_j}$ also belong to $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ for $j = 3, \ldots, r$ and $r \ge 4$. In conclusion, the elements

(3)
$$h_{\delta_1+\theta_2}h_{\beta_1+\theta_2}, \quad h_{\delta_2+\theta_2}h_{\beta_2+\theta_2}, \quad h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_j} = h_{\theta}h_j, \quad j = 3, \dots, r-1,$$

are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$.

We now prove the statement by induction on r.

* r = 3. Since $q_1^{(3)} := h_{\delta_1 + \theta_2} h_{\beta_1 + \theta_2}$, $q_2^{(3)} := h_{\delta_2 + \theta_2} h_{\beta_2 + \theta_2}$ and $q_3^{(3)} := h_{\theta} h_{\theta_2}$ are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(3)}$, the elements $p_1^{(3)} = q_2^{(3)} - q_1^{(3)} = h_1 h_3$, $p_2^{(3)} = q_3^{(3)} - h_1 h_3 = (2h_2 + h_3)h_3$ and $p_3^{(3)} = (q_1^{(3)} - q_3^{(3)})/2 = (h_1 + h_2)h_2 + (h_2h_3)/2$ are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(3)}$ too, whence the statement.

* r = 4. Let \mathfrak{g}' be the subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} of type B_3 generated by $\alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4$ and assume the statement true for \mathfrak{g}' . We denote by w'_2 the elements of $S^2(\mathfrak{g}')$ corresponding to \mathfrak{g}' , and by $\theta', \theta'_2, \beta'_j, \delta'_j, j = 1, 2$, the roots corresponding to $\theta, \theta_2, \beta_j, \delta_j, j = 1, 2$, for \mathfrak{g}' . A direct computation shows that

(4)
$$[f_{\alpha_1+\alpha_2}, [f_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4}, w_2]] = e_{\theta'} e_{\theta'_2} - \sum_{k=1}^2 e_{\beta'_j+\theta'_2} e_{\delta'_j+\theta'_2} = w'_2$$

It follows from (4) that the elements $p_1^{(3)} = h_2 h_4$, $p_2^{(3)} = (2h_3 + h_4)h_4$ and $p_3^{(3)} = (h_2 + h_3)h_3 + (h_3h_4)/2$ are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(4)}$. Moreover, by (3), since $q_1^{(4)} := h_{\delta_1 + \theta_2} h_{\beta_1 + \theta_2}$, $q_2^{(4)} := h_{\delta_2 + \theta_2} h_{\beta_2 + \theta_2}$, $q_3^{(4)} := h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_3}$ and $q_4^{(4)} := h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_4}$ are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(4)}$, the elements $q_2^{(4)} - q_1^{(4)} = h_1h_3$, $q_4^{(4)} - 2h_2h_4 - (2h_3 + h_4)h_4 = h_1h_4$ and $q_1^{(4)} - h_1h_3 - h_1h_4 = (h_1 + h_2)h_2 + (h_3 + h_4)(h_2 + h_3 + h_4)$ are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(4)}$ too. Hence the statement is true for r = 4.

* Assume the statement true for any rank < r. Let \mathfrak{g}' be the subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} of type B_{r-1} generated by $\alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_r$ and assume the statement true for \mathfrak{g}' . We denote by w'_2 the elements of $S^2(\mathfrak{g}')$ corresponding to w_2 for \mathfrak{g}' , and by $\theta', \theta'_2, \beta'_j, \delta'_j, j = 1, 2$, the roots corresponding to $\theta, \theta_2, \beta_j, \delta_j, j = 1, 2$, for \mathfrak{g}' . A direct computation shows that

(5)
$$[f_{\alpha_1+\alpha_2}, [f_{\alpha_3+\alpha_4}, w_2]] = e_{\theta'} e_{\theta'_2} - \sum_{k=1}^2 e_{\beta'_j+\theta'_2} e_{\delta'_j+\theta'_2} = w'_2$$

From (5), we deduce that the elements $p_k^{(r-1)}$, for $k = r - 1, \ldots, r(r-1)/2 - 1$, viewed as polynomials in the variables h_2, \ldots, h_r , are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$. In addition, by (3), $q_1^{(r)} := h_{\delta_1+\theta_2}h_{\beta_1+\theta_2}, q_2^{(r)} := h_{\delta_2+\theta_2}h_{\beta_2+\theta_2}, q_3^{(r)} := h_{\theta}h_{\theta_2}$ and $q_j^{(r)} := h_{\theta}h_{\alpha_j}, j = 3, \ldots, r$, are in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$. We first deduce that $q_2^{(r)} - q_1^{(r)} = h_1h_3$ is in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$. Next, for $j = 4, \ldots, r$, we have

$$q_j^{(r)} = h_1 h_j + h_2 h_j + (h_2 + 2h_3 + \dots + 2h_{r-1} + h_r)h_j,$$

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whence $h_1h_j \in W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ by the induction hypothesis. Finally, we deduce that $q_1^{(r)} - h_1(h_3 + 2h_4 + \dots + 2h_{r-1} + h_r)$ is in $W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ since $h_1h_j \in W_2^{\mathfrak{h},(r)}$ for any $j = 3, \dots, r$. We have proven the expected statement for r.

