ON DUALITY AND NEGATIVE DIMENSIONS IN THE THEORY OF LIE GROUPS AND SYMMETRIC SPACES

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Abstract. We give one more interpretation of the symbolic formulae U(-N) = U(N)and Sp(-2N) = SO(2N) by comparing the values of certain Casimir operators in the corresponding tensor representations. We show also that such relations can be extended to the classical symmetric spaces using Macdonald duality for Jack and Jacobi symmetric functions.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let SO(2N) be the usual orthogonal group and $Sp(2N) = SU(2N) \cap Sp(2N, \mathbb{C})$ be the compact version of symplectic group (often denoted also as Sp(N)). We both remember that when the formula

$$Sp(-2N) = SO(2N),$$

was first written at the blackboard in Landau Institute at Chernogolovka in the autumn of 1980 S.P. Novikov remarked "Well, if you could make sense of this..."

At that time the formula was interpreted as the coincidence of the coefficients in 1/N expansions for the corresponding gauge theories [1] (see also [2] and Ch.13 in Cvitanovic's book [3]), but probably the earliest result in this direction (which that time we were not aware of) was found by King [4], who proved that the dimension of an irreducible tensor representation of Sp(2N) is equal to that of SO(2N) with the Young diagram transposed and N replaced by -N. For example, the dimensions of SO(2N) and Sp(2N) are N(2N-1) and N(2N+1) respectively and clearly go one into another when N goes to -N.

We should mention that from the general supersymmetry point of view such a formula should be probably considered as "obvious". Indeed, if we define the dimension of the space as the (super)trace of the identity operator, then anticommutative variables will give a negative contribution to the dimension (see e.g. [5]). Now replacing a symmetric form by skew-symmetric one we come to formula (1). However, this kind of arguments can serve only as a guiding principle (although a very powerful one), so Novikov's comment remains valid and may have different answers.

In this paper we give one more interpretation of formula (1) and show its relation with Macdonald duality in the theory of Jack polynomials [9, 10]. This will also give a (partial) answer to one of the questions of Mulase and Waldron [11] and allows to extend the duality to all classical symmetric spaces.

The general idea behind this kind of formulae is a proper extension and the analytic continuation in dimension of certain quantities. We show first following [12] and using Perelomov-Popov [6] that the analogue of King's result holds also

for the values of certain Casimir operators in tensor representations of orthogonal and symplectic groups with transposed Young diagrams.

Then we explain how the duality $N \to -N$ can be extended to the symmetric spaces using Macdonald duality $\alpha \to \alpha^{-1}$ in the theory of Jack symmetric functions [9, 10]. When $\alpha = 2$ this leads to the duality

$$N \to -\alpha N = -2N$$

between the corresponding symmetric spaces SU(N)/SO(N) and SU(2N)/Sp(2N)(cf. [11]). The self-dual case $\alpha = 1$ corresponds to Schur polynomials and unitary group U(N). Note that the theory of spherical functions on those spaces was part of the motivation for Jack to introduce his polynomials, see [13].

We show also that the analogue of Macdonald duality for Jacobi symmetric functions found in [14] leads to the duality between remaining classical symmetric spaces: the real and quaternionic Grassmannians $SO(m+n)/SO(m) \times SO(n)$ and $Sp(2m+2n)/Sp(2m) \times Sp(2n)$ and between SO(4N)/U(2N) and Sp(2N)/U(N). Using Cartan's notations for the symmetric spaces (see e.g. [16]) we can write all these dualities symbolically as

(2)
$$AI(-2N) = AII(N),$$

$$BDI(-2m, -2n) = CII(m, n)$$

$$DIII(-4N) = CI(2N)$$

(note the change of rank !), while the self-duality of the unitary group U(N) and the duality of the orthogonal and symplectic groups (1) can be written in terms of the corresponding root systems as

(5)
$$A_{-N} = A_N, C_{-N} = D_N.$$

2. Casimir operators and duality for classical Lie groups

We are going to compare the values of certain Casimir operators in the tensor representations of classical groups. For this we will use the well-known results of Perelomov and Popov [6].

