

# COMPLEXITY OF HOMOGENEOUS SPACES AND GROWTH OF MULTIPLICITIES

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ABSTRACT. The complexity of a homogeneous space  $G/H$  under a reductive group  $G$  is by definition the codimension of general orbits in  $G/H$  of a Borel subgroup  $B \subseteq G$ . We give a representation-theoretic interpretation of this number as the exponent of growth for multiplicities of simple  $G$ -modules in the spaces of sections of homogeneous line bundles on  $G/H$ . For this, we show that these multiplicities are bounded from above by the dimensions of certain Demazure modules. This estimate for multiplicities is uniform, i.e., it depends not on  $G/H$ , but only on its complexity.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $G$  be a connected reductive group over an algebraically closed field  $\mathbb{k}$  of characteristic 0, and  $H \subseteq G$  a closed subgroup. Consider the homogeneous space  $G/H$ . Choose a Borel subgroup  $B \subseteq G$ . By lower semicontinuity, general  $B$ -orbits in  $G/H$  have maximal dimension. The minimal (=typical) codimension  $c = c(G/H)$  of  $B$ -orbits is called the *complexity* of  $G/H$ . (Clearly, it does not depend on the choice of  $B$  since all Borel subgroups are conjugate.) By the Rosenlicht theorem [VP, 2.3],  $c(G/H)$  equals the transcendence degree of  $\mathbb{k}(G/H)^B$  over  $\mathbb{k}$ .

This numerical invariant plays an important rôle in the geometry of  $G/H$ . For instance, the class of homogeneous spaces of complexity zero, called *spherical* spaces, is particularly nice [Kn1], [Bri2], [Vin]. It includes many classical spaces, all symmetric spaces, etc. Also the equivariant embedding theory of  $G/H$  depends crucially on its complexity, see [LV], [Tim].

In this note, we describe  $c(G/H)$  in terms of representation theory related to  $G/H$ .

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Let  $\Lambda = \Lambda(B)$  be the weight lattice of  $B$ , and  $\Lambda_+ \subseteq \Lambda$  be the set of dominant weights. By  $V(\lambda)$  denote the simple  $G$ -module of highest weight  $\lambda \in \Lambda_+$ . For any rational  $G$ -module  $M$ , let  $\text{mult}_\lambda M$  denote the multiplicity of  $V(\lambda)$  in  $M$ .

It turns out that  $c(G/H)$  characterizes the growth of multiplicities in spaces of global sections of  $G$ -line bundles over  $G/H$ . Here is our main result:

**Theorem 1.** *The complexity  $c(G/H)$  is the minimal integer  $c$  such that  $\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}) = O(|\lambda|^c)$  over all  $\lambda \in \Lambda_+$  and all  $G$ -line bundles  $\mathcal{L} \rightarrow G/H$ , where  $|\cdot|$  is any fixed norm on the vector space spanned by  $\Lambda$ . Moreover, this estimate for multiplicities is uniform over all  $H \subseteq G$  such that  $c(G/H) = c$ . If  $G/H$  is quasiaffine, then it suffices to consider only  $\text{mult}_\lambda \mathbb{k}[G/H]$ .*

A weaker version of Theorem 1 under some restrictive conditions (multiplicities in  $\mathbb{k}[G/H]$  for quasiaffine  $G/H$  provided that  $\mathbb{k}[G/H]$  is finitely generated; no uniform estimate) appeared in [AP]. The relation between complexity and growth of multiplicities is known for quite a time, see partial results in [Pa1, 1.1], [Pa2, 2.4], [Bri2, 1.3].

We prove Theorem 1 in Section 2. The idea is to embed the “space of multiplicity” in the dual of a certain Demazure submodule in  $V(\lambda)$ , associated with an element of length  $c$  in the Weyl group (Lemma 2).

