

**Generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomials and  
cohomology of line bundles on homogeneous vector  
bundles**

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Avril 2009

IHES/M/09/19

# GENERALISED KOSTKA-FOULKES POLYNOMIALS AND COHOMOLOGY OF LINE BUNDLES ON HOMOGENEOUS VECTOR BUNDLES

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## INTRODUCTION

Let  $G$  be a semisimple algebraic group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . We consider generalisations of Lusztig's  $q$ -analogue of weight multiplicity. Fix a maximal torus  $T \subset G$ . Let  $m_\lambda^\mu$  be the multiplicity of weight  $\mu$  in a simple  $G$ -module  $V_\lambda$  with highest weight  $\lambda$ . Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$  (also known as Kostka-Foulkes polynomials for the root system of  $G$ ) are certain polynomials in  $q$  such that  $m_\lambda^\mu(1) = m_\lambda^\mu$ . A recent survey of their properties, with an eye towards combinatorics, is given in [19]. These polynomials arise in numerous problems of representation theory, geometry, and combinatorics. Work of Lusztig [16] and Kato [12] shows that, for  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  dominant,  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$  are connected with certain Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials for the affine Weyl group associated with  $G$ . To define  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$ , one first considers a  $q$ -analogue of Kostant's partition function,  $\mathcal{P}$ . It is conceivable to replace the set of positive roots,  $\Delta^+$ , occurring in the definition of  $\mathcal{P}$  with an arbitrary finite multiset  $\Psi$  in the character group  $\mathfrak{X}$  of  $T$ . If the elements of  $\Psi$  belong to an open half-space of  $\mathfrak{X} \otimes \mathbb{Q}$  (this is our *first* hypothesis on  $\Psi$ ), then we still obtain certain polynomials  $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$ . We always assume that  $\lambda$  is dominant, whereas  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}$  can be arbitrary. In this article, we are interested in the non-negativity problem for the coefficients of  $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$ . For Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues, this problem has been considered by Broer. He proved that  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$

has non-negative coefficients for any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  if and only if  $(\mu, \alpha^\vee) \geq -1$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta^+$  (see [1, Theorem 2.4] and [4, Prop. 2(iii)]).

Our first goal is to provide sufficient conditions for  $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  to have non-negative coefficients. Let  $B$  be the Borel subgroup of  $G$  corresponding to  $\Delta^+$  (i.e., the roots of  $B$  are positive!) and  $\mathfrak{X}_+$  the set of dominant weights. The second hypothesis is that  $\Psi$  is assumed to be the multiset of weights for a  $B$ -submodule  $N$  of a  $G$ -module  $V$ . Then  $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  is said to be a *generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomial*. Let  $P \supset B$  be any parabolic subgroup normalising  $N$  and  $G \times_P N$  the corresponding homogeneous vector bundle on  $G/P$ . We obtain a relation between the Euler characteristic of induced line bundles  $\mathcal{L}$  on the  $G \times_P N$  and generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomials. Using the collapsing  $G \times_P N \rightarrow G \cdot N \subset V$ , we get a vanishing result for  $H^i(G \times_P N, \mathcal{L})$ ,  $i \geq 1$ , and conclude that  $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  if  $\mu$  is sufficiently large. An explicit lower bound for  $\mu$  is also given, see Section 3. This approach is based on the Grauert-Riemenschneider vanishing theorem. We also notice that Broer's formula for  $\frac{d}{dq} m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  [3] can be generalised to  $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$ . The most natural examples of generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomials occur if  $\Psi \subset \Delta^+$ . For instance, one can take  $N$  to be a  $B$ -stable ideal in  $\text{Lie}(B, B) \subset \mathfrak{g}$ .

Our second goal is to study in details the special case in which  $\Psi = \Delta_s^+$ , the set of short positive roots. The required  $B$ -submodule,  $V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ , lies in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$ , where  $\bar{\theta}$  is the short dominant root. The polynomials  $\bar{m}_{\lambda, \Delta_s^+}^\mu(q) := m_{\lambda, \Delta_s^+}^\mu(q)$  are said to be *short  $q$ -analogues*. The numbers  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(1)$  appeared already in work of Heckman [8], and a geometric interpretation of  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^0(q)$  given in [24] shows that  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^0(q)$  have non-negative coefficients. Let  $\Delta_l^+$  be the set of long positive roots,  $W_l$  the (normal) subgroup of  $W$  generated by all  $s_\alpha$  ( $\alpha \in \Delta_l^+$ ), and  $\rho_l$  the half-sum of the long positive roots. Approach of Section 3 enables us to prove that  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q)$  has nonnegative coefficients whenever  $\mu + \rho_l \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  (Cor. 4.3). But to obtain exhaustive results, we take another path. We consider the *shifted* (= dot) action of  $W_l$  on  $\mathfrak{X}$ ,  $(w, \mu) \mapsto w \odot \mu = w(\mu + \rho_l) - \rho_l$ , and show that  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^{w \odot \mu}(q) = (-1)^{\ell(w)} \bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q)$ . Therefore  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q) \equiv 0$  if  $\mu$  is not regular relative to the shifted  $W_l$ -action, and it suffices to consider  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q)$  only for  $\mu$  that are dominant with respect to  $\Delta_l^+$ . For a  $\Delta_l^+$ -dominant  $\mu$ , we prove that  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  if and only if  $(\mu, \alpha^\vee) \geq -1$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta_s^+$ , see Theorem 4.10. This is an extension of Broer's results in [1, Sect. 2]. Again, this stems from a careful study of cohomology of line bundles on  $G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . In these considerations, it is important that  $W$  is a semi-direct product  $W(\Pi_s) \rtimes W_l$ , where the first group is generated by the short simple reflections. Modifying approach of R. Gupta [6], we define analogues of Hall-Littlewood polynomials (Section 5). These polynomials in  $q$ , denoted  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$ , are indexed by  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  and form a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis for the  $q$ -extended character ring  $\Lambda[q]$  of  $G$ . Let  $\chi_\lambda$  be the character of  $V_\lambda$  and  $H$  the connected semisimple subgroup of  $G$  whose root system is  $\Delta_l$ . The polynomials  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$  interpolate between  $\chi_\lambda$  (at  $q = 0$ ) and a certain sum of irreducible characters of  $H$  (at  $q = 1$ ). We obtain some orthogonality relations

for  $\overline{P}_\lambda(q)$  and show that  $\chi_\lambda = \sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \overline{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) \overline{P}_\mu(q)$ . Moreover, the whole theory developed by R. Gupta in [6, 7] can be extended to this setting. For instance, we prove a version of Kato's identity [12, 1.3] and point out a scalar product in  $\Lambda[q]$  such that  $\{\overline{P}_\lambda(q)\}_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+}$  to be an orthogonal basis. In a sense, the reason for such an extension is that  $G \cdot V_{\bar{\theta}} =: \mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  is the null-cone in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$ , and, as well as the nilpotent cone  $\mathfrak{N} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ , this variety is an irreducible normal complete intersection. On the other hand, Theorem 4.10 yields vanishing of higher cohomology of the structure sheaf  $\mathcal{O}_{G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+}$ , and, together with [15], this implies that  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  has only rational singularities.

We conjecture that if  $\mu$  satisfies vanishing conditions of Theorem 4.10, then  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$  can be interpreted as the "jump polynomial" associated with a filtration of a subspace of  $V_\lambda^\mu$ , see Subsection 6.3. This is inspired by [5].

**Acknowledgements.** This work was completed during my stay at I.H.É.S. (Bures-sur-Yvette) in Spring 2009. I am grateful to this institution for the warm hospitality and support.

## 1. NOTATION

Let  $G$  be a connected semisimple algebraic group of rank  $r$ , with a fixed Borel subgroup  $B$  and a maximal torus  $T \subset B$ . The corresponding triangular decomposition of  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$  is  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{u}^- \oplus \mathfrak{t} \oplus \mathfrak{u}$  and  $\mathfrak{b} = \mathfrak{t} \oplus \mathfrak{u}$ . The character group of  $T$  is denoted by  $\mathfrak{X}$ . Let  $\Delta$  be the root system of  $(G, T)$ . Then  $B$  determines the set of positive roots  $\Delta^+$  and the monoid of dominant weights  $\mathfrak{X}_+$ .

- $\Pi$  is the set of simple roots in  $\Delta^+$ ;
- $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_r$  are the fundamental weights in  $\mathfrak{X}_+$ .

Write  $W$  for the Weyl group and  $s_\alpha$  for the reflection corresponding to  $\alpha \in \Delta^+$ . Set  $N(w) = \{\alpha \in \Delta^+ \mid w\alpha \in -\Delta^+\}$  and  $\varepsilon(w) = (-1)^{\ell(w)}$ , where  $\ell(w) = \#N(w)$  is the usual length function on  $W$ . For  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}$ , let  $\mu^+$  denote the unique dominant element in  $W\mu$ . We fix a  $W$ -invariant scalar product  $(, )$  on  $\mathfrak{X} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$ . As usual,  $\alpha^\vee = 2\alpha/(\alpha, \alpha)$  for  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . For any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , we choose a simple highest weight module  $V_\lambda$ ;  $V_\lambda^\mu$  is the  $\mu$ -weight space in  $V_\lambda$  and  $m_\lambda^\mu = \dim V_\lambda^\mu$ .

We consider two partial orders in  $\mathfrak{X}$ . For  $\mu, \nu \in \mathfrak{X}$ ,

- the *root order* is defined by letting  $\mu \preceq \nu$  if and only if  $\nu - \mu$  lies in the monoid generated by  $\Delta^+$ ; notation  $\mu \prec \nu$  means that  $\mu \preceq \nu$  and  $\mu \neq \nu$ ;
- the *dominant order* is defined by letting  $\mu \leq \nu$  if and only if  $\nu - \mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ .

If  $\Psi$  is a finite multiset in  $\mathfrak{X}$ , then  $|\Psi|$  is the sum of all elements of  $\Psi$  (with respective multiplicities). Recall that  $|\Delta^+|/2 = \varphi_1 + \dots + \varphi_r$ , and this quantity is denoted by  $\rho$ .

Let  $P$  be a parabolic subgroup of  $G$ . For a  $P$ -module  $N$ , let  $G \times_P N$  denote the homogeneous  $G$ -vector bundle on  $G/P$  whose fibre over  $\{P\} \in G/P$  is  $N$ ; we write  $\mathcal{L}_{G/P}(V)$  for

the locally free  $\mathcal{O}_{G/P}$ -module of its sections. If  $N$  is a submodule of a  $G$ -module, then the natural morphism  $f : G \times_P N \rightarrow G \cdot N$  is projective and  $G$ -equivariant. It is a *collapsing* in the sense of Kempf [13]. Recall that  $G \cdot N$  is a closed subvariety of  $V$ , since  $N$  is  $P$ -stable. If  $\dim G \times_P N = \dim G \cdot N$ , then  $f$  is said to be *generically finite*. If  $N'$  is another  $P$ -module, then  $G \times_P (N \oplus N')$  is a vector bundle on  $G \times_P N$  with sheaf of sections  $\mathcal{L}_{G \times_P N}(N')$ .

For any graded  $G$ -module  $\mathcal{C} = \bigoplus_j \mathcal{C}_j$  with  $\dim \mathcal{C}_j < \infty$ , its  *$G$ -Hilbert series* is defined by

$$\mathcal{H}_G(\mathcal{C}; q) = \sum_j \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \dim \operatorname{Hom}_G(V_\lambda, \mathcal{C}_j) e^\lambda q^j \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}][[q]].$$

## 2. MAIN DEFINITIONS AND FIRST PROPERTIES

Let  $V$  be a finite-dimensional rational  $G$ -module and  $N$  a  $P$ -stable subspace of  $V$ . We assume that the  $T$ -weights occurring in  $N$  lie in an open half-space of  $\mathfrak{X} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$ . (This hypothesis implies that all  $v \in N$  are unstable vectors in the sense of Geometric Invariant Theory.) Counting each  $T$ -weight according to its multiplicity in  $N$ , we get a finite multiset  $\Psi$  in  $\mathfrak{X}$ . The *generalised partition function*,  $\mathcal{P}_\Psi$ , is defined by the series  $\frac{1}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Psi} (1 - e^\alpha)} = \sum_{\nu} \mathcal{P}_\Psi(\nu) e^\nu$ .

