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k-Schur functions and Gromov-Witten invariants for flag manifolds.

We show how to identify the set of 3-point Gromov-Witten invariants for flag manifolds and the WZW fusion rules as coefficients in a product of k -Schur functions. Using symmetric function combinatorics, we describe a defining set of invariants. Time permitting, we show how this approach gives a t -parameter family of representatives for the Schubert classes of cohomology of the affine Grassmannian that is connected to Macdonald symmetric functions. (Received August 20, 2013)