

## The Model of Paths

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**Abstract:** In the present paper, we define a new kind of model of paths. Using this new model, we obtain the well-known first Weyl character formula and prove the decomposition theorem of the tensor product of two simple modules over a Kac-Moody algebra.

**Keywords:** Affine Lie algebras, Weyl formula, path model.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of the present paper is to introduce a new path model. This new path model consists of Littelmann's paths([5,6]) and a new kind of operators acting on Littelmann's paths. This newly defined operator is called tail-flip operator. Using the tail-flip operator, one can obtain the first Weyl formula and the tensor product decomposition theorem of two simple modules over a Kac-Moody algebra, without using the theory of  $LS$  paths.

To be more precise, let  $\alpha$  be a real root of a symmetric "nontwisted" affine Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$ ,  $\pi$  be a piecewise linear path in the space  $\mathcal{X}$  spanned over the rational number field by the weights of the affine Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$ . We use  $[0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  to denote the set  $\{x|x \text{ is a rational number}, 0 \leq x \leq 1\}$ . Define a tail-flip operator  $T_{\alpha, x}$  for any  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  as follows.

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If  $(\pi(x), \check{\alpha})$  is an integer, and either  $(\pi(t), \check{\alpha}) \geq (\pi(x), \check{\alpha})$  for  $t \geq x$  or  $x = 0$ , then

$$T_{\alpha,x}(\pi)(t) = \begin{cases} \pi(t), & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq x \\ \pi(x) + s_{\alpha}(\pi(t) - \pi(x)), & \text{for } x \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

Otherwise,  $T_{\alpha,x}(\pi)(t) = 0$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]$ . If  $\alpha = \alpha_i$  is a simple root, then we usually use  $T_{i,x}$  to denote the operator  $T_{\alpha_i,x}$ .

Let  $B$  be a set of piecewise linear paths, which is stable under the action of tail-flip operators  $T_{i,x}$  for all  $i$  and all rational number  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Define  $CharB := \sum_{\eta \in B} e^{\eta(1)}$  formally. We call  $CharB$  the character of  $B$ . For example, let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the algebra generated by all operators  $T_{i,x}$  over the integer number ring  $\mathbf{Z}$ , let  $\pi = t\lambda$ ,  $t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ , for some dominant weight  $\lambda$ . If  $B$  is the set of all paths contained in  $\mathcal{B}\pi$ , then  $CharB$  is the character formula of a simple module with highest weight  $\lambda$ . This result is proved in Proposition 4.1. Suppose  $\rho$  is a weight satisfying  $(\rho, \alpha_i) = 1$  for all simple roots  $\alpha_i$ . Then the character of  $B$  can be computed by using the the Weyl group  $\overline{W}$  of the Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$  in the following way.

**Theorem(1)** *Let  $\Pi_0^+$  be the set of the piecewise linear paths such that  $Im\eta$  is in the interior of  $\mathcal{C}$  (for  $t > 0$ ), where  $\mathcal{C}$  is the Tits cone of a nontwisted affine Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$ . Suppose  $B$  is a set of piecewise linear paths, which is stable under the action of  $T_{i,x}$  for all rational number  $x \in [0, 1]$  and simple roots  $\alpha_i$  of  $\mathcal{G}'$ . Then*

$$\left(\sum_{w \in \overline{W}} sgn(w)e^{w(\rho)}\right)CharB = \sum_{\eta \in B, \rho \otimes \eta \in \Pi_0^+} \left(\sum_{w \in \overline{W}} sgn(w)e^{w(\rho+\eta(1))}\right).$$

(2) *For any dominant weight  $\mu$ , let  $V_{\mu}$  be the corresponding irreducible  $\mathcal{G}'$ -representation with highest weight  $\mu$ , then*

$$CharB = \sum_{\eta \in B, \rho \otimes \eta \in \Pi_0^+} CharV_{\eta(1)}.$$

The formula  $(\sum_{w \in \overline{W}} sgn(w)e^{w(\rho)})CharB = \sum_{\eta \in B, \rho \otimes \eta \in \Pi_0^+} (\sum_{w \in \overline{W}} sgn(w) \cdot e^{w(\rho+\eta(1))})$  is called the first Weyl character formula. We will prove this theorem by using tail-flip operators.

Finally, let us give a brief outline of this paper. In Section 2, we review some basic facts related to root systems of a nontwisted affine Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$  ([3,p.96]). In Section 3, we define a kind of tail-flip operators on piecewise linear paths without any restriction on the paths and roots. We call this kind of operators absolute tail-flip. We obtain some properties of these operators, and compare these operators with the root operators defined by Littelmann. In Section 4, we prove the above mentioned theorem.

## 2. NOTATION

Let  $I = \{1, \dots, l\}$  and  $A = (a_{ij})_{l \times l}$ , where  $A$  is the Cartan matrix of some finite dimensional simple Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}$  over the complex field  $\mathbf{C}$ . Fix a Cartan subalgebra  $\mathcal{H} \subseteq \mathcal{G}$ . Let  $\{\alpha_i, i = 1, \dots, l\}$  ( respectively,  $\{\check{\alpha}_i, i = 1, \dots, l\}$ ) be the basis of  $\mathcal{H}^*$  ( respectively, of  $\mathcal{H}$ , such that  $\check{\alpha}_i(\alpha_j) = a_{ij}$ . We also denote  $\check{\alpha}_i(\alpha_j)$  by  $(\alpha_j, \check{\alpha}_i)$ ). Define the fundamental weight  $\omega_i \in \mathcal{H}^*$  of  $\mathcal{G}$  by  $\omega_i(\alpha_j) = \delta_{ij}$ , where  $\delta_{ij}$  is the Kronecker's symbol. Let  $P_0$  be the free abelian group generated by  $\omega_i, i = 1, \dots, l$ . Let  $\theta = \sum_{i=1}^l a_i \alpha_i$  be the highest root of  $\mathcal{G}$  with respect to  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\check{\theta} = \sum_{i=1}^l a_i \check{\alpha}_i$  the corresponding coroot.

