

# Hamil tonian G-spaces &

# Quantization

(Blue will mean verbal explanations Black is written on the Board)

this is the first talk in a reading seminar on the relative langlands program, following the recent paper

Relative Langlands Duality, by Ben-Zvi, Sakellaridis, and Venkatesh

Where we're Going: Relative langlands program

Langlands duality

Ordinary:  $G \longleftrightarrow \check{G}$  Lie groups

Relative  $\begin{matrix} G \\ \downarrow \\ M \end{matrix} \longleftrightarrow \begin{matrix} \check{G} \\ \downarrow \\ \check{M} \end{matrix}$  G-spaces  
(specifically, hyperspherical varieties)

the relative langlands program extends langlands duality from groups to spaces with a group action. Both the group & the space are dualized. in the paper, they conjecture the spaces are what they define as hyperspherical varieties.

Today's Q: What (& why) are hyper spherical varieties?

(BZSV sec. 3)

Section 3 describes several ways to construct symplectic spaces, defines hyperspherical varieties, & provides a uniform construction.

I had some trouble turning this into a talk, because it's not clear until later why we should care about hyperspherical varieties.

- Builds on study of  $GL^2(X)$  for  $X$  spherical  
(Sakellaridis - Venkatesh)

BZSV builds on older work by SV, where it's easier to get motivation for spherical / hyperspherical manifolds.

I found a corner of geometric rep. theory I hadn't seen before.  
 it's a very classical symplectic geometry approach, extending the orbit method. And it all centers around Quantization.

- we will motivate these spaces with Quantization

## pt 1: Symplectic geometry & quantization

symplectic manifold  $(M, \omega)$

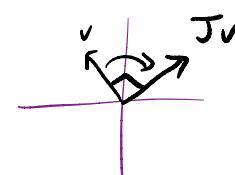
- $\omega$ : - 2-form
- nondegenerate
- closed

$$J_V = -z \cdot v$$

$$\omega(x, y) = \langle x, Jy \rangle$$

$\langle , \rangle$  riemannian metric

$J^2 = -1$  "almost complex structure"



from Hamiltonian  $H \in C^\infty(M)$ , get hamiltonian vector field

$X_H := J \nabla H$  first take the gradient, then rotate  $90^\circ$



Classically: particle in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  has position & momentum

↳ lives in  $T^*\mathbb{R}^n$ , w/ canonical symplectic structure

↳ moves along vector field in  $T^*\mathbb{R}^n$

Quantumly: particle is complex function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$

↳ lives in hilbert space  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$

↳ moves according to linear Diffeq (wave equation)

nonlinear evolution  
of points

Quantization

linear evolution  
of functions



	Classical	Quantum
space of states	symplectic manifold ( $M, \omega$ )	hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$
observables	$C^\infty(M)$	$H: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ linear operator
lie algebra of observables	"poisson bracket" $\{f, g\} := X_f(g)$ infinitesimal change in $g$ along evolution by $f$	$[A, B] = AB - BA$ $= \frac{d}{dt} (e^{tA})^* B (e^{tA})$ infinitesimal change in $B$ along evolution by $A$

Quantization (Dream): for  $(M, \omega)$  symplectic manifold, construct hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  & lie algebra homomorphism

$$(C^\infty(M), \{\cdot, \cdot\}) \rightsquigarrow (\text{operators } \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}, [ , ])$$

This is provably impossible most of the time.

Geometric quantization: construct  $\mathcal{H}$  as sections of line bundle  $L$  w/ curvature the symplectic form  $\omega$   
A beautiful idea, but it only half works, only applies in specific scenarios (e.g. Kähler manifolds).

Archetypical examples:

$M = T^*X$	$\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{H} = L^2(X)$
$X$ compact kähler	$\rightsquigarrow \mathcal{H} = H^0(X, L)$ holomorphic sections

Motto: Quantization linearizes symplectic manifolds

## Part 2: $G$ -actions      $G$ compact reductive lie group

$GGM$  means  $\forall g \in G, g: M \rightarrow M$  diffeo.

