

# Counting Irreducible Representations of General Linear Groups and Unitary Groups

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August 11, 2025

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- Show its application in counting the irreducible representations of general linear groups over  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mathbb{C}$ , or  $\mathbb{H}$ , or a real unitary groups.

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- $\Delta, \Delta(\Lambda)$  be the root system and integral root system respectively, the integral Weyl group is  $W(\Lambda)$ .

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- The complex associated variety (annihilator variety) of  $V$  is  $AV_{\mathbb{C}}(V) = AV(I) \subseteq \mathfrak{g}^*$ .



# Goals

- The set  $\text{Irr}(G)$  admits a partition according to infinitesimal characters:

$$\text{Irr}(G) = \bigsqcup_{\lambda \in W \setminus {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*} \text{Irr}_\lambda(G).$$

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- Furthermore, according to complex associated variety, the set  $\text{Irr}_\nu(G)$  admits a finer partition:

$$\text{Irr}_\nu(G) = \bigsqcup_{\mathcal{O} \in G(\mathbb{C}) \backslash \text{Nil}(\mathfrak{g})} \text{Irr}_\nu(G; \mathcal{O}).$$

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**Goal:** Describe the size of each set  $\text{Irr}_{\lambda}(G; \mathcal{O})$  in terms of some combinatorial data.

Theorem (Barbasch, Ma, Sun, Zhu)

$$\#(\mathrm{Irr}_\nu(G; \mathcal{O})) \leq \sum_{\sigma \in \mathrm{Irr}(W(\Lambda); \mathcal{O})} [1_{W_\nu} : \sigma] \cdot [\sigma : \mathrm{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))],$$

where  $1_{W_\nu}$  denotes the trivial representation of the stabilizer  $W_\nu$  of  $\nu$  in  $W$ . The **equality holds** if the Coxeter group  $W(\Lambda)$  has no simple factor of type  $F_4$ ,  $E_6$ ,  $E_7$ , or  $E_8$ , and  $G$  is linear or isomorphic to a real metaplectic group.

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In their paper, they use this formula to count the number of special unipotent representations to construct them via theta correspondence.

# Double cells, Special representations

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- There is a  **$j$ -induction** (also called the truncated induction) operation,  $j_{W(\Lambda)}^W : \{\text{special representations } W(\Lambda)\} \rightarrow \{\text{Springer representations of } W\}$ .

## Definition

For a nilpotent orbit  $\mathcal{O} \in \text{Nil}(\mathfrak{g})$ .

- $\text{Irr}^{\text{sp}}(W(\Lambda); \mathcal{O}) = \{\sigma \in \text{Irr}(W(\Lambda)) \mid \sigma \text{ is special, } j_{W(\Lambda)}^W(\sigma) = \sigma_{\mathcal{O}}\};$

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$\text{Irr}(W(\Lambda); \mathcal{O})$  is a union of several double cells.

# Coherent continuation representations

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## Coherent family

Let  $\Lambda = \nu + Q_{\ell} \subseteq {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$ , a  **$\Lambda$ -coherent family** is a map

$$\Phi : \Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{K}(G),$$

such that:

- For any  $\mu \in \Lambda$ ,  $\Phi(\mu) \in \mathcal{K}_{\mu}(G)$ ;
- For any  $F \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{hol}}(G(\mathbb{C}))$  and  $\mu \in \Lambda$ ,  
 $F \cdot (\Phi(\mu)) = \sum_{\lambda \in \Delta(F)} \Phi(\mu + \lambda)$  (where  $\Delta(F)$  is the set of weights of  $F$  counted multiplicity).

## Coherent continuation representation

Let  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))$  denote the complex vector space of all coherent families on  $\Lambda$ . It is a representation of  $W(\Lambda)$  under the action

$$(w \cdot \Psi)(\nu) = \Psi(w^{-1}\nu),$$

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For any  $\mu \in \Lambda$  we have the evaluation map

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## Theorem (Schmid, Zuckerman)

$\text{ev}$  is surjective for each  $\mu \in \Lambda$ , and bijective when  $\mu$  is regular.

