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EQUIVARIANT DEGENERATIONS OF SPHERICAL MODULI FOR GROUPS OF TYPE A

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Abstract. — V. Alexeev and M. Brion introduced, for a given a complex reductive group, a moduli scheme of affine spherical varieties with prescribed weight monoid. We provide new examples of this moduli scheme by proving that it is an affine space when the given group is of type A and the prescribed weight monoid is that of a spherical module.

1. Introduction and statement of results

As part of the classification of affine $G$-varieties $X$, where $G$ is a complex connected reductive group, a natural question is to what extent the $G$-module structure of the ring $\mathbb{C}[X]$ of regular functions on $X$ determines $X$. Put differently, to what extent does the $G$-module structure of $\mathbb{C}[X]$ determine its algebra structure?

In the mid 1990s, F. Knop conjectured that the answer to this question is “completely” when $X$ is a smooth affine spherical variety. To be precise, Knop’s Conjecture, which has since been proved by I. Losev [22], says that if $X$ is a smooth affine $G$-variety such that the $G$-module $\mathbb{C}[X]$ has no multiplicities, then this $G$-module uniquely determines the $G$-variety $X$ (up to $G$-equivariant isomorphism). Knop also proved [20] that the validity of his conjecture implies that of Delzant’s Conjecture [12] about multiplicity-free symplectic manifolds.

Keywords: Invariant Hilbert scheme, spherical module, spherical variety, equivariant degeneration.

Math. classification: 14D22, 14C05, 14M27, 20G05.
In [1], V. Alexeev and M. Brion brought geometry to the general question. Given a maximal torus \( T \) in \( G \) and an affine \( T \)-variety \( Y \) such that all \( T \)-weights in \( C[Y] \) have finite multiplicity, they introduced a moduli scheme \( M_Y \) which parametrizes (equivalence classes of) pairs \((X, \varphi)\), where \( X \) is an affine \( G \)-variety and \( \varphi: X//U \rightarrow Y \) is a \( T \)-equivariant isomorphism (here \( U \subseteq G \) is a fixed maximal unipotent subgroup normalized by \( T \) and \( X//U := \text{Spec} \ C[X]^U \) is the categorical quotient). They also proved that \( M_Y \) is an affine connected scheme, of finite type over \( C \), and that the orbits of the natural action of \( \text{Aut}^T(Y) \) on \( M_Y \) are in bijection with the isomorphism classes of affine \( G \)-varieties \( X \) such that \( X//U \simeq Y \). See also [8, Section 4.3] for more information on \( M_Y \).

The first examples of \( M_Y \) were obtained by S. Jansou [16]. He dealt with the following situation. Suppose \( \Lambda^+ \) is the set of dominant weights of \( G \) (with respect to the Borel subgroup \( B = TU \) of \( G \)) and let \( \lambda \in \Lambda^+ \). Jansou proved that if \( Y = C \) with \( T \) acting linearly with weight \(-\lambda\), then \( M_\lambda := M_Y \) is a (reduced) point or an affine line. Moreover, he linked \( M_Y \) to the theory of wonderful varieties (see, e.g., [5] or [27]) by showing that \( M_\lambda \) is an affine line if and only if \( \lambda \) is a spherical root for \( G \).

P. Bravi and S. Cupit-Foutou [3] generalized Jansou’s result as follows. Given a free submonoid \( S \) of \( \Lambda^+ \) such that

\begin{equation}
\langle S \rangle \cap \Lambda^+ = S,
\end{equation}

put \( Y := \text{Spec} \ C[S] \) and \( M_S := M_Y \). Bravi and Cupit-Foutou proved that \( M_S \) is isomorphic to an affine space. More precisely, the map \( T \rightarrow \text{Aut}^T(Y) \) coming from the action of \( T \) on \( Y \) induces an action of \( T \) on \( M_S \), and they proved that \( M_S \) is (isomorphic to) a multiplicity-free representation of \( T \) whose weight set is the set of spherical roots of a wonderful variety associated to \( S \). The connections between the moduli schemes \( M_Y \) and wonderful varieties have been studied further in [10, 11].

In this paper we compute examples of \( M_S \) where \( S \) is a free submonoid of \( \Lambda^+ \), but does not necessarily satisfy (1.1). To be more precise, we prove that \( M_Y \) is (again) isomorphic to an affine space whenever \( Y = W//U \) with \( W \) a spherical \( G \)-module and \( G \) of type \( A \) (see Theorem 1.1 below for the precise statement). The reason we chose to work with spherical modules is that they have been classified (“up to central tori”) and that many of their combinatorial invariants have been computed (see [19]). We prove Theorem 1.1 by reducing it to a case-by-case verification (Theorem 1.2). It turns out that in most of our cases, condition (1.1) is not satisfied. The fact that the classification of spherical modules is “up to central tori” means that this verification needs some care, see Section 4 and Remark 4.4. In this
paper we restrict ourselves to groups of type $A$ because the work needed is already quite lengthy. The reduction of the proof of Theorem 1.1 to the case-by-case analysis is independent of the type of $G$.

The main consequence of the absence of condition (1.1) is that computing the tangent space to $M_S$ at its unique $T$-fixed point and unique closed $T$-orbit $X_0$, which is also the first step in the work of Jansou, and Bravi and Cupit-Foutou, becomes more involved (see Section 3 below). On the other hand, we know, by definition, that our moduli schemes $M_S = M_Y$ (where $Y = W\!/U$) contain the closed point $(W, \pi)$ where $\pi: W\!/U \to Y$ is the identity map. By general results from [1] this point has an (open) $T$-orbit of which we know the dimension $d_W$. This implies that once we have determined that $\dim T_{X_0}M_S \leq d_W$, our main result follows. Jansou and especially Bravi–Cupit-Foutou have to do quite a bit more work (involving the existence of a certain wonderful variety depending on $S$) to prove that $M_S$ contains a $T$-orbit of the same dimension as $T_{X_0}M_S$.

1.1. Notation and preliminaries

We will consider algebraic groups and schemes over $\mathbb{C}$. In addition, like in [1], all schemes will be assumed to be Noetherian. By a variety, we mean an integral separated scheme of finite type over $\mathbb{C}$. In particular, varieties are irreducible.

In this paper, unless stated otherwise, $G$ will be a connected reductive linear algebraic group over $\mathbb{C}$ in which we have chosen a (fixed) maximal torus $T$ and a (fixed) Borel subgroup $B$ containing $T$. We will use $U$ for the unipotent radical of $B$; it is a maximal unipotent subgroup of $G$. For an algebraic group $H$, we denote $X(H)$ the group of characters, that is, the set of all homomorphisms of algebraic groups $H \to \mathbb{G}_m$, where $\mathbb{G}_m$ denotes the multiplicative group $\mathbb{C}^\times$. By a $G$-module or a representation of $G$ we will always mean a (possibly infinite dimensional) rational $G$-module (sometimes also called a locally finite $G$-module). For the definition, which applies to non-reductive groups too, see for example [1, p. 86]. Because $G$ is reductive, every $G$-module $E$ is the direct sum of irreducible (or simple) $G$-submodules. We call $E$ multiplicity-free if it is the direct sum of pairwise non-isomorphic simple $G$-modules.

We will use $\Lambda$ for the weight lattice $X(T)$ of $G$, which is naturally identified with $X(B)$, and $\Lambda^+$ for the submonoid of $X(T)$ of dominant weights (with respect to $B$). Every $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$ corresponds to a unique irreducible representation of $G$, which we will denote $V(\lambda)$. It is specified by the property that $\lambda$ is its unique $B$-weight. Conversely every irreducible representation
of $G$ is of the form $V(\lambda)$ for a unique $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$. Furthermore, we will use $v_\lambda$ for a highest weight vector in $V(\lambda)$. It is defined up to nonzero scalar: $V(\lambda)^U = \mathbb{C}v_\lambda$. For $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$, we will use $\lambda^*$ for the highest weight of the dual $V(\lambda)^* = V(\lambda)$, $\lambda_0$ is the longest element of the Weyl group $N_G(T)/T$ of $G$. For a $G$-module $M$ and $\lambda \in \Lambda^+$, we will use $M(\lambda)$ for the isotypical component of $M$ of type $V(\lambda)$.

We denote the center of $G$ by $Z(G)$ and use $T_{ad}$ for the adjoint torus $T/Z(G)$ of $G$. The set of simple roots of $G$ (with respect to $T$ and $B$) will be denoted $\Pi$, the set of positive roots $R^+$ and the root lattice $\Lambda_R$. When $\alpha$ is a root, $\alpha^\vee \in \text{Hom}_\mathbb{Z}(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z})$ will stand for its coroot. In particular, $\langle \alpha, \alpha^\vee \rangle = 2$ where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is the natural pairing between $\Lambda$ and its dual $\text{Hom}_\mathbb{Z}(\Lambda, \mathbb{Z})$ (which is naturally identified with the group of one-parameter subgroups of $T$).

The Lie algebra of an algebraic group $G$, $H, T, B, U$ etc. will be denoted by the corresponding fraktur letter $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{u}$, etc. At times, we will also use $\text{Lie}(H)$ for the Lie algebra of $H$. For a reductive group $G$, we will use $G'$ for its derived group $(G, G)$. It is a semisimple group and its Lie algebra is $\mathfrak{g}' = [\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}]$. When $G$ acts on a set $X$ and $x \in X$, then $G_x$ stands for the isotropy group of $x$. We adopt the convention that $G'_x := (G')_x$ and analogous notations for $g$-actions. For every root $\alpha$ of $G$, we choose a non-zero element $X_\alpha$ of the (one-dimensional) root space $\mathfrak{g}^\alpha \subseteq \mathfrak{g}$. We call $X_\alpha$ a root operator.

A reductive group $G$ is said to be of type $A$ if $\mathfrak{g}'$ is 0 or isomorphic to a direct sum

$$\mathfrak{sl}(n_1) \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(n_2) \oplus \cdots \oplus \mathfrak{sl}(n_k)$$

for some positive integer $k$ and integers $n_i \geq 2$ ($1 \leq i \leq k$).

When $G = \text{SL}(n)$ and $i \in \{1, \ldots, n-1\}$, we denote $\omega_i$ the highest weight of the module $\bigwedge^i \mathbb{C}^n$. In addition, for $\text{SL}(n)$ we put $\omega_n = \omega_0 = 0$. Similarly, when $G = \text{GL}(n)$ and $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, the highest weight of the module $\bigwedge^i \mathbb{C}^n$ will also be denoted $\omega_i$. The set $\{\omega_1, \ldots, \omega_n\}$ forms a basis of the weight lattice $\Lambda$ for GL($n$). Moreover, we put $\omega_0 = 0$. It is well-known that the simple roots of GL($n$) have the following expressions in terms of the $\omega_i$:

\begin{equation}
\alpha_i = -\omega_{i-1} + 2\omega_i - \omega_{i+1} \quad \text{for} \ i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n-1\},
\end{equation}

and that the same formulas also hold for $\text{SL}(n)$. The representations $V(\omega_i)$ are called the fundamental representations of $\text{GL}(n)$ (resp. $\text{SL}(n)$).

A finitely generated $\mathbb{C}$-algebra $A$ is called a $G$-algebra if it comes equipped with an action of $G$ (by automorphisms) for which $A$ is a rational $G$-module. The weight set of $A$ is then defined as

$$\Lambda^+_A := \{ \lambda \in \Lambda^+: A(\lambda) \neq 0 \}.$$
Such an algebra $A$ is called multiplicity-free if it is multiplicity-free as a $G$-module. When the $G$-algebra $A$ is an integral domain, the multiplication on $A$ induces a monoid structure on $\Lambda^+_A$, which we then call the weight monoid of $A$; it is a finitely generated submonoid of $\Lambda^+$ (see e.g. [7, Corollary 2.8]).

For an affine scheme $X$, we will use $\mathbb{C}[X]$ for its ring of regular functions. In particular, $X = \text{Spec} \mathbb{C}[X]$. As in [1], an affine $G$-scheme is an affine scheme $X$ of finite type equipped with an action of $G$. Then $\mathbb{C}[X]$ is a $G$-algebra for the following action:

$$(g \cdot f)(x) = f(g^{-1} \cdot x) \text{ for } f \in \mathbb{C}[X], \ g \in G \text{ and } x \in X.$$ 

We remark that even when $G$ is abelian we use this action on $\mathbb{C}[X]$. A $G$-variety is a variety equipped with an action of $G$. If $X$ is an affine $G$-scheme, then its weight set $\Lambda^+_{(G,X)}$ is defined, like in [1, p. 87], as the weight set of the $G$-algebra $\mathbb{C}[X]$. If $X$ is an affine $G$-variety, then we call $\Lambda^+_{(G,X)}$ its weight monoid, and the weight group $\Lambda_{(G,X)}$ of $X$ is defined as the subgroup of $X(T)$ generated by $\Lambda^+_{(G,X)}$. It is well–known that $\Lambda_{(G,X)}$ is also equal to the set of $B$-weights in the function field of $X$ (see e.g. [7, p. 17]). When no confusion can arise about the group $G$ in question, we will use $\Lambda^+_X$ and $\Lambda_X$ for $\Lambda^+_{(G,X)}$ and $\Lambda_{(G,X)}$, respectively. An affine $G$-scheme $X$ is called multiplicity-free if $\mathbb{C}[X]$ is multiplicity-free as a $G$-module. An affine $G$-variety is multiplicity-free if and only if it has a dense $B$-orbit. We call a $G$-variety spherical if it is normal and has a dense orbit for $B$. A spherical $G$-module is a finite-dimensional $G$-module that is spherical as a $G$-variety. We remark that if $W$ is a spherical $G$-module, then any two distinct simple $G$-submodules of $W$ are non-isomorphic. For general information on spherical varieties we refer to [7, Section 2] and [27].

The indecomposable saturated spherical modules were classified up to geometric equivalence by Kac, Benson-Ratcliff and Leahy [17, 2, 21], see [19] for an overview or Section 4 for the definitions of these terms. We will use Knop’s presentation in [19, Section 5] of this classification and refer to it as Knop’s List. For groups of type $A$ we recall the classification in List 5.1 on page 1797.

When $H$ is a torus and $M$ is a finite-dimensional $H$-module, then by the $H$-weight set of $M$, we mean the (finite) set of elements $\lambda$ of $X(H)$ such that $M_{(\lambda)} \neq 0$. For the weight monoid $\Lambda^+_M$ of $M$ (seen as an $H$-variety) we then have that

$$\Lambda^+_M = \langle -\lambda | \lambda \text{ is an element of the } H\text{-weight set of } M \rangle_N.$$ 

Given an affine $T$-scheme $Y$ such that each $T$-eigenspace in $\mathbb{C}[Y]$ is finite-dimensional, Alexeev and Brion [1] introduced a moduli scheme $M_Y$.
which classifies (equivalence classes of) pairs \((X, \varphi)\), where \(X\) is an affine \(G\)-scheme and \(\varphi : X/U \rightarrow Y\) is a \(T\)-equivariant isomorphism. Here \(X/U := \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}[X]/U)\) is the categorical quotient. Moreover, they proved that \(M_Y\) is a connected, affine scheme of finite type over \(\mathbb{C}\) and they equipped it with an action by \(T_{\text{ad}}\), induced by the action of \(\text{Aut}^T(Y)\) on \(M_Y\) and the map \(T \rightarrow \text{Aut}^T(Y)\). We call \(\gamma\) this action of \(T_{\text{ad}}\) on \(M_Y\) (see Section 2.1 for details).

Now, suppose \(S\) is a finitely generated submonoid of \(\Lambda^+\) and \(Y := \text{Spec} \mathbb{C}[S]\) is the multiplicity-free \(T\)-variety with weight monoid \(S\). Like [1], we then put \(M_S := M_Y\).

We will use \(M_S^G\) for \(M_S\) when we want to stress the group under consideration.

We need to define one more combinatorial invariant of affine \(G\)-varieties. Let \(X\) be such a variety. Put \(R := \mathbb{C}[X]\) and define the root monoid \(\Sigma_X\) of \(X\) as the submonoid of \(X(T)\) generated by

\[
\left\{ \lambda + \mu - \nu \in \Lambda \mid \lambda, \mu, \nu \in \Lambda^+ : \langle R_\lambda R_\mu \rangle \cap R_\nu \neq 0 \right\},
\]

where \(\langle R_\lambda R_\mu \rangle \cap R_\nu\) denotes the \(\mathbb{C}\)-vector subspace of \(R\) spanned by the set \(\{fg \mid f \in R_\lambda, g \in R_\mu\}\). Note that \(\Sigma_X \subseteq \langle \Pi \rangle \mathbb{N}\). We call \(d_X\) the rank of the (free) abelian group generated (in \(X(T)\)) by \(\Sigma_X\), that is,

\[d_X := \text{rk} \langle \Sigma_X \rangle \mathbb{Z}.
\]

We remark that for a given spherical module \(W\), the invariant \(d_W\) is easy to calculate from the rank of \(\Lambda_W\), see Lemma 2.7.

\[\text{1.2. Main results}\]

The main result of the present paper is the following theorem. Its formal proof will be given in Section 1.3.

