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# DECOMPOSITION OF REDUCTIVE REGULAR PREHOMOGENEOUS VECTOR SPACES

HUBERT RUBENTHALER

ABSTRACT. Let  $(G, V)$  be a regular prehomogeneous vector space (abbreviated to  $PV$ ), where  $G$  is a connected reductive algebraic group over  $\mathbb{C}$ . If  $V = \bigoplus_{i=0}^n V_i$  is a decomposition of  $V$  into irreducible representations, then, in general, the  $PV$ 's  $(G, V_i)$  are no longer regular. In this paper we introduce the notion of quasi-irreducible  $PV$  (abbreviated to  $Q$ -irreducible), and show first that for completely  $Q$ -reducible  $PV$ 's, the  $Q$ -isotopic components are intrinsically defined, as in ordinary representation theory. We also show that, in an appropriate sense, any regular  $PV$  is a direct sum of quasi-irreducible  $PV$ 's. Finally we classify the quasi-irreducible  $PV$ 's of parabolic type.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Let us first recall that a prehomogeneous vector space (abbreviated to  $PV$ ) is a triplet  $(G, \rho, V)$  where  $G$  is an algebraic group over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $\rho$  is a rational representation of  $G$  on the finite dimensional vector space  $V$ , such that  $G$  has a Zariski open orbit in  $V$ . The theory of  $PV$ 's was created by Mikio Sato in the early 70's to provide generalizations of several kinds of known local or global zeta functions satisfying a functional equation similar to that of the Mellin transform, the Riemann zeta function, the Epstein zeta function or the zeta function of a simple algebra [Sa. M].

For the basic results on  $PV$ 's we refer the reader to [S-K] and to [Ki-1].

There are many papers concerned with local or global zeta functions of  $PV$ 's and their functional equations. Among them let us mention [Sa-Sh], [Sa. F-1], [Sai], [B-R ], [Sa. F-2] for example.

There are also many papers concerning the classification theory of  $PV$ 's. Many of them are written by T. Kimura and his students. We refer to the bibliography of [Ki-1] and to [Ki-2], [Ki-al1], [Ki-al2], [Ki-al3] for more details. The regular  $PV$ 's of parabolic type were classified in [Mo].

1.2. In order to associate a zeta function to a reductive  $PV$  one needs a further condition on the  $PV$ , namely the so-called *regularity* condition (see section 2.1) Therefore knowledge of the structure of the reductive regular  $PV$ 's as well as their classification is of particular interest. Unfortunately if  $(G, V)$  is a non irreducible reductive regular  $PV$ , it can be seen in easy examples (see example 2.2.2) that the irreducible components of the representation  $(G, V)$ , which are still prehomogeneous, are in general not regular. This makes understanding the structure of such  $PV$ 's difficult. To

get around this difficulty we introduce the notion of quasi-irreducible  $PV$  (abbreviated to  $Q$ -irreducible) and show that, in an appropriate sense, any reductive regular  $PV$  is a sum of  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's.

1.3. Let us now describe the content of the paper.

It is worthwhile pointing out that usually the group  $G$  of a  $PV$  is supposed to be connected. For our purpose we do not make this hypothesis. Therefore in section 2.1 we begin by giving extensions of basic results to the case where the group is not connected.

In section 2.2 we give the definition of  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's and prove that, if  $G$  is reductive and if  $(G, V)$  is a regular  $PV$  which is completely  $Q$ -reducible, then the  $Q$ -isotypic components of  $(G, V)$  are intrinsically defined.

In section 3 we give our structure theorem for reductive regular  $PV$ 's which asserts that, if  $(G, V)$  is a regular reductive  $PV$ , there exists a filtration of the space  $V$ :

$$\{0\} = U_{k+1} \subset U_k \subset \cdots \subset U_2 \subset U_1 = V,$$

and a filtration of the group  $G$

$$G_k \subset G_{k-1} \subset \cdots \subset G_1 = G,$$

such that the  $G'_i$ 's are reductive and the  $U_i$  and  $U_{i+1}$  are  $G_i$ -stable. Moreover  $(G_i, U_i)$  is a regular  $PV$  and  $(G_i, U_i/U_{i+1})$  is completely  $Q$ -reducible, for  $i = 1, \dots, k$ . See Theorem 3.2.1 below for the precise statement.

In section 4.1 we give a brief account of the theory of parabolic  $PV$ 's, and in section 4.2 we give the complete classification of regular  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's.

1.4. **Acknowledgement.** I obtained the results of this paper a long time ago, but never published them. I would like to thank Tatsuo Kimura for the recent stimulating conversations about classification theory of  $PV$ 's which convinced me to write them up.

## 2. COMPLETELY $Q$ -REDUCIBLE REGULAR $PV$ 'S

2.1. **The regularity for non connected reductive groups.** As said in the Introduction a prehomogeneous vector space is a triplet  $(G, \rho, V)$  where  $G$  is an algebraic group over  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $\rho$  is a rational representation of  $G$  on the finite dimensional vector space  $V$ , such that  $G$  has a Zariski open orbit in  $V$ . The open orbit is usually denoted by  $\Omega$  and  $S = V \setminus \Omega$  is the *singular set*. The elements in the open orbit are called *generic*. We often simply write  $(G, V)$  for a  $PV$  when we do not need to make the representation explicit. A *relative invariant* of the  $PV$   $(G, V)$  is a rational function  $f$  on  $V$ , such that there exists a rational character  $\chi$  of  $G$ , such that for all  $x \in \Omega$  and all  $g \in G$ , one has  $f(g.x) = \chi(g)f(x)$ . The character  $\chi$  determines  $f$  up to a multiplicative constant. The subgroups we shall consider in the sequel are isotropy subgroups. These will be reductive, but not necessarily connected. Therefore we need to extend slightly the basic results concerning the regularity.

**Proposition 2.1.1.** *Let  $(G, V)$  be a  $PV$ , where  $G$  is not necessarily connected and not necessarily reductive. Let  $G^\circ$  be the connected component group of  $G$ . Denote by  $\Omega$  the open orbit under  $G^\circ$  and define  $S = V \setminus \Omega$ .*

Let  $S_1, \dots, S_k$  be the irreducible components of codimension one in  $S$ . Let  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$  be irreducible polynomials such that

$$S_i = \{x \in V \mid f_i(x) = 0\}.$$

The  $f_i$ 's are (as well known) the fundamental relative invariants of  $(G^\circ, V)$ . Then:

- 1)  $\Omega$  is also the open  $G$ -orbit.
- 2) For any  $g \in G$  and for any  $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ , there exists  $\sigma^g(i) \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  and a non zero constant  $c(i, g)$  such that for all  $x \in V$ , one has  $f_i(g.x) = c(i, g)f_{\sigma^g(i)}(x)$ . Therefore the group  $G$  acts by permutations on the set of lines  $\{\mathbb{C}f_i, i = 1, \dots, k\}$ .
- 3) Let  $I_1 \cup I_2 \cup \dots \cup I_r = \{1, 2, \dots, k\}$  be the partition defined by the  $G$ -action on the lines  $\mathbb{C}f_i$ . Define  $\varphi_j = \prod_{i \in I_j} f_i$ . Then  $\varphi_j$  is a relative invariant under  $G$ . Any relative invariant  $\varphi$  under  $G$  can be uniquely written in the following way:

$$\varphi = c\varphi_1^{m_1}\varphi_2^{m_2}\dots\varphi_r^{m_r}$$

where  $m_j \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.*

- 1) Let  $\Omega$  be the open  $G^\circ$ -orbit of  $V$ . Let us prove first that for any  $g \in G$  the set  $g.\Omega$  is a  $G^\circ$ -orbit. Let  $u = g.x$  and  $v = g.y$  ( $x, y \in \Omega$ ) be two elements in  $g.\Omega$ . By definition there exists  $h \in G^\circ$  such that  $x = h.y$ . Therefore

$$u = g.x = gh.y = ghg^{-1}g.y = h'g.y = h'.v$$

(where  $h' = ghg^{-1} \in G^\circ$ , because  $G^\circ$  is a normal subgroup of  $G$ ). As  $g.\Omega$  is open, we have  $g.\Omega = \Omega$ , for all  $g \in G$ . Hence  $\Omega$  is also the open  $G$ -orbit.

- 2) Denote by  $\chi_i$  the  $G^\circ$  character of  $f_i$ . For  $g \in G$  and  $x \in V$ , define  $\psi_i^g(x) = f_i(g.x)$ . Then for  $h \in G^\circ$  we have  $\psi_i^g(h.x) = f_i(gh.x) = f_i(ghg^{-1}g.x) = \chi_i(ghg^{-1})\psi_i^g(x)$ . Therefore  $\psi_i^g$  is an irreducible relative invariant of  $G^\circ$ . Hence there exists  $\sigma^g(i) \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  and a non zero constant  $c(i, g)$  such that for all  $x \in V$ , one has  $\varphi_i(x) = f_i(g.x) = c(i, g)f_{\sigma^g(i)}(x)$ .

- 3) Let  $\varphi_j$  as defined above. Let  $g \in G$ . One has  $\varphi_j(g.x) = \prod_{i \in I_j} f_i(g.x) = (\prod_{i \in I_j} c(i, g))\varphi_j(x)$ . Hence  $\varphi_j$  is a relative invariant under  $G$ , with character  $\tilde{\chi}_j(g) = (\prod_{i \in I_j} c(i, g))$ . Let  $\varphi$  be a relative invariant under  $G$ . Let  $\chi_\varphi$  be the corresponding  $G$  character. As  $\varphi$  is a relative invariant under  $G^\circ$ , one has  $\varphi = c \prod_{i=1}^k f_i^{n_i}$ , where  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  and where  $n_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We have, for  $g \in G$  and  $x \in \Omega$ :

$$\varphi(g.x) = c\chi_\varphi(g) \prod_{i=1}^k f_i^{n_i}(x) = c \prod_{i=1}^k f_i^{n_i}(g.x) = c' \prod_{i=1}^k f_{\sigma^g(i)}^{n_i}(x) \quad (c' \in \mathbb{C})$$

Therefore from the uniqueness of the decomposition for  $G^\circ$  relative invariants, we obtain that for every  $g \in G$  we have  $n_{\sigma^g(i)} = n_i$ . Hence the powers  $n_i$  of the  $f_i$ 's in the same subset  $I_j$ , are the same, say  $m_j$ . This implies that

$$\varphi = c\varphi_1^{m_1}\varphi_2^{m_2}\dots\varphi_r^{m_r}.$$

□

**Remark 2.1.2.** Of course all the  $f_i$  where  $i \in I_j$  have the same degree.

**Definition 2.1.3.** Let  $(G, V)$  be a PV where  $G$  is a reductive, non necessarily connected, algebraic group. The PV  $(G, V)$  is called regular if there exists a relative invariant  $f$  such that the Hessian  $H_f(x) = \text{Det}(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}(x))$  is not identically zero. Such a relative invariant is said to be nondegenerate.

**Proposition 2.1.4.** (Compare with [Ki-1], Th. 2.28), and [S-K], Remark 11 p.64)

Let  $G$  be a reductive algebraic group. Let  $G^\circ$  be the connected component group of  $G$  and suppose that  $(G, V)$  is a PV.

The following conditions are equivalent:

- i)  $(G, V)$  is regular.
- ii) There exists a relative invariant  $f$  such that  $\frac{df}{f} = \text{gradlog}(f)$  is generically surjective.
- iii) The singular set  $S$  is a hypersurface.
- iv) The open orbit  $\Omega = V \setminus S$  is an affine variety.
- v) Each generic isotropy subgroup is reductive.
- vi) Each generic isotropy subalgebra is reductive.

Suppose moreover that these conditions hold. Then any polynomial  $f$  satisfying  $S = \{x \in V | f(x) = 0\}$  is a nondegenerate relative invariant. In the notations of Proposition 2.1.1 the set of these polynomials is the set of polynomials of the form

$$f = c\varphi_1^{m_1}\varphi_2^{m_2}\dots\varphi_r^{m_r}$$

where  $m_j \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and  $c \in \mathbb{C}^*$ .

