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TRUNCATION OF THE REFLECTION ALGEBRA AND THE HAHN ALGEBRA

NICOLAS CRAMPÉ^{†,*}, ERIC RAGOUCY[‡], LUC VINET^{*}, AND ALEXEI ZHEDANOV^{**}

ABSTRACT. In the context of connections between algebras coming from quantum integrable systems and algebras associated to the orthogonal polynomials of the Askey scheme, we prove that the truncated reflection algebra attached to the Yangian of sl_2 is isomorphic to the Hahn algebra. As a by-product, we provide a general set-up based on Euler polynomials to study truncations of reflection algebras.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this letter is to establish a connection between the algebras associated to the Askey scheme and some subalgebras of quantum groups used in the study of quantum integrable systems. On the one hand, it is by now well established that the bispectral properties of the polynomials of the Askey scheme [16] can be encoded in algebras of quadratic type. These algebras are referred to as the Racah and Askey-Wilson algebras [23, 14, 13] and bear the names of the associated polynomials at the top of the hierarchies. The algebras associated to the other families are similarly identified by the names of the corresponding polynomials. On the other hand, in the context of the quantum inverse scattering method [22] developed to compute the spectrum of integrable systems, deformations of the Lie algebras called quantum groups [10] have been studied intensively. In particular, the so-called reflection algebras which are coideal of quantum groups, play an important role in the study of integrable systems with boundaries.

Surprisingly, these two types of algebras are connected. The Askey-Wilson algebra is a subalgebra of the reflection algebra associated to the quantum group $U_q(\widehat{sl}_2)$ [1, 5, 6]. Similar results have also been established for the non deformed $U(sl_2[z])$ [2, 3]. In this letter, we explore this connection further and show that a subalgebra of the reflection algebra associated to the Yangian of sl_2 is the Hahn algebra which is related to the eponym polynomials of the Askey scheme.

The plan of the letter is as follows. In Section 2, we recall the definition of the reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ associated to the Yangian of sl_2 and give different properties used subsequently. In Section 3, for a given integer N , we define subalgebras of $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ called truncated reflection algebra of level N and provide a realization of this truncation in terms of elements of $U(sl_2)^{\otimes N}$. In Section 4, we study the truncation at the level 1 and prove an isomorphism with the Hahn algebra. In Section 5, the truncation at the level 2 is described. We conclude by pointing out interesting links with \mathcal{W} algebras and with perspectives.

2. REFLECTION ALGEBRA $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$

In this section, we recall briefly the definition and some properties of the reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ (see e.g. [18] for more details).

2.1. FRT presentation. The key element of the FRT presentation is the R -matrix. In this letter, we focus on the well-known 6-vertex rational R -matrix given by

$$(2.1) \quad R(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \frac{1}{x} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -\frac{1}{x} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{x} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 - \frac{1}{x} \end{pmatrix}.$$

It satisfies the Yang–Baxter equation

$$(2.2) \quad R_{12}(x-y)R_{13}(x-z)R_{23}(y-z) = R_{23}(y-z)R_{13}(x-z)R_{12}(x-y),$$

and allows to define the Yangian of sl_2 [10]. For this R -matrix, the reflection equation [21, 8] is

$$(2.3) \quad R(x-y)B_1(x)R(x+y)B_2(y) = B_2(y)R(x+y)B_1(x)R(x-y),$$

where $B_1(x) = B(x) \otimes \mathbb{I}_2$ and $B_2(x) = \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes B(x)$ with \mathbb{I}_2 the 2 by 2 identity matrix. If we set

$$(2.4) \quad B(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{x^n} \begin{pmatrix} b_{11}^{(n)} & b_{12}^{(n)} \\ b_{21}^{(n)} & b_{22}^{(n)} \end{pmatrix},$$

the reflection equation (2.3) provides the defining commutation relations between the generators $b_{ij}^{(n)}$ of the reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ [18]. The Yang-Baxter equation satisfied by the R -matrix ensures that this algebra is associative.

2.2. Unitarity. It is proved in [18] that the unitarity relation

$$(2.5) \quad B(x)B(-x) = \delta(x) \mathbb{I}_2,$$

holds in $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ and it is further shown that the coefficients of the series $\delta(x)$ are central in $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$.