**Theorem 1.1.** — Assume \(W\) is a spherical \(G\)-module, where \(G\) is a connected reductive algebraic group of type \(A\). Let \(S\) be the weight monoid of \(W\). Then

(a) \(\Sigma_W\) is a freely generated monoid; and
(b) the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-scheme \(M_S\), where the action is \(\gamma\), is \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-equivariantly isomorphic to the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-module with weight monoid \(\Sigma_W\). In particular, the scheme \(M_S\) is isomorphic to the affine space \(\mathbb{A}^{d_W}\), hence it is irreducible and smooth.
Our strategy for the proof of Theorem 1.1 is as follows. Suppose $W$ is a spherical module with weight monoid $\mathcal{S}$. Because $\dim M_S \geq d_W$, it is sufficient to prove that $\dim T_{X_0}M_S \leq d_W$, where $X_0$ is the unique $T_{\text{ad}}$-fixed point and the unique closed $T_{\text{ad}}$-orbit in $M_S$ (see Corollary 2.6). In Section 4 (see Corollary 4.17) we further reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to the following theorem.

**Theorem 1.2.** — Suppose $(\mathcal{G}, W)$ is an entry in Knop’s List of saturated indecomposable spherical modules with $\mathcal{G}$ of type $A$ (see List 5.1 on page 1797). If $G$ is a connected reductive group such that

1. $\mathcal{G}' \subseteq G \subseteq \mathcal{G}$; and
2. $W$ is spherical as a $G$-module

then

$$\dim T_{X_0}M^G_S = d_W,$$

where $\mathcal{S}$ is the weight monoid of $(G, W)$.

In Section 5 we will prove this theorem case-by-case for the 8 families of spherical modules in Knop’s List with $\mathcal{G}$ of type $A$.

For that purpose $X_0$ is identified in Section 2.1 with the closure of a certain orbit $G \cdot x_0$ in a certain $G$-module $V$ and $T_{X_0}M_S$ with the vector space of $G$-invariant global sections of the normal sheaf of $X_0$ in $V$. This is a subspace of the space of $G$-invariant sections of the same sheaf over $G \cdot x_0$. This latter space is naturally identified with $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$. In Section 5 we use the $T_{\text{ad}}$-action (more precisely a variation of it) to bound $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ by explicit computations for the pairs $(G, W)$ in the statement of Theorem 1.2. In most cases we find that already $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \leq d_W$. To obtain the desired inequality for $\dim T_{X_0}M_S$ in the remaining cases we use the exclusion criterion of Section 3, which was suggested to us by M. Brion, to prove that enough sections over $G \cdot x_0$ do not extend to $X_0$.

**1.3. Formal proof of Theorem 1.1**

We now give the proof of Theorem 1.1. Corollary 2.6 and Corollary 4.17 reduce the proof to Theorem 1.2, which we prove by a case-by-case verification in Section 5.

**1.4. Structure of the paper**

In Section 2 we present known results, mostly from [1] and [3], in the form we need them. In Section 3, which may be of independent interest, we formulate a criterion about non-extension of invariant sections of the
normal sheaf. In Section 4 we review the known classification of spherical modules [17, 2, 21] as presented in [19] and reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to a case-by-case verification. We perform this case-by-case analysis in Section 5, using results from [3] mentioned in Section 2 and, for the most involved cases, also the exclusion criterion of Section 3.

2. From the literature

In this section we gather known results, mostly from [1] and [3], together with immediate consequences relevant to our purposes. In particular we explain that to prove Theorem 1.1 it is sufficient to show that $M_S$ is smooth when $S$ is the weight monoid of a spherical module $W$ for $G$ of type $A$. Indeed, [1, Corollary 2.14] then implies Theorem 1.1 (see Corollary 2.6). That result of Alexeev and Brion’s also tells us that $\dim M_S \geq d_W$. Moreover, by [1, Theorem 2.7], we only have to prove smoothness at a specific point $X_0$ of $M_S$ (see Corollary 2.4), and for that it is enough to show that

\begin{equation}
\dim T_{X_0}M_S \leq d_W.
\end{equation}

Here is an overview of the content of this section. In Sections 2.1 and 2.2 we recall known facts (mostly from [1]) about the moduli scheme $M_S$ when $S$ is a freely generated submonoid of $\Lambda^+$ and apply them to the case where $S$ is the weight monoid $\Lambda^+_{W}$ of a spherical $G$-module $W$. More specifically, in Section 2.1 we identify $M_S$ with a certain open subscheme of an invariant Hilbert scheme $\text{Hilb}_S^G(V)$, where $V$ is a specific finite-dimensional $G$-module determined by $S$. Under this identification, the point $X_0$ of $M_S$ corresponds to a certain $G$-stable subvariety of $V$, which we also denote $X_0$. Moreover, $X_0$ is the closure of the $G$-orbit of a certain point $x_0 \in V$. We then have that

$$T_{X_0}M_S \simeq H^0(X_0, N_{X_0}^G) \hookrightarrow H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{X_0}^G) \simeq (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}},$$

where $N_{X_0}$ is the normal sheaf of $X_0$ in $V$. In addition, following [1] we introduce an action of $T_{ad}$ on $M_S$. In Section 2.2 we give some more details about the inclusion $H^0(X_0, N_{X_0}^G) \hookrightarrow (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ which will be of use in Section 3 and in the case-by-case analysis of Section 5. In Section 2.3 we collect some elementary technical lemmas on $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ and the $T_{ad}$-action. Finally, in Section 2.4 we recall some results from [3] about $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$. 

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2.1. Embedding of $M_S$ into an invariant Hilbert scheme and the $T_{ad}$-action

Here we recall, from [1], that if $S$ is a freely generated submonoid of $\Lambda^+$, then $M_S$ can be identified with an open subscheme of a certain invariant Hilbert scheme $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$. We also review the $T_{ad}$-action on $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$ defined in [1], its relation to the natural action of $GL(V)^G$ on that Hilbert scheme and how it allows us to reduce the question of the smoothness of $M_S$ to the question whether $M_S$ is smooth at a specific point $X_0$.

Like the results in Sections 2.2, 2.3 and 3 everything in this section applies to any $M_S$ with $S$ freely generated. In particular, by the following well-known proposition it applies to $M_S$ with $S = \Lambda_W^+$ when $(G,W)$ is a spherical module. For a proof, see [19, Theorem 3.2].

**Proposition 2.1.** — The weight monoid of a spherical module is freely generated; that is, it is generated by a set of linearly independent dominant weights.

For the following, we fix a freely generated submonoid $S$ of $\Lambda^+$ and let $E^*$ be its (unique) basis. Put $E = \{\lambda^* \mid \lambda \in E^*\}$ and

$$V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in E} V(\lambda).$$

Alexeev and Brion [1] introduced the invariant Hilbert scheme $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$, which parametrizes all multiplicity-free closed $G$-stable subschemes $X$ of $V$ with weight set $S$ (they actually introduced the invariant Hilbert scheme in a more general setting; for more information on this object, see the survey [8]). They also defined an action of $T_{ad}$ on $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$, see [1, Section 2.1], which we call $\gamma$ and now briefly review. It is obtained by lifting the natural action of $GL(V)^G$ on $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$ to $T$. First, define the following homomorphism:

(2.2) $h: T \to GL(V)^G, \quad t \mapsto (-\lambda^*(t))_{\lambda \in E}.$

Composing the natural action of $GL(V)^G$ on $V$ with $h$ yields an action $\phi$ of $T$ on $V$:

$$\phi(t,v) = h(t) \cdot v \quad \text{for } t \in T \text{ and } v \in V.$$  

Note that $\phi$ is a linear action on $V$ and that each $G$-isotypical component $V(\lambda^*)$ of $V^*$ (with $\lambda \in E$) is the $T$-weight space for $\phi$ of weight $\lambda^*$. Since $GL(V)^G$ acts naturally on $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$, $\phi$ induces an action of $T$ on $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$. We call this last action $\gamma$. It has $Z(G)$ in its kernel and so descends to an action of $T_{ad} = T/Z(G)$ on $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$ which we also call $\gamma$. Indeed, if $\rho: G \to GL(V)$ is the (linear) action of $G$ on $V$, then for every $z \in Z(G)$,
\(\rho(z) = h(z)\), because \(-\lambda^* = w_0\lambda\) is the lowest weight of \(V(\lambda)\) and therefore differs from all other weights in \(V(\lambda)\) by an element of \((\Pi)_{\mathbb{N}}\). This implies that if \(I\) is a \(G\)-stable ideal in \(\mathbb{C}[V]\), then \(h(z) \cdot I = \rho(z) \cdot I = I\). More generally, if \(S\) is a scheme with trivial \(G\)-action and \(\mathcal{I}\) is a \(G\)-stable ideal sheaf on \(V \times S\), then \(\mathcal{I}\) is also stable under the action induced by \(h\) on the structure sheaf \(\mathcal{O}_{V \times S}\), since \(\rho|_{Z(G)} = h|_{Z(G)}\). Because \(\text{Hilb}_G^Z(V)\) represents the functor (Schemes) \(\rightarrow\) (Sets) that associates to a scheme \(S\) the set of flat families \(Z \subseteq V \times S\) with invariant Hilbert function the characteristic function of \(S \subseteq \Lambda^+\) (see [1, Section 1.2] or [8, Section 2.4]), this implies our claim.

From [1, Corollary 1.17] we know that the open subscheme \(\text{Hilb}_G^Z(V)\) of \(\text{Hilb}_G^Z(V)\) that classifies the (irreducible) non-degenerate subvarieties \(X \subseteq V\) with \(\Lambda^+_X = S\) is stable under \(GL(V)^G\) and therefore under the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-action \(\gamma\). Recall from [1, Definition 1.14] that a closed \(G\)-stable subvariety of \(V\) is called non-degenerate if its projections to the simple components \(V(\lambda)\) of \(V\), where \(\lambda \in E\), are all nonzero. We call a closed \(G\)-stable subvariety of \(V\) degenerate if it is not non-degenerate.

Next suppose \(Y = \text{Spec} \mathbb{C}[S]\), the multiplicity-free \(T\)-variety with weight monoid \(S\). Recall that \(M_S = M_Y\) classifies (equivalence classes of) pairs \((X, \varphi)\) where \(X\) is an affine \(G\)-variety and \(\varphi: X//U \rightarrow Y\) is a \(T\)-equivariant isomorphism. The action of \(T\) on \(Y\) through \(T \rightarrow \text{Aut}^T(Y)\) induces an action of \(T\) on \(M_S\). From [1, Lemma 2.2] we know that this action descends to an action of \(T_{\text{ad}}\) on \(M_S\). By Corollary 1.17 and Lemma 2.2 in [1] the moduli scheme \(M_S\) is \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-equivariantly isomorphic to \(\text{Hilb}_G^{Z_+}\), where the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-action on \(\text{Hilb}_G^{Z_+}\) is \(\gamma\). From now on, we will identify \(M_S\) with \(\text{Hilb}_G^{Z_+}\). As in [3], the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-action it carries will play a fundamental role in what follows.

**Remark 2.2.**

(a) Let \((G, W)\) be a spherical module with weight monoid \(S\), put \(Y = W//U\) and let \(\pi: W//U \rightarrow Y\) be the identity map. Then \((W, \pi)\) corresponds to a closed point of \(M_Y = M_S = \text{Hilb}_G^{Z_+} \subseteq \text{Hilb}_G^Z(V)\). On the other hand, note that the highest weights of \(W\) belong to \(E\). Put \(E_1 = \{\lambda \in \Lambda^+ : W(\lambda) \neq 0\} \subseteq E\) and \(E_2 = E \setminus E_1\). Then

\[
V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in E_1} V(\lambda) = \left[\bigoplus_{\lambda \in E_1} V(\lambda)\right] \oplus \left[\bigoplus_{\lambda \in E_2} V(\lambda)\right]
\]

Identifying \(W\) with \(\bigoplus_{\lambda \in E_1} V(\lambda) \subseteq V\) we see that \(W\) corresponds to a closed point of \(\text{Hilb}_G^Z(V)\). As soon as \(E_2 \neq \emptyset\), \(W \subseteq V\) is a
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The degenerate subvariety of $V$, that is, it corresponds to a closed point of $\text{Hilb}^G_S(V) \smallsetminus \text{Hilb}^G_E$.

(b) The subvariety of $V$ corresponding to the closed point $(W, \pi)$ of $M_S = \text{Hilb}^G_E \subseteq \text{Hilb}^G_S(V)$ can be described as follows. Let $\text{Mor}^G(W, V(\lambda))$ be the set of $G$-equivariant morphisms of algebraic varieties $W \to V(\lambda)$. We consider $\text{Mor}^G(W, V(\lambda))$ with vector space structure induced from the one of $V(\lambda)$. Note that, by Schur’s lemma and because $W$ is spherical,

$$\text{Mor}^G(W, V(\lambda)) \simeq (\mathbb{C}[W] \otimes \mathbb{C} V(\lambda))^G \simeq (V(\lambda^*) \otimes V(\lambda))^G$$

is one-dimensional for every dominant weight $\lambda$ with $\lambda^* \in \mathcal{S}$. After choosing, for every $\lambda \in E_2$, a nonzero $f_\lambda \in \text{Mor}^G(W, V(\lambda))$, we can define the following $G$-equivariant closed embedding of $W$ into $V$:

$$\varphi : W \to V, \ w \mapsto w + (\oplus_{\lambda \in E_2} f_\lambda(w)).$$

Its image corresponds to a closed point of $\text{Hilb}^G_E$. An appropriate choice of the functions $f_\lambda$ (which depends on the identification $M_S = \text{Hilb}^G_E$) yields the closed point of $\text{Hilb}^G_E$ corresponding to $(W, \pi)$.

The next proposition, taken from [1, Theorem 2.7], means we can verify the smoothness of $M_S$ at just one of its points. It also implies that $M_S$ is connected.

**Proposition 2.3.** — The affine scheme $M_S$ has a unique $T_{\text{ad}}$-fixed point $X_0$, which is also its only closed orbit.

Using the well-known fact that every orbit closure contains a closed orbit, we have the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.4.** — $M_S$ is smooth if and only if it is smooth at $X_0$.

Under the identification of $M_S$ with $\text{Hilb}^G_E$, the distinguished point $X_0$ of $M_S$ corresponds to a certain subvariety of $V$, which we also denote $X_0$ (see [1, p. 99]). It is the closure of the $G$-orbit in $V$ of

$$x_0 := \sum_{\lambda \in E} v_\lambda \in \oplus_{\lambda \in E} V(\lambda) = V.$$ 

Indeed this orbit closure has the right weight monoid by [29, Theorem 6] and is fixed under the action of $\text{GL}(V)^G$. Yet another result of Alexeev and Brion’s gives us an a priori lower bound on the dimension of the moduli schemes we are considering. We first recall a result of F. Knop. Suppose $X$
is an affine $G$-variety. Let $\tilde{\Sigma}_X$ be the saturated monoid generated by $\Sigma_X$, that is

$$\tilde{\Sigma}_X := \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0}\Sigma_X \cap (\Sigma_X)_\mathbb{Z} \subseteq X(T) \otimes \mathbb{Z} \mathbb{Q}.$$  

Then by [18, Theorem 1.3] the monoid $\tilde{\Sigma}_X$ is free. In the following proposition we apply some standard facts about (not necessarily normal) toric varieties.

**Proposition 2.5** (Cor 2.9, Prop 2.13 and Cor 2.14 in [1]). — Suppose $X$ is a spherical affine $G$-variety. We view $X$ as a closed point of $M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda$.  

1. The weight monoid of the closure of the $T_{ad}$-orbit of $X$ in $M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda$ is $\Sigma_X$. Consequently $\dim M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda \geq d_X$.  

2. The normalization of the $T_{ad}$-orbit closure of $X$ in $M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda$ has weight monoid $\tilde{\Sigma}_X$. Consequently, it is $T_{ad}$-equivariantly isomorphic to a multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module of dimension $d_X$.  

3. Suppose $X$ is a smooth variety. Then its $T_{ad}$-orbit is open in $M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda$ and, consequently, $M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda$ is smooth if and only if $\dim T_{X_0}M_{\Lambda^+_X}^\Lambda \leq d_X$.  

Applying this proposition to our situation we immediately obtain the following corollary. It reduces the proof of Theorem 1.1 to Corollary 4.17 and Theorem 1.2.

**Corollary 2.6.** — Let $W$ be a spherical $G$-module and let $S$ be its weight monoid. Then the following are equivalent

1. $M_S$ is smooth;  
2. $\dim T_{X_0}M_S = d_W$;  
3. $\dim T_{X_0}M_S \leq d_W$.

Moreover, if $M_S$ is smooth then $\Sigma_W = \tilde{\Sigma}_W$ and $M_S$ is $T_{ad}$-equivariantly isomorphic to the multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module with $T_{ad}$-weight set $-\Psi_W$, where $\Psi_W$ is the (unique) basis of $\Sigma_W$.

The following formula for $d_W$, which is an immediate consequence of [9, Lemme 5.3], will be of use. For the convenience of the reader, we provide a proof suggested by the referee.

