

Generic 2×2 Matrices With Involution

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Procesi has given a linear basis for the ring of m generic 2×2 matrices. We do the same for the ring of m generic 2×2 matrices with transpose involution.

1 Introduction

Let k be a field of characteristic 0 and let $M_2 = M_2(k)$ be the set of 2×2 matrices over k . Consider an involution $*$ on M_2 of the first kind. It follows from [14] that it is sufficient to study the symplectic involution and the transpose involution. The case of symplectic involution is essentially treated in Section 7 of [12], so we will only consider the transpose involution. We will use the following notation: M_2^+ is the set of symmetric matrices, M_2^- the skew-symmetric matrices, M_2^0 the matrices of trace 0, M_2^{0+} the symmetric traceless matrices and k the scalar matrices. Hence

$$M_2 = M_2^+ \oplus M_2^- = k \oplus M_2^0 = k \oplus M_2^{0+} \oplus M_2^-.$$

For $X_i \in M_2$ we define $s_i = X_i + X_i^t$, $S_i = s_i - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr } X_i$ and $A_i = X_i - X_i^t$.

Let $F = k\{x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m\}$ be the free algebra in $2m$ variables. The ring R of m generic 2×2 matrices with transpose involution is the ring of polynomial functions on M_2^m induced from

F by letting $f(x_1, \dots, x_m, y_1, \dots, y_m) \in F$ correspond to the function $\bar{f} : M_2^m = (M_2^+)^m \oplus (M_2^-)^m \rightarrow M_2$ defined by

$$\bar{f}(s_1, \dots, s_m, A_1, \dots, A_m) = f(s_1, \dots, s_m, A_1, \dots, A_m),$$

where $s_i \in M_2^+, A_i \in M_2^-$.

We can think of R as the set of noncommutative polynomial in the m generic matrices X_i and their transposes or as noncommutative polynomials in the s_i and A_i . We see that elements in R are $O(2)$ equivariant, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{f}(gs_1g^{-1}, \dots, gs_mg^{-1}, gA_1g^{-1}, \dots, gA_mg^{-1}) = \\ g\bar{f}(s_1, \dots, s_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)g^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

for $g \in O(2)$.

Define S to be the $O(2)$ -equivariant polynomial functions from M_2^m to M_2 . These are the matrix concomitants. The scalar-valued equivariant functions are the invariants, and we denote them by T . It is well-known [10] that T is the center of S provided $m \geq 2$. If we set $t_i = \text{tr } X_i$, then it follows from [11] that

$$S = R[t_1, \dots, t_m].$$

We will also consider $Z = R \cap T$, the ring of central noncommutative polynomials.

We can simplify our problem by factoring out the trace, so we define \tilde{R} to be the set of $O(2)$ -equivariant maps from $(M_2^0)^m$ to M_2 . It is clear that $S = \tilde{R}[t_1, \dots, t_m]$. We also let $\tilde{R}^0, \tilde{R}^{0+}$ and \tilde{R}^- be the $O(2)$ -equivariant maps from $(M_2^0)^m$ to M_2^0, M_2^{0+} and M_2^- respectively. Then

$$\tilde{R} = \tilde{R}^0 \oplus T^0 = \tilde{R}^{0+} \oplus \tilde{R}^- \oplus T^0.$$

There is a natural $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ action on S, R and T . By classical invariant theory we can describe the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ structure of T^0 . Then we consider the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -equivariant maps

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_1(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)) &= \text{tr}(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)S_{m+1}), \\ \phi_2(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)) &= \text{tr}(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)A_{m+1}). \end{aligned}$$

Both maps take concomitants in m variables to invariants in $m + 1$ variables, and are injective on \tilde{R}^{0+} and \tilde{R}^- respectively. By the theory of standard Young tableaux, we then get a description of the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ structure of \tilde{R} (see Theorem 1). This result has also been obtained by Drensky and Giambruno, using the method of cocharacters [6].

To study R , we investigate the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -invariant ideals in \tilde{R} . In particular, we show that the ideal $[[\tilde{R}, \tilde{R}], \tilde{R}]$ sits in $[R, R]$ in such a way that it is a free $R/[R, R]$ module, thus giving a description of R .

Finally we give an outline of the paper. We will treat T^0 in Section 2 and use the results to give a description of \tilde{R} in Section 3. Section 4 gives the multiplicative structure of \tilde{R} and the subring of $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -highest weight vectors in \tilde{R} . Section 5 describes the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -invariant ideals in \tilde{R} in a way similar to DeConcini, Eisenbud and Procesi [4]. In Section 6 we give a basis for R and in Section 7 we determine the central noncommutative polynomials Z . We follow Procesi [12] quite closely, but we do not discuss Poincaré series, since this has already been carried over to the case of matrices with involution by Berele [3] and Drensky and Giambruno [6].

