

# PARTIALLY INTEGRABLE HIGHEST WEIGHT MODULES

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ABSTRACT. We prove a more general version of a result announced without proof in [DP], claiming roughly that in a partially integrable highest weight module over a Kac-Moody algebra the integrable directions form a parabolic subalgebra.

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## INTRODUCTION

Integrable highest weight modules of Kac-Moody algebras are analogues of finite-dimensional modules and have been studied in detail, see [K2]. Based on the work of Kac and Wakimoto, [KW], in the earlier paper [DP] we initiated the study of partially integrable highest weight modules. In particular we announced the statement (Proposition 3, [DP]) that in a partially integrable highest weight module of an affine Lie algebra the integrable directions form a parabolic subalgebra. The main point of the present paper is to prove a more general theorem for partially integrable modules over Lie superalgebras. Another way of looking at this theorem is as an infinite-dimensional version of a result in [DMP].

Here is a brief summary of the paper. As we are dealing with highest weight modules, we take the opportunity to introduce a rather general definition of a Borel subsuperalgebra of an arbitrary Lie superalgebra with generalized root decomposition. It enables us to consider highest weight modules in natural generality. We then introduce the class of weak Kac-Moody superalgebras which contains in particular usual Kac-Moody algebras, affine Lie superalgebras (with or without central extension) and direct limit Lie algebras (and Lie superalgebras) like  $A(\infty)$ . In section 2 we establish the main result which gives a complete characterization of integrable directions in certain highest weight modules of weak Kac-Moody superalgebras. The paper is concluded by a detailed discussion of examples.

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## 1. NOTATIONS AND PRELIMINARIES

1.0. **Notations.** The ground field is  $\mathbb{C}$ . The signs  $\ltimes$  and  $\rtimes$  stand for semi-direct sum of Lie superalgebras. All vector spaces are automatically  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -graded, but when Lie algebras (and their representations) are considered it is assumed that the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -grading is trivial, i.e. that the odd part is zero. For a vector space, the subscripts  $_0$  and  $_1$  refer always to the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -grading; the dimension of a vector space is written as

$m + n\varepsilon$ ,  $\varepsilon$  denoting a formal odd variable with  $\varepsilon^2 = 1$ . The superscript  $*$  stands for dual space. Complex (respectively, real) span is denoted by  $\langle \cdot \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$  (resp.  $\langle \cdot \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ ),  $\delta^{ij}$  is Kronecker's delta,  $\mathbb{R}_+ := \{r \in \mathbb{R} \mid r \geq 0\}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}_- := \{r \in \mathbb{R} \mid r \leq 0\}$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_+ := \mathbb{Z} \cap \mathbb{R}_+$ .

**1.1. Locally finite actions and integrable modules.** If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is any Lie superalgebra,  $V$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module and  $g \in \mathfrak{g}$  is any element in  $\mathfrak{g}$ , we say that  $g$  acts *locally finitely* on  $V$  if  $\dim(\langle \{g^r \cdot v \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}) < \infty$  for any  $v \in V$ .

**Lemma 1.** *If  $V$  is a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module generated by a single vector  $v^0$  and  $g$  acts locally finitely on  $\mathfrak{g}$  via the adjoint representation, then  $g$  acts locally finitely on  $V$  iff  $g$  acts finitely on  $v^0$ , i.e. iff  $\dim(\langle \{g^r \cdot v^0 \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}) < \infty$ .*

*Proof.* Clearly we only need to show that if  $g$  acts finitely on  $v^0$ , then  $g$  acts locally finitely on  $V$ . Using Jacobi's identity, the reader will verify the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \dim(\langle \{g^r \cdot x \cdot v^0 \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}) &\leq \\ \dim(\langle \{(adg)^r(x) \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}) &\dim(\langle \{g^r \cdot v^0 \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

for any  $x \in \mathfrak{g}$ . Applying (1)  $s$  times with  $v^0$  consecutively replaced by the vectors  $v^0, x^1 \cdot v^0, \dots, x^{s-1} \dots x^1 \cdot v^0$ , one concludes that  $\dim(\langle \{g^r \cdot v' \mid r \in \mathbb{Z}_+\} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}) < \infty$  for any  $v'$  of the form  $x^s \dots x^1 \cdot v^0$  with arbitrary  $x^1, \dots, x^s \in \mathfrak{g}$ . But since  $V$  is generated by  $v^0$ , any vector in  $V$  is a finite sum of vectors  $v'$ , and thus Lemma 1 is proved.  $\square$

A  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  is *integrable* iff any  $g \in \mathfrak{g}$  acts locally finitely on  $V$ .

**1.2. Lie superalgebras with root decomposition and generalized weight modules.** Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$  be a Lie superalgebra. A *Cartan subsuperalgebra* of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is by definition a self-normalizing nilpotent Lie subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{h}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_1 \subset \mathfrak{g}$ . We do not assume  $\mathfrak{g}$  or  $\mathfrak{h}$  to be finite-dimensional. A  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  is a *generalized weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module* iff  $V$  is integrable as an  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ -module. Since the  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ -module  $U(\mathfrak{h}_0) \cdot v$  is finite-dimensional for any  $v \in V$  and since every finite-dimensional  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  module has 1- or  $\varepsilon$ -dimensional composition factors, as an  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ -module  $V$  decomposes as the direct sum  $\bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_0^*} V^\lambda$ , where

$$V^\lambda := \{v \in V \mid \text{for every } h \in \mathfrak{h}_0, h - \lambda(h) \text{ acts nilpotently on } v\}$$

We call  $V^\lambda$  the *generalized weight space of  $V$  of weight  $\lambda$* . Note that if  $V^\lambda \neq 0$ , one necessarily has  $\lambda|_{[\mathfrak{h}_0, \mathfrak{h}_0]} = 0$ . We define a linear function  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_0^*$  to be a *weight* iff  $\lambda|_{[\mathfrak{h}_0, \mathfrak{h}_0]} = 0$ . Note also that each generalized weight space  $V^\lambda$  is automatically an  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module.

