

# THE $SL_3$ COLORED JONES POLYNOMIAL OF THE TREFOIL

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ABSTRACT. Rosso and Jones gave a formula for the colored Jones polynomial of a torus knot, colored by an irreducible representation of a simple Lie algebra. The Rosso-Jones formula involves a plethysm function, unknown in general. We provide an explicit formula for the second plethysm of an arbitrary representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ , which allows us to give an explicit formula for the colored Jones polynomial of the trefoil, and more generally, for  $T(2, n)$  torus knots. We give two independent proofs of our plethysm formula, one of which uses the work of Carini-Remmel. Our formula for the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of  $T(2, n)$  torus knots allows us to verify the Degree Conjecture for those knots, to efficiently the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev invariants of the Poincare sphere, and to guess a Groebner basis for recursion ideal of the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of the trefoil.

## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1. Introduction   | 2  |
| 2. The colored $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ Jones polynomial of the trefoil              | 2  |
| 2.1. An $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ plethysm formula                                    | 3  |
| 3. The Rosso-Jones formula  | 4  |
| 4. Schur functions in $\mathfrak{sl}_3$                                       | 4  |
| 4.1. A review of Schur functions  | 4  |
| 4.2. A reformulation of Theorem 2.4   | 5  |
| 4.3. Theorem 4.2 implies Theorem 2.4  | 5  |
| 4.4. A reformulation of Theorem 4.2   | 6  |
| 4.5. Theorem 4.3 implies Theorem 4.2  | 6  |
| 4.6. Proof of Theorem 4.3   | 7  |
| 4.7. Proof of Lemma 4.7   | 7  |
| 5. A proof of Theorem 4.2 using Carini-Remmel's work                          | 8  |
| 5.1. A review of Theorem 5 of [CR98]  | 8  |
| 5.2. Reformulation of Carini and Remmel's expansion of $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$ | 9  |
| 5.3. Parametrisation  | 9  |
| 5.4. Reduction to the case of $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ .                             | 10 |
| 6. Sample computations  | 10 |
| 6.1. Acknowledgment   | 11 |
| References  | 11 |

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The initial goal of this paper was to provide a supply of explicit quantum invariants so as to help in formulating and testing a number of conjectures. The most readily approachable knots in this context are the  $(m, n)$  torus knots, particularly when  $m = 2$ . The aim was to give explicit details for the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  invariants, as these are potentially the simplest case after the more readily available colored Jones ( $\mathfrak{sl}_2$ ) invariants.

There is a general method of Rosso and Jones to determine any quantum invariant of a torus knot. For the invariant of the  $(m, n)$  torus knot with quantum group module  $V$  their calculations require knowledge of the decomposition of the module  $\psi_m(V)$  into irreducible representations. This is a combinatorial problem depending on the quantum group and the choice of  $V$ , which does not always have a readily available explicit formula.

We give here an explicit formula where  $m = 2$  and  $V$  is a general irreducible  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  module; from this we are able to give a detailed estimate for the extreme degrees of the resulting Laurent polynomial invariant.

Subsequently the second author reformulated some combinatorial work of Carini and Remmel [CR98] describing  $\psi_2(V)$  for the irreducible  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  modules which correspond to partitions with 2 parts. This recovers the explicit formulae for  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ , and also allows us to extend them to  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$ .

2. THE COLORED  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  JONES POLYNOMIAL OF THE TREFOIL

In his seminal paper [Jon87], Jones introduced the Jones polynomial of a knot  $K$  in 3-space. The Jones polynomial is a Laurent polynomial in a variable  $q$  with integer coefficients, which can be generalized to an invariant  $J_{K,V}(q) \in \mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}]$  of a (0-framed) knot  $K$  colored by a representation  $V$  of a simple Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ , and normalized to be 1 at the unknot. The definition of  $J_{K,V}(q)$  uses the machinery of *quantum groups* and may be found in [Tur88, Tur94] and also in [Jan96].

Concrete formulas for the colored Jones polynomial  $J_{K,V}(q)$  are hard to find in the case of higher rank Lie algebras, and for good reasons. For torus knots  $T$ , Jones and Rosso gave a formula for  $J_{T,V}(q)$  which involves a plethysm map of  $V$ , unknown in general. Our goal is to give an explicit formula for the second plethysm of representations of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  and consequently to give a formula for the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of the trefoil. To state our results, let  $V_{n_1, n_2}$  denote the irreducible representation of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  with highest weight

$$(1) \quad \lambda = n_1\omega_1 + n_2\omega_2$$

where  $n_1, n_2$  are non-negative integers and  $\omega_1, \omega_2$  are the fundamental weights of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  dual to the simple roots  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$ . In coordinates, we have

$$\alpha_1 = (1, -1, 0), \quad \alpha_2 = (0, 1, -1), \quad \omega_1 = \frac{1}{3}(2\alpha_1 + \alpha_2), \quad \omega_2 = \frac{1}{3}(\alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2)$$

The *quantum integer*  $[n]$ , the *quantum dimension*  $d_{n_1, n_2}$  and the *twist parameter*  $\theta_{n_1, n_2}$  of  $V_{n_1, n_2}$  are defined by

$$(2) \quad [n] = \frac{q^{\frac{n}{2}} - q^{-\frac{n}{2}}}{q^{\frac{1}{2}} - q^{-\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$(3) \quad d_{n_1, n_2} = \frac{[n_1 + 1][n_2 + 1][n_1 + n_2 + 2]}{[2]}$$

$$(4) \quad \theta_{n_1, n_2} = q^{\frac{1}{3}(n_1^2 + n_1n_2 + n_2^2) + n_1 + n_2}$$