Set  $I' = I \cup \{0\}$  and let  $A' = (a_{ij})_{i,j \in I'}$  be the generalized Cartan matrix of the "nontwisted" affine Lie algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$  associated with  $\mathcal{G}$  ([3,p.96]). As a vector space,

$$\mathcal{G}' = \mathcal{G} \otimes_{\mathbf{C}} \mathbf{C}[t, t^{-1}] \oplus \mathbf{C}c \oplus \mathbf{C}\partial,$$

where  $c$  is the canonical central element and  $ad\partial = t \frac{d}{dt}$ . Then  $\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H} \oplus \mathbf{C}c \oplus \mathbf{C}\partial$  is a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathcal{G}'$ . Let  $\alpha_0 = c - \theta$ . Define  $\delta \in \mathcal{H}'^*$  by  $\delta(\partial) = 1$  and  $\delta(\mathcal{H} \oplus \mathbf{C}c) = 0$ . Denote  $\alpha_0 = \delta - \theta$ . Then  $\{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_l\}$  (respectively,  $\{\check{\alpha}_0, \check{\alpha}_1, \dots, \check{\alpha}_l\}$ ) is a set of simple roots of  $\mathcal{G}'$  (respectively, coroots of  $\mathcal{G}'$ ). Notice that  $\delta(\check{\alpha}_i) = \alpha_i(c) = 0$  for  $i = 0, \dots, l$ .

Define the fundamental weights  $\bar{\omega}_i \in \mathcal{H}'^*$  of  $\mathcal{G}'$  by  $\bar{\omega}_i(\alpha_j) = \delta_{i,j}$  and  $\bar{\omega}_i(\partial) = \delta_{i,0}$  for  $i \in I'$ . Let  $P$  be the free abelian group generated by  $\bar{\omega}_i, i \in I'$ . Set  $\bar{P} = P \oplus \mathbf{Z}\delta$ , where  $\mathbf{Z}$  is the ring of integer number. Let  $\iota(\omega_i) = \bar{\omega}_i - a_i \bar{\omega}_0$ . Then  $\iota$  is an embedding map from  $P_0$  to  $P$ . Identify  $P_0$  with its image inside  $P$  which in turn coincides with the set  $\{\lambda \in P | \lambda(c) = 0\}$ . Let  $\xi : \bar{P} \rightarrow \bar{P}/\mathbf{Z}\delta$  be the canonical projection. Notice that  $P$  can be identified with  $\bar{P}/\mathbf{Z}\delta$  and  $\xi(\alpha_0) = -\theta$ .

For all  $i \in I'$  define an elementary reflection  $s_i \in \text{Aut}\mathcal{H}'^*$  by  $s_i(\lambda) = \lambda - \lambda(\alpha_i^\vee)\alpha_i$ , where  $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}'^*$ . The Weyl group  $\overline{W}$  of  $\mathcal{G}'$  (respectively,  $W$  of  $\mathcal{G}$ ) identifies with the group generated by  $s_i: i \in I'$  (respectively,  $i \in I$ ). The set of roots of  $\mathcal{G}'$  is a disjoint union of the set of real roots  $\cup_{i \in I'} \overline{W}\alpha_i$  and imaginary roots  $\mathbf{Z}\delta \setminus \{0\}$ . We use  $\Phi^+$  to denote the set of all positive roots of  $\mathcal{G}'$ . For any real root  $\beta$ , let  $\beta^\vee = \frac{2}{(\beta, \beta)}\beta$  be the corresponding coroot of  $\beta$ . The reflection  $s_\beta$  is defined via  $s_\beta(\lambda) = \lambda - \lambda(\beta^\vee)\beta$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}'^*$ . Observe that  $s_0 = s_\theta$  as an automorphism of  $P$  and so we can identify  $\overline{W}$  with  $W$ , whenever we consider the action of  $\overline{W}$  acting on  $P$ .

### 3. PATHS AND ROOTS

3.1 Given  $a, b \in \mathbf{Q}$  the rational number field, set  $[a, b]_{\mathbf{Q}} := \{x \in \mathbf{Q} | a \leq x \leq b\}$ . Let  $\lambda$  be an integral weight. For  $\mu, \nu \in \overline{W}\lambda$  write  $\nu \geq \mu$  if there exists a sequence of weights  $\nu = \nu_0, \nu_1, \dots, \nu_s = \mu$  and positive real roots  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_s$  such that  $\nu_i = s_{\beta_i}\nu_{i-1}$  and  $(\nu_{i-1}, \beta_i^\vee) < 0$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ . Then  $\nu > \mu$  means that  $\nu \geq \mu$  and  $\nu \neq \mu$ . If  $\nu > \mu$ , then define  $\text{dist}(\nu, \mu)$  to be the maximal length  $s$  of all possible such sequences. Let  $a \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  be a rational number. An  $a$ -chain for  $(\mu, \nu)$  is a sequence  $\mu = \lambda_0 > \lambda_1 > \dots > \lambda_s = \nu$  of weights in  $\overline{W}\lambda$  such that either  $s = 0$  and  $\mu = \lambda_0 = \nu$  or  $\lambda_i = s_{\beta_i}(\lambda_{i-1})$  for some positive real roots  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_s$ , and  $\text{dist}(\lambda_{i-1}, \lambda_i) = 1$ , and  $a(\lambda_{i-1}, \beta_i^\vee) \in \mathbf{Z}$  for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s$ . For a sequence  $\nu_1 > \nu_2 > \dots > \nu_s$  of weights in  $\overline{W}\lambda$ , and a sequence  $a_0 = 0 < a_1 < \dots < a_s = 1$  of rational numbers in  $[0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ , define a path as follows:

$$\pi(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{j-1} (a_i - a_{i-1})\nu_i + (t - a_{j-1})\nu_j,$$

for  $a_{j-1} \leq t \leq a_j$ . This path is called an  $LS$ -path if for all  $i = 1, 2, \dots, s - 1$  there exists an  $a_i$ -chain for  $(\nu_{i-1}, \nu_i)$ . An  $LS$ -path is a piecewise linear path. Let  $\overline{\Pi}$  (respectively,  $\Pi$ ) be the set of all piecewise linear paths  $\pi : [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}} \rightarrow \overline{P} \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$  (respectively,  $P \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$ ). Unlike the references, e.g. [5,6,7], we consider the same path with different parameterizations as different paths. It is obvious that  $\Pi \subseteq \overline{\Pi}$ . Let  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$ ) be the free  $\mathbf{Z}$ -module with basis  $\overline{\Pi}$  (respectively,  $\Pi$ ). Then  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$  is a submodule of  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$ . For each  $i \in I'$  and any  $\pi \in \overline{\Pi}$  or  $\Pi$ , define a function

$$h_{\pi,i}(t) = (\pi(t), \alpha_i^\vee), \quad t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}.$$

