

AUTOMORPHISMS OF EXTENDED CURRENT ALGEBRAS

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ABSTRACT. We construct a (noncentral) extension of current algebras and study the adjoint action induced by the current group.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let us consider the affine Kač-Moody algebra [5] associated to a finite-dimensional linear reductive Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} ,

$$(1) \quad \hat{\mathfrak{g}} = \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} \oplus \mathbb{C}c \oplus \mathbb{C}d,$$

where $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}} = \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{g}$. $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ is a central extension of $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ and the bracket is defined as follows ($u, v \in \mathfrak{g}; \lambda, \mu, \lambda_1, \mu_1 \in \mathbb{C}$):

$$(2) \quad [t^k \otimes u \oplus \lambda c \oplus \mu d, t^{k_1} \otimes v \oplus \lambda_1 c \oplus \mu_1 d]^\wedge \\ = (t^{k+k_1} \otimes [u, v] + \mu k_1 t^{k_1} \otimes v - \mu_1 k t^k \otimes u) \oplus k \delta_{k, -k_1} (u|v)c.$$

There is a nondegenerate invariant symmetric bilinear form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$ on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ defined by:

$$(3) \quad (t^k \otimes u | t^{k_1} \otimes v)^\wedge = \delta_{k, -k_1} (u|v) \\ (c|d)^\wedge = (d|c)^\wedge = 1 \\ \text{others are zero.}$$

for every $u, v \in \mathfrak{g}$ and $k, k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}$. The group $\tilde{G} = \mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}] \otimes G$ acts on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ by automorphisms [6, 2] as follows:

$$(4) \quad (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)(u(t)) = gu g^{-1}(t) + \text{Res}_0 \text{tr}(u g^{-1} g')c \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)c = c \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)d = -t g' g^{-1} - \frac{1}{2} \text{Res}_0 \text{tr}(g' g^{-1})^2 c + d,$$

for every $g \in \tilde{G}$ and $u \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$; this action preserves the bilinear form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$. Here $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ is the algebra of finite Laurent polynomial maps. By a change of variable

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$t = e^{i\theta}$, each Laurent polynomial map can be realized as a smooth map from S^1 to \mathfrak{g} . This means that we have an injection from the algebra of Laurent polynomial maps into the loop algebra, the algebra of all smooth maps from S^1 to \mathfrak{g} . Since our main interest is the latter, we will keep the notation $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ for the loop algebra unless otherwise specified. More generally the Lie algebra $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}(M)$ of all smooth maps from an arbitrary manifold M to \mathfrak{g} is known as the current algebra [3, 1].

In this paper, we consider a (noncentral) extension of the current algebra and study the automorphisms on the extended algebra induced by the current group. The paper is organized as follows. In §2, inspired by [4], we define an extension $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}(M)$ of the current algebra. In §3, we introduce a bilinear form on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}(M)$ which is shown to be invariant and nondegenerate. In §4, we prove a useful lemma. In §5, we study the adjoint action of the current group on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}(M)$ by automorphisms preserving the bilinear form. We find out that this can be done only when $\dim M \leq 2$. Finally, in §6, we show the previous results generalize the loop algebra case (formulas (2) to (4)) when we take $M = S^1$.

2. EXTENSION OF CURRENT ALGEBRAS

Let G be a reductive Lie group and \mathfrak{g} its Lie algebra. There is a nondegenerate symmetric bilinear invariant form $(\cdot|\cdot)$ on \mathfrak{g} . Suppose M is a compact, closed, orientable manifold with a normalized volume form Ω . Let $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ be the set of all C^∞ maps $x: M \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$. $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ is the Lie algebra of the infinite-dimensional Lie group \tilde{G} of all C^∞ maps $g: G \rightarrow M$. It is called the current algebra. We now construct a (noncentral) extension of $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$:

$$(5) \quad \hat{\mathfrak{g}} = \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} \oplus \mathfrak{c} \oplus \mathfrak{d},$$

where

$$(6) \quad \mathfrak{c} = \Lambda^1(M)/d\Lambda^0(M),$$

and

$$(7) \quad \mathfrak{d} = \{X \in \text{Vect}(M) | L_X \Omega = 0\},$$

where $L_X = di_X + i_X d$ is the Lie derivative operator.