Henceforth  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{g}_1$  will denote a Lie superalgebra with a fixed proper Cartan subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} = \mathfrak{h}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_1$  such that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a generalized weight module, i.e.

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus (\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}_0^* \setminus \{0\}} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha). \quad (2)$$

The generalized weight spaces  $\mathfrak{g}^\alpha$  are by definition the *root spaces* of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ,  $\Delta := \{\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}_0^* \setminus \{0\} \mid \mathfrak{g}^\alpha \neq 0\}$  is the set of *roots* of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , and the decomposition (2) is the *root decomposition* of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . All  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules  $V$  we consider below will be assumed to be generalized weight modules. The *support* of  $V$ ,  $\text{supp}V$ , consists of all weights  $\lambda$  with  $V^\lambda \neq 0$ .

**1.3. Lines and line subsuperalgebras.** We call a *line of  $\mathfrak{g}$*  any 1-dimensional real subspace  $\ell$  of  $\mathbb{R}\Delta := \langle \Delta \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$  whose intersection with the set of roots  $\Delta$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is non-empty. Given a line  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , its *line Lie subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$* , or *line subsuperalgebra* for short, is the Lie subsuperalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  generated by all root spaces  $\mathfrak{g}^\alpha$  for  $\alpha \in \ell \cap \Delta$ . A line  $\ell$  is *finite* iff  $\dim \mathfrak{g}^\ell < \infty$ , and is *infinite* otherwise. Proposition 3 in [PS] implies that for a finite line  $\ell$  there are only the following alternatives:

- (i)  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  is a nilpotent Lie superalgebra,
- (ii)  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell \simeq \mathfrak{r} \in \mathfrak{sl}(2)$ ,
- (iii)  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell \simeq \mathfrak{r} \in \mathfrak{osp}(1 + 2\varepsilon)$ ,

where  $\mathfrak{r}$  denotes the radical of  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  and moreover this radical is nilpotent. In particular, if  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  is not nilpotent, the semi-simple part of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell$  is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  and there is a *standard basis*  $e_\ell, h_\ell, f_\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell$  with  $[e_\ell, f_\ell] = h_\ell$ ,  $[h_\ell, e_\ell] = \alpha_\ell(h_\ell)e_\ell$ ,  $[h_\ell, f_\ell] = -\alpha_\ell(h_\ell)f_\ell$  for some fixed root  $\alpha_\ell \in \ell$ . In what follows we will call a finite line  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$

- *nilpotent* if  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  is nilpotent;
- an  *$\mathfrak{sl}(2)$ -line* if  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  is not nilpotent.

**1.4. Borel subsuperalgebras.** A decomposition

$$\Delta = \Delta^+ \sqcup \Delta^- \tag{3}$$

is a *triangular decomposition of  $\Delta$*  iff the cone  $\mathbb{R}_+(\Delta^+ \cup -\Delta^-)$ <sup>1</sup> (or equivalently, its opposite cone  $\mathbb{R}_+(-\Delta^+ \cup \Delta^-)$ ) contains no (real) vector subspace. Equivalently, (3) is a triangular decomposition if the following is a well-defined  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear partial order on  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \eta \geq \mu &\Leftrightarrow \eta = \mu + \sum_{i=1}^n c^i \alpha^i \text{ for some } \alpha^i \in \Delta^+ \cup -\Delta^- \text{ and some } c^i \in \mathbb{R}_+, \\ &\text{or } \mu = \eta. \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

(A partial order is  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear if it is compatible with addition and multiplication by  $\mathbb{R}_+$  and if multiplication by  $\mathbb{R}_-$  changes the order direction).

Any regular real hyperplane  $H$  in  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$  (i.e. a codimension 1 subspace  $H$  with  $H \cap \Delta = \emptyset$ ) together with a labeling of the two connected components of  $\mathbb{R}\Delta \setminus H$  as  $(\mathbb{R}\Delta \setminus H)^+$  and  $(\mathbb{R}\Delta \setminus H)^-$  determines a triangular decomposition of  $\Delta$ :

$$\Delta^\pm := \Delta \cap (\mathbb{R}\Delta \setminus H)^\pm.$$

If  $\Delta$  is finite, then conversely, every triangular decomposition is obtained in this way. If  $\Delta$  is infinite, the process of constructing a triangular decomposition from a hyperplane can be generalized for instance as follows. A flag  $F = \{\dots \subset F^i \subset \dots \subset F^{i+r} \subset \dots \subset \mathbb{R}\Delta\}$  of linear subspaces in  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$  is a *full flag* iff it admits no refinement, i.e. iff  $\dim(F^i/F^{i-1}) = 1$  for all  $i \geq 1$ . We define  $F$  to be *regular* iff  $\bigcup_i F^i = \mathbb{R}\Delta$  and  $(\bigcap_i F^i) \cap \Delta = \emptyset$ . Finally we call  $F$  *oriented* if for every  $i$  the two connected components of  $F^{i+1} \setminus F^i$  are labeled (in an arbitrary way) as  $(F^{i+1} \setminus F^i)^+$  and  $(F^{i+1} \setminus F^i)^-$ . Every regular oriented full flag  $F$  in  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$  determines now a triangular decomposition of  $\Delta$ :

$$\Delta^\pm := \sqcup_i (\Delta^i)^\pm,$$

<sup>1</sup>In the present paper, cone is a synonym for an  $\mathbb{R}_+$ -invariant additive subset of a vector space.

where  $(\Delta^i)^\pm := \Delta \cap (F^{i+1} \setminus F^i)^\pm$ .  $F$  determines also an  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear partial lexicographical order on  $\mathbb{R}\Delta \setminus (\cap_k F^k)$ . In terms of this latter order, the  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear partial order on  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$  can be written as

$$\eta \geq \mu \Leftrightarrow \eta = \mu + \beta, \beta \in \mathbb{R}\Delta, \text{ for some } \beta > 0, \text{ or } \mu = \eta,$$

where  $\beta > 0$  iff  $\beta \in (F^{i+1} \setminus F^i)^+$ ,  $i$  being the only index for which  $\beta \in F^{i+1} \setminus F^i$ .