Let  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  be any rational number. We define a linear operator  $\tau_{i,x}$  on  $\mathbf{Z}\bar{\Pi}$  or  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$  as follows.

$$\tau_{i,x}(\pi)(t) = \begin{cases} \pi(t), & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq x \\ h_{\pi,i}(x)\alpha_i + s_i(\pi), & \text{for } x \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases},$$

where  $\pi \in \mathbf{Z}\bar{\Pi}$  or  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$ . We call  $\tau_{i,x}$  an absolute tail-flip operator determined by the simple root  $\alpha_i$  at  $x$ , simply tail-flip operator. The following proposition is easily obtained from the definition.

**Proposition 3.1.** (1)  $\tau_{i,x}\tau_{i,y} = \tau_{i,y}\tau_{i,x}$ , for any  $x, y \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ ;

(2)  $\tau_{i,x}\tau_{i,x} = id$ ;

(3)  $\tau_{i,x}(\pi)(1) = \pi(1) + (h_{\pi,i}(x) - h_{\pi,i}(1))\alpha_i$ .

Notice that all paths in this paper are piecewise linear paths defined on  $[0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ .

3.2 Let  $m = \min\{h_{\pi,i}(t) | t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}\}$  be the absolute minimal value of the function  $h_{\pi,i}(t)$ . Suppose  $L$  is the integral part of  $h_{\pi,i}(0) - m$  and  $M$  the integral part of  $h_{\pi,i}(1) - m$ . Then one can define the following operators after Littelmann ([5],[6]).

**Definition 3.1.** (1) If  $L \leq 0$ , then set  $E_i(\pi) = 0$ , otherwise  $E_i(\pi) = \tau_{i,t_1}\tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)$ , where  $t_0$  is minimal such that  $h_{\pi,i}(t_0) = m$  and  $t_1 < t_0$  is maximal with  $h_{\pi,i}(t_1) = m + 1$ .

(2) If  $M \leq 0$ , then let  $F_i(\pi) = 0$ , otherwise  $F_i(\pi) = \tau_{i,t_1}\tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)$ , where  $t_0$  is maximal such that  $h_{\pi,i}(t_0) = m$  and  $t_1 > t_0$  is minimal with  $h_{\pi,i}(t_1) = m + 1$ .

If the piecewise linear path  $\pi$  satisfies  $\pi(0) = 0$  and  $m$  is an integral number, then  $E_i(\pi) = e_{\alpha_i}(\pi)$  and  $F_i(\pi) = f_{\alpha_i}(\pi)$ , where  $e_{\alpha_i}, f_{\alpha_i}$  are the root operators defined in [5].

3.3 After Littelmann, we call  $\pi(1)$  the weight of the path  $\pi$ . The weight of the path  $\pi$  is denoted by  $v(\pi)$ . The following lemma is similar to [5, Lemma 1.4] and [6, Lemma 2.1], so we omit its proof.

**Lemma 3.2.** (1) If  $E_i(\pi) \neq 0$ , then  $v(E_i(\pi)) = v(\pi) + \alpha_i$  and if  $F_i(\pi) \neq 0$ , then  $v(F_i(\pi)) = v(\pi) - \alpha_i$ .

(2) If  $E_i(\pi) \neq 0$ , then  $E_i(\pi)(0) = \pi(0)$  and if  $F_i(\pi) \neq 0$ , then  $F_i(\pi)(0) = \pi(0)$ .

(3) Let  $\rho \in \overline{P}$  be such that  $(\rho, \alpha_i) = 1$  for  $i \in I'$ , then  $E_i(\pi) = 0$  for all  $i \in I'$  if and only if the path  $\pi + \rho - \pi(0)$  is completely contained in the interior of the dominant Weyl chamber,  $F_i(\pi) = 0$  for all  $i \in I'$  if and only if the path  $\pi + \rho - \pi(1)$  is completely contained in the interior of the dominant Weyl chamber.

(4) If  $\pi' \neq 0$  is a second path, then  $E_i(\pi) = \pi'$  if and only if  $F_i(\pi') = \pi$ .

3.4 Let  $L, M$  be defined as at the beginning of Section 3.2. Suppose both  $L$  and  $M$  are larger than zero. For any integer  $r$  between 0 and  $L$  (respectively,  $M$ ), set  $m_r = \min\{h_{E_i^r(\pi),i}(t) | t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}\}$  (respectively,  $m_r = \min\{h_{F_i^r(\pi),i}(t) | t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}\}$ ). Let  $t_r \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  be the minimal (resp. maximal) rational numbers satisfying  $h_{E_i^r(\pi),i}(t_r) = m_r$ . Then the following proposition holds (we make the convention that  $F_i^0 = E_i^0 = id$ ):

**Proposition 3.2.** *For any  $i \in I'$  and  $\pi \in \overline{\Pi}$  or  $\Pi$ , the following statements hold:*

- (1) *The integral part of  $h_{E_i^r(\pi),i}(0) - m_r$  is equal to  $L - r$  for  $r = 0, \dots, L$ .*
- (2) *The integral part of  $h_{F_i^r(\pi),i}(1) - m_r$  is equal to  $M - r$  for  $r = 0, \dots, M$ .*
- (3)  *$E_i^r(\pi) = \tau_{i,t_r} \tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)$ , for  $r = 0, \dots, L$ .*
- (4)  *$F_i^r(\pi) = \tau_{i,t_r} \tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)$ , for  $r = 0, \dots, M$ .*

*Proof.* We only give the proof of (1) and (4). One can prove (2) and (3) similarly.