2 Invariants

Let T^0 be the ring of $O(2)$ -invariants on $(M_2^0)^m$. Procesi [12] considered the conjugation action of $GL(2)$ on M_2^0 and observed that it is equivalent to the natural action of $SO(3)$ on k^3 . We will instead consider the restriction of this action to $O(2)$. Write

$$O(2) = SO(2) \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} SO(2)$$

and for $w \in \mathbb{C}$ define

$$g(w) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos w & -\sin w \\ \sin w & \cos w \end{pmatrix} \in SO(2).$$

Then

$$g(w) \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ y & -x \end{pmatrix} g(w)^{-1} = g(2w) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x & y \\ y & -x \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x & -y \\ -y & -x \end{pmatrix}.$$

It follows that conjugation by $O(2)$ on M_2^{0+} is

$$\phi_+(g) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \det g \end{pmatrix} \lambda(g) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1}$$

where λ is the natural representation of $SO(2)$. Since

$$g(w) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z \\ -z & 0 \end{pmatrix} g(w)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z \\ -z & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z \\ -z & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -z \\ z & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

it follows that conjugation by $O(2)$ on M_2^- is simply multiplication by

$$\phi_-(g) = \det g. \tag{2}$$

Let $O(2)$ act on a vector space V and let $\mathcal{P}(V)$ be the polynomial functions on V . Define

$$\mathcal{P}(V)_+^{O(2)} = \{f \in \mathcal{P}(V) \mid g \cdot f = f, g \in O(2)\},$$

$$\mathcal{P}(V)_-^{O(2)} = \{f \in \mathcal{P}(V) \mid g \cdot f = (\det g)f, g \in O(2)\}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} T^0 &= \mathcal{P}((M_2^0)^m)^{O(2)} = \left(\mathcal{P}((M_2^{0+})^m)_+^{O(2)} \otimes \mathcal{P}((M_2^-)^m)_+^{O(2)} \right) \\ &\quad \oplus \left(\mathcal{P}((M_2^{0+})^m)_-^{O(2)} \otimes \mathcal{P}((M_2^-)^m)_-^{O(2)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

We will now use classical invariant theory to describe T^0 . Given a polynomial mapping $f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)$ where $S_i \in M^{0+}$ and $A_i \in M^-$, we can perform linear substitutions of the variables S_i and A_i separately. This gives us an action of $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ on R, S and T that commutes with the conjugation action.

First let us recall some standard notations for representations of $GL(m)$. Every irreducible representation L_σ of $GL(m)$ is indexed

by a Young diagram $\sigma = m^{\alpha_m}(m-1)^{\alpha_{m-1}} \dots 2^{\alpha_2} 1^{\alpha_1}$ with α_p rows of length p for $1 \leq p \leq m$. This diagram corresponds to the highest weight $\alpha_1 \omega_1 + \alpha_2 \omega_2 + \dots + \alpha_m \omega_m$ where ω_i is the fundamental weight of the i th exterior power of the fundamental m -dimensional representation of $GL(m)$.

Let us first consider $\mathcal{P}((M_2^{0+})^m)^{SO(2)}$. Since this action clearly has the same invariants as the natural action, it follows from [5] that the standard tableaux of the form $2^a 1^{2b}$ is a basis. The correspondence between tableaux and invariants is as follows. First we associate invariants to certain tableaux. Write

$$S_i = \begin{pmatrix} x_i & y_i \\ y_i & -x_i \end{pmatrix}$$

and set

$$(u_i, u_j) = \begin{pmatrix} x_i & x_j \\ y_i & y_j \end{pmatrix}.$$

We observe that

$$[S_i, S_j] = 2(x_i y_j - x_j y_i) J = \text{pf}[S_i, S_j] J, \tag{3}$$

where

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We then define

$$\boxed{i \ j} = \det(u_i, u_j) = x_i y_j - x_j y_i = \frac{1}{2} \text{pf}[S_i, S_j],$$

$$\begin{matrix} \boxed{i} \\ \boxed{j} \end{matrix} = \text{tr}(S_i S_j) = 2(x_i x_j + y_i y_j),$$

$$\begin{matrix} \boxed{i} & \boxed{j} \\ \boxed{h} & \boxed{k} \end{matrix} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{i} & \boxed{j} \\ \boxed{h} & \boxed{k} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{4}$$

We associate to a tableau of the form $2^{2a} 1^{2b}$ the product of a 2^2 -tableaux and b 1^2 -tableaux as defined above. We associate to a tableau of the form $2^{2a+1} 1^{2b}$ the product of the 2-tableau corresponding to its top row and the $2^{2a} 1^{2b}$ -tableau corresponding to its bottom part.

It follows that $\mathcal{P}((M_2^{0+})^m)_+^{O(2)}$ is generated by the standard tableaux of the form $2^{2a}1^{2b}$, while $\mathcal{P}((M_2^{0+})^m)_-^{O(2)}$ is generated by the standard tableaux of the form $2^{2a+1}1^{2b}$.

Similarly, we write

$$A_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & z_i \\ -z_i & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and set

$$(v_i) = (z_i).$$

We define

$$\begin{aligned} \boxed{i} &= \det(v_i) = \text{pf } A_i, \\ \frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{j}} &= \text{tr}(A_i A_j) = -2z_i z_j. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Again, we associate to a tableau of the form 1^{2b} the product of b 1^2 tableaux, and to a tableau of the form 1^{2b+1} the product of the 1 tableau at the top and the 1^{2b} tableau corresponding to the bottom. It then follows that $\mathcal{P}((M_2^-)^m)_+^{O(2)}$ is spanned by the standard tableaux of the form 1^{2b} , while $\mathcal{P}((M_2^-)^m)_-^{O(2)}$ is spanned by the standard tableaux of the form 1^{2b+1} .

