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Eigenvalues of generalized Capelli operators and binomial coefficients.

Let \mathbb{F} be a real division algebra of dimension d ; thus $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$ and $d = 1, 2, 4$. The group $G = GL(n, \mathbb{F})$ acts naturally on the space V of $n \times n$ Hermitian \mathbb{F} -matrices. The associated representation of G on the polynomial algebra $P = P(V)$ is multiplicity-free with irreducible submodules P_λ indexed by partitions of length $\leq n$.

On the other hand, the space of G -invariant polynomial differential operators on V has a natural basis consisting of the *generalized* Capelli operators D_μ , which are also indexed by such partitions. By Schur's Lemma, D_μ acts on P_λ by a scalar, which we write as $c_{\lambda\mu}(d)$ to denote its dependence on the division algebra \mathbb{F} .

By an earlier result of the speaker, there is an element $\binom{\lambda}{\mu}_r$ in $\mathbb{Q}(r)$, called the generalized binomial coefficient, such that $c_{\lambda\mu}(d)$ is obtained from it by specializing $r = d$. We describe a new formula for these coefficients, which shows that they are quotients of two positive integral polynomials in r . (Received March 19, 2010)