

# LECTURE 10: KAZHDAN-LUSZTIG BASIS AND CATEGORIES $\mathcal{O}$

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## INTRODUCTION

In this and the next lecture we will describe an entirely different application of Hecke algebras, now to the category  $\mathcal{O}$ . In the first section we will define the Kazhdan-Lusztig basis in the Hecke algebra of  $W$  and explain how to read the multiplicities in the category  $\mathcal{O}$  from this basis (the Kazhdan-Lusztig conjecture proved independently by Beilinson-Bernstein and Brylinski-Kashiwara).

In the remainder of this lecture and in the next one, we will explain some steps towards a proof of this conjecture based on works of Soergel and of Elias-Williamson. We will start by defining projective functors between different infinitesimal blocks of category  $\mathcal{O}$ . As an application, we will show how the computation of multiplicities in  $\mathcal{O}_\lambda$  for  $\lambda \in P$  reduces to  $\lambda = 0$ .

## 1. KAZHDAN-LUSZTIG BASIS AND CONJECTURE

**1.1. Recap on category  $\mathcal{O}$ .** Pick a semisimple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ . We have the triangular decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{n}^- \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{n}$ . Let  $W$  denote the Weyl group. Let  $\rho := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha > 0} \alpha = \sum_i \omega_i$  (where  $\omega_i$  denote the fundamental weight corresponding to a simple root  $\alpha_i$ ). Define the shifted action of  $W$  on  $\mathfrak{h}$  by  $w \cdot \lambda := w(\lambda + \rho) - \rho$ .

Recall that in Lecture 7 we have introduced the BGG category  $\mathcal{O}$  consisting of all finitely generated  $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules with diagonalizable action of  $\mathfrak{h}$  and locally nilpotent action of  $\mathfrak{n}$ . Also we have identified the center  $Z$  of  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  with  $\mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}]^{W \cdot} = \{f \in \mathbb{C}[\mathfrak{h}] \mid f(w \cdot \lambda) = f(\lambda), \forall w \in W, \lambda \in \mathfrak{h}\}$ , where we send  $z \in Z$  to the polynomial  $\tilde{f}_z$  such that  $z$  acts by  $\tilde{f}_z(\lambda)$  on the Verma module  $\Delta(\lambda) = U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} \mathbb{C}_\lambda$ . This allowed to split  $\mathcal{O}$  into the direct sum of infinitesimal blocks  $\mathcal{O}_\lambda$  consisting of all modules  $M$  in  $\mathcal{O}$ , where  $z$  acts with generalized eigenvalue  $\tilde{f}_z(\lambda)$ . We are going to be interested in  $\mathcal{O}_\lambda$ , where  $\lambda \in P$  (the weight lattice) and mainly in  $\mathcal{O}_0$  (we will see that the study of  $\mathcal{O}_\lambda$  with  $\lambda \in P$  basically reduces to the study of  $\mathcal{O}_0$ ). The simple objects in  $\mathcal{O}_0$  are  $L(w \cdot 0)$ ,  $w \in W$ , all of these objects are different because  $W_\rho = \{1\}$ . We have seen in Lecture 7 that any  $L(w \cdot 0)$  appears in the composition series of  $\Delta(w \cdot 0)$  once, and all other composition are  $L(w' \cdot 0)$ , where  $w' \cdot 0 < w \cdot 0$  meaning that  $w \cdot 0 - w' \cdot 0$  is a sum of positive roots. In fact, we can take a weaker *Bruhat* order (getting a stronger result).

**Definition 1.1.** We say that  $u \prec w$  (in the Bruhat order) if  $w = s_{\beta_k} \dots s_{\beta_1} u$ , where  $\beta_k, \dots, \beta_1$  are roots (not necessarily simple) and  $\ell(s_{\beta_i} \dots s_{\beta_1} u) > \ell(s_{\beta_{i-1}} \dots s_{\beta_1} u)$  for all  $i$ .

In this order, the minimal element in  $W$  is 1, while the maximal element is the longest (with respect to the length  $\ell(w)$ ) element  $w_0 \in W$ . It is uniquely characterized by the property that it maps the positive Weyl chamber  $C$  to  $-C$ . For  $W = S_n$ , we have  $w_0(i) = n + 1 - i$  for all  $i$ .

Here are properties of  $\prec$  to be used below.

