

Nonabelian Fourier transform for unipotent representations

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1 Unipotent representations for finite groups of Lie type

1.1 Frobenius maps

Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p \geq 0$ and let G be a connected reductive group over k . The structure of G can be understood to a large extent by looking at its maximal connected solvable subgroups of G , denoted as Borel subgroups. If we fix some Borel subgroup B , any maximal torus T in B is also a maximal torus in G , and it determines a set of roots $\Phi = \Phi(G, T) \subset X(T)$. The choice of the Borel B containing T corresponds to a choice of positive roots Φ^+ and therefore of an integral basis $\Delta \subseteq \Phi^+$. Moreover, the subgroups $B, N := N_G(T)$ satisfy the axioms of a BN -pair, as described by Tits whose corresponding Weyl group is $W = N/T = \langle w_{\alpha_i} \mid \alpha_i \in \Delta \rangle$.

Let $F : G \rightarrow G$ be a Frobenius map and let G^F be the fixed points under the Frobenius map. One can show that G contains F -stable Borel subgroups, and that inside any F -stable Borel there are F -stable maximal tori. Thus, we may assume that the Borel subgroup B and maximal torus T fixed in the previous paragraph are F -stable. Under these assumptions, the Frobenius map acts on the simple roots by permuting the corresponding the root spaces. Thus, F corresponds to some permutation ρ of Δ satisfying

$$F(\mathcal{X}_\alpha) = \mathcal{X}_{\rho(\alpha)} \quad \text{for all } \alpha \in \Phi.$$

Moreover, one can easily check that ρ is in fact a symmetry of the Dynkin diagram, and these can be completely classified. For each orbit $J \subseteq \Delta$ of ρ , let $w_J \in W_J = \{w_{\alpha_i} \mid \alpha_i \in J\}$ be the unique element such that $w_J(J) = -J$. Moreover, it satisfies that $w_J^2 = 1$. It then follows that the group G^F has a natural BN -pair given by the groups B^F and N^F , whose Weyl group is

$$N^F/T^F = (N/T)^F = W^F = \langle w_J \mid J \subseteq \Delta \text{ is an orbit of } \rho \rangle.$$

Any F -stable Borel subgroup contains an F -stable maximal torus, but the converse might not be true. Any F -stable maximal torus that is contained in an F -stable Borel subgroup is called *maximally split*, and since any two F -stable Borel are conjugate under G^F , any two F -stable maximally split tori are also conjugate under G^F . In fact, one can easily determine the G^F -conjugacy classes of F -stable maximal tori by looking at the Weyl group. To state this result, we first introduce the notion of F -conjugacy classes in W . Given two $w_1, w_2 \in W$,

we say that they are F -conjugate if there is some $x \in W$ such that $F(x)w_1x^{-1} = w_2$. Note that if F acts on W trivially, then the F -conjugacy classes are the standard conjugacy classes.

Lemma 1.1. *There is a bijection between*

$$\begin{aligned} \{G^F\text{-conjugacy classes of } F\text{-stable maximal tori}\} &\longrightarrow \{F\text{-conjugacy classes of } W\} \\ T' = {}^gT &\longmapsto \pi(g^{-1}F(g)) \end{aligned}$$

From now, we will write T_1 for a maximally split F -stable maximal torus and T_w for any F -stable torus obtained from T_1 by conjugating by some element $g \in G$ such that $\pi(g^{-1}F(g)) = w$. By the previous result, these objects are uniquely defined up to G^F -conjugation.

1.2 Deligne–Lusztig characters and unipotent representations

In their groundbreaking paper from 1976, Deligne and Lusztig attached to each pair (T, θ) of F -stable maximal torus T and character θ of T^F , a virtual character $R_{T, \theta}$ of the group G^F . These virtual characters were constructed using the action of G^F on certain ℓ -adic cohomology groups associated to certain Deligne–Lusztig varieties. We shall not consider the explicit definition of the characters, but we will rather recall without proof some important properties.

