PERIODIC AUTOMORPHISMS OF TAKIFF ALGEBRAS, CONTRACTIONS, AND
\( \theta \)-GROUPS

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INTRODUCTION

Let \( G \) be a connected reductive algebraic group with Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g} \). The ground field \( \mathbb{k} \) is algebraically closed and of characteristic zero. Fundamental results in invariant theory of the adjoint representation of \( G \) are primarily associated with C. Chevalley and B. Kostant. Especially, one should distinguish the "Chevalley restriction theorem" and seminal article of Kostant [5]. Later, Kostant and Rallis extended these results to the isotropy representation of a symmetric variety [6]. In 1975, E.B. Vinberg came up with the theory of \( \theta \)-groups. This theory generalises and presents in the most natural form invariant-theoretic results previously known for the adjoint representation and isotropy representations of the symmetric varieties.

Let us remind the main construction and results of Vinberg’s article [15]. Let \( \theta \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) \) be a periodic (= finite order) automorphism of \( \mathfrak{g} \). The order of \( \theta \) is denoted by \(|\theta|\). Fix a primitive root of unity \( \zeta = \sqrt[p]{1} \) and consider the periodic grading (or \( \mathbb{Z}_{|\theta|} \)-grading)

\[
\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_{|\theta|}} \mathfrak{g}_i,
\]

where \( \mathfrak{g}_i \) is the \( \zeta^i \)-eigenspace of \( \theta \). In particular, \( \mathfrak{g}_0 = g^\theta \) is the fixed point subalgebra for \( \theta \). Let \( G_0 \) be the connected subgroup of \( G \) with Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \). The restriction of the adjoint representation yields the natural homomorphism \( G_0 \to GL(\mathfrak{g}_1) \). The linear groups obtained in this way are called \( \theta \)-groups, and the point is that they have the best possible invariant-theoretic properties:

- \( \mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}_1]^{G_0} \) is a polynomial algebra;
- the quotient morphism \( \pi : \mathfrak{g}_1 \to \mathfrak{g}_1/G_0 = \text{Spec}(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}_1]^{G_0}) \) is flat;
- each fibre of \( \pi \) contains finitely many \( G_0 \)-orbits.

It is a natural problem to extend Vinberg’s theory to a more general setting. There can be several possible ways for doing so. Here are at least two of them:

(a) Determine and investigate a wider class of Lie algebras such that their periodic automorphisms lead to representations with similar invariant-theoretic properties.

(b) Given \((\mathfrak{g}, \theta)\) as above, construct a non-reductive Lie algebra with good invariant-theoretic properties, using \(\{\mathfrak{g}_i\}\) as building blocks.

These two ways are not mutually exclusive, but in this article we deal with (a). Our class of Lie algebras consists of Takiff algebras modelled on reductive ones. Although considerable part of the theory can be developed for arbitrary Takiff algebras, substantial applications are related to the reductive case.

For a Lie algebra \(\mathfrak{q}\) and \(m \in \mathbb{N}\), let \(\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle\) denote the Takiff algebra modelled on \(\mathfrak{q}\). It is an \(\mathbb{N}\)-graded Lie algebra of dimension \(m \dim \mathfrak{q}\), with nonzero components of degrees \(0, 1, \ldots, m-1\). (See Section 1 for precise definitions.) Our initial observation is that any periodic \(\theta \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{q})\) gives rise to an automorphism of \(\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle\) of the same order, denoted \(\hat{\theta}\). The fixed point subalgebra of \(\hat{\theta}\), \(\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle^{\hat{\theta}}\), is a “mixture” of eigenspaces of \(\theta\), i.e., its component of degree \(i\) equals \(\mathfrak{q}_i\), \(i = 0, 1, \ldots, m - 1\). Then we consider the representations of \(\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle^{\hat{\theta}} = \mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle_0\) in eigenspaces of \(\hat{\theta}\). If \(\mathfrak{q}\) is quadratic (i.e., \(\mathfrak{q} \simeq \mathfrak{q}^*\)), then the coadjoint representation of \(\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle_0\) also occurs in this way. Our ultimate goal is to describe several instances in which the algebras of invariants for \((\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle_0, \text{ad})\) and \((\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle_0, \text{ad}^*)\) are polynomial. (If the explicit formula for \(\mathfrak{q}\) is bulky, then we write \(\text{lnv}(\mathfrak{q}, \text{ad})\) (resp. \(\text{lnv}(\mathfrak{q}, \text{ad}^*)\)) in place of \(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{q}]^q\) (resp. \(\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{q})^q\)).) Another observation is that, for special values of \(m\), \(\mathfrak{q}\langle m \rangle_0\) is a contraction of a direct sum of Lie algebras. Namely, \(\mathfrak{q}\langle n|\theta| \rangle_0\) is a contraction of \(\mathfrak{n}q := \mathfrak{q} + \ldots + \mathfrak{q}\) and \(\mathfrak{q}\langle n|\theta| + 1 \rangle_0\) is a contraction of \(\mathfrak{n}q + \mathfrak{g}_0\). These are examples of the so-called quasi-graded contractions, and for such contractions we establish a rather explicit connection between invariants of two Lie algebras. For instance, starting from \(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}]^{\mathfrak{n}q}\), we construct an explicit subalgebra of \(\text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} \rangle_0, \text{ad})\), denoted \(\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}]^{\mathfrak{n}q})\). The graded algebras \(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{q}]^q\) and \(\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}]^{\mathfrak{n}q})\) have the same Poincaré series. The similar subalgebra for the coadjoint representation is denoted by \(\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{n}q)^{\mathfrak{n}q})\).

For \(\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{g}\) reductive, we deal with contractions of reductive algebras and therefore the theory of \(\theta\)-groups is also at our disposal. Our main result is

**Theorem 0.1.** Let \(\theta\) be a periodic automorphism of \(\mathfrak{g}\), \(\mathcal{O}^{reg}\) the regular nilpotent \(G\)-orbit in \(\mathfrak{g}\), and \(n \in \mathbb{N}\) arbitrary. Set \(k = |\theta|\).

(i) Suppose \(\theta\) has the property that \(\mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathcal{O}^{reg} \neq \emptyset\). Then

- \(\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}]^{\mathfrak{n}q}) = \text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} \rangle_0, \text{ad})\) and \(\text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} \rangle_0, \text{ad})\) is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension \(n \cdot \text{rk} \mathfrak{g}\).
- \(\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g} + \mathfrak{g}_0]^{\mathfrak{n}q+\mathfrak{g}_0}) = \text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} + 1 \rangle_0, \text{ad})\) and \(\text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} + 1 \rangle_0, \text{ad})\) is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension \(n \cdot \text{rk} \mathfrak{g} + \text{rk} \mathfrak{g}_0\).

(ii) Suppose \(\theta\) has the property that \(\mathfrak{g}_1\) contains regular semisimple elements of \(\mathfrak{g}\) and \(\mathcal{O}^{reg}\) meets every irreducible component of the nilpotent cone in \(\mathfrak{g}_1\). Then \(\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathcal{S}(\mathfrak{g})^{\mathfrak{n}q}) = \text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} \rangle_0, \text{ad}^*)\) and \(\text{lnv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle n\mathfrak{k} \rangle_0, \text{ad}^*)\) is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension \(n \cdot \text{rk} \mathfrak{g}\).
The proofs of two parts of this theorem exploit different ideas. Note that $g\langle nk + 1\rangle_0$ is quadratic and $g\langle nk\rangle_0 \simeq g\langle nk\rangle_1$. In particular, in part (ii) we describe the invariants for the $g\langle nk\rangle_0$-module $g\langle nk\rangle_1$.

The paper is organised as follows. Sections 1 contains generalities on quadratic and Takiff algebras and on Lie algebra contractions. In Section 2, we introduce quasi-gradings of Lie algebras and corresponding contractions. We provide a useful construction of quasi-gradings and study the behaviour of invariants. In Section 3, we consider periodic automorphisms of Takiff algebras and their connection with quasi-graded contractions. Section 4 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 0.1(i), and in Section 5 we prove Theorem 0.1(ii). Sections 4 and 5 also contain a number of examples of $\theta$-groups that satisfy the assumptions of Theorem 0.1. In Section 6, we discuss open problems and directions for related investigations.

**Notation.** The nilpotent radical of a Lie algebra $q$ is denoted by $\mathfrak{r}_n(q)$. The unipotent radical of an algebraic group $Q$ is $R_u(Q)$. A direct sum of Lie algebras is denoted with $\oplus$.

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### 1. Preliminaries

1.1. **Quadratic Lie algebras.** A Lie algebra $q$ is called quadratic, if there is a $q$-invariant symmetric non-degenerate bilinear form on $q$. Such a form is said to be a scalar product on $q$. If $B$ is a scalar product on $q$, we also say that $(q, B)$ is quadratic.

Suppose that $(q, B)$ is quadratic and $\theta \in \text{Aut}(q)$ is of order $k$. Assume that $B$ is an eigenvector of $\theta$, i.e., $B(\theta(x), \theta(y)) = \zeta^c B(x, y)$ for all $x, y \in q$ and some $c \in \mathbb{Z}_k$. Then $B(q_i, q_j) = 0$ unless $i + j = c$ (the equality in $\mathbb{Z}_k$). It follows that the dual $q_0^*$-module for $q_i$ is $q_{c-i}$. Thus, $q_0$ is not necessarily quadratic unless $\zeta^c = 1$. However, we have a weaker property that the set of $q_0$-modules $\{q_i\}$ is closed with respect to taking duals.

If $q$ is reductive, then $B$ can always be chosen to be $\theta$-invariant, hence $c = 0$ and $q^*_i \simeq q_{-i}$ for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}_k$. Actually, $q_0$ is again reductive here.