In Section 3, we justify the term “complexity” by providing a much more precise information on multiplicities on homogeneous spaces of complexity  $\leq 1$ . Actually, the spherical case is well known [VK] and is included in the text only for convenience of the reader. In the case of complexity 1, a formula similar to ours for multiplicities in  $\mathbb{k}[G/H]$  provided that it is a finitely generated unique factorization domain, and  $G/H$  is quasiaffine, was obtained in [Pa1, 1.2], see also [Pa2, 2.4.19].

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### Notation.

- The character lattice of an algebraic group  $H$  is denoted by  $\Lambda(H)$  and is written additively.
- By  $M^H$  we denote the set of  $H$ -fixed points in the set  $M$  acted on by a group  $H$ . If  $M$  is a vector space, and  $H$  acts linearly, then  $M_\chi = M_\chi^{(H)}$  is the  $H$ -eigenspace of eigenweight  $\chi \in \Lambda(H)$ .
- Throughout the paper,  $G$  is a connected reductive group, and  $B \subseteq G$  a fixed Borel subgroup. The semigroup  $\Lambda_+$  of dominant weights is considered relative to  $B$ . We fix an opposite Borel subgroup  $B^-$ , a maximal torus  $T = B \cap B^-$ , and consider the Weyl group  $W$  of  $G$  relative to  $T$ .

- By  $\lambda^*$  denote the highest weight of the dual  $G$ -module to the simple  $G$ -module  $V(\lambda)$  of highest weight  $\lambda \in \Lambda_+$ .

## 2. UPPER BOUND FOR MULTIPLICITIES

We begin with basic facts about line bundles on homogeneous spaces. Every line bundle  $\mathcal{L} \rightarrow G/H$  admits a  $G$ -linearization, i.e., a fiberwise linear  $G$ -action compatible with the projection onto the base, if we possibly replace  $G$  by a finite cover [KKLV, §2]. (Alternatively, one may replace  $\mathcal{L}$  by its sufficiently big tensor power.) Every  $G$ -line bundle is isomorphic to a homogeneous bundle  $\mathcal{L}(\chi) = \mathcal{L}_{G/H}(\chi) = G \times^H \mathbb{k}_\chi$ , where  $H$  acts on the fiber  $\mathbb{k}_\chi \simeq \mathbb{k}$  via a character  $\chi \in \Lambda(H)$ . The bundle  $\mathcal{L}(\chi)$  is trivial (regardless the  $G$ -linearization) iff  $\chi$  is the restriction of a character of  $G$ .

The space of global sections  $H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) \simeq \mathbb{k}[G]_{-\chi}^{(H)}$  is a rational  $G$ -module, where  $H$  acts on  $G$  by right translations, and  $G$  by left translations. By the Frobenius reciprocity [Jan, I.3.3–3.4], we have  $\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) = \dim V(\lambda^*)_{-\chi}^{(H)}$ .

In particular,  $H^0(G/B, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda)) = V(\lambda^*)$  whenever  $\lambda \in \Lambda_+$ , and 0, otherwise (the Borel–Weil theorem).

Observe that for any rational  $G$ -module  $M$  we have  $\text{mult}_\lambda M = \dim M_\lambda^{(B)}$ ,  $\forall \lambda \in \Lambda_+$ . In particular,

$$\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) = \dim \mathbb{k}[G]_{(\lambda, -\chi)}^{(B \times H)}$$

The nonzero spaces  $\mathbb{k}[G]_{(\lambda, -\chi)}^{(B \times H)}$  represent complete linear systems of  $B$ -stable divisors on  $G/H$ , i.e., linear systems of pairwise rationally equivalent  $B$ -stable divisors which cannot be enlarged by adding new  $B$ -stable effective divisors. The respective biweights  $(\lambda, \chi)$  form a sub-semigroup  $\Sigma = \Sigma(G/H) \subseteq \Lambda(B \times H)$ . Two biweights  $(\lambda, \chi), (\lambda', \chi') \in \Sigma$  determine the same linear system on  $G/H$  iff  $(\lambda, \chi)$  differs from  $(\lambda', \chi')$  by a twist of  $G$ -linearization, i.e., by  $(\varepsilon|_B, -\varepsilon|_H)$ ,  $\varepsilon \in \Lambda(G)$ .

