Some new methods in the Theory of m-Quasi-Invariants

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Submitted: Jan 29, 2005; Accepted: Jul 15, 2005; Published: Aug 30, 2005

Abstract

We introduce here a new approach to the study of m-quasi-invariants. This approach consists in representing m-quasi-invariants as N^{tuples} of invariants. Then conditions are sought which characterize such N^{tuples}. We study here the case of S_3 m-quasi-invariants. This leads to an interesting free module of triplets of polynomials in the elementary symmetric functions e_1, e_2, e_3 which explains certain observed properties of S_3 m-quasi-invariants. We also use basic results on finitely generated graded algebras to derive some general facts about regular sequences of S_n m-quasi-invariants

1 Introduction

The ring of polynomials in $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ with rational coefficients will be denoted $\mathbb{Q}[X_n]$. For $P \in \mathbb{Q}[X_n]$ we will write $P(x)$ for $P(x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n)$.

Let us denote by s_{ij} the transposition which interchanges x_i with x_j. Note that for any pair i, j and exponents a, b we have the identities

$$\frac{x_i^a x_j^b - x_j^a x_i^b}{x_i - x_j} = \begin{cases} x_i^a x_j^a \left(\sum_{r=0}^{b-a-1} x_j^r x_i^{b-a-1-r}\right) & \text{if } a \le b\,, \\ \\ x_i^b x_j^b \left(\sum_{r=0}^{a-b-1} x_i^r x_j^{a-b-1-r}\right) & \text{if } a > b. \end{cases} \tag{1.1}$$

This shows that the ratio in (1.1) is always a polynomial that is symmetric in x_i, x_j. It immediately follows from (1.1) that the so-called "*divided difference*" operator

$$\delta_{ij} = \frac{1}{x_i - x_j}(1 - s_{ij})$$

sends polynomials into polynomials symmetric in x_i, x_j.

It follows from this that for any $P \in \mathbb{Q}[X_n]$ the highest power of $(x_i - x_j)$ that divides the difference $(1 - s_{ij})P$ must necessarily be odd. This given, a polynomial $P \in \mathbb{Q}[X_n]$ is said to be "*m-quasi-invariant*" if and only if, for all pairs $1 \leq i < j \leq n$, the difference

$$(1 - s_{ij})P(x)$$

is divisible by $(x_i - x_j)^{2m+1}$. The space of m-quasi-invariant polynomials in $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$ will here and after be denoted "$\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$" or briefly "$\mathcal{QI}_m$". Clearly $\mathcal{QI}_m$ is a vector space over $\mathbb{Q}$, moreover since the operators δ_{ij} satisfy the "*Leibnitz*" formula

$$\delta_{ij}\, PQ = (\delta_{ij}P)Q + (s_{ij}P)\delta_{ij}Q \tag{1.2}$$

we see that $\mathcal{QI}_m$ is also a ring. Note that we have the inclusions

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{Q}[X_n] \;&=\; \mathcal{QI}_0[X_n] \supset \mathcal{QI}_1[X_n] \supset \mathcal{QI}_2[X_n] \supset \cdots \supset \mathcal{QI}_m[X_n] \supset \cdots \supset \mathcal{QI}_\infty[X_n] \\ &= \mathcal{SYM}[X_n]\,.\end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{SYM}[X_n]$ here denotes the ring of symmetric polynomials in $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$.

It was recently shown by Etingof and Ginzburg [4] that each $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ is a free module over $\mathcal{SYM}[X_n]$ of rank $n!$. In fact, this is only the S_n case of a general result that is proved in [4] for all Coxeter groups. There is an extensive literature (see [1], [3], [5], [7], [9]) covering several aspects of quasi-invariants. These spaces appear to possess a rich combinatorial underpinning resulting in truly surprising identities. The S_n case deserves special attention since the results in this case extend in a remarkable manner many well known classical results that hold true for the familiar polynomial ring $\mathbb{Q}[X_n]$. To be precise note that for each m we have the direct sum decomposition

$$\mathcal{QI}_m = \mathcal{H}_0\big[\mathcal{QI}_m\big] \oplus \mathcal{H}_1\big[\mathcal{QI}_m\big] \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{H}_k\big[\mathcal{QI}_m\big] \oplus \cdots$$

where $\mathcal{H}_k\big[\mathcal{QI}_m\big]$ denotes the subspace of m-quasi-invariants that are homogeneous of degree k. Since m-quasi-invariance and homogeneity are preserved by the S_n action each $\mathcal{H}_k\big[\mathcal{QI}_m\big]$ is an S_n module and we can thus define the graded Frobenius characteristic of $\mathcal{QI}_m$ by setting

$$\Phi_m(x;q) = \sum_{k \geq 0} q^k F char \mathcal{H}_k\big[\mathcal{QI}_m\big] \tag{1.3}$$

where we denote by F the Frobenius map. Now it is shown by Felder and Veselov in [6] that we have

$$(1-q)(1-q^2)\cdots(1-q^n)\Phi_m(x;q) = \sum_{\lambda \vdash n} S_\lambda \Big(\sum_{T \in ST(\lambda)} q^{co(T)} \Big) q^{m\left(\binom{n}{2} - c_\lambda\right)} \tag{1.4}$$

where S_λ is the Schur function corresponding to λ, $ST(\lambda)$ denotes the collection of standard tableaux of shape λ, $co(T)$ denotes the cocharge of T and c_λ gives the sum of the contents of the partition λ. This truly beautiful formula extends in a surprisingly simple manner the well known classical result for $m = 0$. In fact, more is true. Since the ideal

$$(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}$$

generated in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ by the elementary symmetric functions $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ is also S_n-invariant, it follows from the Etingov-Ginsburg result that the polynomial on the right hand side of (1.4) is none other than the graded Frobenius characteristic of the quotient

$$\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]/(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}. \tag{1.5}$$

Unfortunately, the literature on quasi-invariants makes use of such formidable machinery that presently the theory is accessible only to a few. This given, the above examples should provide sufficient motivation for a further study of S_n m-quasi-invariants from a more elementary point of view.

In this vein we find particularly intriguing in (1.4) the degree shift of each isotypic component of $\mathcal{QI}_m$ expressed by the presence of the factor

$$q^{m\left(\binom{n}{2}-c_\lambda\right)}.$$

This shift pops out almost magically from manipulations involving a certain *Knizhnik-Zamolodchikov connection* used in [6] to compute the graded character of $\mathcal{QI}_m$.

The present work results from an effort to understand the underlining mechanism that produces this degree shift. In this paper we only deal with the S_3 case but the methods we introduce should provide a new approach to the general study of m-quasi-invariants.

The idea is to start with what is known when $m = 0$ and determine the deformations that are needed to obtain $\mathcal{QI}_m$. More precisely our point of departure is the following well known result.

Theorem 1.6 *Every polynomial $P(x) \in \mathbf{Q}[X_n]$ has a unique expansion in the form*

$$P(x) = \sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(n)} x^\epsilon A_\epsilon(x) \quad (\textit{with } A_\epsilon \in \mathcal{SYM}[X_n]\ ) \tag{1.7}$$

and

$$\mathcal{ART}(n) = \left\{\, x^\epsilon = x_1^{\epsilon_1} x_1^{\epsilon_2} \cdots x_n^{\epsilon_n} \,:\, 0 \leq \epsilon_i \leq i-1 \,\right\}, \tag{1.8}$$

It follows from this that each $P(x) \in \mathbf{Q}[X_n]$ may be uniquely represented by a $n!^{tuple}$ of symmetric polynomials. The question then naturally arises as to what conditions these symmetric polynomials must satisfy so that $P(x)$ lies in $\mathcal{QI}_m$. In this work we give a complete answer for S_3. Remarkably, we shall see that, even in this very special case, the answer stems from a variety of interesting developments. We should mention that Feigin and Veselov in [7] prove the freeness result of the m-quasi-invariants for all Dihedral groups. They do this by exhibiting a completely explicit basis for the quotients analogous to (1.5). Of course, since the S_3 m-quasi-invariants are easily obtained from the m-quasi-invariants of the dihedral groupd D_3, in principle, the results in [7] should have a bearing on what we do here. However, as we shall see in the first section, the freeness result for m-quasi-invariants is quite immediate whenever the invariants form a polynomial ring on two generators. Moreover, the methods used in [7] are quite distinct from ours and don't reveal the origin of the observed degree shift.

This paper is divided in to three sections. In the first section we start with a review of some basic facts and definitions concerning finitely generated graded algebras. Two noteworthy developments in this section are a very simple completely elementary proof of the freeness result for dihedral groups m-quasi-invariants and the remarkable fact that the freeness result for all m-quasi-invariants follows in a completely elementary manner from one single inequality. Namely that the quotient of the ring m-quasi-invariants by the ideal generated by the G-invariants has dimension bounded by the order of G. In the second section we determine the conditions that 6^{tuples} of symmetric functions give an element of $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$. It develops that the trivial and alternating representations are immediately dealt with. In the third section we show how that these conditions, for the 2-dimensional irreducible of S_3, lead to the construction of an interesting free module of triplets over the ring $\mathbb{Q}[e_1, e_2, e_3]$ which is at the root of the observed degree shift for S_3.

2 Cohen-Macauliness and m-quasi-invariants.

Before we can proceed with our arguments we need to introduce notation and state a few basic facts. To begin let us recall that the Hilbert series of a finitely generated, graded algebra $\mathcal{A}$ is given by the formal sum

$$F_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \sum_{m \geq 0} t^m \dim \mathcal{H}_m(\mathcal{A}) \tag{2.1}$$

where $\mathcal{H}_m(\mathcal{A})$ denotes the subspace spanned by the elements of $\mathcal{A}$ that are homogeneous of degree m. It is well known that $F_{\mathcal{A}}(t)$ is a rational function of the form

$$F_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \frac{P(t)}{(1-t)^k}$$

with $P(t)$ a polynomial. The minimum k for which this is possible characterizes the growth of $\dim \mathcal{H}_m(\mathcal{A})$ as $m \to \infty$. This integer is customarily called the "*Krull dimension*" of $\mathcal{A}$ and is denoted "$\dim_K \mathcal{A}$". It is easily shown that we can always find in $\mathcal{A}$ homogeneous elements $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$ such that the quotient of $\mathcal{A}$ by the ideal generated by $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$ is a finite dimensional vector space. In symbols

$$\dim \mathcal{A}/(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k)_{\mathcal{A}} < \infty \tag{2.2}$$

It is shown that $\dim_K \mathcal{A}$ is also equal to the minimum k for which this is possible. When (2.2) holds true and $k = \dim_K \mathcal{A}$ then $\{\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k\}$ is called a "homogeneous system of parameters", $\mathcal{HSOP}$ in brief.

