

# COUNTING UNIPOTENT REPRESENTATIONS OF REAL REDUCTIVE GROUPS

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## 1. COUNTING UNIPOTENT REPRESENTATIONS

In this section, let  $G_{\mathbb{C}}$  be a connected complex reductive group and  $\mathfrak{g}$  is its Lie algebra. Fix a antiholomorphic involution  $\sigma$  on  $G_{\mathbb{C}}$  and a corresponding Cartan involution  $\theta$  of  $G_{\mathbb{C}}$ . Let  $G$  be a finite central extension of a open subgroup of  $G_{\mathbb{C}}^{\sigma}$  and

$$\text{pr}: G \rightarrow G_{\mathbb{C}}^{\sigma}$$

be the canonical projection. Let  $K = \text{pr}^{-1}(G_{\mathbb{C}}^{\sigma})$ .

Let  ${}^a\mathfrak{h}$  be the abstract Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  ${}^aX$  be the lattice of abstract weight spaces. Let  ${}^aR \subseteq {}^aX$ ,  ${}^aR^+$  and  ${}^aQ$  be the abstract root system, the set of positive roots and the root lattice. Let

$$\mathbb{C} = \left\{ \mu \in {}^a\mathfrak{h}^* \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{either } \langle \text{Re}(\mu), \check{\alpha} \rangle > 0 \text{ or} \\ \langle \text{Re}(\mu), \check{\alpha} \rangle = 0 \text{ and } \sqrt{-1} \langle \text{Im}(\mu), \check{\alpha} \rangle > 0 \end{array} \right\}$$

and  $\overline{\mathbb{C}}$  be the closure of  $\mathbb{C}$  in  ${}^a\mathfrak{h}$ .

**1.1. Coherent family.** For each finite dimensional  $\mathfrak{g}$ -module or  $G_{\mathbb{C}}$ -module  $F$ , let  $F^*$  be its contragredient representation and let  $\Delta(F) \subseteq {}^aX$  denote the multi-set of weights in  $F$ .

Let  $\Pi_{\Lambda_0}(G_{\mathbb{C}})$  be the set of irreducible finite dimensional representations of  $G_{\mathbb{C}}$  with external weight in  $\Lambda_0$  and  $\mathcal{G}_{\Lambda}(G_{\mathbb{C}})$  be the subgroup generated by  $\Pi_{\Lambda_0}(G_{\mathbb{C}})$ . Let

$${}^aP := \{ \mu \in {}^aX \mid \mu \text{ is a } {}^a\mathfrak{h}\text{-weight of an } F \in \Pi_{\text{fin}}(G_{\mathbb{C}}) \}.$$

Via the highest weight theory, every  $W(G_{\mathbb{C}})$ -orbit  $W \cdot \mu$  in  ${}^aP$  corresponds with the irreducible finite dimensional representation  $F \in \Pi_{\text{fin}}(G_{\mathbb{C}})$  with external weight  $\mu$ .

Now the Grothendieck group  $\mathcal{G}(G_{\mathbb{C}})$  of finite dimensional representation of  $G_{\mathbb{C}}$  is identified with  $\mathbb{Z}[{}^aP/W]$ . In fact  $\mathcal{G}(G_{\mathbb{C}})$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -algebra under the tensor product and equipped with the involution  $F \mapsto F^*$ .

Fix a  $W$ -invariant sub-lattice  $\Lambda_0 \subset {}^aX$  containing  ${}^aQ$ .

Take a lattice  $\Lambda = \lambda + \Lambda_0 \in \mathfrak{h}^*/\Lambda$  with  $\lambda \in \overline{\mathbb{C}}$ . Let

$$R(\lambda) := \{ \alpha \in {}^aR \mid \langle \lambda, \check{\alpha} \rangle \in \mathbb{Z} \} \quad \text{and} \quad W(\lambda) := \langle s_{\alpha} \mid \alpha \in R(\lambda) \rangle.$$

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**Definition 1.1.** Suppose  $\mathcal{M}$  is an abelian group with  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda(G_\mathbb{C})$ -action

$$\mathcal{G}_\Lambda(G_\mathbb{C}) \times \mathcal{M} \ni (F, m) \mapsto F \otimes m.$$

In addition, we fix a subgroup  $\mathcal{M}_\mu$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  for each  $\mu \in \Lambda$ .

A function  $f: \Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  is called a coherent family based on  $\Lambda$  if it satisfies  $f(\mu) \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$  and

$$F \otimes f(\mu) = \sum_{\nu \in \Delta(F)} f(\mu + \nu) \quad \forall \mu \in \Lambda, F \in \Pi_{\Lambda_0}(G_\mathbb{C}).$$

Let  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{M})$  be the abelian group of all coherent families based on  $\Lambda$  and value in  $\mathcal{M}$ .

In this paper, we will consider the following cases.

Suppose  $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $F \otimes m = \dim(F) \cdot m$  for  $F \in \Pi_{\Lambda_0}(G_\mathbb{C})$  and  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ . We let  $\mathcal{M}_\mu = \mathcal{M}$  for every  $\mu \in \Lambda$ . When  $\Lambda = \Lambda_0$ , the set of  $W(G_\mathbb{C})$ -harmonic polynomials on  ${}^a\mathfrak{h}^*$  is naturally identified with  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{M})$  via restriction (Vogan's result)

Let  $\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, K)$  be the Grothendieck group of finite length  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules and  $\mathcal{G}_\mu(\mathfrak{g}, K)$  be the subgroup of  $\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, K)$  generated by the set of irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -modules with infinitesimal character  $\mu$ .

