

$$\mathfrak{sl}_3 = \left\{ X \in \text{Mat}_3(\mathbb{C}) : \text{tr}(X) = 0 \right\}$$

Goal: Analyze rep thry of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ , and all semisimple Lie algebras of.

$$\mathfrak{sl}_3 : X = \begin{pmatrix} x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} \\ x_{21} & x_{22} & x_{23} \\ x_{31} & x_{32} & x_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\boxed{x_{11} + x_{22} + x_{33} = 0}$$

Basis:  $\underline{H_{12}} = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{1} & & \\ & \boxed{-1} & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \underline{H_{23}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & \boxed{1} & \\ & & \boxed{-1} \end{pmatrix}$

$$\underline{E_{12}} = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} & 0 \\ \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_{13} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \boxed{0} & \boxed{1} \\ 0 & \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\bar{E}_{ij}$  = matrix w/ 1 in  $(i,j)$  position  
0's everywhere else.

$$\underline{E_{21}} = \begin{pmatrix} \boxed{0} & \boxed{0} & 0 \\ \boxed{1} & \boxed{0} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \dots$$

Note: • Subspace gen. by  $H_{12}, E_{12}, \bar{E}_{21}$  is a copy of  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$

• " " " " " "  $H_{23}, E_{23}, \bar{E}_{32}$

• " " " " " "  $H_{13}, E_{13}, \bar{E}_{31}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 0 & \\ & & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$



Common eigenvectors of  $H_1, H_2$ : weight space  
of a representation.

Def:  $\mathfrak{h} \subseteq \mathfrak{sl}_3(\mathbb{C})$  subspace of diag matrices  
"  $(H_1, H_2)$

Def: A cartan subalgebra of a Lie  
alg.  $\mathfrak{g}$  is a maximal abelian  
subalg.  $\mathfrak{h}$  acts diagonalizably [adjoint rep].  
 $\mathfrak{h} \quad [H, E] = 2E \quad [H, F] = -2F$

Fact: Everything in  $\mathfrak{h}$  acts diagonalizably  
on  $V$  for any rep.  $V$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

Fact: Commuting diagonalizable matrices are  
simultaneously diagonalizable. (i.e. they  
have same 1-d eigenspaces)

$\Rightarrow V = \bigoplus V_\alpha$  where  $V_\alpha$  is eigenspace of  
 $\mathfrak{h}$  w/ "joint eigenvalue"  $\alpha$ .

Def: A joint eigenvalue for  $\mathfrak{h}$  acting on  $V$   
is a function  $\alpha \in \mathfrak{h}^* = \left\{ \mathfrak{h} \xrightarrow{\text{linear}} \mathbb{C} \right\}$  s.t.  
 $\exists V_\alpha \in V$  s.t.  $H V_\alpha = \alpha(H) V_\alpha$  for any  $H \in \mathfrak{h}$ .

Ex: In  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ : represent  $\alpha$  as

$$(\alpha_1, \alpha_2) = (\alpha(H_{12}), \alpha(H_{23}))$$



Nicer:  $(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3) = (\alpha(H_{12}), \alpha(H_{23}), \alpha(H_{13}))$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & -1 & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & 0 & \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note:  $H_{12} + H_{23} - H_{13} = 0 \Rightarrow \boxed{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3 = 0}$

The space  $\mathfrak{h}^*$  gen. by:

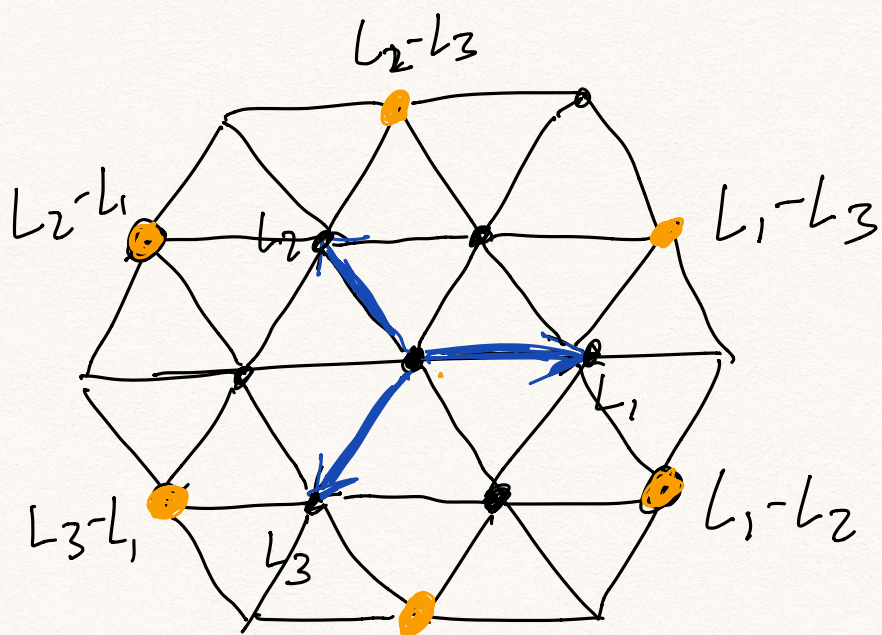
$$L_1: \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & & \\ & x_2 & \\ & & x_3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow x_1$$

$$L_2: \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & & \\ & x_2 & \\ & & x_3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow x_2$$

$$L_3: \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & & \\ & x_2 & \\ & & x_3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow x_3$$

Then  $L_1 + L_2 + L_3 = 0$

Picture:





Thm: The weights of the adjoint rep. of

$$\mathfrak{sl}_3 \text{ are } \boxed{\pm(L_1 - L_2), \pm(L_1 - L_3), \pm(L_2 - L_3)}$$

Pf:  $\mathfrak{sl}_3 \xrightarrow{\text{ad}} \mathfrak{gl}(\mathfrak{sl}_3)$

$$X \mapsto [X, -]$$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & & 0 \\ & x_2 & \\ 0 & & x_3 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathfrak{h}$$

$$[H, E_{12}] = H \cdot E_{12} - E_{12} \cdot H$$

$$= x_1 E_{12} - x_2 E_{12}$$

$$= \boxed{(x_1 - x_2) E_{12}}$$

$$E_{12} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

In general  $[H, E_{ij}] = (x_i - x_j) E_{ij}$

$\Rightarrow \underline{L_i - L_j}$  is the eigenvalue in  $\lambda^*$   
QED

Cor:  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  decomposes as

$$\mathfrak{h} \oplus V_{L_1 - L_2} \oplus V_{L_2 - L_1} \oplus \dots$$

Def: The <sup>nonzero</sup> weights of  $\text{ad}(\sigma)$  are called roots of  $\sigma$ .

$$\mathcal{R} = \{ \text{roots of } \sigma \}$$

Can write

$$\sigma = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \mathcal{R}} \sigma_{\alpha}$$

$\uparrow$   
weight 0

•  $\sigma_{\alpha}$  is a root space of weight  $\alpha$ .

||



$$\{V \in \mathfrak{g} : [H, V] = \alpha(H)V \text{ for all } H \in \mathfrak{h}\}.$$

Def:  $\Lambda_R =$  lattice in  $\mathfrak{h}^*$  gen. by  $R$

Ex: In  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ :  $R = \{2, -2\}$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$[H, E] = 2E$$

$$[H, F] = -2F$$

$$\alpha(H) = 2$$

$$\alpha(cH) = 2c$$



Thm: (Weights all differ by elts of  $\Lambda_R$ )

For a rep  $V$  of Lie alg  $\mathfrak{g}$ ,

let  $V = \bigoplus V_\beta$  be its decomp.

into weight spaces for  $\mathfrak{h} \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$

Then if  $\underline{X} \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha$  and  $\underline{v} \in V_\beta$  then

$$\underline{Xv} \in V_{\beta+\alpha}.$$

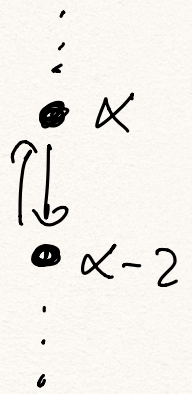
Pf: Let  $\underline{H} \in \mathfrak{h}$ . Then

$$HXv = ([H, X] + XH)v \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} (X \in \mathfrak{g}_\alpha)$$

$$= (\alpha(H)X + XH)v$$

$$= \alpha(H)Xv + X\underline{Hv}$$

$$= \alpha(H)Xv + \beta(H)Xv \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} (v \in V_\beta)$$



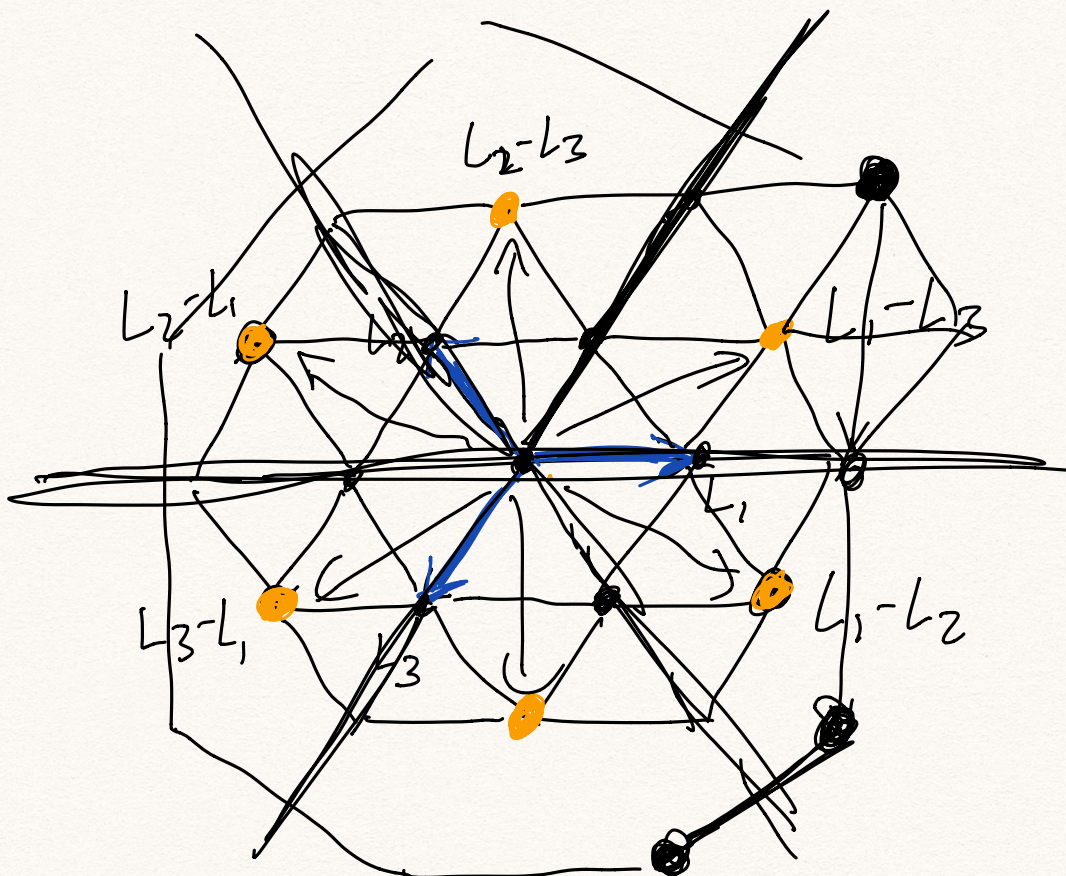


$$= (\alpha(H) + \beta(H)) X_v$$

Therefore  $X_v \in V_{\alpha+\beta}$ .