*Proof.*

We will of course use the same result for connected reductive groups ([Ki-1], Th. 2.28. and [S-K])

First of all we remark that by the same proof as in the case where the group is connected (see [S-K], Proposition 10 p.62 and Remark 11 p. 64) we obtain

i)  $\Leftrightarrow$  ii).

i)  $\Rightarrow$  iii): If  $(G, V)$  is regular, there exists a nondegenerate relative invariant  $f$ . This function is also a relative invariant of  $(G^\circ, V)$ , hence the singular set for the  $G^\circ$  action is an hypersurface. But the singular set for  $G$  is the same as for  $G^\circ$ , from Proposition 2.1.1. Assertion iii) is proved.

iii)  $\Rightarrow$  iv): This is classical: the complementary set of a hypersurface is always an affine variety.

iv)  $\Rightarrow$  v): From [Ki-1], Th. 2.28, we know that for  $x \in \Omega$ , the isotropy subgroup  $G_x^\circ$  is reductive. Hence the isotropy subgroup  $G_x$  is reductive.

v)  $\Rightarrow$  vi): As the Lie algebras of  $G^\circ$  and of  $G$  are the same, this is obvious.

vi)  $\Rightarrow$  i): Let  $S_1, \dots, S_m$  be the irreducible components of  $S$ . They correspond to irreducible polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  which are the fundamental relative invariants for  $G^\circ$ . We know from [Ki-1], Th. 2.28 that if vi) is satisfied then  $(G^\circ, V)$  is regular and therefore any polynomial  $f$  such that  $S = \{x \in V | f(x) = 0\}$  is a nondegenerate relative invariant under  $G^\circ$ . Among them the functions which are relative invariants under  $G$  are of the proposed form from Proposition 2.1.1. Hence  $(G, V)$  is regular and i) is true.  $\square$

**Remark 2.1.5.** Under the assumptions of the preceding Proposition, the polynomial  $f = f_1 f_2 \dots f_k = \varphi_1 \varphi_2 \dots \varphi_r$  is the unique polynomial of minimal degree which defines  $S$ . It is a relative invariant under  $G$ .

## 2.2. Quasi-irreducible PV's and complete Q-reducibility.

The following result is often very useful.

**Proposition 2.2.1.** *Let  $(G, V)$  be a PV. Here we do not suppose that  $G$  is connected and we do not suppose that  $G$  is reductive. Suppose that  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$  where  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are two non trivial  $G$ -invariant subspaces of  $V$ . Denote by  $p_1$  (resp.  $p_2$ ) the projections on  $V_1$  (resp.  $V_2$ ) defined by this decomposition.*

- 1) *The representations  $(G, V_1)$  and  $(G, V_2)$  are PV's. Moreover the open orbits in  $V_1$  (resp.  $V_2$ ) are the projections of  $\Omega_V$  i.e.  $\Omega_{V_i} = p_i(\Omega_V), i = 1, 2$ .*
- 2) *Let  $x_0 + y_0$  be a generic element of  $(G, V)$ , with  $x_0 \in V_1$  and  $y_0 \in V_2$ . Let also  $G_{x_0}$  (resp.  $G_{y_0}$ ) be the isotropy subgroup of  $x_0$  (resp.  $y_0$ ). Then  $(G_{y_0}, V_1)$  and  $(G_{x_0}, V_2)$  are PV's, and  $x_0$  is generic in  $(G_{y_0}, V_1)$  and  $y_0$  is generic in  $(G_{x_0}, V_2)$ .*
- 3) *One has  $G_{x_0} \cap G_{y_0} = G_{x_0+y_0}$ . The open  $G_{y_0}$ -orbit in  $V_1$  is equal to  $\Omega_{V_1}(y_0) = \{x \in V_1, x + y_0 \in \Omega_V\}$  and the open  $G_{x_0}$ -orbit in  $V_2$  is equal to  $\Omega_{V_2}(x_0) = \{y \in V_2, x_0 + y \in \Omega_V\}$ .*
- 4) *The subgroup  $\tilde{G}$  generated by  $G_{x_0}$  and  $G_{y_0}$  is open, and hence closed, therefore we have  $\tilde{G} = G$  if  $G$  is connected. More precisely the subset  $G_{x_0} \cdot G_{y_0}$  is open in  $G$ .*
- 5) *Suppose that  $G$  is reductive, and that  $(G, V)$  and  $(G, V_1)$  are regular. Then  $(G_{x_0}, V_2)$  is a regular reductive PV.*

*Proof.*

1) As the projections  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  are open maps, the sets  $\Omega_{V_i} = p_i(\Omega_V), i = 1, 2$  are open. Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be two elements in  $\Omega_{V_1}$ . From the definition there exists  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  in  $V_2$  such that  $x_1 + y_1$  and  $x_2 + y_2$  belong to  $\Omega_V$ . Therefore there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $g(x_1 + y_1) = x_2 + y_2$ . Hence  $g.x_1 = x_2$ . Hence two elements in  $\Omega_{V_1}$  are conjugate. Conversely the conjugate of an element in  $\Omega_{V_1}$  is still in  $\Omega_{V_1}$ . This proves the first assertion for  $V_1$ . The argument for  $V_2$  is the same.

2) Define  $n = \dim V$ ,  $n_1 = \dim V_1$ ,  $n_2 = \dim V_2$ . As  $(G, V)$  is prehomogeneous, we have  $n = \dim G - \dim G_{x_0+y_0}$  and as  $(G, V_1)$  is also prehomogeneous we have  $n_1 = \dim G - \dim G_{x_0}$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} n = n_1 + n_2 &= \dim G - \dim G_{x_0+y_0} \\ &= \dim G - \dim G_{x_0} + \dim G_{x_0} - \dim G_{x_0+y_0} \\ &= n_1 + \dim G_{x_0} - \dim G_{x_0+y_0}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $n_2 = \dim G_{x_0} - \dim G_{x_0+y_0}$  and as  $G_{x_0+y_0} = (G_{x_0})_{y_0}$  is the isotropy subgroup of  $y_0$  in  $G_{x_0}$ , the representation  $(G_{x_0}, V_2)$  is prehomogeneous, and  $y_0$  is generic for this space.

3) The assertion  $G_{x_0} \cap G_{y_0} = G_{x_0+y_0}$  is obvious. It is clear that  $\Omega_{V_2}(x_0) = \{y \in V_2, x_0 + y \in \Omega_V\}$  is stable under  $G_{x_0}$ . Moreover if  $y_1, y_2 \in \Omega_{V_2}(x_0)$ , then  $x_0 + y_1, x_0 + y_2 \in \Omega_V$  and there exists  $g \in G$  such that  $g(x_0 + y_1) = x_0 + y_2$ , and hence  $g \in G_{x_0}$  and  $gy_1 = y_2$ . This proves that the open  $G_{x_0}$ -orbit in  $V_2$  is  $\Omega_{V_2}(x_0)$ . The proof for the space  $(G_{y_0}, V_2)$  is symmetric.

- 4) Consider the set  $\mathcal{O} = (\Omega_{V_1}(y_0) \oplus \Omega_{V_2}(x_0)) \cap \Omega_V$ . This set is nonempty ( $x_0 + y_0 \in \mathcal{O}$ ) and open. Let  $x + y \in \mathcal{O}$ . Then  $x \in \Omega_{V_1}(y_0)$  and we know from the third assertion that there exists  $g_1 \in G_{y_0}$  such that  $g_1x = x_0$ . Hence  $g_1(x + y) = x_0 + g_1y$ . As  $x + y \in \Omega_V$ , we have also  $x_0 + g_1y \in \Omega_V$ . Hence  $g_1y \in \Omega_{V_2}(x_0)$ . Then we know that there exists  $g_2 \in G_{x_0}$  such that  $g_2g_1y = y_0$ . Hence  $g_2g_1(x + y) = x_0 + y_0$ . Therefore the elements of  $\mathcal{O}$  are conjugate under the set  $G_{x_0} \cdot G_{y_0}$ . Hence  $G_{x_0} \cdot G_{y_0} / G_{x_0+y_0} \simeq \mathcal{O}$  is an open subset of  $G/G_{x_0+y_0} \simeq \Omega$ . This implies that  $G_{x_0} \cdot G_{y_0}$  is open in  $G$ . Therefore the group  $\tilde{G}$  generated by  $G_{x_0}$  and  $G_{y_0}$  is open and hence closed. If  $G$  is connected, then  $\tilde{G} = G$ .
- 5) From Proposition 2.1.4 we know that  $G_{x_0}$  is reductive and from Proposition 2.2.1 we know that  $(G_{x_0}, V_2)$  is a *PV*. As  $(G_{x_0})_{y_0} = G_{x_0+y_0}$ , using again Proposition 2.1.4, we obtain that  $(G_{x_0}, V_2)$  is regular.  $\square$

Unfortunately the irreducible components of a reductive regular *PV* are in general not regular as shown by the following example.

**Example 2.2.2.**

Let  $G = \mathbb{C}^* \times SL_n \times \mathbb{C}^*$ , let  $V = \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^n$  and define  $\rho$  as follows:

$$\rho(x, g, y)(v, w) = (x^t v g^{-1}, y^{-1} g w)$$

where  $x, y \in \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $g \in SL_n$ , where  $v, w \in \mathbb{C}^n$  are considered as column matrices and where  ${}^t v$  is the transpose of the vector  $v$ . A simple computation shows that if  $v_0 = w_0 = {}^t(1, 0, \dots, 0)$  then the isotropy subgroup is the set of triplets  $(x, \begin{pmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & A \end{pmatrix}, x)$ , where  $A \in GL_{n-1}$ , and such that  $x \cdot \text{Det} A = 1$ , and this proves that  $(G, \rho, V)$  is a regular *PV*. In fact the scalar product  $Q(v, w) = {}^t v \cdot w$  of  $v$  and  $w$  is the unique relative invariant. The irreducible components are  $V_1 = \mathbb{C}^n \times \{0\}$  and  $V_2 = \{0\} \times \mathbb{C}^n$ , and the *PV*'s  $(G, \rho|_{V_i}, V_i)$  ( $i = 1, 2$ ) are obviously not regular.

The following lemma is also useful in the sequel.

**Lemma 2.2.3.** *Let  $(G, V)$  be a *PV* where  $G$  is not necessarily connected and not necessarily connected and suppose that  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2$  where  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are  $G$ -invariant subspaces.*

- a) *Let  $f$  be a relative invariant of  $(G, V_1)$ . Then the function  $\tilde{f}$  defined by  $\tilde{f}(x + y) = f(x)$  ( $x \in V_1, Y \in V_2$ ) is a relative invariant of  $(G, V)$  with the same character as  $f$ .*
- b) *Let  $f$  be a relative invariant of  $(G, V)$  which is defined and nonzero on an open subset of  $V_1$ , then for  $x \in V_1, y \in V_2$ , we have  $f(x + y) = f(x)$ .*

*Proof.*

- a) Let  $\chi_f$  be the character of  $f$ . For  $g \in G$ , we have:

$$\tilde{f}(g \cdot x + g \cdot y) = f(g \cdot x) = \chi_f(g) f(x) = \chi_f(g) \tilde{f}(x + y).$$

- b) For  $x \in V_1, y \in V_2$  let us set  $\tilde{f}(x + y) = f(x)$ . From a) we know that  $\tilde{f}$  is a relative invariant of  $(G, V)$  with the character as  $f$ . Therefore there exists a constant  $c \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\tilde{f} = c \cdot f$ . But as  $\tilde{f} = f$  on  $U$ , we have necessarily  $c = 1$ .

□

**Definition 2.2.4.** Let  $G$  be a reductive group (not necessarily connected) and let  $(G, V)$  be a regular PV.

a) The prehomogeneous vector space  $(G, V)$  is called 1-irreducible if the singular set  $S = V \setminus \Omega$  is an irreducible hypersurface. (According to Proposition 2.1.1, this is equivalent to the fact that there exists only one fundamental relative invariant under  $G^\circ$ , up to constants).

b) The prehomogeneous vector space  $(G, V)$  is called 2-irreducible if for any proper invariant subspace  $U \subset V$ , the prehomogeneous vector space  $(G, U)$  has no nontrivial relative invariant.

c) The prehomogeneous vector space  $(G, V)$  is called quasi-irreducible (abbreviated Q-irreducible) if for any proper invariant subspace  $U \subset V$ , the prehomogeneous vector space  $(G, U)$  is not regular.