Let  $T(m, n)$  denote the *torus knot* associated to a pair of coprime natural numbers  $m, n$ , and let  $J_{T(m, n), n_1, n_2}(q)$  denote the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of the torus knot  $T(m, n)$  colored by  $V_{n_1, n_2}$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** *For all odd natural numbers  $n$  we have*

$$J_{T(2,n),n_1,n_2}(q) = \frac{\theta_{n_1,n_2}^{-2n}}{d_{n_1,n_2}} \left( \sum_{l=0}^{\min\{n_1,n_2\}} \sum_{k=0}^{n_1-l} (-1)^k d_{2n_1-2k-2l, 2n_2+k-2l} \theta_{2n_1-2k-2l, 2n_2+k-2l}^{\frac{n}{2}} \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{l=0}^{\min\{n_1,n_2\}} \sum_{k=0}^{n_2-l} (-1)^k d_{2n_1+k-2l, 2n_2-2k-2l} \theta_{2n_1+k-2l, 2n_2-2k-2l}^{\frac{n}{2}} \right. \\ \left. - \sum_{l=0}^{\min\{n_1,n_2\}} d_{2n_1-2l, 2n_2-2l} \theta_{2n_1-2l, 2n_2-2l}^{\frac{n}{2}} \right).$$

Theorem 2.1 can be used to answer for several problems.

- We can verify the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ -Degree Conjecture of the colored Jones polynomial for the trefoil; see [GV]. Explicitly, we can compute the lowest degree  $\delta_{T(2,n),n_1,n_2}^*$  and the highest degree  $\delta_{T(2,n),n_1,n_2}$  of the Laurent polynomial  $J_{T(2,n),n_1,n_2}(q)$  as follows

$$(5) \quad \delta_{T(2,n),n_1,n_2}^* = \begin{cases} -\frac{n}{2}n_1^2 - \frac{n}{2}n_2^2 - nn_1n_2 - \frac{3n}{2}n_1 - (\frac{5n}{2} - 2)n_2 & \text{if } n_1 \geq n_2 \\ -\frac{n}{2}n_1^2 - \frac{n}{2}n_2^2 - nn_1n_2 - \frac{3n}{2}n_2 - (\frac{5n}{2} - 2)n_1 & \text{if } n_1 < n_2 \end{cases}$$

$$(6) \quad \delta_{T(2,n),n_1,n_2} = -(n-1)(n_1+n_2)$$

The above formula verifies that the degree, restricted to each Kostant chamber, is a quadratic quasi-polynomial.

- We can efficiently compute the Witten-Reshetikhin-Turaev invariant of the Poincare sphere, complementing calculations of Lawrence [Law03].
- We can guess an explicit Groebner basis for the ideal of recursion relations of the 2-variable  $q$ -holonomic sequence  $J_{T(2,3),n_1,n_2}(q)$ ; see [GK10].

**Remark 2.2.** An alternative formula for the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of  $T(2,3)$  is given by Lawrence in [Law03]. Lawrence's formula is derived from the theory of Quantum Groups, and cannot generalize to the case of  $T(2,n)$  torus knots. In contrast, the plethysm formula of Theorem 2.4 below can be generalized to a formula for  $\psi_m(V_\lambda)$  which allows for an efficient formula of the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of all torus knots. Additional generalizations are possible for all simple Lie algebras; see [GV].

**Remark 2.3.** Theorem 2.1 gives an efficient computation of the  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  colored Jones polynomial of the  $3_1, 5_1, 7_1$  and  $9_1$  knots in the Rolfsen notation. In low weights, our answer agrees with the independent computation given by the entirely different methods of the `KnotAtlas`; see [BN05]. This is a consistency check which simultaneously validates the formulas of Theorem 2.1 and the data of the `KnotAtlas`.

**2.1. An  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  plethysm formula.** As mentioned above, Theorem 2.1 follows from the Rosso-Jones formula for the colored Jones polynomial of torus knots and the following plethysm computation. Let  $\psi_m$  denote the  $m$ -plethysm operation.

**Theorem 2.4.** *For  $\lambda$  as in Equation (1) we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_2(V_\lambda) &= \sum_{l=0}^{\min\{n_1, n_2\}} \sum_{k=0}^{n_1-l} (-1)^k V_{2\lambda - k\alpha_1 - 2l(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)} \\ &+ \sum_{l=0}^{\min\{n_1, n_2\}} \sum_{k=0}^{n_2-l} (-1)^k V_{2\lambda - k\alpha_2 - 2l(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)} \\ &- \sum_{l=0}^{\min\{n_1, n_2\}} V_{2\lambda - 2l(\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)} \end{aligned}$$

### 3. THE ROSSO-JONES FORMULA

The polynomial invariant  $J_{K,V}(q)$  of a knot  $K$  colored by the representation  $V$  of a simple Lie algebra is difficult to compute from its Quantum Group definition even when  $K = 4_1$  and  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3$ . Although it is a finite multi-dimensional sum, a practical computation seems out of reach. Fortunately, there is a class of knots whose quantum group invariant has a simple enough formula that allows us to extract its  $q$ -degree. This is the class of *torus knots*  $T(m, n)$  where  $m, n$  are coprime natural numbers. The simple formula is due to Rosso and Jones, and also studied by the second named author, [RJ93, Mor95]. Let  $d_\lambda$  denote the *quantum dimension* of the representation  $V_\lambda$  and  $\theta_\lambda$  is the eigenvalue of the *twist operator* on the representation  $V_\lambda$ .  $d_\lambda$  and  $\theta_\lambda$  are given by

$$(7) \quad d_\lambda = \prod_{\alpha > 0} \frac{[(\lambda + \rho, \alpha)]}{[(\rho, \alpha)]}$$

