

Combinatorial bases for representations  
of the Lie superalgebra  $\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}$

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Gelfand–Tsetlin bases for  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$

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Finite-dimensional irreducible representations  $L(\lambda)$  of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$  are in a one-to-one correspondence with  $n$ -tuples of complex numbers  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$  such that

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$L(\lambda)$  contains a **highest vector**  $\zeta \neq 0$  such that

$$E_{ii} \zeta = \lambda_i \zeta \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, n \quad \text{and}$$

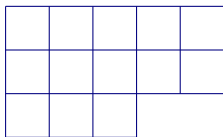
$$E_{ij} \zeta = 0 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i < j \leq n.$$

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**Example.** The diagram  $\lambda = (5, 5, 3, 0, 0)$  is

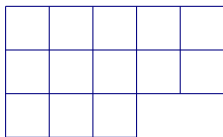


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The number of nonzero rows is the **length** of  $\lambda$ , denoted  $\ell(\lambda)$ .

Given a diagram  $\lambda$ , a **column-strict  $\lambda$ -tableau**  $T$  is obtained by filling in the boxes of  $\lambda$  with the numbers  $1, 2, \dots, n$  in such a way that the entries weakly **increase** along the rows and **strictly increase** down the columns.



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**Example.** A column-strict  $\lambda$ -tableau for  $\lambda = (5, 5, 3, 0, 0)$ :

1	1	2	4	4
2	3	4	5	5
4	5	5		

Theorem (Gelfand and Tsetlin, 1950).  $L(\lambda)$  admits a basis  $\zeta_T$  parameterized by all column-strict  $\lambda$ -tableaux  $T$  such that the action of generators of  $\mathfrak{gl}_n$  is given by the formulas

$$E_{ss} \zeta_T = \omega_s \zeta_T,$$

$$E_{s,s+1} \zeta_T = \sum_{T'} c_{TT'} \zeta_{T'},$$

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Here  $\omega_s$  is the number of entries in  $T$  equal to  $s$ , and the sums are taken over column-strict tableaux  $T'$  obtained from  $T$  respectively by replacing an entry  $s+1$  by  $s$  and  $s$  by  $s+1$ .

For any  $1 \leq j \leq s \leq n$  denote by  $\lambda_{sj}$  the number of entries in row  $j$  which do not exceed  $s$  and set

$$l_{sj} = \lambda_{sj} - j + 1.$$

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Then

$$c_{TT'} = - \frac{(l_{si} - l_{s+1,1}) \cdots (l_{si} - l_{s+1,s+1})}{(l_{si} - l_{s1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l_{si} - l_{ss})},$$

$$d_{TT'} = \frac{(l_{si} - l_{s-1,1}) \cdots (l_{si} - l_{s-1,s-1})}{(l_{si} - l_{s1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l_{si} - l_{ss})},$$

if the replacement occurs in row  $i$ .

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
& & \lambda_{n1} & \lambda_{n2} & & \cdots & & \lambda_{nn} \\
& & & \lambda_{n-1,1} & & \cdots & & \lambda_{n-1,n-1} \\
T \longrightarrow & & & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & & \\
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\end{array}$$

The top row coincides with  $\lambda$  and the entries satisfy  
the **betweenness conditions**  $\lambda_{ki} \geq \lambda_{k-1,i} \geq \lambda_{k,i+1}$ .



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corresponds to the pattern

5    5    3    0    0

5    3    1    0

3    2    0

3    1

2

Given  $\omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_+^n$ , consider the **weight subspace**

$$L(\lambda)_\omega = \{\eta \in L(\lambda) \mid E_{ss}\eta = \omega_s \eta \text{ for all } s\}.$$

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The **character** of  $L(\lambda)$  is the polynomial in variables  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  defined by

$$\text{ch } L(\lambda) = \sum_{\omega} \dim L(\lambda)_\omega x_1^{\omega_1} \dots x_n^{\omega_n}.$$

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**Corollary.**  $\text{ch } L(\lambda) = s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ , the Schur polynomial.