## Theorem

Suppose  $\nu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$  dominant,  $M \in \mathcal{K}_\nu(G)$  is an irreducible representation. Then there exist a unique coherent family  $\overline{\Psi}$  characterised by the following properties:

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There is a basis  $\mathcal{B} = \{\overline{\Psi}_i\}$  of  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))$  such that for any regular dominant  $\mu$ ,  $\overline{\Psi}_i(\mu)$  is an irreducible representation with infinitesimal character  $\mu$  (there is also a basis  $\Psi_i$  of standard modules).

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We can also define basal subrepresentations, which are subrepresentations of  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))$  spanned by a subset of  $\mathcal{B}$ .

- For any subset  $\mathcal{S}$  of  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))$ , denote by  $\langle \mathcal{S} \rangle$  the minimal basal subrepresentation containing  $\mathcal{S}$ .

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### Cell representations

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a cell in  $\mathcal{B}$  and put  $\overline{\mathcal{C}} = \langle \mathcal{C} \rangle \cap \mathcal{B}$ . Define the cell representation attached to  $\mathcal{C}$  by

$$\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))(\mathcal{C}) := \langle \overline{\mathcal{C}} \rangle / \langle \overline{\mathcal{C}} \setminus \mathcal{C} \rangle$$

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It is easy to see that the image of  $\mathcal{C}$  under this quotient form a basis of  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(G))(\mathcal{C})$ .

# Kazhdan-Lusztig cells

- Consider the category  $\text{Rep}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$  of finite generated  $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module which is locally finite over  $U(\mathfrak{b})$ , denote its Grothendieck group by  $\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$ ;

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- The Grothendieck ring  $\mathcal{R}(\mathfrak{g}, Q_\ell)$  ( $\simeq \mathcal{R}_{\text{hol}}(G(\mathbb{C}))$ ) acts on  $\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$  via tensor product, so we can also define a coherent family  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b}))$ ;

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- It has two basis  $\{\Psi_w \mid w \in W\}$ ,  $\{\overline{\Psi}_w \mid w \in W\}$  where  $\Psi_w(\mu) = M(w\mu)$ ,  $\overline{\Psi}_w(\mu) = L(w\mu)$  for regular dominant  $\mu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$ ;

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- Define the  $W \times W(\Lambda)$  action explicitly by

$$(w_1, w_2) \cdot \Psi_w = \Psi_{w_1 w w_2^{-1}} \text{ for all } w_1 \in W, w_2 \in W(\Lambda);$$

# Kazhdan-Lusztig cells

- Consider the category  $\text{Rep}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$  of finite generated  $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module which is locally finite over  $U(\mathfrak{b})$ , denote its Grothendieck group by  $\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$ ;
- The Grothendieck ring  $\mathcal{R}(\mathfrak{g}, Q_\iota) (\simeq \mathcal{R}_{\text{hol}}(G(\mathbb{C})))$  acts on  $\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$  via tensor product, so we can also define a coherent family  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b}))$ ;
- It has two basis  $\{\Psi_w \mid w \in W\}$ ,  $\{\overline{\Psi}_w \mid w \in W\}$  where  $\Psi_w(\mu) = M(w\mu)$ ,  $\overline{\Psi}_w(\mu) = L(w\mu)$  for regular dominant  $\mu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$ ;
- Define the  $W \times W(\Lambda)$  action explicitly by

$$(w_1, w_2) \cdot \Psi_w = \Psi_{w_1 w w_2^{-1}} \text{ for all } w_1 \in W, w_2 \in W(\Lambda);$$

- We view  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b}))$  as a basal representation with basal elements  $\{\overline{\Psi}_w\}$ .



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- Each cell representation  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b}))(\mathcal{C})$  contains a unique special representation of  $W(\Lambda)$  called  $\sigma_{\mathcal{C}}$ , this induce a bijection between Kazhdan-Lusztig cells and special representations of  $W(\Lambda)$ ;

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- As a representation of  $W \times W(\Lambda)$ ,

$$\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b}))(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \sum_{\sigma \text{ in the double cell contain } \sigma_{\mathcal{C}}} (\text{Ind}_{W(\Lambda)}^W \sigma) \otimes \sigma.$$