**Lemma 2.7.** — If $W$ is a spherical $G$-module, then $d_W = a - b$, where $a$ is the rank of the (free) abelian group $\Lambda_W$ and $b$ is the number of summands in the decomposition of $W$ into simple $G$-modules.

**Proof.** — Let $G/H$ be the open orbit in $W$. From [6, Théorème 4.3], we have that $d_W = \text{rk } \Lambda_W - \dim N_G(H)/H$. Since $N_G(H)/H$ is isomorphic to the group of $G$-equivariant automorphisms $\text{Aut}^G(G/H)$ of $G/H$, we obtain by [23, Lemma 3.1.2] that $N_G(H)/H \simeq \text{Aut}^G(W)$. Moreover, $\text{Aut}^G(W) = \ldots$
GL(W)\(^G\), because a \(G\)-automorphism of the multiplicity-free \(G\)-algebra \(\mathbb{C}[W]\) preserves all irreducible submodules of \(\mathbb{C}[W]\) and therefore sends \(W^*\) to \(W^*\). Since \(\dim GL(W)^G = b\), it follows that \(\dim N_G(H)/H = b\), which finishes the proof.

\[\square\]

Remark 2.8. — In [19] Knop computed the simple reflections of the so-called “little Weyl group” of \(W^*\), whenever \(W\) is a saturated indecomposable spherical module. This entry in Knop’s List is equivalent to giving the basis of the free monoid \(\tilde{\Sigma}_W^* = -w_0\tilde{\Sigma}_W\): that basis is the set of simple roots of a certain root system of which the “little Weyl group” is the Weyl group (see [18, Section 1], [22, Section 3] or [4, Appendix A] for details). Knop’s List also contains the basis of \(\Lambda^+_W = -w_0\Lambda^+_W\) for the same modules \(W\). Those were computed in [14] and [21].

Here now is a proposition which provides a concrete description of the tangent space \(T_{X_0}M_S\).

**Proposition 2.9** ([1], Proposition 1.13). — Let \(V\) be a finite dimensional \(G\)-module and suppose \(X\) is a multiplicity-free closed \(G\)-subvariety of \(V\). Also writing \(X\) for the corresponding closed point in \(\text{Hilb}_{G_{\lambda}(X)}^G(V)\), we have that the Zariski tangent space \(T_X\text{Hilb}_{G_{\lambda}(X)}^G(V)\) is canonically isomorphic to \(H^0(X, N_X)^G\), where \(N_X\) is the normal sheaf of \(X\) in \(V\).

### 2.2. \((V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}\) as a first estimate of \(T_{X_0}M_S\)

In this section we describe a natural inclusion of \(T_{X_0}M_S\) into \((V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}\), see Corollary 2.14. For calculational purposes we introduce a second \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-action on \(\text{Hilb}_{G_{\lambda}(X)}^G(V)\) denoted \(\widehat{\psi}\), which is a twist of the action \(\gamma\) defined in Section 2.1, and also the infinitesimal version of \(\widehat{\psi}\) on \((V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}\) denoted \(\alpha\). The action \(\alpha\) is the one used throughout [3]. The main ideas of this section come from the proof of [1, Proposition 1.15]. We continue to use the notation of Section 2.1.

Because \(G \cdot x_0\) is dense in \(X_0\), we have an injective restriction map

\[
H^0(X_0, N_{X_0}) \hookrightarrow H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{X_0}) = H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{G \cdot x_0}),
\]

where \(N_{G \cdot x_0}\) is defined as the restriction of \(N_{X_0}\) to the open subset \(G \cdot x_0 \subseteq X_0\). This map is \(G \times \text{GL}(V)^G\)-equivariant because \(X_0\) and \(G \cdot x_0\) are stable under the natural action of \(G \times \text{GL}(V)^G\) on \(V\). Restricting to \(G\)-invariants we obtain a \(\text{GL}(V)^G\)-equivariant inclusion

\[
(2.3) \quad H^0(X_0, N_{X_0})^G \hookrightarrow H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{X_0})^G = H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{G \cdot x_0})^G.
\]
Since $G \cdot x_0$ is homogeneous, $\mathcal{N}_{G,x_0}$ is the $G$-linearized sheaf on $G/G_{x_0}$ associated with the $G_{x_0}$-module $V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0$, that is, the vector bundle associated to $\mathcal{N}_{G,x_0}$ is $G$-equivariantly isomorphic to $G \times_{G_{x_0}} (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)$. In particular, we have a canonical isomorphism

\begin{equation}
H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{G,x_0})^G \to (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}, \quad s \mapsto s(x_0)
\end{equation}

which is the precise way of saying that $G$-invariant global sections of $\mathcal{N}_{G,x_0}$ are determined by their value at $x_0$.

The $T$-action $\phi$ on $V$ defined in Section 2.1 induces an action on $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{G,x_0})^G$ and we could use the isomorphism (2.4) to induce an action on $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$. Because it is better suited to our calculations, we prefer to work with a slightly different action. Recall that $\phi$ was obtained by composing the natural action of $\text{GL}(V)^G$ with the homomorphism $h$ of (2.2). Instead, we obtain a $T$-action, denoted $\psi$, on $V$ by composing the action of $\text{GL}(V)^G$ with the homomorphism

\begin{equation}
f : T \to \text{GL}(V)^G, \quad t \mapsto (\lambda(t))_{\lambda \in E}.
\end{equation}

In other words, $\psi$ is the following action:

$$\psi : T \times V \to V, \quad \psi(t,v) = f(t) \cdot v.$$  

**Remark 2.10.** — We note that since the elements of $E$ are linearly independent, $f$ is surjective.

Since $\psi$ commutes with the action of $G$ on $V$, it induces an action of $T$ on $\text{Hilb}_S^G(V)$ and on $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{G,x_0})^G$. By slight abuse of notation we call both of these actions $\tilde{\psi}$. Using the isomorphism of equation (2.4) we now translate this action into an action of $T$ on $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$. The relationship (via $f$) between the action of $T$ on $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ and the action of $\text{GL}(V)^G$ on $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{G,x_0})^G \simeq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ will play a part in the proof of Proposition 3.4. Let $\rho : T \times V \to V$ be the action of $T$ on $V$ induced by restriction of the action of $G$.

**Definition 2.11.** — We denote $\alpha$ the action of $T$ on $V$ given by

$$\alpha(t,v) := \psi(t, \rho(t^{-1}, v)) \quad \text{for } t \in T \text{ and } v \in V.$$  

**Remark 2.12.** — One immediately checks that for all $\lambda \in E$ and every $v \in V(\lambda) \subseteq V$,

\begin{equation}
\alpha(t,v) = \lambda(t)t^{-1}v.
\end{equation}

**Proposition 2.13.** — The action $\alpha$ induces an action of $T$ on $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, which we also call $\alpha$. For $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{x_0})^G$ equipped with the action $\tilde{\psi}$ and $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ with the action $\alpha$, the isomorphism (2.4) is
$T$-equivariant. Moreover, both actions $\alpha$ and $\hat{\psi}$ have $Z(G)$ in their kernel, whence the isomorphism (2.4) is $T_{\text{ad}}$-equivariant.

Proof. — In this proof, we will write $\mathcal{N}$ for $\mathcal{N}_{X_0}$. Suppose $t \in T$ and $s \in H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{G \cdot x_0})^G$. Then

$$\hat{\psi}(t, s)(x_0) = (f(t) \cdot s)(x_0) = f(t) \cdot s(f(t)^{-1} \cdot x_0)$$

$$= f(t) \cdot s(\psi(t^{-1}, x_0)).$$

Now note that $\psi(t^{-1}, x_0) = \rho(t^{-1}, x_0)$ by the definitions of $f$ and $x_0$. In other words, we have that $\hat{\psi}(t, s)(x_0) = f(t) \cdot s(\rho(t^{-1}, x_0))$. Let $v$ be an element of $V$ such that $s(x_0) = [v] \in \mathcal{N}|_{x_0} = V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0$. Then $s(\psi(t^{-1}, x_0)) = [\rho(t^{-1}, v)] \in \mathcal{N}|_{\rho(t^{-1}, x_0)}$ because $s$ is $G$-invariant and therefore $T$-invariant. It follows that

$$(2.7) \quad f(t) \cdot s(\rho(t^{-1}, x_0)) = [\psi(t, \rho(t^{-1}, v))] = [\alpha(t, v)] \in V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0.$$ 

This shows that $\alpha$ induces a well-defined action on $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$. From (2.7) we can also conclude that the isomorphism (2.4) is $T$-equivariant. Because $f(z) = h(z)$ for all $z \in Z(G)$, where $h$ is the homomorphism (2.2), $Z(G)$ is contained in the kernel of $\hat{\psi}$ (see page 1773) and of $\alpha$. □

From now on, the $T_{\text{ad}}$-action on $V$ (and on $V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0$, $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, etc.) will refer to the action given by $\alpha$, and the $T_{\text{ad}}$-action on $\text{Hilb}_G^G(V)$ (and on $M_S$) will refer to the action given by $\hat{\psi}$. Combining Proposition 2.9 and equations (2.3) and (2.4) we obtain a natural injection $T_{X_0}M_S \hookrightarrow (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$.

Corollary 2.14. — The natural injection $T_{X_0}M_S \hookrightarrow (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ just defined is $T_{\text{ad}}$-equivariant, where we consider $T_{X_0}M_S$ as a $T_{\text{ad}}$-module via $\hat{\psi}$ and $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ via $\alpha$.

Remark 2.15. — Thanks to [1, Proposition 1.15 (iii)] and Lemma 3.2 below, we know that the injection in Corollary 2.14 is an isomorphism when $X_0 \setminus G \cdot x_0$ has codimension at least 2 in $X_0$. This condition is often not met in our situation. Even when it is not, the injection is often an isomorphism, but we also have a number of cases where the injection is not surjective; see, for example, Remark 5.20.

2.3. Auxiliary lemmas on $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ and the $T_{\text{ad}}$-action

We continue to use the notation of Sections 2.1 and 2.2. Let $G \times T_{\text{ad}}$ be the semidirect product of $G$ and $T_{\text{ad}}$, where $T_{\text{ad}}$ acts on $G$ as follows:

$$(2.8) \quad T_{\text{ad}} \times G \to G, (t, g) \mapsto t^{-1}gt.$$
As explained in [1, p. 102], the linear actions of $T_{ad}$ and $G$ on $V$ can be extended together to a linear action of $G \rtimes T_{ad}$ on $V$ as follows. Suppose $(g, t) \in G \rtimes T_{ad}$ and $v \in V$, then

\begin{equation}
(g, t) \cdot v := g \cdot \alpha(t, v) = \alpha(t, (tg^{-1}) \cdot v),
\end{equation}

where $\alpha$ is the $T_{ad}$-action. Since $T_{ad}$ fixes $x_0$, we have that $(G \rtimes T_{ad})_{x_0} = G_{x_0} \rtimes T_{ad}$ and $(G \rtimes T_{ad}) \cdot x_0 = G \cdot x_0$. It follows that $(G \rtimes T_{ad})_{x_0}$ acts on $g \cdot x_0 = T_{x_0}(G \cdot x_0)$ and we have an exact sequence of $(G_{x_0} \rtimes T_{ad})$-modules

\begin{equation}
0 \to g \cdot x_0 \to V \to V/g \cdot x_0 \to 0.
\end{equation}

The next lemma gathers some elementary facts about $G_{x_0}$ and $g \cdot x_0$. They will be of use in Sections 3 and 5.

**Lemma 2.16.** — Let $E$ be a finite subset of $\Lambda^+$, and define $V$ and $x_0$ as before, that is, $x_0 := \sum_{\lambda \in E} v_\lambda \in V := \oplus_{\lambda \in E} V(\lambda)$. Then the following hold:

1. $G_{x_0} = T_{x_0}.G^0_{x_0}$, where $G^0_{x_0}$ is the connected component of $G_{x_0}$ containing the identity;
2. $T_{x_0} = \cap_{\lambda \in E} \ker \lambda$;
3. $g_{x_0} = u \oplus t_{x_0} \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in E^+} g_{-\alpha}$, where $E^\perp := \{ \alpha \in R^+ \mid \langle \lambda, \alpha^\vee \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } \lambda \in E \}$;
4. The $T_{ad}$-weight set of $g \cdot x_0$ is $(R^+ \setminus E^\perp) \cup \{0\}$.

**Proof.** — The proof of (1) just requires replacing $v_\lambda$ by $x_0$ in the proof of [16, Lemme 1.7]. (2) is immediate. (3) follows from the well-known properties of the action of root operators on highest weight vectors. For (4) just note that $g \cdot x_0 = b^- \cdot x_0$, where $b^-$ is the Lie algebra of the Borel subgroup $B^-$ opposite to $B$ with respect to $T$. \hfill $\Box$

In addition to the facts listed in Lemma 2.16, the following will be useful too in Section 5. Recall our convention that $G'_{x_0} := (G')_{x_0}$ and $g'_{x_0} := (g')_{x_0}$. Recall also that if $t$ is a Lie-subalgebra of $g_{x_0}$, then $(V/g \cdot x_0)^t = \{ [v] \in V/g \cdot x_0 \mid Xv \in g \cdot x_0 \text{ for all } X \in t \}$, by definition.

**Lemma 2.17.** — Using the notations of this section, the following hold:

(a) The inclusions $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \subseteq (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G'_{x_0}} \subseteq (V/g \cdot x_0)^{g'_{x_0}}$ are inclusions of $T_{ad}$-modules;

(b) Let $H$ be a subgroup of $G$ and let $T_H$ be a subtorus of $T \cap H$. Let $\Gamma$ be the subgroup of $X(T_H)$ generated by the image of $E$ under the restriction map $p : X(T) \to X(T_H)$. Suppose $v \in V$ is a $T_{ad}$-eigenvector of weight $\beta$ so that $[v]$ is a nonzero element of $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{H_{x_0}}$. Then $p(\beta)$ belongs to $\Gamma$. 

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(c) If \( \mathfrak{h} \) is a Lie-subalgebra of \( \mathfrak{g} \) containing \( \mathfrak{g}' \), then

\[
(V/\mathfrak{g}_x_0)^{G_x_0} = (V/\mathfrak{g}_x_0)^{\mathfrak{g}_x_0},
\]

where \( (V/\mathfrak{g}_x_0)^{\mathfrak{g}_x_0} \) is the subspace of \( (V/\mathfrak{g}_x_0)^{\mathfrak{g}_x_0} \) spanned by

\[
\{ v \in (V/\mathfrak{g}_x_0)^{\mathfrak{g}_x_0} \mid v \text{ is a } T_{\text{ad}}\text{-eigenvector with weight in } \langle E \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}} \}.
\]

Proof. — For assertion (a) we first note that the subgroups \( G'_{x_0} \) and \( (G'_{x_0})^\circ \) of \( G \) are stable under the action of \( T_{\text{ad}} \) on \( G \) in (2.8), so that the \( (G_{x_0} \times T_{\text{ad}}) \)-action on \( V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0 \) restricts to \( G'_{x_0} \times T_{\text{ad}} \) and \( (G'_{x_0})^\circ \times T_{\text{ad}} \). The assertion now follows since \( \text{Lie}(G'_{x_0}) = \mathfrak{g}'_{x_0} \). We now prove (b). Let \( \beta \) be the \( T_{\text{ad}} \)-weight of \( v \) and for every \( \lambda \in E \), let \( x_\lambda \) be the projection of \( v \) onto \( V(\lambda) \subseteq V \). Then \( v = \sum_{\lambda \in E} x_\lambda \). Since \( v \) is nonzero, at least one of the \( x_\lambda \) is nonzero. Choose one. Then \( x_\lambda \) is a \( T \)-eigenvector of weight \( \lambda - \beta \). Since \( v \) is fixed by \( (T_H)_{x_0} \) it follows that \( x_\lambda \) is and so \( (\lambda - \beta)|_{(T_H)_{x_0}} = 0 \). Since \( (T_H)_{x_0} = \cap_{\lambda \in E} \ker p(\lambda) \) this implies that \( p(\lambda - \beta) \) and therefore \( p(\beta) \) lie in \( \Gamma \). Assertion (c), finally, is a consequence of parts (1) and (2) of Lemma 2.16.

Lemma 2.18. — We use the notations of this section. Let \( v \in V \) be a \( T_{\text{ad}} \)-eigenvector. If \( [v] \) is a nonzero element of \( (V/\mathfrak{g}_x_0)^{\mathfrak{g}_x_0} \), then the following two statements hold.

(A) For every positive root \( \alpha \) one of the following situations occurs

\begin{enumerate}
\item \( X_\alpha v = 0; \)
\item \( X_\alpha v \) is a \( T_{\text{ad}} \)-eigenvector of weight \( 0; \)
\item \( X_\alpha v \) is a \( T_{\text{ad}} \)-eigenvector with weight in \( R^+ \setminus E^\perp; \)
\end{enumerate}

(B) There is at least one simple root \( \alpha \) such that \( X_\alpha v \neq 0. \)

Proof. — Part (A) follows from the fact that \( u \subseteq \mathfrak{g}'_{x_0} \) and part (4) of Lemma 2.16. For (B) first note that the linear independence of \( E \) implies that the subspace \( t \cdot x_0 \) of \( \mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0 \) contains all the highest weight vectors of \( V \). Therefore \( [v] \neq 0 \) implies that \( v \) is not a sum of highest weight vectors. 