Accordingly, its  $q$ -analogue is defined by

$$\frac{1}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Psi} (1 - qe^\alpha)} = \sum_{\nu} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu) e^\nu.$$

In view of our assumption on  $N$ , the numbers  $\mathcal{P}_\Psi(\nu)$  are well-defined, and  $\mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu)$  is a polynomial in  $q$ , with non-negative integer coefficients. Clearly,  $\mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu)$  counts the "graded occurrences" of  $\nu$  in the symmetric algebra  $\mathcal{S}^\bullet(N)$ . That is,  $[q^j] \mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu) = \dim (S^j N)^\nu$ .

For  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  and  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}$ , define the polynomials  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  by

$$(2.1) \quad \mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q) = \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(w(\lambda + \rho) - (\mu + \rho)).$$

This definition makes sense for any multiset  $\Psi$ . But we require that our  $\Psi$  to be always the multiset of weights of a  $P$ -submodule of a  $G$ -module, since we are going to exploit geometric methods.

For  $N = \mathfrak{u} \subset \mathfrak{g}$  and  $\Psi = \Delta^+$ , one obtains Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues of weight multiplicity [16] (= Kostka-Foulkes polynomials for  $\Delta$ ), and  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Delta^+}^\mu(1) = m_\lambda^\mu$ . Therefore,  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  is said to be a  $(\Psi, q)$ -analogue of weight multiplicity or *generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomial*. If  $\Psi = \Delta^+$ , we will omit the subscript  $\Delta^+$  in previous formulae.

As  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  is a polynomial in  $q$ , one might be interested in its derivative. For  $\Psi = \Delta^+$ , a nice formula for  $\frac{d}{dq} \mathfrak{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$  is found by Broer [3, p. 394]. We notice that his method works in general, and it is more natural to begin with a formula for the derivative of  $\mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu)$ .

**Theorem 2.1.**  $\frac{d}{dq}\mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q}(\nu) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Psi} \sum_{n \geq 1} q^{n-1} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q}(\nu - n\gamma).$

*Proof.* The derivative  $\frac{d}{dq}\mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q}(\nu)$  equals the coefficient of  $t$  in the expansion of  $\mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q+t}(\nu)$ . Let the polynomials  $\mathcal{R}_{n,\mu}(q)$  be defined by the generating function

$$\prod_{\alpha \in \Psi} \frac{1 - qe^\alpha}{1 - (q+t)e^\alpha} = \frac{\sum_{\nu} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q+t}(\nu)e^\nu}{\sum_{\nu} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q}(\nu)e^\nu} =: \sum_{\mu} \sum_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{R}_{n,\mu}(q)e^\mu t^n.$$

It is easy to compute these polynomials for  $n = 0, 1$ . First, taking  $t = 0$ , we obtain  $\sum_{\mu} \mathcal{R}_{0,\mu}(q)e^\mu = 1$ . Second, we have

$$\sum_{\mu} \mathcal{R}_{1,\mu}(q)e^\mu = \left[ \prod_{\alpha \in \Psi} \frac{1 - qe^\alpha}{1 - (q+t)e^\alpha} \right]'_{t=0} = \sum_{\alpha \in \Psi} \frac{e^\alpha}{1 - qe^\alpha} = \sum_{\alpha \in \Psi} \sum_{n \geq 1} q^{n-1} e^{n\alpha}.$$

Hence  $\mathcal{R}_{1,\mu}(q) = \begin{cases} q^{n-1} & \text{if } \mu = n\alpha, \alpha \in \Psi \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Next,  $\sum_{\nu} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q+t}(\nu)e^\nu = \sum_{n,\mu,\gamma} \mathcal{R}_{n,\mu}(q) \mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q}(\gamma)e^{\mu+\gamma}t^n$ . Hence

$$\mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q+t}(\nu)e^\nu = \sum_{n,\mu} \mathcal{R}_{n,\mu}(q) \mathcal{P}_{\Psi,q}(\nu - \mu)t^n,$$

and extracting the coefficient of  $t$  we get the assertion.  $\square$

**Corollary 2.2.**  $\frac{d}{dq}m_{\lambda,\Psi}^\mu(q) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Psi} \sum_{n \geq 1} q^{n-1} m_{\lambda,\Psi}^{\mu+n\gamma}(q).$

It would be nice to have a formula for the degree of these polynomials and necessary conditions for  $m_{\lambda,\Psi}^\mu(q)$  to be nonzero. For Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues, it is easily seen that  $m_{\lambda}^\mu(q) \neq 0$  if and only if  $\mu \preceq \lambda$ , and  $\deg m_{\lambda}^\mu(q) = \text{ht}(\lambda - \mu)$ . However, if  $\Psi$  is arbitrary, i.e., there is no relation between  $\Delta^+$  and  $\Psi$ , then it is impossible to compare the degrees of different summands in Equation (2.1). The only general assertion we can prove concerns the case in which  $\Psi \subset \Delta^+$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *Suppose that  $\Psi \subset \Delta^+$ . Then  $m_{\lambda,\Psi}^\lambda(q) = 1$  and if  $m_{\lambda,\Psi}^\mu(q) \neq 0$ , then  $\mu \preceq \lambda$ .*

Note that if  $m_{\lambda,\Psi}^\mu(q) \neq 0$ , then it is not necessarily true that  $\lambda - \mu$  lies in the monoid generated by  $\Psi$ .

### 3. COHOMOLOGY OF LINE BUNDLES AND GENERALISED KOSTKA-FOULKES POLYNOMIALS

**3.1. Statement of main results.** We assume that  $P \supset B$  and choose a Levi subgroup  $L \subset P$  such that  $L \supset T$ . Write  $\mathfrak{n}$  for the nilpotent radical of  $\mathfrak{p} = \text{Lie}(P)$ , and  $\Delta(\mathfrak{n})$  for the roots of  $\mathfrak{n}$ ; hence  $\Delta(\mathfrak{n}) \subset \Delta^+$ . Let  $\mathfrak{X}^P$  denote the character group of  $P$ . Obviously,  $\mathfrak{X}^P$  is

the character group of the central torus in  $L$ , and we may identify  $\mathfrak{X}^P$  with a subgroup of  $\mathfrak{X}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{X}_+^P = \mathfrak{X}_+ \cap \mathfrak{X}^P$  is the monoid of  $P$ -dominant weights, i.e., the dominant weights  $\lambda$  such that  $P$  stabilises a nonzero line in  $V_\lambda$ . Let  $\rho_P$  be the sum of those fundamental weights that belong to  $\mathfrak{X}_+^P$ .

In this section, we prove the following two theorems:

**Theorem 3.1.** *Set  $\mathbf{Z} = G \times_P N$ . For  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$ , let  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*$  be the dual of the sheaf of sections of the line bundle  $G \times_P (N \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu) \rightarrow \mathbf{Z}$ . Then*

- (i)  $H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$  whenever  $\mu \succ \rho_P + |\Psi| - |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})|$ .
- (ii) If the collapsing  $\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow G \cdot N$  is generically finite, then  $H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$  whenever  $\mu \succ |\Psi| - |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})|$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *Suppose  $N$  is  $P$ -stable and  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$ .*

- (i) If  $\mu \succ \rho_P + |\Psi| - |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})|$ , then  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ .
- (ii) If the collapsing  $G \times_P N \rightarrow G \cdot N$  is generically finite, then  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  whenever  $\mu \succ |\Psi| - |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})|$ .

(Note that  $|\Psi|, |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})| \in \mathfrak{X}^P$ . Hence both inequalities concern weights lying in  $\mathfrak{X}^P$ .)

Actually, Theorem 3.2 follows from Theorem 3.1 and a relation between  $(\Psi, q)$ -analogues and cohomology of line bundles, see Theorem 3.9 below. Such an approach to  $(\Psi, q)$ -analogues is inspired by work of Broer [1, 2].

**3.2. Algebraic-geometric facts.** For future reference, we recall some standard results in the form that we need below. Let  $U$  be the total space of a line bundle on an algebraic variety  $Z$  and  $\pi : U \rightarrow Z$  be the corresponding projection. If  $\mathcal{E}$  is a locally free  $\mathcal{O}_Z$ -module, then  $\mathcal{E}^*$  is its dual.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be the sheaf of sections of  $\pi$ .*

- (i) If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a locally free  $\mathcal{O}_Z$ -module of finite type, then  $\pi_*(\pi^*\mathcal{L}) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} (\mathcal{L} \otimes (\mathcal{F}^{\otimes n})^*)$ .
- (ii) If  $\mathcal{G}$  is a quasi-coherent sheaf on  $U$ , then  $H^i(U, \mathcal{G}) = H^i(Z, \pi_*\mathcal{G})$  for all  $i$ .

*Proof.* (i) Use the "projection formula" and the equality  $\pi_*(\mathcal{O}_U) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} (\mathcal{F}^{\otimes n})^*$ .

(ii) This is true because  $\pi$  is an affine morphism. □

Thus, vanishing of higher cohomology for  $\pi^*\mathcal{L}$  will imply that for  $\mathcal{L} \otimes (\mathcal{F}^{\otimes n})^*$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . The following is a special case of the Grauert–Riemenschneider theorem in Kempf's version ([13, Theorem 4]):

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $\omega_U$  denote the canonical bundle on  $U$ . Suppose there is a proper generically finite morphism  $U \rightarrow X$  onto an affine variety  $X$ . Then  $H^i(U, \omega_U) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$ .*

**3.3. Proof of Theorem 3.1.** Recall that  $N$  is a  $P$ -submodule of a  $G$ -module  $V$ ,  $\Psi$  is the corresponding multiset of weights, and  $\Psi$  belongs to an open half-space of  $\mathfrak{X} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$ . Our goal is to obtain a sufficient condition for vanishing of higher cohomology of line bundles on  $\mathbf{Z} := G \times_P N$ .

For  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+^P$ , let  $\mathbb{C}_\mu$  denote the corresponding one-dimensional  $P$ -module. Consider  $U = G \times_P (N \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu)$  with projections  $\pi : U \rightarrow G \times_P N$  and  $\kappa : U \rightarrow G/P$ . Then  $\pi$  makes  $U$  the total space of a line bundle on  $\mathbf{Z}$ . For simplicity, the sheaf of sections of this bundle is often denoted by  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)$  in place of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mathbb{C}_\mu)$ . Note that  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^* = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(-\mu)$ . We regard  $\mathbb{C}_\mu$  as the highest weight space in the  $G$ -module  $V_\mu$ . Therefore  $U$  admits the collapsing into  $V \oplus V_\mu$ .

Since  $U$  is the total space of a  $G$ -linearised vector bundle on  $G/P$ , the canonical bundle  $\omega_U$  is a pull-back of a line bundle on  $G/P$ . The top exterior power of the cotangent space at  $e * \tilde{n} \in U$  ( $e \in G$  is the identity and  $\tilde{n} \in N \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu$ ) is

$$\wedge^{\text{top}}(\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{p})^* \otimes \wedge^{\text{top}} N^* \otimes (\mathbb{C}_\mu)^* = \wedge^{\text{top}} \mathfrak{n} \otimes (\wedge^{\text{top}} N)^* \otimes (\mathbb{C}_\mu)^*.$$

The corresponding character of  $P$  is  $\gamma - \mu$ , where  $\gamma := |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})| - |\Psi|$ . Therefore

$$\omega_U \simeq \kappa^*(\mathcal{L}_{G/P}(\mathbb{C}_{\gamma-\mu})) \simeq \pi^*(\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\gamma - \mu)).$$

By Lemma 3.3, we obtain  $\pi_*(\omega_U) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\gamma - \mu) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(n\mu)^*$  and hence

$$H^i(U, \omega_U) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}((n+1)\mu - \gamma)^*).$$

In order to apply Theorem 3.4, we need sufficient conditions for the collapsing

$$f_\mu : U \rightarrow G \cdot (N \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu)$$

to be generically finite. There are two possibilities now.

