

## Lecture 2. Crystal bases for integrable highest weight modules

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### Reference

Bases cristallines des groupes quantiques (Kashiwara)

Recall The decomposition of  $V(m) \otimes V(n) \hookrightarrow U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$   
has a nice behavior at  $q=0$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V(m) \otimes V(n) & \Rightarrow & w_\ell : \text{maximal vector of wt } \ell. \\
 \parallel & & \downarrow \\
 \bigoplus_i K f^{(i)} v_m & \bigoplus_j K f^{(j)} v_n & \\
 & & f^{(\bar{i}, \bar{j})} w_\ell \equiv f^{(i)} v_m \otimes f^{(j)} v_n
 \end{array}$$

$(\bar{i}, \bar{j})$  is determined combinatorially.

The goal of this lecture is to introduce the notion of crystal base of  $M \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{int}}$  over  $U_q(\mathfrak{g})$  of symmetrizable Kac-Moody.

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- Kashiwara operator (crystal operator)

We first need to define operators on  $M$  describing  $i$ -string at  $q=0$  for all  $i \in I$ .

$$M \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{int}} \quad i \in I$$

Define  $\tilde{e}_i, \tilde{f}_i : M \longrightarrow M$  as follows:

$$v \in M_\lambda.$$

We have 
$$v = \sum_{n \geq 0} \varphi_i^{(n)} v_n$$
 for unique  $v_n \in M_{\lambda - n\alpha_i}$   

$$\varphi_i v_n = 0.$$

This follows from  
 $M$ : semisimple over  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

Define 
$$\tilde{\varphi}_i v = \sum_{n \geq 1} \varphi_i^{(n-1)} v_n \quad \tilde{\varphi}_i v = \sum_{n \geq 0} \varphi_i^{(n+1)} v_n$$

Rule These operators coincide with the ones for  $U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

moving each vertex in  $B(m) \otimes B(n)$  along  $\longrightarrow$

Def A crystal base of  $M$  is a pair  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{B})$

where  $\mathcal{L} : A_0$ -lattice of  $M$  satisfying

$\mathcal{B} : \mathbb{k}$ -basis of  $\mathcal{L}/\mathfrak{q}\mathcal{L}$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in P} \mathcal{L}_\lambda \quad (\mathcal{L}_\lambda = M_\lambda \cap \mathcal{L})$$

wt. space decomp.

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \mathcal{B} = \sqcup \mathcal{B}_\lambda \quad (\mathcal{B}_\lambda = \mathcal{B} \cap \mathcal{L}_\lambda / \mathfrak{q}\mathcal{L}_\lambda)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \tilde{e}_i \mathcal{L} \subset \mathcal{L}, \quad \tilde{f}_i \mathcal{L} \subset \mathcal{L}$$

invariant under crystal operators

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \tilde{e}_i \mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{B} \cup \{0\}, \quad \tilde{f}_i \mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{B} \cup \{0\}$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad \tilde{f}_i b = b' \iff b = \tilde{e}_i b' \quad (b, b' \in \mathcal{B})$$

$\tilde{e}_i, \tilde{f}_i$ :  
mutually inverses.

Rmk  $\mathcal{B}$  has an  $I$ -colored oriented graph str.

$$b \xrightarrow{i} b' \iff b' = \tilde{f}_i b \quad (\tilde{e}_i b' = b)$$

$\mathcal{B}$  called a crystal (graph) of  $M$ .

can be viewed as a basis of  $M$  at  $q=0$ .

For example,  $V(m) \hookrightarrow U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_2)$

$$L(m) = \bigoplus_{k=0}^m A_0 f^{(k)} v_m \quad \mathcal{B}(m) = \{ f^{(k)} v_m \pmod{qL(m)} \}$$

crystal base

$$\bullet \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet \xrightarrow{\quad} \dots \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet$$

$v_m \quad \neq v_m \quad \quad \quad f^{(m)} v_m$

The most important property of crystal base is the following.

