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Let  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  be integer partitions such that  $\mu$  is obtained from  $\nu$  by adding  $m$  parts of size  $r$ . Descouens and Morita proved algebraically that the modified Macdonald polynomials  $\tilde{H}_\mu(X; q, t)$  satisfy the factorization  $\tilde{H}_\mu = \tilde{H}_\nu \tilde{H}_{(r^m)}$  when the parameter  $t$  is specialized to a complex  $m$ 'th root of unity. We describe a bijective proof of this formula, valid when  $r$  is the smallest part of  $\mu$ , based on Haglund's combinatorial formula for Macdonald polynomials. (Received January 11, 2012)