spl(p,q) superalgebra and differential operators

Y. Brihaye
Department of Mathematical Physics
University of Mons
Av. Maistriau, B-7000 MONS, Belgium.

Stefan Giller*, Piotr Kosinski *
Department of Theoretical Physics
University of Lodz
Pomorska 149/153, 90-236 Lodz, Poland

Abstract

Series of finite dimensional representations of the superalgebras spl(p,q) can be formulated in terms of linear differential operators acting on a suitable space of polynomials. We sketch the general ingredients necessary to construct these representations and present examples related to spl(2,1) and spl(2,2). By revisiting the products of projectivised representations of sl(2), we are able to construct new sets of differential operators preserving some space of polynomials in two or more variables. In particular, this allows to express the representation of spl(2,1) in terms of matrix differential operators in two variables. The corresponding operators provide the

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building blocks for the construction of quasi exactly solvable systems of two and four equations in two variables. We also present a quommutator deformation of spl(2,1) which, by construction, provides an appropriate basis for analyzing the quasi exactly solvable systems of finite difference equations.
1 Introduction

The number of quantum mechanical problems for which the spectral equation can be solved algebraically is rather limited. It is therefore not surprising that the quasi exactly solvable (QES) equations \[1\], \[2\] attract some attention. For these equations, indeed, a finite number of eigenvectors can be obtained by solving an algebraic equation. The study of QES equations has motivated the classification of finite dimensional real Lie algebras of first order differential operators. The algebras which, in a suitable representation, preserve a finite dimensional module of smooth real functions are particularly relevant for QES equations. The case of one variable was addressed and solved some years ago \[3\]. There is, up to an equivalence only one algebra, for instance $\text{sl}(2)$, acting on the space of polynomials of degree at most $n$ in the variable. For two variables, the classification is more involved. It is described respectively in \[4\] and \[5\] for complex and real variables. The corresponding real QES operators finally emerge in seven classes summarized in table 7 of \[5\].

The natural next step is to classify the QES systems of two equations \[6, 7, 8\]. Obviously, the number of possible finite dimensional modules of functions to be preserved grows with the number of independent variables admitted. It is known that, in general, the underlying algebraic structure is not a (super) Lie algebra. As far as $2 \times 2$ matrix differential operators of one variable are considered, the few cases where the algebra is a Lie algebra, it is generically $\text{sl}(2) \times \text{sl}(2)$ or $\text{sp}(2,1)$ \[7\]. A generalisation of these operators to the case of $V$ variables leads naturally to the symmetry algebras $\text{sl}(2) \times \text{sl}(V+1)$ or $\text{sp}(V+1,1)$ \[8\]. The first case is rather trivial while the case where a superalgebra is involved seems to be worth to be
studied in more details. In the present paper we study the modules of polynomials
is several variables which can serve as basis of representation to the superalgebras
of the spl(p,q) family [9].

In the second section, we present some new aspects of the representations of
the Lie algebra sl(p) in terms of differential operators. As a byproduct we obtain
a simpler description of some of the QES operators classified in [3].

Thereafter, in section 3 we consider the superalgebra spl(p,q) and sketch the
form of its representations which are expressible in terms of linear differential
operators. We construct explicitly some of these representations in the cases
spl(2,1) and spl(2,2). We obtain in particular a realization of spl(2,1) in terms
of partial differential operators of two real variables. This provides the algebraic
basis for the description of certain QES systems of two or four equations in two
variables. The properties of the relevant tensorial operators are given in section
4.

The tensorial labelling used to write the generators of the algebras considered
simplifies considerably the presentation of their structure constants. Taking ad-
vantage of this labelling, we are able to find a deformation of spl(2,1) similar, in
the spirit, to the Witten-Woronowicz deformation of sl(2) [10, 11, 12]. For this
deformed algebra, we also find the representations that we express in terms of
finite difference operators. The normal ordering rules obeyed by these operators
are more appropriate for the classification of finite difference QES operators than
the ones given in a previous paper [13].

2 Lie algebra sl(M+1)

Consider $M$ independent real variables $\vec{x} \equiv x_1, ..., x_M$ and denote $P(m, M)$ the
vector space of polynomials of overall degree at most $m$ in these variables i.e.

$$P(m, M) = \text{span}\{x_1^{m_1}x_2^{m_2} \cdots x_M^{m_M} \ ; \ m_1 + m_2 + \cdots + m_M \leq m\} \quad (1)$$
(for shortness we use $P(m, 1) \equiv P(m)$). The linear differential operators preserving $P(m, M)$ can be constructed (in a sense of enveloping algebra) out of $(M + 1)^2$ operators [6, 8]

\[
\begin{align*}
J_0^0(\vec{x}, m) &= D - m + \gamma, \quad D \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{M} x_j \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \\
J_0^k(\vec{x}, m) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k}, \quad k = 1, \ldots, M \\
J_k^0(\vec{x}, m) &= -x_k(D - m), \quad k = 1, \ldots, M \\
J_k^l(\vec{x}, m) &= -x_k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_l} + \gamma \delta_k^l, \quad k, l = 1, \ldots, M
\end{align*}
\]

which obey the commutation relations of $gl(M + 1)$:

\[
[J^b_a, J^d_c] = \delta^d_c J^b_a - \delta^b_a J^d_c - \delta^d_a \delta^b_c, \quad a, b, c, d = 0, 1, \ldots, M.
\]

irrespectively of the constant $\gamma$.

