

Invariant distributions on the n -fold metaplectic covers of p -adic $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$ *

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Dedicated to John Benedetto on his 60th birthday.

Abstract

We describe the unitary and tempered dual of the n -fold metaplectic covers of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$, where \mathbf{F} is a p -adic field with p not dividing $2n$. We show that any tempered distribution on the n -fold metaplectic covers of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ or of $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$ (satisfying the assumptions of §1.1 below) may be expressed as a distributional integral over the tempered dual. We also show that any invariant distribution on the n -fold metaplectic covers of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ or of $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$ is supported on the tempered dual.

1 Introduction

Since the days of Fourier, it has been known that any “nice” function on \mathbb{R} has a Fourier transform, $f^\wedge(\pi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x)\pi(x) dx$, where $\pi \in \{e^{sx} \mid s \in \mathbb{C}\} = \mathbb{R}^\wedge$ belongs to the dual space. Let $(\mathbb{R})_u^\wedge$ denote the unitary dual space (π is unitary if and only if $s \in i\mathbb{R}$) and denote the Schwartz space by

$$\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}) = \{f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid |D^n f(y)| \leq C \cdot (1 + |y|)^{-N}\},$$

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where $C = C_{N,n,f} > 0$ is a constant. The image of the Schwartz space under unitary Fourier transform is $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})_u^\wedge \cong \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$. This result enables us to define, for each tempered $T \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})'$, $T^\wedge \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})'$ by $T^\wedge(f^\wedge) = T(f)$ (see for example, Benedetto [4], §1.3.6). A compactly supported tempered distribution is given by integration against some distributional derivative $D^n u$, some $n \geq 0$ and some $u \in C_c(\mathbb{R})$. These last few facts are well-known results of L. Schwartz [27]. Thanks, to R. Paley and N. Wiener, the image of $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ under unitary Fourier transform has also been classified (in terms of the “the Paley-Wiener space,” a space of complex-analytic functions satisfying certain boundedness conditions).

We want analogs of these results for metaplectic covers of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ and $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$, where \mathbf{F} is a p -adic field. In fact, Schwartz’ classification of the compactly supported distributions will be used to prove its own p -adic analog. Moreover, the image of the Fourier transform shall be determined in the $SL(2)$ case.

If G is a connected reductive p -adic group with compact center then any (not necessarily tempered) invariant distribution on G is supported on the tempered dual ([22], [3]). In Theorem 4.6 below, we prove this result in the case of n -fold metaplectic covers \overline{G} of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ or of $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$, as in §1.1 below. We also express the Fourier transform of any tempered distribution of \overline{G} as a distributional integral over the tempered dual. Both of these results require some understanding of the tempered dual of \overline{G} .

A few words on possible applications.

First, Arthur invariant trace formula [2] is proving to be one of the most powerful and useful methods automorphic representation theory (which might be regarded as non-abelian harmonic analysis of reductive groups over the adèles \mathbb{A} of a number field). Comparatively little has been done for non-linear groups, such as the metaplectic covering groups, due primarily to limitations in our knowledge of the non-abelian harmonic analysis of reductive groups over the p -adics. Theorem 4.5 is one of the assumptions needed to extend [2] to the metaplectic covers of $SL(2)$, $GL(r)$ (see [24] for the $GL(r)$ case). Thanks to results here, it appears that all the assumptions in local harmonic analysis have been proven now to establish the Arthur invariant trace formula on the 2-fold metaplectic cover of $SL(2, \mathbb{A})$. The trace formula for the 2-fold metaplectic cover of $SL(2, \mathbb{A})$ can be used to prove the multiplicity one conjecture for $SL(2)$ [21].

Second, one cannot help but notice the p -adic nature of the Walsh functions studied in wavelet theory [8]. Perhaps the (as far as I know undeveloped) theory of Walsh functions on non-abelian groups might find some relevancy in the ideas discussed here.

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1.1 Assumptions on \overline{G}

Throughout most of this paper we shall denote by G the group of \mathbf{F} -rational points of a connected reductive algebraic group \underline{G} over \mathbf{F} . We denote by \overline{G} a group which is a finite cyclic central topological extension,

$$1 \rightarrow \mu_n \rightarrow \overline{G} \rightarrow G \rightarrow 1,$$

where μ_n denotes the group of n^{th} roots of unity, \mathbf{F} contains all n^{th} roots of unity,

- $\underline{G} = SL(2)$ and p does not divide $2n$,

or

- $\underline{G} = GL(r)$, p does not divide n , and n is relatively prime to all composite positive integers less than or equal to r .

We denote the above projection by $\rho : \overline{G} \rightarrow G$.

Let \mathbf{F} be a p -adic field with uniformizer $\pi_{\mathbf{F}}$, ring of integers $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}}$, residual characteristic $p = \text{char}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}}/\pi_{\mathbf{F}}\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}})$, $q = |\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}}/\pi_{\mathbf{F}}\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}}|$, and normalized valuation $|\dots|_{\mathbf{F}}$. Let

$$N = \begin{cases} n, & n \text{ odd}, \\ n/2, & n \text{ even} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

and let N_0 denote the unipotent upper triangular subgroup of \underline{G} .