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The  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ -degree (or parity) is given by

$$\deg(E_{ij}) = \bar{i} + \bar{j},$$

where  $\bar{i} = 0$  for  $1 \leq i \leq m$  and  $\bar{i} = 1$  for  $m+1 \leq i \leq m+n$ .



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The commutation relations in  $\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}$  have the form

$$[E_{ij}, E_{kl}] = \delta_{kj}E_{il} - \delta_{il}E_{kj}(-1)^{(\bar{i}+\bar{j})(\bar{k}+\bar{l})},$$

where the square brackets denote the **super-commutator**.

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the Lie subalgebra of even elements of  $\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}$  is isomorphic to

$\mathfrak{gl}_m \oplus \mathfrak{gl}_n$ .

Finite-dimensional irreducible representations of  $\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}$  are parameterized by their **highest weights**  $\lambda$  of the form

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$$\lambda_i - \lambda_{i+1} \in \mathbb{Z}_+, \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m+n-1, \quad i \neq m.$$

The corresponding representation  $L(\lambda)$  contains a **highest vector**  $\zeta \neq 0$  such that

$$E_{ii} \zeta = \lambda_i \zeta \quad \text{for } i = 1, \dots, m+n \quad \text{and}$$

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They are distinguished by the conditions:

- ▶ all components  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{m+n}$  of  $\lambda$  are nonnegative integers;
- ▶ the number  $\ell$  of nonzero components among  $\lambda_{m+1}, \dots, \lambda_{m+n}$  is at most  $\lambda_m$ .

To each highest weight  $\lambda$  satisfying these conditions, associate the Young diagram  $\Gamma_\lambda$  containing  $\lambda_1 + \cdots + \lambda_{m+n}$  boxes.

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It is determined by the conditions that the first  $m$  rows of  $\Gamma_\lambda$  are  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m$  while the first  $\ell$  columns are  $\lambda_{m+1} + m, \dots, \lambda_{m+\ell} + m$ .

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The condition  $\ell \leq \lambda_m$  ensures that  $\Gamma_\lambda$  is the diagram of a partition.



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- ▶ the entries in  $\{m+1, \dots, m+n\}$  **strictly** increase from left to right along each row.



**Theorem.** The covariant representation  $L(\lambda)$  of  $\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}$  admits a basis  $\zeta_\Lambda$  parameterized by all supertableaux  $\Lambda$  of shape  $\Gamma_\lambda$ .

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$$E_{ss} \zeta_\Lambda = \omega_s \zeta_\Lambda,$$

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The sums are over supertableaux  $\Lambda'$  obtained from  $\Lambda$  by replacing an entry  $s + 1$  by  $s$  and an entry  $s$  by  $s + 1$ , resp.

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Corollary (Sergeev 1985, Berele and Regev 1987). The character  $\text{ch } L(\lambda)$  coincides with the supersymmetric Schur polynomial  $s_{\Gamma_\lambda}(x_1, \dots, x_m \mid x_{m+1}, \dots, x_{m+n})$  associated with the Young diagram  $\Gamma_\lambda$ .

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Set  $r = \lambda_{m1}$  and for any  $0 \leq p \leq n$  and  $1 \leq j \leq r + p$  denote by  $\lambda'_{r+p,j}$  the number of entries in column  $j$  which do not exceed  $m + p$ .

Example. The supertableau with  $\lambda = (7, 5, 2 \mid 2, 1)$

1	1	2	2	2	4	5
2	3	3	4	5		
3	5					
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corresponds to the patterns  $\mathcal{U}$  and  $\mathcal{V}$ :

5	3	1		5	4	2	2	2	1	1
	5	1			5	2	2	2	1	1
		2				3	2	2	1	1

Set  $l_i = \lambda_i - i + 1$ ,

$$l_{s_i} = \lambda_{s_i} - i + 1, \quad l'_{r+\rho, j} = \lambda'_{r+\rho, j} - j + 1.$$

Set  $l_i = \lambda_i - i + 1$ ,

$$l_{si} = \lambda_{si} - i + 1, \quad l'_{r+\rho,j} = \lambda'_{r+\rho,j} - j + 1.$$

