

EXPLICIT CONSTRUCTIONS OF CASIMIR OPERATORS
OF $sl(n;C)$ AND $so(n;R)$

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1. Historical introduction

In 1931, Hendrik Brugt Gerhard Casimir (1909-2000) found out the foremost important quadratic sum (i.e. second-order Casimir operator) of elements in a Lie algebra. Then he and van der Waerden used it for a proof of completely reducibility of the representations of a semisimple Lie algebra.

This Casimir operator was also used for a proof of Levi decomposition theorem on a finite-dimensional Lie algebra over a field with characteristic zero. An algebraic proof, which means to use neither Lie group nor analytic method, of the Weyl character formula on the irreducible representation with highest weight of a semisimple Lie algebra has been accomplished by H.Freudenthal via Casimir operator chasing.

Although Harish-Chandra enunciated the center of the universal enveloping algebra of a Lie algebra via Cartan-Weyl theory, explicit construction of the generators of its center has been carried out by G.Racah around 1951, by introducing the higher-order generalized Casimir operators.

Then cohomological theory of Lie algebras has showed up through geometric treatments. So-called exponents of simple Lie algebras are related to the degrees of the generators of the center of their universal enveloping algebras.

2. Casimir operator

Let \mathfrak{g} be a r -dimensional semisimple Lie algebra over \mathbb{C} , and

let $\{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$ be a basis of \mathfrak{g} . For a n -dimensional faithful

representation $\rho : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(n; \mathbb{C}) = \text{Mat}(n; \mathbb{C})$, we write by $U_i =$

$\rho(u_i)$ for brevity. Since $g_{ij} = B_\rho(u_i, u_j) = \text{Tr}(U_i U_j)$ becomes

a non-degenerate symmetric bilinear form, there exists the inverse matrix

(g^{ij}) of (g_{ij}) . By introducing $U^j = \sum g^{ij} U_i$, we have the

following equations ;

$$\sum g^{ij} U_i U_j = \sum U^j U_j = \sum g_{ij} U^i U^j = \sum U_j U^j \quad (; \text{ say } C).$$

Then we obtain the dual basis $\{u^1, u^2, \dots, u^r\}$ of $\{u_1, \dots, u_r\}$

with respect to trace-form B_ρ such that $B_\rho(u^i, u_j) = \delta_{ij}$ and

$\rho(u^i) = U^i$ ($1 \leq i \leq r$). The above matrix C is called the Casimir operator

of $(\mathfrak{g}; \rho)$.

Let $U(\mathfrak{g})$ be the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} , and let

$Z(U(\mathfrak{g}))$ be the center of $U(\mathfrak{g})$. The element $c = \sum u^j u_j$ is called

the Casimir element of $(\mathfrak{g}; \mathfrak{p})$. It is known that $C = (r/n) I_n$

$= (\dim \mathfrak{g} / \dim \mathfrak{p}) I_n$ and $c = \sum u^j u_j \in Z(U(\mathfrak{g}))$.

Proposition 1. The Casimir operator does not depend on the choice of basis.

Proof. Suppose that $\{v_i\}$ is another basis of \mathfrak{g} . Write by $v_i = \sum a_{ij} u_j$,

then there exists the inverse matrix $A^{-1} = (a^{ij})$ of $A = (a_{ij})$.

We define $h_{ij} = B_p(v_i, v_j) = \sum a_{ik} g_{kl} a_{jl}$. Since \mathfrak{g} is semisimple,

there exists the inverse matrix (h^{ij}) of (h_{ij}) . It follows from

$(h^{ij}) = A^{-1} (g_{ij}) A^t$ that $(h^{ij}) = (A^{-1})^t (g_{ij}) A^{-1}$.

Hence $\sum h^{ij} v_i v_j = \sum a^{ki} g_{kl} a^{lj} v_i v_j = \sum g_{kl} u_k u_l = C$.

This proves our claim.

Q.E.D.