**A) The collapsing  $f : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow G \cdot N$  is generically finite.**

It is then easily seen that  $f_\mu$  is generically finite for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ . This yields the following vanishing result:

**Proposition 3.5.** *If  $f_0 : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow G \cdot N$  is generically finite and  $\gamma = |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})| - |\Psi|$ , then*

$$H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}((n+1)\mu - \gamma)^*) = 0$$

for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+^P$  and all  $n \geq 0, i \geq 1$ . In particular, taking  $n = 0$  and letting  $\nu = \mu - \gamma$ , we obtain

$$H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\nu)^*) = 0 \text{ for all } i \geq 1$$

if  $\nu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$  is such that  $\nu \succ |\Psi| - |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})|$ .



**B) The collapsing  $f : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow G \cdot N$  is not generically finite.**

Here we have to correct the situation, i.e., choose  $\mu$  such that  $f_\mu$  to be generically finite.

Looking at the collapsing  $f_\mu : G \times_P (N \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu) \rightarrow G \cdot (N \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu)$  the other way around, we notice that if  $\psi_\mu : G \times_P \mathbb{C}_\mu \rightarrow G \cdot \mathbb{C}_\mu \subset V_\mu$  is generically finite, then so is  $f_\mu$ . However,  $\psi_\mu$  is generically finite (in fact, birational) if and only if  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+^P$  is a  $P$ -regular dominant weight, i.e.,  $\mu \succ \rho_P$ . Equivalently,  $\mu = \tilde{\mu} + \rho_P$  for some  $\tilde{\mu} \in \mathfrak{X}_+^P$ .

This provides a weaker vanishing result that applies to arbitrary  $P$ -submodules.

**Proposition 3.6.** *Let  $N$  be an arbitrary  $P$ -submodule. If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+^P$  and  $\mu \succ \rho_P$ , then*

$$H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}((n+1)\mu - \gamma)^*) = 0$$

for all  $n \geq 0, i \geq 1$ . In particular, taking  $n = 0$  and letting  $\nu = \mu - \gamma$ , we obtain

$$H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\nu)^*) = 0 \text{ for all } i \geq 1$$

whenever  $\nu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$  and  $\nu \succ \rho_P + |\Psi| - |\Delta(\mathfrak{n})|$ .

Combining Propositions 3.5 and 3.6, we obtain Theorem 3.1.

*Remark 3.7.* The estimate in part B) is not optimal, because we do not actually need generic finiteness for  $\psi_\mu$ . It can happen that both  $f$  and  $\psi_\mu$  are not generically finite, while  $f_\mu$  is. (See e.g. Theorem 4.2 below.)

**3.4. Proof of Theorem 3.2.** The cohomology groups of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu) = \mathcal{L}_{G \times_P N}(\mu)$  have a natural structure of a graded  $G$ -module by

$$H^i(G \times_P N, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_P N}(\mu)) \simeq \bigoplus_{j=0}^{\infty} H^i(G/P, \mathcal{L}_{G/P}(\mathcal{S}^j N^* \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)),$$

where  $\mathcal{S}^j N^*$  is the  $j$ -th symmetric power of the dual of  $N$ . Set  $H^i(\mu) := H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$ . It is a graded  $G$ -module with

$$(H^i(\mu))_j = H^i(G/P, \mathcal{L}_{G/P}(\mathcal{S}^j N \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)^*).$$

As  $\dim(H^i(\mu))_j < \infty$ , the  $G$ -Hilbert series of  $H^i(\mu)$  is well-defined:

$$\mathcal{H}_G(H^i(\mu); q) = \sum_j \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \dim \text{Hom}_G(V_\lambda, (H^i(\mu))_j) e^\lambda q^j \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}][[q]].$$

We also need the non-graded version of functor  $\mathcal{H}_G$ . If  $M$  is a finite-dimensional  $G$ -module, then

$$\mathcal{H}_G(M) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \dim \text{Hom}_G(V_\lambda, M) e^\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}].$$

This extends to virtual  $G$ -modules by linearity.

Assume for a while that  $P = B$ , i.e.,  $\mathbf{Z} = G \times_B N$ . By the Borel-Weil-Bott theorem for  $G/B$ , we have

$$H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\mu)^*) = \begin{cases} V_\nu^*, & \text{if } \nu = w(\mu + \rho) - \rho \in \mathfrak{X}_+ \text{ and } \ell(w) = i. \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Using the non-graded functor  $\mathcal{H}_G$ , one can also write

$$(3.1) \quad \mathcal{H}_G\left(\sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\mu)^*)\right) = \begin{cases} \varepsilon(w)e^{\nu^*}, & \text{if } \nu = w(\mu + \rho) - \rho \in \mathfrak{X}_+. \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The following result is well known in case of Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues, see e.g. [5, Lemma 6.1]. For convenience of the reader, we provide a proof of the general statement.

**Theorem 3.8.** *For any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}$ , we have*

$$\sum_i (-1)^i \mathcal{H}_G(H^i(G \times_B N, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B N}(\mu)^*); q) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q) e^{\lambda^*}.$$

*Proof.* Each finite-dimensional  $B$ -module  $M$  has a  $B$ -filtration such that the associated graded  $B$ -module, denoted  $\widetilde{M}$ , is completely reducible. Then

$$\sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(M)^*) = \sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\widetilde{M})^*).$$

We will apply this to the  $B$ -modules  $\mathcal{S}^j N \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_i (-1)^i \mathcal{H}_G(H^i(G \times_B N, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B N}(\mu)^*); q) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_G\left(\sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\mathcal{S}^j N \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)^*); q\right) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_G\left(\sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\widetilde{\mathcal{S}^j N} \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)^*); q\right) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\nu \vdash \mathcal{S}^j N} \dim(\mathcal{S}^j N)^\nu q^j \cdot \mathcal{H}_G\left(\sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\nu + \mu)^*)\right) \\ &= \sum_{\nu \vdash \mathcal{S}^* N} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu) \mathcal{H}_G\left(\sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\nu + \mu)^*)\right), \end{aligned}$$

where notation  $\nu \vdash \mathcal{S}^j N$  means that  $\nu$  is a weight of  $\mathcal{S}^j N$ . By the BWB-theorem, the weight  $\nu + \mu$  contributes to the last sum if and only if  $\nu + \mu + \rho$  is regular, i.e.,  $w(\nu + \mu + \rho) - \rho =$

$\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  for a unique  $w \in W$ . Therefore, using Eq. (3.1), we obtain

$$\sum_{\nu} \mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(\nu) \mathcal{H}_G \left( \sum_i (-1)^i H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\nu + \mu)^*) \right) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \mathcal{P}_{\Psi, q}(w^{-1}(\lambda + \rho) - \mu - \rho) e^{\lambda^*} = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^{\mu}(q) e^{\lambda^*},$$

as required.  $\square$

**Theorem 3.9.** *For any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$ , we have*

$$\sum_i (-1)^i \mathcal{H}_G(H^i(G \times_P N, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_P N}(\mu)^*); q) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^{\mu}(q) e^{\lambda^*}.$$

*Proof.* Using the Leray spectral sequence associated to the morphism  $G/B \rightarrow G/P$ , one easily proves that, for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$ , there is an isomorphism

$$H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\mathcal{S}^j N \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*) \simeq H^i(G/P, \mathcal{L}_{G/P}(\mathcal{S}^j N \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*).$$

Thus, the assertion reduces to the previous theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.10.** *If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}^P$  and  $H^i(G \times_P N, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_P N}(\mu)^*) = 0$  for  $i \geq 1$ , then  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^{\mu}(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ .*

Now, combining this corollary and Propositions 3.5, 3.6, we obtain Theorem 3.2.

*Remark 3.11.* By Theorem 3.9, if higher cohomology of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*$  vanishes, then the polynomial  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^{\mu}(q)$  counts occurrences of  $V_{\lambda}^*$  in the graded  $G$ -module  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$ . In particular,  $\mathfrak{m}_{\lambda, \Psi}^{\mu}(1)$  is the multiplicity of  $V_{\lambda}^*$  in  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$ .

3.5. If we wish to get a generically finite collapsing for a  $B$ -stable  $N \subset V$ , then  $P$  must be chosen as large as possible. That is, we have to take  $P = \text{Norm}_G(N)$ , the normaliser of  $N$  in  $G$ . However, even this does not guarantee the generic finiteness.

**Example 3.12.** Let  $\mathfrak{c}$  be a  $B$ -stable subspace of  $\mathfrak{u} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ . Actually,  $\mathfrak{c}$  is a  $B$ -stable ideal of  $\mathfrak{u}$ . Let  $P = \text{Norm}_G(\mathfrak{c})$ . The image of the collapsing  $G \times_P \mathfrak{c} \rightarrow G \cdot \mathfrak{c}$  is the closure of a nilpotent orbit. Hence  $\dim(G \cdot \mathfrak{c})$  is even. However,  $\dim(G \times_P \mathfrak{c})$  can be odd. For instance, take  $\mathfrak{c} = [\mathfrak{u}, \mathfrak{u}]$ . If  $G$  is simple and  $G \neq SL_2$ , then  $\text{Norm}_G([\mathfrak{u}, \mathfrak{u}]) = B$ . But  $\dim(G \times_B [\mathfrak{u}, \mathfrak{u}])$  is even if and only if  $\text{rk}(G)$  is. It can be shown that the collapsing  $G \times_B [\mathfrak{u}, \mathfrak{u}] \rightarrow G \cdot [\mathfrak{u}, \mathfrak{u}]$  is generically finite if and only if  $\mathfrak{g} \in \{\mathbf{A}_{2n}, \mathbf{B}_{2n}, \mathbf{C}_{2n}, \mathbf{E}_6, \mathbf{E}_8, \mathbf{F}_4, \mathbf{G}_2\}$ .

$B$ -stable (or “ad-nilpotent”) ideals of  $\mathfrak{u}$  provide the most natural class of examples of generalised Kostka-Foulkes polynomials. There is a rich combinatorial theory of these ideals. In particular, the normalisers of ad-nilpotent ideals has been studied in [21].

**Example 3.13.** a) For  $G = SL_{2n+1}$ , consider  $\Psi = \{\gamma \in \Delta^+ \mid \text{ht}(\gamma) \geq n+1\}$ . The corresponding ad-nilpotent ideal is  $\mathfrak{u}_n = \underbrace{[\dots, [\mathfrak{u}, \mathfrak{u}], \dots, \mathfrak{u}]}_n$ . By direct calculations,  $|\Psi| = \rho$ . Therefore

the normaliser of  $\mathfrak{u}_n$  equals  $B$  [21, Theorem 2.4(ii)]. Next,  $\dim(G \times_B \mathfrak{u}_n) = 2n^2 + 2n + \binom{n}{2}$  and the dense orbit in  $G \cdot \mathfrak{u}_n$  corresponds to the partition  $(2, \dots, 2, 1)$ . Therefore  $\dim G \cdot \mathfrak{u}_n = 2n^2 + 2n$ , and the collapsing is not generically finite unless  $n = 1$ . By Theorems 3.1(i) and 3.2(i) with  $P = B$ , we obtain

- $H^i(G \times_B \mathfrak{u}_n, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B \mathfrak{u}_n}(\mu)^*) = 0$  for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  and  $i \geq 1$ ;
- $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for all  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ .

b) For  $G = SL_{2n}$ , consider  $\Psi = \{\gamma \in \Delta^+ \mid \text{ht}(\gamma) \geq n\}$ . The corresponding ad-nilpotent ideal is  $\mathfrak{u}_{n-1}$ . Since  $|\Psi| = \rho + \varphi_n$ , the normaliser of  $\mathfrak{u}_{n-1}$  equals  $B$ . Again, direct calculations show that  $\dim(G \times_B \mathfrak{u}_{n-1}) - \dim G \cdot \mathfrak{u}_{n-1} = \binom{n}{2}$ . Here we have

- $H^i(G \times_B \mathfrak{u}_n, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B \mathfrak{u}_{n-1}}(\mu)^*) = 0$  for any  $\mu \succ \varphi_n$  and  $i \geq 1$ ;
- $m_{\lambda, \Psi}^\mu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  and  $\mu \succ \varphi_n$ .