**Remark 2.2.5.** It is well known that if  $(G, V)$  is irreducible, then there exists at most one fundamental relative invariant. Therefore the irreducible regular PV's with a reductive group are 1-irreducible. The PV from Example 2.2.2 is 1-irreducible but not irreducible.

**Proposition 2.2.6.** Let  $(G, V)$  be a regular PV where  $G$  is reductive. Among the various definitions of irreducibility, we have the following implications:

$(G, V)$  is 1-irreducible  $\Rightarrow (G, V)$  is 2-irreducible  $\Rightarrow (G, V)$  is Q-irreducible.

*Proof.* Suppose that  $(G, V)$  is not 2-irreducible. Then it exists a proper invariant subspace  $U \subset V$  such that  $(G, U)$  has a non trivial relative invariant  $f$ . Let  $W$  be a  $G$ -invariant supplementary subspace to  $U$ . Then according to Lemma 2.2.3 the fonction  $\tilde{f}$  defined by  $\tilde{f}(x + y) = f(x)$  ( $x \in U, y \in W$ ) is a relative invariant on  $V$  depending only on  $x$ . Therefore the map  $\frac{d\tilde{f}}{\tilde{f}}$  cannot be generically surjective. But as  $(G, V)$  is regular there exists a relative invariant  $\varphi$  such that  $\frac{d\varphi}{\varphi}$  is generically surjective. This is not the case if  $\varphi = c\tilde{f}^k$  ( $c \in \mathbb{C}$ ). Therefore there exists another fundamental relative invariant, and hence  $(G, V)$  is not 1-irreducible.

Suppose now that  $(G, V)$  is not Q-irreducible. Then it exists a proper invariant subspace  $U \subset V$  such that  $(G, U)$  is regular. Hence  $(G, U)$  has a non trivial relative invariant. Therefore  $(G, V)$  is not 2-irreducible.

□

**Proposition 2.2.7.** Let  $(G, V)$  be a PV where  $G$  is reductive. Suppose that  $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n V_i$  where each  $V_i$  is a  $G$ -invariant subspace such that  $(G, V_i)$  is regular. Let  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega_i$  be the open orbits of  $(G, V)$  and  $(G, V_i)$  respectively ( $i = 1, \dots, n$ ). Then  $(G, V)$  is regular and  $\Omega = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \Omega_i$ . Moreover any polynomial relative invariant of  $(G, V)$  is a product of relative invariants of the spaces  $(G, V_i)$ .

*Proof.* Let us make the usual identification  $V^* = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n V_i^*$ . Let  $f_i$  be a relatively invariant polynomial of  $(G, V_i)$  such that  $\varphi_i = \frac{df_i}{f_i} : \Omega_i \rightarrow V_i^*$  is generically surjective. Replacing eventually  $f_i$  by its square, we can suppose that  $\partial^\circ(f_i) > 1$ . Define a relative invariant of  $(G, V)$  by:

$$f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = f_1(x_1)f_2(x_2) \dots f_n(x_n) \quad (x_i \in V_i).$$



Then  $\varphi(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \frac{df(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)}{f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)} = \varphi_1(x_1) \oplus \varphi_2(x_2) \oplus \dots \oplus \varphi_n(x_n)$ .

As the map  $x_i \rightarrow \varphi_i(x_i)$  is generically surjective from  $\Omega_i$  to  $V_i^*$ , we see that  $\varphi$  is generically surjective from  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \Omega_i$  to  $V^*$ . Then from Proposition 2.1.4 we obtain that  $(G, V)$  is regular. Moreover we have  $\det d\varphi(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \det d\varphi_i(x_i)$  and we know from [S-K] p.63 that the Hessian  $H_f$  is given by

$$H_f(x) = (1 - r) \det d\varphi(x) \cdot f(x)^k$$

where  $r = \partial^\circ(f)$  and where  $k = \dim V$ . Hence  $H_f \neq 0$  on  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \Omega_i$ . On the other hand it is known ([S-K], p.70<sup>1</sup>, [Ru-4] p. 22-23), that if  $H_f \neq 0$  then  $\Omega = \{x \mid f(x)H_f(x) \neq 0\}$ . This implies that  $\bigoplus_{i=1}^n \Omega_i \subset \Omega$ . The reverse inclusion is a consequence of Proposition 2.2.1. The set  $S_i = V_i \setminus \Omega_i$  is a hypersurface defined by an equation  $P_i = 0$  where  $P_i$  is a relatively invariant polynomial on  $V_i$  (Proposition 2.1.4). We will choose  $P_i$  of minimal degree among the polynomials defining  $S_i$ . Then  $P_i = f_{i,1} \dots f_{i,l_i}$  where the  $f'_{i,j}$ 's are irreducible relatively invariant polynomials under  $G^\circ$  on  $V_i$ , which are algebraically independent. From Proposition 2.1.1 we know that we can write  $P_i = \varphi_{i,1} \dots \varphi_{i,m_i}$ , where the  $\varphi_{i,j}$ 's are polynomials on  $V_i$  which are relatively invariant under  $G$ . As  $\Omega = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n \Omega_i$  we obtain that

$$S = V \setminus \Omega = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in V \mid P(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n P_i(x_i) = 0\}.$$

Using again Proposition 2.1.1, we obtain that any  $G$ -relatively invariant polynomial on  $V$  is a product of polynomials of the form  $\varphi_{i,j}^{\alpha_{i,j}}$ , where  $\alpha_{i,j} \in \mathbb{N}$ .

□

**Definition 2.2.8.** *Let  $G$  be a reductive group (not necessarily connected) and let  $(G, V)$  be a PV. The PV  $(G, V)$  is called completely  $Q$ -reducible if there exists a decomposition  $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n V_i$  where the  $V_i$ 's are  $G$ -invariant subspaces such that  $(G, V_i)$  is  $Q$ -irreducible. The spaces  $V_i$  are then called  $Q$ -irreducible components of  $(G, V)$ .*

**Remark 2.2.9.** We know from Proposition 2.2.7 that a completely  $Q$ -irreducible PV is regular.

It is well known that for ordinary finite dimensional completely reducible representations of a group  $G$  the equivalence classes occurring in any decomposition into irreducibles are uniquely determined, as well as the isotypic components. Our next aim is to prove analogous results for completely  $Q$ -reducible regular PV's where the irreducible components are replaced by the  $Q$ -irreducible components and the isotypic components are replaced by the  $Q$ -isotypic components.

<sup>1</sup>In the paper by M. Sato and T. Kimura, it is written that if  $(G, V)$  is a regular PV with  $G$  reductive, and if  $f$  is a relative invariant with  $H_f \neq 0$ , then  $\Omega = \{x \mid H_f(x) \neq 0\}$ , but analyzing their proof it is easy to see that in fact  $\Omega = \{x \mid f(x)H_f(x) \neq 0\}$  (the first assertion would be wrong if  $\partial^\circ f = 2$ )

**Theorem 2.2.10.**

Let  $(G, V)$  be a completely  $Q$ -reducible PV. Let  $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n V_i$  be a decomposition of  $V$  into  $Q$ -irreducible components. Let  $W \subset V$  be an invariant subspace such that  $(G, W)$  is regular. Then  $(G, W)$  is a completely  $Q$ -reducible PV. Moreover if  $W_j$  is a  $Q$ -irreducible component of  $(G, W)$ , there exists an integer  $\ell(j) \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  such that the representation  $(G, W_j)$  is equivalent to  $(G, V_{\ell(j)})$ .

The equivalence classes of the  $Q$ -irreducible components arising in  $(G, V)$  are uniquely determined.

Let  $\delta$  be an equivalence class of one of  $Q$ -irreducible components arising in  $V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n V_i$  (i.e. an equivalence class of one of the representations  $(G, V_i)$ ). Let  $I(\delta) = \{i \mid (G, V_i) \in \delta\}$  and let  $m(\delta) = \text{Card}I(\delta)$  be the multiplicity of  $\delta$ . Set also  $V(\delta) = \bigoplus_{i \in I(\delta)} V_i$  be the so-called  $Q$ -isotypic component of  $\delta$ . Then  $m(\delta)$  does not depend on the decomposition of  $V$  into  $Q$ -irreducible subspaces. Moreover if  $U \subset V$  is an invariant subspace of type  $\delta$  (this means that  $U$  is a direct sum of  $Q$ -irreducible invariant subspaces which are all of type  $\delta$ ), then  $U$  is a subspace of  $V(\delta)$ . In other words the  $Q$ -isotypic components are uniquely determined.

*Proof.*

Let  $V_j = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{\ell(j)} U_j^i$  be a decomposition of  $V_j$  into irreducible components in the ordinary sense. As we are only interested in equivalence classes of representations we can assume that  $W = (\bigoplus_{j \in A} V_j) \oplus (\bigoplus_{j \in A^c} \bigoplus_{i \in I_j} U_j^i)$ , where  $A$  is a subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  and where  $I_j$  is a proper subset of  $\{1, 2, \dots, \ell(j)\}$ . After renumbering, we can suppose that  $I_j = \{1, 2, \dots, m(j)\}$  where  $m(j) < \ell(j)$ . Let us denote by  $x_j$  the variable in  $V_j$  and by  $x_j^i$  the variable in  $U_j^i$ . Hence  $x_j = (x_j^1, x_j^2, \dots, x_j^{\ell(j)})$ . Let  $j_1, j_2, \dots, j_k$  be the elements of  $A$ , and  $j_{k+1}, \dots, j_n$  be the elements in  $A^c$ .

Let  $f$  be a relative invariant of  $(G, W)$  such that  $\frac{df}{f}$  is generically surjective.

Then  $f$  is a function in the variables:

$$(x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_k}; x_{j_{k+1}}^1, \dots, x_{j_{k+1}}^{m(j_{k+1})}; \dots; x_{j_n}^1, \dots, x_{j_n}^{m(j_n)}).$$

We know from Proposition 2.2.7 that  $f$  is a product of relative invariants of the  $V_j$ 's. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} & f(x_{j_1}, \dots, x_{j_k}; x_{j_{k+1}}^1, \dots, x_{j_{k+1}}^{m(j_{k+1})}; \dots; x_{j_n}^1, \dots, x_{j_n}^{m(j_n)}) \\ &= f_{j_1}(x_{j_1}) \dots f_{j_k}(x_{j_k}) f_{j_{k+1}}(x_{j_{k+1}}^1, \dots, x_{j_{k+1}}^{\ell(j_{k+1})}) \dots f_{j_n}(x_{j_n}^1, \dots, x_{j_n}^{\ell(j_n)}) \end{aligned}$$

where each  $f_{j_r}$  is a relative invariant of  $(G, V_{j_r})$ . Therefore:

$$\begin{array}{ll} f_{j_{k+1}} & \text{depends only on the variables } x_{j_{k+1}}^1, \dots, x_{j_{k+1}}^{m(j_{k+1})} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ f_{j_n} & \text{depends only on the variables } x_{j_n}^1, \dots, x_{j_n}^{m(j_n)}. \end{array}$$

But as  $\frac{df}{f} = \frac{df_{j_1}}{f_{j_1}} \oplus \dots \oplus \frac{df_{j_k}}{f_{j_k}} \oplus \frac{df_{j_{k+1}}}{f_{j_{k+1}}} \oplus \dots \oplus \frac{df_{j_n}}{f_{j_n}}$  is generically surjective, each  $\frac{df_{j_r}}{f_{j_r}}$  must be generically surjective. For example  $\frac{df_{j_{k+1}}}{f_{j_{k+1}}}$  will be

generically surjective from an open set of  $U_{j_{k+1}}^1 \oplus \cdots \oplus U_{j_{k+1}}^{m(j_{k+1})}$  to its dual.

Therefore, from Proposition 2.1.4 we know that  $(G, U_{j_{k+1}}^1 \oplus \cdots \oplus U_{j_{k+1}}^{m(j_{k+1})})$  would be regular. But this is impossible, since  $(G, V_{k+1})$  is  $Q$ -irreducible. Hence  $(G, W) \simeq (G, \bigoplus_{j \in A} V_j)$ , and this shows that  $(G, W)$  is completely  $Q$ -reducible.