We need a useful result, essentially due to Brion. Replacing  $H$  by a conjugate, we may assume that  $\dim B(eH)$  is maximal among all  $B$ -orbits, i.e.,  $\text{codim } B(eH) = c = c(G/H)$ .

**Lemma 1** (cf. [Bri1, 2.1]). *There exists a sequence of minimal parabolics  $P_1, \dots, P_c \supset B$  such that  $\overline{P_c \cdots P_1(eH)} = G/H$ . The decomposition  $w = s_1 \cdots s_c$ , where  $s_i \in W$  are the simple reflections corresponding to  $P_i$ , is reduced, and  $D_w = \overline{BwB} = P_1 \cdots P_c$  is a “Schubert subvariety” in  $G$  of dimension  $c + \dim B$ .*

*Proof.* If  $c > 0$ , then  $\overline{B(eH)}$  is not  $G$ -stable, whence it is not stabilized by some minimal parabolic  $P_1 \supset B$ . Since  $P_1/B \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ , the natural map  $P_1 \times^B B(eH) \rightarrow G/H$  is generically finite, and  $\text{codim } P_1(eH) = c - 1$ . Continuing in the same way, we construct a sequence of minimal parabolics  $P_1, \dots, P_c \supset B$  such that  $\overline{P_c \cdots P_1(eH)} = G/H$ , i.e.,

$P_c \cdots P_1 H$  is dense in  $G$ . The map  $P_c \cdots P_1 \times^B B(eH) \rightarrow G/H$  is generically finite, hence  $\dim P_c \cdots P_1 = c + \dim B$ , which yields all the remaining assertions.  $\square$

**Remark 1.** The ‘‘Schubert subvarieties’’  $D_w$ ,  $w \in W$ , form a monoid w.r.t. the multiplication of sets in  $G$ , called the Richardson–Springer monoid. It is generated by the  $D_s$ ,  $s \in W$  a simple reflection, and is naturally identified with  $W$ , defining relations being  $s^2 = s$  and braid relations for  $W$ . The action of the Richardson–Springer monoid on the set of  $B$ -stable subvarieties (appearing implicitly in Lemma 1) is studied in [Kn2].

Let  $v_\lambda \in V(\lambda)$  be a highest weight vector. The  $B$ -submodule  $V_w(\lambda) \subseteq V(\lambda)$  generated by  $wv_\lambda$ ,  $w \in W$ , is called a *Demazure module*. In the notation of Lemma 1, we have  $V_w(\lambda) = \langle D_w v_\lambda \rangle \simeq H^0(S_w, \mathcal{L}_{G/B}(-\lambda))^*$ , where  $S_w = D_w/B$  is a Schubert subvariety in  $G/B$  of dimension  $c$ . Indeed, the restriction map  $V(\lambda^*) = H^0(G/B, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda)) \rightarrow H^0(S_w, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda))$  is surjective [Jan, II.14.15, e)], and  $D_w v_\lambda$  is the affine cone over the image of  $S_w$  under the map  $G/B \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(V(\lambda))$ .

**Lemma 2.** *In the notation of Lemma 1,  $\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) \leq \dim V_w(\lambda)$ .*

*Proof.* We show that the pairing between  $V(\lambda^*)$  and  $V(\lambda)$  provides an embedding  $V(\lambda^*)_{-\chi}^{(H)} \hookrightarrow V_w(\lambda)^*$ . Otherwise, if  $v^* \in V(\lambda^*)_{-\chi}^{(H)}$  vanishes on  $V_w(\lambda)$ , then it vanishes on  $D_w v_\lambda$ , i.e.,  $\langle D_w^{-1} v^* \rangle = \langle G v^* \rangle = V(\lambda^*)$  vanishes at  $v_\lambda$ , a contradiction.  $\square$

**Remark 2.** A similar idea was used in [Pa2, 2.4.18] to obtain an upper bound for multiplicities in coordinate algebras of homogeneous spaces of complexity 1.