*Remark 3.14.* For an arbitrary  $B$ -stable subspace  $N \subset V$ , the normaliser of  $N$  is fully determined by  $|\Psi|$ . The proof of [21, Theorem 2.4(i),(ii)] goes thorough verbatim, and it shows that  $|\Psi|$  is dominant and

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{the root subspace } \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha} \ (\alpha \in \Pi) \\ \text{belong to } \text{Lie}(\text{Norm}_G(N)) \end{array} \right\} \Leftrightarrow \{(\alpha, |\Psi|) = 0\}.$$

Equivalently, one can say that  $\text{Norm}_G(N) = \text{Norm}_G(\wedge^{\dim N} N)$ , where  $\wedge^{\dim N} N \subset \wedge^{\dim N} V$ .

#### 4. THE LITTLE ADJOINT MODULE AND SHORT $q$ -ANALOGUES

Let  $G$  be a simple algebraic group such that  $\Delta$  has two root lengths. There is a special interesting case in which  $\Psi = \Delta_s^+$  is the set of short positive roots. The subscripts ‘s’ and ‘l’ will be used to mark objects related to short and long roots, respectively. For instance,  $\Delta_l$  is the set of all long roots,  $\Delta^+ = \Delta_s^+ \sqcup \Delta_l^+$ , and  $\Pi_s = \Pi \cap \Delta_s$ . Let  $\bar{\theta}$  be the short dominant root. The  $G$ -module  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  is said to be *little adjoint*.

**Lemma 4.1.** *The set of nonzero weights of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  is  $\Delta_s$ ;  $m_{\bar{\theta}}^\nu = 1$  for  $\nu \in \Delta_s$  and  $m_{\bar{\theta}}^0 = \#\Pi_s$ .*

The last equality is proved in [20, Prop. 2.8]; the rest is obvious. It follows that there is a unique  $B$ -stable subspace of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  whose set of weights is  $\Delta_s^+$ . Write  $V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$  for this subspace. In the rest of the article, we work with  $\Psi = \Delta_s^+$  and the  $B$ -stable subspace  $N = V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . In place of  $\mathcal{P}_{\Delta_s^+, q}(\nu)$  and  $m_{\lambda, \Delta_s^+}^\mu(q)$ , we write  $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(\nu)$  and  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q)$ , respectively. The polynomials  $\bar{m}_{\lambda}^\mu(q)$  are said to be *short  $q$ -analogues* (of weight multiplicities).

We have  $\mathfrak{X}_+ \cap \Delta_s^+ = \{\bar{\theta}\}$ . Set  $\rho_s = \frac{1}{2}|\Delta_s^+|$  and  $\rho_l = \frac{1}{2}|\Delta_l^+|$ . It is easily seen that  $\rho_s$  (resp.  $\rho_l$ ) is the sum of fundamental weights corresponding to  $\Pi_s$  (resp.  $\Pi_l$ ). Let  $H$  be the connected

semisimple subgroup of  $G$  that contains  $T$  and whose root system is  $\Delta_l$ . The Weyl group of  $H$  is the normal subgroup of  $W$  generated by all "long" reflections. It is denoted by  $W_l$ . Let  $G(\Pi_s)$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s)$ ) denote the simple subgroup of  $G$  (subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$ ) whose set of simple roots is  $\Pi_s$ . Then  $\text{rk } \mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s) = \#\Pi_s$  and  $B \cap G(\Pi_s) =: B(\Pi_s)$  is a Borel subgroup of  $G(\Pi_s)$ . Clearly,  $G(\Pi_s) \cdot T =: L$  is a standard Levi subgroup of  $G$  and  $G(\Pi_s) = (L, L)$ .

The collapsing  $G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \rightarrow G \cdot V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$  is not generically finite, and Theorem 3.2(i) (with  $\rho_P = \rho$ ,  $\Delta(\mathfrak{n}) = \Delta^+$ , and  $|\Delta_s^+| = 2\rho_s$ ) yields the bound  $\mu \succ 2\rho_s - \rho = \rho_s - \rho_l$  for  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$ . However, in this case there is a better bound, and our first goal is to obtain it. To this end, we need some further properties of little adjoint modules.

The weight structure of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  shows that  $V_{\bar{\theta}}|_{G(\Pi_s)}$  contains the adjoint representation of  $G(\Pi_s)$ . To distinguish the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s)$  sitting in  $\mathfrak{g}$  and the adjoint representation of  $G(\Pi_s)$  sitting in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$ , the latter will be denoted by  $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)$ . That is,

$$V_{\bar{\theta}}|_{G(\Pi_s)} = \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s) \oplus R,$$

where  $R$  is the complementary  $G(\Pi_s)$ -submodule. The above decomposition is  $L$ -stable and hence  $T$ -stable. We have  $R^T = 0$  and the weights of  $R$  are those short roots that are not  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combinations of short simple roots. Furthermore,  $V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ = \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)^+ \oplus R^+$ , where  $R^+ \subset R$  and  $\mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s)^+ = \mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s) \cap \mathfrak{u}$  is a maximal nilpotent subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s)$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** *If  $\mu \succ \rho_l$ , then the collapsing  $f_\mu^{(s)} : G \times_B (V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu) \rightarrow G \cdot (V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu)$  is birational.*

*Proof.* Recall that  $\mathbb{C}_\mu$  is the line of  $B$ -highest weight vectors in  $V_\mu$ . Obviously,  $f_\mu^{(s)}$  is birational if and only if the following property holds: for a generic point  $(v, v_\mu) \in V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu$ , if  $g \cdot (v, v_\mu) \in V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu$  ( $g \in G$ ), then  $g \in B$ . Let  $\tilde{P}$  denote the standard parabolic subgroup of  $G$  whose Levi subgroup is  $L$ . If  $\mu \succ \rho_l$ , then the normaliser in  $G$  of the line  $\langle v_\mu \rangle$  is contained in  $\tilde{P}$ . Consequently, if  $g \cdot (v, v_\mu) \in V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu$ , then  $g \in \tilde{P}$ .

Take  $v = v' + r \in V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$  ( $r \in R$ ) such that  $v'$  is a regular nilpotent element of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)^+$ . Write  $g = g_1 g_2 \in \tilde{P}$ , where  $g_1 \in G(\Pi_s)$  and  $g_2$  lies in the radical of  $\tilde{P}$ ,  $\text{rad}(\tilde{P})$ . It is easily seen that  $\text{rad}(\tilde{P})$  preserves  $R^+$  and acts trivially in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}^+/R^+$ . Therefore  $g_2$  does not change the  $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)$ -component of  $v$ , i.e.,  $g_2 \cdot v = v' + r'$  ( $r' \in R^+$ ). Hence  $g \cdot v = g_1 \cdot v' + g_1 \cdot r'$ , and  $g_1 \cdot v' \in \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)^+$  is still a regular nilpotent element of  $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)$ . But the latter is only possible if  $g_1 \in B(\Pi_s)$  and hence  $g \in B$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.3.** *If  $\nu + \rho_l \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , then*

- (i)  $H^i(G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+}(\nu)^*) = 0$  for  $i \geq 1$ ;
- (ii)  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\nu(q)$  has non-negative coefficients for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ .

*Proof.* (i) Set  $\mathbf{U} = G \times_B (V_{\bar{\theta}}^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}_\mu)$  and  $\mathbf{Z} = G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . Then  $\omega_{\mathbf{U}} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{U}}(\gamma - \mu)$ , where  $\gamma = |\Delta^+| - |\Delta_s^+| = 2\rho_l$ . By Theorems 3.4 and 4.2,  $H^i(\mathbf{U}, \omega_{\mathbf{U}}) = 0$  for  $i \geq 1$  whenever  $\mu \succ \rho_l$ .

Hence  $H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}((n+1)\mu - \gamma)^*) = 0$ , see Section 3. In particular,  $H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\nu)^*) = 0$ , where  $\nu = \mu - \gamma$ . It remains to observe that  $\nu \succ -\rho_l$ .

(ii) This follows from (i) and Theorem 3.8.  $\square$

*Remark 4.4.* The proof of Corollary 4.3(i) uses (a version of) the Grauert–Riemenschneider theorem. However, for  $\nu = 0$  (at least) one can adapt Hesselink’s proof of [9, Theorem B], which does not refer to Grauert–Riemenschneider and goes through for any algebraically closed field  $\mathbb{k}$  of characteristic zero. Using this, one can prove the following: Let  $\tilde{N}$  be any  $B$ -stable subspace of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  such that  $\tilde{N} \supset V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . Then  $H^i(G \times_B \tilde{N}, \mathcal{O}_{G \times_B \tilde{N}}) = 0$  for  $i \geq 1$ .

Let us describe a semi-direct product structure of  $W$ , which plays an important role below. Consider two subgroups of  $W$ :

- $W_l$  is generated by all “long” reflections in  $W$ . It is a normal subgroup of  $W$ .
- $W(\Pi_s)$  is generated by all simple “short” reflections, i.e., by  $s_\alpha$  with  $\alpha \in \Pi_s$ .

**Lemma 4.5.** (i)  $W$  is a semi-direct product of  $W_l$  and  $W(\Pi_s)$ :  $W \simeq W(\Pi_s) \ltimes W_l$ .

(ii)  $W(\Pi_s) = \{w \in W \mid w(\Delta_l^+) \subset \Delta_l^+\}$ .

*Proof.* (i) Since  $W_l$  is a normal subgroup of  $W$  and  $W_l \cap W(\Pi_s) = \{1\}$ , it suffices to prove that the natural mapping  $W(\Pi_s) \times W_l \rightarrow W$  is onto. We argue by induction on the length of  $w \in W$ . Suppose  $w \notin W(\Pi_s)$  and  $w = w_1 s_\beta w_2 \in W$ ,  $\beta \in \Pi_l$ , is a reduced decomposition. Then  $w = w_1 w_2 s_{\beta'}$ , where  $\beta' = w_2(\beta) \in \Delta_l$ , and  $\ell(w_1 w_2) < \ell(w)$ . Thus, all long simple reflections occurring in an expression for  $w$  can eventually be moved up to the right.

(ii) Since  $s_\alpha(\Delta_l^+) \subset \Delta_l^+$  for  $\alpha \in \Pi_s$ ,  $W(\Pi_s) \subset \{w \in W \mid w(\Delta_l^+) \subset \Delta_l^+\}$ . On the other hand, if  $w(\Delta_l^+) \subset \Delta_l^+$  and  $w = w' s_\alpha$  is a reduced decomposition, then the equality  $N(w) = s_\alpha(N(w')) \cup \{\alpha\}$  shows that  $\alpha$  is necessarily short, so that we can argue by induction on  $\ell(w)$ .  $\square$

Recall that the *null-cone* of a  $G$ -module  $V$ ,  $\mathfrak{N}(V)$ , is the zero set of all homogeneous  $G$ -invariant polynomials of positive degree. Next proposition summarises invariant-theoretic properties of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  and  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  required below, which are of independent interest. All the assertions can easily be verified using the classification, but our intention is to present a conceptual proof.