It is known after Weyl [15] that the tensor representations of such a group can be parametrised by the *Young diagrams* or partitions $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$.

We need now a universal definition of the Casimir operators for all classical Lie groups G. Following [7] define them as the following elements of the centre of the universal enveloping algebra $U\mathfrak{g}$ of the corresponding simple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} as

$$C_p = g_{\mu_1...\mu_p} X^{\mu_1} ... X^{\mu_p}, p = 0, 1, 2, ...$$

where X^{μ} are the generators of \mathfrak{g} ,

$$g_{\mu_1\dots\mu_n} = Tr(\hat{X}_{\mu_1}\dots\hat{X}_{\mu_n}),$$

and the last trace is taken in the fundamental representation of \mathfrak{g} (see for the details Chapter 9 in [8]). For all classical simple Lie groups except SO(2n) these elements generate the whole centre of the universal enveloping algebra $U\mathfrak{g}$.

Perelomov and Popov found the following explicit formula for the generating function for the corresponding Casimir spectra [6]:

(6)
$$C_G(\lambda, z) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} C_p z^p = z^{-1} (1 + \frac{\beta z}{2 - 2(2\alpha + 1)z}) (1 - \Pi_G(\lambda, z)),$$

where

$$\Pi_G(\lambda, z) = \prod_i (1 - \frac{z}{1 - m_i z}),$$

 $m_i = l_i + \alpha, l_i = \lambda_i + r_i$ for i > 0 and $l_{-i} = -l_i, l_0 = 0, \lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$ is the highest weight of representation, which we identify with the corresponding Young diagram. Other parameters, as well as ranges of index i are given in the Table 1. An additional subtlety is that for U(n) group $\lambda_1 \ge \lambda_2 \ge \dots \ge \lambda_n \ge 0$ are non-negative integers, while for SU(n) group $\lambda_i = t_i - \frac{t}{n}, t = t_1 + t_2 + \dots + t_n$, where now t_i are non-negative integers with $t_1 \ge t_2 \ge \dots \ge t_n \ge 0$.

TABLE 1. Parameters

Root system	Group G	α	β	r_i	range of index
A_{n-1}	SU(n)	(n-1)/2	0	$\frac{n+1}{2}-i$	1, 2,, n
B_n	O(2n+1)	n - 1/2	1	$(n+\frac{1}{2})\epsilon_i - i$	$0, \pm 1, \pm 2,, \pm n$
C_n	Sp(2n)	n	-1	$(n+\overline{1})\epsilon_i - i$	$\pm 1, \pm 2,, \pm n$
D_n	O(2n)	n-1	1	$n\epsilon_i - i$	$\pm 1, \pm 2,, \pm n$

The first multiplier of $C_G(\lambda, z)$ with these parameters is given in Table 2.

TABLE 2. First multiplier

Root system	Group	$z^{-1}(1 + \frac{\beta z}{2 - 2(2\alpha + 1)z})$
A_{n-1}	SU(n)	z^{-1}
B_n	O(2n+1)	$z^{-1} \frac{2-z(2n-1)}{2-2zn}$
C_n	Sp(2n)	$z^{-1} \frac{2-z(2n+2)}{2-z(2n+1)}$
D_n	O(2n)	$z^{-1} \frac{2-z(2n-2)}{2-z(2n-1)}$

We claim now that after proper extension and analytic continuation in dimension n we have the following duality relation between the Casimirs of the orthogonal and symplectic groups

(7)
$$C_{Sp(2n)}(\lambda, z) = -C_{SO(-2n)}(\lambda', -z)$$

in agreement with (1). For the unitary group we have the self-duality

(8)
$$C_{U(n)}(\lambda, z) = -C_{U(-n)}(\lambda', -z).$$

Here λ' denotes the transposed Young diagram, see e.g. [10].