Lemma 2.19. — Let \( (\overline{G}, W) \) be a spherical \( \overline{G} \)-module and let \( G \) be a reductive subgroup of \( \overline{G} \) containing \( \mathfrak{g}' \) and such that \( (G, W) \) is spherical. Then \( \mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0 = \mathfrak{g}' \cdot x_0 \).

Proof. — We have that \( \mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0 = t \cdot x_0 + \mathfrak{g}' \cdot x_0 \). By hypothesis, \( \mathfrak{g}' = \overline{\mathfrak{g}}' \). Finally \( t \cdot x_0 = \langle v_\lambda : \lambda \in E \rangle_{\mathbb{C}} = \overline{t} \cdot x_0 \) because the elements of \( E \) are linearly independent (for both \( G \) and \( \overline{G} \)).
2.4. Further results and notions from [3]

We continue to use the notation of Sections 2.1 and 2.2. In this section we recall results from [3] about $M_S$ and $T_{X_0}M_S$ under the condition that $S$ is $G$-saturated (see Definition 2.20), and we mention some immediate consequences.

The following condition on submonoids of $\Lambda^+$ was considered by D. Panyushev in [25]. It also occurs in [29]. We will use the terminology of [8, Section 4.5].

**Definition 2.20.** — A submonoid $S$ of $\Lambda^+$ is called $G$-saturated if $\langle S \rangle \cap \Lambda^+ = S$.

**Remark 2.21.** — As explained in [3, Section 3] the injection $T_{X_0}M_S \hookrightarrow (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ of Corollary 2.14 is an isomorphism when $S$ is $G$-saturated. The reason is that, by Theorem 9 of [29], $X_0 \setminus G \cdot x_0$ then has codimension at least 2 in $X_0$, which is a normal variety (cf. Lemma 3.2); see also Remark 2.15.

**Remark 2.22.** — Clearly, a submonoid $S \subseteq \Lambda^+$ is $G$-saturated if and only if $-w_0(S)$ is. This fact will be used in Section 5, because if $S$ is the weight monoid of a spherical module $(G,W)$, then $-w_0(S)$ is the weight monoid of the dual module $(G,W^*)$.

**Lemma 2.23** (Lemma 2.1 in [3]). — Let $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_k$ be linearly independent dominant weights. The following are equivalent:

(a) $S = \langle \lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_k \rangle_\mathbb{N}$ is $G$-saturated;

(b) there exist $k$ simple roots $\alpha_{t_1}, \ldots, \alpha_{t_k}$ such that $\langle \lambda_i, \alpha_{t_j}^\lor \rangle \neq 0$ if and only if $i = j$.

**Theorem 2.24** (Theorem 2.2 and Corollary 2.4 in [3]). — Suppose $G$ is a semisimple group and $S$ is a $G$-saturated and freely generated submonoid of $\Lambda^+$. Then

1. the tangent space $T_{X_0}M_S^G \simeq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is a multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module whose $T_{ad}$-weights belong to Table 1 of [3, p. 2810];
2. the moduli scheme $M_S^G$ is isomorphic as a $T_{ad}$-scheme to $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$.

**Remark 2.25.** — When $G$ is of type $A$, the $T_{ad}$-weights which can occur in the space $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ of Theorem 2.24 are (see [3, Table 1, p. 2810]):

(SR1) $\alpha + \alpha'$ with $\alpha, \alpha' \in \Pi$ and $\alpha \perp \alpha'$;

(SR2) $2\alpha$ with $\alpha \in \Pi$;
(SR3) $\alpha_{i+1} + \alpha_{i+2} + \cdots + \alpha_{i+r}$ with $r \geq 2$ and $\alpha_i, \alpha_{i+1}, \ldots, \alpha_{i+r}$ simple roots that correspond to consecutive vertices in a connected component of the Dynkin diagram of $G$;
(SR4) $\alpha_i + 2\alpha_{i+1} + \alpha_{i+2}$ with $\alpha_i, \alpha_{i+1}, \alpha_{i+2}$ simple roots that correspond to consecutive vertices in a connected component of the Dynkin diagram of $G$.

For several cases in Knop’s List, Theorem 1.2 is a consequence of Bravi and Cupit-Foutou’s result mentioned above, thanks to Corollary 2.27 below. We first establish a lemma needed in the proof of Corollary 2.27 and of Proposition 4.11.

**Lemma 2.26.** — Suppose $X$ is an affine $G$-variety and let $H$ be a connected subgroup of $G$ containing $G'$. Let $B_H$ be the Borel subgroup $B \cap H$ of $H$ and let $p : X(B) \to X(B_H)$ be the restriction map. Let $\Sigma_X$ be the root monoid of the $G$-variety $X$ and let $\Sigma_X'$ be the root monoid of $X$ considered as an $H$-variety (where $H$ acts as a subgroup of $G$). If the restriction of $p$ to $\Lambda_{(G,X)} \subseteq X(B)$ is injective, then $\Sigma_X' = p(\Sigma_X)$. Consequently, the invariant $d_X$ is the same for $(G, X)$ as for $(H, X)$.

**Proof.** — By Lemma 4.6 below, $p(\Lambda^{+}_{(G,X)}) = \Lambda^{+}_{(H,X)}$. Put $R = \mathbb{C}[X]$ and let $R = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in \Lambda^{+}_{(G,X)}} R(\lambda)$ be its decomposition into isotypical components as a $G$-module. Then, because $p|_{\Lambda^{+}_{(G,X)}}$ is injective and $G' \subseteq H$, we have that for every $\lambda \in \Lambda^{+}_{(G,X)}$, $R(\lambda) \subseteq R$ is the $H$-isotypical component of $R$ of type $V(p(\lambda))$. The lemma now follows from the definitions of $\Sigma_X$ and $d_X$. □

**Corollary 2.27.** — Let $G$ be a connected reductive group and let $X$ be a smooth affine spherical $G$-variety with weight monoid $S$. Suppose $X$ is spherical for the restriction of the $G$-action to $G'$. Put $T' = T \cap G'$. Let $S'$ be the image\(^{(1)}\) of $S$ under the restriction map $p : X(T) \to X(T')$.

If $S'$ is freely generated then so is $S$. Suppose $S'$ is freely generated and $G'$-saturated. Then $\dim(V / g \cdot x_0)^{G'_o} = d_X$ and, consequently, $\dim T_{x_0} M^G_S = d_X$.

**Proof.** — The fact that $X$ is spherical for $G'$ implies that the restriction of $p$ to $S$ is injective (see Lemma 4.6 below). This proves that $S$ is freely generated when $S'$ is.

We now assume that $S'$ is freely generated and $G'$-saturated. First note that

\[
(2.11) \quad V \simeq \bigoplus_{\lambda \in E} V(p(\lambda))
\]

\(^{(1)}\) By Lemma 4.6 below, $S'$ is the weight monoid of the $G'$-variety $X$.\n
as a $G'$-module and that, because the sets $E \subseteq X(T)$ and $p(E) \subseteq X(T')$ are linearly independent,

\[(2.12) \quad g \cdot x_0 = t \cdot x_0 + u^- \cdot x_0 = t' \cdot x_0 + u^- \cdot x_0 = g' \cdot x_0.\]

where $u^-$ is the sum of the negative root spaces of $g'$.

Now consider $X$ as a closed point of $M_S^{G'}$. By Theorem 2.24, $M_S^{G'}$ is smooth, and so Proposition 2.5 (with Lemma 2.26) tells us that $\dim T_{X_0}M_S^{G'} = d_X$. Since $T_{X_0}M_S^{G'} \cong (V/g' \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ (using (2.11)) and, since from (2.12) we have that $(V/g \cdot x_0) = (V/g' \cdot x_0)$ and therefore that $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = (V/g' \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, it follows that $\dim(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = d_X$. By Corollary 2.14, $T_{X_0}M_S^G \subseteq (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \subseteq (V/g' \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, and Proposition 2.5 now finishes the proof. \qed

3. Criterion for non-extension of sections

We continue to use the notation of Sections 2.1 and 2.2. In particular, by the $T_{ad}$-action on $V$ and $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ we mean the action $\alpha$ of Definition 2.11. The criterion we give here (Proposition 3.4) for excluding certain $T_{ad}$-weight spaces of $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ from $T_{X_0}M_S$ was suggested to us by M. Brion. It consists of sufficient conditions on a section $s \in H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{X_0})^G \cong (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ for it not to extend to $X_0$. The basic idea is that the conditions guarantee that there is a point $z_0 \in X_0$ (which depends on $s$) whose $G$-orbit has codimension 1 in $X_0$ and such that $s$ does not extend to $z_0$ along the line joining $x_0$ and $z_0$.

Before we prove the criterion we recall some facts. We begin with the orbit structure of $X_0$. It is known (see [29, Theorem 8]) that the following map describes a one-to-one correspondence between the set of subsets of $E$ and the set of $G$-orbits in $X_0$:

\[(D \subseteq E) \mapsto G \cdot v_D \quad \text{where } v_D := \sum_{\lambda \in D} v_\lambda.\]

Recall that $\text{GL}(V)^G \cong \mathbb{G}_m^{[E]}$ and that an element $(t_\lambda)_{\lambda \in E} \in \text{GL}(V)^G$ acts on $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in E} V(\lambda)$ by scalar multiplication by $t_\lambda \in \mathbb{G}_m$ on the submodule $V(\lambda)$. Given $D \subseteq E$, define the one-parameter subgroup $\sigma_D$ of $\text{GL}(V)^G$ as follows:

\[\sigma_D : \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)^G, t \mapsto (p_\lambda(t))_{\lambda \in E}\]

where $p_\lambda(t) = t$ if $\lambda \notin D$ and $p_\lambda(t) = 1$ otherwise. Then $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0 = v_D$. We also put $z_t := \sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0$ for $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$ and $z_0 := v_D$ so that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} z_t = z_0$. The orbits (of codimension 1) that will play a part in the criterion correspond to subsets $D = E \setminus \{\lambda\}$ where $\lambda \in E$ is a judiciously chosen element, depending on the section to be excluded.
The following proposition tells us which subsets $D \subseteq E$ correspond to orbits of codimension 1 in $X_0$.

**Proposition 3.1.** — Let $E$, $V$ and $x_0$ be as before. Suppose $\lambda_0 \in E$. Put $z_0 = \sum_{\lambda \in E, \lambda \neq \lambda_0} v_{\lambda}$. Then $\dim t_{z_0} = \dim t_{x_0} + 1$. Consequently, the following are equivalent:

(a) $\dim g_{z_0} = \dim g_{x_0} + 1$;
(b) $E^\perp = (E \setminus \{\lambda_0\})^\perp$ (see Lemma 2.16 (3) for the definition of $\perp$);
(c) $E^\perp \cap \Pi = (E \setminus \{\lambda_0\})^\perp \cap \Pi$.

**Proof.** — The first assertion follows from (the Lie-algebra version of) Lemma 2.16 (2) and the fact that $E$ is linearly independent. The equivalence of (a) and (b) is an immediate consequence of Lemma 2.16 (3). For (b) $\iff$ (c) we use a standard fact about parabolic subgroups containing $B$. Indeed, let $\mathbb{P}(V)$ be the projective space of lines through 0 in $V$ and $V \setminus \{0\}$ the canonical map. Define the parabolic subgroup $P$ of $G$ by $P := G_{[x_0]}$. Then $-E^\perp$ is the set of negative roots of $P$. As is well known (see, e.g., [15, Theorem 30.1]), $-E^\perp$ is the set of negative roots of $G$ that are $\mathbb{Z}$-linear combinations of the simple roots in $E^\perp \cap \Pi$. Consequently, $E^\perp$ is completely determined by $E^\perp \cap \Pi$. Similarly, $(E \setminus \{\lambda_0\})^\perp \cap \Pi$ determines $(E \setminus \{\lambda_0\})^\perp$.

**Lemma 3.2.** — The $G$-variety $X_0$ is normal.

**Proof.** — Because $S$ is freely generated, we have that $\langle S \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}} \cap \mathbb{Q}_{\geq 0} S = S$ in $\Lambda \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$. We then apply [29, Theorem 10] or the general fact [28, Theorem 6] that $X_0$ is normal if and only if $X_0/\mathbb{U}$ is a normal $T$-variety (recall that $X_0/\mathbb{U} \simeq \text{Spec} \mathbb{C}[S]$).

**Lemma 3.3.** — Suppose $\lambda \in E$ is such that for $D = E \setminus \{\lambda\}$, the $G$-orbit of $z_0 = v_D$ has codimension 1 in $X_0$. Then $T_{z_0}X_0 = g \cdot z_0 \oplus \mathbb{C} v_\lambda$.

**Proof.** — By Lemma 3.2, $X_0$ is normal. Therefore its singular locus has codimension at least 2. Since the singular locus is $G$-stable and $G \cdot z_0$ has codimension 1, it follows that $X_0$ is smooth at $z_0$. Therefore, $\dim T_{z_0}X_0 = \dim g \cdot z_0 + 1$. Moreover $t \mapsto z_t = \sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0$ is an irreducible curve in $X_0$ (because the elements of $E$ are linearly independent) and $z_t = t \cdot v_\lambda + z_0$. Thus $\frac{d}{dt}|_{t=0} z_t = v_\lambda$ and so $v_\lambda \in T_{z_0}X_0$. Further $v_\lambda \notin g \cdot z_0$ since $g \cdot z_0$ lies in the complement of $V(\lambda) \subseteq V$.

Now let $[v]$ be a $T_{ad}$-eigenvector in $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$. We denote the corresponding section in $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})^G$ by $s$, that is, $s(x_0) = [v]$. Recall from Proposition 2.13 that the $T_{ad}$-action on $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ comes from the action of $T$ on $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})^G$ through $f : T \rightarrow GL(V)^G$, defined in (2.5). Since
This implies that for every $GL(V) G$, we can also consider $s$ as an eigenvector for $GL(V) G$. Because it will play a part in what follows, we remark that if the $GL(V) G$-weight of $s$ is $\delta$, then the $T_{ad}$-weight of $s(x_0) = [v]$ is $f^*(\delta)$. By definition, we have that for $a \in GL(V) G$

$$s_v(x_0) := a \cdot s(a^{-1} \cdot x_0) = \delta(a)s(x_0).$$

This implies that for every $D \subseteq E$ and $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$,

$$(3.1) \quad s(z_t) = s(\sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0) = \delta(\sigma_D(t))^{-1} \sigma_D(t) \cdot s(x_0) = [\delta(\sigma_D(t))^{-1} \sigma_D(t)v] \in V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot z_t.$$

We need one final ingredient for the proof of Proposition 3.4. Recall that any $v \in V$ defines a global section $s_v \in H^0(X_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})$ by

$$s_v(x) = [v] \in V/T_x X_0 \text{ for all } x \in X_0.$$

Here then is the proposition we will use in Sections 5.5, 5.6 and 5.7 to prove that certain sections in $H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})^G$ do not extend to $X_0$. As mentioned at the beginning of this section, by the $T_{ad}$-action on $V$ we mean $\alpha$. Recall also that $\Lambda_R$ stands for the root lattice.

**Proposition 3.4.** — Suppose $v \in V$ is a $T_{ad}$-eigenvector of weight $\beta \in \Lambda_R$ such that $[v] \in (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G\cdot \alpha}$. Let $s \in H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})^G$ be defined by $s(x_0) = [v]$. If there exists $\lambda \in E$ so that

- **(ES1)** the coefficient of $\lambda$ in the unique expression of $\beta \in \langle E \rangle \mathbb{Z}$ as a $\mathbb{Z}$-linear combination of the elements of $E$ is positive;
- **(ES2)** the projection of $v \in V$ onto $V(\lambda) \subseteq V$ is zero;
- **(ES3)** if $\eta$ is a simple root so that $\langle \lambda, \eta \rangle \neq 0$ then there exists $\tilde{\lambda} \in E \setminus \{\lambda\}$ so that $\langle \tilde{\lambda}, \eta \rangle \neq 0$;
- **(ES4)** if $\beta \in R_+ \setminus E_\perp$ (see Lemma 2.16 for the definition of $E_\perp$), then there exists $\xi \in E \setminus \{\lambda\}$ so that $\langle \xi, \beta \rangle \neq 0$ and the projection of $v$ onto $V(\xi)$ is zero;

then $s$ does not extend to $X_0$.

**Proof.** — The idea of the proof is to “compare” the section $s$ to the section $s_v \in H^0(X_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})$. Put $D = E \setminus \{\lambda\}$. We first show that

- **(i)** there exists a positive integer $k$ so that $s(\sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0) = t^{-k} s_v(\sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$;
- **(ii)** $s_v(z_0) \neq 0$,

where $z_0 = v_D = \lim_{t \to 0} \sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0$. We then show that (i) and (ii) imply that $\lim_{t \to 0} s(\sigma_D(t) \cdot x_0)$ does not exist, i.e. that $s(z_0)$ does not exist.

