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Geometric Aspects of the Trace Formula

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# Remarks on the Gan-Ichino multiplicity formula

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The cover picture is taken from the website  
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- Gan's talk in this symposium.
- Arthur, *Endoscopic classifications of representations: Orthogonal and Symplectic Groups*.
- L. (> 2016).

Today's talk: just some speculations.

# Metaplectic groups

Let  $F$  be a local field of characteristic 0. The metaplectic covering is a central extension

$$1 \rightarrow \mu \rightarrow \mathrm{Mp}(2n, F) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{p}} \mathrm{Sp}(2n, F) \rightarrow 1$$

with  $\mu \subset \mathbb{C}^\times$  finite and  $\mathbf{p}$  continuous.

- More precisely, we work with a  $2n$ -dimensional symplectic  $F$ -vector space and  $\psi_F : F \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ .
- Usually take  $\mu = \{\pm 1\}$ . To use the Schrödinger model, it is convenient to enlarge  $\mu$  to  $\mu_8$ .
- With  $\mu = \mu_8$ , the Levi subgroups are identifiable with  $\prod_i \mathrm{GL}(n_i) \times \mathrm{Mp}(2m, F)$  with  $\sum_i n_i + m = n$ .

There is a **canonical central element** above  $-1 \in \mathrm{Sp}(2n, F)$ , denoted again by  $-1$ .

For number fields, we still have  $\mathrm{Mp}(2n, \mathbb{A}_F)$ . Relevance of  $\tilde{G} := \mathrm{Mp}(2n, F)$ :

- 1 Siegel modular forms of half-integral weight.
- 2  $\theta$ -correspondence.
- 3 Symplectic groups and  $\tilde{G}$  are coupled in automorphic descent (Fourier-Jacobi coefficients).
- 4 It is the most accessible family of covering groups with nontrivial notions of *stability* and *endoscopy*, hence a good testing ground for Langlands program for coverings (Weissman).

**Notations.** Let  $\Pi(H)$  be the admissible dual of a reductive  $H$ . Write  $\Phi(H)$ , etc. for the set of  $L$ -parameters. The discrete  $L^2$  automorphic spectrum is denoted by  $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{disc}}(H)$ .

We want to understand  $\Pi_-(\tilde{G})$ , the set of isomorphism classes of *genuine representations* of  $\tilde{G}$ , on which  $z \in \mu \subset \mathbb{C}^\times$  acts as  $z \cdot \text{id}$ .

### Guiding principle

$\tilde{G}$  behaves as  $H := \text{SO}(2n + 1)$  (split). The  $\theta$ -correspondence for pairs  $(\text{Sp}(2n), \text{O}(V, q))$  with  $\dim V = 2n + 1$  provides strong evidence.

In particular, we take  $\tilde{G}^\vee = \text{Sp}(2n, \mathbb{C}) = H^\vee$  with trivial  $\Gamma_F$ -action. Whence the notion of  $L$ -parameters and  $A$ -parameters.

# Endoscopic classification for $H := \mathrm{SO}(2n + 1)$

The most complete results are provided by trace formula.

$$\Pi_{\mathrm{temp}}(H) = \bigsqcup_{\phi} \Pi_{\phi}, \quad \phi \in \Phi_{\mathrm{bdd}}(H).$$

The internal structure of each packet  $\Pi_{\phi}$  is controlled by

$$S_{\phi}^H := Z_{H^{\vee}}(\mathrm{Im}(\phi)),$$

$$\bar{S}_{\phi}^H := S_{\phi}^H / Z(H^{\vee}),$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{J}}_{\phi}^H := \pi_0(\bar{S}_{\pi}^H, 1) \quad (\text{finite abelian}).$$

*Elliptic* endoscopic data are in bijection with  $(n', n'')$  with  $n' + n'' = n$ , identifying  $(n', n'')$  and  $(n'', n')$ ; the corresponding endoscopic group is  $H^! := \mathrm{SO}(2n' + 1) \times \mathrm{SO}(2n'' + 1)$ .

We have a “Whittaker-normalized” injection

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_\phi &\hookrightarrow \text{Irr}(\bar{\mathcal{S}}_\phi^H), \text{ bijective for non-archimedean } F. \\ \pi &\mapsto \langle \cdot, \pi \rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Given  $\phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(H)$  and  $s \in \bar{S}_{\phi,ss}^H$ , we have

- an endoscopic datum determined by  $s$ , the endoscopic group  $H^!$  satisfies  $\check{H}^! = Z_{H^\vee}(s)$ ;
- a factorization

$$\phi = \text{WD}_F \xrightarrow{\phi^!} \check{H}^! \hookrightarrow \check{H}, \quad \phi^! \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(H^!);$$

- the Whittaker-normalized transfer  $f \rightsquigarrow f^!$  of test functions.

