

On Free Field Realizations of $W(2, 2)$ -Modules

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Abstract. The aim of the paper is to study modules for the twisted Heisenberg–Virasoro algebra \mathcal{H} at level zero as modules for the $W(2, 2)$ -algebra by using construction from [J. Pure Appl. Algebra **219** (2015), 4322–4342, arXiv:1405.1707]. We prove that the irreducible highest weight \mathcal{H} -module is irreducible as $W(2, 2)$ -module if and only if it has a typical highest weight. Finally, we construct a screening operator acting on the Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex algebra whose kernel is exactly $W(2, 2)$ vertex algebra.

Key words: Heisenberg–Virasoro Lie algebra; vertex algebra; $W(2, 2)$ algebra; screening-operators

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1 Introduction

Lie algebra $W(2, 2)$ was first introduced by W. Zhang and C. Dong in [20] as part of a classification of certain simple vertex operator algebras. Its representation theory has been studied in [14, 15, 18, 19] and several other papers. Although $W(2, 2)$ is an extension of the Virasoro algebra, its representation theory is very different. This is most notable with highest weight representations. It was shown in [19] that some Verma modules contain a cosingular vector.

Highest weight representation theory of the twisted Heisenberg–Virasoro Lie algebra has also been studied recently. Representations with nontrivial action of C_I have been developed in [6]. Representations at level zero, i.e., with trivial action of C_I were studied in [8] due to their importance in some constructions over the toroidal Lie algebras (see [7, 9]). In this case, a free field realization of highest weight modules along with the fusion rules for a suitable category of modules were obtained in [4].

Irreducible highest weight modules of highest weights $(0, 0)$ over these algebras carry the structure of simple vertex operator algebras. Let us denote these vertex operator algebras as $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ and $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. It was proved in [4] that simple vertex operator algebra $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ embeds into Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex operator algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ so that $c_W = -24c_{L,I}^2$. As a result each highest weight module over \mathcal{H} is also a $W(2, 2)$ -module. In this paper we shall completely described the structure of the irreducible highest weight \mathcal{H} -modules as $W(2, 2)$ -modules. We show that in generic case the resulting $W(2, 2)$ -module is irreducible. However, in case of a module of highest weight such that associated Verma module over $W(2, 2)$ contains cosingular vectors (we shall call this kind of weight atypical), irreducible \mathcal{H} -module is reducible over $W(2, 2)$. We shall denote the irreducible highest weight \mathcal{H} -module

$L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h, h_I)$ shortly as $L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$. We also use the following notation¹

$$h_{p,r} = (1 - p^2) \frac{c_L - 2}{24} + p(p - 1) + p \frac{1 - r}{2}$$

for $p, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Define

$$\mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}) = \{(h_{p,r}, (1 \pm p)c_{L,I}) \mid p, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}\}.$$

We call a weight (h, h_I) *atypical* for \mathcal{H} (resp. *typical*) if $(h, h_I) \in \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ (resp. $(h, h_I) \notin \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$). We shall refer to a highest weight module over \mathcal{H} as (a)typical if its highest weight is (a)typical for \mathcal{H} .

The next theorem gives a main result of the paper.

Theorem 1.1. *Assume that $c_{L,I} \neq 0$.*

(1) $L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ is irreducible as a $W(2, 2)$ -module if and only if

$$(h, h_I) \notin \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}).$$

(2) If $(h, h_I) \in \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ then $L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ is a non-split extension of two irreducible highest weight $W(2, 2)$ -modules.

We recall some aspects of representation theories of infinite-dimensional Lie algebras \mathcal{H} and $W(2, 2)$ in Section 2. The main results of the branching rules will be proved in Section 3. From the free field realization in [4] follows that irreducible \mathcal{H} -modules are pairwise contragredient. For half of these modules, proofs rely on a $W(2, 2)$ -homomorphism between Verma modules over $W(2, 2)$ and \mathcal{H} which is induced by a homomorphism of vertex operator algebras. The rest is then proved elegantly by passing to contragredients. We also prove a very interesting result that the Verma module for \mathcal{H} with typical highest weight is an infinite direct sum of irreducible $W(2, 2)$ -modules (cf. Theorem 3.7). This result presents a $W(2, 2)$ -analogue of certain Feigin–Fuchs modules for the Virasoro algebra (cf. Remark 3.8).

From the results in the paper, we see that the vertex algebra $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ has many properties similar to the \mathcal{W} -algebras appearing in logarithmic conformal field theory (LCFT):

- $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ admits a free field realization inside of the Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$.
- Typical modules are realized as irreducible modules for $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$.
- In the atypical case, irreducible $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ -modules as $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ -modules have semi-simple rank two.

The singlet vertex algebra $\overline{M(1)}$ has similar properties. $\overline{M(1)}$ is realized as kernel of a screening operator inside the Heisenberg vertex algebra $M(1)$ (cf. [1]). In Section 4 we construct the screening operator

$$S_1: L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}) \rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0),$$

which commutes with the action of $W(2, 2)$ -algebra such that

$$\text{Ker}_{L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})} S_1 \cong L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W).$$

Our construction uses an extension \mathcal{V}_{ext} of the vertex algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ by a non-weight module for the Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex algebra. In our forthcoming paper [5], we shall present an explicit realization of \mathcal{V}_{ext} and apply this construction to the study of intertwining operators and logarithmic modules.

