

# Classification of Harish-Chandra modules over the Schrödinger-Virasoro algebra

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ECNU Workshop

# Background and Definitions

[H1] M. Henkel, *Schrödinger invariance and strongly anisotropic critical systems*, J. Stat. Phys., **75** (1994), 1023-1029.

[H2] M. Henkel, *Phenomenology of local scale invariance: from conformal invariance to dynamical scaling*, Nucl. Phys. B, **641** (2002), 405-410.

The *Schrödinger-Virasoro algebra*  $\mathfrak{sv}$  introduced in [H1, H2], in the context of non-equilibrium statistical physics as a by-product of the computation of  $n$ -point functions that are covariant under the action of the Schrödinger group, is the infinite-dimensional Lie algebra with  $\mathbb{C}$ -basis

$\{L(m), I(n), G(r), C \mid m, n \in \mathbb{Z}, r \in \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}\}$  and Lie brackets,

$$\mathfrak{sv} = \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{Z}} L(m) \oplus \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} I(n) \oplus \bigoplus_{r \in \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}} G(r) \oplus \mathbb{C}C \quad (1)$$

which satisfy the following commutation relations:

$$[L(m), L(n)] = (m - n)L(m + n) + \delta_{m+n,0} \frac{m^3 - m}{12} C,$$

$$[L(m), I(n)] = -nI(m + n),$$

$$[L(m), G(r)] = \left(\frac{m}{2} - r\right)G(m + r),$$

$$[G(r), G(s)] = (r - s)G(r + s),$$

$$[I(m), I(n)] = [I(m), G(r)] = 0,$$

$$[\mathfrak{sv}, C] = 0.$$

- C. Roger, J. Unterberger, The Schrödinger-Virasoro Lie group and algebra: from geometry to representation theory, preprint (arXiv:cond-mat/0601050), (2006).
- J. Unterberger, *On vertex algebra representations of the Schrödinger-Virasoro Lie algebra*, arXiv:cond-mat/0703214v2
- J. Li; Y.Su, Representations of the Schrödinger-Virasoro algebras, J. Math. Phys., 49(5)(2008), 053512, 14 pp.

A weight  $\mathcal{L}$ -module  $V$  is called a highest (resp. lowest) weight module with highest weight (resp. lowest weight)  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , if there exists a nonzero weight vector  $v \in V_\lambda$  such that

- $V$  is generated by  $v$  as  $\mathcal{L}$ -module;
- $\mathcal{L}_+v = 0$  (resp.  $\mathcal{L}_-v = 0$ ).

**Remark.** For a highest (lowest) vector  $v$  we always suppose that  $I(0)v = c_0v$  for some  $c_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  although the action of  $I(0)$  is not semisimple.

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Obviously, if  $M$  is an irreducible weight  $\mathcal{L}$ -module, then there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\text{Supp}(M) \subset \lambda + \mathbb{Z}$ . So  $M$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded module.

If, in addition, all weight spaces  $M_\lambda$  of an irreducible weight  $\mathcal{L}$ -module  $M$  are finite dimensional, the module is called a *Harish-Chandra module*. Clearly a highest (lowest) weight module is a Harish-Chandra module.

Moreover if  $\dim V_\lambda \leq 1$ , the nontrivial Harish-Chandra module  $V$  is called the intermediate series.

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## Two important references

- Kaplansky, I.; Santharoubane, L. J., *Harish-Chandra modules over the Virasoro algebra*, Infinite-dimensional groups with applications (Berkeley, Calif., 1984), 217–231, Math. Sci. Res. Inst. Publ., 4, Springer, New York, 1985.
- Mathieu, O., *Classification of Harish-Chandra modules over the Virasoro Lie algebra*, *Invent. Math.*, **107** (1992), 225-234.

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Kaplansky-Santharoubane gave a classification of *Vir*-modules of the intermediate series.

- $\mathcal{A}_{a,b} = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}v_i$ :  $L(m)v_i = (a + i + bm)v_{m+i}$ ;
- $\mathcal{A}(a) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}v_i$ :  $L(m)v_i = (i + m)v_{m+i}$  if  $i \neq 0$ ,  
 $L(m)v_0 = m(m + a)v_m$ ;
- $\mathcal{B}(a) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}v_i$ :  $L(m)v_i = iv_{m+i}$  if  $i \neq -m$ ,  
 $L(m)v_{-m} = -m(m + a)v_m$ , for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ .

- When  $a \notin \mathbb{Z}$  or  $b \neq 0, 1$ , it is well-known that the module  $\mathcal{A}_{a, b}$  is simple.
- In the opposite case the module contains two simple subquotients namely the trivial module and  $\mathbb{C}[t, t^{-1}]/\mathbb{C}$ . Denote the nontrivial simple subquotients of  $\mathcal{A}_{a, b}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(a)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(a)$  by  $\mathcal{A}'_{a, b}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(a)'$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(a)'$  respectively.

The following theorem was posted as a conjecture by Kac in 1983, and was completely proved by Mathieu in 1992.