Define

$$f^!(\phi, s) = f^!(\phi^!) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Pi_{\phi^!}} f^!(\sigma), \quad f^!(\sigma) := \text{tr}(\sigma(f^!)).$$



The character relation is:  $\forall (\phi, s)$  as above,

$$f^!(\phi, s) = \sum_{\pi \in \Pi_\phi} \langle s, \pi \rangle f(\pi), \quad f(\pi) = \text{tr}(\pi(f)).$$

In particular,  $f^!(\phi, s)$  depends only on the image of  $s$  in  $\bar{\mathcal{S}}_\phi^H$ .

- 1 For general A-parameters  $\psi$ , we will have to multiply  $s$  by some  $s_\psi$  in  $\langle \dots \rangle$ .
- 2 *Vogan packets*: define  $\mathcal{S}_\phi^H := \pi_0(S_\phi^H, 1)$  (abelian 2-group), then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi & \in & \Pi_\phi \subset \bigsqcup_{(V,q)/\simeq} \Pi(\text{SO}(V,q)) \\ \downarrow & & \updownarrow 1:1 \\ \langle \cdot, \pi \rangle & \in & \text{Irr}(\mathcal{S}_\phi^H) \end{array}$$

where  $(V, q)$  ranges over the  $(2n + 1)$ -dimensional quadratic forms with discriminant 1.

- Globally, given a global tempered (“generic”) discrete parameter  $\phi$  and  $\pi_v \in \Pi_{\phi_v}$  for all  $v$ , we have

$$\text{mult} \left( \bigotimes'_v \pi_v : \mathcal{A}_{\text{disc}}(H) \right) = \begin{cases} 1, & \prod_v \langle \cdot, \pi_v \rangle|_{\bar{\mathcal{J}}_{\phi}^H} = 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- For A-parameters  $\psi$ : require  $\prod_v \langle \cdot, \pi_v \rangle|_{\bar{\mathcal{J}}_{\phi}^H} = \varepsilon_{\psi}$  instead, where  $\varepsilon_{\psi}$  is defined in terms of symplectic root numbers.
- These results are established by a long induction using the full force of stable twisted trace formulas in [Arthur].

There is a theory of endoscopy for  $\tilde{G}$  (Adams, Renard, ..., L.) with transfer  $f \rightsquigarrow f^\natural$  and fundamental lemma for unit.

- Elliptic endoscopic data are in bijection with  $\{(n', n'') : n' + n'' = n\}$ , the corresponding endoscopic group being  $G^\natural := \mathrm{SO}(2n' + 1) \times \mathrm{SO}(2n'' + 1)$ .
- **Principle:** similar to  $H$ , but should disregard the symmetries from  $Z(\tilde{G}^\vee) = \{\pm 1\}$ .
- **Consequence 1:**  $(n', n'')$  and  $(n'', n')$  play different roles in endoscopy.
- **Consequence 2:** packets of  $\tilde{G}$  (say tempered) “look like” Vogan packets of  $H$ .

As before, define  $S_\phi, \mathcal{S}_\phi$  for parameters  $\phi \in \Phi(\tilde{G}) = \Phi(H)$ .

# Non-endoscopic classification of genuine representations: local case

Due to Waldspurger ( $n = 1$ ), Adams-Barbasch ( $F$  archimedean) and Gan-Savin ( $F$  non-archimedean). Fix  $\psi_F$ , etc.

$$\Pi_-(\tilde{G}) \xleftarrow{1:1} \bigsqcup_{\substack{(V,q)/\simeq \\ \dim=2n+1, \text{disc}=1}} \Pi(\text{SO}(V,q))$$

$$0 \neq \theta_{\psi_F}(\tilde{\pi}^!) \longleftarrow \pi^!$$

for a unique extension  $\tilde{\pi}^!$  of  $\pi^!$  to  $\text{O}(V,q)$ . This is known to preserve tempered representations, discrete series, etc. Classification of RHS into Vogan packets leads to a substitute of LLC

$$\Pi_-(\tilde{G}) = \bigsqcup_{\phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(\tilde{G})} \Pi_{\phi}^{\tilde{G}}.$$

If  $\pi = \theta_{\psi_F}(\tilde{\pi}^!) \in \Pi_{\text{temp},-}(\tilde{G})$  as above, set  $\langle \cdot, \pi \rangle_{\Theta} := \langle \cdot, \pi^! \rangle$ , a character of  $\mathcal{S}_{\phi}$ . Then  $\pi \mapsto \langle \cdot, \pi \rangle_{\Theta}$  is a bijection  $\Pi_{\phi}^{\tilde{G}} \rightarrow \text{Irr}(\mathcal{S}_{\phi})$ .