¹We emphasise a term $\frac{c_L - 2}{24}$ for its importance in a free field realization of \mathcal{H} (see [4] for details).

2 Lie algebra $W(2, 2)$ and the twisted Heisenberg–Virasoro Lie algebra at level zero

$W(2, 2)$ is a Lie algebra with basis $\{L(n), W(n), C_L, C_W : n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ over \mathbb{C} , and a Lie bracket

$$\begin{aligned} [L(n), L(m)] &= (n - m)L(n + m) + \delta_{n, -m} \frac{n^3 - n}{12} C_L, \\ [L(n), W(m)] &= (n - m)W(n + m) + \delta_{n, -m} \frac{n^3 - n}{12} C_W, \\ [W(n), W(m)] &= [\cdot, C_L] = [\cdot, C_W] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Highest weight representation theory over $W(2, 2)$ was studied in [14, 19]. However, representations treated in these papers have equal central charges $C_L = C_W$. These results have recently been generalised to $C_L \neq C_W$ in [15]. Here we state the most important results. Verma module with central charge (c_L, c_W) and highest weight (h, h_W) is denoted by $V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W)$, its highest weight vector by v_{h, h_W} and irreducible quotient module by $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W)$.

Recall the definition of a cosingular vector. Homogeneous vector $v \in M$ is called cosingular (or subsingular) if it is not singular in M and if there is a proper submodule $N \subset M$ such that $v + N$ is a singular vector in M/N .

Theorem 2.1 ([15, 19]). *Let $c_W \neq 0$.*

(i) *Verma module $V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W)$ is reducible if and only if $h_W = \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W$ for some $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. In that case, there exists a singular vector $u'_p \in \mathbb{C}[W(-1), \dots, W(-p)]v_{h, h_W}$ such that $U(W(2, 2))u'_p \cong V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h + p, h_W)$.*

(ii) *A quotient module²*

$$V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W)/U(W(2, 2))u'_p =: \tilde{L}^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h_{p,r}, h_W)$$

is reducible if and only if $h = h_{p,r}$ for some $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. In that case, there is a cosingular vector $u_{rp} \in V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W)_{h+rp}$ such that the short sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h_{p,r} + rp, h_W) &\rightarrow \tilde{L}^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h_{p,r}, h_W) \\ &\rightarrow L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h_{p,r}, h_W) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

is exact.

Define

$$\mathcal{AT}_{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W) = \left\{ \left(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W \right) \mid p, r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \right\}.$$

Remark 2.2. We will refer to the (modules of) highest weights $(h, h_W) \in \mathcal{AT}_{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ as *atypical* for $W(2, 2)$, and otherwise as *typical*. Again, we refer to a highest weight $W(2, 2)$ -module as (a)typical depending on its highest weight. So a Verma module over $W(2, 2)$ contains a nontrivial cosingular vector if and only if it is atypical.

Proposition 2.3. *Let $h_W = \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W$, $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.*

(i) *Let $(h_{p,r}, h_W)$, $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ be an atypical weight and $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Then $(h_{p,r} + kp, h_W)$ is atypical if and only if $k < \frac{r}{2}$.*

²This module is denoted by L' in [15, 19]. We change notation to \tilde{L} due to use of superscript $W(2, 2)$.

(ii) Atypical Verma module $V^{W(2,2)}(h_{p,r}, h_W)$ contains exactly $\lfloor \frac{r+1}{2} \rfloor$ cosingular vectors. The weights of these vectors are $h_{p,r} + (r-i)p = h_{p,-r+2i}$, $i = 0, \dots, \lfloor \frac{r-1}{2} \rfloor$.

Proof. (i) Directly from Theorem 2.1 since $h_{p,r} + kp = h_{p,r-2k}$.

(ii) Follows from (i) since $V^{W(2,2)}(h_{p,r}, h_W)$ contains a chain of submodules which are isomorphic to $V^{W(2,2)}(h_{p,r} + ip, h_W)$, $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. ■

Remark 2.4. Standard PBW basis for $V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W)$ consists of vectors

$$Wt(-m_s) \cdots W(-m_1)L(-n_t) \cdots L(-n_1)v_{h,h_W}$$

such that $m_s \geq \cdots \geq m_1 \geq 1$, $n_t \geq \cdots \geq n_1 \geq 1$. The only nonzero component of u_{rp} belonging to $\mathbb{C}[L(-1), L(-2), \dots]v$ is $L(-p)^r v_{h,h_W}$ [19].