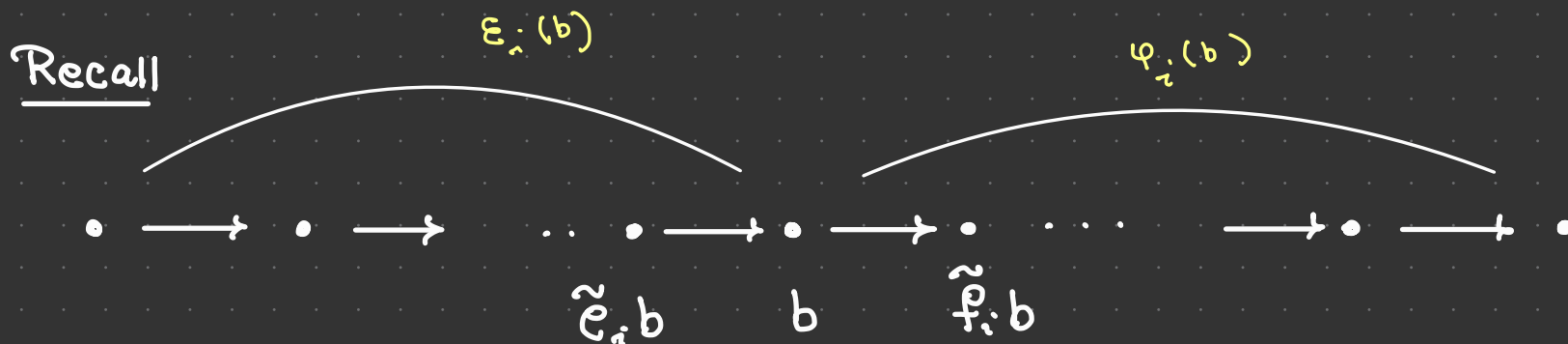
Theorem (Tensor product theorem. Kashiwara 91)

$M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{int}}$  with a crystal base  $(\mathcal{L}_i, \mathcal{B}_i)$  ( $i=1,2$ )

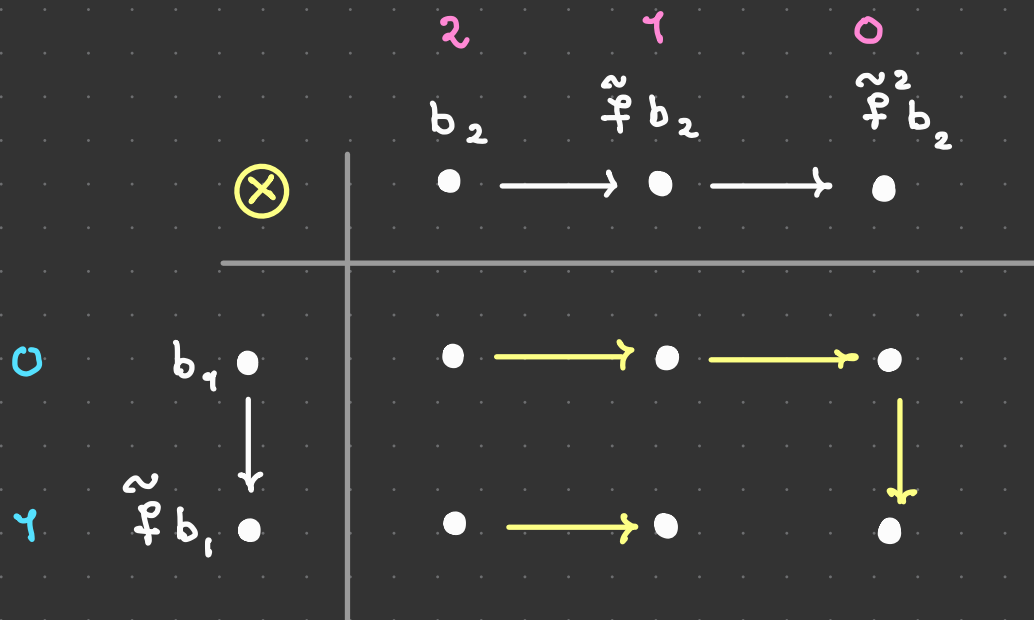
$\Rightarrow (\mathcal{L}_1 \otimes \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{B}_1 \otimes \mathcal{B}_2)$  : a crystal base of  $M_1 \otimes M_2$ . where

$$\tilde{\varphi}_i(b_1 \otimes b_2) = \begin{cases} (\tilde{\varphi}_i b_1) \otimes b_2 & \text{if } \varphi_i(b_1) > \varepsilon_i(b_2) \\ b_1 \otimes \tilde{\varphi}_i b_2 & \text{if } \varphi_i(b_1) \leq \varepsilon_i(b_2) \end{cases}$$

for  $b_1 \otimes b_2 \in \mathcal{B}_1 \otimes \mathcal{B}_2$  and  $i \in I$ .