2.3. Dressing procedure. The dressing procedure consists in obtaining a new solution of the reflection equation from a known one. In this context, the reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ can be realized in terms of the generators of the Lie algebra sl_2 . Let us introduce

$$(2.6) \quad L(x) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 2x - 1 - h & -2f \\ -2e & 2x - 1 + h \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\{h, e, f\}$ are the generators of sl_2 satisfying

$$(2.7) \quad [h, e] = 2e, \quad [h, f] = -2f, \quad [e, f] = h.$$

The quadratic Casimir elements of sl_2 is $\mathfrak{c} = 2\{e, f\} + h^2$. The matrix $L(x)$ satisfies the relations

$$(2.8) \quad R(x-y)L_1(x)L_2(y) = L_2(y)L_1(x)R(x-y), \quad L_2(y)R(x+y)L_1(x) = L_1(x)R(x+y)L_2(y).$$

Let us remark that $L(x)L(-x) = (-x^2 + \frac{1+\mathfrak{c}}{4})\mathbb{I}_2$.

For any solution $B(x)$ of the reflection equation, we can construct

$$(2.9) \quad L(x)B(x)L(x)$$

which is also a solution of the reflection equation if $[B_1(x), L_2(y)] = 0$, that is if any entries of $B(x)$ commute with any entry of $L(x)$. This is the case if the entry of $B(x)$ are scalar or if the entries of $B(x)$ and $L(x)$ are in different factors of a tensor product.

2.4. Serre–Chevalley presentation. In [7], an alternative presentation of $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ is obtained. The reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ is generated by H , E and F subject to the following relations

$$(2.10) \quad [H, E] = 2E, \quad [H, F] = -2F,$$

$$(2.11) \quad [E, [E, [E, F]]] = -12EHE, \quad [F, [F, [F, E]]] = 12FHF.$$

The relations (2.11) can be viewed as the Serre relations for the $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ algebra.

3. TRUNCATION $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$ OF $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$

In the previous section, we have presented the reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ and shown that its defining relations can be given in the FRT presentation with the generators collected in the series (2.4). We are now interested in the case when the series are truncated and become polynomials. For convenience, instead of polynomials in $\frac{1}{x}$ we will consider polynomials in x . Indeed, for any truncation of $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$, we can always multiply $B(x)$ by an appropriate power of x to get an equivalent description of the truncated algebra using polynomials in x . It is this formulation we adopt from now on.

3.1. Definition of $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$. Let $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. The truncated reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$ are generated by $\mu^{(N)}$, $h_{2n}^{(N)}$, $\bar{h}_{2n}^{(N)}$, $e_{2n+1}^{(N)}$ and $f_{2n+1}^{(N)}$ for $n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$. The generators $\mu^{(N)}$ are central in $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$. We organize the generators in the following matrix

$$(3.1) \quad B^{(N)}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) - h^{(N)}(x) & f^{(N)}(x) \\ e^{(N)}(x) & -x \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) - h^{(N)}(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

where we have defined the polynomials

$$(3.2) \quad h^{(N)}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^N E_{2N-2n}(x) h_{2n}^{(N)} \quad \text{with} \quad h_{2N}^{(N)} = \mu^{(N)},$$

$$(3.3) \quad \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) = \sum_{n=0}^N E_{2N-2n}(x) \bar{h}_{2n-2}^{(N)} \quad \text{with} \quad \bar{h}_{-2}^{(N)} = 1,$$

$$(3.4) \quad f^{(N)}(x) = \frac{2}{x-1} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} E_{2N-2n}(x) f_{2n+1}^{(N)} \quad \text{with} \quad f^{(N)}(0) = 0,$$

$$(3.5) \quad e^{(N)}(x) = \frac{2}{1-x} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} E_{2N-2n}(x) e_{2n+1}^{(N)} \quad \text{with} \quad e^{(N)}(0) = 0.$$

where $E_{2n}(x)$ are the Euler polynomials of degree $2n$ (see (A.1) for their definition). Let us remark that the R.H.S. of (3.4) and (3.5) are polynomials since the Euler polynomials are divisible by $x-1$. The defining relations of $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$ are given by the reflection equation (2.3) applied to $B^{(N)}(x)$. The properties of the Euler polynomials ensure that the expansions (3.2)-(3.5) are consistent with (2.3), this will become manifest below, when we provide a realisation of these generators in $U(\mathfrak{sl}_2)^{\otimes N}$.

