

October 25, 1972

Borel,

The following approach might work to yield a direct sum decomposition. Of course, you may not like it. G real reductive group. Γ -arithmetic subgroup. Slowly increasing is taken to mean that the condition of the first definition of p. 7 of H.C.—Automorphic Forms on s-s Lie groups is satisfied. V_G space of C^∞ -functions on $\Gamma \backslash G$ such that X_ψ is slowly increasing for all X in universal enveloping algebra at a rate, i.e., with an r independent of X (an important condition) P (provided with Λ , $M \supseteq A$, and N) cuspidal subgroup

$$\varphi_p(g) = \int_{\Gamma \cap N \backslash N} \varphi(ng) \, dn$$

Set

$$\varphi_p(m : k) = \varphi_p(mk)$$

Lemma 1. *If $\varphi \in V_G$ then $\varphi_p(\cdot : k) \in V_H$ uniformly in k .*

Let

$$\varphi(n : m : k) = \varphi(nmk)$$

Let $M = \Lambda M_0$. Let X be in n . Using HC's notation

$$\varphi(nam_0k; \text{Ad } k \text{ Ad } m_0(\lambda)) = \varphi(n, \text{Ad } nX, am_0, k)$$

If X is a root vector X_α this is

$$\alpha(a)\varphi(n, X : am_0 : k)$$

Using this fact one should not have too much trouble deducing:

Lemma 2. *For m_0 in a compact set Ω , $\varphi(n : am_0 : k) - \varphi_p(n : am_0 : k)$ is rapidly decreasing as, a function of a , as all $\alpha(a) \rightarrow \alpha$, uniformly for $n \in N$, $k \in K$, and $m \in \Omega$. φ is assumed to lie in V_G . N.B.—here I use that the rate is independent of X .*

Lemma 3. *If $\varphi_p(g) \equiv 0$ for $P \neq G$ and $\varphi \in V$ then φ is rapidly decreasing.*

Let's write $\varphi \perp P$ if $\varphi_p(am_0 : k)$ is orthogonal to all cusp forms for M_0 for all a and all k .

Lemma 4. *If $\varphi \perp P$ for all cuspidal P then φ is 0.*

The "theorem" on p. 3 may interest you. However this letter was only tentative and the arguments are certainly incomplete. I have not thought about these things for two years, but I thought the letter might at least affect your ideas of what should be proved. Bob.

Editorial comment: The theorem on p. 3 refers to the theorem just before lemma 6.

Lemma 5. *Suppose φ is a function on $N(\Gamma \cap P) \backslash G$, X_φ is slowly increasing for all X , and φ vanishes outside of $NA_t M_0 k$. Then*

$$\sum_{\Gamma \cap P \backslash \Gamma} \varphi(\gamma_g)$$

lies in V_G .

The first lemma is standard in the theory of Eisenstein series. The second is also implicit in that theory. If \mathfrak{P} is a class of associative cuspidal subgroups let $V_G(\mathfrak{P})$ be the set of all φ in V_G such that $\varphi \perp P$ if $P \notin \mathfrak{P}$.

By Lemma 4, the sum

$$\sum_{\mathfrak{P}} V_G(\mathfrak{P})$$

is direct.

Theorem.

$$V_G = \bigoplus_{\mathfrak{P}} V_G(\mathfrak{P})$$

We have to show that V is contained in the right hand side. We use induction on rank Γ , i.e. in $\dim A$ for minimal P . If this is 0 there is no problem.

If P is cuspidal and P_0 a class of associate cuspidal subgroups for M (or M_0 if you like) there is a \mathfrak{P} containing \mathfrak{P}_0 .

Lemma 6. *If the φ of Lemma 5 lies in $V_M(\mathfrak{P}_0)$, i.e. if $\varphi(am_0 k)$ lies in $V_{M_0}(\mathfrak{P}_0)$ for each a and k , then*

$$\sum_{\Gamma \cap P \backslash \Gamma} \varphi(\gamma_y)$$

lies in $V_G(\mathfrak{P})$.

Proved as for Eisenstein series presumably, of Lemma 4.4 of my notes.