$GGM$  is symplectic if  $\forall g, g^* \omega = \omega$ . i.e.,  $G$  preserves symplectic structure

ex: for any smooth action  $G \times X$ , Quantization for any  $G \times X$ ,  
 the induced action  $G \times T^*X \xrightarrow{\sim}$  the induced action  $G \times L^2(X)$   
 is symplectic

Motto:

$GGM$   $\xrightarrow{\text{Quant.}}$   $GG\mathcal{H}$   
 symplectic linear representation

$\Rightarrow$  Symplectic approach to representation theory!!!  
 this philosophy is why we care so much abt symplectic geo in rep theory

This is a good start, but we want to be able to "look inside"  
 $GGM$ . need internal structure. get it w/ slight strengthening  
 $GGM$  is hamiltonian if infinitesimal action  $D: \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{Lie}(G)} \rightarrow \text{vect}(M)$

is generated by hamiltonians.

$\hookrightarrow$  i.e.,  $\forall v \in \mathfrak{g}, D_v = X_{\mu(v)}$  for  $\mu(v) \in C^\infty(M)$   
 $\mu(v)$  linear in  $v \Rightarrow \mu|_{p \in M} \in \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^*$

$\hookrightarrow$  a hamiltonian  $G$ -action on  $M$  defined by its moment map  $\mu: M \rightarrow \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^*$

fact:  $\mu$  is equivariant map  $\begin{matrix} G & \xrightarrow{\mu} & \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^* \\ M & \xrightarrow{\text{Ad}} & \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^* \end{matrix}$  for rep.  $\text{Ad}^*: \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^* \rightarrow \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^*$   
 "coadjoint representation"

$$\text{i.e. } \mu(g \cdot p) = \text{Ad}_g^* \mu(p)$$

"coadjoint action"  $G \times \underline{\mathfrak{g}}^*$  is basic model of all hamiltonian  $GGM$

restrict  $G$  action to maximal torus:  $TG\mathcal{O}_\alpha$   
moment map is  $M: \mathcal{O}_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^*$  orthogonally projecting to  $\mathbb{Z}^*$  note  $SU(3)$   
pic

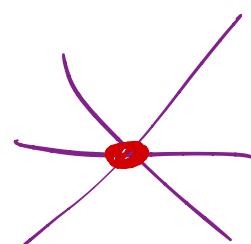
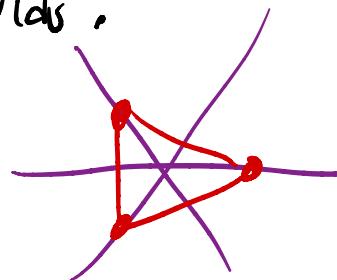
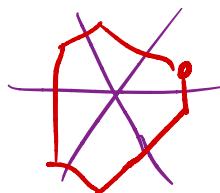
fixed points are exactly  $\mathcal{O}_\alpha \cap \mathbb{Z}^*$  were sphere around

Atiyah convexity thm  $\Rightarrow u: \mathcal{O}_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^*$  has image convex hull of  
Weyl orbit!

Atiyah was motivated by trying to reprove this result (of Kirillov,  
70's) using symplectic geo

Can draw flag manifolds!

for  $SU(3)$ :



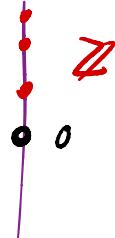
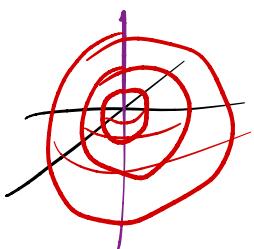
flag manifolds are classified by a pt in  $\mathbb{Z}^{*+}$  ... what  
could their associated representations be?

Quantizing  $\mathcal{O}_\alpha$ : we need line bundle  $L$  whose curvature is  
the symplectic form  $\omega_\alpha$ . By essentially gauss-bonnet this needs  
 $\omega_\alpha$  to be integral:  $\sum_{\text{closed}} \omega_\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ , or  $c_\alpha \in H_{\text{DR}}^2(\mathcal{O}_\alpha, \mathbb{R}) \subset H^2(\mathcal{O}_\alpha, \mathbb{R})$