For later convenience we introduce for $M = 1$ the fundamental QES operators

\[
\begin{align*}
\hat{j}_+(x, m) &= -J_1^0(x, m) = x(\partial_x - m) \\
\hat{j}_0(x, m) &= \frac{1}{2}(J_0^0(x, m) - J_1^1(x, m)) = \partial_x - \frac{m}{2} \\
\hat{j}_-(x, m) &= -J_1^0(x, m) = \partial_x
\end{align*}
\]

which represent the Lie algebra sl(2) [1].

The representation of $gl(M + 1)$ defined above is irreducible and has dimension $C_{M+m}^{M}$, corresponding to the Young diagram with one line of $M$ elementary boxes. Series of reducible representations of $gl(M + 1)$ can trivially be obtained by considering the vector space

\[
P(m_1, M) \oplus P(m_2, M) \oplus \cdots \oplus P(m_k, M)
\]

and building the suitable direct sums of the operators above

\[
\text{diag}(J_0^b(\vec{x}, m_1), J_0^b(\vec{x}, m_2), \ldots, J_0^b(\vec{x}, m_k)) + \delta_a^b \text{diag}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \ldots, \gamma_k)
\]

where we separate explicitly the parameters $\gamma$ entering through (2).
2.1 Products of representations

Let \(x_1, \ldots, x_M\) and \(y_1, \ldots, y_N\) denote two sets of independent variables, we conveniently define \(P(m,M;n,N)\) as the space of polynomials of overall degree at most \(m\) (resp. \(n\)) in the variables \(x_a\) (resp. \(y_b\)).

Another way to represent \(gl(M + 1)\) in terms of differential operators is to consider the generators corresponding to the product of two representations (2); that is to say,

\[
J^b_a(\vec{x}, m; \vec{y}, n) = J^b_a(\vec{x}, m) + J^b_a(\vec{y}, n)
\]

where \(\vec{x}\) and \(\vec{y}\) represent two sets of \(M\) independent variables. Clearly, the operators (4) obey the commutation relations (3). They act on the vector space \(P(m,M;n,M)\). Their action is, however, not irreducible. For shortness, we discuss this statement in the case \(M = 1\), \(P(m,1;n,1)\) is abbreviated \(P(m;n)\).

One can show easily that the operators (7) preserve irreducibly the subspace of \(P(m;n)\) defined by

\[
M(m;n) = \text{Span}\left\{ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right)^k \left( x^m y^n \right) \right\}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq m + n
\]

This vector space is the eigenspace of the Casimir operator corresponding to the representation of highest spin in the decomposition of \(P(m;n)\) in subspaces irreducible with respect to the action of (7). The other irreducible representations result as similar structures with different values of \(m\) and \(n\); it is therefore sufficient to deal with (8).

Alternatively, \(M(m;n)\) can be seen as the kernel of the operator

\[
K = (x - y) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + n \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - m \frac{\partial}{\partial y}
\]

acting on \(P(m;n)\). Remark that \(M(m;0)\) (resp. \(M(0;n)\)) is isomorphic to \(P(m)\) (resp. \(P(n)\)); in that case, the one dimensional operators (4) are recovered from (7) by ignoring the partial derivative \(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}\) (resp. \(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}\)).
2.2 QES operators in two variables

The QES operators in two real variables are classified in Ref. [5]; the authors summarize the seven possible hidden algebras in their table 7. The operators labelled (1.4), (1.10) and (2.3) in this table are studied independently in Refs. [6], [15]. The operators labelled (1.1) in the table appear to be new; in particular they lead to the only case for which the invariant module is not manifestly a space of polynomials in the two variables. In the following we show that the formulation (1.1) can be simplified and related to the algebra (7) by means of a suitable change of function.

The operators (1.1) in table 7 of ref. [5] read

\[
\tilde{j}_- = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y},
\]

\[
\tilde{j}_0 = x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y},
\]

\[
\tilde{j}_+ = x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} + \frac{n}{2} (x - y)
\]  

They preserve the space \(\tilde{M}(m; n)\) defined as

\[
\tilde{M}(m; n) = \text{span} \left\{ (x - y)^{m+\frac{n}{2} - k} R_{k}^{m,n} \left( \frac{x + y}{x - y} \right), \quad 0 \leq k \leq 2m + n \right\}
\]  

\[
R_{k}^{m,n}(t) = \frac{d^k}{d t^k} (t - 1)^{m+n}(t + 1)^{m}
\]  

Our observation is summarized by the following two formulas

\[
(x - y)^{m+\frac{n}{2}} \tilde{\epsilon}_c (x - y)^{-m-\frac{n}{2}} = j_c(x, m) + j_c(y, m + n)
\]  

\[
(x - y)^{m+\frac{n}{2}} \tilde{M}(m; n) = M(m; m + n)
\]  

In other words the algebra \([\tilde{\Pi}]\) is equivalent to the algebra \([\Pi]\) (up to a suitable redefinition of \(n\) into \(m + n\)).