**Proposition 4.6.** a)  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}}) = G \cdot V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . Hence it is irreducible;

b) The restriction homomorphisms  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}^0]$  induce the isomorphisms  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]^G \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{C}[\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)]^{G(\Pi_s)} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}^0]^{W(\Pi_s)}$ , and  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]^G$  is a polynomial algebra.

c)  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  is a reduced normal complete intersection of codimension  $\#(\Pi_s)$ .

*Outline of the proof.* We refer to [22] for invariant-theoretic results mentioned below.

a) This follows from the Hilbert-Mumford criterion and the fact any maximal subset of weights of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$ , lying in an open half-space, is  $W$ -conjugate to  $\Delta_s^+$ .

b) The weight structure of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  shows that  $V_{\bar{\theta}}^0 = V_{\bar{\theta}}^H$ . If  $v \in V_{\bar{\theta}}^0$  is generic, then  $\mathfrak{g} \cdot v + V_{\bar{\theta}}^0 = V_{\bar{\theta}}$ . Therefore  $G \cdot V_{\bar{\theta}}^0$  is dense in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  and a generic stabiliser (= *stabiliser in general position*) for  $G:V_{\bar{\theta}}$  contains  $H$ . Actually, it is not hard to prove that  $H$  is a generic stabiliser for  $G:V_{\bar{\theta}}$ . By the Luna-Richardson theorem, we then have  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]^G \simeq \mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}^H]^{N_G(H)/H}$ , and it is easily seen that  $N_G(H)/H \simeq W/W_l \simeq W(\Pi_s)$ . Furthermore, the  $W(\Pi_s)$ -action on  $V_{\bar{\theta}}^0$  is nothing but the standard reflection representation on the Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}(\Pi_s)$ .

c) Let  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  be basic invariants in  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]^G \simeq \mathbb{C}[\widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s)]^{G(\Pi_s)}$ ,  $m = \#(\Pi_s)$ . Let  $e \in \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}(\Pi_s) \subset V_{\bar{\theta}}$  be regular nilpotent. Then the differentials of the  $f_i$ 's are linearly independent at  $e \in \mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  [14]. Hence the ideal of  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  is  $(f_1, \dots, f_m)$  and  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  is a reduced complete intersection (cf. [14, Lemma 4]). Finally,  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  contains a dense  $G$ -orbit whose complement is of codimension  $\geq 2$ . This yields the normality.  $\square$

Our ultimate goal is to get a complete characterisation of weights  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}$  such that  $\overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{\mu}(q)$  has nonnegative coefficients for any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ . To this end, we exploit a different approach that does not use vanishing theorems of Section 3.

A key observation is that short  $q$ -analogues obey certain symmetries with respect to the simple reflections  $s_{\alpha} \in W$ ,  $\alpha \in \Pi_l$ . Clearly,  $s_{\alpha}(\Delta_s^+) = \Delta_s^+$ . Therefore  $\overline{\mathcal{P}}_q(\nu) = \overline{\mathcal{P}}_q(s_{\alpha}\nu)$ . Using this, we compute

$$\begin{aligned}
(4.1) \quad \overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{\mu}(q) &= \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \overline{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\lambda + \rho) - (\mu + \rho)) \\
&= \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \overline{\mathcal{P}}_q(s_{\alpha}w(\lambda + \rho) - s_{\alpha}(\mu + \rho)) = - \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \overline{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\lambda + \rho) - s_{\alpha}\mu - s_{\alpha}\rho) \\
&= - \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \overline{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\lambda + \rho) - (s_{\alpha}\mu - \alpha + \rho)) = -\overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{s_{\alpha}(\mu + \alpha)}(q).
\end{aligned}$$

The *shifted action* of  $W_l$  on  $\mathfrak{X}$  is defined by

$$w \odot \gamma = w(\gamma + \rho_l) - \rho_l.$$

For  $\alpha \in \Pi_l$ , one easily recognises  $s_{\alpha}(\mu + \alpha)$  as  $s_{\alpha} \odot \mu$  and hence Eq. (4.1) can be written as  $\overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{s_{\alpha} \odot \mu}(q) = -\overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{\mu}(q)$ . This readily implies the equality

$$(4.2) \quad \overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{w \odot \mu}(q) = \varepsilon(w) \overline{\mathfrak{m}}_{\lambda}^{\mu}(q)$$

for any  $w \in W_l$ . Note that for  $w \in W_l$ , the length  $\ell(w)$  depends on the choice of ambient group,  $W$  or  $W_l$ , but the parity  $\varepsilon(w)$  does not! (This is because  $\varepsilon(w) = \det(w)$  for the reflection representation of  $W$  in  $\mathfrak{X} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$ .)

Let  $\mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$  denote the monoid of  $H$ -dominant weights with respect to  $\Delta_l^+$ . From (4.2), we immediately deduce that

- it suffices to know  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$  for  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H} - \rho_l$ .
- if such a  $\mu$  is not  $H$ -dominant, then it lies on a wall of the shifted dominant Weyl chamber for  $H$ , and hence  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) \equiv 0$ .
- Thus, the problem is reduced to studying polynomials  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$  for  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$ .

Short  $q$ -analogues enjoy several good interpretations at  $q = 1$ . Write  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu$  in place of  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu(1)$ .

- (1) As already observed in Remark 3.11, if higher cohomology of  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\nu)^*$  vanish, then  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu$  is the multiplicity of  $V_\lambda^*$  in  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\nu)^*)$ .
- (2) If  $\nu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$  and  $V_\nu^{(H)}$  is a simple  $H$ -module with highest weight  $\nu$ , then  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu$  is the multiplicity of  $V_\nu^{(H)}$  in  $V_\lambda|_H$ , denoted  $\text{mult}(V_\nu^{(H)}, V_\lambda|_H)$ , see [8, Lemma 3.1].

(Our  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu$  is  $m_\lambda^{G,H}(\nu)$  in the notation of [8]. In fact, Heckman works in a general situation, where  $H \subset G$  is an arbitrary connected reductive group.) Furthermore, the numbers  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu$  are naturally defined for all  $\lambda, \nu \in \mathfrak{X}$  and they satisfy the relation

$$(4.3) \quad \overline{m}_{w(\lambda+\rho)-\rho}^{\bar{w}(\nu+\rho)-\rho_l} = \varepsilon(w)\varepsilon(\bar{w})\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu, \quad w \in W, \bar{w} \in W_l.$$

(See Equation (3.7) in [8].) The semi-direct product structure of  $W$  provides an extra symmetry to this picture that is absent in the general setting of [8]. Namely, if  $\nu$  is  $H$ -dominant, then so is  $w\nu$  for any  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ . Using this one easily proves that  $\overline{m}_\lambda^\nu = \overline{m}_\lambda^{w\nu}$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  and  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ .

Recall that  $\{\mu^+\} = W\mu \cap \mathfrak{X}_+$ . Let  $w_\mu$  denote the unique element of minimal length such that  $w_\mu(\mu) = \mu^+$ .

**Lemma 4.7.** *If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$ , then  $w_\mu \in W(\Pi_s)$  and hence  $\mu^+ - \mu$  is a nonnegative  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combination of short simple roots.*

*Proof.* It is known that  $N(w_\mu) = \{\gamma \in \Delta^+ \mid (\gamma, \mu) < 0\}$ , see [4, Prop. 2(i)]. Since  $\mu$  is  $H$ -dominant,  $N(w_\mu) \subset \Delta_s^+$ , and we conclude by Lemma 4.5(ii).  $\square$

**Proposition 4.8.** *Let  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$ .*

1) *Suppose that there is  $\nu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  such that  $\mu \preccurlyeq \nu \prec \mu^+$ . Then  $\overline{m}_\nu^\mu(q) \neq 0$  and  $\overline{m}_\nu^\mu = 0$ . In particular,  $\overline{m}_\nu^\mu(q)$  has both positive and negative coefficients.*

2) *If  $V_{\mu^+}^*$  occurs in  $H^0(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\widetilde{\mathcal{S}^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}^+)}) \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)^*$ , then  $j \geq \text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$ . Furthermore, for  $j = \text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$ ,  $H^0(\dots)$  contains a unique copy of  $V_{\mu^+}^*$ .*

*Proof.* 1) Since  $w_\mu \in W(\Pi_s)$ , we have  $\overline{m}_\nu^\mu = \overline{m}_\nu^{\mu^+}$ , and the latter equals zero, because  $\nu \prec \mu^+$ . (Obviously, the  $H$ -module with highest weight  $\mu^+$  cannot occur in  $V_\nu|_H$ .)



Since  $\mu \preceq \nu \prec \mu^+$  and  $\mu^+ - \mu$  is a nonnegative  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combination of short simple roots, the latter holds for  $\nu - \mu$  as well. Set  $a = \text{ht}(\nu - \mu)$ . By definition,

$$\bar{m}_\nu^\mu(q) = \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\nu + \rho) - (\mu + \rho)).$$

As  $\nu - \mu \in \text{Span}(\Pi_s)$ , the summand  $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\nu + \rho) - (\mu + \rho))$  can be nonzero only if  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ . For  $w = 1$ , we have  $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(\nu - \mu) = q^a + (\text{lower terms})$ . If  $w \neq 1$ , then  $\deg \bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\nu + \rho) - (\mu + \rho)) < a$ . Hence the highest term of  $\bar{m}_\nu^\mu(q)$  is  $q^a$ , and we are done.

2) This readily follows from the BWB-theorem and Lemma 4.7.  $\square$

Our main result on non-negativity for short  $q$ -analogues is a converse to the first claim of the previous proposition. For the proof of the main theorem, we need a technical lemma.

**Lemma 4.9.** 1) Suppose that  $V_\nu^*$  occurs in  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)^*)$ . Then  $\nu \preceq \mu^+$ .

2) (For  $\nu = \mu^+$ .) If  $V_{\mu^+}^*$  occurs in  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^j(\widetilde{V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+}) \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu)^*)$ , then  $j \geq i \geq \ell(w_\mu)$ .

*Proof.* Set  $M_j = \wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_\mu$ .

1) If  $V_\nu^*$  occurs in  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(M_j)^*)$ , then it also occurs in  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\tilde{M}_j)^*)$ . By the BWB-theorem, there is then a weight  $\gamma$  of  $M_j$  and  $w \in W$  such that  $\ell(w) = i$  and  $w(\gamma + \rho) - \rho = \nu$ . All weights of  $M_j$  are of the form  $\mu - |A|$  for some  $A \subset \Delta_s^+$ , where  $\#(A) \leq j$ . Hence  $w(\mu + \rho - |A|) = \rho + \nu$ . Clearly,  $w(\rho - |A|) = \rho - |C|$  for some  $C \subset \Delta_s^+$  depending on  $w$  and  $A$ . Thus,  $w(\mu + \rho - |A|) \preceq w(\mu) + \rho$  and  $\nu \preceq w(\mu) \preceq \mu^+$ .

2) If  $V_{\mu^+}^*$  occurs in  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\tilde{M}_j)^*)$ , then, by the first part of the proof, we must have  $w(\mu + \rho - |A|) = \rho + \mu^+$ , where  $A \subset \Delta_s^+$  and  $\ell(w) = i$ . Hence  $w(\mu) = \mu^+$  and  $w(\rho - |A|) = \rho$ . Therefore  $A = N(w)$  and  $i = \ell(w) = \#(A) \geq \ell(w_\mu)$ . Since  $\#(A) \leq j$  as well, we are done.  $\square$

The following is the main result of this section.

**Theorem 4.10.** For  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$ , the following conditions are equivalent:

- (i)  $H^i(G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+}(\mu)^*) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$ ;
- (ii)  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$  has nonnegative coefficients for any  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ ;
- (iii) If  $\mu \preceq \nu \preceq \mu^+$  for  $\nu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , then  $\nu = \mu^+$ ;
- (iv)  $(\mu, \alpha^\vee) \geq -1$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta_s^+$ .