For $g = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in G = SL(2, \mathbf{F})$, let

$$x(g) = \begin{cases} c, & c \neq 0, \\ d, & c = 0, \end{cases}$$

and let $\beta = \beta_{n, \mathbf{F}} : G \times G \rightarrow \mu_n$ be defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(g_1, g_2) &= (x(g_1), x(g_2))_n \cdot (-x(g_1)^{-1}x(g_2), x(g_1g_2))_n \\ &= \left(\frac{x(g_1g_2)}{x(g_1)}, \frac{x(g_1g_2)}{x(g_2)} \right)_n, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $(\dots, \dots)_n = (\dots, \dots)_{n, \mathbf{F}} : \mathbf{F}^\times \times \mathbf{F}^\times \rightarrow \mu_n$ denotes the Hilbert symbol [31]. This cocycle defines a cover \overline{G} satisfying the properties above. Elements of \overline{G} will be denoted by (g, ς) , where $g \in G$, $\varsigma \in \mu_n$.

The cocycle for $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$ is described in [9].

1.2 Basic notation

If H is any subset of G then denote $\overline{H} = \rho^{-1}(H)$. In particular, if G_r denotes the set of regular elements of G in the sense of [22], let \overline{G}_r be the pull-back of G_r via the projection ρ .

Let $\mathcal{L}(G)$ denote the set of standard Levi subgroups of G (with respect to a given maximal split torus of G). We write A for the diagonal subgroup of G . Let $\mathcal{L}(\overline{G})$ denote the set of Levis in $\mathcal{L}(G)$ pulled back to \overline{G} via ρ . We call these the standard Levi subgroups of \overline{G} . For each $M \in \mathcal{L}(G)$, let $X(M)$ denote the variety of unramified characters of M and let $X^{un}(M)$ denote the variety of unramified unitary characters of M . If $M = \overline{A} \in \mathcal{L}(\overline{G})$, let $X(M)$ denote the variety of unramified characters of A^n (which we may identify with a character of $\overline{A^n}$) and let $X^{un}(M)$ denote the variety of unramified unitary characters of A^n . Let $W = N_G(A)/A$ denote the Weyl group of A . When $G = SL(2, \mathbf{F})$, we sometimes identify W (as a set) with $\{1, w_0\}$ or sometimes (as a group) with $\{1, w_1\}$, where $w_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \in G$, $w_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, and when W is to act on \overline{A} instead of A , we sometimes identify (using a slight abuse of notation) W (as a set) with $\{1, \overline{w}_0\}$, where $\overline{w}_0 = (w_0, 1)$.

We shall often identify the unipotent radical $N = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & * \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & \dots & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \subset G$ with

the subgroup $\{(n, 1) \mid n \in N\} \subset \overline{G}$. Let $K_0 = \underline{G}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}})$. It is known that if $(p, 2n) = 1$ then \overline{K}_0 splits (see [10] for $SL(2)$ and [9] for $GL(r)$).

We call a function f of \overline{G} (resp., of any subgroup H of \overline{G}) *genuine* if it satisfies

$$f(g, \varsigma) = \varsigma^{-1} \cdot f(g, 1), \quad (3)$$

for all $g \in G$ (resp., $(g, \varsigma) \in H$). Let $C_c^\infty(G)$ denote the space of smooth (i.e., locally constant and compactly supported) functions on G and let $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$ denote the space of smooth genuine functions on \overline{G} .

Let $\|g\| = \max(|g_{ij}|)$, where $g = [g_{ij}] \in G$, and let $\sigma(g) = \log \|g\|$. For each compact open subgroup $K \subset \subset \overline{G}$, let

$$\mathcal{S}_K(\overline{G}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} f \in C_c(\overline{G}/K) \mid f \text{ genuine,} \\ |f(x)| \leq C \cdot \frac{\Xi(x)}{(1+\sigma(x))^r}, \quad \forall \overline{x} = (x, \varsigma) \in \overline{G}, \\ \text{for each } r > 0 \end{array} \right\},$$

where $C = C_{r,f} > 0$ is a constant, where $C_c(\overline{G}/K)$ denotes the space of compactly supported functions which are bi- K -invariant and where $\Xi(x) = \int_{K_0} \delta_B(xk)^{-1/2} dk$. Here, δ_B denotes the usual modulus function defined for $\overline{x} = (x, \varsigma) \in \overline{G}_r$ by

$\delta_B(\bar{x}) = |\det(\text{Ad}(x_d))_{\mathfrak{n}}|$, where x_d denotes a diagonalization of x in $\underline{G}(\bar{\mathbf{F}})$, where $\bar{\mathbf{F}}$ denotes a separable algebraic closure of \mathbf{F} and the valuation $|\dots|$ has been extended to $\bar{\mathbf{F}}$, and where \mathfrak{n} denotes the Lie algebra of the unipotent upper triangular N (more precisely, the Lie algebra of $N(\bar{\mathbf{F}})$). We topologize $\mathcal{S}_K(\bar{G})$ via the seminorms $v_k(f) = \sup_{x \in \bar{G}} |f(x)|^{\frac{(1+\sigma(x))^k}{\Xi(x)}}$. Let $\mathcal{S}(\bar{G}) = \bigcup_K \mathcal{S}_K(\bar{G})$, where K runs over all compact open subgroups of \bar{G} . This is the (p-adic¹) *Schwartz space* of \bar{G} . Let S denote the collection of all seminorms on $\mathcal{S}(\bar{G})$ whose restriction to each $\mathcal{S}_K(\bar{G})$ is continuous. In the semi-norm topology induced by S , the Schwartz space is a complete locally convex topological vector space. Moreover, $\mathcal{S}(\bar{G}) \subset L^2(\bar{G})$ and $\mathcal{S}(\bar{G})$ is an algebra under convolution.