3. Basic example

The origin of Casimir operator may likely be three-dimensional simple

Lie algebra $sl(2;C)$. Since $sl(2;C) = \left\{ X \in Mat(2;C) ; Tr(X) = 0 \right\}$

and $B(x,y) = Tr(XY)$ is non-degenerate bilinear form, one sees that

$\left\{ f, e, h/2 \right\}$ is the dual basis of $\left\{ e, f, h \right\}$, where

$$e = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad f = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad h = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} .$$

Then there are several ways of calculation of the Casimir operator as follows.

$$C = Tr(ee)ff + Tr(ef)fe + Tr(eh)fh/2 + Tr(fe)ef + Tr(ff)ee$$

$$+ Tr(fh)eh/2 + Tr(he)h/2f + Tr(hf)h/2 e + Tr(hh) h/2 h/2$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1/4 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/4 \end{pmatrix} = 3/2 I_2$$

$$C = ef + fe + h h/2 = 3/2 I_2 .$$

4. Main theorem

Let ρ be identical injective representation of $sl(n;C)$, $so(n;R)$, respectively. In this section, we explicitly construct Casimir operator of $(sl(n;C); \rho)$, $(so(n;R); \rho)$, respectively.

(I) Let r be $(n^2 - n)/2$, and consider the following standard basis of $sl(n;C)$;

$$e_1 = E_{12}, e_2 = E_{13}, \dots, e_{n-1} = E_{1n}, e_n = E_{23}, e_{n+1} = E_{24},$$

$$\dots, e_{r-1} = E_{n-2,n}, e_r = E_{n-1,n}, f_1 = E_{21}, f_2 = E_{31}, \dots,$$

$$f_{n-1} = E_{n1}, f_n = E_{32}, f_{n+1} = E_{42}, \dots, f_{r-1} = E_{n,n-2}, f_r = E_{n,n-1},$$

$$h_1 = E_{11} - E_{22}, h_2 = E_{22} - E_{33}, \dots, h_{n-1} = E_{n-1,n-1} - E_{nn}, \text{ where}$$

E_{ij} denote matrix units, and $2r + (n-1) = n^2 - 1 = \dim(sl(n;C))$.

Now let us find out the dual basis with respect to Trace form $B_p(X,Y) = \text{Tr}(XY)$.

We define $n-1$ elements k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{n-1} as follows.

$$k_1 = (n-1)/n E_{11} + (-1/n) E_{22} + (2-n)/n E_{33},$$

$$k_2 = (n-2)/n E_{22} + (-2/n) E_{33} + (4-n)/n E_{44},$$

$$k_3 = (n-3)/n E_{33} + (-3/n) E_{44} + (6-n)/n E_{55},$$

$$k_4 = (n-4)/n E_{44} + (-4/n) E_{55} + (8-n)/n E_{66},$$

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$$k_{n-3} = (n-(n-3))/n E_{n-3,n-3} + (-(n-3))/n E_{n-2,n-2} + (2(n-3)-n)/n E_{n-1,n-1}$$

$$k_{n-2} = (n-(n-2))/n E_{n-2,n-2} + (-(n-2))/n E_{n-1,n-1} + (2(n-2)-n)/n E_{nn}$$

$$k_{n-1} = (2(n-1)-n)/n E_{11} + (n-(n-1))/n E_{n-1,n-1} + (-(n-1))/n E_{nn}$$

Then $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_r, e_1, e_2, \dots, e_r, k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{n-1}\}$

is the dual basis of $\{e_1, \dots, e_r, f_1, \dots, f_r, h_1, \dots, h_{n-1}\}$

such that $B_p(u^j, u_i) = \delta_{ij}$. It follows from $\sum h_i k_i = (n-1)/n I_n$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{that } C &= \sum e_i f_i + \sum f_i e_i + \sum h_i k_i = (n-1) I_n + (n-1)/n I_n \\ &= (n^2 - 1)/n I_n = (\dim g) / (\dim p) I_n. \end{aligned}$$

(II) Let $\{ X_1, \dots, X_r \}$ be a standard basis of $\mathfrak{so}(n;R)$

$$= \left\{ X \in \mathfrak{gl}(n;R) = \text{Mat}(n;R) ; \quad {}^t X + X = 0_n \right\} \text{ as follows.}$$

$$X_1 = E_{12} - E_{21}, \quad X_2 = E_{13} - E_{31}, \quad \dots, \quad X_n = E_{23} - E_{32},$$

$$\dots, \quad X_r = E_{n-1,n} - E_{n,n-1}, \quad \text{where } r = (n^2 - n)/2$$

$$= \dim(\mathfrak{so}(n;R)).$$

Then one sees that $\{ Y_1, \dots, Y_r \}$ is the dual basis of $\{ X_1, \dots, X_r \}$