For latter purpose, we need the following relation satisfied by the Euler polynomials

$$(3.6) \quad x(x-1)E_{2n}(x) = E_{2n+2}(x) - 2(2n)! \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(1-2^{2k})B_{2k}}{(2n-2k+1)!(2k)!} E_{2n-2k+2}(x),$$

where B_n are the Bernoulli numbers. The proof of this relation is given in Appendix A.

For $N = 0$, the matrix (3.1) reduces to $B^{(0)}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x - \mu^{(0)} & 0 \\ 0 & -x - \mu^{(0)} \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mu^{(0)}$ can be considered as a number.

The truncation $\delta^{(N)}(x)$ of the central element $\delta(x)$, (2.5),

$$(3.7) \quad B^{(N)}(x)B^{(N)}(-x) = \delta^{(N)}(x)\mathbb{I}_2$$

is central in $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$.

3.2. Recursive construction. By using the dressing procedure introduced in the previous section, we can obtain a realisation of $\mathcal{B}^{(N+1)}(2, 1)$ in $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1) \otimes U(sl_2)$. Indeed, if $B^{(N)}$ satisfy the reflection equation, then

$$(3.8) \quad B^{(N+1)}(x) = L(x)B^{(N)}(x)L(x)$$

with $L(x)$ given by (2.6), satisfies also the reflection equation. More precisely, let us note that in (3.8), the entries of $L(x)$ belong to $U(sl_2)$, while the entries $B^{(N)}(x)$ belong to $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$. Then, the r.h.s. of (3.8) belongs to $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1) \otimes U(sl_2)$, and the equality provides a morphism from $\mathcal{B}^{(N+1)}(2, 1)$ to $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1) \otimes U(sl_2)$. Explicitly, one gets

$$(3.9) \quad \begin{aligned} h^{(N+1)}(x) &= x(x-1) \left(h^{(N)}(x) \otimes 1 + \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) \otimes h \right) + (x-1) \left(f^{(N)}(x) \otimes e + e^{(N)}(x) \otimes f \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{4} h^{(N)}(x) \otimes (1 + \mathfrak{c}) , \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.10) \quad \begin{aligned} \bar{h}^{(N+1)}(x) &= x(x-1) \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) \otimes 1 + \frac{1}{4} \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) \otimes (2h^2 + 4h + 1 - \mathfrak{c}) \\ &+ \frac{1}{4x} \left(e^{(N)}(x) \otimes \{h, f\} + f^{(N)}(x) \otimes \{h, e\} \right) , \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.11) \quad \begin{aligned} e^{(N+1)}(x) &= x(x-1)e^{(N)}(x) \otimes 1 + 2xh^{(N)}(x) \otimes e + \frac{x}{2} \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) \otimes \{h, e\} \\ &+ f^{(N)}(x) \otimes e^2 + \frac{1}{4} e^{(N)}(x) \otimes (1 - h^2) , \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.12) \quad \begin{aligned} f^{(N+1)}(x) &= x(x-1)f^{(N)}(x) \otimes 1 + 2xh^{(N)}(x) \otimes f + \frac{x}{2} \bar{h}^{(N)}(x) \otimes \{h, f\} \\ &+ e^{(N)}(x) \otimes f^2 + \frac{1}{4} f^{(N)}(x) \otimes (1 - h^2) . \end{aligned}$$

By using this procedure recursively, one can find a realisation of $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$ in $U(sl_2)^{\otimes N}$.

Let us remark that it is not obvious that $h^{(N+1)}(x)$, $\bar{h}^{(N+1)}(x)$, $e^{(N+1)}(x)$ and $f^{(N+1)}(x)$ defined by the relations (3.9)-(3.12) can be expanded as in (3.2)-(3.5) for $h^{(N)}(x)$, $\bar{h}^{(N)}(x)$, $e^{(N)}(x)$ and $f^{(N)}(x)$ themselves given by these expansions in terms of the Euler polynomials. However, by using (3.6), we can show that it is the case and that $h_{2n}^{(N+1)}$, $\bar{h}_{2n}^{(N+1)}$, $e_{2n+1}^{(N+1)}$ and $f_{2n+1}^{(N+1)}$ are uniquely determined. For example, setting $x = 0$ in (3.9), we get $\mu^{(N+1)} = \frac{1}{4}\mu^{(N)} \otimes (1 + \mathfrak{c})$ which is indeed central in $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1) \otimes U(sl_2)$.