## Tempered parameters for $\tilde{G}$ or $H$

Write  $(\phi, V_{\phi})$  as a sum of irreducible unitarizable representations of

$WD_F$ :  $\phi = (\sum_{i \in I_{\phi}^+} \boxplus \sum_{i \in I_{\phi}^-}) \ell_i \phi_i \boxplus \sum_{i \in J_{\phi}} \ell_i (\phi_i \boxplus \check{\phi}_i)$ , where

- $I_{\phi}^+$ : symplectic  $\phi_i$ ;
- $I_{\phi}^-$ : orthogonal  $\phi_i$ , with  $\ell_i$  even;
- $J_{\phi}$ : non-selfdual  $\phi_i$ .

Hence  $S_{\phi} = \prod_{i \in I_{\phi}^+} O(\ell_i, \mathbb{C}) \times \prod_{i \in I_{\phi}^-} \text{Sp}(\ell_i, \mathbb{C}) \times \prod_{i \in J_{\phi}} \text{GL}(n_i, \mathbb{C})$ , and

$\mathcal{S}_{\phi} = \{\pm 1\}^{I_{\phi}^+}$ . Same for global parameters.

Discrete parameters:  $I_{\phi}^- = J_{\phi} = \emptyset$  and  $\forall \ell_i \leq 1$ .

# Global case: Gan–Ichino formula

Choose  $\psi_F : \mathbb{A}_F/F \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ . For a global tempered parameter  $\phi$  and  $s \in S_{\phi,ss}$ , define

$$\epsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, V_\phi^{s=-1}, \psi_F \right) = \prod_v \dots, \text{ say by doubling method.}$$

Only the symplectic summands contribute, by [Lapid] or [Arthur].

- The global  $\epsilon(\frac{1}{2}, \dots)$  is independent of  $\psi_F$  and defines a character  $S_\phi \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ .
- Gan–Ichino: in the discrete genuine automorphic spectrum

$$\text{mult} \left( \bigotimes'_v \pi_v : \mathcal{A}_{\text{disc},-}(\tilde{G}) \right) = \begin{cases} 1, & \prod_v \langle s, \pi_v \rangle_\Theta = \epsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, V_\phi^{s=-1}, \psi_F \right) \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Note.** Can also formulate the case for general  $A$ -parameters.

# Towards the local endoscopic classification

**Desiderata.** Character relations for  $\tilde{G}$  via endoscopic transfer, and description of the coefficients.

Keep the notations for the case  $H = \mathrm{SO}(2n + 1)$ . Known:

$$[f^!(\phi^!) =: f^!(\phi, s)] = \sum_{\pi \in \Pi_{\mathrm{temp}, -}(\tilde{G})} \Delta(\phi^!, \pi) f(\pi), \quad s \in S_{\phi, \mathrm{ss}}.$$

- $f$ : anti-genuine  $C_c^\infty$  function on  $\tilde{G}$  that probes the genuine spectrum, and  $f \mapsto f(\pi)$  is the character;
- $f \rightsquigarrow f^!$  is the transfer for the endoscopic datum determined by  $s$ , it factorizes  $\phi$  into  $\phi^!$ .
- RHS: virtual character with unknown coefficients. Assuming that  $\pi$  determines  $\phi$  (LLC), we write

$$\Delta(\phi^!, \pi) = \langle s, \pi \rangle.$$

## Minimal requirements.

- 1 When  $s = 1$  and  $\phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(\tilde{G})$ , should have  $\langle s, \pi \rangle \in \{0, 1\}$ , i.e.  $f^!(\phi, 1) =$  “stable character” on  $\tilde{G}$ .
- 2  $\langle s, \pi \rangle$  depends only on the conjugacy class of  $s$  in  $S_{\phi, \text{ss}}$ .