$$(8) \quad \theta_\lambda = q^{\frac{1}{2}(\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho)}$$

where  $\alpha$  belongs to the set of positive roots,  $\rho = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha > 0} \alpha$  is half the sum of positive roots and  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes the  $\mathfrak{g}$  invariant inner product on the dual of the Cartan algebra (normalized so that the longest root has length  $\sqrt{2}$ ). When  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}_3$  and  $\lambda$  is given by (1), then the quantum dimension and the twist parameter coincide with (3) and (4). For a natural number  $m$ , consider the *m-Adams operation*  $\psi_m$  on representations. It is given by (see [FH91, Mac95])

$$(9) \quad \psi_m(V_\lambda) = \sum_{\mu \in S_{\lambda, m}} c_{\lambda, m}^\mu V_\mu$$

where  $c_{\lambda, m}^\mu$  are non-zero integers. The Rosso-Jones formula is the following (see [RJ93]):

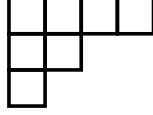
$$(10) \quad J_{T(m, n), \lambda}(q) = \frac{\theta_\lambda^{-mn}}{d_\lambda} \sum_{\mu \in S_{\lambda, m}} c_{\lambda, m}^\mu d_\mu \theta_\mu^{\frac{n}{m}}$$

For related discussion, see also [MM08].

### 4. SCHUR FUNCTIONS IN $\mathfrak{sl}_3$

**4.1. A review of Schur functions.** Let us recall some well-known properties of Schur functions and their relation to the character of irreducible representations of  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$ , that can be found in [Mac95, FH91]. For a partition  $\lambda$  with parts  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k \geq 0$ , let  $s_{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k}(x_1, \dots, x_N)$

denote the corresponding Schur function. A partition  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$  will be depicted as an arrangement of boxes as follows (for  $\lambda = (4, 2, 1)$ ):



If  $\omega_i$  denote the fundamental weights of  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  and  $n_i$  are nonnegative integers for  $i = 1, \dots, N-1$ , and  $\lambda = (\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} n_i, \sum_{i=2}^{N-1} n_i, \dots, \sum_{i=N-1}^{N-1} n_i)$  then

$$(11) \quad \text{character}(V_{\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} n_i \omega_i}) = s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N)$$

For  $\lambda = (4, 2, 1)$  we then have  $(n_1, n_2, n_3) = (2, 1, 1)$ .

The plethysm operation  $\psi_m$  is defined by

$$\psi_m(s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N)) = s_\lambda(x_1^m, \dots, x_N^m)$$

Note that  $s_1 = x_1 + \dots + x_N$  and  $\psi_2(s_1) = s_2 - s_{1,1}$ .

In  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$  the irreducible modules correspond to partitions  $\lambda$  with at most  $N$  parts. The decomposition of  $\psi_m(V_\lambda)$  into irreducibles needed for the invariant of the  $(m, n)$  torus knot is given by the corresponding expansion of the symmetric function  $\psi_m(s_\lambda)$  as a linear combination of Schur functions.

When  $N = 3$  the Schur function  $s_\lambda$  vanishes where  $\lambda$  has more than 3 parts, and satisfies  $s_{a,b,c} = s_{a+1,b+1,c+1}$ . Then  $s_{a,b,c} = s_{a-c,b-c}$ , so we need only consider partitions with at most 2 parts. All the same, it will be convenient to use 3 parts in what follows.

**4.2. A reformulation of Theorem 2.4.** The goal of this section is to give a formula for  $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$  as a linear combination of Schur functions, assuming that  $N = 3$ .

**Definition 4.1.** For  $m_1 \geq m_2 \geq 0$ , let  $D(m_1, m_2) \subset \mathbb{N}^3$  denote the set of tuples  $(a, b, c)$  that satisfy

- $a + b + c = 2m_1 + 2m_2$ ,  $2m_1 \geq a \geq b \geq c \geq 0$ ,  $a \geq 2m_2 \geq c$
- if  $b \geq 2m_2$  then  $c \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$
- if  $b \leq 2m_2$  then  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$

When  $m_1 < m_2$ , we define  $D(m_1, m_2)$  to be the empty set.

**Theorem 4.2.** In  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  for all  $m_1 \geq m_2$  we have:

$$\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2}) = \sum_{(a,b,c) \in D(m_1, m_2)} (-1)^b s_{a,b,c}$$

It is interesting to note that the coefficient of every Schur function in the expansion of  $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$  is  $0, \pm 1$ . The same feature proves to be the case for  $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$  in the general case of  $\mathfrak{sl}_N$ , noted in Subsection 5.1.

**4.3. Theorem 4.2 implies Theorem 2.4.** Since  $V_{n_1 \omega_1 + n_2 \omega_2}^* = V_{n_2 \omega_1 + n_1 \omega_2}$ , and  $J_{K, V^*}(q) = J_{K, V}(1/q)$ , it suffices to prove Theorem 2.4 when  $n_1 \geq n_2$ . Equation (11) for  $N = 3$  implies that

$$\text{character}(V_{n_1 \omega_1 + n_2 \omega_2}) = s_{n_1 + n_2, n_2}(x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

Fix nonnegative integers  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  and set  $(m_1, m_2) = (n_1 + n_2, n_2)$  in Theorem 4.2.

We can parametrise a tuple  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  that satisfies  $b \geq 2m_2$  by setting  $b = 2m_2 + k$ ,  $c = 2l$ , to get  $a = 2m_1 - k - 2l$ , satisfying the inequalities  $k, l \geq 0$ ,  $k \leq m_1 - m_2 - l$ ,  $l \leq m_2, m_1 - m_2$ . Likewise, we can parametrize a tuple  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  that satisfies  $b \leq 2m_2$

by setting  $b = 2m_2 - k$ ,  $a = 2m_1 - 2l$  to get  $c = 2l + k$ , satisfying  $k, l \geq 0$ ,  $k \leq m_2 - l$ ,  $l \leq m_2$ ,  $m_1 - m_2$ . Thus Theorem 4.2 implies the formula of Theorem 2.4.

