

# Invariants under Permutation Automorphisms

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## Setting – Noncommutative Invariant Theory

- $A$  a noncommutative algebra.  
Here  $A$  an AS regular algebra.
- $H$  a Hopf algebra acting on  $A$ . Here  $H = G$  a finite group of graded automorphisms of  $A$ .
- Find the structure of  $A^G$ .
- Today  $G =$  a group of automorphisms given by permutations of generators.

Invariants under  $S_n$  – Permutations of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .



(Painter: Christian Albrecht Jensen) (Wikipedia)

The subring of invariants under  $S_n$  is a polynomial ring

$$\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^{S_n} = \mathbb{C}[\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n]$$

where  $\sigma_\ell$  are the  $n$  elementary symmetric functions for  $\ell = 1, \dots, n$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_\ell &= \sum_{i_1 < i_2 < \dots < i_\ell} x_{i_1} x_{i_2} \cdots x_{i_\ell} \\ &= \mathcal{O}_{S_n}(x_1 x_2 \cdots x_\ell).\end{aligned}$$

or the  $n$  power sums:

$$P_\ell = x_1^\ell + \cdots + x_i^\ell + \cdots + x_n^\ell = \mathcal{O}_{S_n}(x_1^\ell).$$

### Invariants under the Alternating Group $A_n$

$\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^{A_n}$  is generated by the symmetric polynomials (or power functions) and

$$D = D(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i < j} (x_i - x_j),$$

which has degree  $\binom{n}{2}$ .

$\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^{A_n}$  is a complete intersection:

$$\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^{A_n} \cong \frac{\mathbb{C}[\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n][y]}{(y^2 - D^2)}$$

under the map that associates  $y$  to  $D$  (and the  $i$ th symmetric polynomial in the  $x_j$  to  $\sigma_i$ ).

For a general  $G$  group of permutations of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ,

$\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^G$  need not be a complete intersection, or even Gorenstein,

for example  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]^{\langle(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)\rangle}$  has Hilbert series

$$\frac{t^3 + t^2 - t + 1}{(1 - t)^4(1 + t)^2(1 + t^2)}.$$



To find generators of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^G$  one can take orbit sums of monomials. Bounds on the degrees of generators are useful.

Noether's Bound (1916):

For  $k$  of characteristic zero, generators of  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]^G$  can be chosen of degree  $\leq |G|$ .

Göbel's Bound (1995):

For subgroups  $G$  of permutations in  $S_n$ , generators of  $k[x_1, \dots, x_n]^G$  can be chosen of degree  $\leq \max\left\{n, \binom{n}{2}\right\}$ .

Skew-polynomials with  $q_{i,j} = -1$ :

$$A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$$

$$x_j x_i = -x_i x_j$$

## Noncommutative Gauss' Theorem?

**Example:**  $S_2 = \langle g \rangle$ , for  $g : x \mapsto y$  and  $y \mapsto x$  acts on  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x, y]$  :

$$yx = qxy$$

$$g(yx) = g(qxy)$$

$$xy = qyx$$

$$xy = q^2xy$$

$$q^2 = 1.$$

$A^{S_2}$  is generated by

$$P_1 = x + y \text{ and } P_3 = x^3 + y^3$$

( $x^2 + y^2 = (x + y)^2$  and  $g \cdot xy = yx = -xy$  so no generators in degree 2). The generators are NOT algebraically independent.

$A^{S_2}$  is NOT AS regular (but it is a hyperplane in an AS regular algebra).

The transposition  $(1, 2)$  is NOT a “reflection”.

### Generating sets

$$P_1 = x + y = \mathcal{O}_{S_2}(x) \text{ and } P_3 = x^3 + y^3 = \mathcal{O}_{S_2}(x^3)$$

or

$$s_1 = x + y = \mathcal{O}_{S_2}(x) \text{ and } s_2 = x^2y + xy^2 = \mathcal{O}_{S_2}(x^2y).$$

$$3 > |S_2| = 2 = \max\left\{2, \binom{2}{2}\right\}$$

so both upper bounds on the degrees of generators fail for  $A^{S_2}$ .