Lemma 7.5. Let λ be a nonzero semisimple element of $\mathfrak{g}^* \cong \mathfrak{g}$ which belongs to $V(W_2)$. Then either $\lambda \in G.\mathbb{C}\varpi_1$, or $\lambda \in G.\mathbb{C}(-\varpi_{i-1}+\varpi_i)$ for some $i=2,\ldots,r-1$, or $\lambda \in G.\mathbb{C}(-\varpi_{r-1}+2\varpi_r)$. In particular, $\lambda \in V(W_2)$ if and only if $\lambda \in \bigcup_{i=1}^r \mathbb{C}\varepsilon_i = G.\mathbb{C}\varepsilon_1$.

Proof. We have

$$V(W_2) \cap \mathfrak{h}^* = \{ \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^* \mid p(\lambda) = 0 \text{ for all } p \in \Psi(W_2 \cap S(\mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{h}}) \}$$

Since $V(W_2)$ is *G*-invariant, it is enough to prove the lemma for nonzero elements $\lambda \in V(W_2) \cap \mathfrak{h}^*$.

Let $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ that we write as $\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^r \lambda_i \varpi_i$, $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$. It suffices to prove that if $\lambda \in V(W_2)$, then λ is the union of the sets as described in the lemma. Indeed, it is easy to verify that, conversely, these sets all lie in $V(W_2)$.

We prove the statement by induction on r. Assume that $\lambda \in V(W_2)$. By Lemma 7.4, we get

$$\lambda_1 \lambda_3 = 0, \qquad (2\lambda_2 + \lambda_3)\lambda_3 = 0, \qquad (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)\lambda_2 + (\lambda_2 \lambda_3)/2 = 0.$$

So, if $\lambda_3 = 0$, then either $\lambda_2 = 0$, or $\lambda_1 = -\lambda_2$, and if $\lambda_3 \neq 0$, then $\lambda_1 = 0$ and $\lambda_3 = -2\lambda_2$, whence the statement.

Assume $r \ge 4$ and the statement true for any rank < r. We have to solve the systems of equations $p_i^{(r)}(z) = 0$ for $i = 1, \ldots, r(r-1)/2$. Let \mathfrak{g}' be as in the proof of Lemma 7.4. If $\lambda_1 = 0$ then by induction applied to \mathfrak{g}' , we get the statement. Otherwise, using Lemma 7.4 and the equation $0 = p_j^{(r)}(\lambda) = \lambda_1 \lambda_{j+1}$, for $j = 1, \ldots, r-2$, we deduce that $\lambda_3 = \cdots = \lambda_r = 0$. Therefore, from

$$0 = p_{r(r-1)/2}^{(r)}(\lambda) = \lambda_2(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$$

we deduce that either $\lambda_2 = 0$ or $\lambda_1 = -\lambda_2$, whence the statement.

The last assertion is straightforward using the description of the fundamental weights $\varpi_1, \ldots, \varpi_r$.

Denote by \mathfrak{l} the standard Levi subalgebra generated by $\alpha_2, \ldots, \alpha_r$. Then $\mathfrak{l} \simeq \mathbb{C} \times \mathfrak{so}_{2r-2}$ and its center is generated by the semisimple element ϖ_1^{\vee} . Let

$$\mathbb{S}_{short} := \mathbb{S}_{\mathfrak{l}}$$

be the Dixmier sheet associated with \mathfrak{l} (cf. [AM16]). It is the unique sheet containing the nilpotent orbit \mathbb{O}_{short} of \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1} . In fact,

$$\mathbb{O}_{short} = \operatorname{Ind}_{\mathfrak{l}}^{\mathfrak{g}}(0),$$

where $\operatorname{Ind}_{\mathfrak{l}}^{\mathfrak{g}}(0)$ is the induced nilpotent orbit of \mathfrak{g} from 0 in \mathfrak{l} , and \mathbb{O}_{short} cannot be induced in another way, see e.g. [MY16, Appendix]. We have (cf. e.g. [AM16])

$$\overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}} = \overline{G.(\mathbb{C}^*\kappa^\sharp(\varpi_1))}$$

Proposition 7.6. Let \mathfrak{g} , k be as in Theorem 7.1. Then $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \subset \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$.