$$\epsilon_i(b) = \max \{ k \mid \tilde{e}_i^k b \neq 0 \} \quad \varphi_i(b) = \max \{ k \mid \tilde{f}_i^k b \neq 0 \}$$



Example

$$U_q(\mathfrak{sl}_n) = \langle e_i, f_i, q^{\pm \delta_j^v} \mid 1 \leq i \leq n-1, 1 \leq j \leq n \rangle$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad V = \bigoplus_{i=1}^n K v_i \quad : \quad \text{the natural repn}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & f_i & \\ & \xrightarrow{\quad} & \\ v_i & & v_{i+1} \\ & \xleftarrow{\quad} & \\ \delta_i & e_i & \delta_{i+1} \end{array}$$

$$\mathcal{L} := \bigoplus A_0 v_i \quad \mathcal{B} := \{ \bar{v}_i \pmod{q\mathcal{L}} \} \quad : \quad \text{crystal base of } V$$

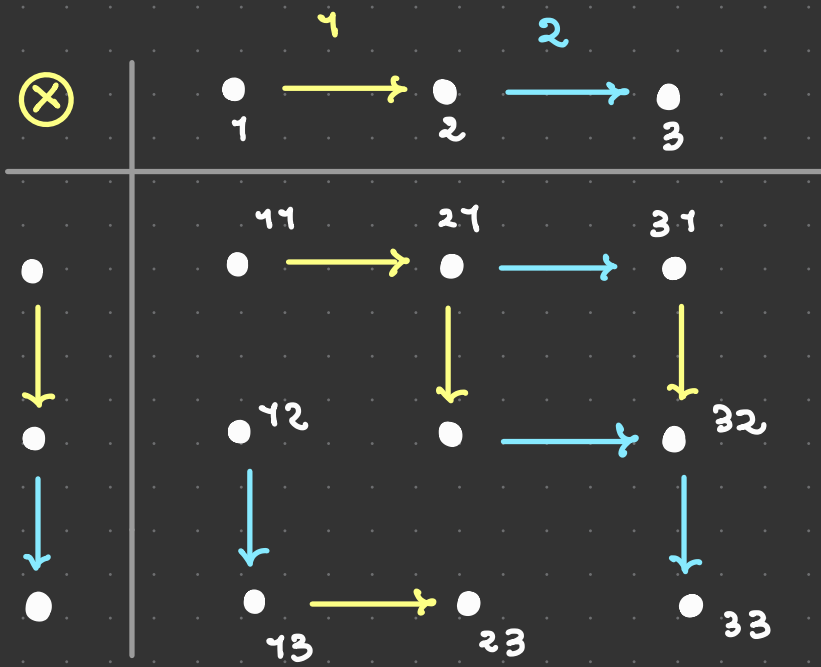
$$\text{In this case } \bar{e}_i = e_i, \quad \bar{f}_i = f_i$$

$$v_1 \xrightarrow{1} v_2 \xrightarrow{2} v_3 \longrightarrow \dots \xrightarrow{n-1} v_n \quad \xrightarrow{i} = \bar{v}_i$$



$V^{\otimes 2}$  has a crystal base  $(L^{\otimes 2}, B^{\otimes 2})$

$n=3$



$$(i_j = \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j)$$

Recall  $V \otimes V \cong V(2\delta_1) \oplus V(\delta_1 + \delta_2)$  (e.g. by Pieri rule.)  
 $\quad \quad \quad \parallel \quad \quad \quad \parallel$   
 $\quad \quad \quad 2\omega_1 \quad \quad \quad \omega_2$

How are these two decompositions related?