For the first factor it is obvious from the table 2. Consider the second factor in $C_G(\lambda, z)$

$$\Pi_G(\lambda, z) = \prod_i (1 - \frac{z}{1 - m_i z}) = \prod_i \frac{1 - z(m_i + 1)}{1 - zm_i}.$$

For the unitary group U(n) this specializes to

$$\Pi_{U(n)}(\lambda, z) = \prod_{i} \frac{1 - z(m_i + 1)}{1 - zm_i} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1 - z(m_i + 1)}{1 - zm_i}$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1 - z(l_i + \alpha + 1)}{1 - z(l_i + \alpha)} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1 - z(\lambda_i + r_i + \alpha + 1)}{1 - z(\lambda_i + r_i + \alpha)}$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1 - z(\lambda_i + n + 1 - i)}{1 - z(\lambda_i + n - i)}.$$

To see the duality we will use a different parametrisation for Young diagram λ (closely related to what is sometimes called *Maya parametrisation*).

Let $a_1, a_2, ..., a_k$ be number of rows with equal width λ_i from top to bottom and $b_1, b_2, ..., b_k$ be the number of columns with equal height from left to right (evidently k is the same in both cases). Moreover, sets a_i and b_i go one into another: $a_i \leftrightarrow b_i, i = 1, 2, ..., k$ under transposition of Young diagram $\lambda \to \lambda'$. We also introduce $A_1, A_2, ..., A_k$ and $B_1, B_2, ..., B_k$ by equations

$$A_i = a_1 + \dots + a_i, \quad B_i = b_1 + \dots + b_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, k,$$

so e.g. the first row has length B_k , first column has height A_k , which is restricted to be $\leq n$. For convenience, we introduce also $A_0 = B_0 = 0$. Evidently, the sets $A_i = A_i(\lambda)$ and $B_i = B_i(\lambda)$ also go one into another under transposition of Young diagram λ : $A_i \leftrightarrow B_i, i = 1, 2, ..., k$.

One can check that in this parametrisation we have the following expression for $\Pi(\lambda, z)$ for U(n):

$$\Pi_{U(n)}(\lambda, z) = \prod_{a=0}^{k} (1 - z(B_{k-a} - A_a + n)) \prod_{a=1}^{k} \frac{1}{(1 - z(B_{k-a+1} - A_a + n))}$$

In this form we can continue this expression for Casimir's spectra on the values of A_i, B_i and n out of their initial range. Namely, we can take n an arbitrary number, and relax restriction $A_k \leq n$. After that it is immediate that

$$\Pi_{U(n)}(\lambda, z) = \Pi_{U(-n)}(\lambda', -z).$$

For the rectangular diagram with $R_{p,q}$ with q rows and p columns

$$\Pi_{U(n)}(R_{p,q},z) = \frac{(1-z(p+n))(1-z(n-q))}{1-z(p-q+n)},$$

which is evidently invariant under $n \leftrightarrow -n, p \leftrightarrow q, z \leftrightarrow -z$.

For SU(n) group corresponding formulae are

$$\Pi_{SU(n)}(\lambda, z) = \prod_{a=0}^{k} (1 - z(B_{k-a} - \frac{t}{n} - A_a + n)) \prod_{a=1}^{k} \frac{1}{(1 - z(B_{k-a+1} - \frac{t}{n} - A_a + n))},$$

where t is a sum of t_i , which is the same as the area of the corresponding Young diagram and thus is invariant under its transposition. For rectangular diagram we have

$$\Pi_{SU(n)}(R_{p,q},z) = \frac{(1-z(p-\frac{pq}{n}+n))(1-z(n-\frac{pq}{n}-q))}{1-z(p-\frac{pq}{n}-q+n)},$$

which is clearly duality invariant.