Define $P_2(n) = \sum_{i=0}^n P(n-i)P(i)$ where P is a partition function with $P(0) = 1$. We have the following character formulas [19]

$$\text{char } V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W) = q^h \sum_{n \geq 0} P_2(n)q^n = q^h \prod_{k \geq 1} (1 - q^k)^{-2},$$

for all $h, h_W \in \mathbb{C}$. If $h_W = \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W$, then

$$\text{char } \tilde{L}^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W) = q^h (1 - q^p) \sum_{n \geq 0} P_2(n)q^n = q^h (1 - q^p) \prod_{k \geq 1} (1 - q^k)^{-2}.$$

If (h, h_W) is typical for $W(2,2)$, then this is the character of an irreducible highest weight module. Finally, the character of atypical irreducible module is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{char } L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h_{p,r}, h_W) &= q^{h_{p,r}} (1 - q^p) (1 - q^{rp}) \sum_{n \geq 0} P_2(n)q^n \\ &= q^{h_{p,r}} (1 - q^p) (1 - q^{rp}) \prod_{k \geq 1} (1 - q^k)^{-2}. \end{aligned}$$

The twisted Heisenberg–Virasoro algebra \mathcal{H} is the universal central extension of the Lie algebra of differential operators on a circle of order at most one. It is the infinite-dimensional complex Lie algebra with a basis

$$\{L(n), I(n) : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{C_L, C_{LI}, C_I\}$$

and commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned} [L(n), L(m)] &= (n-m)L(n+m) + \delta_{n,-m} \frac{n^3 - n}{12} C_L, \\ [L(n), I(m)] &= -mI(n+m) - \delta_{n,-m} (n^2 + n) C_{LI}, \\ [I(n), I(m)] &= n\delta_{n,-m} C_I, \quad [\mathcal{H}, C_L] = [\mathcal{H}, C_{LI}] = [\mathcal{H}, C_I] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The Lie algebra \mathcal{H} admits the following triangular decomposition

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= \mathcal{H}^- \oplus \mathcal{H}^0 \oplus \mathcal{H}^+, \\ \mathcal{H}^\pm &= \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{I(\pm n), L(\pm n) \mid n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}\}, \quad \mathcal{H}^0 = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{I(0), L(0), C_L, C_{LI}, C_I\}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

Although they seem to be two similar extensions of the Virasoro algebra, representation theories of $W(2,2)$ and \mathcal{H} are different. The main reason for that lies in the fact that $I(0)$ is

a central element, while $W(0)$ is not. However, applying free field realization, we shall see that highest weight modules over the two algebras are related.

Denote by $V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_I, c_{L,I}, h, h_I)$ the Verma module and by v_{h, h_I} its highest weight vector. $C_L, C_I, C_{L,I}, L(0)$ and $I(0)$ act on v_{h, h_I} by scalars $c_L, c_I, c_{L,I}, h$ and h_I , respectively. Then $(c_L, c_I, c_{L,I})$ is called a central charge, and (h, h_I) a highest weight. In this paper we consider central charges $(c_L, 0, c_{L,I})$ such that $c_{L,I} \neq 0$.

Theorem 2.5 ([8]). *Let $c_{L,I} \neq 0$. Verma module $V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h, h_I)$ is reducible if and only if $h_I = (1 \pm p)c_{L,I}$ for some $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. In that case, there is a singular vector v_p^{\pm} of weight p , which generates a maximal submodule in $V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h, h_I)$ isomorphic to $V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h + p, h_I)$.*

Remark 2.6. In case $h_I = (1 + p)c_{L,I}$ an explicit formula for a singular vector v_p^+ is obtained using Schur polynomials in $I(-1), \dots, I(-p)$. See [4] for details. Suppose that $xv_p^+ \in V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h, h_I)$ lies in a maximal submodule. Then x does not have a nontrivial additive component belonging to $\mathbb{C}[L(-1), L(-2), \dots]$ [8].

There is an infinite chain of Verma submodules generated by singular vectors v_{kp}^{\pm} , $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, with all the subquotients being irreducible. Note that there is no mention of $\tilde{L}^{\mathcal{H}}$ since there are no cosingular vectors in $V^{\mathcal{H}}$.

The following character formulas were obtained in [8]:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{char } V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_L, h, h_I) &= q^h \sum_{n \geq 0} P_2(n) q^n = q^h \prod_{k \geq 1} (1 - q^k)^{-2}, \\ \text{char } L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_L, h, h_I) &= q^h (1 - q^p) \sum_{n \geq 0} P_2(n) q^n = q^h (1 - q^p) \prod_{k \geq 1} (1 - q^k)^{-2}. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 2.7. Throughout the rest of the paper we work with highest weight modules over the Lie algebras $W(2, 2)$ and \mathcal{H} so we always denote algebra in superscript. In order to avoid too cumbersome notation, we omit central charges. Therefore, we write $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ for Verma module over \mathcal{H} , $V^{W(2,2)}(h, h_W)$ for Verma module over $W(2, 2)$ and so on. We always assume that c_W and $c_{L,I}$ are nonzero. Moreover, if we work with several modules over both algebras, c_L is equal for all modules.