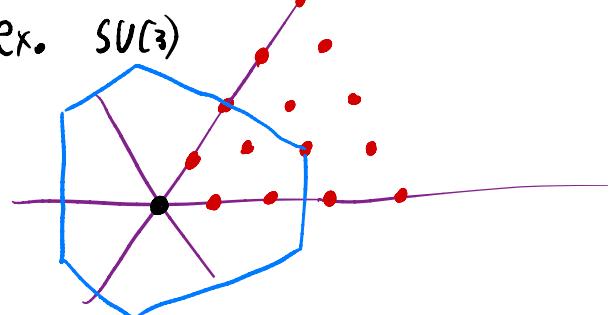
fact:  $\omega_\alpha$  integral iff  $\alpha$  integral (belongs to the root lattice)

ex:  $SU(3)$

integer area  
spheres



ex.  $SU(3)$



fact: associated line bundle  $L_\alpha$  defined by character  $\alpha: T \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

Quantum hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = H^0(G/\Gamma, L_\alpha)$

by Borel-Weil thm,  $\mathcal{H} = H^0(G/\Gamma, L_\alpha) = E_\alpha$ , irreducible rep. w/ highest wt  $\alpha$ !

coadjoint orbit

$\mathcal{O}_\alpha$  w/  $\alpha$  integral

Quantize

$E_\alpha$   
irreducible rep w/  
highest wt  $\alpha$

note:  
coadjoint orbits  
are irreducible

## Symplectic reduction

moment map  $M: M \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}^*$  sends  $M$  to a collection of coadjoint orbits  
decompose  $M$  according to these orbits:

- start w/  $O_0 = \{0\}$ .  $M^{-1}(0) \subset M$  is  $G$ -invariant, so divide out by  $G$   
define the symplectic reduction  $M//G = M^{-1}(0)/G$

Thm (marsden-weinstein)  $M//G$  has a symplectic structure

Motivating Example:  $\mathbb{P}^1$  as symplectic reduction

$$M = T^* \mathbb{R}^2 = \mathbb{C}^2, \quad \omega = dz_1 d\bar{z}_1 + dz_2 d\bar{z}_2 \quad \text{moment map}$$

$$U(1) \text{ action } e^{i\theta}: (z_1, z_2) \rightarrow (e^{i\theta} z_1, e^{+i\theta} z_2) \quad \text{has} \quad M: \mathbb{C}^2 \xrightarrow{(z_1, z_2)} \mathbb{R}^2 \cong \mathbb{R}^2 \\ (z_1, z_2) \mapsto \|z_1\|^2 + \|z_2\|^2$$

physically, this describes a 2D harmonic oscillator

$$U(1) \text{ action preserves } \omega, \text{ so might as well restrict to } M^{-1}(1) = S^3 \subset \mathbb{C}^2$$

define  $\mathbb{C}^2 // U(1)$  to be the "space of orbits with fixed energy"

$$\mathbb{C}^2 // U(1) := M^{-1}(1) / U(1) = S^3 / U(1) = \mathbb{P}^1 \cong S^2 \text{ symplectic!}$$