1. If the pair (T', θ') is obtained from (T, θ) by conjugation on some element of G^F , then $R_{T, \theta} = R_{T', \theta'}$.
2. If T_1 is a maximally split torus inside some F -stable Borel B , then $R_{T_1, \theta} = \theta_{B^F}^{G^F}$, where $\theta_{B^F}^{G^F}$ is the character of the parabolically induced representation $\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} \theta$.
3. $R_{T, \theta}(u)$ is independent of θ if u is unipotent. We write $Q_T(u)$ for this common value.
4. The orthogonality relations $(R_{T, \theta}, R_{T', \theta'}) = |\{w \in W(T, T')^F \mid {}^w\theta' = \theta\}|$ hold. In particular, if T, T' are not G^F -conjugate, then $(R_{T, \theta}, R_{T', \theta'}) = 0$.
5. If (T, θ) is in general position, then one of $\pm R_{T, \theta}$ is an irreducible character.
6. If (T, θ) and (T', θ') are not geometrically conjugate, then $R_{T, \theta}$ and $R_{T', \theta'}$ do not share any irreducible component. This is a stronger assumption than not being G^F -conjugate.
7. We have

$$(R_{T, \theta}, 1) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \theta = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } \theta \neq 1 \end{cases}$$

8. The dimension of $R_{T, \theta}$ equals

$$R_{T, \theta} = \varepsilon_G \varepsilon_T |G^F : T^F|$$

Let's give a couple of examples for the decomposition of the Deligne–Lusztig characters.

Example 1.2. Suppose first that $G = \mathrm{SL}_2(k)$ and $F = F_q : G \rightarrow G$ is the standard Frobenius. Then $G^F = \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and G has two F -stable tori up to G^F conjugation, namely

$$T_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in k^* \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad T_w = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ ub & a \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in k, a^2 - ub^2 \neq 0 \right\},$$

where $u \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ is a non-square. Then $T_1^F \cong \mathbb{F}_q^\times \times \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ while $T_2^F \cong \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times$. Now, if $\theta = \theta_1 \otimes \theta_2$ is a character of T_1^F , then

$$R_{T_1, \theta} = \theta_{B^F}^{G^F} = \begin{cases} \bar{\theta} \otimes (1 \oplus \mathrm{St}) & \text{if } \theta_1 = \theta_2 \\ \text{irreducible principal series} & \text{if } \theta_1 \neq \theta_2, \end{cases}$$

where $\bar{\theta}$ is the unique extension of θ to all of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ (this is only possible if $\theta_1 = \theta_2$). On the other hand, suppose that θ' is a character of T_w^F . Then

$$R_{T_w, \theta'} = \begin{cases} \bar{\theta} \otimes (1 \ominus \mathrm{St}) & \text{if } \theta'^q = \theta' \\ \text{irreducible cuspidal} & \text{if } \theta'^q \neq \theta', \end{cases}$$

where $\bar{\theta}$ is the extension of the unique character θ of T_1^F for which (θ, T_1) is geometrically conjugate to (θ', T_w) .

Example 1.3. Now suppose that $G = \mathrm{SL}_2(k)$ and $F = F_q : G \rightarrow G$ to be the standard Frobenius again. Similarly, $G^F = \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and G has two F -stable tori up to G^F conjugation, namely

$$T_1 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \mid a \in k^* \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad T_w = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ ub & a \end{pmatrix} \mid a, b \in k, a^2 - ub^2 = 1 \right\},$$

where $u \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ is a non-square. Then $T_1^F \cong \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ while $T_2^F \cong C_{q+1}$. If θ is a character of T_1^F then

$$R_{T_1, \theta} = \theta_{B^F}^{G^F} = \begin{cases} 1 \oplus \mathrm{St} & \text{if } \theta = 1, \\ R_+(\xi) \oplus R_-(\xi) & \text{if } \theta = \xi = \mathrm{sgn}, \\ \text{irreducible principal series} & \text{if } \theta \neq \theta^{-1}, \end{cases}$$

where $R_+(\xi) \neq R_-(\xi)$ are conjugate under $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and so they have the same dimension $(q+1)/2$. On the other hand, if θ' is a character of T_w^F , then

$$R_{T_w, \theta'} = \begin{cases} 1 \ominus \mathrm{St} & \text{if } \theta' = 1, \\ \ominus R'_+(\xi) \ominus R'_-(\xi) & \text{if } \theta' = \xi = \mathrm{sgn}, \\ \ominus \text{irreducible cuspidal} & \text{if } \theta' \neq \theta'^{-1}, \end{cases}$$