Let  $W = \bigoplus_{j=1}^k W_j$  be a decomposition of  $W$  into  $Q$ -irreducible components. Then the same proof as above, applied to  $W_j$  instead of  $W$  shows that  $(G, W_j)$  is equivalent to  $(G, \bigoplus_{k \in B} V_k)$ , where  $B \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ . But as  $(G, W_j)$  is  $Q$ -irreducible the set  $B$  is a single element. The same proof applied to  $V$  shows that any  $Q$ -irreducible component of  $V$  is equivalent to some  $V_i$ . Hence the equivalence classes of the  $Q$ -irreducible components are uniquely determined.

Let us now prove the assertion concerning the multiplicities. Let  $V = \bigoplus_{k=1}^r U_k$  be another decomposition of  $V$  into  $Q$ -irreducible components. We can suppose that  $r \leq n$ . From above we know that  $(G, U_1) \simeq (G, V_{i_1})$  where  $i_1 \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ . Then by a classical argument  $(G, \bigoplus_{k=2}^r U_k) \simeq (G, \bigoplus_{i \neq i_1} V_i)$ . Then inductively one proves that  $r = n$  and that there exists a permutation  $\sigma$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $(G, U_i) \simeq (G, V_{\sigma(i)})$ . Therefore the multiplicity does not depend on the decomposition into  $Q$ -irreducibles.

Let now  $U \subset V$  be an invariant  $Q$ -irreducible subspace of type  $\delta$  and define  $V' = \bigoplus_{i \notin I(\delta)} V_i$ . Let  $S$  be a  $G$ -invariant supplementary space of  $U \cap V(\delta)$  in  $U$ . Hence we have:

$$U = U \cap V(\delta) \oplus S, \quad V = V(\delta) \oplus V'.$$

For  $s \in S$  let us write  $s = v_1 + v_2$  with  $v_1 \in V(\delta)$  and  $v_2 \in V'$ . The linear mapping  $\varphi : S \rightarrow V'$  defined by  $\varphi(s) = v_2$  is injective, because if  $\varphi(s) = v_2 = 0$ , then  $s = v_1 \in U \cap V(\delta) \cap S = \{0\}$ . Moreover  $\varphi$  is  $G$ -equivariant. Suppose that  $U \cap V(\delta) = \{0\}$ . If this is the case, we have  $S = U$ , and then  $S' = \varphi(S)$  is a subspace of type  $\delta$  of  $V'$ . This is not possible from the definition of  $V'$ . Therefore  $U \cap V(\delta) \neq \{0\}$ . Define  $U' = U \cap V(\delta) \oplus S'$ . As  $\varphi$  is  $G$ -equivariant, the subspace  $U'$  is invariant of type  $\delta$ . Let  $f$  be a relative invariant of  $(G, U')$  such that  $\frac{df}{f}$  is generically surjective. From Proposition 2.2.7 we know that  $f(x, s') = \varphi_1(x)\varphi_2(s')$ , where  $x \in U \cap V(\delta)$ ,  $s' \in S'$ , and where  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$  are relative invariants of  $(G, V(\delta))$  and  $(G, V')$  respectively. As  $\frac{df}{f} = \frac{d\varphi_1}{\varphi_1} \oplus \frac{d\varphi_2}{\varphi_2}$ , we obtain that  $\frac{d\varphi_1}{\varphi_1}$  and  $\frac{d\varphi_2}{\varphi_2}$  are generically surjective. This implies that  $(G, U \cap V(\delta))$  is regular and this is possible if and only if  $U \cap V(\delta) = U$ , because  $(G, U)$  is  $Q$ -irreducible. Hence  $U \subset V(\delta)$ .  $\square$

### 3. THE DECOMPOSITION THEOREM FOR REDUCTIVE REGULAR PV'S

3.1. Of course, reductive regular  $PV$ 's are not necessarily completely  $Q$ -reducible as shown by the following example.

**Example 3.1.1.** Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer and let  $G = GL(n, \mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{C}^*$  and  $V = S(n, \mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{C}^n$  where  $S(n, \mathbb{C})$  is the space of complex  $n$  by  $n$  symmetric

matrices. The action of  $G$  on  $V$  is given by

$$(g, a)(X, v) = (gX^t g, a^t g^{-1} v), \quad g \in GL(n, \mathbb{C}), a \in \mathbb{C}^*, X \in S(n, \mathbb{C}), v \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$

The isotropy subgroup of  $(I_n, e_1)$ , where  $I_n$  is the identity matrix and where  $e_1$  is the first vector of the canonical basis of  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , is easily seen to be isomorphic to the orthogonal group  $O(n-1)$ . This proves that  $(G, V)$  is a reductive regular  $PV$ . As the irreducible components are  $S(n, \mathbb{C})$  and  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and as  $(G, \mathbb{C}^n)$  is not regular, the  $PV$   $(G, V)$  is not completely  $Q$ -reducible.

### 3.2. Structure of reductive regular $PV$ 's.

The following theorem shows the structure of reductive regular  $PV$ 's.

#### Theorem 3.2.1.

Let  $(G, V)$  be a reductive regular  $PV$  and let  $x$  be a generic element of  $V$ . Denote by  $G_x$  the isotropy subgroup of  $x$ . There exist a sequence of subspaces  $V_1, V_2, \dots, V_n$  such that  $V = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \dots \oplus V_n$ , a sequence of integers  $i_1 = 1 < i_2 < \dots < i_k \leq n$  and a sequence of reductive subgroups

$$G_x = G_{k+1} \subset G_k \subset \dots \subset G_1 = G$$

with the following properties:

1) If  $x = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n$  with  $x_j \in V_j$ , then

$$G_{\ell+1} = (G_\ell)_{x_{i_\ell} + \dots + x_{i_{\ell+1}-1}}$$

2) For  $\ell \in \{1, \dots, k\}$  the space  $V_{i_\ell} \oplus \dots \oplus V_n$  is  $G_\ell$ -invariant and  $(G_\ell, V_{i_\ell} \oplus \dots \oplus V_n)$  is a regular  $PV$ .

3) If  $i_\ell \leq j \leq i_{\ell+1} - 1$ , then  $V_j$  is  $G_\ell$ -invariant,  $(G_\ell, V_j)$  is a  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$  and  $(G_\ell, V_{i_\ell} \oplus \dots \oplus V_{i_{\ell+1}-1})$  is a maximal completely  $Q$ -reducible  $PV$  in  $V_{i_\ell} \oplus \dots \oplus V_{i_n}$ . Moreover  $V_{i_{\ell+1}} \oplus \dots \oplus V_n$  is  $G_\ell$ -invariant but does not contain any subspace  $U \neq \{0\}$  such that  $(G_\ell, U)$  is regular.

*Proof.*

The proof goes by induction on  $\dim V$ . There is nothing to prove if  $\dim V = 1$ . Suppose that the theorem is proved for all reductive regular  $PV$ 's such that  $\dim V \leq r$ . Let then  $(G, V)$  be a reductive regular  $PV$  such that  $\dim V = r + 1$ . Let  $V' \subset V$  be an invariant subspace such that  $(G, V')$  is completely  $Q$ -irreducible and maximal in  $V$  for this property. Denote by

$$V' = V_1 \oplus V_2 \oplus \dots \oplus V_{i_2-1}$$

a decomposition of  $V'$  into  $Q$ -irreducible components. Let  $V''$  be an invariant supplement of  $V'$ . If  $V'' = \{0\}$  the  $PV$   $(G, V)$  is completely  $Q$ -reducible and the proof is finished. From the maximality of  $V'$  and Proposition 2.2.7, we know that  $(G, V'')$  does not contain any subspace  $U \neq \{0\}$  such that  $(G, U)$  is regular.

Let  $x$  be a generic element in  $V$ . Let us write:

$$x = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_{i_2-1} + x'' \text{ where } x_j \in V_j \text{ and where } x'' \in V''.$$

Define  $G_2 = G_{x_1 + \dots + x_{i_2-1}}$ . From Proposition 2.1.4 we know that  $G_2$  is reductive and from Proposition 2.2.1 5) we know that  $(G_2, V'')$  is regular. As  $\dim V'' \leq r$ , we know by induction that there exists a sequence of integers  $i_2 < i_3 < \dots < i_k \leq n$  and a sequence of reductive subgroups

$$G_x = (G_2)_{x''} = G_{k+1} \subset G_k \subset \dots \subset G_2$$

which have the required properties for the triplet  $(G_2, V'', x'')$ . Then the sequences  $i_1 < i_2 < i_3 < \dots < i_k \leq n$  and

$$G_x = (G_2)_{x''} = G_{k+1} \subset G_k \subset \dots \subset G_2 \subset G_1 = G$$

have the required properties for the triplet  $(G, V, x)$ . □

Let us give three examples of the kind of decompositions arising in the preceding Theorem.

**Example 3.2.2.** Let us return to Example 3.1.1. In the notations of the preceding Theorem, we take for  $G_2$  the isotropy of  $I_n \in S(n, \mathbb{C})$ , namely  $O(n, \mathbb{C}) \times \mathbb{C}^*$ , and  $V_1 = S(n, \mathbb{C})$  and  $V_2 = V_{i_2} = \mathbb{C}^n$ .

**Example 3.2.3.** (Example of the "descending chains" of F. Sato [Sa. F-1]) Let  $V_m = M(m+1, m)$  be the space of complex  $(m+1) \times m$  matrices. Define  $V = V_n \oplus V_{n-1} \oplus \dots \oplus V_1$  and let  $G = SO(n+1) \times GL(n) \times GL(n-1) \times \dots \times GL(1)$ . The group  $G$  acts by

$$(g_{n+1}, g_n, \dots, g_1)(x_n, \dots, x_1) = (g_{n+1}x_n g_n^{-1}, g_n x_{n-1} g_{n-1}^{-1}, \dots, g_2 x_1 g_1^{-1})$$

where  $g_{n+1} \in SO(n+1)$ ,  $g_i \in GL(i)$ ,  $x_i \in V_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . This representation is a regular  $PV$  and the fundamental relative invariants are given by

$$P_k(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1) = \det({}^t x_k \quad {}^t x_{k-1} \quad \dots \quad {}^t x_n x_n \quad \dots \quad x_{k-1} x_k).$$

This  $PV$  is called the  $PV$  of descending chains of size  $n$  (see [Sa. F-1] for the details). It is then easily seen that  $(G, V_n)$  is a maximal  $Q$ -completely reducible subspace (in fact it is irreducible regular). Taking  $x_n^0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_n \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  as regular element of  $(G, V_n)$ , a simple computation shows that its isotropy subgroup  $G_{x_n^0}$  is equal to  $D(SO(n) \times SO(n)) \times GL(n-1) \times \dots \times GL(1)$  where  $D(SO(n) \times SO(n))$  stands for the diagonal subgroup of  $SO(n) \times SO(n)$ , the first factor being diagonally embedded in  $SO(n+1)$ . Therefore the regular  $PV$   $(G_{x_n^0}, V_{n-1} \oplus \dots \oplus V_1)$  is essentially the  $PV$  of descending chains of size  $n-1$ . Therefore the sequence of completely  $Q$ -reducible spaces (under the successive isotropy subgroups) appearing in Theorem 3.2.1 is  $V_n, V_{n-1}, \dots, V_1$ .

**Example 3.2.4.** Let  $G = GL(2) \times Spin(10) \times \mathbb{C}^*$  where  $Spin(10)$  is the Spin group in dimension 10. Consider the representation  $[\Lambda_1 \otimes \rho \otimes Id] \oplus [Id \otimes Spin \otimes \square]$  of  $G$  where  $\Lambda_1$  is the natural 2-dimensional representation of  $GL(2)$ , where  $\rho$  is the vector representation of  $Spin(10)$ , where  $Spin$  is the half-spin representation of  $Spin(10)$ , and where  $\square$  is the natural representation by multiplication of  $\mathbb{C}^*$  on  $\mathbb{C}$ .

This representation is a  $PV$  whose generic isotropy subgroup is isomorphic to the exceptional simple Lie group  $G_2$  (see (42) p. 397 of [Ki-al1]). Another argument to prove the prehomogeneity and the regularity is to remark that it corresponds to a  $PV$  of parabolic type in  $E_8$  (see section 4) and that the corresponding grading element is the semi-simple element of an  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -triple (see [Mo], case  $E_8^3$  in Proposition 6.2.4 a) p.134). The irreducible subspace  $V_2$  corresponding to the Spin representation is not regular (Proposition 31

p. 121 in [S-K]). The irreducible subspace  $V_1 \simeq \mathbb{C}^{20}$  of the representation  $[\Lambda_1 \otimes \rho \otimes Id]$  is well known to be regular. Its generic isotropy subgroup is locally isomorphic to  $SO(2) \times SO(8) \times \mathbb{C}^*$  ([S-K], (15) p.145) and the representation  $(G_2 = SO(2) \times SO(8) \times \mathbb{C}^*, V_2)$  is regular by Proposition 2.2.1.