For the symplectic group Sp(2n) we have

$$\Pi_{Sp(2n)}(\lambda, z) = \prod_{i} \frac{1 - z(m_i + 1)}{1 - zm_i} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1 - z(m_i + 1)}{1 - zm_i} \frac{1 - z(m_{-i} + 1)}{1 - zm_{-i}}$$
$$= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1 - z(l_i + \alpha + 1)}{1 - z(l_i + \alpha)} \frac{1 - z(-l_i + \alpha + 1)}{1 - z(-l_i + \alpha)}$$

$$=\prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1-z(m_{i}+r_{i}+\alpha+1)}{1-z(m_{i}+r_{i}+\alpha)} \frac{1-z(-m_{i}-r_{i}+\alpha+1)}{1-z(-m_{i}-r_{i}+\alpha)}$$
$$=\prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1-z(m_{i}+2n+2-i)}{1-z(m_{i}+2n+1-i)} \frac{1-z(-m_{i}+i)}{1-z(-m_{i}+i-1)}$$
$$=(\prod_{a=0}^{k} (1-z(B_{k-a}-A_{a}+2n+1)))(\prod_{a=1}^{k} \frac{1}{1-z(B_{k-a+1}-A_{a}+2n+1)})$$
$$\times \frac{1-zn}{1-z(n+1)} (\prod_{a=0}^{k} \frac{1}{1-z(-B_{k-a}+A_{a})})(\prod_{a=1}^{k} (1-z(-B_{k-a+1}+A_{a}))).$$

For rectangular diagram with q rows and p columns

$$\Pi_{Sp(2n)}(R_{p,q},z) = \frac{(1-z(p+2n+1))(1-z(2n+1-q))(1-z(q-p))(1-zn)}{(1-z(p-q+2n+1))(1-z(n+1))(1-z(-p))(1-zq)}.$$

The same calculation for SO(2n) gives

$$\begin{split} \Pi_{SO(2n)}(\lambda,z) &= \prod_{i} \frac{1-z(m_{i}+1)}{1-zm_{i}} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1-z(m_{i}+1)}{1-zm_{i}} \frac{1-z(m_{-i}+1)}{1-zm_{-i}} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1-z(l_{i}+\alpha+1)}{1-z(l_{i}+\alpha)} \frac{1-z(-l_{i}+\alpha+1)}{1-z(-l_{i}+\alpha)} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1-z(m_{i}+r_{i}+\alpha+1)}{1-z(m_{i}+r_{i}+\alpha)} \frac{1-z(-m_{i}-r_{i}+\alpha+1)}{1-z(-m_{i}-r_{i}+\alpha)} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1-z(m_{i}+2n-i)}{1-z(m_{i}+2n-1-i)} \frac{1-z(-m_{i}+i)}{1-z(-m_{i}+i-1)} \\ &= (\prod_{a=0}^{k} (1-z(B_{k-a}-A_{a}+2n-1))) (\prod_{a=1}^{k} \frac{1}{1-z(B_{k-a+1}-A_{a}+2n-1)}) \\ &\times \frac{1-zn}{1-z(n-1)} (\prod_{a=0}^{k} \frac{1}{1-z(-B_{k-a}+A_{a})}) (\prod_{a=1}^{k} (1-z(-B_{k-a+1}+A_{a}))) \end{split}$$

For rectangular diagram ${\cal R}_{p,q}$ with q rows and p columns we have

$$\Pi_{SO(2n)}(R_{p,q},z) = \frac{(1-z(p+2n-1))(1-z(2n-1-q))(1-z(q-p))(1-zn)}{(1-z(p-q+2n-1))(1-z(n-1))(1-z(-p))(1-zq)}.$$

Since the results for SO(2n) and Sp(2n) transform one into another under $n \leftrightarrow -n, A_i \leftrightarrow B_i, z \leftrightarrow -z$ we have the duality (7).

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3. Duality for Jack and Jacobi symmetric functions and classical symmetric spaces

For the theory of the symmetric spaces of spherical functions on them we refer to [16, 17]. We will restrict ourselves by the compact case.

