

## Necklace Lie algebras and noncommutative symplectic geometry

Raf Bocklandt, Lieven Le Bruyn\*

Universiteit Antwerpen (UIA), B-2610 Antwerp, Belgium  
(e-mail: rbockl@wins.uia.ac.be; <http://win-www.uia.ac.be/u/rbockl/>;  
lebruy@wins.uia.ac.be; <http://win-www.uia.ac.be/u/lebruy/>)

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**Abstract.** Recently, V. Ginzburg proved that Calogero phase space is a coadjoint orbit for some infinite dimensional Lie algebra coming from noncommutative symplectic geometry, [12]. In this note we generalize his argument to specific quotient varieties of representations of (deformed) preprojective algebras. This result was also obtained independently by V. Ginzburg [13]. Using results of W. Crawley-Boevey and M. Holland [10], [8] and [9] we give a combinatorial description of all the relevant couples  $(\alpha, \lambda)$  which are coadjoint orbits. We give a conjectural explanation for this coadjoint orbit result and relate it to different noncommutative notions of smoothness.

### 1 Introduction

In [18, § 9] M. Kontsevich gave a somewhat cryptic outline of possible applications of noncommutative (symplectic) geometry to representation theory. If  $A$  is a formally smooth algebra (such as free algebras or path algebras of quivers), then J. Cuntz and D. Quillen [11] have shown that the cohomology of the noncommutative deRham complex gives cyclic homology of algebras. Motivated by this, M. Kontsevich proposed to associate to  $A$  commutative affine schemes  $\text{rep}_n A$ , the  $n$ -dimensional representations of  $A$ . For  $A$  formally smooth it follows that these schemes are smooth varieties. In this situation one assumes that noncommutative functions, noncommutative differential or symplectic forms on  $A$  induce ordinary  $GL_n$ -invariant functions, differential and symplectic forms on the varieties  $\text{rep}_n A$  and hence on the corresponding quotient varieties  $\text{iss}_n A$ . If  $A$  is equipped with a

\* Research Director of the FWO (Belgium)

noncommutative symplectic form, the noncommutative functions acquire a Lie algebra structure and one might expect that in ideal situations some subvarieties of the  $\text{iss}_n A$  will be coadjoint orbits for this Lie structure. In the paper [18] M. Kontsevich proved an acyclicity result for the noncommutative deRham cohomology for  $A$  a free associative algebra and computed the Lie structure on the functions when there is an even number of free generators.

As mentioned before, the path algebra  $\mathbb{C}Q$  of a finite quiver  $Q$  is a formally smooth algebra. The representation varieties for  $\mathbb{C}Q$  decompose as

$$\text{rep}_n \mathbb{C}Q = \bigsqcup_{\alpha} GL_n \times^{GL(\alpha)} \text{rep}_{\alpha} \mathbb{C}Q$$

where  $\alpha = (n_1, \dots, n_k)$  runs over all dimension vectors with  $\sum n_i = n$  and where  $GL(\alpha) = GL_{n_1} \times \dots \times GL_{n_k}$  is the basechange group of the vertex spaces. For this reason it is customary to consider the *quiver representation spaces*  $\text{rep}_{\alpha} \mathbb{C}Q$  rather than all  $n$ -dimensional representations. In order to apply Kontsevich’s idea to the representation theory of quivers we need not to consider the usual deRham complex but rather the *relative deRham complex* with respect to the subalgebra  $V$  generated by the vertex-idempotents. In Sect. 3 we redo Kontsevich’s computation of the cohomology groups of free algebras for these relative cohomology groups of  $\mathbb{C}Q$  and prove

**Theorem 1.1.** *The noncommutative relative deRham cohomology groups of  $\mathbb{C}Q$  are*

$$\begin{cases} H_{dR}^0 \mathbb{C}Q \simeq V \\ H_{dR}^n \mathbb{C}Q \simeq 0 \quad \forall n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Next, we bring in the symplectic structure. We consider the double quiver  $\mathbb{Q}$  of  $Q$  obtained by adjoining to every arrow  $a$  in  $Q$  an arrow in the opposite direction  $a^*$ . On the space of noncommutative functions

$$\mathbb{N}_Q = \frac{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}}{[\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}]}$$

which is spanned by the necklace words in  $\mathbb{Q}$  (that is, the oriented cycles in the quiver  $\mathbb{Q}$  considered upto cyclic permutation of the arrows) we can define a Lie algebra structure see Fig. 1, which we call the *necklace Lie algebra*  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ . Using our results on deRham cohomology we are able in Sect. 4 to prove the existence of a central extension result

**Theorem 1.2.** *If  $V$  is equipped with the (trivial) commutator bracket, then there is a central extension of Lie algebras*

$$0 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow \mathbb{N}_Q \longrightarrow \text{Der}_{\omega} \mathbb{C}Q \longrightarrow 0$$

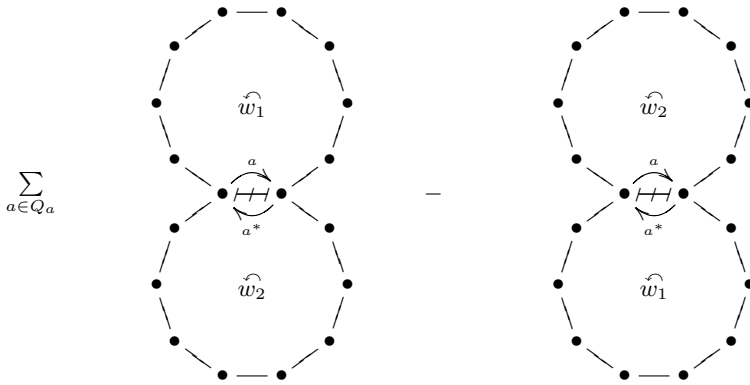


Fig. 1. Lie bracket  $[w_1, w_2]$  in  $\mathbb{N}_Q$

where the last term is the Lie algebra of symplectic derivations corresponding to the symplectic structure  $\omega = \sum_{a \in Q_a} da^* da$ .

The Lie algebra of symplectic derivations corresponds to the group of  $V$ -algebra automorphisms of  $\mathbb{C}Q$  which preserve the moment element  $m = \sum_{a \in Q_a} [a, a^*] \in \mathbb{C}Q$ . For this reason it is natural to expect that coadjointness results for the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$  come from representation schemes of (deformed) preprojective algebras as introduced by W. Crawley-Boevey and M. Holland in [10]

$$\Pi_\lambda = \frac{\mathbb{C}Q}{(m - \lambda)}$$

where  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k) \in \mathbb{C}^k$ . However, as we will prove in Sect. 6 these deformed preprojective algebras are *never* formally smooth so usually their representation schemes  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  will be highly singular as are their quotient schemes  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$ . Still, extending the original approach of V. Ginzburg on the coadjointness of Calogero-Moser particles to this situation we are able in Sect. 5 to prove the following result.

**Theorem 1.3.** *If  $\alpha$  is a dimension vector of a simple  $\Pi_\lambda$ -representation which is minimal, that is cannot be decomposed as a sum of two smaller dimension vectors of simples, then*

$$\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$$

*is a coadjoint orbit for the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ .*

For this result to be applicable we need a description of the set of dimension vectors of simple representations of  $\Pi_\lambda$ . Fortunately this (hard) problem was solved by W. Crawley-Boevey [8].

In the final section we try to give a conjectural explanation underlying these coadjoint orbit results. Consider the algebra  $A_Q = \mathbb{C}[\mathbb{N}_Q] \otimes \mathbb{C}Q$  with trace, mapping an oriented cycle to the corresponding necklace word and consider the group  $Aut_Q$  of trace preserving  $V$ -algebra automorphisms of  $A_Q$  preserving the moment element. Then, we conjecture that this group acts transitively on each stratum of the quotient variety  $iss_\alpha \Pi_\lambda = rep_\alpha \Pi_\lambda / GL(\alpha)$  determined by a representation type of semisimple representations. The coadjoint orbit result would then be a consequence of the conjecture that for deformed preprojective algebras the noncommutative  $\alpha$ -smooth locus (the subvariety of  $iss_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  such that the inverse image of the quotient map is a smooth subscheme of  $rep_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$ ) coincides with the Azumaya algebra (the subvariety of  $iss_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  where the quotient map is a principal  $PGL(\alpha)$ -fibration in the étale topology) of the  $\alpha$ -dimensional approximation  $\Pi_\lambda @\alpha$  of the deformed preprojective algebra. For more details and for the relation with relative notions of noncommutative smoothness we refer to Sect. 6. Using the computation of the dimension of ext-groups of the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$  by W. Crawley-Boevey [9] we are able to prove:

**Theorem 1.4.** *For  $\alpha$  a dimension vector of a simple representation of  $\Pi_0$ , the  $\alpha$ -smooth locus of the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$  coincides with the Azumaya locus.*

We expect that the conjecture holds for arbitrary deformed preprojective algebras by a hyper-Kähler type argument and prove some partial results in this direction.