## Key property

Given an elliptic endoscopic datum  $(n', n'')$  for  $\tilde{G}$ , denote by  $\mathcal{I}_{(n', n'')}$  the dual of transfer. The following commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{\text{st. dist. on } \text{SO}_{2n'+1} \times \text{SO}_{2n''+1}\} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_{(n', n'')}} & \{\text{genuine inv. dist. on } \tilde{G}\} \\ \text{swap} \downarrow \simeq & & \simeq \downarrow \text{translate by } -1 \\ \{\text{st. dist. on } \text{SO}_{2n''+1} \times \text{SO}_{2n'+1}\} & \xrightarrow{\mathcal{I}_{(n'', n')}} & \{\text{genuine inv. dist. on } \tilde{G}\} \end{array}$$

**Consequence:** Assuming  $s^2 = 1$ , we have  $\langle -s, \pi \rangle = \omega_{\pi}(-1)\langle s, \pi \rangle$ . Call  $\omega_{\pi}(-1)$  the *central sign* of  $\pi$ .



**Case study:**  $n = 1 \Rightarrow$  already have LLC for  $\tilde{G}$  (Waldspurger, Adams, Schultz). Let  $\phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(\tilde{G})$  and  $\pi \in \Pi_{\phi}$ . Results of Gan–Savin et al. imply:

- If  $\pi$  comes from  $\text{SO}(V, q)$  by  $\theta$ -lifting,  $\dim V = 3$  with discriminant 1, then  $\langle -1, \pi \rangle_{\Theta} \in \{\pm 1\}$  equals the Hasse invariant of  $(V, q)$ .
- The observation above says  $\langle -1, \pi \rangle = \omega_{\pi}(-1)$ , which turns out to be  $\langle -1, \pi \rangle_{\Theta} \varepsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, \phi, \psi_F \right)$ .

Taking  $\phi = \phi_0 \boxplus \check{\phi}_0$  with  $\phi_0 \neq \check{\phi}_0$ , we get  $S_{\phi} = \text{GL}(1, \mathbb{C})$ ,  $\langle \cdot, \pi \rangle_{\Theta} = 1$  and  $\langle -1, \pi \rangle = \phi_0 \circ \text{rec}_F(-1)$  is not always trivial. A closer look reveals that

- 1  $\langle \cdot, \pi \rangle$  does not factor through  $\mathcal{S}_{\phi}$ ;
- 2 it is even not a homomorphism in general;
- 3  $\langle s, \pi \rangle = \varepsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, V_{\phi}^{s=-1}, \psi_F \right) \langle s, \pi \rangle_{\Theta}$  for all  $s \in S_{\phi, ss}$ .

**Global reasons:** for  $\phi \in \Phi_2(\tilde{G})$ , general arguments from Arthur suggest

$$\text{mult} \left( \bigotimes'_v \pi_v : \mathcal{A}_{\text{disc},-}(\tilde{G}) \right) = |\mathcal{S}_\phi|^{-1} \sum_{s \in \mathcal{S}_\phi} \prod_v \langle s, \pi_v \rangle.$$

The local observations ( $n = 1$  at least) + Gan–Ichino formula give some support for the following.

## Conjecture

We have LLC  $\Pi_{\text{temp},-}(\tilde{G}) = \bigsqcup_{\phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(\tilde{G})} \Pi_\phi$  with character relations. Assigning to  $\pi \in \Pi_\phi$  the coefficients  $\langle \cdot, \pi \rangle : S_{\phi,SS} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  gives

$$\Pi_\phi \xrightarrow{1:1} \text{Irr}(\mathcal{S}_\phi) \tilde{\zeta}_\phi, \quad \tilde{\zeta}_\phi(s) := \varepsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, V_\phi^{s=-1}, \psi_F \right).$$

Note that

- 1  $\xi_\phi$  is not a character of  $\mathcal{S}_\phi$ , although their global product is;
- 2 for  $\phi \in \Phi_2(\tilde{G})$ , we can show  $\xi_\phi \in \text{Irr}(\mathcal{S}_\phi)$ ;
- 3 can formulate a version for A-packets.

## Refinement of the conjecture

We expect  $\langle \cdot, \pi \rangle = \langle \cdot, \pi \rangle_{\Theta} \xi_\phi$  for all  $\phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(\tilde{G})$  and  $\pi \in \Pi_\phi$ .

- These will completely reconcile the endoscopic and the  $\theta$ -lifting descriptions for  $\Pi_{\text{temp},-}(\tilde{G})$ .
- The case of epipelagic  $L$ -packets for  $F \supset \mathbb{Q}_p, p \gg 0$  seems accessible by purely local arguments [Kaletha 2015].

**A template:** Arthur's *Endoscopic classification of representations* and *Unipotent automorphic representations*. The proof is necessarily local-global.

The case for  $\tilde{G}$  ought to be easier, since

- stable multiplicity formula for endoscopic groups are available,
- candidates for global parameters are already well-defined,
- one can resort to Gan-Ichino in local-global arguments if necessary.