One can show that for a reductive group G over k with centre Z and semisimple rank l , there are exactly $|Z^F|q^l$ geometric conjugacy classes of pairs (T, θ) . Moreover, one can define a geometric conjugacy on the set of irreducible characters of G^F as follows. We say that two characters χ_1, χ_2 are related if there are geometrically conjugate pairs (T, θ) and (T', θ') such that

$$(\chi_1, R_{T, \theta}) \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (\chi_2, R_{T', \theta'}) \neq 0.$$

Clearly, there are then $|Z^F|q^l$ geometric conjugacy classes of characters. We are now ready to give the characterization of a semisimple character and a unipotent one.

Definition 1.4. An irreducible character χ of G^F is called *unipotent* if there is some maximal F -stable torus T of G such that $(R_{T,1}, \chi) \neq 0$. An irreducible character χ of the group G^F is called *semisimple* if

$$\sum_{\substack{u \in G^F \\ u \text{ reg unipotent}}} \chi(u) \neq 0.$$

It is clear from the definitions that unipotent characters form one geometric conjugacy class of irreducible characters, and that if χ is a unipotent character, then $(\chi, R_{T,\theta}) = 0$ for any $\theta \neq 1$. Semisimple characters, on the other hand, have the opposite property. To explain this, we define the class function Ξ to be supported on regular unipotent elements with constant value of $|Z^F|q^l$. By using properties of character duality, one can show that $(\Xi, \Xi) = |Z^F|q^l$ and that $(\Xi, \chi) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ for all irreducible characters χ of G^F . Note that this implies that there are exactly $|Z^F|q^l$ semisimple characters. In fact, one can furthermore show that

$$\Xi = \sum_{\kappa} \varepsilon_{\kappa} \chi_{\kappa}^{ss} \quad \text{where } \chi_{\kappa}^{ss} \text{ is irreducible and} \quad \varepsilon_{\kappa} \chi_{\kappa}^{ss} = \sum_{\substack{(T,\theta) \in \kappa \\ \text{mod } G^F}} \frac{R_{T,\theta}}{(R_{T,\theta}, R_{T,\theta})},$$

where κ runs over the conjugacy classes of pairs (T, θ) . These results show that each geometric conjugacy class contains one unique semisimple irreducible character.

1.3 Jordan decomposition for irreducible characters

Finally, we are ready to describe the *Jordan decomposition for characters*. To simplify the discussion, we shall assume that the centre $(Z(G))^F$ of G^F is connected. The idea is that one can completely understand all characters of a finite group of Lie type by understanding its semisimple representations and unipotent representations of its Levi subgroups. To state it, we first recall that there is a natural bijection between geometric conjugacy classes of (T, θ) and conjugacy classes of semisimple elements in the dual group $(G^*)^F$, both sets having size $|Z(G)^F|q^l$.

Definition 1.5. Let (s) be a semisimple conjugacy class of the dual group $(G^*)^{F^*}$. Then the *Lusztig series* $\mathcal{E}(G^F, (s))$ associated to (s) is the set of irreducible characters of G^F appearing in $R_{T,\theta}$ for some pair (T, θ) corresponding to (s) .

The Lusztig series $\mathcal{E}(G^F, (s))$ are the geometric conjugacy classes of characters defined in the previous section. If (s) is regular semisimple, then (T, θ) is in general position and $\mathcal{E}(G^F, (s))$ is a singleton. On the other end, the series $\mathcal{E}(G^F, (1))$ contains the unipotent characters.