## 2 Necklace Lie algebras

In this section we introduce the main object of this note in a purely combinatorial way. Recall that a *quiver*  $Q$  is a finite directed graph on a set of vertices  $Q_v = \{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$ , having a finite set  $Q_a = \{a_1, \dots, a_l\}$  of arrows, where we allow loops as well as multiple arrows between vertices. An arrow  $a$  with starting vertex  $s(a) = v_i$  and terminating vertex  $t(a) = v_j$  will be depicted as  $\textcircled{i} \xleftarrow{a} \textcircled{j}$ . The quiver information is encoded in the *Euler form* which is the bilinear form on  $\mathbb{Z}^k$  determined by the matrix  $\chi_Q \in M_k(\mathbb{Z})$  with

$$\chi_{ij} = \delta_{ij} - \# \{ a \in Q_a \mid \textcircled{i} \xleftarrow{a} \textcircled{j} \}$$

The symmetrization  $T_Q = \chi_Q + \chi_Q^{tr}$  of this matrix determines the *Tits form* of the quiver  $Q$ . An oriented cycle  $c = a_{i_u} \dots a_{i_1}$  of length  $u \geq 1$  is a concatenation of arrows in  $Q$  such that  $t(a_{i_j}) = s(a_{i_{j+1}})$  and  $t(a_{i_u}) = s(a_{i_1})$ . In addition to these there are  $k$  oriented cycles  $e_i$  of length 0 corresponding

to the vertices of  $Q$ . All oriented cycles  $c'$  obtained from  $c$  by cyclically permuting the arrow components are said to be equivalent to  $c$ . A *necklace word*  $w$  for  $Q$  is an equivalence class of oriented cycles in the quiver  $Q$ .

The *double quiver*  $\mathbb{Q}$  of  $Q$  is the quiver obtained by adjoining to every arrow (or loop)  $i \xleftarrow{a} i$  in  $Q$  an arrow in the opposite direction  $i \xrightarrow{a^*} i$ . That is,  $\chi_{\mathbb{Q}} = T_Q - \mathbb{1}_k$ .

The *necklace Lie algebra*  $\mathbb{N}_Q$  for the quiver  $Q$  has as basis the set of all necklace words  $w$  for the *double quiver*  $\mathbb{Q}$  and where the Lie bracket  $[w_1, w_2]$  is determined as in Fig. 1. That is, for every arrow  $a \in Q_a$  we look for an occurrence of  $a$  in  $w_1$  and of  $a^*$  in  $w_2$ . We then open up the necklaces by removing these factors and regluing the open ends together to form a new necklace word. We repeat this operation for *all* occurrences of  $a$  (in  $w_1$ ) and  $a^*$  (in  $w_2$ ). We then replace the roles of  $a^*$  and  $a$  and redo this operation with a minus sign. Finally, we add up all these obtained necklace words for all arrows  $a \in Q_a$ . Using this graphical description the Jacobi identity for  $\mathbb{N}_Q$  follows from Fig. 2.

### 3 An acyclicity result

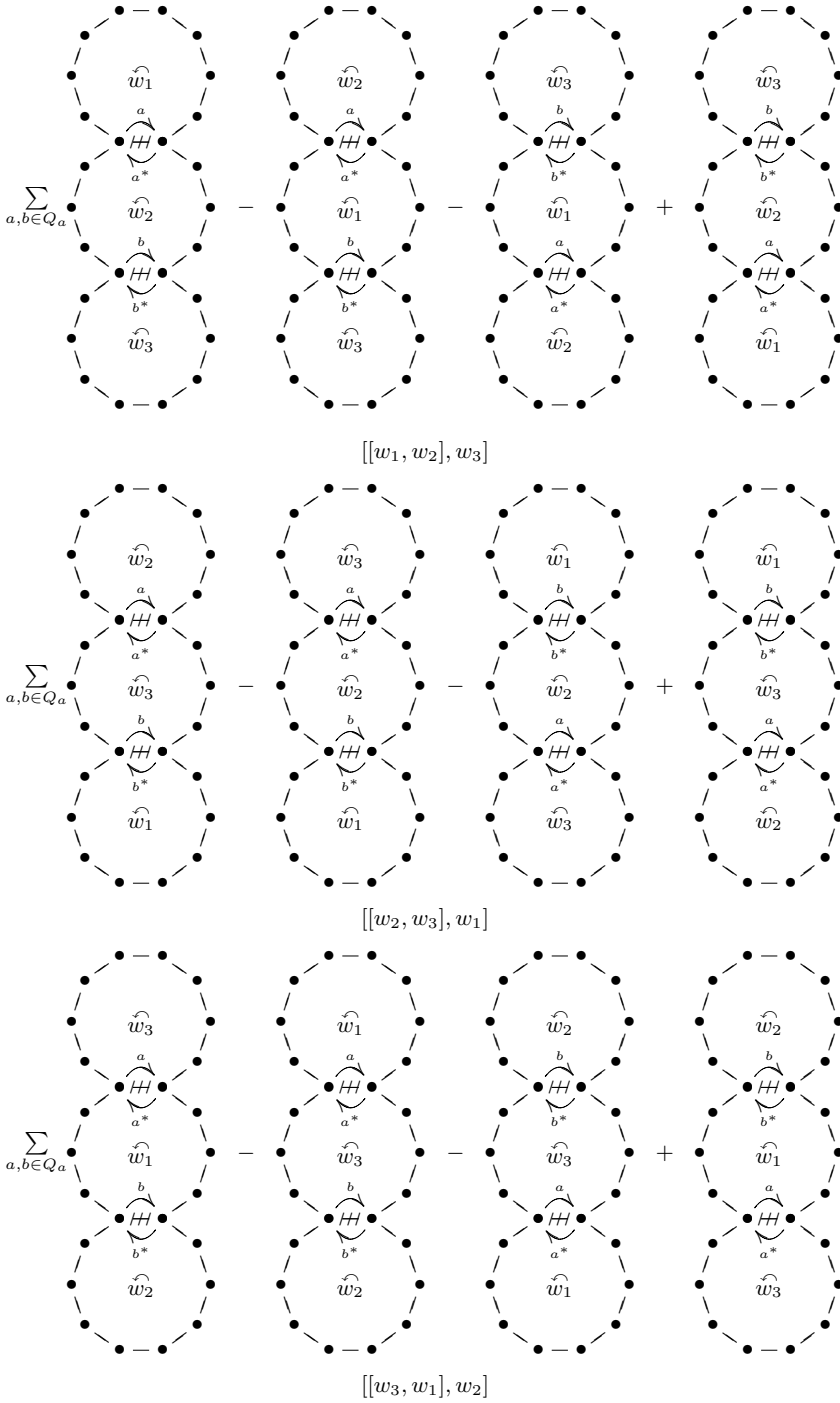
The *path algebra*  $\mathbb{C}Q$  of a quiver  $Q$  has as basis the set of all oriented paths  $p = a_{i_u} \dots a_{i_1}$  of length  $u \geq 1$  in the quiver, that is  $s(a_{i_{j+1}}) = t(a_{i_j})$  together with the vertex-idempotents  $e_i$  of length zero. Multiplication in  $\mathbb{C}Q$  is induced by (left) concatenation of paths. More precisely,  $1 = e_1 + \dots + e_k$  is a decomposition of 1 into mutually orthogonal idempotents and further we define

- $e_j \cdot a$  is always zero unless  $i \xleftarrow{a} i$  in which case it is the path  $a$ ,
- $a \cdot e_i$  is always zero unless  $i \xrightarrow{a} i$  in which case it is the path  $a$ ,
- $a_i \cdot a_j$  is always zero unless  $i \xleftarrow{a_i} i \xleftarrow{a_j} i$  in which case it is the path  $a_i a_j$ .

Path algebras of quivers are the archetypical examples of *formally smooth algebras* as introduced and studied in [11].

In this section we will generalize Kontsevich’s acyclicity result for the noncommutative deRham cohomology of the free algebra [18] to that of the path algebra  $\mathbb{C}Q$ . The crucial idea is to consider the *relative* differential forms (as defined in [11]) of  $\mathbb{C}Q$  with respect to the semisimple subalgebra  $V = \mathbb{C} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C}$  generated by the vertex idempotents. The idea being that in considering quiver representations one works in the category of  $V$ -algebras rather than  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebras.

For a subalgebra  $B$  of  $A$ , let  $\overline{A}_B$  denote the cokernel of the inclusion as  $B$ -bimodule. The space of relative differential forms of degree  $n$  of  $A$  with



**Fig. 2.** Jacobi identity for the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ . Term 1a vanishes against 2c, term 1b against 3d, 1c against 3a, 1d against 2b, 2a against 3c and 2d against 3b

respect to  $B$  is

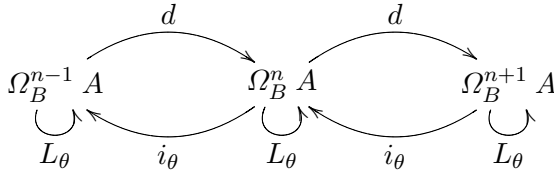
$$\Omega_B^n A = A \otimes_B \underbrace{\overline{A}_B \otimes_B \dots \otimes_B \overline{A}_B}_n$$

The space  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$  is given a differential graded algebra structure by taking the multiplication

$$\begin{aligned} &(a_0, \dots, a_n)(a_{n+1}, \dots, a_m) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^n (-1)^{n-i} (a_0, \dots, a_{i-1}, a_i a_{i+1}, a_{i+2}, \dots, a_m) \end{aligned}$$

and the differential  $d(a_0, \dots, a_n) = (1, a_0, \dots, a_n)$ , see [11]. Here,  $(a_0, \dots, a_n)$  is a representant of the class  $a_0 da_1 \dots da_n \in \Omega_B^n A$  and we recall that  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$  is generated by the  $a$  and  $da$  for all  $a \in A$ . The *relative cohomology*  $H_B^n A$  is defined as the cohomology of the complex  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$ .