The commutation relations are given by

$$(8) \quad [x, y]^\wedge = [x, y] + (dx|y) = [x, y] - (x|dy),$$

$$(9) \quad [\alpha, x]^\wedge = 0,$$

$$(10) \quad [X, x]^\wedge = L_X x,$$

$$(11) \quad [\alpha, \beta]^\wedge = 0,$$

$$(12) \quad [X, \alpha]^\wedge = L_X \alpha,$$

$$(13) \quad [X, Y]^\wedge = [X, Y], \text{ the usual bracket of vector fields,}$$

for any $x, y \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$, $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{c}$ and $X, Y \in \mathfrak{d}$. The anticommutativity and the Jacobi identities follow easily from the properties of usual brackets and Lie derivatives.

A similar definition was given by Kač in [4], where $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ is a central extension of $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$. In our case, $[X, \alpha]^\wedge$ is not zero in order to define automorphisms of the current algebra. See remark of §6 for details.

3. THE NONDEGENERATE INVARIANT FORM ON $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$

We define a symmetric bilinear form on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ by the following formulas

$$(14) \quad (x|y)^\wedge = \int_M (x|y)\Omega,$$

$$(15) \quad (X|\alpha)^\wedge = \int_M (i_X\alpha)\Omega,$$

and the others are zero. It is well defined because for each $f \in C^\infty(M)$,

$$(16) \quad \begin{aligned} (X|df)^\wedge &= \int_M (i_X df)\Omega = \int_M (L_X f)\Omega \\ &= \int_M L_X(f\Omega) = \int_M di_X(f\Omega) \\ &= \int_{\partial M} i_X(f\Omega) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The nondegeneracy and invariance properties are given by the following two propositions.

Proposition 3.1. *The form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$ is nondegenerate.*

Proof. Notice that if $x \neq 0$, then there exists a $y \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ such that $(x|y)^\wedge \neq 0$; also if $X \neq 0$, then there exists an $\alpha \in \mathfrak{c}$ such that $(X|\alpha)^\wedge \neq 0$. So it suffices to check that $\alpha \in \Lambda^1(M)$ is exact if it satisfies $(X|\alpha)^\wedge = 0$ for all $X \in \mathfrak{d}$. Since

$$(17) \quad (X|\alpha)^\wedge = \int_M (i_X\alpha)\Omega = \int_M \alpha \wedge i_X\Omega,$$

we only have to show that the map $\Theta: \mathfrak{d} \rightarrow Z^{n-1}(M)$ defined by $\Theta(X) = i_X\Omega$ is onto (by Poincaré duality). It is easy to see that for each $\beta \in Z^{n-1}(M)$, there is an $X \in \text{Vect}(M)$ such that $i_X\Omega = \beta$; $d\beta = 0$ implies that $L_X\Omega = di_X\Omega = 0$, which means $X \in \mathfrak{d}$. \square

Proposition 3.2. *The form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$ is invariant.*

Proof. By definition of invariance, we have to check that the left-hand sides of the following two formulas are equal:

$$(18) \quad \begin{aligned} &([x + \alpha + X, y + \beta + Y]|z + \gamma + Z)^\wedge \\ &= \int_M \{([x, y]|z) + (L_X y - L_Y x|z) + i_Z(dx|y) \\ &\quad + i_Z(L_X\beta - L_Y\alpha) + i_{[X, Y]}\gamma\}\Omega, \end{aligned}$$

$$(19) \quad \begin{aligned} &(x + \alpha + X|[y + \beta + Y, z + \gamma + Z])^\wedge \\ &= \int_M \{(x|[y, z]) + (x|L_Y z - L_Z y) + i_X(dy|z) \\ &\quad + i_X(L_Y\gamma - L_Z\beta) + i_{[Y, Z]}\alpha\}\Omega. \end{aligned}$$

By using the well-known formula $i_{[X,Y]} = [i_X, L_Y] = [L_X, i_Y]$, the difference of the two integrands on the right-hand sides is a linear combination of Lie derivatives of functions on M

$$(20) \quad -L_Y(x|z) + L_Z(x|y) - L_Y(i_X\gamma) + L_Y(i_Z\alpha),$$

hence the integration over M is zero (see equation (16)). \square

4. A LEMMA

We establish here a lemma which will be frequently used in §5.