If  $\dim \mathbb{R}\Delta < \infty$ , the reader will verify that fixing an  $\mathbb{R}$ -linear order on  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$  is equivalent to fixing a regular oriented full flag  $F$  (i.e. an oriented flag of length  $\dim \mathbb{R}\Delta + 1$ ) in  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$ , and moreover that each triangular decomposition of  $\Delta$  is determined by some (in general not unique) regular oriented full flag, cf. [DP].

A Lie subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is by definition a *Borel subsuperalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$*  iff  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus (\oplus_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \mathfrak{g}^{(\alpha)})$  for some triangular decomposition  $\Delta = \Delta^+ \sqcup \Delta^-$ . Adopting terminology from affine Kac-Moody algebras, we will call a Borel subsuperalgebra *standard* iff it corresponds to a triangular decomposition which can be determined by a regular hyperplane  $H$  in  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$ . When  $\dim \mathfrak{g} < \infty$ , every Borel subsuperalgebra is standard. The partial order (4) corresponding to a given Borel subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  will be denoted from now on by  $\geq_{\mathfrak{b}}$ .

In the proof of our main Theorem (in section 2 below) we will need the notion of a chain of Borel subsuperalgebras. First we define two non-equal Borel subsuperalgebras  $\mathfrak{b}'$  and  $\mathfrak{b}''$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  to be *adjacent*, cf. [PS], iff they correspond to triangular decompositions  $\Delta = (\Delta^+)' \sqcup (\Delta^-)'$  and  $\Delta = (\Delta^+)'' \sqcup (\Delta^-)''$  such that

$$(\Delta^+)'\setminus((\Delta^+)'\cap \ell) = (\Delta^+)''\setminus((\Delta^+)''\cap \ell) \tag{5}$$

for some (unique) line  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . A line  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is *simple for a Borel subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}'$*  if there exists a Borel subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}''$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  so that (5) holds. Finally, a sequence of Borel subsuperalgebras

$$\dots, \mathfrak{b}^i, \dots, \mathfrak{b}^{i+k}, \dots$$

is a *chain* iff  $\mathfrak{b}^j$  and  $\mathfrak{b}^{j+1}$  are adjacent for all  $j$ . Note that every chain determines a sequence of lines of  $\mathfrak{g}$

$$\dots, \ell^i, \dots, \ell^{i+k-1}, \dots,$$

where  $\ell^j$  is determined uniquely by the pair  $\mathfrak{b}^{j-1}, \mathfrak{b}^j$  of adjacent Borel subsuperalgebras.

**1.5. Highest weight modules.** Let us observe first that if  $v$  is an irreducible generalized weight  $\mathfrak{b}$ -module (the Cartan subsuperalgebra of  $\mathfrak{b}$  is  $\mathfrak{h}$ ), then  $\mathfrak{n}^+ := \oplus_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha$  necessarily acts trivially on  $v$  (since otherwise  $U(\mathfrak{n}^+) \cdot v$  would be a proper  $\mathfrak{b}$ -submodule) and thus  $v$  is simply an irreducible generalized weight  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module. If  $\dim \mathfrak{h}_1 < \infty$ ,  $v$  is finite-dimensional ( $v$  necessarily has a weight vector  $v$ , i.e. a vector  $v$  on which  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  acts via a weight  $\lambda$ , and therefore  $v$  is a quotient of the finite-dimensional  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module  $U(\mathfrak{h}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_0)} \mathbb{C}v$ ). Moreover,  $v$  consists of a unique generalized weight space and is determined up to parity change by its weight. An explicit description of all irreducible finite-dimensional modules over a finite-dimensional solvable Lie superalgebra has been given by Kac in [K1] (see also [PS]). If  $\dim \mathfrak{h}_1 = \infty$ ,  $v$  may be infinite-dimensional but it is still necessarily a quotient of  $U(\mathfrak{h}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_0)} \mathbb{C}v$  for some weight vector  $v$ , and therefore  $v$  always has a unique generalized weight space. In what follows we will always denote an irreducible generalized weight  $\mathfrak{h}$ -(or  $\mathfrak{b}$ -)module by  $v_\lambda, \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}_0^*$  being its respective weight.

A  *$\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module* is a generalized weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  whose support  $\text{supp} V$  belongs to a shift of the cone  $\mathbb{R}_+(\Delta^+ \cup -\Delta^-)$  by a weight in  $\mathfrak{h}_0^*$ , and which

is generated by a weight space  $V^\lambda$  such that  $\lambda$  is a maximal element of  $\text{supp} V$  with respect to  $\geq_{\mathfrak{b}}$  and  $V^\lambda$  is an irreducible  $\mathfrak{h}$ -module. The weight space  $V^\lambda$ , which is obviously unique, is by definition the *highest weight space of  $V$* . Furthermore,  $V^\lambda$  is necessarily an irreducible  $\mathfrak{b}$ -submodule of  $V$ . Conversely, if  $v_\lambda$  is any irreducible  $\mathfrak{b}$ -module, then the *Verma module*

$$\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda) := U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} v_\lambda$$

is a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module, and moreover any  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module with highest weight space  $v_\lambda$  is isomorphic to a quotient of  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$ . Indeed, note first that every  $\mathfrak{g}$ -submodule of  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$  is a generalized weight module (more generally, a non-difficult extension of the argument in the proof of Proposition 1.5 in [K2] shows that every  $\mathfrak{g}$ -submodule of a generalized weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module is a generalized weight module), and thus every quotient of  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$  is a generalized weight module. Being generated by  $v_\lambda$ , every quotient of  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$  is thus a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module. Conversely, given a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module  $V$  with highest weight space  $v_\lambda$ , there is an obvious  $\mathfrak{g}$ -surjection  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda) \rightarrow V$ . Note finally that  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$  has a unique proper maximal  $\mathfrak{g}$ -submodule (since any element in the support of the sum of all proper submodules in  $\tilde{V}_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$  is strictly less than  $\lambda$  with respect to  $\geq_{\mathfrak{b}}$ ) and thus also a unique proper irreducible quotient  $V_{\mathfrak{b}}(v_\lambda)$ . The latter is by definition the *irreducible  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module with highest weight space  $v_\lambda$* .