Then  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, K))$  is the group of coherent families of Harish-Chandra modules.

Fixing a Borel subalgebra  $\mathfrak{b} \subset \mathfrak{g}$ , let  $\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$  be the Grothendieck group of the category  $\mathcal{O}^\mathfrak{b}$ . The space  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b}))$  is defined similarly.

Note that the lattice  $\Lambda$  is stable under the  $W(\lambda)$  action. We can define  $W(\lambda)$  action on  $\text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{M})$  by

$$w \cdot f(\mu) = f(w^{-1}\mu) \quad \forall \mu \in \Lambda, w \in W(\lambda).$$

**Lemma 1.2** (Translation principal). Suppose  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, K)$  or  $\mathcal{G}(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{b})$ . When  $\mu \in \Lambda \cap \bar{C}$ , the evaluation map

$$\text{ev}_\mu \text{Coh}_\Lambda(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\mu \quad f \mapsto f(\mu)$$

is surjective. Moreover

## 2. PARAMETERIZE OF UNIPOTENT REPRESENTATIONS

We fix an abstract complex Cartan subgroup  $\mathbf{H}_a$  and  $\mathfrak{h}_a$  in  $\mathbf{G}$  and a set of simple roots  $\Pi_a$ . Let  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{G})$  be the set of all Langlands parameters of  $G$ -modules with character  $\rho$  (i.e. the infinitesimal character of the trivial representation). For  $\gamma \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{G})$ , let  $\mathcal{L}(\gamma)$ ,  $\mathcal{S}(\gamma)$  and  $\Phi_\gamma$  be the corresponding Langlands quotient, standard module and coherent family such that  $\Phi_\gamma(\rho) = \mathcal{L}(\gamma)$ . Let  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{G})$  be the span of  $\mathcal{L}(\gamma)$ . Let  $\{\mathcal{B}\}$  be the set of all blocks. Then  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{G}) = \bigsqcup_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{B}$ . The Weyl group  $W = W(G)$  acts on  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{G})$  by coherent continuation. Let  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{B}}$  be the submodule of  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{G})$  spanned by  $\gamma \in \mathcal{B}$ , then

$$\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{G}) = \bigoplus_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{B}}$$

Let  $\tau(\gamma) \subset \Pi_a$  be the  $\tau$ -invariant of  $\gamma$ .

Let  $\check{\mathcal{O}}$  be even orbit.  $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}\check{h}$ . Define

$$S(\lambda) = \{ \alpha \in \Pi_a \mid \langle \alpha, \lambda \rangle = 0 \}.$$

Let  $\mathcal{P}_\lambda(\mathbf{G})$  be the set of all Langlands parameters with infinitesimal character  $\lambda$ . Let  $T_{\lambda, \rho}$  be the translation functor. Let

$$\mathcal{B}(S) = \{ \gamma \in \mathcal{B} \mid S \cap \tau(\gamma) = \emptyset \}$$

and

$$\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{G}, S) = \bigsqcup_{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{B}(S)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{G}, S) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{P}_\lambda(\mathbf{G}) \\ \gamma &\longmapsto T_{\lambda, \rho}(\gamma)\end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathcal{O}$  be a complex nilpotent orbit in  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Let

$$\mathcal{B}(S, \mathcal{O}) = \{ \gamma \in \mathcal{B}(S) \mid \text{AV}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathcal{L}(\gamma)) \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}} \}$$

Let

$$\begin{aligned}m_S(\sigma) &= [\sigma : \text{Ind}_{W(S)}^W \mathbf{1}] \\ m_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) &= [\sigma : \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{B}}]\end{aligned}$$

Barbasch [10, Theorem 9.1] established the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.1.**

$$|\mathcal{B}(S, \mathcal{O})| = \sum_{\sigma} m_{\mathcal{B}}(\sigma) m_S(\sigma)$$

Here  $\sigma \times \sigma$  running over the  $W \times W$  appears in the double cell  $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{O})$ .

*Proof.* We need to take the graded module of  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{G})$  with respect to the  $\overset{LR}{\leq}$ . By abuse of notation, we identify the basis  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{G})$  with its image in the graded module. Note that  $S \cap \tau(\lambda) = \emptyset$  if and only if  $W(S)$  acts on  $\gamma$  trivially by [70, Lemma 14.7]. On the other hand, by [70, Theorem 14.10, and page 58],  $\text{AV}_{\mathbb{C}}(\mathcal{L}(\gamma)) \subset \overline{\mathcal{O}}$  only if  $\gamma$  generate a  $W$ -module in the double cell of  $\mathcal{O}$ .  $\square$

Now assume  $S = S(\lambda)$ . By [12, Cor 5.30 b) and c)],  $[\sigma : \text{Ind}_{W(S)}^W \mathbf{1}] = [\mathbf{1}|_{W(S)} : \sigma] \leq 1$ .

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