*Proof.* By Corollary 3.10, (i) implies (ii); and Proposition 4.8 shows that (ii) implies (iii). Since  $\nu$  is already assumed to be  $H$ -dominant, (iii) and (iv) are equivalent in view of [4, Prop. 2(iii)].

It remains to prove the implication (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i). Our argument is an adaptation of Broer's proof of [1, Theorem 2.4]. We construct a similar Koszul complex and consider its spectral sequence of hypercohomology.

The pull-back vector bundle  $G \times_B (V_{\bar{\theta}} \oplus (V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+))$  on  $\mathbf{X} := G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}$  has the global  $G$ -equivariant section  $g * v \mapsto g * (v, \bar{v})$  whose scheme of zeros is exactly  $\mathbf{Z} = G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . Here  $\bar{v}$  is the image of  $v \in V_{\bar{\theta}}$  in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+$ . Let  $\iota : \mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}$  denote the inclusion. The dual of this section gives rise to a locally free Koszul resolution of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}}$  regarded as  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{X}}$ -module:

$$\dots \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{-1} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^0 \rightarrow \iota_* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}} \rightarrow 0$$

with  $\mathcal{F}^{-j} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{X}}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+)^*[-j])$ . Here the brackets ' $[-j]$ ' denote the degree shift of a graded module. (That is, if  $\mathcal{M} = \bigoplus \mathcal{M}_i$ , then  $\mathcal{M}[r]_i = \mathcal{M}_{r+i}$ .) Therefore the generators of the locally free  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{X}}$ -module  $\mathcal{F}^{-j}$  have degree  $j$ . Tensoring this complex with the invertible sheaf  $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{X}}(\mathbb{C}_{\mu})^* = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{X}}(\mu)^*$ , we get a locally free resolution of graded  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{X}}$ -modules

$$(4.4) \quad \mathcal{F}(\mu)^{\bullet} \rightarrow \iota_* \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^* \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $\mathcal{F}(\mu)^{-j} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{X}}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*[-j]$ . Since  $\mathbf{X} \simeq G/B \times V_{\bar{\theta}}$ , we have the isomorphism

$$H^i(\mathbf{X}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{X}}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*) \simeq \mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}] \otimes H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*)$$

of graded  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]$ -modules. For the spectral sequence of hypercohomology associated to the Koszul complex (4.4), we have

$${}''E_2^{kl} = H^k(\mathbf{X}, \mathcal{H}^l(\mathcal{F}(\mu)^{\bullet})) = \begin{cases} H^k(\mathbf{X}, \iota_* \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*) = H^k(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*), & \text{if } l = 0; \\ 0, & \text{if } l \neq 0. \end{cases}$$

and

$${}'E_1^{kl} = H^l(\mathbf{X}, \mathcal{F}(\mu)^k) = \mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}][k] \otimes H^l(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^{-k}(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*).$$

(See [25, 5.7] for basic facts on hypercohomology.) It follows that there is a spectral sequence of graded  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]$ -modules

$$(4.5) \quad {}'E_1^{-j,i} = \mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}][-j] \otimes H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*) \Rightarrow H^{i-j}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*).$$

Let  $i - j$  be maximal with  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*) \neq 0$ . If  $V_{\nu}^*$  occurs in this cohomology group, then  $\nu \preceq \mu^+$ , by Lemma 4.9(1). A basis for  $V_{\nu}^*$  corresponds to some free generators of  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]$ -module  ${}'E_1^{-j,i}$  of degree  $j$ . Since  $i - j$  is maximal, these generators are in the kernel of  $d_1^{-j,i}$ . But they are not in the image of  $d_1^{-j-1,i}$ , as all elements of  ${}'E_1^{-j-1,i}$  are of degree  $> j$ . Hence these generators correspond to nonzero generators of  ${}'E_2^{-j,i}$ . Likewise, their images in  ${}'E_k^{-j,i}$  do not vanish. In view of convergence of the above spectral sequence, this implies that the multiplicity of  $V_{\nu}^*$  in  $H^{i-j}(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$  is at least one. It follows that, for some  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , the multiplicity of  $V_{\nu}^*$  in  $H^{i-j}(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\widetilde{\mathcal{S}^m(V_{\bar{\theta}}^+)}) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*$  is also at least one. Any weight of  $\mathcal{S}^m(V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu}$  is of the form  $\mu + \gamma$  with  $\gamma \succcurlyeq 0$ . Hence  $\nu + \rho = w(\mu + \gamma + \rho)$  for some  $w \in W$  with  $\ell(w) = i - j$ . Consequently,  $\nu \succcurlyeq \mu$  and altogether  $\mu \preceq \nu \preceq \mu^+$ . Hence  $\nu = \mu^+$ . Now, Lemma 4.9(2) yields  $i = j \geq \ell(w_{\mu})$ . In particular, condition (i) holds.  $\square$

The following is an analogue of [1, Prop. 2.6].

**Proposition 4.11.** *Suppose that  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$  satisfies vanishing conditions of Theorem 4.10. Then the graded  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]$ -module  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$  is generated by the unique copy of  $V_{\mu^+}^*$  sitting in degree  $\text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$ .*

*Proof.* Eq. (4.5) in the last part of the proof of Theorem 4.10 shows that

- The generators of the  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]$ -module  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$  arise from  $G$ -modules sitting in  $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^i(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*)$ , with  $i \geq \ell(w_{\mu})$ ;
- $H^i(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\wedge^i(V_{\bar{\theta}}/V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu})^*)$  only contains  $G$ -modules of type  $V_{\mu^+}^*$ .

It follows that the degree of generators of  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{Z}}(\mu)^*)$  is at least  $\ell(w_{\mu})$ . On the other hand, if  $H^0(G/B, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(\widetilde{\mathcal{S}^j(V_{\bar{\theta}}^+) \otimes \mathbb{C}_{\mu}})^*)$  contains a  $G$ -submodule of type  $V_{\mu^+}^*$ , then  $j \leq \text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$  by Proposition 4.8(2). Therefore, there cannot be generators of degree larger than  $\text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$ . It only remains to prove that if  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$  satisfies the vanishing condition, then  $\ell(w_{\mu}) = \text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$ . Clearly,  $\ell(w_{\mu}) \leq \text{ht}(\mu^+ - \mu)$ . Assume the inequality is strict. Then there is a  $w \in W$  and a simple reflection  $s_i$  such that  $\mu \preceq w(\mu) \prec s_i w(\mu) \preceq \mu^+$  and  $s_i w(\mu) = w(\mu) + k\alpha_i$  with  $k \geq 2$ . Then  $\nu := w(\mu) + \alpha_i$  belongs to the convex hull of  $w(\mu)$  and  $s_i w(\mu)$ ; hence  $\mu \prec \nu^+ \prec \mu^+$ , which contradicts the vanishing condition.  $\square$

Finally, we mention that above two interpretations of numbers  $\overline{m}_{\lambda}^{\nu}$  and Theorem 4.10 lead to an interesting equality.

**Proposition 4.12.** *If  $\nu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$  and  $(\nu, \alpha^{\vee}) \geq -1$  for all  $\alpha \in \Delta_s^+$ , then  $H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}_{G/H}(V_{\nu}^{(H)*}))$  and  $H^0(G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+}(\nu)^*)$  are isomorphic  $G$ -modules. In particular, for  $\nu = 0$ , we obtain  $\mathbb{C}[G/H] \simeq \mathbb{C}[G \times_B V_{\bar{\theta}}^+]$  as  $G$ -modules.*

*Proof.* By Frobenius reciprocity,

$$\text{mult}(V_{\lambda}^*, H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}_{G/H}((V_{\nu}^{(H)*}))) = \text{mult}(V_{\nu}^{(H)}, V_{\lambda}|_H).$$

Hence the multiplicity of  $V_{\lambda}^*$  in both spaces  $H^0(\dots)$  under consideration is equal to  $\overline{m}_{\lambda}^{\nu}$ .  $\square$

## 5. SHORT HALL-LITTLEWOOD POLYNOMIALS

In this section, we define "short" analogues of Hall-Littlewood polynomials and establish their basic properties. Recall that  $\Delta$  is a reduced irreducible root system, and  $\Delta^+ = \Delta_s^+ \sqcup \Delta_l^+$ ,  $\Pi = \Pi_s \sqcup \Pi_l$ , etc. It is convenient to assume that in the simply-laced case all roots are short and  $\Pi_l = \emptyset$ . Then the following can be regarded as a generalisation of Gupta's theory [6, 7].

The character ring  $\Lambda$  of finite-dimensional representations of  $G$  is identified with  $\mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}]^W$ . For  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , let  $\chi_{\lambda}$  denote the character of  $V_{\lambda}$ , i.e.,  $\chi_{\lambda} = \text{ch}(V_{\lambda}) = \sum_{\mu} m_{\lambda}^{\mu} e^{\mu}$ . By Weyl's character formula,  $\chi_{\lambda} = J(e^{\lambda+\rho})/J(e^{\rho})$ , where  $J = \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w)w$  is the skew-symmetrisation

operator. Weyl's denominator formula says that  $J(e^\rho) = e^\rho \prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})$ . The usual scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  on  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}]^W$  is given by  $\langle \chi_\lambda, \chi_\nu \rangle = \delta_{\lambda, \nu}$ .

The projection  $j : \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\mathfrak{X}]^W$  is given by  $j(f) := J(f)/J(e^\rho)$ .

Set  $t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q) = \sum q^{\ell(w)}$ , where the summation is over  $w \in W(\Pi_s)_\lambda$ , the stabiliser of  $\lambda$  in  $W(\Pi_s)$ .

We will work in the  $q$ -extended character ring  $\Lambda[[q]]$  or its subring  $\Lambda[q]$  and agree to extend our operators and form  $q$ -linearly. We first put

$$\tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)} = \frac{e^\rho}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^\alpha)}, \quad \Delta_q^{(s)} = e^\rho \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha}).$$

For  $\lambda, \mu \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , define :

$$\bar{E}_\mu(q) = j(e^\mu \cdot \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)}), \quad \bar{P}_\lambda(q) = \frac{1}{t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)} j(e^\lambda \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}).$$

Clearly,  $\bar{E}_\mu(q) \in \Lambda[[q]]$  and  $t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{P}_\lambda(q) \in \Lambda[q]$ . It will immediately be shown that  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$  is a well-defined element of  $\Lambda[q]$ , i.e.,  $t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)$  divides  $j(e^\lambda \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)})$  in  $\Lambda[q]$ . We say that  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$  is a *short Hall-Littlewood polynomial*. (For, if  $\Delta_s^+ = \Delta^+$  or if  $\Delta_s^+$  and  $\Pi_s$  are replaced with  $\Delta^+$  and  $\Pi$  in the above definition, then one obtains the usual Hall-Littlewood polynomials  $P_\lambda(q)$  for  $\Delta$ .)

**Proposition 5.1.**

$$\bar{P}_\lambda(q) = J(e^{\lambda+\rho} \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+, (\alpha, \lambda) > 0} (1 - qe^\alpha)) J(\rho)^{-1}.$$

*Proof.* 1) First consider the case in which  $\lambda = 0$ . Here

$$J(e^\rho) \cdot j(e^0 \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}) = J\left(\sum_{A \subset \Delta_s^+} (-q)^{\#A} e^{\rho - |A|}\right).$$

It is known that  $\rho - |A|$  is regular if and only if  $A = \mathbf{N}(w)$  for some  $w \in W$  [17]. Since  $A \subset \Delta_s^+$ , Lemma 4.5(ii) shows that actually  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ . Hence

$$J\left(\sum_{A \subset \Delta_s^+} (-q)^{\#A} e^{\rho - |A|}\right) = \sum_{w \in W(\Pi_s)} (-q)^{\ell(w)} J(e^{w^{-1}\rho}) = \sum_{w \in W(\Pi_s)} q^{\ell(w)} \cdot J(e^\rho) = t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q) J(e^\rho).$$

This proves that  $\bar{P}_0(q) = 1$ .