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \underline{W^\epsilon = \bigoplus_{m \in X_\epsilon} K m} \quad \epsilon = 0, 1 \quad X_\epsilon = \begin{cases} \Pi_{\neq 0}^n & (\epsilon = 0) \\ \Pi_2^n & (\epsilon = 1). \end{cases}$$

$W^\epsilon$ : a  $U_q(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ -module

$$e_i m = [m_{i+1}] (\dots, m_i + 1, m_{i+1} - 1, \dots)$$

$$f_i m = [m_i] (\dots, m_i - 1, m_{i+1} + 1, \dots)$$

$$q^{\delta_i^\vee} m = q^{m_i} m$$

$$\underline{W_{\mathbb{R}}^\epsilon := \bigoplus_{\sum m_i = \mathbb{R}} K m} \quad \text{submodule} \cong \begin{cases} V(\mathbb{R} \omega_i) & \epsilon = 0 \\ V(\omega_{\mathbb{R}}) & \epsilon = 1. \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\epsilon} = \bigoplus A_0 \frac{1}{\prod [m_i]!} m$$

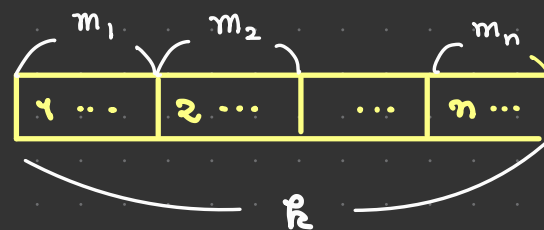
$$\mathcal{B}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\epsilon} = \left\{ \frac{1}{\prod [m_i]!} \overline{m} \pmod{q \mathcal{L}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\epsilon}} \right\}$$

: crystal base of  $W_{\mathbb{R}}^{\epsilon}$

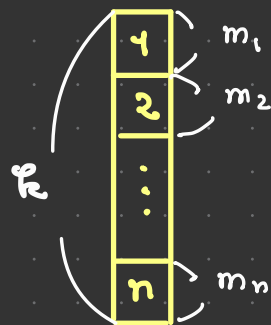
$$\left( \dots, m_i, 0, \dots \right) \xrightarrow{\varphi_i(\mathbb{R})} \left( \dots, m_i - \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}, \dots \right)$$

$U_q(\mathfrak{gl}_2)$ -h.w. vector

Identify  $m$  with

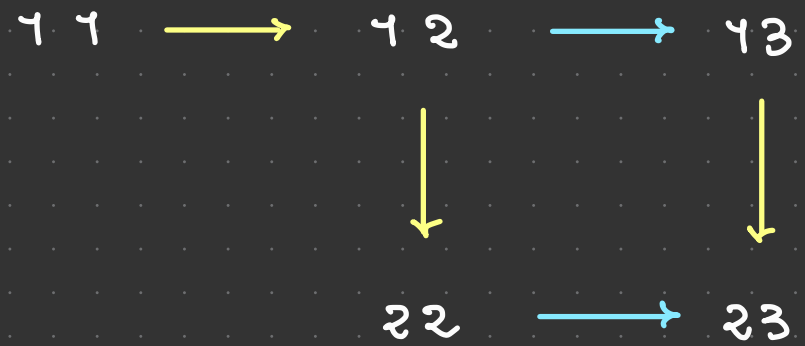
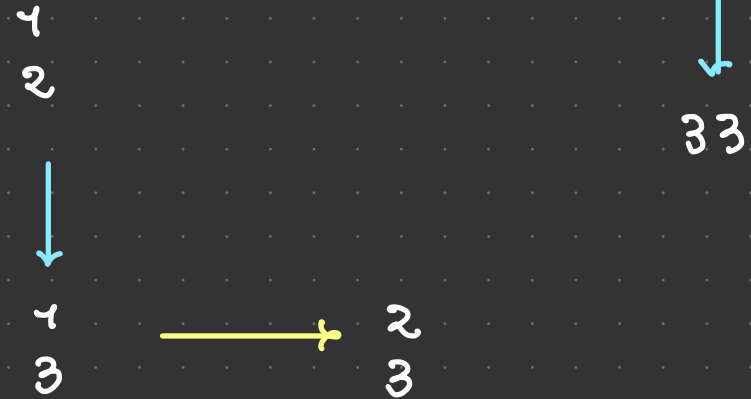


$$E = 0$$



$$E = 1$$

$$n = 3$$

 $\mathcal{B}(2\varpi_1)$  $\mathcal{B}(\varpi_2)$ 

$$\mathcal{B}^{\otimes 2} \cong \mathcal{B}(2\varpi_1) \sqcup \mathcal{B}(\varpi_2)$$