**4.4. A reformulation of Theorem 4.2.** To establish Theorem 4.2 we first prove Theorem 4.3.

**Theorem 4.3.** *For  $m_1 \geq m_2$  we have*

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \sum_{(a,b,c) \in D(m_1, m_2)} (-1)^b s_{a,b,c} \right) \psi_2(s_1) &= \sum_{(a',b',c') \in D(m_1+1, m_2)} (-1)^{b'} s_{a',b',c'} \\ &+ \sum_{(a',b',c') \in D(m_1, m_2+1)} (-1)^{b'} s_{a',b',c'} \\ &+ \sum_{\substack{(a',b',c') \in D(m_1-1, m_2-1) \\ m_2 > 0}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a',b',c'}. \end{aligned}$$

In the proof of Theorem 4.2 we will need the following special cases of the *Littlewood-Richardson rule* adapted to  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ , bearing in mind that Schur functions for partitions with more than 3 parts are 0 in this case; see [Mac95]. In the next lemma and below, we will use the convention that  $s_{a_1, a_2, a_3} = 0$  unless  $a_1 \geq a_2 \geq a_3$ . Furthermore, the notation  $s_{a,b,c}|_{a>b}$  (resp.  $s_{a,b,c}|_{a=b}$ ) means  $s_{a,b,c}$  when  $a > b$  (resp.  $a = b$ ) and zero otherwise.

**Lemma 4.4.** In  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} s_{a,b,c} s_2 &= s_{a+2,b,c} + s_{a,b+2,c} + s_{a,b,c+2} + s_{a+1,b+1,c}|_{a>b} + s_{a+1,b,c+1} + s_{a,b+1,c+1}|_{b>c} \\ s_{a,b,c} s_{1,1} &= s_{a+1,b+1,c} + s_{a+1,b,c+1} + s_{a,b+1,c+1} \\ s_{m_1, m_2} s_1 &= s_{m_1+1, m_2} + s_{m_1, m_2+1} + s_{m_1, m_2, 1} \end{aligned}$$

**Corollary 4.5.** For  $a \geq b \geq c \geq 0$  we have

$$s_{a,b,c}(s_2 - s_{1,1}) = s_{a+2,b,c} + s_{a,b+2,c} + s_{a,b,c+2} - s_{a+1,b+1,c}|_{a=b} - s_{a,b+1,c+1}|_{b=c}$$

**Corollary 4.6.** Since  $\psi_2$  is a ring homomorphism, and  $\psi_2(s_1) = s_2 - s_{1,1}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})(s_2 - s_{1,1}) &= \psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})\psi_2(s_1) = \psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2} s_1) \\ &= \begin{cases} \psi_2(s_{m_1+1, m_2}) + \psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2+1}) + \psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2, 1}) & \text{if } m_1 > m_2 > 0, \\ \psi_2(s_{m_1+1, m_2}) + \psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2+1}) & \text{if } m_1 > m_2 = 0. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

**4.5. Theorem 4.3 implies Theorem 4.2.** We deduce Theorem 4.2 from Theorem 4.3 by induction on  $m_2$ .

When  $m_2 = 0$  we have  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, 0)$  iff  $c = 0$ ,  $a + b = 2m_1$ ,  $a \geq b \geq 0$ . It is known (for example, [CGR84, Eqn.2.30]) that

$$\psi_2(s_m) = \sum_{k=0}^m (-1)^k s_{2m-k, k}.$$

This establishes Theorem 4.2 for  $m_2 = 0$ .

Theorem 4.3 gives

$$\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})\psi_2(s_1) = \psi_2(s_{m_1+1, m_2}) + \sum_{(a',b',c') \in D(m_1, m_2+1)} (-1)^{b'} s_{a',b',c'} + \psi_2(s_{m_1-1, m_2-1})$$

by induction on  $m_2$

Corollary 4.6 then shows that

$$\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2+1}) = \sum_{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2+1)} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'},$$

which completes the induction step.

**4.6. Proof of Theorem 4.3.** To prove theorem 4.3 we sum both sides of the equation in Corollary 4.5 over  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$ , using the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.7.** Suppose that  $m_1 > m_2 \geq 0$ . Then

$$(12) \quad \sum_{(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)} (-1)^b s_{a+2, b, c} = \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1+1, m_2) \\ a' \neq b', a' \neq 2m_2}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'}$$

$$(13) \quad \sum_{(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)} (-1)^b s_{a, b+2, c} = \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2+1) \\ b' \neq c', c' \neq 2m_2+2}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'} + \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1+1, m_2) \\ a' = 2m_2, b' \neq c'}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'}$$

$$(14) \quad \sum_{(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)} (-1)^b s_{a, b, c+2} = \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1-1, m_2-1) \\ m_2 > 0}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'} + \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2+1) \\ c' = 2m_2+2}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'}$$

$$(15) \quad \sum_{\substack{(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2) \\ a=b}} (-1)^{b+1} s_{a+1, b+1, c} = \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1+1, m_2) \\ a' = b', a' \neq 2m_2, b' \neq c'}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'}$$

$$(16) \quad \sum_{\substack{(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2) \\ b=c}} (-1)^{b+1} s_{a, b+1, c+1} = \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2+1) \\ b' = c', c' \neq 2m_2+2}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'} + \sum_{\substack{(a', b', c') \in D(m_1+1, m_2) \\ a' = 2m_2, b' = c'}} (-1)^{b'} s_{a', b', c'}$$

The total sum of the left hand sides of the equations in Lemma 4.7 is then the left hand side of the equation in theorem 4.3, while the terms on the right hand sides make up the right hand side of Theorem 4.3.