QED.

Picture:



Root systems



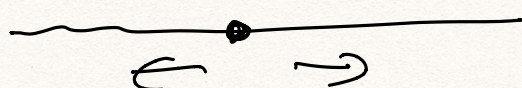
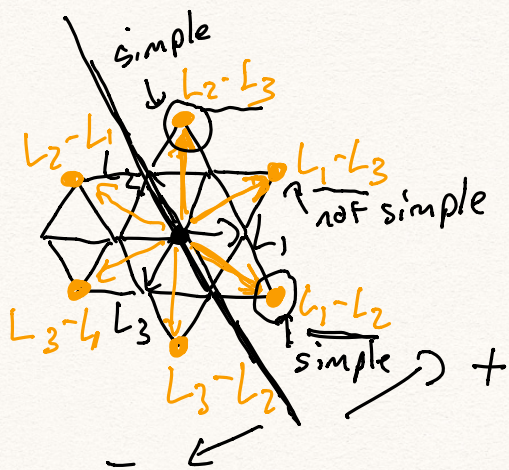
# $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$ representations

Roots are weights of adjoint representation

$$\mathfrak{h} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & & 0 \\ & x_2 & \\ 0 & & x_3 \end{pmatrix} : x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0 \right\}$$

$$\mathfrak{h}^* \text{ gen. by } L_1 \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & & \\ & x_2 & \\ & & x_3 \end{pmatrix}, L_2(x) = x_2, L_3(x) = x_3$$

$$R = \left\{ \pm(L_1 - L_2), \pm(L_2 - L_3), \pm(L_1 - L_3) \right\}$$



Last time: If  $V$  is rep of  $sl_3(\mathbb{C})$

$$\bigoplus V_\alpha \quad \text{and if } v_\alpha \in V_\alpha$$

then

$$E_{12} v_\alpha \in V_{\alpha + (L_1 - L_2)}$$

$$E_{23} v_\alpha \in V_{\alpha + (L_2 - L_3)}$$

$$* E_{13} v_\alpha \in V_{\alpha + (L_1 - L_3)}$$

$$\text{or } [E_{12}, E_{13}]$$

(Also have  $E_{21}, E_{32}, E_{21}$ )

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$F_{12}, F_{23}, F_{12}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ & 0 \\ 0 & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow$$

In general for any root system,  $R$  choose a hyperplane to separate  $R$  into  $R_+ \cup R_-$

Def: A highest weight vector in a rep  $V$  of  $sl_3$  is a vector  $v_\alpha \in V_\alpha$  (for some weight  $\alpha$ ) s.t.  $E_{12} v_\alpha = E_{23} v_\alpha = E_{13} v_\alpha = 0$

(In general case: killed by all positive root vectors)



Def: A simple root is a positive root (+) that is not the <sup>positive</sup> sum of other positive roots.

$$\underline{(\alpha_1, \alpha_2)} = \underline{\left( \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & -1 & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \alpha \begin{pmatrix} 0 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right)}$$

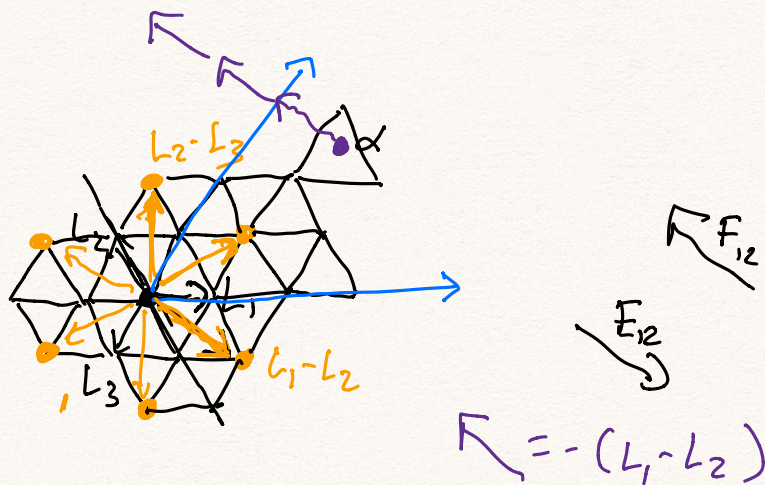
To find a highest weight vector, <sub>1</sub> <sup>start w/ any nonzero vector  $v \in U$</sup>  keep applying  $E_{12}, E_{23}$  until you can't apply either. (May not be unique!)

Fact: Irreducible  $sl_3$ -reps have a unique highest weight vector.

Q: What do  $sl_3$  reps w/ <sub>1</sub> <sup>unique</sup> highest weight vector  $v_\alpha$  look like?

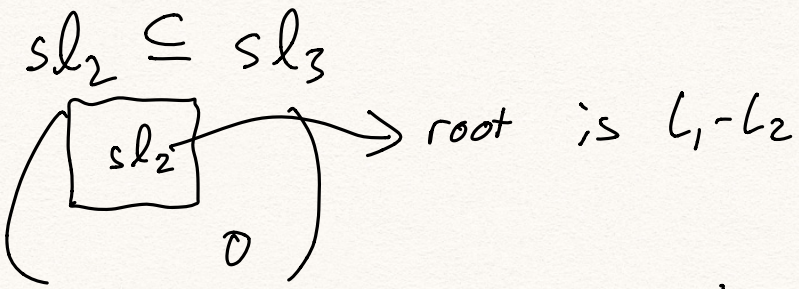
Thm:  $\alpha$  is on lattice gen. by  $L_1, L_2, L_3$ .

Pf: Look at  $sl_2$  chain starting from  $\alpha$  in  $L_1 - L_2$  direction,  $L_2 - L_3$  direction.



i.e. if  $V$  rep of  $sl_3$ , it's a rep of  $sl_2$  as well

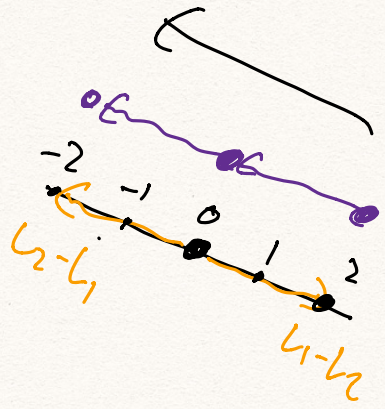
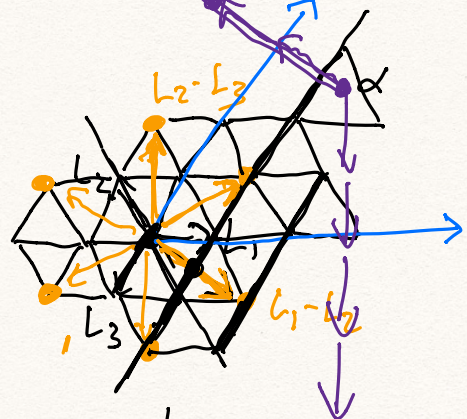
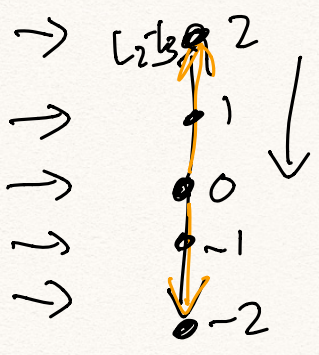




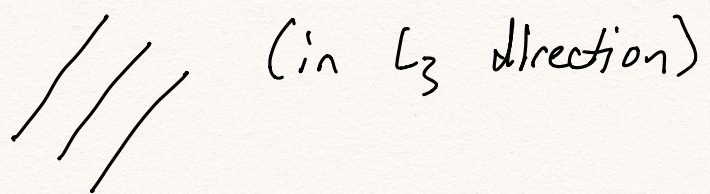
Moreover,  $\alpha$  is highest weight of one of the  $sl_2$  chains that  $V$  decomposes into.

Ignoring  $l_3$  component:

this purple chain is symmetric about  $\uparrow$ ,  $\alpha$  on  $\uparrow$  (this side)



By  $sl_2$ -rep theory,  $\alpha$  is on one of the black lines



Also look at  $v$  as a  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \begin{matrix} l_2 sl_2 \\ l_3 \end{matrix} \end{pmatrix}$  rep.

$\alpha$  is on black lines

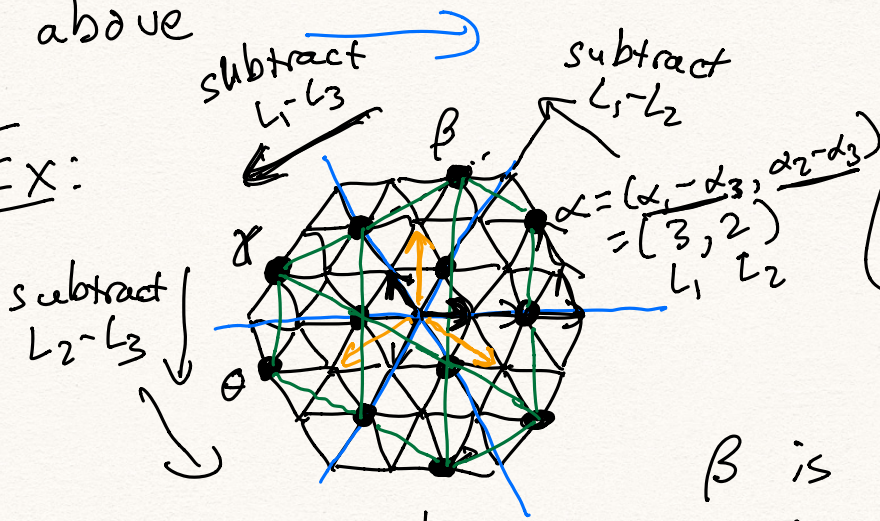
$\Rightarrow \alpha$  lies on lattice. QED.