The coefficients in the expansions of  $E_{s,s+1} \zeta_\Lambda$  and  $E_{s+1,s} \zeta_\Lambda$  are given by

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$$c_{\Lambda\Lambda'} = -\frac{(l_{si} - l_{s+1,1}) \cdots (l_{si} - l_{s+1,s+1})}{(l_{si} - l_{s1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l_{si} - l_{ss})},$$
$$d_{\Lambda\Lambda'} = \frac{(l_{si} - l_{s-1,1}) \cdots (l_{si} - l_{s-1,s-1})}{(l_{si} - l_{s1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l_{si} - l_{ss})},$$

if  $1 \leq s \leq m - 1$  and the replacement occurs in row  $i$ ,



and by

$$c_{\Lambda\Lambda'} = -\frac{(l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p+1,1}) \cdots (l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p+1,r+p+1})}{(l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p,1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p,r+p})},$$
$$d_{\Lambda\Lambda'} = \frac{(l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p-1,1}) \cdots (l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p-1,r+p-1})}{(l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p,1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l'_{r+p,j} - l'_{r+p,r+p})},$$

if  $s = m + p$  for  $1 \leq p \leq n - 1$  and the replacement occurs in column  $j$ .

Formulas for the expansions of  $E_{m,m+1} \zeta_\Lambda$  and  $E_{m+1,m} \zeta_\Lambda$  are also available.

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**Example (Paley 1989).** The basis  $\zeta_\Lambda$  of the  $\mathfrak{gl}_{m|1}$ -module  $L(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_m | \lambda_{m+1})$  is parameterized by the patterns

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & \lambda_{m1} & \lambda_{m2} & \cdots & & \lambda_{mm} & \\
 & & \lambda_{m-1,1} & \cdots & & \lambda_{m-1,m-1} & \\
 \mathcal{U} = & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & & & \\
 & & & & \lambda_{21} & \lambda_{22} & \\
 & & & & & & \lambda_{11}
 \end{array}$$

The top row runs over partitions  $(\lambda_{m1}, \dots, \lambda_{mm})$  such that either  $\lambda_{mj} = \lambda_j$  or  $\lambda_{mj} = \lambda_j - 1$  for each  $j = 1, \dots, m$ .

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$$E_{m,m+1} \zeta_{\mathcal{U}} = \sum_{i=1}^m (l_{mi} + \lambda_{m+1} + m) \\ \times \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} (-1)^{\lambda_j - \lambda_{mj}} \frac{l_{mi} - l_j}{l_{mi} - l_{mj}} \prod_{\substack{j=i+1 \\ \lambda_j - \lambda_{mj} = 1}}^m \frac{l_{mi} - l_{mj} + 1}{l_{mi} - l_j + 1} \zeta_{\mathcal{U} + \delta_{mi}},$$

$$E_{m+1,m} \zeta_{\mathcal{U}} = \sum_{i=1}^m \frac{(l_{mi} - l_{m-1,1}) \cdots (l_{mi} - l_{m-1,m-1})}{(l_{mi} - l_{m1}) \cdots \wedge \cdots (l_{mi} - l_{mm})} \\ \times \prod_{j=1}^{i-1} (-1)^{\lambda_j - \lambda_{mj}} \frac{l_{mi} - l_{mj} - 1}{l_{mi} - l_j - 1} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ \lambda_j - \lambda_{mj} = 1}}^{i-1} \frac{l_{mi} - l_{mj}}{l_{mi} - l_j} \zeta_{\mathcal{U} - \delta_{mi}}.$$

**Example.** The basis  $\zeta_\lambda$  of the  $\mathfrak{gl}_{1|n}$ -module  $L(\lambda_1 | \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n+1})$  is parameterized by the trapezium patterns

$$\mathcal{V} = \begin{array}{ccccccc} & \lambda'_{r+n,1} & \lambda'_{r+n,2} & \cdots & \cdots & & \lambda'_{r+n,r+n} \\ & \cdot & \cdot & & & & \cdot \\ & & \cdot & \cdot & \cdots & \cdots & \cdot \\ & & & & & & \\ & & \lambda'_{r+1,1} & \lambda'_{r+1,2} & \cdots & & \lambda'_{r+1,r+1} \\ & & & & & & \\ & & & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{array}$$

**Example.** The basis  $\zeta_\lambda$  of the  $\mathfrak{gl}_{1|n}$ -module  $L(\lambda_1 | \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n+1})$  is parameterized by the trapezium patterns

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The number  $r$  of 1's in the bottom row is nonnegative and varies between  $\lambda_1 - n$  and  $\lambda_1$ . The top row coincides with  $(\lambda'_1, \dots, \lambda'_p, 0, \dots, 0)$ , where  $p = \lambda_1$ .