Let L be $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G)$ and define L^∞ accordingly. We have, from the elements of the theory of Eisenstein series, a decomposition

$$L = \bigoplus L(\mathfrak{P})$$

and hence

$$L^\infty = \bigoplus L^\infty(\mathfrak{P})$$

Lemma 7. $L^\infty \subseteq V_G$ and $L^\infty(\mathfrak{P}) = L^\infty \cap V_G(\mathfrak{P})$

I think that the first statement can be deduced easily from Sobolev's lemma. The second is then clear.

To prove the theorem we need a technical result which I describe but do not prove—it is very similar to your partition of unity argument.

Let q be the rank of Γ . For $0 \leq i \leq q$, let X_i be a set of representations for conjugacy classes of cuspidal subgroups of rank i . For each P in X_q choose a Siegel domain

$$\begin{aligned} S(P) &= S(P, c, \omega_p) \\ &= \{ sak \mid s \in \omega_p, a \in A_p, k \in K, \alpha(a) > c \forall \text{ simple roots } \alpha \text{ of } P \} \end{aligned}$$

whose union, over X_q , covers $\Gamma \backslash G$.

We choose by induction downwards from q , for every i , $0 \leq i \leq q$, positive constants t_i and u_i , and for each P in X_i two compact sets $\mu_p \subseteq \text{Int } \nu_p$ in M_p so that

$$\begin{aligned}(\Gamma \cap N_p)\mu_p &= N_p\mu_p \\ (\Gamma \cap N_p)\nu_p &= N_p\nu_p\end{aligned}$$

and so that if

$$S(P, \mu_p) = \{ sak \mid s \in \mu_p, k \in K, a \in A_p, \alpha(a) > t_{i+1} \forall \alpha \}$$

and $S(P, \nu_p)$ is defined in the same way with $t_i + 1$ replaced by t_i , the following two conditions are satisfied.

(i) If $P \subset X_i$ and $P' \subset X_{i'}$ with $i' \geq 1$, then

$$\gamma S(P, \nu_p) \cap S(P', \nu_{p'}) \neq \emptyset$$

$\implies \gamma P \gamma^{-1}$ belongs to P' in the sense of my Eisenstein series p. 2.10—i.e., $\gamma P \gamma^{-1} \supseteq P'$.

(ii) If $y \in S(P, c, \omega_p)$ for some P in X_q and if $\xi_\alpha(u(g)) > u_1$ for at least i simple roots of P then there is an $i' \geq 1$, a P' in $X_{i'}$, and a γ in Γ so that $\gamma P' \gamma^{-1}$ belongs to P and $g \in \gamma S(P, \mu_p)$.

Suppose $\varphi \in V_G$. We prove by induction upwards that for each $i \geq 0$ there is a φ' congruent to φ modulo $\sum V_G(\mathfrak{P})$ so that φ' is rapidly decreasing in $S(P, \mu_p)$ if rank $P = i$. For $i = 0$, $S(P, \mu_p)$ is compact and there is no problem. In general choose the function λ_p so that $X\lambda_p$ is bounded for all X so that λ_p is 1 in $S(P, \mu_p)$ and 0 off $S(P, \nu_p)$. λ_p is a function on $N_p(\Gamma \cap P) \backslash G$. Set

$$\varphi^{i+1} - \bar{\varphi}^i - \sum_{P \in X_{i+1}} \sum_{\Gamma \cap P \backslash \Gamma} \lambda_p(\gamma_g) \gamma'_p(\gamma_g)$$

If I assume the theorem is valid for groups of rank smaller than Γ , then I can apply Lemma 6 to see that the sum on the right is in $\sum V_G(\mathfrak{P})$. Thus $\varphi^{i+1} \equiv \bar{\varphi}^i \equiv \varphi$ (mod $V_G(\mathfrak{P})$). φ^{i+1} is by condition (i) and Lemma 2 rapidly decreasing in $S(P, \mu_p)$ if rank $P = i + 1$.

Condition (i) and the induction assumption can probably be used to show without too much difficulty that this is also true if rank $P \leq i$. This takes care of the induction.

Now consider φ^q . φ^q is rapidly decreasing so is X_{φ^q} . This is a consequence of Lemma 3. Hence $\varphi^q \in L^\infty = \bigoplus L^\infty(\mathfrak{P}) \subseteq \sum V_G(\mathfrak{P})$ by Lemma 7. With this we are done.

Does this argument sound alright to you?

R.L.

Compiled on May 1, 2026.