If  $\ell$  is a line of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , we call a  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$   *$\ell$ -integrable* iff  $V$  is an integrable  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$ -module. If  $V$  is a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module with highest weight space  $v_\lambda$  and the adjoint module  $\mathfrak{g}$  is  $\ell$ -integrable, Lemma 1 implies that  $V$  is  $\ell$ -integrable iff  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  acts locally finitely on  $v_\lambda$ . In the proof of our main Theorem below we will also need the following:

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\mathfrak{b}$  be a Borel subsuperalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\alpha$  be a root of  $\mathfrak{b}$  such that  $\ell = \mathbb{R}\alpha$  is an  $sl(2)$ -line for which  $\mathfrak{g}$  is  $\ell$ -integrable. Then a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight module  $V$  with highest weight space  $v_\lambda$  is  $\ell$ -integrable iff  $f_\ell$  (see 1.2) acts locally nilpotently on  $v_\lambda$ .*

*Proof.* As we already noted, Lemma 1 implies that  $V$  is  $\ell$ -integrable iff  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$  acts locally finitely on  $v_\lambda$ . The latter requirement is obviously equivalent to the finite-dimensionality of  $U(\mathfrak{g}^\ell) \cdot v$  for any  $v \in v_\lambda$ . We claim now that  $\dim U(\mathfrak{g}^\ell) \cdot v < \infty$  iff  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v$ . This is established as follows. Denote by  $(\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell)^{ss}$  the semi-simple part of  $\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell$  and by  $\mathfrak{r}$  the radical of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Consider the surjection of  $U((\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell)^{ss})$ -modules

$$U(\mathfrak{r}^\ell) \otimes_{U((\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell)^{ss})} \langle f_\ell^k \cdot v \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} \longrightarrow U(\mathfrak{g}^\ell) \cdot v,$$

where  $k$  runs over  $\mathbb{Z}_+$ . Since  $U(\mathfrak{r}^\ell)$  is an integrable  $(\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell)^{ss}$ -module,  $U(\mathfrak{g}^\ell) \cdot v$  is integrable as a  $(\mathfrak{g}_0^\ell)^{ss}$ -module iff  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v$ . But in the latter case  $U(\mathfrak{g}^\ell) \cdot v$  is necessarily finite-dimensional since it is a  $\mathfrak{b} \cap \mathfrak{g}^\ell$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}^\ell$ -module.  $\square$

**1.6. Weak Kac-Moody superalgebras.** In order to be able to state our main result in its natural generality we need to introduce the class of weak Kac-Moody superalgebras. We define a Lie superalgebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  to be a *weak Kac-Moody superalgebra*<sup>2</sup> iff  $\mathfrak{g}$  is  $\ell$ -integrable for every  $sl(2)$ -line  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and if there is a Borel subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  which admits a set  $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}} \subset \Delta^+$ , called *weak basis of  $\mathfrak{b}$* , such that:

<sup>2</sup>If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a Lie algebra, we will use the term *weak Kac-Moody algebra*.

- for every  $\beta \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}$ ,  $\mathbb{R}\beta$  is an  $sl(2)$ -line;
- assuming that  $\alpha_{\ell} \in \Delta^+$ , for every  $sl(2)$ -line  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  one has  $\alpha_{\ell} = \sum_{\beta^i \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}} c^i \beta^i$  for some non-negative constants  $c^i$ , and  $e_{\ell}$ ,  $f_{\ell}$  and  $h_{\ell}$  belong to the Lie subalgebra  $\mathfrak{l}'_{\ell}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  generated by  $e_{\mathbb{R}\beta^i}$ ,  $f_{\mathbb{R}\beta^i}$  for  $\beta^i \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}$  with  $c^i \neq 0$ ;
- for every  $sl(2)$ -line  $\ell$  the matrix  $A = \left( \frac{2\alpha_{\ell^p}(h_{\ell^q})}{\alpha_{\ell^p}(h_{\ell^p})} \right)$ , where  $\ell^p = \ell_{\mathbb{R}\beta^p}$ ,  $\ell^q = \ell_{\mathbb{R}\beta^q}$ , and  $p, q$  run over the set of indices  $\{i | c^i \neq 0\}$ , is a generalized Cartan matrix, see [K2], and moreover there exists a Lie subalgebra  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  with  $\mathfrak{l}'_{\ell} \subset \mathfrak{l}_{\ell} \subset \mathfrak{l}'_{\ell} + \mathfrak{h}_0$  which admits an isomorphism of Lie algebras

$$\mathfrak{l}_{\ell} \simeq \mathfrak{g}(A)/\mathfrak{i},$$

$\mathfrak{g}(A)$  being the Kac-Moody algebra with generalized Cartan matrix  $A$  and  $\mathfrak{i}$  being an ideal of  $\mathfrak{g}(A)$  contained in the center of  $\mathfrak{g}(A)$ .

If  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a weak Kac-Moody superalgebra, a Borel subsuperalgebra which admits a weak basis is by no means unique. Note also that  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a weak Kac-Moody superalgebra iff  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is a weak Kac-Moody algebra, and a Borel subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  admits a weak basis iff the Borel subalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}_0$  of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  admits a weak basis. Various examples of weak Kac-Moody superalgebras are discussed in section 3 below. Any generalized Kac-Moody algebra with at least one imaginary simple root, see [Bo], provides an example of a Lie algebra which is not a weak Kac-Moody algebra (i.e. no Borel subalgebra which contains the fixed Cartan subalgebra admits a weak basis).

## 2. THE MAIN RESULT

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a weak Kac-Moody superalgebra,  $\mathfrak{b}$  be a Borel subsuperalgebra with weak basis  $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}$ , and  $V$  be a  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module with highest weight space  $v_{\lambda}$ . By  $\Delta_V^F$  we denote the set of all roots  $\alpha \in \Delta$  such that  $V$  is  $\mathbb{R}\alpha$ -integrable. The following Theorem characterizes all  $sl(2)$ -lines  $\ell$  for which  $V$  is  $\ell$ -integrable.