An important ingredient in Arthur's "Standard Model": **local and global intertwining relations**.

Take  $F$  local, fix  $\psi_F$  and  $F$ -pinnings for all groups. Consider a standard parabolic  $\tilde{P} = \tilde{M}U \subsetneq \tilde{G}$  and their dual  $\tilde{P}^\vee, \tilde{M}^\vee \subset \tilde{G}^\vee$ . Assume LLC, etc. for  $\tilde{M}$ .

- Take  $\phi_M \in \Phi_{2,\text{bdd}}(\tilde{M})$  (for simplicity),  $\pi_M \in \Pi_{\phi_M}$ .
- Let  $w \in W_\phi \subset W(M) = W(\tilde{M}^\vee)$ .

Let  $\phi_M \mapsto \phi \in \Phi_{\text{bdd}}(\tilde{G})$ . Consider normalized intertwining operators of the form

$$R_P(w, \pi_M, \phi) = \pi(w)\ell(w, \pi_M, \phi)R_{wPw^{-1}|P}(\pi_M, \phi)$$

$$I_{\tilde{P}}(\pi_M) \rightarrow I_{w\tilde{P}w^{-1}}(\pi_M) \rightarrow I_{\tilde{P}}(w\pi_M) \rightarrow I_{\tilde{P}}(\pi_M).$$

- First, must lift  $w \in W^G(M)$  to an element of  $\tilde{G}$ . Just use the **Springer section** with due care on long simple roots, eg. we want  $w_{\text{long}}^2 = -1$  in  $\widetilde{\text{Sp}}(2, F)$ .
- Group-theoretic difficulties of this step are addressed in [Brylinski-Deligne, 2001].

- $R_{wPw^{-1}|P}(\pi_M, \phi)$  is the normalized intertwining operator, we can use the normalizing factors from  $SO(2n + 1)$ .
- $\ell(w, \pi_M, \phi)$  is  $\phi \mapsto \phi(w^{-1}\cdot)$  times some correction factor, again using that from  $SO(2n + 1)$ -case.
- Choose  $\pi(w) \in \text{Isom}_{\tilde{M}}(w\pi_M, \pi_M)$ : it affects only the GL-slots of  $\pi_M$ .

The resulting operator is neither multiplicative in  $w$  nor Whittaker-normalized! Denote by  $\gamma(w, \phi) \in \mathbb{C}^\times$  the expected “effect of  $R_P(w, \pi_M, \phi)$ ”, say on Whittaker functionals. See eg.

- Bump-Friedberg-Hoffstein (1991),
- Szpruch (2013).

Again, local root numbers appear here (general phenomena).

Take any  $u \in N_\phi := N_{S_\phi}(A_{\tilde{M}^V})$ , which maps to  $w \in W_\phi$  under the natural  $N_\phi \rightarrow W_\phi$ . There is a natural splitting  $\pi_0(N_\phi) = \mathcal{S}_{\phi_M} \times W_\phi$ . Write  $u = u_0 \cdot u^b$  where  $u^b \in \mathcal{S}_{\phi_M}$  and  $u$  have the same image in  $\mathcal{S}_{\phi_M}$ .

## Special case of local intertwining relation

Conjecturally  $f^!(\phi, u) = f(\phi, u)$  (see below).

$$f(\phi, u) := c(u^b, \phi) \sum_{\pi_M \in \Pi_{\phi_M}} \langle \pi_M, u^b \rangle \text{tr} (R_P(w, \pi_M, \phi) I_{\bar{P}}(w, f))$$

$$c(u^b, \phi) := \varepsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, V_\phi^{u^b=-1}, \psi_F \right) \varepsilon \left( \frac{1}{2}, V_{\phi^b}^{u^b=-1}, \psi_F \right)^{-1} \gamma(w, \phi)^{-1}.$$

This will give the  $\langle \cdot, \pi \rangle$  for tempered non- $L^2$  packets, and much more (eg. information on  $R$ -groups).

See [Arthur, Chapter 2] for full explanation.

The local intertwining relation is subject to global constraints.

- 1  $\prod_v c(u, \phi)_v = 1$  for global parameters.
- 2 Generalizes to A-packets.
- 3 Satisfy analogues of the *sign lemmas* in [Arthur, Chapter 4].
- 4 Ultimately, we want to feed them into the *Standard Model of loc. cit.*, and deduce all the theorems inductively.

We will need

- the fundamental lemma for the spherical Hecke algebra of  $\tilde{G}$  (ongoing thesis of Caihua Luo supervised by Gan);
- probably also the full stable trace formula.