To sum up, we get the following decomposition of T^0 as a $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ representation

$$T^0 = \bigoplus_{a,b,c} (L_{2^{2a}1^{2b}} \otimes L_{1^{2c}}) \oplus \bigoplus_{a,b,c} (L_{2^{2a+1}1^{2b}} \otimes L_{1^{2c+1}}).$$

We notice that this argument gives a smaller set of generators for T^0 than the one in [15], and also gives an alternative proof of some of the results in [1].

3 Structure of \tilde{R}

One of the crucial steps in [12] is the map (originally due to Kostant [8])

$$\phi(f(X_1, \dots, X_m)) = \text{tr}(f(X_1, \dots, X_m)X_{m+1}),$$

that takes a concomitant in m variables to to an invariant in $m + 1$ variables. In our case, we must instead consider the two $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -equivariant maps

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_1(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)) &= \text{tr}(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)S_{m+1}), \\ \phi_2(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)) &= \text{tr}(f(S_1, \dots, S_m, A_1, \dots, A_m)A_{m+1}), \end{aligned}$$

that take $f \in \tilde{R}_m^0$ to T_{m+1}^0 (we will temporarily use subscripts to indicate the number of generic matrices).

It follows from the nondegeneracy of the trace and the fact that X_{m+1} is a generic matrix that ϕ is injective, but it is easy to see that ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 are not. Suppose that $f \in \tilde{R}^-$. Then it follows from (8) that $\phi_2(f) = 0$, so $\phi|_{\tilde{R}^{0+}} = \phi_1|_{\tilde{R}^{0+}}$ and similarly, $\phi|_{\tilde{R}^-} = \phi_2|_{\tilde{R}^-}$. Since ϕ is injective, we see that $\ker \phi_1 = \tilde{R}^-$ and $\ker \phi_2 = \tilde{R}^{0+}$. It follows that

$$\phi(\tilde{R}^0) = \phi_1(\tilde{R}^{0+}) \oplus \phi_2(\tilde{R}^-).$$

It remains to deduce the structure of \tilde{R}_m^{0+} and \tilde{R}_m^- from T_{m+1}^0 . To understand the image of \tilde{R}_m^0 in T_{m+1}^0 , it is enough to determine the elements of each $L_\sigma \otimes L_\rho$ in T_{m+1}^0 that are linear in the last variable S_{m+1} or A_{m+1} . Recall that L_σ has a basis indexed by the standard tableaux of shape σ and filled with numbers $1, 2, \dots, m+1$ with possible repetitions in the columns. In the correspondence between tableaux and functions, the multiplicity of each index i in the tableaux σ (respectively ρ) is the degree in the variable S_i (respectively A_i). Thus we look for tableaux in T_{m+1}^0 that are linear in S_{m+1} (respectively A_{m+1}). This means that the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ module structure of \tilde{R}^0 can be obtained from T_{m+1}^0 by removing a corner from either of the diagrams σ or ρ in $L_\sigma \otimes L_\rho \in T_{m+1}^0$.

Using the fact that $S_i A_j = -A_j S_i$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \boxed{i} \boxed{j} \otimes \boxed{k} &= \frac{1}{2} \text{pf}[S_i, S_j] \text{pf } A_k = -\frac{1}{4} \text{tr}([S_i, S_j]A_k) \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \text{tr}(S_j A_k S_i - S_j S_i A_k) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}((S_i A_k)S_j). \end{aligned}$$

Ignoring the constants, we define

$$\begin{aligned} \boxed{i} \boxed{j} \otimes 1 &= [S_i, S_j], \\ \boxed{i} \otimes \boxed{j} &= S_i A_j. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Based on

$$\begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix} = \text{tr}(S_i S_j),$$

we define

$$\boxed{i} = S_i,$$

and similarly for A_i .

From this we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{R}^{0+} &= (L_{2^{2a_1 2b+1}} \otimes L_{1^{2c}}) \oplus (L_{2^{2a+1 2b+1}} \otimes L_{1^{2c}}) \\ &\quad \oplus (L_{2^{2a_1 2b+1}} \otimes L_{1^{2c+1}}) \oplus (L_{2^{2a+1 2b+1}} \otimes L_{1^{2c+1}}), \\ \tilde{R}^- &= (L_{2^{2a_1 2b}} \otimes L_{1^{2c+1}}) \oplus (L_{2^{2a+1 2b}} \otimes L_{1^{2c}}). \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$T^0 = \bigoplus_{a,b,c} (L_{2^{2a_1 2b}} \otimes L_{1^{2c}}) \oplus \bigoplus_{a,b,c} (L_{2^{2a+1 2b}} \otimes L_{1^{2c+1}})$$

and

$$\tilde{R} = \tilde{R}^{0+} \oplus \tilde{R}^- \oplus T^0,$$

we have proved the following theorem.