Cor:  $\alpha$  is in because  $\alpha$  is on lower side of and



above

Ex:

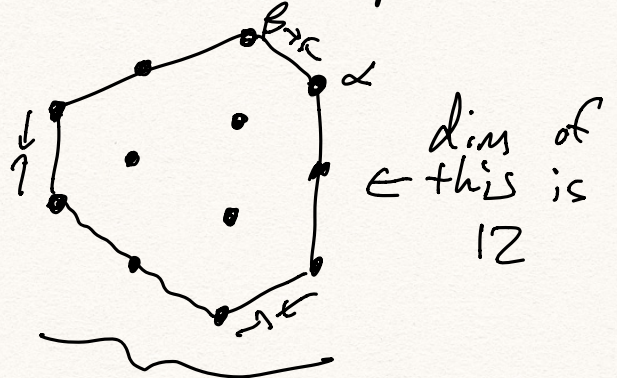


$$\begin{pmatrix} \square & 0 & \square \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \square & 0 & \square \end{pmatrix} \mathfrak{sl}_2$$

$\beta$  is highest wt in  $L_1 - L_3$   $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -direction

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \alpha_1 L_1 + \alpha_2 L_2 + \alpha_3 L_3 \\ &= \alpha_1 L_1 + \alpha_2 L_2 + \alpha_3 (L_1 - L_2) \quad (\text{because otherwise } \alpha \\ &= (\alpha_1 - \alpha_3) L_1 + (\alpha_2 - \alpha_3) L_2 \quad \text{isn't highest wt}) \end{aligned}$$

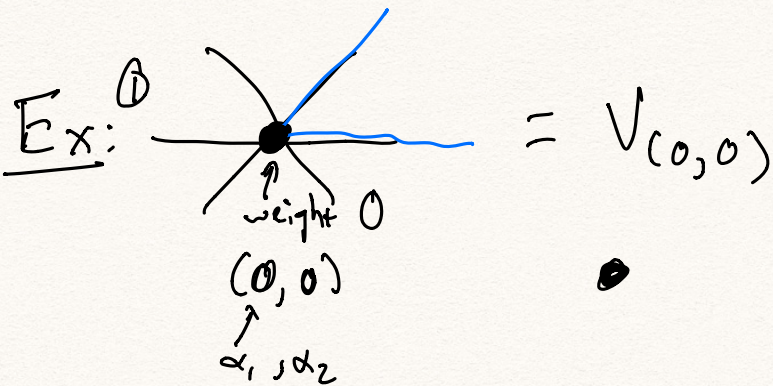
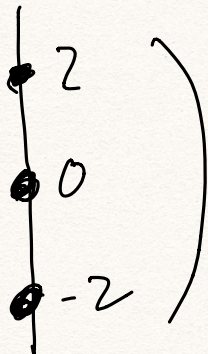
Final picture: Hexagon w/ all internal pts in triangular grid.



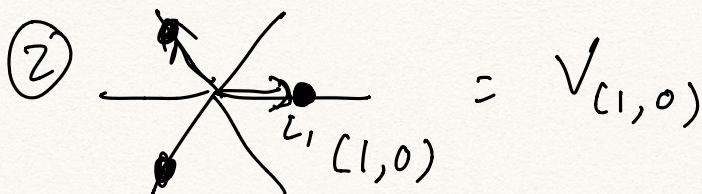
dim of this is 12

this set of weights gives an irred.  $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ -rep.

(analog of



trivial 1-d rep.

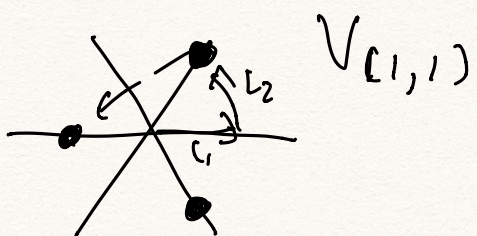


adjoint rep

H



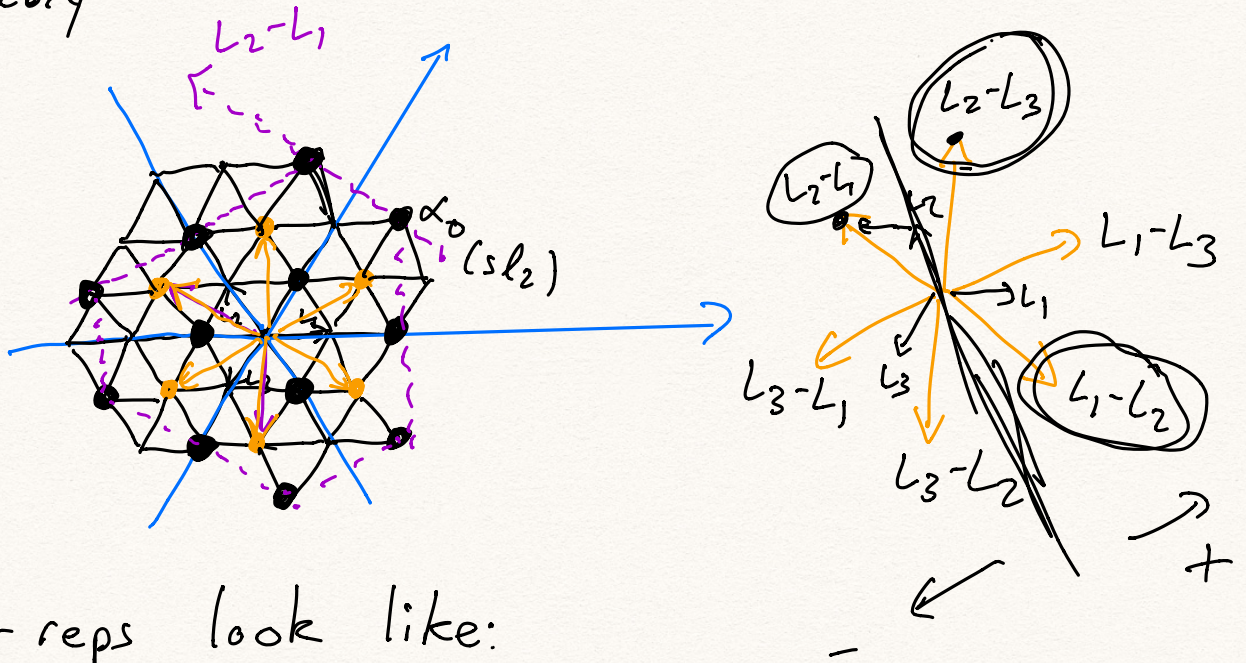
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Not the adjoint rep.?



$sl_3$ -rep theory



Irr.  $sl_3$ -reps look like:

$$V_{\alpha_0} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in S_{\alpha_0}} V_{\alpha}$$

$\uparrow$   
 highest weight

where  $S_{\alpha_0}$  is the set of lattice pts forming a triangular grid (differing by roots) that fit inside the hexagon obtained by applying reflections to  $\alpha_0$  across  $L_1, L_2, L_3$

Also:  $\alpha_0$  is in

Labeling  $\alpha_0$

$$\alpha = \alpha_1 L_1 + \alpha_2 L_2 + \alpha_3 L_3$$

$$= \alpha_1 L_1 + \alpha_2 (-L_1 - L_3) + \alpha_3 L_3$$

(Recall:  
 $L_1 + L_2 + L_3 = 0$ )



$$= (\alpha_1 - d_2)L_1 - (\alpha_2 - d_3)L_3$$

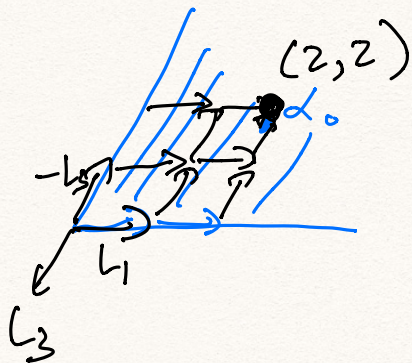
$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & -1 & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2$$

$$\alpha = aL_1 - bL_3$$

Write this weight as  $(a, b)$

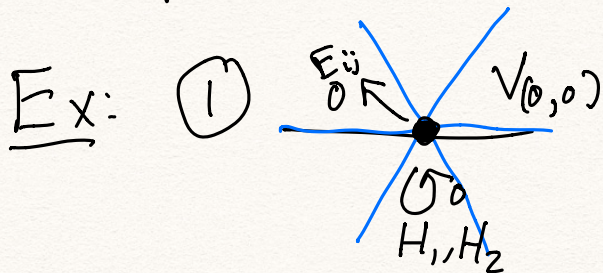
Lemma: If  $\alpha_0 = (a, b) \ni$  highest weight,  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Pf:  
by picture.



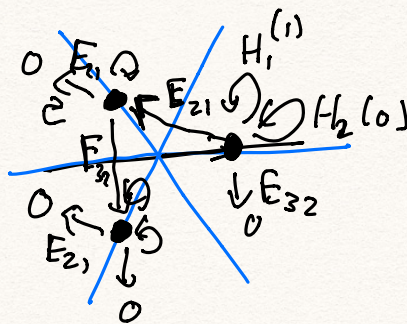
(from the last time,  $\alpha_0$  is in blue shaded region).

Cor: One irred. rep  $V_{(a,b)}$  for every pair  $(a,b) \in \mathbb{N}^2$  (for  $sl_3$ )



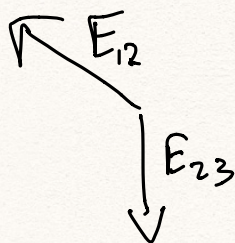
trivial rep  $\mathcal{C} = V_{(0,0)}$   
 $sl_3$  acts by 0

②  $V_{(1,0)}$ :



$$E_{21} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

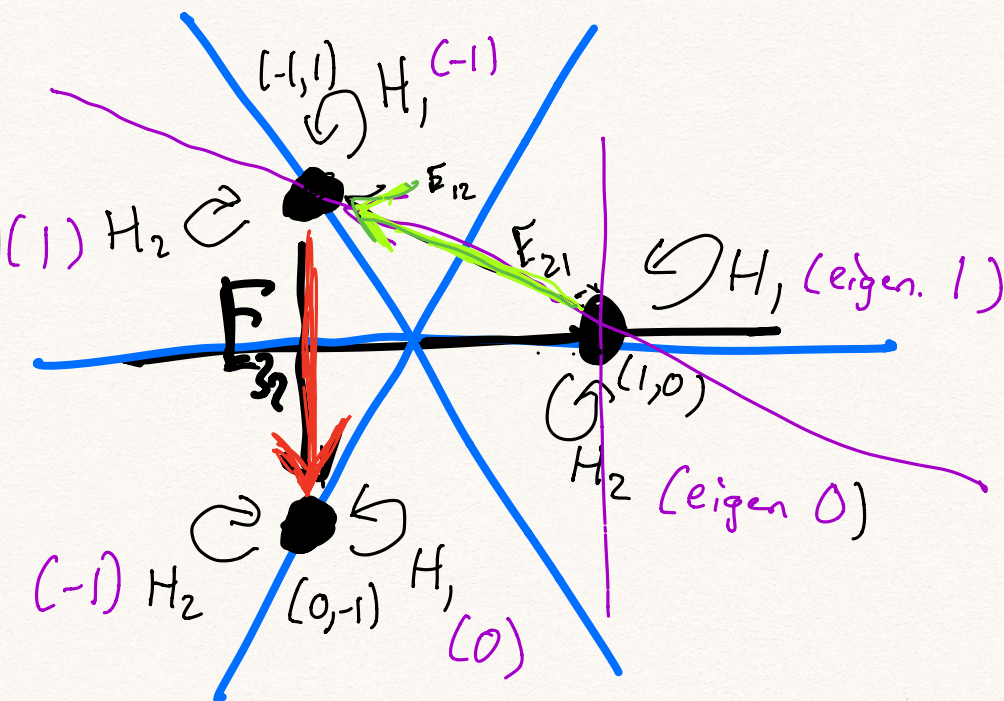
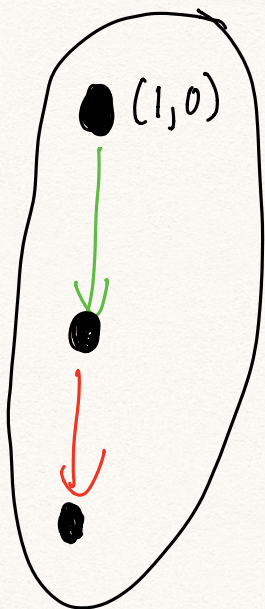
$$H_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