# Comparison of HC cells and KL cells

- For every Harish-Chandra cell we can attach a Kazhdan-Lusztig cell to it (via comparing their annihilator ideals); furthermore, we have a map  $\{\text{Harish-Chandra cells}\} \rightarrow \text{Irr}^{sp}(W(\Lambda)), \mathcal{C} \mapsto \sigma_{\mathcal{C}}.$

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- It is a well-known fact that every representation in a Harish-Chandra cell  $\mathcal{C}$  has the **same complex associated variety**  $\overline{\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{C}}}$ , where  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{C}}$  is the nilpotent orbit corresponding to  $j_{W(\Lambda)}^W \sigma_{\mathcal{C}}.$

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## Conjecture

The set  $\{\sigma \in \text{Irr}(W(\Lambda)) \mid \sigma \text{ occurs in } \text{Coh}_{\Lambda}(\mathcal{K}(G))(\mathcal{C})\}$  is contained in the double cell containing the special representation  $\sigma_{\mathcal{C}}.$

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BMSZ proved this conjecture holds under some technical assumptions ( $W(\Lambda)$  has no simple factor of type  $F_4$ ,  $E_6$ ,  $E_7$ , or  $E_8$ , and  $G$  is linear or isomorphic to a real metaplectic group).

# BMSZ's proof of the counting formula

If  $S$  is a Zariski closed  $G(\mathbb{C})$ -stable subset of  $\mathrm{Nil}(\mathfrak{g})$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\sharp(\mathrm{Irr}_{\nu,S}(G)) &= \dim \mathcal{K}_{\nu,S}(G) = \dim \mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda}(\mathcal{K}_S(G))_{W_{\nu}} \\ &= [1_{W_{\nu}} : \mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda}(\mathcal{K}_S(G))] \\ &= \sum_{\sigma \in \mathrm{Irr}(W(\Lambda))} [1_{W_{\nu}} : \sigma] \cdot [\sigma : \mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda}(\mathcal{K}_S(G))] \\ &\stackrel{\text{Conjecture}}{=} \sum_{\sigma \in \mathrm{Irr}_S(W(\Lambda))} [1_{W_{\nu}} : \sigma] \cdot [\sigma : \mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda}(\mathcal{K}(G))].\end{aligned}$$



# Classical groups considered

Label $\star$	Classical Lie Group $G$	Complex Lie Group $G(\mathbb{C})$
$A^{\mathbb{R}}$	$GL_n(\mathbb{R})$	$GL_n(\mathbb{C})$
$A^{\mathbb{H}}$	$GL_{\frac{n}{2}}(\mathbb{H})$ ( $n$ is even)	$GL_n(\mathbb{C})$
$A^{\mathbb{C}}$	$GL_n(\mathbb{C})$	$GL_n(\mathbb{C}) \times GL_n(\mathbb{C})$
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Identification:

$${}^a\mathfrak{h}^* = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C}^n, & \text{if } \star \in \{A^{\mathbb{R}}, A^{\mathbb{H}}, A\}; \\ \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^n, & \text{if } \star = A^{\mathbb{C}}. \end{cases}$$

$$Q_{\iota} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n = {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*, & \text{if } \star \in \{A^{\mathbb{R}}, A^{\mathbb{H}}, A\}; \\ \mathbb{Z}^n \times \mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n \times \mathbb{C}^n = {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*, & \text{if } \star = A^{\mathbb{C}}, \end{cases}$$

## Painted Young Diagram (type $A^{\mathbb{R}}$ )

A painting on a Young diagram  $\iota$  of type  $A^{\mathbb{R}}$  is a map (we place a symbol in each box)

$$\mathcal{P} : \text{Box}(\iota) \rightarrow \{\bullet, c, d\}$$

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## Example

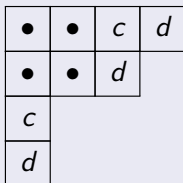
The following represents a painted Young diagram.

•	•	$c$	$d$
•	•	$d$	
$c$			
$d$			



## Example

The following represents a painted Young diagram.



Each of the following does not represent a painted Young diagram.



## Assigned Young Diagram

For a Young diagram  $\iota$ , and a partition  $[d_1, \dots, d_k]$  of  $|\iota|$ . An assignment of type  $[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N]$  on  $\iota$  is a map

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An assigned Young diagram of type  $[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N]$  is a pair  $(\iota, \mathcal{Q})$  consisting of a Young diagram  $\iota$  and an assignment  $\mathcal{Q}$  of type  $[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N]$  on  $\iota$ . Denote by  $A_{[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N]}(\iota)$  the set of all assignments on  $\iota$  of type  $[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_N]$ .