Lemma. *If $g: M \rightarrow G$ and $x: M \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ are C^∞ -maps, $X \in \text{Vect}(M)$, then*

$$(21) \quad (a) \quad L_X(\text{Ad } g)_*x = (\text{Ad } g)_*(L_Xx + [i_Xg^*\omega, x]),$$

$$(22) \quad (b) \quad d(\text{Ad } g)_*x = (\text{Ad } g)_*(dx + [dg^*\omega, x]),$$

where $(\text{Ad } g)_*$ is the adjoint action of $g \in G$ on \mathfrak{g} and ω is the Maurer-Cartan form of the Lie group G .

Proof. Let ϕ_t be the flow on M generated by X . Set $g_t = g \circ \phi_t: M \rightarrow G, x_t = x \circ \phi_t: M \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$. Then

$$(23) \quad L_X(\text{Ad } g)_*x = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\text{Ad } g_t)_*x_t - (\text{Ad } g)_*x}{t}$$

$$(24) \quad = (\text{Ad } g)_* \left(L_Xx + \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\text{Ad } g^{-1}g_t)_* - 1}{t} x \right).$$

Notice that the tangent vector of the flow $g^{-1}g_t$ at the unit element of G is $i_Xg^*\omega$, an element in the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . Hence we have

$$(25) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\text{Ad } g^{-1}g_t)_* - 1}{t} x = [i_Xg^*\omega, x].$$

This proves part (a). Part (b) follows easily. \square

5. AUTOMORPHISMS OF $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$

We now investigate how to define the adjoint action of \tilde{G} on the extended current algebra $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ so that the bilinear form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$ is preserved. That is to say, for each $g \in \tilde{G}, x \in \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ and $X \in \mathfrak{d}$ we have to find $a(g, X) \in \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ and $\xi(g, x), \eta(g, X) \in \Lambda^1(M)$ such that the action $\widehat{\text{Ad}}g$ on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ defined by

$$(26) \quad \begin{aligned} (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x &= (\text{Ad } g)_*x + \xi(g, x) \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)\alpha &= \alpha \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X &= a(g, X) + \eta(g, X) + X \end{aligned}$$

is an automorphism which preserves $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$; here $(\text{Ad } g)_*$ is the pointwise adjoint action of \tilde{G} on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$.

Since we require

$$(27) \quad [(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X, (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x]^\wedge = (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)[X, x]^\wedge,$$

we must have, by comparing the \mathfrak{g} -components,

$$(28) \quad [a, (\text{Ad } g)_*x] + L_X(\text{Ad } g)_*x = (\text{Ad } g)_*L_Xx.$$

We can choose

$$(29) \quad a(g, X) = -(\text{Ad } g)_*i_Xg^*\omega$$

by the lemma, where ω is the Maurer–Cartan form of G . Next, invariance implies

$$(30) \quad ((\text{Ad } g)_*x, (\text{Ad } g)_*X)^\wedge = (x, X)^\wedge = 0.$$

By the choice of $a(g, X)$, we have

$$(31) \quad (\xi|X)^\wedge = ((\text{Ad } g)_*x|(\text{Ad } g)_*i_Xg^*\omega)^\wedge,$$

i.e.

$$(32) \quad \int_M (i_X\xi)\Omega = \int_M ((\text{Ad } g)_*x|(\text{Ad } g)_*i_Xg^*\omega)\Omega \\ = \int_M (i_X(x|g^*\omega))\Omega.$$

This means we can choose

$$(33) \quad \xi(g, x) = (x|g^*\omega).$$

Finally,

$$(34) \quad ((\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X|(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X)^\wedge = (X|X)^\wedge = 0$$

implies

$$(35) \quad (\eta|X)^\wedge = -\frac{1}{2}((\text{Ad } g)_*i_Xg^*\omega|(\text{Ad } g)_*i_Xg^*\omega)^\wedge.$$

Proceeding as in (32), we can choose

$$(36) \quad \eta(g, X) = -\frac{1}{2}(i_Xg^*\omega|g^*\omega).$$

We summarize in the following.