**Lemma 1.2.** *The following is true:*

- (1) If  $u \prec w$ , then  $u \cdot 0 > w \cdot 0$ .
- (2) If  $u$  is obtained from  $w$  by deleting some elements in the reduced expression of  $w$ , then  $u \prec w$ .
- (3)  $u \preceq w$  if and only if  $w_0 w \preceq w_0 u$ .

The proof is left as an exercise.

We will write  $L_w$  for  $L(w_0 w \cdot 0)$  and  $\Delta_w = \Delta(w_0 w \cdot 0)$ . One can show that if  $L_u$  is a composition factor of  $\Delta_w$ , then  $u \preceq w$ . What we want to compute is the character of  $L_w$ . Let  $m_w^u$  denote the multiplicity of  $L_u$  in  $\Delta_w$ . Consider the multiplicity matrix  $M$ , it is unitriangular and hence invertible. Let  $M^{-1} = (n_w^u)$ . So  $\text{ch} L_w = \sum_{u \preceq w} n_w^u \text{ch} \Delta_u$ . So what we need to compute is the numbers  $n_w^u$ .

It is convenient to reformulate this problem. The category  $\mathcal{O}_0$  is abelian. So we can consider its *Grothendieck group*  $K_0(\mathcal{O}_0)$ . It is defined as the quotient of the free group generated by the isomorphism classes of the objects  $M \in \mathcal{O}_0$  modulo the relation  $M = M' \oplus M''$  if there is an exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow M' \rightarrow M \rightarrow M'' \rightarrow 0$ . We denote the image of  $M$  in  $K_0(\mathcal{O}_0)$  by  $[M]$ . Since the objects in  $\mathcal{O}_0$  have finite length, the classes  $[L_w]$  form a basis in  $K_0(\mathcal{O}_0)$ . Since the matrix  $M$  is uni-triangular, the same is true for  $[\Delta_w]$ . We identify  $K_0(\mathcal{O}_0)$  with the group ring  $\mathbb{Z}W$  in such a way that  $[\Delta_w]$  corresponds to  $w$ . So we need to compute the basis  $[L_w] = \sum_{u \preceq w} n_w^u u$ .

**Example 1.3.** It is easy to compute two basis elements  $[L_w]$ . Namely, we have  $n_w^w = 1$  and  $n_w^u \neq 0 \Rightarrow u \preceq w$ . This immediately implies  $[L_1] = 1$ . The proof of the Weyl character formula in Lecture 7 says  $[L_{w_0}] = \sum_{w \in W} \text{sgn}(w_0 w) w$ .

In general, however, we cannot even describe the basis  $[L_w]$  staying inside  $\mathbb{Z}W$ . This is where the Hecke algebra comes into play.

**1.2. Kazhdan-Lusztig basis.** First, it will be convenient to modify the Hecke algebra slightly. Let us recall the previous definition (in the specialization  $v_s = v$  for all  $s \in S$ , where  $S$  denotes the set of simple reflections in  $W$ ). The Hecke algebra  $\mathcal{H}_v(W)$  is generated by elements that we will now denote by  $T'_s$  with relations  $T'_s T'_t T'_s \dots = T'_t T'_s T'_t \dots$  ( $m_{st}$  times) and  $(T'_s - v)(T'_s + 1) = 0$ . Now let  $q$  be another independent variable (that has nothing to do with a prime power). Define the  $\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}]$ -algebra  $\mathcal{H}_q(W)$  by generators  $T_s$  with relations  $T_s T_t T_s \dots = T_t T_s T_t \dots$  and  $(T_s - q)(T_s + q^{-1}) = 0$ . Clearly,  $\mathcal{H}_q(W) = \mathcal{H}_v(W)[q^{\pm 1}]/(v - q^2)$  with  $T'_s \mapsto qT_s$ . We see that  $\mathcal{H}_q(W)$  has basis  $T_w$  such that

$$(1.1) \quad T_s T_w = \begin{cases} T_{sw}, & \text{if } \ell(sw) = \ell(w) + 1, \\ T_{sw} + (q - q^{-1})T_w, & \text{if } \ell(sw) = \ell(w) - 1. \end{cases}$$

We have a ring involution of  $\mathcal{H}_q(W)$  (called the bar involution and denoted by  $\bar{\bullet}$ ), given on generators by  $\bar{q} := q^{-1}$ ,  $\bar{T}_s := T_s^{-1} (= T_s + q^{-1} - q)$ . Since  $\bar{\bullet}$  preserves the relations, we see that  $\bar{\bullet}$  is indeed a well-defined ring involution. Note that  $\bar{T}_w = (T_{w^{-1}})^{-1}$ .