with respect to Trace form, here $Y_j = (-1/2) X_j$ ($1 \leq j \leq r$). Thus we

$$\text{know that } C = \sum X_j Y_j = (n-1)/2 I_n = ((n^2 - n)/2) / n I_n$$

$$= (\dim \mathfrak{g}) / (\dim \mathfrak{p}) I_n.$$

5. Generalization

Let $\{u_i\}$ be a basis of a r -dimensional semisimple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} over \mathbb{C} , and let $\rho: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(n; \mathbb{C}) = \text{Mat}(n; \mathbb{C})$ be a faithful representation of \mathfrak{g} . For brevity, we write by $U = \rho(u)$ ($u \in \mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus \mathbb{C}u_i$). Let $B_\rho(u, v) = \text{Tr}(UV)$ be non-degenerate symmetric bilinear trace form of (\mathfrak{g}, ρ) , and let $g_{ij} = B_\rho(u_i, u_j)$. Since (g_{ij}) is nonsingular, there exists the inverse matrix (g^{ij}) . Put $u^i = \sum g^{ij} u_j$ ($1 \leq i \leq r$), then one sees that $\{u^i\}$ is the dual basis of $\{u_j\}$ such that $\text{Tr}(U^i U_j) = \delta_{ij}$.

In 1951, G. Racah defined higher-order Casimir operators (i.e. generalized Casimir operator of order $t \geq 2$) as follows.

$$C_t = \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} \cdots U_{i_t}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} \cdots U^{i_t}$$

Furthermore, he constructed a complete set of generators of the center of the universal enveloping algebra of each simple Lie algebra.

Proposition 2. Under the above notations, C_t does not depend on the choice of basis $\{u_i\}$ of \mathfrak{g} .

Proof. The former of the proof of proposition 1 in section 2 is available for our proof with the same notations. Let $\{v_i\}$ be another basis such that v_i

$$= \sum a_{ij} u_j. \text{ Write by } (a^{ij}) = (a_{ij})^{-1}, (\kappa^{ij}) = (\kappa_{ij})^{-1}$$

$$\text{, where } \kappa_{ij} = B_{\mathfrak{g}}(v_i, v_j) = \text{Tr}(V_i V_j) = \sum a_{il} a_{jm} g_{lm}.$$

It follows from $(\kappa^{ij}) = {}^t (a_{ij})^{-1} (g^{ij}) (a_{ij})^{-1}$ that

$$\sum a_{ij} V^l = \sum a_{ij} \kappa^{lm} V_m = \sum a_{ij} \kappa^{lm} a_{ms} U_s = \sum g^{is} U_s = U^s.$$

$$\text{Hence } \sum \text{Tr}(V_{i_1} V_{i_2} \dots V_{i_t}) V^{i_1} V^{i_2} \dots V^{i_t}$$

$$= \sum \text{Tr}(a_{i_1 j_1} a_{i_2 j_2} \dots a_{i_t j_t} U_{j_1} U_{j_2} \dots U_{j_t}) V^{i_1} V^{i_2} \dots V^{i_t}$$

$$= \sum \text{Tr}(U_{j_1} U_{j_2} \dots U_{j_t}) a_{i_1 j_1} V^{i_1} a_{i_2 j_2} V^{i_2} \dots a_{i_t j_t} V^{i_t}$$

$$= \sum \text{Tr}(U_{j_1} U_{j_2} \dots U_{j_t}) U^{j_1} U^{j_2} \dots U^{j_t} = C_t.$$

This completes our proof.

Q.E.D.

Proposition 3. Let $U(\mathfrak{g})$ be the universal enveloping algebra of a semisimple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} over \mathbb{C} , and put $Z(U(\mathfrak{g}))$ its center. Then we have $C_t \in Z(U(\mathfrak{g}))$ for every integer $t \geq 2$.

Proof. It is enough to prove that $C_3 \in Z(U(\mathfrak{g}))$ because our argument of C_3 also works for every integer $t \geq 3$.

Recall the following coefficients $d_{i,j,l}(u_k), c_{i,j,m}(u_k)$ ($1 \leq k \leq r, 1 \leq l, m \leq r = \dim \mathfrak{g}, 1 \leq i, j \leq t$):

$$[u_k, u^{i,j}] = \sum d_{i,j,l}(u_k) u^l, \quad [u_k, u_{i,j}] = \sum c_{i,j,m}(u_k) u_m.$$

Since $B_p([x, y], z) = B_p(x, [y, z])$, we have $d_{ij}(x) = B_p([x, u^i], u_j) = -B_p([u^i, x], u_j) = -c_{ji}(x)$ and $d_{i,j,l}(u_k) = -c_{mij}(u_k)$.

