

# Counting Level-1, Quaternionic Automorphic Representations on $G_2$

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## Note on technical details

- Anything in gray is a technical detail not relevant to this particular topic
- Anything in orange is background material I will only explain intuitively and imprecisely due to time constraints

# Outline

- Background: Quaternionic Representations on  $G_2$
- Background: Trace Formulas
- Background: Simple Trace Formula
- Selected Technical Difficulties

Details in [Dal21], *Counting Discrete, Level-1, Quaternionic Automorphic Representations on  $G_2$* , ArXiv preprint

## Relevant Perspective

### Definition

Let  $G$  be a reductive group over a number field  $F$ . A discrete automorphic representation  $\pi$  for  $G$  is an irreducible subrepresentation of  $L^2(G(F)\backslash G(\mathbb{A}_F), \chi)$ .

- $\pi_S$ : local component of  $\pi$  at some finite set of places  $S$ .
- $\pi_\infty$ : qualitative type of representation (modular vs. Maass, cohomological/algebraic, etc.),
- $\pi_V$ 's: specific representation of that type

## Quaternionic $G_2$ reps

**Question:** Can we find nice examples of automorphic representations that don't correspond to forms which were discovered classically?

- Exceptional groups are good place to look
- Want to find nice class of  $\pi_\infty$ —analogues to modular forms, not Maass forms

**Simplest new example:**  $G = G_2$ ,  $\pi$  a **quaternionic discrete series**

- **Quaternionic:** puts a nice differential equation condition on functions, second-best to holomorphic
- **Discrete series:** Relevance here: studyable with trace formula
- **Technicality:** minimal  $K$ -type not a character  $\implies$  automorphic forms are vector-valued functions
- One quaternionic discrete series  $\pi_k$  for each weight  $k \geq 2$ .

# Applications

Where do these come up?

- Fourier coefficients encode information about cubic rings [GGS02]
- Partition functions in certain quantum models of black holes [FGKP18, Chap. 15]
- More in the future?

## Main Question

**Question:** How do we describe the quaternionic- $G_2$  automorphic representations?

**Example:** Can we count them with some local conditions?

## Answers

We can do both without too much trouble at **level-1**...

- **level-1**:  $\pi^\infty$  has a (necessarily 1d) subspace fixed by hyperspecial  $K^\infty$ .

...in terms of compact form  $G_2^c$

- $\cong G_2$  over all finite places, compact over  $\infty$ . In particular,  $G_2^c(\mathbb{Z})$  defined.
- $V_\lambda$ : finite-dimensional rep of  $G_2^c(\mathbb{R})$  with highest weight  $\lambda$ , matrix coefficients in  $L^2(G_2^c(\mathbb{R}))$ .

Notation:  $\beta$  is the highest root of  $G_2$



# Formula

## Theorem

Let  $k > 2$ . The number of discrete (equiv. cuspidal) level-1, quaternionic automorphic representations on  $G_2$  of weight  $k$  is