Theorem 1 \tilde{R} is generated by the S_i and the A_i . It has a basis indexed by the tensor products of the standard tableaux of the form $L_{2^{a_1 b}}$ and L_{1^c} filled with the indices $1, 2, \dots, m$. As a $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ module we have

$$\tilde{R} = \bigoplus_{a,b,c} (L_{2^{a_1 b}} \otimes L_{1^c}).$$

4 Multiplicative structure of \tilde{R}

We will now study the multiplicative structure of \tilde{R} . From the previous section we know that a basis for $L_{2^{a_1 b}} \otimes L_{1^c} \in \tilde{R}$ is given by the set of tensor products of standard tableaux of shape $2^{a_1 b}$ and 1^c . These tableaux correspond to noncommutative polynomials that are products of invariants in T^0 and matrices corresponding to tableaux of shape $1 \otimes 0, 0 \otimes 1, 1 \otimes 1$ or $2 \otimes 0$. (We let 0 denote the trivial representation or the null diagram.) Since the invariants are central, we know the multiplicative structure of \tilde{R} once we know the

multiplication table for the standard tableaux of the form $\boxed{i} \otimes 1, 1 \otimes \boxed{i}, \boxed{i} \otimes \boxed{j}$ and $\boxed{i \ j} \otimes 1$.

Let us list some formulas and properties of matrices that we will need for these computations. For $X, Y, Z \in M_2^0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} XY &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} XY + \frac{1}{2} [X, Y], \quad X^2 = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} X^2, \\ 2XYZ &= \text{tr}(YZ)X - \text{tr}(XZ)Y + \text{tr}(XY)Z - \text{tr}(XYZ). \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

If $S_p \in M_2^{0+}$ and $A_q \in M_2^-$, then

$$\begin{aligned} A_i A_j &= A_j A_i, \quad A_i S_j = -S_j A_i, \quad \text{tr}(S_i A_j) = 0, \\ [S_i, S_j] S_k &= -S_k [S_i, S_j], \quad A_i [S_j, S_k] = [S_j, S_k] A_i \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

The last two relations in (8) follow from $[M_2^{0+}, M_2^{0+}] \subset M_2^-$ ((3)).

As an example, we will compute the following.

$$\begin{aligned} &(\boxed{i} \otimes \boxed{j}) \cdot (\boxed{k \ l} \otimes 1) \\ &= S_i A_j [S_k, S_l] \\ &= S_i [S_k, S_l] A_j \\ &= S_i S_k S_l A_j - S_i S_l S_k A_j \\ &= (\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(S_i S_k) + \frac{1}{2} [S_i, S_k]) S_l A_j - (\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(S_i S_l) + \frac{1}{2} [S_i, S_l]) S_k A_j \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(S_i S_k) S_l A_j - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(S_i S_l) S_k A_j + \frac{1}{2} ([S_i, S_k] S_l - [S_i, S_l] S_k) A_j. \end{aligned}$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} &[S_i, S_k], S_l - [S_i, S_l] S_k \\ &= \frac{1}{2} ([S_i, S_k], S_l - [S_i, S_l], S_k) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (-[S_k, S_l], S_i - [S_l, S_i], S_k - [S_i, S_l], S_k) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} [[S_k, S_l], S_i] = S_i [S_k, S_l], \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} &(\boxed{i} \otimes \boxed{j}) \cdot (\boxed{k \ l} \otimes 1) \\ &= \text{tr}(S_i S_k) S_l A_j - \text{tr}(S_i S_l) S_k A_j \\ &= \left(\frac{i}{k} \otimes 1 \right) \boxed{l} \otimes \boxed{j} - \left(\frac{i}{l} \otimes 1 \right) \boxed{k} \otimes \boxed{j}. \end{aligned}$$

We can similarly compute the other entries in the multiplication table in Table 1.

We will also describe the subring B of $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ highest weight vectors in \tilde{R} . We have $B = \tilde{R}^{U^+(m) \times U^+(m)}$, where $U^+(m) \subset GL(m)$ is the subgroup of upper triangular matrices. The canonical tableau K_σ of shape σ is the unique tableau with indices i in the i th column, and is the highest weight vector in L_σ . Hence B is generated by the tensor products of the canonical tableaux. We will write $K_{\sigma,\rho} = K_\sigma \otimes K_\rho$. Let F be the center of B . It is easy to see that F is a polynomial ring in $K_{1^2,0}$, $K_{0,1^2}$ and $K_{2,1}$. (We can express $K_{2^2,0}$ in terms of $K_{1^2,0}$.) We also know that B is generated as an F algebra by $K_{0,1}$, $K_{1,0}$ and $K_{2,0}$. In order to generate B as an F module, we must also include the products $K_{1,1} = K_{1,0}K_{0,1}$, $K_{21,0} = K_{2,0}K_{1,0}$ and $K_{21,1} = K_{21,0}K_{0,1} = K_{2,0}K_{1,1}$. The rules from Table 1 give us the multiplication table in Table 2.

