

Problem Set 5

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1 4.3

Proposition 1.1.

Suppose $\lambda + \rho \in \Lambda^+$. Then $M(w \cdot \lambda) \subset M(\lambda)$ for all $w \in W$. Thus all $[M(\lambda) : L(w \cdot \lambda)] > 0$.

More precisely, if $w = s_n \cdots s_1$ is a reduced expression for w in terms of simple reflections corresponding to roots α_i , then there is a sequence of embeddings:

$$M(w \cdot \lambda) = M(\lambda_n) \subset M(\lambda_{n-1}) \subset \cdots \subset M(\lambda_0) = M(\lambda)$$

Here

$$\lambda_0 := \lambda, \lambda_k := s_k \cdot \lambda_{k-1} = (s_k \cdots s_1) \cdot \lambda \implies \lambda_n = s_n \cdot \lambda_{n-1} = w \cdot \lambda$$

$$w \cdot \lambda = \lambda_n \leq \lambda_{n-1} \leq \cdots \leq \lambda_0 = \lambda \text{ with } \langle \lambda_k + \rho, \alpha_{k+1}^\vee \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \text{ for } k = 0, \dots, n-1.$$

Assume $\lambda + \rho \in \Lambda^+$.

- Prove that the unique simple submodule of $M(\lambda)$ is isomorphic to $M(w_\diamond \cdot \lambda)$, where w_\diamond is the longest element of W .
- In case $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$, show that the inclusions obtained in the above proposition are all proper.

2 4.6

Theorem 2.1 (Verma).

Let $\lambda \in \mathfrak{h}^\vee$. Given $\alpha > 0$, suppose $\mu := s_\alpha \cdot \lambda \leq \lambda$. Then there exists an embedding $M(\mu) \subset M(\lambda)$.

Work through the steps of Verma's Theorem in the special case discussed in the previous problem

2.1 Solution

Let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$ and identify its root system A_2 with $\Delta = \{\alpha, \beta\}$ and $\Phi^+ = \{\alpha, \beta, \gamma := \alpha + \beta\}$. We can also identify the Weyl group as $W = \{1, s_\alpha, s_\beta, s_\alpha s_\beta, s_\beta s_\alpha, s_\gamma\}$ where there is a reduced expression $s_\gamma = w_0 = s_\alpha s_\beta s_\alpha$.

We can begin by letting $\lambda \in \Lambda$ be an arbitrary integral weight and let $\mu \neq \lambda$ be an arbitrary weight linked to λ , where WLOG apply some Weyl group element to μ to place it in the dominant chamber and assume

$$\mu := s_\alpha \cdot \lambda \leq \lambda.$$

2.1.1 Part 1

Since μ is assumed integral, we can find some $w \in W$ such that

$$\mu' := w^{-1} \cdot \mu \in \Lambda^+ - \rho.$$

Claim: $w = s_\alpha s_\beta$, and thus $s_\alpha s_\beta \cdot \mu' = \mu$ (and $w^{-1} = s_\beta s_\alpha$).

As in Proposition 4.3, we then write

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_0 &= \mu' \\ \mu_1 &= s_\beta \cdot \mu' \\ \mu_2 &= s_\alpha s_\beta \cdot \mu' = w \cdot \mu' = \mu \end{aligned}$$

which satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \mu &= \mu_2 \leq \mu_1 \leq \mu_0 = \mu' \\ \mu &= s_\alpha s_\beta \cdot \mu' \leq s_\beta \mu' \leq \mu'. \end{aligned}$$

which (by the proposition) gives a sequence of embeddings

$$\begin{aligned} M(\mu) &= M(\mu_2) \hookrightarrow M(\mu_1) \hookrightarrow M(\mu_0) = M(\mu') \\ &\text{i.e.} \\ M(\mu) &= M(s_\alpha s_\beta \cdot \mu') \hookrightarrow M(s_\beta \cdot \mu') \hookrightarrow M(\mu'). \end{aligned}$$

2.1.2 Step 2

We now define

$$\lambda' := w^{-1}\lambda = s_\beta s_\alpha \cdot \lambda$$

and the parallel list of weights

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_0 &= \lambda \\ \lambda_1 &= s_\beta \cdot \lambda \\ \lambda_2 &= s_\alpha s_\beta \cdot \lambda := \lambda'.\end{aligned}$$

We can similarly conclude that since $\lambda \neq \mu$, $\mu_k \neq \lambda_k$ for any k .

2.1.3 Step 3

3 4.11

In the case of $\mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$, what can be said at this point about Verma modules with a singular integral highest weight?

Aside from the trivial case $-\rho$, a typical linkage class has 3 elements. For example, if λ lies in the α hyperplane and is antidominant, the linked weights are λ , $s_\beta \cdot \lambda$, $s_\alpha s_\beta \cdot \lambda$.