$$|\mathcal{Q}_{n+2}(1)| =$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{12096} \frac{1}{120} (n+1)(3n+4)(n+2)(3n+5)(2n+3) + \frac{1}{216} \frac{1}{6} (n+1)(n+2)(2n+3) + \frac{5}{192} \frac{1}{8} \begin{cases} (n+2)(3n+4) & n=0 \pmod{2} \\ -(n+1)(3n+5) & n=1 \pmod{2} \end{cases} \\ & + \frac{1}{18} \begin{cases} \frac{2n}{3} + 1 & n=0 \pmod{3} \\ -\lfloor \frac{n}{3} \rfloor - 1 & n=1, 2 \pmod{3} \end{cases} + \frac{1}{32} \begin{cases} \frac{3n}{2} + 10 & n=0 \pmod{4} \\ 6\lfloor \frac{n}{4} \rfloor - 4 & n=1 \pmod{4} \\ -2\lfloor \frac{n}{4} \rfloor - 2 & n=2, 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases} + \frac{1}{24} \begin{cases} 3\lfloor \frac{n}{6} \rfloor + 5 & n=0, 1 \pmod{6} \\ 3\lfloor \frac{n}{6} \rfloor - 2 & n=2, 3 \pmod{6} \\ 3\lfloor \frac{n}{6} \rfloor + 3 & n=4, 5 \pmod{6} \end{cases} \\ & + \frac{1}{7} \begin{cases} 1 & n=0 \pmod{7} \\ -1 & n=4 \pmod{7} \\ 0 & n=1, 2, 3, 5, 6 \pmod{7} \end{cases} + \frac{1}{4} \begin{cases} 1 & n=0 \pmod{8} \\ -1 & n=5 \pmod{8} \\ 0 & n=1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 \pmod{8} \end{cases} + \begin{cases} \lfloor \frac{n+2}{4} \rfloor (\lfloor \frac{n+2}{12} \rfloor - 1) & n=0 \pmod{12} \\ \lfloor \frac{n+2}{4} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{n+2}{12} \rfloor & n=2, 4, 6, 8, 10 \pmod{12} \\ -(\lfloor \frac{3n+5}{12} \rfloor - 1) (\lfloor \frac{n+3}{12} \rfloor - 1) & n=11 \pmod{12} \\ -(\lfloor \frac{3n+5}{12} \rfloor - 1) \lfloor \frac{n+3}{12} \rfloor & n=3, 7 \pmod{12} \\ -\lfloor \frac{3n+5}{12} \rfloor \lfloor \frac{n+3}{12} \rfloor & n=1, 5, 9 \pmod{12} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

- $G_C^2(\mathbb{Z})$ -fixed space in  $V_\lambda$ —Weyl character formula
- Endoscopic correction: counts of classical modular forms

## A Jacquet-Langlands-style result

### Theorem

Let  $k > 2$ . If  $k$  is even:

- the discrete (equiv. cuspidal) level-1, weight  $k$  quaternionic representations of  $G_2$  are the exactly the unramified representations of  $G_2(\mathbb{A})$  with infinite component  $\pi_k$  and **Satake parameters coming from** weight  $(k-2)\beta$  algebraic modular forms on  $G_2^c$  **in addition to** those coming from pairs of classical cuspidal newforms in  $\mathcal{S}_{3k-2}(1) \times \mathcal{S}_{k-2}(1)$ .

If  $k$  is odd:

- such representations of  $G_2$  are the exactly those coming from weight  $(k-2)\beta$  algebraic modular forms on  $G_2^c$  **except for** those also coming from pairs of classical cuspidal newforms in  $\mathcal{S}_{3k-3}(1) \times \mathcal{S}_{k-1}(1)$ .

## Table

**Table:** Counts of discrete, quaternionic automorphic representations of level 1 on  $G_2$ .

$k$	$ Q_k(1) $	$k$	$ Q_k(1) $	$k$	$ Q_k(1) $	$k$	$ Q_k(1) $	$k$	$ Q_k(1) $
3	0	13	5	23	76	33	478	43	1792
4	0	14	13	24	126	34	610	44	2112
5	0	15	8	25	121	35	637	45	2250
<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	16	23	26	175	36	807	46	2619
7	0	17	17	27	173	37	849	47	2790
8	2	18	37	28	248	38	1037	48	3233
9	1	19	30	29	250	39	1097	49	3447
10	4	20	56	30	341	40	1332	50	3938
11	1	21	50	31	349	41	1412	51	4201
12	9	22	83	32	460	42	1686	52	4780

## Method

First trick to try for studying subreps: look at traces

- Assume for a moment

$$L^2(G(F)\backslash G(\mathbb{A}_F), \chi) = \bigoplus_{\pi \text{ d.a.}} \pi$$

- Then if  $R$  is an operator on  $L^2$

$$\text{tr}_{L^2} R = \sum_{\pi \text{ d.a.}} \text{tr}_{\pi} R$$

- Source of  $R$ ? **Convolution**:  $f$  cmpct. support smooth/ $G(\mathbb{A})$ :

$$f(v) := R_f(v) = \int_{G(\mathbb{A})} f(g)g \cdot v \, dg$$

## Test Functions Example

Want:  $f$  such that

$$\mathrm{tr}_{L^2}(f) = \#\{G_2\text{-quat, lv. 1, wt. } k\}$$

Idea:  $f = \prod_v f_v$  so  $\mathrm{tr}_\pi(f) = \prod_v \mathrm{tr}_{\pi_v}(f_v)$