Remark: for  $G \times X$  any  $G$ -action w/  $X/G$  smooth,

$$T^* X // G = T^*(X/G)$$

Remark:  $\dim M//G = \dim M - 2 \dim G$

position & momentum come in pairs so  $G$  acts in pairs

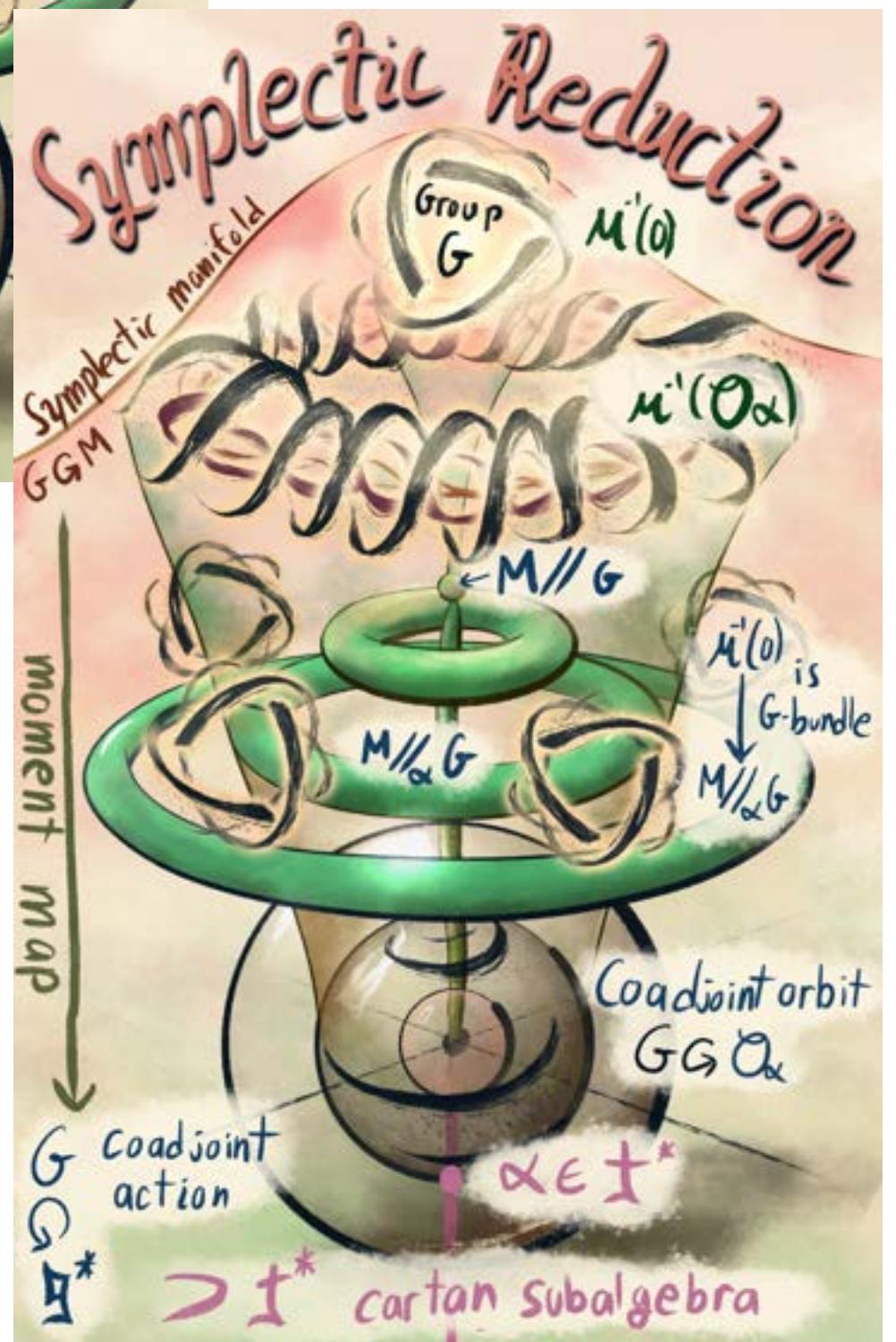
motto: in symplectic geometry,

Groups act twice!

Thm (Guillemin-Sternberg): for  $M$  compact, kahler

$$\mathcal{H}(M//G) = \mathcal{H}(M)^G \quad G\text{-invariant vectors in } \mathcal{H}(M)$$

"Quantization commutes w/ reduction"



# Multiplicities of coadjoint orbits

Reduction along other coadjoint orbits:  $M/\!/_{\alpha} G = \mu^{-1}(\theta_{\alpha})/G$   
 note  $\dim(M/\!/_{\alpha} G) = \dim M - 2\dim G + \dim \theta_{\alpha}$

$M$  splits into  $G$ -bundles over symplectic manifolds,  $G \hookrightarrow \mu^{-1}(\theta_{\alpha})$   
 parametrized by coadjoint orbits  $\downarrow$   
 $M/\!/_{\alpha} G$

ex:  $\mathbb{C}^2 = \bigsqcup_{\alpha \in \{\text{reg}\}} S_{\alpha}^3 = \bigsqcup_{\alpha \in \{\text{reg}\}} S' \hookrightarrow S_{\alpha}^3 \downarrow S_{\alpha}^2$   $S_{\alpha}^2, S_{\alpha}^3$  denotes spheres  
 of radius  $\alpha$

Motto: moment map splits  $M$  into irreducible components  $\theta$

Thm: (Guillemin-Sternberg) The highest weight representation  $GG E_{\alpha}$  occurs in  $GG \mathcal{A}(M)$  iff  $\theta_{\alpha}$  occurs in  $\mu(M)$

Consider spaces where decomposition is simple:

