## CRYSTALS VIA THE AFFINE GRASSMANNIAN

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ABSTRACT. Let G be a connected reductive group over  $\mathbb C$  and let  $\mathfrak g^\vee$  be the Langlands dual Lie algebra. Crystals for  $\mathfrak g^\vee$  are combinatorial objects, that were introduced by Kashiwara (cf. for example [5]) as certain "combinatorial skeletons" of finite-dimensional representations of  $\mathfrak g^\vee$ . For every dominant weight  $\lambda$  of  $\mathfrak g^\vee$  Kashiwara constructed a crystal  $\mathbf B(\lambda)$  by considering the corresponding finite-dimensional representation of the quantum group  $U_q(\mathfrak g^\vee)$  and then specializing it to q=0. Other (independent) constructions of  $\mathbf B(\lambda)$  were given by Lusztig (cf. [8]) using the combinatorics of root systems and by Littelmann (cf. [6]) using the "Littelmann path model". It was also shown in [4] that the family of crystals  $\mathbf B(\lambda)$  is unique if certain reasonable conditions are imposed (cf. Theorem 1.1).

The purpose of this paper is to give another (rather simple) construction of the crystals  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda)$  using the geometry of the affine grassmannian  $\mathcal{G}_G = G(\mathcal{K})/G(\mathcal{O})$  of the group G, where  $\mathcal{K} = \mathbb{C}((t))$  is the field of Laurent power series and  $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{C}[[t]]$  is the ring of Taylor series. We then check that the family  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda)$  satisfies the conditions of the uniqueness theorem from [4], which shows that our crystals coincide with those constructed in *loc. cit.* It would be interesting to find these isomorphisms directly (cf., however, [9]).

### 1. Basic results about crystals

1.1. **Notation.** Let G be a connected reductive group over  $\mathbb{C}$  and let  $G^{\vee}$  be the Langlands dual group; let  $\mathfrak{g}^{\vee}$  denote the Lie algebra of  $G^{\vee}$ . Let also  $\operatorname{Rep}(G^{\vee})$  denote the category of finite-dimensional representations of the group  $G^{\vee}$ .

Let  $\Lambda_G$  denote the coweight lattice of G, which is the same as the weight lattice of  $G^{\vee}$ . Let  $\Lambda_G^{\vee}$  denote the dual lattice, i.e.  $\Lambda_G^{\vee}$  is the weight lattice of G; let  $\langle , \rangle$  be the canonical pairing between  $\Lambda_G$  and  $\Lambda_G^{\vee}$ . We will denote by  $\Lambda_G^+$  the semi-group of dominant coweights. Let I denote the set of vertices of the Dynkin diagram corresponding to G. For  $i \in I$  we will denote by  $\alpha_i \in \Lambda_G$  the corresponding simple coroot and by  $\alpha_i^{\vee} \in \Lambda_G^{\vee}$  the corresponding simple root. Let  $2\rho_G^{\vee} \in \Lambda_G^{\vee}$  be the sum of all positive roots of G. For  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda_G$ , we will write  $\lambda_1 \geq 0$  if

Let  $E_i, F_i$  (for  $i \in I$ ) denote the Chevalley generators of  $\mathfrak{g}^{\vee}$ . For every  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$  we will denote by  $V(\lambda)$  the irreducible representation of  $\mathfrak{g}^{\vee}$  with highest weight  $\lambda$  and for  $\mu \in \Lambda_G$ ,  $V(\lambda)_{\mu}$  will denote the corresponding weight subspace of  $V(\lambda)$ .

1.2. **Definition.** A crystal is a set **B** together with maps

 $\lambda_1 - \lambda_2$  is a linear combination of the  $\alpha_i$  with non-negative coefficients.

- 1.  $wt: \mathbf{B} \to \Lambda_G, \ \varepsilon_i, \phi_i: \mathbf{B} \to \mathbb{Z},$
- 2.  $e_i, f_i : \mathbf{B} \to \mathbf{B} \cup \{0\},\$

for each  $i \in I$ , satisfying the following axioms:

- A) For any  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}$  one has  $\phi_i(\mathbf{b}) = \varepsilon_i(\mathbf{b}) + \langle wt(\mathbf{b}), \alpha_i^{\vee} \rangle$
- B) Let  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}$ . If  $e_i \cdot \mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}$  for some i. Then

$$wt(e_i \cdot \mathbf{b}) = wt(\mathbf{b}) + \alpha_i, \ \varepsilon_i(e_i \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \varepsilon_i(\mathbf{b}) - 1, \ \phi_i(e_i \cdot b) = \phi_i(b) + 1.$$

If  $f_i \cdot \mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}$  for some *i* then

$$wt(f_i \cdot \mathbf{b}) = wt(\mathbf{b}) - \alpha_i, \ \varepsilon_i(f_i \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \varepsilon_i(\mathbf{b}) + 1, \ \phi_i(f_i \cdot \mathbf{b}) = \phi_i(\mathbf{b}) - 1.$$

C) For all  $\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b}' \in \mathbf{B}$  one has  $\mathbf{b}' = e_i \cdot \mathbf{b}$  if an only if  $\mathbf{b} = f_i \cdot \mathbf{b}'$ .

Remark. In [4] a more general definition of crystals is considered, where the maps  $\varepsilon_i$  and  $\phi_i$  are allowed to assume infinite values. However, such crystals will never appear in this paper.

A crystal is called *normal* if one has

(1.1) 
$$\varepsilon_i(\mathbf{b}) = \max\{n | e_i^n \cdot \mathbf{b} \neq 0\}, \quad \phi_i(\mathbf{b}) = \max\{n | f_i^n \cdot \mathbf{b} \neq 0\}$$

From now on we will consider only normal crystals. Thus, the maps  $\varepsilon_i$  and  $\phi_i$  will be uniquely recovered from wt,  $e_i$  and  $f_i$ .