For  $\theta \in Der_B A$ , the Lie algebra of  $B$ -derivations of  $A$  (that is  $\theta$  is a derivation of  $A$  and  $\theta(B) = 0$ ), we define a degree preserving derivation  $L_\theta$  and a degree  $-1$  super-derivation  $i_\theta$  on  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$  (that is, for all  $\omega \in \Omega_B^i A$  we have that  $i_\theta(\omega \omega') = i_\theta(\omega)\omega' + (-1)^i \omega i_\theta(\omega')$ )



by the rules

$$\begin{cases} L_\theta(a) = \theta(a) & L_\theta(da) = d\theta(a) \\ i_\theta(a) = 0 & i_\theta(da) = \theta(a) \end{cases}$$

for all  $a \in A$ . We have the Cartan homotopy formula  $L_\theta = i_\theta \circ d + d \circ i_\theta$  as both sides are degree preserving derivations on  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$  and they agree on all the generators  $a$  and  $da$  for  $a \in A$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\theta, \gamma \in Der_B A$ , then we have on  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$  the identities of operators*

$$\begin{cases} L_\theta \circ i_\gamma - i_\gamma \circ L_\theta = [L_\theta, i_\gamma] & = i_{[\theta, \gamma]} = i_{\theta \circ \gamma - \gamma \circ \theta} \\ L_\theta \circ L_\gamma - L_\gamma \circ L_\theta = [L_\theta, L_\gamma] & = L_{[\theta, \gamma]} = L_{\theta \circ \gamma - \gamma \circ \theta} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Consider the first identity. By definition both sides are degree  $-1$  super-derivations on  $\Omega_B^\bullet A$  so it suffices to check that they agree on generators. Clearly, both sides give 0 when evaluated on  $a \in A$  and for  $da$  we have

$$(L_\theta \circ i_\gamma - i_\gamma \circ L_\theta)da = L_\theta \gamma(a) - i_\gamma d\theta(a) = \theta \gamma(a) - \gamma\theta(a) = i_{[\theta, \gamma]}(da)$$

A similar argument proves the second identity. □

Specialize to the quiver-case with  $A = \mathbb{C}Q$  the path algebra and  $B = V = \mathbb{C}^k$  the vertex algebra.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Let  $Q$  be a quiver on  $k$  vertices, then a basis for  $\Omega_V^n \mathbb{C}Q$  is given by the elements*

$$p_0 dp_1 \dots dp_n$$

where  $p_i$  is an oriented path in the quiver such that length  $p_0 \geq 0$  and length  $p_i \geq 1$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$  and such that the starting point of  $p_i$  is the endpoint of  $p_{i+1}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ .

*Proof.* Clearly  $l(p_i) \geq 1$  when  $i \geq 1$  or  $p_i$  would be a vertex-idempotent whence in  $V$ . Let  $v$  be the starting point of  $p_i$  and  $w$  the end point of  $p_{i+1}$  and assume that  $v \neq w$ , then

$$p_i \otimes_V p_{i+1} = p_i v \otimes_V w p_{i+1} = p_i v w \otimes_V p_{i+1} = 0$$

from which the assertion follows. □

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $Q$  be a quiver on  $k$  vertices, then the relative differential form-complex have the following cohomology*

$$\begin{cases} H_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q & \simeq \mathbb{C} \times \dots \times \mathbb{C} \text{ (} k \text{ factors)} \\ H_V^n \mathbb{C}Q & \simeq 0 \quad \forall n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Define the Euler derivation  $E$  on  $\mathbb{C}Q$  by the rules that

$$E(e_i) = 0 \quad \forall 1 \leq i \leq k \quad \text{and} \quad E(a) = a \quad \forall a \in Q_a$$

By induction on the length  $l(p)$  of an oriented path  $p$  in the quiver  $Q$  one easily verifies that  $E(p) = l(p)p$ . By induction one can also proof that  $L_E(p_0 dp_1 \dots dp_n) = (l(p_0) + \dots + l(p_n))p_0 dp_1 \dots dp_n$ . This implies that  $L_E$  is a bijection on each  $\Omega_V^i \mathbb{C}Q$ , where  $i > 1$  and on  $\Omega_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q$ ,  $L_E$  has  $V$  as its kernel. By applying the Cartan homotopy formula for  $L_E$ , we obtain that the complex is acyclic. □

The complex  $\Omega_V^\bullet \mathbb{C}Q$  induces the *relative Karoubi complex*

$$dR_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q \xrightarrow{d} dR_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q \xrightarrow{d} dR_V^2 \mathbb{C}Q \xrightarrow{d} \dots$$

with

$$dR_V^n \mathbb{C}Q = \frac{\Omega_V^n \mathbb{C}Q}{\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} [\Omega_V^i \mathbb{C}Q, \Omega_V^{n-i} \mathbb{C}Q]}$$

In this expression the brackets denote supercommutators with respect to the grading on  $\Omega_V^\bullet \mathbb{C}Q$ . In the commutative case,  $dR^0$  are the functions on the manifold and  $dR^1$  the 1-forms.



**Lemma 3.4.** *A  $\mathbb{C}$ -basis for the noncommutative functions*

$$dR_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q \simeq \frac{\mathbb{C}Q}{[\mathbb{C}Q, \mathbb{C}Q]}$$

are the necklace words in the quiver  $Q$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathbb{W}$  be the  $\mathbb{C}$ -space spanned by all necklace words  $w$  in  $Q$  and define a linear map

$$\mathbb{C}Q \xrightarrow{n} \mathbb{W} \quad \begin{cases} p \mapsto w_p & \text{if } p \text{ is a cycle} \\ p \mapsto 0 & \text{if } p \text{ is not} \end{cases}$$

for all oriented paths  $p$  in the quiver  $Q$ , where  $w_p$  is the necklace word in  $Q$  determined by the oriented cycle  $p$ . Because  $w_{p_1 p_2} = w_{p_2 p_1}$  it follows that the commutator subspace  $[\mathbb{C}Q, \mathbb{C}Q]$  belongs to the kernel of this map. Conversely, let

$$x = x_0 + x_1 + \dots + x_m$$

be in the kernel where  $x_0$  is a linear combination of non-cyclic paths and  $x_i$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  is a linear combination of cyclic paths mapping to the same necklace word  $w_i$ , then  $n(x_i) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 0$ . Clearly,  $x_0 \in [\mathbb{C}Q, \mathbb{C}Q]$  as we can write every noncyclic path  $p = a.p' = a.p' - p'.a$  as a commutator. If  $x_i = a_1 p_1 + a_2 p_2 + \dots + a_l p_l$  with  $n(p_i) = w_i$ , then  $p_1 = q.q'$  and  $p_2 = q'.q$  for some paths  $q, q'$  whence  $p_1 - p_2$  is a commutator. But then,  $x_i = a_1(p_1 - p_2) + (a_2 - a_1)p_2 + \dots + a_l p_l$  is a sum of a commutator and a linear combination of strictly fewer elements. By induction, this shows that  $x_i \in [\mathbb{C}Q, \mathbb{C}Q]$ . □

**Lemma 3.5.**  $dR_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q$  is isomorphic as  $\mathbb{C}$ -space to

$$\bigoplus_{\begin{array}{c} \textcircled{j} \xleftarrow{a} \textcircled{i} \end{array}} e_i \cdot \mathbb{C}Q \cdot e_j \, da = \bigoplus_{\begin{array}{c} \textcircled{j} \xleftarrow{a} \textcircled{i} \end{array}} \textcircled{i} \overset{\text{---}}{\text{---}} \textcircled{j} \, d \textcircled{j} \xleftarrow{a} \textcircled{i}$$

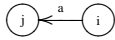
*Proof.* If  $p.q$  is not a cycle, then  $pdq = [p, dq]$  and so vanishes in  $dR_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q$  so we only have to consider terms  $pdq$  with  $p.q$  an oriented cycle in  $Q$ . For any three paths  $p, q$  and  $r$  in  $Q$  we have the equality

$$[p.qdr] = pqdr - qd(rp) + qrdp$$

whence in  $dR_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q$  we have relations allowing to reduce the length of the differential part

$$qd(rp) = pqdr + qrdp$$

so  $dR_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q$  is spanned by terms of the form  $pda$  with  $a \in Q_a$  and  $p.a$  an oriented cycle in  $Q$ . Therefore, we have a surjection

$$\Omega_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q \longrightarrow \bigoplus_{\text{cycles } a} e_i \mathbb{C}Q.e_j da$$


By construction, it is clear that  $[\Omega_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q, \Omega_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q]$  lies in the kernel of this map and using an argument as in the lemma above one shows also the converse inclusion.  $\square$

Using the above descriptions of  $dR_V^i \mathbb{C}Q$  for  $i = 0, 1$  and the differential  $dR_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q \xrightarrow{d} dR_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q$  we can define *partial differential operators* associated to any arrow  $\textcircled{j} \xleftarrow{a} \textcircled{i}$  in  $Q$ .

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial a} : dR_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q \longrightarrow e_i \mathbb{C}Q.e_j \quad \text{by} \quad df = \sum_{a \in Q_a} \frac{\partial f}{\partial a} da$$

To take the partial derivative of a necklace word  $w$  with respect to an arrow  $a$ , we run through  $w$  and each time we encounter  $a$  we open the necklace by removing that occurrence of  $a$  and then take the sum of all the paths obtained.