To get an analogue of Gauss's Theorem (more generally the Shephard-Todd-Chevalley Theorem) we use permutations with a twist e.g.

$$g \cdot x_1 = -x_2 \quad \text{and} \quad g \cdot x_2 = x_1,$$

which turn out to be the analogues of reflections. Then we have

$$g \cdot x_1 x_2 = -x_2 x_1 = x_1 x_2$$

so that  $x_1 x_2$  is invariant.

## The Trace Function

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \text{trace}(g|A_k)t^k.$$

For a permutation:

when  $A = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = \frac{1}{\text{Det}(I - gt)};$$

when  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = \frac{1}{\text{Perm}(I - gt)}.$$

An element  $g$  is a *reflection* of  $A$  if

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = \frac{p(t)}{(1-t)^{n-1}q(t)}$$

for  $q(1) \neq 0$  and  $n = \text{GKdim } A$ .

For  $A$  AS regular,  $G$  finite, if  $A^G$  is AS regular it is necessary that  $G$  contain a reflection.

For  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  there are no permutations that are reflections; all permutation subgroups of  $S_n$  are “small”.



When  $A$  is AS regular of dimension  $n$ , then when the trace is written as a Laurent series in  $t^{-1}$

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = (-1)^n (\text{hdet } g)^{-1} t^{-\ell} + \text{higher terms}$$

**Generalized Watanabe's Theorem:**  $A^G$  is AS Gorenstein when all elements of  $G$  have homological determinant 1.

## $A^G$ is AS Gorenstein

If  $g$  is a 2-cycle and  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  then

$$\text{Tr}_A(g) = \frac{1}{(1+t^2)(1-t)^{n-2}} = (-1)^n \frac{1}{t^n} + \text{higher terms}$$

so  $\text{hdet } g = 1$ , and for ALL groups  $G$  of  $n \times n$  permutation matrices,  $A^G$  is AS Gorenstein. Not true for commutative polynomial ring – e.g.

$$\mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]^{\langle(1,2,3,4)\rangle}$$

is not Gorenstein, while

$$\mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]^{\langle(1,2,3,4)\rangle}$$

is AS Gorenstein.

### Invariants of $\mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ under the full Symmetric Group $S_n$

Invariants are generated by sums over  $S_n$ -orbits

$\mathcal{O}_{S_n}(X^I)$  = the sum of the  $S_n$ -orbit of a monomial  $X^I$ .

$\mathcal{O}_{S_n}(X^I)$  can be represented by  $X^I$ , where  $I$  is a partition;

$X^I$  is the leading term of  $\mathcal{O}_{S_n}(X^I)$  under the lexicographic order,

$x_1 > x_2 > \dots > x_n$ .

$\mathcal{O}_{S_n}(X^I) = 0$  if and only if it corresponds to a partition with no repeated odd parts (e.g.  $\mathcal{O}_{S_n}(x_1^2 x_2 x_3) = 0$ ).

$A^{S_n}$  is generated by the  $n$  odd power sums  $P_1, \dots, P_{2n-1}$  or the  $n$  invariants  $s_k = \mathcal{O}_{S_n}(x_1^2 \dots x_{k-1}^2 x_k)$ .

Bound on degrees of generators of  $A^{S_n}$  is  $2n - 1$ .

## Symmetric Group

$A^{S_n}$  contains  $R = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1^2, \dots, x_n^2]^{S_n}$ , which is a commutative polynomial ring (in  $p_1 = P_2, \dots, p_n = P_{2n}$ ).

$$A^{S_n} \cong \frac{R[y_1 : \tau_1, \delta_1] \cdots [y_n : \tau_n, \delta_n]}{\langle y_1^2 - p_1, \dots, y_i^2 - p_i, \dots, y_n^2 - p_n \rangle}$$

where  $y_i \mapsto P_{2i-1}$ .

$A^{S_n}$  is a *classical complete intersection*.

Used the Hilbert series:

$$\frac{(1-t^2)(1-t^6)(1-t^{10}) \cdots (1-t^{4n-2})}{(1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^3) \cdots (1-t^{2n-1})(1-t^{2n})}$$

Invariants of  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  under the Alternating Group:

$A^{A_n}$  is generated by  $\mathcal{O}_{A_n}(x_1 x_2 \cdots x_{n-1})$ ,

and the  $n-1$  polynomials  $s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}$

(or the power functions  $P_1, \dots, P_{2n-3}$ ),

bound on the degrees of generators of  $A^{A_n}$  is  $2n - 3$ .