**Remark 3.** The assertion of Lemma 2 can be refined and viewed in a more geometric context as follows. Consider the natural  $B$ -equivariant proper map  $\varphi : D_w^{-1}/B \cap H \simeq D_w^{-1} \times^B B(eH) \rightarrow G/H$ , which is generically finite by construction. For  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{G/H}(\chi)$  we have  $\varphi^* \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{D_w^{-1}/B \cap H}(\chi|_{B \cap H})$ , and  $\varphi^* : H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}) \hookrightarrow H^0(D_w^{-1}/B \cap H, \varphi^* \mathcal{L})$  gives rise to

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L})_\lambda^{(B)} &\hookrightarrow H^0(D_w^{-1}/B \cap H, \varphi^* \mathcal{L})_\lambda^{(B)} = \mathbb{k}[D_w^{-1}]_{(\lambda, -\chi)}^{(B \times B \cap H)} \\ &\simeq \mathbb{k}[D_w]_{(-\chi, \lambda)}^{(B \cap H \times B)} = H^0(S_w, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda))_{-\chi}^{(B \cap H)} = V_w(\lambda)_{-\chi}^{*(B \cap H)} \end{aligned}$$

I am indebted to M. Brion for this remark.

Lemma 2 applies to obtaining upper bounds for multiplicities in branching to reductive subgroups, cf. [AP, Thm. 2].

**Corollary.** *If  $L \subseteq G$  is a connected reductive subgroup, then*

$$\text{mult}_\mu \text{res}_L^G V(\lambda) \leq \dim V_w(\lambda^*)$$

for any two dominant weights  $\lambda, \mu$  of  $G, L$ , respectively, where  $w \in W$  is provided by Lemma 1 for  $H$  equal to a Borel subgroup of  $L$ . Similarly,

$$\text{length } \text{res}_L^G V(\lambda) \leq \dim V_w(\lambda^*)$$

where  $w \in W$  corresponds to  $H$  equal to a maximal unipotent subgroup of  $L$ . (Here  $\text{length}$  is the number of simple factors in an  $L$ -module.)

*Proof.* Just note that

$$\text{mult}_\mu \text{res}_L^G V(\lambda) = \dim V(\lambda)_\mu^{(H)} = \text{mult}_{\lambda^*} H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(-\mu))$$

in the first case, and  $\text{length } \text{res}_L^G V(\lambda) = \dim V(\lambda)^H = \text{mult}_{\lambda^*} \mathbb{k}[G/H]$  in the second case, and then apply Lemma 2.  $\square$

**Example 1.** Let  $P \supseteq B^-$  be a parabolic subgroup with the Levi decomposition  $P = L \ltimes P_u$ ,  $L \supseteq T$ . By  $w_L$  denote the longest element in the Weyl group of  $L$ , and consider the decomposition  $w_G = w_L w^L$ . Let  $H$  be the unipotent radical of  $B^- \cap L$ . Then we may take  $w = w^L$  and obtain  $\text{length } \text{res}_L^G V(\lambda) \leq \dim V_{w^L}(\lambda^*)$ .