**4.7. Proof of Lemma 4.7.** For each of the five equations we provide a bijective transformation carrying  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with the restrictions shown to  $(a', b', c')$  satisfying the conditions on the right hand sides.

We make repeated use of the parity rules to ensure that inequalities force a difference of at least 2. With the exception of a couple of less obvious cases we omit proofs that the individual parity rules for  $(a', b', c')$  are satisfied, as they generally follow readily from those for  $(a, b, c)$  and vice versa. Equally the sum  $a' + b' + c'$  is always obviously correct.

*Proof.* For Equation (12), put  $a' = a + 2, b' = b, c' = c$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$ . Then  $2m_2 + 2 \geq a' > b' \geq c' \geq 0$ , and  $a' > 2m_2 \geq c'$ . Then  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$ , with  $a' \neq b'$  and  $a' \neq 2m_2$ .

Conversely suppose that  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$ , with  $a' > b'$  and  $a' > 2m_2$ . By the parity rules, if  $b' \leq 2m_2$  then  $a' \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ , so  $a' \geq 2m_2 + 2 \geq b' + 2$ . If  $b' > 2m_2$  then  $a' \equiv b' \pmod{2}$ , so  $a' \geq b' + 2 > 2m_2 + 2$ . In any case  $2m_1 \geq a' - 2 \geq b' \geq c' \geq 0$ , and  $a' - 2 \geq 2m_2 \geq c'$ . Then  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$ . This proves Equation (12).

For Equation (13), put  $a' = a, b' = b + 2, c' = c$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a \geq b + 2$ . If  $a = 2m_2$  then  $2m_1 + 2 \geq a' \geq b' > c' \geq 0$  and  $a' \geq 2m_2 \geq c'$ , Then  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$ , with  $a' = 2m_2, b' > c'$ . Otherwise  $a > 2m_2$ . If  $b \geq 2m_2$  then  $a \geq b + 2 \geq 2m_2 + 2$ , while if  $b < 2m_2$

then  $a \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  by the parity rules, so that  $a \geq 2m_2 + 2$ . Hence  $2m_1 \geq a' \geq b' > c' \geq 0$  and  $a' \geq 2m_2 + 2 \geq c'$ . In this case we check the parity rules explicitly. Here  $b' \geq 2m_2 + 2 \implies b \geq 2m_2 \implies c' \equiv c \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  and  $b' \leq 2m_2 + 2 \implies b \leq 2m_2 \implies a' \equiv a \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$ . So  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2 + 1)$  with  $b' > c'$  and  $c' < 2m_2 + 2$ .

Conversely suppose that  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2 + 1)$  with  $b' > c'$  and  $c' < 2m_2 + 2$ . If  $b' \geq 2m_2 + 2$  then  $c' \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  so  $c' \leq 2m_2 \leq b' - 2$  and if  $b' < 2m_2 + 2$  then  $b' \equiv c' \pmod{2}$  and  $c' \leq b' - 2 < 2m_2$ . Hence  $2m_1 \geq a' \geq b' - 2 \geq c' \geq 0$  and  $a' > 2m_2$ . A parity check as above shows that then  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a = a' \geq b' = b + 2$  and  $a > 2m_2$ .

Finally suppose that  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$ , with  $a' = 2m_2, b' > c'$ . Then  $b' \equiv c' \pmod{2}$  so  $b' - 2 \geq c'$ , and  $a' = 2m_2 \geq c'$  again giving  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a = 2m_2 \geq b + 2$ . This proves Equation (13).

For Equation (14), put  $a' = a, b' = b, c' = c + 2$  when  $c = 2m_2$ , and  $a' = a - 2, b' = b - 2, c' = c$  otherwise. In either case  $s_{a,b,c+2} = s_{a',b',c'}$  since we are working in  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $b \geq c + 2$ . If  $c = 2m_2$  then  $2m_1 \geq a' \geq b' \geq 2m_2 + 2 = c' \geq 0$ , and  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2 + 1)$  with  $c' = 2m_2 + 2$ . Otherwise  $c < 2m_2 \neq 0$ . If  $b \leq 2m_2$  then  $c \leq 2m_2 - 2$ . If  $b > 2m_2$  then  $c \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  by the parity rules, giving again  $c \leq 2m_2 - 2$ . Then  $2m_1 - 2 \geq a - 2 \geq b - 2 \geq c \geq 0$  and  $a - 2 \geq 2m_2 - 2 \geq c$ . So  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 - 1, m_2 - 1)$ .

Conversely let  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 - 1, m_2 - 1)$ , with  $m_2 \neq 0$ . Then  $2m_1 \geq a' + 2 \geq b' + 2 \geq c' \geq 0$  and  $a' \geq 2m_2 - 2 \geq c'$ , so  $a' + 2 \geq 2m_2 > c'$ . Hence  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $c \neq 2m_2$ .

Finally, suppose that  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2 + 1)$  with  $c' = 2m_2 + 2$ . Then  $2m_1 \geq a' \geq b' \geq 2m_2 = c' - 2 \geq 0$  so that  $(a', b', c' - 2) = (a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $c = 2m_2$ . This proves Equation (14).

For Equation (15), put  $a' = a + 1, b' = b + 1, c' = c$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a = b$ . Then  $2m_1 + 2 \geq a' \geq b' \geq c' \geq 0$  and  $a' > a \geq 2m_2 \geq c' \geq 0$ . Since  $b' = a' > 2m_2$  and  $c' \equiv 0 \pmod{2}$  the parity rules are satisfied, and  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$  with  $a' = b', a' > 2m_2, b' \neq c'$ .