(1) We shall use induction on  $r$ . Suppose that statement is true on  $r$ , i.e., the integral part  $h_{E_i^r(\pi),i}(0) - m_r$  is equal to  $L - r$ . Since  $E_i^{r+1}(\pi) = E_i(E_i^r(\pi))$ ,  $E_i^{r+1}(\pi)(0)$  is equal to  $E_i^r(\pi)(0)$  by Lemma 3.2. Hence  $h_{E_i^{r+1}(\pi),i}(0) = h_{E_i^r(\pi),i}(0)$ . It is obvious that  $m_{r+1} = m_r + 1$ . So  $h_{E_i^{r+1}(\pi),i}(0) - m_{r+1} = h_{E_i^r(\pi),i}(0) - m_r - 1$ . Consequently the integral part of  $h_{E_i^{r+1}(\pi),i}(0) - m_{r+1}$  is equal to  $L - r - 1$ .

(4) Again we shall use induction on  $r$ . Assume that the statement holds for  $r \in \mathbf{N}$ . Then  $F_i^{r+1}(\pi) = F_i(F_i^r(\pi)) = F_i(\tau_{i,t_r} \tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)) = \tau_{i,t_{r+1}} \tau_{i,t_r}(\tau_{i,t_r} \tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)) = \tau_{i,t_{r+1}} \tau_{i,t_0}(\pi)$  via the induction hypothesis and Proposition 3.1. □

3.5 Let  $\Pi_{int}$  be the set of all piecewise paths satisfying  $\pi(0) = 0$  and  $\pi(1) \in \overline{P}$ . Let  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi_{int}$  be a  $\mathbf{Z}$  module with the basis  $\Pi_{int}$ . For any  $\mathbf{Z}$  module  $M$ , the set of endomorphisms of  $M$  is denoted by  $EndM$ .

Suppose  $\pi$  is a piecewise path such that  $\pi(0) = 0$ ,  $n := (\pi(1), \alpha_i)$  is an integer. If  $n \geq 0$ , then there exists  $y \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  maximal with  $h_{\pi,i}(y) = m$ , the absolute

minimum of  $h_{\pi,i}$ . Let  $q > y$  be maximal such that  $h_{\pi,i}(q) = m + n$ . If  $n < 0$ , then there exist  $x, p \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  such that  $x$  is minimal with  $h_{\pi,i}(x) = m$  and  $p < x$  maximal with  $h_{\pi,i}(p) = m - n$ . Define  $\tilde{S}_i(\pi)$  as follows:

$$\tilde{S}_i(\pi) = \begin{cases} \tau_{i,y}\tau_{i,q}(\pi), & \text{for } n \geq 0 \\ \tau_{i,x}\tau_{i,p}(\pi), & \text{for } n < 0 \end{cases}$$

Then  $\tilde{S}_i^2 = id$ . Using the above propositions and [6, Theorem 8.1], one can easily prove that the map  $\psi$ , which is defined via  $\psi(s_i) = \tilde{S}_i$  on the simple reflections in Weyl group  $\overline{W}$ , can be extended to a representation  $\overline{W} \rightarrow \text{End}\mathbf{Z}\Pi_{int}$  such that  $w(\pi)(1) = w(\pi(1))$  for  $\pi \in \Pi_{int}$  and  $w \in \overline{W}$ .

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $\pi$  be an LS path such that  $v(\pi)$  is a weight of some  $\mathcal{G}'$ -module  $V$ . Assume there is a rational number  $u$  such that  $h_{\pi,i}(u)$  is an integer number, and  $h_{\pi,i}(u) \leq h_{\pi,i}(t)$  for all  $t \geq u$ . Then  $v(\tau_{i,u}(\pi))$  is a weight of  $V$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $n := (\pi(1), \alpha_i)$  be the integral number. From the above discussion, we know that  $s_i(\pi)(1) = \pi(1) - n\alpha_i$  is a weight of  $V$ . If  $n > 0$ , then  $h_{\pi,i}(y) = m \leq h_{\pi,i}(u) \leq h_{\pi,i}(t) \leq n$  implies  $0 \leq n - h_{\pi,i}(u) \leq n - m$ . By [6, Lemma 2.1],  $v(f_{\alpha_i}^{n-m}(\pi)) = \pi(1) - (n - m)\alpha_i$  is a weight of  $V$ . Since  $v(\tau_{i,u}(\pi)) = \pi(1) - (n - h_{\pi,i}(u))\alpha_i$ , it is a weight of  $V$  by [3, Proposition 3.6]. If  $n \leq 0$ , then  $m = h_{\pi,i}(x) \leq h_{\pi,i}(u) \leq n$  by the assumption. From this we get  $m - n \leq h_{\pi,i}(u) - n \leq 0$ . Then  $v(e_{\alpha_i}^{n-m}(\pi)) = \pi(1) - (m - n)\alpha_i$  is a weight of  $V$  by [6, Lemma 2.1]. Hence  $v(\tau_{i,u}(\pi)) = \pi(1) - (n - h_{\pi,i}(u))\alpha_i$  is a weight of  $V$ .  $\square$

3.6 For any path  $\pi \in \overline{\Pi}$  (or  $\Pi$ ), denote by  $\pi^*(t) = -\pi(1 - t)$  the dual path of  $\pi$ . The vector space  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$  and  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  are algebras under the product  $\otimes$  defined as

$$\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2(t) := \begin{cases} \pi_1(2t), & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \pi_1(1) + \pi_2(2t - 1), & \text{for } \frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

It is obvious that  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  and  $*$  is an involution of the algebra  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  (or  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$ ).