We first prove (i). Let $f : T \to GL(V)^G$ be the map (2.5) on page 1778. Since it is surjective, $f^* : X(GL(V)^G) \to X(T), \delta \mapsto \delta \circ f$ is injective.
Moreover $\beta \in \text{im}(f^*)$. Put $\delta := (f^*)^{-1}(\beta)$, the $\text{GL}(V)^G$-weight of $s$. From equation (3.1) we have that $s(z_t) = [\delta(\sigma_D(t))^{-1}\sigma_D(t)v]$ for every $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$. Using (ES2), $\sigma_D(t)v = v$ for every $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$. Therefore

$$s(z_t) = [\delta(\sigma_D(t))^{-1}v] = \delta(\sigma_D(t))^{-1}[v] = \delta(\sigma_D(t))^{-1}s_v(z_t)$$

for all $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$. Let $k$ be the coefficient of $\lambda$ in the expression of $\beta$ as a $\mathbb{Z}$-linear combination of the elements of $E$. Then $\delta(\sigma_D(t)) = t^k$ for every $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$. Consequently $s(z_t) = t^{-k}s_v(z_t)$ for all $t \in \mathbb{G}_m$. By (ES1) $k > 0$, and we have proved (i).

We now prove (ii). Condition (ES3) together with Proposition 3.1 tells us that $G \cdot z_0$ has codimension 1 in $X_0$. It follows from Lemma 3.3 that $T_{z_0}X_0 = \mathfrak{g} : z_0 \oplus \mathbb{C}v_{\lambda}$. We now proceed by contradiction. Indeed, if $s_v(z_0) = [v]$ were zero then we would have $v \in \mathfrak{g} : z_0 \oplus v_{\lambda}$. Since, by (ES1), $v$ has nonzero $T_{ad}$-weight this would imply that $v \in \mathfrak{g} : z_0$. The nonzero $T_{ad}$-weights in $\mathfrak{g} : z_0$ are (by (ES3)) the same as those in $\mathfrak{g} : x_0$, that is, they are the elements of $R^+ \smallsetminus E^\perp$ (by (4) of Lemma 2.16). So if $\beta \notin R^+ \smallsetminus E^\perp$ we are done. We only need to deal with the case where $\beta \in R^+ \smallsetminus E^\perp$. Then the $T_{ad}$-weight space in $\mathfrak{g} : z_0$ of weight $\beta$ is the line spanned by $X_{-\beta}z_0$.

Now (ES4) tells us that $v$ cannot belong to that line: $X_{-\beta}z_0$ has a nonzero projection to $V(\xi)$, whereas $v$ does not.

We now prove the claim that (i) and (ii) establish the proposition. Denote by $X_{0}^{\leq 1}$ the union of $G \cdot x_0$ and all $G$-orbits of codimension 1 in $X_0$. Then $X_0^{\leq 1}$ is open because $X_0$ has finitely many orbits, and it is smooth because $X_0$ is normal. Again by the normality of $X_0$, $s$ extends to $X_0$ if and only if it extends to $X_0^{\leq 1}$ (cf. [8, Lemma 3.7]). Since $X_0^{\leq 1}$ is smooth, the normal sheaf $\mathcal{N}_{X_0^{\leq 1}}$ of $X_0^{\leq 1}$ in $V$, which is the restriction of $\mathcal{N}_{X_0}^\circ$ to $X_0^{\leq 1}$, is locally free. The claim follows. \hfill $\square$

4. Reduction to classification of spherical modules

In this section we reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to a case-by-case verification, that is, we reduce it to Theorem 1.2. This reduction (formally, Corollary 4.17) does not use the fact that $G$ is of type A: if Theorem 1.2 holds for groups of arbitrary type, then so does Theorem 1.1. We first introduce some more notation. We will use $R$ for the radical of $G$; since $G$ is reductive, $R$ is the connected component $Z(G)^0$ of $Z(G)$ containing the identity. When $(G,W)$ is a spherical module and $S$ is its weight monoid, we will use $M^G_W$ for the moduli scheme $M_S$ (in fact, it is easy to check that $M^G_S$ is, up to isomorphism (of schemes), independent of the choice of maximal torus $T$ and Borel subgroup $B$ and therefore determined by the
pair \((G, W)\), see [26, Lemma 4.13]). We introduce this notation because we will have to relate moduli schemes for different modules and different groups to one another. Given a spherical module \((G, W)\) we will also use \(\rho: G \to \text{GL}(W)\) for the representation and we put

\[ G^{\text{st}} := G' \times \text{GL}(W)^G. \]

We begin with an overview of the reduction. To make the classification of spherical modules in [17, 2, 21] possible, several issues had to be dealt with (see [19, Section 5]). Indeed, Knop’s List gives the saturated indecomposable spherical modules up to geometric equivalence. We begin by recalling the definitions of these terms from [19, Section 5].

**Definition 4.1.**

(a) Two finite-dimensional representations \(\rho_1: G_1 \to \text{GL}(W_1)\) and \(\rho_2: G_2 \to \text{GL}(W_2)\) are called geometrically equivalent if there is an isomorphism of vector spaces \(\phi: W_1 \to W_2\) such that for the induced map\(^{(2)}\) \(\text{GL}(\phi): \text{GL}(W_1) \to \text{GL}(W_2)\) we have

\[ \text{GL}(\phi)(\rho_1(G_1)) = \rho_2(G_2). \]

(b) By the product of the representations \((G_1, W_1), \ldots, (G_n, W_n)\) we mean the representation \((G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n, W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_n)\).

(c) A finite-dimensional representation \((G, W)\) is decomposable if it is geometrically equivalent to a representation of the form \((G_1 \times G_2, W_1 \oplus W_2)\) with \(W_1\) a non-zero \(G_1\)-module and \(W_2\) a non-zero \(G_2\)-module. It is called indecomposable if it is not decomposable.

(d) A finite-dimensional representation \(\rho: G \to \text{GL}(W)\) is called saturated if the dimension of the center of \(\rho(G)\) equals the number of irreducible summands of \(W\).

**Remark 4.2.**

(a) If \(\rho\) is saturated and multiplicity-free, then the center of \(\rho(G)\) is equal to the centralizer \(\text{GL}(W)^G\).

(b) Suppose \((G_1, W_1)\) and \((G_2, W_2)\) are geometrically equivalent representations. Then \((G_1, W_1)\) is spherical if and only if \((G_2, W_2)\) is, and \((G_1, W_1)\) is saturated if and only if \((G_2, W_2)\) is.

\(^{(2)}\) By definition, \(\text{GL}(\phi)(f) = \phi \circ f \circ \phi^{-1}\) for every \(f \in \text{GL}(W_1)\).
Example 4.3 ([19], p. 311). — The spherical modules $(SL(2), S^2 \mathbb{C}^2)$ and $(SO(3), \mathbb{C}^3)$ are geometrically equivalent. Every finite-dimensional representation is geometrically equivalent to its dual representation. The spherical module

$$(\text{SL}(2) \times \mathbb{G}_m \times \text{SL}(2)) \times (\mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C}^2) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \oplus \mathbb{C}^2: ((A, t, B), (x, y)) \longmapsto (tAx, tBy)$$

is indecomposable but not saturated.

For our reduction to Theorem 1.2, we deal with geometric equivalence and products of spherical modules in a straightforward matter. Indeed, we prove in Proposition 4.9 that if $(G_1, W_1)$ and $(G_2, W_2)$ are geometrically equivalent spherical modules, then $M_{W_1}^{G_1} \simeq M_{W_2}^{G_2}$ as schemes. That the tangent space to $M_{G}^{\text{st}}$ behaves as expected under products is proved in Proposition 4.12. Dealing with the fact that the classification consists of saturated spherical modules requires a bit more effort. Indeed, we could not establish an a priori isomorphism between $M_{G}^{\text{st}}$ and $M_{G}^{\text{st}}$, where $(G, W)$ is a (saturated) spherical module and $G$ is a subgroup of $\overline{G}$ containing $G'$ such that $(G, W)$ is spherical. This is why in Theorem 1.2 we cannot restrict ourselves to the modules $(\overline{G}, W)$ of Knop’s List. We circumvent this difficulty by proving in Proposition 4.15 that even when $(G^{\text{st}}, W)$ is decomposable Theorem 1.2 implies the equality

$$(4.1) \quad \dim T_{X_0} M_{G}^{\text{st}} = \dim T_{x_0} M_{G}^{\text{st}} \times \rho(R)$$

for a spherical module $\rho: G \rightarrow \text{GL}(W)$ with $G$ of type A. In (4.1), by abuse of notation, $X_0$ on each side denotes the unique closed orbit of the corresponding moduli scheme. From Proposition 4.5 we have that $(G' \times \rho(R), W)$ is geometrically equivalent to $(G, W)$. Using Theorem 1.2 and Lemma 2.26 we then deduce that $\dim T_{X_0} M_{G}^{\text{st}} = d_W$, thus proving Corollary 4.17.

Remark 4.4. — Theorem 1.1 proves, a posteriori, that $M_{W}^{\overline{G}}$ and $M_{W}^{G}$ are isomorphic, when $\overline{G}$ is of type A, $(\overline{G}, W)$ is a (saturated) spherical module and $G$ is a subgroup of $\overline{G}$ containing $G'$ such that $(G, W)$ is spherical. We note that Remarks 5.18 and 5.20 show that, contrary to the tangent space $T_{X_0} M_{W}^{\overline{G}}$, the $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ that contains it does in general depend on the subgroup $G$ of $\overline{G}$ as above: these remarks give instances where the inclusion $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \subseteq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is strict. (Recall that $V = \oplus_{\lambda \in E} V(\lambda)$ with $E$ the basis of the weight monoid of the dual module $W^*$.) Furthermore, we expect that the isomorphism $M_{W}^{G} \simeq M_{W}^{\overline{G}}$ cannot follow from “very general” considerations, as the following example, where $S$ is
not the weight monoid of a spherical module $W$, illustrates. Take $\mathcal{G} = SL(3) \times G_m$, $G = SL(3)$ and $S = \langle \omega_1 + \varepsilon, \omega_2 + \varepsilon \rangle$, where $\varepsilon$ is a nonzero character of $G_m$. Set $V = V(\omega_1 + \varepsilon)^* \oplus V(\omega_2 + \varepsilon)^*$ as in Section 2.1. Since $S$ is $G$-saturated, $T_{x_0} M_S^G \simeq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{\mathcal{G}_{x_0}}$ and $T_{x_0} M_{S}^G \simeq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ by Remark 2.21. A direct calculation shows that $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = 1$, whereas $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{\mathcal{G}_{x_0}} = 0$.

The following proposition explains how a general spherical module $(G, W)$ fits into the classification of spherical modules. It is (somewhat implicitly) contained in [21, Section 2] and [9, Section 5.1]. Recall that given a spherical module $(G, W)$, we put $G^{st} := G' \times GL(W)^G$.

**Proposition 4.5** (Leahy). — Suppose $\rho: G \to GL(W)$ is a spherical module. Then the following hold:

(i) If $(G, W)$ is saturated and indecomposable, then $(G, W)$ is geometrically equivalent to an entry in Knop’s List;

(ii) $(G^{st}, W)$ is a saturated spherical module;

(iii) $(G^{st}, W)$ is geometrically equivalent to a product of indecomposable saturated spherical modules;

(iv) $\rho(R) \subseteq GL(W)^G$ and $\rho(G) = \rho(G')\rho(R) \subseteq GL(W)$;

(v) Suppose $(G_1, W_1), (G_2, W_2), \ldots, (G_n, W_n)$ are spherical modules and let $(K, E)$ be their product. Suppose $(K, E)$ and $(G^{st}, W)$ are geometrically equivalent and denote by $\phi: W \to E$ a linear isomorphism establishing their geometric equivalence (see Definition 4.1). If $A = GL(\phi)(\rho(R))$, then $A \subseteq GL(E)^K$ and $(G, W)$ is geometrically equivalent to $(K' \times A, E)$.

**Proof.** — Assertion (i) just says that Knop’s List contains all indecomposable saturated spherical modules up to geometric equivalence (see [21, Theorem 2.5] or [2, Theorem 2]). Next, let $b$ be the number of irreducible components of $(G, W)$. Assertion (ii) follows from the fact that $GL(W)^G \simeq G^b$ (because $W$ is a multiplicity-free $G$-module). Assertion (iii) follows from the fact that if $(G_1 \times G_2, W_1 \oplus W_2)$ is saturated (resp. spherical) then $(G_1, W_1)$ and $(G_2, W_2)$ are saturated (resp. spherical). We come to (iv). Note that $R$ commutes with $G$ and so $\rho(R)$ commutes with $\rho(G)$ hence the first assertion. For the second, we use a well-known decomposition of reductive groups: $G = G'R$. Finally we prove (v). Let us call $\psi: K \to GL(E)$ and $\rho^{st}: G^{st} \to GL(W)$ the representations. Then $GL(\phi): \rho^{st}(G^{st}) \to \psi(K)$ is an isomorphism of algebraic groups. As $GL(W)^G \subseteq Z(G^{st})$, its image $GL(\phi)(GL(W)^G)$ belongs to the center of $\psi(K)$, which is a subset of $GL(E)^K$. Because $\rho(R) \subseteq GL(W)^G$, it follows that $A = GL(\phi)(\rho(R)) \subseteq$
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GL(E)^K. This proves the first assertion. Next, note that GL(ϕ)(ρ(G)) = GL(ϕ)(ρ(G^e)) · GL(ϕ)(ρ(R)). Moreover,

GL(ϕ)(ρ(G^e)) = GL(ϕ)(ρ((G^{st})^e)) = [GL(ϕ)(ρ^{st}(G^{st}))]^' = ψ(K)^' = ψ(K')

and the second assertion follows. □

The following lemma is well-known and straightforward. For a proof, see e.g. [26, Lemma 4.6].

**Lemma 4.6.** Let X be an affine G-variety and let H be a connected subgroup of G containing G'. Let B_H be the Borel subgroup B ∩ H of H and let p: X(B) → X(B_H) be the restriction map. If we consider X as an H-variety, then its weight monoid is p(Λ^+_G,X).

If, moreover, X is an affine spherical G-variety, then the following are equivalent

(i) X is spherical as an H-variety;
(ii) the restriction of p to Λ^+_G,X is injective
(iii) the restriction of p to Λ_G,X is injective.

**Remark 4.7.** (1) Theorem 5.1 of [19] is a somewhat refined version of Lemma 4.6.
(2) For every saturated indecomposable spherical module (G,W), Knop’s List, following [21], gives a basis for ⟨ker p⟩_C ∩ ⟨Λ_W⟩_C ⊆ t^*, where p is as in Lemma 4.6. In Knop’s List, ⟨ker p⟩_C is denoted z^* and ⟨Λ_W⟩_C is denoted a^*.

Using that when f: G → H is a surjective homomorphism, representations of H are the same as representations of G with kernel containing ker f, it is straightforward to prove the following proposition (for details, see [26, Proposition 4.10]).

**Proposition 4.8.** Suppose f: G → H is a surjective group homomorphism between connected reductive groups. Put T_H := f(T) and B_H = f(B) and write f^* for the map X(T_H) → X(T) given by λ → λ o f. Let S ⊆ X(T_H) be the weight monoid of an affine spherical H-variety (with respect to the Borel subgroup B_H). Then M^H_S ≃ M^{f^*}_{f^*(S)} as schemes.

Straightforward arguments using Proposition 4.8 prove that geometrically equivalent spherical modules have isomorphic moduli schemes (again, for details see [26, Proposition 4.15]).
Proposition 4.9. — Suppose \( \rho_1: G_1 \to \text{GL}(W_1) \) and \( \rho_2: G_2 \to \text{GL}(W_2) \) are geometrically equivalent spherical modules. Then we have an isomorphism of schemes \( M_{W_1}^{G_1} \simeq M_{W_2}^{G_2} \). Consequently,
\[
\dim T_{X_0} M_{W_1}^{G_1} = \dim T_{X_0} M_{W_2}^{G_2},
\]
where by abuse of notation, \( X_0 \) on each side denotes the unique closed orbit of the corresponding moduli scheme.

The next lemma states how the invariant \( d_W \) behaves under restriction of center, geometric equivalence and taking products. We need two of its assertions in the proof of Proposition 4.11. It will also be of use later.

Lemma 4.10.

(a) Suppose \( \overline{G} \) is a connected reductive group and let \( (\overline{G}, W) \) be a spherical module. Let \( G \) be a connected (reductive) subgroup of \( \overline{G} \) containing \( \overline{G}' \). Assume that the restriction \( (G, W) \) of \( (\overline{G}, W) \) is also spherical. Then both modules have the same invariant \( d_W \).

(b) Suppose \( (G_1, W_1) \) and \( (G_2, W_2) \) are geometrically equivalent spherical modules. Then \( d_{W_1} = d_{W_2} \).

(c) Let \( (G_1, W_1), (G_2, W_2), \ldots, (G_n, W_n) \) be spherical modules and let \( (G, W) \) be their product. Then \( d_W = d_{W_1} + \cdots + d_{W_n} \).