We call a representation π of \bar{G} (resp., of any subgroup H of \bar{G}) *genuine* if it satisfies

$$\pi(g, \varsigma) = \varsigma \cdot \pi(g, 1), \quad (4)$$

for all $g \in G$ (resp., $g \in \rho(H)$). If π denotes an admissible representation of G then let Θ_π denote the character of π . Likewise, if π denotes an admissible genuine representation of \bar{G} then let Θ_π denote the character of π (see [16], §4, for details on how to extend the results in §4.8 of [28] to metaplectic covers). We may regard Θ_π as either a locally integrable genuine function on \bar{G}_r , or as an invariant distribution, whichever is appropriate for the context, as in [12], [13].

For each Levi component M of \bar{G} , let

- $\Pi(M) = \Pi(M)_a$ denote the genuine admissible dual of M (the set of equivalence classes of genuine irreducible admissible representations² of M),
- $\Pi(M)_t$ denote the genuine tempered dual of M ,
- $\Pi(M)_u$ denote the genuine unitary dual of M ,

Furthermore, let

- $R_t(\bar{G})_{\mathbb{Z}}$ denote the Grothendieck group of genuine, tempered, admissible representations of \bar{G} and let $R_t(\bar{G}) = R_t(\bar{G})_{\mathbb{Z}} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}$,
- $PW_t(\bar{G})$ denote the *tempered Paley-Wiener space*, i.e., the space of functionals on $R_t(\bar{G})$ of the form $\phi_f : \pi \rightarrow \Theta_\pi(f)$, for some $f \in \mathcal{S}(\bar{G})$. Similarly, let $PW(\bar{G})$ denote the *Paley-Wiener space*, i.e., the space of functionals on $R(\bar{G})$ of the form $\phi_f : \pi \rightarrow \Theta_\pi(f)$, for some $f \in C_c^\infty(\bar{G})$.

¹In the p-adic case, the letter \mathcal{C} is often used for the Schwartz space, rather than the letter \mathcal{S} .

²From this point on, all representations will be assumed to be admissible unless otherwise stated.

2 Basic lemmas on orbital integrals

If $p < \infty$ then $\mathbf{F}^\times = \pi^\mathbb{Z} \cdot \mu_{q-1} \cdot U_1$, a direct product. If $(p, 2n) = 1$ then $\mu_n \subset \mathbf{F}^\times$ implies $q \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$. Recall N is defined in (1).

Lemma 2.1. *Suppose A is the diagonal subgroup of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$.*

- (a) *If $(p, N) = 1$ then $C = \pi^\mathbb{Z} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}}^{\times N} = \pi^\mathbb{Z} \mu_{q-1}^N (1 + \pi \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}})$ is a maximal subgroup of \mathbf{F}^\times for which $\overline{h(C)} \subset \overline{A}$ is abelian, where $h(x) = \text{diag}(x, x^{-1})$.*
- (b) *If $(p, n) = 1$ then $C = \pi^\mathbb{Z} (1 + \pi \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{F}}) \mu_{q-1}^N$ has index N in \mathbf{F}^\times .*

The (straightforward) verification of this fact is omitted (see [16] or [18]).

Let $D(h(a)) = D_{G/A}(\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix}) = \det(1 - \text{Ad}(\begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix}))_{\mathfrak{g}/\mathfrak{a}} = -(a - a^{-1})^2$, where $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{a}$ denote the Lie algebras of G, A , resp.. This map pulls back to \overline{G}_r via ρ . For $t \in \overline{G}_r$, let $T = \text{Cent}(t, \overline{G})$, denote the centralizer³. Define the *orbital integral* of $f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$ by

$$F_f^T(t) = |D(t)|^{1/2} \int_{T \backslash \overline{G}} f(x^{-1}tx) \frac{dx}{dt}. \quad (5)$$

(This exists as a simple consequence of a well-known result of Harish-Chandra [12]. We define D as above by identifying T with A over the algebraic closure.) If $a \in \overline{A}$ is regular, then define

$$F_f^{A^N}(a) = |D(a)|^{1/2} \int_{A^N \backslash \overline{G}} f(x^{-1}ax) \frac{dx}{da}. \quad (6)$$

Lemma 2.2. *Let \overline{G} be a cover of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ as in §1.1.*

- (a) *For $f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$, $a \in \overline{A} - \overline{A^N}$, we have $F_f^{A^N}(a) = 0$.*
- (b) *The map $f \mapsto F_f^{A^N}$ defines a surjection $C_c^\infty(\overline{G}) \rightarrow C_c^\infty(\overline{A^N})^W$, where the action of W on $\overline{A^N}$ is as in §2.*
- (c) *The map $f \mapsto F_f^{A^N}$ defines a continuous surjection $\mathcal{S}(\overline{G}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(\overline{A^N})^W$.*

The relatively straightforward proofs of these results will be omitted. (However, one may find detailed proofs in [16].)