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In the previous example, we have seen that  
 decomposition of a crystal = decomposition of a module

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Theorem A (Existence of a crystal base. Kashiwara 91)

$$\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_+$$

$V(\lambda)$  has a crystal base  $(\mathcal{L}(\lambda), \mathcal{B}(\lambda))$  where

$$\mathcal{L}(\lambda) = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_r} A_0 \tilde{f}_{i_1} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_r} v_\lambda$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\lambda) = \left\{ \tilde{f}_{i_1} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_r} v_\lambda \pmod{q \mathcal{L}(\lambda)} \right\} \setminus \{0\}$$

Theorem B (Uniqueness of a crystal base, Kashiwara 91)

$M \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{int}}$  with a crystal base  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{B})$

Then  $\exists \varphi : M \xrightarrow{\cong} \bigoplus_{\mathcal{P}_+} V(\lambda)^{\oplus m_\lambda}$  such that

$$\varphi|_{\mathcal{L}} : \mathcal{L} \longrightarrow \bigoplus \mathcal{L}(\lambda)^{\oplus m_\lambda}$$

$$\varphi|_{\mathcal{B}} : \mathcal{B} \longrightarrow \bigsqcup \mathcal{B}(\lambda)^{\oplus m_\lambda}$$

where  $\bar{\varphi} : \mathcal{L}/\mathfrak{q}\mathcal{L} \longrightarrow \bigoplus \mathcal{L}(\lambda)/\mathfrak{q}\mathcal{L}(\lambda)^{\oplus m_\lambda}$

Proof

① By Existence thm + Complete reducibility of  $\mathcal{O}_{\text{int}}$   
 any  $M \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{int}}$  has a unique crystal base

②  $M \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{int}}$  with a crystal base (L.B)

By Uniqueness of crystals,

$$B \cong \coprod B(\lambda)^{\oplus m_\lambda} \quad m_\lambda = \dim_{U_q(\mathfrak{g})} (V(\lambda), M)$$

decomp of  $M$  into  $V(\lambda)$ 's  $\iff$  decomp. of  $B$  into  $B(\lambda)$ 's.

③ By construction,

$$B(\lambda) = \left\{ \tilde{f}_{i_1} \cdots \tilde{f}_{i_r} v_\lambda \pmod{q \mathbb{Z}(\lambda)} \right\} \setminus \{0\} : \text{connected.}$$

$$b \in B(\lambda) \quad \tilde{e}_i b = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \quad \iff \quad b = v_\lambda$$

decomp. of  $B$  into  $B(\lambda)$ 's.

$\iff$  Finding all  $b \in B$  such that  $\tilde{e}_i b = 0$  for all  $i$ .

In fact, the connected component of  $b$  under  $\tilde{f}_i$ 's

$$\cong B(\lambda) \quad \text{where } \lambda = \text{wt}(b).$$



## Tensor product decomposition.

$$\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{P}_+$$

$$V(\mu) \otimes V(\nu) = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_+} V(\lambda)^{\oplus c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda}$$

$$\mathcal{B}(\mu) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\nu) = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_+} \mathcal{B}(\lambda)^{\oplus c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda}$$

$$c_{\mu\nu}^\lambda = \# \text{ of } b_1 \otimes b_2 \in \mathcal{B}(\mu) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\nu) \text{ such that}$$

$$\tilde{e}_i(b_1 \otimes b_2) = 0 \quad \text{for all } i$$

$$\text{wt}(b_1 \otimes b_2) = \lambda$$

Remark

$$\tilde{e}_i(b_1 \otimes b_2) = \begin{cases} \tilde{e}_i b_1 \otimes b_2 & \text{if } \varphi_i(b_1) \geq \varepsilon_i(b_2) \\ b_1 \otimes \tilde{e}_i b_2 & \text{if } \varphi_i(b_1) < \varepsilon_i(b_2) \end{cases}$$

$$\tilde{e}_i b_* = 0 \iff \varepsilon_i(b_*) = 0$$

$$\tilde{e}_i(b_1 \otimes b_2) = 0 \quad (i \in I)$$

$$\implies \varphi_i(b_1) \geq \varepsilon_i(b_2) \quad \text{for all } i \quad + \quad \underline{\tilde{e}_i b_1 = 0 \quad \text{for all } i}$$

$$\implies b_1 = v_\lambda \quad \& \quad \varepsilon_i(b_2) \leq \langle h_{i, \lambda} \rangle$$

