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CHARACTERS OF INDUCED REPRESENTATIONS AND WEIGHTED ORBITAL INTEGRALS

REBECCA A. HERB

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The main result of this paper is a formula relating characters of principal series representations of a reductive Lie group to weighted orbital integrals of wave packets.

1. Introduction. Let G be a reductive Lie group satisfying Harish-Chandra's general assumptions [2]. Let $P = MAN$ be the Langlands decomposition of a cuspidal parabolic subgroup of G . Denote by $\varepsilon_2(M)$ the set of equivalence classes of irreducible unitary square integrable representations of M . For $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{F} = \mathfrak{a}^*$, the real dual of the Lie algebra of A , let $\pi_{\omega, \nu}$ be the corresponding unitary representation of G induced from P . Let f be a wave packet corresponding to ω . Then the integral of f over any regular (semisimple) orbit of G which can be represented by an element of $L = MA$ has been evaluated by Harish-Chandra in terms of the character $\Theta_{\omega, \nu}$ of $\pi_{\omega, \nu}$ [4].

Let γ be a regular element of G contained in a Cartan subgroup H of L . Write $H = H_K H_p$ where H_K is compact, H_p is split, and $A \subseteq H_p$. Then for suitable normalizations of the G -invariant measure $d\dot{x}$ on $H_p \backslash G$ and Haar measure $d\nu$ on \mathcal{F} .

$$(1.1) \quad \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) d\dot{x} = \varepsilon(A, H)[W(\omega)]^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}(\gamma) d\nu$$

where $W(\omega) = \{s \in N_G(A)/L \mid s\omega = \omega\}$ and $\varepsilon(A, H)$ is 1 if $H_p = A$ and is 0 otherwise. This formula can be interpreted as giving the value of $\Theta_{\omega, \nu}$ on regular elements γ of a fundamental Cartan subgroup of L in terms of the integral of a wave packet for ω over the orbit of γ . It also gives the Fourier inversion formula for the tempered invariant distribution

$$f \rightarrow \langle \Lambda(\gamma), f \rangle = \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) d\dot{x}$$

restricted to the subspace of $\mathcal{C}(G)$, the Schwartz space of G , spanned by wave packets corresponding to representations induced from cuspidal parabolic subgroups $P = MAN$ with $A \subseteq H_p$. The complete Fourier inversion formula for $\Lambda(\gamma)$ is much more complicated. (See [5].)

In the case that $P = G$ is cuspidal and $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(G)$, then Θ_ω is a discrete series character of G , and f is a matrix coefficient corresponding to ω . Formula (1.1) becomes

$$(1.2) \quad \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) \, d\dot{x} = \varepsilon(1, H) \langle \Theta_\omega, f \rangle \Theta_\omega(\gamma).$$

Arthur has obtained the following generalization of (1.2) [1]. Let A be the split component of a parabolic subgroup of G . Let L be the centralizer in G of A . Corresponding to A , Arthur defines a function v_A on G which is left L -invariant. Let γ be a regular element of G contained in a Cartan subgroup $H = H_K H_p$ of L . Let $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(G)$, and let f be a matrix coefficient for ω . Then Arthur's formula is

$$(1.3) \quad \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) v_A(x) \, d\dot{x} = (-1)^p \varepsilon(A, H) \langle \Theta_\omega, f \rangle \Theta_\omega(\gamma)$$

where p is the dimension of A . This formula gives the value of the character Θ_ω on the nonelliptic element γ in terms of a weighted orbital integral of a matrix coefficient of ω . It also gives the Fourier inversion formula for the tempered distribution

$$f \rightarrow \langle r_A(\gamma), f \rangle = \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) v_A(x) \, d\dot{x}$$

restricted to the space ${}^0\mathcal{C}(G)$ of cusp forms on G . The distributions $r_A(\gamma)$ occur in the Selberg trace formula for $\Gamma \backslash G$, Γ a discrete subgroup of G for which $\Gamma \backslash G$ has finite volume but is not compact. As formula (1.3) shows, $r_A(\gamma)$ is invariant on ${}^0\mathcal{C}(G)$. However, $r_A(\gamma)$ is not an invariant distribution on $\mathcal{C}(G)$, and the full Fourier inversion formula for $r_A(\gamma)$ is not known.

Arthur's formula can be generalized to the setting of induced representations and wave packets. Let $P = MAN$ be a cuspidal parabolic subgroup of G , and let A_1 be the split component of a parabolic subgroup of $L = MA$, L_1 its centralizer in G . Let γ be a regular element of G contained in a Cartan subgroup $H = H_K H_p$ of L_1 . We will define a left L_1 -invariant function $v_{A_1}^p$ on G with the following properties.