#### 4. CLASSIFICATION OF $Q$ -IRREDUCIBLE REDUCTIVE REGULAR PV'S OF PARABOLIC TYPE

**4.1. PV's of parabolic type.** At this point a brief summary of the theory of  $PV$ 's of Parabolic type is needed.

The  $PV$ 's of parabolic type were introduced by the author in [Ru-1], [Ru-2] (see also [Ru-3] and [Ru-4])

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a simple complex Lie algebra. Let  $\mathfrak{h}$  be a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and denote by  $\Sigma$  the set of roots of  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ . As usually, for  $\alpha \in \Sigma$ , we denote by  $H_\alpha$  the corresponding co-root in  $\mathfrak{h}$ . We fix once and for all a system of simple roots  $\Psi$  for  $\Sigma$ . We denote by  $\Sigma^+$  (resp.  $\Sigma^-$ ) the corresponding set of positive (resp. negative) roots in  $\Sigma$ . Let  $\theta$  be a subset of  $\Psi$  and let us make the standard construction of the parabolic subalgebra  $\mathfrak{p}_\theta \subset \mathfrak{g}$  associated to  $\theta$ . As usual we denote by  $\langle \theta \rangle$  the set of all roots which are linear combinations of elements in  $\theta$ , and put  $\langle \theta \rangle^\pm = \langle \theta \rangle \cap \Sigma^\pm$ .

Set

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{h}_\theta = \theta^\perp &= \{X \in \mathfrak{h} \mid \alpha(X) = 0 \ \forall \alpha \in \theta\}, & \mathfrak{h}(\theta) &= \sum_{\alpha \in \theta} \mathbb{C}H_\alpha \\ \mathfrak{l}_\theta = \mathfrak{z}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathfrak{h}_\theta) &= \mathfrak{h} \oplus \sum_{\alpha \in \langle \theta \rangle} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha, & \mathfrak{n}_\theta^\pm &= \sum_{\alpha \in \Sigma^\pm \setminus \langle \theta \rangle^\pm} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha \end{aligned}$$

Then  $\mathfrak{p}_\theta = \mathfrak{l}_\theta \oplus \mathfrak{n}_\theta^+$  is called the standard parabolic subalgebra associated to  $\theta$ . There is also a standard  $\mathbb{Z}$ -grading of  $\mathfrak{g}$  related to these data. Define  $H_\theta$  to be the unique element of  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta$  satisfying the linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha(H_\theta) &= 0 \quad \forall \alpha \in \theta \quad \text{and} \\ \alpha(H_\theta) &= 2 \quad \forall \alpha \in \Psi \setminus \theta. \end{aligned}$$

The before mentioned grading is just the grading obtained from the eigenspace decomposition of  $\text{ad } H_\theta$ :

$$d_p(\theta) = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid [H_\theta, X] = 2pX\}.$$

Then we obtain easily:

$$\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{p \in \mathbb{Z}} d_p(\theta), \quad \mathfrak{l}_\theta = d_0(\theta), \quad \mathfrak{n}_\theta^+ = \sum_{p \geq 1} d_p(\theta), \quad \mathfrak{n}_\theta^- = \sum_{p \leq -1} d_p(\theta).$$

It is known that  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  is a prehomogeneous vector space (in fact all the spaces  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_p(\theta))$  with  $p \neq 0$  are prehomogeneous, but there is no loss of generality if we only consider  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$ ). These spaces have been called prehomogeneous vector spaces of parabolic type ([Ru-1]). There are in general neither irreducible nor regular. But they are of particular interest, because in the parabolic context, the group (or more precisely its Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta$ ) and the space (here  $d_1(\theta)$ ) of the  $PV$  are embedded into a rich structure, namely the simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . For example the derived representation of the  $PV$

is just the adjoint representation of  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta$  on  $d_1(\theta)$ . Moreover the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  also contains the dual  $PV$ , namely  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_{-1}(\theta))$ .

It may be worthwhile noticing also that  $d_1(\theta) = \sum_{\beta \in \sigma_1} \mathfrak{g}^\beta$ , where  $\sigma_1$  is the set of roots which belong to the set  $(\Psi \setminus \theta) + \mathbb{Z}\theta$ , where  $\mathbb{Z}\theta$  is the  $\mathbb{Z}$ -span of  $\theta$ .

As these  $PV$ 's are in one to one correspondence with the subsets  $\theta \subset \Psi$ , we make the convention to describe them by the mean of the following weighted Dynkin diagram:

**Definition 4.1.1.** *The diagram of the PV  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  is the Dynkin diagram of  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$  (or  $\Sigma$ ), where the vertices corresponding to the simple roots of  $\Psi \setminus \theta$  are circled (see an example below).*

This very simple classification by means of diagrams contains nevertheless some immediate and interesting informations concerning the  $PV$   $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  (for all these facts, see [Ru-1], [Ru-2] or [Ru-3]):

- The Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{l}'_\theta = [\mathfrak{l}_\theta, \mathfrak{l}_\theta]$  (i.e. the semi-simple part of the Lie algebra of the group) is the Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{g}$  where we have removed the circled vertices and the edges connected to these vertices.
- In fact as a Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta = \mathfrak{l}'_\theta \oplus \mathfrak{h}_\theta$  and  $\dim \mathfrak{h}_\theta =$  the number of circled vertices.
- The number of irreducible components of the representation  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  is also equal to the number of circled roots. More precisely, if  $\alpha$  is a (simple) circled root, then any nonzero root vector  $X_\alpha \in \mathfrak{g}^\alpha$  generates an irreducible  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta$ -module  $V_\alpha$ , and  $d_1(\theta) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Psi \setminus \theta} V_\alpha$  is the decomposition of  $d_1(\theta)$  into irreducibles.

In fact the decomposition of the representation  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  into irreducibles can also be described by using the eigenspace decomposition with respect to  $\text{ad}(\mathfrak{h}_\theta)$ . Let me explain this. For each  $\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}^*$ , let  $\bar{\alpha}$  be the restriction of  $\alpha$  to  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta$  and define

$$\mathfrak{g}^{\bar{\alpha}} = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} \mid \forall H \in \mathfrak{h}_\theta, [H, X] = \bar{\alpha}(H)X\}.$$

Then  $\mathfrak{g}^{\bar{0}} = \mathfrak{l}_\theta$  and for  $\alpha \in \Psi \setminus \theta$ , we have  $V_\alpha = \mathfrak{g}^{\bar{\alpha}}$ . Hence we can write

$$d_1(\theta) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Psi \setminus \theta} \mathfrak{g}^{\bar{\alpha}}.$$

Moreover one can notice (always for  $\alpha \in \Psi \setminus \theta$ ) that  $V_\alpha = \mathfrak{g}^{\bar{\alpha}} = \sum_{\beta \in \sigma_1^\alpha} \mathfrak{g}^\beta$ , where  $\sigma_1^\alpha$  is the set of roots which belong to  $\alpha + \langle \theta \rangle$ .

- Moreover one can directly read the highest weight of  $V_\alpha$  from the diagram. The highest weight of  $V_\alpha$  relatively to the Borel sub-algebra  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta^- = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \sum_{\alpha \in \langle \theta \rangle^-} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha$  is  $\bar{\alpha} = \alpha|_{\mathfrak{h}(\theta)}$ . Let  $\omega_\beta$  ( $\beta \in \theta$ ) be the fundamental weights of  $\mathfrak{l}'_\theta$  (i.e. the dual basis of  $(H_\beta)_{\beta \in \theta}$ ). For each circled root  $\alpha$  (i.e. for each  $\alpha \in \Psi \setminus \theta$ ), let  $J_\alpha = \{(\beta_i)\}$  be the set of roots in  $\theta$  (= non-circled) which are connected to  $\alpha$  in the diagram. From elementary diagram considerations we know that  $J_\alpha$  may be empty and that there are always less than 3 roots in  $J_\alpha$ .

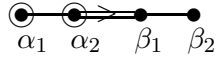
If  $J_\alpha = \emptyset$ , then  $V_\alpha$  is the trivial one dimensional representation of  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta$ .

If  $J_\alpha \neq \emptyset$ , then  $\bar{\alpha} = \sum_{i \in J_\alpha} c_i \omega_{\beta_i}$  where  $c_i = \alpha(H_{\beta_i})$  and  $\alpha(H_{\beta_i})$  can be computed as follows:

$$(R) \begin{cases} \text{if } \|\alpha\| \leq \|\beta_i\|, \text{ then } \alpha(H_{\beta_i}) = -1 ; \\ \text{if } \|\alpha\| > \|\beta_i\| \text{ and if } \alpha \text{ and } \beta_i \text{ are connected by } j \text{ arrows } (1 \leq j \leq 3), \\ \text{then } \alpha(H_{\beta_i}) = -j . \end{cases}$$

Let us illustrate this with an example.

**Example 4.1.2.** Consider the following diagram:



The preceding diagram is the diagram of a  $PV$  of parabolic type inside  $\mathfrak{g} \simeq F_4$ . Here we have  $\theta = \{\beta_1, \beta_2\}$  and  $\Psi \setminus \theta = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2\}$ . The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta$  is isomorphic to  $A_2 \oplus \mathfrak{h}_\theta$  where  $\dim \mathfrak{h}_\theta = \text{number of circled roots} = 2$ . As  $J_{\alpha_1} = \emptyset$ , the representation of  $\mathfrak{l}'_\theta$  on  $V_{\alpha_1}$  is the trivial representation. Hence the action of  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta$  on  $V_{\alpha_1}$  reduces to the character of  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta$  given by the restriction of the root  $\alpha_1$  to  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta$ . On the other hand we have  $J_{\alpha_2} = \{\beta_1\}$ . Therefore, applying the rules (R) above, we see that  $V_{\alpha_2}$  is the irreducible  $A_2$ -module with highest weight  $-2\omega_1$ , where  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$  is the set of fundamental weights of  $A_2$  corresponding to  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ . Again the action of  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta$  on  $V_{\alpha_2}$  is scalar with eigenvalue the restriction of  $\alpha_2$  to  $\mathfrak{h}_\theta$ .

One can prove ([Ru-1]) that the  $PV$  of parabolic type  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  is irreducible if and only if  $\mathfrak{p}_\theta$  is a maximal parabolic subalgebra, *i.e.* if and only if  $\Psi \setminus \theta$  is reduced to a single root  $\alpha_1$ .

The  $PV$ 's of parabolic type which are irreducible and regular were classified by the list of the "weighted" Dynkin diagram of  $\mathfrak{g}$ , where the root  $\alpha_1$  in the discussion above is circled. This classification was announced first in [Ru-1] and then given explicitly in [Ru-2] and [Ru-3] (see also the book [Ru-4]).

**Remark 4.1.3.** Of course the irreducible regular  $PV$ 's of parabolic type are  $Q$ -irreducible. Therefore in order to complete the classification of the  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's of parabolic type, it is enough to consider only  $PV$ 's which are reducible. This will be done in the sequel of the paper.

For further use we need also to introduce the notion of subdiagram of the weighted Dynkin diagram associated to  $(\Psi, \theta)$ . Let  $\Gamma$  be a subset of  $\Psi \setminus \theta$ , that is a subset of the circled roots. For  $\alpha \in \Gamma$  define  $\Psi_\alpha$  to be the connected component of  $\theta \cup \{\alpha\}$  containing  $\alpha$ . Define then

$$\Psi_\Gamma = \cup_{\alpha \in \Gamma} \Psi_\alpha \text{ and } \theta_\Gamma = \theta \cap \Psi_\Gamma.$$

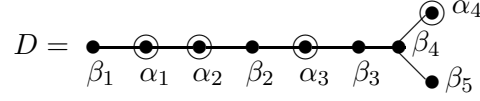
**Definition 4.1.4.**

*The weighted Dynkin diagram associated to the pair  $(\Psi_\Gamma, \theta_\Gamma)$  is called a subdiagram of the diagram associated to  $(\Psi, \theta)$ .*

It can be noticed that a subdiagram is just a subset  $\Gamma$  of the circled roots together with the non-circled roots which are connected to a root in  $\Gamma$  (through a path in the non-circled roots). It may also be noticed that the subdiagrams of a connected diagram are not necessarily connected. Let us give an example.

