

# A remark on the Hochschild dimension of liberated quantum groups

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**Abstract.** Let  $A$  be a Hopf algebra equipped with a projection onto the coordinate Hopf algebra  $\mathcal{O}(G)$  of a semisimple algebraic group  $G$ . It is shown that if  $A$  admits a suitably non-degenerate comodule  $V$  and the induced  $G$ -module structure of  $V$  is non-trivial, then the third Hochschild homology group of  $A$  is non-trivial.

## 1. Introduction

For a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , let  $\mathcal{O}(G)$  denote the Hopf algebra of coordinate (polynomial) functions on an algebraic group  $G$ . Let furthermore  $HH_*(A)$  denote the Hochschild homology of an associative (unital) algebra  $A$  over  $\mathbb{F}$  with coefficients in  $A$ . In this note we prove the following theorem.

**Theorem.** *Let  $G$  be a semisimple algebraic group over a field  $\mathbb{F}$  of characteristic 0, let  $\pi: A \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(G)$  be a Hopf algebra map, and  $V$  be a right  $A$ -comodule with a non-degenerate symmetric or antisymmetric invariant bilinear form. If the representation of  $G$  on  $V$  induced by  $\pi$  is non-trivial, then  $HH_3(A) \neq 0$ .*

This theorem is best seen in the context of the *liberation* procedure [1] for compact quantum matrix groups in the sense of Woronowicz [14]. Although this procedure is not formally defined, its origins can be traced back to the work of Wang [13] on free quantum groups or even earlier to [7]. At the algebraic level, the idea is to construct for a given representation  $V$  of an algebraic group  $G$  and a non-degenerate bilinear form on  $V$  a universal Hopf algebra map  $\pi: \mathcal{A}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(G)$  as in the above theorem, see, e.g., [3, Theorem 1]. Following this philosophy, Wang constructed free quantum orthogonal and unitary groups  $A_o(N)$ ,  $A_u(N)$  and interpreted the  $C^*$ -algebra completions in terms of a free product of  $C^*$ -algebras in [13]. The former is a universal  $C^*$ -algebra generated by  $N^2$  elements  $a_{ij}$  subject to relations

$$\sum_k a_{ik}a_{jk} = \sum_k a_{ki}a_{kj} = \delta_{ij}, \quad a_{ij}^* = a_{ij}.$$

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Collins, Härtel and Thom [6] studied the Hochschild homology of  $A_o(N)$  showing that for all  $N \geq 2$  the third Hochschild homology group with coefficients in  $\mathbb{C}$  is one-dimensional and that  $A_o(N)$  is a Calabi–Yau algebra of dimension 3 (the homology groups with arbitrary coefficients vanish in degrees above 3 and satisfy Poincaré duality in the sense of Van den Bergh [12]). Our theorem shows that this non-triviality of third Hochschild homology groups has a general representation-theoretic explanation.

The liberation procedure can be extended to intermediate phases leading, for example, to half-liberated matrix quantum groups [1] or half-commutative Hopf algebras [2]; the theorem can be applied to these examples, too.

The proof of the theorem uses elementary noncommutative geometry: by choosing a basis  $e_1, \dots, e_N$  in an  $N$ -dimensional comodule over a Hopf algebra  $A$ , one obtains an invertible matrix  $v \in GL_N(A)$  with  $\rho(e_j) = \sum_i e_i \otimes v_{ij}$  and hence a class  $[v] \in K_1(A)$ . The Chern–Connes character assigns to  $[v]$  classes in the odd cyclic homology groups  $HC_{2d+1}(A)$ . The main point is that assuming the existence of a symmetric or antisymmetric non-degenerate invariant pairing on  $V$ , the class in the cyclic homology group  $HC_3(A)$  is in the image of the natural map  $HH_3(A) \rightarrow HC_3(A)$  (Lemma 2). Under  $\pi_*$ , these classes in the K-theory respectively cyclic and Hochschild homology of  $\mathcal{O}(G)$  are well known to be non-trivial (see the final Section 3.5), hence the theorem follows.

## 2. Preliminaries

In this section, we fix notation and terminology on Hopf algebras and homological algebra. All the material is standard, see, e.g., [11] respectively [4] for more background and details. The theory of self-dual comodules is a slightly more specialised topic, hence we include more details here.