## Alternating Group

Let  $R = \mathbb{C}[p_1, \dots, p_n]$  be a commutative polynomial ring.

$$A^{A_n} \cong \frac{R[y_1 : \tau_1, \delta_1] \cdots [y_{n+1} : \tau_{n+1}, \delta_{n+1}]}{\langle y_1^2 - p_1, \dots, y_i^2 - p_i, \dots, y_{n-1}^2 - p_{n-1}, y_n^2 - r_1, y_{n+1}^2 - r_2 \rangle}$$

where  $r_i \in \mathbb{C}[p_1, \dots, p_n]$ ,  $p_i \mapsto P_{2i}$ ,  $y_i \mapsto P_{2i-1}$  for  $i \leq n-1$ ,  
 $y_n \mapsto \mathcal{O}_{A_n}(x_1 \cdots x_n) = x_1 x_2 \cdots x_n$  and  
 $y_{n+1} \mapsto \mathcal{O}_{A_n}(x_1 \cdots x_{n-1})$ .

$A^{A_n}$  is a *classical complete intersection*.

Used the Hilbert series:

$$\frac{(1+t)(1+t^3) \cdots (1+t^{2n-3})(1+t^n)(1+t^{n-1})}{(1-t^2)(1-t^4) \cdots (1-t^{2n})}.$$

## Bounds on degrees of generators

Broer's Bound: Let  $A$  be a quantum polynomial algebra of dimension  $n$  and  $C$  an iterated Ore extension  $k[f_1][f_2; \tau_2, \delta_2] \cdots [f_n; \tau_n, \delta_n]$ . Assume that

- 1  $B = A^H$  where  $H$  is a semisimple Hopf algebra acting on  $A$ ,
- 2  $C \subset B \subset A$  and  $A_C$  is finitely generated, and
- 3  $\deg f_i > 1$  for at least two distinct  $i$ 's.

Then degrees of generators of  $A^H$

$$\leq \ell_C - \ell_A = \sum_{i=1}^n \deg f_i - n.$$

## Broer's bound for permutations of skew polynomials

Taking  $A = k_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ,

$$C := k[P_4, P_8, \dots, P_{4\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor}][P_1][P_3; \tau_3, \delta_3] \cdots [P_{n'}; \tau_{n'}, \delta_{n'}]$$

where  $n' = 2\lfloor \frac{n-1}{2} \rfloor + 1$ , gives:

Theorem. Let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $S_n$  acting on  $k_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  as permutations. Suppose  $|G|$  does not divide  $\text{char } k$ . Then degrees of generators of  $A^G$

$$\leq \frac{1}{2}n(n-1) + \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor (\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1) \sim \frac{3}{4}n^2.$$



An element  $g$  is a *bireflection* of  $A$  if

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = \frac{p(t)}{(1-t)^{n-2}q(t)}$$

for  $q(1) \neq 0$  and  $n = \text{GKdim } A$ .

For example  $(1, 2)(3, 4)$  is a bireflection of  $A = \mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]$ .

## Kac-Watanabe-Gordeev Theorem

KWG's Theorem states that for  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]^G$  to be a complete intersection it is *necessary* that  $G$  be generated by bireflections of  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

A permutation  $g$  is a bireflection of  $\mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  if and only if it is a 2-cycle or a 3-cycle.

Invariants  $A^G$  are examples of AS Gorenstein rings – some will not be “complete intersections” (e.g.  $\mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4]^{\langle(1,2,3,4)\rangle}$  is not a “complete intersection”).

Question: Is KWG Theorem true for  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ ?

True for  $n \leq 4$ .

For  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ :

Theorem. If  $G$  is generated by bireflections then  $A^G$  is a classical complete intersection.

Lemma: Let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $S_n$ .

- 1 If  $G$  is generated by 3-cycles, then  $G$  is an internal direct product of alternating groups.
- 2 If  $G$  is generated by 3-cycles and 2-cycles, then  $G$  is an internal direct product of alternating and symmetric groups.