We shall write $\langle x \rangle_{W(2,2)}$ for a cyclic submodule $U(W(2, 2))x$ and $\langle x \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$ for $U(\mathcal{H})x$. Finally, $\cong_{W(2,2)}$ denotes an isomorphism of $W(2, 2)$ -modules.

3 Irreducible highest weight modules

In this section we present main results of the paper which completely describe the structure of (irreducible) highest weight modules for \mathcal{H} as $W(2, 2)$ -modules. The main tool is the homomorphism between $W(2, 2)$ and the Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex algebras from [4].

$L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, 0, 0)$ is a simple universal vertex algebra associated to Lie algebra $W(2, 2)$ (cf. [19, 20]) which we denote by $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$. It is generated by fields

$$L(z) = Y(\omega, z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} L(n) z^{-n-2}, \quad W(z) = Y(W, z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} W(n) z^{-n-2}$$

where $\omega = L(-2)\mathbf{1}$ and $W = W(-2)\mathbf{1}$. Each highest weight $W(2, 2)$ -module is also a module over a vertex operator algebra $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$.

Likewise (see [7]) $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, 0, 0)$ is a simple Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex operator algebra, which we denote by $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. This algebra is generated by the fields

$$L(z) = Y(\omega, z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} L(n) z^{-n-2}, \quad I(z) = Y(I, z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} I(n) z^{-n-1}$$

where $\omega = L(-2)\mathbf{1}$ and $I = I(-1)\mathbf{1}$. Moreover, highest weight \mathcal{H} -modules are modules over a vertex operator algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$.

It was shown in [4] that there is a monomorphism of vertex operator algebras

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi: L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W) &\rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}), \\ \omega &\mapsto L(-2)\mathbf{1}, \\ W &\mapsto (I(-1))^2 + 2c_{L,I}I(-2)\mathbf{1}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

where $c_W = -24c_{L,I}^2$. By means of Ψ , each highest weight module over \mathcal{H} becomes an $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ -module and therefore a module over $W(2,2)$. In particular, Ψ induces a non-trivial $W(2,2)$ -homomorphism (which we shall denote by the same letter)

$$\Psi: V^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W, h, h_W) \rightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h, h_I),$$

where $c_W = -24c_{L,I}^2$ and $h_W = h_I(h_I - 2c_{L,I})$. Ψ maps the highest weight vector v_{h, h_W} to the highest weight vector v_{h, h_I} and the action of $W(-n)$ on $V^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, 0, c_{L,I}, h, h_I)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} W(-n) &\equiv 2c_{L,I}(n-1)I(-n) + \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} I(-i)I(-n+i), \\ W(-n) &\equiv 2c_{L,I} \left(n-1 + \frac{h_I}{c_{L,I}} \right) I(-n) + \sum_{i \neq 0, n} I(-i)I(-n+i). \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

Note that $h_W = \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W$ if and only if $h_I = (1 \pm p)c_{L,I}$, so either both of these Verma modules are irreducible, or they are reducible with singular vectors at equal levels. Moreover, $(h, h_W) \in \mathcal{AT}_{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ if and only if $(h, h_I) \in \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$.

Throughout the rest of this section we assume that $c_W = -24c_{L,I}^2$.

Lemma 3.1 ([4, Lemma 7.2]). *Suppose that $h_I \neq (1-p)c_{L,I}$ for all $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Then Ψ is an isomorphism of $W(2,2)$ -modules. In particular, if $h_I \neq (1 \pm p)c_{L,I}$ for $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then*

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I) \cong_{W(2,2)} L^{W(2,2)}(h, h_W),$$

where $h_W = h_I(h_I - 2c_{L,I})$.

Lemma 3.2. *Suppose that $x \in V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ is \mathcal{H} -singular. Then x is $W(2,2)$ -singular as well. In particular, if $x = \Psi(y)$ is an \mathcal{H} -singular vector, then y is a (co)singular vector in $V^{W(2,2)}(h, h_W)$.*

Proof. Follows directly from (3.2) since

$$W(n)x = -2c_{L,I}(n+1)I(n)x + \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} I(-i)I(n+i)x.$$

If $I(k)x = 0$ for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, then $W(n)x = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. If $x = \Psi(y)$, then $W(2,2)_+y \in \text{Ker } \Psi$ so y is cosingular (or singular if $\text{Ker } \Psi = 0$). \blacksquare

Theorem 3.3. *Let $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.*

(i) *If $(h, (1+p)c_{L,I})$ is typical for \mathcal{H} (equivalently if $(h, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W)$ is typical for $W(2,2)$) then*

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1+p)c_{L,I}) \cong_{W(2,2)} L^{W(2,2)} \left(h, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W \right). \quad (3.3)$$

(ii) If $(h_{p,r}, (1+p)c_{L,I}) \in \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ (equivalently if $(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W) \in \mathcal{AT}_{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$) then

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, (1+p)c_{L,I}) \cong_{W(2,2)} \tilde{L}^{W(2,2)}\left(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W\right)$$

and the short sequence of $W(2, 2)$ -modules

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow L^{W(2,2)}\left(h_{p,r} + rp, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W\right) &\rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, (1+p)c_{L,I}) \\ &\rightarrow L^{W(2,2)}\left(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W\right) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

is exact.