Def a hamiltonian space  $GGM$  is multiplicity-free if  $\dim(M/\!/_{\alpha} G) = 0 \ \forall \alpha$   
 if  $GGM$  compact connected, multiplicity-free  $\Rightarrow M/\!/_{\alpha} G$  is a point  
 this only uses properness of  $\mu$ , follows from thm of Kirwan  $\mu^{-1}(\theta_{\alpha})$  connected, using  
 a bit of Morse theory

$\Rightarrow GGM$  entirely characterized by moment map image  
 Convexity thus  $\Rightarrow GGM$  structure is combinatorial!

motto: multiplicity-free manifolds have maximal symmetry

multiplicity-free examples

$$\mu: \theta \hookrightarrow \mathbb{R}^*$$

• coadjoint orbits  $\theta$  (moment map is identity  $\Leftrightarrow \theta$  are irreducible)

• for  $GGG/K$  transitive group action, induced action  $GGT^*(G/K)$   
 is multiplicity-free for simple necessary & sufficient condition on  $G/K$

• Toric manifolds:  $T = U(1)^n G M \quad \dim M = 2n$

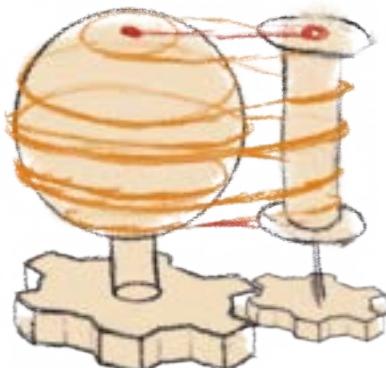
Symplectic manifolds with effective half-dimensional torus action

Atiyah: moment map  $\mu: M \rightarrow \mathbb{T}^* = \text{Lie}(T)^* \cong \mathbb{R}^n$  image is a convex polytope

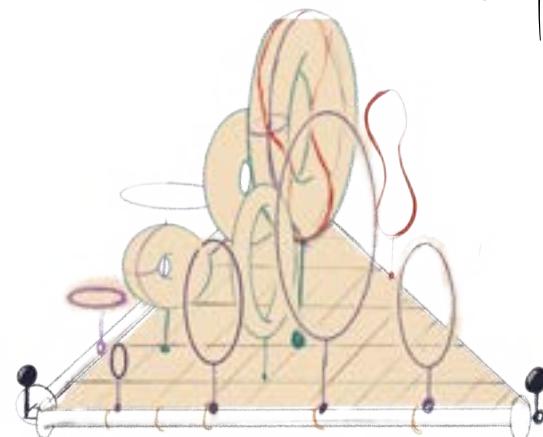
$A\mu^*: TG \mathbb{T}^*$  is trivial  $\Rightarrow \theta_{\alpha} = \{\alpha\}$ : coadjoint orbits are points

$\mu^{-1}(\alpha)$  is a torus  $\Rightarrow M/\!/_{\alpha} T = \{\text{pt}\}$

$$\text{e.g } U(1) \hookrightarrow S^2$$



$$U(1)^2 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2 \quad \mu: \mathbb{P}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$$



$$\text{non-example: } U(1) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \cdot (z_1, z_2) = (e^{i\theta} z_1, e^{i\theta} z_2)$$

$\mathbb{C}^2/U(1) = S^2 + \text{pt.}$  for torus actions, need dimensionality constraint

Thm) the following are equivalent:

- $G \text{-invariant } M$  multiplicity free

$G$ -invariant functions are determined by their values on  $M/\alpha G$  for all  $\alpha$ , which is defined by their value on  $\alpha$

- all  $G$ -invariant functions on  $M$  lift from  $\underline{g}^*$   
i.e.,  $f \in C^\infty(M)^G \Rightarrow f = h \circ \mu$   $h \in C^\infty(\underline{g}^*)^G = C^\infty(\underline{\mathbb{Z}}^*)^W$  Weyl-invariant functions on dual Cartan subalgebra