# Counting result for $GL_n(\mathbb{R})$ : The integral case

$G = GL_n(\mathbb{R})$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ).  $\mathcal{O}$  is a nilpotent orbits in  $\mathfrak{g}$ , denote the corresponding Young diagram by  $\iota(\mathcal{O})$ .

If  $\nu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^* = \mathbb{C}^n$  is integral, its coordinates can be permuted such that

$$\nu = (\underbrace{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_1}_{d_1}, \underbrace{\lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_2}_{d_2}, \dots, \underbrace{\lambda_k, \dots, \lambda_k}_{d_k}) \in \mathbb{C}^n,$$

where  $[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k]$  is a partition of  $n$ , and the  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfy the condition  $\lambda_i - \lambda_j \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  for any  $i \neq j$ .

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## Theorem

$$\sharp(\text{Irr}_\nu(GL_n(\mathbb{R}); \mathcal{O})) = \sharp(P_{A^\mathbb{R}}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))) \cdot \sharp(A_{[d_1, \dots, d_k]}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))).$$



# Sketch of the calculation

Coherent continuation representations can be explicitly computed via the Hecke algebra module structure described by Lusztig and Vogan.

$$\mathrm{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}))) = \bigoplus_{2r+i \leq n} \mathrm{Ind}_{W_r \times S_i \times S_{n-2r-i}}^{S_n} \epsilon \otimes 1 \otimes 1.$$

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The computation makes essential use of *Pieri's rule* and Frobenius reciprocity.

$$\begin{aligned} \sharp(\mathrm{Irr}_\nu(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R}); \mathcal{O})) &= [1_{W_\nu} : \sigma_{\mathcal{O}}] \cdot [\sigma_{\mathcal{O}} : \mathrm{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})))] \\ &= [\sigma_{\mathcal{O}} : \mathrm{Ind}_{W_\nu}^W 1_{W_\nu}] \cdot [\sigma_{\mathcal{O}} : \mathrm{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{K}(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})))] \\ &= \sharp(A_{[d_1, \dots, d_k]}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))) \cdot \sharp(P_{A^\mathbb{R}}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))). \end{aligned}$$

## Example: Minimal representations

Let  $\nu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$  be a regular integral infinitesimal character, and let  $\mathcal{O}_{\min}$  denote the **minimal nilpotent orbit**.

There are  $n - 1$  assignments of type  $\underbrace{[1, 1, \dots, 1]}_n$  on it, given by

1	$i+1$
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$\vdots$	
$i$	
$i+2$	
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for  $1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ .

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 $\quad i+1 \quad \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq n - 1.$

Since there are 4 distinct paintings on  $\iota_{\mathcal{O}}$ , we obtain exactly  **$4(n-1)$  minimal representations** with the fixed infinitesimal character  $\nu$ .

# Non-integral case

For an arbitrary  $\nu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$ , its coordinates can be permuted such that

$$\nu = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_r) \in \mathbb{C}^n,$$

$$\lambda_i = (\underbrace{\lambda_{i,1}, \dots, \lambda_{i,1}}_{d_{i,1}}, \dots, \underbrace{\lambda_{i,k_i}, \dots, \lambda_{i,k_i}}_{d_{i,k_i}}) \in \mathbb{C}^{e_i} \quad (e_i \geq 1),$$

where each  $\lambda_i$  is integral but  $(\lambda_i, \lambda_j) \in \mathbb{C}^{e_i+e_j}$  is not integral for any  $i \neq j$ ,  $[d_{i,1}, \dots, d_{i,k_i}]$  is a partition of  $e_i$ , and the condition  $\lambda_{i,p} - \lambda_{i,q} \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  holds for any  $p \neq q$ .