1.2. **Generalised Takiff algebras** [14]. Let $Q$ be a connected algebraic group with Lie algebra $q$. The infinite-dimensional $k$-vector space $q_\infty := q \otimes k[T]$ has a natural structure of a graded Lie algebra such that $[x \otimes T^i, y \otimes T^k] = [x, y] \otimes T^{i+k}$. Then $q_{\geq (m)} = \bigoplus_{j \geq m} q \otimes T^j$ is an ideal of $q_\infty$, and $q_\infty/q_{\geq (m)}$ is a (generalised) Takiff algebra (modelled on $q$), denoted $q_{(m)}$. 

Write $Q\langle m \rangle$ for the corresponding connected algebraic group. Clearly, $q\langle m \rangle$ is $\mathbb{N}$-graded and $\dim q\langle m \rangle = m \dim q$. An alternate notation for $q\langle m \rangle$ used below is

$$q \ltimes q \ltimes \ldots \ltimes q \quad (m \text{ factors}),$$

where the consecutive factors from the left to right comes from the subspaces $q \otimes T^i$, $i = 0, 1, \ldots, m - 1$. In particular, $q\langle 2 \rangle = q \ltimes q$ is the usual semi-direct product. The image of $q \otimes T^i$ in $q \ltimes q \ltimes \ldots \ltimes q$ is sometimes denoted by $q[i]$. We may (and will) represent the elements of $q\langle m \rangle$ as vectors:

$$\bar{x} = (x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{m-1}), \text{ where } x_i \in q[i].$$

Recall that $S(q)$ is the symmetric algebra of $q$ over $\mathbb{k}$ and $\mathbb{k}[q] = S(q^*)$. For reductive $g$, $g[0]$ is a Levi subalgebra of $g\langle m \rangle$ and $R_u(g\langle m \rangle) = 0 \ltimes g \ltimes \cdots \ltimes g$. It is shown in [14] that $\mathbb{k}[g\langle m \rangle]_{(m)} = \mathbb{k}[g\langle m \rangle]^{G(m)}$ is polynomial. More precisely, there is an explicit procedure for constructing elements of $\mathbb{k}[g\langle m \rangle]_{(m)}$ from those of $\mathbb{k}[g]^m$, which enables us to prove the polynomiality. The semisimple case with $m = 2$ was considered by Takiff in 1971. In [11, Sect. 11], we extend results of [14] to more general Lie algebras and prove that the algebra $\mathbb{k}[g\langle m \rangle]^{R_u(G(m))}$ is also polynomial.

1.3. Contractions. We only consider Lie algebra contractions of the following form. Let $c_t : q \to q$, $t \in \mathbb{k}^\times$, be a polynomial linear action of $\mathbb{k}^\times$ on $q$. That is, $c_1 = \text{id}$, $c_t c_{t'} = c_{t t'}$, and the matrix entries of $c_t$ are polynomials in $t$. Define the new Lie algebra structure on the vector space $q$ by

$$(1.1) \quad [x, y]_{(t)} := c_t^{-1} [c_t(x), c_t(y)].$$

The corresponding Lie algebra is denoted by $q_{(t)}$. Then $q_{(1)} = q$ and all these algebras are isomorphic. If $\lim_{t \to 0} [x, y]_{(t)}$ exists for all $x, y \in q$, then we obtain a new Lie algebra, say $s$, which is a contraction of $q$. To express this fact, we write $\lim_{t \to 0} q_{(t)} = s$ or merely $q \sim s$. We identify $q$ and $s$ as vector spaces.

There is a relation between invariants of $q$ and $s$. Let $\mathbb{k}[q]_m = \mathbb{k}[q_{(t)}]_m \simeq \mathbb{k}[s]_m$ be the space of polynomials of degree $m$ and $\mathbb{k}[q_{(t)}]_{m(t)}^{q(t)}$ the subspace of invariants of the adjoint representation of $q_{(t)}$. Then $\dim \mathbb{k}[q_{(t)}]_{m(t)}^{q(t)}$ does not depend on $t \in \mathbb{k}^\times$. Therefore $\lim_{t \to 0} \mathbb{k}[q_{(t)}]_{m(t)}^{q(t)}$ exists in the appropriate Grassmannian and is clearly contained in $\mathbb{k}[s]_m$. Gathering together components of all degrees, we obtain the subalgebra

$$\lim_{t \to 0} \mathbb{k}[q_{(t)}]_{m(t)}^{q(t)} \subset \mathbb{k}[s]^s.$$

It can be described more explicitly, as follows. For $F \in \mathbb{k}[q]_{m(t)}^q$, set $F_{(t)}(x) = F(c_t(x))$ and expand $F_{(t)} = \sum_{j=a}^b F_j t^j$ with $F_a \neq 0$ and $F_b \neq 0$. We say that $F_a$ (resp. $F_b$) is the initial (resp. highest) component for $F$ and write $F_\bullet$ (resp. $F^\bullet$) for it. Set $\mathcal{L}_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[q]_m^q) = \{ F_\bullet : \mathbb{F} \in \mathbb{k}[q]_{m}\}$. 

Proposition 1.1. Given $F \in \mathbb{k}[q]^q_m$, we have

(i) $F(t) \in \mathbb{k}[q(q)]^q_m$ for any $t \in \mathbb{k}^\times$;
(ii) $F_\bullet \in (\lim_{t \to 0} \mathbb{k}[q(q)]^q_m) \subset \mathbb{k}[s]^s_m$;
(iii) $\lim_{t \to 0} \mathbb{k}[q(q)]^q_m = L_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m)$.

Proof. (i) Consider the representation of $q$ in $\mathbb{k}[q]$. Let $e \ast (?)$ denote the operator corresponding to $e \in q$. Then $F \in \mathbb{k}[q]^q$ if and only if $e \ast F = 0$ for any $e \in q$. The corresponding operator for $e \in q(t)$ is denoted by $e \ast (t)$ (?). Note that $c_t : q \to q$ can be regarded as isomorphism of Lie algebras $q$ and $q(t)$. Therefore $(e \ast (t)) F(t)(x) = (c_t(e) \ast F)(c_t(x))$, which yields the assertion.

(ii) Consider $F(t)$ as a curve in the projectivisation of $\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m$. Then $\lim_{t \to 0} F(t) = F_\bullet$.

(iii) The inclusion $"\supset"$ is already proved. Hence it suffices to show that $\dim \mathbb{k}[q]^q_m = \dim L_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m)$. Consider the finite ascending filtration $\mathcal{F}_\bullet$ of $\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m$:

\[ \mathbb{k}[q]^q_m = \mathcal{F}_0 \supset \cdots \supset \mathcal{F}_j \supset \cdots, \]

where

\[ \mathcal{F}_j := \{ F \in \mathbb{k}[q]^q_m \mid F(t) = \sum_{j \geq 1} F_j t^j \}. \]

Let $\mathcal{F}_{\supset}$ be the last nonzero term of $\mathcal{F}_\bullet$. Set $\text{Gr}(\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m) = \bigoplus_{i=0}^N \mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1}$. Then $\dim \mathbb{k}[q]^q_m = \dim \text{Gr}(\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m)$, and for each $i$ there is a natural linear mapping $\varphi_i : \mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1} \rightarrow L_\bullet(\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m)$, $F + \mathcal{F}_{i+1} \mapsto F_\bullet$. Clearly, each $\varphi_i$ is injective. Furthermore, $\varphi_i(\mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1})$ consists of polynomials of weight $(-i)$ with respect to the induced action of $\mathbb{k}^\times$ in $\mathbb{k}[q]^q_m$. Hence, the subspaces $\varphi_i(\mathcal{F}_i/\mathcal{F}_{i+1})$ are linearly independent. \hfill \Box

Similar results hold for coadjoint representations and algebras of invariants $S(q(q))^q$. The only notable difference is that for $F \in S(q)^q$ one have to take the highest component $F^\bullet$.

2. QUASI-GRADED CONTRACTIONS AND INVARIANTS

A Lie algebra $(q, [\ , \ ])$ is said to be quasi-graded if there is a vector space decomposition $q = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{k-1} q_i$ such that $[q_i, q_j] \subset q_{i+j}$ whenever $i + j \leq k - 1$. There are no conditions on $[q_i, q_j]$ if $i + j \geq k$. The family of subspaces $\Gamma = \{ q_i \}_{i=0}^{k-1}$ is said to form a quasi-graded structure (of order $k$) on $q$. Define the new Lie algebra structure, $[\ , \ ]_\Gamma$, on the vector space $q$ as follows: for $x_i \in q_i$, we set $[x_i, x_j]_\Gamma := \begin{cases} [x_i, x_j], & \text{if } i + j \leq k - 1; \\ 0, & \text{if } i + j \geq k. \end{cases}$ The resulting $\mathbb{N}$-graded Lie algebra is denoted by $\mathfrak{g}_{\Gamma}(q)$ or $q_0 \times q_1 \times \ldots \times q_{k-1}$. It is a contraction of $q$. 
in the sense of Subsection 1.3. Indeed, for \( t \in \mathbb{k}^\times \), define linear operators \( c_t : q \to q \) by \( c_t |_{q_i} = t^i \cdot \text{id} \) and define \( q(t) \) as above. Then

\[
[x_i, x_j](t) = \begin{cases} [x_i, x_j], & \text{if } i+j \leq k-1; \\ t \cdot (\text{a polynomial expression in } t), & \text{if } i+j \geq k. 
\end{cases}
\]

It follows that \( \lim_{t \to 0} q(t) = \mathcal{C}_\Gamma(q) \). The passage \( q \sim \mathcal{C}_\Gamma(q) \) as well as \( \mathcal{C}_\Gamma(q) \) itself is called the \( \Gamma \)-contraction or a quasi-graded contraction of \( q \). We identify \( q \) and \( \mathcal{C}_\Gamma(q) \) as graded vector spaces.