Now let us consider $[u_k, C_3] = u_k C_3 - C_3 u_k$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u_k u^{i_1} u^{i_2} u^{i_3} - \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u^{i_1} u^{i_2} u^{i_3} u_k \\ &= \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u_k u^{i_1} u^{i_2} u^{i_3} - \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u^{i_1} u_k u^{i_2} u^{i_3} \\ &\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u^{i_1} u_k u^{i_2} u^{i_3} - \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u^{i_1} u^{i_2} u_k u^{i_3} \\ &\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u^{i_1} u^{i_2} u_k u^{i_3} - \sum \text{Tr}(u_{i_1} u_{i_2} u_{i_3}) u^{i_1} u^{i_2} u^{i_3} u_k \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U^{i_1}] U^{i_2} U^{i_3} + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U^{i_2}] U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U^{i_3}] \\
&= \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) d_{i_1 \ell}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U^{\ell} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} d_{i_2 \ell}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U^{\ell} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} d_{i_3 \ell}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U^{\ell} \\
&= \sum \text{Tr}(d_{i_1 \ell}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{\ell} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} d_{i_2 \ell}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{\ell} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} d_{i_3 \ell}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{\ell} \\
&= \sum \text{Tr}(-c_{\ell i_1}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}}) U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{\ell} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} (-c_{\ell i_2}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}})) U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{\ell} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad + \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} (-c_{\ell i_3}(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{R}})) U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{\ell} \\
&= - \sum \text{Tr}([U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{\ell}] U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{\ell} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad - \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{\ell}] U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{\ell} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad - \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{\ell}]) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{\ell}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= - \sum \text{Tr}([U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{i_1}] U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad - \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{i_2}] U_{i_3}) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&\quad - \sum \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} [U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{i_3}]) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&= - \sum \text{Tr}([U_{\mathcal{R}}, U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}]) U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&= - \sum \{ \text{Tr}(U_{\mathcal{R}} U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3}) - \text{Tr}(U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3} U_{\mathcal{R}}) \} U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} \\
&= - \sum 0 U^{i_1} U^{i_2} U^{i_3} = \mathbf{0}_{n \times n}
\end{aligned}$$

Hence $U_{\mathcal{R}} C_3 = C_3 U_{\mathcal{R}}$ for every \mathcal{R} ($1 \leq \mathcal{R} \leq r$). Thus we obtain that $C_3 \in Z(U(\mathfrak{g}))$. Q.E.D.

For example, it follows from Chevalley-Kacah result that $Z(U(\mathfrak{sl}(3; \mathbb{C}))) \cong \mathbb{C}[C_2, C_3]$. By elementary calculation, we will show that $C_3 = -\frac{50}{27} I_3$ as follows.

Since $(U_1, U_2, U_3, U_4, U_5, U_6, U_7, U_8) = (E_{12}, E_{23}, E_{13}, E_{21}, E_{32}, E_{31},$

$E_{11} - E_{22}, E_{22} - E_{33})$ and $(U^1, U^2, U^3, U^4, U^5, U^6, U^7, U^8) = (E_{21}, E_{32}, E_{31},$

$E_{21}, E_{23}, E_{13}, (2/3)E_{11} - (1/3)E_{22} - (1/3)E_{33}, (1/3)E_{11} + (1/3)E_{22} - (2/3)E_{33}),$

we have

$$U_1 U_2 = E_{13}, U_1 U_4 = E_{11}, U_1 U_7 = -E_{12}, U_1 U_8 = E_{12}, U_2 U_5 = E_{22}, U_2 U_6 = E_{21},$$

$$U_2 U_8 = -E_{23}, U_3 U_5 = E_{12}, U_3 U_6 = E_{11}, U_3 U_8 = -E_{13}, U_4 U_7 = E_{21}, U_4 U_3 = E_{23},$$

$$U_4 U_1 = E_{22}, U_5 U_2 = E_{33}, U_5 U_4 = E_{31}, U_5 U_7 = -E_{32}, U_5 U_8 = E_{32}, U_6 U_1 = E_{32},$$

$$U_6 U_3 = E_{33}, U_6 U_7 = E_{31}, U_7 U_1 = E_{12}, U_7 U_2 = -E_{23}, U_7 U_3 = E_{13}, U_7 U_4 = -E_{21},$$

$$U_7 U_8 = -E_{22}, U_8 U_2 = E_{23}, U_8 U_4 = E_{21}, U_8 U_5 = -E_{32}, U_8 U_6 = -E_{31}, U_8 U_7 = -E_{22}.$$

Now let us consider all the three-term products $U_{i_1} U_{i_2} U_{i_3} \neq O_3$ which have

non-zero trace as follows.