A generalized quaternion algebra over a ring D is the four-dimensional D space with basis $1, i, j, k$, where $i^2 = a$, $j^2 = b$ and $ij = -ji = k$. We see that $\{1, K_{1,0}, K_{2,0}, K_{21,0}\}$ generate a generalized quaternion algebra over the center F . Because of the relations

$$\begin{aligned} K_{2,1}K_{1,0} + K_{21,1} &= 0, \\ K_{2,1}K_{2,0} + K_{2^2,0}K_{0,1} &= 0, \\ K_{2,1}K_{21,0} + K_{2^2,0}K_{1,1} &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

we see that $\{1, K_{21,1}, K_{0,1}, K_{1,1}\}$ “almost” generate a generalized quaternion algebra over F . (Note that $K_{21,1}K_{0,1} = -K_{2,1}K_{1,1}$ instead of $K_{1,1}$.) But we get generators for quaternion algebras by considering the sets $\{1, K_{1,0}, K_{0,1}, K_{1,1}\}$, $\{1, K_{2,0}, K_{1,1}, K_{21,1}\}$ and $\{1, K_{21,0}, K_{0,1}, K_{21,1}\}$. If we let F' be the field of fractions of F , then $B' = F'B$, the quotient ring of B , is a generalized quaternion algebra over F' .

5 Invariant ideals in \tilde{R}

In this section we will determine the $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -invariant ideals in \tilde{R} . We write $L_{(\sigma,\rho)} = L_\sigma \otimes L_\rho$ and define

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= L_{(1,0)} \cdot L_{(\sigma,\rho)}, & M_2 &= L_{(\sigma,\rho)} \cdot L_{(1,0)}, & M_3 &= [L_{(1,0)}, L_{(\sigma,\rho)}], \\ M_4 &= L_{(0,1)} \cdot L_{(\sigma,\rho)}, & M_5 &= L_{(\sigma,\rho)} \cdot L_{(0,1)}, & M_6 &= [L_{(0,1)}, L_{(\sigma,\rho)}]. \end{aligned}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned} j_i &: L_{(1,0)} \otimes L_{(\sigma,\rho)} \longrightarrow M_i, & i &= 1, 2, 3, \\ j_i &: L_{(0,1)} \otimes L_{(\sigma,\rho)} \longrightarrow M_i, & i &= 4, 5, 6. \end{aligned}$$

be the projections defined by

$$j_i(x \otimes y) = \begin{cases} x \cdot y & \text{if } i = 1, 4, \\ y \cdot x & \text{if } i = 2, 5, \\ [x, y] & \text{if } i = 3, 6, \end{cases}$$

where $x \in L_{(1,0)}$ or $L_{(0,1)}$ and $y \in L_{(\sigma,\rho)}$. If σ is $2^a 1^b$, then

$$L_1 \otimes L_\sigma = L_1 \otimes L_{2^a 1^b} = \begin{cases} L_{2^{a+1} 1^{b-1}} \oplus L_{2^a 1^{b+1}} & \text{if } b > 0, \\ L_{2^a 1^{b+1}} & \text{if } b = 0, \end{cases}$$

where $L_{2^a 1^{b+1}}$ is generated by

$$K_{\sigma+} = S_1 \otimes K_\sigma$$

and $L_{2^a 1^{b-1}}$ is generated by

$$K_{\sigma-} = S_1 \otimes \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline \vdots & \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline 2 & \\ \hline \end{array} - S_2 \otimes \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline \vdots & \vdots \\ \hline 1 & 2 \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline \vdots & \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline 1 & \\ \hline \end{array}.$$

To study the images of the projections j_i , we check if $K_{\sigma^\pm, \rho}$ or K_{σ, ρ^\pm} survive the map j_i . Since the j_i are $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ equivariant, we conclude that if $j_i(K_{\sigma, \rho^\pm}) \neq 0$ (respectively $j_i(K_{\sigma^\pm, \rho}) \neq 0$), then there is a copy of $L_{(\sigma, \rho^\pm)}$ (respectively, $L_{(\sigma^\pm, \rho)}$) in M_i .

Write

$$K_{\sigma, \rho, 1} = \begin{cases} K_{\sigma^+, \rho} & \text{when considering } L_{(1,0)}, \\ K_{\sigma, \rho^+} & \text{when considering } L_{(0,1)}, \end{cases}$$

and

$$K_{\sigma, \rho, 2} = \begin{cases} K_{\sigma^-, \rho} & \text{when considering } L_{(1,0)}, \\ K_{\sigma, \rho^-} & \text{when considering } L_{(0,1)}. \end{cases}$$

We want to compute $j_i(K_{\sigma, \rho, 1})$ and $j_i(K_{\sigma, \rho, 2})$. The results are listed in Tables 3 and 4.

From Tables 3 and 4 we can extract the following Theorem.

Theorem 2 *We have*

$$L_{(1,0)} \cdot L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^c})} = L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^c})} \cdot L_{(1,0)} = L_{(2^{a_1 b+1, 1^c})} \oplus L_{(2^{a_1+1 b-1, 1^c})},$$

and

$$L_{(0,1)} \cdot L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^c})} = L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^c})} \cdot L_{(0,1)} = L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^{c+1}})}.$$

The brackets $[L_{(1,0)}, L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^c})}]$ and $[L_{(0,1)}, L_{(2^{a_1 b, 1^c})}]$ are given by Table 5.

We can order Young diagrams by containment, and we say that \mathcal{K} is an ideal of Young diagrams if $\omega \in \mathcal{K}$ and $\tau \supset \omega$, then $\omega \in \mathcal{K}$. We will also extend this ordering to pairs of tableaux. So $(\sigma_1, \rho_1) \subset (\sigma_2, \rho_2)$ if $\sigma_1 \subset \sigma_2$ and $\rho_1 \subset \rho_2$.