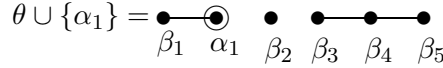


**Example 4.1.5.** : Consider the following weighted diagram in  $D_9$

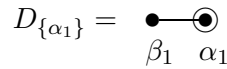


where  $\theta = \{\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5\}$  and  $\Psi \setminus \theta = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4\}$ .

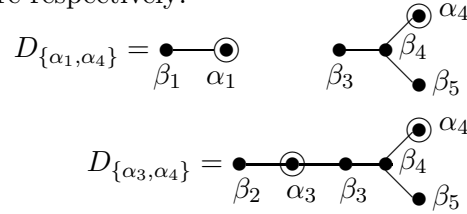
We have:



Therefore the irreducible subdiagram associated to  $\{\alpha_1\}$  is given by:



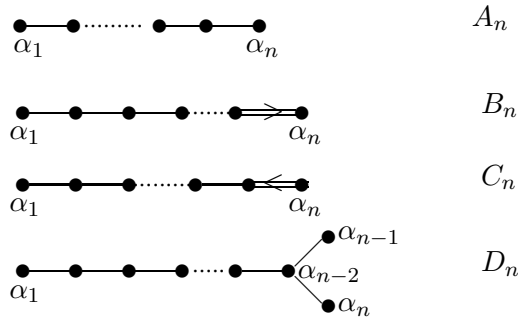
Similarly the subdiagrams of  $D$  corresponding to  $\Gamma = \{\alpha_1, \alpha_4\}$  and  $\Gamma = \{\alpha_3, \alpha_4\}$  are respectively:



**Definition 4.1.6.** A weighted Dynkin diagram will be called regular (resp.  $Q$ -irreducible) if the corresponding PV of parabolic type is regular (resp.  $Q$ -irreducible).

**4.2. Classification of classical  $Q$ -irreducible reductive regular PV's of parabolic type.**

We adopt the following numbering of the roots for classical simple Lie algebras



The classification of  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's in the classical simple Lie algebras need now some technical lemmas. If  $\omega_i$  is the fundamental weight corresponding to the root  $\alpha_i$ , we denote by  $\Lambda_i(\mathfrak{g})$  the corresponding representation of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . If this representation can be lifted to a group  $G$  with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ , we will denote by  $\Lambda_i(G)$  the lifted representation of  $G$ . For example we will denote by  $\Lambda_1(GL(n))$  (resp. by  $\Lambda_n(GL(n))$ ) the natural representation

of  $GL(n)$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  (resp. the dual of the natural representation of  $GL(n)$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ ).

**Lemma 4.2.1.** *Let  $G$  be a simple classical group. Let  $d_1 = \dim \Lambda_1(G)$ . Let  $n \leq d_1$  and consider the PV  $(G \times GL(n), \Lambda_1(G) \otimes \Lambda_n(GL(n)))$  (it is a PV because it is parabolic). Then either this PV is regular, or there exists a normal unipotent subgroup of the generic isotropy subgroup which is included in  $G$ .*

*Proof.* If  $G$  is of type  $A_k$  then an obvious calculation shows the Lemma. If  $G$  is of type  $B_k$  or  $D_k$ , then we know from table 1 in [Ru-2], that the given PV is always regular.

The same argument holds if  $G$  is of type  $C_k$  and if  $n$  is even.

If  $G$  is of type  $C_k$  and if  $n$  is odd, the space is not regular and the calculations made at p. 102 of [S-K] show the assertion concerning the normal unipotent subgroup. □

**Lemma 4.2.2.** *Let  $G$  be a reductive algebraic group and let  $\Lambda$  be an representation of  $G$  of dimension  $r$ . Let  $p$  and  $q$  be two integers such that  $p < q$  and  $r < q$ . Suppose that the representation  $[\Lambda_{p-1}(GL(p)) \otimes \Lambda_1(GL(q))] \oplus [\Lambda_{q-1}(GL(q)) \otimes \Lambda]$  of the group  $GL(p) \times GL(q) \times G$  is prehomogeneous (this is automatically the case if  $p \geq r$ ). Then:*

- 1) *If  $p \neq r$ , the preceding PV is not regular and there exists a non-trivial normal unipotent subgroup of the generic isotropy subgroup which is included in  $GL(q)$ .*
- 2) *If  $p = r$ , the preceding PV is regular and 1-irreducible (hence  $Q$ -irreducible from Proposition 2.2.6).*

*Proof.* As  $G$  only acts through its representation  $\Lambda(G)$ , we can assume that  $G \subset GL(r)$ . The space of the representation is  $M(q, p) \oplus M(r, q)$  (where  $M(u, v)$  stands for the space of  $u \times v$  matrices), and the group  $GL(p) \times GL(q) \times G$  acts by

$$(g_1, g_2, g_3)(X, Y) = (g_2 X g_1^{-1}, g_3 Y g_2^{-1})$$

where  $g_1 \in GL(p)$ ,  $g_2 \in GL(q)$ ,  $g_3 \in G$ ,  $X \in M(q, p)$ ,  $Y \in M(r, q)$ . As usually we denote by  $\Omega$  the open orbit in  $M(q, p) \oplus M(r, q)$ .

- *Suppose first that  $p < r$ .*

As the representation is supposed to be prehomogeneous, we know from Proposition 2.2.1 that the open orbits of the components are the matrices of maximal rank in  $M(q, p)$  and  $M(r, q)$  respectively. Let  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(q, p)$  where  $I_p$  is the identity matrix of size  $p$ . An easy calculation shows that the isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, 0) \in M(q, p) \oplus M(r, q)$  is the set of matrices of the form:

$$(g_1, \begin{bmatrix} g_1 & B \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, g_3), \quad g_1 \in GL(p), D \in GL(q-p), B \in M(p, q-p), g_3 \in G.$$

It can also be easily seen that that the set  $\mathcal{O}$  of matrices of the form

$$[u | 0] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} g_1 & B \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $g_1 \in GL(p)$ ,  $D \in GL(q-p)$ ,  $B \in M(p, q-p)$ ,  $u \in GL(r)$ ,  $[u | 0] \in M(r, q)$  contains a Zariski open subset of  $M(r, q)$ .

Therefore  $\mathcal{O} \cap \{m \in M(r, q) \mid (X_0, m) \in \Omega\} \neq \emptyset$

This implies that there exists a generic element of the form  $(X_0, Y_0)$  where  $Y_0 = (y_0, 0)$  with  $y_0 \in GL(r)$ . Again a simple calculation shows that the isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is the set of triplets of the form:

$$(g_1, \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} g_1 & B_1 & 0 \\ 0 & D_1 & \\ \hline 0 & D_2 & D_3 \end{array} \right], g_3)$$

where  $g_1 \in GL(p)$ ,  $D_1 \in GL(r-p)$ ,  $D_2 \in M(q-r, r-p)$ ,  $D_3 \in GL(q-r)$ ,  $g_3 \in G \subset GL(r)$  and where

$$y_0 \cdot \left[ \begin{array}{cc} g_1 & B_1 \\ 0 & D_1 \end{array} \right] = g_3 \cdot y_0.$$

It is now clear that the set of triplets of the form

$$(I_p, \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} I_r & & 0 \\ 0 & D_2 & I_{q-r} \end{array} \right], I_r)$$

is a unipotent normal subgroup of the (generic) isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$ .

• *Suppose that  $p > r$ .*

Let  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(q, p)$  and let  $Y_0 = [I_r \ 0] \in M(r, q)$ . The isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is the set of triples of matrices of the form

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} g_3 & 0 \\ C_1 & D_1 \end{bmatrix}, \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} g_3 & 0 & 0 \\ C_1 & D_1 & D_2 \\ \hline 0 & 0 & D_3 \end{array} \right], g_3 \right),$$

where  $g_3 \in G \subset GL(r)$ ,  $D_1 \in GL(p-r)$ ,  $C_1 \in M(p-r, r)$ ,  $D_3 \in GL(q-p)$ ,  $D_2 \in M(p-r, q-p)$ .

A simple calculation of dimensions shows now that the representation is prehomogeneous and that  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is generic. Of course the set of triplets of the form

$$(I_p, \left[ \begin{array}{c|c} I_p & 0 \\ \hline 0 & I_{q-p} \end{array} \right], I_r)$$

is a unipotent normal subgroup of the (generic) isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$ .

• *Finally suppose that  $p = r$ .*

Let  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(q, p)$  and let  $Y_0 = [I_p \ 0] \in M(p, q)$ . The isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is the set of triplets of the form

$$(g_3, \left[ \begin{array}{cc} g_3 & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{array} \right], g_3) \tag{*}$$

where  $g_3 \in G \subset GL(p)$ ,  $D \in GL(q-p)$ .

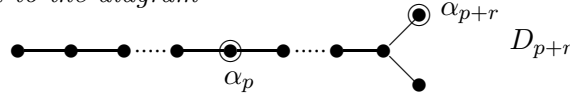
Again an easy computation of dimensions shows that this representation is prehomogeneous. As the generic isotropy subgroup is reductive, this  $PV$  is regular.

Let  $G_1$  be the subgroup of  $GL(p) \times GL(q) \times G$  generated by a generic isotropy subgroup and by the commutator subgroup  $SL(p) \times SL(q) \times G'$ . The characters of the relative invariants are exactly those characters which are trivial on  $G_1$  (this is true for any PV). From (\*) it is easy to see that  $G/G_1$  is always a one dimensional torus, hence there exists only one fundamental relative invariant. One can remark that this invariant is given by  $f(X, Y) = \det(YX)$ ,  $X \in M(p, q)$ ,  $Y \in M(q, p)$ . □

**Lemma 4.2.3.** *Consider the representation*

$$[\Lambda_{p-1}(GL(p)) \otimes \Lambda_{r-1}(GL(r))] \oplus [Id(GL(p)) \otimes \Lambda_2(GL(r))]$$

of the group  $GL(p) \times GL(r)$ , with  $r \geq 3$ . Note that this representation is prehomogeneous since it is infinitesimally equivalent to the PV of parabolic type associated to the diagram



1) If  $r$  is odd and if  $p = r - 1$ , this space is regular and 1-irreducible (hence  $Q$ -irreducible from Proposition 2.2.6).

2) If  $r$  is odd and  $p \leq r - 2$ , this space is not regular and there exists a non-trivial normal unipotent subgroup of the generic isotropy subgroup which is included in  $SL(r)$ .

*Proof.*

The space of the representation is  $V = M(r, p) \oplus Skew(r)$ , where  $Skew(r)$  denotes the spaces of skew-symmetric matrices of size  $r$ , and the action of the group  $GL(p) \times GL(r)$  is given by

$$(g_1, g_2)(X, Y) = ({}^t g_2^{-1} X g_1^{-1}, g_2 Y {}^t g_2),$$

where  $g_1 \in GL(p)$ ,  $g_2 \in GL(r)$ ,  $X \in M(r, p)$ ,  $Y \in Skew(r)$ . From the computations in [S-K], p. 75-76, we know that if  $r = 2m+1$ , there exists a generic element  $Y_0 \in Skew(r)$ , such that the isotropy subgroup of  $(0, Y_0) \in V$  is the set of pairs of the form

$$\left( g_1, \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

where  $g_1 \in GL(p)$ ,  $A \in Sp(m)$ ,  $B \in M(2m, 1)$ ,  $D \in GL(1)$ , and where  $Sp(m)$  denotes the symplectic group inside  $GL(2m)$ .

• Suppose that  $p = r - 1$ .

One shows easily that if  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_{r-1} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(r, r-1)$ , the isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is the set of pairs of matrices of the form

$$\left( g_1, \begin{bmatrix} {}^t g_1^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} \right),$$

where  $g_1 \in Sp(m)$ ,  $D \in GL(1)$ .

A simple calculation of dimensions proves then that  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is generic. As the preceding isotropy subgroup is reductive, this PV is regular. The normal subgroup  $G_1$  of  $GL(r-1) \times GL(r)$  generated by this isotropy subgroup and the commutator subgroup  $SL(r-1) \times SL(r)$  is of codimension one.