Conversely let  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$  with  $a' = b', a' > 2m_2, b' \neq c'$ . Now  $2a' \leq a' + b' + c' = 2m_1 + 2m_2 + 2 \leq 4m_1$ , since  $m_2 < m_1$ . Then  $2m_1 > a' - 1 \geq b' - 1 \geq c' \geq 0$  and  $a' - 1 \geq 2m_2 \geq c'$ . Hence  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a = b$ . This proves Equation (14).

For Equation (16), put  $a' = a, b' = b + 1, c' = c + 1$ . Let  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a > b = c$ . If  $a = 2m_2$  then  $2m_1 + 2 > a' \geq b' \geq c' \geq 0$  and  $a' = 2m_2 \geq c'$ . Hence  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$  with  $a' = 2m_2, b' = c'$ . Otherwise  $a > 2m_2$ , and  $a' = a \geq 2m_2 + 2$ , since  $b = c$ , while  $2m_2 + 2 \geq c + 2 > c'$ . We have also  $2m_1 \geq a' \geq b' \geq c' \geq 0$ . Hence  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2 + 1)$  with  $b' = c', c' \neq 2m_2 + 2$ .

Conversely suppose that  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1, m_2 + 1)$  with  $b' = c', c' < 2m_2 + 2$ . Now  $a' + 2c' = 2m_1 + 2m_2 + 2$  and  $a' \leq 2m_1$ , so  $c' > 0$ . Hence  $2m_1 \geq a' > b' - 1 \geq c' - 1 \geq 0$  and  $a' > 2m_2 \geq c' - 1$ . Then  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a > b = c$  and  $a > 2m_2$ .

Finally if  $(a', b', c') \in D(m_1 + 1, m_2)$  with  $a' = 2m_2, b' = c'$  then  $b' = c' = m_1 + 1 > 0$  and  $(a, b, c) \in D(m_1, m_2)$  with  $a = 2m_2 > b = c$ .  $\square$

## 5. A PROOF OF THEOREM 4.2 USING CARINI-REMMEL'S WORK

**5.1. A review of Theorem 5 of [CR98].** In this section we give an alternative proof of Theorem 4.2 using the work [CR98] of Carini and Remmel. In Theorem 5 of loc.cit., Carini and Remmel give the expansion of the plethysm  $\psi_2(s_{a,b})$  for the Schur function of a 2-row partition of  $n = a + b$  in terms of Schur functions  $s_\lambda$ , where  $\lambda$  runs through partitions of  $2n$  with at most 4 parts. In this expansion each  $s_\lambda$  has coefficient  $0, \pm 1$ , depending on the parities of the parts of  $\lambda$  and some linear inequalities.



In their paper they use the opposite convention to Macdonald, so that they take  $0 \leq a \leq b$  for the given partition of  $n = a + b$  and  $0 \leq \lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \lambda_3 \leq \lambda_4$  for the parts of the partition  $\lambda$  of  $2n$ . They also use the more common combinatorial notation  $p_2$  rather than  $\psi_2$ .

Theorem 5 of [CR98] can be readily restated as follows, by grouping separately the partitions  $\lambda$  of  $2a + 2b$  with  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 \geq 2a$  and those with  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 < 2a$  in the expansion of  $\psi_2(s_{a,b})$ :

- When  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 \geq 2a$ ,  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2$  is even and  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \leq 2a$ , the Schur function  $s_\lambda$  has coefficient  $(-1)^{\lambda_2 + \lambda_3}$ .
- When  $\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 < 2a$ ,  $\lambda_2 + \lambda_3$  is even,  $2a \leq \lambda_2 + \lambda_3$  and  $2a \leq \lambda_1 + \lambda_4$ , the Schur function  $s_\lambda$  has coefficient  $(-1)^{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}$ .
- All other  $s_\lambda$  have coefficient 0.

The first of these cases corresponds to the partitions in (ii) and some of (i) in [CR98, Thm.5], while the second corresponds to the partitions in (iii) and the remaining partitions in (i).

**5.2. Reformulation of Carini and Remmel's expansion of  $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$ .** Theorem 5 of [CR98] gives rise to an expansion of  $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$ ,  $m_1 \geq m_2$ , in Schur functions of  $x_1, \dots, x_N$  which is valid for all  $N$ .

We can reformulate this further by specifying the support set for the partitions which appear in the expansion in terms of linear inequalities and some parity rules, so that Theorem 4.2, the case where  $N = 3$ , is an immediate corollary.

Using Macdonald's ordering, we take  $m_1$  in place of  $b$  and  $m_2$  in place of  $a$  from [CR98], and write  $(\lambda_4, \lambda_3, \lambda_2, \lambda_1) = (a, b, c, d) = \lambda$ .

**Definition 5.1.** For  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $A(m_1, m_2) \subset \mathbb{N}^4$  denote the set of tuples  $(a, b, c, d)$  that satisfy

- $a + b + c + d = 2m_1 + 2m_2$ ,  $a \geq b \geq c \geq d \geq 0$ ,  $2m_1 \geq a + d \geq 2m_2 \geq c + d$
- if  $b + d \geq 2m_2$  then  $c \equiv d \pmod{2}$
- if  $b + d \leq 2m_2$  then  $a \equiv d \pmod{2}$

**Theorem 5.2.** Let  $m_1 \geq m_2 \geq 0$ . Then

$$\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2}) = \sum_{(a, b, c, d) \in A(m_1, m_2)} (-1)^{b+d} s_{a, b, c, d}.$$

Theorem 4.2 is an immediate corollary, since Schur functions for partitions with more than 3 rows are 0 in  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ , and the support set  $A(m_1, m_2)$  becomes  $D(m_1, m_2)$  when  $d = 0$ .