**Theorem.** *For an  $sl(2)$ -line  $\ell$  one has  $\alpha_{\ell} \in \Delta_V^F$  iff  $\alpha_{\ell} \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}^V \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ , where  $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}^V := \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}} \cap \Delta_V^F$ .*

*Proof.* Fix the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ , the corresponding elements  $e_{\ell^i}, h_{\ell^i}, f_{\ell^i} \in \mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ , the decomposition  $\alpha_{\ell} = \sum_i c^i \beta^i$  and the Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathfrak{g}' := \mathfrak{g}(A)$  as in the definition of a weak Kac-Moody superalgebra. According to Lemma 2,  $f_{\ell}$  acts locally nilpotently on  $v_{\lambda}$  iff  $\alpha_{\ell} \in \Delta_V^F$ . To prove the Theorem we will show that  $f_{\ell}$  acts locally nilpotently on  $v_{\lambda}$  iff  $\alpha_{\ell} \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}^V \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ .

As a first step we will reduce the proof of the latter statement to the proof of an analogous statement about any  $\mathfrak{b}'$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}'$ -module, where  $\mathfrak{b}'$  is the Borel subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}'$  which projects onto the Borel subalgebra  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell} \cap \mathfrak{b}$  of  $\mathfrak{l}$  under the natural projection  $\mathfrak{g}' \rightarrow \mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ . Note that  $V$  is a sum (not necessarily direct) of  $(\mathfrak{b} \cap \mathfrak{l}_{\ell})$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ -modules. Moreover,  $f_{\ell}$  acts locally nilpotently on  $v_{\lambda}$  iff  $f_{\ell}$  acts nilpotently on each of the (1- or  $\varepsilon$ -dimensional) highest weight spaces of these  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ -modules. Indeed, it is a tautology that if  $f_{\ell}$  acts nilpotently on all those highest weight spaces, then  $f_{\ell}$  acts locally nilpotently on  $v_{\lambda}$ . Conversely, let  $f_{\ell}$  act locally nilpotently on  $v_{\lambda}$ . Then, by Lemma 1,  $f_{\ell}$  acts locally finitely on  $V$ , i.e. necessarily locally nilpotently on the whole module  $V$  and, in particular, it acts nilpotently on the highest weight spaces of all summands in the decomposition of  $V$  into a sum of  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ -modules. Fix  $W$  to be one of these modules.  $W$  is a  $(\mathfrak{b} \cap \mathfrak{l}_{\ell})$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{l}_{\ell}$ -module with highest weight space  $v_{\nu}$  (where  $\dim v_{\nu}$  equals 1 or  $\varepsilon$ ). Extend  $W$  to

a  $\mathfrak{b}'$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}'$ -module  $W'$ , setting the action of  $\mathfrak{i}$  on  $W'$  to be trivial. Since  $W$  could be chosen to be any of the  $\mathfrak{l}_\ell$ -modules in the decomposition of  $V$ , it is clear that in order to prove the Theorem it remains to establish only that  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$  iff  $\alpha_\ell \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}'}^{W'} \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ .

To prove the latter statement we will show first that if  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$  then  $\alpha_\ell \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}'}^{W'} \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ , i.e. that if  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ , then so do  $f_{\ell^i}$  for all  $i$  with  $c^i \neq 0$ . Fix  $i^0$  with  $c^{i^0} \neq 0$ . We will establish by induction on  $\text{ht}\alpha_\ell := \sum_{i=1}^n c^i$  that  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ . Let  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}^N \cdot v_\nu = 0$ . If  $\text{ht}\alpha_\ell = 1$ ,  $\alpha_\ell \in \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}$  and thus  $\alpha_\ell = \beta^{i^0}$ , so there is nothing to prove. Suppose that if  $\text{ht}\alpha_\ell < r$  and  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$  then  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ . Let  $\text{ht}\alpha_\ell = r$ . There are two possible cases:

1.  $[f_\ell, e_{\ell^{i^0}}] = 0$ . Then there exists  $i' \neq i^0$  such that  $[f_\ell, e_{\ell^{i'}}] \neq 0$ . Let  $k$  be determined by the condition  $(\text{ad } e_{\ell^{i'}})^k \cdot f_\ell \neq 0$  but  $(\text{ad } e_{\ell^{i'}})^{k+1} \cdot f_\ell = 0$ . We claim that  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - k\beta^{i'})$  is a finite line of  $\mathfrak{g}'$ . Indeed, since  $\mathfrak{g}'$  is a direct sum of finite-dimensional  $(\mathfrak{g}')^{\ell^{i'}}$ -modules, the assumption that  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - k\beta^{i'})$  is an infinite line of  $\mathfrak{g}'$  would imply that  $\ell$  is an infinite line of  $\mathfrak{g}'$  as well, which is contradiction. Therefore

$$e_{\ell^{i^0}}^{kN} \cdot f_\ell^N = (N!)^k c^N f_{\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - k\beta^{i'})}^N \pmod{U(\mathfrak{g}) \cdot \mathfrak{n}^+} \quad (6)$$

and hence  $f_{\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - k\beta^{i'})}^N \cdot v_\nu = 0$ . Since  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - k\beta^{i'})$  is a finite line and  $\text{ht}(\alpha_\ell - k\beta^{i'}) < r$ , an obvious induction argument shows that  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ .

2.  $[f_\ell, e_{\ell^{i^0}}] \neq 0$ . Consider the  $\beta^{i^0}$ -string through  $\alpha_\ell$ , and let  $\alpha_\ell + p\beta^{i^0}$  and  $\alpha_\ell - q\beta^{i^0}$  be its end points. As in the previous case we prove that both  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell + p\beta^{i^0})$  and  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - q\beta^{i^0})$  are finite lines of  $\mathfrak{g}'$  and that  $V_{\mathfrak{b}'}(v_\nu)$  is  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell + p\beta^{i^0})$ -integrable and  $\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - q\beta^{i^0})$ -integrable. Moreover, it is easy to check that the subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}'$  generated by  $e_{\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - q\beta^{i^0})}, f_{\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell - q\beta^{i^0})}, e_{\ell^{i^0}}$  and  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}$  is a subalgebra of a rank two Kac-Moody algebra. Set  $x := f_{\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell + p\beta^{i^0})}, y := e_{\mathbb{R}(\alpha_\ell + p\beta^{i^0})}, z := [e_{\ell^{i^0}}, x]$  and  $t := [f_{\ell^{i^0}}, y]$ . Then the vectors  $[x, y]$  and  $[z, t]$  are necessarily linearly independent. Furthermore,  $[t, x]$  is proportional to  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}$ , and we claim that  $[t, x] \neq 0$ . Indeed, the assumption that  $[t, x] = 0$  would lead to

$$0 = [e_{\ell^{i^0}}, [t, x]] = [[e_{\ell^{i^0}}, t], x] - [[e_{\ell^{i^0}}, x], t] = (\alpha_\ell + p\beta^{i^0})(h_{\ell^{i^0}})[y, x] - [z, t],$$

which contradicts the linear independence of  $[y, x]$  and  $[z, t]$ . But since  $x$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ , a formula similar to (6) implies also that  $f_{\ell^{i^0}}$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ . This completes the proof of the statement that  $\alpha_\ell \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}'}^{W'} \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$  whenever  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$ .

To prove the converse, i.e. that  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$  whenever  $\alpha_\ell \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}'}^{W'} \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ , note that since  $\mathfrak{g}'$  is a Kac-Moody algebra there exists a chain  $\mathfrak{b}' = (\mathfrak{b}')^1, \dots, (\mathfrak{b}')^k = \mathfrak{b}''$  of Borel subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{g}'$ , such that  $\mathbb{R}\alpha_\ell$  is a simple line of  $\mathfrak{b}''$  and  $W'$  is a  $(\mathfrak{b}')^j$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}'$ -module for every  $1 \leq j \leq k$ . Moreover,  $\alpha_\ell$  appears with a non-zero coefficient in the decomposition of some of the simple roots of  $\mathfrak{b}'$  as a sum of simple roots of  $\mathfrak{b}''$ . Therefore the already proved part of the Theorem implies also that  $f_\ell$  acts nilpotently on  $v_\nu$  if  $\alpha_\ell \in \langle \Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}'}^{W'} \rangle_{\mathbb{R}}$ .  $\square$

*Remark.* In the case when  $\mathfrak{g}$  is finite-dimensional and  $V$  is irreducible the claim of the Theorem is known to be a non-difficult corollary of Gabber's theorem, see the more general Corollary 2.7 in Fernando's paper [Fe]. In the same paper Fernando has found an analogue of this result for non-highest weight irreducible modules

with finite-dimensional weight spaces, Proposition 4.17. In the recent paper [DMP] Fernando's result has been extended to arbitrary irreducible generalized weight modules of finite-dimensional Lie superalgebras, Corollary 5.2. Our Theorem can be viewed as an infinite-dimensional version of this result for highest weight modules.

### 3. EXAMPLES

We will complete the paper by discussing several types of weak Kac-Moody superalgebras and their respective Borel subalgebras which admit a weak basis.

**3.1. Finite-dimensional superalgebras.** Every finite-dimensional Lie superalgebra is a weak Kac-Moody superalgebra. Moreover, every Borel subalgebra of a finite-dimensional Lie superalgebra admits a weak basis. Indeed, it is immediate to verify that if  $\mathfrak{b}$  is a Borel subalgebra and  $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}$  is a root basis for the Borel subalgebra  $\mathfrak{b} \cap \mathfrak{g}_0^{\text{ss}}$  of the semi-simple part  $\mathfrak{g}_0^{\text{ss}}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ , then  $\Sigma_{\mathfrak{b}}$  is a weak basis of  $\mathfrak{b}$ .

**3.2. Kac-Moody algebras.** Every Kac-Moody algebra is a weak Kac-Moody algebra. However not every Borel subalgebra of a Kac-Moody algebra admits a weak basis. We have

**Proposition 1.** *a) A Borel subalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  of a Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  admits a weak basis iff  $\mathfrak{b}$  is standard and there is a regular oriented flag  $F$  in  $\mathbb{R}\Delta$  (see 1.3) so that  $F^1 \cap Z = \{0\}$ ,  $Z$  being the imaginary cone of  $\mathfrak{g}$  (see [K2] for the definition of imaginary cone).*

*b) If  $\mathfrak{b}$  admits a weak basis, then a weak basis of  $\mathfrak{b}$  is nothing but a root basis of  $\mathfrak{b}$ , see [K2].*

*Proof.* An exercise on the root systems of Kac-Moody algebras using Propositions 5.8 and 5.9 from [K2].  $\square$

Noting that for an affine Lie algebra the imaginary cone  $Z$  coincides with the infinite line, we see that a Borel subalgebra of an affine Lie algebra admits a basis iff it is standard. This observation shows that for affine Lie algebras our Theorem is nothing but Proposition 3 in [DP] which is announced there without proof.

Finally, the reader will check that for any Kac-Moody algebra the Theorem is equivalent to the following statement: For every  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  ( $\mathfrak{b}$  being a Borel subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  which admits a weak basis), there is a unique parabolic subalgebra  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , containing  $\mathfrak{b}$ , such that the  $sl(2)$ -lines  $\ell$  for which  $V$  is  $\ell$ -integrable are precisely the  $sl(2)$ -lines of  $\mathfrak{p}$ .

**3.3. Affine superalgebras.** All affine Lie superalgebras considered in [DP] are weak Kac-Moody superalgebras. A Borel subalgebra of any of these Lie superalgebras admits a weak basis iff it is standard. (However, obviously the weak bases introduced in the present paper do not coincide with the bases considered in [DP].) The main Theorem in section 2 leads to a quicker and more natural proof of Theorem 2 from [DP].