**Example 2.1.** Here we provide important examples of quasi-graded structures.

1) Let \( \theta \in \text{Aut}(q) \) be of order \( k \). Then the corresponding \( \mathbb{Z}_k \)-grading of \( q \) is a quasi-grading. The quasi-graded contraction associated with \( \theta \) is said to be cyclic or a \( \mathbb{Z}_k \)-contraction. It is denoted by \( \mathcal{C}_\theta(q) \).

2) Let \( \mathfrak{h} \) be a subalgebra of \( q \). Suppose that there is an \( \text{ad}(\mathfrak{h}) \)-stable subspace \( m \subset q \) such that \( q = \mathfrak{h} \oplus m \). Then \( \Gamma = \{ \mathfrak{h}, m \} \) is a quasi-graded structure of order 2 on \( q \). The passage \( q \sim \mathfrak{h} \times m \) is called the \( \mathfrak{h} \)-isotropy contraction of \( q \). Here \( \mathfrak{h} \times m \) is the semi-direct product of (the Lie algebra) \( \mathfrak{h} \) and (the \( \mathfrak{h} \)-module) \( m \).

**Remark.** Any \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-contraction is an isotropy contraction; \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-contractions of reductive Lie algebras have already been considered in [11, \S 9] and [12].

There is a natural construction of certain quasi-gradings from periodic gradings.

**Lemma 2.2.** Suppose \( \theta \in \text{Aut}(q) \) is of order \( k \). Let \( q_0 + q \) be the corresponding fixed point subalgebra of \( q \). Then \( q_0 + q \) has a natural quasi-graded structure of order \( k + 1 \). The corresponding quasi-graded contraction is isomorphic to \( q_0 \times q_1 \times \ldots \times q_{k-1} \times q_0 \).

**Proof.** Consider the family of subspaces \( \Gamma = \{ s_j \}_{j=0}^k \) such that \( s_0 = \{ (x, x) \mid x \in q_0 \} \subset q_0 + q_0 \subset q_0 + q \), \( s_i = q_i \subset q \) for \( i = 1, \ldots, k-1 \), and \( s_k = q_0 \subset q \). Then \( q_0 + q = \bigoplus_{i=0}^k s_i \) and

\[
[s_i, s_j] \subset \begin{cases} s_{i+j}, & \text{if } i+j \leq k; \\ s_{i+j-k}, & \text{if } i+j \geq k+1. 
\end{cases}
\]

Therefore \( \Gamma \) is a quasi-grading. Obviously, \( \mathcal{C}_\Gamma(q_0 + q) \simeq q_0 \times q_1 \times \ldots \times q_{k-1} \times q_0 \). \( \square \)

**Remark.** The quasi-graded contraction in the lemma is not cyclic.

Below, we explicitly describe a connection between invariants of \( q \) and \( \mathcal{C}_\Gamma(q) \). In the special case of \( \mathbb{Z}_2 \)-contractions of reductive Lie algebras, such a connection is explained in [12, Proposition 3.1]. Discussing “invariants of \( q \)”, we always mean invariants of the adjoint and coadjoint representations, i.e., the algebras \( \mathbb{k}[q]^g \) and \( S(q)^g \). If an explicit formula for \( q \) appears to be bulky, we also use notation \( \text{lnv}(q, \text{ad}) \) and \( \text{lnv}(q, \text{ad}^*) \).
Any quasi-grading \( \Gamma = \{ q_i \}_{i=0}^{k-1} \) determines a polygrading of \( S(q) \). Using the vector space decomposition \( q = \bigoplus_{j=0}^{k-1} q_j \), any \( F \in S(q) \) can be written as \( F = \sum F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}} \), where \( F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}} \in \bigotimes_{j=0}^{k-1} S^{i_j}(q_j) \). Define a specialisation of this polygrading by
\[
\deg_\Gamma(F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}}) = i_1 + 2i_2 + \cdots + (k-1)i_{k-1}.
\]
We say that \( \deg_\Gamma \) is the \( \Gamma \)-degree in \( S(q) \). Note that the usual degree in \( S(q) \) is defined by \( \deg(F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}}) = i_0 + i_1 + \cdots + i_{k-1} \). If we refer to homogeneous polynomials, then the usual degree is meant, unless otherwise stated. If \( F \) is homogeneous, then \( \deg(F) = \deg(\text{gr}F) = \deg(\text{gr}eF) \). Using the dual decomposition of \( q^* \), one similarly defines the \( \Gamma \)-degree for polynomials in \( k[q] \).

**Definition 1.** For \( F \in S(q) \), let \( \text{gr}eF \) (resp. \( \text{gr}eF \)) denote the component of \( F \) of the maximal (resp. minimal) \( \Gamma \)-degree. The same notation applies to \( F \in k[q] \).

As \( q \) and \( \mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q) \) are identified as vector spaces, each \( F \in S(q) \) (resp. \( F \in k[q] \)) can also be regarded as element of \( S(\mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q)) \) (resp. \( k[\mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q)] \)).

**Theorem 2.3.** Let \( \Gamma = \{ q_i \}_{i=0}^{k-1} \) be an arbitrary quasi-graded structure on \( q \).

(i) If \( F \in S(q)^q \), then \( \text{gr}eF \in \text{Inv}(\mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q), \text{ad}^\ast) \).

(ii) If \( F \in k[q]^q \), then \( \text{gr}eF \in \text{Inv}(\mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q), \text{ad}) \).

**Proof.** (i) Let \( \{ , \} \) (resp. \( \{ , \}_\Gamma \) denote the Poisson bracket in \( S(q) \) (resp. \( S(\mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q)) \)). As is well-known, \( F \in S(q)^q \) if and only if \( \{ x, F \} = 0 \) for any \( x \in q \).

If \( x_i \in q_i \), then \( \deg_\Gamma(x_i) = i \). Therefore
\[
\deg_\Gamma(\{ x_i, x_j \}) = \begin{cases} 
  i + j, & \text{if } i + j < k, \\
  < i + j, & \text{if } i + j \geq k.
\end{cases}
\]

If \( \deg_\Gamma(F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}}) = m \), then \( \deg_\Gamma(\{ x_j, F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}} \}_\Gamma) = m + j \). Furthermore, comparing the commutators in \( q \) and \( \mathfrak{c}_\Gamma(q) = q_0 \ltimes \cdots \ltimes q_{k-1} \) shows that
\[
\{ x_j, F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}} \} = \{ x_j, F_{i_0,i_1,\ldots,i_{k-1}} \}_\Gamma + \text{(terms of } \Gamma \text{-degree } < j + m).\]

It follows that \( \{ x_j, \text{gr}eF \}_\Gamma \) is the component of the maximal possible \( \Gamma \)-degree in \( \{ x_j, F \} \). As \( \{ x_j, F \} = 0 \), we also must have \( \{ x_j, \text{gr}eF \}_\Gamma = 0 \).

(ii) This follows from Proposition 1.1, since \( \text{gr}eF \) is the initial component of \( F_{(t)} \) with respect to \( t \).

**Remark.** Proposition 1.1 can be adapted for obtaining another proof of part (i). In the context of quasi-graded contractions, we prefer to use notation \( \text{gr}eF \) in place of \( F_e \) (and likewise for \( \text{gr}eF \)).
Recall that $L(q) := \{ gr_F \mid F \in \mathbb{k}[q]^q \}$ is a subalgebra of $\mathbb{k}[C(\mathbb{G}(q))]$, and it follows from Proposition 1.1(iii) that the graded algebras $\mathbb{k}[q]^q$ and $L(q)$ have equal Poincaré series. Similarly, $L^*(S(q)^q)$ is a subalgebra of $S(C(\mathbb{G}(q)))$.

3. Periodic automorphisms of Takiff algebras and related contractions

Throughout this section, $\theta$ is a periodic automorphism of $q$ and $\zeta = \sqrt[|\theta|]{1}$; usually $|\theta| = k$. Every periodic $\theta \in \text{Aut}(q)$ can be extended to an automorphism of $q\langle m \rangle$ of the same order. There are at least two ways for doing so:

$$\widehat{\theta}|_{q[i]} = \theta;$$

$$\widehat{\theta}|_{q[i]} = \zeta^{-i}\theta.$$  

(3.1)

In both cases, it is easily seen that $\widehat{\theta} \in \text{Aut}(q\langle m \rangle)$. Notice that no relation between $m$ and $|\theta|$ is required! In the first case, the fixed point subalgebra is again a Takiff algebra. Therefore we only work with the second case, which is certainly more interesting. That is, from now on, $\widehat{\theta}$ is defined by Eq. (3.1). Then the $\zeta^i$-eigenspace of $\widehat{\theta}$ is

$$q\langle m \rangle_i = q_i \times q_{i+1} \times \ldots \times q_{i+m-1},$$

where $q_i$ is the $\zeta^i$-eigenspace of $\theta$ and all subscripts are regarded as elements of $\mathbb{Z}_{|\theta|}$. In particular, the fixed point subalgebra for $\widehat{\theta}$ is

$$q\langle m \rangle^{\widehat{\theta}} = q\langle m \rangle_0 = q_0 \times q_1 \times \ldots \times q_{m-1}.$$  

If $(q, B)$ is quadratic, then $q\langle m \rangle$ is also a quadratic Lie algebra. For, we can extend $B$ to $q\langle m \rangle$ by letting

$$\hat{B}(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} B(x_i, y_{m-1-i}).$$  

(3.2)

Lemma 3.1. Suppose $(q, B)$ is quadratic and $B$ is a $\theta$-eigenvector with eigenvalue $\zeta^c$. Then $\hat{B}$ is a $\widehat{\theta}$-eigenvector with eigenvalue $\zeta^{c+1-m}$.