The following fundamental result is due to Kazhdan and Lusztig, [KL].

**Theorem 1.4.** *For any  $w \in W$ , there is a unique element  $C_w \in \mathcal{H}_q(W)$  such that  $C_w = T_w + \sum_{u \prec w} P_w^u(q) T_u$ , where  $P_w^u(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}[q]$ , and  $\bar{C}_w = C_w$ .*

Since the matrix of expressing  $C_w$ 's in terms of  $T_w$ 's is uni-triangular, we see that the elements  $C_w, w \in W$ , form a basis in  $\mathcal{H}_q(W)$ . This is a so called *Kazhdan-Lusztig basis*.

*Proof.* The proof is by induction with respect to the Bruhat order: we assume that  $C_u$  exists and is unique for all  $u \prec w$ . Let  $w = s_{i_1} \dots s_{i_\ell}$  be a reduced expression. We have

$\bar{T}_w = \bar{T}_{i_1} \dots \bar{T}_{i_\ell} = (T_{i_1} + q^{-1} - q) \dots (T_{i_\ell} + q^{-1} - q)$ . Decompose  $\bar{T}_w$  in the basis  $T_u$ . We have  $\bar{T}_w = T_w + \sum_{u \prec w} R_w^u(q) T_u$  (all  $u$ 's are obtained by removing some simple reflections from the reduced decomposition of  $w$  and so  $u \prec w$  by (2) of Lemma 1.2). By the existence of  $C_u$ , what we need to show that there is a unique  $\tilde{P}_w^u(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}[q]$  such that  $C_w = T_w + \sum_{u \prec w} \tilde{P}_w^u(q) C_u$  and  $\bar{C}_w = C_w$ . We also have  $\bar{T}_w - T_w = \sum_{u \prec w} Q_w^u(q) C_u$ . Applying  $\bullet$  to the equation, we get  $T_w - \bar{T}_w = \sum_{u \prec w} Q_w^u(q^{-1}) C_u$  and so  $\bar{Q}_w^u(q^{-1}) = -Q_w^u(q)$ . But we have

$$\bar{C}_w = \bar{T}_w + \sum_{u \prec w} \tilde{P}_w^u(q^{-1}) C_u = T_w + \sum_{u \prec w} Q_w^u(q) C_u + \sum_{u \prec w} \tilde{P}_w^u(q^{-1}) C_u$$

So we need to prove that there is a unique  $\tilde{P}_w^u(q) \in q\mathbb{Z}[q]$  such that  $\tilde{P}_w^u(q^{-1}) - \tilde{P}_w^u(q) = Q_w^u(q)$ . This follows from  $Q_w^u(q^{-1}) = -Q_w^u(q)$ .  $\square$

**Example 1.5.** We have  $C_1 = 1$  and  $C_s = T_s - q$ , where  $s \in S$ .

Let us consider a more interesting example:  $W = S_3$ . Let  $s, t$  denote the simple reflections. The Bruhat order is that  $1 < s, t < st, ts < sts = tst$  (elements in the same group are not comparable). We have

$$C_{st} = T_{st} - q(T_s + T_t) + q^2, C_{ts} = T_{ts} - q(T_s + T_t) + q^2, C_{sts} = T_{sts} - q(T_{st} + T_{ts}) + q^2(T_s + T_t) - q^3.$$

More generally,  $C_{w_0} = \sum_{w \in W} (-q)^{\ell(w_0) - \ell(w)} T_w$ . To check these equalities is a part of the homework.

**1.3. Kazhdan-Lusztig conjecture.** We have a surjection  $\mathcal{H}_q(W) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}W$  given by setting  $q = 1$ . The following theorem was conjectured by Kazhdan-Lusztig and proved by Beilinson-Bernstein, [BB], and Brylinski-Kashiwara, [BK].

**Theorem 1.6.** *We have  $[L_w] = C_w|_{q=1}$ .*

By Example 1.5, this agrees with the Weyl character formula:  $[L_{w_0}] = \sum_{w \in W_0} \text{sgn}(w_0 w) w$ .

This is a difficult theorem whose proof found in the 80's required a heavy machinery and is one of the greatest achievements of Geometric Representation theory. Recently, a more elementary (but also difficult) proof was found, see [EW]. Starting the next section, we will outline some ideas relevant for that proof.

**1.4. Stronger version.** Now we are going to explain how to recover  $C_w$  itself (not just its specialization to 1) from the structure of Verma modules. This description was found in [BGS].

