# Singularities of nilpotent Slodowy slices and collapsing levels for *W*-algebras

(joint work in progress with Tomoyuki Arakawa)

REPRESENTATION THEORY XVI – Dubrovnik

Anne Moreau June 24, 2019

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 $\rightsquigarrow$  The local geometry of  $\overline{\mathbb{O}}$  at  $f \in \overline{\mathbb{O}}$  is therefore encoded in  $\mathscr{S}_{\mathbb{O},f}$ .

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- More recently, Fu-Juteau-Levy-Sommers (2017) determined the generic singularities in the exceptional types.













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# 1. Collapsing levels for *W*-algebras

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$$V^k(\mathfrak{g}) := U(\hat{\mathfrak{g}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{g}[t] \oplus \mathbb{C}K)} \mathbb{C}_k \stackrel{\mathsf{PBW}}{\cong} U(t^{-1}\mathfrak{g}[t^{-1}]),$$

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Conjecturally (Kac-Wakimoto),

$$\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g},f)\cong H^0_{DS,f}(L_k(\mathfrak{g})),$$

provided that  $H^0_{DS,f}(L_k(\mathfrak{g})) \neq 0$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}$  be the centralizer of the  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -triple (e, h, f).

$$\mathfrak{g}^{\natural} = \mathfrak{g}_0^{\natural} \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{i=1}^s \mathfrak{g}_i^{\natural} \right), \quad \mathfrak{g}_0 := \mathfrak{z}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}), \ \mathfrak{g}_i^{\natural} \text{ simple factors of } [\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}, \mathfrak{g}^{\natural}].$$

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By Kac-Wakimoto (2004), there is an embedding

$$\bigotimes_{i=0}^{\mathfrak{s}} V^{k_{i}^{\mathfrak{k}}}(\mathfrak{g}_{i}^{\mathfrak{k}}) =: V^{k^{\mathfrak{k}}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\mathfrak{k}}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{W}^{k}(\mathfrak{g}, f),$$

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#### Definition (Adamović-Kac-Möseneder-Papi-Perše, 2018)

We say that k is collapsing for  $W_k(g, f)$  if the image of the composition map

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is surjective,

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 $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g},f)\cong L_{k^{\natural}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}).$ 

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where the  $k_i^{\mathfrak{h}}$ 's are some complex numbers determined by  $\mathfrak{g}, f, k$ .

# Definition (Adamović-Kac-Möseneder-Papi-Perše, 2018)

We say that k is collapsing for  $W_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)$  if the image of the composition map

$$V^{k^{\natural}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{W}^{k}(\mathfrak{g}, f) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{W}_{k}(\mathfrak{g}, f)$$

is surjective, that is, if  $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)^{\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}[t]} \cong \mathbb{C}$ , or else if

$$\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g},f)\cong L_{k^{\natural}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}).$$

For example, if  $\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f) \cong \mathbb{C}$ , then k is collapsing.

▶ If k is collapsing, the vertex algebra homomorphism  $\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g}, f) \cong L_{k^{\natural}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural})$  induces an algebra homomorphism,  $\operatorname{Zhu}(\mathcal{W}^k(\mathfrak{g}, f)) \cong U(\mathfrak{g}, f) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Zhu}(L_{k^{\natural}}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural})) \cong U(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural})/I.$ 

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If  $W_k(\mathfrak{g}, f)^{\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}[t]}$  is lisse (e.g. if k is collapsing), then  $W_{k+n}(\mathfrak{g}, f)^{\mathfrak{g}^{\natural}[t]}$  is lisse for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .

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Main example : if  $\mathfrak{g}$  belongs to the Deligne exceptional series,

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If k is collapsing, then

$$X_{\mathcal{W}_k(\mathfrak{g},f)}\cong X_{L_k^{\natural}(\mathfrak{g}^{\natural})},$$

and this is a very restrictive condition on (k, f) as we will see now...

# 2. Associated varieties of vertex algebras

Recall that a *vertex algebra* is a complex vector space V equipped with a distinguished vector  $|0\rangle \in V$ ,

$$\begin{array}{rcl} V & \longrightarrow & (\operatorname{End} V)[[z^{-1},z]] \\ a & \longmapsto & a(z) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_{(n)} z^{-n-1}, \end{array}$$

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The lisse condition implies for instance that V has only finitely many simple modules (Zhu 1996, Abe-Buhl-Dong 2004).

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So  $R_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})}$  is a quotient of  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^*]$  and, hence,  $X_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})}$  is a *G*-invariant, closed cone of  $\mathfrak{g}^* \cong \mathfrak{g}$ .

• We have  $R_{V^k(\mathfrak{g})} = \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^*]$ , equipped with the Kirillov-Kostant-Souriau Poisson structure.