Proof. — For (a) just combine Lemma 4.6 with Lemma 2.26 (or with Lemma 2.7). Next, to prove (b), let \( \rho_1: G_1 \to \text{GL}(W_1) \) and \( \rho_2: G_2 \to \text{GL}(W_2) \) be the representations. Suppose \( \phi: W_1 \to W_2 \) is a linear isomorphism establishing the geometric equivalence. Then \( \text{GL}(\phi): \rho_1(G_1) \to \rho_2(G_2) \) is an isomorphism of algebraic groups. Let \( U \) be a maximal unipotent subgroup of \( G_1 \). Then \( U_1 := \rho_1(U) \) is a maximal unipotent subgroup of \( \rho_1(G_1) \) and \( U_2 := \text{GL}(\phi) (\rho_1(U)) \) is a maximal unipotent subgroup of \( \rho_2(G_2) \). Moreover, \( \phi \) induces an isomorphism of vector spaces \( W_1^{U_1} \simeq W_2^{U_2} \) and an isomorphism of algebras \( \mathbb{C}[W_1]^{U_1} \simeq \mathbb{C}[W_2]^{U_2} \). Since, for \( i \in \{1, 2\} \), \( \dim W_i^{U_i} \) is the number of irreducible components of \( W_i \) and \( \dim \text{Spec}(\mathbb{C}[W_i]^{U_i}) \) is the rank of the weight group of \( W_i \), Lemma 2.7 proves assertion (b). We turn to (c). This assertion follows by combining Lemma 2.7 with the fact that \( \Lambda^+(G, W) = \Lambda^+_{(G_1, W_1)} \oplus \cdots \oplus \Lambda^+_{(G_n, W_n)} \). \( \square \)

Proposition 4.11. — Let \( (G, W) \) be an indecomposable saturated spherical module. Suppose that \( G = G^\text{st} \) (hence \( Z(G)^\circ = \text{GL}(W)^G \)) and that \( H \subseteq Z(G)^\circ \) is a subtorus such that \( W \) is spherical for \( G' \times H \). Assume that the conclusion of Theorem 1.2 holds for every pair \( (\overline{G}, W) \) in Knop’s List with \( \overline{G} \) of a type that occurs in the decomposition of \( G' \) into almost simple components. Then \( \dim T_{X_0} M_{W}^{G' \times H} = \dim T_{X_0} M_{W}^{G} = d_W \),
where by abuse of notation each $X_0$ stands for the unique closed orbit of the corresponding moduli scheme.

Proof. — By Proposition 4.5 (i), $(G, W)$ is geometrically equivalent to an entry in Knop’s List, say $(\overline{K}, E)$. Suppose $\phi : W \to E$ is a map establishing the geometric equivalence (see Definition 4.1) between $(G, W)$ and $(\overline{K}, E)$. We first claim that there exists a connected reductive subgroup $K \subseteq \overline{K}$ containing $\overline{K}'$ for which $E$ is still spherical and so that $\phi$ also establishes the geometric equivalence of $(G' \times H, W)$ and $(K, E)$.

Indeed, let $\rho : G \to \text{GL}(W)$ and $\psi : \overline{K} \to \text{GL}(E)$ be the representations and put $\rho_1 = \rho|_{G' \times H}$. Then $F := \text{GL}(\phi)(\text{im} \rho_1)$ is a connected subgroup of $\psi(\overline{K})$ containing $\psi(\overline{K})' = \psi(\overline{K}')$. The reason is that $\text{GL}(\phi)(\text{im} \rho_1)$ contains $\text{GL}(\phi)(\text{im} \rho_1)' = (\text{GL}(\phi)(\text{im} \rho_1))' = (\psi(\overline{K}))'$, since $\text{im} \rho_1$ contains $(\text{im} \rho_1)'$.

Now set $\tilde{K} := \psi^{-1}(F)$ and let $K$ be the identity component of $\tilde{K}$. Then $\tilde{K}$ is a subgroup of $\overline{K}$ containing $\overline{K}'$ and therefore so is $K$. Moreover, $K$ is reductive. Clearly $\psi(\tilde{K}) = F = \text{GL}(\phi)(\text{im} \rho_1)$ (since $F \subseteq \text{im} \psi$). Since $\psi(\tilde{K}) = \psi(K)$ because $\psi(\tilde{K})$ is connected (see e.g. [15, Proposition B of §7.4]), $\phi$ establishes the geometric equivalence of $\rho_1$ and $\rho|_{K}$. It also follows (by Remark 4.2 (b)) that $E$ is a spherical module for $K$. This proves the claim.

By Lemma 4.10 (a), $(G, W)$ and $(G' \times H, W)$ have the same invariant $d_W$, and $(\overline{K}, E)$ and $(K, E)$ have the same invariant $d_E$. By assumption, the conclusion of Theorem 1.2 holds for $(\overline{K}, E)$ and so $\dim T_{X_0}M_{E}^{-} = \dim T_{X_0}M_{E}^{+} = d_E$. Thanks to Lemma 4.10 (b), $d_E = d_W$. Finally, by Proposition 4.9, $\dim T_{X_0}M_{E}^{-} = \dim T_{X_0}M_{W}^{G}$ and $\dim T_{X_0}M_{E}^{+} = \dim T_{X_0}M_{W}^{G' \times H}$, and we have proved the proposition. \hfill $\square$

The next proposition reminds us that the normal sheaf behaves as expected with respect to products.

Proposition 4.12. — Let $n$ be a positive integer. Suppose that for every positive integer $i \leq n$ we have a finite-dimensional $G$-module $V_i$ and a $G$-stable closed subscheme $X_i$ of $V_i$. For every $i$, we put $R_i := \mathbb{C}[V_i]$, $I_i := I(X_i) \subseteq R_i$ (the ideal of $X_i$ in $V_i$) and $N_i := \text{Hom}_{R_i}(I_i, R_i/I_i)$. We also put $V := \bigoplus_i V_i$, $R := \mathbb{C}[V]$, $X := X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n$, $I := I(X) \subseteq \mathbb{C}[V]$ and $N := \text{Hom}_R(I, R/I)$. We then have a canonical isomorphism of $R$-$G$-modules:

$$N \simeq \bigoplus_i (N_i \otimes_{R_i} R)$$

Proof. — It is clear that, for $1 \leq j \leq n$, we can consider $I_j$ as a subset of $I$. For $1 \leq i \leq n$ we define the $G$-stable $R$-submodule $\tilde{N}_i \subseteq N$ by

$$\tilde{N}_i = \{ \phi \in N \text{ such that } \phi(a) = 0 \text{ when } a \text{ is in } I_j \text{ and } j \neq i \}.$$
Using [24, Lemma 9] it follows that $N = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{n} \tilde{N}_i$, and that $\tilde{N}_i$ is canonically isomorphic to $N_i \otimes_{R_i} R$ as an $R$-module with the isomorphism being $G$-equivariant.

We note that, with the notation of Proposition 4.12, there is a canonical isomorphism $N_i \otimes_{R_i} R \simeq N_i \otimes_{C} \tilde{R}_i$ for every $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$, where $\tilde{R}_i := \bigotimes_{j \neq i} R_{i}/I_j$ (tensor product over $C$). We will use this formulation of the proposition in what follows.

**Corollary 4.13.** — Let $n$ be a positive integer and suppose that for every positive integer $i \leq n$, $G_i$ is a connected reductive group, $V_i$ is a finite-dimensional $G_i$-module and $X_i$ is a multiplicity-free $G_i$-stable closed subscheme of $V_i$. Put $G := G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$. Define $N$ and $N_i$ as in Proposition 4.12. Then we have a canonical isomorphism of $C$-vector spaces

\[
N^G \simeq \bigoplus_i N_i^{G_i}.
\]

**Proof.** — In this proof all the tensor products are over $C$. We introduce the following notation for every $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$: $G_i := \bigotimes_{j \neq i} G_j$. Using Proposition 4.12 we have that

\[
N^G \simeq \bigoplus_i (N_i \otimes \tilde{R}_i)^G = \bigoplus_i (N_i^{G_i} \otimes \tilde{R}_i^{G_i}) \simeq \bigoplus_i N_i^{G_i},
\]

where the last isomorphism uses that $\tilde{R}_i^{G_i} = C$ by the multiplicity-freeness of $\tilde{R}_i$. \hfill \Box

**Remark 4.14.** — An immediate consequence of this corollary is that if $(G_1, W_1)$ and $(G_2, W_2)$ are spherical modules and $(G, W)$ is their product, then $\dim T_{X_0} M_W = \dim T_{X_0} M_{W_1} + \dim T_{X_0} M_{W_2}$, where by abuse of notation each $X_0$ denotes the unique closed orbit of the corresponding moduli scheme. This is how we will use the corollary (in the proof of Corollary 4.17).

**Proposition 4.15.** — Suppose that for every $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ we have an indecomposable saturated spherical module $(G_i, W_i)$. For every $i$, assume that $G_i = G_i^{\text{st}}$ and that the conclusion of Theorem 1.2 holds for every pair $(G, W)$ in Knop’s List with $\overline{G}$ of a type that occurs in the decomposition of $G_i$ into almost simple components. For every $i$ we put $Z_i := Z(G_i)^c = GL(W_i)^{G_i}$, $E_i := \Lambda^+_W$, $V_i := \bigoplus_{\lambda \in E_i} V(\lambda)$, $X_i = \overline{G} \times \mathbf{x}_i$, where $x_i = \sum_{\lambda \in E_i} v(\lambda)$. Put $G := G_1 \times \cdots \times G_n$. We also define $N_i$ and $N$ as in Proposition 4.12. Finally suppose that $A$ is a subtorus of $Z_1 \times \cdots \times Z_n$ such that $W_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus W_n$ is spherical for $G := G_1^{\prime} \times \cdots \times G_n^{\prime} \times A$. Then

\[
N^G = N^\overline{G}.
\]
Proof. — We continue to use the notation $\widehat{G_i}$ introduced in the proof of Corollary 4.13. In this proof all the tensor products are over $\mathbb{C}$. To prove (4.4) it is sufficient (by Proposition 4.12) to prove that $(N_i \otimes \widehat{R_i})^G = (N_i \otimes \widehat{R_i})^G$ for every $i$. We clearly have that $(N_i \otimes \widehat{R_i})^G = (N_i^{G_i} \otimes \widehat{R_i^{G_i}})^A$. Recall from equation (4.3) that $(N_i \otimes \widehat{R_i})^G = N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0$, where $F_0 := \widehat{R_i^{G_i}} \simeq \mathbb{C}$. We will prove that

$$F := (N_i^{G_i} \otimes \widehat{R_i^{G_i}})^A = N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0.$$ 

The inclusion $N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0 \subseteq F$ is clear. For the other inclusion, assume, by contradiction, that $F$ is not a subspace of $N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0$. Then there exist a character $\lambda \in X(A)$, a nonzero vector $v$ in $N_i^{G_i}$ of weight $-\lambda$ and a nonzero vector $w$ of weight $\lambda$ in $\widehat{R_i^{G_i}}$, such that $v \otimes w \notin N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0$. It follows that $\lambda \neq 0$, for otherwise

$$v \otimes w \in N_i^{G_i} \otimes \widehat{R_i^{G_i}} = N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0 = N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0$$

where $p: \times_j Z_j \rightarrow Z_i$ is the projection, while Proposition 4.11 tells us that $N_i^{G_i} \otimes F_0 \subseteq F_0$ (because $W_i$ is spherical for $G_i^p$).

Now, by Lemma 4.16 below, we have that $X_i$ is spherical for $G_i^p \times \ker \lambda$, hence for $G_i^p \times p(\ker \lambda)$, since $A$ acts on $X_i$ through the factor $Z_i$. Again by Proposition 4.11, we have that $N_i^{G_i^p} \otimes p(\ker \lambda) = N_i^{G_i}$. We obtain a contradiction: $v \in N_i^{G_i^p} \otimes p(\ker \lambda)$ since $v$ has $A$-weight $\lambda$, but $v \notin N_i^{G_i}$ since $\lambda$ is nonzero and therefore $p(A) \subseteq G_i$ does not fix $v$.

**Lemma 4.16.** — Let $G_1$ and $G_2$ be connected reductive groups and let $A_1$ and $A_2$ be tori. Suppose that for every $i \in \{1, 2\}$ we have a normal affine $G_i \times A_i$-variety $X_i$. Let $A \subseteq A_1 \times A_2$ be a subtorus such that $X_1 \times X_2$ is spherical for the action restricted to $G_1 \times A \times G_2 \subseteq G_1 \times A_1 \times A_2 \times G_2$. If $\lambda \in X(A)$ is such that the eigenspace $\mathbb{C}[X_2]^{G_2}$ contains a nonzero $A$-eigenvector of weight $\lambda$, then $X_1$ is spherical for $G_1 \times \ker \lambda$.

**Proof.** — Pick Borel subgroups and maximal tori $T_1 \subseteq B_1 \subseteq G_1$ and $T_2 \subseteq B_2 \subseteq G_2$. In this proof we identify $X(A)$ with its image under the canonical embeddings into $X(A \times T_i)$ for $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and into $X(A \times T_1 \times T_2)$.

Clearly, $X_1$ is spherical for $G_1 \times A$. If $X_1$ is not spherical for the subgroup $G_1 \times \ker \lambda$, then there are highest weight vectors $f_\alpha, f_\beta \in \mathbb{C}[X_1|(B_1 \times A)]$ of weight $\alpha$ and $\beta$ respectively such that $\alpha \neq \beta$ and $\alpha = \beta$ on $\ker \lambda \subseteq T_1 \times A$. This implies that $\alpha - \beta = d \lambda$ for some integer $d$. Reversing the roles of $\alpha$ and $\beta$ if necessary, we assume $d$ nonnegative.
It is given that there is a $g_\lambda$ in $\mathbb{C}[X_2]^{(A \times B_2)}$ of weight $\lambda$. We then have that the two $(B_1 \times A \times B_2)$-eigenvectors $f_\alpha \otimes 1$ and $f_\beta \otimes g_\delta^k$ in $\mathbb{C}[X_1] \otimes \mathbb{C}[X_2]$ have the same weight. This contradicts the sphericity of $X_1 \times X_2$ for the action of $G_1 \times A \times G_2$. □

Corollary 4.17. — Let $(G, W)$ be a spherical module and let $S$ be its weight monoid. Assume that the conclusion of Theorem 1.2 holds for every pair $(\overline{G}, W)$ in Knop’s List with $\overline{G}$ of a type that occurs in the decomposition of $G'$ into almost simple components. Then

\begin{equation}
\dim T_{X_0} M_S = d_W. \tag{4.5}
\end{equation}

Proof. — In this proof, by abuse of notation, $X_0$ will stand for the unique closed orbit of the relevant moduli scheme. By Proposition 4.5 there exist indecomposable saturated spherical modules $(G_i, W_i)$ in Knop’s List, with $i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}$, such that $(G^s, W)$ is geometrically equivalent to the product $(K, E)$ of the $(G_i, W_i)$, and such that $(G, W)$ is geometrically equivalent to $(K' \times A, E)$ where $A$ is a subtorus of $\text{GL}(E)^K$. By assumption, the conclusion of Theorem 1.2 holds for each $(G_i, W_i)$ and so

\[ \dim T_{X_0} M_{W_i}^{G_i} = d_{W_i} \text{ for every } i \in \{1, 2, \ldots, n\}. \]

As a consequence, Corollary 4.13 and Lemma 4.10 (c) yield that

\begin{equation}
\dim T_{X_0} M_{E}^{K} = d_{E}. \tag{4.6}
\end{equation}

On the other hand, using that $\text{GL}(E)^K = \times_i \text{GL}(W_i)^{G_i}$, Proposition 4.15 tells us that

\begin{equation}
\dim T_{X_0} M_{E}^{K' \times A} = \dim T_{X_0} M_{E}^{K}, \tag{4.7}
\end{equation}

whereas by Proposition 4.9, $\dim T_{X_0} M_{W}^{G} = \dim T_{X_0} M_{E}^{K' \times A}$. With equations (4.6) and (4.7) and Lemma 4.10 (a,b) this implies equation (4.5), as desired. □

5. Proof of Theorem 1.2

In this section, we prove Theorem 1.2 through case-by-case verification. Formally the proof runs as follows. We have to check the theorem for the 8 families in List 5.1 below. For families (1), (2) and (3), the arguments are given in Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3, respectively. For family (4), the theorem follows from Proposition 5.11 on page 1801; for family (5) it follows from Proposition 5.12 on page 1802; for family (6) from Proposition 5.19 on page 1806; for family (7) from Proposition 5.21 on page 1807; and for family (8) from Proposition 5.22 on page 1807. Thus, all cases are covered.
Each subsection of this section corresponds to one of the eight families given in the following list. We provide the full argument for only two representative cases (family (1) in Section 5.1 and family (5) in Section 5.5) and refer the reader to [26] for details about the similar verifications required for the remaining six families.