We can see readily that theorem 5.2 follows from Theorem 5 of [CR98] as rearranged above.

Firstly, for  $\lambda \in A(m_1, m_2)$  with  $b + d \geq 2m_2$  we have  $c + d$  even, by the parity rule, and  $c + d \leq 2m_2$ , while the coefficient of  $s_\lambda$  is  $(-1)^{b+d} = (-1)^{b+c}$ . This agrees with the first group of partitions above. The condition  $2m_1 \geq a + d$  does not impose any extra restriction on this group, since it is equivalent to  $b + c \geq 2m_2$ .

For  $\lambda \in A(m_1, m_2)$  with  $b + d \leq 2m_2$  we have  $a + d$  even, and hence  $b + c$  even, by the parity rule. In addition we have  $2m_2 \leq b + c$  since  $2m_1 \geq a + d$ , and  $2m_2 \leq a + d$ . Again this agrees with the second group of partitions above, and the coefficient of  $s_\lambda$  is  $(-1)^{b+d} = (-1)^{c+d}$  as required there.

**5.3. Parametrisation.** Theorem 5.2 can be used to give a parametrisation of these two sets of Schur functions with non-zero coefficient, each in terms of 3 integer parameters satisfying some linear inequalities. These in turn give a parametric formula for  $\psi_2(s_{m_1, m_2})$ , with a reduction in the case of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  to the formulae of Theorem 2.4.

5.3.1. *The first group of Schur functions.* Parametrise  $\{A(m_1, m_2) : b + d \geq 2m_2\}$  by setting  $b + d = 2m_2 + k, k \geq 0$ . Write  $c = d + 2l, l \geq 0$  to get  $c \equiv d \pmod{2}$ . The condition  $c + d \leq 2m_2$  is equivalent to  $d + l \leq m_2$ . This ensures that  $c \leq b$ . Then  $a = 2m_1 - k - 2l - d$ , which satisfies  $2m_1 \geq a + d$ . To ensure that  $a \geq b$  we impose the condition  $a + d = 2m_1 - k - 2l \geq b + d = 2m_2 + k$  to finish with parameters  $k, l, d \geq 0, d + l \leq m_2, k + l \leq m_1 - m_2$ .

The contribution of the partitions  $\lambda$  with  $b + d \geq 2m_2$  is then

$$\sum (-1)^k s_\lambda, \text{ where } \lambda = (2m_1 - k - 2l - d, 2m_2 + k - d, 2l + d, d)$$

and  $k, l, d$  are integer parameters with  $k, l, d \geq 0, d + l \leq m_2, k + l \leq m_1 - m_2$ .

5.3.2. *The second group of Schur functions.* Parametrise  $\{A(m_1, m_2) : b + d \leq 2m_2\}$  by setting  $b + d = 2m_2 - k, k \geq 0$ . Write  $a + d = 2m_1 - 2l, l \geq 0$  to get  $a \equiv d \pmod{2}$  and  $2m_1 \geq a + d$ . Then  $b + c = 2m_2 + 2l$ , so  $c \geq d$ . The condition  $2m_2 \leq a + d$  is equivalent to  $l \leq m_1 - m_2$ . This ensures that  $b \leq a$ .

Now  $b = 2m_2 - k - d$  so  $c = 2l + k + d$  so  $c \leq b$  is equivalent to  $l + k + d \leq m_2$ .

The contribution of the partitions  $\lambda$  with  $b + d \leq 2m_2$  is

$$\sum (-1)^k s_\lambda, \text{ where } \lambda = (2m_1 - 2l - d, 2m_2 - k - d, 2l + k + d, d)$$

and  $k, l, d$  are integer parameters with  $k, l, d \geq 0, l + k + d \leq m_2, l \leq m_1 - m_2$ .

5.4. **Reduction to the case of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$ .** In the special case of  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  we have  $d = 0$ , and we get two double sums of 3-row Schur functions, one for partitions with  $b \geq 2m_2$ , and one for those with  $b < 2m_2$ , to avoid double counting those with  $b = 2m_2$ . Since we are working in  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  this can be reduced further to sums over 2-row partitions, since  $s_{a,b,c} = s_{a-c,b-c}$

Explicitly we have from the first group of partitions the sum

$$\sum (-1)^k s_{2m_1-4l-k, 2m_2-2l+k}$$

taken over  $k, l \geq 0, l \leq m_2, k + l \leq m_1 - m_2$ . The second group yields

$$\sum (-1)^k s_{2m_1-4l-k, 2m_2-2l-2k}$$

taken over  $l \geq 0, k > 0, k + l \leq m_2, l \leq m_1 - m_2$ . This gives a second proof of Theorem 2.4. It may be preferable all the same to retain the 3-row format when estimating the effects of twists in  $\mathfrak{sl}_3$  as then all the partitions have  $2m_1 + 2m_2$  cells and thus their twist factors depend only on the total content of the partition.