Proof. By Lemma 3.1, Ψ is an isomorphism of Verma modules and thus by Lemma 3.2 it maps a $W(2, 2)$ -singular vector u'_p to an \mathcal{H} -singular vector v_p^+ . If $h \neq h_{p,r}$, both of these vectors generate maximal submodules in respective Verma modules so (3.3) follows.

Now suppose that $h = h_{p,r}$. We need to show that a cosingular vector u_{rp} is not mapped to a maximal submodule of $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, h_I)$. But u_{rp} has $L(-p)^r v$ as an additive component (see Remark 2.4), and by construction (3.1), $\Psi(u_{rp})$ also must have this additive component. However, $\Psi(u_{rp})$ can not lie in a maximal \mathcal{H} -submodule of $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ (see Remark 2.6). This means that isomorphism Ψ of Verma modules induces a $W(2, 2)$ -isomorphism of $\tilde{L}^{W(2,2)}(h, h_W)$ and $L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ for all $h \in \mathbb{C}$. Exactness of (3.4) is just an application of (2.1). \blacksquare

Remark 3.4. Note that the image $\Psi(u_{rp})$ of a $W(2, 2)$ -cosingular vector is neither \mathcal{H} -singular, nor \mathcal{H} -cosingular in $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, (1+p)c_{L,I})$. For example, $L(-1)v_{0,0}$ in $V^{\mathcal{H}}(0, 2c_{L,I})$ is $W(2, 2)$ -cosingular, but not \mathcal{H} -singular since $I(1)L(-1)v_{0,0} = 2c_{L,I}v_{0,0}$.

If $h_I = (1-p)c_{L,I}$, then Ψ is not an isomorphism. We shall present a $W(2, 2)$ -structure of Verma module later. In order to examine irreducible $W(2, 2)$ -modules we apply the properties of contragredient modules.

Let us recall the definition of contragredient module (see [12]). Assume that (M, Y_M) is a graded module over a vertex operator algebra V such that $M = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} M(n)$, $\dim M(n) < \infty$ and suppose that there is $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $L(0)|M(n) \equiv (\gamma + n)\text{Id}$. The contragredient module (M^*, Y_{M^*}) is defined as follows. For every $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ let $M(n)^*$ be the dual vector space and let $M^* = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} M(n)^*$ be a restricted dual of M . Consider the natural pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : M^* \otimes M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Define the linear map $Y_{M^*} : V \rightarrow \text{End } M^*[[z, z^{-1}]]$ such that

$$\langle Y_{M^*}(v, z)m', m \rangle = \langle m', Y_M(e^{zL(1)}(-z^{-2})^{L(0)}v, z^{-1})m \rangle \quad (3.5)$$

for each $v \in V$, $m \in M$, $m' \in M^*$. Then (M^*, Y_{M^*}) is a V -module.

In particular, choosing $v = \omega = L_{-2}\mathbf{1}$ in (3.5) one gets

$$\langle L(n)m', m \rangle = \langle m', L(-n)m \rangle.$$

Simple calculation with $I \in L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ and $W \in L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ shows that

$$\langle I(n)m', m \rangle = \langle m', -I(-n)m + \delta_{n,0}2c_{L,I} \rangle, \quad \langle W(n)m', m \rangle = \langle m', W(-n)m \rangle.$$

Therefore we get the following result (the first and third relations were given in [4]):

Lemma 3.5.

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)^* \cong L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, -h_I + 2c_{L,I}), \quad L^{W(2,2)}(h, h_W)^* \cong L^{W(2,2)}(h, h_W).$$

In particular,

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1 \pm p)c_{L,I})^* \cong L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1 \mp p)c_{L,I}).$$

Directly from Theorem 3.3 and Lemma 3.5 follows

Corollary 3.6. *Let $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$.*

(i) *If $(h, (1-p)c_{L,I})$ is typical for \mathcal{H} (equivalently if $(h, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W)$ is typical for $W(2,2)$) then*

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1-p)c_{L,I}) \cong_{W(2,2)} L^{W(2,2)} \left(h, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W \right).$$

(ii) *If $(h_{p,r}, (1-p)c_{L,I}) \in \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ (equivalently if $(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W) \in \mathcal{AT}_{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$) then*

$$L^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, (1-p)c_{L,I}) \cong_{W(2,2)} \tilde{L}^{W(2,2)} \left(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W \right)^*$$

and the short sequence of $W(2,2)$ -modules

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow L^{W(2,2)} \left(h_{p,r}, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W \right) &\rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, (1-p)c_{L,I}) \\ &\rightarrow L^{W(2,2)} \left(h_{p,r} + rp, \frac{1-p^2}{24}c_W \right) \rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

is exact.

From Lemma 3.1, Theorem 3.3 and Corollary 3.6 follow assertions of Theorem 1.1.