2) For an arbitrary  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , we notice that  $\sum_{w \in W_\lambda} \varepsilon(w) w(e^{\lambda+\rho} \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha}))$  is divisible by  $t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)$ , by the first part of proof.

(One has to consider the splitting  $\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha}) = \prod_{\alpha: (\alpha, \lambda) = 0} (\dots) \prod_{\alpha: (\alpha, \lambda) > 0} (\dots)$ , and use the fact that  $w(\prod_{\alpha: (\alpha, \lambda) > 0} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})) = \prod_{\alpha: (\alpha, \lambda) > 0} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})$  for any  $w \in W_\lambda$ .)

This is already sufficient to conclude that  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$  belongs to  $\Lambda[q]$ . Further easy calculations that require a splitting  $W \simeq W^\lambda \times W_\lambda$  are left to the reader.  $\square$

*Remark 5.2.* Our proof is inspired by the remark in [6, p.70, last paragraph], where R. Gupta refers to Macdonald's argument for the Hall-Littlewood symmetric functions.

*Remark 5.3.* The Hall-Littlewood polynomials  $P_\lambda(q)$  interpolate between the irreducible characters  $\chi_\lambda$  (if  $q = 0$ ) and orbital sums  $\frac{1}{\#(W_\lambda)} \sum_{w \in W} e^{w\lambda}$  (if  $q = 1$ ). For the short Hall-Littlewood polynomials  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$ , we still have  $\bar{P}_\lambda(0) = \chi_\lambda$ . At  $q = 1$ , we obtain a linear combination of irreducible characters for  $H$ . Namely, if  $\chi_\mu^{(H)}$  denote the character of  $V_\mu^{(H)}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$ , then

$$\bar{P}_\lambda(1) = \frac{1}{\#(W(\Pi_s)_\lambda)} \sum_{w \in W(\Pi_s)} \chi_{w\lambda}^{(H)}.$$

An easy proof uses the semi-direct product structure of  $W$  (Lemma 4.5) and Weyl's character formula for  $H$ . (Note that if  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ , then  $w\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}$  for any  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ .)

**Theorem 5.4.** *In  $\Lambda[[q]]$ , the following relations hold:*

- (1)  $\langle \bar{E}_\mu(q), \bar{P}_\lambda(q) \rangle = \delta_{\lambda,\mu}$ ;
- (2)  $\bar{E}_\mu(q) = \frac{t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)} \bar{P}_\mu(q)$  and  $\bar{E}_0(q) = \frac{t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)}$ .

*Proof.* (1) We mimic Gupta's proof of [6, Theorem 2.5]. The plan is as follows:

- (i) If  $\chi_\pi$  occurs in  $\bar{E}_\mu(q) = j(e^\mu \cdot \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)})$ , then  $\pi \succcurlyeq \mu$ ; and the coefficient of  $\chi_\mu$  equals 1;
- (ii) If  $\chi_\pi$  occurs in  $j(e^\lambda \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)})$ , then  $\pi \preccurlyeq \lambda$ ; and the coefficient of  $\chi_\lambda$  equals  $t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)$ ;
- (iii) Put  $c_{\lambda,\mu} = \langle j(e^\lambda \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}), j(e^\mu \cdot \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)}) \rangle$ . Then  $c_{\lambda,\mu} = c_{\mu,\lambda}$  and hence  $t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \langle \bar{E}_\lambda(q), \bar{P}_\mu(q) \rangle = t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \langle \bar{E}_\mu(q), \bar{P}_\lambda(q) \rangle$ .

It will then follow that  $c_{\lambda,\mu} = \delta_{\lambda,\mu} \cdot t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)$  proving the assertion.

For (i): By Weyl's character formula, the coefficient of  $\chi_\pi$  in  $j(e^\mu \cdot \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)})$  equals the coefficient of  $e^{\pi+\rho}$  in (the expansion of)

$$J(e^\rho) \bar{E}_\mu(q) = \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) w \left( \frac{e^{\mu+\rho}}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^\alpha)} \right).$$

This coefficient equals  $\sum_{w,B} \varepsilon(w) q^{\#B}$ , where the summation is over  $w \in W$  and multi-sets  $B$  of  $\Delta_s^+$  such that  $\pi + \rho = w(\mu + \rho + |B|)$ . Then  $\pi + \rho \succcurlyeq w^{-1}(\pi + \rho) = \mu + \rho + |B| \succcurlyeq \mu + \rho$ . Hence  $\pi \succcurlyeq \mu$ . If  $\pi = \mu$ , then the only possibility is  $w = 1$  and  $B = \emptyset$ .

For (ii): Now, we are interested in the coefficient of  $e^{\pi+\rho}$  in

$$\sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) w (e^{\lambda+\rho} \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha}))$$

It is equal to  $\sum_{w,A} \varepsilon(w) (-q)^{\#A}$ , where the summation is over  $w \in W$  and subsets  $A \subset \Delta_s^+$  such that  $\pi + \rho = w(\lambda + \rho - |A|)$ . Since  $w\lambda \preccurlyeq \lambda$  and  $w(\rho - |A|) \preccurlyeq \rho$ , we obtain  $\pi + \rho \preccurlyeq \lambda + \rho$ . Moreover, in case of equality we have  $w\lambda = \lambda$  and  $\rho - w^{-1}\rho = |A|$ . This means that  $w \in W_\lambda$

and  $N(w) = A \subset \Delta_s^+$ . By Lemma 4.5(ii), we conclude that  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ . Thus,  $\#A = \ell(w)$  and the coefficient of  $e^{\lambda+\rho}$  equals  $\sum_{w \in W(\Pi_s)_\lambda} q^{\ell(w)} = t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)$ .

For (iii): Set  $\bar{\xi} = \frac{1}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)}$ . It is a  $W$ -invariant element of  $\Lambda[[q]]$  and  $\Delta_q^{(s)} \bar{\xi} = \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)}$ .

Hence  $j(e^\mu \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}) \bar{\xi} = j(e^\mu \cdot \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)})$ . But  $\bar{\xi}$  is also a self-dual character. Thus, we have

$$c_{\lambda, \mu} = \langle j(e^\lambda \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}), j(e^\mu \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}) \bar{\xi} \rangle = \langle j(e^\lambda \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}) \bar{\xi}, j(e^\mu \cdot \Delta_q^{(s)}) \rangle = c_{\mu, \lambda}.$$

(2) The equality  $\bar{E}_\mu(q) = t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \bar{\xi} \cdot \bar{P}_\mu(q)$  is essentially proved in (iii). Taking  $\mu = 0$  yields the rest.  $\square$

**Proposition 5.5.**  $\bar{E}_\mu(q) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) \chi_\lambda$ .

*Proof.* By definition,  $J(e^\rho) \bar{E}_\mu(q) = J\left(\frac{e^{\mu+\rho}}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^\alpha)}\right) = \sum_\nu \bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(\nu) J(e^{\mu+\nu+\rho})$ .

The weight  $\mu + \nu + \rho$  contributes to the last sum if and only if  $\mu + \nu + \rho = w(\lambda + \rho)$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$  and  $w \in W$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_\nu \bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(\nu) J(e^{\mu+\nu+\rho}) &= \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \sum_{w \in W} \bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\lambda + \rho) - (\mu + \rho)) J(e^{w(\lambda + \rho)}) \\ &= \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) \bar{\mathcal{P}}_q(w(\lambda + \rho) - (\mu + \rho)) J(e^{\lambda + \rho}) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) J(e^{\lambda + \rho}). \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

Part 1(ii) in the proof of Theorem 5.4 shows that  $\{\bar{P}_\lambda(q)\}_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+}$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis in  $\Lambda[q]$ . Furthermore, Theorem 5.4(1) and Proposition 5.5 readily imply that

$$(5.1) \quad \chi_\pi = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\pi^\lambda(q) \bar{P}_\lambda(q).$$

Note that this sum is finite, since  $\bar{m}_\pi^\lambda(q) = 0$  unless  $\lambda \preceq \pi$ . Let us transform the expression for  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q)$  given by definition:

$$\begin{aligned} J(e^\rho) \cdot t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{P}_\lambda(q) &= J(e^{\lambda+\rho} \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})) \\ &= J\left(e^\lambda \frac{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})}{\prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})} \cdot e^\rho \prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})\right) = \sum_{w \in W} w \left( e^\lambda \frac{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})}{\prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})} \right) \cdot J(e^\rho). \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\bar{P}_\lambda(q) = \frac{1}{t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)} \sum_{w \in W} w \left( e^\lambda \frac{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})}{\prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})} \right)$ , and substituting this in Equation (5.1) we obtain a generalisation of an identity of Kato (cf. [6, Theorem 3.9]):

$$(5.2) \quad \chi_\pi = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\pi^\lambda(q) \frac{1}{t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q)} \sum_{w \in W} w \left( e^\lambda \frac{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})}{\prod_{\alpha > 0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})} \right).$$

Taking  $q = 1$ , we obtain

$$\chi_\pi = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\pi^\lambda \cdot \frac{1}{\#W(\Pi_s)_\lambda} \cdot \sum_{w \in W} w \left( \frac{e^\lambda}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_l^+} (1 - e^{-\alpha})} \right).$$

Taking into account that  $W = W(\Pi_s) \rtimes W_l$  and  $\bar{m}_\pi^\lambda = \bar{m}_\pi^{w\lambda}$  for any  $w \in W(\Pi_s)$ , this specialisation is equivalent to the formula  $\chi_\pi = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+, H} \bar{m}_\pi^\lambda \chi_\lambda^{(H)}$ .

We introduce another bilinear form in  $\Lambda[q]$  such that  $\{\bar{P}_\lambda(q)\}$  to be an orthogonal basis. To this end, the null-cone in  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  plays the same role as the nilpotent cone  $\mathfrak{N} \subset \mathfrak{g}$  for the Hall-Littlewood polynomials  $P_\lambda(q)$ , cf. [7, §2].

For a graded  $G$ -module  $\mathcal{M} = \bigoplus_i \mathcal{M}_i$  with  $\dim \mathcal{M}_i < \infty$ , the graded character of  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $\text{ch}_q(\mathcal{M})$ , is the formal sum  $\sum_i \text{ch}(\mathcal{M}_i) q^i \in \Lambda[[q]]$ .

**Proposition 5.6.** *The graded character of the graded  $G$ -algebra  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})]$  equals*

$$\text{ch}_q(\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})]) = \frac{t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)} = t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{\xi} = \bar{E}_0(q).$$

*Proof.* The weight structure of  $V_{\bar{\theta}}$  (Lemma 4.1) shows that the graded character of  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]$  equals  $\text{ch}_q(\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]) = \frac{1}{(1-q)^{\#\Pi_s} \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)}$ . We know that  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  is a complete intersection of codimension  $m := \#\Pi_s$  and the ideal of  $\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})$  is generated by algebraically independent generators of  $\mathbb{C}[V_{\bar{\theta}}]^G$ . Furthermore, if  $d_1, \dots, d_m$  are the degrees of these generators, then  $d_1 - 1, \dots, d_m - 1$  are the exponents of  $W(\Pi_s)$  (Prop. 4.6). Thus,

$$\text{ch}_q(\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})]) = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^m (1 - q^{d_i})}{(1-q)^m \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)} = \frac{\prod_{i=1}^m (1 + q + \dots + q^{d_i-1})}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s} (1 - qe^\alpha)},$$

and it is well known that  $t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q) = \prod_{i=1}^m (1 + q + \dots + q^{d_i-1})$ .  $\square$

Combining Propositions 5.5 and 5.6 yields

$$\text{ch}_q(\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})]) = \sum_{\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\lambda^0(q) \chi_\lambda,$$

which is [24, Theorem 4]. In other words,  $\sum_{i \geq 0} \dim(\text{Hom}_G(V_\lambda, \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})]_i)) q^i = \bar{m}_\lambda^0(q)$  for every  $\lambda \in \mathfrak{X}_+$ .