## Converse of KWG Theorem

The converse of KWG Theorem is NOT true for  $A = \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

Let  $G = \langle (1, 2)(3, 4), (2, 3)(4, 5) \rangle$  act on  $\mathbb{C}[x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5]$ .

$$H_{A^G}(t) = \frac{t^6 - t^5 + 2t^3 - t + 1}{(1-t)^2(1-t^2)^2(1-t^5)}.$$

The numerator is not cyclotomic, hence  $A^G$  cannot be a complete intersection.

## Auslander's Theorem



Let  $G$  be a finite subgroup of  $GL_n(k)$  that contains no reflections, and let  $A = k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . Then the skew-group ring  $A\#G$  is isomorphic to  $\text{End}_{A^G}(A)$  as rings.

Question: Does Auslander's Theorem generalize to our context?

Mori-Ueyama:

Theorem:  $A$  an AS regular domain of dimension  $d \geq 2$ , generated in degree 1. Take  $r$  such that  $r \mid \ell$ , and let  $G = \langle \sigma_r \rangle$  where  $\sigma_r(a) = \omega^{\deg(a)} a$ , where  $\omega$  is a primitive  $r$ th root of 1. Then  $A^G = A^{(r)}$ , the  $r$ th Veronese, and  $A \# G \cong \text{End}_{A^G}(A)$ .

## Auslander's Theorem – Permutations of $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

Case:  $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  and  
 $G = \langle (x_1, \dots, x_n) \rangle$ :

For  $n=2,3$ :  $A \# G \cong \text{End}_{AG}(A)$ .

Question: Does Auslander's Theorem hold for  
 $A = \mathbb{C}_{-1}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  all permutation subgroups of  
 $S_n$ ?



Statements about $A^G$	when $A = k[\underline{x}]$	when $A = k_{-1}[\underline{x}]$
Being AS Gorenstein	Not always	Always
Being AS regular	Sometimes	Never
Bound on degrees of generators	$\max\{n, \binom{n}{2}\}$	$\binom{n}{2} + \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor (\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor + 1)$
KWG theorem holds	Yes	Conjecture
Converse of KWG holds	No	Yes
All subgroups small	No	Yes

### Case: 3-dimensional Sklyanin Algebra (with S.Sierra and C. Walton)

$$axy + byx + cz^2 = 0$$

$$ayz + bzy + cx^2 = 0$$

$$azx + bxz + cy^2 = 0$$

and  $g : x \mapsto y, y \mapsto z, z \mapsto x$ .

In the generic case  $A$  has no reflections, so all finite groups of graded automorphisms are “small”.

Trace of  $g$ :

$$\mathrm{Tr}_A(g, t) = \frac{1}{1-t^3} = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1+t+t^2)}.$$

$g$  is a bireflection. Homological determinant of  $g$  is 1, so  $A\langle g \rangle$  is AS-Gorenstein.

Let  $X, Y$  and  $Z$  be the associated eigenvectors of  $g$ , the  $3 \times 3$  cyclic permutation matrix

$$X = x + \omega y + \omega^2 z$$

$$Y = x + \omega^2 y + \omega z$$

$$Z = x + y + z$$

Then

$$AXY + BYX + CZ^2 = 0$$

$$AYZ + BZY + CX^2 = 0$$

$$AZX + BXZ + CY^2 = 0$$

Hence WLOG we can assume that  $g$  is diagonal  $(\omega^2, \omega, 1)$ .

Theorem: (Generic case):  
 $A^{\langle g \rangle}$  is a complete intersection.

Questions:

- Does KWG hold for  $A$ ?
- Does the converse of KWG hold for  $A$ ?
- Is  $A \# G \cong \text{End}_{AG}(A)$ ?
- What if  $A$  is PI?

Case: Down-up algebras  $A(\alpha, \beta)$

$$y^2x = \alpha yxy + \beta xy^2$$

$$yx^2 = \alpha xyx + \beta x^2y.$$

$A(\alpha, \beta)$  have no reflections, so all finite groups are “small”.

Transposition  $g : x \mapsto y, y \mapsto x$  acts on  $A(0, 1)$  and  $A(\alpha, -1)$ , and

$$\text{Tr}_A(g, t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1+t)(1+t^2)}$$

so  $g$  is a bireflection of  $\text{hdet}(g) = 1$ , and  $A^g$  is AS Gorenstein. Further  $A^g$  is a "complete intersection of GK-type"