### 2.1. The comodule $V$

Let  $A$  be a Hopf algebra with coproduct

$$\Delta: A \rightarrow A \otimes A, \quad a \mapsto a_{(1)} \otimes a_{(2)},$$

counit  $\varepsilon: A \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ , and antipode  $S: A \rightarrow A$  over a field  $\mathbb{F}$ , and let  $V$  be an  $N$ -dimensional right  $A$ -comodule with coaction

$$\rho: V \rightarrow V \otimes A, \quad e \mapsto e_{(0)} \otimes e_{(1)}.$$

We fix a vector space basis  $\{e_1, \dots, e_N\}$  of  $V$  and denote by  $\{v_{ij}\}$  the matrix coefficients of  $V$  with respect to this basis,

$$\rho(e_j) = \sum_i e_i \otimes v_{ij}.$$

Then we have

$$\Delta(v_{ij}) = \sum_k v_{ik} \otimes v_{kj}, \quad \varepsilon(v_{ij}) = \delta_{ij}, \tag{2.1}$$

and the matrix  $v \in M_N(A)$  with entries  $v_{ij}$  is invertible with inverse matrix  $v^{-1}$  having the  $ij$ -entry  $S(v_{ij})$ ,

$$\sum_k S(v_{ik})v_{kj} = \sum_k v_{ik}S(v_{kj}) = \varepsilon(v_{ij}) = \delta_{ij}.$$

**2.2. The pairing  $\langle -, - \rangle$**

The comodule  $V$  is *self-dual* if there is a non-degenerate bilinear form

$$\langle -, - \rangle: V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{F},$$

which is a morphism of  $A$ -comodules, where  $\mathbb{F}$  carries the trivial coaction

$$\mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \otimes A \cong A, \quad 1 = 1_{\mathbb{F}} \mapsto 1 = 1_A,$$

that is, if

$$\langle d_{(0)}, e_{(0)} \rangle d_{(1)} e_{(1)} = \langle d, e \rangle 1_A$$

holds for all  $d, e \in V$ .

In terms of the basis  $\{e_i\}$ , the bilinear form  $\langle -, - \rangle$  is determined by the matrix  $E \in M_N(\mathbb{F})$  with entries  $\langle e_i, e_j \rangle$  and is non-degenerate if and only if  $E \in \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{F})$ . Analysing when it is  $A$ -colinear yields the following.

**Lemma 1.** *The comodule  $V$  is self-dual if and only if there exists  $E \in \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{F})$  with*

$$v^{-1} = E^{-1} v^T E,$$

where  $v \in M_N(A)$  is as in (2.1).

*Proof.* Assume that  $\langle -, - \rangle$  is any bilinear form on  $V$ . In terms of the basis  $\{e_j \otimes e_s\}$  of  $V \otimes V$ , applying the  $A$ -coaction on  $V \otimes V$  and then the map  $\langle -, - \rangle \otimes \text{id}_A$  gives

$$e_j \otimes e_s \mapsto \sum_{ir} e_i \otimes e_r \otimes v_{ij} v_{rs} \mapsto \sum_{ir} E_{ir} v_{ij} v_{rs}.$$

Applying instead  $\langle -, - \rangle$  and then the (trivial) coaction on  $\mathbb{F}$  gives  $E_{js}$ , so  $\langle -, - \rangle$  is  $A$ -colinear if and only if

$$E_{js} = \sum_{ir} E_{ir} v_{ij} v_{rs}$$

holds for all  $1 \leq j, s \leq N$ .

If this holds, then multiplying by  $S(v_{sk})$  from the right and summing over  $s$  yields

$$\sum_s E_{js} S(v_{sk}) = \sum_{irs} E_{ir} v_{ij} v_{rs} S(v_{sk}) = \sum_i E_{ik} v_{ij}.$$

If  $E$  is invertible, multiplying from the left by  $(E^{-1})_{lj}$  and summing over  $j$  finally yields

$$\begin{aligned} (v^{-1})_{lk} &= S(v_{lk}) = \sum_{sj} (E^{-1})_{lj} E_{js} S(v_{sk}) \\ &= \sum_{ij} (E^{-1})_{lj} E_{ik} v_{ij} = (E^{-1} v^T E)_{lk}. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, if there is an  $E \in \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{F})$  with this property, simply define  $\langle -, - \rangle$  by setting  $\langle e_i, e_j \rangle := E_{ij}$  and then the above shows that this renders  $V$  self-dual. ■