Therefore this  $PV$  is 1-irreducible. The fundamental relative invariant is given by  $f(X, Y) = Pf({}^tX.Y.X)$  ( $X \in M(r, r-1), Y \in Skew(r)$ ), where  $Pf(Z)$  denotes the Pfaffian of the skew-symmetric matrix  $Z$ .

• Suppose that  $p \leq r-2$ .

Set  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(r, p)$ . Then the isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is the set of pairs of matrices of the form

$$(g_1, \begin{bmatrix} {}^t g_1^{-1} & 0 & 0 \\ X & Y & B \\ 0 & 0 & D \end{bmatrix}),$$

where  $X \in M(r-1-p, p), Y \in GL(r-1-p), D \in GL(1), B \in M(r-1-p, 1)$ , and where

$$\begin{bmatrix} {}^t g_1^{-1} & 0 \\ X & Y \end{bmatrix} \in Sp(m).$$

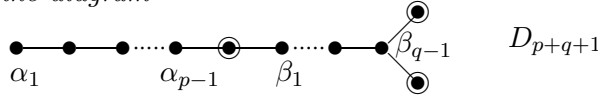
Then the set of matrices  $\begin{bmatrix} I_p & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{r-1-p} & B \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$  is a normal unipotent subgroup in  $SL(r)$ . □

**Remark 4.2.4.** If  $r$  is odd and  $p$  is even ( $p < r-2$ ) the function  $(X, Y) \mapsto Pf({}^tX.Y.X)$  is a non-trivial relative invariant of the  $PV$  considered in Lemma 4.2.3, which is non regular for these values of  $p$  and  $r$ . Hence the result from [Ru-1] which asserts that an irreducible  $PV$  of parabolic type is regular if and only if there exists a non-trivial relative invariant is no longer true if the representation is not irreducible. (See also Remark 4.2.6 for another example).

**Lemma 4.2.5.** Let  $D_2$  be the group  $(\mathbb{C}^*)^2$  identified with the  $2 \times 2$  diagonal matrices, and denote by  $\Delta$  the natural representation of  $D_2$  on  $\mathbb{C}^2$ . Consider the representation

$$[\Lambda_{p-1}(GL(p)) \otimes \Lambda_1(SL(q)) \otimes Id(D_2)] \oplus [Id(GL(p)) \otimes \Lambda_{q-1}(SL(q)) \otimes \Delta]$$

of the group  $GL(p) \times SL(q) \times D_2$ . Note that this representation is prehomogeneous since it is infinitesimally equivalent to the  $PV$  of parabolic type associated to the diagram



1) If  $q > p$  and  $p = 2$  this  $PV$  is regular and 1-irreducible (hence  $Q$ -irreducible from Proposition 2.2.6).

2) If  $q > p$  and  $p \neq 2$ , then this  $PV$  is not regular and there exists a non-trivial normal unipotent subgroup of the generic isotropy subgroup which is included in  $SL(q)$ .

*Proof.*

The space of the representation is  $M(q, p) \oplus M(2, q)$  and the action of  $GL(p) \times SL(q) \times D_2$  is given by

$$(g_1, g_2, g_3)(X, Y) = (g_2 X g_1^{-1}, g_3 Y g_2^{-1}),$$

where  $g_1 \in GL(p), g_2 \in SL(q), g_3 \in D_2, X \in M(q, p), Y \in M(2, q)$ .

- Suppose that  $q > p$  and  $p = 2$ .

Let  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(q, 2)$  and let  $Y_0 = [I_2 \ 0] \in M(2, q)$ . A computation shows that the isotropy subgroup of  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is the set of triplets of the form  $(d, \begin{bmatrix} d & 0 \\ 0 & g \end{bmatrix}, d)$ , where  $d \in D_2$  and  $g \in GL(q - 2)$ . From the dimensions of the full group and of the isotropy subgroup, we see that  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is generic. Moreover as the isotropy subgroup is reductive, the  $PV$  is regular. The subgroup  $G_1$  generated by the commutator subgroup ( $\simeq SL(2) \times SL(q)$ ) and the generic isotropy is the subgroup of triples  $(g_1, g_2, g_3)$  with  $\det g_1 = \det g_3$ . Hence  $G/G_1$  is one dimensional, therefore the  $PV$  is 1-irreducible. It is easy to see that the function  $(X, Y) \mapsto \det(YX)$  is the fundamental relative invariant.

- Suppose that  $q > p$  and  $p > 2$ .

Let  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} I_p \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(q, p)$  and let  $Y_0 = [I_2 \ 0] \in M(2, q)$ . Then again one proves that  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is generic and one shows that its isotropy subgroup is the set of triples of the form

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} d & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} d & 0 & 0 \\ C & D & B \\ 0 & 0 & D' \end{bmatrix}, d \right),$$

where  $d \in D_2, D \in GL(p - 2), B \in M(p - 2, q - p), D' \in GL(q - p)$ . The set of matrices of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} I_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{p-2} & B \\ 0 & 0 & I_{q-p} \end{bmatrix}$  is a normal unipotent subgroup of  $SL(q)$ .

- Suppose that  $q > p$  and  $p = 1$ .

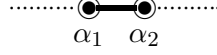
Let  $X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \in M(q, 1)$  and let  $Y_0 = [I_2 \ 0] \in M(2, q)$ . It is easy to verify that  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is generic and that its isotropy subgroup is the set of triples of the form  $(\lambda, \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \\ \gamma & -\gamma & D \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix})$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*, D \in GL(q - 2), \lambda^2 \det D = 1, \gamma \in M(q - 2, 1)$ . The subset of matrices of the form  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \gamma & -\gamma & I_{q-2} \end{bmatrix}$  is a normal unipotent subgroup of  $SL(q)$ .

□

**Remark 4.2.6.** If  $\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$  is a vector in  $\mathbb{C}^2$ , let  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  be the two projections defined by  $f_i(\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}) = x_i, i = 1, 2$ . It is quite obvious that if  $q > p$ , and  $p = 1$ , the mappings  $(X, Y) \mapsto f_i(Y.X)$  are relative invariants which are algebraically independant. This gives another example of a parabolic  $PV$

having nontrivial relative invariants and which is nonregular (see Remark 4.2.4).

**Lemma 4.2.7.** *Let  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  be a PV of parabolic type in a simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Suppose that its diagram is of the following type*



where the boldface line stands for one or more edges in the Dynkin diagram. In other words, in the notation of section 4.1, we suppose that  $\Psi \setminus \theta$  contains two roots  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$  (but possibly others) with  $(\alpha_1 | \alpha_2) \neq 0$ . Let  $\Psi_1$  be the connected component of  $\Psi \setminus \{\alpha_2\}$  containing  $\alpha_1$  and let  $\Psi_2$  be the connected component of  $\Psi \setminus \{\alpha_1\}$  containing  $\alpha_2$ . Set  $\theta_1 = \theta \cap \Psi_1$  and  $\theta_2 = \theta \cap \Psi_2$ . Define

$$D^1(\theta) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Psi_1 \setminus \theta_1} \mathfrak{g}^{\bar{\alpha}}, \quad D^2(\theta) = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Psi_2 \setminus \theta_2} \mathfrak{g}^{\bar{\alpha}}$$

(For the notations see section 4.1,  $D^1(\theta)$  (resp.  $D^2(\theta)$ ) is just the sum of the irreducible components of  $d_1(\theta)$  arising from the left of the root  $\alpha_1$  (resp. from the right of the root  $\alpha_2$ ). Then:

$$(L_\theta, d_1(\theta)) \text{ is regular} \iff (L_\theta, D^1(\theta)) \text{ and } (L_\theta, D^2(\theta)) \text{ are regular.}$$

*Proof.*

Suppose first that  $(L_\theta, D^1(\theta))$  and  $(L_\theta, D^2(\theta))$  are regular. Then, as  $d_1(\theta) = D^1(\theta) \oplus D^2(\theta)$ , we know from Proposition 2.2.7 that  $(L_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  is regular. Conversely suppose that  $(L_\theta, D^1(\theta))$  is not regular (for example). Let  $X_1 + X_2$  ( $X_i \in D^i(\theta)$ ) a generic element in  $d_1(\theta)$ . Then  $X_1$  is generic in  $(L_\theta, D^1(\theta))$  (see Proposition 2.2.1). From the hypothesis we know that the isotropy subgroup  $(L_\theta)_{X_1}$  is not reductive (Proposition 2.1.4), hence  $(L_\theta)_{X_1}$  contains a nontrivial normal unipotent subgroup  $U$ . The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{u}$  of  $U$  is a nonzero ideal in  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta)_{X_1}$ . Let  $\mathfrak{l}_1$  (resp  $\mathfrak{l}_2$ ) be the semi-simple subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  corresponding to  $\theta_1$  (resp.  $\theta_2$ ). One has  $\mathfrak{l}_\theta = \mathfrak{h}_\theta \oplus \mathfrak{l}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{l}_2$ . From the hypothesis on  $\alpha_1$  and  $\alpha_2$ , we have  $[\mathfrak{l}_2, X_1] = \{0\}$ . Therefore  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta)_{X_1} = (\mathfrak{h}_\theta \oplus \mathfrak{l}_1)_{X_1} \oplus \mathfrak{l}_2$ , and hence  $\mathfrak{u} \in (\mathfrak{h}_\theta \oplus \mathfrak{l}_1)_{X_1}$ . But as  $\mathfrak{u}$  is the Lie algebra of a unipotent subgroup we have  $\mathfrak{u} \in \mathfrak{l}_1$ . But as  $[\mathfrak{l}_1, X_2] = \{0\}$ , we obtain that  $U$  stabilizes also  $X_2$ . As  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta)_{X_1+X_2} = (\mathfrak{l}_\theta)_{X_1} \cap (\mathfrak{l}_\theta)_{X_2}$ , we see that  $\mathfrak{u}$  is an ideal in  $(\mathfrak{l}_\theta)_{X_1+X_2}$ . Hence  $U$  is a normal subgroup of  $(L_\theta)_{X_1+X_2}$ . Therefore  $(L_\theta, d_1(\theta))$  is not regular.  $\square$

**Theorem 4.2.8.** *The  $Q$ -irreducible PV's of parabolic type which are not irreducible regular are exactly the PV's from Table 1 at the end of the paper (where the numbers  $p_i$  are the number of roots in the connected components of  $\theta$ ).*

*Proof.*

A consequence of Lemma 4.2.7 is that the diagram of a  $Q$ -irreducible PV of parabolic type will never contain two circled roots which are connected by one or more edges. Therefore we will never consider such diagrams in this proof.

$\diamond$  *Let us first consider the case of classical simple Lie algebras.*

As we do not consider irreducible PV's, we assume that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) \geq 2$ .

• The case  $A_n$ .

a) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) = 2$ . Consider a diagram of the type:

$$(1) \quad \bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_1}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_2}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_3}{\cdots} \bullet \cdots \bullet$$

which is supposed to be  $Q$ -irreducible. If  $p_1 \geq p_2$ , Lemma 4.2.1 implies that either the subdiagram

$$\bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_1}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_2}{\cdots} \bullet \cdots \bullet$$

is either regular or the generic isotropy subgroup contains a nontrivial unipotent subgroup which is included in  $SL(p_1 + 1)$ . Therefore, in the second case, this unipotent subgroup will be included in the generic isotropy of the diagram (1). Hence, in the second case the diagram (1), will not be regular. Therefore we have necessarily  $p_1 < p_2$ . The same arguments show that we have also  $p_3 < p_2$ . But then, from Lemma 4.2.2 we obtain that this  $PV$  is regular if and only if  $p_3 = p_2$ , and in this case it is 1-irreducible.

b) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) > 2$ . Suppose that the following diagram is  $Q$ -irreducible:

$$(2) \quad \bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_1}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_2}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \cdots \bullet \circ \bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_n}{\cdots} \bullet \cdots \bullet \quad (n \geq 4)$$

As before Lemma 4.2.1 implies that  $p_1 < p_2$  and  $p_n < p_{n-1}$ . By induction the same argument shows that there exists  $i \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$  such that  $p_{i-1} < p_i$  and  $p_{i+1} < p_i$ . If  $p_{i-1} \neq p_{i+1}$  Lemma 4.2.2 implies that there exists a normal unipotent subgroup in the generic isotropy subgroup of the subdiagram

$$\bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_{i-1}}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_i}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_{i+1}}{\cdots} \bullet \cdots \bullet$$

which is included in  $SL(p_i)$ . But this subgroup will still be included in the generic isotropy of the diagram (2), and hence the diagram (2) would not be regular.