### Theorem

*(Mathieu, 1992) Any Harish-Chandra module over the Virasoro algebra is a highest weight module, a lowest weight module or a module of the intermediate series.*

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# Highest weight modules

Fix a linear form  $\lambda : \mathfrak{sv}_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . We define in a standard way the Verma module over  $\mathfrak{sv}$ :

$$M(\lambda) = \text{Ind}_{\mathfrak{sv}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{sv}_+}^{\mathfrak{sv}} \mathbb{C}_\lambda = U(\mathfrak{sv}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{sv}_+ \oplus \mathfrak{sv}_0)} \mathbb{C}_\lambda (\simeq U(\mathfrak{sv}_-)),$$

where  $\mathbb{C}_\lambda = \mathbb{C}v$  (with  $v_\lambda \neq 0$ ) is one-dimensional  $(\mathfrak{sv}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{sv}_+)$ -module such that

$$\mathfrak{sv}_+ v = 0, \quad hv = \lambda(h)v_\lambda, \quad \text{for } h \in \mathfrak{sv}_0.$$

Given  $c, h, \ell \in \mathbb{C}$ , we assume that

$$\lambda(C) = c, \quad \lambda(L(0)) = h, \quad \lambda(I(0)) = \ell.$$

We also denote  $M(\lambda)$  by  $M(c, h, \ell)$ .

## Theorem

*The Verma module  $M(c, h, \ell)$  is irreducible if and only if  $\ell \neq 0$ .*

## Theorem

Let  $c$  be any complex number. Then there exists a unique  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -graded vertex operator algebra structure  $(V_{\text{sv}}(c, 0, 0), Y, \omega, \mathbf{1})$  on  $V_{\text{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$  such that  $\mathbf{1} := 1 \in \mathbb{C}$  is the vacuum vector, with  $\omega := L(-2)\mathbf{1}$  is a conformal vector, and such that  $Y(L(-2)\mathbf{1}, x) = L(x)$ ,  $Y(I(-1)\mathbf{1}, x) = I(x)$ ,  $Y(G(-\frac{3}{2})\mathbf{1}, x) = G(x)$ . The vertex operator map for this vertex operator algebra structure is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 & Y(L(m_1) \cdots L(m_p) I(n_1) \cdots I(n_q) G(r_1) \cdots G(r_t) \mathbf{1}, x) \\
 = & \circ \partial^{(-m_1-2)} L(x)_{m_1+1} \cdots \partial^{(-n_p-2)} L(x)_{m_p+1} \partial^{(-n_1-1)} I(x)_{n_1} \cdots \partial^{(-r_1-\frac{3}{2})} G(x)_{r_1+\frac{1}{2}} \cdots \partial^{(-r_t-\frac{3}{2})} G(x)_{r_t+\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{1} \circ.
 \end{aligned}$$

for  $p, q, t \geq 0$ ,  $m_1, \dots, m_p, n_1, \dots, n_q \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $r_1, \dots, r_t \in \mathbb{Z} + \frac{1}{2}$ , where

$$\partial^{(n)} = \frac{1}{n!} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right)^n$$

$\circ \circ$  is the normal ordering, and  $1$  is the identity operator.

**Remark** It is clear that  $V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$  is not a simple vertex operator algebra. Let  $I_c$  be the sum of all the proper submodules of  $V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$ . Then the irreducible quotient

$$V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)/I_c \simeq L_{Vir}(c, 0),$$

where  $Vir$  is the Virasoro algebra and  $L_{Vir}(c, 0)$  is the associated simple vertex operator algebra of central charge  $c$ .

## Theorem

(1) If  $M$  is a restricted  $\mathfrak{sv}$ -module with central charge  $c$ , then  $M$  is a weak  $V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$ -module with

$$Y_M(L(-2)\mathbf{1}, x) = L(M)(x), \quad Y_M(I(-1)\mathbf{1}, x) = I_M(x), \quad Y_M(G(-\frac{3}{2})\mathbf{1}, x)$$

In particular, any quotient module of  $M(c, h, \ell)$  is an ordinary module for  $V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$ .

(2) Any irreducible admissible  $V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$ -module is ordinary and  $\{L_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, h, \ell) \mid c, h, \ell \in \mathbb{C}\}$  gives a complete list of irreducible  $V_{\mathfrak{sv}}(c, 0, 0)$ -modules up to isomorphism.

# Harish-Chandra module over the Schrödinger-Virasoro algebra

For convenience, throughout the following two sections, we replace  $I(m+1), G(m+\frac{1}{2})$  by  $I(m), G(m)$ , respectively, in the definition of the Schrödinger-Virasoro algebra  $\mathfrak{sv}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{sv}$  is defined to be a Lie algebra with  $\mathbb{C}$ -basis  $\{L(m), I(m), G(m), C \mid m \in \mathbb{Z}\}$  subject to the following Lie brackets:

$$[L(m), L(n)] = (m-n)L(m+n) + \delta_{m+n,0} \frac{m^3 - m}{12} C,$$

$$[L(m), I(n)] = -(n+1)I(m+n),$$

$$[L(m), G(r)] = \left(\frac{m-1}{2} - r\right)G(m+r),$$

$$[G(r), G(s)] = (r-s)I(r+s),$$

$$[I(m), I(n)] = [I(m), G(r)] = 0,$$

$$[\mathfrak{sv}, C] = 0.$$

# Irreducible(indecomposable) modules with weight multiplicity one

Denoted  $\mathcal{A}_{a, b, 0, 0}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(a, 0, 0)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(a, 0, 0)$  by the  $\mathfrak{sv}$ -module induced from the Vir-module  $\mathcal{A}_{a, b}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}(a)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}(a)$  with the trivial actions of  $I(n)$  and  $G(n)$  for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , respectively.