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## Theorem

$$\#(\text{Irr}_\nu(G; \mathcal{O})) = \sum_{\substack{(\iota_1, \dots, \iota_r) \in \text{YD}_{e_1} \times \dots \times \text{YD}_{e_r} \\ \iota_1 \sqcup^r \iota_2 \dots \sqcup^r \iota_r = \iota(\mathcal{O})}} \prod_{i=1}^r \#(\text{Irr}_{\lambda_i}(\text{GL}_{e_i}(\mathbb{R}); \mathcal{O}_{\iota_i}))$$

# Key observation

There are natural isomorphism of  $W(\Lambda)$ -representations:

$$\mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda_1}(\mathcal{K}(\mathrm{GL}_{e_1}(\mathbb{R}))) \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda_r}(\mathcal{K}(\mathrm{GL}_{e_r}(\mathbb{R}))) \rightarrow \mathrm{Coh}_{\Lambda}(\mathcal{K}(\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})))$$
$$\Psi_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \Psi_r \mapsto \Psi$$

where  $\Psi(\mu) = \mathrm{Ind}_P^{\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{R})} \Psi_1(\mu) \otimes \cdots \otimes \Psi_r(\mu)$  is also a standard module for regular dominant  $\mu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$ .

Actually, this isomorphism also takes irreducible objects to irreducible objects.

## Painted Young diagram (type $A$ )

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Let  $\iota$  be a Young diagram and  $\mathcal{P}$  be a painting on  $\iota$  of type  $A$ .  
 Define the signature of  $\mathcal{P}$  to be the pair of non-negative integers

$$(p_{\mathcal{P}}, q_{\mathcal{P}}) := \left( \frac{\#(\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\bullet))}{2} + \#(\mathcal{P}^{-1}(s)), \frac{\#(\mathcal{P}^{-1}(\bullet))}{2} + \#(\mathcal{P}^{-1}(r)) \right),$$

for every  $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $p + q = |\iota|$ , we define

$$P_A^{p,q}(\iota) := \{\mathcal{P} \in P_A(\iota) \mid (p_{\mathcal{P}}, q_{\mathcal{P}}) = (p, q)\}.$$

# Counting result for $U(p, q)$ : The integral case

$G = U(p, q)$  ( $p, q \in \mathbb{N}$ ).  $\mathcal{O}$  is a nilpotent orbit in  $\mathfrak{g}$ , denote the corresponding Young diagram by  $\iota(\mathcal{O})$ .

If  $\nu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^* = \mathbb{C}^n$  ( $n = p + q$ ) is integral, that is, the differences of its coordinates are integral, then its coordinates can be permuted such that

$$\nu = (\underbrace{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_1}_{d_1}, \underbrace{\lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_2}_{d_2}, \dots, \underbrace{\lambda_k, \dots, \lambda_k}_{d_k}) \in \mathbb{C}^n,$$

where  $[d_1, d_2, \dots, d_k]$  is a partition of  $n$ , and the  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$  satisfy the condition  $\lambda_i - \lambda_j \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$  for any  $i \neq j$ .

## Theorem

If  $\lambda_1 \in \frac{n-1}{2} + \mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$\sharp(\text{Irr}_\nu(\mathcal{U}(p, q); \mathcal{O})) = \sharp(P_A^{p,q}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))) \cdot \sharp(A_{[d_1, \dots, d_k]}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))) .$$

If  $\lambda_1 \in \frac{n}{2} + \mathbb{Z}$ , then

$$\sharp(\text{Irr}_\nu(\mathcal{U}(p, q); \mathcal{O})) = \sharp(A_{[d_1, \dots, d_k]}(\iota(\mathcal{O}))) \cdot \delta_{p,q} .$$

Otherwise,  $\sharp(\text{Irr}_\nu(\mathcal{U}(p, q); \mathcal{O})) = 0$ .

## Example: Generic representations

Let  $G = \mathrm{U}(n, n)$ , and let  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{prin}}$  denote the principal nilpotent orbit.

If the coordinates of  $\nu$  are all **half-integers**, there is only one assignment on  $\iota(\mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{prin}})$ , and exactly two paintings:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \cdots & \bullet & \bullet & \bullet \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline \bullet & \bullet & \cdots & \bullet & s & r \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Hence, there are exactly **2 generic representations** with this infinitesimal character.



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If the coordinates of  $\nu$  are all **integers**, then there is only one assignment. Therefore, there is only **1 generic representation** with this infinitesimal character.

Thank  
you