It follows from (2.2) that if $\eta_1, \eta_2, \ldots, \eta_N$ are a basis for the quotient in (2.2) then every element of $\mathcal{A}$ has an expansion of the form

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \eta_i P_i(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k) \tag{2.3}$$

with coefficients $P_i(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k)$ polynomials in their arguments. The algebra $\mathcal{A}$ is said to be Cohen-Macaulay, when the coefficients $P_i(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k)$ are uniquely determined by P. This amounts to the requirement that the collection

$$\left\{\eta_i \, \theta_1^{p_1} \theta_2^{p_2} \cdots \theta_k^{p_k}\right\}_{i,p} \tag{2.4}$$

is a basis for $\mathcal{A}$ as a vector space. Note that when this happens and $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$; $\eta_1, \eta_2, \ldots, \eta_N$ are homogeneous of degrees $d_1, d_2, \ldots, d_k; r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_N$ then we must necessarily have

$$F_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} t^{r_i}}{(1-t^{d_1})(1-t^{d_2})\cdots(1-t^{d_k})} \tag{2.5}$$

from which it follows that $k = \dim_K \mathcal{A}$. It develops that this identity implies that, for any $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$ the element θ_i is not a zero a zero divisor of the quotient

$$\mathcal{A}/(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_{i-1})_{\mathcal{A}}$$

We call such sequences $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$ "*regular*". Conversely, if $\mathcal{A}$ has an $\mathcal{HSOP}$ $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$ that is a regular sequence, then (2.5) must hold true for any basis $\eta_1, \eta_2, \ldots, \eta_N$ of the quotient $\mathcal{A}/(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k)_{\mathcal{A}}$ and the uniqueness in the expansions (2.4) must necessarily follow yielding the Cohen-Macauliness of $\mathcal{A}$. However, for our applications to m-Quasi-Invariants we need to make use of the following stronger criterion

Proposition 2.6 *Let $\mathcal{A}$ be finitely generated graded algebra and $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$ be an $\mathcal{HSOP}$ with $d_i = degree(\theta_i)$, then $\mathcal{A}$ is Cohen-Macaulay and $\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k$ is a regular sequence if and only if*

$$\lim_{t\to\ -1} (1-t^{d_1})(1-t^{d_2})\cdots(1-t^{d_k}) F_{\mathcal{A}}(t) = \dim\, \mathcal{A}/(\theta_1, \theta_2, \ldots, \theta_k)_{\mathcal{A}} \tag{2.7}$$

This result is known. An elemtary proof of it may be found in [8].

A particular example which plays a role here is when $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$ is the ordinary polynomial ring and the $\mathcal{HSOP}$ is the sequence $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ of elementary symmetric functions. As we mentioned in the introduction following result is well known but for sake of completeness we give a sketch of the proof.

Theorem 2.8 *Every polynomial $P(x) \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$ has a unique expansion of the form*

$$P(x) = \sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(n)} x^\epsilon P_\epsilon(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n) \tag{2.9}$$

where

$$\mathcal{ART}(n) = \left\{ x^\epsilon = x_1^{\epsilon_1} x_2^{\epsilon_2} \cdots x_n^{\epsilon_n} \;:\; 0 \le \epsilon_i \le i-1 \right\}$$

In particular $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ is a regular sequence.

Proof It is easily seen that we have

$$\prod_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{1-tx_i} \cong 1$$

where "$\cong$" here denotes equivalence modulo the ideal $(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)$. This implies the identity

$$\prod_{j=1}^{i-1} \big(1-tx_j\big) \;\cong\; \prod_{j=i}^{n} \frac{1}{\big(1-tx_j\big)} = \sum_{r\geq 0} h_r(x_i, x_{i+1} \ldots, x_n) t^r \,.$$

Equating coefficients of t^i we derive that

$$0 \;\cong\; h_i(x_i, x_{i+1} \ldots, x_n)$$

Now this gives

$$x_i^i \;\cong \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} x_i^j h_{i-j}(x_{i+1} \ldots, x_n) \quad (\text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq n-1) \tag{2.10}$$

as well as

$$x_n^n \cong 0 \,. \tag{2.11}$$

It is easily seen that (2.10) and (2.11) yield an algorithm for expressing, modulo the ideal $(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)$, every monomial as a linear combination of monomials in $\mathcal{ART}(n)$. This implies that the collection

$$\big\{ x^\epsilon e_1^{p_1} e_2^{p_2} \cdots e_n^{p_n} \;:\; x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(n)\,;\, p_i \geq 0 \big\} \tag{2.12}$$

spans $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$. In particular we derive the coefficient-wise inequality

$$F_{\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]}(t) << \frac{\prod_{i=2}^{n}(1+t+\cdots+t^{i-1})}{(1-t)(1-t^2)\cdots(1-t^n)} = \frac{1}{(1-t)^n} \tag{2.13}$$

since

$$F_{\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]}(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)^n}$$

equality must hold in (2.13), but that implies that the collection in (2.12) has the correct number of elements in each degree and must therefore be a basis, proving uniqueness for the expansions in (2.18).

We can now apply these observations to the study of m-quasi-invariants. To begin note that, we have the following useful fact

Theorem 2.14 *To prove that $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ is a regular sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ we need only construct a spanning set of $n!$ elements for the quotient*

$$\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]/(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]} \tag{2.15}$$

In particular the Cohen-Macauliness of $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ is equivalent to the statement that this quotient has $n!$ dimensions.

Proof Let $\Pi(x)$ denote the Vandermonde determinant

$$\Pi(x) = \prod_{1\leq i<j\leq n} (x_i - x_j)\,.$$

This given, it is easy to see that the map

$$P(x) \ \longrightarrow \Pi(x)^{2m} P(x)$$

is an injection of $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$ into $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$. This fact combined with the inclusion $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n] \subseteq \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$ yields the coefficient-wise Hilbert series inequalities

$$\frac{t^{n(n-1)m}}{(1-t)^n} \ << \ F_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}(t) \ << \ \frac{1}{(1-t)^n}$$

this gives

$$\lim_{t\to \ ^-1}(1-t)(1-t^2)\cdots(1-t^n)F_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}(t) = n!\,. \tag{2.16}$$

Thus if $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ is a regular in sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$, (2.25) then the quotient

$$\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]/(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]} \tag{2.17}$$

must be of dimension $n!$. To prove the converse, note that if we have a homogeneous basis $\eta_1, \eta_2, \ldots \eta_N$,of degrees $r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_n$, for this quotient, then we the Hilbert series inequality

$$F_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}(t) << \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N t^{r_i}}{(1-t)(1-t^2)\cdots(1-t^n)}$$

combined with (2.16) yields that

$$n! \leq N.$$

On the other hand if we have a spanning set of $n!$ elements for the quotient in (2.17) we must also have

$$N \leq n!$$

This forces the equality

$$\lim_{t\to \ ^-1}(1-t)(1-t^2)\cdots(1-t^n)F_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}(t) = \dim \mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]/(e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n)_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}\,.$$

Thus we can apply Proposition 2.6 and derive that $e_1, e_2, \ldots, e_n$ is a regular sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$. This completes our argument.

It develops that the regularity of e_1, e_2, e_3, can be shown in a very elementary fashion for all n. This of course implies the Cohen-Macauliness of $\mathcal{QI}[X_3]$. But before we give the general argument it will be good to go over the case of e_1, e_2, e_3 in $\mathcal{QI}[X_3]$. In fact, we can proceed a bit more generally and work in the Dihedral group setting.

Let us recall that the Dihedral group D_n is the group of transformations of the x, y plane generated by the reflection T across the x-axis and a rotation R_n by $2\pi/n$. In complex notation we may write

$$Tz = \overline{z}\,, \quad \text{and} \quad R_n z = e^{2\pi i/n} z \tag{2.18}$$

It follows from this that the two fundamental invariants of D_n are

$$p_2 = x^2 + y^2\,, \quad \text{and} \quad g_n = Re\, z^n = \sum_{r=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \binom{n}{2r} (-1)^r x^{n-2r} y^{2r}\,. \tag{2.19}$$

Note that if $n = 2k$ and we set

$$P(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{k} \binom{2k}{2r} (-1)^r t^{k-r}$$

then we may write

$$P(t) = P(-1) + (1+t)Q(t) \tag{2.20}$$

with $Q(t)$ a polynomial of degree $k-1$. Now setting $t = x^2/y^2$ in (2.20) and mutiplying both sides by y^{2k} we get, since $P(-1) = (-1)^k 2^{2k-1}$

$$g_n(x,y) = (-1)^k 2^{2k-1} y^{2k} + p_2(x,y)\, y^{2k-2} Q(x^2/y^2)\,.$$

This shows that y^{2k} lies in the ideal $(p_2, g_n)_{\mathbb{Q}[x,y]}$. In particular, under the total order $x > y$ we derive that x^2 and y^{2k} lie in the upper set of leading monomials of the elements of this ideal. It follows that the monomials

$$1, y, y^2, \ldots, y^{2k-1}\,;\; x, xy, xy^2, \ldots, xy^{2k-1} \tag{2.21}$$

span the quotient

$$\mathbb{Q}[x,y]/(p_2, g_n)_{\mathbb{Q}[x,y]} \tag{2.22}$$

This forces the Hilbert series inequality

$$F_{\mathbb{Q}[x,y]}(t) << \frac{(1+t)\big(1 + t + \cdots + t^{2k-1}\big)}{(1-t^2)(1-t^{2k})} = \frac{1}{(1-t)^2}$$

since we also have

$$F_{\mathbb{Q}[x,y]}(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)^2}$$

It follows that the monomials in (2.21) are in fact a basis for the quotient in (2.22). An analogous argument yields a similar result when $n = 2k+1$. We need only observe that in this case we use the polynomial

$$P(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{k} \binom{2k+1}{2r} (-1)^r t^r$$

and the total order $y > x$ to obtain that y^2 and x^{2k+1} are in the upper set of leading monomials of the ideal $(p_2, g_n)_{\mathbb{Q}[x,y]}$. This implies that

$$1, x, x^2, \ldots, x^{2k}\,;\; y, yx, yx^2, \ldots, yx^{2k}$$

are a basis of the quotient in (2.22). Thus in either case we obtain that and that p_2, g_n are a regular sequence in $\mathbb{Q}[x,y]$.