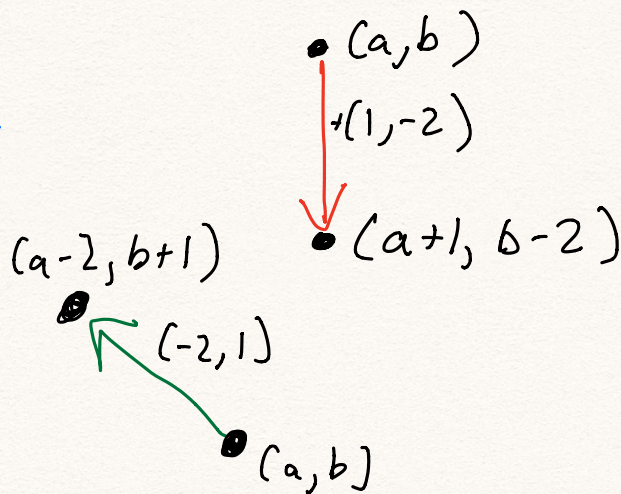
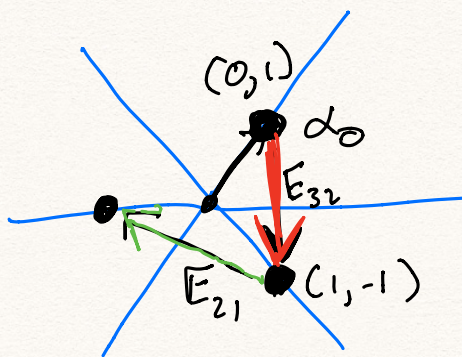
$$H_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$[E_{12}, E_{23}] = 2E_{13}$$



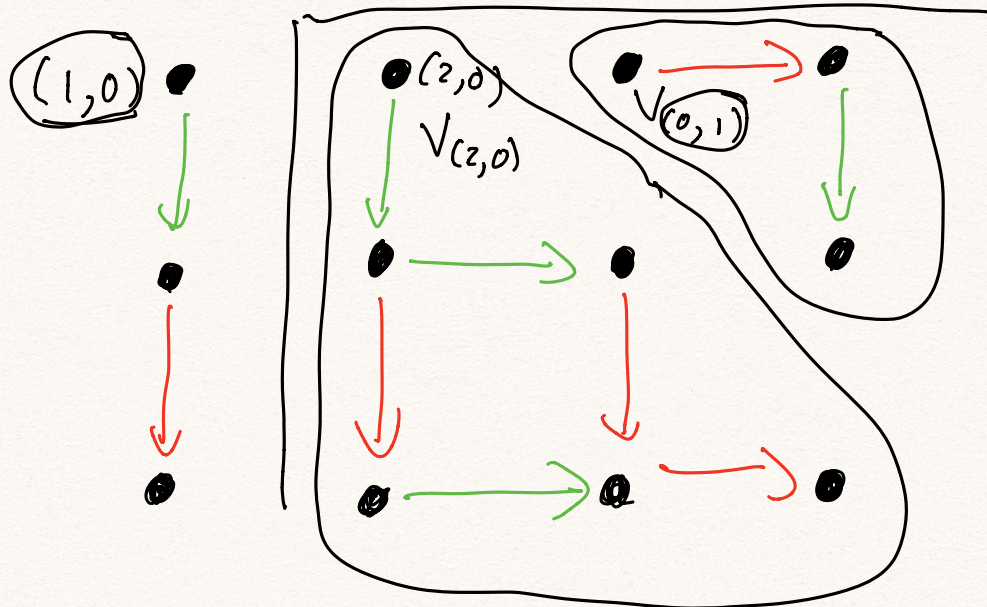
③  $V_{(0,1)}$ :





# Tensor products:

Ex:  $V_{(1,0)} \otimes V_{(1,0)}$ :   
 (1,0)  $\xrightarrow{\text{green}}$  (-1,1)  $\xrightarrow{\text{red}}$  0   
 green  $sl_2 \subseteq sl_3$    
 red  $sl_2 \not\subseteq$    
 (Diagram of a 2x2 grid)



Think of  $V_{(1,0)}$  as an  $sl_2$  rep.

$$sl_2 \subseteq sl_3 \rightarrow gl(V_{(1,0)})$$

$$\text{restrict: } sl_2 \rightarrow gl(V_{(1,0)})$$

"forget all red arrows"

$E_{12}, H_1; E_{21}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{sl_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$sl_3 \simeq V_{(1,0)} \otimes V_{(1,0)}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$g \cdot (v \otimes w) = gv \otimes w + v \otimes gw$$

$$\text{If } g \in sl_2 : g(v \otimes w) = gv \otimes w + v \otimes gw$$

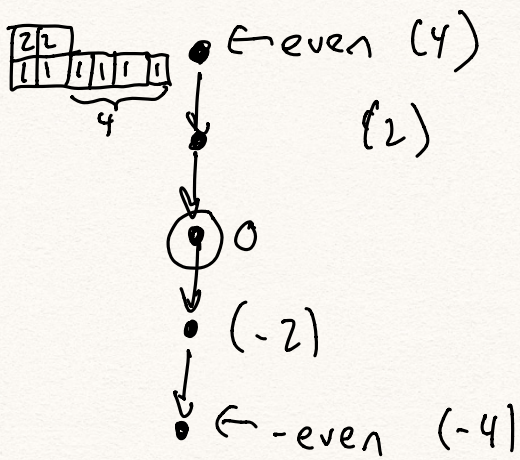


Homework A problem 7(a):

Show # ballot sequences of 1's and 2's of length  $2n$  is  $\binom{2n}{n}$  and of length  $2n+1$  is  $\binom{2n+1}{n+1}$ .

Proof using  $sl_2$  chains: ( $2n$  case first)

Ballot sequences correspond to highest wt elts of each  $sl_2$  chain in  $V_1^{\otimes 2n}$ .



Every chain in  $V_1^{\otimes 2n}$  has even highest weight  $\Rightarrow$  every chain has a unique weight-0 elt. (corresponds to a word having  $n$  1's and  $n$  2's)

Moreover, every word having  $n$  1's and  $n$  2's is in a unique chain in  $V_1^{\otimes 2n}$



# words w/  $n$  1's and  $n$  2's =  $\binom{2n}{n}$

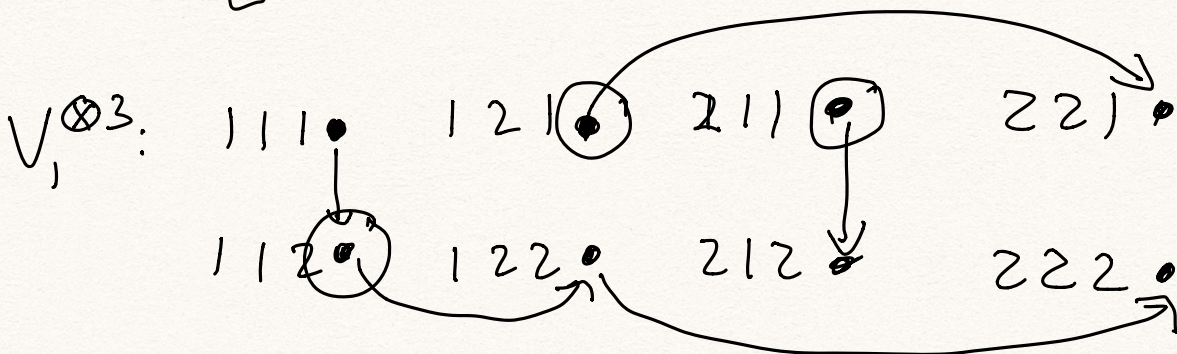
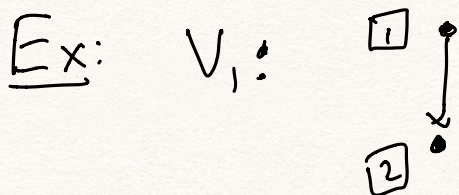
Odd case: all weights are odd:

$\Rightarrow$  Every chain has an elt of weight 1



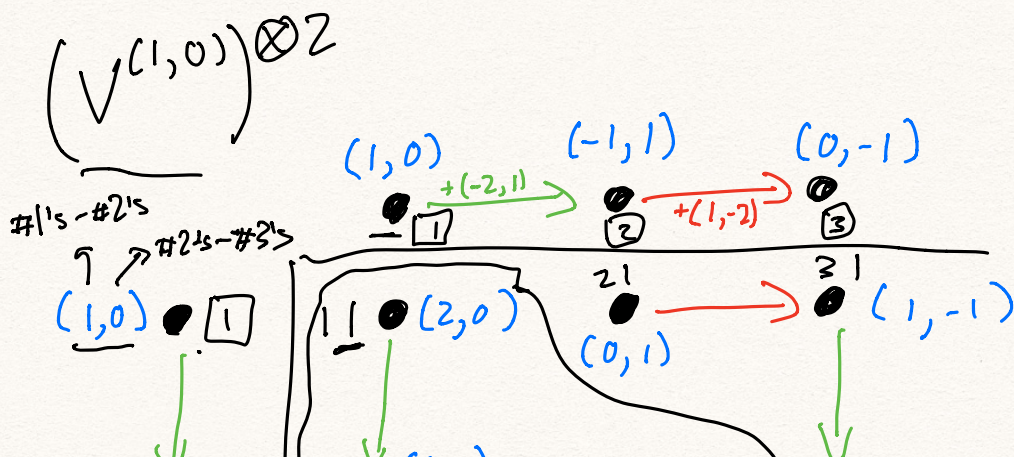
$$\# = \binom{n+1}{n+1}$$

(n+1 1's, n 2's)

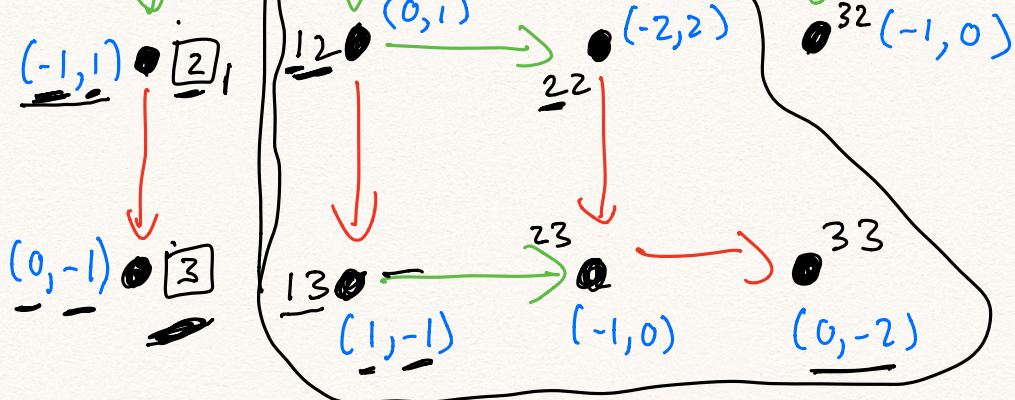


Def:  $\boxed{a_1} \otimes \boxed{a_2} \otimes \dots \otimes \boxed{a_n}$  (or simply  $a_1 a_2 \dots a_n$ )  
denotes the weight space corresponding to  
 $\boxed{a_1} \otimes \boxed{a_2} \otimes \dots \otimes \boxed{a_n}$  in  $V_{(1,0)}^{\otimes n}$

Thm: (Goal): Every <sup>irred</sup>  $sl_3$ -rep  $V^{(a,b)}$  is a summand  
of some  $(V_{(1,0)})^{\otimes n}$  for some  $n$ .  
(i.e. we can just use word/tableau combinatorics)







Recall:  $sl_2$  weight is eigenvalue of  $H$ .