Theorem 1.6. Let (s) be a semisimple conjugacy class of $(G^*)^F$ and let H be the dual group of the centralizer $Z_{G^*}(s)$. Then there is a bijection

$$\mathcal{E}(G^F, (s)) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}(H^F, (1)), \quad \chi \mapsto \chi_u,$$

such that for any pair (T, θ) corresponding to $s \in (G^*)^{F^*}$ and any pair (S, ψ) corresponding to $s \in (H^*)^{F^*}$,

$$(\chi, \varepsilon_G \varepsilon_T \cdot R_{T, \theta}^G) = (\chi_u, \varepsilon_H \varepsilon_S \cdot R_S^H(\psi)).$$

In addition, the unique semisimple character $\chi_s \in \mathcal{E}(G^F, (s))$ corresponds to the trivial character of H^F and for any $\chi \in \mathcal{E}(G^F, (s))$, we have that

$$\chi(1) = \chi_s(1)\chi_u(1).$$

To summarize, for any irreducible character χ , there is one unique semisimple character χ_s geometrically conjugate to χ , corresponding to some semisimple conjugacy class of $(G^*)^{F^*}$. One can in fact show that

$$\chi_s(1) = |(G^*)^{F^*} : C^{F^*}|_{p'},$$

where C is the centralizer of s^* in G^* . Finally, there is a natural bijection $\chi \mapsto \chi_u$ between characters in the class containing χ_s and unipotent characters of the dual group of C^{F^*} satisfying

$$\chi(1) = \chi_s(1)\chi_u(1).$$

As it turns out, studying semisimple characters is easy since we have explicit formulas to understand them. So Lusztig turned his attention into understanding unipotent representations of finite groups of Lie type. Lusztig first observed that the study of unipotent characters of G^F can be reduced to the case when G is simple of adjoint type. That's because every unipotent character appears as a component of some $R_{T,1}$, where $R_{T,1}(g) = \mathcal{L}(g, \mathfrak{B}_w)$. But Z^F acts trivially on \mathfrak{B}_w , so it lies in the kernel of every unipotent representation. So G can be assumed to be semisimple, and a simple argument shows that G can be further assumed to be simple.

Secondly, following the same approach as Harish-Chandra to classify irreducible characters of G^F , Lusztig showed the following result.

Proposition 1.7. *Let χ be an irreducible character of G^F .*

1. *There is an F -stable parabolic subgroup P of G with F -stable Levi decomposition $P = LN$ and a cuspidal character ϕ of L^F such that $(\chi, \phi_{P^F}^{G^F}) \neq 0$.*
2. *Moreover, the pair (P, ϕ) is unique up to G^F -conjugacy.*
3. *The character χ of G^F is unipotent if and only if ϕ is a unipotent character of L^J .*

Proof. The proof of parts 1. and 2. are classical, so we only give a sketch. We fix some F -stable maximal torus T and some integral basis $\Delta \subset \Phi(G, T)$. For each $J \subseteq \Delta$, let $P_J = L_J U_J$ be the standard F -stable parabolic with standard F -stable Levi L_J . Since any parabolic subgroup of G^F is conjugate to some P_J^F , it is enough to prove the assertions for standard parabolics of G^F .

Let V be the G^F representation affording χ and let $\mathcal{J} = \{J \subseteq \Delta \mid (1_{U_J}, \chi|_{U_J}) \neq 0\} = \{J \subseteq \Delta \mid V^{U_J} \neq 0\}$, which is non-empty since $\Delta \in \mathcal{J}$. If $J \in \mathcal{J}$ is minimal with respect to inclusion, we may write $V^{U_J} = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k U_i$ as a direct sum of irreducible L_J -representations, all of which are cuspidal. The character ϕ afforded by U_1 satisfies the conditions of 1., and part 2. is contained in Carter 9.1.5.