If  $p_{i-1} = p_{i+1}$  Lemma 4.2.2 implies that the subdiagram above is regular, hence diagram (2) is never  $Q$ -irreducible.

• The case  $B_n$ .

a) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) = 2$ . Suppose that the diagram

$$(3) \quad \bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_1}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_2}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_3}{\cdots} \bullet \cdots \bullet \Rightarrow \bullet$$

is  $Q$ -irreducible. As in the case  $A_n$  a) before, Lemma 4.2.1 implies that  $p_1 < p_2$  and  $2p_3 + 1 < p_2 + 1$ . Then Lemma 4.2.2 implies that the diagram (3) is  $Q$ -irreducible if and only if  $2p_3 + 1 = p_2 + 1$ , which is the condition in Table 1.

b) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) > 2$ . Suppose that the following diagram is  $Q$ -irreducible:

$$(4) \quad \bullet \cdots \bullet \overset{p_1}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \overset{p_2}{\cdots} \bullet \circ \bullet \cdots \bullet \circ \bullet \cdots \bullet \Rightarrow \bullet \cdots \bullet$$



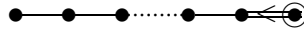
Then as before Lemma 4.2.1 implies that  $p_1 < p_2$  and  $2p_n < p_{n-1}$ . There are then two possibilities:

- either there exists  $i \in \{2, \dots, n-2\}$  such that  $p_{i-1} < p_i$  and  $p_{i+1} < p_i$ ,
- or  $p_{n-2} < p_{n-1}$  and  $2p_n < p_{n-1}$ .

In both cases Lemma 4.2.2 implies that either diagram (4) contains a regular subdiagram or it is not regular. We have showed that diagram (4) is never  $Q$ -irreducible.

- The cases  $C_n$  and  $D_n^1$ .

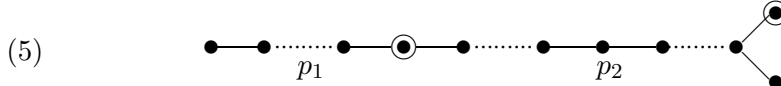
These cases can be treated in the same way as the cases  $A_n$  and  $B_n$ . It must be noticed that in the  $C_n$  case one cannot have a diagram where the root  $\alpha_n$  is circled. This is because the subdiagram



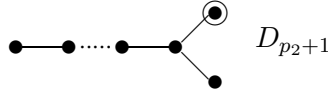
would be regular (see the list of the irreducible regular  $PV$ 's of parabolic type in [Ru-2] or in [Ru-4]).

- The case  $D_n^2$ .

a) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) = 2$ . Suppose that the diagram



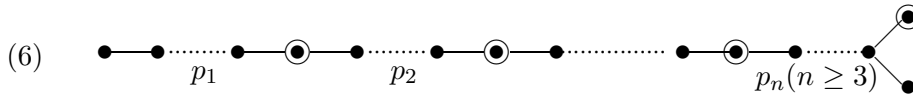
is  $Q$ -irreducible. Then  $p_2$  is even because if  $p_2$  is odd the subdiagram



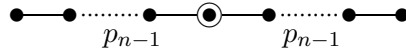
would be regular (see the list of the irreducible regular  $PV$ 's of parabolic type in [Ru-2] or in [Ru-4]).

On the other hand from Lemma 4.2.1 we get that  $p_2 > p_1$ . Then Lemma 4.2.3 implies that only the case where  $p_1 = p_2 - 1$  corresponds to a  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ .

b) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) > 2$ . Suppose that the following diagram is  $Q$ -irreducible:



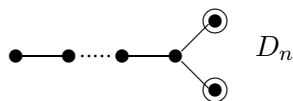
For the same reason as for the diagram (5), we necessarily have  $p_n$  even. Then from Lemma 4.2.1 we get  $p_1 < p_2$  and from Lemma 4.2.3 we get  $p_n \leq p_{n-1}$ . If  $p_n = p_{n-1}$  diagram (6) would contain the regular subdiagram



Hence  $p_1 < p_2$  and  $p_n < p_{n-1}$ . There exists then  $i \in \{2, \dots, n\}$  such that  $p_{i-1} < p_i$  and  $p_{i+1} < p_i$ . From Lemma 4.2.2 we obtain that either the diagram (6) is not  $Q$ -irreducible (if  $p_{i-1} = p_{i+1}$ ), or non regular (if  $p_{i-1} \neq p_{i+1}$ ). In any case diagram (6) is never  $Q$ -irreducible.

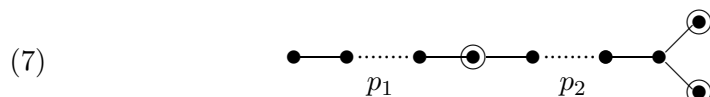
- The case  $D_n^3$ .

a) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) = 2$ . It is easy to prove that the subdiagram



is regular if and only if  $n = 3$ , and then  $D_3 = A_3$  and the corresponding diagram was already considered in the  $A_n$  case.

b) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) = 3$ . Suppose that the following diagram is  $Q$ -irreducible.

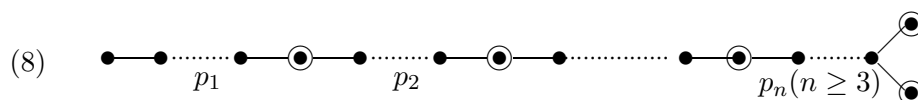


We know from Lemma 4.2.5 that if  $p_2 > p_1$  and  $p_1 \neq 1$ , diagram (7) is not regular. If  $p_2 > p_1$  and  $p_1 = 1$ , the same Lemma implies that diagram (7) is  $Q$ -irreducible.

If  $p_1 = p_2$ , diagram (7) contains obviously an  $A_{n-2}$  regular irreducible subdiagram.

If  $p_1 > p_2$ , diagram (7) cannot be regular, as shown by Lemma 4.2.1.

c) Suppose that  $\text{Card}(\Psi \setminus \theta) > 3$ . The corresponding diagram is the following:

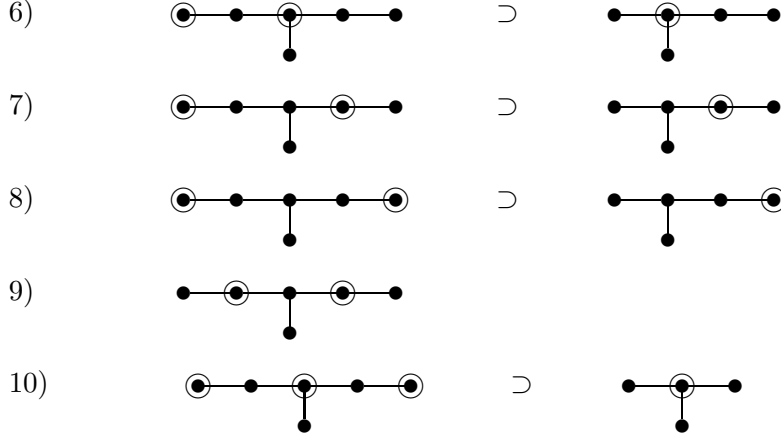


From Lemma 4.2.1 and Lemma 4.2.5 we deduce that if this diagram would be  $Q$ -irreducible, we would have  $p_1 < p_2$  and  $p_n < p_{n-1}$ . Then, using the same method as in the  $A_n$  case, one proves that diagram (8) is never  $Q$ -irreducible.

◇ *Let us now consider the case of exceptional simple Lie algebras.*

We only give the proof for  $E_6$ . The cases of  $E_7, E_8, F_4$  and  $G_2$  are analogous. We begin by writing down all possible diagrams in which at least two roots are circled. The only (important) constraint comes from Lemma 4.2.7 which excludes diagrams having two circled roots which are connected. If a diagram contains a regular subdiagram, we will write the subdiagram on the same line. Taking into account the symmetry of the Dynkin diagram of  $E_6$ , the list is as follows:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)



Let us consider the case 1) in the list above. The corresponding  $PV$  is infinitesimally equivalent to  $(G, V)$  where  $G = GL(5) \times \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $V = M(5, 1) \oplus Skew(5)$  and the action is given by:  $(g, a)(X, Y) = (agX, gY {}^t g)$  where  $a \in \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $g \in GL(5)$ ,  $X \in M(5, 1)$ ,  $Y \in Skew(5)$ .

Define  $J = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & I_2 \\ -I_2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in Skew(4)$ . Let then

$$X_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \in M(5, 1) \text{ and } Y_0 = \begin{bmatrix} J & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in Skew(5).$$

An easy computation shows that  $(X_0, Y_0)$  is generic and that its isotropy subgroup is the set of pairs of matrices of the form  $(\begin{bmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & a \end{bmatrix}, a^{-1})$ , where  $A \in Sp(2)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . Hence the  $PV$  is regular and one easily shows that the unique fundamental relative invariant is given by

$$f(X, Y) = Pf\left(\begin{bmatrix} Y & X \\ -{}^t X & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right).$$

For the cases 2) and 9) one computes a generic isotropy subgroup and one observes that it is not reductive. □

A consequence of the preceding classification is the following statement.

**Proposition 4.2.9.** *The  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's of parabolic type are 1-irreducible. In other words the three definitions of irreducibility given in Definition 2.2.4 are equivalent.<sup>2</sup>*

**Remark 4.2.10.** The exceptional  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's arising in  $E_6$ ,  $E_7$  and  $E_8$  are particular cases of families of  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's which are not parabolic in general. More precisely the representations

$$(GL(n) \times \mathbb{C}^*, [\Lambda_1(GL(n)) \otimes \square] \oplus [\Lambda_2(GL(n)) \otimes Id])(n \text{ odd})$$

<sup>2</sup>It seems that this equivalence is true in general, that is even for non-parabolic  $PV$ 's, from classification arguments (T. Kimura, private communication). It would be nice to have a direct proof.

and

$$(GL(n) \times GL(n-1), [\Lambda_1(GL(n)) \otimes \Lambda_1(GL(n-1))] \oplus [\Lambda_1(GL(n)) \otimes Id])$$

are 1-irreducible  $PV$ 's. (Here  $\square$  denotes the one dimensional representation of  $\mathbb{C}^*$  on  $\mathbb{C}$  by multiplications). The first representation is an extension of the  $E_6$  and  $E_8$  cases, the second one is an extension of the  $E_7$  case.

For the first representation the fundamental relative invariant is given by

$$f(X, Y) = Pf\left(\begin{bmatrix} Y & X \\ -({}^tX) & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right), (X \in M(n, 1), Y \in Skew(n))$$

and for the second representation it is given by

$$f(X, Y) = \det\begin{bmatrix} X & Y \end{bmatrix}, (X \in M(n, n-1), Y \in M(n, 1)).$$

Note that the first  $PV$  above is example 8) p. 95 of [Ki-2] and that the second  $PV$  is

**Remark 4.2.11.** We have proved in [Ru-1] that an irreducible  $PV$  of parabolic type is regular if and only if the corresponding grading element  $H_\theta$  (see section 4.1) is the semi-simple element of an  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -triple. As the weighted Dynkin diagrams of type  $E_6, E_7, E_8$  in Table 1 below do not appear in tables 18, 19, 20 of [D], such a result is no longer true for  $Q$ -irreducible  $PV$ 's of parabolic type.

Table 1: non irreducible, $Q$ -irreducible $PV$ 's of parabolic type	
$A_n$ $(p_2 > p_1 \geq 0)$	
$B_n$ $p_2 > p_1,$ $2p_3 = p_1, p_3 \geq 0)$	
$C_n$ $p_2 > p_1,$ $2p_3 = p_1 + 1, p_3 > 0$ $p_2$ odd	
$D_n^1$ $p_2 > p_1,$ $2p_3 = p_1 + 1, p_3 \geq 2$ $p_2$ even	
$D_n^2$ $p_2 \geq 2,$ $p_1 = p_2 - 1, p_2$ even	
$D_n^3$ $p_2 > 1$	
$E_6$	
$E_7$	
$E_8$	

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