### 2.3. The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}_A$

The dual vector space  $A' = \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(A, \mathbb{F})$  is an algebra with respect to the convolution product

$$(fg)(a) := f(a_{(1)})g(a_{(2)}), \quad f, g \in A', a \in A,$$

and the subspace

$$\mathfrak{g}_A := \{f \in A' \mid f(ab) = \varepsilon(a)f(b) + f(a)\varepsilon(b), \forall a, b \in A\}$$

of primitive elements in  $A'$  is a Lie algebra with Lie bracket given by the commutator  $[f, g] := fg - gf$ , for all  $f, g \in \mathfrak{g}_A$ .

The right  $A$ -comodule  $V$  is naturally a left  $A'$ -module via

$$f \triangleright e := e_{(0)}f(e_{(1)}), \quad f \in A', e \in V.$$

As  $A$  itself is also a right  $A$ -comodule via  $\Delta$ ,  $A$  becomes analogously a left  $A'$ -module via

$$f \triangleright a := a_{(1)}f(a_{(2)}), \quad f \in A', a \in A.$$

In particular, this defines an action of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_A$  of primitive elements  $f \in A'$  by  $\mathbb{F}$ -linear derivations on  $A$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} f \triangleright (ab) &= a_{(1)}b_{(1)}f(a_{(2)}b_{(2)}) \\ &= a_{(1)}b_{(1)}(\varepsilon(a_{(2)})f(b_{(2)}) + f(a_{(2)})\varepsilon(b_{(2)})) \\ &= a(f \triangleright b) + (f \triangleright a)b. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

### 2.4. Hochschild (co)homology

We denote by

$$\begin{aligned} b_n &: A^{\otimes n+1} \rightarrow A^{\otimes n}, \\ \beta_n &: \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(A^{\otimes n}, A) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{\mathbb{F}}(A^{\otimes n+1}, A) \end{aligned}$$

the Hochschild (co)boundary maps of the algebra  $A$  and by

$$HH_n(A) := \ker b_n / \text{im } b_{n+1}, \quad H^n(A, A) := \ker \beta_n / \text{im } \beta_{n-1}$$

the Hochschild (co)homology of  $A$  with coefficients in  $A$ . In particular, an  $\mathbb{F}$ -linear derivation of  $A$  is the same as a Hochschild 1-cocycle, so by (2.2), the action of primitive elements  $f \in \mathfrak{g}_A$  on  $A$  defines a linear map  $\mathfrak{g}_A \rightarrow H^1(A, A)$ .

Recall finally that there are well-defined cup and cap products (see, e.g., [4, Section XI.6])

$$\begin{aligned} \smile: H^i(A, A) \times H^j(A, A) &\rightarrow H^{i+j}(A, A), \\ \frown: HH_i(A) \times H^j(A, A) &\rightarrow HH_{i-j}(A) \end{aligned}$$

which at the level of (co)cycles are given by

$$(\varphi \smile \psi)(a_1, \dots, a_i, b_1, \dots, b_j) = \varphi(a_1, \dots, a_i)\psi(b_1, \dots, b_j)$$

and

$$(a_0 \otimes \dots \otimes a_i) \frown \varphi = a_0\varphi(a_1, \dots, a_j) \otimes a_{j+1} \otimes \dots \otimes a_i,$$

and finally that the cup product is graded commutative, that is, that for all  $[\varphi] \in H^i(A, A)$  and  $[\psi] \in H^j(A, A)$ , we have

$$[\varphi] \smile [\psi] = (-1)^{ij}[\psi] \smile [\varphi]. \tag{2.3}$$

### 3. Proof of the theorem

In this section, we prove the main theorem. We construct explicitly a suitable Hochschild 3-cycle on a Hopf algebra  $A$  and then show that it is non-trivial by pairing it with the Lie algebra of primitive elements in the dual Hopf algebra  $A'$ .

#### 3.1. The Hochschild 3-cycle $c_V$

The starting point of the proof of the main result of this paper is the following remark which we expect to be well known to experts.