Proof. Let $\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})$ be the quotient of $V^k(\mathfrak{g})$ by the submodule generated by $\sigma(w_2)$. Then $X_{\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ is the zero locus of the ad \mathfrak{g} -submodule of $S(\mathfrak{g})$ generated by the image of w_2 in $R_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = S(\mathfrak{g})$, that is, $V(W_2)$. By Lemma 7.2, Lemma 7.5 and [AM16, Lemma 2.1 (2)], we obtain that $X_{\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$. This completes the proof as $V_k(\mathfrak{g})$ is a quotient of $\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})$.

Proposition 7.7. Let \mathfrak{g} , k be as in Theorem 7.1. Then $H^0_{f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is nonzero and simple. In particular,

$$X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} \supset \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}.$$

Proof. Consider the subalgebra \mathfrak{a} of $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$ generated by $x_{\alpha} \otimes t$, $\alpha \in \Delta_{-1}$, x_{β} , $\beta \in \Delta_0$, $x_{\gamma} \otimes t^{-1}$, $\gamma \in \Delta_1$, which is isomorphic to \mathfrak{g} . The vacuums vector $|0\rangle$ generates the irreducible representation of $\mathfrak{a} = \mathfrak{g}$ with highest weight $-2\varpi_1$. Then as in the proof of Theorem 6.1, we use Jantzen's simplicity criterion [J77] (see also [Hu08, Section 9.13]) to find that $U(\mathfrak{a})|0\rangle \cong U(\mathfrak{a}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{p})} \mathbb{C}|0\rangle$, where \mathfrak{p} is the parabolic subalgebra of \mathfrak{a} generated by $x_{\alpha} \otimes t$, $\alpha \in \Delta_{-1}$, x_{β} , $\beta \in \Delta_0$. It follows from [AM16, Theorem 6.3] that $H^0_{f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is nonzero and almost irreducible. As $H^0_{f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is cyclic, the almost irreducibity is the same as the simplicity. Finally, the last assertion follows from Theorem 2.1 (2).

Lemma 7.8. Let Y be a G-invariant subvariety of $\overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$ containing $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$. Then $Y = \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$ or $Y = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$.

Proof. By [AM16, Lemma 2.1], $\overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}} = G.\mathbb{C}^*\lambda \cup \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}.$

Let Vir^c denote the universal Virasoro vertex algebra at central charge $c \in \mathbb{C}$, and Vir_c the unique simple quotient of Vir^c. We know that the following conditions are equivalent ([BFM, W93], see also [A12, A15b]):

- (1) Vir_c is rational,
- (2) Vir_c is lisse,
- (3) $c = c_{p,q} := 1 6(p-q)^2/pq$ with $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 2}, (p,q) = 1$.

Theorem 7.9. Let \mathfrak{g} , k be as in Theorem 7.1. We have $H^0_{f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g})) \cong \operatorname{Vir}_{c_{2,2r-3}}$. Thus, $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f_{\theta_s}) \cong \operatorname{Vir}_{c_{2,2r-3}}$. In particular $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f_{\theta_s})$ is lisse and rational.

Proof. First it is straightforward to check that $H^0_{f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ and $\operatorname{Vir}_{c_{2,2r-3}}$ has the same central charge.

Let $\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})$ be as in the proof of Proposition 7.6. Then $X_{H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g}))} = \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}} \cap \mathscr{S}_{f_{\theta_s}}$ by Theorem 2.1. Since $f_{\theta_s} + e_{\theta_s}$ is a semisimple element that is conjugate to h_{θ_s} , we have (see [AM16, Remark 3.5]),

$$X_{H^0_{DS,f_{\theta}}}(\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})) = f_{\theta_s} + \mathbb{C}e_{\theta_s}.$$

This implies that $R_{H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g}))}$ is the polynomial ring generated by the image of the conformal vector L of $H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g}))$. Hence, $H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is strongly generated by L. As $V_k(\mathfrak{g})$ is a quotient of $\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})$, the exactness of $H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(?)$ (Theorem 2.1 (1)) implies that $H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ is also strongly generated by its conformal vector. Since it is simple by Proposition 7.7, $H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ must be isomorphic to $\operatorname{Vir}_{c_{2,2r-3}}$. Proof of Theorem 7.1. By Proposition 7.6 and Proposition 7.7, $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ is a *G*invariant subvariety of $\overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$ containing $\overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$. Thus $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$ or $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$ by Lemma 7.8. But if $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}}$ then $X_{H^0_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}}(\tilde{V}_k(\mathfrak{g})) = \overline{\mathbb{S}_{short}} \cap \mathscr{S}_{f_{\theta_s}}$ is one-dimensional and $H_{DS,f_{\theta_s}}(V_k(\mathfrak{g}))$ cannot be lisse, which contradicts Theorem 7.9, whence $X_{V_k(\mathfrak{g})} = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{short}}$.

Conjecture 3. Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{so}_{2r+1}$, $r \ge 3$. Then $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f_{\theta_s})$ is lisse for any integer k such that $k \ge -2$.

Conjecture 3 is true for k = -2 by Theorem 7.1.

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