The advantage of the new formulation is twofold. First the relevant operators form an \(sl(2)\) diagonal subalgebra of the \(sl(2) \times sl(2)\) algebra generated by

\[
j_\epsilon(x, m), \quad j_\epsilon(y, n), \quad \epsilon = \pm, 0
\]
In this respect the form (7) of the operators (10) is clearly related to the fundamental operators (4) and is easy to generalize to the case of \(M\) variables. Second, the vector space of the representation, i.e. \(M(m; n)\), is a space of polynomials like in all the other cases of the classification of Ref. [3]. In the next sections, we discuss some possible extensions of the algebra (6) into graded algebras. The corresponding operators are related to systems of QES equations.

3 Superalgebra spl(M+1,N+1)

The bosonic part of the superalgebra spl(M+1,N+1) contains the Lie algebra \(\text{sl}(M+1) \times \text{sl}(N+1)\) [9]. The fermionic generators split into two multiplets \((M + 1, N + 1)\) and \((\overline{M + 1}, \overline{N + 1})\) under the adjoint action of the \(\text{sl}(M+1) \times \text{sl}(N+1)\) subalgebra.

Following the results of [9], it appears that the typical representations of spl(M+1,N+1) can be constructed by applying suitable combinations of the fermionic operators to a given irreducible representation of \(\text{sl}(M+1) \times \text{sl}(N+1)\), the so-called ground floor. Then the whole representation is generated by applying the monomials in the fermionic on the ground floor. The set of vectors attained by means of a monomial of degree \(j\) defines the \(j^{th}\) floor. The anticommutation relations between the fermionic operators guarantee that the total number of floors is finite.

A natural vector space which can serve as a basis of representation of Lie algebra \(\text{sl}(M+1) \times \text{sl}(N+1)\) is \(P(m, M; n, N)\), defined above. Then, some irreducible representations of spl(M+1,N+1) can be constructed in terms of differential operators acting on a direct sum

\[
\bigoplus_{k=1}^{K} P(m_k, M; n_k, N)
\]

The bosonic generators are the direct sums

\[
\text{diag}(J^b_a(\vec{x}, m_1), \cdots, J^b_a(\vec{x}, m_K)) \quad , \quad \text{diag}(J^b_a(\vec{y}, n_1), \cdots, J^b_a(\vec{y}, n_K))
\]
the fermionic ones are built with the tensorial operators obtained in \[13\]. They involve in general a large number of parameters to be fixed by imposing the commutation relations. The determination of the possible values for \(m_i, m_j, K\) and the explicit construction of the fermionic generators for generic values of \(M, N\) is a complicated task. We therefore limit our study to the particular cases \(\text{spl}(2,1)\) and \(\text{spl}(2,2)\). Our aim is to identify the hidden symmetries of quasi exactly solvable systems; the simplest of them are related to the operators involving a rather low number of variables and of polynomial components.

### 3.1 The superalgebra \(\text{spl}(2,1)\)

The bosonic part of \(\text{spl}(2,1)\), which is equivalent to the (perhaps better known) algebra \(\text{osp}(2,2)\), is the Lie algebra \(\text{sl}(2) \times \text{u}(1)\). The structure constant appear rather simple when we label the bosonic generators \(J^b_a\) and the fermionic ones \(Q_a\) and \(\overline{Q}^a\) \((a, b = 1, 2)\):

\[
\begin{align*}
[ J^b_a, J^d_c ] &= \delta^d_a J^b_c - \delta^b_c J^d_a \\
[ J^b_a, Q_c ] &= -\delta^b_c Q_a + \delta^b_a Q_c \\
[ J^b_a, \overline{Q}^c ] &= \delta^c_a \overline{Q}^b - \delta^b_a \overline{Q}^c \\
\{ Q_a, Q_b \} &= J^b_a \\
\{ Q_a, \overline{Q}^b \} &= \{ \overline{Q}^a, \overline{Q}^b \} = 0
\end{align*}
\]

#### 3.1.1 Representation by differential operators of one variable

The typical irreducible representations of \(\text{spl}(2,1)\) \[16\] can be expressed as \(4 \times 4\) matrix differential operators acting on the 4-tuple of polynomials of one variable whose decomposition in floors reads

floor 0 \(P(m)\) \hspace{1cm} (23)

floor 1 \(P(m + 1) \oplus P(m - 1)\) \hspace{1cm} (24)

floor 2 \(P(m)\) \hspace{1cm} (25)
The operators

\[ q_a(x) = (1, x) \quad ; \quad \overline{q}_a(x, m) = \left( \frac{d}{dx}, x \frac{d}{dx} - m \right) \]

which naturally connect \( P(n) \) with \( P(n \pm 1) \) play a crucial role in the construction of the representation. Using the symplectic metric \( \epsilon^{ab} \) with \( \epsilon^{01} = 1 \) to raise and lower the indices, the fermionic generators can be set in the form

\[
Q_a = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 \\
q_a & 0 & 0 \\
\overline{q}_a(n) & 0 & 0 \\
0 & \overline{q}_a(n + 1) & -q_a
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(27)

\[
\overline{Q}^a = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & \alpha \overline{q}^a(n + 1) & \beta q^a & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \alpha q^a \\
0 & 0 & 0 & -\beta \overline{q}^a(n) \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(28)

with

\[
\alpha = \frac{n-t}{2(n+1)} \quad , \quad \beta = \frac{n+2+t}{2(n+1)}
\]