*Proof of Theorem 1.* Recall the character formula for Demazure modules [Jan, II.14.18, b)]:

$$\text{ch}_T V_w(\lambda) = \frac{1 - e^{-\alpha_1} s_1}{1 - e^{-\alpha_1}} \cdots \frac{1 - e^{-\alpha_c} s_c}{1 - e^{-\alpha_c}} e^\lambda$$

where  $e^\mu$  is the monomial in the group algebra  $\mathbb{Z}[\Lambda]$  corresponding to  $\mu \in \Lambda$ ,  $\alpha_i$  are the simple roots defining  $P_i$ , and  $s_i \in W$  are the respective simple reflections acting on  $\mathbb{Z}[\Lambda]$  in a natural way. One easily computes

$$\frac{1 - e^{-\alpha_i} s_i}{1 - e^{-\alpha_i}} e^\mu = e^\mu (1 + e^{-\alpha_i} + \cdots + e^{-\langle \mu, \alpha_i^\vee \rangle \alpha_i}), \quad \forall i, \forall \mu \in \Lambda,$$

where  $\alpha_i^\vee$  is the respective simple coroot. It is then easy to deduce that  $\dim V_w(\lambda) = O(|\lambda|^c)$ , and Lemma 2 yields the desired estimate in Theorem 1.

Alternatively, observing that  $S_w$  is a projective variety of dimension  $c$ , one may deduce that  $\dim H^0(S_w, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda))$  grows no faster than  $|\lambda|^c$  as follows.

Without loss of generality we may assume  $G$  to be semisimple and simply connected. Let  $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_l$  be the fundamental weights of  $G$ . Put  $X = \mathbb{P}_{S_w}(\mathcal{L}(\omega_1) \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathcal{L}(\omega_l))$ , a projective space bundle over  $S_w$  with fiber  $\mathbb{P}^{l-1}$ . Let  $\mathcal{O}_X(1)$  be the antitautological line bundle over  $X$ , and  $\pi : X \rightarrow S_w$  the projection map. Then

$$\pi_* \mathcal{O}_X(k) = \bigoplus_{k_1 + \cdots + k_l = k, k_j \geq 0} \mathcal{L}(-k_1 \omega_1 - \cdots - k_l \omega_l)$$

$$R^i \pi_* \mathcal{O}_X(k) = 0, \quad \forall i > 0$$

Now  $R_w = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}(k)) = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \Lambda_+} H^0(S_w, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda))$  is a  $\Lambda$ -graded algebra, and the quotient field of  $R_w$  is a monogenic transcendental

extension of  $\mathbb{k}(X)$ , hence it has transcendence degree  $n = c + l$ . Furthermore,  $R_w$  is finitely generated. Indeed,  $R_w$  is a quotient of the  $G$ -algebra  $R = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \Lambda_+} H^0(G/B, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda))$ . The multihomogeneous components of  $R$  are the simple  $G$ -modules  $V(\lambda^*)$ , hence  $R$  is generated by its components with  $\lambda = \omega_1, \dots, \omega_l$ . (The spectrum of  $R_w$  is the so called *multicone* over the Schubert variety  $S_w$ , studied in [KR]. For instance, this multicone has rational singularities.) Finally, a general property of finitely generated multigraded algebras implies that  $\dim H^0(S_w, \mathcal{L}(-\lambda)) = O(|\lambda|^{n-\text{rk}\Lambda}) = O(|\lambda|^c)$ .

This estimate is uniform in  $H$ , because there are finitely many choices for  $w$ . It remains to show that the exponent  $c$  cannot be made smaller.

Let  $f_1, \dots, f_c$  be a transcendence base of  $\mathbb{k}(G/H)^B$ . There exists a  $G$ -line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $B$ -eigenvectors  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_c \in H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L})$  of the same weight  $\lambda$  such that  $f_i = \sigma_i/\sigma_0$ ,  $\forall i = 1, \dots, c$ . (Indeed,  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\sigma_0$  may be determined by a sufficiently big  $B$ -stable effective divisor majorizing the poles of all  $f_i$ .)

Consider the graded algebra  $R = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} R_n$ ,  $R_n = H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}^{\otimes n})_{n\lambda}^{(B)}$ . Clearly,  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_c$  are algebraically independent in  $R$ , whence

$$\text{mult}_{n\lambda} H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}^{\otimes n}) = \dim R_n \geq \binom{n+c}{c} \sim n^c$$

This proves our claim.