$sl_3$  weight is eigenvalues  $(\underline{H}_1, \underline{H}_2)$

$$H(v \otimes w) = \underline{H}v \otimes w + v \otimes \underline{H}w$$

$$= (\alpha + \beta) v \otimes w$$

(set  $H = H_1$   
or  $H_2$ , each  
eigenvalue adds)

Lemma:  $wt(a_1 a_2 \dots a_n)$  is  $(\#1's - \#2's, \#2's - \#3's)$

Pf: By induction, and additivity of weights.  $\square$

Lemma:  $F_1 := E_{21}$  applied to  $a_1 \dots a_n \in \{1, 2, 3\}^n$  is the word formed by bracketing 2's and 1's

and changing rightmost unpaired 1 to 2

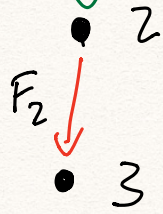
$F_2 := E_{32}$  applied to  $a_1 \dots a_n$  is formed by bracketing 3's w/ 2's and changing

rightmost unpaired 2 to 3.

Pf: By induction. Base case:



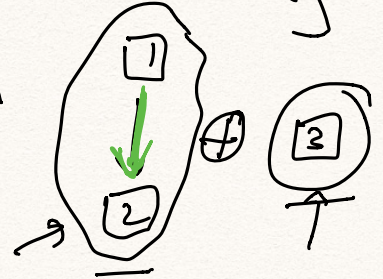




Induction step: Assume true for  $V_{(1,0)}^{(n-1)}$ .

Tensor w/  $V_{(1,0)}$  to add new letter (1,2,3)

Then  $F_1$  structure given by tensoring  $V_{(1,0)}^{\otimes(n-1)}$  as  $sl_2$ -module with

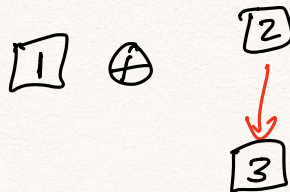


Adding a 3 @ end of word is tensoring w/ trivial  $\Rightarrow$  no change in how  $F_1$  applies.

Adding 1's or 2's continue bracketing rule by our inductive pf in  $sl_2$  case.

QED.

( $F_2$  similar)



Corollary: A word is highest weight (killed by raising operators  $E_1 = E_{12}, E_2 = E_{23}$ )

iff its 1,2-subword is ballot (every suffix contains at least as many 1's as 2's) and its 2,3-subword is ballot.

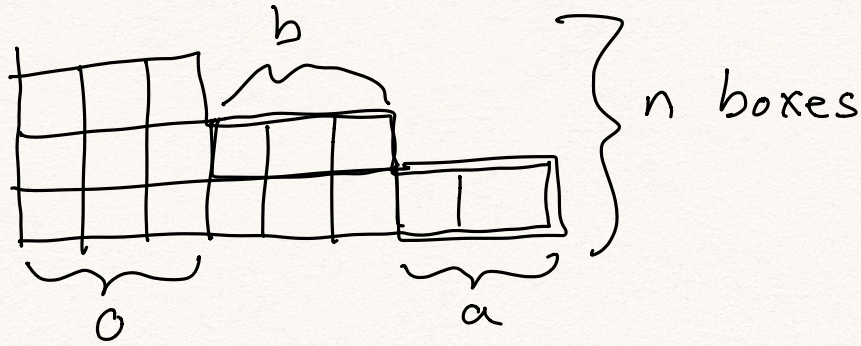
$\uparrow$  (every suffix contains at least as many 2's as 3's)

Note: One irred. component for each highest



weight elt.

Thm: Number of times  $V_{(a,b)}$  occurs in  $V_{(1,0)}^{\otimes n}$  is # SYT's of shape:

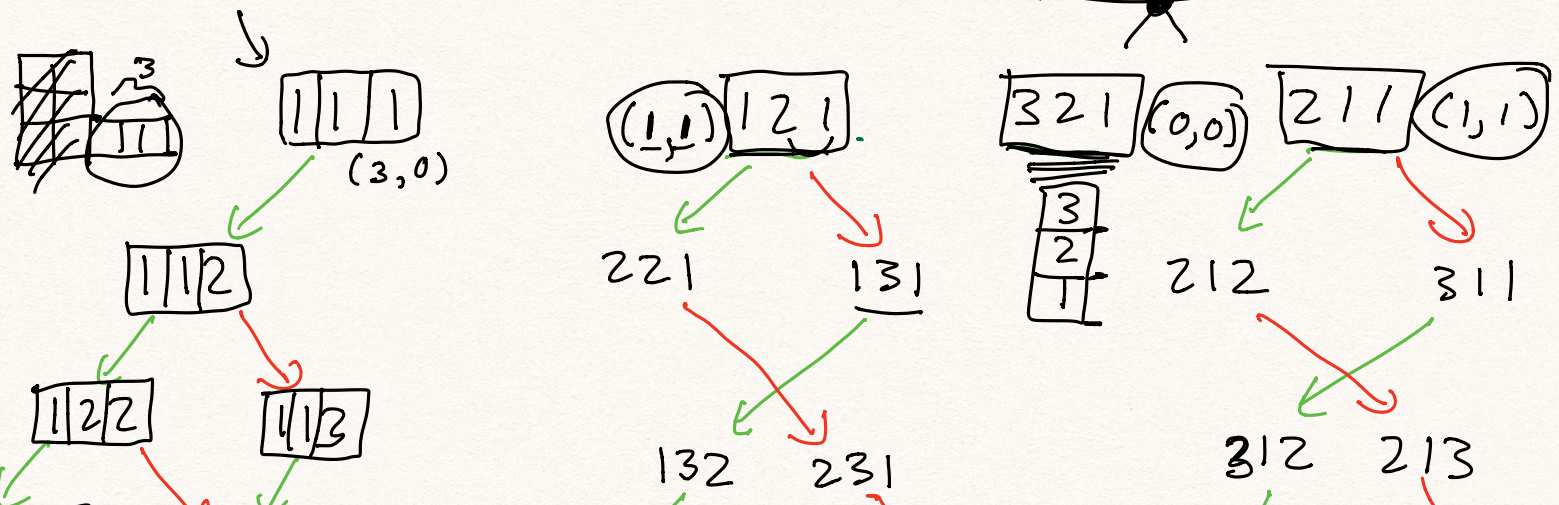


Ex:  $V_{(1,0)}^{\otimes 3}$  :  
 $\begin{matrix} 111 \\ \downarrow F \\ 112 \\ 121 \\ \vdots \end{matrix}$

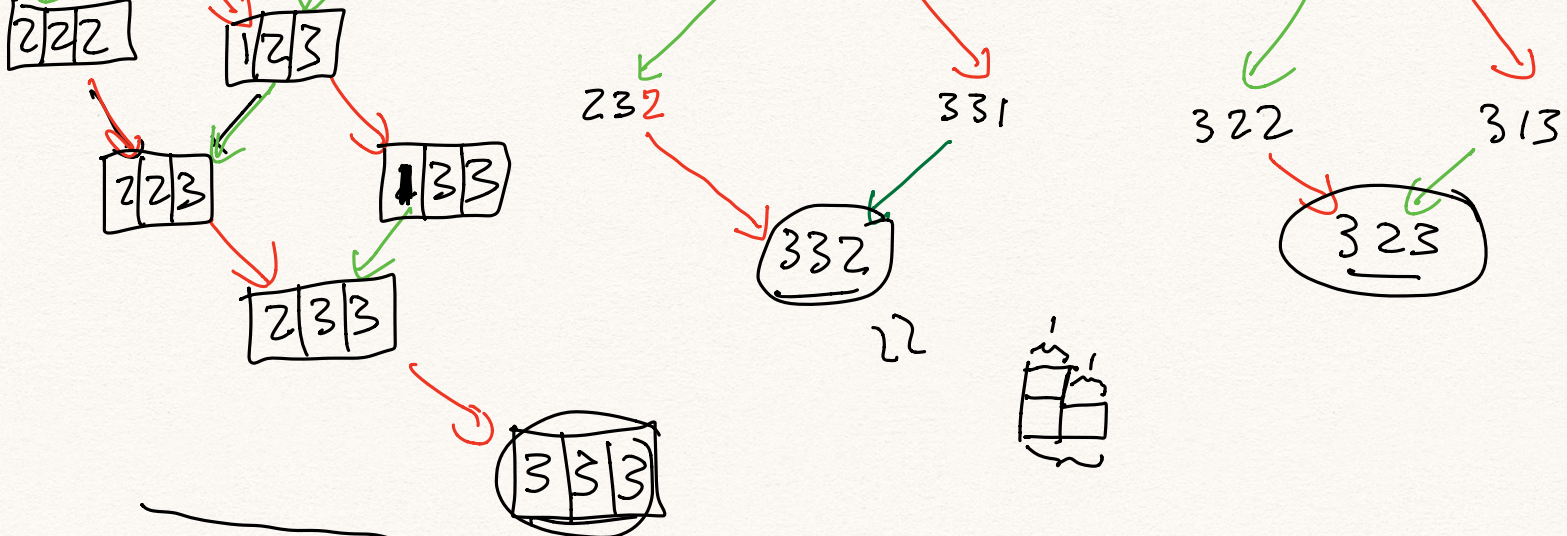
Shortcut:  
 Find all h.w. words first. (ballot: as read R to L, at least as many i's as i+1's)