Proof. This follows from Eq. (3.1) and (3.2).  

Thus, even if a scalar product on $q$ is $\theta$-invariant, then extending it to a Takiff algebra $q\langle m \rangle$ we may obtain the scalar product with a non-trivial $\widehat{\theta}$-eigenvalue. Combining Lemma 3.1 and Subsection 1.1, we obtain

Corollary 3.2. If $(q, B)$ is quadratic and $B$ is a $\theta$-eigenvector with eigenvalue $\zeta^c$, then the dual $q\langle m \rangle_0$-module for $q\langle m \rangle_i$ is $q\langle m \rangle_{c+1-m-i}$. In particular, if $c = 0$, then both $(q_0, B|_{q_0})$ and $(q\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0, B)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, are also quadratic.
We are going to study the algebra of invariants for the adjoint and coadjoint representations of algebras of the form \( q(m)_0 \). Since \( q(m)_0 \simeq q(m)_{c+1-m} \), the coadjoint representation of \( q(m)_0 \) can also be realised as \( \tilde{\theta} \)-representation.

Let us point out two important cases:

- If \( m = k \), then \( q(k)_0 = q_0 \times q_1 \times \ldots \times q_{k-1} \).
- If \( m = k + 1 \), then \( q(k+1)_0 = q_0 \times q_1 \times \ldots \times q_{k-1} \times q_0 \).

In the first case, each \( q_i \) occurs exactly once. Furthermore, if \( c = 0 \), then \( q(k)_0 \simeq q(k)_1 \) and \( q(k+1)_0 \) is quadratic. The utility of these (and some other related) cases is that the fixed point subalgebra for \( \tilde{\theta} \) appears to be a quasi-graded contraction.

**Proposition 3.3.** (i) The passage \( q \rightarrow q(k)_0 \) is the \( \mathbb{Z}_k \)-contraction associated with \( \theta \); (ii) The passage \( q_0 + q \rightarrow q(k+1)_0 = q(k+1)_0^\theta \) is a quasi-graded contraction of order \( k + 1 \).

**Proof.** (i) is obvious; (ii) follows from Lemma 2.2. \( \square \)

Recall that the cyclic contraction of \( q \) associated with \( \theta \) is denoted by \( \mathcal{C}_\theta(q) \). Therefore Proposition 3.3(i) can be expressed as the equality \( \mathcal{C}_\theta(q) \simeq q(\{\theta\})^\theta \). To generalise previous observations, we need some preparations.

**Lemma 3.4.** Let \( \theta \) be a periodic automorphism of \( q \). For any \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), there is a periodic automorphism \( \tilde{\theta} \) of \( nq := q + \ldots + q \) (\( n \) summands) such that \( |\tilde{\theta}| = n|\theta| \). Furthermore, for any \( j \in \mathbb{Z}_{n|\theta|} \), we have \( (nq)_j \simeq q_j \), where \( j \) is the image of \( j \) in \( \mathbb{Z}_{n|\theta|} \).

**Proof.** Let \( k = |\theta| \) and \( \zeta = \sqrt[n]{\mathbb{T}} \). Using the \( \mathbb{Z}_k \)-grading \( q = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}_k} q_i \), we consider \( nq \) as the direct sum of spaces \( n(q_i) = q_i + \ldots + q_i \). All these spaces are to be \( \tilde{\theta} \)-stable, and we define \( \tilde{\theta} \) for each \( i \) separately. For \( (a_1, \ldots, a_n) \in n(q_i) \), set

\[
\tilde{\theta}(a_1, \ldots, a_n) = (a_2, \ldots, a_n, \zeta^i a_1).
\]

Obviously, \( \tilde{\theta} \in \text{Aut}(nq) \) and \( \tilde{\theta}^n|_{n(q_i)} = \zeta^i \cdot \text{id} \). Hence \( |\tilde{\theta}| = nk \). To describe the eigenspaces of \( \tilde{\theta} \), we choose a primitive root \( \mu = \sqrt[n]{\mathbb{T}} \) such that \( \mu^n = \zeta \). Write \( (nq)_j \) for the \( \mu^j \)-eigenspace of \( \tilde{\theta} \). We claim that

\[
(nq)_j = \{ x, \mu^j x, \ldots, \mu^{(n-1)j} x \mid x \in q_j \}.
\]

Indeed, let \( r_j \) denote the right-hand side. It is easily seen that \( r_j \subset (nq)_j \), \( r_j \simeq q_j \), and \( r_j \subset n(q_j) \). Moreover, for any \( j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, k-1\} \), the sum \( \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} r_{j+l} \) is direct (use the Vandermonde determinant!). Whence \( nq = \bigoplus_{j=0}^{nk-1} r_j \), and we are done. \( \square \)

Our general result on contractions associated with Takiff algebras is

**Theorem 3.5.** Given a periodic \( \theta \in \text{Aut}(q) \) and \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), consider \( \tilde{\theta} \in \text{Aut}(nq) \) as above. Then
(i) For $\hat{\theta} \in \text{Aut}(q(n|\theta|))$, the fixed point subalgebra $q(n|\theta|)^{\hat{\theta}}$ is the cyclic contraction of $nq$ associated with $\hat{\theta}$, i.e., $q(n|\theta|)^{\hat{\theta}} \simeq C_{\hat{\theta}}(nq)$.
(ii) For $\hat{\theta} \in \text{Aut}(q(n|\theta| + 1))$, the fixed point subalgebra $q(n|\theta| + 1)^{\hat{\theta}}$ is a quasi-graded contraction (of order $nk + 1$) of $q_0 + nq$.

Proof. This is an immediate consequence of our previous results. First, we consider the $\mathbb{Z}_{nk}$-grading of $nq$ constructed in Lemma 3.4, which yields (i). For (ii), we endow $q_0 + nq$ with the quasi-graded structure of order $nk + 1$ using Lemmas 2.2 and 3.4. We also need the fact that $(nq)_j \simeq q_j$ for any $j = 0, 1, \ldots, nk - 1$. \hfill \Box

Corollary 3.6. Let $\hat{\theta}$ be the cyclic permutation of the summands in $nq$. Then $q(n) \simeq C_{\hat{\theta}}(nq)$.

Proof. This is the particular case of Theorem 3.5(i) with $\theta = \text{id}$ and hence $\hat{\theta} = \text{id}$. \hfill \Box

Note that Proposition 3.3 corresponds to the case $n = 1$ in Theorem 3.5.

Remark 3.7. The $\mathbb{Z}_{nk}$-contraction of $nq$ is the $\mathbb{N}$-graded algebra $(nq)_0 \ltimes (nq)_1 \ltimes \cdots \ltimes (nq)_{nk-1}$, but using the isomorphisms $(nq)_j \simeq q_j$ we can write it as $q(nk)^{\theta} = q_0 \ltimes q_1 \ltimes \cdots \ltimes q_{k-1}$, where each $q_i$ occurs $n$ times. Yet, one should not forget that different summands $q_i$ in the last expression arise from different subspaces of $nq$. For future use, we record the fact that the subalgebra $q_0$ in $q(nk)^{\theta}$ or $q(nk + 1)^{\theta}$ (the very first summand) corresponds under the isomorphisms of Lemma 3.4 and Theorem 3.5 to the diagonally embedded subalgebra $q_0$ in $n(q_0) \subset nq$ or in $(n + 1)q_0 \subset q_0 + nq$.

Combining Theorems 2.3 and 3.5, we obtain

Theorem 3.8. Let $\theta \in \text{Aut}(q)$ be periodic and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Consider the graded structure of $nq$ and quasi-graded structure of $q_0 + nq$ determined by $\theta$.

(i) If $F \in \text{lnv}(nq, \text{ad}^*)$, then $\text{gr}^* F \in \text{lnv}(q(n|\theta|)_0, \text{ad}^*)$;
(ii) If $F \in \text{lnv}(nq, \text{ad})$, then $\text{gr} \cdot F \in \text{lnv}(q(n|\theta|)_0, \text{ad})$.
(iii) If $F \in \text{lnv}(q_0 + nq, \text{ad}^*)$, then $\text{gr}^* F \in \text{lnv}(q(n|\theta| + 1)_0, \text{ad}^*)$;
(iv) If $F \in \text{lnv}(q_0 + nq, \text{ad})$, then $\text{gr} \cdot F \in \text{lnv}(q(n|\theta| + 1)_0, \text{ad})$.

Let us point out possible applications of these procedures. For definiteness, consider part (ii). Taking each (homogeneous) $F \in k[q(nq)]^{nq} \simeq \text{lnv}(q, \text{ad})^{\otimes n}$ to $\text{gr} \cdot F$, we obtain the subalgebra of $\text{lnv}(q(n|\theta|)_0, \text{ad})$, which is denoted by $\mathcal{L}_\bullet(k[q(nq)]^{nq})$. We know that $k[q(nq)]^{nq}$ and $\mathcal{L}_\bullet(k[q(nq)]^{nq})$ have the same Poincaré series with respect to the usual degree. If one knows somehow that $k[q(nq)]^{nq}$ and $\text{lnv}(q(n|\theta|)_0, \text{ad})$ also have equal Poincaré series, then we obtain the equality $\mathcal{L}_\bullet(k[q(nq)]^{nq}) = \text{lnv}(q(n|\theta|)_0, \text{ad})$. This sometimes allows us to prove that good properties of $\text{lnv}(q, \text{ad})$ are carried to $\text{lnv}(q(nk)_0, \text{ad})$ over. Instances of such a phenomenon are discussed in the following sections.
From now on, our initial object is a reductive Lie algebra \( \mathfrak{g} \) (in place of an arbitrary \( \mathfrak{q} \)). As above, it is assumed that \( \theta \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) \) and \( |\theta| = k \). If an algebra of invariants appears to be graded polynomial, then the elements of any set of algebraically independent homogeneous generators will be referred to as \textit{basic invariants}. E.g., one can consider basic invariants in \( S(\mathfrak{g})^\theta = S(\mathfrak{g})^G \) or \( k[\mathfrak{g}]^G_{0} \).