Let  $M$  be an object of  $\mathcal{O}$ . By  $\text{head}(M)$  we mean the maximal semisimple quotient of  $M$  and by the radical  $\text{Rad}(M)$  we mean the kernel  $M \rightarrow \text{head}(M)$ . Now define the *radical filtration*  $M_0 \supseteq M_1 \supseteq M_2 \supseteq \dots$  by setting  $M_i := \text{Rad}(M_{i-1})$ . Now take  $M := \Delta_w$  and for  $u \preceq w$  define  $m_w^u(q) := \sum [M_i/M_{i+1} : L_u] q^i$ , where the square bracket denotes the multiplicity of  $L_u$  in the composition series of  $M_i/M_{i+1}$ . For example,  $m_w^w(q) = 1$ .

**Theorem 1.7.** *We have  $T_w = \sum_{u \preceq w} m_w^u(q) C_u$ .*

**Example 1.8.** For  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_2$ , the module  $\Delta(1)$  has simple radical,  $\Delta(-2) = L(-2)$ . For  $s \in S_2 \setminus \{1\}$ , we get  $m_s^s(q) = 1, m_s^1(q) = q$ . Indeed,  $T_s = C_s + qC_1$ .

## 2. PROJECTIVE FUNCTORS, I

We are going to explain how to reduce the study of  $\mathcal{O}_\lambda$  with  $\lambda \in P$  to  $\lambda = 0$ .

**2.1. Tensor products with finite dimensional modules.** Recall that if  $V$  is a finite dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module and  $M \in \mathcal{O}$ , then  $V \otimes M \in \mathcal{O}$ . So we get the functor  $V \otimes \bullet : \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$ . This functor is exact (preserves exact sequences), it has both left and right adjoints, both are given by  $V^* \otimes \bullet$ .

Now we are going to get a partial description of  $V \otimes \Delta(\lambda)$ . Pick a weight basis  $v_1, \dots, v_m$  of  $V$  and let  $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_m \in \mathfrak{h}^*$  be the corresponding weights. We may assume that they are ordered compatibly with the order on  $\mathfrak{h}^*$ , i.e., if  $\nu_i \geq \nu_j$ , then  $i \geq j$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *There is a filtration  $V \otimes M = M_0 \supset M_1 \supset \dots \supset M_m = \{0\}$  such that  $M_{i-1}/M_i \cong \Delta(\lambda + \nu_i)$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that  $\Delta(\lambda) = U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} \mathbb{C}_\lambda$ . We claim that  $V \otimes \Delta(\lambda) = U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} (V \otimes \mathbb{C})$ . This follows from

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(V \otimes \Delta(\lambda), M) &= \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\Delta(\lambda), V^* \otimes M) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{b}}(\mathbb{C}_\lambda, V^* \otimes M) = \\ &= \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{b}}(V \otimes \mathbb{C}_\lambda, M) = \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} (V \otimes \mathbb{C}_\lambda), M). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the filtration  $V \otimes \mathbb{C}_\lambda = N_0 \supset \dots \supset N_m = \{0\}$ , where  $N_i := \mathrm{Span}_{\mathbb{C}}(v_{i+1}, \dots, v_m)$ . This is  $\mathfrak{b}$ -module filtration (because  $\mathfrak{n}$  increases weights) with  $N_{i-1}/N_i = \mathbb{C}_{\lambda + \nu_i}$ . Set  $M_i := U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} N_i$ . Recall that  $U(\mathfrak{g})$  is a free right  $U(\mathfrak{b})$ -module. So the functor  $U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} \bullet$  is exact and we have  $M_{i-1}/M_i = U(\mathfrak{g}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{b})} (N_{i-1}/N_i) = \Delta(\lambda + \nu_i)$ .  $\square$

Let  $\mathrm{pr}_\mu$  denote the functor  $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\mu$  that sends  $M \in \mathcal{O}$  to the generalized eigenspace of  $Z$  in  $M$  with eigenvalue  $\mu$ . The functors of the form  $\mathrm{pr}_\mu(V \otimes \bullet) : \mathcal{O}_\lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\mu$  (and their compositions) are known as *projective functors*. They are tremendously useful in the study of  $\mathcal{O}$ .