If f' is a wave packet coming from a cuspidal parabolic subgroup $P' = M'A'N'$ of G with $\dim A' \leq \dim A$ and A not conjugate to A' , then

$$(1.4) \quad \int_{H_p \backslash G} f'(x^{-1}\gamma x) v_{A_1}^p(x) \, d\dot{x} = 0.$$

Now let f be a wave packet corresponding to $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$. Then

$$(1.5) \quad \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) v_{A_1}^P(x) dx = 0 \quad \text{if } H_p \neq A_1.$$

If $H_p = A_1$, let $\gamma = \gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \gamma_k$ be a complete set of elements of L for which $\gamma_i = x_i \gamma x_i^{-1}$ for some $x_i \in G$, but γ_i and γ_j are not conjugate in L for $1 \leq i \neq j \leq k$. Let $A_i = x_i A_1 x_i^{-1}$. Then

$$(1.6) \quad \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}\gamma x) \sum_{i=1}^k v_{A_i}^P(x, x) dx \\ = (-1)^{p_1} [W(\omega)]^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}(\gamma) d\nu$$

where p_1 is the dimension of $A_1 \cap M$.

Formulas (1.4)–(1.6) are proved by using Arthur’s formula and results of Harish-Chandra relating characters and orbital integrals on G to those on M and L . Any unexplained notation follows that of Harish-Chandra [2, 3, 4].

2. Background material. Let G be a real reductive Lie group, \mathfrak{g} the Lie algebra of G . Let K be a maximal compact subgroup of G , θ the Cartan involution of G corresponding to K , and B a real symmetric bilinear form on \mathfrak{g} . Assume that (G, K, θ, B) satisfy the general assumptions of Harish-Chandra in [2] and that Haar measures are normalized as in [2]. Given a θ -stable Cartan subgroup H of G , we will write $H = H_K H_p$ where $H_K = H \cap K$ and H_p is a vector subgroup with Lie algebra \mathfrak{h}_p contained in the -1 eigenspace for θ . Let G' be the set of regular semisimple elements of G , $H' = H \cap G'$. If J is any subgroup of G , we will write $N_G(J)$ and $C_G(J)$ for the normalizer and centralizer of J in G , respectively, and $W(G, J) = N_G(J)/C_G(J)$.

We will first review some definitions and formulas of Harish-Chandra from [2, 3, 4]. Fix a double unitary representation τ of K on a finite-dimensional Hilbert space V . Let $\mathcal{C}(G, \tau)$ and ${}^0\mathcal{C}(G, \tau)$ denote the τ -spherical functions in the spaces of V -valued Schwartz functions $\mathcal{C}(G, V)$ and V -valued cusp forms ${}^0\mathcal{C}(G, V)$ respectively. Let F_0 be the operator on V given by

$$F_0 v = \int_K \tau(k^{-1}) v \tau(k) dk, \quad v \in V.$$

For $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, V)$ and $x \in G$, define $\tilde{f}(x) = \int_K f(k^{-1} x k) dk$. Then if $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, \tau)$, $\tilde{f}(x) = F_0 f(x)$, $x \in G$.

Fix a cuspidal parabolic subgroup $P = MAN$, that is, a parabolic subgroup of G with $\varepsilon_2(M) \neq \emptyset$. Let τ_M be the restriction of τ to $K_M = K \cap M$. For any $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, V)$, $m \in M$, and $a \in A$, let

$$(2.1) \quad f^{(P)}(ma) = f_a^{(P)}(m) = \delta_p^{1/2}(a) \int_N f(man) \, dn$$

where δ_p is the module of P . Then $f_a^{(P)} \in \mathcal{C}(M, V)$, $f^{(P)} \in \mathcal{C}(MA, V)$, and the following relationships between f and $f^{(P)}$ can be found in or easily derived from results in [2, 3, 4].

Let H be a θ -stable Cartan subgroup of L . for $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, V)$ and $h \in H'$,

$$(2.2) \quad \int_N f(n^{-1}hn) \, dn = \Delta_+^G(h)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h) f^{(P)}(h)$$

where Δ_+^L and Δ_+^G are the functions Δ_+ on H , considered as a Cartan subgroup of L and G respectively, defined by Harish-Chandra in [2].