To prove the last assertion, fix some $J \subseteq \Delta$ and some irreducible character ϕ of L_J . Let (T, θ) be such that $(\phi, R_{T, \theta}^{L_J^F})_{L_J^F} \neq 0$, and let χ be an irreducible component of $\phi_{P_J^F}^{G^F}$. Then by Frobenius reciprocity, we have that

$$(\chi|_{P_J^F}, \phi_{P_J^F})_{P_J^F} = (\chi, \phi_{P_J^F}^{G^F})_{G^F} \neq 0,$$

and since $\phi_{P_J^F}$ is an irreducible P_J^F representation, we have that

$$(\chi, R_{T, \theta}^{G^F}) = (\chi, (R_{T, \theta}^{L_J^F})_{P_J^F}^{G^F})_{G^F} = (\chi|_{P_J^F}, (R_{T, \theta}^{L_J^F})_{P_J^F})_{P_J^F} \neq 0.$$

This calculation, together with the fact that unipotent representations form a geometric conjugacy class yield the last part. \square

Therefore, to classify the unipotent characters of G^F , it is enough to determine the cuspidal unipotent representations ϕ of the standard Levi subgroups L_J^F of G^F and then calculate the decomposition of $\phi_{P_J^F}^{G^F}$ into irreducible characters. The later task can be achieved by Howlett–Lehrer theory (Carter, §10), while the former was achieved by Lusztig by a case by case analysis. For example, Lusztig showed that if G^F is of classical type, then the number of cuspidal unipotent characters is either 0 or 1.

1.4 Families of unipotent characters

Lusztig further observed that the unipotent characters of G^F naturally form families in a remarkable way. Firstly, he parametrized the principal series unipotent characters with irreducible characters of W by showing that there is a natural bijection

$$\begin{aligned} \{\text{Irreducible characters of } W\} &\longrightarrow \{\text{Irreducible components of } \text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1\} \\ \phi &\longmapsto \chi_\phi. \end{aligned}$$

To prove this, we first note that

$$\text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1) \cong \text{Hom}_{B^F}(1, \text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1|_{B^F}) \cong \bigoplus_{w \in B \backslash G/B} \text{Hom}_{B^F \cap {}^w B^F}(1, 1),$$

where in the first step we have applied Frobenius reciprocity and the Mackey decomposition formula for the second one. By the Bruhat decomposition, W is canonically isomorphic to $B \backslash G/B$ and the borel subgroup B gives a natural choice of simple roots, and therefore of simple reflections $S \subset W$.

If we let $T_w \in \text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1)$ be the image of the identity map in $\text{Hom}_{B^F \cap {}^w B^F}(1, 1)$, then one can prove that $\{T_w : w \in W\}$ is a basis for $\text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1)$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} T_s^2 &= (q-1)T_s + qT_1 & \text{if } s \in S, \\ T_{w_1} T_{w_2} &= T_{w_1 w_2} & \text{if } l(w_1 w_2) = l(w_1) + l(w_2). \end{aligned}$$

And therefore, $\text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1)$ is isomorphic to the coxeter algebra $\mathcal{H}(W, S, q)$ of the pair (W, S) with constant parameter q . It is possible to do a change of variables that give the important isomorphism

$$\text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1) \cong \mathbb{C}[W].$$

The algebra $\mathbb{C}[W]$ acts on itself by left multiplication, and the irreducible submodules are precisely the irreducible representations of W . By the isomorphism above, $\text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1)$ also decomposes into a direct sum of irreducible submodules under post composition. If $\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1 = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k V_i^{a_i}$ is a direct sum into G^F irreducible components, then

$$\text{End}(\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^k \text{Hom}_{G^F}(V_i, \bigoplus_{j=1}^k V_j^{a_j})^{a_i},$$

and the modules on the right hand side are precisely the irreducible submodules, each one corresponding to one unique irreducible component of $\text{Ind}_{B^F}^{G^F} 1$. Thus, irreducible characters of W parametrize principal series cuspidal characters of G^F .