Finally, we show that Verma module over \mathcal{H} is an infinite direct sum of irreducible $W(2,2)$ -modules. Recall that $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1-p)c_{L,I})$ has a series of singular vectors $v_{ip}^-, i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ (for $i = 0$, we set $v_0^- = v_{h,h_I}$) which generate a descending chain of Verma submodules over \mathcal{H} :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle v_{h,h_I} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} &= V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I) \\ &\cup \\ \langle v_p^- \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} &\cong V^{\mathcal{H}}(h+p, h_I) \\ &\cup \\ &\vdots \\ &\cup \\ \langle v_{ip}^- \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} &\cong V^{\mathcal{H}}(h+ip, h_I) \\ &\cup \\ \langle v_{(i+1)p}^- \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} &\cong V^{\mathcal{H}}(h+(i+1)p, h_I) \\ &\cup \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

Therefore one may identify $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h+ip, h_I)$ with a submodule of $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ and a singular vector $v_{ip}^- \in V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ with the highest weight vector $v_{h+ip, h_I} \in V^{\mathcal{H}}(h+ip, h_I)$. We will prove that in a typical case each of those vectors generates an irreducible $W(2,2)$ -submodule.

Theorem 3.7. *Let $p \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. Suppose that $(h, (1-p)c_{L,I}) \notin \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. Then we have the following isomorphism of $W(2, 2)$ -modules*

$$V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1-p)c_{L,I}) \cong_{W(2,2)} \bigoplus_{i \geq 0} L^{W(2,2)} \left(h + ip, \frac{1-p^2}{24} c_W \right).$$

Proof. First we notice that the vertex algebra homomorphism $\Psi: L^{W(2,2)}(c_W, c_L) \rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_W, c_L)$, for every $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ induces the following non-trivial homomorphism of $W(2, 2)$ -modules:

$$\Psi^{(i)}: V^{W(2,2)} \left(h + ip, \frac{1-p^2}{24} c_W \right) \rightarrow \langle v_{ip}^- \rangle_{W(2,2)} \subset V^{\mathcal{H}}(h + ip, h_I),$$

which maps the highest weight vector of $V^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, \frac{1-p^2}{24} c_W)$ to v_{ip}^- . Since $(h, \frac{1-p^2}{24} c_W)$ is typical it follows from Proposition 2.3(i) that $(h + ip, \frac{1-p^2}{24} c_W)$ are typical for all $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ as well.

Let $h_W = \frac{1-p^2}{24} c_W$. Consider the homomorphism $\Psi^{(i)}: V^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W) \rightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(h + ip, h_I)$ above. Applying (3.2), we get

$$\Psi^{(i)}(W(-p)v_{h+ip, h_W}) = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} I(-i)I(i-p)v_{h+ip, h_I},$$

so $I(-p)v_{h+ip, h_I} \notin \text{Im } \Psi^{(i)}$. Since the Verma modules $V^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W)$ and $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h + ip, h_I)$ have equal characters, it follows that $\text{Ker } \Psi^{(i)}$ contains a singular vector in $V^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W)$ of conformal weight $h + (i+1)p$. Since the weight $(h + ip, h_W)$ is typical, the maximal submodule in $V^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W)$ is generated by this singular vector so we conclude that $\text{Ker } \Psi^{(i)}$ is the maximal submodule in $V^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W)$. Therefore

$$\text{Im } \Psi^{(i)} = \langle v_{h+ip, h_I} \rangle_{W(2,2)} \cong L^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W).$$

In this way we get a series of $W(2, 2)$ -monomorphisms

$$L^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_W) \hookrightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1-p)c_{L,I}), \quad i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \quad (3.6)$$

mapping v_{h+ip, h_W} to a singular vector v_{ip}^- . Let v_{jp}^- be an \mathcal{H} -singular vector in $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h + ip, (1-p)c_{L,I})$ of weight $h + jp$, for $j > i$. By Lemma 3.2, v_{jp}^- is singular for $W(2, 2)$ and therefore $v_{jp}^- \notin \langle v_{h+ip, h_I} \rangle_{W(2,2)}$ for $j > i$. We conclude that the images of morphisms (3.6) have trivial pairwise intersections (since these images are non-isomorphic irreducible modules), so their sum is direct. The assertion follows from the observation that the character of this sum is

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} q^{h+ip} (1-q^p) \prod_{k \geq 1} (1-q^k)^{-2} = q^h \prod_{k \geq 1} (1-q^k)^{-2} = \text{char } V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, (1-p)c_{L,I}). \quad \blacksquare$$

From the previous theorem follows

$$\begin{aligned} & V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I) \\ & \parallel \\ & \langle v_{h, h_I} \rangle_{W(2,2)} = L^{W(2,2)}(h, h_I) \\ & \oplus \\ & \langle v_p^- \rangle_{W(2,2)} \cong L^{W(2,2)}(h + p, h_I) \\ & \oplus \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\vdots \\
\oplus \\
\langle v_{ip}^- \rangle_{W(2,2)} \cong L^{W(2,2)}(h + ip, h_I) \\
\oplus \\
\vdots
\end{array}$$

Remark 3.8. It is interesting to notice that our Theorem 3.7 shows that $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, h_I)$ can be considered as a $W(2, 2)$ -analogue of certain Feigin-Fuchs modules for the Virasoro algebra which are also direct sums of infinitely many irreducible modules (cf. [11], [2, Theorem 5.1]).

