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William Graham, Department of Mathematics, University of Georgia, Boyd Graduate Studies Research Center, Athens, GA 30602, and **Markus Hunziker*** (Markus_Hunziker@baylor.edu), Department of Mathematics, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97328, Waco, TX 76798.
Multiplication of polynomials on Hermitian symmetric spaces and Littlewood-Richardson coefficients. Preliminary report.

Let K be a complex reductive algebraic group and V a representation of K . Let S denote the ring of polynomials on V . Assume that the action of K on S is multiplicity-free. If λ denotes the isomorphism class of an irreducible representation of K , let $\rho_\lambda : K \rightarrow GL(V_\lambda)$ denote the corresponding irreducible representation and S_λ the λ -isotypic component of S . Write $S_\lambda \cdot S_\mu$ for the subspace of S spanned by products of S_λ and S_μ . If V_ν occurs as an irreducible constituent of $V_\lambda \otimes V_\mu$, is it true that $S_\nu \subset S_\lambda \cdot S_\mu$? We study this question for representations arising in the context of Hermitian symmetric pairs. We prove that the answer is yes in some cases and, using results of Ruitenberg, we show that in the remaining classical cases, the answer is yes provided that a conjecture of Stanley on the multiplication of Jack polynomials is true. We also show how the conjecture connects multiplication in the ring S to the usual Littlewood-Richardson rule. (Received September 27, 2005)