## 6. SAMPLE COMPUTATIONS

In this section we give some sample computations of Theorems 2.1 and 2.4. Theorem 2.1 implies that:

$$\begin{aligned} J_{T(2,3),5,7}(1/q) = & q^{24} + q^{30} + q^{32} - q^{35} + q^{36} + 2q^{38} - q^{39} - q^{41} + q^{42} - q^{43} + 2q^{44} - q^{45} - 2q^{47} + q^{48} - q^{49} + \\ & 2q^{50} - 2q^{51} + q^{52} - 2q^{53} - 2q^{55} + 3q^{56} - 2q^{57} + 2q^{58} - 2q^{59} - q^{60} - q^{61} + 2q^{62} - 4q^{63} + 3q^{64} + q^{66} - q^{67} + q^{68} - \\ & 3q^{69} + 3q^{70} - 2q^{71} + 3q^{72} + q^{73} - q^{74} - q^{75} - 2q^{77} + 2q^{78} + q^{79} + 2q^{80} - 2q^{82} - q^{83} + q^{85} + 2q^{86} - 3q^{88} + q^{89} - 2q^{90} - \\ & q^{92} + 2q^{93} + q^{94} + 2q^{95} - 3q^{96} + q^{97} - 2q^{98} + q^{99} + q^{100} + 2q^{101} - 2q^{102} + 3q^{103} - 5q^{104} - q^{106} + 3q^{107} + 2q^{108} + \\ & 4q^{109} - 4q^{110} + 3q^{111} - 3q^{112} - 2q^{113} + q^{114} + q^{115} - q^{116} + 5q^{117} - 5q^{118} - 2q^{119} - 2q^{121} + 2q^{122} + 5q^{123} - 2q^{124} + \\ & q^{125} - q^{126} - 4q^{127} - q^{129} - q^{130} + 4q^{131} - q^{132} - 2q^{133} + 2q^{134} - q^{135} + q^{136} + q^{137} - 2q^{138} + 2q^{139} + 3q^{140} - \\ & 3q^{141} + 2q^{142} - 2q^{143} - 4q^{144} + 2q^{145} + 6q^{148} - 2q^{149} - q^{151} - 6q^{152} + 3q^{153} + 4q^{154} - q^{155} + 3q^{156} - 4q^{157} - \\ & 4q^{158} + 3q^{159} - 3q^{160} + 2q^{161} + 4q^{162} - 3q^{163} + 4q^{164} - 2q^{165} - 4q^{166} + 5q^{167} + 2q^{170} - 6q^{171} + 2q^{172} + 3q^{173} - \\ & 4q^{174} + q^{175} + q^{176} - 3q^{177} + 5q^{178} - 2q^{179} - 2q^{180} + 4q^{181} - 2q^{183} - q^{184} - 6q^{185} + 3q^{186} + 2q^{187} + 2q^{189} + q^{190} - \\ & 5q^{191} + 2q^{192} - q^{193} - q^{194} + 5q^{195} + 2q^{196} - q^{197} - q^{198} - 5q^{199} + 3q^{201} - 2q^{202} + q^{203} + 3q^{204} - 2q^{205} + q^{206} - \end{aligned}$$

$$5q^{208} + 4q^{209} + 2q^{210} - 3q^{213} - 3q^{214} + 4q^{215} - 2q^{216} + 2q^{217} + 3q^{218} - 2q^{219} - 4q^{222} + 5q^{223} + 2q^{224} - 2q^{225} - 3q^{227} - 3q^{228} + 3q^{229} - q^{230} + 3q^{232} - 2q^{233} + q^{234} + 2q^{235} - 3q^{236} + q^{237} + q^{238} - 2q^{239} + 3q^{240} - q^{241} - q^{242} + 2q^{243} - 4q^{244} - 2q^{245} + 2q^{246} + 4q^{248} + 2q^{249} - 3q^{250} - 2q^{252} - 2q^{253} + 3q^{254} + 2q^{256} + 2q^{257} - 3q^{258} - 3q^{259} - 2q^{260} + q^{261} + 4q^{262} + q^{263} + q^{264} - q^{265} - 3q^{266} - 2q^{267} + q^{268} + q^{269} + 2q^{270} + q^{271} - q^{272} - q^{273} - q^{274} + q^{275}$$

Theorem 2.4 implies that:

$$\psi_2(V_{5,7}) = V_{0,4} - V_{0,7} + V_{0,10} - V_{0,13} + V_{0,16} - V_{0,19} - V_{1,2} + V_{2,0} + V_{2,6} - V_{2,9} + V_{2,12} - V_{2,15} + V_{2,18} - V_{3,4} + V_{4,2} + V_{4,8} - V_{4,11} + V_{4,14} - V_{4,17} - V_{5,0} - V_{5,6} + V_{6,4} + V_{6,10} - V_{6,13} + V_{6,16} - V_{7,2} - V_{7,8} + V_{8,0} + V_{8,6} + V_{8,12} - V_{8,15} - V_{9,4} - V_{9,10} + V_{10,2} + V_{10,8} + V_{10,14} - V_{11,0} - V_{11,6} - V_{11,12} + V_{12,4} + V_{12,10} - V_{13,2} - V_{13,8} + V_{14,0} + V_{14,6} - V_{15,4} + V_{16,2} - V_{17,0}$$

where  $V_{n_1, n_2} = V_{n_1\omega_1 + n_2\omega_2}$ .

For future checks with other formulas, Theorem 2.1 implies that  $J_{2,3,70,70}(1/q)$  is a polynomial of  $q$  with exponents with respect to  $q$  in the interval  $[280, 30100]$  (where the end points are attained), leading and trailing coefficients 1 and coefficients in the interval  $[-55196, 65594]$ , where the coefficient  $-55196$  is attained at precisely at  $q^{18854}$  and  $q^{18925}$  and the coefficient  $65594$  is attained precisely at  $q^{18165}$ . In other words, we have

$$J_{2,3,70,70}(1/q) = q^{280} + \dots + 65594q^{18165} + \dots - 55196q^{18854} + \dots - 55196q^{18925} + \dots + q^{30100}$$

Using Theorem 2.1 it is possible to compute the colored Jones polynomials  $J_{T(2,3), n_1, n_2}(q)$  for  $n_1, n_2 = 0, \dots, 100$ .

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