Let us start with some remarks concerning the reductive case. We assume that the scalar product on \( \mathfrak{g} \) is \( \theta \)-invariant. Hence \( c = 0 \) in Corollary 3.2 and \( \mathfrak{g}\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0 \) is quadratic for any \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). Recall that \( \mathfrak{g}[0] \simeq \mathfrak{g} \) is a Levi subalgebra of \( \mathfrak{g}\langle m \rangle \) and \( \mathcal{R}_u(\mathfrak{g}\langle m \rangle) = 0 \times \mathfrak{g} \times \ldots \times \mathfrak{g} \). Similarly, \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \subset \mathfrak{g}[0] \) is a Levi subalgebra of \( \mathfrak{g}\langle m \rangle_0 \) and \( \mathcal{R}_u(\mathfrak{g}\langle m \rangle_0) = 0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \times \ldots \times \mathfrak{g}_{m-1} \).

Let \( \mathfrak{N} \) be the nilpotent cone of \( \mathfrak{g} \) and \( \mathcal{O}^\text{reg} \subset \mathfrak{N} \) the regular nilpotent \( G \)-orbit.

**Theorem 4.1.** Suppose \( \theta \) has the property that \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \cap \mathcal{O}^\text{reg} \neq \emptyset \) and \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) is arbitrary. Then

\[
\begin{align*}
(\text{i}) & \quad \mathcal{L}_\bullet(k[n\mathfrak{g}]^{n\theta}) = \text{Inv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0, ad) \text{ and Inv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0, ad) \text{ is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension } n \cdot \text{rk } \mathfrak{g} \text{.} \\
(\text{ii}) & \quad \mathcal{L}_\bullet(k[n\mathfrak{g} + \mathfrak{g}_0]^{n\theta + \theta_0}) = \text{Inv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0, ad) \text{ and Inv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0, ad) \text{ is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension } n \cdot \text{rk } \mathfrak{g} + \text{rk } \mathfrak{g}_0.
\end{align*}
\]

**Proof.** (i) Consider the chain of Lie algebra contractions:

\[
\begin{align*}
n\mathfrak{g} \sim & \quad \mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0 \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_0 \times \mathfrak{g}_1 \times \ldots \times \mathfrak{g}_{k-1} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_0 \times (\mathfrak{g}_1 \oplus \ldots \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{k-1}) =: \mathfrak{h},
\end{align*}
\]

where “\( \sim \)” is constructed in Theorem 3.5(i) and “\( \sim \)” stands for the \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \)-isotropy contraction of \( \mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0 \). In other words, \( \mathcal{R}_u(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0) \) is proclaimed to be abelian in \( \mathfrak{h} \). The direct passage \( n\mathfrak{g} \sim \mathfrak{h} \) can also be regarded as the \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \)-isotropy contraction of \( n\mathfrak{g} \), where \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \) is the diagonally embedded subalgebra \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \subset n(\mathfrak{g}_0) \subset n\mathfrak{g} \) (cf. Remark 3.7). Consider the corresponding transformations of algebras of invariants

\[
(4.1) \quad k[n\mathfrak{g}]^{n\theta} \sim \mathcal{L}_\bullet^{(1)}(k[n\mathfrak{g}]^{n\theta}) \leftrightarrow \text{Inv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0, ad) \sim \mathcal{L}_\bullet^{(2)}(\text{Inv}(\mathfrak{g}\langle nk \rangle_0, ad)) \leftrightarrow k[\mathfrak{h}]^\mathfrak{g}.
\]

Here the functor \( \mathcal{L}_\bullet^{(i)} \) corresponds to the contraction “\( \sim \)” and each arrow “\( \sim \)” preserves the Poincaré series. By [11, Theorem 6.2], the algebra \( k[\mathfrak{h}]^\mathfrak{g} \) is polynomial. That is, both extreme algebras are polynomial. Furthermore, the degrees of the basic invariants for both are the same [11, Theorem 9.5(2)]. (The crucial property is that the Levi subalgebra \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \subset \mathfrak{h} \) arises from the diagonally embedded \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \subset n(\mathfrak{g}_0) \subset n\mathfrak{g} \), and therefore a regular nilpotent element of \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \) is still regular in \( n\mathfrak{g} \).)

The equality for the degrees implies that both embeddings in Eq. (4.1) are actually isomorphisms, and all the algebras involved have one and the same Poincaré series. Let \( F_1, \ldots, F_l \) be the basic invariants in \( k[\mathfrak{h}]^\mathfrak{g} \). Then there are homogeneous \( \tilde{F}_i \in k[n\mathfrak{g}]^{n\theta} \) such
that $\text{gr}_*^{(2)}(\text{gr}_*^{(1)}(\bar{F}_i)) = F_i$ for all $i$. It is then easily seen that \{\bar{F}_i\} and \{\text{gr}_*^{(1)}\bar{F}_i\} must be algebraically independent. Since $\text{deg} F_i = \text{deg}(\text{gr}_*^{(1)}\bar{F}_i)$, $\text{Inv}(\text{g}(nk)_0, \text{ad})$ is freely generated by the \{\text{gr}_*^{(1)}\bar{F}_i\}’s.

(ii) We begin with the chain of Lie algebra contractions:

$$
g_0 + n\mathfrak{g} \simeq \text{g}(nk + 1)_0 = g_0 \ltimes g_1 \ltimes \ldots \ltimes g_k \ltimes g_0 \simeq (g_1 \oplus \ldots \oplus g_k - 1 \oplus g_0).$$

The rest is essentially the same as in part (i). \hfill \Box

The list of $\theta$ satisfying the assumption $\mathfrak{g}_0 \cap O^\text{reg} \neq \emptyset$ is not long. For simple $\mathfrak{g}$, all possible pairs $\mathfrak{g} \supset \mathfrak{g}_0$ are pointed out below:

$$|\theta| = 2: \text{sl}_{2n} \supset \text{sp}_{2n}, \text{sl}_{2n+1} \supset \text{so}_{2n+1}, \text{so}_{2n} \supset \text{so}_{2n-1}, \text{E}_6 \supset \text{F}_4;$$

$$|\theta| = 3: \text{D}_4 \supset \text{G}_2.$$ (4.2)

For semisimple Lie algebras, the only new possibility is the cyclic permutation of summands in $ng$, which leads to $\mathfrak{g}(n)$, cf. Corollary 3.6.

Example 4.2. We give realisations of algebras $\mathfrak{g}(nk)_0$ and $\mathfrak{g}(nk+1)_0$, associated with the list in (4.2), as centralisers of nilpotent elements. If $\theta$ is an involution, then there are only two eigenspaces, $\mathfrak{g}_0$ and $\mathfrak{g}_1$, and we will use the more suggestive notation $\mathcal{L}_m(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_1)$ in place of $\mathfrak{g}(m)_0$. For $\mathfrak{g}$ simple, $\mathcal{L}_m(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_1)$ is quadratic if and only if $m$ is odd. Irreducible $\mathfrak{g}_0$-modules occurring in $\mathfrak{g}_1$ are depicted by their highest weights. Namely, $R(\lambda)$ is a simple module with highest weight $\lambda$. The $i$-th fundamental weight of a simple Lie algebra is denoted by $\omega_i$, with the numbering from [16]. We write $\mathbb{I}$ for the trivial 1-dimensional module. The symbol $\mathcal{I}_n$ stands for the $n$-dimensional centre. Items 1°–4° below provide realisations of the algebras $\mathcal{L}_m(\mathfrak{g}_0, \mathfrak{g}_1)$ associated with the outer involutions of $\mathfrak{g} = \text{sl}_N$ or $\text{gl}_N$.

1°. Let $e \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} = \text{sp}_{2nm}$ be a nilpotent element with partition $((2m, 2m, \ldots, 2m)) = ((2m)^n)$. Then $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m}(\text{so}_n, R(2\omega_1) \oplus \mathbb{I}) \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m}(\text{so}_n, R(2\omega_1)) + \mathfrak{z}_m$. Here $\text{so}_n \oplus (R(2\omega_1) \oplus \mathbb{I}) = \mathfrak{g}_l$, and $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e$ is a contraction of $m(\mathfrak{g}_l)$.

2°. Let $e \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} = \text{so}_{n(2m+1)}$ be a nilpotent element with partition $((2m+1)^n)$. Then $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m+1}(\text{so}_n, R(2\omega_1) \oplus \mathbb{I}) \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m+1}(\text{so}_n, R(2\omega_1)) + \mathfrak{z}_m$. Here $m(\mathfrak{g}_l) + \text{so}_n \simeq \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e$.

3°. Let $e \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} = \text{so}_{4nm}$ be a nilpotent element with partition $((2m)^{2n})$. Then $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m}(\text{sp}_{2n}, R(\omega_2) \oplus \mathbb{I}) \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m}(\text{sp}_{2n}, R(\omega_2)) + \mathfrak{z}_m$. Here $\text{sp}_{2n} \oplus (R(\omega_2) \oplus \mathbb{I}) = \mathfrak{g}_l$, and $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e$ is a contraction of $m(\mathfrak{g}_l)$.

4°. Let $e \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} = \text{sp}_{2n(2m+1)}$ be a nilpotent element with partition $((2m+1)^{2n})$. Then $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m+1}(\text{sp}_{2n}, R(\omega_2) \oplus \mathbb{I}) \simeq \mathcal{L}_{2m+1}(\text{sp}_{2n}, R(\omega_2)) + \mathfrak{z}_m$. Here $m(\mathfrak{g}_l) + \text{sp}_{2n} \simeq \tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e$.