Defining the *relative deRham cohomology*  $H_{dR}^n \mathbb{C}Q$  to be the cohomology of the Karoubi complex and observing that the operators  $L_\theta$  and  $i_\theta$  on  $\Omega_V^\bullet \mathbb{C}Q$  induce operators on the Karoubi complex, we have the *acyclicity result*

**Theorem 3.6.** *The relative Karoubi complex has the following cohomology*

$$\begin{cases} H_{dR}^0 \mathbb{C}Q \simeq V \\ H_{dR}^n \mathbb{C}Q \simeq 0 \quad \forall n \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Define  $K = \bigoplus_{m,n} [\Omega_V^n \mathbb{C}Q, \Omega_V^m \mathbb{C}Q]$  then one verifies for the Euler derivation that

$$L_E(K) \subset K \quad i_E(K) \subset K \quad L_E = i_E \circ d + d \circ i_E$$

The length of a path induces a graded algebra structure on  $\Omega_V \mathbb{C}Q$  and clearly  $K$  and  $d^{-1}K$  are spanned by homogeneous elements. The differential of a homogeneous element is either zero or an element of the same length. Writing  $x = \sum_i x_i \in d^{-1}K$  in homogeneous components we have  $dx = \sum_i dx_i$  is a homogeneous decomposition. Hence, all  $dx_i \in K$  whence

$x_i \in d^{-1}K$ . Assume that  $\omega$  is a homogeneous element of length  $l > 1$  in  $d^{-1}K$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} \omega + K &= \frac{1}{l}L_E(\omega) + K \\ &= \frac{1}{l}(i_E(d\omega) + d(i_E(\omega))) + K \\ &= d(i_E(\omega)) + K \end{aligned}$$

From these facts the result follows by mimicking the proof for the cohomology of the relative differential form complex above. □

### 4 Symplectic interpretation

In this section we use the acyclicity result to give a Poisson interpretation to the Lie bracket in  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ . This generalizes the *Kontsevich bracket* [18] in the free case to path algebras of doubles of quivers. If  $Q$  is a quiver with double quiver  $\mathbb{C}Q$ , then we can define a canonical *symplectic structure* on the path algebra of the double  $\mathbb{C}Q$  determined by the element

$$\omega = \sum_{a \in Q_a} da^* da \in \mathfrak{dR}_V^2 \mathbb{C}Q$$

As in the commutative case,  $\omega$  defines a bijection between the noncommutative 1-forms  $\mathfrak{dR}_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q$  and the *noncommutative vectorfields* which are defined to be the  $V$ -derivations of  $\mathbb{C}Q$ . This correspondence is

$$Der_V \mathbb{C}Q \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathfrak{dR}_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q \quad \text{given by} \quad \tau(\theta) = i_\theta(\omega)$$

In analogy with the commutative case we define a derivation  $\theta \in Der_V \mathbb{C}Q$  to be *symplectic* if and only if  $L_\theta \omega = 0 \in \mathfrak{dR}_V^2 \mathbb{C}Q$  and denote the subspace of symplectic derivations by  $Der_\omega \mathbb{C}Q$ . It follows from the homotopy formula and the fact that  $\omega$  is a closed form, that  $\theta \in Der_\omega \mathbb{C}Q$  implies  $L_\theta \omega = di_\theta \omega = d\tau(\theta) = 0$ . That is,  $\tau(\theta)$  is a closed form which by the acyclicity of the Karoubi complex shows that it must be an exact form. That is we have an isomorphism of exact sequences of  $\mathbb{C}$ -vectorspaces

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & V & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{dR}_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q & \xrightarrow{d} & (\mathfrak{dR}_V^1 \mathbb{C}Q)_{exact} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ & & = & & \simeq & & \tau^{-1} \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & V & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{C}Q & \longrightarrow & Der_\omega \mathbb{C}Q \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & & & \downarrow & & \\ & & & & [\mathbb{C}Q, \mathbb{C}Q] & & \end{array}$$

The symplectic structure  $\omega$  defines a Poisson bracket on the noncommutative functions.

**Definition 4.1.** *Let  $Q$  be a quiver and  $\mathbb{Q}$  its double. The Kontsevich bracket on the necklace words in  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\text{dR}_V^0 \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  is defined to be*

$$\{w_1, w_2\}_K = \sum_{a \in Q_a} \left( \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial a} \frac{\partial w_2}{\partial a^*} - \frac{\partial w_1}{\partial a^*} \frac{\partial w_2}{\partial a} \right) \text{ mod } [\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}]$$

*By the description of the partial differential operators it is clear that  $\text{dR}_V^0 \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  with this bracket is isomorphic to the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ .*

The symplectic derivations  $Der_\omega \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  have a natural Lie algebra structure by commutators of derivations. We will show that  $\tau^{-1} \circ d$  is a Lie algebra morphism.

For every necklace word  $w$  we have a symplectic derivation  $\theta_w = \tau^{-1} dw$  defined by

$$\begin{cases} \theta_w(a) &= -\frac{\partial w}{\partial a^*} \\ \theta_w(a^*) &= \frac{\partial w}{\partial a} \end{cases}$$

With this notation we get the following interpretations of the Kontsevich bracket

$$\{w_1, w_2\}_K = i_{\theta_{w_1}}(i_{\theta_{w_2}} \omega) = L_{\theta_{w_1}}(w_2) = -L_{\theta_{w_2}}(w_1)$$

where the next to last equality follows because  $i_{\theta_{w_2}} \omega = dw_2$  and the fact that  $i_{\theta_{w_1}}(dw) = L_{\theta_{w_1}}(w)$  for any  $w$ . More generally, for any  $V$ -derivation  $\theta$  and any necklace word  $w$  we have the equation

$$i_\theta(i_\theta \omega) = L_\theta(w).$$

When we look at the image of the Kontsevich bracket under  $\tau^{-1}d$ , we obtain the following

$$\begin{aligned} \tau^{-1}d\{w_1, w_2\}_K &= \tau^{-1}dL_{\theta_{w_1}}w_2 \\ &= \tau^{-1}L_{\theta_{w_1}}dw_2 \\ &= \tau^{-1}L_{\theta_{w_1}}i_{\theta_{w_2}}\omega \\ &= \tau^{-1}([L_{\theta_{w_1}}, i_{\theta_{w_2}}] + i_{\theta_{w_2}}L_{\theta_{w_1}})\omega \\ &= \tau^{-1}i_{[\theta_{w_1}, \theta_{w_2}]} \omega \\ &= [\theta_{w_1}, \theta_{w_2}] \end{aligned}$$

Above we made use of the fact that  $L_\theta$  commutes with  $d$ , and the defining equation  $dw_2 = i_{\theta_{w_2}} \omega$ . In the fourth line we omitted the last term because  $\theta_{w_1}$  is a symplectic derivation. Finally Lemma 3.1 enabled us to transform the commutator in  $i$  and  $L$  to of commutator of the derivations  $\theta_{w_1}$  and  $\theta_{w_2}$ . This calculation concluded the proof of:

**Theorem 4.2.** *With notations as before,  $dR_V^0 \mathbb{C}Q$  with the Kontsevich bracket is isomorphic to the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ , and the sequence*

$$0 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow \mathbb{N}_Q \xrightarrow{\tau^{-1}d} Der_\omega \mathbb{C}Q \longrightarrow 0$$

*is an exact sequence (hence a central extension) of Lie algebras.*

### 5 Coadjoint orbits

Consider a dimension vector  $\alpha = (n_1, \dots, n_k)$ , that is, a  $k$ -tuple of natural numbers, then the space of  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations of the double quiver  $Q$ ,  $\text{rep}_\alpha Q$  can be identified via the trace pairing with the cotangent bundle  $T^* \text{rep}_\alpha Q$  of the space of  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations of the quiver  $Q$ , see for example [8], and as such acquires a natural symplectic structure. The natural action of the basechange group  $GL(\alpha) = GL_{n_1} \times \dots \times GL_{n_k}$  on  $\text{rep}_\alpha Q$  is symplectic and induces a Poisson structure on the coordinate ring as well as on the ring of polynomial quiver invariants, which are generated by traces along oriented cycles by [21].

The symplectic derivations  $Der_\omega \mathbb{C}Q$  correspond to the  $V$ -automorphisms of the path algebra of the double  $\mathbb{C}Q$  preserving the *moment element*

$$m = \sum_{a \in Q_a} [a, a^*] \in \mathbb{C}Q$$

For this reason it is natural to consider the *complex moment map*

$$\text{rep}_\alpha Q \xrightarrow{\mu_{\mathbb{C}}} M_\alpha^0(\mathbb{C}) \quad V \mapsto \sum_{a \in Q_a} [V_a, V_{a^*}]$$

where  $M_\alpha^0(\mathbb{C})$  is the subspace of  $k$ -tuples  $(m_1, \dots, m_k) \in M_{n_1}(\mathbb{C}) \oplus \dots \oplus M_{n_k}(\mathbb{C})$  such that  $\sum_i \text{tr}(m_i) = 0$ , that is  $M_\alpha^0(\mathbb{C}) = \text{Lie } PGL(\alpha)$  where  $PGL(\alpha) = GL(\alpha)/\mathbb{C}^*(\mathbb{1}_{n_1}, \dots, \mathbb{1}_{n_k})$ .

For  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k) \in \mathbb{C}^k$  such that  $\sum_i n_i \lambda_i = 0$  we consider the element  $\underline{\lambda} = (\lambda_1 \mathbb{1}_{n_1}, \dots, \lambda_k \mathbb{1}_{n_k})$  in  $M_\alpha^0(\mathbb{C})$ . The inverse image  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})$  is a  $GL(\alpha)$ -closed affine subvariety of  $\text{rep}_\alpha Q$ .

In [13] V. Ginzburg proved the following coadjointness result using the results of the preceding sections.

**Theorem 5.1 (Ginzburg).** *Assume that  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})$  is smooth and irreducible and that  $PGL(\alpha)$  acts freely on  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})$ , then the quotient variety (the orbit space)*

$$\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})/GL(\alpha)$$

*is a coadjoint orbit for the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ .*

Using results of W. Crawley-Boevey [8] we will identify the situations  $(\alpha, \lambda)$  satisfying the conditions of the theorem. For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^k$  as above, W. Crawley-Boevey and M. Holland introduced and studied the *deformed preprojective algebra*

$$\Pi_\lambda = \frac{\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}}{(m - \lambda)}$$

where  $\lambda = \lambda_1 e_1 + \dots + \lambda_k e_k \in \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$ . From [10] we recall that  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda)$  is the scheme of  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  of the deformed preprojective algebra  $\Pi_\lambda$ .