It develops that this immediately implies the Cohen Macauliness the ring $\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)$ of m-quasi-invariants of D_n. More precisely we have

Theorem 2.23 *The D_n invariants p_2, g_n are a regular sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)$.*

Proof By definition, a polynomial $P(x,y) \in \mathbb{Q}[x,y]$ is said to be D_n m-quasi-invariant if and only if for any reflection s of D_n we have

$$(1-s)P(x,y) = \alpha_s(x,y)^{2m+1}P'(x,y) \quad (P'(x,y) \in \mathbb{Q}[x,y])$$

where $\alpha_s(x,y)$ denotes the equation of the line accross which s reflects. This given, since $\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}[x,y]$, we clearly see that p_2 itself is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)$. So we need only show that g_n is not a zero divisor modulo $(p_2)_{\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)}$. Now suppose that for some $H \in \mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)$ we have

$$H\, g_n = p_2 K \quad (\text{with } K \in \mathcal{QI}_m(D_n))\,.$$

Then since p_2, g_n are regular in $\mathbb{Q}[x,y]$ it follows that for some $K' \in \mathbb{Q}[x,y]$ we have

$$H = p_2\, K'$$

applying $1-s$ to both sides the invariance of p_2 gives

$$(1-s)H(x,y) = (x^2+y^2)(1-s)K'(x,y)$$

and the m-quasi-invariance of H yields that $\alpha_s(x,y)^{2m+1}$ divides the right hand side. Since x^2+y^2 has no real factor, the polynomial $(1-s)K'(x,y)$ must be divisible by $(x,y)^{2m+1}$. This shows that $K' \in \mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)$ proving that g_n in not a zero divisor in $(p_2)_{\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)}$ and our argument is complete.

Our next step is to use the fact that the Weyl group of A_2 is D_3 to derive the Cohen-Macauliness of $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$. To this end set

$$f_1 = (1,0,0), \quad f_2 = (0,1,0), \quad f_1 = (0,0,1)\,.$$

and take as basis for the plane

$$\Pi = \{(x_1,x_2,x_3) \,:\, x_1+x_2+x_3 = 0\}$$

the orthonormal vectors

$$u = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\Big(\frac{f_1+f_2}{2} - f_3\Big), \qquad v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(f_2 - f_1)\,.$$

This gives the expansions

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(f_1-f_2) = -v, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(f_1-f_3) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\,u - \frac{1}{2}\,v, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(f_2-f_3) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\,u + \frac{1}{2}\,v\,.$$

Note that we also have

$$x\,u + y\,v = f_1\Big(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\,x \,-\, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\,y\Big) + f_2\Big(\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\,x \,+\, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\,y\Big) - f_3\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\,x$$

Since the vector

$$(x_1 - e_1/3 \; x_2 - e_1/3 \quad x_3 - e_1/3) \quad (\text{with } e_1 = x_1 + x_2 + x_3)$$

lies in the plane Π we can find x, y giving

$$x_1 - e_1/3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\, x \;-\; \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\, y, \quad x_2 - e_1/3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\, x \;+\; \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\, y, \quad x_3 - e_1/3 = -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\, x$$

Solving these equations for x and y gives

$$x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\,(e_1 - 3x_3), \quad y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(x_2 - x_1)$$

Thus the substitution maps

$$\phi \,:\, \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, x_3] \;\longrightarrow\; \mathbb{Q}[x, y], \qquad\qquad \psi \,:\, \mathbb{Q}[x, y] \;\longrightarrow\; \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$$

defined by setting

$$\phi P(x_1, x_2, x_3) = P\big(\phi(x_1), \phi(x_2), \phi(x_3)\big), \qquad \psi Q(x, y) = Q\big(\psi(x), \psi(y)\big)$$

with

$$\phi(x_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\, x \;-\; \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\, y, \quad \phi(x_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\, x \;+\; \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\, y, \quad \phi(x_3) = -\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\, x \tag{2.24}$$

and

$$\psi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\big(e_1 - 3x_3\big), \quad \psi(y) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(x_2 - x_1) \tag{2.25}$$

satisfy the identities

$$x_1 = \psi\phi(x_1) + e_1/3, \quad x_1 = \psi\phi(x_2) + e_1/3, \quad x_1 = \psi\phi(x_3) + e_1/3\,.$$

In particular it follows that for $P(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$ we will have

$$P(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \psi\phi P(x_1, x_2, x_3) + e_1 Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) \tag{2.26}$$

with $Q(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, x_3]$. Moreover, a simple calculation with the elementary symmetric functions

$$e_1 = x_1 + x_2 + x_3, \quad e_2 = x_1x_2 + x_1x_3 + x_2x_3, \quad e_3 = x_1x_2x_3$$

gives

$$\phi(e_1) = 0, \quad \phi(e_2) = -\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2}, \quad \phi(e_3) = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{6}}\big(x^3 - 3xy^2\big) = \frac{1}{3\sqrt{6}}\, g_3(x, y)\,. \tag{2.27}$$

We have now all the ingredients needed to prove

Theorem 2.28 *The elementary symmetric functions e_1, e_2, e_3 are a regular sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$.*

Proof Clearly, e_1 is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$. Likewise, we can show that e_2 is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]/(e_1)_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]}$ in exactly the same way we showed that g_n is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)/(p_2)_{\mathcal{QI}_m(D_n)}$. The only remaining step is to show that

$$h\, e_3 = Ae_1 + Be_2 \qquad \text{with} \quad h, A, B \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_3] \tag{2.29}$$

implies

$$h = \overline{A}e_1 + \overline{B}e_2 \qquad \text{with} \quad \overline{A}, \overline{B} \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]. \tag{2.30}$$

Note that using the relations in (2.27), (2.29) gives

$$\phi(h)\frac{1}{3\sqrt{6}}\big(x^3 - 3xy^2\big) = -\phi(B)(x^2+y^2)/2$$

Since ϕ maps S_3 m-quasi-invariants onto D_3 m-quasi-invariants, from Theorem 2.23 we derive that

$$\phi(h) = C(x,y)\,(x^2+y^2) \tag{2.31}$$

with $C(x,y)$ a D_3 m-quasi-invariant. Applying ψ to both sides and using (2.38) we get

$$h = \psi(C)\psi((x^2+y^2)) + e_1 D \tag{2.32}$$

with a suitable polynomial D. But

$$\begin{aligned}
\psi(x^2+y^2) &= \frac{1}{6}\Big(e_1^2 - 6e_1x_3 + 9x_3^2\Big) + \frac{1}{2}\big(x_2^2 + x_1^2 - 2x_1x_2\big) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}\Big(e_1^2 - 6e_1x_3 + 9x_3^2 + 3x_2^2 + 3x_1^2 - 6x_1x_2\Big) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}\Big(e_1^2 - 6(x_1x_3 + x_2x_3 + x_3^2) + 9x_3^2 + 3x_2^2 + 3x_1^2 - 6x_1x_2\Big) \\
&= \frac{1}{6}\Big(4e_1^2 \;-\; 12e_2\Big) = \frac{2}{3}e_1^2 - 2\,e_2
\end{aligned} \tag{2.33}$$

Thus combining (2.32) and (2.33) we obtain

$$h = \psi(C)\big(\tfrac{2}{3}e_1^2 - 2\,e_2\big) + e_1 D \tag{2.34}$$

Since $\psi(C)$ is an S_3 m-quasi-invariant and $\frac{2}{3}e_1^2 - 2\,e_2$ is invariant, this relation forces D to be S_3 m-quasi-invariant as well and our argument is complete.

We terminate this section by showing that the mechanism we have used for passing from the Weyl group of A_2 to S_3 can be extended to all n. More precisely we can show that

Theorem 2.35 *For any $1 < i_2 < i_3 \leq n$ the elementary symmetric functions e_1, e_{i_2}, e_{i_3} are a regular sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$.*

Proof

We start by noting that the same argument we used for D_n yields that for any $1 < i_2 \leq n$ the two elementary symmetric functions e_1, e_{i_2} are a regular sequence in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$. So the extension of the previous argument consists in deriving from this that e_{i_3} is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{QI}_m(X_n]/(e_1, e_{i_2})_{\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]}$. Since e_{i_2}, e_{i_3} are basic S_n-invariants for the polynomials on the space $V = \{x_1+x_2+\cdots+x_n = 0\}$, this particular step is a consequence of the following general result. To state it we need some definitions.

Let $\lambda(x) = a_1x_1 + \cdots + a_nx_n$ be a nonzero homogeneous polynomial in n variables and let u be such that $\lambda(u) = 1$. Let R be a subalgebra of the algebra of polynomials on V. If f is a polynomial on V we extend f to $\mathbb{Q}^n$ by setting $f(v + tu) = f(v)$. If $g \in \mathbb{Q}[x_1, \ldots, x_n]$ then we write $\overline{g}$ for the restiction $g_{|V}$ of g to V. Let S be the subalgebra of $\mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n]$ generated by the extensions of the elements of R and λ. This given we have

Theorem 2.36 *If $f_1, \ldots, f_k$ is a regular sequence in R then $\lambda, f_1, \ldots, f_k$ is a regular sequence in S.*

Proof

Every element, f, of S has a unique expansion (ignoring coefficients that are 0)

$$f = \overline{f} + f_1\lambda + \cdots + f_d\lambda^d$$

with $f_i \in R$. Clearly λ is not a zero divisor in S. Suppose that $g \in S$ and $gf_1 \in S\lambda$. Then

$$g = \overline{g} + g_1\lambda + \cdots + g_r\lambda^r$$

with $\overline{g}, g_1, \ldots, g_r \in R$. Restricting to V we have $\overline{g}f_1 = 0$. Since f_1 is not a zero divisor in R this implies that $\overline{g} = 0$. Hence $g = \lambda(g_1 + \cdots + g_r\lambda^{r-1}) = \lambda h$ with $h \in S$. Assume that we have shown that $\lambda, f_1, \ldots, f_{j-1}$ is a regular sequence in S. Suppose that we have

$$gf_j = h_0\lambda + h_1f_1 + \cdots + h_{j-1}f_{j-1}$$

with $h_l \in S$ for $l = 0, \ldots, j-1$. Restricting both sides of this equation to V we get

$$\overline{g}f_j = \overline{h_1}f_1 + \cdots + \overline{h_{j-1}}f_{j-1}.$$

Here $\overline{h_l} \in R$ for $l = 1, \ldots, j-1$ and since $f_1, \ldots, f_j$ is a regular sequence in R this implies that

$$\overline{g} = \gamma_1f_1 + \cdots + \gamma_{j-1}f_{j-1} \quad \text{(with } \gamma_i \in R \text{ for } i = 1, \ldots, j-1.)$$

Now $g = \overline{g} + g_1\lambda + \cdots + g_r\lambda^r$ with $g_i \in R$. Thus $g - \overline{g} = \lambda(g_1 + \cdots + g_r\lambda^{r-1}) = \lambda h$ with $h \in S$. Hence

$$g = \gamma_1f_1 + \cdots + \gamma_{j-1}f_{j-1} + \lambda h\,.$$

This completes the proof.