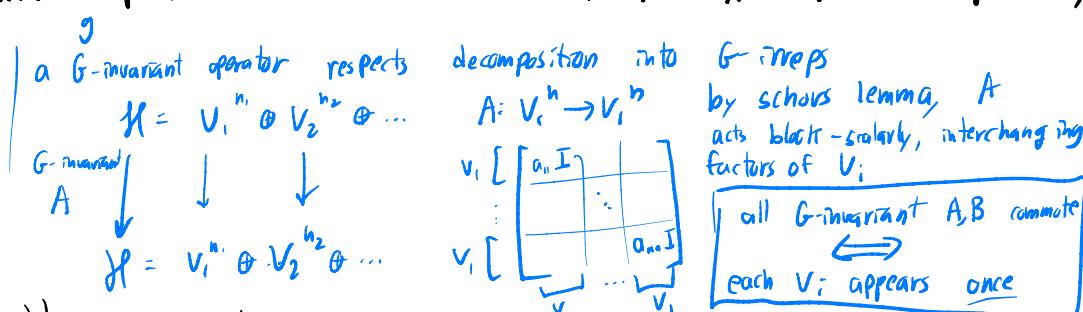
$\underline{\mathbb{Z}}^*$  is Poisson commutative, so this gives

- all  $G$ -invariant functions Poisson-commute:  $f, f' \in C^\infty(M)^G \Rightarrow \{f, f'\} = 0$   
 $\{f, f'\} = \{h \circ \mu, h' \circ \mu\} \stackrel{M \text{ is Poisson}}{=} \{h, h'\} = 0$

Quantum version: all  $G$ -invariant  $A, B: \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  satisfy  $[A, B] = 0$

split  $\mathcal{H}$  into irreps  $V_i$ .  $A$   $G$ -invariant  $\Rightarrow$   $\begin{cases} A \text{ preserves irrep type} \\ A: V_i \rightarrow V_i \text{ is scalar} \end{cases}$  (Schur's lemma)

$G$ -invariant operators commute  $\Rightarrow$  each irrep type has multiplicity  $\leq 1$



Thm (GS)  $G \text{-invariant } X$  multiplicity free  $\Rightarrow$  each irrep in  $GG \text{-invariant } L^2(G) = \mathcal{H}(G)$  has multiplicity  $\leq 1$

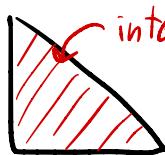
faV multiplicity-free spaces:

$T^*X$  multiplicity free  $\rightarrow G \backslash G X$  transitive, or  $X = G/K$

note  $G \backslash G X$  extends to complexified action  $G^C \backslash G X$

Def:  $G^C X$  is a spherical variety if it has an open dense orbit of the Borel subgroup  $B \subset G^C$

Ex: toric manifolds



interior is  $B$ -orbit of  $T^C = \mathbb{C}^{*n}$

intuition:  $B$ -orbit moves you all along moment polytope in  $\mathbb{Z}^{*+}$ . This takes you thru the whole manifold if  $M/\mathbb{Q}_\ell f = pt$

Thm:  $T^*X$  multiplicity free  $\leftrightarrow X$  spherical

$T^*X$  are archetype "of hyperspherical" varieties

Def 3.5.1]  $G \backslash G M$  is hyperspherical if:

- (1)  $M$  affine
- (2)  $M$  is multiplicity-free
- (3) the moment map of  $M$  intersects the nilpotent cone
- (4) the  $G$ -stabilizer of a generic pt in  $M$  is connected
- (5)  $M$  carries a  $\mathbb{C}_{gr}^*$  action (the "grading" action) which is "neutral"  
*implies it is a whittaker induction*

true for  
Whittaker  
inductions

Notes: - if  $M = T^*X$ ,  $\mathbb{C}_{gr}^*$  scales fibers (needed structure for later)

(3) implies  $\mu(M) \cap \mathbb{Z}^*$  contains 0, &  $M^{\circ}(0)$  is a  $f$ -orbit

w/  $\mathbb{C}_{gr}^*$ , implies  $\mu(M) \cap \mathbb{Z}^* = \mathbb{Z}^*$ : every coadjoint orbit appears

(5) " neutrality" implies we can reconstruct  $G \backslash G M$  w/ grading action from local data of a point  $x \in M^{\circ}(0)$

# Building Multiplicity-free spaces

convert constructions from representation theory to symplectic.  
induced representations

for  $H \subset G$ , & rep  $\rho: H \rightarrow \text{GU}$ , we build the induced rep:  $\text{ind}_H^G(\rho)$