Let  $\mathcal{A}_t$  be the algebra generated by all tail-flip operators  $\tau_{i,x}$  over  $\mathbf{Z}$ . Then  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$  become  $\mathcal{A}_t$  modules respectively. View  $\overline{P}_{\mathbf{Q}} := \overline{P} \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$  or  $P_{\mathbf{Q}} := P \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Q}$  as constant paths. Then  $\overline{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}$  (respect.  $P_{\mathbf{Q}}$ ) becomes an  $\mathcal{A}_t$  submodule of  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$ ). This submodule is stable under the operators  $E'_i s$  and  $F'_i s$ . Let us use  $\mathcal{A}_e$  (respectively,  $\mathcal{A}_f$ ) to denote the algebra generated by  $E'_i s$  (respectively,  $F'_i s$ ). Then  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}/\overline{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi/P_{\mathbf{Q}}$  are modules over  $\mathcal{A}_e$  and  $\mathcal{A}_f$ . Suppose  $\mathcal{A}$

is the algebra generated by  $\mathcal{A}_e \cup \mathcal{A}_f$ . Then  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}/\overline{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi/P_{\mathbf{Q}}$  are also modules over  $\mathcal{A}$ , which can be identified with the path model in [5]. Obviously,  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}/\overline{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}$  and  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi/P_{\mathbf{Q}}$  can be viewed as a submodule of  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi$ ) generated by all piecewise linear paths starting from 0. To simplify the notation, we use  $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$  (respectively,  $\mathcal{P}$ ) to denote the factor module  $\mathbf{Z}\overline{\Pi}/\overline{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}$  (respectively,  $\mathbf{Z}\Pi/P_{\mathbf{Q}}$ ). The image of a path  $\pi$  in  $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$  (respectively,  $\mathcal{P}$ ) is still denoted by  $\pi$ .

**Proposition 3.4.** *For any  $\pi \in \overline{\mathcal{P}}$  or  $\mathcal{P}$ , and any  $i \in I'$ , the following statements hold.*

- (1)  $\tau_{i,x}(\pi^*) = (\tau_{i,1-x}(\pi))^*$ .
- (2)  $\tau_{i,1-x}(\tau_{i,x}(\pi)^*) = s_i(\pi)$ .
- (3)  $E_i(\pi^*) = F_i(\pi)^*$  and  $F_i(\pi^*) = E_i(\pi)^*$ .

3.7 Following Greenstein and Lampron ([2]), we use  $\xi$  to denote the canonical projection from  $\overline{P}$  to  $\overline{P}/\mathbf{Z}\delta$ . Define  $(\Xi\pi)(t) := \xi(\pi(t))$  for any  $\pi \in \overline{\mathcal{P}}$  and any  $t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . By the following proposition,  $\Xi$  is an  $\mathcal{A}_t$  ( $\mathcal{A}_e, \mathcal{A}_f, \mathcal{A}$ ) module homomorphism from  $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$  to  $\mathcal{P}$ .

**Proposition 3.5.** *For any  $\pi \in \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ , and any  $i \in I'$ ,  $\Xi(\tau_{i,x}(\pi)) = \tau_{i,x}(\Xi(\pi))$ . Consequently,  $\Xi(E_i(\pi)) = E_i(\Xi(\pi))$  and  $\Xi(F_i(\pi)) = F_i(\Xi(\pi))$ .*

*Proof.* The proof of  $\Xi(E_i(\pi)) = E_i(\Xi(\pi))$  and  $\Xi(F_i(\pi)) = F_i(\Xi(\pi))$  has been given in [2]. We only need to prove that  $\Xi(\tau_{i,x}(\pi)) = \tau_{i,x}(\Xi(\pi))$ . The proof is similar to the proof of [2, Lemma 5.6]. □

#### 4. A FIRST CHARACTER FORMULA

For any piecewise linear path  $\pi \in \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ , the submodule  $\mathcal{A}_t\pi$ , which is generated by the path  $\pi$  over  $\mathcal{A}_t$ , unlike  $\mathcal{A}\pi$ , contains too many paths for our purpose to prove the Weyl character formula. So we need to define new "tail-flip" operators to cut down the number of paths. Let  $h_{\pi,i}(t)$  be the function defined in Section 3.

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\pi$  be a piecewise linear path and  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Then we define  $T_{i,x}(\pi)$  as follows:

In the case  $h_{\pi,i}(x)$  is not an integer, then  $T_{i,x}(\pi) = 0$ :



In the case  $h_{\pi,i}(x) > h_{\pi,i}(t)$  for some  $t > x$  and  $x \neq 0$ , then  $T_{i,x}(\pi) = 0$ ;

In the case  $x = 0, T_{i,0}(\pi) = s_i(\pi)$ ;

In the case  $h_{\pi,i}(x)$  is an integer,  $h_{\pi,i}(x) \leq h_{\pi,i}(t)$  for  $t > x$ , then

$$T_{i,x}(\pi)(t) = \begin{cases} \pi(t), & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq x \\ h_{\pi,i}(x)\alpha_i + s_i(\pi), & \text{for } x \leq t \leq 1. \end{cases}$$

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the algebra generated by  $\{T_{i,x} | i \in I', x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}\}$  over  $\mathbf{Z}$ , and  $\mathcal{B}_m$  be the monoid generated by  $\{T_{i,x} | i \in I', x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}\}$ . Since  $\mathcal{B}$  is a subalgebra of  $\mathcal{A}_t$ ,  $\overline{\mathcal{P}}$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  become  $\mathcal{B}$  modules. For any piecewise linear path  $\pi$ , the module generated by  $\pi$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{B}\pi$ , and the set of all paths contained in  $\mathcal{B}\pi$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{B}(\pi)$ . It is obvious that  $\mathcal{B}(\pi) = \{b\pi | b \in \mathcal{B}_m\}$ .

**Example** Let  $\mathcal{T}$  be the group generated by  $\{T_{i,0} | i \in I'\}$ . Then  $\mathcal{T}\pi = \overline{W}\pi$  for any path  $\pi$ , where  $(w(\pi))(t) := w(\pi(t))$  for  $t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . So  $\sum_{\eta \in B} e^{\eta(1)}$  is stable under the action of the Weyl group  $\overline{W}$ , whenever the set of paths  $B$  is stable under the action of  $\mathcal{B}_m$ .