**List 5.1. —** The 8 families of saturated indecomposable spherical modules $(\mathcal{G}, W)$ with $\mathcal{G}$ of type $A$ in Knop’s List are

1. $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{GL}(n), \mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $1 \leq m \leq n$;
2. $(\text{GL}(n), \text{Sym}^2 \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $1 \leq n$;
3. $(\text{GL}(n), \bigwedge^2 \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $2 \leq n$;
4. $(\text{GL}(n) \times G_m, \bigwedge^2 \mathbb{C}^n \oplus \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $4 \leq n$;
5. $(\text{GL}(n) \times G_m, \bigwedge^2 \mathbb{C}^n \oplus (\mathbb{C}^n)^*)$ with $4 \leq n$;
6. $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{GL}(n)), (\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n) \oplus \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $1 \leq m, 2 \leq n$;
7. $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{GL}(n), (\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n) \oplus (\mathbb{C}^n)^*)$ with $1 \leq m, 2 \leq n$;
8. $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{SL}(2) \times \text{GL}(n), (\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^2) \oplus (\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^n))$ with $2 \leq m \leq n$.

**Remark 5.2. —** The indices $m$ and $n$ in family (6) and family (7) run through a larger set than that given in Knop’s List. Knop communicated the revised range of indices for these families to the second author. We remark that these cases do appear in the lists of [21] and [2].

**Remark 5.3.**

(i) Recall from Lemma 2.7 that for a given spherical module $W$ it is easy to compute $d_W$ from the rank of $\Lambda_W$.

(ii) Recall that by Corollary 2.6 it is enough to prove that $\dim T_{x_0} M^G_S \leq d_W$ for every $(G, W)$ as in Theorem 1.2 to establish the theorem.

In each subsection, $(\mathcal{G}, W)$ will denote a member of the family from List 5.1 under consideration. Here is some more notation we will use for the rest of this section. Given a spherical module $(\mathcal{G}, W)$ from Knop’s List,

- $E$ denotes the basis of the weight monoid $\Lambda^+_\mathcal{G}$ of $W^*$ (the elements of $E$ are called the “basic weights” in Knop’s List);
- $V = \bigoplus_{\lambda \in E} V(\lambda)$;
- $x_0 = \sum_{\lambda \in E} v_\lambda$.

 Except if stated otherwise, $G$ will denote a connected subgroup of $\mathcal{G}$ containing $G'$ such that $(G, W)$ is spherical. Recall that such a group $G$ is necessarily reductive. To lighten notation, we will use $G'$ for the derived subgroup $G'$ of $\mathcal{G}$. This should not cause confusion since $\mathcal{G}', \mathcal{G} = (G, G) = G'$. We will use $T$ for a fixed maximal torus in $\mathcal{G}$ and put $T = T \cap G$ and $T' = T \cap G'$.
Then $T \subseteq G$ and $T' \subseteq G'$ are maximal tori. We will use $p: X(T) \to X(T')$, \(q: X(\overline{T}) \to X(T)\) and $r: X(\overline{T}) \to X(T')$ for the restriction maps. Similarly, $\overline{B}$ is a fixed Borel subgroup of $\overline{G}$ containing $\overline{T}$ and we put $B = \overline{B} \cap G$ and $B' = \overline{B} \cap G'$. Then $B$ and $B'$ are Borel subgroups of $G$ and $G'$, respectively. Note that the restriction of $p$ to $\Lambda_R$ is injective and we can, and will, identify the root lattices of $\overline{G}$, $G$ and $G'$. Moreover, our choice of Borel subgroups allows us to identify the sets of positive roots (which we denote $R^+$) and the sets of simple roots (which we denote $\Pi$) of $\overline{G}$, $G$ and $G'$. Note also that since $Z(G') = Z(G) \cap T'$, we have that $T' \hookrightarrow T$ induces an isomorphism $T'/Z(G') \simeq T/Z(G)$. We therefore can (and will) identify the adjoint torus of $\overline{G}$, $G$ and of $G'$ and we denote it $T_{ad}$. We will use $\omega, \omega', \omega''$ for weights of the first, second and third non-abelian factor of $G$, while $\varepsilon$ will refer to the character $G_m \to G_m, z \mapsto z$ of $G_m$.

Recall our convention that by the $T_{ad}$-action on $V$ (and on $V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0$, $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{\mathfrak{c}_0}}$, etc.) we mean the action given by $\alpha$ (see Definition 2.11). The $T_{ad}$-action on $M_S$ refers to the action given by $\widehat{\psi}$, see page 1778.

**Remark 5.4.** — A consequence of using the action $\alpha$ is that the $T_{ad}$-weight set we obtain below for each $T_{X_0}M_S^G$ is the basis of the free monoid $	ilde{\Sigma}_W^* = -w_0\tilde{\Sigma}_W$ (instead of $-\tilde{\Sigma}_W$ as in Theorem 1.1 where the action $\gamma$ was used).

**Remark 5.5.** — We have the following isomorphism of $G$-modules (where $G$ acts on $V$ as a subgroup of $\overline{G}$): $V \simeq \oplus_{\lambda \in E} V(q(\lambda))$. Using Lemma 2.19 it follows that the $T_{ad}$-module $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{\mathfrak{c}_0}}$ only depends on $(\overline{G}, W)$ (that is, it does not depend on the particular subgroup $G$).

We will also use $\mathcal{S}$ for the weight monoid of $(\overline{G}, W)$, $\mathcal{S}$ for the weight monoid of $(G, W)$, $\Delta$ for the weight group of $(\overline{G}, W^*)$, and $\Delta$ for the weight group of $(G, W^*)$. Note that $\Delta = \langle E \rangle_Z \subseteq X(T)$, $\Delta = q(\Delta)$, $\mathcal{S} = q(\mathcal{S})$, that the weight group of $(G', W^*)$ (which is not necessarily spherical) is $r(\Delta) = p(\Delta)$ and that the weight monoid of $(G', W)$ is $r(\mathcal{S}) = p(\mathcal{S})$.

**Remark 5.6.** — In proving Theorem 1.2 for families (5), (6) and (7) we exclude certain $T_{ad}$-weight spaces in $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{\mathfrak{c}_0}}$ from belonging to the subspace $T_{X_0}M_S^G$. Comparing with the simple reflections of the little Weyl group of $W^*$ computed in Knop’s List suggested which $T_{ad}$-weights we had to exclude. Logically however, that information from Knop’s List plays no part in our proof. In fact, because $\dim T_{X_0}M_S^G$ is minimal (by Theorem 1.2), the computations of the $T_{ad}$-weights in $T_{X_0}M_S^G$ we perform in this section confirm Knop’s computations of the little Weyl group of the spherical modules under consideration. For the relationship between the
DEGENERATIONS OF SPHERICAL MODULES IN TYPE A

5.1. The modules \((\text{GL}(m) \times \text{GL}(n), \mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n)\) with \(1 \leq m \leq n\)

Here
\[ E = \{ \omega_1 + \omega_1', \omega_2 + \omega_2', \ldots, \omega_m + \omega_m' \} \quad \text{and} \quad d_W = m - 1. \]

When \(m < n\) the module \(W\) is spherical for \(G' = \text{SL}(m) \times \text{SL}(n)\) and its weight monoid \(p(S)\) is \(G'\)-saturated. Corollary 2.27 therefore takes care of these cases. The only case that remains is when \(m = n\). Then \(W\) is not spherical for \(G'\) because the determinant yields a non-constant invariant function (after identifying \(W\) with the space of \(m\)-by-\(m\) matrices). Since \(\omega_m + \omega_m' \in E\), \(S\) is not \(G\)-saturated for any intermediate group \(G\) for which \(W\) is spherical. We prove that in that case too \((V/x_0)^{G_{x_0}}\) has dimension \(d_W\).

Proposition 5.7. — Suppose \(m = n\). Then the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-module \((V/x_0)^{G_{x_0}}\) is multiplicity-free and its weight set is
\[ \{ \alpha_1 + \alpha_1', \alpha_2 + \alpha_2', \ldots, \alpha_{m-1} + \alpha_{m-1}' \}. \]

In particular, \(\dim(V/x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = d_W\). Consequently, \(\dim T_{X_0}M^G = d_W\).

Proof. — First note that \(p(\Delta) = \langle \omega_1 + \omega_1', \ldots, \omega_{m-1} + \omega_{m-1}' \rangle \subseteq X(T')\). Suppose \(v\) is a \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-eigenvector in \(V\) of weight \(\gamma\) so that \([v]\) is a nonzero element of \((V/x_0)^{G_{x_0}}\). Then
\begin{equation}
\gamma \in p(\Delta) \cap \Lambda_R
\end{equation}
by Lemma 2.17 (b). Clearly, \(p(\Delta) \cap \Lambda_R\) is the diagonal of \(\Lambda_R\), that is, the group
\[ \langle \alpha_1 + \alpha_1', \alpha_2 + \alpha_2', \ldots, \alpha_{m-1} + \alpha_{m-1}' \rangle \subseteq \Lambda_R. \]
Moreover, Lemma 2.18 (B) implies that there exists a simple root \(\delta\) of \(G'\) so that
\begin{equation}
\gamma - \delta \quad \text{(which is the weight of} \ X_\delta v \text{) belongs to} \ R^+ \cup \{0\}. \tag{5.2}
\end{equation}
Equations (5.1) and (5.2) imply that \(\gamma = \alpha_i + \alpha_i'\) for some \(i\) with \(1 \leq i \leq m - 1\).

We next claim that the \(T_{\text{ad}}\)-eigenspace of weight \(\alpha_i + \alpha_i'\) in \(V\) is one dimensional for every \(i\) with \(1 \leq i \leq m - 1\). Indeed, the only \(G'\)-submodule of \(V\) which contains an eigenvector of that weight is \(V(\omega_i + \omega_i')\) and the eigenspace is the line spanned by \(X_{-\alpha_i}X_{-\alpha_i'}x_0 = X_{-\alpha_i'}X_{-\alpha_i}x_0\). This finishes the proof. \(\Box\)
Example 5.8. — We illustrate Proposition 5.7 for $m = n = 3$ and $G = \mathcal{G} = \text{GL}(3) \times \text{GL}(3)$. Consider two copies of $\mathbb{C}^3$, one with basis $e_1, e_2, e_3$, the other with basis $f_1, f_2, f_3$, and with the first (resp. second) copy of $\text{GL}(3)$ acting on the first (resp. second) copy of $\mathbb{C}^3$ by the defining representation. Then we can take

$$V = \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \wedge^2 \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \wedge^2 \mathbb{C}^3 \oplus \wedge^3 \mathbb{C}^3 \otimes \wedge^3 \mathbb{C}^3;$$

$$x_0 = e_1 \otimes f_1 + e_1 \wedge e_2 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_2 + e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3.$$ Consequently,

$$g \cdot x_0 = \langle e_1 \otimes f_1, e_1 \wedge e_2 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_2, e_1 \wedge e_2 \wedge e_3 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_2 \wedge f_3, e_2 \otimes f_1, e_3 \otimes f_1 - e_2 \wedge e_3 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_2, e_1 \wedge e_2 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_2, e_1 \otimes f_2, e_1 \otimes f_3 - e_1 \wedge e_2 \otimes f_2 \wedge f_3, e_1 \wedge e_2 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_3 \rangle_C,$$ 

$$G'_{x_0} = \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{ccc} a & c_1 & c_2 \\ 0 & b & c_3 \\ 0 & 0 & (ab)^{-1} \end{array} \right), \left( \begin{array}{ccc} a^{-1} & c_4 & c_5 \\ 0 & b^{-1} & c_6 \\ 0 & 0 & ab \end{array} \right) \right| a, b \in \mathbb{C}^\times, c_i \in \mathbb{C} \right\}$$ 

and $(V / g \cdot x_0)^{G'_{x_0}} = \langle [e_2 \otimes f_2], [e_1 \wedge e_3 \otimes f_1 \wedge f_3] \rangle_C$.

5.2. The modules $(\text{GL}(n), \text{Sym}^2 \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $1 \leq n$

Here

$$E = \{2\omega_1, 2\omega_2, \ldots, 2\omega_n\} \quad \text{and} \quad d_W = n - 1.$$ 

Because $2\omega_n \in E$, there is no group $G$ with $G' \subseteq G \subset \mathcal{G}$ for which $(G, W)$ is spherical. Hence we assume that $G = \mathcal{G} = \text{GL}(n)$. For the same reason, $S = \overline{S}$ is not $G$-saturated. For the proof of the following proposition, see [26, Proposition 5.9].

Proposition 5.9. — The $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V / g \cdot x_0)^{G'_{x_0}}$ is multiplicity-free and has $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight set

$$\{2\alpha_1, 2\alpha_2, \ldots, 2\alpha_{n-1}\}.$$ 

In particular, its dimension is $d_W$. Consequently, $\dim T_{X_0} M_{\mathcal{S}}^G = d_W$.

5.3. The modules $(\text{GL}(n), \wedge^2 \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $2 \leq n$

Here

$$E = \{\omega_{2i} : 1 \leq i \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor\} \quad \text{and} \quad d_W = \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor - 1.$$
When $n$ is odd this module is spherical for $G' = \text{SL}(n)$, because $\langle \omega_n \rangle \cap \Delta = 0$, and $\rho(S)$ is $G'$-saturated. Corollary 2.27 therefore takes care of these cases.

On the other hand, when $n$ is even, $\omega_n \in E$, and so there is no group $G$ with $G' \subseteq G \varsubsetneq G'$. Moreover, for the same reason, $S = \overline{S}$ is not $G$-saturated. As it needs no extra work compared to $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, we show that $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ has dimension $d_W$. For the proof of the following proposition, see [26, Proposition 5.11].

**Proposition 5.10.** — Suppose $n \geq 2$ is even. Then the $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is multiplicity-free and has $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight set

$$\{\alpha_i + 2\alpha_{i+1} + \alpha_{i+2} : 1 \leq i \leq n - 3 \text{ and } i \text{ is odd} \}.$$ 

In particular, $\dim(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = \frac{n}{2} - 1 = d_W$. Consequently, $\dim T_{x_0}M_S^G = d_W$.

### 5.4. The modules $(\text{GL}(n) \times \mathbb{G}_m, \wedge^2 \mathbb{C}^n \oplus \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $4 \leq n$

We now have

$$E = \left\{\omega_{2i-1} + \varepsilon : 1 \leq i \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor \right\} \cup \left\{\omega_{2i} : 1 \leq i \leq \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad d_W = n - 2.$$ 

The modules $W$ are not spherical for $G'$ because $\Delta \cap \langle \omega_n, \varepsilon \rangle \neq 0$. Moreover, for the same reason, $S$ is not $G$-saturated for any intermediate group $G$ for which $W$ is spherical. For the proof of the following proposition, see [26, Proposition 5.13].

**Proposition 5.11.** — The $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is multiplicity-free with $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight set

$$\{\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n - 2 \}.$$ 

In particular, $\dim(V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = d_W$. Consequently, $\dim T_{x_0}M_S^G = d_W$.

### 5.5. The modules $(\text{GL}(n) \times \mathbb{G}_m, \wedge^2 \mathbb{C}^n \oplus (\mathbb{C}^n)^*)$ with $4 \leq n$

For these modules we have

$$E = \{\lambda_i : 1 \leq i \leq n - 2, i \text{ odd} \} \cup \{\lambda_j : 1 \leq j \leq n, j \text{ even} \} \cup \{\mu\} \quad \text{and} \quad d_W = n - 2,$$

where $\lambda_i := \omega_i + \varepsilon$ for $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$ with $i$ odd, $\lambda_j := \omega_j$ for $1 \leq j \leq n$ with $j$ even, and $\mu := \omega_{n-1} - \omega_n + \varepsilon$. 

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These modules are not spherical for $G'$ because $\Delta \cap (\omega_n, \varepsilon)_Z \neq 0$. Moreover, for the same reason, $S$ is not $G$-saturated for any intermediate group $G$ for which $W$ is spherical.

**Proposition 5.12.** — Suppose $n \geq 4$. The $T_{ad}$-module $T_{X_0}M_S^G$ is multiplicity-free and has $T_{ad}$-weight set

$$(5.3) \quad \{\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-2\} \quad \text{when } n \text{ is even};$$

$$(5.4) \quad \{\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-3\} \cup \{\alpha_{n-1}\} \quad \text{when } n \text{ is odd}.\quad \text{In particular, } \dim T_{X_0}M_S^G = d_W.$$  

**Proof.** — When $n$ is even, we are done by Proposition 5.13, because $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = d_W$. On the other hand, when $n$ is odd, let $J$ be the set (5.4) and put $\beta = \alpha_{n-2} + \alpha_{n-1}$. We prove in Proposition 5.14 that $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is multiplicity-free, and that its $T_{ad}$-weight set is $J \cup \{\beta\}$. In particular, $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = d_W + 1$. When $\beta$ is not a $T_{ad}$-weight of $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, it follows that $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \leq d_W$ and we are done. We show in Proposition 5.17 that even when $\beta$ is a $T_{ad}$-weight of $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$, the corresponding section in $H^0(G \cdot x_0, N_{X_0}^G)$ does not extend to $X_0$. Consequently $\dim T_{X_0}M_S^G \leq d_W$ and the proposition follows.

**Proposition 5.13.** — Suppose $n \geq 4$ is even. Then $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is a multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module with $T_{ad}$-weight set

$$\{\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-2\}.$$  

In particular, $\dim(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} = d_W$.