We can deduce the following Corollary.

Corollary 3 *A $GL(m) \times GL(m)$ -invariant left (or right) ideal of \tilde{R} is necessarily a two-sided ideal of the form*

$$\bigoplus_{\sigma, \rho \in \mathcal{I}} L_\sigma \otimes L_\rho,$$

where \mathcal{I} is an ideal of pairs of Young diagrams.

6 Structure of R

In this section we will describe the structure of R . We will break the proof into a series of lemmas.

Lemma 4 *Let $x_2, y_1, y_2 \in R$ and consider*

$$h = [y_1, [x_2, y_2]] + [y_2, [x_2, y_1]] \in R.$$

For any $z \in R$ we have

$$\text{tr}(z)h \in R.$$

Proof. We start with the identity

$$[x, y]^2 = -\det[x, y].$$

Polarizing, we get the central polynomial

$$f(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2) = [x_1, y_1][x_2, y_2] + [x_2, y_2][x_1, y_1] + [x_1, y_2][x_2, y_1] + [x_2, y_1][x_1, y_2].$$

Since every term in f contains an x_1 term, we can use the cyclic property of trace to write

$$\text{tr}(f) = \text{tr}(x_1 h'), \tag{9}$$

where $h' \in R$. It follows from the nondegeneracy of the trace and the fact that $x_1 \in R$ is a generic matrix that h' is uniquely given by $h' = h$.

Let z be any element of R . Then

$$\text{tr}(fz) = f \text{tr}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(f) \text{tr}(z), \tag{10}$$

since f is a scalar. In the same way as above, we can find a unique $g(z) \in R$ such that

$$\text{tr}(fz) = \text{tr}(x_1 g(z)).$$

We can now rewrite (10) as

$$\text{tr}(x_1 g(z)) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(x_1 h) \text{tr}(z),$$

or

$$\text{tr} \left(x_1(g(z) - \frac{1}{2}h \text{tr} z) \right) = 0.$$

Using the nondegeneracy of the trace again, we get that

$$h \text{tr} z = 2g(z). \quad \square$$

The point of this, is that the polynomial h absorbs traces. The left side $h \text{tr} z$ is an element of S , but lies in fact in R .

Lemma 5 Set $\mathcal{L}_1 = L_{(1,0)} \oplus L_{(0,1)}$. Then

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = [\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_1] = L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(1,1)}$$

and

$$\mathcal{L}_{21} = [\mathcal{L}_1, [\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_1]] = L_{(21,0)} \oplus L_{(1^2,1)} \oplus L_{(1,1^2)}.$$

Proof. Follows from the results of Section 5. \square

Let A be the space obtained by evaluation of h on M_2^3 . Since scalars will cancel the brackets, it is sufficient to evaluate on $(M_2^0)^3$, and we see that $A = \mathcal{L}_{21}$. We will now determine the ideal in S generated by A . (We let $[R, R]$ denote the ideal generated by the set $[R, R]$.)

Theorem 6 We have

$$AS = SA = I[t_1, \dots, t_m] = J \subset [R, R],$$

where

$$I = \bigoplus_{\substack{(21,0) \subset (\sigma, \rho) \text{ or} \\ (1^2, 1) \subset (\sigma, \rho) \text{ or} \\ (1, 1^2) \subset (\sigma, \rho)}}} L_{(\sigma, \rho)}.$$

Proof. The polarized form of Cayley-Hamilton Theorem says that

$$xy + yx - \text{tr}(x)y - \text{tr}(y)x - \text{tr}(xy) + \text{tr}(x) \text{tr}(y) = 0, \quad (11)$$

and it follows that any product of of traces can be written in the form $\sum u_i \text{tr}(v_i)$ with $u_i, v_i \in R$. But this is precisely the case considered in Lemma 4, where we showed that $A \text{tr}(z) \subset R$. And

since it is easy to see that every monomial in $g(z)$ will contain at least one bracket, we have in fact

$$A \text{tr}(z) \subset [R, R].$$

Hence $AS = SA \subset [R, R]$. It follows from Corollary 3 that the \tilde{R} -ideal generated by A is I . But since $S = \tilde{R}[t_1, \dots, t_m]$, the theorem follows. \square

We will consider the filtration

$$R \supset [R, R] \supset J.$$

Since R is the ring of the noncommutative polynomials in s_i and A_i , we see that $R/[R, R]$ is the ring of commutative polynomials in s_i and A_i . We will now consider $[R, R]/J$. We first observe that

$$[R, R] \subset [S, S] = [\tilde{R}, \tilde{R}][t_1, \dots, t_m] = I_0[t_1, \dots, t_m],$$

where

$$I_0 = \bigoplus_{\substack{(2,0) \subset (\sigma, \rho) \text{ or} \\ (1,1) \subset (\sigma, \rho)}}} L_{(\sigma, \rho)}.$$

It follows that

$$[S, S]/J = I_0[t_1, \dots, t_m]/I[t_1, \dots, t_m] \quad (12)$$

$$= (L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(2,1)} \oplus L_{(1,1)})[t_1, \dots, t_m]. \quad (13)$$

Since

$$[xy, z] = x[y, z] + [x, z]y = x[y, z] + y[x, z] - [y, [x, z]] \in R\mathcal{L}_2 + J,$$

we have

$$[R, R]/J = R\mathcal{L}_2/J = R(L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(1,1)})/J. \quad (14)$$

Lemma 7 We have $[R, R][R, R] \subset [R, [R, R]]$.