Recall that the *zonal spherical functions* on a compact symmetric space X = G/K are joint eigenfunctions of all *G*-invariant differential operators on *X*, which is also *K*-biinvariant [17]. It is known after Gelfand and Harish-Chandra that the algebra of these operators is commutative and is isomorphic to the algebra of *W*-invariant polynomials, where *W* is the analogue of the Weyl group corresponding to *X*.

The radial parts of these operators are known to be conjugated to the quantum integrals of the corresponding Olshanetsky-Perelomov generalisation [18] of Calogero-Moser system (see [19, 20]). In particular, the radial part the Laplace-Beltrami operator on X is

(9)
$$\mathcal{L} = -\Delta - \sum_{\alpha \in R_+} m_\alpha \cot(\alpha, x) \partial_\alpha,$$

where R is a root system of X and m_{α} is the multiplicity of the (restricted) root α . It is gauged to the quantum Hamiltonian of the generalised Calogero-Moser system

(10)
$$H = -\Delta + \sum_{\alpha \in R_+} \frac{\mu_\alpha (\mu_\alpha + 2\mu_{2\alpha} - 1)(\alpha, \alpha)}{\sin^2(\alpha, x)}$$

with the parameters

(11)
$$\mu_{\alpha} = \frac{m_{\alpha}}{2}$$

by the function

(12)
$$\psi_0 = \prod_{\alpha \in R_+} \sin^{\mu_\alpha}(\alpha, x)$$

(which is the ground state of H for positive μ_{α} , see [20]). This means that the zonal spherical functions are related to the eigenfunctions of the corresponding operator H by multiplication by ψ_0^{-1} .

Below is the list of the root systems and corresponding multiplicities for the classical symmetric spaces, which we have borrowed from [20], appendix B. Here we assume that the parameters $m \ge n$ and in the case of BC_n -type root system the notations are $\alpha = e_i \pm e_j$, $\beta = e_i$, $2\beta = 2e_i$. When m = n the equality $m_\beta = 0$ or $m_{2\beta} = 0$ means that this root should not be considered (so the system is actually of C_n or D_n type).

One should add here the compact Lie groups G = SU(N), SO(2N+1), Sp(N), SO(2N)considered as the symmetric spaces $G \approx G \times G/G$. The corresponding root systems are A_{N-1} , B_N , C_N , D_N respectively with all the multiplicities equal to 2.

We are going to show now how to make sense of the formula (2) using Macdonald duality. To explain the latter we first extend the corresponding operator (9) to infinite dimension following [21].

Note that the symmetric spaces SU(N)/SO(N) and SU(2N)/Sp(2N) have the same root system of type A_{N-1} with different multiplicities $m_{\alpha} = 1$ and $m_{\alpha} = 4$. The radial part of the Laplace-Beltrami operators on these spaces in the exponential

Symmetric space XCartan's type Root system m_{α} m_{β} $m_{2\beta}$ SU(N)/SO(N)AI A_{N-1} 1 SU(N)/Sp(2N)AII A_{N-1} 4 $SU(m+n)/S(U(m) \times U(n))$ AIII BC_n 22(m-n)1 BC_n B_n C_N BC_n $C_M \text{ if } N = 2M$ $BC_M \text{ if } N = 2M + 1$ $SO(m+n)/SO(m) \times SO(n)$ 1 m - nBDI0 1 0 Sp(2N)/U(N)1 CI $Sp(2m+2n)/Sp(2m) \times Sp(2n)$ CII4 4(m-n)3 SO(2N)/U(N)DIII 4 1 SO(2N)/U(N)DIII1

TABLE 3. Roots of classical symmetric spaces and their multiplicities

coordinates $z_i = e^{2x_i}$ has the form

(13)
$$\mathcal{L}_{k}^{(N)} = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(z_{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_{i}} \right)^{2} - k \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq N} \frac{z_{i} + z_{j}}{z_{i} - z_{j}} \left(z_{i} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_{i}} - z_{j} \frac{\partial}{\partial z_{j}} \right),$$

where the parameter k is related with the corresponding root multiplicity as

$$k = -m_{\alpha}/2.$$

It is related to Macdonald parameter α by $k = -\alpha^{-1}$.