1.3. Tensor product of crystals. Let  $\mathbf{B}_1$  and  $\mathbf{B}_2$  be two crystals. Following Kashiwara ([5]) we define their tensor product  $\mathbf{B}_1 \otimes \mathbf{B}_2$  as follows. As a set  $\mathbf{B}_1 \otimes \mathbf{B}_2$  is just equal to  $\mathbf{B}_1 \times \mathbf{B}_2$ . The corresponding maps are defined in the following way. Let  $\mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}_2$ . We will denote by  $\mathbf{b}_1 \otimes \mathbf{b}_2$  be the corresponding element in  $\mathbf{B}_1 \times \mathbf{B}_2$ . Then we set

$$wt(\mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}) = wt(\mathbf{b}_{1}) + wt(\mathbf{b}_{2}),$$

$$e_{i} \cdot (\mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}) = \begin{cases} e_{i} \cdot \mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}, & \text{if } \varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1}) > \phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{2}) \\ \mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes e_{i} \cdot \mathbf{b}_{2}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f_{i} \cdot (\mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}) = \begin{cases} f_{i} \cdot \mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}, & \text{if } \varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1}) \geq \phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{2}) \\ \mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes f_{i} \cdot \mathbf{b}_{2}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}) = \max\{\varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{2}), \varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1}) - \phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{2}) + \varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{2})\}$$

$$\phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{2}) = \max\{\phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1}), \phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{2}) - \varepsilon_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1}) + \phi_{i}(\mathbf{b}_{1})\}.$$

It is known (cf. [4]) that  $\mathbf{B}_1 \otimes \mathbf{B}_2$  is crystal and that  $\otimes$  is an associative operation on crystals. Moreover, if  $\mathbf{B}_1$  and  $\mathbf{B}_2$  are normal then  $\mathbf{B}_1 \otimes \mathbf{B}_2$  is normal as well.

- 1.4. **Highest weight crystals.** Let **B** be a crystal. We say that **B** is a highest weight crystal of weight  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G$  if there exists an element  $\mathbf{b}_{\lambda} \in \mathbf{B}$ , such that
  - 1.  $wt(\mathbf{b}_{\lambda}) = \lambda$ .
  - 2.  $e_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_{\lambda} = 0$  for every  $i \in I$ .
  - 3. **B** is generated by all the  $f_i$  acting on  $\mathbf{b}_{\lambda}$ .

It is clear from (1.1) that if **B** is a normal crystal, then one necessarily has  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$ . The following lemma gives a useful reformulation of the definition of a highest weight crystal.

**Lemma 1.1.** A crystal **B** is a highest weight crystal of highest weight  $\lambda$  if and only if there exists an element  $\mathbf{b}_{\lambda} \in \mathbf{B}$ , such that

- 1.  $wt(\mathbf{b}_{\lambda}) = \lambda$  and  $wt(\mathbf{b}) < \lambda$  for every  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B} \mathbf{b}_{\lambda}$ .
- 2.  $e_i \cdot \mathbf{b}_{\lambda} = 0$  for every  $i \in I$ .
- 3. For every  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B} \mathbf{b}_{\lambda}$  there exists  $i \in I$  such that  $e_i \cdot \mathbf{b} \neq 0$ .

1.5. Closed families of crystals. Assume that for every  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$  we are given a normal crystal  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda)$  of highest weight  $\lambda$ . We say that the  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda)$  form a closed family of crystals if for every  $\lambda, \mu \in \Lambda_G^+$  there exists an embedding  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda + \mu) \hookrightarrow \mathbf{B}(\lambda) \otimes \mathbf{B}(\mu)$  (which necessarily sends  $\mathbf{b}_{\lambda+\mu}$  to  $\mathbf{b}_{\lambda} \otimes \mathbf{b}_{\mu}$ ).

**Theorem 1.1.** (cf. [4], 6.4.21) Assume that G is of adjoint type. Then there exists a unique closed family of crystals  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda)$ .

Different constructions of closed families of crystals were given by Kashiwara ([5]) using quantum groups and by Lusztig ([8]) and Littelmann ([6]) using the combinatorics of the root systems. The main goal of this paper is to give another construction of the closed family  $\mathbf{B}(\lambda)$ , using the geometry of the affine Grassmannian.

### 2. Basic results about affine Grassmannian

2.1. **Definition.** Let  $\mathcal{K} = \mathbb{C}((t))$ ,  $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{C}[[t]]$ . By the affine Grassmannian of G we will mean the quotient  $\mathcal{G}_G = G(\mathcal{K})/G(\mathcal{O})$ . It is known (cf. [1]) that  $\mathcal{G}_G$  is the set of  $\mathbb{C}$ -points of an ind-scheme over  $\mathbb{C}$ , which we will denote by the same symbol.

The orbits of the group  $G(\mathfrak{O})$  on  $\mathfrak{G}_G$  can be described as follows. One can identify the lattice  $\Lambda_G$  with the quotient  $T(\mathfrak{K})/T(\mathfrak{O})$ . Fix  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$  and let  $\lambda(t)$  denote any lift of  $\lambda$  to  $T(\mathfrak{K})$ . Let  $\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  denote the  $G(\mathfrak{O})$ -orbit of  $\lambda(t)$  (which clearly does not depend on the choice of  $\lambda(t)$ ). Then it is well-known (cf. [7]) that

$$\mathfrak{G}_G = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \Lambda_C^+} \mathfrak{G}_G^{\lambda}.$$

Moreover, for every  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$  the orbit  $\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  is finite-dimensional and its dimension is equal to  $(\lambda, 2\rho_G^{\vee})$ .

Let  $\overline{\mathcal{G}_G}^{\lambda}$  denote the closure of  $\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  in  $\mathcal{G}_G$ ; this is an irreducible projective algebraic variety. We will denote by  $\mathrm{IC}^{\lambda}$  the intersection cohomology complex on  $\overline{\mathcal{G}_G}^{\lambda}$ . Let  $\mathrm{Perv}_{G(\mathfrak{O})}(\mathcal{G}_G)$  denote the category of  $G(\mathfrak{O})$ -equivariant perverse sheaves on  $\mathcal{G}_G$ . It is known that every object of this category is a direct sum of the  $\mathrm{IC}^{\lambda}$ .

