

Zeitschrift: L'Enseignement Mathématique
Herausgeber: Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
Band: 49 (2003)
Heft: 1-2: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

Artikel: LECTURES ON QUASI-INVARIANTS OF COXETER GROUPS AND THE CHEREDNIK ALGEBRA
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Kapitel: 1.6 The ring of differential operators on X_m
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-66677>

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From this we deduce

THEOREM 1.14 ([EG2, BEG, FeV], conjectured in [FV]). *The ring Q_m of m -quasi-invariants is Gorenstein.*

Proof. By Stanley's theorem (see [Eis]), a positively graded Cohen-Macaulay domain A is Gorenstein iff its Poincaré series is a rational function $h(t)$ satisfying the equation $h(t^{-1}) = (-1)^n t^l h(t)$, where l is an integer and n is the dimension of the spectrum of A . Thus the result follows immediately from Proposition 1.13. \square

1.6 THE RING OF DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS ON X_m

Finally, let us introduce the ring $\mathcal{D}(X_m)$ of differential operators on X_m , that is the ring of differential operators with coefficients in $\mathbf{C}(\mathfrak{h})$ mapping Q_m to Q_m . It is clear that this definition coincides with Grothendieck's well-known definition ([Bj]).

THEOREM 1.15 ([BEG]). *$\mathcal{D}(X_m)$ is a simple algebra.*

REMARK 1.16. a) The ring of differential operators on a smooth affine algebraic variety is always simple (see [Bj], Chapter 3).

b) By a result of M. van den Bergh [VdB], for a non-smooth variety, the simplicity of the ring of differential operators implies the Cohen-Macaulay property of this variety.

2. LECTURE 2

We will now see how the ring Q_m appears in the theory of completely integrable systems.

2.1 HAMILTONIAN MECHANICS AND INTEGRABLE SYSTEMS

Recall the basic setup of Hamiltonian mechanics [Ar]. Consider a mechanical system with configuration space X (a smooth manifold). Then the phase space of this system is T^*X , the cotangent bundle on X . The space T^*X is naturally a symplectic manifold, and in particular we have an operation of Poisson bracket on functions on T^*X . A point of T^*X is a pair (x, p) , where $x \in X$ is the position and $p \in T_x^*X$ is the momentum. Such pairs are