Let $\Lambda_N = \mathbb{C}[z_1, \ldots, z_N]^{S_N}$ be the algebra of symmetric polynomials on N variables. For any M > N we have the homomorphisms

$$\phi_{M,N}: \Lambda_M \to \Lambda_N,$$

sending z_i with i > N to zero. Consider the inverse limit of Λ_N in the category of graded algebras

$$\Lambda = \lim \Lambda_N.$$

By definition, $f \in \Lambda^r$ corresponds to an infinite sequence of elements $f_N \in \Lambda^r_N$, $N = 1, 2, \ldots$ of degree r such that

$$\phi_{M,N}f_M = f_N.$$

The elements of Λ are called *symmetric functions*.

The power sums

$$p_l = z_1^l + z_2^l + \dots, \ l = 1, 2, \dots$$

is a convenient set of free generators of this algebra, which means that any symmetric function is a polynomials of p_l . The set $p_{\lambda} = p_{\lambda_1} p_{\lambda_2} \dots$ for all partitions λ gives a linear basis in Λ .

Consider the following operator $\mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)}$ in Λ :

(14)
$$\mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)} = \sum_{a,b>0} p_{a+b}\partial_a\partial_b - k\sum_{a,b>0} p_ap_b\partial_{a+b} - kp_0\sum_{a>0} p_a\partial_a + (1+k)\sum_{a>0} ap_a\partial_a,$$

where we define $\partial_a = a \frac{\partial}{\partial p_a}$. One can check [21] that for all N and $p_0 = N$ the following diagram is commutative

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda & \stackrel{\mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)}}{\longrightarrow} & \Lambda \\ \downarrow \varphi_N & \downarrow \varphi_N \\ \Lambda_N & \stackrel{\mathcal{L}_k^{(N)}}{\longrightarrow} & \Lambda_N \end{array}$$

where $\varphi_N : \Lambda \longrightarrow \Lambda_N$ is defined by

(15)
$$\varphi_N(p_l) = \sum_{i=1}^N z_i^l.$$

In this sense $\mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)}$ is an infinite-dimensional version of $\mathcal{L}_k^{(N)}$. Note that it depends on extra parameter p_0 , which is to be specialized to the dimension. Jack symmetric function $P(\lambda, k)$ can be defined for any partition λ as the eigenfunction of $\mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)}$ of certain form and do not depend on p_0 (see e.g. [10]). Their image in Λ_N give after specialization of k the zonal spherical functions of the corresponding symmetric spaces of type AI and AII.

Macdonald's duality corresponds to the following symmetry of the operator $\mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)}$:

(16)
$$\theta \circ \mathcal{L}_{k,p_0}^{(\infty)} \circ \theta^{-1} = k \mathcal{L}_{k^{-1},k^{-1}p_0}^{(\infty)},$$

where θ is the automorphism of Λ defined by

(17)
$$\theta: p_a \to k^{-1} p_a, k \to k^{-1}$$

At the level of Jack symmetric functions Macdonald's duality is expressed by the equality

(18)
$$\theta(P(\lambda,k)) = c(\lambda,k)P(\lambda',1/k),$$

where λ' as before is a partition conjugate to λ and $c(\lambda, k)$ is some proportionality coefficient.

Since k = -1/2 for SU(N)/SO(N) and k = -2 for SU(2N)/Sp(2N) satisfy $k \to k^{-1}$ we have the duality. Note that the dimensions must be related according to (17):

$$N \to k^{-1}N = -2N,$$

which explain formula (2) and gives an alternative explanation of the formula (9.1) from Mulase and Waldron [11].