2.2. **The convolution.** Define the ind-scheme  $\mathcal{G}_G \star \mathcal{G}_G$  to be  $G(\mathcal{K}) \underset{G(\mathcal{O})}{\times} \mathcal{G}_G$ . Let

$$\pi: G(\mathfrak{K}) \times \mathfrak{G}_G \to \mathfrak{G}_G \star \mathfrak{G}_G$$

denote the natural projection. One has the natural maps  $p_1, p_2 : G(\mathcal{K}) \times \mathcal{G}_G \to \mathcal{G}_G$  and  $m : \mathcal{G}_G \star \mathcal{G}_G \to \mathcal{G}_G$  defined as follows. Let  $g \in G(\mathcal{K}), x \in \mathcal{G}_G$ . Then

$$p_1(g,x) = g \operatorname{mod} G(0); \quad p_2(g,x) = x; \quad m(g,x) = g \cdot x.$$

For  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda_G^+$  we set  $\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_1} \star \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_2} = \pi(p_1^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_1}) \cap p_2^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_2}))$ . In addition, we define

$$(\mathfrak{S}_G^{\lambda_1}\star\mathfrak{S}_G^{\lambda_2})^{\lambda_3}=m^{-1}(\mathfrak{S}_G^{\lambda_3})\cap\mathfrak{S}_G^{\lambda_1}\star\mathfrak{S}_G^{\lambda_2}$$

It is known (cf. [7]) that

(2.1) 
$$\dim((\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_1} \star \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_2})^{\lambda_3}) = \langle \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle.$$

(It is easy to see that although  $\rho_G^{\vee} \in \frac{1}{2}\Lambda_G^{\vee}$ , the RHS of (2.1) is an integer whenever the above intersection is non-empty.)

For any  $S_1, S_2 \in \operatorname{Perv}_{G(\mathcal{O})}(\mathcal{G}_G)$  we define the convolution  $S_1 \star S_2$  as follows. Consider  $p_1^*S_1 \otimes p_2^*S_2$ . Then due to the fact that  $S_1$  is  $G(\mathcal{O})$ -equivariant, there exists a canonical perverse sheaf  $S_1 \widetilde{\otimes} S_2$  on  $\mathcal{G}_G \star \mathcal{G}_G$  such that  $\pi^*(S_1 \widetilde{\otimes} S_2) \simeq p_1^*S_1 \otimes p_2^*S_2$ .

We define

$$S_1 \star S_2 = m_!(S_1 \widetilde{\otimes} S_2).$$

**Theorem 2.1.** (cf. [7],[3] and [10])

- 1. Let  $S_1, S_2 \in \operatorname{Perv}_{G(\mathcal{O})}(\mathcal{G}_G)$ . Then  $S_1 \star S_2 \in \operatorname{Perv}_{G(\mathcal{O})}(\mathcal{G}_G)$ .
- 2. The convolution  $\star$  extends to a structure of a tensor category on  $\operatorname{Perv}_{G(\mathfrak{O})}(\mathfrak{S}_G)$ , which is equivalent to the category  $Rep(G^{\vee})$ .
- 2.3. Restriction functors to Levi subgroups. Let P be a Borel subgroup in G and let  $N_P$ be its unipotent radical. Let  $M = P/N_P$  be the corresponding Levi factor. Let  $P^{\vee}$  and  $M^{\vee}$ be the corresponding parabolic and Levi subgroups of  $G^{\vee}$ . We have the restriction functor  $\operatorname{Res}_{M^{\vee}}^{G^{\vee}}:\operatorname{Rep}(G^{\vee})\to\operatorname{Rep}(M^{\vee}).$  Let us explain how to represent this functor geometrically, i.e. as a functor  $\operatorname{Perv}_{G(\mathcal{O})}(\mathcal{G}_G) \to \operatorname{Perv}_{M(\mathcal{O})}(\mathcal{G}_M)$ .

Let  $\Lambda_{G,P}$  denote the lattice of characters of the torus  $Z(M^{\vee})$  (the center of  $M^{\vee}$ ). There is a natural surjection  $\alpha_{G,P}:\Lambda_G\to\Lambda_{G,P}$ . One can identify  $\Lambda_{G,P}$  with the set of connected components of  $\mathfrak{G}_M$ .

One can also identify  $\Lambda_{G,P}$  with the set of orbits of the group  $[P,P](\mathfrak{X}) \cdot M(\mathfrak{O})$  on  $\mathfrak{G}_G$ . This is done in the following way. Let  $\theta \in \Lambda_{G,P}$ . Fix a lift  $\theta$  of  $\theta$  to  $\Lambda_G$ . Let  $S_P^{\theta}$  denote the  $[P,P](\mathcal{K})\cdot M(\mathfrak{O})$ -orbit of the element  $\widehat{\theta}(t)\in T(\mathcal{K})$  (cf. Sect. 2.1). It is easy to see that  $S_{\mathcal{P}}^{\theta}$ depends only on  $\theta$  (and not on the choice of  $\theta(t)$ ).

# Lemma 2.1. The following hold:

- 1. One has  $\mathfrak{G}_G = \bigsqcup_{\theta \in \Lambda_{G,P}} S_P^{\theta}$ .
- 2. Let  $\mathfrak{S}_{M}^{\theta}$  denote the connected component of  $\mathfrak{S}_{M}$  corresponding to  $\theta$ . Then there exists a canonical  $[P,P](\mathfrak{K}) \cdot M(\mathfrak{O})$ -equivariant map  $\mathfrak{t}_{P}^{\theta}: S_{P}^{\theta} \to \mathfrak{S}_{M}^{\theta}$  which is equal to identity on the set

$$\{\nu \in \Lambda_G = T(\mathcal{K})/T(\mathcal{O}) | \alpha_{G,P}(\nu) = \theta\}.$$

(Note that this set is naturally embedded into both  $S_P^{\theta}$  and  $\mathfrak{G}_M^{\theta}$  due to the fact that T is embedded in both G and M).