To apply this result to m-quasi-invariants. We take $\lambda(x) = e_1 = x_1 + \cdots + x_n$, $u = (1, \ldots, 1)/n$ and V the zero set of e_1. Finally we take R be the S_n m-quasi-invariants polynomials on V and let $S = \mathcal{QI}_M[X_n]$. The only missing ingredient is given by the following

Lemma 2.37 *$\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ is the subalgebra of $\mathbb{Q}[x_1,\ldots,x_n]$ generated by R and e_1.*

Proof First observe that if $g = he_1$ and $g \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ then $h \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$. Indeed, if α is a root of A_{n-1}then $(1-s_\alpha)g = ((1-s_\alpha)h)e_1$. Now $(1-s_\alpha)g = \alpha^{2m+1}w$. Thus have

$$\alpha^{2m+1}w = ((1-s_\alpha)h)e_1.$$

But α and e_1 are relatively prime. Hence e_1 divides w. That is $w = \phi e_1$. Hence $((1-s_\alpha)h)e_1 = \alpha^{2m+1}\phi e_1$. Dividing off e_1 yields the m-quasi-invariance of h.

We need to show that if $f \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ and if

$$f = f_0 + f_1 e_1 + \cdots + f_r e_1^r \tag{2.38}$$

with f_i polynomials on V then $f_i \in R$ for all i. Note that the assertion is trivially true for $r = 0$. We can thus proceed by induction on r and assume the assertion true up to $r-1$. To prove it for r note that if we restrict both sides of (2.38) to V we have $\overline{f} = f_0$. Since $f \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$, $\overline{f} \in R$. Thus $f_0 \in R$. Now $f - f_0 = e_1(f_1 + \cdots + f_r e_1^{r-1})$. From the observation at the beginning of the proof we derive that $f_1 + \cdots + f_r e_1^{r-1} \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$ and the induction hypothesis completes the argument.

3 More on S_3 m-quasi-invariants.

Using Theorem 2.8 we will start by writing every element $P(x) \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$ in the form

$$P(x) = A_{000} + A_{010}x_2 + A_{001}x_3 + A_{011}x_2x_3 + A_{002}x_2^2 + A_{012}\,x_2x_3^2\,. \tag{3.1}$$

Our goal is to see what conditions the coefficients A_{ijk} must satisfy to assure that $P(x) \in \mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$. The idea is to use the fact that the spaces $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ are S_n modules to gain information about these kinds of expansions. This given, our point of departure is the following identity in the algebra of S_3.

$$id = \mathcal{S}_3 + \tfrac{1}{3}(1-s_{12})(1+s_{23}) + \tfrac{1}{3}(1-s_{23})(1+s_{12}) + \mathcal{A}_3 \tag{3.2}$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}_3 = \tfrac{1}{6}\big(1 + s_{12} + s_{13} + s_{23} + (1,2,3) + (3,2,1)\big)$$

and

$$\mathcal{A}_3 = \tfrac{1}{6}\big(1 - s_{12} - s_{13} - s_{23} + (1,2,3) + (3,2,1)\big)$$

Note that, since the operator $\mathcal{A}_3$ kills all the monomials $1, x_2, x_3, x_2x_3, x_3^2$, applying it to P as given by (3.1) gives

$$\mathcal{A}_3 P = A_{012}\Pi_3(x)/6$$

with

$$\Pi_n(x) = \prod_{1\le i<j\le n}(x_i - x_j).$$

However, note that it is an immediate consequence of the definition that any alternant in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_n]$ must be a multiple of $\Pi(x)^{2m+1}$ by a symmetric polynomial. This implies that the symmetric polynomial A_{012} must necessarily be a multiple of $\Pi_3(x)^{2m}$. Note further that a multiple of $\Pi_3(x)^{2m}$ by any polynomal in x_1, x_2, x_3 lies in $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$. This given, we see that A_{012} may here and after be assumed to be of the form $A_{012} = B(x)\Delta_3(x)^{2m}$ with $B(x)$ an arbitrary symmetric polynomial. It is also clear that A_{000} can also be arbitrarily chosen. This reduces our study to the elements of $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$ which are of the form

$$P(x) = A_{010}x_2 + A_{001}x_3 + A_{011}x_2x_3 + A_{002}x_3^2 \,. \tag{3.3}$$

When we apply the identity in (3.2) to this expansion we derive that

$$P(x) = A(x) + \tfrac{1}{3}(1 - s_{12})(1 + s_{23})P(x) + \tfrac{1}{3}(1 - s_{23})(1 + s_{12})P(x)$$

with $A(x)$ a suitable symmetric polynomial. This is because $\mathcal{A}_3$ kills every monomial in (3.3) and $\mathcal{S}_3$ sends every monomial into a symmetric function .

Now we see that

$$(1 + s_{23})P(x) = A_{010}(x_2 + x_3) + A_{001}(x_2 + x_3) + 2A_{011}x_2x_3 + A_{002}(x_2^2 + x_3^2) \tag{3.4}$$

but we can easily check that we have

$$x_2^2 + x_3^2 = -x_2x_3 - e_2 + e_1(x_2 + x_3) \tag{3.5}$$

Using this (3.4) becomes

$$(1 + s_{23})P(x) = -A_{002}e_2 + (A_{010} + A_{001} + e_1A_{002})(x_2 + x_3) + (2A_{011} - A_{002})x_2x_3 +$$

Note further that

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + s_{12})P(x) &= A_{010}(x_1 + x_2) + 2A_{001}x_3 + A_{011}(x_1 + x_2)x_3 + 2A_{002}x_3^2 \\ &= A_{010}(e_1 - x_3) + 2A_{001}x_3 + A_{011}(e_1 - x_3)x_3 + 2A_{002}x_3^2 \\ &= A_{010}e_1 + (2A_{001} - A_{010} + e_1A_{011})x_3 + (2A_{002} - A_{011})x_3^2 \end{aligned}$$

This reduces our study to elements of $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$ of the form

$$P_1(x) = A_1(x_2 + x_3) + B_1x_2x_3$$

and elements of the form

$$P_2(x) = A_2x_3 + B_2x_3^2$$

together with their images $s_{12}P_1$ and $s_{23}P_2$.

Now it develops that we have the following remarkably simple criterion.

Theorem 3.6 *The polynomials $P_1 = A_1(x_2 + x_3) + B_1x_2x_3$ and $P_2 = A_2x_3 + B_2x_3^2$, with A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2 symmetric, are m-quasi-invariant if and only we have*

$$\begin{array}{lll} a) \quad A_1 = -\delta_{12}x_1(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x) & \qquad B_1 = \delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x) \\ b) \quad A_2 = \delta_{12}(x_2 + x_3)(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_2(x) & \qquad B_2 = -\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_2(x) \end{array} \tag{3.7}$$

where θ_1 and θ_2 are any polynomials that satisfy the two conditions

$$a) \quad s_{13}\,\theta = \theta\,, \qquad b) \quad \delta_{23}\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\theta = 0\,, \tag{3.8}$$

Proof We begin by proving necessity. To this end note that for $P_1(x)$ to be m-quasi-invariant we must have

$$(1 - s_{13})P_1(x) = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\,\theta_1(x) \tag{3.9}$$

with θ_1 a polynomial in $\mathbf{Q}[X_3]$ satisfying the condition

$$s_{13}\,\theta_1 = \theta_1\,. \tag{3.10}$$

In fact, applying $1 + s_{13}$ to (3.9) gives

$$0 = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\,\theta_1(x) - (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\,s_{13}\,\theta_1(x)$$

and (3.10) follows upon division by $(x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}$. On the other hand the symmetry of A_1, B_1 gives

$$(1 - s_{13})P_1 = A_1(x_3 - x_1) + B_1 x_2(x_3 - x_1)$$

using this in (3.9) we get

$$A_1(x_3 - x_1) + B_1 x_2(x_3 - x_1) = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\,\theta_1(x)$$

or better

$$A_1 + B_1 x_2 = -(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\,. \tag{3.11}$$

Using again the symmetry of A_1, B_1 , applying δ_{12} to both sides of (3.11) we obtain

$$-B_1 = -\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\,. \tag{3.12}$$

Finally, multiplying by x_1 both sides of (3.11) and applying δ_{12} gives

$$A_1 = -\delta_{12}x_1(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\,. \tag{3.13}$$

This proves (3.7) (a). Similarly for P_2 to be m-quasi-invariant we must have

$$(1 - s_{13})P_2 = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\,\theta_2(x) \tag{3.14}$$

for a suitable $\theta_2(x)$ invariant under s_{13}. But the symmetry of A_2, B_2, gives

$$(1 - s_{13})P_2 = A_2(x_3 - x_1) + B_2(x_3^2 - x_1^2)$$

using this in (3.14) and cancelling the common factor we get

$$-A_2 - B_2(x_1 + x_3) = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_2(x)\,.$$

Proceeding as before, using again the symmetry of A_2, B_2, we obtain

$$B_2 = -\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_2(x) \tag{3.15}$$

Finally, multiplying both sides by $x_2 + x_3$ and applying δ_{12} we get

$$A_2 = \delta_{12}(x_2 + x_3)(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_2(x)\,. \tag{3.16}$$

This proves (3.7) (b). To complete our proof of necessity, we are only left to show that θ_1 and θ_2 must satisfy (3.8) (b). It turns out that (3.8) (b) is all we need to assure the symmetry of A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2. To show this it is convenient to set

$$H_i = -(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_i(x) \tag{3.17}$$

so that (3.12), (3.13), (3.18) and (3.19) become

$$\begin{array}{ll} A_1 = \delta_{12}x_1H_1\,, & A_2 = -\delta_{12}(x_2 + x_3)H_2\,, \\ B_1 = -\delta_{12}H_1\,. & B_2 = \delta_{12}H_2\,. \end{array} \tag{3.18}$$

Clearly, A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2 are symmetric if and only if they are invariant under the action of s_{12} and s_{23}. However, since all of them are images of δ_{12} there are automatically s_{12}-invariant. Thus we only need to assure that they are also s_{23}-invariant. Note that since, when $\theta_2 = \theta_1$

$$B_2 = -B_1 \quad \text{and} \quad A_2 = -\delta_{12}(e_1 - x_1)H = e_1B_1 + A_1 \tag{3.19}$$

we need only assure the s_{23}-invariance of A_1 and B_1. This is equivalent to the two equations

$$\begin{array}{ll} a) & \delta_{23}\delta_{12}x_1H_1 = 0\,, \\ b) & \delta_{23}\delta_{12}H_1 = 0\,. \end{array} \tag{3.20}$$

It develops that the first equation here is a consequence of the second. To see this note that since (3.21) (b) implies that $\delta_{12}H_1$ is symmetric in particular it is left unchanged by s_{13}. Thus

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \delta_{12}H_1 & = & s_{13}\delta_{12}H_1 \\ \text{(by (3.10) and (3.18))} & = & s_{13}\delta_{12}s_{13}H_1 \\ & = & \delta_{32}H_1 = -\delta_{23}H_1\,. \end{array}$$

On the other hand we see that we have (by the Leibnitz formula)

$$\delta_{23}\delta_{12}x_1H_1 = \delta_{23}\big(H_1 + x_2\delta_{12}H_1\big) = \delta_{23}H_1 + \delta_{12}H_1 + x_3\delta_{23}\delta_{12}H_1\,.$$

Thus (3.21) (b) implies (3.21) (a) as asserted. Recalling the definition of H_1 in (3.18), we see that the equations in (3.21) reduce to

$$\delta_{23}\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\theta_1 = 0\,.$$

This completes the proof of necessity.