**Lemma 2.** *Assume  $(V, \langle -, - \rangle)$  is a self-dual comodule over  $A$ . If  $\langle -, - \rangle$  is symmetric or antisymmetric, then*

$$c_V := \sum_{ijkl} (v^{-1})_{ji} \otimes v_{ik} \otimes (v^{-1})_{kl} \otimes v_{lj} + \sum_{ij} 1 \otimes v_{ij} \otimes 1 \otimes (v^{-1})_{ji} \in A^{\otimes 4}$$

is a Hochschild 3-cycle, i.e.,  $b_3c_V = 0$ . If  $V$  is simple, then the converse implication holds as well.

*Proof.* It is straightforward to verify that

$$b_3c_V = \sum_{ij} 1 \otimes ((v^{-1})_{ij} \otimes v_{ji} - v_{ij} \otimes (v^{-1})_{ji}),$$

and Lemma 1 yields

$$b_3 c_V = \sum_{ijsr} 1 \otimes v_{ij} \otimes (E_{ir} v_{rs} E_{sj}^{-1} - E_{ir}^T v_{rs} (E^{-1})_{sj}^T),$$

which vanishes if  $E^T = \pm E$ . If  $V$  is simple, then the  $v_{ij}$  are linearly independent (by the Jacobson density theorem) and the above computation shows first that

$$E v E^{-1} = E^T v (E^{-1})^T \Leftrightarrow E^{-1} E^T v = v E^{-1} E^T.$$

Again by the Jacobson density theorem and the fact that the only matrices commuting with all others are scalar multiples of the identity matrix, this implies that  $E^{-1} E^T$  is a constant, so  $E^T = \lambda E$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$  which is necessarily  $\pm 1$ . ■

### 3.2. The cap product $c_V \frown \varphi$

Let us take any  $f_1, f_2, f_3 \in \mathfrak{g}_A$ , i.e., primitive elements of  $A'$ , and let  $\varphi$  be the cup product of the associated derivations of  $A$ ,

$$\varphi: A^{\otimes 3} \rightarrow A, \quad a_1 \otimes a_2 \otimes a_3 \mapsto (f_1 \triangleright a_1)(f_2 \triangleright a_2)(f_3 \triangleright a_3).$$

We now show that the cap product between  $c_V$  and  $\varphi$  is a scalar multiple of the identity  $1_A$ .

**Lemma 3.** *Let  $F_i: V \rightarrow V, e \mapsto f_i \triangleright e = e_{(0)} f_i(e_{(1)})$  be the linear map defined by the action of  $f_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ . Then,*

$$c_V \frown \varphi = -\text{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3).$$

*Proof.* If  $\partial: A \rightarrow A$  is any derivation and  $v \in \text{GL}_N(A)$ , then the Leibniz rule implies

$$\partial(v_{rk}^{-1}) = -\sum_{ij} v_{ri}^{-1} \partial(v_{ij}) v_{jk}^{-1}$$

and of course  $\partial(1) = 0$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} c_V \frown \varphi &= \sum_{ijkl} v_{ji}^{-1} (f_1 \triangleright v_{ik}) (f_2 \triangleright v_{kl}^{-1}) (f_3 \triangleright v_{lj}) \\ &= -\sum_{ijklmn} v_{ji}^{-1} (f_1 \triangleright v_{ik}) v_{km}^{-1} (f_2 \triangleright v_{mn}) v_{nl}^{-1} (f_3 \triangleright v_{lj}) \\ &= -\sum_{ijklmnpqr} v_{ji}^{-1} v_{ip} F_{1,pk} v_{km}^{-1} v_{mq} F_{2,qn} v_{nl}^{-1} v_{lr} F_{3,rj} \\ &= -\sum_{jkn} F_{1,jk} F_{2,kn} F_{3,nj}. \end{aligned}$$

### 3.3. Evaluation in $\varepsilon$

The following is true for any algebra that admits a 1-dimensional representation.

**Lemma 4.** *The 0-cycle  $1 \in A$  has a non-trivial class in  $HH_0(A) = A/[A, A]$ .*

*Proof.* The counit  $\varepsilon$  inevitably vanishes on all commutators but maps  $1_A$  to  $1_{\mathbb{F}}$ . ■

### 3.4. The Casimir operator

In view of Lemma 4, Lemma 3 implies  $[c_V] \neq 0$  as long as there are  $f_1, f_2, f_3 \in \mathfrak{g}_A$  with  $\text{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3) \neq 0$ .