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} [x, y][u, v] &= xy[u, v] - yx[u, v] \\ &= x[y, [u, v]] + x[u, v]y - y[x, [u, v]] - y[u, v]x. \end{aligned}$$

But

$$x[u, v]y - y[u, v]x = [x, [u, v]]y + [[u, v]x, y],$$

so we get

$$[x, y][u, v] = x[y, [u, v]] - y[x, [u, v]] + [x, [u, v]]y + [[u, v]x, y].$$

□

Lemma 8 $[R, R]/J$ is an $R/[R, R]$ module generated by $L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(1,1)}$.

Proof. It follows from Lemma 7 that the action of R on \mathcal{L}_2 factors through $[R, R]$. Then use (14). □

We claim that $[R, R]/J$ is a free $R/[R, R]$ module generated by $L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(1,1)}$. To see this, we consider

$$([S, S]/J) / L_{(2,1)}[t_1, \dots, t_m] = \mathcal{L}_2[t_1, \dots, t_m].$$

Inside this module, we have

Lemma 9 If $u \in \mathcal{L}_2$, then

$$2x_i u \equiv t_i u \pmod{(J + L_{(2,1)}[t_1, \dots, t_m])}.$$

Proof. Set $u = [u_1, u_2]$. Using (11), we get

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (x_i - t_i)u + (u - \text{tr } u)x_i + t_i \text{tr } u - \text{tr}(x_i u) \\ &= (2x_i - t_i)[u_1, u_2] + [[u_1, u_2], x_i] - \text{tr}(x_i[u_1, u_2]). \end{aligned}$$

But the last two terms are in J and $L_{(2,1)}[t_1, \dots, t_m]$ respectively. □

Proposition 10 $[R, R]/J$ is a free $R/[R, R]$ module generated by $L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(1,1)}$.

Proof. Lemma 9 shows that in $[R, R]/J / L_{(2,1)}[t_1, \dots, t_m]$, multiplication by elements of R correspond to scalar multiplication. It follows that $[R, R]/J$ is free. □

We can now state the main theorem.

Theorem 11 The structure of R is described by the filtration

$$R \supset [R, R] \supset J.$$

Proof. $R/[R, R]$ is the ring of commutative polynomials in s_i and A_i . $[R, R]/J$ is described by Lemma 10, and J is given by Theorem 6. □

Corollary 12 We have the following basis for R :

- (i) $S_{i_1}^{h_1} \cdots S_{i_s}^{h_s} A_{j_1}^{l_1} \cdots A_{j_t}^{l_t}$,
- (ii) $S_{i_1}^{h_1} \cdots S_{i_s}^{h_s} [S_i, S_j] A_{j_1}^{l_1} \cdots A_{j_t}^{l_t}$, and $S_{i_1}^{h_1} \cdots S_{i_s}^{h_s} S_i A_j A_{j_1}^{l_1} \cdots A_{j_t}^{l_t}$, for $i < j$,
- (iii) $P_D t_1^{h_1} \cdots t_k^{h_k}$, where P_D is a monomial obtained from the Young tableau D (see Section 3) of type $D = (\rho, \sigma)$, where (ρ, σ) contains $(21, 0)$, $(1^2, 1)$ or $(1, 1^2)$.

7 The center of R

Let $Z = R \cap T$ be the center of R , and let Z^+ be the subring of homogeneous, central polynomial of positive degree. Set

$$J_0 = J \cap T.$$

It is clear that $Z \supset J_0[t_1, \dots, t_m]$. In fact, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 13 The center of R is given by

$$Z = J_0[t_1, \dots, t_m] + k.$$

Proof. Let $f \in Z^+$. It follows from [7] that $f \in [R, R]$ (i.e., after making the variables in f commute, we get 0). We know that $[R, R]/J$ is a free module generated by $L_{(2,0)} \oplus L_{(1,1)}$, but none of these are projections of invariants. Hence $Z^+ \subset J$, and the lemma follows. □

	$\boxed{k} \otimes 1$	$1 \otimes \boxed{k}$	$\boxed{k} \otimes \boxed{l}$	$\boxed{k} \boxed{l} \otimes 1$
$\boxed{i} \otimes 1$	$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{1}{2} \boxed{i} \boxed{k} \otimes 1$	$\boxed{i} \otimes \boxed{k}$	$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{1}{2} \boxed{i} \boxed{k} \otimes \boxed{l}$	$-\left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes 1 \right) + \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes 1 \right)$
$1 \otimes \boxed{i}$	$-\boxed{k} \otimes \boxed{i}$	$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 \otimes \frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \right)$	$-\frac{1}{2} \left(1 \otimes \frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{l}} \right) + \frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1$	$\boxed{k} \boxed{l} \otimes \boxed{i}$
$\boxed{i} \otimes \boxed{j}$	$-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{1}{2} \boxed{i} \boxed{k} \otimes \boxed{j}$	$\frac{1}{2} \left(1 \otimes \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \right) + \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1$	$-\frac{1}{2} \left(1 \otimes \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{l}} \right) + \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \left(1 \otimes \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{l}} \right)$	$-\left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes 1 \right) + \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes 1 \right)$
$\boxed{i} \boxed{j} \otimes 1$	$\left(\frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 - \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes 1$	$\boxed{i} \boxed{j} \otimes \boxed{k}$	$\left(\frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes \boxed{l} - \left(\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \otimes 1 \right) + \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes \boxed{l}$	$-\frac{\boxed{i}}{\boxed{k}} \frac{\boxed{j}}{\boxed{l}} \otimes 1$