We recall the characterization due to V. Kac [14] of the dimension vectors of indecomposable representations of the quiver  $Q$ . To a vertex  $v_i$  in which  $Q$  has no loop, we define a *reflection*  $\mathbb{Z}^k \xrightarrow{r_i} \mathbb{Z}^k$  by

$$r_i(\alpha) = \alpha - T_Q(\alpha, \epsilon_i)\epsilon_i$$

where  $\epsilon_i = (\delta_{1i}, \dots, \delta_{ki})$ . The *Weyl group of the quiver  $Q$*   $Weyl_Q$  is the subgroup of  $GL_k(\mathbb{Z})$  generated by all reflections  $r_i$ .

A *root* of the quiver  $Q$  is a dimension vector  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^k$  such that  $\text{rep}_\alpha Q$  contains indecomposable representations. All roots have connected support. A root is said to be

$$\begin{cases} \text{real} & \text{if } \chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha) = 1 \\ \text{imaginary} & \text{if } \chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha) \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

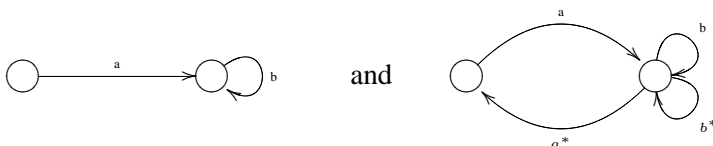
For a fixed quiver  $Q$  we will denote the set of all roots, real roots and imaginary roots respectively by  $\Delta$ ,  $\Delta_{re}$  and  $\Delta_{im}$ . With  $\Pi$  we denote the set  $\{\epsilon_i \mid v_i \text{ has no loops}\}$ . The *fundamental set of roots* is defined to be the following set of dimension vectors

$$F_Q = \{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^k - \underline{0} \mid T_Q(\alpha, \epsilon_i) \leq 0 \text{ and } \text{supp}(\alpha) \text{ is connected}\}$$

Kac's result asserts that

$$\begin{cases} \Delta_{re} & = Weyl_Q \cdot \Pi \cap \mathbb{N}^k \\ \Delta_{im} & = Weyl_Q \cdot F_Q \cap \mathbb{N}^k \end{cases}$$

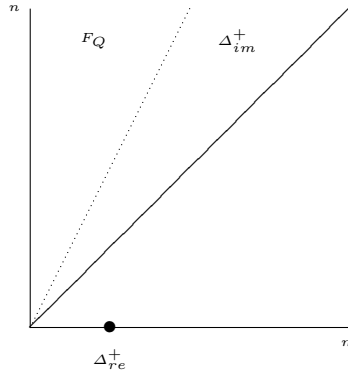
*Example 5.2.* The quiver  $Q$  and double quiver  $\mathbb{Q}$  appearing in the study of Calogero phase space (see [26] and [12]) which stimulated the above generalizations are



The Euler- and Tits form of the quiver  $Q$  are determined by the matrices

$$\chi_Q = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad T_Q = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The root-system for  $Q$  is easy to work out. We have



$$\begin{cases} F_Q & = \{(m, n) \mid n \geq 2m\} \\ \Delta_{im}^+ & = \{(m, n) \mid n \geq m\} \\ \Pi = \Delta_{re}^+ & = \{(1, 0)\} \end{cases}$$

Fix  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^k$  and denote  $\Delta_\lambda^+$  to be the set of positive roots  $\beta = (b_1, \dots, b_k)$  for  $Q$  such that  $\lambda \cdot \beta = \sum_i \lambda_i b_i = 0$ . With  $S_\lambda$  (resp.  $\Sigma_\lambda$ ) we denote the subsets of dimension vectors  $\alpha$  which are roots for  $Q$  such that

$$1 - \chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha) \geq (\text{resp. } >) \quad r - \chi_Q(\beta_1, \beta_1) - \dots - \chi_Q(\beta_r, \beta_r)$$

for all decompositions  $\alpha = \beta_1 + \dots + \beta_r$  with the  $\beta_i \in \Delta_\lambda^+$ . The main results of [8] can be summarized into:

**Theorem 5.3 (W. Crawley-Boevey).**

- (1)  $\alpha \in S_0$  if and only if  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}$  is a flat morphism. In this case,  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}$  is also surjective.
- (2)  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  if and only if  $\Pi_\lambda$  has a simple  $\alpha$ -dimensional representation. In this case,  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda)$  is a reduced and irreducible complete intersection of dimension  $1 + \alpha \cdot \alpha - 2\chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$ .

Using the results of [21] one verifies that the set of dimension vectors of simple representations of  $\mathbb{Q}$  coincides with the fundamental set  $F_Q$ . As any simple  $\Pi_\lambda$ -representation is a simple  $\mathbb{Q}$ -representations it follows that  $\Sigma_\lambda \hookrightarrow F_Q$ .

*Example 5.4.* For the Calogero-example above, we have

- (1) The set  $S_0$  consisting of all  $(m, n)$  such that the complex moment map  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}$  is surjective and flat is the set of roots

$$S_0 = \{(m, n) \mid n \geq 2m - 1\} \sqcup \{(1, 0)\}$$

- (2) The set  $\Sigma_0$  of dimension vectors  $(m, n)$  of simple representations of the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$  is the set of roots

$$\Sigma_0 = \{(m, n) \mid n \geq 2m\} \sqcup \{(1, 0)\}$$

which is  $F_Q \sqcup \{(1, 0)\}$ .

- (3) For  $\lambda = (-n, m)$  with  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$ , the set  $\Sigma_\lambda$  of dimension vectors of simple representations of the deformed preprojective algebra is the set of roots

$$\Sigma_\lambda = \{k \cdot (m, n) \mid k \in \mathbb{N}_+\}$$

with unique minimal element  $(m, n)$ .

For the first two parts the essential calculation is to verify the conditions on the decomposition  $(m, n) = (m - 1, n) + (1, 0)$ .

We obtain the following combinatorial description of the couples  $(\alpha, \lambda)$  for which Ginzburg’s criterium applies.

**Theorem 5.5.**  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})$  is smooth and irreducible with a free action of  $PGL(\alpha)$  (and hence  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})/GL(\alpha)$  is a coadjoint orbit for  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ ) if and only if  $\alpha$  is a minimal non-zero element of  $\Sigma_\lambda$ .

*Proof.* We know that  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda}) = \text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$ . By a result of M. Artin [1] one knows that the geometric points of the quotient scheme  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda/GL(\alpha)$  are the isomorphism classes of  $\alpha$ -dimensional semi-simple representations of  $\Pi_\lambda$ . Moreover, the  $PGL(\alpha)$ -stabilizer of a point in  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is trivial if and only if it determines a simple  $\alpha$ -dimensional representation of  $\Pi_\lambda$ . The result follows from this and the results recalled above. The fact that  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})$  is smooth if  $\alpha$  is a minimal non-zero element of  $\Sigma_\lambda$  follows from computing the differential of the complex moment map, see also [8, Lemma 5.5].  $\square$

*Example 5.6.* Consider the special case when  $\lambda = (-n, 1)$  and  $\alpha = (1, n)$  the unique minimal element in  $\Sigma_\lambda$ , then it follows from [26] that we have canonical identifications of the quotient varieties

$$\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda \simeq \text{Calo}_n$$

where  $\text{Calo}_n$  is the phase space of  $n$  Calogero particles. In particular,  $\text{Calo}_n$  is a coadjoint orbit. Wilson [26] has shown that

$$Gr^{ad} = \bigsqcup_n \text{Calo}_n$$



where  $Gr^{ad}$  is the adelic Grassmannian which can be thought of as the space parametrizing isomorphism classes of right ideals in the first Weyl algebra  $A_1(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{C}\langle x, y \rangle / (xy - yx - 1)$  by [7]. In [3] it is shown that there is a non-differentiable action of the automorphism group of  $A_1(\mathbb{C})$  on  $Gr^{ad}$  having a transitive action on each of the  $Calo_n$ . It was then conjectured by Y. Berest and G. Wilson that  $Calo_n$  might be a coadjoint orbit for a central extension of the automorphism group. (Added may 2001: for more information on these connections as well as to related papers [7], [19] and [15] we refer to the recent preprints of Yu. Berest and G. Wilson [3] and [4].)

*Example 5.7.* M. Holland and W. Crawley-Boevey have a conjectural extension of the foregoing example. Let  $Q'$  be an extended Dynkin quiver on  $k$  vertices  $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  with minimal imaginary root  $\delta = (d_1, \dots, d_k)$ . A vertex  $v_i$  is said to be an extending vertex provided  $d_i = 1$ . Consider the quiver  $Q$  on  $k + 1$  vertices  $\{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_k\}$  which is  $Q'$  on the last  $k$  vertices and there is one extra arrow from  $v_0$  to an extending vertex  $v_i$ . For a generic  $\lambda' = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$  they defined a noncommutative algebra  $\mathcal{O}^{\lambda'}$  extending the role of the Weyl algebra in the previous example. They conjecture that there is a bijection between the isomorphism classes of stably free right ideals in  $\mathcal{O}^{\lambda'}$  and points in

$$\sqcup_n \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda_n) / GL(\alpha_n)$$

where  $\alpha_n = (1, n\delta)$  and  $\lambda_n = (-n\lambda' \cdot \delta, \lambda')$ . This remains to be seen but from our theorem we deduce that each of the quotient varieties  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda_n) / GL(\alpha_n)$  is a coadjoint orbit for the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ . (Note added may 2001: recently the Crawley-Boevey and Holland conjecture was proved by V. Baranovsky, V. Ginzburg and A. Kuznetsov see [2].)