Define a new bilinear form in  $\Lambda[q]$  by letting

$$\langle\langle \chi_\lambda, \chi_\mu \rangle\rangle = \langle \chi_\lambda \chi_\mu^*, t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{\xi} \rangle = \langle \chi_\lambda, t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{\xi} \chi_\mu \rangle.$$

In view of Proposition 5.6,  $\langle\langle \chi_\lambda, \chi_\mu \rangle\rangle$  is a polynomial in  $q$  that counts graded occurrences of the  $G$ -module  $V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu^*$  in  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_{\bar{\theta}})]$ .

**Theorem 5.7.**  $\langle\langle \bar{P}_\lambda(q), \bar{P}_\mu(q) \rangle\rangle = \frac{t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q)} \delta_{\lambda, \mu}$ .

*Proof.* By definition and Theorem 5.4, we have

$$\langle\langle \bar{P}_\lambda(q), \bar{P}_\mu(q) \rangle\rangle = \langle \bar{P}_\lambda(q), t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{\xi} \cdot \bar{P}_\mu(q) \rangle = \langle \bar{P}_\lambda(q), \frac{t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q)} \bar{E}_\mu(q) \rangle = \frac{t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q)} \delta_{\lambda, \mu}.$$

Here we also use the fact that  $\Delta_q^{(s)} \bar{\xi} = \tilde{\Delta}_q^{(s)}$  and hence  $t_\mu^{(\Pi_s)}(q) \cdot \bar{\xi} \cdot \bar{P}_\mu(q) = \bar{E}_\mu(q)$ .  $\square$

Finally, using Eq. (5.1), we obtain

$$\langle\langle \chi_\lambda, \chi_\mu \rangle\rangle = \sum_{\pi \in \mathfrak{X}_+} \bar{m}_\lambda^\pi(q) \bar{m}_\mu^\pi(q) \frac{t_0^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}{t_\pi^{(\Pi_s)}(q)}.$$

## 6. MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS

6.1. It is noticed in [6, 5.1] that Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$  satisfy the identity

$$(6.1) \quad \sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}} m_\lambda^\mu(q) e^\mu = \frac{J(e^{\lambda+\rho})}{e^\rho \prod_{\alpha>0} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})} = \chi_\lambda \cdot \prod_{\alpha>0} \frac{(1 - e^{-\alpha})}{(1 - qe^{-\alpha})}.$$

This can be regarded as quantisation of the equality  $\chi_\lambda = \sum_{\mu} m_\lambda^\mu e^\mu$ , which describes  $V_\lambda$  as  $T$ -module. In the context of short  $q$ -analogues, we wish to have a quantisation of the equality  $\chi_\lambda = \sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}} \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu \chi_\mu^{(H)}$ , which describes  $V_\lambda$  as  $H$ -module [8, §3]. The desired quantisation is

**Proposition 6.1.** 
$$\sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}} \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) \chi_\mu^{(H)} = \chi_\lambda \cdot \frac{1}{\#W_l} \sum_{w \in W_l} w \left( \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} \frac{1 - e^{-\alpha}}{1 - qe^{-\alpha}} \right).$$

*Proof.* Using Weyl's formula, the function  $(\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+,H}) \mapsto \chi_\mu^{(H)}$  can be extended to the whole of  $\mathfrak{X}$  such that it will satisfy the identity  $\chi_{w \odot \mu}^{(H)} = \varepsilon(w) \chi_\mu^{(H)}$ ,  $w \in W_l$ . Recall that ' $\odot$ ' stands for the shifted action of  $W_l$ . Since the same identity holds for  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$ , see Eq. (4.2), the left hand side can be replaced with  $\frac{1}{\#W_l} \sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}} \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) \chi_\mu^{(H)}$ . The rest can be achieved via routine transformations of this sum, using the definition of  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$  and Weyl's character formulae for  $H$  and  $G$ .  $\square$

Yet another quantisation, which is easier to prove, is

$$(6.2) \quad \sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}} \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) e^\mu = \frac{J(e^{\lambda+\rho})}{e^\rho \prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})} = \chi_\lambda \cdot \frac{\prod_{\alpha>0} (1 - e^{-\alpha})}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_s^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha})}.$$

Comparing Equations (6.1) and (6.2), we obtain a relation between Lusztig's and short  $q$ -analogues:

$$\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta_l^+} (1 - qe^{-\alpha}) \sum_{\mu \in \mathfrak{X}} m_\lambda^\mu(q) e^\mu = \sum_{\nu \in \mathfrak{X}} \bar{m}_\lambda^\nu(q) e^\nu.$$



Whence  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q) = \sum_{A \subset \Delta_l^+} (-q)^{\#A} m_\lambda^{\mu+|A|}(q)$ . Or, conversely,  $m_\lambda^\mu(q) = \sum_B q^{\#B} \bar{m}_\lambda^{\mu+|B|}(q)$ , where

$B$  ranges over the finite multisets in  $\Delta_l^+$ . In particular, taking  $q = 1$  and  $\mu = 0$ , we obtain

$$\dim V_\lambda^H = \bar{m}_\lambda^0 = \sum_{A \subset \Delta_l^+} (-1)^{\#A} m_\lambda^{|A|}.$$

**Example.** If  $G = Sp_{2n}$ , then  $H = (SL_2)^n$  and  $\Delta_l^+ = \{2\varepsilon_1, \dots, 2\varepsilon_n\}$ . Here  $\varepsilon_{i_1} + \dots + \varepsilon_{i_k}$  is  $W$ -conjugate to  $\varphi_k = \varepsilon_1 + \dots + \varepsilon_k$  and the previous relation becomes

$$\dim V_\lambda^H = \sum_{k=0}^n (-1)^k \binom{n}{k} m_\lambda^{2\varphi_k}.$$

6.2. It is well known that, for  $\lambda$  strictly dominant, the Hall-Littlewood polynomials  $P_\lambda(q)$  have a nice specialisation at  $q = -1$ : If  $\lambda \succ \rho$ , then  $P_\lambda(-1) = \chi_{\lambda-\rho} \chi_\rho$ . (See [23, 7.4] for a generalisation to symmetrisable Kac-Moody algebras.) For  $\Delta$  of type  $\mathbf{A}_n$ ,  $P_\lambda(-1)$  is a classical Schur's  $Q$ -function [18, III.8]. A similar phenomenon occurs for short Hall-Littlewood polynomials.

**Proposition 6.2.** *Suppose  $\lambda \succ \rho_s$  and  $G$  is of type  $\mathbf{B}_n, \mathbf{C}_n$ , or  $\mathbf{F}_4$ . Then  $\bar{P}_\lambda(-1) = \chi_{\lambda-\rho_s} \chi_{\rho_s}$ .*

*Proof.* If  $\lambda \succ \rho_s$ , then  $t_\lambda^{(\Pi_s)}(q) = 1$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{P}_\lambda(-1) &= J(e^{\lambda+\rho} \prod_{\lambda \in \Delta_s^+} (1 + e^{-\alpha})) J(e^\rho)^{-1} = \\ &= \sum_{w \in W} \varepsilon(w) w(e^{\lambda-\rho_s+\rho}) (e^{\rho_s} \prod_{\lambda \in \Delta_s^+} (1 + e^{-\alpha})) \cdot J(e^\rho)^{-1} = \chi_{\lambda-\rho_s} \cdot \prod_{\lambda \in \Delta_s^+} (e^{\alpha/2} + e^{-\alpha/2}). \end{aligned}$$

For  $G$  is of type  $\mathbf{B}_n, \mathbf{C}_n$ , or  $\mathbf{F}_4$ , it is known that  $\chi_{\rho_s} = \prod_{\lambda \in \Delta_s^+} (e^{\alpha/2} + e^{-\alpha/2})$  [20, Theorem 2.9].  $\square$

*Remark 6.3.* The proof of equality  $\chi_{\rho_s} = \prod_{\lambda \in \Delta_s^+} (e^{\alpha/2} + e^{-\alpha/2})$  in [20] is only based on the assumption that  $\|\text{long}\|^2 / \|\text{short}\|^2 = 2$ , i.e., it does not refer to classification. For  $\mathbf{G}_2$ , the true equality is  $\prod_{\lambda \in \Delta_s^+} (e^{\alpha/2} + e^{-\alpha/2}) = \chi_{\rho_s} + 1$ .

6.3. Rane Brylinski proved that Lusztig's  $q$ -analogues  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$  can be computed via a principal filtration on  $V_\lambda^\mu$  whenever  $H^i(G \times_B \mathfrak{u}, \mathcal{L}_{G \times_B \mathfrak{u}}(\mathbb{C}_\mu)^*) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$ . Namely,  $m_\lambda^\mu(q)$  coincides with the "jump polynomial" of the principal filtration, see [5] for details. Another approach to her results can be found in [11].

I hope that a similar description exists for short  $q$ -analogues. First, we need a subspace of  $V_\lambda$  whose dimension equals  $\bar{m}_\lambda^\mu = \text{mult}(V_\mu^{U(H)}, V_\lambda)$ . Let  $V_\lambda^{U(H)}$  be the subspace of  $H$ -highest vectors in  $V_\lambda$  with respect to  $\Delta_l^+$ . Then  $V_\lambda^{U(H), \mu} = V_\lambda^{U(H)} \cap V_\lambda^\mu$  has the required dimension. For  $\alpha \in \Delta^+$ , let  $e_\alpha$  be a nonzero root vector of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Brylinski's principal filtration

is determined by the principal nilpotent element  $e = \sum_{\alpha \in \Pi} e_\alpha$ . In the context of short  $q$ -analogues, we consider  $e_s = \sum_{\alpha \in \Pi_s} e_\alpha$  and the corresponding filtration of  $V_\lambda^{U(H), \mu}$ . That is, we set

$$J_{e_s}^p(V_\lambda^{U(H), \mu}) = \{v \in V_\lambda^{U(H), \mu} \mid e_s^{p+1} \cdot v = 0\}.$$

The jump polynomial is defined to be

$$\bar{r}_\lambda^\mu(q) = \sum_{p \geq 0} \dim(J_{e_s}^p(V_\lambda^{U(H), \mu}) / J_{e_s}^{p-1}(V_\lambda^{U(H), \mu})) q^p.$$

**Conjecture 6.4.** *If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{X}_{+, H}$  satisfies vanishing conditions of Theorem 4.10, then  $\bar{r}_\lambda^\mu(q) = \bar{m}_\lambda^\mu(q)$ .*

6.4. Although the collapsing  $f : \mathbf{Z} = G \times_B V_\theta^+ \rightarrow \mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)$  is not generically finite, it can be used for deriving useful properties of the null-cone. Let  $\varrho : \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)} \rightarrow Rf_* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}}$  be the corresponding natural morphism. Since  $f$  is projective,  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}})$  is a finite  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)]$ -module; and there is the trace map  $H^0(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)]$  because  $\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)$  is normal. The trace map determines a morphism (in the derived category of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)}$ -modules)  $\varrho' : Rf_* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)}$ . By Theorem 4.10,  $H^i(\mathbf{Z}, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}}) = 0$  for  $i \geq 1$ , i.e.,  $R^i f_* \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{Z}} = 0$  for  $i \geq 1$ . Hence  $\varrho' \circ \varrho$  is a quasi-isomorphism of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)}$  with itself. Therefore, by [15, Theorem 1],  $\mathfrak{N}(V_\theta)$  has only rational singularities.

Clearly, this argument works in a more general context and yields the following:

**Proposition 6.5.** *Let  $N$  be a  $P$ -stable subspace in a  $G$ -module  $V$ . If  $H^i(G \times_P N, \mathcal{O}_{G \times_P N}) = 0$  for all  $i \geq 1$ , then the normalisation of  $G \cdot N$  has only rational singularities.*

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