(29)

Where \( t \) is an arbitrary parameter and we made use of the similarity transformation to set \( Q_a \) in a particularly simple form. The bosonic operators read then

\[
J^0_0 = -\text{diag}(j_-(x), j_-(x), j_-(x), j_-(x))
\]

(30)

\[
J^0_1 = \text{diag}(j_+(x, m), j_+(x, m+1), j_+(x, m-1), j_+(x, m))
\]

(31)

\[
\frac{1}{2}(J^0_0 + J^1_1) = \frac{1}{2}\text{diag}(t, t + 1, t + 2, t + 2)
\]

(32)

\[
\frac{1}{2}(J^0_0 - J^1_1) = \text{diag}(j_0(x, m), j_0(x, m+1), j_0(x, m-1), j_0(x, m))
\]

(33)

The irreducibility of the representation (for generic value of \( t \)) and the use of Burnside theorem guarantee that the eight operators above generate all linear, differential operators preserving the space \( P(m) \oplus P(M + 1) \oplus P(M - 1) \oplus P(m) \).
In the limit $t = -(m + 2)$ (i.e. $\beta = 0$), the upper left $2 \times 2$ blocks of the operators above act invariantly on the space $P(m) \oplus P(m + 1)$ and lead to a series of atypical representations. This formulation of the Lie superalgebra osp(2,2) by differential operators (of one variable) preserving $P(m) \oplus P(m + 1)$ was first noticed in [3].

3.1.2 Representations by differential operators of two variables

By using the formalism of sect.2.1 one can also build representations of spl(2,1) in terms of differential operators of two (or more) variables. Let us first discuss the representation by operators preserving the direct sum

$$M(m; n) \oplus M(m + 1; n) .$$

(34)

The diagonal generators are of the form (see(3))

$$\text{diag}(J^b_a(x, m) + J^b_a(y, n), J^b_a(x, m + 1) + J^b_a(y, n)) - \delta^b_a \text{diag}(1, 0)$$

(35)

(see (7)), we have to construct the off diagonal ones which connect the two subspaces of the sum (34). In this case, the relevant tensorial operators read

$$q_0(x, m; y, n) = \frac{1}{m + 1}(m + n + 1 + (x - y)\frac{\partial}{\partial y})$$

$$q_1(x, m; y, n) = \frac{1}{m + 1}((m + 1)x + ny + y(x - y)\frac{\partial}{\partial y})$$

(36)

$$\overline{q}_0(x, m) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$$

$$\overline{q}_1(x, m) = (x\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - m) .$$

(37)

They generalize (26) which are recovered by setting $n = 0$ and dropping all derivatives $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$. We then obtain the desired representation in terms of (35), supplemented by the fermionic generators

$$Q_a = q_a(x, m; y, n)s_- , \quad \overline{Q}_a = \overline{q}_a(x, m)s_+ , \quad a = 0, 1$$

(38)
It has dimension $2m + 2n + 3$; again Burnside theorem guarantees that all differential, linear operators preserving (34) are the elements of the enveloping algebra generated by the eight generators.

The generic typical representations of spl(2,2) can also be formulated in terms of the two variables differential operators. They can be constructed equally well on the vector spaces

$$V_I = M_{m,n} \oplus M_{m+1,n} \oplus M_{m-1,n} \oplus M_{m,n}$$

(39)

$$V_{II} = M_{m,n} \oplus M_{m+1,n} \oplus M_{m,n+1} \oplus M_{m,n}$$

(40)

The associated representations are equivalent (in agreement with [16]) but the expressions of the generators in terms of the partial derivatives is quite different. The proof of the equivalence between the representations acting on $V_I$ and on $V_{II}$ relies on the fact that the operators (35), (37) are invariant under the double substitution $m \leftrightarrow n$ and $x \leftrightarrow y$. Therefore the operators $q_a(y, n; x, m)$ (resp. $\tilde{q}^a(y, n)$) behave exactly as $q_a(x, m; y, n)$ (resp. $\tilde{q}^a(x, m)$) under the adjoint action of gl(2) algebra (35).