Converse also holds (hence equivalent condition)

Therefore,

$$B(\mu) \otimes B(\nu) = \coprod_{\substack{b_2 \in B(\nu) \\ \varepsilon_i(b) \leq \langle h_i, \lambda \rangle}} B(\mu + \text{wt}(b_2))$$

Once we have a good realization of  $B(\nu)$ , we have a formula

$$c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda} = \# \left\{ \begin{array}{l} b \in B(\nu) \mid \varepsilon_i(b) \leq \langle h_i, \mu \rangle \quad (i \in I) \\ \mu + \text{wt}(b) = \lambda \end{array} \right\}$$

Remark  $c_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda}$  : Littlewood-Richardson coeff. when  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{gl}_n$  ( $\mathfrak{sl}_n$ )

III a combinatorial formula given as # of LR tableaux of shape  $\lambda/\mu$   
content  $\nu$

Example

$$\textcircled{1} \mathcal{B}^{\otimes 2}, \quad \mu = \varpi_1 \quad (\langle h_i, \mu \rangle)_{\mathbb{I}} = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

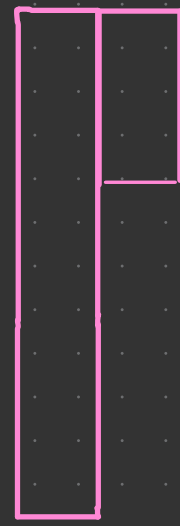
$\underbrace{\varpi_1}_{0} \otimes \underbrace{\varpi_1}_{1}$ ,  $\varpi_1 \otimes \varpi_2$  : the only maximal vectors in  $\mathcal{B}^{\otimes 2}$

$$\mathcal{B}^{\otimes 2} = \mathcal{B}(\varpi_1) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\varpi_1) = \mathcal{B}(\varpi_1 + \varpi_1) \perp \mathcal{B}(\varpi_2)$$

$$\textcircled{2} \mathcal{B}(\varpi_a) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\varpi_b)$$

$$a \text{ maximal vector} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline 2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline a \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline s \\ \hline a+1 \\ \hline a+2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} \quad (0 \leq s \leq \min(a, b))$$

$$\text{wt} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline 2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline a \\ \hline \end{array} \otimes \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline s \\ \hline \hline q+1 \\ \hline q+2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} \right) = \text{wt} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline 2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline a \\ \hline \hline q+1 \\ \hline q+2 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline \end{array} \right) + \text{wt} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \vdots \\ \hline s \\ \hline \end{array} \right)$$



two-column  
Young diagram  
(or partition)

Then we recover the Pieri's rule.

$$\mathcal{B} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \vdots \\ \hline a \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \otimes \mathcal{B} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \vdots \\ \hline b \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \cong \coprod_{0 \leq s \leq b} \mathcal{B} \left( \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \vdots \\ \hline a \\ \hline \hline \vdots \\ \hline b-s \\ \hline \end{array} \right) \quad (a \geq b)$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad \lambda \in \mathcal{P}_+ \quad \lambda = \sum_{i=1}^n m_i \delta_i \quad (m_i \in \mathbb{Z}, m_1 \geq \dots \geq m_n)$$

We may assume  $(m_1 \geq \dots \geq m_n \geq 0)$   $\longleftarrow$  a partition  
(or its Young diagram)

More generally, we can prove (by the same arguments) that

$$\mathcal{B}(\mu) \otimes \mathcal{B}(\tau^a) \cong \coprod_{\lambda \in \mathcal{P}_+} \mathcal{B}(\lambda)$$



$\lambda/\mu$ : a vertical  
strip of length  $a$