This is in particular the case when  $A$  admits a Hopf algebra map to the coordinate Hopf algebra of a semisimple algebraic group  $G$  which acts non-trivially on  $V$ : using the graded commutativity (2.3) of  $\smile$ , we observe that

$$\text{tr}(F_1[F_2, F_3]) = \text{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3) - \text{tr}(F_1 F_3 F_2) = 2\text{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3).$$

Now recall that if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is the Lie algebra of  $G$ , then, as  $G$  and hence  $\mathfrak{g}$  are semisimple,  $[\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}] = \mathfrak{g}$  and, therefore, the (quadratic) Casimir operator  $\mathcal{C}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  can be expressed as a finite sum

$$\mathcal{C} = \sum_{m=1}^M f_{m1}[f_{m2}, f_{m3}], \quad f_{mi} \in \mathfrak{g}.$$

Under the map  $\pi^*: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_A$  dual to  $\pi$  these  $f_{mi}$  yield primitive elements in  $\mathfrak{g}_A$  and hence classes  $[\varphi] \in H^3(A, A)$  which add up to a class whose pairing with  $[c_V]$  is  $-\frac{1}{2}\text{tr}(\mathcal{C})$ . If  $G$  acts non-trivially on  $V$ , this is non-zero, so  $[c_V] \neq 0$ .

### 3.5. The class $\pi_*([c_V])$

Following a suggestion by M. Khalkhali, we end with a brief historical account on the role that  $\pi_*([c_V]) \in HH_3(\mathcal{O}(G))$  plays in the cohomology of algebraic groups and Lie algebras. For more details, we refer to Samelson’s survey [10].

As we work over a field of characteristic 0, a connected semisimple algebraic group  $G$  is a smooth affine variety, and the Hochschild–Kostant–Rosenberg isomorphism [8]

$$HH_n(\mathcal{O}(G)) \cong \Omega^n(G)$$

identifies  $\pi_*([c_V])$  with the (Kähler) differential 3-form

$$\omega_V := \sum_{ijkl} g_{ji}^{-1} dg_{ik} dg_{kl}^{-1} dg_{lj} \in \Omega^3(G) \tag{3.1}$$

on  $G$ ; here  $g_{ij} := \pi(v_{ij}) \in \mathcal{O}(G)$  are the matrix coefficients of the linear representation  $G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V) \cong \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{F})$  defined by  $\pi$  and  $\rho$ . Note that  $dg_{ij}^{-1} = \sum_{rs} g_{ir}^{-1} (dg_{rs}) g_{sj}^{-1}$  and that this implies  $d\omega_V = 0$ . When  $\pi = \text{id}_{\mathcal{O}(G)}$ ,  $V = \mathfrak{g}$ , and  $\rho$  is the adjoint representation of  $G$ , then  $\langle -, - \rangle$  can be taken to be the Killing form. Thus every semisimple algebraic group  $G$  over a field of characteristic 0 comes equipped with a canonical de Rham cohomology class  $[\omega_{\mathfrak{g}}] \in \text{HdR}^3(G)$ .

One of the main results of Chevalley and Eilenberg’s seminal paper [5] was that this cohomology class is non-trivial. Hopf had shown in [9] that the de Rham cohomology of a compact and connected Lie group is that of a product of odd-dimensional spheres  $S^{m_i}$ , and for the classical matrix groups the  $m_i$  had been already known earlier. Chevalley and Eilenberg then fully implemented an idea that goes back to Cartan: the