**3.4. Direct limit Lie algebras.** The direct limit Lie algebras  $A(\infty)$ ,  $B(\infty)$ ,  $C(\infty)$  and  $D(\infty)$  are weak Kac-Moody algebras. Below we recall the definitions of those Lie algebras, characterize their Borel subalgebras, and give a criterion for the existence of a weak basis.

Consider the Lie algebra  $gl(\infty)$  of infinite matrices  $A = (a^{ij})_{i,j \in \mathbb{Z}}$  with finitely many non-zero entries, the Lie bracket being  $[A, B] = AB - BA$ . We fix the Cartan



subalgebra  $\langle E^{ii} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$  of  $gl(\infty)$ , where  $E^{ij}$  denotes the matrix whose unique non-zero matrix element is  $e^{ij} = 1$ , and define  $\varepsilon^k \in (\langle E^{ii} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}})^*$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ , by setting  $\varepsilon^k(E^{ii}) := \delta^{ki}$ . We then consider the following subalgebras of  $gl(\infty)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} A(\infty) &:= sl(\infty) := \{A \in gl(\infty) \mid \text{tr}A = 0\}, \\ B(\infty) &:= \{A \in gl(\infty) \mid RA = -A^t R \text{ for } R = (r^{ij}), r^{ij} = \delta^{i,-j}\}, \\ C(\infty) &:= \{A \in gl(\infty) \mid SA = -A^t S \text{ for } S = (s^{ij}), s^{ij} = -\text{sgn}(i)\delta^{i,-j-1}\}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{sgn}(i) := \begin{cases} -1 & \text{for } i < 0 \\ 1 & \text{for } i \geq 0 \end{cases}$ ,

$$D(\infty) := \{A \in gl(\infty) \mid TA = -A^t T, \text{ where } T = (t^{ij}), t^{ij} = \delta^{i,-j-1}\}.$$

Let  $h^i := E^{ii} - E^{-i,-i}$  for  $i \geq 1$  and let  $k^i := E^{ii} - E^{-(i+1),-(i+1)}$  for  $i \geq 0$ . Define  $\beta^j \in (\langle h^i \rangle_{\mathbb{C}})^*$  and  $\gamma^j \in (\langle k^i \rangle_{\mathbb{C}})^*$  by setting  $\beta^j(h^i) := \delta^{ij}$ ,  $\gamma^j(k^i) := \delta^{ij}$ .

The Cartan subalgebras of the Lie algebras under consideration are:

$$\begin{aligned} A(\infty) &: \{ \langle E^{ii} - E^{i-1,i-1} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} \mid i \in \mathbb{Z} \}; \\ B(\infty) &: \{ \langle h^i \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} \mid i \geq 1 \}; \\ C(\infty) \text{ and } D(\infty) &: \{ \langle k^i \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} \mid i \geq 0 \}. \end{aligned}$$

The corresponding sets of roots are:

$$\begin{aligned} A(\infty) &: \{ \varepsilon^i - \varepsilon^j \mid i \neq j \}, \\ B(\infty) &: \{ \pm\beta^i, \pm\beta^i \pm \beta^j \mid 1 \leq i \neq j \}, \\ C(\infty) &: \{ \pm 2\gamma^i, \pm\gamma^i \pm \gamma^j \mid 0 \leq i \neq j \}, \\ D(\infty) &: \{ \pm\gamma^i \pm \gamma^j \mid 0 \leq i \neq j \}. \end{aligned}$$

Throughout section 3.4  $\mathfrak{g}$  will denote one of the Lie algebras  $A(\infty)$ ,  $B(\infty)$ ,  $C(\infty)$  or  $D(\infty)$ , and  $\mathfrak{h}$  will be the fixed Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . It turns out that every Borel subalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  (with  $\mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{h}$ ) is standard. More precisely, we have

**Proposition 2.** *Let  $\mathfrak{b} \supset \mathfrak{h}$  be a Borel subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . There exists (a not necessarily unique)  $\varphi \in (\mathbb{R}\Delta)^*$ , such that for any  $\alpha \in \Delta$  one has  $\alpha \in \Delta^+$  iff  $\varphi(\alpha) > 0$ .*

*Proof.* Consider first the cases  $\mathfrak{g} = B(\infty)$ ,  $C(\infty)$ ,  $D(\infty)$  and define  $\text{sgn}\beta^i$  and  $\text{sgn}\gamma^i$  as explained below. For  $\mathfrak{g} = B(\infty)$ , set  $\text{sgn}\beta^i := \pm 1$  iff  $\beta^i \in \Delta^{\pm}$ . For  $\mathfrak{g} = C(\infty)$ , set  $\text{sgn}\gamma^i := \pm 1$  iff  $2\gamma^i \in \Delta^{\pm}$ . For  $\mathfrak{g} = D(\infty)$ , consider any pair of non-negative integers  $(j, k)$ . Exactly two of the roots  $\pm\gamma^j \pm \gamma^k$  belong to  $\Delta^+$ . If both  $\gamma^j + \gamma^k$  and  $\gamma^j - \gamma^k$  belong to  $\Delta^{\pm}$ , put  $\text{sgn}\gamma^j := \pm 1$ . If both  $\gamma^j + \gamma^k$  and  $-\gamma^j + \gamma^k$  belong to  $\Delta^{\pm}$ , put  $\text{sgn}\gamma^k := \pm 1$ . An immediate verification shows that this definition of  $\text{sgn}\gamma^i$  is never contradictory but may be incomplete leaving  $\text{sgn}\gamma^{i_0}$  undefined for at most one  $i_0$ . In this latter case we choose the missing sign arbitrarily.

We put next  $|\beta^i| := (\text{sgn}\beta^i)\beta^i$  and  $|\gamma^i| := (\text{sgn}\gamma^i)\gamma^i$ .