For orbital integrals on $\overline{GL(r, \mathbf{F})}$, we refer to chapter 1 of [9]. For example, the analog of part (b) above follows from §I.7-I.8 in [9].

³Note T need not be equal to the metaplectic cover of a centralizer of G . In other words, if $t = (x, 1)$ then in general $\text{Cent}(t, \overline{G}) \neq \overline{\text{Cent}(x, G)}$.

3 Unitary and tempered dual of $\overline{SL(2, \mathbf{F})}$

In this section, let \overline{G} be a cover of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ as in §1.1. We shall need some facts about the tempered dual of \overline{G} for the main result in the next section. In particular, we recall the classification of the unitary and tempered dual of \overline{G} in order to state a theorem of “Paley-Wiener type” for the unitary and tempered Fourier transforms in §4.1 below. All the results of this section are essentially in the literature in one form or another but see [18], [20] for more details.

For $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$, the necessary results on the tempered dual may be deduced from §19 of [9].

It is remarked in [5], §2.2 that the arguments of [6], chapter 2 carry over to finite central extensions of reductive groups over a p -adic field (see also [23], §1.2). The arguments of [7], section 2, also carry over to finite central extensions of split reductive groups over a p -adic field. Such results reduce the determination of the unitary dual of \overline{G} down to classifying the supercuspidal representations (done in [19] when $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ and [17] for any p, n) and the constituents of the induced representations.

3.1 Principal series

If $\overline{P} = \overline{M}N$ denotes a Levi decomposition of a parabolic subgroup of \overline{G} and (σ, W) is a genuine supercuspidal representation of \overline{M} (which we extend to $\overline{P} = \overline{M}N$ trivially), then define $I_M(\sigma) : \overline{G} \rightarrow \text{Aut}(V)$ to be the *unitarily induced representation*: the representation of \overline{G} by right translation on

$$V = \left\{ f : \overline{G} \rightarrow W \text{ genuine} \mid \begin{array}{l} (1) \ f(mg) = \delta_P(m)^{1/2} \sigma(m) f(g), \\ \quad \forall g \in \overline{G}, m \in \overline{M} \\ (2) \text{ for some compact open subgp } K \subset \overline{G}, \\ \quad f(gk) = f(g), \ \forall k \in K, g \in \overline{G} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Here δ_P denotes the modulus function in §1.2.

In general, if ρ is a representation of a group $H \subset G$ and $x \in N_G(H)$ then we let ρ^x be the representation defined by $\rho^x(h) = \rho(x^{-1}hx)$, for $h \in H$.

Let $\chi, \chi' \in \Pi(\overline{A})$ and let $\overline{w} = (w, 1)$, for $w \in W$. If $\chi^{\overline{w}} \neq \chi$ for all $w \in W - \{1\}$ then we call χ *regular*. We say that χ, χ' are *W -conjugate* if $\chi' = \chi^{\overline{w}}$ for some $w \in W$. It is known that distinct W -conjugacy classes of $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})$ yield inequivalent representations.

Suppose that $\pi \in \Pi(\overline{G})_u$. We call π a (unitary) *principal series* representation if $\pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ for some $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$. These representations are tempered. In case $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ is reducible and $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$, we call the irreducible constituents *reducible principal series* (or, more precisely, *reducible principal series constituents*).

Let $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})$. The induced representation $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ is in general not irreducible. However, we do have the following result.

Proposition 3.1. (Moen [26])

- (a) If n is even and $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ then $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ is irreducible and unitary for all $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$.
- (b) If n is odd and $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ then $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ is irreducible and unitary for all $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that (a) $\chi = 1$ or (b) $\chi^{\overline{w_0}} \neq \chi$ where $\overline{w_0} = (w_0, 1)$. If $\chi^{\overline{w_0}} = \chi$ and $\chi \neq 1$ then $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ is reducible and has two irreducible constituents.

In fact, C. Moen [25] explicitly computes the intertwining operators as matrices using the Kirillov model when $\gcd(p, n) = 1$.

Proposition 3.2. $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ is irreducible and unitary for all $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that $\chi^{\overline{w_0}} \neq \chi$ where $\overline{w_0} = (w_0, 1)$.

The above result has a direct proof, based on Bruhat theory, but it can also be deduced from results in [9].

3.2 Complementary series

In this subsection, we shall briefly review some of the results of Ariturk [1] and use some results of Flicker and Kazhdan [9] to generalize them to the n -fold cover ([1] assumed $n = 3$ and $p > 3$). In case $n = 2$, these results were essentially known to Gelbart-Sally [11].

We call an irreducible unitary representation π a *complementary series* representation if $\pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$ for some $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A}) - \Pi(\overline{A})_u$. These representations are not tempered.

Let $C \subset A$ be a maximal subgroup of A for which $\overline{C} \subset \overline{A}$ is abelian. Let $\mu \in \Pi(\overline{C})$, $\chi = \chi_\mu = \text{Ind}_{\overline{C}}^{\overline{A}} \mu \in \Pi(\overline{A})$. If $\mu(x) = \mu_0(x)|x|^s$, for some character μ_0 of finite order and some $s \in \mathbb{C}$ then we write $s = s(\mu) = s(\chi)$.