If  $\alpha \in \Sigma_{\lambda}$  but not minimal, there are several *representation types*  $\tau = (m_1, \beta_1; \dots, m_v, \beta_v)$  of semi-simple  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations of  $\Pi_{\lambda}$  with the  $\beta_i \in \Sigma_{\lambda}$  and  $\sum m_i \beta_i = \alpha$  and the  $m_i$  determine the multiplicities of the simple components. With  $iss_{\alpha}(\tau)$  we denote the subvariety of the quotient variety  $iss_{\alpha} \Pi_{\lambda} = \text{rep}_{\alpha} \Pi_{\lambda} / GL(\alpha)$  consisting of all semi-simple representations of type  $\tau$ .

Consider the algebra  $A_Q = \mathbb{C}[\mathbb{N}_Q] \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} \mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  which has a natural *trace map*  $tr : A_Q \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}[\mathbb{N}_Q]$  mapping an oriented cycle in  $\mathbb{Q}$  to the corresponding necklace word and all open paths to zero. With  $Aut_Q$  we denote the automorphism group of trace preserving  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra automorphisms of  $A_Q$  which preserve the moment element  $m = \sum_{a \in Q_a} [a, a^*]$ . A natural extension of the above coadjoint orbit result would be a positive solution to the following problem.

**Conjecture 5.8.**  $Aut_Q$  acts transitively on every stratum  $iss_{\alpha}(\tau)$ .

### 6 Smoothness and deformed preprojective algebras

In this section we will relate the coadjoint orbit result to different notions of smoothness in noncommutative geometry.

The path algebra  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  of the double quiver  $\mathbb{Q}$  is formally smooth in the sense of [11], that is, it has the lifting property with respect to nilpotent ideals. Hence,  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  is the coordinate ring of a noncommutative affine manifold and has a good theory of differential forms (acyclicity).

On the other hand, we will see that the deformed preprojective algebras  $\Pi_\lambda$  are *never* formally smooth. For this reason, the differential forms of  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{Q}$  when restricted to  $\Pi_\lambda$  may have rather unpredictable behavior.

Still, it may be possible that certain representation spaces  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  are smooth and we need a notion of noncommutative (formal) smoothness relative to the dimension vector  $\alpha$ . Recall that if  $\alpha$  is a minimal dimension vector in  $\Sigma_\lambda$ , then  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda = \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda)$  is smooth. We will now investigate whether there are other examples of smooth fibers  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda)$  using the relative notion of smoothness introduced by C. Procesi in [24] and studied in detail in [20]. First, we will recall its ringtheoretical characterization.

Let  $\alpha = (n_1, \dots, n_k)$  and set  $n = \sum_i n_i$ . With  $\text{alg}@_\alpha$  we denote the category of all  $V$ -algebras  $A$  which are equipped with a trace map, that is a linear map  $\text{tr} : A \rightarrow A$  such that for all  $a, b \in A$  we have  $\text{tr}(a)b = b\text{tr}(a)$ ,  $\text{tr}(ab) = \text{tr}(ba)$  and  $\text{tr}(\text{tr}(a)b) = \text{tr}(a)\text{tr}(b)$  satisfying the following properties. First, we must have that  $\text{tr}(1) = n$ , the trace map must satisfy the formal Cayley-Hamilton identity of degree  $n$ , see [24] and finally the trace values of the vertex-idempotents are given by  $\text{tr}(e_i) = n_i$ , the components of the dimension vector  $\alpha$ .

Morphisms in the category  $\text{alg}@_\alpha$  are trace preserving  $V$ -algebra morphisms. An algebra  $A$  in  $\text{alg}@_\alpha$  is said to be  $\alpha$ -smooth if it satisfies the lifting property with respect to nilpotent ideals in  $\text{alg}@_\alpha$ . That is, every diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 B & \xrightarrow{\pi} & \frac{B}{I} \\
 & \swarrow \text{---} & \uparrow \phi \\
 & & A
 \end{array}$$

$\exists \tilde{\phi}$

with  $B, \frac{B}{I}$  in  $\text{alg}@_\alpha$ ,  $I$  a nilpotent ideal and  $\pi$  and  $\phi$  trace preserving maps, can be completed with a trace preserving algebra map  $\tilde{\phi}$ .

Observe that if  $n = 1$  and  $\alpha = (1)$  we have that  $\text{alg}@_\alpha = \text{commalg}$  the category of commutative  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebras and by Grothendieck’s characterization of regular algebras one has in this case that an algebra is  $\alpha$ -smooth if and only if it is regular.

In general, a geometric characterization of this lifting property is that an algebra  $A$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth if and only if the scheme of  $\alpha$ -dimensional trace preserving representations of  $A$  is a smooth  $GL(\alpha)$ -variety, see [24] or [20].

There is a partial functor  $\mathfrak{alg} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{alg}@\alpha$  which assigns to an affine  $V$ -algebra  $B$  the algebra of  $GL(\alpha)$ -equivariant maps

$$\text{rep}_\alpha A \longrightarrow M_n(\mathbb{C})$$

(where  $GL(\alpha)$  acts on  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  by conjugation via the obvious embedding along the diagonal  $GL(\alpha) \hookrightarrow GL_n$ ) which is an object in  $\mathfrak{alg}@\alpha$ . We will denote this algebra of equivariant maps by  $B@_\alpha$ . Clearly, the scheme  $\text{rep}_\alpha B$  of  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations of  $B$  coincides with the scheme of  $\alpha$ -dimensional trace preserving representations of  $B@_\alpha$ .

For this reason, the fiber  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})$  is a smooth affine variety if and only if the algebra  $\Pi_\lambda@_\alpha$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth. As we have seen before  $\Pi_\lambda@_\alpha$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth if  $(\lambda, \alpha)$  is such that  $\lambda \cdot \alpha = 0$  and  $\alpha$  is a minimal non-zero vector in  $\Sigma_\lambda$ . In this case,  $\Pi_\lambda@_\alpha$  is even an Azumaya algebra over the coadjoint orbit, that is, the quotient map

$$\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda = \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda}) \twoheadrightarrow \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})/GL(\alpha)$$

is a principal  $PGL(\alpha)$ -fibration in the étale topology. For more details on Azumaya algebras and their relation to étale cohomology we refer to the book by J.S. Milne [23].

Noncommutative geometry, as propagated by M. Kontsevich in [18] is based on the fact that noncommutative functions and noncommutative (relative) differential forms associated to a formally smooth  $\mathbb{C}$ -algebra  $A$  (resp. a formally smooth  $V$ -algebra  $A$ ) induce ordinary functions and differential forms on the smooth representations schemes  $\text{rep}_n A$  (resp.  $\text{rep}_\alpha A$ ) of  $n$ -dimensional (resp.  $\alpha$ -dimensional) representations and their corresponding quotient varieties  $\text{iss}_n A$  resp.  $\text{iss}_\alpha A$ . For this reason one expects that the closed subscheme  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  behaves well with respect to noncommutative symplectic forms (in particular, is a coadjoint orbit for the necklace algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ ) if and only if  $\Pi_\lambda@_\alpha$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth.

On the other hand, if the coadjoint orbit result follows from the conjectural transitive action of the group  $\text{Aut}_Q$  as stated in Conjecture 5.8, this can only happen if there is just one stratum. That is, if and only if  $\Pi_\lambda@_\alpha$  is an Azumaya algebra, or equivalently, that  $\alpha$  is a minimal element of  $\Sigma_\lambda$ .

These conjectural equivalences of (1)  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{\lambda})/GL(\alpha)$  coadjoint orbit, (2)  $\Pi_\lambda@_\alpha$  an  $\alpha$ -smooth algebra and (3)  $\alpha$  a minimal element of  $\Sigma_\lambda$  follow from a stronger conjecture on deformed preprojective algebras formulated below.

Consider the algebraic quotient map

$$\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda \xrightarrow{\pi_\alpha} \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda = \text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda/GL(\alpha)$$

By Artin’s result [1], a  $\mathbb{C}$ -point  $\xi$  of  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  corresponds to an isomorphism class of an  $\alpha$ -dimensional semisimple representation

$$M_\xi = S_1^{\oplus e_1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_z^{\oplus e_z}$$

of  $\Pi_\lambda$ . Here,  $S_i$  is an  $\alpha_i$ -dimensional simple representation of  $\Pi_\lambda$  occurring with multiplicity  $e_i$  in  $M_\xi$ . In particular we have that

$$\text{for all } i : \alpha_i \in \Sigma_\lambda \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_i e_i \alpha_i = \alpha$$

Fix a point  $M_\xi$  of the closed  $GL(\alpha)$ -orbit  $\mathcal{O}(M_\xi)$  in  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$ . We will say that  $\xi \in \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  belongs to the *noncommutative smooth locus*  $Sm_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  of  $\Pi_\lambda$  (or of  $\Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$ ) if  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is smooth in  $M_\xi$ . Because the singular locus is a closed subvariety of  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is a closed subvariety we have that  $\Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth iff  $Sm_\alpha \Pi_\lambda = \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$ .

Now we restrict to  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  and consider the Zariski open subscheme  $Az \Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$  of points  $\xi \in \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  such that  $M_\xi$  is a simple representation of  $\Pi_\lambda$ , then the restriction of the quotient map  $\pi_\alpha$  to  $\pi_\alpha^{-1}(Az \Pi_\lambda @ \alpha)$  is a principal  $PGL(\alpha)$ -fibration in the étale topology. We call  $Az \Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$  the *Azumaya locus* of  $\Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$ . The above conjectural equivalences follow from an affirmative answer to the following conjecture.