Finally, if  $G/H$  is quasiaffine, then there even exist  $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_c \in \mathbb{k}[G/H]$  with the same properties.  $\square$

**Remark 4.** For a given  $H$ , the estimate of the multiplicity by  $\dim V_w(\lambda)$  may be not sharp. However, it is natural to ask whether it is a sharp uniform estimate over all homogeneous spaces with given complexity. More precisely, we formulate the following

**Question.** Given an element  $w \in W$  of length  $c$ , does there exist a subgroup  $H \subseteq G$  such that  $\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) = \dim V_w(\lambda)$  for sufficiently general  $(\lambda, \chi) \in \Sigma(G/H)$ ?

**Example 2.** In the notation of Example 1, put  $H = P_u$ . Then always  $\chi = 0$ , so that  $H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) = \mathbb{k}[G/H]$ . We may take  $w = w_L$ . Then  $V(\lambda^*)^H$  is a simple  $L$ -module of lowest weight  $-\lambda$ , and  $V_w(\lambda)$  is the dual  $L$ -module of highest weight  $\lambda$ . It follows that  $\text{mult}_\lambda \mathbb{k}[G/H] = \dim V_w(\lambda)$ .

### 3. CASE OF SMALL COMPLEXITY

Homogeneous spaces of complexity  $\leq 1$  are distinguished among all homogeneous spaces by their nice behaviour. For instance, they have a well developed equivariant embedding theory [LV, 8–9], [Tim, 2–5]. There are also more explicit formulæ for multiplicities in this case.

**Theorem 2.** *In the above notation,*

- (1) If  $c(G/H) = 0$ , then  $\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) \leq 1, \forall (\lambda, \chi) \in \Sigma$ .  
(2) If  $c(G/H) = 1$ , then there exists a pair  $(\lambda_0, \chi_0) \in \Sigma$ , unique up to a shift by  $(\varepsilon|_B, -\varepsilon|_H)$ ,  $\varepsilon \in \Lambda(G)$ , such that

$$\text{mult}_\lambda H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) = n + 1$$

where  $n$  is the maximal integer such that  $(\lambda, \chi) - n(\lambda_0, \chi_0) \in \Sigma(G/H)$ .

*Proof.* The assertion is well known in the case  $c = 0$ , and we prove it just to keep the exposition self-contained. Assuming the contrary yields two non-proportional  $B$ -eigenvectors  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1 \in H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi))$  of the same weight  $\lambda$ . Hence  $f = \sigma_1/\sigma_0 \in \mathbb{k}(G/H)^B$ ,  $f \neq \text{const}$ , a contradiction.

In the case  $c = 1$ , we have  $\mathbb{k}(G/H)^B \simeq \mathbb{k}(\mathbb{P}^1)$  by the Lüroth theorem. Consider the respective rational map  $\pi : G/H \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ , whose general fibers are (the closures of) general  $B$ -orbits. By a standard argument,  $\pi$  is given by two  $B$ -eigenvectors  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1 \in H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi_0))$  of the same weight  $\lambda_0$  for a certain  $(\lambda_0, \chi_0) \in \Sigma$ . Moreover,  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1$  are algebraically independent, and each  $f \in \mathbb{k}(G/H)^B$  can be represented as a homogeneous rational fraction in  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1$  of degree 0.

Now put  $(\mu, \tau) = (\lambda, \chi) - n(\lambda_0, \chi_0)$ , fix  $\sigma_\mu \in H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\tau))_\mu^{(B)}$ , and take any  $\sigma_\lambda \in H^0(G/H, \mathcal{L}(\chi))_\lambda^{(B)}$ . Then  $f = \sigma_\lambda/\sigma_0^n \sigma_\mu \in \mathbb{k}(G/H)^B$ , whence  $f = F_1/F_0$  for some  $m$ -forms  $F_0, F_1$  in  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1$ . We may assume the fraction to be reduced and decompose  $F_1 = L_1 \cdots L_m$ ,  $F_0 = M_1 \cdots M_m$ , as products of linear forms, with all  $L_i$  distinct from all  $M_j$ . Then  $\sigma_\lambda M_1 \cdots M_m = \sigma_\mu \sigma_0^n L_1 \cdots L_m$ .