Let  $\nu \in \Lambda_M^+ \subset \Lambda_G$  and let  $\theta = \alpha_{G,P}(\nu)$ . Let us denote by  $S_P^{\nu}$  the pre-image  $(\mathfrak{t}_P^{\theta})^{-1}(\mathfrak{S}_M^{\nu}) \subset S_P^{\theta}$ . The schemes  $S_P^{\nu}$  are nothing but orbits of the group  $N_P(\mathcal{K}) \cdot M(\mathcal{O})$  on  $\mathcal{G}_G$ . We will denote by  $\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu}$  the restriction of  $\mathfrak{t}_P^{\theta}$  to  $S_P^{\nu}$ .

# **Theorem 2.2.** ([1], cf. also [2] and [10])

1. Let  $\nu$  (resp.,  $\lambda$ ) be a dominant integral coweight of M (resp., of G) Then the intersection  $S_P^{\nu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  has dimension  $\leq \langle \nu + \lambda, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle$  and hence the fibers of the projection

$$\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu}: S_P^{\nu} \cap \mathfrak{S}_G^{\lambda} \to \mathfrak{S}_M^{\nu}$$

are of dimension  $\leq \langle \nu + \lambda, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle - \langle \nu, 2\rho_M^{\vee} \rangle$ . 2. Let  $\mathrm{IC}^{\lambda}|_{S_{\mathcal{P}}^{\theta}}$  denote the \*-restriction of  $\mathrm{IC}^{\lambda}$  to  $S_{\mathcal{P}}^{\theta}$ . Then for  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$  and  $\theta \in \Lambda_{G,\mathcal{P}}$ , the direct image

$$\mathfrak{t}_{P!}^{\theta}(\mathrm{IC}^{\lambda}|_{S_{P}^{\theta}})[\langle \theta, 2(\rho_{G}^{\vee} - \rho_{M}^{\vee}) \rangle]$$

lives in the cohomological degrees  $\leq 0$  (in the perverse t-structure). (In the above formula we have used the fact that  $2(\rho_G^{\vee} - \rho_M^{\vee})$  naturally belongs to the dual lattice of  $\Lambda_{G,P}$ .)

3. The functor  $\operatorname{Perv}_{G(\mathcal{O})}(\mathfrak{G}_G) \to \operatorname{Perv}_{M(\mathcal{O})}(\mathfrak{G}_M)$  given by

$$\mathbb{S} \mapsto \underset{\theta}{\oplus} H^0(\mathfrak{t}_{P!}^{\theta}(\mathbb{S}|_{S_P^{\theta}})[\langle \theta, 2(\rho_G^{\vee} - \rho_M^{\vee}) \rangle]$$

has a structure of a tensor functor and under the equivalence of Theorem 2.1 it is naturally isomorphic to  $\operatorname{Res}_M^G$ .

If B is a Borel subgroup of G then one has  $\Lambda_G = \Lambda_{G,P}$ . In this case for every  $\mu \in \Lambda_G$  we will write  $S^{\mu}$  instead of  $S_B^{\mu}$ . It is clear that for any parabolic P,  $S^{\mu}$  lies inside  $S_P^{\alpha_{G,P}(\mu)}$ .

3. The construction of 
$$\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)$$

In this section we will state our two main theorems. Their proofs will be given in the next two sections.

3.1. The set  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)$ . Let M be as in Sect. 2.3. For  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$  and  $\nu \in \Lambda_M^+$  we let  $\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$  denote the set of irreducible components of the intersection  $S_P^{\nu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  of dimension  $\langle \nu + \lambda, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle$ . Since the variety  $\mathcal{G}_M^{\nu}$  is connected and simply connected, it follows, that  $\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$  can also be identified with the set of irreducible components of any fiber of the map  $\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu}: S_P^{\nu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda} \to \mathcal{G}_M^{\nu}$  of dimension  $\langle \nu + \lambda, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle - \langle \nu, 2\rho_M^{\vee} \rangle$ .

For  $\mu \in \Lambda_G$  we will denote  $\mathbf{B}_T^G(\lambda)_{\mu}$  just by  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)_{\mu}$  and we set

$$\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda) := \bigcup_{\mu \in \Lambda_G} \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)_{\mu}.$$

Thus,  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)$  is a finite set, endowed with a map  $wt : \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda) \to \Lambda_G$  (by definition,  $wt(\mathbf{b}) = \mu$  for  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)_{\mu}$ ).

3.2. **Decomposition with respect to a parabolic.** We would like now to extend the map  $wt: \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda) \to \Lambda_G$  to a structure of a normal crystal on  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)$ , i.e. we need to define the operations  $e_i$  and  $f_i$ .

Let P be any parabolic subgroup in G.

**Proposition 3.1.** For every  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$ ,  $\mu \in \Lambda_G$  there is a canonical bijection

$$\mathbf{d}_{M}^{G}: \bigsqcup_{\nu \in \Lambda_{M}^{+}} \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda)_{\nu} \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu)_{\mu} \simeq \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda)_{\mu}.$$

This bijection can be uniquely characterized as follows: one has  $\mathbf{d}(\mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2) = \mathbf{b}$  for  $\mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}, \mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}^M(\nu)_{\mu}$  if and only if the following conditions hold.

- 1.  $\theta := \alpha_{G,P}(\mu) = \alpha_{G,P}(\nu)$ .
- 2.  $\mathbf{b}_2$  is a dense subset of  $\mathfrak{t}_P^{\theta}(\mathbf{b})$ .
- 3.  $(\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu})^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_2) \cap \mathbf{b}_1$  is a dense subset of  $\mathbf{b}$ .