H.W. words:  $111, 121, 321, 211$

Length 4 h.w. words:  $1111, 2121, 3121, 3211, 1121, 1211, 2111, 2211, 1321$

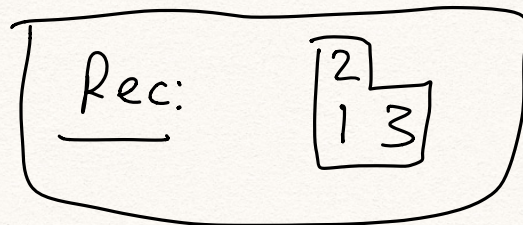
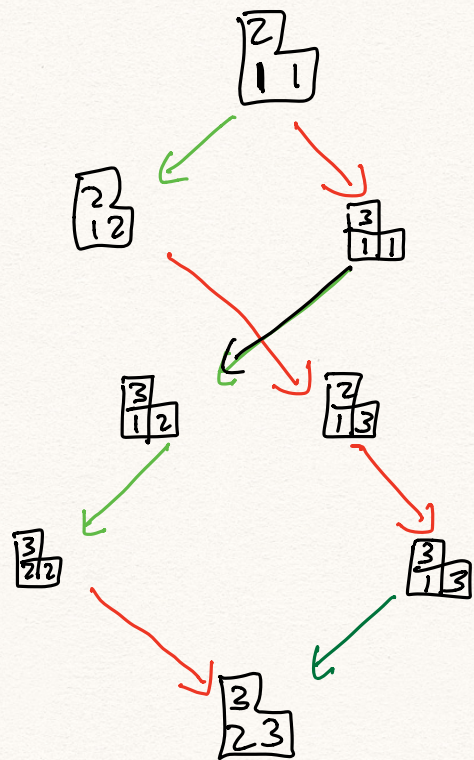
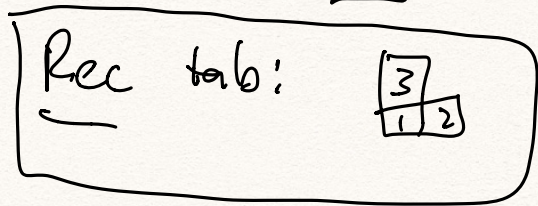
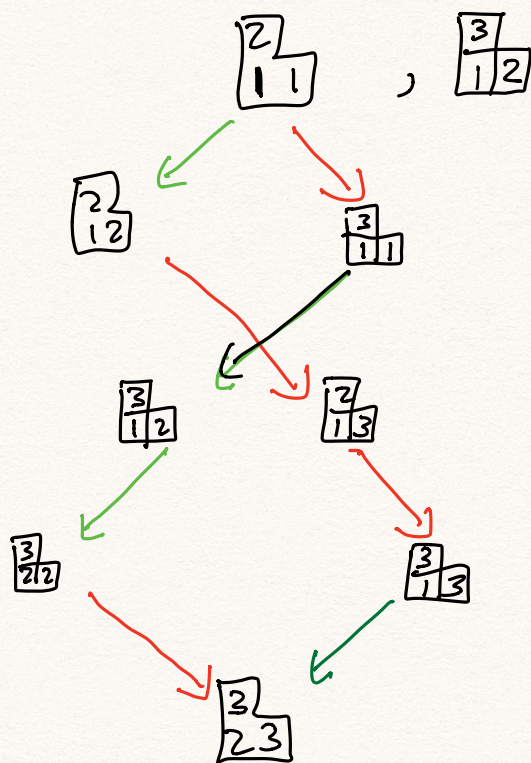






$$V_{(1,0)}^{\otimes 3} = V_{(3,0)} \oplus 2V_{(1,1)} \oplus V_{(0,0)}$$

Apply RSK to these two diagrams: (words 121, 211)

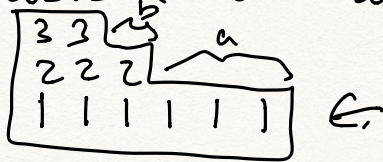


$\Rightarrow$  # copies is # possible recording tableaux on this shape, which equals #SYT of



this shape.

Claim: Insertion tableau of any highest weight word is



Steps: (1) Knuth equivalence classes  $\Leftrightarrow$  insertion tableau.

(2) Knuth equivalence moves don't change word of unbracketed 1's, 2's or 2's, 3's.

(3) Reading word of is highest weight (ballot)

(1) Lemma: Two words are Knuth equiv iff they have the same insertion tableau.

Proof: Recall a simple Knuth move is one of:

(cons. subwords)  $\underline{bac} \Leftrightarrow \underline{bca}$  if  $\underline{acbc}$   
OR  $acb \Leftrightarrow \underline{cab}$  if  $\underline{acbc}$

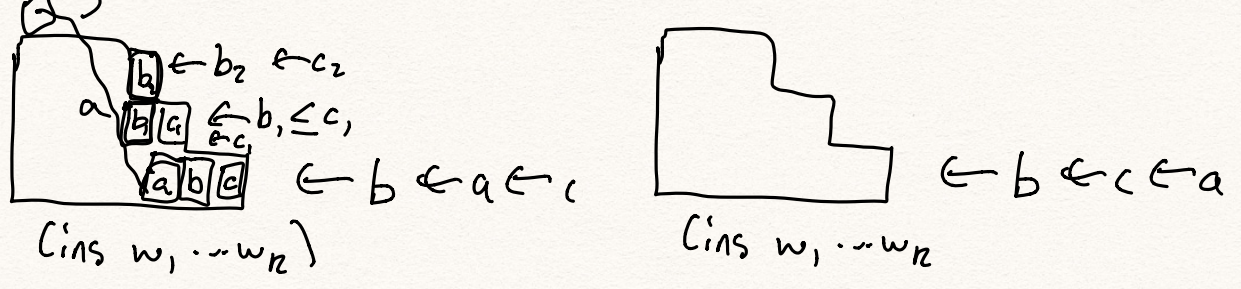
Two words  $w, w'$  are Knuth equiv if we can form  $w'$  from a sequence of Knuth moves starting at  $w$ .

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Suppose  $\underline{w}, \underline{w'}$  differ by a Knuth move.

Case 1:  $\underline{w_1 \dots w_k \underline{bac}} \rightarrow \underline{w_1 \dots w_k \underline{bca}}$

Inserting  $b$ :





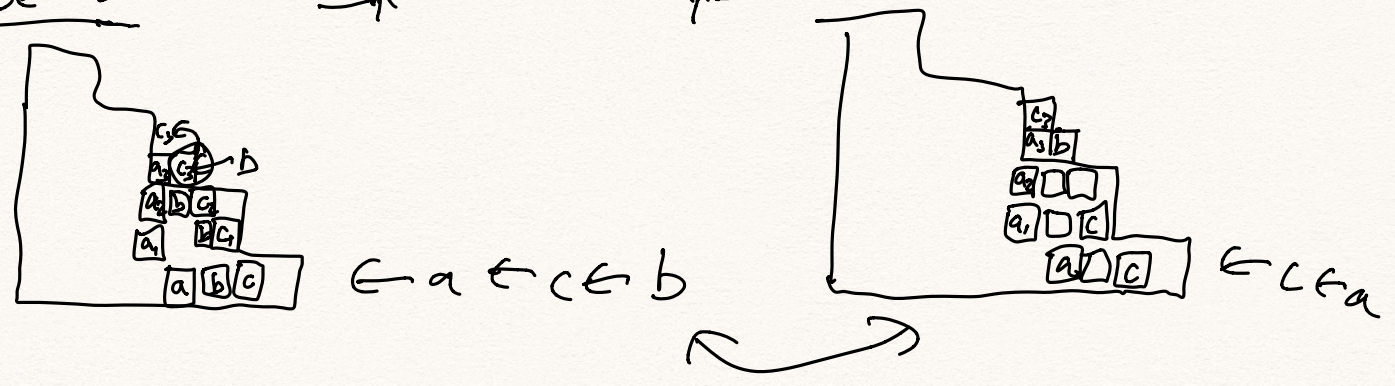
Recall (502): Insertion path goes up and weakly left.

$a \leq b$ : Insertion path of  $a$  is weakly left of that of  $b$ .

$b < c$ : Insertion path of  $c$  (after  $a$ ) is strictly to right of  $b$ 's path.

In  $w'$ :  $c$ 's path still strictly right of  $b$ 's,  $a$ 's is weakly left of  $b$ 's so  $\text{ins}(w) = \text{ins}(w')$ .

Case 2:  $\underset{\uparrow}{a}cb \leftrightarrow ca\underset{\uparrow}{b}$



Insert  $b$ : path is strictly right of  $a$ 's, weakly left of  $c$ 's.

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Want to show: If  $\text{ins}(w) = \text{ins}(v) = T$  then  $w \sim v$



Suffices to show they are both Knuth equivalent to the reading word of  $T$

(Note:  $\underline{\text{ins}(\text{rw}(T)) = T}$ )

(not hard, possibly SOZ)

Want: if  $\text{ins}(w) = T$  then  $w \sim \text{rw}(T)$ .

Claim:  $\text{rw}(T') \cdot x \sim \text{rw}(T' \leftarrow x)$  (this suffices by inducting on length of  $w$ )

$\uparrow$  letter concatenation       $\uparrow$  inserting  $x$  into  $T'$

$$w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_n \quad \text{ins}(w) = (\boxed{w_1} \leftarrow w_2) \leftarrow w_3 \leftarrow \dots$$

Pf of claim: (by example)

$$T' = \begin{array}{c} 34 \\ 223 \\ 1112235 \end{array}$$

$$x = 1$$

$T' \leftarrow x$ :

$$\begin{array}{c} \boxed{4} \\ 3 \boxed{4} 5 \\ 22 \boxed{3} \\ 111 \boxed{2} 235 \leftarrow 1 \end{array}$$

$\rightsquigarrow$

$$T = T' \leftarrow x = \begin{array}{c} 4 \\ 33 \\ 222 \\ 1111235 \end{array}$$

Compare:

$$\text{rw}(T') \cdot x = 3422311122351$$

vs

$$\text{rw}(T) = 4332221111235$$

?

$$3422311122315$$

$$4332221111235$$

?

$$3422311122135$$

?



3 4 2 2 3 1 1 1 2 1 2 3 5

?

3 4 2 2 3 1 1 2 1 1 2 3 5

?

3 4 2 2 3 1 2 1 1 1 2 3 5

?

3 4 2 2 3 2 1 1 1 1 2 3 5

?

3 4 2 3 2 2 1 1 1 2 3 5

?

3 4 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 3 5

?