**Corollary 2.2.** *The object  $\mathrm{pr}_\mu(V \otimes \Delta(w \cdot \lambda))$  admits a filtration by  $\Delta(\lambda + \nu_i)$  with  $w \cdot \lambda + \nu_i \in W \cdot \mu$ .*

**2.2. Application: translation functors.** We are going to consider a special case of Corollary 2.2, where it is especially easy to describe what weights  $\nu_i$  appear.

**Proposition 2.3.** *Assume that  $\lambda, \mu \in P$  are such that  $\lambda, \lambda - \mu, \mu + \rho$  are dominant. Let  $V$  be the irreducible finite dimensional module with highest weight  $\lambda - \mu$ . Then  $\mathrm{pr}_\mu(V^* \otimes \Delta(w \cdot \lambda)) = \Delta(w \cdot \mu)$  and  $\mathrm{pr}_\lambda(V \otimes \Delta(w \cdot \mu))$  is filtered with  $\Delta(wu \cdot \lambda)$ ,  $u \in W_{\mu + \rho}$ .*

Note that  $W_{\mu + \rho}$  is generated by the simple reflections  $s_i$  such that  $\langle \mu + \rho, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle = 0$ .

*Proof.* To prove the claim about  $\mathrm{pr}_\mu(V^* \otimes \Delta(w \cdot \lambda))$  we need to find all weights  $\nu$  of  $V^*$  such that  $w \cdot \lambda + \nu \in W \cdot \mu$ , equivalently,  $\lambda + \rho + w^{-1}\nu = u(\mu + \rho)$  for some  $u \in W$ . We have  $u(\mu + \rho) \leq \mu + \rho$  for any  $u \in W$  and  $w^{-1}\nu \geq \mu - \lambda$  (the lowest weight of  $V^*$ ) with equality if and only if  $w = w_0$ . So  $\lambda + \rho + w^{-1}\nu \geq \lambda + \rho + \mu - \lambda = \mu + \rho \geq u(\mu + \rho)$ . The equality  $\mathrm{pr}_\mu(V^* \otimes \Delta(w \cdot \lambda)) = \Delta(w \cdot \mu)$  follows from Corollary 2.2.

The claim about  $\mathrm{pr}_\lambda(V \otimes \Delta(w \cdot \mu))$  follows similarly using the observation that  $\lambda - w \cdot \mu \geq \lambda - \mu$  for any  $w \in W$ , and the equality is equivalent to  $w \in W_{\mu + \rho}$ .  $\square$

This proposition has several important corollaries.

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  be dominant. Then there is an equivalence  $\mathcal{O}_{\lambda_1} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_{\lambda_2}$  sending  $\Delta(w \cdot \lambda_1)$  to  $\Delta(w \cdot \lambda_2)$ .*

*Proof.* We may assume that  $\lambda_1 - \lambda_2$  is dominant. Otherwise, we replace  $\lambda_1$  with  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2$  and take a composed equivalence  $\mathcal{O}_{\lambda_1} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_{\lambda_2}$ .

Apply Proposition 2.3 to  $\lambda = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$  and  $\mu = \lambda_2$ . We get functors  $\varphi : \mathcal{O}_\mu \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\lambda$ ,  $\varphi(M) := \text{pr}_\lambda(V \otimes M)$  and  $\varphi^* := \text{pr}_\mu(V^* \otimes \bullet) : \mathcal{O}_\lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\mu$ . The notation  $\varphi^*$  is justified by the observation that  $\varphi^*$  is left and right adjoint to  $\varphi$ . We are going to prove that  $\varphi^*, \varphi$  are mutually inverse (quasi-inverse, if we want to be precise).

Note that  $\varphi(\Delta(w \cdot \mu)) = \Delta(w \cdot \lambda)$  and  $\varphi^*(\Delta(w \cdot \lambda)) = \Delta(w \cdot \mu)$  (we have  $W_{\mu+\rho} = \{1\}$ ). Also we have an adjointness homomorphism  $\varphi^* \circ \varphi(M) \rightarrow M$  (induced by  $\varphi^* \circ \varphi(M) \hookrightarrow V^* \otimes V \otimes M \rightarrow M$ ). This homomorphism is zero if and only if  $\varphi(M)$  is zero. Now apply this to  $M = \Delta(w \cdot \lambda)$ , we get a nonzero homomorphism  $\Delta(w \cdot \mu) = \varphi^* \circ \varphi(\Delta(w \cdot \lambda)) \rightarrow \Delta(w \cdot \mu)$ . But any Verma module is generated by its highest weight vector and any endomorphism maps that vector to its multiple. We deduce that any nonzero endomorphism of a Verma module is an isomorphism. So  $\varphi^* \circ \varphi(M) \xrightarrow{\sim} M$  when  $M$  is a Verma module. Since any object in  $\mathcal{O}_\mu$  is filtered by quotients of Verma modules, we see that  $\varphi^* \circ \varphi(M) \xrightarrow{\sim} M$  for any  $M \in \mathcal{O}_\lambda$ . So  $\varphi^*$  is left inverse of  $\varphi$ . Similarly, we see that  $\varphi^*$  is a right inverse of  $\varphi$ .  $\square$