$$U_1 U_2 U_6 = E_{11}, U_1 U_4 U_7 = E_{11}, U_1 U_7 U_4 = -E_{11}, U_1 U_8 U_4 = E_{11}, U_2 U_5 U_7 = -E_{22},$$

$$U_2 U_5 U_8 = E_{22}, U_2 U_6 U_1 = E_{22}, U_2 U_8 U_5 = -E_{22}, U_3 U_5 U_4 = E_{11}, U_3 U_6 U_7 = E_{11},$$

$$U_3 U_8 U_6 = -E_{11}, U_4 U_7 U_1 = E_{22}, U_4 U_3 U_5 = E_{22}, U_4 U_1 U_7 = -E_{22}, U_4 U_1 U_8 = E_{22},$$

$$U_5 U_2 U_8 = -E_{33}, U_5 U_4 U_3 = E_{33}, U_5 U_7 U_2 = -E_{33}, U_5 U_8 U_2 = E_{33}, U_6 U_1 U_2 = E_{33},$$

$$U_6 U_3 U_8 = -E_{33}, U_6 U_7 U_3 = E_{33}, U_7 U_1 U_4 = E_{11}, U_7 U_2 U_5 = -E_{22}, U_7 U_3 U_6 = E_{11},$$

$$U_7 U_4 U_1 = -E_{22}, U_7 U_8 U_7 = E_{22}, U_7 U_8 U_8 = -E_{22}, U_8 U_2 U_5 = E_{22}, U_8 U_4 U_1 = E_{22},$$

$$U_8 U_5 U_2 = -E_{33}, U_8 U_6 U_3 = -E_{33}, U_8 U_7 U_7 = E_{22}, U_8 U_7 U_8 = -E_{22}.$$

Hence C_3 is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} & U_1 U_2 U_6 + U_1 U_4 U_7 - U_1 U_7 U_4 + U_1 U_8 U_4 - U_2 U_5 U_7 + U_2 U_5 U_8 \\ & + U_2 U_6 U_1 - U_2 U_8 U_5 + U_3 U_5 U_4 + U_3 U_6 U_7 - U_3 U_8 U_6 + U_4 U_7 U_1 + U_4 U_3 U_5 - U_4 U_1 U_7 + U_4 U_1 U_8 \\ & - U_5 U_2 U_8 + U_5 U_4 U_3 - U_5 U_7 U_2 + U_5 U_8 U_2 + U_6 U_1 U_2 - U_6 U_3 U_8 + U_6 U_7 U_3 + U_7 U_1 U_4 - U_7 U_2 U_5 \\ & + U_7 U_3 U_6 - U_7 U_4 U_1 + U_7 U_8 U_7 - U_7 U_8 U_8 + U_8 U_2 U_5 + U_8 U_4 U_1 - U_8 U_5 U_2 - U_8 U_6 U_3 + U_8 U_7 U_7 \\ & - U_8 U_7 U_8 = 0 - 1/3 E_{22} - 2/3 E_{22} + 1/3 E_{22} + 1/3 E_{33} - 2/3 E_{33} + 0 - 1/3 E_{33} + 0 - 1/3 E_{33} \\ & - 1/3 E_{33} - 1/3 E_{11} + 0 - 2/3 E_{11} + 1/3 E_{11} - 1/3 E_{22} + 0 + 1/3 E_{22} - 2/3 E_{22} + 0 - 1/3 E_{11} \\ & - 1/3 E_{11} - 1/3 E_{22} + 1/3 E_{33} - 1/3 E_{33} - 2/3 E_{11} + (4/27 E_{11} + 1/27 E_{22} - 2/27 E_{33}) \\ & - (2/27 E_{11} - 1/27 E_{22} - 4/27 E_{33}) - 2/3 E_{33} + 1/3 E_{11} - 1/3 E_{22} - 1/3 E_{11} \\ & + (4/27 E_{11} + 1/27 E_{22} - 2/27 E_{33}) - (2/27 E_{11} - 1/27 E_{22} - 4/27 E_{33}) \\ & = (-2 + 4/27) I_3. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we obtain that $C_3 = -50/27 I_3$. Here we want to know what does

it mean the number $-50/27$. The most likely result will be obtained by

generalizing Weyl's dimension formula and Freudenthal formula.

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