Considering now simultaneously the four cases  $\mathfrak{g} = A(\infty)$ ,  $B(\infty)$ ,  $C(\infty)$  and  $D(\infty)$ , we set respectively

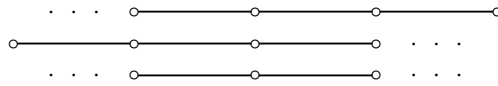
$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\varphi}(\varepsilon^i) &:= \sum_{\{j \in \mathbb{Z} \mid \varepsilon^i - \varepsilon^j \in \Delta^+\}} \frac{1}{2^{|j|}}; \\ \tilde{\varphi}(\beta^i) &:= \text{sgn}\beta^i \left( 1 + \sum_{\{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+\mid |\beta^i| - |\beta^j| \in \Delta^+\}} \frac{1}{2^j} \right); \\ \tilde{\varphi}(\gamma^i) &:= \text{sgn}\gamma^i \left( 1 + \sum_{\{j \in \mathbb{Z}_+\mid |\gamma^i| - |\gamma^j| \in \Delta^+\}} \frac{1}{2^j} \right) \end{aligned}$$

and extend  $\tilde{\varphi}$  by linearity.

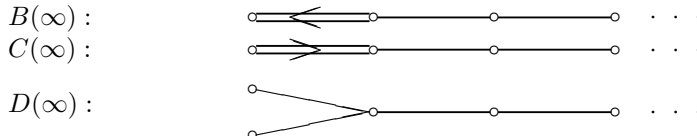
The reader will finish the proof by verifying that  $\varphi = \tilde{\varphi}|_{\mathbb{R}\Delta}$  is always a linear function as desired.  $\square$

It remains to describe all Borel subalgebras of  $\mathfrak{g}$  which admit a weak basis. Let  $\mathfrak{g} = A(\infty)$ . Let  $\varphi$  be the function constructed in Proposition 2. It is easy to check that  $\mathbb{R}(\varepsilon^i - \varepsilon^j)$  is a simple line for  $\mathfrak{b}$  iff there is no  $k$  so that the real number  $\varphi(\varepsilon^k)$  is between the numbers  $\varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  and  $\varphi(\varepsilon^j)$ . This implies that  $\mathfrak{b}$  admits a weak basis iff

the sequence  $\{\varphi(\varepsilon^i)\}$  has no limit points other than  $\inf \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  and  $\sup \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$ . (Note that  $|\varphi(\varepsilon^i)| \leq 2$  and thus  $\inf \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  and  $\sup \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  clearly exist.) There are three possible cases:  $\inf \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  is the only limit point of  $\{\varphi(\varepsilon^i)\}$ ,  $\sup \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  is the only limit point of  $\{\varphi(\varepsilon^i)\}$  and both  $\inf \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  and  $\sup \varphi(\varepsilon^i)$  are limit points of  $\{\varphi(\varepsilon^i)\}$ . The corresponding Dynkin diagrams are:



Let now  $\mathfrak{g} = B(\infty), C(\infty)$  and  $D(\infty)$ . The only difference is that in these cases  $\mathfrak{b}$  has a weak basis iff the only limit point of  $\{|\varphi(\beta^i)|\}$  (respectively of  $\{|\varphi(\gamma^i)|\}$ ) is  $\sup |\varphi(\beta^i)|$  (resp.  $\sup |\varphi(\gamma^i)|$ ), and hence all Borel subalgebras which admit a weak basis correspond to the following Dynkin diagrams:



In [BB] Yu. Bahturin and G. Benkart have calculated explicitly the highest weights of all irreducible integrable  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -modules (where  $\mathfrak{g} = A(\infty), B(\infty), C(\infty), D(\infty)$ ) for some special Borel subalgebras  $\mathfrak{b}$ . A direct checking shows that these Borel subalgebras admit a weak basis. Bahturin and Benkart define Borel subalgebras in  $\mathfrak{g}$  as a direct limit of Borel subalgebras of simple finite-dimensional subalgebras, but using Proposition 2 it is not difficult to verify that for  $\mathfrak{g} = A(\infty), B(\infty), C(\infty), D(\infty)$  the class of Borel subalgebras considered in [BB] is the same as the class considered in the present paper.

For  $\mathfrak{g} = A(\infty), B(\infty), C(\infty)$  and  $D(\infty)$ , the Theorem from section 2 is equivalent to the following statement: For every  $\mathfrak{b}$ -highest weight  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module  $V$  ( $\mathfrak{b}$  being a Borel subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  which admits a weak basis), there is a unique parabolic subalgebra  $\mathfrak{p}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , containing  $\mathfrak{b}$ , such that the lines of  $\mathfrak{p}$  are precisely those lines  $\ell$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  for which  $V$  is  $\ell$ -integrable.

**3.5. Direct limit Lie superalgebras.** Consider the Lie superalgebra  $gl(\infty + \infty\varepsilon)$ . It can be defined as follows. Declare (the elementary matrix)  $E^{ij}$  to be even iff  $i \geq 0, j \geq 0$  or  $i < 0, j < 0$ , and  $E^{ij}$  to be odd iff  $i \geq 0, j < 0$  or  $i < 0, j \geq 0$ . This gives a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -grading on the span  $\langle E^{ij} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$  (which by definition is the underlying vector space of  $gl(\infty + \infty\varepsilon)$ ), and we define the Lie superbracket of  $gl(\infty + \infty\varepsilon)$  as the supercommutator of matrices corresponding to this  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -grading. There are several natural subsuperalgebras of  $gl(\infty + \infty\varepsilon)$ :  $A(m + \infty\varepsilon), A(\infty + \infty\varepsilon), B(m + \infty\varepsilon), B(\infty + \infty\varepsilon), C(\infty), D(m + \infty\varepsilon), D(\infty + \infty\varepsilon), \mathfrak{p}(\infty)$  and  $q(\infty)$ . All of these Lie superalgebras are weak Kac-Moody superalgebras and moreover all their Borel subsuperalgebras (containing the intersection of the considered Lie superalgebra with the subsuperalgebra of diagonal matrices  $\langle E^{ii} \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$ ) are standard. Since a Borel subsuperalgebra  $\mathfrak{b}$  admits a weak basis iff  $\mathfrak{b}_0$  admits a weak basis, the results of 3.4 provide also an explicit criterion for  $\mathfrak{b}$  to admit a weak basis.

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