Let $K(\mu)$ denote the space of locally constant functions $f : F \times \overline{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that

- (i) $f(x, a_1 a_2) = \mu(a_1) f(x, a_2)$, $a_1 \in \overline{C}$, $a_2 \in \overline{A}$,
- (ii) $|x| \chi \left(\begin{bmatrix} x & 0 \\ 0 & x^{-1} \end{bmatrix}, 1 \right) f(x, a)$ is constant for $|x|$ large.

Let $R \subset \overline{A}$ denote a complete set of representatives of $\overline{A}/\overline{C}$, and let r denote the cardinality of R . The elements $f \in K(\mu)$ may be identified with the r -tuple $(f(x, a))_{a \in R}$.

Let $V(\mu)$ denote the space of all locally constant functions $\varphi : \overline{G} \times \overline{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that

(i) $\varphi(g, a_1 a_2) = \mu(a_1) \varphi(g, a_2)$, $a_1 \in \overline{C}$, $a_2 \in \overline{A}$,
(ii) $\varphi(a_1 n g, a_2) = \delta(a_1) \varphi(g, a_2 a_1)$, where $a_1 \in \overline{A}$, $a_2 \in \overline{A}$, $n \in N_0$. Here δ denotes the usual modulus function as defined in §1.2 above. For $\varphi \in V(\mu)$ and $w \in W$, define the map $T = T_w$ by

$$T\varphi(g, a) = \int_F \varphi(\overline{w} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, 1) \cdot g, \overline{w} a \overline{w}^{-1} dx, \quad \text{Re}(s(\mu)) > 0,$$

where $\overline{w} = (w, 1)$.

Lemma 3.3. (*Ariturk*) T intertwines $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu)$ and $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu^{\overline{w}})$.

This lemma does not require us to assume $\gcd(p, n) = 1$.

Let $L(\overline{G}, \overline{B})$ denote the space of all locally constant functions φ on \overline{G} such that

$$\varphi\left(\begin{bmatrix} a & * \\ 0 & a^{-1} \end{bmatrix}, \varsigma\right) \cdot g = |a|^2 \varphi(g).$$

For $\varphi_1 \in V(\mu)$, $\varphi_2 \in V(\mu^w)$, the function $g \mapsto \int_{\overline{A}/\overline{C}} \varphi_1(g, a) \varphi_2(g, a) da$ belongs to $L(\overline{G}, \overline{B})$. Therefore, $\langle \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle = \int_{\overline{B} \backslash \overline{G}} \int_{\overline{A}/\overline{C}} \varphi_1(g, a) \varphi_2(g, a) dadg$ gives a non-degenerate bilinear form on $V(\mu) \times V(\mu^{\overline{w}})$.

Lemma 3.4. (*Ariturk*) $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu^{\overline{w}})$ is the contragredient of $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu)$.

This lemma does not require us to assume $\gcd(p, n) = 1$.

For $f \in K(\mu)$, define the Fourier transform of f by $f^\wedge(x, a) = \int_{\mathbf{F}^\times} f(y, a) \psi(xy) dy$, where ψ is a fixed additive character of \mathbf{F} .

Lemma 3.5. (*Ariturk*) Assume $\gcd(p, n) = 1$. For $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in V(\mu)$, $\mu(x) = |x|^s$, we have

$$\langle \varphi_1, T\varphi_2 \rangle = \int_{\mathbf{F}} \int_{\overline{A}/\overline{C}} f_1^\wedge(x, a) \overline{(Jf_2^\wedge)(x, a)} dadx,$$

where $J = J_\mu$ is a linear transformation on $K(\mu)^\wedge$ and $f_i(x, a) = \varphi_i(\overline{w}^{-1} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, a)$, $i = 1, 2$.

We may identify the map $J = J_\mu$ defined in the above lemma with an $r \times r$ matrix which we still denote by J .

Lemma 3.6. (*Langlands, Ariturk*) Assume $\gcd(p, 2n) = 1$. If $0 \leq \text{Re}(s(\mu)) \leq 1/n$ and $|\text{Im}(s(\mu))| \leq \pi/n \ln(q)$ then the image of J_μ is an irreducible representation of \overline{G} .

Proposition 3.7. (*Flicker-Kazhdan*) If $0 < s(\mu) < 1/n$ then $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu)$ is a unitarizable representation of \overline{G} .

Corollary 3.8. If $0 < s < 1/n$ and $\mu(x) = |x|^s$ then $\langle \varphi_1, T\varphi_2 \rangle$ is a positive definite form. In particular, $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu)$ is unitary in this range. If, in addition, $\gcd(p, 2n) = 1$ then J_μ is a positive definite matrix.

3.3 The special and the “trash” representations

For the origin of the term “trash” representation, see [10].

As a consequence of the above-mentioned facts, we have the following result.

Proposition 3.9. Let $s = 1/n$ and $\mu(x) = |x|^s$.

- (a) The irreducible subrepresentation of $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu)$ (if $\gcd(p, 2n) = 1$, the kernel of J_μ) is the “special” representation π_{sp} . It is tempered and square-integrable (hence unitary). If $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ then it also contains an Iwahori fixed vector.
- (b) If $n > 1$ then the irreducible quotient of $I_{\overline{A}}(\mu)$ (if $\gcd(p, 2n) = 1$, image of J_μ) is an infinite-dimensional, non-tempered representation π_{nt} . If $\gcd(p, n) = 1$ then it is also spherical.