Table 1

	$K_{1,0}$	$K_{0,1}$	$K_{1,1}$	$K_{2,0}$	$K_{21,0}$	$K_{21,1}$
$K_{1,0}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0}$	$K_{1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0} K_{0,1}$	$K_{21,0}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0} K_{2,0}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{21^2,1}$
$K_{0,1}$	$-K_{1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{0,1^2}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{0,1^2} K_{1,0}$	$K_{2,1}$	$-K_{21,1}$	$K_{2,1} K_{1,1}$
$K_{1,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0} K_{0,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{0,1^2} K_{1,0}$	$-\frac{1}{4} K_{1^2,1^2}$	$-K_{21,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{21^2,1}$	$\frac{1}{4} K_{1^2,1^2} K_{2,0}$
$K_{2,0}$	$-K_{21,0}$	$K_{2,1}$	$K_{21,1}$	$-K_{2^2,0}$	$K_{2^2,0} K_{1,0}$	$-K_{2^2,0} K_{1,1}$
$K_{21,0}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0} K_{2,0}$	$K_{21,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{21^2,1}$	$-K_{2^2,0} K_{1,0}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{2^2,1^2,0}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{2^2,1^2,0} K_{0,1}$
$K_{21,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{21^2,1}$	$-K_{2,1} K_{1,1}$	$-\frac{1}{4} K_{1^2,1^2} K_{2,0}$	$K_{2^2,0} K_{1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{2^2,1^2,0} K_{0,1}$	$-\frac{1}{4} K_{2^2,1^2,1^2}$

Table 2

$L_{(\sigma,p)}$	$j_1(K_{\sigma,p,1})$	$j_2(K_{\sigma,p,1})$	$j_3(K_{\sigma,p,1})$	$j_4(K_{\sigma,p,1})$	$j_5(K_{\sigma,p,1})$	$j_6(K_{\sigma,p,1})$
$L_{(1,0)}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,0}$	0	$-K_{1,1}$	$K_{1,1}$	$2K_{1,1}$
$L_{(0,1)}$	$K_{1,1}$	$-K_{1,1}$	$2K_{1,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{0,1^2}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{0,1^2}$	0
$L_{(1,1)}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,1}$	$K_{1^2,1}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,1}$	$-K_{1^2,1}$
$L_{(2,0)}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{21,0}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{21,0}$	$K_{21,0}$	$-K_{2,1}$	$-K_{2,1}$	0
$L_{(21,0)}$	$K_{21^2,0}$	$-K_{21^2,0}$	$2K_{21^2,0}$	$-K_{21,1}$	$K_{21,1}$	$-2K_{21,1}$
$L_{(21,1)}$	$K_{21^2,1}$	$K_{21^2,1}$	0	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{21,1^2}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{21,1^2}$	$-K_{21,1^2}$

Table 3

$L_{(\sigma,p)}$	$j_1(K_{\sigma,p,2})$	$j_2(K_{\sigma,p,2})$	$j_3(K_{\sigma,p,2})$	$j_4(K_{\sigma,p,2})$	$j_5(K_{\sigma,p,2})$	$j_6(K_{\sigma,p,2})$
$L_{(1,0)}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{2,0}$	$-\frac{1}{2} K_{2,0}$	$K_{2,0}$	0	0	0
$L_{(0,1)}$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$L_{(1,1)}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{2,1}$	$\frac{1}{2} K_{1^2,1}$	0	0	0	0
$L_{(2,0)}$	0	0	0	0	0	0
$L_{(21,0)}$	$-K_{2^2,0}$	$-K_{2^2,0}$	0	0	0	0
$L_{(1^2,0)}$	$-K_{21,0}$	$-K_{21,0}$	0	0	0	0
$L_{(21^2,0)}$	$K_{2^2,1,0}$	$-K_{2^2,1,0}$	$2K_{2^2,1,0}$	0	0	0
$L_{(21,1)}$	$-K_{2^2,1}$	$K_{2^2,1}$	$-2K_{2^2,1}$	0	0	0

Table 4

a	b	c	$[L_{(1,0)}, L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}]$	$[L_{(0,1)}, L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}]$
+	+	+	0	0
+	+	-	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}$	0
+	-	+	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}$	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^{c+1})}$
+	-	-	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}$	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^{c+1})}$
-	+	+	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)} \oplus L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^{c-1})}$	0
-	+	-	0	0
-	-	+	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}$	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^{c+1})}$
-	-	-	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^c)}$	$L_{(2^{2^a+1}, 1^{c+1})}$

Table 5 : Here + denotes an even number and - denotes an odd number.

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