**Proof.** — Consider the $G$-submodule $V'$ of $V$ defined as

$$V' := V(\lambda_1) \oplus V(\lambda_2) \oplus \cdots \oplus V(\lambda_{n-2}) \oplus V(\mu).$$  

Note that as a $G'$-module, $V'$ is the direct sum of the fundamental representations. Furthermore, $V = V' \oplus V(\lambda_n)$ and $V(\lambda_n)$ is one-dimensional.

If we put $x_0' := x_0 - v_{\lambda_n}$, then we have $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \simeq (V'/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0')^{G_{x_0}}$, and by [3, Corollary 3.9 and Theorem 3.10] we know that $(V'/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0')^{G_{x_0}}$ is a multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module whose $T_{ad}$-weight set is $\{\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-2\}$. \hfill $\Box$

When $n$ is odd, determining $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ requires a little more care, because $V(\lambda_{n-1}) \simeq V(\mu)$ as $G'$-modules.

**Proposition 5.14.** — Suppose $n \geq 5$ is odd. Then $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}$ is a multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module. Its $T_{ad}$-weight set is

$$(5.5) \quad \{\alpha_i + \alpha_{i+1} : 1 \leq i \leq n-2\} \cup \{\alpha_{n-1}\}.\quad \text{ANNALES DE L'INSTITUT FOURIER}$$
The eigenspace of the weight $\beta = \alpha_{n-2} + \alpha_{n-1}$ is spanned by the vector
\[
[X_{-\beta}v_{\lambda_{n-2}}] = -\left[X_{-\beta}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} + v_\mu)\right].
\]

**Proof.** — Let $V'$ be the following $G'$-submodule of $V$:
\[
V' := V(\lambda_1) \oplus V(\lambda_2) \oplus \cdots \oplus V(\lambda_{n-2}) \oplus V_{n-1}
\]
where $V_{n-1} := \langle G' \cdot (v_{\lambda_{n-1}} + v_\mu) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$. Then
\[
(5.6) \quad V = V' \oplus Z_{n-1},
\]
where $Z_{n-1} := \langle G' \cdot (v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$, and
\[
(5.7) \quad g \cdot x_0 = g' \cdot x_0 \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu).
\]
Moreover, we have an inclusion of $G'_{x_0} \rtimes T_{ad}$-modules $g \cdot x_0 \subseteq V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu) \subseteq V$ and so an exact sequence
\[
0 \longrightarrow \frac{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}{g \cdot x_0} \longrightarrow \frac{V}{g \cdot x_0} \longrightarrow \frac{V}{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)} \longrightarrow 0.
\]
Taking $G'_{x_0}$-invariants, we obtain an exact sequence of $T_{ad}$-modules
\[
(5.8) \quad 0 \longrightarrow \left(\frac{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}{g \cdot x_0}\right)_{G'_{x_0}}^{G'_{x_0}} \longrightarrow \left(\frac{V}{g \cdot x_0}\right)_{G'_{x_0}}^{G'_{x_0}} \longrightarrow \left(\frac{V}{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}\right)_{G'_{x_0}}^{G'_{x_0}}
\]
From (5.7) we have that
\[
\frac{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}{g \cdot x_0} \simeq \frac{V'}{g' \cdot x_0}
\]
as $G'_{x_0} \rtimes T_{ad}$-modules. Clearly, as a $G'$-module, $V'$ is the direct sum of the fundamental representations, and $g' \cdot x_0$ is the tangent space to the orbit of the sum of the highest weight vectors in $V'$. Therefore [3, Cor 3.9 and Thm 3.10] tells us that $\left(\frac{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}{g \cdot x_0}\right)_{G'_{x_0}}^{G'_{x_0}}$ is a multiplicity-free $T_{ad}$-module with weight set $\{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3, \ldots, \alpha_{n-2} + \alpha_{n-1}\}$. On the other hand, (5.6) tells us that
\[
\frac{V}{V' \oplus \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)} \simeq \frac{Z_{n-1}}{\mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}.
\]
Furthermore, we claim that
\[
(5.9) \quad \left(\frac{Z_{n-1}}{\mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)}\right)_{G'_{x_0}}^{G'_{x_0}} = \mathbb{C}[X_{-\alpha_{n-1}}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_\mu)].
\]
Indeed, if \( [v] \) is a nonzero \( T_{ad} \)-eigenvector in \( \left( \frac{Z_{n-1}}{\mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_{\mu})} \right)^{G'_{\omega_0}} \) then there exists a simple root \( \alpha \) so that \( X_{\alpha}v \neq 0 \) (because \( v \) is not a highest weight vector) and \( X_{\alpha}v \in \mathbb{C}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} - v_{\mu}) = Z_{n-1}^{G'_{\omega_0}} \). Hence \( X_{\alpha}v \) has trivial \( T_{ad} \)-weight and therefore \( v \) has weight \( \alpha \). Since \( Z_{n-1} \simeq V(\omega_{n-1}) \), this implies that \( \alpha = \alpha_{n-1} \) and the claim \( (5.9) \).

From the sequence \((5.8)\) and the description of its first and third term above, we know that the \( T_{ad} \)-module \( (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G'_{\omega_0}} \) is multiplicity-free, and that its \( T_{ad} \)-weight set is a subset of \((5.5)\) and contains all its weights except possibly \( \alpha_{n-1} \). But \( \alpha_{n-1} \) belongs to the \( T_{ad} \)-weight set because \( [X_{-\alpha_{n-1}}v_{\lambda_{n-1}}] = -[X_{-\alpha_{n-1}}v_{\mu}] \in (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G'_{\omega_0}} \) by a straightforward verification (or because \( s_{n-1} \omega_n \) is a “simple reflection” in Knop’s List). The assertion about the eigenspace of weight \( \beta \) merely needs a straightforward verification. \( \square \)

The next lemma determines for which groups \( G \) the weight \( \beta = \alpha_{n-2} + \alpha_{n-1} \) is a \( T_{ad} \)-weight of \( (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{\omega_0}} \).

**Lemma 5.15.** — Suppose \( n \geq 5 \) is odd and let \( \beta \) be defined as in Proposition 5.14. Then the following are equivalent (recall that, by assumption, \( G, W \) is spherical)

1. \( \beta \) is a \( T_{ad} \)-weight of \( (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{\omega_0}} \);
2. \( \beta \in \Delta \);
3. \( t = \ker[(a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon] \subseteq \text{Lie}(T) \) for some integer \( a \).

If \( t = \ker[(a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon] \) for some integer \( a \), then we have the following equality in \( \Delta \):

\[
\beta = \lambda_{n-2} + (a + 1)\lambda_{n-1} - a\mu - \lambda_{n-3}.
\]

**Remark 5.16.** — We use \( t = \text{Lie}(T) \) in Lemma 5.15 instead of \( T \) because \( \ker[(a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon] \subseteq T \) is not necessarily connected (for example, it is disconnected when \( a = 1 \)).

**Proof.** — Since \( \beta \) is a \( T_{ad} \)-weight of \( (V/g \cdot x_0)^{G_{\omega_0}} \) by Proposition 5.13, the fact that \( 1 \) and \( 2 \) are equivalent follows from Lemma 2.17 (c). We now prove that \( 2 \) and \( 3 \) are equivalent. Recall that \( r : X(T) \to X(T') \) and \( q : X(T') \to X(T) \) are the restriction maps. Recall further that \( \Delta = q(\bar{\Delta}) \) and note that \( \ker q \subseteq \ker r = (\omega_n, \varepsilon)_{\mathbb{Z}} \). Now \( \beta = -\omega_{n-3} + \omega_{n-2} + \omega_{n-1} - \omega_n \in X(T') \). So \( q(\beta) \in \Delta \) if and only if \( q(\beta + \lambda_{n-3} - \lambda_{n-2} - \lambda_{n-1}) = q(-\omega_n - \varepsilon) \in \Delta \). In other words, \( q(\beta) \in \Delta \) if and only if there exists \( \gamma \in \bar{\Delta} \) so that \( q(-\omega_n - \varepsilon) = q(\gamma) \), that is, so that \( \gamma + \omega_n + \varepsilon \in \ker q \). Since \( \omega_n + \varepsilon \in \ker r \) this is equivalent to the existence of \( \gamma \in \bar{\Delta} \cap \ker r \) so that \( q(\gamma + \omega_n + \varepsilon) = 0 \).
Next we claim that \( \overline{\Delta} \cap \ker r = \langle \omega_n - \varepsilon \rangle \). The inclusion “\( \supseteq \)" is immediate: \( \omega_n - \varepsilon = \lambda_{n-1} - \mu \). The other inclusion follows from a direct calculation, or from Knop’s List which tells us that^{(3)} \( \overline{\Delta}_C \cap (\ker r)_C = \langle \omega_n - \varepsilon \rangle_C \) as subspaces of \( \text{Lie}(\overline{T})^* \).

Consequently, \( q(\beta) \in \Delta \) if and only if there exists an integer \( a \) so that
\[
a(\omega_n - \varepsilon) + \omega_n + \varepsilon = (a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon
\]
belongs to \( \ker q \). Equivalently, \( T \subseteq \ker[(a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon] \), or (since \( T \) is connected)
\[
a(\omega_n - \varepsilon) + \omega_n + \varepsilon = (a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon
\]
On the other hand, [19, Theorem 5.1] tells us that \( W \) is spherical as a \( G \)-module if and only if
\[
t \not\subseteq \ker(\omega_n - \varepsilon).
\]
Because \( t' = \langle \omega_n, \varepsilon \rangle_C^1 \) is of codimension 2 in \( \text{Lie}(\overline{T}) \), and for every integer \( a \), the two vectors \( (a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon \) and \( \omega_n - \varepsilon \) in \( \text{Lie}(\overline{T})^* \) are linearly independent, \( t \) satisfies (5.12) and (5.11) for some integer \( a \) if and only if \( t = \ker[(a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon] \). The equivalence of (2) and (3) follows. The straightforward verification of (5.10) is left to the reader. \( \square \)

**Proposition 5.17.** — Suppose \( n \geq 5 \) is odd and let \( \beta \) be defined as in Proposition 5.14. Let \( a \) be an integer and suppose that the maximal torus \( T \) of \( G \) satisfies \( t = \ker[(a + 1)\omega_n - (a - 1)\varepsilon] \). Then the section \( s \in H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})^G \) defined^{(4)} by
\[
s(x_0) = \left[X_{-\beta}v_{\lambda_{n-2}}\right] = -\left[X_{-\beta}(v_{\lambda_{n-1}} + v_\mu)\right] \in (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}}
\]
does not extend to \( X_0 \).

**Proof.** — We consider two cases: \( a < 0 \) and \( a \geq 0 \).

(i) If \( a < 0 \), we apply Proposition 3.4 with \( \lambda = \mu \) and \( v = X_{-\beta}v_{\lambda_{n-2}} \).

We check the four conditions: (ES1) follows from equation (5.10); (ES2) is clear from the description of \( v \) given above; (ES3) follows from the equalities \( \mu = \omega_{n-1} - \omega_n + \varepsilon \) and \( \langle \lambda_{n-1}, \alpha_{\mu - 1}^\vee \rangle = 1 \); for (ES4) take \( \delta = \lambda_{n-1} \).

(ii) If \( a \geq 0 \), we apply Proposition 3.4 with \( \lambda = \lambda_{n-1} \) and the same \( v \).

We check the four conditions: (ES1) follows from equation (5.10); (ES2) is clear from the description of \( v \) given above; (ES3) follows from the equalities \( \lambda_{n-1} = \omega_{n-1} \) and \( \langle \mu, \alpha_{\mu - 1}^\vee \rangle = 1 \); for (ES4) take \( \delta = \mu \). \( \square 

^{(3)} \)In the notation of Knop’s List, \( a^* \cap \mathfrak{g}^* \) is used for \( (\overline{\Delta})_C \cap (\ker r)_C \).

^{(4)} \)The fact that this formula defines a section of \( H^0(G \cdot x_0, \mathcal{N}_{X_0})^G \cong (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{x_0}} \) uses Lemma 5.15.
Remark 5.18. — We now obtain a description of the $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}}$; for details see [26, Remark 5.22]. For $n$ even, this is done in Proposition 5.13 since $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}} = (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$. For $n$ odd, the $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$ is described in Proposition 5.14. Call its $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight set $F$. Now $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$ is the $T_{\text{ad}}$-submodule of $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}}$ with $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight set $F \smallsetminus \{\beta\}$. Since $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}} \subseteq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'} \subseteq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$, the $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$ is completely determined by our characterization in Lemma 5.15 of those intermediate groups $G$ for which $\beta$ is a $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight of $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$.

5.6. The modules $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{GL}(n), (\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n) \oplus \mathbb{C}^n)$ with $1 \leq m, 2 \leq n$

We begin with some notation. Put $K = \min(m + 1, n)$ and $L = \min(m, n)$. We also put $\lambda_i = \omega_{i-1} + \omega_i'$ for $i \in \{1, \ldots, K\}$ (with $\omega_0 = 0$), and $\lambda_i' = \omega_i + \omega_i'$ for $i \in \{1, \ldots, L\}$. For the modules under consideration,

$$E = \{\lambda_i : 1 \leq i \leq K\} \cup \{\lambda_i' : 1 \leq i \leq L\}$$

$$d_W = K + L - 2 = \min(2m + 1, 2n) - 2.$$

These modules are not spherical for $G'$ because $\Delta \cap \langle \omega_m, \omega_n' \rangle_{\mathbb{Z}} \neq 0$. Moreover, for the same reason, $S$ is not $G$-saturated for any intermediate group $G$ for which $W$ is spherical. For the proof of the following proposition, see [26, Proposition 5.23].

**Proposition 5.19.** — The $T_{\text{ad}}$-module $T_{X_0}M_S^G$ is multiplicity-free and has $T_{\text{ad}}$-weight set

$$(5.13) \quad \{\alpha_i : 1 \leq i \leq L - 1\} \cup \{\alpha_j' : 1 \leq j \leq K - 1\}. $$

In particular, $\dim T_{X_0}M_S^G = d_W$.

Remark 5.20. — We remark that except for a few small values of $m$ and $n$, the inclusion $T_{X_0}M_S^G \subseteq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}}$ turns out to be strict. Moreover, for $n = m - 1$ and for $m = n - 2$ there exist groups $G \subseteq \overline{G}$, containing $G'$, for which $W$ is spherical and for which the inclusion $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}} \subseteq (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G_{z_0}'}$ is strict. For details see [26, Remark 5.24].

5.7. The modules $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{GL}(n), (\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^n) \oplus (\mathbb{C}^n)^*)$ with $1 \leq m, 2 \leq n$

We begin with some notation. Put $K = \min(m, n - 1)$ and $L = \min(m, n)$. We also put $\lambda_i = \omega_i + \omega_i'_{i-1}$ for $i \in \{1, \ldots, K\}$ (with $\omega_0' = 0$), $\mu = \omega_{n-1}' - \omega_n'$,
and $\lambda'_i = \omega_i + \omega'_i$ for $i \in \{1, \ldots, L\}$. For the modules under consideration,

$$
E = \{ \lambda_i : 1 \leq i \leq K \} \cup \{ \lambda'_i : 1 \leq i \leq L \} \cup \{ \mu \};
$$

$$
d_W = K + L - 1 = \min(2m + 1, 2n) - 2.
$$

These modules are not spherical for $G'$ because $\Delta \cap \langle \omega_m, \omega'_n \rangle \mathbb{Z} \neq 0$. Moreover, for the same reason, $S$ is not $G$-saturated for any intermediate group $G$ for which $W$ is spherical. For the proof of the following proposition, see [26, Proposition 5.46].

**Proposition 5.21.** — The $T_{ad}$-module $T_{X_0}M^G_S$ is multiplicity-free. Its $T_{ad}$-weight set is

$$
(5.14) \quad \{ \alpha_i : 1 \leq i \leq L - 1 \} \cup \{ \alpha'_j : 1 \leq j \leq K - 1 \}
$$

$$
\quad \cup \{ \alpha'_{K+1} + \cdots + \alpha'_{n-1} \}.
$$

In particular, $\dim T_{X_0}M^G_S = d_W$.

### 5.8. The modules $(\text{GL}(m) \times \text{SL}(2) \times \text{GL}(n), (\mathbb{C}^m \otimes \mathbb{C}^2) \oplus (\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^n))$

with $2 \leq m \leq n$

Here

$$
E = \{ \omega_1 + \omega', \omega' + \omega''_1, \omega_1 + \omega''_1, \omega_2, \omega''_2 \} \quad \text{and} \quad d_W = 3.
$$

In this case $S$ is not $G$-saturated for any group $G$ for which $W$ is spherical as one easily checks using Lemma 2.23. The module $W$ is spherical for $G'$ if and only if $m > 2$. For the proof of the following proposition, see [26, Proposition 5.57].

**Proposition 5.22.** — The $T_{ad}$-module $(V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G'}_{x_0}$ is multiplicity-free and its $T_{ad}$-weight set is $\{ \alpha_1, \alpha', \alpha''_1 \}$. In particular, $\dim (V/\mathfrak{g} \cdot x_0)^{G'}_{x_0} = d_W$. Consequently, $\dim T_{X_0}M^G_S = d_W$.

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