Remark 3.10. In the case $n = 3$ and $p > 3$, this proposition follows from [1]. In case $n = 2$, most of the statements are proven in [11].

Proposition 3.11. (*Kazhdan-Patterson* [23])⁴ π_{nt} is unitary.

Remark 3.12. This was known earlier in the cases $n = 2$ ([11], Theorem 2) and $n = 3$, $p \neq 3$ ([1], Theorem 5.4).

3.4 Classification

We summarize the above results.

Theorem 3.13. Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1 above. If $\pi \in \Pi(\overline{G})_u$ then one of the following holds.

- (Principal series) There is a $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that $(\chi^{\overline{w_0}} \neq \chi \text{ and } \pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi), \text{ as in §3.1.}$

⁴This was originally only a conjecture in [18]. An anonymous referee of [18] pointed out that it followed from [23].

- (Complementary series) There is a $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A}) - \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that $\pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$, as in §3.2.
- (“Reducible principal series”) There is a $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that $(\chi^{\overline{w_0}} = \chi$ and) π is either a subrepresentation or a quotient of $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$, as in §3.1.
- π is a “special” or “trash” representation as in §3.3.
- π is a supercuspidal representation as in [19].

Theorem 3.14. *Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1 above. If $\pi \in \Pi(\overline{G})_t$ then one of the following holds.*

- (Principal series) There is a $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that $(\chi^{\overline{w_0}} \neq \chi$ and) $\pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$, as in §3.1.
- (“Reducible principal series”) There is a $\chi \in \Pi(\overline{A})_u$ such that $(\chi^{\overline{w_0}} = \chi$ and) π is either a subrepresentation or a quotient of $I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$, as in §3.1.
- π is a “special” representation as in §3.3.
- π is a supercuspidal representation as in [19].

4 Invariant distributions

We classify the image of $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$ and of $\mathcal{S}(\overline{G})$ under the “scalar-valued Fourier transform” or “trace map”, $f \mapsto \text{tr } \pi(f)$, where \overline{G} is as in §1.1 above. We prove that all invariant distributions on \overline{G} are supported on tempered characters, where \overline{G} is either a cover of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ or a cover of $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$ as in §1.1. Finally, we show that, for \overline{G} as in §1.1, we can write any invariant tempered distribution D on \overline{G} as an integral on the tempered dual.

4.1 Tempered Paley-Wiener theorem

In this section, \overline{G} is a cover of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ as in §1.1. Let $C \subset A$ be a maximal subgroup of A for which $\overline{C} \subset \overline{A}$ is abelian.

Next we classify the image of the Fourier transforms of a “generic” unitary principal series representation $\pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$, (where $\chi = \text{Ind}_{\overline{C}}^{\overline{A}} \mu \in \Pi(\overline{A})$, $\mu \in \Pi(\overline{C})$), on $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$. Note that both the Weyl group W and $H = \overline{A}/\overline{C}$ act on $C_c(\Pi(\overline{C}))$ by conjugation and $\phi_f \in C_c(\Pi(\overline{C}))$. Let $C_c(\Pi(\overline{C}))^H$ denote the subspace of H -invariant functions and let $C_c(\Pi(\overline{C}))^{WH}$ denote the subspace of functions which are both H -invariant and W -invariant.

Recall the Fourier transform with respect to the principal series, $\phi_f(\mu) = \Theta_\pi(f)$, (where $\pi = I_{\overline{A}}(\chi)$, $\chi = \text{Ind}_{\overline{C}}^{\overline{A}} \mu \in \Pi(\overline{A})$, $\mu \in \Pi(\overline{C})$), When μ is unitary we call this the Fourier transform with respect to the *unitary principal series*. If the restriction of μ to an $\text{diag}(x, x^{-1}) \in A^n$ is of the form $|x|^s$ then we write $\phi_f(\mu) = \phi_f(s)$. When μ is of this form and s is real, we call this the Fourier transform with respect to the *complementary series*.

Proposition 4.1. *For $f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$, the image $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})_{ps}^\wedge$ of the Fourier transform $f \mapsto \phi_f$ with respect to the unitary principal series, is given by*

$$C_c^\infty(\overline{G})_{ps}^\wedge = \left\{ h \in C_c(\Pi(\overline{C})_u)^{WH} \mid \begin{array}{l} h \text{ is a trig polynomial on} \\ \text{each circle in } \Pi(\overline{C})_u \end{array} \right\}.$$

The image $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})_{cs}^\wedge$ of the Fourier transform $f \mapsto \phi_f$ with respect to the complementary series, is given by

$$C_c^\infty(\overline{G})_{cs}^\wedge \cong \{ h \in C_c^\infty(\Pi(\overline{C}))^{WH} \text{ restricted to } 0 < s < 1/n, \text{ a polynomial in } q^s \}.$$

This follows from character formulas for induced representations and from results on p -adic Mellin transforms in [29], pp. 43-44. Further details may be found in a slightly expanded version of this paper [20].

Analogous to Proposition 4.1 above, we have the following result.