*Proof.* For  $\mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}^M(\nu)_{\mu}$  consider the variety  $(\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu})^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_2) \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda} \subset S^{\mu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$ . It follows from Sect. 3.1 that the set of its irreducible components of dimension  $\langle \mu + \lambda, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle$  is in a bijection with  $\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$ .

Thus, for  $\mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$ , we set  $\mathbf{d}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1 \times \mathbf{b}_2)$  to be the closure in  $S^{\mu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  of the corresponding irreducible component of  $(\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu})^{-1}(\mathbf{b}_2) \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$ .

The fact that this map is a bijection satisfying all the required properties is straightforward.  $\Box$ 

3.3. Operations  $e_i$  and  $f_i$ . Fix now any  $i \in I$ . Let  $P_i$  be the corresponding "sub-minimal" parabolic subgroup of G (by definition,  $P_i$  is the parabolic subgroup of G, whose unipotent radical contains all simple roots except for  $\alpha_i^{\vee}$ ). Let also  $M_i$  be the corresponding Levi factor and  $\mathfrak{m}_i^{\vee}$  the dual Lie algebra.

Consider the decomposition of Proposition 3.1 for  $M = M_i$ . Since  $\mathfrak{m}_i^{\vee}$  is a reductive Lie algebra, whose semi-simple part is isomorphic to  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$ , it follows from Theorem 2.2(3) and

the representation theory of sl(2) that for every  $\mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}^{M_i}(\nu)_{\mu}$  there exists no more than one  $\mathbf{b}_2' \in \mathbf{B}^{M_i}(\nu)_{\mu+\alpha_i}$  (resp.  $\mathbf{b}_2'' \in \mathbf{B}^{M_i}(\nu)_{\mu-\alpha_i}$ ). Let now  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)_{\mu}$ . Assume that  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{d}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1 \times \mathbf{b}_2)$ . Thus we define

$$e_i \cdot \mathbf{b} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{d}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1 \times \mathbf{b}_2') & \text{if there exists } \mathbf{b}_2' \in \mathbf{B}^{M_i}(\nu)_{\mu + \alpha_i} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

and

$$f_i \cdot \mathbf{b} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{d}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1 \times \mathbf{b}_2'') & \text{if there exists } \mathbf{b}_2'' \in \mathbf{B}^{M_i}(\nu)_{\mu - \alpha_i} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

1. The maps  $e_i$ ,  $f_i$  and wt define a structure of a normal crystal on  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)$ . Theorem 3.1.

- 2. The crystal  $\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda)$  defined above is a highest weight crystal of highest weight  $\lambda$ .
- 3. The crystals  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)$  defined above form a closed family (in the sense of Sect. 1.5).

The first point of this theorem follows readily from the representation theory of sl(2). The geometric content of the second point of Theorem 3.1 is summarized in the next corollary:

Let  $w_0$  denote the longest element of the Weyl group of G and for  $i \in I$  let  $\mathfrak{s}_i$  be the corresponding simple reflection. Let  $\lambda, \mu$  be a pair of elements of  $\Lambda_G$  with  $\lambda \in \Lambda_G^+$ . Let **b** be an irreducible component of dimension  $\langle \lambda + \mu, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle$  of  $S^{\mu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$ .

Corollary 3.1. Assume that  $\mu \neq \lambda$  (resp.,  $w_0(\mu) \neq \lambda$ ). Then one can find  $i \in I$  and  $\nu \in \Lambda_{M_i}^+$ with  $\mu \neq \nu$  (resp.,  $\mathfrak{s}_i(\mu) \neq \nu$ ) such that the map  $\mathfrak{t}_{P_i}^{\nu} : (\mathbf{b} \cap S_{P_i}^{\nu}) \to S_{M_i}^{\mu} \cap \mathfrak{S}_{M_i}^{\nu}$  is dominant.

Finally, we note that the third point of Theorem 3.1 combined with Theorem 1.1 implies that our crystals  $\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda)$  are isomorphic to those constructed in [5], [8] and [6]. Indeed, when G is adjoint this is immediate and, in general, if G and G' are isogenous, the corresponding crystals  $\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda)$  and  $\mathbf{B}^{G'}(\lambda)$  are isomorphic for  $\lambda \in \Lambda_{G}^{+} \cap \Lambda_{G'}^{+}$ .

3.4. Refinement. Here we would like to refine the statement of Theorem 3.1(3). Namely, we want to describe the crystal  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_1) \otimes \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_2)$  in geometric terms.

For  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3 \in \Lambda_G^+$  let  $\mathbf{C}^G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)_{\lambda_3}$  be the set of all irreducible components of dimension  $(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3, \rho_G^{\vee})$  of the variety  $(\mathfrak{G}_G^{\lambda_1} \star \mathfrak{G}_G^{\lambda_2})^{\lambda_3}$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** One has a canonical isomorphism of crystals

$$\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_1) \otimes \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_2) = \bigsqcup_{\lambda_3 \in \Lambda_G^+} \mathbf{C}^G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)_{\lambda_3} \times \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_3)$$

where the crystal structure on the right hand side comes from the second multiple.

4. Proof of Theorem 
$$3.1(2)$$

4.1. **Notation.** Let Z be a complex algebraic variety of dimension d and let  $X \subset Z$  be a d-dimensional irreducible component of Z. Then we can define an element  $v(X) \in H_c^{2d}(Z,\mathbb{C})$ as follows. Let  $Y_1, ..., Y_n$  be other irreducible components of Z and let

$$X^0 = X - \bigcup_{k=1}^n X \cap Y_k.$$

Denote by i the embedding of  $X^0$  into Z. Consider the complex  $i_!\mathbb{C}$  on Z. Then, one has a natural map  $i_!\mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$  of (complexes of) sheaves on Z and, therefore, a map

$$H_c^{2d}(Z, i_!\mathbb{C}) \to H_c^{2d}(Z, \mathbb{C}).$$

Now, since  $X^0$  is irreducible, one has

$$H_c^{2d}(Z, i_!\mathbb{C}) = H_c^{2d}(X^0, \mathbb{C}) \simeq \mathbb{C}.$$

Thus, by composing the above two maps, we get an element  $v(X) \in H_c^{2d}(Z,\mathbb{C})$ . Moreover, the collection of elements v(X) (for all irreducible components X of Z of the top dimension) is a basis of  $H_c^{2d}(Z,\mathbb{C})$ .