Example 1.8. Let G be a reductive group of type A_l . Then G^F has no cuspidal unipotent representations. Consequently, all unipotent representations of G^F are in the principal series. By the above discussion, this means that the irreducible characters of W completely parametrize all unipotent representations of G^F . Explicitly, given some irreducible character ϕ of W ,

$$\chi_\phi = \frac{1}{|W|} \sum_{w \in W} \phi(w) R_{T_w, 1}$$

For $G = \text{GL}_2(k)$ or $\text{SL}_2(k)$, $\chi_1 = 1$ and $\chi_{\text{sgn}} = \text{St}$.

In general, however, finite groups of Lie type do have cuspidal unipotent characters, and the virtual characters

$$R_\phi = \frac{1}{|W|} \sum_{w \in W} \phi(w) R_{T_w, 1}$$

as defined above are not irreducible. Lusztig then divided unipotent representations of G^F into families by the rule that two unipotent characters appearing in the same R_ϕ are in the same family and then extending by transitivity. Similarly, we can define an equivalence relation on the irreducible characters of W by the rule that two characters ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are related if R_{ϕ_1} and R_{ϕ_2} share an irreducible component. It is clear that there is a bijection between families of unipotent characters of G^F and families of characters of W . Remarkably, Lusztig proved that these families can be parametrized in the following manner.

Theorem 1.9. *For each family of unipotent representations \mathcal{F} there is a group $\Gamma = \Gamma_{\mathcal{F}} \in \{1, C_2 \times \cdots \times C_2, S_3, S_4, S_5\}$ and a bijection*

$$\begin{aligned} M(\Gamma) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{F} \\ (x, \sigma) &\longmapsto \chi_{(x, \sigma)}^{\mathcal{F}} \end{aligned}$$

satisfying that

$$(\chi_{(x, \sigma)}^{\mathcal{F}}, R_\phi) = \begin{cases} \{(x, \sigma), (y, \tau)\} & \text{if } \chi_\phi = \chi_{(x, \sigma)}^{\mathcal{F}} \in \mathcal{F}, \\ 0 & \text{if } \chi_\phi \notin \mathcal{F}. \end{cases}$$

Since $R_{T_1, 1} = \sum_{\phi \in \hat{W}} R_\phi$, it follows that for any family \mathcal{F} , $(\chi_{(1, 1)}^{\mathcal{F}}, R_{T_1, 1}) > 0$, so $\chi_{(1, 1)}^{\mathcal{F}} = \chi_\phi$ for some character ϕ of W . Characters arising this way are called *special characters* of W and they have distinct

characterizations. They are the distinguished elements of the families of characters of W as described above. The upshot of this discussion is that families of unipotent characters can be parametrized by special characters of the Weyl group.

Example 1.10. Let $G = G_2(k)$ and let $F = F_q : G \rightarrow G$ be the standard Frobenius. Then $G^F = G_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$, whose Weyl group W is isomorphic to D_{12} . Following Carter, we label the six irreducible representations by $\phi_{1,0}, \phi'_{1,3}, \phi''_{1,3}, \phi_{1,6}, \phi_{2,1}, \phi_{2,2}$, where the first subindex gives the dimension and $\phi_{1,0} = 1$ and $\phi_{1,6} = \det$. The special characters are $\phi_{1,0}, \phi_{1,6}, \phi_{2,1}$ and the families are

$$(\phi_{1,0}), (\phi_{2,1}, \phi_{2,2}, \phi'_{1,3}, \phi''_{1,3}), (\phi_{1,6}).$$

On the other hand, G_2 has 10 unipotent characters, 6 of which are principal series and 4 are cuspidal. The principal series way can have the same labels as the irreducible characters of W , while the unipotent cuspidal are labelled by $G_2[-1], G_2[\theta], G_2[\theta^2], G_2[1]$. They fall into three families, parametrized as follows.

