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Oliver Pechenik (pecheni2@illinois.edu) and Dominic Searles\* (searles2@illinois.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1409 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801. Deformed cohomology of generalized flag varieties.

Inspired by recent work of S. Evens-W. Graham, we introduce a deformation of the cohomology of generalized flag varieties. A special case is the Belkale-Kumar deformation, introduced in 2006 by P. Belkale-S. Kumar. This construction yields a new, short proof that the Belkale-Kumar product is well-defined. Another special case picks out triples of Schubert varieties that behave nicely under projections. We also present a new combinatorial rule, due to the second author, for the Belkale-Kumar product for flag varieties of type A (after the puzzle rule of A. Knutson - K. Purbhoo). (Received January 19, 2015)