5°. Let $e \in \tilde{\mathfrak{g}} = \text{so}_{2n+2}$ be a nilpotent element with partition $((3, 1^{2n-1})$. Then $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}^e \simeq (\text{so}_{2n-1} \ltimes R(\omega_1)) + ke$, where the first summand is a contraction of $\text{so}_{2n}$.
6°. Let \( e \in \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{e}_7 \) be a nilpotent element with weighted Dynkin diagram
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}.
\]
Then \( \mathfrak{g}^e = (F_4 \ltimes R(\varpi_1)) \oplus k e \).

7°. For \( n = 6, 7, 8 \), let \( e \in \mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{e}_n \) be nilpotent elements with weighted Dynkin diagrams
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix},
\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix},
\begin{pmatrix}
2 & 2 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix},
\]
respectively. Then \( \mathfrak{g}^e \simeq (G_2 \ltimes R(\varpi_1) \ltimes R(\varpi_1)) \oplus 3_{n-4} \), where the first summand is a \( \mathbb{Z}_3 \)-contraction of \( D_4 \).

Theorem 4.1 applies to items 3°–7°, and to 1°–2° if \( n \) is odd. The centralisers in 2° and 4° are quadratic.

**Remark 4.3.** If \(|\theta| = 2\) and \( n = 1\), then the algebra \( \text{inv}(\mathfrak{g}_0 \ltimes \mathfrak{g}_1, \text{ad}) \) is always polynomial and the basic invariants can explicitly be described [11, Theorem 6.2]. However, the equality \( \text{inv}(\mathfrak{g}_0 \ltimes \mathfrak{g}_1, \text{ad}) = \text{gr}(\mathfrak{g}_0 \ltimes \mathfrak{g}_1) \) holds if and only if \( \mathfrak{g}_0 \cap O^{reg} \neq \emptyset \).

5. GOOD CASES FOR COADJOINT REPRESENTATIONS

In this section, we prove a counterpart of Theorem 4.1 for invariants of coadjoint representations of \( \mathfrak{g}(nk)_0 \). To this end, we need some preparations.

The *index* of a Lie algebra \( q \), \( \text{ind} \; q \), is the minimal dimension of stabilisers of elements of \( q^* \) with respect to the coadjoint representation. Let \( q^*_{\text{reg}} \) be the set of regular elements of \( q^* \), i.e., those with minimal dimension of the stabiliser. We say that \( q \) has the *codim–2* (resp. *codim–3*) property, if \( \text{codim} \; (q^* \setminus q^*_{\text{reg}}) \geq 2 \) (resp. \( \geq 3 \)). Set \( b(q) = (\dim q + \text{ind} \; q)/2 \).

We will need the following result, which is explicitly stated in [12, Thm. 1.2] and based on an earlier work of Odesskii-Rubtsov [7].

**Theorem 5.1.** Suppose \( q \) has the codim–2 property and \( \text{trdeg} \; S(q)^q = \text{ind} \; q \). Set \( l = \text{ind} \; q \). Let \( f_1, \ldots, f_l \in S(q)^q \) be arbitrary homogeneous algebraically independent polynomials. Then

(i) \( \sum_{i=1}^l \deg f_i \geq b(q) \);

(ii) If \( \sum_{i=1}^l \deg f_i = b(q) \), then \( S(q)^q \) is freely generated by \( f_1, \ldots, f_l \) and \( \xi \in q^*_{\text{reg}} \) if and only if \( (df_1)_\xi, \ldots, (df_l)_\xi \) are linearly independent.

In order to apply this result to algebras \( \mathfrak{g}(nk)_0 \), we must have the codim–2 property and know the index of \( \mathfrak{g}(nk)_0 \).

Given a periodic \( \theta \in \text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g}) \), we have the flat quotient morphism \( \pi : \mathfrak{g}_1 \to \mathfrak{g}_1/\mathbb{G}_0 \) (see Introduction). The fibre \( \mathfrak{M}_1 := \pi^{-1}(\pi(0)) \) consists of all nilpotent elements in \( \mathfrak{g}_1 \). It can be reducible; moreover, if \(|\theta| \geq 3\), then some components can be reduced, while some other not.

Let us say that \( \theta \) (or the corresponding \( \mathbb{Z}_k \)-grading) is

- *S-regular*, if \( \mathfrak{g}_1 \) contains regular semisimple elements of \( \mathfrak{g} \);
\begin{itemize}
\item $N$-regular, if $g_1$ contains regular nilpotent elements of $g$ (i.e., $g_1 \cap O^{reg} \neq \emptyset$);
\item very $N$-regular, if $O^{reg}$ meets each irreducible component of $\mathfrak{N}_1$.
\end{itemize}

Some structure results on $S$- and $N$-regular gradings are obtained in [10].

**Lemma 5.2.** Suppose $\theta$ is both $S$-regular and very $N$-regular. Then $\text{codim}(g_1 \setminus (g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}})) \geq 2$.

**Proof.** Let $\pi^{-1}(\beta) = \mathcal{F}_\beta$ be an arbitrary fibre of $\pi$ and $O_\beta$ the dense $G_0$-orbit in an irreducible component of $\mathcal{F}_\beta$. Since $\dim \mathcal{F}_\beta = \dim \mathfrak{N}_1$, the associated cone of $O_\beta$ (see [2, §3]) is an irreducible component of $\mathfrak{N}_1$. Then the assumption on $\mathfrak{N}_1$ implies that $O_\beta \subset g_{\text{reg}}$. In other words, if $O \subset g_1$ is a $G_0$-orbit of maximal dimension, then $O \subset g_{\text{reg}}$. The assumption on regular semisimple elements shows that a generic fibre of $\pi$ is a (closed) $G_0$-orbit, i.e., the whole such fibre belongs to $g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}}$. The union of all other fibres is a proper subvariety of $g_1$ (actually, it is a divisor). However, the open $G_0$-orbits in all other fibres belong to $g_{\text{reg}}$, too. Hence the complement is of codimension at least 2, as required. \hfill \square

**Proposition 5.3.** (i) Suppose that $g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$. Then $\text{ind}(g_{nk})_0 = n \cdot \text{rk} g$.

(ii) If $\theta$ is both $S$-regular and very $N$-regular, then $g_{nk}(g_1)_0$ has the codim–2 property.

**Proof.** (i) Set $q = g_{nk}(g_1)_0$. Then $q^* = g_{nk}(g_1)_1$. Recall that

$$\begin{align*}
g_{nk}(g_1)_0 &= g_0 \times g_1 \times \ldots \times g_{k-1} \\
g_{nk}(g_1)_1 &= g_1 \times g_2 \times \ldots \times g_0 \quad (nk \text{ factors in both cases})
\end{align*}$$

Take any $x \in g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}}$. Write $g_i^x$ (resp. $g^x$) for the centraliser of $x$ in $g_i$ (resp. $g$). Then $g^x = \oplus_{i=0}^{k-1} g_i^x$ and $\dim g^x = \text{rk} g$. Consider $\xi = (x, 0, \ldots, 0)$ as element of $q^*$. Then the stabiliser of $\xi$ in $q$ is $g_0^x \times g_1^x \times \ldots \times g_{k-1}^x$, i.e., we get $g_i^x$ inside every component $g_i$ occurring in $g$. Since each $g_i$ occurs $n$ times, $\dim q^x = n \cdot \text{rk} g$. Therefore $\text{ind} q \leq n \cdot \text{rk} g$. On the other hand, $q$ is a contraction of $ng$ (Theorem 3.5(i)). Hence $\text{ind} q \geq \text{ind}(ng) = n \cdot \text{rk} g$. Notice that we also proved that if $x \in g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}}$, then $\xi = (x, 0, \ldots, 0) \in q_{\text{reg}}^*$.\hfill \square

(ii) Set $g_{1\text{reg}}^x = g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}}$. By Lemma 5.2, we have $\text{codim}(g_1 \setminus g_{1\text{reg}}) \geq 2$. Now, let $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \ldots, \xi_{nk}) \in q_{reg}^*$, where $\xi_i \in g_i$. We claim that if $\xi_1 \in g_{1\text{reg}}^x$, then $\xi \in q_{\text{reg}}^*$. This yields the desired codim–2 property. Hence it suffices to prove the claim. Consider $\xi(t) = (\xi_1, t\xi_2, \ldots, t^{nk-1}\xi_{nk})$, where $t \in k$. It is easily seen that if $(x_0, x_1, \ldots, x_{nk-1}) \in q_{\xi(t)}^x$ for $t \neq 0$, then $(t^{nk-1}x_0, t^{nk-2}x_1, \ldots, x_{nk-1}) \in q_{\xi(t)}$. It follows that, for $t \neq 0$, $\dim q_{\xi(t)}$ does not depend on $t$. Because $\lim_{t \to 0} \xi(t) = (\xi_1, 0, \ldots, 0) \in q_{\text{reg}}^*$, we conclude that all elements $\xi(t)$ are regular. That is, $\xi_1, \xi_2, \ldots, \xi_{nk} \in q_{\text{reg}}^*$ whenever $\xi_1 \in g_{1\text{reg}}^x$. \hfill \square

**Example 5.4.** It can happen that $\theta$ is both $S$- and $N$-regular, but not very $N$-regular. This may lead to the absence of the codim–2 property for $g(\theta)_0$. Consider $g = \mathfrak{sp}_4$ and an automorphism of order 4 such that $g_0$ is a Cartan subalgebra, say $t$. If $\alpha, \beta$ are simple roots with respect to $t$ ($\alpha$ is short), so that $2\alpha + \beta$ is the highest root, then $g_1$ is the sum of
root spaces corresponding to $\alpha$, $\beta$, and $-2\alpha-\beta$. Therefore $g_1$ contains regular semisimple and regular nilpotent elements of $g$. However, a direct verification shows that the corresponding $\mathbb{Z}_4$-contraction does not have the codim–2 property. In this case, $\mathcal{N}_1$ has three irreducible components and $O^{reg}$ meets only two of them.