To prove sufficiency, note that the formulas in (3.7) together with the conditions in (3.8) assure that A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2 are symmetric, and that $P_1 = A_1(x_2 + x_3) + B_1 x_2 x_3$ and $P_2 = A_2 x_3 + B_2 x_3^2$ satisfy

$$a) \quad (1 - s_{13})P_1 = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\theta_1 \qquad b) \quad (1 - s_{13})P_2 = (x_1 - x_3)^{2m+1}\theta_2 \tag{3.21}$$

Indeed, from (3.7) we derive that

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{13}P_1 &= -A_1 - B_1 x_2\\ &= \tfrac{1}{x_1 - x_2}\Big((1 - s_{12})\big(x_1(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\big) - \big((1 - s_{12})(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\big)x_2\Big)\\ &= (x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x) + \tfrac{1}{x_1 - x_2}\Big(-s_{12}\big(x_1(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\big) + s_{12}\big(x_1(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta_1(x)\big)\Big)\end{aligned}$$

and this just another way of writing (3.21) (a). An entirely analogous calculation gives (3.21) (b).

Now the invariance of A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2 assures that

$$a) \quad (1 - s_{23})P_1 = 0 \qquad b) \quad (1 - s_{12})P_2 = 0 \tag{3.22}$$

On the other hand hitting (3.22) (a) by s_{23} and (3.22) (b) by s_{12} we get

$$a) \quad (1 - s_{12})s_{23}P_1 = (x_1 - x_2)^{2m+1}s_{23}\theta_1 \qquad b) \quad (1 - s_{23})s_{12}P_2 = (x_2 - x_3)^{2m+1}s_{12}\theta_2$$

and from (3.23) we finally derive that

$$a) \quad (1 - s_{12})P_1 = (x_1 - x_2)^{2m+1}s_{23}\theta_1 \qquad b) \quad (1 - s_{23})P_2 = (x_2 - x_3)^{2m+1}s_{12}\theta_2$$

Thus the m-quasi-invariance of P_1 and P_2 is assured and our proof is complete.

Our next task is to find all solutions θ of the system

$$\begin{aligned} a) &\quad \delta_{23}\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\theta = 0\,,\\ b) &\quad s_{13}\theta = \theta\,. \end{aligned} \tag{3.23}$$

To work with expansions in the Artin basis $\mathcal{ART}(3)$ it will be more convenient to solve the system

$$\begin{aligned} a) &\quad \delta_{13}\delta_{12}(x_2 - x_3)^{2m}\theta = 0\,,\\ b) &\quad s_{23}\theta = \theta\,. \end{aligned} \tag{3.24}$$

There is no loss here since applying the transposition s_{12} to (3.24) gives

$$\begin{aligned} a) &\quad \delta_{13}\delta_{12}(x_2 - x_3)^{2m}s_{12}\theta = 0\,,\\ b) &\quad s_{23}s_{12}\theta = s_{12}\theta\,. \end{aligned}$$

So if θ satifies (3.24) then $s_{12}\theta$ satisfies (3.25) and vice versa.

Now note that expanding $(x_2 - x_3)^{2m}$ in terms of $\mathcal{ART}(3)$ we obtain that

$$(x_2 - x_3)^{2m} = A_m + B_m(x_2 + x_3) + C_m x_2 x_3\,. \tag{3.25}$$

with A_m, B_m, C_m suitable symmetric polynomials of degrees $2m$ $2m-1$ $2m-2$ respectively. For the same reason any solution θ of (3.25) (b) must have the form

$$\theta = a + b(x_2 + x_3) + cx_2x_3 \,.$$

Our task then is to find all triplets (a, b, c) such that the resulting θ satisfies also (3.25) (a). To carry this out we need the following auxiliary fact.

Proposition 3.26 *Let*

$$H_i = A_i + B_i\,(x_2 + x_3) + C_i\,x_2x_3 \quad \big(\textit{with } i = 1, 2\big) \tag{3.27}$$

then we shall have

$$\delta_{13}\delta_{12}H_1H_2 = 0$$

if and only if

$$C_1\,\big(A_2 + B_2e_1 + C_2e_2\big) + B_1\big(B_2 + C_2e_1\big) + A_1C_2 = 0\,. \tag{3.28}$$

Proof Note that we have

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{13}\delta_{12}H_1H_2 &= \delta_{13}\Big(\big(\delta_{12}H_1\big)H_2 + \big(s_{12}H_1\big)\delta_{12}H_2\Big) \\ &= \big(\delta_{13}\delta_{12}H_1\big)H_2 + \big(s_{13}\delta_{12}H_1\big)\delta_{13}\ H_2 \\ &\qquad + \big(\delta_{13}\ s_{12}H_1\big)\delta_{12}H_2 + \big(s_{13}s_{12}H_1\big)\delta_{13}\delta_{12}H_2 \end{aligned} \tag{3.29}$$

Now using the expressions in (3.28) we derive that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{12}H_i &= -B_i - C_ix_3 \\ s_{13}\delta_{12}H_i &= -B_i - C_ix_1 \\ \delta_{13}H_i &= -B_i - C_ix_2 \\ \delta_{13}\delta_{12}H_i &= C_i \\ s_{13}H_i &= A_i + B_i(x_1 + x_2) + C_ix_1x_2 \\ s_{12}H_i &= A_i + B_i(x_1 + x_3) + C_ix_1x_3 \\ s_{13}s_{12}H_i &= A_i + B_i(x_1 + x_3) + C_ix_1x_3 \\ \delta_{13}s_{12}H_i &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

This reduces (3.31) to

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{13}\delta_{12}H_1H_2 &= C_1\,\big(A_2 + B_2(x_2 + x_3) + C_2x_2x_3\big) + (-B_1 - C_1x_1)(-B_2 - C_2x_2) \\ &\qquad + (A_1 + B_1(x_1 + x_3) + C_1x_1x_3)C_2 \end{aligned}$$

Clearly this expression vanishes identically if and only if

$$C_1A_2 + B_1B_2 + A_1C_2 + C_1B_2e_1 + B_1C_2e_1 + C_1C_2e_2 = 0\,.$$

Grouping terms according to C_1, B_1, A_1 yields (3.29) precisely as asserted.

This immediately brings us to the next step in our development.

Theorem 3.30 *Recalling that*

$$(x_2-x_3)^{2m} = A_m + B_m(x_2+x_3) + C_m x_2 x_3 \qquad \textit{and} \qquad \theta = a + b(x_2+x_3) + c x_2 x_3\,,$$

with A_m, B_m, C_m, a, b, c suitable symmetric polynomials. We shall have

$$\delta_{13}\delta_{12}(x_2-x_3)^{2m}\theta = 0 \tag{3.31}$$

if and only if

$$c\,\overline{A}_m + b\,\overline{B}_m + a\,\overline{C}_m = 0 \tag{3.32}$$

where we have set

$$\overline{A}_m = A_m + B_m e_1 + C_m e_2, \quad \overline{B}_m = B_m + C_m e_1, \quad \overline{C}_m = C_m \tag{3.33}$$

Proof Using (3.29) with $H_1 = \theta$ and $H_2 = (x_2-x_3)^{2m}$, we get that (3.32) holds true if and only if the vector (a,b,c) satisfies the equation

$$c\,\big(A_m + B_m e_1 + C_m e_2\big) + b\,\big(B_m + C_m e_1\big) + a\,C_m = 0\,,$$

and this is (3.33).

Our next task is to characterize the triplets of symmetric functions (a,b,c) that satisfy the equation in (3.33). This will be carried out in the next section.

4 Some Cohen-Macaulay modules of triplets.

To proceed we need some notation. To begin let

$$\mathbf{R}_x = \mathbb{Q}[x_1, x_2, x_3], \qquad \mathbf{R}_e = \mathbb{Q}[e_1, e_2, e_3]$$

and note that the corresponding Hilbert series are

$$F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)^3} \qquad F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^3)}\,. \tag{4.1}$$

Now set

$$\mathbf{R}_x^3 = \big\{(a,b,c)\,:\, a,b,c \in \mathbf{R}_x\big\}, \qquad \mathbf{R}_e^3 = \big\{(a,b,c)\,:\, a,b,c \in \mathbf{R}_e\big\}$$

and let us make $\mathbf{R}_x^3$ and $\mathbf{R}_e^3$ into graded modules by saying that a triplet (a,b,c) is "*homogeneous of degree k*" if and only a,b,c are homogeneous of degrees $k, k-1, k-2$ respectively. We shall view the solution spaces

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M}_m(x) &= \big\{(a,b,c) \in \mathbf{R}_x : c\overline{A}_m + b\overline{B}_m + a\overline{C}_m = 0\big\}\\ \mathcal{M}_m(e) &= \big\{(a,b,c) \in \mathbf{R}_x : c\overline{A}_m + b\overline{B}_m + a\overline{C}_m = 0\big\}\end{aligned}$$

as a graded submodules of $\mathbf{R}_x^3$ and $\mathbf{R}_e^3$ respectively. Now we have the following crucial Hilbert series identities

Proposition 4.2

$$\begin{array}{ll} 1) & F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t) = (1+t)(1+t+t^2)\, F_{\mathcal{M}_m(e)}(t) \\ 2) & t^{2m-2} F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t) = F_{(A_m,B_m,C_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}}(t) + \frac{t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}+t^{2m}-1}{(1-t)^3} \end{array} \tag{4.3}$$

Proof Note that by definition $(u, v, w) \in \mathcal{M}_m(x)$ if and only if

$$w\overline{A}_m + v\overline{B}_m + u\overline{C}_m = 0\,. \tag{4.4}$$

Now Theorem 2.8 gives the expansions

$$u = \sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} x^\epsilon a_\epsilon, \quad v = \sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} x^\epsilon b_\epsilon, \quad w = \sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} x^\epsilon c_\epsilon, \tag{4.5}$$

using this in (4.4) gives

$$\sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} x^\epsilon \big(c_\epsilon \overline{A}_m + b_\epsilon \overline{B}_m + a_\epsilon \overline{C}_m \big) = 0$$

and the uniqueness part of Theorem 2.8 now yields that for all $x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)$ we must have

$$c_\epsilon \overline{A}_m + b_\epsilon \overline{B}_m + a_\epsilon \overline{C}_m = 0\,.$$

