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(anoel@math.umb.edu), University of Massachusetts Boston, Department of Mathematics, Boston, MA 02125-3393. *A new approach to computing generators for the centralizer of K in the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} .* Preliminary report.

Let (G, K) be the complex symmetric pair associated with a real reductive Lie group G_0 , and let $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})^K$ denote the centralizer of K in the universal enveloping algebra $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})$. By a theorem of Harish-Chandra an irreducible (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module is determined up to infinitesimal equivalence by the action of $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})^K$ on any K -primary component.

For this reason, the problem of determining generators for $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})^K$ has been considered by several authors such as Kostant, Tirao, Lepowsky, Zhu and others. In particular, complete results have been obtained only for $G_0 = SU(2, 2)$ and the families $G_0 = SU(n, 1)$ and $G_0 = SO(n, 1)$. Recently, Kostant proved that $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})^K$ is generated by elements of filtration degree $\binom{2 \dim \mathfrak{g}}{2} \dim \mathfrak{p}$, reducing the general problem to a finite but computationally intensive algorithm.

We describe a method by which Kostant's algorithm can be significantly accelerated by exploiting the Kostant-Rallis theorem via a certain homomorphism from $\mathfrak{U}(\mathfrak{g})^K$ to the ring of regular functions on the nilpotent cone in \mathfrak{p} . (Received August 15, 2007)