## Theorem

*Suppose that  $V$  is a nontrivial irreducible weight  $\mathfrak{sv}$ -module with weight multiplicity one. Then we have  $V \simeq \mathcal{A}'_{a, b, 0, 0}$  for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ . Meanwhile, the above three kinds of modules are all indecomposable weight  $\mathfrak{sv}$ -modules with weight multiplicity one.*

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**Remark.** The paper [LS] lists all Harish-Chandra  $\mathfrak{su}$ -modules of the intermediate series( see Theorem 1.3 in [LS]). However they are all not irreducible. In fact, they are some special indecomposable weight  $\mathfrak{su}$ -modules with weight multiplicity two.

# Uniformly bounded irreducible weight modules

Now, we assume that  $V$  is a uniformly bounded nontrivial irreducible weight module over  $\mathcal{L}$ .

So there exists  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\text{Supp}(V) \subset \alpha + \mathbb{Z}$ .

From representation theory of  $\text{Vir}$ , we have  $C = 0$  and  $\dim V_{\alpha+n} = p$  for all  $\alpha + n \neq 0$ . If  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we also assume that  $\alpha = 0$ .

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Consider  $V$  as a Vir-module. We have a Vir-submodule filtration

$$0 = W^{(0)} \subset W^{(1)} \subset W^{(2)} \subset \dots \subset W^{(p)} = V,$$

where  $W^{(1)}, \dots, W^{(p)}$  are Vir-submodules of  $V$ , and the quotient modules  $W^{(i)}/W^{(i-1)}$  have weight multiplicity one for all nonzero weights.

Choose  $v_n^1, \dots, v_n^p \in V_{\alpha+n}$  such that the images of  $v_n^i + W^{(i-1)}$  form a basis of  $(W^{(i)}/W^{(i-1)})_{\alpha+n}$  for all  $\alpha + n \neq 0$ . We may suppose that

$$L(i)(v_n^1, \dots, v_n^p) = (L(i)v_n^1, \dots, L(i)v_n^p) = (v_{n+i}^1, \dots, v_{n+i}^p)A_{i,n},$$

where  $A_{i,n}$  are upper triangular  $p \times p$  matrices, and  $A_{i,n}(j, j) = \alpha + n + i\beta_j$ .

Denote

$$I(i)(v_n^1, \dots, v_n^p) = (v_{n+i}^1, \dots, v_{n+i}^p)F_{i,n}, \quad (4.1)$$

where  $F_{i,n}$  are  $p \times p$  matrices.

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where  $F_{i,n}$  are  $p \times p$  matrices.

The Lie brackets give

$$A_{i,j+n}A_{j,n} - A_{j,i+n}A_{i,n} = (j - i)A_{i+j,n}, \quad (4.2)$$

$$A_{i,j+n}F_{j,n} - F_{j,i+n}A_{i,n} = \left(j + \frac{1-i}{2}\right)F_{i+j,n}, \quad (4.3)$$

$$F_{i,j+n}F_{j,n} - F_{j,i+n}F_{i,n} = (j - i)G_{i+j,n}, \quad (4.4)$$

where the  $I(p)$  is the  $p \times p$  unit matrix and the last three formulas have the restriction

$(\alpha + n)(\alpha + n + i)(\alpha + n + j)(\alpha + n + i + j) \neq 0$ . We shall denote the  $(i, j)$ -entry of a matrix  $A$  by  $A(i, j)$ .

# Classification of irreducible weight modules over $\mathcal{L}$ with finite-dimensional weight spaces

## Theorem

*If  $V$  is a nontrivial irreducible uniformly bounded weight module over  $\mathfrak{sv}$ , then  $V$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}'_{\alpha, \beta, 0, 0}$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ .*

**Theorem** Let  $V$  be an irreducible weight module over  $\mathcal{L}$  with all weight spaces finite-dimensional. If  $V$  is not uniformly bounded, then  $V$  is either a highest weight module or a lowest weight module.

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**Theorem** Let  $V$  be an irreducible weight module over  $\mathcal{L}$  with all weight spaces finite-dimensional. If  $V$  is not uniformly bounded, then  $V$  is either a highest weight module or a lowest weight module.


Combining the above two theorems, we obtain the main result of this paper:


### Theorem


*If  $V$  is a nontrivial irreducible weight module over  $\mathcal{L}$  with finite dimensional weight spaces, then  $V$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}'_{\alpha,\beta,0,0}$  for some  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ , or a highest or lowest weight module.*


Thank you !

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