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $\pi_\lambda(t) = t\lambda$ ,  $t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ , where  $\lambda$  is a dominant weight. If  $B$  is the set of all paths contained in  $\mathcal{B}\pi_\lambda$ , then  $Char B$  is the character formula of a simple module with highest weight  $\lambda$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\pi$  is a piecewise linear path such that  $\pi(0) = 0$  and  $\pi(1)$  is an integral weight. Then there exists  $y \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  maximal with  $h_{\pi,i}(y) = m$ , the absolute minimum of  $h_{\pi,i}$ . Let  $q > y$  be maximal such that  $h_{\pi,i}(q) = m + 1$ . Similarly, there exist  $x, p \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  such that  $x$  is minimal with  $h_{\pi,i}(x) = m$  and  $p < x$  maximal with  $h_{\pi,i}(p) = m + 1$ . From the definition, we get  $e_{\alpha_i}(\pi) = T_{0,i}T_{p,i}T_{0,i}T_{x,i}(\pi)$  and  $f_{\alpha_i}(\pi) = T_{0,i}T_{q,i}T_{0,i}T_{y,i}(\pi)$ . Thus every set of paths, which is stable under the action of all tail-flip operators, is also stable under the action of all root operators defined in [5,6,7].

On the other hand, suppose  $V_\lambda$  is a simple  $\mathcal{G}'$ -module determined by a dominant weight  $\lambda$ . Then  $\eta(1)$  is a weight of  $V_\lambda$  for any piecewise linear path  $\eta$  in  $\mathcal{B}\pi_\lambda$  by Proposition 3.3. Thus  $Char V_\lambda = \sum_{\eta \in B} e^{\eta(1)}$ . □

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $\pi$  be a piecewise linear path satisfying  $(\pi(t)|\delta) = 1$  for all  $t \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Then the rank of  $\mathcal{B}\pi$  is finite.*

*Proof.* To prove this proposition, we use the theory of galleries ([1]). Notice that  $\overline{W}$  can be viewed as a group generated by the affine reflections  $s_{i,k}$ , where  $s_{i,k}(\lambda) = s_i(\lambda) + k\alpha_i$  for all  $k \in \mathbf{Z}$  and  $i \in I'$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathcal{H}'^*$  ([3]). The hyperplanes  $H_{\alpha,k} := \{\lambda \in \mathcal{H}'^* | (\lambda, \check{\alpha}) = k\}$  for  $\alpha \in \Phi^+$  subdivide the real vector space  $\mathcal{H}'^*$  into open regions, called alcoves. Each alcove  $A$  is given by  $A = \{\lambda \in \mathcal{H}'^* | m_\alpha < (\lambda, \check{\alpha}) < m_\alpha + 1, \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi^+\}$ , where  $m_\alpha$  are some integral numbers. Following Gaussent and Littelmann, a gallery of alcoves of length  $r$  is a sequence  $(\Delta_0, \dots, \Delta_r)$  of alcoves such that  $\Delta_i$  and  $\Delta_{i+1}$  are adjacent for  $1 \leq i \leq r$ . Every piecewise path can be contained in one of such gallery. Suppose  $\pi$  is contained in a gallery  $(\Delta_0, \dots, \Delta_r)$ . If the alcoves  $\Delta_t$  and  $\Delta_{t+1}$  have a common face on the hyperplane  $H_{i,m} = \{\lambda | (\lambda, \check{\alpha}) = m\}$ , where  $m = h_{\pi,i}(x)$ , then  $T_{x,i}(\pi)$  is contained in the gallery  $(\Delta'_0, \dots, \Delta'_r)$ , where  $\Delta'_i = \Delta_i$  for  $i = 0, 1, \dots, t$ , and  $\Delta'_j = s_{i,m}(\Delta_j)$  for  $j = t + 1, \dots, r$ . For any piecewise path  $\pi$  satisfying  $(\pi(t)|\delta) = 1$ , we can choose these galleries  $(\Delta_0, \dots, \Delta_r)$  containing the path  $\pi$  with  $r$  minimal. Then the number of such galleries is finite. Thus, the number of galleries containing all paths  $T_{x_1,i_1} \cdots T_{x_j,i_j}(\pi)$  with minimal length are finite too. So the rank of  $\mathcal{B}\pi$  is finite.  $\square$

Recall that the product of two paths  $\pi_1, \pi_2$  is defined as follows:

$$\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2(t) := \begin{cases} \pi_1(2t), & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \pi_1(1) + \pi(2t - 1), & \text{for } \frac{1}{2} \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}.$$

We define  $\pi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \pi_k := (\pi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \pi_{k-1}) \otimes \pi_k$  inductively if  $k > 2$ . If  $X_i (i = 1, 2, \dots, k)$  are sets of paths, then  $X_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes X_k := \{\pi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \pi_k | \pi_i \in X_i\}$ . We use  $\mathcal{A}_t(\pi)$  to denote the set of all paths contained in the module  $\mathcal{A}_t\pi$ .

**Proposition 4.3.** *Let  $\pi_1 \cdots \pi_r \in \overline{\mathcal{P}}$ , or  $\mathcal{P}$  such that  $\pi = \pi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \pi_r$ . Then*

- (1)  $\mathcal{A}_t(\pi) = \mathcal{A}_t(\pi_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{A}_t(\pi_r)$ .
- (2)  $\mathcal{B}(\pi) \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_r)$ .

*Proof.* (1) To simplify the notation, we give only the proof for the case  $r = 2$ , the proof for  $r > 2$  is similar. For any  $0 \leq x < \frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\tau_{i,x}(\pi) = \tau_{i,x}(\pi_1) \otimes \tau_{i,\frac{1}{2}}(\pi_2)$ . If  $x \geq \frac{1}{2}$ , then  $\tau_{i,x}(\pi) = \pi_1 \otimes \tau_{i,2x-1}(\pi_2)$ . So  $\mathcal{A}_t(\pi) \subseteq \mathcal{A}_t(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{A}_t(\pi_2)$ . On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \tau_{i_1,x_1} \cdots \tau_{i_k,x_k}(\pi_1) \otimes \tau_{j_1,y_1} \cdots \tau_{j_s,y_s}(\pi_2) \\ &= \tau_{i_1,\frac{1}{2}x_1} \cdots \tau_{i_k,\frac{1}{2}x_k} \tau_{j_1,\frac{1}{2}(2y_1+1)} \cdots \tau_{j_s,\frac{1}{2}(2y_s+1)}(\pi) \end{aligned}$$

for any  $\tau_{i_1, x_1} \cdots \tau_{i_k, x_k}(\pi_1) \in \mathcal{A}_t \pi_1$ , and  $\tau_{j_1, y_1} \cdots \tau_{j_s, y_s}(\pi_2) \in \mathcal{A}_t \pi_2$ . Hence  $\mathcal{A}_t(\pi) \supseteq \mathcal{A}_t(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{A}_t(\pi_2)$  and (1) holds.