$G/H$  is a symmetric  $G$ -space,  $G = SO(3)$ ,  $H = U(1)$ ,  $G/H = S^2$

$H \hookrightarrow G$  principle  $H$ -bundle  
 $\downarrow$   
 $G/H$



using  $\rho$ , build associated bundle  $E_\rho = G/H \times_H V = G \times V / H$

$\Rightarrow$  obtain  $G$ -rep. on sections of  $E_\rho$   $\text{ind}_H^G(\rho) \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} G \otimes L^2(E_\rho)$

$G$  acts by either interchanging fibers, or rotating fibers by  $H$

if  $G$  is finite,  $L^2(E_\rho)$  is a finite dimensional rep.

Symplectic analogues: replace  $H \rightarrow \text{GU}$  w/ hamiltonian  $H$ -space  $HGS$

Def/ the Hamiltonian induction is  $h\text{-ind}_H^G S = (S \times T^* G) //_H H$  need symplectic result

In symplectic geo, groups act  $\times 2!$   $\dim h\text{-ind}_H^G(S) = \dim S + 2\dim H - \dim H$

ex:  $h\text{-ind}_H^G(T^* Y) = (T^* Y \times T^* G) //_H H = T^*((Y \times G)/H)$

in rep theory, we build reps as sub-reps induced from simpler reps!  
 $G > H =$

representation theory

Symplectic

trivial rep  $\mathbb{C}$

$S = \{\rho\}$

bundle  $G/1 \times_H \mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C} \times_G G$  trivial

$h\text{-ind}_H^G(\{\rho\}) =$

rep  $\text{ind}_H^G(\mathbb{C}) = L^2(G)$

$\{\rho\} \times T^* G //_H H = T^* G \cong G \times \underline{g^*}$

irrep decomp  $L^2(G) = \bigoplus_{\text{irreducible}} V_i^{\otimes \dim V_i}$  (peter-  
weyl thm)

moment map  $M: (g, \dot{g}) \rightarrow \dot{g}$

$\text{im } M = \underline{g^*} \Rightarrow$  every coadjoint orbit appears

Every irreducible component occurs in reps. induced from trivial!

## Whittaker induction

$G$  reductive,  $B$  a borel subgroup,  $U$  its unipotent radical

( $\begin{smallmatrix} * & * \\ * & * \end{smallmatrix}$ )

( $\begin{smallmatrix} 1 & * \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}$ )

I only know this from wikipedia lol

a Whittaker model of a representation  $\rho: G \rightarrow V$  is a realization of  $\rho$  as a sub rep of  $\text{ind}_U^G(\chi)$  for  $\chi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  all irreps  $U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  are characters

these are common! irreps w/ a whittaker model are "generic"  
irreps w/o — " — are "degenerate"

These are interesting, #-theoretic criteria, that encompass most reps we care about

symplectically:  $\chi$  defines hamiltonian action  $U \times G \times \mathbb{C}$   
following symplectic induction, we consider

$$(\mathbb{C} \times T^*G) // U = \overset{\Psi}{\downarrow} \quad \mathbb{C} - \text{principle bundle over} \\ T^*(U \backslash G) \quad T^*(U \backslash G)$$

Basic Whittaker space is  $\overline{\Psi} // \mathbb{C}$ : Twisted cotangent bundle  $T^*(U \backslash G)$   
(same topology, new symplectic form)

Whittaker induction sends  $S \in \mathcal{H}$  to  $G$ -space using homeo.  $H \times_{SL_2} G \rightarrow G$   
the morphism  $SL_2 \rightarrow G$  picks out a unipotent  $U \subset G$  (associated to positive eigenpace)

Whittaker induction is  $h\text{-ind}_U^G(S)$  or something...

note that I'm kinda lying here

this interpolates between ordinary induction & the twisted bundles of Whittaker spaces.