Proposition 4.2. *For $f \in \mathcal{S}(\overline{G})$, the image $\mathcal{S}(\overline{G})_{ps}^\wedge$ of the Fourier transform $f \mapsto \phi_f$ with respect to the unitary principal series, is given by*

$$\mathcal{S}(\overline{G})_{ps}^\wedge = C_c^\infty(\Pi(\overline{C})_u)^{WH}.$$

4.2 The Fourier transform

Let

$$J = \text{span} \{ f - f^g \mid f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G}), g \in \overline{G} \},$$

and recall $PW_t(\overline{G})$ denotes the tempered Paley-Wiener space.

Proposition 4.3. *Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1. The kernel of the trace map*

$$^\wedge : C_c^\infty(\overline{G}) \rightarrow PW_t(\overline{G}),$$

defined by $f^\wedge(\pi) = \Theta_\pi(f)$, is J .

Proof. For \overline{G} as in §1.1, Vignéras (see Proposition 3.2 and §2.3 in [30]) showed that the kernel of the orbital integral map $\Phi : C_c^\infty(\overline{G}_r) \rightarrow C_c^\infty(\overline{G}_r)^{\overline{G}}$ is J . Let K denote the kernel of the trace map $^\wedge : C_c^\infty(\overline{G}) \rightarrow PW_t(\overline{G})$. The Weyl integration formula implies $J \subset K$. Theorem 19.2 of Flicker and Kazhdan [9]⁵ implies $K \subset J$, if \overline{G} is a metaplectic cover of $GL(r, \mathbf{F})$. If \overline{G} is a cover of $SL(2, \mathbf{F})$ as in §1.1 above then Fourier transforms of Harish-Chandra transforms and character formulae for induced representations (implicit in §3.1 above but see also explicit formulas in [18] or [16], for example) show that if $f \in K$ then $F_f^{A^N}(a) = 0$. It remains to show that if $f \in K$ then $F_f^T(t) = 0$, where $T = \text{Cent}(t, \overline{G})$, is the centralizer of a regular elliptic element (see (5) above). The desired $F_f^T(t) = 0$ follows from (3.43) in [15]. \square

Let V' denote the dual of the complex vector space V . If V is in addition a \overline{G} -module, let $(V')^{\overline{G}}$ denote the subspace of \overline{G} -invariant linear functionals.

Lemma 4.4. *Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1. The canonical map*

$$(C_c^\infty(\overline{G})/J)' \rightarrow (C_c^\infty(\overline{G})')^{\overline{G}}$$

is an isomorphism.

Proof. For $f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$, let $f \bmod J$ denotes its class in $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})/J$. First, note that the canonical map

$$\begin{aligned} (C_c^\infty(\overline{G})/J)' &\rightarrow (C_c^\infty(\overline{G})')^{\overline{G}} \\ D &\mapsto D^* \\ (f \bmod J \mapsto D(f \bmod J)) &\mapsto (f \mapsto D(f \bmod J)). \end{aligned}$$

is injective by definition.

To see that this is surjective, let $D \in (C_c^\infty(\overline{G})')^{\overline{G}}$. We must show that there is a $D_0 \in (C_c^\infty(\overline{G})/J)'$ such that $D = D_0^*$. Let

$$D_0(f \bmod J) = D(f), \quad f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G}).$$

We want to show that D_0 is a well-defined distribution, i.e., that if $f, f' \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$ and $f \bmod J = f' \bmod J$ then $D(f) = D(f')$. By definition of J , $f \bmod J = f' \bmod J$ implies $f' = f + \sum_{i \in I} c_i(f_i - f_i^{g_i})$, for some finite set I and some $c_i \in \mathbb{C}$, $f_i \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$, $g_i \in \overline{G}$. Since D is invariant, from linearity it follows that $D(f) = D(f')$, as desired. Therefore, the canonical map is surjective. \square

From these two results, we conclude the following important fact.

⁵This section of [9] uses the global trace formula, hence requires the assumption that n is relatively prime to all composite positive integers less than or equal to r and to the residual characteristic over \mathbf{F} .

Theorem 4.5. *Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1 above. The trace map*

$$^{\wedge} : C_c^{\infty}(\overline{G}) \rightarrow PW_t(\overline{G})$$

factors through the canonical map

$$(C_c^{\infty}(\overline{G})/J)' \rightarrow (C_c^{\infty}(\overline{G})')^{\overline{G}}.$$

In other words, each invariant distribution is supported on tempered characters.

This result allows us to define, for each invariant distribution D on G , the Fourier transform D^{\wedge} on $PW_t(\overline{G})$ by

$$D(f) = D^{\wedge}(f^{\wedge}), \quad f \in C_c^{\infty}(\overline{G}). \quad (7)$$

By the results of §3 above and of [9], the tempered dual has both a continuous part and a discrete part. The continuous part of $PW_t(\overline{G})$ decomposes into a vector space sum of smooth functions on compact real tori. It is noted for later reference that if D^{\wedge} induced, by restriction, a distribution on each of these spaces of smooth functions then D must be tempered.

4.3 The Fourier transform as an integral over $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$

Note that any function m on the tempered dual $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$ extends by linearity to the Grothendieck group $R(\overline{G})_t$ (defined in [22] in the algebraic case; in the metaplectic case the definition is similar).

In the case $n = 1$, let $d\omega$ denote the canonical measure on the discrete dual of G as in §2 of [14]. The discrete dual has the structure of the disjoint union of compact real manifolds \mathcal{O} . Using Corollary 4.5.11 and Theorem 4.6.1 in [28], we may extend this measure to $\Pi(G)_t$, which is parameterized by (a dense subset of) the discrete dual.