### 3.2 The superalgebra spl(2,2)

The bosonic part of the superalgebra spl(2,2) is $\text{sl}(2) \times \text{sl}(2) \times u(1)$. We note $J^b_a, \tilde{J}^b_a$ the two sets of generators of the two $\text{sl}(2)$ ($\sum_a J^a_a = \sum_a \tilde{J}^a_a = 0$) and $Y$ the generator related to $u(1)$. Denoting the fermionic generators by $Q^b_a, \overline{Q}^b_a$ the commutator relations read as follow

[ $J^b_a, J^d_c$] = $\delta^d_a J^b_c - \delta^b_a J^d_c$ \hspace{1cm} (41)

[ $\tilde{J}^b_a, \tilde{J}^d_c$] = $\delta^d_a \tilde{J}^b_c - \delta^b_a \tilde{J}^d_c$ \hspace{1cm} (42)

[ $J^b_a, \tilde{J}^d_c$] = [$J^b_a, Y$] = [$\tilde{J}^b_a, Y$] = 0 \hspace{1cm} (43)

[ $J^b_a, Q^d_c$] = $-\delta^d_a Q^b_c + 1/2 \delta^b_a Q^d_c$ \hspace{1cm} (44)

[ $J^b_a, \overline{Q}^d_c$] = $\delta^d_a \overline{Q}^b_c - 1/2 \delta^b_a \overline{Q}^d_c$ \hspace{1cm} (45)
\[ \begin{align*}
[ J^b_a, Q^d_c] &= \delta_a^d Q^b_c - \frac{1}{2} \delta_a^b Q^d_c \\
[ J^b_a, \overline{Q}^d_c] &= -\delta_a^b \overline{Q}^d_c + \frac{1}{2} \delta_a^d \overline{Q}^b_c \\
\{ Q^b_a, \overline{Q}^d_c \} &= \delta_c^d J^b_a + \delta_d^b J^b_c + \frac{1}{2} \delta_a^d \delta_c^b Y \\
\{ Q^b_a, Q^d_c \} &= \{ \overline{Q}^a_b, \overline{Q}^d_c \} = 0
\end{align*} \] (46)

The structure of the anticommutators \( \{ Q, Q \} \) is such that the generic representation consist of five floors [4]. In term of polynomial space of two variables \( P(m; n) \) the representation is organized as follow

floor 0 \quad P(m; n)

floor 1 \quad P(m + 1; n + 1) \oplus P(m + 1; n - 1) \\
\quad \oplus P(m - 1; n + 1) \oplus P(m - 1; n - 1)

floor 2 \quad P(m + 1; n) \oplus P(m; n + 2) \oplus P(m; n) \\
\quad \oplus P(m; n) \oplus P(m; n - 2) \oplus P(m - 2; n)

floor 3 \quad P(m + 1; n + 1) \oplus P(m + 1; n - 1) \\
\quad \oplus P(m - 1; n + 1) \oplus P(m - 1; n - 1)

floor 4 \quad P(m; n)

(50)

The construction of the fermionic generators involves the determination of 112 parameters. Like for the case \( \text{spl}(2,1) \) we focused our attention on the representations composed out of a lower number of levels. If we restrict to two levels only, we find [3] that the only possibility is the space \( P(1; 0) \oplus P(0; 1) \), correspondingly \( Y = 1 \). It was already observed in [13] that the set of operators preserving the vector space \( P(m; n) \oplus P(k; l) \) do not represent a linear algebra. Considering then the representations with three levels, we found a series of atypical representations with the following dimensions

floor 0 \quad P(n, n)

floor 1 \quad P(n + 1, n) \oplus P(n - 1, n + 1)
The bosonic operators read as follows

\[
\begin{align*}
J_0^1 &= -\text{diag}(J_-(x), J_-(x), J_-(x), J_-(x)) \\
J_0^0 &= \text{diag}(J_0(x, n), J_0(x, n + 1), J_0(x, n - 1), J_0(x, n)) \\
J_1^0 &= \text{diag}(J_+(x, n), J_+(x, n + 1), J_+(x, n - 1), J_+(x, n)) \\
\tilde{J}_0^1 &= -\text{diag}(J_- (y), J_- (y), J_- (y), J_- (y)) \\
\tilde{J}_0^0 &= \text{diag}(J_0(y, n), J_0(y, n - 1), J_0(y, n + 1), J_0(y, n)) \\
\tilde{J}_1^0 &= \text{diag}(J_+(y, n), J_+(y, n - 1), J_+(y, n + 1), J_+(y, n))
\end{align*}
\]  

(52)

and the value \( Y \) is just vanishing for the representation under consideration.

Finally, the fermionic operators are of the form

\[
Q^b_a = \epsilon^{bc} V_{ac} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{Q}^b_a = \epsilon^{bc} \tilde{V}_{ac}
\]  

(53)

with

\[
V_{ac} = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
qu_a \bar{q}_c(n) & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
q_a(n)q_c & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & q_a(n + 1)q_c & -q_a\bar{q}_c(n + 1) & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]  

(54)

\[
\tilde{V}_{ac} = \frac{1}{n + 1} \begin{pmatrix}
0 & -\bar{q}_a(n + 1)q_c & q_a\bar{q}_c(n) & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & q_a\bar{q}_c(n) & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \bar{q}_a(n)q_c & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]  

(55)

where, for shortness, we dropped the variable \( x \) (resp. \( y \)) for the operator \( q_a, \bar{q}_a \) (resp. \( q_c, \bar{q}_c \)). Again, a suitable similarity transformation was used to set \( V_{ac} \) in a form as simple as possible.
4 More graded algebras