Description in terms of cuspidal characters	Degree	Pair (x, σ)
$\phi_{1,0}$	1	
$\phi_{2,1}$	$\frac{1}{6}q\Phi_2^2\Phi_3$	$(1, 1)$
$G_2[1]$	$\frac{1}{6}q\Phi_1^2\Phi_6$	$(1, \epsilon)$
$\phi_{2,2}$	$\frac{1}{2}q\Phi_2^2\Phi_6$	$(g_2, 1)$
$\phi_{1,3}$	$\frac{1}{3}q\Phi_3\Phi_6$	$(1, r)$
$\phi_{1,3}''$	$\frac{1}{3}q\Phi_3\Phi_6$	$(g_3, 1)$
$G_2[-1]$	$\frac{1}{2}q\Phi_1^2\Phi_3$	(g_2, ϵ)
$G_2[\theta]$	$\frac{1}{3}q\Phi_1^2\Phi_2^2$	(g_3, θ)
$G_2[\theta^2]$	$\frac{1}{3}q\Phi_1^2\Phi_2^2$	(g_3, θ^2)
$\phi_{1,6}$	q^6	

Finally, Lusztig defined a nonabelian Fourier transform on the set of irreducible characters of G^F . For each family \mathcal{F} of unipotent characters parametrized by the group Γ , he considered the $|M(\Gamma)| \times |M(\Gamma)|$ matrix, whose $((x, \sigma), (y, \tau))$ entry is the value

$$\{(x, \sigma), (y, \tau)\} = \frac{1}{|C_\Gamma(x)||C_\Gamma(y)|} \sum_{\substack{g \in \Gamma \\ xgyg^{-1} = gyg^{-1}x}} \sigma(gyg^{-1}) \overline{\tau(g^{-1}xg)}.$$

Then he proved that this matrix is Hermitian and that it squares to the identity. It therefore induces an involution on the space $\mathbb{C}[G^F]_{\mathcal{F}}^{G^F}$ of class functions spanned by the characters in \mathcal{F} , where we take the natural basis $\{\chi_{(x, \sigma)}^{\mathcal{F}} \mid (x, \sigma) \in M(\Gamma)\}$. Combining for each family, this gives an involution

$$R : \mathbb{C}_{un}[G^F]^{G^F} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}_{un}[G^F]^{G^F}$$

on the space $\mathbb{C}_{un}[G^F]^{G^F}$ of class functions spanned by unipotent characters. This forces, for example, that $R(\chi_\phi) = R_\phi$ for all characters of W . The involution R transforms unipotent characters into *unipotent almost characters* that also satisfy the orthogonality relations and have a geometrical significance. By this we mean that every almost character agrees up to a scalar with a characteristic function associated to an F -stable character sheaf on G^F (see Shoji's article).

Example 1.11. If G^F is of type A_l , then the unipotent characters coincide with the almost characters.

Example 1.12. If G^F is of type G_2 , then R fixes the characters $\phi_{1,0}$ and $\phi_{1,6}$ but transforms the third family according to the Fourier transform matrix

If $\Gamma \cong S_3$ the 8×8 Fourier transform matrix is:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (1, 1) \quad (1, r) \quad (1, \varepsilon) \quad (g_2, 1) \quad (g_2, \varepsilon) \quad (g_3, 1) \quad (g_3, \theta) \quad (g_3, \theta^2) \\
 \begin{bmatrix}
 \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\
 \frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\
 \frac{1}{6} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{6} & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} \\
 \frac{1}{2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \frac{1}{2} & 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\
 \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} \\
 \frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & -\frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3}
 \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

The almost characters satisfy certain *stability properties*. [Search what do they exactly mean by this.](#) The aim of the next chapter is to discuss a lift of this map for p -adic groups.

2 Unipotent representations for p-adic groups and the dual non-abelian Fourier transform

Let \mathbf{G} be a connected, simple, split algebraic group over some nonarchimedean local field F with finite residue field k_F and let $G = \mathbf{G}(F)$. Let $\text{Rep}(G)$ be the category of admissible smooth complex representations of G and let $\text{Irr}(G)$ be the subset of the irreducible representations. We define $R(G)$ to be \mathbb{C} -span of $\text{Irr}(G)$ (i.e. the complexification of the Grothendieck group of the abelian category of smooth G -representations).