4.2. The basis in  $\operatorname{Hom}_M(U(\nu),V(\lambda))$ . Let as before M be a Levi subgroup of G. For  $\nu \in \Lambda_M^+$  we will denote by  $U(\nu)$  the irreducible representation of M with highest weight  $\nu$ . We would like now to construct a basis in the vector space  $\operatorname{Hom}_M(U(\nu),V(\lambda))$ , parametrized by the set  $\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$ . This is done in the following way.

By Theorem 2.2 one can identify  $\operatorname{Hom}_M(U_M(\nu), V(\lambda))$  with

$$H_c^{2(\langle \lambda+\nu,\rho_G^\vee\rangle-\langle \nu,2\rho_M^\vee\rangle)}((\mathfrak{t}_P^\nu)^{-1}(x)\cap\mathfrak{G}_G^\lambda,\mathbb{C})$$

for any  $x \in \mathcal{G}_M^{\nu}$ . Recall that  $\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$  can be naturally identified with the set of irreducible components of  $(\mathfrak{t}_P^{\nu})^{-1}(x) \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}$  of dimension  $2(\langle \lambda + \nu, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle - \langle \nu, 2\rho_M^{\vee} \rangle)$ . Hence, the construction of Sect. 4.1 yields a basis  $\mathbf{v}_M^G(\mathbf{b})$ ,  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$  in  $\mathrm{Hom}_M(U(\nu), V(\lambda))$ .

4.3. Compatibility of bases. Fix a weight  $\mu \in \Lambda_G$  and consider the vector space  $V(\lambda)_{\mu}$ . Fix also a parabolic subgroup P with a Levi subgroup M as before. Then from Sect. 4.2 one constructs two bases in  $V(\lambda)_{\mu}$ , parametrized by  $\mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)_{\mu}$ : the first one is  $\{\mathbf{v}_T^G(\mathbf{b})\}_{\mathbf{b}\in B(\lambda)_{\mu}}$  and the other one is equal to

$$\bigsqcup_{\nu \in \Lambda_M^+} \{ \mathbf{v}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1) \otimes \mathbf{v}_T^M(\mathbf{b}_2) | \text{ for } \mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu} \text{ and } \mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}^M(\nu)_{\mu} \}.$$

Let us now investigate the connection between these two bases. Let  $F^{\nu}V(\lambda)$  denote the direct sum of all M-isotypic components of  $V(\lambda)$  of the form  $U_M(\nu')$ , where  $\nu' \geq \frac{1}{M} \nu$ . Set

$$G^{\nu}V(\lambda) = F^{\nu}V(\lambda)/\sum\limits_{\substack{\nu'>\nu\\M}}F^{\nu'}V(\lambda).$$

**Proposition 4.1.** Let  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda)_{\mu}$ . Assume that  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{d}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1 \times \mathbf{b}_2)$  where  $\mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$  and  $\mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}^M(\nu)_{\mu}$ . Then

- 1.  $\mathbf{v}_T^G(\mathbf{b}) \in F^{\nu}V(\lambda)$ .
- 2. The images of  $\mathbf{v}_T^G(\mathbf{b})$  and  $\mathbf{v}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1) \otimes \mathbf{v}_T^M(\mathbf{b}_2)$  in  $G^{\nu}V(\lambda)$  coincide.

*Proof.* The filtration  $F^{\nu}V(\lambda)$  is compatible with the direct sum decomposition  $V(\lambda) = \underset{\mu}{\oplus} V(\lambda)_{\mu}$ . Let  $F^{\nu}V(\lambda)_{\mu}$  (resp.,  $G^{\nu}V(\lambda)_{\mu}$ ) denote the corresponding subspace (resp., sub-quotient) of  $V(\lambda)_{\mu}$ .

By Theorem 2.2, we can identify  $V(\lambda)_{\mu}$  with the cohomology  $H_c^{\langle \lambda+\mu,\rho_G^{\vee}\rangle}(S^{\mu}\cap\mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda},\mathbb{C})$ . In addition, the filtration  $F^{\nu}V(\lambda)_{\mu}$  on  $V(\lambda)_{\mu}$  coincides with the filtration on the compactly supported cohomology induced by the decreasing sequence of open subsets in  $S^{\mu}$ :

$$\bigsqcup_{\nu' \geq \nu} S^{\mu} \cap S_{P}^{\nu'}.$$

Therefore,  $G^{\nu}V(\lambda)_{\mu} \simeq H_c^{\langle \lambda+\mu,\rho_G^{\vee} \rangle}(S^{\mu} \cap S_P^{\nu} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda}, \mathbb{C}).$ 

The assertion of the proposition follows now from properties 1–3 of the bijection  $\mathbf{d}_{M}^{G}$ .

4.4. **Proof of Theorem 3.1(2).** Let us explain how Proposition 4.1 implies Theorem 3.1(2). Conditions 1 and 2 of Lemma 1.1 follow from the well–known fact that the intersection  $S^{\mu} \cap \mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda}$  is empty unless  $\lambda \geq \mu$  and for  $\mu = \lambda$ , the above intersection is dense in  $\mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda}$  and hence is irreducible. Thus, we just need to prove that  $\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda)$  satisfies the third condition of Lemma 1.1.