**Theorem 5.5.** Suppose $\theta$ is both $S$-regular and very $N$-regular and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then $\lnv(g(nk)_0, \ad^*)$ is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension $n \cdot \text{rk} g$. Moreover, $L^*(S(n^g)) = \lnv(g(nk)_0, \ad^*)$.

**Proof.** First, assume that $n = 1$. In view of Theorem 5.1 and Proposition 5.3, it suffices to show that there are basic invariants $F^{(1)}, \ldots, F^{(\text{rk} g)} \in S(g)^g$ such that $\{g^* F^{(i)}\}$ remain algebraically independent.

Take the basic invariants in $S(g)^g$ such that each $F^{(i)}$ is an eigenvector of $\theta$. Let $\deg F^{(i)} = d_i$. We want to better understand the structure of $g^* F^{(i)}$. Take $e \in O^{reg} \cap g_1$. By [5], the differentials $\{dF^{(i)}_e\}$ are linearly independent. In particular, $dF^{(i)}_e \neq 0$ for each $i$. Consider the polygrading of $S(g)$ corresponding to the decomposition $g = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{k-1} g_i$. We also regard $g_1$ as the first factor of $g(k)_1 \simeq g(k)^*_0$. Since $g^*_{k-1} \simeq g_1$ and $g_{k-1}$ is the last factor of $g(k)_0$, the condition $dF^{(i)}_e \neq 0$ implies that $F^{(i)}$ has a nonzero summand of the form

\[
\begin{align*}
F^{(i)}_{(0,\ldots,0,d_i)} \quad \text{or} \quad F^{(i)}_{(\ldots,1,\ldots,d_i-1)}.
\end{align*}
\]

We have $k - 1$ possibilities for the position of ‘1’ in the second expression, hence totally $k$ possibilities in (1). In fact, there is the following precise assertion:

**Lemma 5.6.** (i) A homogeneous $\theta$-eigenvector $F \in S(g)$ can have at most one nonzero summand of the form (1); (ii) If this is the case, then $g^* F$ contains that summand.

**Proof.** (i) This follows from the fact that, for the nonzero summands $F_{(i_0,\ldots,i_{k-1})}$, $i_0 + \ldots + i_{k-1} = \deg F$ and all the sums $\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} j i_j$ have one and the same residue (mod $k$), which is determined by the $\theta$-eigenvalue of $F$. The $k$ possibilities in (1) just correspond to $k$ possible eigenvalues.

(ii) If $\deg F = d$ and $F$ has the summand $F_{(0,\ldots,0,d)}$, then the latter is clearly $g^* F$. If $F$ has the summand $F_{(\ldots,1,\ldots,d-1)}$ (with ‘1’ in position $s$, $0 \leq s \leq k - 2$), then the summands $F_{(i_0,\ldots,i_{k-1})}$ occurring in $g^* F$ should satisfy the relations

\[
\begin{align*}
\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} i_j &= d, \\
\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} j i_j &\equiv s + (d - 1)(k - 1) \pmod{k}, \\
\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} j i_j &\text{ is maximal possible.}
\end{align*}
\]

It is not hard to prove that the maximal value of the last sum is $s + (d - 1)(k - 1)$. Hence one of the solutions is $(\ldots, 1, \ldots, d - 1)$.

\[\square\]
It follows from Lemma 5.6(ii) that $dF_e^{(i)} = d(\text{gr} F^{(i)})_e$. Hence $\{\text{gr} F^{(i)}\}$ remain algebraically independent. This completes the proof of theorem for $n = 1$.

For arbitrary $n \in \mathbb{N}$, we consider $\tilde{\theta} \in \text{Aut}(ng)$ and the eigenspaces $(ng)_j$, which are described in Lemma 3.4. Here $(ng)_1 = \{(x, \mu x, \ldots, \mu^{n-1}x) \mid x \in g_1\}$, where $\mu = \sqrt[n]{-1}$, and we work with $e = (e, \mu e, \ldots, \mu^{n-1}e)$, which is a regular nilpotent element of $ng$. We regard $(ng)_1$ as the first factor in $g(nk)_1$ and choose basic invariants in $S(ng)^{ng}$ that are $\tilde{\theta}$-eigenvectors. The rest is the same.

The property of being “very $\mathbb{N}$-regular” is difficult to check directly. There are, however, useful sufficient conditions.

For $|\theta| = 2$, all irreducible component of $\mathfrak{N}_1$ are conjugate with respect to the action of certain (non-connected) group containing $G_0$, see [6, Theorem 6]. Therefore $\mathbb{N}$-regularity coincides with very $\mathbb{N}$-regularity. Furthermore, an involution is $S$-regular if and only if it is $\mathbb{N}$-regular [1]. Thus, it suffices to assume that $g_1 \cap O^{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$. Finally, an involution has the last property if and only if the corresponding Satake diagram has no black nodes.

To state another sufficient condition, we recall that, for $\mathfrak{g}$ simple, the set of basic invariants in $\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}]^G$ contains a unique polynomial of maximal degree. This degree equals the Coxeter number of $g$, denoted $c(\mathfrak{g})$. Let $F_{c(\mathfrak{g})}$ be such a basic invariant. It is known that $d(F_{c(\mathfrak{g})})_e = 0$ for any $e \in \mathfrak{N} \setminus O^{\text{reg}}$ (see a description of the ideal of $\mathfrak{N} \setminus O^{\text{reg}}$ in [3, 4.7–4.9]).

**Proposition 5.7.** Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be simple. Suppose $\theta$ is $\mathbb{N}$-regular and $F_{c(\mathfrak{g})}|_{g_1} \neq 0$. If either (i) $g_0$ is semisimple or (ii) $G_0 \subset SL(g_1)$ and $(G_0 : g_1)$ is locally free, then $\theta$ is very $\mathbb{N}$-regular.

**Proof.** Since $g_1 \cap O^{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$, the restriction homomorphism $\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}]^G \to \mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}_1]^{G_0}$ is onto, and $F_{c(\mathfrak{g})}|_{g_1}$ is a basic invariant in $\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}_1]^{G_0}$ [10, Theorem 3.5]. Let $\mathcal{O}$ be a dense $G_0$-orbit in an irreducible component of $\mathfrak{N}_1$. In other words, $\mathcal{O}$ is a nilpotent $G_0$-orbit of maximal dimension. Then in both cases, the differentials of basic invariants in $\mathbb{k}[\mathfrak{g}_1]^{G_0}$ are linearly independent at any $v \in \mathcal{O}$. For (i) (resp. (ii)), we refer to [9, Cor. 5(i)] (resp. [8, Cor. 1]). In particular, we have $d(F_{c(\mathfrak{g})})_v \neq 0$. Hence $v \in O^{\text{reg}}$.

**Remark.** In Example 5.4, the condition that $G_0 \subset SL(g_1)$ is not satisfied.

Here are some other related results:

**Proposition 5.8.**
(i) If $\theta$ is $S$-regular and the $G_0$-action on $g_1$ is locally free, then $\theta$ is $\mathbb{N}$-regular [10, Thm. 4.2(iii)];
(ii) If $\theta \in \text{Int}(g)$ and $\theta$ is $\mathbb{N}$-regular, then $F_{c(\mathfrak{g})}|_{g_1} \neq 0$ if and only if $|\theta|$ divides $c(\mathfrak{g})$ [10, Cor. 3.6].

In the rest of the section, we provide examples of $S$-regular and very $\mathbb{N}$-regular automorphisms and thereby examples where Theorem 5.5 applies.
Example 5.9. We give some serial examples of $S$-regular and very $N$-regular periodic automorphisms related to classical algebras.

1) The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{gl}_{nk}$ has an automorphism of order $k$ such that $\mathfrak{g}_0 = k\mathfrak{gl}_n$. In more invariant terms, let $V_i$ be a $n$-dimensional space, $i = 1, \ldots, k$, and $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}(V_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_k)$. Define $A \in GL(V_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus V_k)$ by $A|_{V_i} = \zeta^i \text{id}$. Let $\theta$ be the inner automorphism of $\mathfrak{g}$ determined by $A$. Then $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{gl}(V_1) + \cdots + \mathfrak{gl}(V_k)$ and $\mathfrak{g}_1 = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k \text{Hom}(V_i, V_{i+1})$, where $V_{k+1} = V_1$. Here $\dim \mathfrak{g}_1 = kn^2$. The generic stabiliser in $\mathfrak{g}_0$ is $\mathfrak{t}_n$ (the diagonally embedded Cartan subalgebra). Using the matrix realisation, one easily verifies that $\theta$ is both $S$- and $N$-regular. A more careful argument shows that $\mathfrak{g}_1$ has $k$ irreducible components, and each contains regular nilpotent elements of $\mathfrak{g}$. Therefore $\theta$ is very $N$-regular.

2) The algebra $D_{4m+3}$ has an inner automorphism $\theta$ of order 4 such that $G_0 = D_{m+1} \times D_{m+1} \times A_{2m} \times T_1$. The corresponding Kac’s diagram is

![Diagram]

We refer to [15, § 8, Prop. 17] for a complete account on Kac’s diagrams of periodic automorphisms. (Partial explanations are also given in [10, Example 4.5], where we have drawn black nodes in place of nodes with labels ‘1’.) Here $\dim \mathfrak{g}_0 = (2m + 1)(4m + 3)$ and $\dim \mathfrak{g}_1 = (2m + 1)(4m + 4)$. Let us prove that $\theta$ is $S$-regular and very $N$-regular.