cotangent bundle of an algebraic group  $G$  admits a natural trivialisation,  $T^*G \cong G \times \mathfrak{g}'$ . From a Hopf-algebraist’s perspective, this stems from the fact that  $\Omega^1(G)$  and hence also  $\Omega(G) = \Lambda_{\mathcal{O}(G)}\Omega^1(G)$  is a Hopf module over  $\mathcal{O}(G)$ , hence by the fundamental theorem of Hopf modules [11, Theorem 4.1.1],  $\Omega(G)$  is a free  $\mathcal{O}(G)$ -module with a basis given by the elements that are invariant under the  $\mathcal{O}(G)$ -coaction. Geometrically, this coaction is the  $G$ -action on differential forms given by right translation, hence the basis elements are the right-invariant differential forms. By evaluation in the unit element  $e \in G$ , these become identified with elements of the exterior algebra  $\Lambda_{\mathbb{F}}\mathfrak{g}'$  of the dual of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . The de Rham differential is  $G$ -equivariant, hence restricts to the right-invariant differential forms, and under the isomorphism becomes the Chevalley–Eilenberg differential on  $\Lambda_{\mathbb{F}}\mathfrak{g}'$  that computes the Lie algebra cohomology  $H(\mathfrak{g}, \mathbb{F})$  [5, Theorem 9.1]. Furthermore, the differential forms which are not just right- but also left-invariant become identified with the ad-invariant cochains in the Chevalley–Eilenberg complex, and on these the coboundary map is trivial [5, (19.2)]. As  $G$  is reductive, this subcomplex of biinvariant differential forms is actually quasiisomorphic to the de Rham complex, so the de Rham cohomology of  $G$  can be identified with the algebra of ad-invariant Chevalley–Eilenberg cochains. If we consider compact Lie groups over  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}$ , then the statements carry over to smooth functions and differential forms and the de Rham complex is quasiisomorphic to the subcomplex of biinvariant differential forms, which are automatically closed [5, (12.3)].

Our form  $\omega_V$  (and in fact the Hochschild cycle  $c_V$ ) is manifestly biinvariant: replacing the function  $g_{ij} \in \mathcal{O}(G)$  by  $\sum_r g_{ir}t_{rj}$  or  $\sum_s t_{is}g_{sj}$  for a constant matrix  $T \in \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{F})$  with entries  $t_{ij}$  yields the same form  $\omega_V$ . In our proof above, we have applied  $\pi^*: \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_A$  to Lie algebra elements  $f_j \in \mathfrak{g}$  and then computed the pairing of  $[\varphi]$  with  $[c_V]$ . By very definition, this amounts to pairing the corresponding Hochschild 3-cocycle on  $\mathcal{O}(G)$  with  $\pi_*([c_V])$ , and under the Hochschild–Kostant–Rosenberg isomorphism, this Hochschild 3-cocycle is the right-invariant multivector field  $f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3$  on  $G$ . That is, our computation can indeed be reinterpreted in terms of Lie algebra cohomology as the evaluation of the Chevalley–Eilenberg cocycle

$$\chi_V: \mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}, \quad f_1 \otimes f_2 \otimes f_3 \mapsto \text{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3), \tag{3.2}$$

where

$$F_j := (d_e \rho)(f_j) \in \mathfrak{gl}(V) \cong M_N(\mathbb{F})$$

are the values of the  $f_j$  under the representation  $\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(V) \cong M_N(\mathbb{F})$  corresponding to the representation  $G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$ .

Note that our assumptions on  $V$  enter the fact that  $\chi_V$  is a 3-cocycle.

**Lemma 5.** *If  $E \in \text{GL}_N(\mathbb{F})$  is an invertible matrix and*

$$\mathfrak{g} \subseteq \{F \in M_N(\mathbb{F}) \mid F^T = -EFE^{-1}\}$$

*is a Lie subalgebra, then*

$$\chi: \mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbb{F}} \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}, \quad \chi(F_1, F_2, F_3) := \text{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3)$$

*is an ad-invariant cocycle in  $C^3(\mathfrak{g}, \mathbb{F}) = \Lambda_{\mathbb{F}}\mathfrak{g}'$ .*



*Proof.* That  $\chi$  is an alternating 3-form is seen as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{tr}(F_1 F_2 F_3) &= \mathrm{tr}(F_3^T F_2^T F_1^T) = -\mathrm{tr}(E F_3 F_2 F_1 E^{-1}) \\ &= -\mathrm{tr}(F_3 F_2 F_1) = -\mathrm{tr}(F_2 F_1 F_3).\end{aligned}$$

That  $\chi$  satisfies the cocycle condition

$$\begin{aligned}0 &= -\chi([F_1, F_2], F_3, F_4) + \chi([F_1, F_3], F_2, F_4) - \chi([F_1, F_4], F_2, F_3) \\ &\quad - \chi([F_2, F_3], F_1, F_4) + \chi([F_2, F_4], F_1, F_3) - \chi([F_3, F_4], F_1, F_2)\end{aligned}$$

is shown similarly. The ad-invariance is immediate. ■

In this way, the condition on  $V$  to carry a non-degenerate symmetric or antisymmetric invariant bilinear form can also be motivated from the point of view of Lie algebra cohomology.

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