Theorem. For each $g \in \widetilde{G}$, the action $\widehat{\text{Ad}}g$ given by

$$(37) \quad \begin{aligned} (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x &= (\text{Ad } g)_*x + (x|g^*\omega) \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)\alpha &= \alpha \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X &= -(\text{Ad } g)_*i_Xg^*\omega - \frac{1}{2}(i_Xg^*\omega|g^*\omega) + X \end{aligned}$$

preserves the bilinear form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$. Furthermore, it is an automorphism of \mathfrak{g} if $\dim M \leq 2$.

In order to keep the proof to a reasonable size, routine calculations will be omitted.

Proof. From the construction of $\widehat{\text{Ad}}g$, it is easy to see that it preserves the bilinear form $(\cdot|\cdot)^\wedge$. That $\widehat{\text{Ad}}g$ preserves the bracket of x and α , X and α , α and β is also straightforward. Next, we calculate

$$\begin{aligned}
 & [(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x, (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)y]^\wedge \\
 &= [(\text{Ad } g)_*x, (\text{Ad } g)_*y] + (d(\text{Ad } g)_*x|(\text{Ad } g)_*y) \\
 (38) \quad &= (\text{Ad } g)_*[x, y] + ((\text{Ad } g)_*(dx + [g^*\omega, x])|(\text{Ad } g)_*y) \text{ (by the lemma)} \\
 &= (\text{Ad } g)_*[x, y] + (g^*\omega|[x, y]) + (dx|y) \\
 &= (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)[x, y]^\wedge
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 (39) \quad & [(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X, (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x]^\wedge - (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)[X, x]^\wedge \\
 &= (i_X g^*\omega|dx + [g^*\omega, x]) + (x|L_X g^*\omega) \text{ (by the lemma)} \\
 &= d(i_X g^*\omega|x) + (i_X dg^*\omega|x) + ([i_X g^*\omega, g^*\omega]|x) \\
 &= d(i_X g^*\omega|x) + i_X(g^*(d\omega + \frac{1}{2}[\omega, \omega])|x) \\
 &= d(i_X g^*\omega|x),
 \end{aligned}$$

which is an exact form. The last step above follows from the Maurer-Cartan equation $d\omega + \frac{1}{2}[\omega, \omega] = 0$. We finally examine the difference of $[(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X, (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)Y]^\wedge$ and $(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)[X, Y]^\wedge$. Their \mathfrak{d} -components are both $[X, Y]$. The difference of the \mathfrak{g} -components is

$$\begin{aligned}
 (40) \quad & (\text{Ad } g)_*[i_X g^*\omega, i_Y g^*\omega] + L_Y(\text{Ad } g)_*i_X g^*\omega - L_X(\text{Ad } g)_*i_Y g^*\omega \\
 &+ (\text{Ad } g)_*i_{[X, Y]}g^*\omega \\
 &= (\text{Ad } g)_*\{(L_Y i_X - i_Y L_X)g^*\omega - [i_X g^*\omega, i_Y g^*\omega]\} \\
 &= (\text{Ad } g)_*\{-i_X i_Y g^*(d\omega + \frac{1}{2}[\omega, \omega])\} \\
 &= 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

The difference of the \mathfrak{c} -components is

$$\begin{aligned}
 (41) \quad & \frac{1}{2}(L_Y i_X g^*\omega|g^*\omega) + \frac{1}{2}(i_X g^*\omega|L_Y g^*\omega) - \frac{1}{2}(L_X i_Y g^*\omega|g^*\omega) - \frac{1}{2}(i_Y g^*\omega|L_X g^*\omega) \\
 &+ (di_X g^*\omega + [g^*\omega, i_X g^*\omega]|i_Y g^*\omega) + \frac{1}{2}(i_{[X, Y]}g^*\omega|g^*\omega) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}((L_Y i_X - L_X i_Y + [L_X, i_Y])g^*\omega|g^*\omega) + ([i_X g^*\omega, i_Y g^*\omega]|g^*\omega) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}(i_X g^*\omega|(di_Y + i_Y d)g^*\omega) + \frac{1}{2}((di_X - i_X d)g^*\omega|i_Y g^*\omega) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}d(i_X g^*\omega|i_Y g^*\omega) + \frac{1}{2}((di_Y i_X - i_Y i_X d)g^*\omega|g^*\omega) \\
 &+ ([i_X g^*\omega, i_Y g^*\omega]|g^*\omega) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2}(i_X g^*\omega|-\frac{1}{2}i_Y[g^*\omega, g^*\omega]) + \frac{1}{2}(\frac{1}{2}i_X[g^*\omega, g^*\omega]|i_Y g^*\omega) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2}d(i_X g^*\omega|i_Y g^*\omega) + \frac{1}{2}([i_X g^*\omega, i_Y g^*\omega]|g^*\omega).
 \end{aligned}$$