In other words, each triplet $(u, v, w) \in \mathcal{M}_m(x)$ decomposes into a linear combination of triplets $(a_\epsilon, b_\epsilon, c_\epsilon) \in \mathcal{M}_m(e)$ with coefficients $x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)$. But then again the uniqueness part of Theorem 2.8 forces this decomposition to be unique. In symbols we may write

$$\mathcal{M}_m(x) = \bigoplus_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} x^\epsilon \mathcal{M}_m(e)\,.$$

This implies the Hilbert series identity

$$F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t) = \sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} t^{degree(x^\epsilon)} F_{\mathcal{M}_m(e)}(t)$$

and (4.3) (1) follows since

$$\sum_{x^\epsilon \in \mathcal{ART}(3)} t^{degree(x^\epsilon)} = (1+t)(1+t+t^2)\,.$$

To prove (4.3) (2) it is convenient to set

$$\mathcal{W}_m(x) = \mathbf{R}_x / (A_m, B_m, C_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}$$

We clearly see from (3.33) that

$$(\overline{A}_m, \overline{B}_m, \overline{B}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x} = (A_m, B_m, C_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x},$$

so

$$\mathcal{W}_m(x) = \mathbf{R}_x/(\overline{A}_m, \overline{B}_m, \overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}\,.$$

Clearly $F_{\mathcal{W}_m(x)}(t)$ is given by the difference between the Hilbert series of $\mathbf{R}_x$ and the Hilbert series of the ideal $(\overline{A}_m, \overline{B}_m, \overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}$. In symbols

$$F_{W_m(x)}(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)^3} - F_{(\overline{A}_m,\overline{B}_m,\overline{C}_m)}(t) \tag{4.6}$$

Now, by definition

$$(\overline{A}_m, \overline{B}_m, \overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x} = \{c\overline{A}_m + b\overline{B}_m + a\overline{C}_m \,:\, a, b, c \in \mathbf{R}_x\,\}.$$

Note further that the polynomial $c\overline{A}_m + b\overline{B}_m + a\overline{C}_m$ is homogeneous of degree $k+2m-2$ if and only if a, b, c are respectively homogeneous of degrees $k, k-1, k-2$. Clearly the dimension of the space of such triplets a, b, c is given by the expression

$$F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^k} + F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-1}} + F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-2}}\,. \tag{4.7}$$

To get the dimension of the degree $k+2m-2$ homogeneous component of the ideal $(\overline{A}_m, \overline{B}_m, \overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}$ we must subtract from (4.7) the dimension of the collection of all triplets $(a, b, c) \in \mathcal{M}_m(x)$ which are homogeneous of degree k. This may be written as

$$F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^k} + F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-1}} + F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-2}} - F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t)\big|_{t^k}\,.$$

Multiplying by t^{2m-2+k} and summing for $k \geq 0$ gives the identity

$$\begin{aligned} F_{(\overline{A}_m,\overline{B}_m,\overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}}(t) \;=\; & t^{2m-2}\sum_{k\geq 0} F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^k} t^k \\ & + t^{2m-1}\sum_{k\geq 1} F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-1}} t^{k-1} \\ & + t^{2m}\sum_{k\geq 2} F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-2}} t^{k-2} - t^{2m-2}F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t) \end{aligned} \tag{4.8}$$

Now using (4.1) we derive that

$$t^{2m-2}\textstyle\sum_{k\geq 0} F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^k} t^k + t^{2m-1}\sum_{k\geq 1} F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-1}} t^{k-1} + t^{2m}\sum_{k\geq 2} F_{\mathbf{R}_x}(t)\big|_{t^{k-2}} t^{k-2}$$

$$= \tfrac{t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}+t^{2m}}{(1-t)^3}$$

and (4.8) becomes

$$F_{(\overline{A}_m,\overline{B}_m,\overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}}(t) = \frac{t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}+t^{2m}}{(1-t)^3} - t^{2m-2}F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t) \tag{4.9}$$

Substituting this in (4.6) we finally obtain

$$F_{W_m(x)}(t) = \frac{1}{(1-t)^3} - \frac{t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}+t^{2m}}{(1-t)^3} + t^{2m-2}F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t)\,.$$

and this is simply another way of writing (4.3) (2). Our proof is thus complete.

We shall show in the next section that

$$F_{\mathcal{W}_m(x)}(t) = \frac{(1+t^m+t^{m-1})(1-t^m)(1-t^{m-1})}{(1-t)^3}\,. \tag{4.10}$$

and we can state

Theorem 4.11 *Upon the validity of (4.10) it follows that*

$$F_{\mathcal{M}_m(e)}(t) = \frac{t^m+t^{m+1}}{(1-t)(1-t^2)(1-t^3)} \tag{4.12}$$

Proof Using (4.10) in (4.3) (2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} t^{2m-2}F_{\mathcal{M}_m(x)}(t) &= \frac{(1+t^m+t^{m-1})(1-t^m)(1-t^{m-1})}{(1-t)^3} + \frac{t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}+t^{2m}-1}{(1-t)^3}\,. \\ &= \frac{(1+t^m+t^{m-1})(1-t^m-t^{m-1}+t^{2m-1})+t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}+t^{2m}-1}{(1-t)^3}\,. \\ &= \frac{t^{3m-1}+t^{3m-2}}{(1-t)^3}\,. \end{aligned}$$

Now from (4.3) (1) we get

$$t^{2m-2}(1+t)(1+t+t^2)F_{\mathcal{M}_m(e)}(t) = \frac{t^{3m-1}+t^{3m-2}}{(1-t)^3}\,.$$

and (4.12) follows by cancelling the factor t^{2m-2} and division of both sides by $(1+t)(1+t+t^2)$.

This brings us to the crucial result of this section,

Theorem 4.13 *Upon the validity of (4.10) it follows that the collection*

$$\mathcal{M}_m(e) = \big\{(a,b,c)\,:\, c\,\overline{A}_m + b\,\overline{B}_m + a\,\overline{C}_m = 0\big\}$$

is a free $\mathbb{Q}[e_1,e_2,e_3]$-module of rank 2

Proof From the Hilbert series in (4.12) it follows that the subspaces $\mathcal{H}_m\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$ and $\mathcal{H}_{m+1}\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$ of homogeneous triplets of $\mathcal{M}_m(e)$ of degrees m and $m+1$ have dimensions 1 and 2 respectively. This given, let $\Theta_1 = (a_1,b_1,c_1)$ be a non trivial element of $\mathcal{H}_m\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$ and note that $e_1\Theta_1 = (e_1a_1,e_1b_1,e_1c_1) \in \mathcal{H}_{m+1}\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$. This accounts for one of the 2 dimensions of $\mathcal{H}_{m+1}\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$. Let us pick $\Theta_2 = (a_2,b_2,c_2) \in \mathcal{H}_{m+1}\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$ so that together with $e_1\Theta_1$ we have a basis for $\mathcal{H}_{m+1}\big(\mathcal{M}_m(e)\big)$. Now suppose that for two symmetric functions D_1 and D_2 we have

$$D_1\Theta_1 + D_2\Theta_2 = 0 \tag{4.14}$$

Clearly there is no loss in assuming that D_1 and D_2 have no common factor. Then it follows from (4.14) that D_2 must divide a_1, b_1 and c_1. But since Θ_1 is an element of least degree in $\mathcal{M}_m(e)$ it follows that D_2 must be a constant and there is no loss in taking it to be -1. So (4.14) becomes

$$D_1\Theta_1 = \Theta_2 \tag{4.15}$$

This given, equating the first components in (4.14) gives $D_1 a_1 = a_2$ this forces D_1 to be homogeneous of degree 1 since it is symmetric it can only be a constant multiple of e_1, but then (4.15) contraddicts our initial choice of Θ_2. Thus there is no relation such as in (4.14). This means that the collection

$$\{\Theta_i e_1^{p_1} e_2^{p_2} e_3^{p_3}\}_{\substack{i=1,2\\ p_i\geq 0}}$$

is an independent subset of $\mathcal{M}_m(e)$ and since it has the correct number of elements in each degree it must be a basis. In summary, Θ_1, Θ_2 generate $\mathcal{M}_m(e)$ as a free $\mathbb{Q}[e_1, e_2, e_3]$-module and our proof is complete.

We can now obtain our desired result on S_3 m-quasi-invariants:

Theorem 4.16 *Let (a_1, b_1, c_1) and (a_2, b_2, c_2) be the generators of $\mathcal{M}_m(e)$ of degrees m and $m+1$ and set*

$$\theta_1 = a_1 + b_1(x_1 + x_3) + c_1 x_1 x_3, \qquad \theta_2 = a_2 + b_2(x_1 + x_3) + c_2 x_1 x_3.$$

Then $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$ is a free $\mathbf{Q}[e_1, e_2, e_3]$- module with basis

$$1,\ G_1,\ s_{12}G_1,\ G_2,\ s_{12}G_2,\ x_2 x_3^2\ \Pi(x)^{2m} \tag{4.17}$$

where $\Pi(x)$ denotes the Vandermonde determinant in x_1, x_2, x_3,

$$G_1 = -\big(\delta_{12} x_1 (x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\, \theta_1\big)(x_2 + x_3) + \big(\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\, \theta_1\big)\, x_2 x_3$$

and

$$G_2 = -\big(\delta_{12} x_1 (x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\, \theta_2\big)(x_2 + x_3) + \big(\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\, \theta_2\big)\, x_2 x_3$$

Proof We have seen in section 2 that every m-quasi-invariant in x_1, x_2, x_3 is a sum of terms involving

(1) An invariant

(2) The polynomial $x_2 x_3^2\ \Pi(x)^{2m}$ times an invariant.

(3) An m-quasi-invariant $P_1 = A_1(x_2 + x_3) + B_1 x_2 x_3$ and its image by s_{12} .