The four operators (26) play a crucial role in the construction of the operators preserving the spaces \( P(m) \oplus P(m + \Delta) \) [7, 8] and therefore in the classification of 2\( \times \)2 QES systems. It is known that the underlying algebra is non linear if \( \Delta > 1 \). In this section we construct the operators preserving the vector space

\[
M(m; n) \oplus M(m + \Delta; n + \Delta')
\]

The relevant diagonal operators are conveniently chosen according to (6)

\[
\text{diag}(J^b_a(x, m) + J^b_a(y, n), J^b_a(x, m + \Delta) + J^b_a(y, n + \Delta')) - \frac{1}{2} \delta^b_a \text{diag}(1 + \Delta + \Delta', 1 - \Delta - \Delta')
\]

The construction of the off diagonal ones depends on the relative signs of \( \Delta \) and \( \Delta' \).

4.1 case \( \Delta, \Delta' \geq 0 \)

The operators connecting the vector space \( M(m; n) \) with \( M(m + \Delta; n + \Delta') \) (and vice versa) can be formulated in terms of products of operators (32) where the indices \( m \) and \( n \) in the different factors are appropriately shifted. The following identities allows one to deal with the ambiguities of ordering of the different factors:

\[
q_b(x, m + 1; y, n) q_a(x, m; y, n) = q_a(x, m + 1; y, n)q_b(x, m; y, n)
\]

\[
q_b(y, n; x, m + 1) q_a(x, m; y, n) = q_a(y, n; x, m + 1)q_b(x, m; y, n)
\]

\[
q_b(y, n; x, m + 1) q_a(x, m; y, n) = q_a(x, m; y, n + 1)q_b(y, n; x, n)
\]

One can use these identities in order to define the operators

\[
q(x, [a_k]; y, [b_l]) \equiv \prod_{l=1}^{\Delta'} \prod_{k=1}^{\Delta} q_b(y, n + l - 1; x, m + \Delta)q_{a_k}(x, m + k - 1, n)
\]
symmetrically in the multi indices

\[ [a_k] \equiv (a_1, \ldots, a_{\Delta'}) \quad , \quad a_i = 0, 1 \]
\[ [b_l] \equiv (b_1, \ldots, b_{\Delta}) \quad , \quad b_i = 0, 1 \]  \hspace{1cm} (60)

The operators (59) connect \( M(m; n) \) with \( M(m + \Delta; n + \Delta') \) and

\[ Q([a_k], [b_l]) = q(x, [a_k]; y, [b_l]) \sigma_+ \]  \hspace{1cm} (61)

are the counterparts of the operators (56). Using the remarks made at the end of the previous section, one can see that the operators (59) transform according to the representation of spin \( \Delta + \Delta' \) under the adjoint action of the \( \text{gl}(2) \) represented via (6).

The operators \( \overline{Q}([a_k], [b_l]) \), proportional to \( \sigma_+ \), can be constructed in exactly the similar way as for the \( Q([a_k], [b_l]) \). Identities like (58) exist among the \( \overline{Q}_a \).

The complete algebra (which is non linear) can be obtained following the same lines as in [8]. The anticommutator \( \{Q, \overline{Q}\} \) close as polynomial expressions of (6) provided the constants \( \gamma \) are choosen such that

\[ J_a^a = \text{diag}(m + n + \Delta + \Delta' + 1, m + n + 1) \]  \hspace{1cm} (62)

4.2 The case \( M(m; n) \oplus M(m + 1; n - 1) \)

If we consider \( \Delta \) and \( \Delta' \) of opposite signs, the operators preserving (5) do not represent a Lie super algebra even for \( |\Delta| = |\Delta'| = 1 \) We studied the operators preserving the vector space \( M(m; n) \oplus M(m + 1; n - 1) \) and observed that the underlying algebraic structure is different from those obtained in [8]. Again, \( J_a^b(x, m, m + 1; y, n, n - 1) \) can be used as a starting point. We find it convenient to set \( T = 0 \) in (8) and add separately the grading operator \( T \equiv \sigma_3 \). As far as the off diagonal operators are concerned, we choose

\[ R_a^b = \overline{Q}_a(y, n - 1, x, m + 1)q^b(x, m, y, n) \sigma_- \]
\[ \overline{R}_a^b = \overline{Q}_a(x, m, y, n)q^b(y, n - 1, x, m + 1) \sigma_+ \]  \hspace{1cm} (63)
These tensors are not irreducible with respect to the adjoint action of the \( J \) generators. The traces
\[
R^a_a = \frac{m+n+2}{m+1}((y-x)\frac{\partial}{\partial y} - n), \quad \overline{R}^a_a = \frac{m+n+2}{n+1}((x-y)\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - m)
\] (64)
are operators which intertwine the equivalent representations carried by the spaces \( M(m;n) \) and \( M(m+1;n-1) \); they commute with the four operators (63).