Thm (3.6.) of relative langlands program:

All hyperspherical varieties are built by Whittaker induction

# Dictionary between symplectic geo & rep theory

symplectic manifolds  $\xrightarrow{\text{quantize}}$  representations

$G \times M$  hamiltonian  $G$ -space

$G \times \mathcal{H}(M)$   $G$ -rep on hilbert space

$M//_0 G$  symplectic reduction  $\xrightarrow{[GS 84]} \mathcal{H}(M)^G$   $G$ -fixed vectors

Guillemin-sternberg 1982: geometric quantization and multiplicities of group representations

coadjoint orbit  $\mathcal{O}$  of  $G$

$\mathcal{O}_\alpha \subset \mathfrak{u}(M)$

irrep of  $G$

highest weight rep  $E_\alpha$   
occurs in  $\mathcal{H}$

for  $H \subset S$ ,  $H \subset G$ ,  $S \subset G$  symplectic  
 $h\text{-ind}_H^G(S) = (S \times T^*G) // H$  induction

$\text{ind}_H^G(\mathcal{H}(S))$  induced representation

Kazdan - Konstant- Sternberg 1978: Hamiltonian group actions and dynamical systems of calogero type

$G > H \times M$  treating  $G$ -space  
as an  $H \times G$  space

$\text{Res}_H(\mathcal{H}(M))$  restriction of  
rep. to  $H$

$h\text{-ind}_H^G(S) //_\alpha G \cong ???$

$\varphi: G \rightarrow \mathcal{H} \quad \psi: H \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$   
 $\langle \varphi, \text{ind}_H^G(\psi) \rangle = \langle \text{Res}_H(\varphi), \psi \rangle$  frobenius reciprocity

Guillemin-sternberg 1983: The frobenius reciprocity theorem from a symplectic point of view

Whittaker induction

Whittaker model

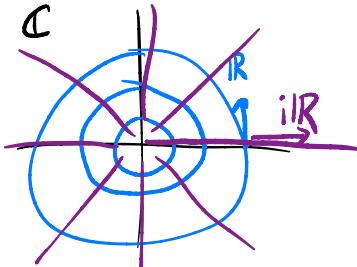
## Extra:

### Spherical Varieties

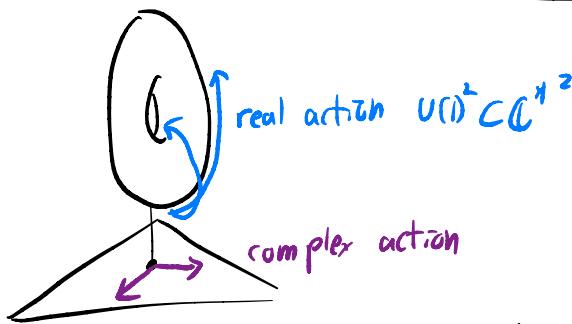
every  $G^C G M$  extends to  $G^C G M$

infinitesimal action  $\underline{g}^c \rightarrow \text{Vect}(x)$  splits  $\underline{g}^c = \underline{g} \oplus i\underline{g}$

ex:  $U(1) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$  extends to  $\mathbb{C}^* \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$



ex:  $(\mathbb{C}^*)^2 G/P^2$



$\underline{g} \rightarrow$  hamiltonian vector field  
 $i\underline{g} \rightarrow$  gradient vector field

remark (Kempf-ness thm)  $\mathbb{C}[M//_G] = \mathbb{C}[M]^{G^c}$

roughly,  $M//_G = m^{(0)} / G = M / G^c$

"GIT quotient"

so, setting value of  $m$  is like choosing complex part of  $f^c$  action

the complex version of a maximal torus is a borel subgroup  $B$

$$G^c/B = G/T$$

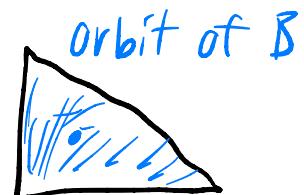
$$\begin{bmatrix} * & 0 \\ 0 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{bmatrix}$$

Def a  $G^c$  variety  $G^c G M$  is spherical iff

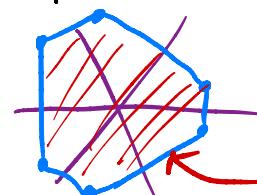
$M$  has a dense  $B$ -orbit

ex: toric varieties have  $T = U(1)^n$ ,  $B = T^c = (\mathbb{C}^*)^n$



flag manifolds: moment map of  $T$  on  $\mathcal{O}_\alpha$

$G = SU(3)$ :



$B$ -orbit

$G^c G M$  spherical then  $G G M$  hamiltonian multiplicity-free

Somehow multiplicity-free manifolds are locally modeled by spherical varieties,