**Conjecture 6.1.** For  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  we have

$$Sm_\alpha \Pi_\lambda = Az \Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$$

We will give an affirmative solution to this conjecture in the special case of the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$ . By a result of W. Crawley-Boevey [9], we can control the  $Ext^1$ -spaces of representations of  $\Pi_0$ . Let  $V$  and  $W$  be representations of  $\Pi_0$  of dimension vectors  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} Ext_{\Pi_0}^1(V, W) &= \dim_{\mathbb{C}} Hom_{\Pi_0}(V, W) + \dim_{\mathbb{C}} Hom_{\Pi_0}(W, V) \\ &\quad - T_Q(\alpha, \beta) \end{aligned}$$

For  $\xi \in \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_0$  to belong to the smooth locus  $\xi \in Sm_\alpha \Pi_0$  it is necessary and sufficient that  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_0$  is smooth along the orbit  $\mathcal{O}(M_\xi)$  where  $M_\xi$  is the semi-simple  $\alpha$ -dimensional representation of  $\Pi_0$  corresponding to  $\xi$ .

Assume that  $\xi$  is of type  $\tau = (e_1, \alpha_1; \dots; e_z, \alpha_z)$ , that is,

$$M_\xi = S_1^{\oplus e_1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_z^{\oplus e_z}$$

with  $S_i$  a simple  $\Pi_0$ -representation of dimension vector  $\alpha_i$ . Then, the normal space to the orbit  $\mathcal{O}(M_\xi)$  is determined by  $Ext_{\Pi_0}^1(M_\xi, M_\xi)$  and can be depicted by a local quiver setting  $(Q_\xi, \alpha_\xi)$  where  $Q_\xi$  is a quiver on  $z$  vertices having as many arrows from vertex  $i$  to vertex  $j$  as the dimension of  $Ext_{\Pi_0}^1(S_i, S_j)$  and where  $\alpha_\xi = \alpha_\tau = (e_1, \dots, e_z)$ .

As  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_0$  is assumed to be smooth in  $M_\xi$  we can apply the strong form of the Luna slice theorem, see [22] or [25] which asserts that the action morphism and corresponding quotient maps

$$\begin{array}{ccc} GL(\alpha) \times^{GL(\alpha_\xi)} N_\xi & \longrightarrow & \text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_0 \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ N_\xi/GL(\alpha_\xi) & \longrightarrow & \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_0 \end{array}$$

where  $N_\xi$  is the normal space to the orbit in  $M_\xi$ , are étale in  $M_\xi$  (resp. in  $\xi$ ) and that the upper map is  $GL(\alpha)$ -equivariant. With the above quiver-theoretic interpretation of the normal space  $N_\xi$  we deduce

**Lemma 6.2.** *With notations as above,  $\xi \in \text{Sm}_\alpha \Pi_0$  if and only if*

$$\dim GL(\alpha) \times^{GL(\alpha_\xi)} \text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(M_\xi, M_\xi) = \dim_{M_\xi} \text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_0$$

As we have enough information to compute both sides, we can prove:

**Theorem 6.3.** *If  $\xi \in \text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_0$  with  $\alpha = (a_1, \dots, a_k) \in S_0$ , then  $\xi \in \text{Sm}_\alpha \Pi_0$  if and only if  $M_\xi$  is a simple  $n$ -dimensional representation of  $\Pi_0$ . That is, the smooth locus of  $\Pi_0$  coincides with the Azumaya locus.*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\xi$  is a point of semi-simple representation type  $\tau = (e_1, \alpha_1; \dots; e_z, \alpha_z)$ , that is,

$$M_\xi = S_1^{\oplus e_1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_z^{\oplus e_z} \quad \text{with} \quad \dim(S_i) = \alpha_i$$

and  $S_i$  a simple  $\Pi_0$ -representation. We have

$$\begin{cases} \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(S_i, S_j) &= -T_Q(\alpha_i, \alpha_j) & i \neq j \\ \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(S_i, S_i) &= 2 - T_Q(\alpha_i, \alpha_i) \end{cases}$$

But then, the dimension of  $\text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(M_\xi, M_\xi)$  is equal to

$$\sum_{i=1}^z (2 - T_Q(\alpha_i, \alpha_i))e_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} e_i e_j (-T_Q(\alpha_i, \alpha_j)) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^z e_i^2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$$

from which it follows immediately that

$$\dim GL(\alpha) \times^{GL(\alpha_\xi)} \text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(M_\xi, M_\xi) = \alpha \cdot \alpha + \sum_{i=1}^z e_i^2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$$

On the other hand, as  $\alpha \in S_0$  we know that

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \operatorname{rep}_\alpha \Pi_0 &= \alpha.\alpha - 1 + 2p_Q(\alpha) \\ &= \alpha.\alpha - 1 + 2 - 2\chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha) = \alpha.\alpha + 1 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

But then, equality occurs if and only if  $\sum_i e_i^2 = 1$ , that is,  $\tau = (1, \alpha)$  or  $M_\xi$  is a simple  $n$ -dimensional representation of  $\Pi_0$ .  $\square$

In particular it follows that the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$  is *never* formally smooth as this implies that all the representation varieties must be smooth. Further, as  $\vec{v}_i = (0, \dots, 1, 0, \dots, 0)$  are dimension vectors of simple representations of  $\Pi_0$  it follows that  $\Pi_0$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth if and only if  $\alpha = \vec{v}_i$  for some  $i$ .

*Example 6.4.* Let  $Q$  be an extended Dynkin diagram and  $\delta$  the minimal imaginary root, then  $\delta \in S_0$ . The dimension of the quotient variety

$$\begin{aligned} \dim \operatorname{iss}_\delta \Pi_0 &= \dim \operatorname{rep}_\delta \Pi_0 - \delta.\delta + 1 \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

so it is a surface. The only other semi-simple  $\delta$ -dimensional representation of  $\Pi_0$  is the trivial representation. By the theorem, this must be an isolated singular point of  $\operatorname{iss}_\delta Q$ . In fact, one can show that  $\operatorname{iss}_\delta \Pi_0$  is the Kleinian singularity corresponding to the extended Dynkin diagram  $Q$ .

The proof of Theorem 6.3 can be repeated verbatim for the deformed preprojective algebras  $\Pi_\lambda$  provided we would have an analogue of Crawley-Boevey’s formula for the dimension of the extension groups  $\operatorname{Ext}_{\Pi_\lambda}^1(M, N)$ . Unfortunately, no such formula is known at present. Observe that an affirmative answer to Conjecture 6.1 follows from

**Conjecture 6.5.** Let  $S$  and  $T$  be (isomorphism classes of) simple  $\Pi_\lambda$  representations of dimension vector  $\alpha$  resp.  $\beta$ , then

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \operatorname{Ext}_{\Pi_\lambda}^1(S, T) = 2\delta_{ST} - T_Q(\alpha, \beta)$$

In particular, the extension form on semisimple  $\Pi_\lambda$ -representations is symmetric.

Before we can prove some partial results for deformed preprojective algebras we need to recall that  $\operatorname{rep}_\alpha \mathbb{Q}$  admits a hyper-Kähler structure (that is, an action of the quaternion algebra  $\mathbb{H} = \mathbb{R}.1 \oplus \mathbb{R}.i \oplus \mathbb{R}.j \oplus \mathbb{R}.k$ ) defined for all arrows  $a \in Q_a$  and all arrows  $b \in Q_a$  by the formulae, see for example [9]

$$\begin{aligned} (i.V)_b &= iV_b \\ (j.V)_a &= -V_a^\dagger & (j.V)_{a^*} &= V_a^\dagger \\ (k.V)_a &= -iV_{a^*}^\dagger & (k.V)_{a^*} &= iV_a^\dagger \end{aligned}$$

where this time we denote the Hermitian adjoint of a matrix  $M$  by  $M^\dagger$  to distinguish it from the star-operation on the arrows of the double quiver  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Let  $U(\alpha)$  be the product of unitary groups  $U_{n_1} \times \dots \times U_{n_k}$  and consider the *real moment map*

$$\text{rep}_\alpha \mathbb{Q} \xrightarrow{\mu_{\mathbb{R}}} \text{Lie } U(\alpha) \quad V \mapsto \sum_{\substack{b \\ b \in \mathbb{Q}_a}} \frac{i}{2} [V_b, V_b^\dagger]$$

For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^k$ , multiplication by the quaternion-element  $h = \frac{i+k}{\sqrt{2}}$  gives a homeomorphism between the real varieties

$$\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0) \xrightarrow{h} \mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(i\lambda)$$

Moreover, the hyper-Kähler structure commutes with the base-change action of  $U(\alpha)$ , whence we have a natural one-to-one correspondence between the quotient spaces

$$(\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\lambda) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0))/U(\alpha) \xrightarrow{h} (\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0) \cap \mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(i\lambda))/U(\alpha)$$

see [9] for more details. By results of Kempf and Ness [16] we can identify the left hand side as the quotient variety  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  and by results of A. King [17] we can identify the right hand side as the moduli space  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  of  $\lambda$ -semistable  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations of the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$ , at least if  $\lambda$  has rational components.

Recall that a representation  $V \in \text{rep}_\alpha \mathbb{Q}$  is said to be  $\lambda$ -(semi)stable if and only if for every proper subrepresentation  $W$  of  $V$  say with dimension vector  $\beta$  we have  $\lambda \cdot \beta > 0$  (resp.  $\lambda \cdot \beta \geq 0$ ). The scheme  $\text{rep}_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  of  $\lambda$ -semistable  $\alpha$ -dimensional representations of  $\Pi_0$  is the intersection of  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(0)$  with the subvariety of  $\lambda$ -semistable representations in  $\text{rep}_\alpha \mathbb{Q}$ . The corresponding moduli space  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  classifies isomorphism classes of direct sums of  $\lambda$ -stable representations of  $\Pi_0$  of total dimension  $\alpha$ .