Let  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{d}_M^G(\mathbf{b}_1 \times \mathbf{b}_2)$  with  $\mathbf{b}_1 \in \mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda)_{\nu}$  and  $\mathbf{b}_2 \in \mathbf{B}^M(\nu)_{\mu}$ . Consider the element  $\mathbf{v} := \mathbf{v}_T^G(\mathbf{b}) \in V(\lambda)_{\mu}$ . Since  $\mu < \lambda$ , there exists  $i \in I$  and a vector  $\mathbf{v}_1 \in V(\lambda)$  such that  $F_i(\mathbf{v}_1) = \mathbf{v}$ . We claim that this implies that  $e_i \cdot \mathbf{b} \neq 0$ .

Indeed, let us denote by v' the element  $\mathbf{v}_{M_i}^G(\mathbf{b}_1) \otimes \mathbf{v}_T^{M_i}(\mathbf{b}_2)$ . By definition, it is sufficient to show that  $E_i(\mathbf{v}') \neq 0$ .

We have the canonical  $M_i$ -invariant projection  $V(\lambda) \to G^{\nu}V(\lambda)$  and let w and w' be the images under this projection of v and v', respectively. Now, Proposition 4.1 implies that w = w'. Hence, if  $w_1$  denotes the projection of  $v_1$ , we obtain that  $F_i(w_1) = w'$ . But this means that  $E_i(w') \neq 0$  and hence  $E_i(v') \neq 0$ .

### 5. Proof of Theorem 3.2

5.1. **Theorem 3.2 on the level of sets.** We will prove a more general assertion. Namely, for a parabolic subgroup P with the Levi factor M and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda_G^+$  and  $\nu \in \Lambda_M^+$ , we will establish a canonical bijection

$$(5.1) \quad \mathbf{e}_{M}^{G}: \bigsqcup_{\lambda_{3} \in \Lambda_{G}^{+}} \mathbf{C}^{G}(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2})_{\lambda_{3}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{3})_{\nu} \simeq \bigsqcup_{\nu_{1}, \nu_{2} \in \Lambda_{M}^{+}} \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{1})_{\nu_{1}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{2})_{\nu_{2}} \times \mathbf{C}^{M}(\nu_{1}, \nu_{2})_{\nu_{3}}$$

*Proof.* Consider the variety

$$m^{-1}(S^\nu_P)\cap (\mathfrak{G}^{\lambda_1}_G\star \mathfrak{G}^{\lambda_2}_G).$$

According to (2.1) and Theorem 2.2(1), its set of irreducible components of dimension  $\langle \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \nu, \rho_G^{\vee} \rangle$  can be identified with the LHS of (5.1).

Now, for  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in \Lambda_{G,P}$ , let us denote by  $S_P^{\theta_1} \star S_P^{\theta_2}$  the following scheme:

$$S_P^{\theta_1} \star S_P^{\theta_2} := [P,P](\mathfrak{K}) M(\mathfrak{O}) \cdot \widetilde{\theta}_1(t) \underset{P(\mathfrak{O})}{\times} S_P^{\theta_2},$$

where  $\widetilde{\theta}_1(t)$  is as in Sect. 2.3. It is easy to see that the natural map  $S_P^{\theta_1} \star S_P^{\theta_2} \to \mathcal{G}_G \star \mathcal{G}_G$  is a locally closed embedding.

Similarly, for  $\nu_1, \nu_2 \in \Lambda_M^+$  and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \Lambda_G^+$  we define the sub-scheme  $(S_P^{\nu_1} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_1}) \star (S_P^{\nu_2} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_2})$  of  $\mathcal{G}_G \star \mathcal{G}_G$  as  $S_P^{\theta_1} \star S_P^{\theta_2} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_1} \star \mathcal{G}_G^{\lambda_2}$ .

We have a commutative diagram

$$\begin{split} S_P^{\theta_1} \star S_P^{\theta_2} & \stackrel{m}{-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!-} S_P^{\theta_1+\theta_2} \\ \mathfrak{t}_P^{\theta_1} \star \mathfrak{t}_P^{\theta_2} & \qquad \mathfrak{t}_P^{\theta_1+\theta_2} \\ & \qquad \qquad \mathfrak{S}_M^{\theta_1} \star \mathfrak{S}_M^{\theta_2} & \stackrel{m}{-\!\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!-\!\!\!\!-} \mathfrak{S}_M^{\theta_1+\theta_2}. \end{split}$$

Therefore, to each element of the set  $\mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{1})_{\nu_{1}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{2})_{\nu_{2}} \times \mathbf{C}^{M}(\nu_{1},\nu_{2})_{\nu}$  we can attach an irreducible component of dimension  $\langle \lambda_{1} + \lambda_{2} + \nu, \rho_{G}^{\vee} \rangle$  in  $(S_{P}^{\nu_{1}} \cap \mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda_{1}}) \star (S_{P}^{\nu_{2}} \cap \mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda_{2}})$ . By taking its closure in  $m^{-1}(S_{P}^{\nu}) \cap (\mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda_{1}} \star \mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda_{2}})$  we obtain an irreducible component of  $m^{-1}(S_{P}^{\nu}) \cap (\mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda_{1}} \star \mathcal{G}_{G}^{\lambda_{2}})$  and it is easy to see that the map we have just described is a bijection.

This proves our assertion.

Note now that for the torus T,  $\mathbf{C}^T(\mu_1, \mu_2)_{\mu} = \emptyset$  unless  $\mu_1 + \mu_2 = \mu$  and in the latter case this is the set of one element. Therefore, for M = T (5.1) yields the needed isomorphism

$$\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{1}) \times \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{2}) \stackrel{\mathbf{e}_{T}^{G}}{\simeq} \bigsqcup_{\lambda_{3} \in \Lambda_{G}^{+}} \mathbf{C}^{G}(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2})_{\lambda_{3}} \times \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{3}).$$

5.2. Compatibility of decompositions. Consider the set  $\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{1}) \times \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{2})$  which, as we have seen above, can be canonically identified with  $\bigsqcup_{\lambda_{3} \in \Lambda_{G}^{+}} \mathbf{C}^{G}(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2})_{\lambda_{3}} \times \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{3})$ .