(4) An m-quasi-invariant $P_2 = A_2 x_3^2 + B_2 x_3^2$ and its image by s_{23}.

with A_1, B_1, A_2, B_2 invariants. We have also shown that for P_1 and P_2 to be m-quasi-invariant it is necessary and sufficient that A_1, B_1, A_2, B_2 have the expressions given in (3.7). Now it develops that an m-quasi-invariant of the form $P_2 = A_2 x_3^2 + B_2 x_3^2$ can be obtained (modulo the ideal generated by e_1, e_2, e_3) as an S_3 image of an m-quasi-invariant polynomial of the form $P_1 = A_1(x_2 + x_3) + B_1 x_2 x_3$ In fact, note that from (3.7) (a) and (b) we derive that when $\theta_1 = \theta_2 = \theta$

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 &= \delta_{12}(x_2 + x_3)(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta(x) \\ &= \delta_{12}(e_1 - x_1)(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta(x) \quad \text{and} \quad B_2 = -B_1\ , \\ &= A_1 + e_1 B_1 \end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned} (1 + s_{12})P_1 &= A_1(x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3) + B_1(x_1 x_3 + x_2 x_3) \\ &= A_1(e_1 + x_3) + B_1(e_1 - x_3)x_3 \\ &= A_1 e_1 + (A_1 + B_1 e_1)x_3 + B_2 x_3^2 = A_1 e_1 + P_2\,. \end{aligned}$$

Combining this with Theorem 4.11 we derive that every m-quasi-invariant P is of the form

$$P = U + G + s_{12}G + V\ x_2 x_3^2\ \Pi(x)^{2m}$$

where U, V are arbitrary invariants and

$$G = \big(-\delta_{12} x_1 (x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta(x)\big)(x_2 + x_3) + \big(\delta_{12}(x_1 - x_3)^{2m}\,\theta(x)\big)x_2 x_3$$

where

$$\theta = a + b(x_1 + x_3) + c\,x_1 x_3 \quad \text{with } (a, b, c) \in \mathcal{M}_m(e)$$

This implies that the polynomials in (4.17) span $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$ as a $\mathbb{Q}[e_1, e_2, e_3]$-module. Since they are altogether $6 = 3!$ in total, we can use Theorem 2.14 and obtain the polynomials in (4.17) are in fact a free $\mathbb{Q}[e_1, e_2, e_3]$-module basis for $\mathcal{QI}_m[X_3]$.

5 Determining the quotient $\mathbf{R_x}/(\mathbf{A_m}, \mathbf{b_m}, \mathbf{C_m})_{\mathbf{R_x}}$.

Our first task is to construct the Gröbner basis of the ideal $(A_m, B_m, C_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x}$. The following identities open up a surprising path.

Proposition 5.1 *Denoting by $\Pi(x)$ the vandemonde determinant in x_1, x_2, x_3 we have*

$$\begin{aligned} P_m(x) = \Pi(x)A_m(x) &= x_3^2(x_1 - x_2)^{2m+1} + x_1^2(x_2 - x_3)^{2m+1} + x_2^2(x_3 - x_1)^{2m+1} \\ Q_m(x) = \Pi(x)B_m(x) &= -x_3(x_1 - x_2)^{2m+1} - x_1(x_2 - x_3)^{2m+1} - x_2(x_3 - x_1)^{2m+1} \\ R_m(x) = \Pi(x)C_m(x) &= (x_1 - x_2)^{2m+1} + (x_2 - x_3)^{2m+1} + (x_3 - x_1)^{2m+1} \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

Proof Because of uniqueness of the expansions in terms of $\mathcal{ART}(3)$ and the symmetry of A_m, b_m, C_m it is sufficient to verify the identity in (3.27). In other words we need to show that

$$\Pi(x)(x_2-x_3)^{2m} = P_m + Q_m(x_2+x_3) + R_m\, x_2x_3\,, \tag{5.3}$$

Now denoting by RHS the right hand side and using (5.2) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
RHS &= x_3^2(x_1-x_2)^{2m+1} + x_1^2(x_2-x_3)^{2m+1} + x_2^2(x_3-x_1)^{2m+1}\\
&\qquad -(x_2+x_3)\big(x_3(x_1-x_2)^{2m+1} - x_1(x_2-x_3)^{2m+1} - x_2(x_3-x_1)^{2m+1}\big)\\
&\qquad x_2x_3\big((x_1-x_2)^{2m+1} + (x_2-x_3)^{2m+1} + (x_3-x_1)^{2m+1}\big)\\
&= (x_1^2 - x_2x_1 - x_3x_1 + x_2x_3)(x_2-x_3)^{2m+1}\\
&= (x_1-x_2)(x_1-x_3)(x_3-x_1)^{2m+1} = \pi(x)(x_3-x_1)^{2m}.
\end{aligned}$$

This proves (5.3).

To proceed it will be convenient to make a change of variables and set

$$x_1 = y+u, \quad x_2 = y, \quad x_3 = y-v. \tag{5.4}$$

This gives

$$x_1-x_2 = u, \quad x_2-x_3 = v, \quad x_3-x_1 = -u-v. \tag{5.5}$$

Thus we may write

$$\begin{aligned}
A_m &= \frac{(y-v)^2u^{2m+1} + (y+u)^2v^{2m+1} - y^2(u+v)^{2m+1}}{-uv(u+v)}\\
B_m &= \frac{-(y-v)u^{2m+1} - (y+u)v^{2m+1} + y(u+v)^{2m+1}}{-uv(u+v)}\\
C_m &= \frac{u^{2m+1} + v^{2m+1} - (u+v)^{2m+1}}{-uv(u+v)}
\end{aligned} \tag{5.6}$$

Now note that

$$B_m = -yC_m + \frac{vu^{2m+1} - uv^{2m+1}}{-uv(u+v)} = -yC_m + \frac{v^{2m} - u^{2m}}{u+v} = -yC_m + \widetilde{B}_m\,,$$

where we have set

$$\widetilde{B}_m = \frac{v^{2m} - u^{2m}}{u+v}\,. \tag{5.7}$$

Similarly we get

$$\begin{aligned}
A_m &= y^2C_m + \frac{-2yvu^{2m+1} + 2yuv^{2m+1}}{-uv(u+v)} + \frac{v^2u^{2m+1} + u^2v^{2m+1}}{-uv(u+v)}\\
&= y^2C_m - 2y\,\frac{u^{2m} - v^{2m}}{-(u+v)} - \frac{vu^{2m} + uv^{2m}}{u+v} = y^2C_m - 2y\,\widetilde{B}_m - \widetilde{A}_m
\end{aligned}$$

where we have set

$$\widetilde{A}_m = \frac{vu^{2m} + uv^{2m}}{u+v}\,, \tag{5.8}$$

and we clearly see that we have

$$(A_m, B_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v,y\,]} = (\widetilde{A}_m, \widetilde{B}_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v,y\,]}. \tag{5.9}$$

Note further that from (5.7) and (5.8) we get

$$\widetilde{A}_m + v\widetilde{B}_m = \frac{vu^{2m} + uv^{2m}}{u+v} + v\frac{v^{2m} - u^{2m}}{u+v} = v^{2m}$$

and (5.9) can be then replaced by

$$(A_m, B_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v,y\,]} = (v^{2m}, \widetilde{B}_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v,y\,]}\,. \tag{5.10}$$

To work with this ideal will be convenient to set, here and after

$$P(t) = \frac{1 - t^{2m}}{1+t} \quad \text{and} \quad Q(t) = \frac{(1+t)^{2m+1} - t^{2m+1} - 1}{t(1+t)} \tag{5.11}$$

So that we may write

$$\widetilde{B}_m(u,v) = v^{2m-1}P(u/v) \quad \text{ and } \quad C_m(u,v) = v^{2m-2}Q(u/v)\,. \tag{5.12}$$

We can easily see that

$$P(t) = \sum_{r=0}^{2m-1}(-t)^r \quad \text{and} \quad Q(t) = \sum_{r=1}^{2m-1} t^{r-1} \sum_{s=1}^{r\wedge(2m-r)} \binom{2m+1}{s}(-1)^{s-r}\,.$$

However these expansions will play no role. All we need to know is that $P(t)$ and $Q(t)$ are of degrees $2m-1$ and $2m-2$ respectively and that the following technical result holds true.

Lemma 5.13 *Suppose that we have*

$$R(t) = a(t)P(t) + b(t)Q(t), \tag{5.14}$$

with $a(t), b(t)$ polynomials of degrees bounded by some $j < m$, Then the polynomial $R(t)$ must have degree at least $2m-2-j$

Proof Set

$$S(t) = t^{2m-1} - 1 \quad \text{ and } \quad T(t) = (1+t)^{2m-1} - (1+t) \tag{5.15}$$

then multiplying (5.14) by $t(1+t)$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} t(1+t)R(t) &= a(t)\big(\,t - t^{2m+1}\big) + b(t)\big(\,(1+t)^{2m+1} - t^{2m+1} - 1\big) \\ &= \big(a(t) + b(t)\big)\big(\,t - t^{2m+1}\big) + b(t)\big((1+t)^{2m+1} - (1+t)\big). \end{aligned}$$

In summary, we get that for some polynomials $c(t)$ and $b(t)$ of degrees bounded by j we have

$$t(1+t)R(t) = -c(t)S(t) + b(t)T(t), \tag{5.16}$$

Now, proceeding by contraddiction, suppose if possible that the degree of $R(t)$ is strictly less than $2m-2-j$. Then differentiating both sides of (5.16) $2m-j$ times gives

$$\left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^{2m-j} a(t)S(t) = \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^{2m-j} b(t)T(t)$$

or better

$$\sum_{i=0}^{2m-j} \binom{2m-j}{i} c^{(i)}(t) S^{(2m-j-i)}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{2m-j} \binom{2m-j}{i} b^{(i)}(t) T^{(2m-j-i)}(t)$$

since $j < m$ we will have $2m-j > m$ and since by assumption both b and c have degrees bounded by $j < m < 2m-j$, these sums need only be carried out for $i \leq j$, giving

$$\sum_{i=0}^{j} \binom{2m-j}{i} c^{(i)}(t) S^{(2m-j-i)}(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{j} \binom{2m-j}{i} b^{(i)}(t) T^{(2m-j-i)}(t) \tag{5.17}$$

This means that both $S(t)$ and $T(t)$ are differentiated at least $2m-j > m$ times, that is at least two times, since $m \geq 1$. This means that we can ignore the linear terms and obtain

$$S^{(2m-j-i)}(t) = (2m+1)_{2m-j-i} t^{1+i+j} \qquad \text{and} \qquad T^{(2m-j-i)}(t) = (2m+1)_{2m-j-i} (1+t)^{1+i+j}.$$

So (5.17) may be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} t^{1+j} \sum_{i=0}^{j} \binom{2m-j}{i} c^{(i)}(t) (2m+1)_{2m-j-i} t^i \qquad\qquad (5.18) \\ = (1+t)^{1+j} \sum_{i=0}^{j} \binom{2m-j}{i} b^{(i)}(t) (2m+1)_{2m-j-i} (1+t)^i \end{aligned}$$

Setting

$$U(t) = \textstyle\sum_{i=0}^{j} \binom{2m-j}{i} c^{(i)}(t) (2m+1)_{2m-j-i} t^i$$

$$\text{and} \quad V(t) = \textstyle\sum_{i=0}^{j} \binom{2m-j}{i} b^{(i)}(t) (2m+1)_{2m-j-i} (1+t)^i$$

from (5.18) we derive that

$$(1+t)^{1+j} \big| U(t) \qquad \text{and} \qquad t^{1+j} \big| V(t)$$

Now since both c and b have degrees $< j+1$, (5.18) forces both $U(t)$ and $V(t)$ to vanish. That means that we must have

$$\left(\tfrac{d}{dt}\right)^{2m-j} a(t)S(t) = 0 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \left(\tfrac{d}{dt}\right)^{2m-j} b(t)T(t) = 0$$

but that is absurd since both $a(t)S(t)$ and $b(t)T(t)$ have degrees $\geq 2m+1$.