For $\nu \in \mathcal{F} = \mathfrak{a}^*$ and $m \in M$, define

$$(2.3) \quad f_\nu^{(P)}(m) = \int_A f^{(P)}(ma) e^{-i\nu(\log a)} \, da.$$

Then because $d\nu$ is the dual measure to da on A and $f^{(P)}$ is rapidly decreasing in the A variable,

$$(2.4) \quad f^{(P)}(ma) = \int_{\mathcal{F}} f_\nu^{(P)}(m) e^{i\nu(\log a)} \, d\nu.$$

For $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{F}$, let $\pi_{\omega, \nu}$ be the tempered unitary representation of G induced from $\omega \otimes e^{i\nu} \otimes 1$ on MAN . Let $\Theta_{\omega, \nu}$ and Θ_ω denote the characters of $\pi_{\omega, \nu}$ and ω considered as functions on G' and M' respectively. For $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, \tau)$, $g \in \mathcal{C}(M, \tau_M)$, define

$$\langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle = \int_G f(x) \overline{\Theta_{\omega, \nu}(x)} \, dx \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \Theta_\omega, g \rangle = \int_M g(m) \overline{\Theta_\omega(m)} \, dm.$$

Then, for $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, \tau)$, $\nu \in \mathcal{F}$, $f_\nu^{(P)} \in \mathcal{C}(M, \tau_M)$ and

$$(2.5) \quad \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle = F_0 \langle \Theta_\omega, f_\nu^{(P)} \rangle.$$

For $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$, let $L(\omega) = {}^0\mathcal{C}(M, \tau_M) \cap \mathfrak{h}_\omega \otimes V$ where \mathfrak{h}_ω is the closed subspace of $L^2(M)$ spanned by matrix coefficients for ω . For $\psi \in L(\omega)$, $\alpha \in C_c^\infty(\mathcal{F})$, and $x \in G$, define

$$(2.6) \quad \varphi_\alpha(x) = \int_{\mathcal{F}} \alpha(\nu) E(P : \psi : \nu : x) \mu(\omega : \nu) \, d\nu$$

where $E(P : \psi : \nu)$ is the Eisenstein integral defined in [2], and $\mu(\omega : \nu)$ is the Plancherel factor corresponding to $\pi_{\omega, \nu}$. Then $\varphi_\alpha \in \mathcal{C}(G, \tau)$ is called a wave packet for $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$, and for $\nu \in \mathcal{F}$, $(\varphi_\alpha)_\nu^{(P)}$ belongs to $\sum_{s \in W(G, A)} L(s\omega)$ and is supported on a compact subset of \mathcal{F} .

We now turn to Arthur's results. Let A be a special vector subgroup of G , that is, the split component of a parabolic subgroup of G . Write $\mathcal{P}(A)$ for the (finite) set of all parabolic subgroups of G having A as split component. For $P \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ let Φ_P denote the set of simple roots of (P, A) . We identify \mathfrak{a} , the Lie algebra of A , and its dual via the bilinear form B . A set $\mathcal{Y} = \{Y_P | P \in \mathcal{P}(A)\}$ of points in \mathfrak{a} is called A -orthogonal if for any pair of adjacent parabolic subgroups $P, P' \in \mathcal{P}(A)$, $Y_P - Y_{P'} = r\alpha, r \in \mathbf{R}$, where α is the unique element of Φ_P with $-\alpha \in \Phi_{P'}$. Let

$$\mathfrak{a}^0 = \{H \in \mathfrak{a} | \langle \alpha, H \rangle = 0 \text{ for every root } \alpha \text{ of } (\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{a})\},$$

\mathfrak{a}^1 its orthogonal complement in A . Let p be the dimension of \mathfrak{a}^1 , and let $c_A = |\det C|^{1/2}$ where C is the Cartan matrix for the roots of $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{a})$. For any $P = MAN \in \mathcal{P}(A)$ and $x \in G$, write

$$x = m(x) \exp(H_P(x)) n(x) k(x)$$

where $m(x) \in M, n(x) \in N, k(x) \in K$, and $H_P(x) \in \mathfrak{a}$. For any A -orthogonal set \mathcal{Y} and $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}_C^1$, define

$$(2.7) \quad v(x : \mathcal{Y}) = c_A (p!)^{-1} \sum_{P \in \mathcal{P}(A)} \frac{\langle \lambda, Y_P - H_P(x) \rangle^p}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Phi_P} \langle \lambda, \alpha \rangle}.$$

Then $v(x : \mathcal{Y})$ is independent of λ and is left-invariant under $L = C_G(A)$. It is also clearly right K -invariant. If $v_A(x) = v(x : \mathcal{Y})$ for any A -orthogonal set \mathcal{Y} , then (1.3) is valid.