4 3 3 2 2 2 1 1 1 2 3 5

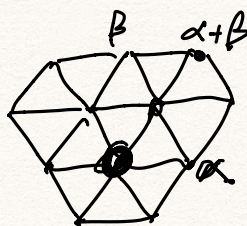
QED

## Characters and Schur functions

Def: The character of a rep  $V$  of Lie alg  $\mathfrak{g}$   
(where  $V = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda} c_{\alpha} V_{\alpha}$ ) is  $\sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda} c_{\alpha} \underline{x^{\alpha}}$

where  $\underline{x^{\alpha}}$  is a formal symbol satisfying

$$\underline{x^{\alpha} x^{\beta} = x^{\alpha + \beta}}$$



Ex: chars of  $sl_3$  reps:  $\underline{x_1^{\alpha_1} x_2^{\alpha_2} x_3^{\alpha_3}} =: x^{\alpha}$

where  $\alpha = \underline{\alpha_1 L_1 + \alpha_2 L_2 + \alpha_3 L_3}$

$$L_1 + L_2 + L_3 = 0$$



# Polynomials in $x_1, x_2, x_3$

mod relation

$$x_1 x_2 x_3 = 1$$

$$x_1^4 x_2^2 x_3 = x_1^3 x_2^1$$

char

$$x_1^2 \quad x_1^2 x_2^0 x_3^0$$

$$x_1 x_2$$

$$x_1^2, x_1 x_3$$

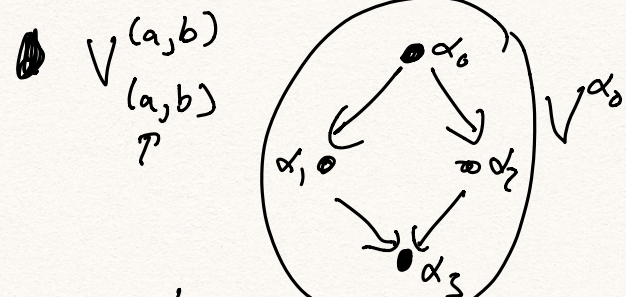
$$x_2 x_3$$

$$x_3^2$$

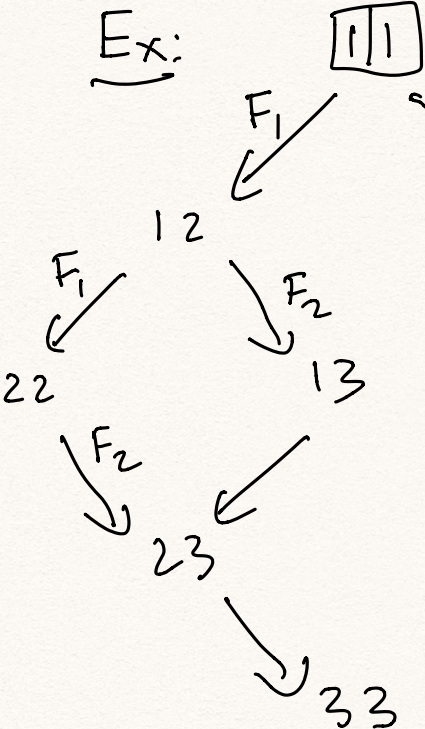
$$\underbrace{\quad}_{\#1's} x_1 \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\#2's} x_2 \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\#3's} x_3$$

$V(a,b)$ : irr. rep. w/ highest wt  $(a,b)$

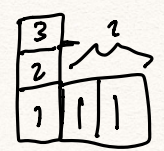
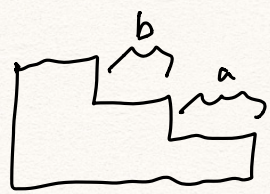
$V_\alpha$ : weight space for  $\alpha$  in rep  $V$ .



$$V^{\alpha_0} = V_{\alpha_0} \oplus V_{\alpha_1} \oplus V_{\alpha_2} \oplus V_{\alpha_3}$$



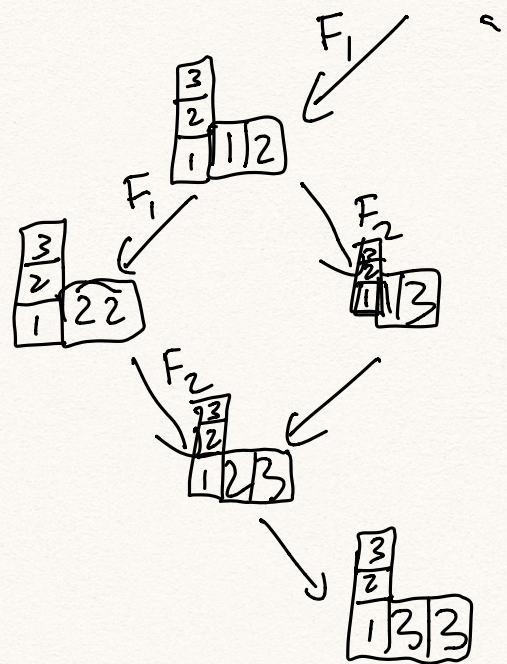
$$\begin{aligned} \text{ch}(V^{(2,0)}) &= x_1^2 + x_1 x_2 \\ &\quad + x_2^2 + x_1 x_3 \\ &\quad + x_2 x_3 + x_3^2 \\ &= s_{(2,0)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \end{aligned}$$



$V^{(2,0)}$

char:

$$\begin{aligned} &x_1^3 x_2 x_3 \\ &+ \\ &x_1^2 x_2^2 x_3 \\ &+ \\ &\vdots \\ &\vdots \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$





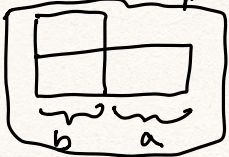
$$S_{(3,1,1)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) = \overbrace{x_1 x_2 x_3} (S_{(2,1)}(x_1, x_2, x_3))$$

$\alpha$ 's are joint eigenvalues of  $\mathcal{H} = \text{diag. matrices in } \sigma$ .

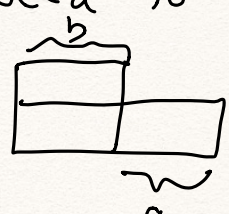
(trace = sum of eigenvalues)

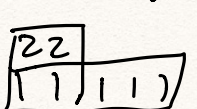
Lemma:  $\text{ch}(V^{(a,b)}) \equiv S_{(a,b)}(x_1, x_2, x_3) \pmod{x_1 x_2 x_3 = 1}$

↑  
irred. rep of h.w. (a,b)



Pf: Recall  $S_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{\text{SSYT of shape } \lambda \text{ using only letters } 1, \dots, n} x_1^{\#1\text{'s}} x_2^{\#2\text{'s}} \dots x_n^{\#n\text{'s}}$

Need to show every SSYT of shape  w/ 1's, 2's, 3's can be

obtained by sequence of  $E_1$ 's,  $E_2$ 's applied to .

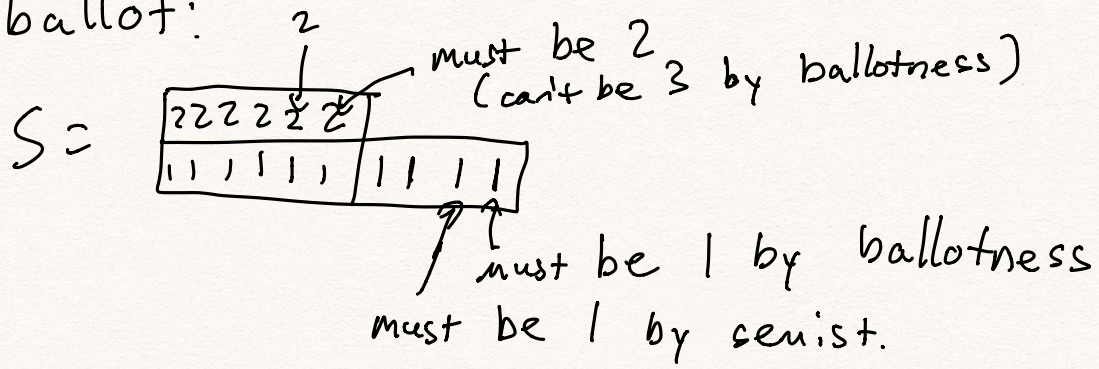
Given an SSYT  $T$ , if it's not h.w., we can apply  $E_1$  or  $E_2$  until get to a highest weight tab.

↓  
Bracket 1's, 2's, charge 2 to 1      Bracket 2's, 3's, charge 3 to 2.

get to a tab.  $S$  whose reading word



is ballot:

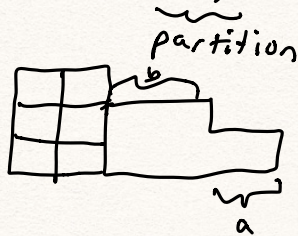


Reverse this process to get from  $S$  to  $T$   
w/  $F_1, F_2$ . ✓



(Today: Finishing  $sl_3$ , moving to  $sl_n$ )

Recall:  $ch(V^{(a,b)}) = S_{(a+b,b)}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  (last time)



$$(\text{mod } x_1 x_2 x_3 = 1)$$

Lemma: ①  $ch(V \otimes W) = ch(V) \cdot ch(W)$  for any reps  $V, W$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$

②  $ch(V \oplus W) = ch(V) + ch(W)$

Pf: ①  $ch(V \otimes W) = ch(\left(\bigoplus_{\alpha} V_{\alpha}\right) \otimes \left(\bigoplus_{\beta} W_{\beta}\right))$  (weight spaces  $V_{\alpha}, W_{\beta}$ : eigenspaces for  $h$ )

$$= ch\left(\bigoplus_{\alpha, \beta} \underbrace{(V_{\alpha} \otimes W_{\beta})}_{\text{weight spaces for } V \otimes W \text{ of weight } \alpha + \beta}\right)$$

weight spaces for  $V \otimes W$  of weight  $\alpha + \beta$ .

$$= \sum_{\alpha, \beta} x^{\alpha + \beta}$$

$$= \sum_{\alpha, \beta} x^{\alpha} x^{\beta}$$

$$= \left(\sum_{\alpha} x^{\alpha}\right) \left(\sum_{\beta} x^{\beta}\right)$$

$$= ch\left(\bigoplus_{\alpha} V_{\alpha}\right) \cdot ch\left(\bigoplus_{\beta} W_{\beta}\right)$$

$$= ch(V) \cdot ch(W).$$

In  $sl_3$ :  
 $\begin{pmatrix} x_1^{\alpha_1} & x_2^{\alpha_2} & x_3^{\alpha_3} \\ x_1^{\beta_1} & x_2^{\beta_2} & x_3^{\beta_3} \end{pmatrix}$

②  $ch(V \oplus W) = ch\left(\bigoplus_{\alpha} V_{\alpha} \oplus \bigoplus_{\beta} W_{\beta}\right)$   
 $= \sum_{\alpha} x^{\alpha} + \sum_{\beta} x^{\beta}$



$$= \text{ch}(V) + \text{ch}(W). \quad \text{Q.E.D.}$$

Cor ( $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  case):

① Every character of an  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ -rep  $\text{ch}(V)$  is a positive sum of Schur functions  $S_\lambda(x_1, x_2, x_3)$  (where  $\lambda$  has at most 2 parts)

$$\text{i.e. } \text{ch}(V) = \sum_{\substack{\lambda \text{ part.} \\ \text{w/ at} \\ \text{most } 2 \text{ parts}}} c_\lambda \underline{S_\lambda} \quad (\text{schur positive})$$

where  $c_\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$ .

② If  $\text{ch}(V) = \sum c_\lambda S_\lambda(x_1, x_2, x_3)$

$$\text{then } V = \bigoplus_{\lambda} c_\lambda V^\lambda$$

③  $V^r$  appears in  $V^\lambda \otimes V^\mu$  exactly  $\underline{c_{\lambda\mu}^r}$  times where  $c_{\lambda\mu}^r$  is coeff. of  $S_r$  in  $S_\lambda S_\mu$ .

④  $c_{\lambda\mu}^r = \#$  pairs of SSYT of shapes (in  $(1,2,3)$ ) whose concatenated reading word is ballot of content  $r$ .

(Pf:  $V^\lambda \otimes V^\mu$  : highest wt elts?)