This brings us in a position to state and prove the crucial result of this section

Theorem 5.19 *The dlex minimal elements of the lower set of leading monomials of the ideal*

$$(v^{2m}, \widetilde{B}_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v]} \tag{5.20}$$

with respect to the total order $u > v$ are

$$u^{2m-2},\; v^2u^{2m-3}\,,\; v^4u^{2m-4}\,, \ldots,\; v^{2i}u^{2m-2-i}\; \ldots,\; v^{2m-2}u^{m-1},\; v^{2m} \tag{5.21}$$

Proof We shall start by proving that every leading monomial of the ideal in (5.20) is divisible by one of the monomials in (5.21). To begin note that if u^hv^k is a monomial not divisible by any of the monomials in (5.12) then $v < 2m$ and we must have

$$k = \begin{cases} 2j \\ \\ 2j+1 \end{cases} \quad \text{or} \quad (\text{for some } 0 \leq j < m) \tag{5.22}$$

as well as

$$0 \leq h < 2m - 2 - j\,. \tag{5.23}$$

Suppose if possible that a monomial u^hv^k with h, k satisfying (5.22) and (5.23) is the leading monomial of a homogeneous element of $M(u,v) \in (v^{2m}, \widetilde{B}_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v]}$. Then, setting

$$r = h + k \tag{5.24}$$

we have the expansion

$$M(u,v) = u^hv^k + \sum_{\substack{k' > k \\ h'+k'=r}} c_{h',k'}u^{h'}v^{k'} = v^kR(u,v) \tag{5.25}$$

with $R(u,v)$ homogeneous of degree h and leading monomial u^h and there will be some homogeneous polynomials $a(u,v), b(u,v), c(u,v)$ giving

$$v^kR(u,v) = a(u,v)\widetilde{B}_m(u,v) + b(u,v)C_m(u,v) + c(u,v)v^{2m} \tag{5.26}$$

then setting $u = tv$ and denoting by d_a, d_b and d_c the degrees of $a(u,v), b(u,v)$ and $c(u,v)$ we obtain

$$v^{k+h}R(t,1) = v^{d_a+2m-1}a(t,1)P(t) + v^{d_b+2m-2}b(t,1)Q(t) + v^{d_c+2m}c(t,1). \tag{5.27}$$

This gives

$$k + h = d_a + 2m - 1 = d_b + 2m - 2 = d_c + 2m\,,$$

and cancelling the common factor v^{h+k} (5.27) may be rewritten as

$$R(t,1) - c(t,1) = a(t,1)P(t) + b(t,1)Q(t). \tag{5.28}$$

Now note that from (5.22) and (5.23) we get

$$d_a = k + h - 2m + 1 \quad < \quad \begin{cases} 2j + 2m - 2 - j - 2m + 1 & \text{if } k = 2j \\ \\ 2j + 1 + 2m - 2 - j - 2m + 1 & \text{if } \ k = 2j \end{cases} \tag{5.29}$$

$$= \begin{cases} j - 1 & \text{if } k = 2j \\ \\ j & \text{if } k = 2j + 1 \end{cases}$$

similarly we must also have

$$d_b < \begin{cases} j & \text{if } k = 2j \\ \\ j + 1 & \text{if } k = 2j + 1 \end{cases} \qquad \text{and} \qquad d_c < \begin{cases} j - 2 & \text{if } k = 2j \\ \\ j - 1 & \text{if } k = 2j + 1 \end{cases} \tag{5.30}$$

Thus in any case the polynomials $a(t, 1)$ and $b(t, 1)$ have degrees bounded by j. This places us in a position to use Lemma 5.13 and conclude that $R(t, 1) - c(t, 1)$ must be of degree at least $2m - 2 - j$. But in any case (5.30) shows that $c(t)$ has degree at most $j - 1 < 2m - 2 - j$ thus $R(t, 1)$ itself must have degree at least $2m - 2 - j$ but that contradicts (5.23). So every leading monomial of the ideal in (5.20) must be divisible by one of the monomials in (5.21) precisely as asserted.

To complete the proof we need to show that each of the monomials in (5.21) is a leading monomial. To this end we apply the Berlekamp algorithm [2] for computing the greatest common divisor of P and Q, as given by (5.21), we obtain a sequence of polynomials

$$Q_i(t) \ R_i(t) \ a_i(t) \ b_i(t) \qquad (\text{for} \quad i = -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots, m)$$

determined by the initial conditions

$$\begin{array}{lll} R_{-1} = P & a_{-1} = 1 & b_{-1} = 0 \\ R_o = Q & a_0 = 0 & b_0 = 1 \end{array} \tag{5.31}$$

where Q_i and R_i are the quotient and the remainder of the division of R_{i-2} by R_{i-1}, in symbols

$$R_{i-2} = R_{i-1} Q_i + R_i \tag{5.32}$$

and a_i, b_i are obtained from the recursions

$$a) \quad a_{i-2} = a_{i-1} Q_i + a_i \qquad b) \quad b_{i-2} = b_{i-1} Q_i + b_i \, . \tag{5.33}$$

This allows us to express R_i in the form

$$R_i = a_i \, P + b_i \, Q \, . \tag{5.34}$$

Clearly the degree of R_i as constructed from (5.15) decreases by 1 at least at each step. Since we see from (5.14) that R_{-1} has degree $2m - 1$ it follows that

$$degree(R_i) \le 2m - 2 - i \qquad (\text{for all} \ \ i < m) \tag{5.35}$$

Actually we will show that equality must hold here. Since as we noted this is true for $i = -1, 0$, we can proceed by induction an assume that the equality

$$degree(R_i) = 2m - 2 - i \tag{5.36}$$

has been established for all $i < j$. Now note this equality for all $i < j$ together with (5.32) gives that Q_i is of degree 1 for all $0 \leq i \leq j$ in particular we can recursively obtain from (5.33) that a_j and b_j are of degrees $j - 1$ and j respectively. This places us in a position to apply Lemma 5.13 to (5.34) for $i = j$ that is

$$R_j = a_j\, P + b_j\, Q\,. \tag{5.37}$$

and conclude that the degree of R_j must be at least $2m - 2 - j$ which combined with the inequality in (5.35) yields that

$$degree(R_j) = 2m - 2 - j \tag{5.38}$$

completing the induction. Now setting $t = u/v$ in (5.35) and mutiplying both sides by v^{2m-2-j}, gives

$$v^{2j} v^{2m-2-j} R_j(u/v) = v^{j-1} a_i(u/v) v^{2m-1} P(u/v) + v^j b_j(u/v) v^{2m-2} Q(u/v),$$

Using the relations in (5.12) this may be rewritten as

$$v^{2i} R(u, v) = a(u, v)\widetilde{B}_m(u, v) + b(u, v) C_m(u, v), \tag{5.39}$$

with

$$a(u, v) = v^{j-1} a_j(u/v), \quad b(u, v) = v^j b_j(u/v), \quad R(u, v) = v^{j-1} a(u/v), \tag{5.40}$$

Now we have seen that the equality in (5.35) for all $i < m$ forces a_j and b_j to be of degrees $j-1$ and j respectively we derive from (5.39) that $a(u, v), b(u, v)$ are homogeneous polynomials, likewise (5.37) yields that $R(u, v)$ is a homogeneous polynomial with leading monomial u^{2m-2-j}. But then (5.38) proves that $v^{2j} u^{2m-2-j}$ is a leading monomial of the ideal $(v^{2m}, \widetilde{B}_m, C_m)_{\mathbb{Q}[u,v]}$. Thus our proof is complete.

It develops that Theorem 5.19 is more that is needed to establish the Hilbert series equality in (4.10). More precisely we have

Theorem 5.41 *The standard basis of the quotient*

$$\mathbb{Q}[u, v]/(\widetilde{B}_m, C_m, v^{2m})$$

relative to the order $u > v$ is given by the collection of monomials

$$\mathcal{B}_m = \{v^{2i}, v^{2i}u, v^{2i}u^2, \ldots, v^{2i}u^{2m-3-i}\,; v^{2i+1}, v^{2i+1}u, v^{2i+1}u^2, \ldots, v^{2i+1}u^{2m-3-i}\}_{0\leq i<m} \tag{5.42}$$

In particular the Hilbert series of the quotients

$$\mathbb{Q}[u,v,y]/(\widetilde{B}_m, C_m, v^{2m}), \qquad \mathbf{R}_x/(\overline{A}_m, \overline{B}_m, \overline{C}_m)_{\mathbf{R}_x} \tag{5.43}$$

are given by the rational function

$$\frac{(1-t^m)(1-t^{m-1})(1+t^m+t^{m-1})}{(1-t)^3} \tag{5.44}$$

Proof Note that by Theorem 5.19, the collection in (5.40) constitutes the lower set of non-leading monomials of the ideal $(\widetilde{B}_m, C_m, v^{2m})$. Thus it is the standard basis as asserted. Thus the Hilbert series of the quotient $\mathbb{Q}[u,v]/(\widetilde{B}_m, C_m, v^{2m})$ is given by the generating function

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{b\in\mathcal{B}} t^{degree(b)} &= \sum_{i=0}^{m-1}(t^{2i}+t^{2i+1})\big(1+t+\cdots+t^{2m-3-i}\big) \\
&= \frac{1+t}{1-t}\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} t^{2i}\big(1-t^{2m-2-i}\big) \\
&= \frac{1+t}{1-t}\left(\frac{1-t^{2m}}{1-t^2} - t^{2m-2}\frac{1-t^m}{1-t}\right) \\
&= \frac{(1-t^m)}{1-t}\left(\frac{1+t^m}{1-t} - \frac{t^{2m-2}+t^{2m-1}}{1-t}\right) \\
&= \frac{(1-t^m)(1-t^{m-1}(1+t^m+t^{m-1}))}{(1-t)^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

This gives that the rational function in (5.43) gives the Hilbert series of $\mathbb{Q}[u,v,y]/(\widetilde{B}_m, C_m, v^{2m})$. The extra factor of $(1-t)$ in the denominator accounting for the presence of the extra variable y. This completes our proof since the manipulations at the beginning of the section prove that the two quotients in (5.42) have the same Hilbert series.

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