(2) Similarly to (1), we only give the proof for the case  $r = 2$ . If  $T_{i,x}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) = 0$ , then  $T_{i,x}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ . In the following, we assume that  $T_{i,x}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) \neq 0$ . In the case  $x = 0$ ,  $T_{i,0}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) = T_{i,0}(\pi_1) \otimes T_{i,0}(\pi_2) \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ ; In the case  $0 < x \leq \frac{1}{2}$ , since  $h_{\pi_1, i}(x) \leq h_{\pi_1, i}(t)$  for  $t > x$ ,  $T_{i,x}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) = T_{i,2x}(\pi_1) \otimes T_{i,0}(\pi_2) \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ . In the case  $\frac{1}{2} < x \leq 1$ , if  $h_{\pi_2, i}(2x - 1) > h_{\pi_2, i}(t)$  for some  $t > 2x - 1$ , then  $h_{\pi_1, i}(1) + h_{\pi_2, i}(2x - 1) > h_{\pi_1, i}(1) + h_{\pi_2, i}(t)$  and  $T_{i,x}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) = 0$ , which is contradict to our assumption. Hence  $h_{\pi_2, i}(2x - 1) \leq h_{\pi_2, i}(t)$  for all  $t \geq 2x - 1$ . Thus  $T_{i,x}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) = \pi_1 \otimes T_{i,2x-1}(\pi_2) \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ . Consequently (2) holds.  $\square$

If  $B \subseteq \overline{P}$  is a subset, which is stable under the action of all operators  $T_{i,x}$ , then we have already seen that its character  $Char B := \sum_{\eta \in B} e^{\eta(1)}$  is stable under the action of the Weyl group  $\overline{W}$ . In fact,  $Char B$  can be computed by the following path version of Weyl's character formula.

**Theorem 4.2.** (1) Let  $\Pi_0^+$  be the set of the piecewise linear paths such that  $Im\eta$  is in the interior of  $\mathcal{C}$  (for  $t > 0$ ), where  $\mathcal{C}$  is the Tits cone of a nontwisted affine Kac-Moody algebra  $\mathcal{G}'$ . Suppose  $B$  is a set of piecewise linear paths, which is stable under the action of operators  $T_{i,x}$ , where  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  and  $i \in I'$ . Then

$$\left(\sum_{w \in \overline{W}} sgn(w)e^{w(\rho)}\right)Char B = \sum_{\eta \in B, \rho \otimes \eta \in \Pi_0^+} \left(\sum_{w \in \overline{W}} sgn(w)e^{w(\rho + \eta(1))}\right).$$

(2) For any dominant weight  $\mu$ , let  $V_\mu$  be the corresponding irreducible  $\mathcal{G}'$ -representation, then

$$Char B = \sum_{\eta \in B, \rho \otimes \eta \in \Pi_0^+} Char V_{\eta(1)}.$$

*Proof.* (2) of this proposition follows from (1). To prove (1), we only need to compare the coefficients of the terms corresponding to dominant weights, i. e. we have to prove for  $\Omega := \{(w, \pi) | w \in \overline{W}, \pi \in B, w(\rho) + \pi(1) \in \overline{P}\}$ ,

$$\sum_{(w,\pi)\in\Omega} \operatorname{sgn}(w)e^{w(\rho)+\pi(1)} = \sum_{\eta\in B,\rho\otimes\eta\in\Pi_0^+} e^{\rho+\eta(1)}.$$

Let  $\Omega_0 := \{(id, \pi) \in \Omega \mid \rho \otimes \pi \in \Pi_0^+\}$ . Set  $\Omega' = \Omega - \Omega_0$ . To prove the proposition, we have to show that

$$\sum_{(w,\pi)\in\Omega'} \operatorname{sgn}(w)e^{w(\rho)+\pi(1)} = 0.$$

We will define an involution  $\phi : \Omega' \rightarrow \Omega'$  such that  $\phi(w, \pi) = (w', \pi')$  has the property:  $\operatorname{sgn}(w) = -\operatorname{sgn}(w')$  and  $w(\rho) + \pi(1) = w'(\rho) + \pi'(1)$ . If such an involution exists, then it is obvious that

$$\sum_{(w,\pi)\in\Omega'} \operatorname{sgn}(w)e^{w(\rho)+\pi(1)} = 0.$$

**The construction of the involution.** Suppose  $(w, \pi) \in \Omega'$  is such that  $w$  is not the identity. Since  $w(\rho) + \pi \in P^+$ , the path  $w(\rho) \otimes \pi$  has to meet at least once a proper face of the dominant Weyl’s chamber  $C$ . If  $w$  is the identity, then  $w(\rho) \otimes \pi$  also has to meet a proper face  $F$  of  $C$ , the pair would otherwise be an element of  $\Omega_0$ .

For a proper face  $F$  of  $C$  denote by  $\Omega'(F)$  the set of pairs  $(w, \pi) \in \Omega'$  which meet  $F$  as the last face. More precisely:  $w(\rho) \otimes \pi$  meets  $F$ , and if  $t_0 \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$  is maximal with property such that  $w(\rho) + \pi(t_0) \in F$ , then  $w(\rho) + \pi(t_0)$  is in the interior of  $F$ , and  $w(\rho) + \pi(t)$  is in the interior of  $C$  for all  $t > t_0$ .