A similar duality holds in BC case. Namely if we introduce the "minus half-multiplicities"

(19)
$$k = -m_{\alpha}/2, \ p = -m_{\beta}/2, \ q = -m_{2\beta}/2,$$

then the corresponding BC_{∞} operator has the symmetry [14]:

(20)
$$k \to k^{-1}, p \to k^{-1}p, 2q+1 \to k^{-1}(2q+1).$$

The dimensions again are related by the formula

$$N \to k^{-1}N.$$

One can easily check that this leads to the duality table below and, in particular, to the formulae (3) and (4) as well as to an alternative explanation of formula (1).

4. Concluding Remarks

We have shown that the change $N \to -N$ transforming the orthogonal group SO(2N) into symplectic group Sp(2N) is a particular case of the duality

$$k \to k^{-1}, N \to k^{-1}N$$

in the theory of Jack and Jacobi symmetric functions. Here $k = -m_{\alpha}/2$ is minus a half of the multiplicity of the root $\alpha = e_i - e_j$. The sign minus in the dimension

TABLE 4. Dual pairs of classical symmetric spaces

Symmetric space $X(N)$	k	p	q	Dual space $X(k^{-1}N)$	k	p	q
SU(N)	-1			SU(N)	-1		
SO(2N)	-1	0	0	Sp(2N)	-1	0	-1
SU(N)/SO(N)	$-\frac{1}{2}$			SU(2N)/Sp(2N)	-2		
$SU(m+n)/S(U(m) \times U(n))$	$-\overline{1}$	n-m	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$SU(m+n)/SU(m) \times SU(n)$	-1	n-m	$-\frac{1}{2}$
$SO(m+n)/SO(m) \times SO(n)$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	n-m	0	$Sp(2m+2n)/Sp(2m) \times Sp(2n)$	-2	2(n-m)	$-\frac{3}{2}$
Sp(2N)/U(N)	$-\frac{1}{2}$	0	$-\frac{1}{2}$	SO(4N)/U(2N)	-2	0	$-\frac{1}{2}$

change is significant and corresponds to the alternating factor in the original form of Macdonald duality (see formula (10.6) in [10]).

This partially answers the questions of Mulase and Waldron asking for explanation of the relation $N \rightarrow -2N$ in the case of AI - AII type symmetric spaces (see Conclusions in [11]).

We should note that there is a different (Langlands) duality of SO(2N + 1) and Sp(2N), corresponding to the usual duality between the root lattices B_N and C_N :

(21)
$$B_N^* = C_N, \ SO(2N+1)^* = Sp(2N).$$

If we combine this duality with (1) we have

(22)
$$SO(2N+1)^* = SO(-2N),$$

which reminds us of the reflection property of Bernoulli polynomials and Riemann zeta function. It would be interesting to see if this parallel goes any further.

Another possible generalisation of all this is to Lie superalgebras. In particular, it is natural to expect the following relation for orthosymplectic Lie superalgebras

(23)
$$\mathfrak{osp}(-2n,-2m) = \mathfrak{osp}(2m,2n),$$

which would be nice to justify.

It is also interesting to see how all this fits into the theory of the so-called "universal Lie algebra" initiated by Deligne and Vogel [22, 23] (see more recent development in [24, 25]). This Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} depends on 3 parameters α, β, γ defined modulo common multiple and permutations and has the dimension

(24)
$$\dim \mathfrak{g} = \frac{(\alpha - 2t)(\beta - 2t)(\gamma - 2t)}{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \quad t = \alpha + \beta + \gamma.$$

Classical Lie algebras correspond to the following parameters (see e.g. [24]):

Lie algebra	α	β	γ
\mathfrak{sp}_{2n}	-2	1	n+2
\mathfrak{sl}_n	-2	2	n
\mathfrak{so}_n	-2	4	n-4

Multiplying the triple (-2, 1, n + 2), corresponding to the symplectic Lie algebra \mathfrak{sp}_{2n} , by -2 and swapping the role of α and β we have an equivalent triple (-2, 4, -2n - 4), which corresponds to the orthogonal Lie algebra \mathfrak{so}_{-2n} .

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