3. The distributions. Fix a cuspidal parabolic subgroup $P = MAN$ of G . Let A_1^M be a special vector subgroup of $M, A_1 = A_1^M A$. Let \mathcal{Y}_1 be an A_1^M -orthogonal set, and let $v_1^M(m) = v(m : \mathcal{Y}_1), m \in M$, be the function on M defined as in (2.7) with respect to A_1^M and \mathcal{Y}_1 . Extend v_1^M to a function v_1 on G by setting

$$(3.1) \quad v_1(mank) = [W(G, A)]^{-1} v_1^M(m),$$

$$m \in M, a \in A, n \in N, k \in K.$$

This extension is well defined since v_1^M is right K_M -invariant. Since v_1^M is left-invariant under $L_1^M = C_M(A_1^M), v_1$ is left-invariant under $L_1 = L_1^M A = C_G(A_1)$.

Let H be a θ -stable Cartan subgroup of G with $A_1 \subseteq H_p$. Write $J = H \cap M$. Let $h \in H'$. For $f \in C_c^\infty(G, V)$, define

$$(3.2) \quad \langle r_1(h), f \rangle = \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}hx) v_1(x) \, d\dot{x}.$$

LEMMA 3.3. *For any $h \in H'$ the distribution $r_1(h)$ is tempered. For any $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, V)$, $\int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}hx) v_1(x) \, d\dot{x}$ is absolutely convergent and*

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r_1(h), f \rangle &= \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}hx) v_1(x) \, d\dot{x} \\ &= [W(G, A)]^{-1} \Delta_+^G(h)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h) \int_{J_p \backslash M} \tilde{f}^{(P)}(m^{-1}hm) v_1^M(m) \, dm. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Let $f \in \mathcal{C}(G, V)$. Write $h = ja$ where $j \in J'$, $a \in A$. Then using (2.2) and (3.1),

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{H_p \backslash G} |f(x^{-1}hx) v_1(x)| \, d\dot{x} \\ &= [W(G, A)]^{-1} \int_{J_p \backslash M} |v_1^M(m)| \int_{NK} |f(k^{-1}n^{-1}m^{-1}hmnk)| \, dn \, dk \, dm \\ &= [W(G, A)]^{-1} \Delta_+^G(h)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h) \int_{J_p \backslash M} |v_1^M(m) \tilde{f}_a^{(P)}(m^{-1}jm)| \, dm \end{aligned}$$

since Δ_+^G and Δ_+^L are invariant under conjugation by M . The lemma now follows since for any $a \in A$, $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}_a^{(P)}$ is a continuous map from $\mathcal{C}(G, V)$ to $\mathcal{C}(M, V)$ [2]. Further, for $g \in \mathcal{C}(M, V)$, $j \in J'$,

$$\int_{J_p \backslash M} g(m^{-1}jm) v_1^M(m) \, dm$$

is absolutely convergent and defines a tempered distribution [1]. □

COROLLARY 3.4. *Let A' be a special vector subgroup of G with $\dim A' \leq \dim A$. Let $P' = M'A'N' \in \mathcal{P}(A')$, $\omega' \in \varepsilon_2(M')$. Let f be a wave packet defined as in (2.6) with respect to ω' and P' . Then $\langle r_1(h), \tilde{f} \rangle = 0$ unless A' is conjugate to A under K .*

Proof. In this case $\tilde{f}^{(P')} = 0$ [4]. Thus the result follows from (3.3). □

LEMMA 3.5 *Suppose that $f = \varphi_\alpha$ is a wave packet associated to $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$. Let $h \in H'$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r_1(h), f \rangle &= [W(G, A)]^{-1} (-1)^{p_1} \varepsilon(A_1, H) [W(\omega)]^{-1} \Delta_+^G(h)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h) \\ &\quad \cdot \int_{\mathcal{F}} \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle \sum_{s \in W(G, A)} (\Theta_{s\omega} \otimes e^{is\nu})(h) d\nu \end{aligned}$$

where $p_1 = \dim A_1^M$.