The order of the factors \( q \) and \( \overline{q} \) entering in \( R \) and \( \overline{R} \) can be reversed by using the identity
\[
q_a(y, n-1, x, m+1)q^b(x, m, y, n) = \frac{1}{m+n+2}R^a_a
\] (65)
The generators \( J^b_a, R^b_a, \overline{J}^b_a \) obey the following commutation and anticommutation relations
\[
[J^b_a, R^d_c] = \delta^d_a R^b_c - \delta^b_c R^d_a, \\
[J^b_a, \overline{R}^d_c] = \delta^d_a \overline{R}^b_c - \delta^b_c \overline{R}^d_a
\] (66)
\[
\{R^b_a, \overline{R}^d_c\} = \frac{1}{2}\{J^d_a, J^b_c\} + \frac{T}{2}(\delta^d_a J^b_c - \delta^b_c J^d_a) \\
- \frac{1}{2}(\delta^b_a J^d_c + \delta^d_c J^b_a) - \frac{1}{2}\delta^b_a \delta^d_c
\] (67)
These relations do not define an abstract algebra. In order to fulfil the associativity conditions (i.e. the Jacobi identities), the anticommutators between two \( R \) (two \( \overline{R} \)), which vanish for (63) have to be implemented in a non trivial way [7], [8]; equation (67) indicates that the underlying algebra is non linear.

5 Deformation of \( \text{spl}(2,1) \)

If we want to describe in abstract terms the algebraic structure underlying the QES finite difference equations, some deformations of the algebras discussed
above seem to emerge in a natural way. For scalar equations the relevant deformation was pointed out some time ago [3]; it is related to the “Witten type II” deformation of sl(2) [10, 12]. Since the most relevant examples of QES systems are related to spl(2,1), it is natural to try to construct deformations of spl(2,1) whose representations can be formulated in terms of finite difference operators.

One deformation of spl(2,1) was obtained in [17] (for more general graded algebra see [18]); This deformation is such that the commutators of some generators close into transcendental functions of other generators. In a previous paper [13] some representations of this deformation of spl(2,1) were formulated in terms of finite difference operators.

More recently [14] a family of qucommutator deformations of the superalgebra spl(p,1) was constructed. The qucommutators and anti-qucommutators are defined respectively as

\[
[A, B]_q = AB - qBA, \quad \{A, B\}_q = AB + qBA
\]

where \( q \) is the deformation parameter. The qucommutator deformations are closer, in the spirit, to the Witten type II deformation of sl(2). They lead in particular to natural ordering rules on the generators. In contrast to the deformation [17], exchanging the order of qucommutating generators can be performed while keeping the polynomial character of the expression.

Here we present with the tensor notations the deformation of spl(2,1) which appears to be the most relevant for QES difference equations. It is expressed as follows, \( (\mu, \nu, \alpha \ldots = 0, 1) \)

\[
\{Q_\mu, Q_\nu\}_{q^{\mu-\nu}} = 0, \quad \{Q_\mu^\nu, Q_\nu^\mu\}_{q^{\mu-\nu}} = 0
\]

\[
\{Q_\mu, \overline{Q}^\nu\} = J_\mu^\nu
\]

\[
[J_\mu^\nu, Q_\alpha]_{q^{\mu-\nu}} = q^{\frac{\mu-\nu-1}{2}}(\delta_\mu^\nu Q_\alpha - \delta_\nu^\alpha Q_\mu)
\]

\[
[J_\mu^\nu, \overline{Q}^\alpha]_{q^{\mu-\nu}} = q^{\frac{\mu-\nu-1}{2}}(\delta_\mu^\alpha \overline{Q}^\nu - \delta_\nu^\alpha \overline{Q}^\mu)
\]

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\[ [J_\mu^\nu, J_\alpha^\beta]_{q^s} = q^{s-1} \frac{s+1}{2} (\delta_\mu^\beta J_\alpha^\nu - q^r \delta_\alpha^\nu J_\mu^\beta) + \frac{q - 1}{q^2} (Q_0 \overline{Q}^0 + Q_1 \overline{Q}^1) \delta_\alpha^\nu \delta_\mu^\beta (1 - \delta_\mu^\nu \delta_\alpha^\beta) \] (73)

with \( s \equiv \nu + \alpha - \mu - \beta \) and \( r \equiv (\nu - \beta)(\mu - \alpha) \).

All Jacobi identities are obeyed by these relations. The last commutator indicates that (like for the deformation [17]) the bosonic generators do not close into a \( \text{gl}(2) \) subalgebra. Neglecting all fermionic operators in the above formulas leads to one deformation of \( \text{gl}(2) \) found in [19].

It is possible to construct two independent expressions, quadratic in the generators, which \( q \)-commute with the generators. These “\( q \)-Casimir” operators read

\[ C_1 = Q_0 \overline{Q}^0 + Q_1 \overline{Q}^1 + qJ_1^0 J_0^1 - J_0^0 J_1^1 - J_0^0 \]
\[ C_2 = (q - 1)^2 (Q_0 \overline{Q}^0 + Q_1 \overline{Q}^1) \]
\[ + q(q - 1)^2 J_1^0 J_0^1 + (q - 1) J_1^1 - q(q - 1) J_0^0 - 1 \] (74)

and obey the following commutation properties (for \( i=1,2 \))

\[ [C_i, J_\mu^\nu]_{q^2(\mu - \nu)} = 0 , \]
\[ [C_i, Q_\mu]_{q^{2\mu - 1}} = 0 , \]
\[ [C_i, Q^\mu]_{q^{1-2\mu}} = 0 \] (75)

It follows that any function of the ratio \( C_1/C_2 \) commute with the generators and constitute a conventional Casimir.