Then, for any parahoric subgroup K (these are the stabilizers under the action of G on the Bruhat-Tits building) with pro-unipotent radical U_K , there is a *restriction functor*

$$\text{res}^K : R(G) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}[K/U_K]^{K/U_K}, \quad V \longmapsto (\text{character of}) V^{U_K}, \quad \text{for all } V \in \text{Irr}(G),$$

where $\mathbb{C}[H]$ is the \mathbb{C} -vector space of \mathbb{C} -valued functions on a group H and $\mathbb{C}[H]^H$ is the subspace of functions preserved under conjugation (i.e. class functions). This is well-defined since the representations are assumed to be admissible.

Remark 2.1. Suppose that K is the stabilizers of a point x in the Bruhat-Tits building in some apartment $\mathcal{A}(G, T, F)$ corresponding to some maximal torus T of G with roots Φ and root subgroups \mathcal{X}_α . By tracing the action of G on the building, one can show that

$$K = \langle T(\mathcal{O}), \mathcal{X}_\alpha(\varpi^{\lceil -\langle \alpha, x \rangle \rceil} \mathcal{O}) \mid \alpha \in \Phi \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad U_K = \langle T(1 + \varpi \mathcal{O}), \mathcal{X}_\alpha(\varpi^{\lceil \epsilon - \langle \alpha, x \rangle \rceil}) \mid \alpha \in \Phi \rangle$$

for some sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$. It then follows that U_K is a pro-unipotent normal subgroup of K and K/U_K is isomorphic to the k_F -points of a reductive group with maximal torus $T(k_F)$ and roots $\Phi_K = \{\alpha \in \Phi \mid \langle \alpha, x \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}\}$. Thus, one can apply the ideas of Deligne–Lusztig for the representations of K/U_K .

Definition 2.2. An irreducible smooth admissible representation (π, V) of G is *unipotent* if there exists some parahoric subgroup K of G such that V^{U_K} contains a cuspidal unipotent representation of the finite group K/U_K .

We note that if we replace G for G^F and *parahoric* by *parabolic*, then we recover the definition of a unipotent representation in G^F .

The following two lemmas are basic to ensure that unipotent representations behave under the restriction functor above.

Lemma 2.3. *Let (π, V) be a smooth irreducible representation of G .*

1. *If there is some parahoric subgroup K such that V^{U_K} contains a non-cuspidal unipotent representation of K/U_K , then (π, V) is a unipotent representation of G .*
2. *Conversely, if (π, V) is a unipotent representation of G , then all irreducible K/U_K -subrepresentations of V^{U_K} are unipotent.*

Need to find proofs for this!!

Example 2.4. The Iwahori subgroup $I = \langle T(\mathcal{O}), \mathcal{X}_\alpha(\mathcal{O}), \mathcal{X}_\alpha(\varpi\mathcal{O}) \mid \alpha \in \Phi^+ \rangle$, with pro-unipotent radical $U_I = \langle T(1 + \varpi\mathcal{O}), \mathcal{X}_\alpha(\mathcal{O}), \mathcal{X}_\alpha(\varpi\mathcal{O}) \mid \alpha \in \Phi^+ \rangle$ and reductive quotient $I/U_I = T(k_F)$ is, up to conjugacy, the unique minimal parahoric subgroup of G . Any smooth admissible representation (π, V) of G with an Iwahori fixed vector is unipotent. Indeed, V^{U_I} contains the trivial representation of $T(k_F)$, its unique unipotent representation.

Analogously to the construction of $R(G)$, we define $\text{Irr}_{un}(G)$ to be the set of irreducible unipotent representations of G , and $R_{un}(G)$ to be its \mathbb{C} -span. We then have a well-defined

We say that a smooth admissible complex representation (π, V) is *unipotent* if there exists some parahoric subgroup K