If  $V \in \text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  belongs to  $\mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(0)$  we have that  $V$  is a semisimple  $\Pi_\lambda$ -representation

$$V = S_1^{\oplus e_1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_r^{\oplus e_r}$$

with the  $S_i$  a simple  $\Pi_\lambda$ -representation of dimension vector  $\beta_i$ . If  $W \in \text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_0$  belongs to  $\mu_{\mathbb{R}}^{-1}(\lambda)$ , then  $W$  is the direct sum of  $\lambda$ -stable representations of  $\Pi_0$

$$W = T_1^{\oplus f_1} \oplus \dots \oplus T_s^{\oplus f_s}$$

with  $T_i$  a  $\lambda$ -stable  $\Pi_0$ -representation of dimension vector  $\gamma_i$ . Because the hyper-Kähler correspondence preserves blockdecomposition of matrices we deduce from  $W = h.V$  that  $r = s$ ,  $e_i = f_i$ ,  $\beta_i = \gamma_i$  and  $T_i \simeq h.S_i$ .

**Proposition 6.6.** *The deformed preprojective algebra  $\Pi_\lambda$  has semisimple representations of representation type  $\tau = (e_1, \beta_1; \dots; e_r, \beta_r)$  if and only if the preprojective algebra  $\Pi_0$  has  $\lambda$ -stable representations of dimension vector  $\beta_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ .*

*In particular,  $\Pi_\lambda$  has a simple representation of dimension vector  $\alpha$  if and only if  $\Pi_0$  has a  $\lambda$ -stable representation of dimension vector  $\alpha$ .*

With  $\Phi_\lambda$  we denote the set of dimension vectors  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  such that  $\Pi_\lambda @ \alpha$  is  $\alpha$ -smooth (that is,  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is smooth) and moreover the quotient variety  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is smooth. Our conjecture is that  $\Phi_\lambda$  is the set of minimal elements of  $\Sigma_\lambda$ . The following result provides some partial support for this.

**Proposition 6.7.** (1) *If  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  such that  $2\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$ , then  $2\alpha \notin \Phi_\lambda$ .*  
 (2) *Let  $\alpha, \beta, \alpha + \beta \in \Sigma_\lambda$  such that  $T_Q(\alpha, \beta) < -2$ , then  $\alpha + \beta \notin \Phi_\lambda$ .*

*Proof.* (1): As  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  we know that the local quiver  $Q_\xi$  in a simple representation  $S$  corresponding to  $\xi$  is a one vertex quiver having  $2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$  loops (because  $\text{rep}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is smooth in  $S$  by [8, Lemma 5.5]). That is,

$$\dim \text{Ext}_{\Pi_\lambda}^1(S, S) = 2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$$

But then, for  $\xi \in \text{iss}_{2\alpha} \Pi_\lambda$  a point corresponding to  $S \oplus S$ , the local quiver is still  $Q_\xi$  but this time the local dimension vector  $\alpha_\xi = 2$ . If  $\xi$  lies in the smooth locus, then by the Luna slice theorem we must have

$$\dim GL(2\alpha) \times^{GL_2} \text{rep}_{\alpha_\xi} Q_\xi = \dim \text{rep}_{2\alpha} \Pi_\lambda$$

The left hand side is  $4\alpha \cdot \alpha + 4 - 4T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$  whereas the right hand side is equal to (because  $2\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$ )  $4\alpha \cdot \alpha + 1 - 4T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$ , a contradiction.

(2): Let  $V$  resp.  $W$  be a  $\lambda$ -stable representation of  $\Pi_0$  of dimension vector  $\alpha$  resp.  $\beta$ . The normal space to the orbit of  $V \oplus W$  in  $\text{rep}_{\alpha+\beta}^{ss} \Pi_0$  is the representation space of dimension vector  $(1, 1)$  for the quiver  $\Gamma$  on two vertices having  $2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$  loops in the first,  $2 - T_Q(\beta, \beta)$  loops in the second and  $-T_Q(\alpha, \beta)$  arrows in both directions between the vertices. By Knop’s generalization of the Luna slice result, see [25], and a computation of dimensions we see that the image of the slice map in the principal fibration

$$GL(\alpha + \beta) \times^{\mathbb{C}^* \times \mathbb{C}^*} \text{rep}_{(1,1)} \Gamma$$

is of codimension one. Because  $-T_Q(\alpha, \beta) \geq 3$  every codimension one subvariety of the quotient contains a singularity in the trivial representation. Therefore, the moduli space  $M_{\alpha+\beta}^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  is singular in the point corresponding to  $V \oplus W$ . But then, by the hyper-Kähler correspondence, the quotient variety  $\text{iss}_{\alpha+\beta} \Pi_\lambda$  is singular in a point of representation type  $(1, \alpha; 1, \beta)$ , whence  $\alpha + \beta \notin \Phi_\lambda$ . □



Observe that W. Crawley-Boevey has proved that  $T_Q(\alpha, \beta) \leq -2$  for  $\alpha, \beta, \alpha + \beta \in \Sigma_\lambda$  see [8, Thm 4.6]. (Added may 2001: the first author has recently given a complete classification of quiver settings with a smooth quotient variety, see [5] and [6]. We believe that a combination of this result and the method of proof of the previous proposition will provide a characterization of  $\Phi_\lambda$ . We hope to come back to this problem in a future publication.)

We end this paper by proving that  $\alpha$ -smoothness of a closely related sheaf of algebras is equivalent to  $\alpha$  being a minimal element of  $\Sigma_\lambda$ .

Taking locally the algebras of  $GL(\alpha)$ -equivariant maps from  $\text{rep}_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  to  $M_n(\mathbb{C})$  defines a sheaf of algebras in  $\text{alg}@\alpha$ ,  $\mathcal{A}_{\lambda, \alpha}$  on the moduli space  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$ .

**Theorem 6.8.** *With notations as above, for  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  the following are equivalent:*

- (1)  $\mathcal{A}_{\lambda, \alpha}$  is a sheaf of  $\alpha$ -smooth algebras on the moduli space  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$ .
- (2)  $\alpha$  is a minimal non-zero vector in  $\Sigma_\lambda$  (and hence the quotient variety  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is a coadjoint orbit for the necklace Lie algebra  $\mathbb{N}_Q$ ).

*Proof.* As  $\alpha \in \Sigma_\lambda$  we know that  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  has dimension  $1 + \alpha \cdot \alpha - 2\chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha) - \dim PGL(\alpha)$  which is equal to  $2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$ . By the hyper-Kähler correspondence so is the dimension of  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$ , whence the open subset of  $\mu_{\mathbb{C}}^{-1}(\underline{0})$  consisting of  $\lambda$ -semistable representations has dimension

$$1 + \alpha \cdot \alpha - 2\chi_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$$

as there are  $\lambda$ -stable representations in it (again via the hyper-Kähler correspondence). Take a  $GL(\alpha)$ -closed orbit  $\mathcal{O}(V)$  in this open set. That is,  $V$  is the direct sum of  $\lambda$ -stable subrepresentations

$$V = S_1^{\oplus e_1} \oplus \dots \oplus S_r^{\oplus e_r}$$

with  $S_i$  a  $\lambda$ -stable representation of  $\Pi_0$  of dimension vector  $\beta_i$  occurring in  $V$  with multiplicity  $e_i$  whence  $\alpha = \sum_i e_i \beta_i$ .

Again, the normal space in  $V$  to  $\mathcal{O}(V)$  can be identified with  $\text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(V, V)$ . As all  $S_i$  are  $\Pi_0$ -representations we can determine this space by the knowledge of all  $\text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(S_i, S_j)$ .

$$\text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(S_i, S_j) = 2\delta_{ij} - T_Q(\beta_i, \beta_j)$$

But then the dimension of the normal space to the orbit is

$$\dim \text{Ext}_{\Pi_0}^1(V, V) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^r e_i - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$$

By the Luna slice theorem [22], the étale local structure in the smooth point  $V$  is of the form  $GL(\alpha) \times^{GL(\tau)} Ext^1(V, V)$  where  $\tau = (e_1, \dots, e_r)$  and is therefore of dimension

$$\alpha \cdot \alpha + \sum_{i=1}^2 e_i^2 - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$$

This number must be equal to the dimension of the subvariety of  $\lambda$ -semistable representations of  $\Pi_0$  which has dimension  $1 + \alpha \cdot \alpha - T_Q(\alpha, \alpha)$  if and only if  $r = 1$  and  $e_1 = 1$ , that is if and only if  $V$  is  $\lambda$ -stable. Hence, if  $\text{rep}_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  is smooth, then  $\alpha$  must be a minimal non-zero vector in the set of dimension vectors of  $\lambda$ -stable representations of  $\Pi_0$  and hence by the hyper-Kähler correspondence,  $\alpha$  is a minimal non-zero vector in  $\Sigma_\lambda$ .

Conversely, if  $\alpha$  is a minimal vector in  $\Sigma_\lambda$ , then  $\text{iss}_\alpha \Pi_\lambda$  is a coadjoint orbit, whence smooth and hence so is  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  by the correspondence. Moreover, all  $\alpha$ -dimensional  $\lambda$ -semistable representations must be  $\lambda$ -stable by the minimality assumption and so  $\text{rep}_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  is a principal  $PGL(\alpha)$ -fibration over  $M_\alpha^{ss}(\Pi_0, \lambda)$  whence smooth. Therefore,  $\mathcal{A}_{\lambda, \alpha}$  is a sheaf of  $\alpha$ -Cayley smooth algebras.  $\square$

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