Now let us consider the case when  $\mu + \rho$  is dominant, but  $W_{\mu+\rho}$  is non-trivial. The simples in  $\mathcal{O}_\mu$  are naturally labelled by  $W/W_{\mu+\rho}$ . There is a distinguished representative in each right coset  $wW_{\mu+\rho}$  – it is known that such a coset contains a unique longest element (w.r.t. the length function  $\ell$ ; it also contains a unique shortest element, but we do not need this). So it is natural to label the simples in  $\mathcal{O}_{\mu+\rho}$  with longest elements of right  $W_{\mu+\rho}$ -cosets.

**Corollary 2.5.** *Let  $\lambda, \mu$  be such as in Proposition 2.3. Then  $\text{pr}_\mu(V^* \otimes L(w \cdot \lambda)) = L(w \cdot \mu)$  if  $w$  is longest in its right  $W_{\mu+\rho}$ -coset  $wW_{\mu+\rho}$  and is zero else.*

*Sketch of proof.* The proof is again based on using adjoint functors  $\varphi := \text{pr}_\mu(V^* \otimes \bullet)$  and  $\varphi^* := \text{pr}_\lambda(V \otimes \bullet)$ .

*Step 1.* We need to show that  $\varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda)) = 0$  when  $w$  is not longest in its right  $W_{\mu+\rho}$ -coset. In other words, we can find a simple reflection  $s_i \in W_{\mu+\rho}$  such that  $\ell(ws_i) > \ell(w)$ . In this case, we have a nonzero homomorphism  $\eta : \Delta(ws_i \cdot \lambda) \rightarrow \Delta(w \cdot \lambda)$ . One can show that  $\varphi(\eta) \neq 0$ . So  $\varphi(\eta)$  is an isomorphism. In particular,  $\varphi(\text{coker } \eta) = 0$  and hence  $\varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda)) = 0$ .

*Step 2.* Now let  $w$  be longest in its right  $W_{\mu+\rho}$ -coset. The object  $\varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda))$  is a quotient of  $\varphi(\Delta(w \cdot \lambda)) = \Delta(w \cdot \mu)$ . So we need to show that  $\varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda)) \neq 0$  and that  $\text{Hom}(\Delta(w' \cdot \mu), \varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda))) = 0$  if  $w' \cdot \mu < w \cdot \mu$  (this will show that  $\varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda))$  is simple). The equality follows because  $\text{Hom}(\Delta(w' \cdot \mu), \varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda))) = \text{Hom}(\varphi^*(\Delta(w' \cdot \mu)), L(w \cdot \lambda))$  and  $\Delta(w \cdot \lambda)$  does not appear in the filtration of  $\varphi^*(\Delta(w' \cdot \mu))$ . On the other hand, if  $\varphi(L(w \cdot \lambda)) = 0$ , then the class  $[\varphi(\Delta(w \cdot \lambda))]$  is a linear combination of  $[\varphi(L(w' \cdot \lambda))]$  with  $w' \cdot \mu < w \cdot \mu$  and hence of  $[\varphi(\Delta(w' \cdot \lambda))]$  with  $w' \cdot \mu < w \cdot \mu$ . But  $\varphi(\Delta(w \cdot \lambda)) = \Delta(w \cdot \mu)$  and  $\varphi(\Delta(w' \cdot \lambda)) = \Delta(w' \cdot \mu)$ , contradiction.  $\square$

Let us give a corollary of the previous two corollaries that reduces the question about the multiplicities in the categories  $\mathcal{O}_\mu$  for  $\lambda \in P$  to  $\lambda = 0$ .

**Corollary 2.6.** *Let  $\mu$  be such that  $\mu + \rho$  is dominant. Pick  $w$  that is longest in its right  $W_{\lambda+\rho}$ -coset. Then  $[\Delta(u \cdot \mu) : L(w \cdot \mu)] = [\Delta(u \cdot 0) : L(w \cdot 0)]$ .*

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