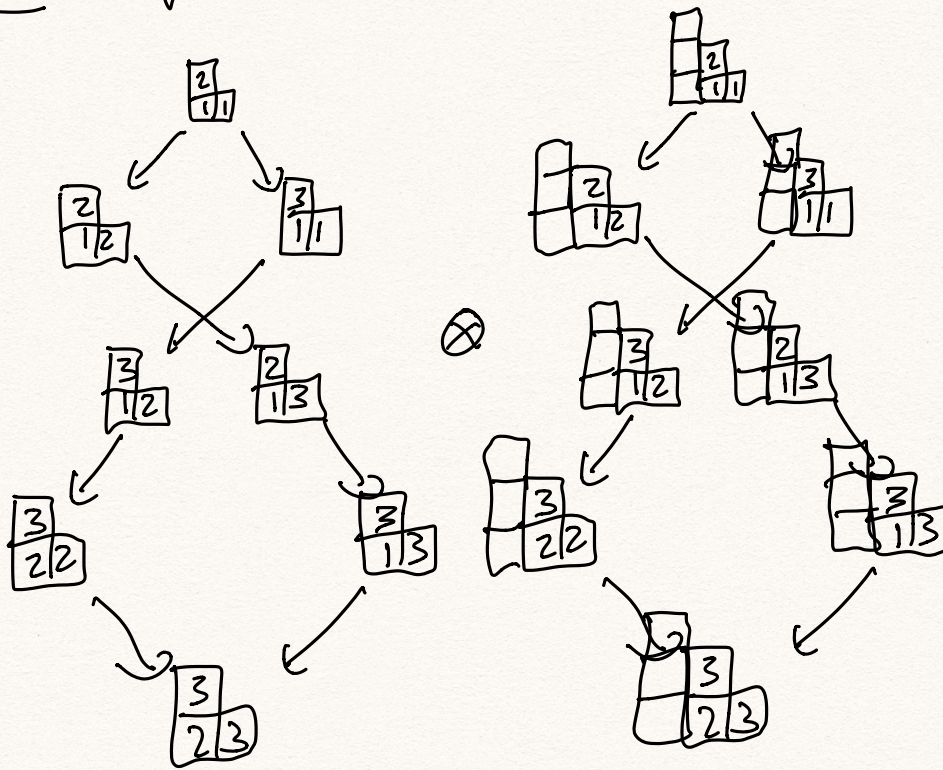
wt spaces: SSYT of shape  $\lambda$  (in  $(1,2,3)$ )  
SSYT of shape  $\mu$  (in  $(1,2,3)$ )



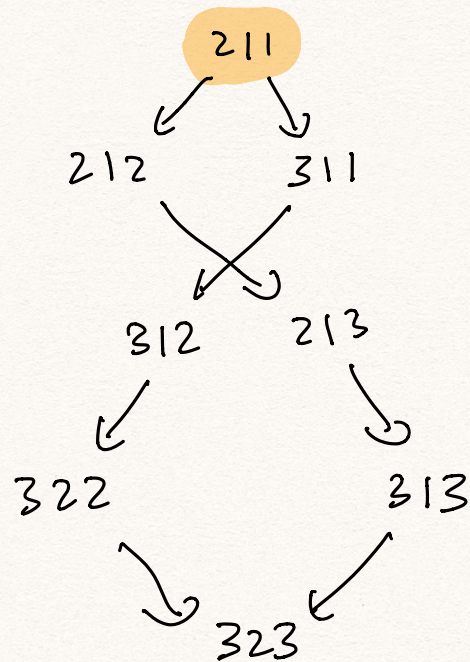
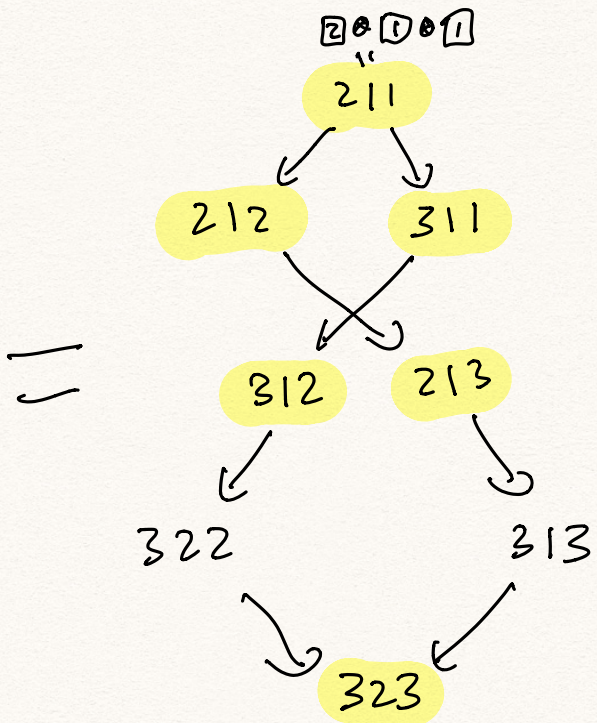
$\updownarrow$  reading word  $\in (V^{(1,0)})^{\otimes n}$        $\updownarrow$  reading word  $(V^{(1,0)})^{\otimes n}$

Hw. iff concatenated word is ballot.

Ex:  $V^{\boxplus} \otimes V^{\boxplus}$ :

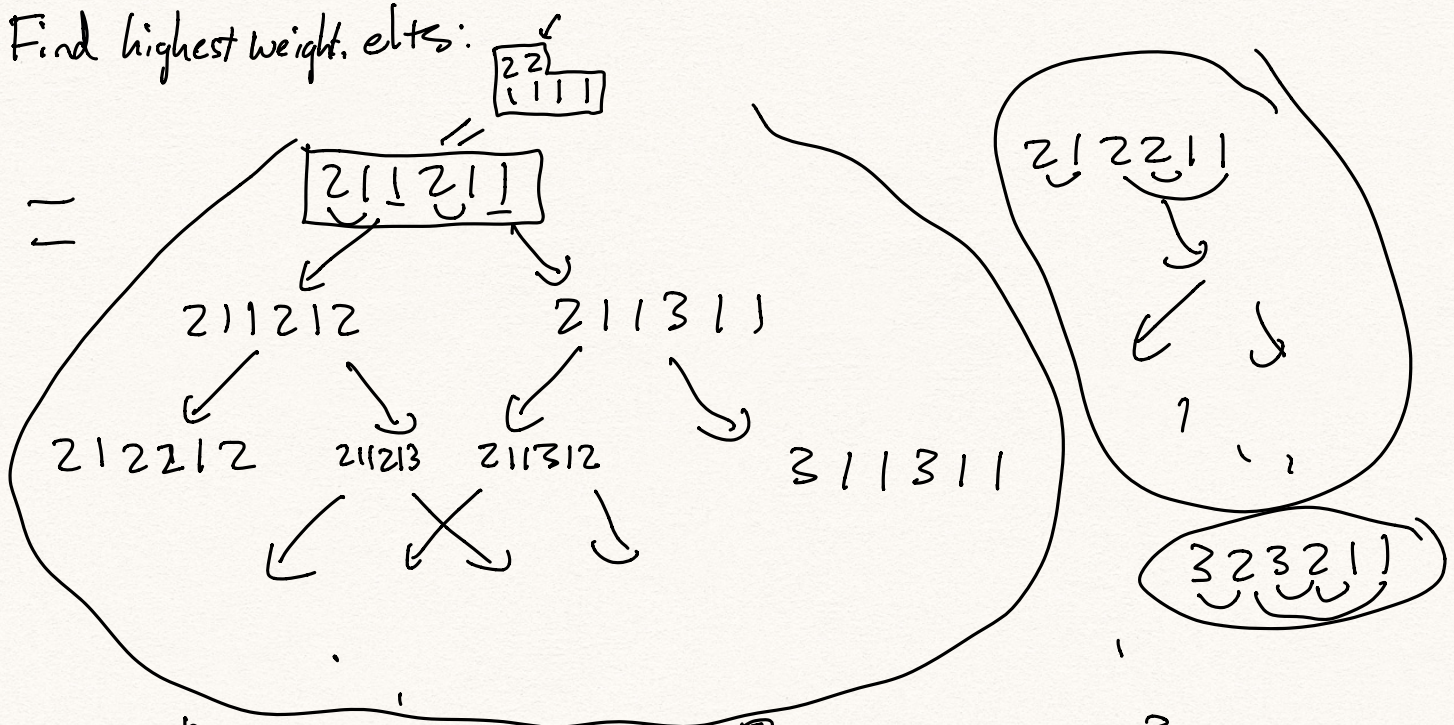


211 ~ 121





Find highest weight elts:



$$= V^{211211} \oplus V^{212211} \oplus V^{311211} \oplus V^{312211} \oplus V^{213211} \oplus V^{323211}$$

$$= V^{(2,2)} \oplus V^{(0,3)} \oplus V^{(3,0)} \oplus 2V^{(1,1)} \oplus V^{(0,0)}$$

$$S_{\square} \cdot S_{\square} = S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + 2S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}$$

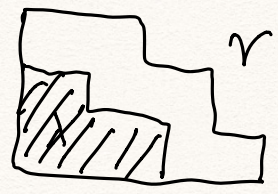
$C_{\square, \square}^{\square} = 2 = \#$  pairs of SSYT's on shapes  $(\square, \square)$  that concatenate to ballot.

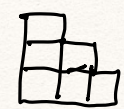

Littlewood-Richardson rule: Combinatorial formula for  $C_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu}$

Alt. LR rule:  $C_{\lambda, \mu}^{\nu} = \#$  SSYT of shape  $\nu/\lambda$ , content  $\mu$ .

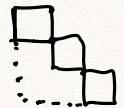


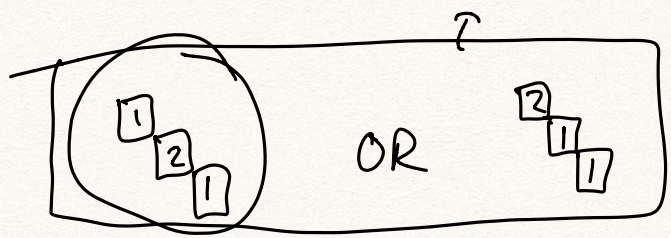
Ballot reading word.



Ex:  $\nu =$  ,  $\lambda = \mu =$  

content  $\mu$   
: content  $(2, 1)$   
(two 1's, one 2)

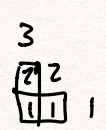
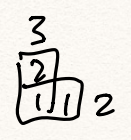
$\nu / \lambda =$  



Bijection with  $(\begin{smallmatrix} 3 \\ 1 2 \end{smallmatrix}, \underline{\underline{2 1}})$  and  $(\begin{smallmatrix} 2 \\ 1 3 \end{smallmatrix}, \begin{smallmatrix} 2 \\ 1 1 \end{smallmatrix})$ :

RSK insert 211 into either

$\begin{smallmatrix} 3 \\ 1 2 \end{smallmatrix} \leftarrow \underline{121}$  vs  $\begin{smallmatrix} 2 \\ 1 3 \end{smallmatrix} \leftarrow \underline{121}$



(Homework)

Algebraic proof:

$$\left( s_\nu, s_\lambda s_\mu \right) = \left( s_{\underline{\underline{\nu/\lambda}}}, s_\mu \right)$$

$\parallel$   $\parallel$   
 $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$   $c_{\lambda\mu}^\nu$



Skew Schur function:

$$S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} = 2 S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square \\ \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}} + S_{\begin{smallmatrix} \square & \square & \square \\ \square & \square & \square \end{smallmatrix}}$$