Being fibers of  $\pi$ , the divisors of  $\sigma_0, L_i, M_j$  on  $G/H$  either coincide or have no common components. By the maximality of  $n$ , the divisor of  $\sigma_\mu$  does not majorize any one of  $M_j$ . Therefore  $M_1 = \cdots = M_m = \sigma_0$ ,  $m \leq n$ , and  $\sigma_\lambda/\sigma_\mu$  is an  $n$ -form in  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1$ . The assertion follows.  $\square$

**Example 3.** Let  $G = \text{SL}_3$ ,  $H = T$  (the diagonal torus),  $B$  be the upper-triangular subgroup. The space  $G/H$  can be regarded as the space of ordered triangles in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , i.e.,

$$G/H \simeq \{p = (p_1, p_2, p_3) \mid p_i \neq p_j\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^2$$

Let  $\ell_i \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  denote the line joining  $p_j$  and  $p_k$ , where  $(i, j, k)$  is a cyclic permutation of  $(1, 2, 3)$ . By  $p_0$  denote the  $B$ -fixed point in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , and by  $\ell_0$  the  $B$ -stable line.

There are the following  $B$ -stable prime divisors on  $G/H$ :

$$\begin{aligned} D_i &= \{p \mid p_i \in \ell_0\} = \text{div } g_{3i}, & \lambda_i &= \omega_2, \chi_i = -\varepsilon_i \\ D'_i &= \{p \mid p_0 \in \ell_i\} = \text{div } \Delta_i, & \Delta_i &= \begin{vmatrix} g_{2j} & g_{2k} \\ g_{3j} & g_{3k} \end{vmatrix}, \lambda'_i = \omega_1, \chi'_i = \varepsilon_i \\ D_t &= \overline{B \cdot p(t)} = \text{div}(g_{32}\Delta_2 + tg_{33}\Delta_3), & \lambda_0 &= \omega_1 + \omega_2, \chi_0 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

where  $i = 1, 2, 3$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\}$ , and the vertices of the triangle  $p(t)$  are:  $p_1(t) = (0 : 0 : 1)$ ,  $p_2(t) = (0 : 1 : 1)$ ,  $p_3(t) = (1 : t : 1)$ . Here  $g_{ij}$  are matrix entries of  $g \in G$ , and  $H$ -semiinvariant polynomials in  $g_{ij}$  are regarded as sections of  $G$ -line bundles on  $G/H$ . We also indicate their biweights  $(\lambda, \chi) \in \Sigma$ , denoting by  $\omega_i$  the fundamental weights, and by  $\varepsilon_i$  the diagonal matrix entries of  $H$ . Observe that  $g_{31}\Delta_1 + g_{32}\Delta_2 + g_{33}\Delta_3 = 0$ .

It follows that  $c(\mathrm{SL}_3/T) = 1$ . Now it is an easy combinatorial exercise to deduce from Theorem 2(2) that  $\mathrm{mult}_\lambda H^0(\mathrm{SL}_3/T, \mathcal{L}(\chi)) = n + 1$ , where

$$n = \frac{k_1 + k_2}{2} - \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=1}^3 |k_1 - k_2 + 2l_i - l_j - l_k|$$

whenever  $(\lambda, \chi) \in \Sigma$ ,  $\lambda = k_1\omega_1 + k_2\omega_2$ ,  $\chi = l_1\varepsilon_1 + l_2\varepsilon_2 + l_3\varepsilon_3$ ; and  $(\lambda, \chi) \in \Sigma$  whenever  $k_1 - k_2 \equiv l_1 + l_2 + l_3 \pmod{3}$  and  $n \geq 0$ .

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