Since $c(D_{4m+3}) = 8m + 4$, $|\theta|$ divides it. The representation of $G_0$ in $\mathfrak{g}_1$ can be read off the Kac’s diagram. Here $\mathfrak{g}_1$ is the sum of two simple $G_0$-modules of the same dimension, and $T_1$ acts with opposite weights on them. Therefore $G_0 \subset SL(\mathfrak{g}_1)$. One also readily verifies that the action $(G_0 : \mathfrak{g}_1)$ is stable and locally free. Therefore $\dim \mathfrak{c} = \dim \mathfrak{g}_1 - \dim \mathfrak{g}_0 = 2m + 1$. For stable $\theta$-groups, the dimension of a generic semisimple $G$-orbit meeting $\mathfrak{g}_1$ can be computed as $|\theta|(\text{dim } \mathfrak{g}_1 - \text{dim } \mathfrak{c})$ (cf. [10, Prop. 2.1(i)]), which is equal in this case to $\text{dim } \mathfrak{g} - \text{rk } \mathfrak{g}$. Hence, $\theta$ is $S$-regular. Combining Proposition 5.7(ii) and 5.8, we then conclude that $\theta$ is very $N$-regular.

Example 5.10. The following table contains some sporadic examples, mostly for exceptional Lie algebras. Here $\mathfrak{g}_0$ is always semisimple and $|\theta|$ divides $c(\mathfrak{g})$; $\text{ind } (\theta)$ denotes the order of $\theta$ in $\text{Aut}(\mathfrak{g})/\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g})$. In the last two columns, the dimension of Cartan subspaces and the generic stabiliser for the $\mathfrak{g}_0$-module $\mathfrak{g}_1$ are displayed (this information is borrowed from [15, § 9]). The $G_0$-action on $\mathfrak{g}_1$ is locally free if and only if this generic stabiliser is trivial.

In most cases, the proof is similar to that given in the previous example. The only exception is the second item for $E_7$, where $\theta$ is not an involution and $(G_0 : \mathfrak{g}_1)$ is not locally free. However, in this case $\mathfrak{g}_1$ appears to be irreducible [4, § 4], hence $N$-regularity is sufficient.
6. SOME REMARKS AND OPEN PROBLEMS

6.1. Invariants of the nilpotent radical. In [11], we explore several instances of representations of non-reductive Lie algebras \( q \) such that, for certain nilpotent ideal \( r \triangleleft q \), the invariants of \( r \) are polynomial. This includes the adjoint and coadjoint representations of \( q \), i.e., the algebras \( \mathbb{k}[q]_r \) or \( S(q)^r \). Often, \( r = \mathfrak{R}_u(q) \). This fact was used as a step toward proving the polynomiality of algebras of \( q \)-invariants. (See Theorems 6.2, 7.1, and 11.1 in loc. cit.)

Similar approach applies to our results in Sections 4 and 5. For instance, in order to describe \( \text{Inv}(g_0, ad) \), one can first consider the algebra of \( \mathfrak{R}_u(g(k)_0) \)-invariants in \( \mathbb{k}[g(k)_0] \), say \( \mathcal{A} \). Under the assumption of Theorem 4.1, it can be shown that \( \mathcal{A} \) is polynomial, of Krull dimension \( \dim g_0 + (\text{rk } g - \text{rk } g_0) \). Furthermore, the induced representation of \( g_0 \simeq g(k)_0/\mathfrak{R}_u(g(k)_0) \) in \( \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}) \) is isomorphic to the adjoint representation of \( g_0 \) plus the trivial representation of dimension \( \text{rk } g - \text{rk } g_0 \). In this way, one obtains another proof of polynomiality of \( \text{Inv}(g(k)_0, ad) \). The reason for success in this and other similar cases is that one can explicitly construct a natural set of elements of \( \mathcal{A} \) (presumably basic invariants). Then using Igusa’s lemma (see e.g. [11, Lemma 6.1]), one proves that these elements are algebraically independent and generate the algebra \( \mathcal{A} \). The details will appear elsewhere.

6.2. Index of fixed point subalgebras. Let us summarise what is known about the index of algebras \( g(m)_0 \). Recall that \( |\theta| = k \).
Since $g\langle nk+1 \rangle_0$ is quadratic, the description of $\text{Inv}(g\langle nk+1 \rangle_0, \text{ad})$ in Theorem 4.1(ii) shows that $\text{ind}(g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0) = n \cdot \text{rk} g + \text{rk} g_0$. That is, index does not change under the contraction $ng + g_0 \sim g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0$ whenever $g_0 \cap O^{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$. (Actually, this equality can be proved if $g_0 \cap g_{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$.) Similarly, if $g_1 \cap g_{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$, then $\text{ind}(g\langle nk \rangle_0) = n \cdot \text{rk} g$ (Proposition 5.3).

If $|\theta| = 2$, then we always have $\text{ind}(g_0 \times g_1) = \text{ind} g$ [11, Corollary 9.4]. The reason is that here $G/G_0$ is a spherical homogeneous space. From this, it is not hard to deduce that $\text{ind}(\mathcal{L}_{2n}(g_0, g_1)) = n \cdot \text{rk} g$ and $\text{ind}(\mathcal{L}_{2n+1}(g_0, g_1)) = n \cdot \text{rk} g + \text{rk} g_0$. (See notation introduced in Example 4.2.) However, for $|\theta| \geq 3$, the general answer is not known.

**Problem 6.1.** Compute $\text{ind}(g\langle nk \rangle_0)$ and $\text{ind}(g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0)$ for an arbitrary $\theta \in \text{Aut}(g)$ with $|\theta| = k \geq 3$. Is it true that $\text{ind}(g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0) = n \cdot \text{rk} g + \text{rk} g_0$ and $\text{ind}(g\langle nk \rangle_0) = n \cdot \text{rk} g$?

(The existence of contractions $ng + g_0 \sim g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0$ and $ng \sim g\langle nk \rangle_0$ shows that in both cases the inequality "$\geq" holds.) For instance, consider the outer automorphism of $D_4$ of order 3 whose fixed point subalgebra is $G_2$. The corresponding $\mathbb{Z}_3$-contraction is $g = G_2 \times R(\mathbb{W}_1) \times R(\mathbb{W}_1)$. It occurs in Example 4.2(7). Here $g_1 \simeq R(\mathbb{W}_1)$ does not contain regular elements of $D_4$. However, it is not hard to verify that $\text{ind} g = 4$.

6.3. **On Poisson-commutative subalgebras.** A subalgebra $\mathcal{A}$ of $S(q)$ is said to be Poisson-commutative if $\{f, g\} = 0$ for all $f, g \in \mathcal{A}$. There is a procedure (the so-called argument shift method, see e.g. [13]) for constructing "large" Poisson-commutative subalgebras of $S(q)$, which begins with $S(q)^q$ and a $\xi \in q_{\text{reg}}^*$. The resulting subalgebra is denoted by $\mathcal{F}_{\xi}(S(q)^q)$. It is proved in [13] that if (1) $S(q)^q$ is polynomial, (2) the sum of degrees of the basic invariants of $S(q)^q$ equals $b(q)$, and (3) $q$ has the codim−3 property, then $\mathcal{F}_{\xi}(S(q)^q)$ is a maximal Poisson-commutative subalgebra for any $\xi \in q_{\text{reg}}^*$. Furthermore, $\mathcal{F}_{\xi}(S(q)^q)$ is a polynomial algebra of Krull dimension $b(q)$.

Our goal is to realise when that result applies to algebras $g\langle m \rangle_0$. First of all, Lie algebras $q$ occurring in Theorems 4.1(ii) and 5.5 satisfy properties (1) and (2). We also proved that $g\langle nk \rangle_0$ has the codim−2 property (Proposition 5.3(ii)). However, the codim−3 property does not always hold for $g\langle nk \rangle_0$. But for algebras $g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0$ the situation is better.

**Proposition 6.2.** Suppose $\theta$ has the property that $g_0 \cap O^{\text{reg}} \neq \emptyset$. Then $g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0$ has the codim−3 property.

**Proof.** The proofs of Lemma 5.2 and Prop. 5.3 can be adapted to this situation. Recall that $g\langle nk + 1 \rangle_0 \simeq g\langle nk + 1 \rangle^*_0 = g_0 \times g_1 \times \ldots \times g_{k-1} \times g_0$ ($nk + 1$ factors).

As in Lemma 5.2, we prove that if $x \in g_0$ is regular in $g_0$, then it is regular in $g$. (In doing so, we use the assumption $O^{\text{reg}} \cap g_0 \neq \emptyset$ and the fact that the nilpotent cone in $g_0$ is irreducible.) Then, as in Prop. 5.3, we prove that $\xi = (\xi_0, \xi_1, \ldots, \xi_{nk}) \in (g\langle nk + 1 \rangle^*_0)_{\text{reg}}$ whenever $\xi_0 \in (g_0)_{\text{reg}}$. Since $\text{codim} (g_0 \setminus (g_0)_{\text{reg}}) = 3$, we are done. \qed
6.4. Flatness. Although we have found a number of periodic automorphisms of Takiff algebras such that $\text{Inv}(g(m)_0, \text{ad})$ or $\text{Inv}(g(m)_0, \text{ad}^\ast)$ is polynomial, we do not have substantial results on the flatness of respective quotient morphisms. Actually, I believe that the quotient morphisms are flat in the context of Theorems 4.1 and 5.5. Partial affirmative results for $|\theta| = 2$ are contained in [11, Theorem 9.13] (the adjoint representation of $g_0 \ltimes g_1$) and [12, Sect. 5] (the coadjoint representation of $g_0 \ltimes g_1$).

For the centraliser $\tilde{g}$ from Example 4.2(7o) and its adjoint representation, we can also prove, using ad hoc methods, that the quotient morphism is flat.

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