We further constructed the representations of the algebra above which are relevant for systems of finite difference QES equations. To describe them we define a finite difference operator \( D_q \).

\[ D_q f(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(qx)}{(1-q)x} , \quad D_q x^n = [n]_q x^{n-1} , \quad [n]_q \equiv \frac{1 - q^n}{1 - q} \] (76)

The simplest of these realizations are characterized by a positive integer \( n \) and act on the vector space

\[ P(n - 1) \oplus P(n) \]. (77)
Adopting $x$ as the variable, the fermionic generators are represented by

$$Q_0 = q^{-\frac{n}{2}}\sigma_-, \quad Q_1 = -x\sigma_-$$

$$\overline{Q}^0 = q^{-\frac{n}{2}}(xD_q - [n]_q)\sigma_+, \quad \overline{Q}^1 = D_q\sigma_+$$  \hspace{1cm} (78)

The bosonic operators can be constructed easily from (70) but we write them for completeness

$$J^0_0 = q^{-n}((xD_q - [n]_q)I_2 \quad , \quad J^1_1 = (-1)\text{diag}(qxD_q + 1, xD_q)$$  \hspace{1cm} (79)

$$J^0_0 = q^{-n}D_qI_2 \quad , \quad J^0_1 = (-1)q^{-\frac{n}{2}}\text{diag}(qx(xD_q - [n - 1]_q), x(xD_q - [n]_q))$$  \hspace{1cm} (80)

The enveloping algebra constructed with the eight generators above contains all finite difference operators preserving $P(n - 1) \oplus P(n)$.

As in the underformed case, there also exist representations which act on the vector space

$$P(n) \oplus P(n + 1) \oplus P(n - 1) \oplus P(n)$$  \hspace{1cm} (81)

The fermionic generators are realized as follows

$$Q_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ D_q & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -D_q & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$  \hspace{1cm} (82)

$$Q_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ q^{-n}\delta(n) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -q^{-n-1}\delta(n + 1) & x & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$  \hspace{1cm} (83)

$$\overline{Q}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda\delta(n + 1) & (1 - \lambda q^{n+1})x & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & (\lambda q^{n+1} - 1)x \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & q\lambda\delta(n) \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$  \hspace{1cm} (84)
\[ Q^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda q^{n+1}D_q & (1 - \lambda q^{n+1}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda q^{n+1} - 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda q^{n+1}D_q \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \] (85)

where \( \lambda \) is an arbitrary complex parameter and, for shortness, we used \( \delta(n) \equiv xD_q - [n]_q \). Once more, the invariance under the similarity transformations has been exploited to set \( Q_0 \) in a form as simple as possible. In the limit \( \lambda \to q^{-n-1} \) the representation (85) becomes reducible and decomposes into atypical ones of the form (78).

The deformation of \text{spl}(2,1)\) presented above leads to simple normal ordering rules for the generators. In this respect, it is very appropriate for the classification of the finite difference operators preserving the space (77) or (81) and of the corresponding QES systems. The normal ordering rules associated with the deformation used in ref. [13] are not as transparent since they depend non polynomially of some operators.

6 Concluding remarks

The most interesting examples of QES systems are related to the algebra \text{spl}(2,1), e.g. the relativistic Coulomb problem and the stability of the sphaleron in the abelian Higgs model [6]. Very recently, the hidden algebras of the supersymmetric versions of the Calogero and Sutherland models were shown to be the superalgebras \text{spl}(N+1,N) [21].

Further realizations of these algebras, and more generally of the superalgebras \text{spl}(p,q), in terms of differential operators therefore deserve some attention. Here, we present realizations of \text{spl}(2,1) formulated in terms of differential operators in two variables; extensions to the case of an arbitrary number of variables can be achieved in a straightforward way. We also constructed a series of atypical representations of \text{spl}(2,2) in terms of operators acting on a set of 4-tuple of
polynomials in two variables. The labelling used for the generators clearly ex-
hibits their tensorial structure under their bosonic subalgebra and provides very
naturally the building blocks for the construction of series of (non linear) graded
algebras preserving more general vector spaces of polynomials.

Witten type deformations attracted recently some attention (see e.g. [20] for
osp(1,2)). The deformation of spl(2,1) presented here is of this type and it admits
representations which are directly relevant for the study of QES finite difference
systems. The correspondance between discrete operators and finite difference
one is discussed in [22] where also some some applications in discrete quantum
mechanics are pointed out.

The existence of a coproduct for this type of deformation would allow to
adapt the construction of section 2 to finite difference equations. This is nice an
application of the coproduct that we plan to address later.
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