Yangian  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$



## Yangian $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$

The Yangian  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  is a unital associative algebra with generators  $t_{ij}^{(1)}, t_{ij}^{(2)}, \dots$  where  $i$  and  $j$  run over the set  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ .

## Yangian $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$

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$$[t_{ij}^{(r+1)}, t_{kl}^{(s)}] - [t_{ij}^{(r)}, t_{kl}^{(s+1)}] = t_{kj}^{(r)} t_{il}^{(s)} - t_{kj}^{(s)} t_{il}^{(r)},$$

where  $r, s \geq 0$  and  $t_{ij}^{(0)} := \delta_{ij}$ .

Using the formal generating series

$$t_{ij}(u) = \delta_{ij} + t_{ij}^{(1)} u^{-1} + t_{ij}^{(2)} u^{-2} + \dots$$

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A natural analogue of the Poincaré–Birkhoff–Witt theorem holds for the Yangian  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ .

Every finite-dimensional irreducible representation  $L$  of  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$  contains a **highest vector**  $\zeta$  such that

$$t_{ij}(u)\zeta = 0 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i < j \leq n, \quad \text{and}$$

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The  $n$ -tuple of formal series  $\lambda(u) = (\lambda_1(u), \dots, \lambda_n(u))$  is the **highest weight** of  $L$ .



Moreover, there exist monic polynomials  $P_1(u), \dots, P_{n-1}(u)$  in  $u$  (the **Drinfeld polynomials**) such that

$$\frac{\lambda_i(u)}{\lambda_{i+1}(u)} = \frac{P_i(u+1)}{P_i(u)}$$

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Refs: Drinfeld (1988), Tarasov (1985).

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Set  $E = [E_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^m$ . The mapping  $\psi : Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})$  given by

$$t_{ij}^{(1)} \mapsto E_{m+i,m+j},$$

$$t_{ij}^{(r)} \mapsto \sum_{k,l=1}^m E_{m+i,k} (E^{r-2})_{kl} E_{l,m+j}, \quad r \geq 2,$$

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The image of  $\psi$  is contained in the centralizer  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})^{\mathfrak{gl}_m}$ .

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- ▶  $L(\lambda)_\mu^+$  is an irreducible representation of the centralizer  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})^{\mathfrak{gl}_m}$ .
- ▶ The centralizer  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})^{\mathfrak{gl}_m}$  is generated by the image of the homomorphism  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n) \rightarrow U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})^{\mathfrak{gl}_m}$  and the center of  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})$ .

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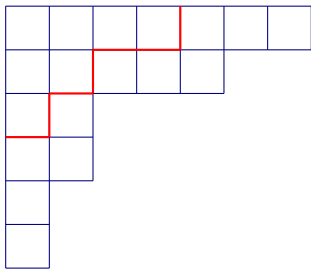
$$c(\alpha) = j - i.$$

**Theorem.** Suppose that  $L(\lambda)$  is a covariant representation. The Drinfeld polynomials for the  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ -module  $L(\lambda)_\mu^+$  are given by

$$P_k(u) = \prod_{\alpha} (u - c(\alpha)), \quad k = 1, \dots, n-1,$$

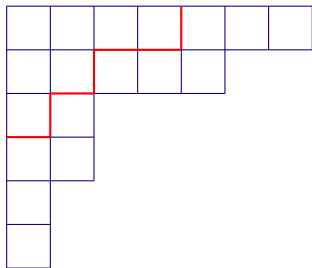
where  $\alpha$  runs over the leftmost boxes of the rows of length  $k$  in the diagram  $\Gamma_{\lambda/\mu}$ .