In case $G = GL(r, \mathbf{F})$, we use the correspondence between $\Pi(G)_t$ and $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$ proven in §19 of [9] to pull these parameters and measures on $\Pi(G)_t$ back to $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$. In case $G = SL(2, \mathbf{F})$, we use the correspondence between $\Pi(G)_t$ and $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$ proven above to pull these parameters and measures on $\Pi(G)_t$ back to $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$. Let $d\mu$ denote the measure on the tempered dual $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$ corresponding to $d\omega$. Let $m(\pi)d\mu(\pi)$ denote a distribution on the tempered Paley-Wiener space $PW_t(\overline{G})$ such that

1. $m(\pi)$ is supported on finitely many orbits $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_{\sigma}$, for a genuine discrete series representation σ of some Levi M of \overline{G} ,

2. there is a continuous function h on $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$ such that on each orbit $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_\sigma$, with σ, M as above, such that as distributions on $C_c^\infty(\mathcal{O})$, we have

$$m(I_M(\omega\sigma)) = \frac{\partial^I}{\partial \omega^I} h(\omega),$$

where $I = (i_1, \dots, i_r)$ denotes a multi-index, r being the real dimension of \mathcal{O} , and $\frac{\partial^I}{\partial \omega^I}$ denotes partial differentiation on the real manifold \mathcal{O} .

We call such a distribution a *distribution of finite type* on $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$. A distribution satisfying (2) but not (1) will be called a *distribution of quasi-finite type* on $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$. The maximum of the integers $|I| = i_1 + \dots + i_r$, where I runs over all multi-indices occurring in (2), is called the *order* of the distribution.

Theorem 4.6. *Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1 above. If D is an invariant tempered distribution on $C_c^\infty(\overline{G})$ then there is a distribution of quasi-finite type $m(\pi)d\mu(\pi)$ on the tempered Paley-Wiener space $PW_t(\overline{G})$ such that*

$$D(f) = \int_{\Pi(\overline{G})_t} \Theta_\pi(f) m(\pi) d\mu(\pi), \quad f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G}).$$

This formula extends continuously to all of $\mathcal{S}(G)$.

Remark 4.7. *If we replace $\mathcal{S}(\overline{G})$ by $\mathcal{S}_K(\overline{G})$ in the second part of the above theorem then we can replace quasi-finite by finite.*

Proof. First, we know from Theorem 4.5 that D is supported on the tempered dual.

We claim that the tempered dual is contained in the unitary dual. In the $SL(2)$ case, see [16] for the detailed case-by-case proof using the classification of the irreducible admissible representations of \overline{G} . In the $GL(r)$ case, see §§16-17 of Flicker-Kazhdan [9] ⁶. Therefore D arises from a distribution D^\wedge on $\Pi(\overline{G})_t$. The above theorem is now an immediate consequence of equation (7), and the classification of L. Schwartz ([27], ch. III, Th. XXI) which we state in the present notation as follows.

Lemma 4.8. *(Schwartz) Let \mathcal{O} be an orbit as above. If $T \in C_c^\infty(\mathcal{O})'$ then there is a continuous function h on \mathcal{O} and a multi-index $I = (i_1, \dots, i_m)$, $i_j \geq 0$ such that $T = \frac{\partial^I}{dx^I} h$ (as distributions), where $x = (x_1, \dots, x_m)$ is a coordinate on \mathcal{O} .*

This completes the proof of the Theorem. \square

⁶These sections of [9] do not use the global trace formula, hence only requires the assumption that n is relatively prime to the residual characteristic of \mathbf{F} .

4.4 Some corollaries

By Theorem 4.5, the Fourier transform of each invariant distribution is support on the tempered dual.

Corollary 4.9. *Let \overline{G} be as in §1.1 above. If D is tempered then the Fourier transform D^\wedge may be expressed in the form*

$$D^\wedge(h) = \int_{\Pi(\overline{G})_t} h(\pi) m(\pi) d\mu(\pi),$$

for all $h \in PW_t(\overline{G})$, where $m(\pi) d\mu(\pi)$ is a quasi-finite distribution.

It is natural to ask for a more explicit characterization of the admissible distributions [13]. The result below uses the above corollary to basically reduce the question of admissibility down to the behaviour of the distribution near the singular set.

Corollary 4.10. *Assume $\overline{G} = G$ ($n = 1$). If D is an tempered then it is admissible on the regular set. In other words, if we identify $C_c^\infty(G_r)$ with the following subspace of $C_c^\infty(G)$,*

$$C_c^\infty(G_r) = \{f : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f|_{G-G_r} = 0, f \in C_c^\infty(G_r)\},$$

then $D|_{C_c^\infty(G_r)}$ is admissible.

The proof may be found in a slightly expanded version of this paper [20].

Example 4.11. *Clearly $f \mapsto f(1)$ is a tempered distribution. Theorem 4.6 implies that there is a quasi-finite m such that*

$$f(1) = \int_{\Pi(\overline{G})_t} \Theta_\pi(f) m(\pi) d\mu(\pi), \quad f \in C_c^\infty(\overline{G}).$$

This is a weak case of Harish-Chandra's Plancherel theorem.

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