The truncation $\delta^{(N)}(x)$ also obeys a recursion: $\delta^{(N+1)}(x) = (-x^2 + \frac{1+\mathfrak{c}}{4})\delta^{(N)}(x)$.

4. TRUNCATION $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$ OF $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$

In this section, we study in detail the first truncation of the reflection algebra. We set $N = 1$ in $B^{(N)}(x)$.

4.1. **Definition of $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$.** By using the explicit form of the Euler polynomials, one gets

$$(4.1) \quad B^{(1)}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x^3 - (h_0 + 1)x^2 + (h_0 + \bar{h}_0)x - \mu & 2xf_1 \\ -2xe_1 & -x^3 - (h_0 - 1)x^2 + (h_0 - \bar{h}_0)x - \mu \end{pmatrix}.$$

To lighten the presentation, we have dropped the superscripts (1) and used the notation h_0 , \bar{h}_0 , e_1 , f_1 and μ for the generators of $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$. The reflection equation (2.3) for $B^{(1)}(x)$ is equivalent to μ being central and to the commutation relations

$$(4.2) \quad [h_0, e_1] = 2e_1, \quad [h_0, f_1] = -2f_1, \quad [e_1, f_1] = -h_0\bar{h}_0 + \mu,$$

$$(4.3) \quad [\bar{h}_0, e_1] = \{h_0, e_1\}, \quad [\bar{h}_0, f_1] = -\{h_0, f_1\}, \quad [h_0, \bar{h}_0] = 0.$$

The element $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}h_0^2 - \bar{h}_0$ is central in $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$. It follows that $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$ can be generated by h_0 , e_1 , f_1 and the central element γ subject to

$$(4.4) \quad [h_0, e_1] = 2e_1, \quad [h_0, f_1] = -2f_1, \quad [e_1, f_1] = \gamma h_0 - \frac{1}{2}h_0^3 + \mu.$$

These relations are the defining relations of the Higgs algebra [15] and we conclude therefore that $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$ is isomorphic to this algebra.

It is easy to show that h_0 , e_1 and f_1 satisfy also the defining relations (2.10)-(2.11) of $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$. Indeed, one gets

$$(4.5) \quad [e_1, [e_1, f_1]] = [e_1, \gamma h_0 - \frac{1}{2}h_0^3] = -2\gamma e_1 + 3h_0e_1h_0 + 4e_1.$$

Then

$$(4.6) \quad [e_1, [e_1, [e_1, f_1]]] = 3[e_1, h_0e_1h_0] = -12e_1h_0e_1$$

which is the first relation of (2.11). The second relation is proven similarly. This gives another proof that the Higgs algebra is a subalgebra of $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$.

4.2. **Center of $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$.** From the coefficient of x^2 in the expansion of $\delta^{(1)}(x)$, we see that

$$(4.7) \quad \delta_2 = 2\{e_1, f_1\} - \frac{1}{4}h_0^4 + (\gamma - 1)h_0^2 + 2\mu h_0$$

is central in $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$. It is easy to show that δ_2 and γ are the only independent elements in the expansion of $\delta^{(1)}(x)$.

A PBW basis for $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$ is then given by $\{h_0^n, e_1^m h_0^n, f_1^m h_0^n\}_{n \geq 0, m \geq 1}$ with coefficients in $\mathbb{C}[\mu, \delta_2, \gamma]$. The PBW basis is graded by h_0 , and only the elements h_0^n have grade 0. Since a linear combination of these elements cannot be central, this shows that μ, δ_2, γ generate the center of $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$.

