## A CASIMIR ELEMENT INEXPRESSIBLE AS A LIE POLYNOMIAL

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ABSTRACT. Let q be a scalar that is not a root of unity. We show that any nonzero polynomial in the Casimir element of the Fairlie-Odesskii algebra  $U_q'(\mathfrak{so}_3)$  cannot be expressed in terms of only Lie algebra operations performed on the generators  $I_1, I_2, I_3$  in the usual presentation of  $U_q'(\mathfrak{so}_3)$ . Hence, the vector space sum of the center of  $U_q'(\mathfrak{so}_3)$  and the Lie subalgebra of  $U_q'(\mathfrak{so}_3)$  generated by  $I_1, I_2, I_3$  is direct.

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