The set  $\Omega'$  is obviously the disjoint union of the  $\Omega'(F)$ , so it is sufficient to define an involution for such an  $\Omega'(F)$ . Let  $\alpha_i$  be a simple root orthogonal to  $F$ . For  $(w, \pi) \in \Omega'(F)$  set  $n := (w(\rho), \alpha_i)$ , note that  $n \neq 0$ .

Without loss generality, we can assume  $n > 0$ . Then the function  $h_{\pi,i}(t_0) = -n$ . It is easy to prove  $T_{i,0}T_{i,t_0}(\pi)(1) = \pi(1) + n\alpha_i$ . It follows that  $w(\rho) + \pi(1) = s_i w(\rho) + T_{i,0}T_{i,t_0}(\pi)(1)$ . Further,  $w(\rho) \otimes \pi(t) = s_i w(\rho) \otimes T_{i,0}T_{i,t_0}(\pi)(t)$  for all  $t > t_0$ . Hence  $\phi(w, \pi) = (s_i w, T_{i,t_0}(\pi)) \in \Omega'(F)$ . □

In the following proposition, we use  $\mathcal{P}^+$  to denote the set of all piecewise linear paths satisfying  $(\pi(t), \alpha) \geq 0$  for any positive root  $\alpha$ .

**Proposition 4.4.** *Suppose  $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in \mathcal{P}^+$ . Then*

$$\mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2) = \cup \mathcal{B}(\pi_1 \otimes \eta), \tag{4.1}$$

where the union runs over all paths  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}\pi_2$  such that  $\pi_1 \otimes \eta \in \mathcal{P}^+$ .

*Proof.* Let  $X = \cup \mathcal{B}(\pi_1 \otimes \eta)$ , the right side of equation (4.1). Since  $T_{i,x}\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 = T_{i,0}T_{i,\frac{1}{2}}T_{i,0}T_{i,\frac{x}{2}}(\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2)$ ,  $T_{i,x}\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 \in X$  for  $i \in I'$  and  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Now assume that  $T_{i_1,x_1} \cdots T_{i_k,x_k}\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 \in X$  for any  $i_1, \dots, i_k \in I'$  and any  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ , where  $k \geq 1$ . Let  $b = T_{i_1,x_1} \cdots T_{i_k,x_k}$ ,  $i \in I'$  and  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Then  $T_{i,x}b\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 = T_{i,0}T_{i,\frac{1}{2}}T_{i,0}T_{i,\frac{x}{2}}(b\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2) \in X$  by the assumption. By now we have already proved that  $b\pi_1 \otimes \pi_2 \in X$  for any  $b \in \mathcal{B}_m$ . Next, we assume that  $b_1\pi_1 \otimes b_2\pi_2 \in X$  for some  $b_1, b_2 \in \mathcal{B}_m$ , where  $b_2 = T_{i_1,x_1} \cdots T_{i_k,x_k}$  for some  $i_1, \dots, i_k \in I'$  and some  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ , and  $k \geq 1$ . Set  $b'_2 = T_{j,y}b_2$ , where  $j \in I'$  and  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Consider the path  $b_1\pi_1 \otimes b'_2\pi_2$ . If  $y \neq 0$ , then  $b_1\pi_1 \otimes b'_2\pi_2 = T_{j,\frac{1}{2}(y+1)}(b_1\pi_1 \otimes b_2\pi_2) \in X$  by the assumption. If  $y = 0$ , then  $b_1\pi_1 \otimes b'_2\pi_2 = T_{j,0}(T_{j,0}b_1\pi_1 \otimes b_2\pi_2) \in X$ . So  $\mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2) \subseteq X$ .

On the other hand, let  $\pi_1 \otimes \eta$  be a piecewise linear path for some  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ , and  $\pi_1 \otimes \eta \in \mathcal{P}^+$ . Suppose  $b(\pi_1 \otimes \eta) \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$  for  $b = T_{i_1,x_1} \cdots T_{i_k,x_k}$ , where  $i_1, \dots, i_k \in I'$  and  $x_1, \dots, x_k \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Let  $b' = T_{j,x}b$ , where  $j \in I'$  and  $x \in [0, 1]_{\mathbf{Q}}$ . Consider the element  $b'(\pi_1 \otimes \eta)$ . If  $b'(\pi_1 \otimes \eta) \neq 0$ , and  $b(\pi_1 \otimes \eta) = \eta_1 \otimes \eta_2 \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ , where  $\eta_i \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_i)$ , then

$$T_{j,x}(\eta_1 \otimes \eta_2) = \begin{cases} T_{j,0}\eta_1 \otimes T_{j,0}\eta_2, & x = 0 \\ T_{j,2x}\eta_1 \otimes T_{j,0}\eta_2, & 0 < x \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ \eta_1 \otimes T_{j,(2x-1)}\eta_2, & \frac{1}{2} < x \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Hence  $b'(\pi_1 \otimes \eta) \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$ . Consequently,  $\mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2) = \cup \mathcal{B}(\pi_1 \otimes \eta)$ .  $\square$

From Proposition 4.4, we can easily prove the following.

**Corollary 4.1. Generalized Littlewood-Richardson Rule.** *For dominant weights  $\lambda, \mu$ , let  $\pi_1, \pi_2 \in \mathcal{P}^+$  be such that  $\pi_1(1) = \lambda$  and  $\pi_2(1) = \mu$ . Then the tensor product of irreducible representations  $V_\lambda$  and  $V_\mu$  of highest weight  $\lambda, \mu$  is isomorphic to the direct sum*

$$V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu \simeq \oplus V_{\lambda+\eta(1)}$$

where the sum runs over all paths  $\eta \in \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)$  such that  $\pi_1 \otimes \eta \in \mathcal{P}^+$ .

*Proof.* Recall that  $\mathcal{B}(\pi)$  is the set of paths contained in  $\mathcal{B}\pi$ . Then

$$\text{Char}(\mathcal{B}(\pi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\pi_2)) = \text{Char}\mathcal{B}(\pi_1)\text{Char}\mathcal{B}(\pi_2) = \text{Char}(V_{\pi_1(1)} \otimes V_{\pi_2(1)}).$$

Hence this corollary holds. □

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