4.3. **Realisation in $U(sl_2)$.** By using the recursive construction presented in Section 3, one obtains a realisation of $\mathcal{B}^{(1)}(2, 1)$ in terms of the enveloping algebra of sl_2 . Namely, one gets

$$(4.8) \quad h_0 = h + \mu^{(0)}, \quad \bar{h}_0 = \frac{1}{2}h^2 + \mu^{(0)}h + \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{c},$$

$$(4.9) \quad e_1 = -\mu^{(0)}e - \frac{1}{4}\{h, e\}, \quad f_1 = \mu^{(0)}f + \frac{1}{4}\{h, f\},$$

$$(4.10) \quad \mu = \frac{\mu^{(0)}}{4}(\mathbf{c} + 1), \quad \gamma = \frac{(\mu^{(0)})^2}{2} - \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\mathbf{c},$$

$$(4.11) \quad \delta_2 = \frac{1}{4}((\mu^{(0)})^4 - (\mu^{(0)})^2(3 + \mathbf{c}) - \mathbf{c}).$$

4.4. Hahn algebra. It is proved in [24, 12, 11] that the Higgs algebra is isomorphic to the Hahn algebra. Indeed, let us define the following generators

$$(4.12) \quad X = \frac{1}{2}h_0, \quad Y = -\frac{1}{4}(h_0^2 - 2\gamma + 2e_1 + 2f_1) = -\frac{1}{2}(\bar{h}_0 + e_1 + f_1).$$

Then X and Y satisfy the following

$$(4.13) \quad [[X, Y], Y] = \{X, Y\} + \frac{\mu}{2},$$

$$(4.14) \quad [X, [X, Y]] = X^2 + Y - \frac{\gamma}{2},$$

which are the canonical defining relations of the Hahn algebra. The inverse mapping is given by

$$(4.15) \quad e_1 = \frac{\gamma}{2} - X^2 - Y - [X, Y], \quad f_1 = \frac{\gamma}{2} - X^2 - Y + [X, Y] \quad \text{and} \quad h_0 = 2X.$$

5. TRUNCATION $\mathcal{B}^{(2)}(2, 1)$ OF $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$

In this section, we study in detail the truncation of the reflection algebra for $N = 2$.

5.1. Definition of $\mathcal{B}^{(2)}(2, 1)$. From the explicit form of the Euler polynomials, relations (3.2)-(3.5) becomes for $N = 2$

$$(5.1) \quad h^{(2)}(x) = \mu + x(x^3 - 2x^2 + 1)h_0 + x(x - 1)h_2$$

$$(5.2) \quad \bar{h}^{(2)}(x) = x(x^3 - 2x^2 + 1) + x(x - 1)\bar{h}_0 + \bar{h}_2$$

$$(5.3) \quad e^{(2)}(x) = -2x(x^2 - x - 1)e_1 - 2xe_3$$

$$(5.4) \quad f^{(2)}(x) = 2x(x^2 - x - 1)f_1 + 2xf_3$$

We have dropped out superscripts (2) of the generators $h_0, h_2, \bar{h}_0, \bar{h}_2, e_1, f_1, e_3, f_3$ and μ . Using $\delta^{(2)}(x)$, we can prove that

$$(5.5) \quad \gamma_1 = \bar{h}_0 - \frac{1}{2}h_0^2,$$

$$(5.6) \quad \gamma_2 = \bar{h}_2 - h_0h_2 + h_0^2 \left(1 + \frac{1}{8}h_0^2 + \frac{1}{2}\gamma_1 \right) - \{e_1, f_1\},$$

are central in $\mathcal{B}^{(2)}(2, 1)$. This allows to express \bar{h}_0 and \bar{h}_2 in terms of the other generators and the central elements γ_1 and γ_2 . Then, the reflection equation satisfied by $B^{(2)}(x)$ is equivalent to the following relations

$$(5.7) \quad [h_0, e_1] = 2e_1, \quad [h_0, f_1] = -2f_1,$$

$$(5.8) \quad [e_1, f_1] = h_2 - h_0\bar{h}_0, \quad [h_0, h_2] = 0,$$

$$(5.9) \quad [h_2, e_1] = 2e_3, \quad [h_2, f_1] = -2f_3, \quad [h_0, e_3] = 2e_3, \quad [h_0, f_3] = -2f_3,$$

$$(5.10) \quad [e_1, e_3] = 0, \quad [f_1, f_3] = 0, \quad [e_1, f_3] = [e_3, f_1] = h_2 - h_0(\bar{h}_0 + \bar{h}_2) + \mu$$

$$(5.11) \quad [h_2, e_3] = 2\bar{h}_0(e_3 - e_1) - 2\bar{h}_2e_1 + 2e_3, \quad [h_2, f_3] = 2\bar{h}_2f_1 + 2\bar{h}_0(f_1 - f_3) - 2f_3,$$

$$(5.12) \quad [e_3, f_3] = h_2 - h_0\bar{h}_0 - \bar{h}_2(h_0 + h_2) - 2f_1e_3 + 2f_3e_1 + \mu(1 + \bar{h}_0).$$