In atypical case however, these irreducible $W(2, 2)$ -submodules intertwine as follows. Consider $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, h_I)$ where $(h_{p,r}, h_I) \in \mathcal{AT}_{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. Then Ψ maps a cosingular vector $u_{rp} \in V^{W(2,2)}(h_{p,r}, h_W)$ to a singular vector v_{rp}^- . In other words we have

$$\langle v_{rp}^- \rangle_{W(2,2)} \subseteq \langle v_{h_{p,r}, h_I} \rangle_{W(2,2)}.$$

Using the same argument in view of Proposition 2.3 we see that

$$\langle v_{(r-i)p}^- \rangle_{W(2,2)} \subseteq \langle v_{ip}^- \rangle_{W(2,2)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, \lfloor \frac{r-1}{2} \rfloor.$$

In this case, $I(-p)^{r-i} v_{h_{p,r}, h_I}$ are $W(2, 2)$ -subsingular vectors in $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h_{p,r}, h_I)$.

Example 3.9. Consider $p = 1$ case. Singular vector in $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h, 0)$ is $u'_1 = (L(-1) + \frac{h}{c_{L,I}} I(-1)) v_{h,0}$, and u'_1 generates a copy of $V^{\mathcal{H}}(h + 1, 0)$.

$r = 1$: $\Psi: V^{W(2,2)}(0, 0) \rightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(0, 0)$ maps a singular vector $u'_1 = W(-1)v_{0,0}$ to 0 and a cosingular vector $u_1 = L(-1)v_{0,0}$ to \mathcal{H} -singular vector $v_1^- = L(-1)v_{0,0}$. We get the short exact sequence of $W(2, 2)$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow L^{W(2,2)}(0, 0) \rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(0, 0) \rightarrow L^{W(2,2)}(1, 0) \rightarrow 0,$$

which is an expansion of (3.1) considered as a homomorphism of $W(2, 2)$ -modules. The rightmost module is generated by a projective image of $I(-1)v_{0,0}$. Therefore, $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ is generated over $W(2, 2)$ by $v_{0,0}$ and $I(-1)v_{0,0}$.

$r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$: In general, a cosingular vector $u_{rp} \in V^{W(2,2)}(\frac{1-r}{2}, 0)$ maps to a singular vector $v_r^- \in V^{\mathcal{H}}(\frac{1-r}{2}, 0)$ of weight $\frac{1+r}{2}$.

$$v_r^- = \prod_{i=0}^{r-1} \left(L(-1) + \frac{1-r+2i}{2c_{L,I}} I(-1) \right) v_{\frac{1-r}{2}, 0}.$$

4 Screening operators and $W(2, 2)$ -algebra

We think that the vertex algebra $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ is a very interesting example of non-rational vertex algebra, which admits similar fusion ring of representations as some \mathcal{W} -algebras appearing in LCFT (cf. [1, 2, 10, 13]). Since \mathcal{W} -algebras appearing in LCFT are realized as kernels of screening operators acting on certain modules for Heisenberg vertex algebras, it is natural to ask if $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$ admits similar realization. In [4] we embedded the $W(2, 2)$ -algebra as a subalgebra of the Heisenberg–Virasoro vertex algebra. In this section we shall construct a screening operator S_1 such that the kernel of this operator is exactly $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$.

Let us first construct a non-semisimple extension of the vertex algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. Recall that the Lie algebra \mathcal{H} admits the triangular decomposition (2.2). Let $E = \text{span}_{\mathbb{C}}\{v^0, v^1\}$ be 2-dimensional $\mathcal{H}^{\geq 0} = \mathcal{H}^0 \oplus \mathcal{H}^+$ -module such that \mathcal{H}^+ acts trivially on E and

$$\begin{aligned} L(0)v^i &= v^i, & i &= 0, 1, & I(0)v^1 &= v^0, & I(0)v^0 &= 0, \\ C_L v^i &= c_L v^i, & C_{L,I} v^i &= c_{L,I} v^i, & C_I v^i &= 0, & i &= 1, 2. \end{aligned}$$

Consider now induced \mathcal{H} -module

$$\tilde{E} = U(\mathcal{H}) \otimes_{U(\mathcal{H}^{\geq 0})} E.$$

By construction, \tilde{E} is a non-split self-extension of the Verma module $V^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0)$:

$$0 \rightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0) \rightarrow \tilde{E} \rightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0) \rightarrow 0.$$

Moreover, \tilde{E} is a restricted module for \mathcal{H} and therefore it is a module over vertex operator algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. Since

$$\tilde{E} \cong E \otimes U(\mathcal{H}^-)$$

as a vector space, the operator $L(0)$ defines a $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -gradation on \tilde{E} .