**Example.** For  $\lambda = (7, 5, 2 \mid 3, 1, 0, 0)$  and  $\mu = (4, 2, 1)$  we have



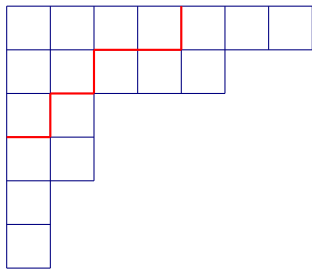


**Example.** For  $\lambda = (7, 5, 2 \mid 3, 1, 0, 0)$  and  $\mu = (4, 2, 1)$  we have



$$P_1(u) = (u + 1)(u + 4)(u + 5),$$

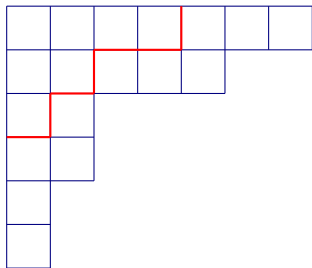
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Introduce parameters of the diagram conjugate to  $\Gamma_\lambda/\mu$ . Set  $r = \mu_1$  and let  $\mu' = (\mu'_1, \dots, \mu'_r)$  be the diagram conjugate to  $\mu$  so that  $\mu'_j$  equals the number of boxes in column  $j$  of  $\mu$ .

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**Corollary.** The  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ -module  $L(\lambda)_\mu^+$  is isomorphic to  $\bar{L}(\lambda')_{\mu'}^+$ , the skew representation associated with  $\mathfrak{gl}_{r+n}$ -module  $\bar{L}(\lambda')$  and the  $\mathfrak{gl}_r$ -highest weight  $\mu'$ .

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- ▶ combine with the Gelfand–Tsetlin basis of  $L'(\mu)$ .

The **extremal projector**  $p$  for  $\mathfrak{gl}_m$  is given by

$$p = \prod_{i < j} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (E_{ji})^k (E_{ij})^k \frac{(-1)^k}{k! (h_i - h_j + 1) \dots (h_i - h_j + k)},$$

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Ref: Asherova, Smirnov and Tolstoy, 1971.

For  $i = 1, \dots, m$  and  $a = m + 1, \dots, m + n$  set

$$z_{ia} = pE_{ia}(h_i - h_1) \dots (h_i - h_{i-1}),$$

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$z_{ia}$  and  $z_{ai}$  can be regarded as elements of  $U(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n})$   
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Example.

$$z_{1a} = E_{1a}, \quad z_{2a} = E_{2a}(h_2 - h_1) + E_{21}E_{1a},$$

$$z_{am} = E_{am}, \quad z_{a,m-1} = E_{a,m-1}(h_{m-1} - h_m) + E_{m,m-1}E_{am}.$$



The elements  $Z_{ia}$  and  $Z_{ai}$  are odd; together with the even elements  $E_{ab}$  with  $a, b \in \{m+1, \dots, m+n\}$  they generate the **Mickelsson–Zhelobenko superalgebra**  $Z(\mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}, \mathfrak{gl}_m)$  associated with the pair  $\mathfrak{gl}_m \subseteq \mathfrak{gl}_{m|n}$ .

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The generators satisfy quadratic relations that can be written in an explicit form.

They preserve the subspace of  $\mathfrak{gl}_m$ -highest vectors in  $L(\lambda)$ ,

$$z_{ia} : L(\lambda)_{\mu}^{+} \rightarrow L(\lambda)_{\mu+\delta_i}^{+}, \quad z_{ai} : L(\lambda)_{\mu}^{+} \rightarrow L(\lambda)_{\mu-\delta_i}^{+},$$

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**Proposition.** The element

$$\zeta_{\mu} = \prod_{j=1}^m (z_{m+\lambda_j-\mu_j, j} \cdots z_{m+2, j} z_{m+1, j}) \zeta$$

with the product taken in the increasing order of  $j$  is the highest vector of the  $Y(\mathfrak{gl}_n)$ -module  $L(\lambda)_{\mu}^{+}$ .