Proof. Using (3.3) and (2.4),

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r_1(h), f \rangle &= [W(G, A)]^{-1} \Delta_+^G(h)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h) F_0 \\ &\quad \cdot \int_{J_p \backslash M} v_1^M(m) \int_{\mathcal{F}} e^{i\nu(\log a)} f_\nu^{(P)}(m^{-1}jm) d\nu dm. \end{aligned}$$

Since $f_\nu^{(P)} \in \mathcal{C}(M, V)$ and is supported on a compact subset of \mathcal{F} , we can interchange the order of integration. Let $W = W(G, A)$, and write $f_\nu^{(P)} = \sum_{s \in W/W(\omega)} g_s$ where $g_s \in L(s\omega)$. Then, using (1.3),

$$\int_{J_p \backslash M} g_s(m^{-1}jm) v_1^M(m) dm = (-1)^{p_1} \varepsilon(A_1^M, J) \langle \Theta_{s\omega}, g_s \rangle \Theta_{s\omega}(j).$$

But $\varepsilon(A_1^M, J) = \varepsilon(A_1, H)$, and $\langle \Theta_{s\omega}, g_{s'} \rangle = 0$ if $s\omega \neq s'\omega$. Thus using (2.5),

$$\begin{aligned} F_0 \int_{J_p \backslash M} f_\nu^{(P)}(m^{-1}jm) v_1^M(m) dm &= (-1)^{p_1} \varepsilon(A_1, H) \sum_{s \in W/W(\omega)} F_0 \langle \Theta_{s\omega}, f_\nu^{(P)} \rangle \Theta_{s\omega}(j) \\ &= (-1)^{p_1} \varepsilon(A_1, H) [W(\omega)]^{-1} \sum_{s \in W} \langle \Theta_{s\omega, \nu}, f \rangle \Theta_{s\omega}(j). \end{aligned}$$

Now for each $s \in W$,

$$\int_{\mathcal{F}} e^{i\nu(\log a)} \Theta_{s\omega}(j) \langle \Theta_{s\omega, \nu}, f \rangle d\nu = \int_{\mathcal{F}} e^{is\nu(\log a)} \Theta_{s\omega}(j) \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle d\nu$$

since $\Theta_{s\omega, s\nu} = \Theta_{\omega, \nu}$. □

Now suppose that H is a Cartan subgroup of G with $H_p = A_1$, and fix $h \in H'$. Let $h_i = x_i h x_i^{-1}$, $1 \leq i \leq k$, be defined as in (1.6). Then using

results from [6, 7], for $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$ and $\nu \in \mathcal{F}$,

$$(3.6) \quad \Theta_{\omega, \nu}(h) = \sum_{i=1}^k \Delta_+^G(h_i)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h_i) (\Theta_\omega \otimes e^{i\nu})(h_i).$$

Fix $1 \leq i \leq k$. Let $A_i = x_i A_1 x_i^{-1}$, $A_i^M = A_i \cap M$. Let $L_i = C_G(A_i)$. Then A_i^M is a special vector subgroup of M . Let \mathcal{Y}_i be any A_i^M -orthogonal set, and define v_i on G as in (3.1) starting from v_i^M . Then v_i is left L_i -invariant so that $x \rightarrow v_i(x, x)$ is left L_1 -invariant. For $x \in G$ define

$$(3.7) \quad \langle r(h), f \rangle = \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}hx) \sum_{i=1}^k v_i(x, x) dx.$$

THEOREM 3.8. *Let H be a Cartan subgroup of G with $H_p = A_1$, $h \in H'$. Then $r(h)$ is a tempered distribution, and for f a wave packet corresponding to $\omega \in \varepsilon_2(M)$,*

$$\langle r(h), f \rangle = (-1)^{p_1} [W(\omega)]^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}(h) d\nu.$$

Proof. Define x_1, \dots, x_k and h_1, \dots, h_k as in (3.6). Then for $1 \leq i \leq k$, $H_i = x_i H x_i^{-1}$ is a Cartan subgroup of G with $A_i = (H_i)_p$ so that using (3.3),

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r(h), f \rangle &= \sum_{i=1}^k \int_{H_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}hx) v_i(x, x) dx \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^k \int_{(H_i)_p \backslash G} f(x^{-1}h_i x) v_i(x) dx \\ &= (-1)^{p_1} \varepsilon(A_1, H) [W(\omega)]^{-1} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \langle \Theta_{\omega, \nu}, f \rangle \varphi(\omega, \nu, h) d\nu \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi(\omega, \nu, h) &= [W]^{-1} \sum_{s \in W} \sum_{i=1}^k \Delta_+^G(h_i)^{-1} \Delta_+^L(h_i) \Theta_{s\omega} \otimes e^{is\nu}(h_i) \\ &= [W]^{-1} \sum_{s \in W} \Theta_{s\omega, s\nu}(h) = \Theta_{\omega, \nu}(h). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

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