Indeed, there is a Poisson algebra isomorphism,

$$\begin{aligned} R_{V^{k}(\mathfrak{g})} &= V^{k}(\mathfrak{g})/t^{-2}\mathfrak{g}[t^{-1}]V^{k}(\mathfrak{g}) & \stackrel{\sim}{\longleftarrow} & S(\mathfrak{g}) \cong \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^{*}]\\ (x_{1}t^{-1})\dots(x_{r}t^{-1})|0\rangle + t^{-2}\mathfrak{g}[t^{-1}]V^{k}(\mathfrak{g}) & \longleftrightarrow & x_{1}\dots x_{r}. \end{aligned}$$
  
Hence  $X_{V^{k}(\mathfrak{g})} &= \mathfrak{g}^{*}. \end{aligned}$ 

• What about  $X_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})}$ ? We have

$$\frac{R_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})} = L_k(\mathfrak{g})/t^{-2}\mathfrak{g}[t^{-1}]L_k(\mathfrak{g}) \quad \xleftarrow{} \quad S(\mathfrak{g}) \cong \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^*]}{(x_1t^{-1})\dots(x_rt^{-1})|0\rangle + t^{-2}\mathfrak{g}[t^{-1}]L_k(\mathfrak{g}) \quad \xleftarrow{} \quad x_1\dots x_r.$$

So  $R_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})}$  is a quotient of  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{g}^*]$  and, hence,  $X_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})}$  is a *G*-invariant, closed cone of  $\mathfrak{g}^* \cong \mathfrak{g}$ .

 $\rightsquigarrow X_{L_k(\mathfrak{g})}$  is very difficult to compute in general.

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Ex : if g is simply laced, then  $L_k(g)$  is admissible iff  $k = -h^{\vee} + p/q$ , (p,q) = 1,  $p \ge h^{\vee}$ .

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- (Arakawa-M., 2016) If g belongs to the Deligne exceptional series and  $k = -h^{\vee}/6 1 + n$ , with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  such that  $k \notin \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ , then  $X_{L_k(g)} = \overline{\mathbb{O}_{min}}$ .

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In all the above cases, the associated variety of  $L_k(g)$  behaves like the associated variety of primitive ideals in the enveloping algebra.

# Associated varieties of *W*-algebras

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# 3. Main results

Assume that  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_N$  and k is admissible, i.e.,  $k = -n + \frac{p}{q}$ , (p,q) = 1,  $p \ge n$ .

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Question :  $\mathcal{W}_{-14/3}(\mathfrak{sl}_7, f) \cong L_{-8/3}(\mathfrak{sl}_4)$ ? 13

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4. Applications and motivations coming from physics

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$$\begin{split} & \mathsf{Ex}: \mathcal{W}_{-n+n/q}(\mathfrak{sl}_n, f) \cong L_{-\mathfrak{s}+\mathfrak{s}/q}(\mathfrak{sl}_\mathfrak{s}), \ \mathcal{W}_{-12+12/5}(E_6, A_4) \cong L_{-2+2/5}(A_1), \\ & \mathcal{W}_{-12+12/7}(E_6, D_4) \cong L_{-3+3/7}(A_2), \ \mathsf{etc.} \end{split}$$

 The class S theory. For such a 4d N = 2 SCFT the Higgs branch has been defined mathematically by Braverman-Finkelberg-Nakajima 2017 (Moore-Tachikawa's conjecture).

Beem-Rastelli conjecture was proved by Arakawa, 2018.

• The Argyres-Douglas theory. Some of such a 4d  $\mathcal{N}=2$  SCFT are labelled by :

$$\mathfrak{g}$$
 (type  $A, D, E$ ),  $f \in \mathcal{N}$ ,  $b, n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ .

The corresponding vertex algebra is  $\mathcal{W}_{-h^{\vee}+\frac{b}{h+a}}(\mathfrak{g},f)$  (Xie-Yan, 2019).

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# Other conjectures

One can also consider isomorphisms between non-trivial *W*-algebras. Ex :  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_7$ . Pick  $f \in \mathbb{O}_{(3,2^2)} \subset \mathfrak{sl}_7$ , and let  $f' \in \mathbb{O}_{(2^2)} \subset \mathfrak{sl}_4$ .

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$$\mathcal{W}_{-9}(E_6, 2A_2) \cong L_{-3}(G_2), \quad \mathcal{W}_{-12}(E_7, A_2 + 2A_1) \cong L_{-2}(G_2) \mathcal{W}_{-24}(E_8, E_6(a_3)) \cong L_{-2}(G_2), \quad \mathcal{W}_{-6}(F_4, \tilde{A}_2) \cong L_{-2}(G_2), \dots$$

Thank you !