There are a priori two different ways to identify this set with

$$\bigsqcup_{\nu_1,\nu_2\in\Lambda_M^+}\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda_1)_{\nu_1}\times\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda_2)_{\nu_2}\times\mathbf{B}^M(\nu_1)\times\mathbf{B}^M(\nu_2):$$

One is

$$\mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{1}) \times \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{2}) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{d}_{M}^{G} \times \mathbf{d}_{M}^{G}} \bigsqcup_{\nu_{1}, \nu_{2} \in \Lambda_{M}^{+}} \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{1})_{\nu_{1}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{2})_{\nu_{2}} \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu_{1}) \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu_{2}).$$

The other one is the composition

$$\bigsqcup_{\lambda_{3} \in \Lambda_{G}^{+}} \mathbf{C}^{G}(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2})_{\lambda_{3}} \times \mathbf{B}^{G}(\lambda_{3}) \stackrel{\mathbf{d}_{2}^{M}}{\simeq} \bigsqcup_{\lambda_{3} \in \Lambda_{G}^{+}; \nu \in \Lambda_{M}^{+}} \mathbf{C}^{G}(\lambda_{1}, \lambda_{2})_{\lambda_{3}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{3})_{\nu} \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu) \stackrel{\mathbf{e}_{M}^{G}}{\simeq}$$

$$\bigsqcup_{\nu_{1}, \nu_{2} \in \Lambda_{M}^{+}} \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{1})_{\nu_{1}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{2})_{\nu_{2}} \times \mathbf{C}^{M}(\nu_{1}, \nu_{2})_{\nu} \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu) \stackrel{\mathbf{e}_{T}^{M}}{\simeq}$$

$$\bigsqcup_{\nu_{1}, \nu_{2} \in \Lambda_{M}^{+}} \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{1})_{\nu_{1}} \times \mathbf{B}_{M}^{G}(\lambda_{2})_{\nu_{2}} \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu_{1}) \times \mathbf{B}^{M}(\nu_{1}).$$

However, it is easy to see from the construction that these two identifications coincide.

5.3. Reduction to PGL(2). We have established the isomorphism of sets

$$\bigsqcup_{\lambda_3 \in \Lambda_G^+} \mathbf{C}^G(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)_{\lambda_3} \times \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_3) \simeq \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_1) \times \mathbf{B}^G(\lambda_2)$$

and we must show that the  $e_i$  and  $f_i$  operations on both sides coincide.

For  $i \in I$  consider the corresponding parabolic  $P_i$ . We decompose the LHS as

sider the corresponding parabolic 
$$F_i$$
. We decompose the LHS
$$\bigsqcup_{\nu_1,\nu_2\in\Lambda_{M_i}^+} (\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda_1)_{\nu_1}\times\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda_2)_{\nu_2})\times (\mathbf{C}^M(\nu_1,\nu_2)_{\nu}\times\mathbf{B}^M(\nu))$$

and the RHS as

$$\bigsqcup_{\nu_1,\nu_2\in\Lambda_{M_i}^+} (\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda_1)_{\nu_1}\times\mathbf{B}_M^G(\lambda_2)_{\nu_2})\times(\mathbf{B}^M(\nu_1)\times\mathbf{B}^M(\nu_2)).$$

According to Sect. 5.2, these decompositions are compatible. By definition, in both cases, the  $e_i$  and  $f_i$  operations preserve these decompositions and act "along" the second multiple.

This observation reduces the assertion of Theorem 3.2 from G to  $M_i$ . In addition, it is easy to see that we can replace  $M_i$  by its adjoint group, i.e. it remains to analyze the case of G = PGL(2).

5.4. **Proof of Theorem 3.2 for** PGL(2). For G = PGL(2) we will identify  $\Lambda_G$  (resp.,  $\Lambda_G^+$ ) with  $\mathbb{Z}$  (resp., with  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ ). The positive root  $\alpha \in \Lambda_G$  corresponds to  $2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

Let  $l_1, l_2$  be two elements of  $\mathbb{Z}^+$ . The action of e and f breaks  $\mathbf{B}^G(l_1) \otimes \mathbf{B}^G(l_2)$  into orbits and it is sufficient to show that this decomposition coincides with

$$\mathbf{B}^G(l_1) \otimes \mathbf{B}^G(l_2) \simeq \bigsqcup_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^+} \mathbf{C}^G(l_1, l_2)_l \times \mathbf{B}^G(l)$$

(note that in this case each  $\mathbf{C}^G(l_1, l_2)_l$  has at most one element.)

For that end, it is sufficient to show that for  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  a generic point in  $(S^{m_1} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{l_1}) \star (S^{m_2} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{l_2})$  projects under the map  $m: \mathcal{G}_G \star \mathcal{G}_G \to \mathcal{G}_G$  to  $S^n$ , where

$$n = \max\{l_1 - m_2, m_1 + l_2\}.$$

For  $l \in \mathbb{Z}^+$  and  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the intersection  $S^m \cap \mathcal{G}_G^l$  is non–empty if only if  $l-m \in 2\mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $l \geq |m|$  and in the latter case it consists of cosets of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} t^m & t^{(m-l)/2} \cdot p(t) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot PGL(2, \mathbb{O}) \mid p(t) \in \mathbb{C}[[t]], \, p(0) \neq 0.$$

Therefore, the image of  $(S^{m_1} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{l_1}) \star (S^{m_2} \cap \mathcal{G}_G^{l_2})$  under m consists of cosets of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} t^{m_1+m_2} & t^{\max\{l_1-m_2,m_1+l_2\}} \cdot p(t) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot PGL(2,\mathfrak{O}) \mid p(t) \in \mathbb{C}[[t]], \, p(0) \neq 0.$$

This finishes the proof of Theorem 3.2.

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