5.2. **Central elements of $\mathcal{B}^{(2)}(2, 1)$.** It is seen from the coefficients of x^2 and x^4 in the expansion of $\delta^{(2)}(x)$ that

$$(5.13) \quad \delta_2 = 2\{e_3 - e_1, f_3 - f_1\} - (h_0 - h_2)^2 - \bar{h}_2^2 + 2\mu(h_2 - \bar{h}_0) ,$$

$$(5.14) \quad \delta_4 = 2\{e_1, f_3\} + 2\{e_3, f_1\} - 6\{e_1, f_1\} + 2h_0(2h_0 - 2h_2 + \mu) + h_2^2 + \bar{h}_0(\bar{h}_0 - 2\bar{h}_2 - 2)$$

are central in $\mathcal{B}^{(2)}(2, 1)$.

6. CONCLUSION

We have pursued in this letter the examination of the connection between the algebras entering the study quantum integrable systems and the ones associated to the orthogonal polynomials of the Askey scheme. In particular, we have proved that the truncated reflection algebra attached to the Yangian of sl_2 is isomorphic to the Hahn algebra. This brings up many interesting questions. As shown in this letter, we can naturally construct a family of truncated reflection algebras. However, we succeeded only in identifying the first one as an algebra associated to orthogonal polynomials. Could the other ones be connected to the so-called higher rank Racah or Askey-Wilson algebras [9, 19]? It would also be natural to study this correspondence for the truncated reflection algebra associated to the Yangians of sl_n , so_n or sp_n . A first attempt in this direction has been done for the non-deformed case in [4].

Note also that it could be relevant to study the limit $N \rightarrow \infty$ of $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$. Indeed, although the limit of the truncated algebra gives back the original $\mathcal{B}(2, 1)$ reflection algebra, the fact that we have renormalized by a power of x (as explained at the beginning of Section 3) could lead to a new algebraic structure for the generators (3.2)–(3.5).

To conclude, let us finally mention that the type of algebras studied here is also linked to \mathcal{W} algebras. The classical truncated twisted Yangian $Y_p^+(2n)$, where $Y^+(2n)$ is the twisted Yangian [17] associated to $Y(gl_{2n})$ based on so_{2n} and where the subscript p indicates a truncation at level p , is isomorphic to the finite \mathcal{W} algebra $\mathcal{W}(so_{2np}, n sl_p)$ [20]. Since for sl_2 , the twisted Yangian and the reflection algebra are isomorphic [18], the truncations of the reflection algebra $\mathcal{B}^{(N)}(2, 1)$ studied here may be the quantification of $\mathcal{W}(so_{4N+2}, sl_{2N+1})$ (and $\mathcal{W}(so_{4N}, sl_{2N})$ for $\mu^{(N)} = 0$). We hope to return to these matters in the future.

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APPENDIX A. PROOF OF THE RELATION (3.6)

Let us recall that the generating functions for the Euler polynomials and the Bernoulli numbers are

$$(A.1) \quad f(w) = \frac{2e^{xw}}{e^w + 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{w^n}{n!} E_n(x) , \quad g(w) = \frac{w}{e^w - 1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{w^n}{n!} B_n .$$

From the following functional relation

$$(A.2) \quad f''(w) + f'(w) - x(x-1)f(w) - \frac{2}{w}(g(w) - g(2w))f'(w) = 0 ,$$

we deduce that

$$(A.3) \quad E_{n+2}(x) + E_{n+1}(x) - x(x-1)E_n(x) - 2n! \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(1-2^{k+1})B_{k+1}}{(n-k)!(k+1)!} E_{n-k+1}(x) = 0$$

We prove (3.6) from the property $B_{2k+1} = 0$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$

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