Note that $(L(-1) + I(-1)/c_{L,I})v_0$ is a singular vector in \tilde{E} and it generates the proper submodule. Finally we define the quotient module

$$\mathcal{U} = \frac{\tilde{E}}{U(\mathcal{H}).(L(-1) + I(-1)/c_{L,I})v_0}.$$

Proposition 4.1. \mathcal{U} is a $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded module for the vertex operator algebra $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$:

$$\mathcal{U} = \bigoplus_{m \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} \mathcal{U}(m), \quad L(0)|_{\mathcal{U}(m)} \equiv (m+1) \text{Id}.$$

The lowest component $\mathcal{U}(0) \cong E$. Moreover, \mathcal{U} is a non-split extension of the Verma module $V^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0)$ by the simple highest weight module $L^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0)$:

$$0 \rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0) \rightarrow \mathcal{U} \rightarrow V^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0) \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. By construction \mathcal{U} is a graded quotient of a $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ -graded $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ -module \tilde{E} . The lowest component is $\mathcal{U}(0) \cong E$. Submodule $U(\mathcal{H}).v^0$ is isomorphic to $L^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0)$, and the projective image of v^1 generates the Verma module $V^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0)$ since $I(0)v^1 = v^0$. For the same reason, this exact sequence does not split. \blacksquare

Now we consider $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ -module

$$\mathcal{V}^{\text{ext}} := L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}) \oplus \mathcal{U}.$$

By using [16, Theorem 4.8.1] (see also [3, 17]) we have that \mathcal{V}^{ext} has the structure of a vertex operator algebra with vertex operator map Y_{ext} defined as follows:

$$Y_{\text{ext}}(a_1 + w_1, z)(a_2 + w_2) = Y(a_1, z)(a_2 + w_2) + e^{zL(-1)}Y(a_2, -z)w_1,$$

where $a_1, a_2 \in L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$, $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{U}$.

Take now $v^i \in E \subset \mathcal{U}$, $i = 0, 1$ as above and define

$$S_i(z) = Y_{\text{ext}}(v^i, z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} S_i(n)z^{-n-1}.$$

By construction

$$S_1(z) \in \text{End}(L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}), L^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0))((z)).$$

Proposition 4.2. *For all $n, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ we have:*

$$\begin{aligned} [L(n), S_i(m)] &= -mS_i(n+m), \quad i = 0, 1, \\ [W(n), S_0(m)] &= 0, \quad [W(n), S_1(m)] = 2mc_{L,I}S_0(n+m). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, $S_0(0)$ and $S_1(0)$ are screening operators. Moreover,

$$S_1 = S_1(0): L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I}) \rightarrow L^{\mathcal{H}}(1, 0)$$

is nontrivial and $S_1(0)I(-1)\mathbf{1} = -v_0$.

Proof. Since $L(k)v^i = \delta_{k,0}v^i$ for $k \geq 0$, commutator formula gives that

$$[L(n), S_i(m)] = -mS_i(n+m).$$

Next we calculate $[W(n), S_1(m)]$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} W(-1)v^1 &= 2I(-1)v^0 = -2c_{L,I}L(-1)v^0, \\ W(0)v^1 &= -2c_{L,I}v^0, \quad W(n)v^1 = 0, \quad n \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that

$$[W(n), S_1(m)] = 2c_{L,I}mS_0(n+m).$$

Since $W(n)v^0 = 0$ for $n \geq -1$ we get

$$[W(n), S_0(m)] = 0.$$

Therefore we have proved that $S_i(0)$, $i = 0, 1$ are screening operators. Next we have

$$S_1(0)I(-1)\mathbf{1} = \text{Res}_z Y_{\text{ext}}(v^1, z)I(-1) = \text{Res}_z e^{zL(-1)}Y(I(-1)\mathbf{1}, -z)v^1 = -v_0.$$

The proof follows. ■

Theorem 4.3. *S_1 is a derivation of the vertex algebra \mathcal{V}^{ext} and we have*

$$\text{Ker}_{L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})} S_1 \cong L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W).$$

Proof. By construction $S_1 = \text{Res}_z Y_{\text{ext}}(v^1, z)$, so S_1 is a derivation so $\overline{W} = \text{Ker}_{L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})} S_1$ is a vertex subalgebra of $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$. Since

$$S_1L(-2)\mathbf{1} = S_1W(-2)\mathbf{1} = 0$$

we have that $L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W) \subset \overline{W}$. Since $S_1I(-1)\mathbf{1} \neq 0$, we have that $I(-1)\mathbf{1}$ does not belong to \overline{W} . By using the fact that $L^{\mathcal{H}}(c_L, c_{L,I})$ is as $W(2, 2)$ -module generated by singular vector $\mathbf{1}$ and cosingular vector $I(-1)\mathbf{1}$ (see Example 3.9) we get that $\overline{W} = L^{W(2,2)}(c_L, c_W)$. The proof follows. ■

Remark 4.4. Of course, every \mathcal{V}_{ext} -module becomes a $W(2, 2)$ -module with screening operator S_1 . Similar statement holds for intertwining operators. Constructions of such modules and intertwining operators require different techniques which we will present in our forthcoming paper [5].

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