The first term above is an exact form, but the second one is only when $\dim M \leq 2$. To see this, we introduce local coordinates (σ, τ) when $\dim M = 2$ and

choose $X = \partial/\partial\sigma$ and $Y = \partial/\partial\tau$. Then

$$(42) \quad ([i_X g^* \omega, i_Y g^* \omega] | g^* \omega) \\ = ([i_{\partial/\partial\sigma} g^* \omega, i_{\partial/\partial\tau} g^* \omega] | i_{\partial/\partial\sigma} g^* \omega) d\sigma \\ + ([i_{\partial/\partial\sigma} g^* \omega, i_{\partial/\partial\tau} g^* \omega] | i_{\partial/\partial\tau} g^* \omega) d\tau = 0,$$

since the bilinear form is invariant. \square

Remark. If $\dim M \geq 3$, the second term in (41) is not necessarily exact. Take $M = T^3$ parametrized by (θ, φ, ψ) and $G = SU(2)$. Choose $X = \partial/\partial\theta$. $Y = \partial/\partial\varphi$ and

$$(43) \quad g = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta} \cos \varphi & e^{i\psi} \sin \varphi \\ -e^{i\psi} \sin \varphi & e^{-i\theta} \cos \varphi \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$(44) \quad \frac{1}{2}([i_X g^* \omega, i_Y g^* \omega] | g^* \omega) = -2 \sin 2\varphi d\psi,$$

which is not even closed.

6. COMPARISONS WITH KAČ-MOODY ALGEBRAS

We now take $M = S^1$ parametrized by $e^{i\theta}$. Its normalized volume form is $\Omega = d\theta/2\pi$. In this case, $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ is the loop algebra. $\mathfrak{c} = H^1(S^1, \mathbb{C})$ is a one-dimensional vector space generated by the element $c = i d\theta$; every one form α is represented by $((1/2\pi i) \int_{S^1} \alpha) c$. \mathfrak{d} is also one dimensional, generated by $d = (1/i)(d/d\theta)$. Then the commutation relations (8) to (13) become

$$(45) \quad [x, y]^\wedge = [x, y] + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{S^1} x'(\theta)y(\theta) d\theta c \\ [x, c]^\wedge = 0 \\ [d, x]^\wedge = \frac{1}{i} \frac{d}{d\theta} x \\ [c, d]^\wedge = 0.$$

The invariant form on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ is given by

$$(46) \quad (x|y)^\wedge = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{S^1} (x(\theta)|y(\theta)) d\theta \\ (c|d)^\wedge = (d|c)^\wedge = 1 \\ \text{others are zero.}$$

Finally, by the Theorem the action of \tilde{G} on $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ is

$$(47) \quad (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x = gxg^{-1} + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{S^1} \text{tr}(xg^{-1}dg)c \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)c = c \\ (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)d = ig'g^{-1} - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S^1} \text{tr}((g^{-1})'dg)c + d.$$

All these formulas agree with those given in the introduction if we make a change of variable $t = e^{i\theta}$ there.

Remark. If M is one dimensional, then \mathfrak{c} is in the center of $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ because $[X, \alpha]^\wedge = L_X \alpha$ is exact. This is not the case in general. If we had defined $[X, \alpha]^\wedge = 0$ instead of $L_X \alpha$, then the \mathfrak{c} -component of $[(\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)X, (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)x]^\wedge - (\widehat{\text{Ad}}g)[X, x]^\wedge$ would be $-L_X(x|g^* \omega)$; this may not be exact.

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