- Find  $f_\infty$  so that

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\pi_\infty}(f_\infty) = \mathbf{1}_{\pi_\infty} \text{ is the weight-}k, \text{ quaternionic discrete series}$$

- If  $K^\infty$  is a maximal compact in  $G_2(\mathbb{A}^\infty)$  note that

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\pi^\infty}(\mathbf{1}_{K^\infty}) = \mathrm{vol}(K^\infty)\mathbf{1}_{\pi^\infty} \text{ is unramified}$$

Therefore, plug in  $f = f_\infty \mathbf{1}_{K^\infty}$

# Trace Formula

How do we compute  $\text{tr}_{L^2}(f)$ ?

- Tool: Arthur-Selberg trace formula

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{AR}(G)} m_{\pi} \text{tr}_{\pi}(f) \approx \sum_{\gamma \in [G(F)]} \text{Vol}(G_{\gamma}(F) \backslash G_{\gamma}(\mathbb{A})) \int_{G_{\gamma}(\mathbb{A}) \backslash G(\mathbb{A})} f(g^{-1}\gamma g) dg$$

- Interested in spectral side  $I_{\text{spec}}$ : averages over aut. reps.
- Try to compute geometric side  $I_{\text{geom}}$ 
  - rational conjugacy classes, volumes of adelic quotients, orbital integrals

## Discrete Series

Infinite component **discrete series**  $\implies$  make the  $\approx$  explicit:

- Discrete series: appear discretely in  $L^2(G(F_\infty))$ .
- Classified into  **$L$ -packets**  $\Pi_\lambda$
- $G = \mathrm{GL}_2/\mathbb{Q}$ 
  - $L$ -packets singletons parameterized by  $k \geq 2$ .
  - **Regular** when  $k > 2$ .
  - $\pi_\infty \in \Pi_k$  means  $\pi$  a holomorphic modular form of weight  $k$ .
- $G = G_2$ 
  - $L$ -packets are *triples* parameterized by dominant weights  $\lambda$  of  $G_2$
  - **Regular** if  $\lambda$  is
  - $\Pi_{(k-2)\beta}$  for  $\beta$  the highest root contains the (sole) quaternionic discrete series  $\pi_k$  of weight  $k$  (the one with minimal  $K$ -type trivial on one  $\mathrm{SU}_2$ -component)

## “Simple” trace formula

### Theorem ([Art89])

Let  $G/F$  be a *cuspidal reductive group* and let  $\Pi_\lambda$  be a *regular discrete series L-packet*. Let  $\mathcal{A}_\lambda$  be the set of automorphic representations  $\pi$  of  $G$  with  $\pi_\infty \in \Pi_\lambda$ . Then for any compactly supported smooth test function  $f$  on  $G(\mathbb{A}^\infty)$

$$\sum_{\pi \in \mathcal{A}_\lambda} \text{tr}_{\pi^\infty} f = \sum_{M \text{ std. Levi}} (-1)^{[G:M]} \frac{|\Omega_M|}{|\Omega_G|} \sum_{\gamma \in [M(F)]_{\text{ell}}} a_\gamma \phi_M^G(\gamma) O_\gamma^{M, \infty}(f_M)$$

- “Conjugacy classes” counted with principle of inclusion-exclusion
- “Volume term”
- “Orbital integral” factored into infinite and finite places



## Test Function At Infinity

- Discrete Series  $\pi$  come with **pseudocoefficients**  $\varphi_\pi$ . For  $\rho$  a **basic** representation,  $\text{tr}_\rho(\varphi_\pi) = \mathbf{1}_{\pi=\rho}$
- $\eta_\lambda$  **Euler-Poincaré** function

$$\eta_\lambda = \frac{1}{|\Pi_{\text{disc}}(\lambda)|} \sum_{\pi \in \Pi_\lambda} \varphi_\pi$$

- When  $\lambda$  **regular**, for  $\rho$  any unitary representation:  
 $\text{tr}_\rho(\eta_\lambda) = |\Pi_{\text{disc}}(\lambda)|^{-1} \mathbf{1}_{\pi \in \Pi_\lambda}$
- Simple trace formula: use Euler-Poincaré's as infinite component of test function:  $\eta_\lambda f^\infty$ , the above computes spectral side, geometric side harder

## This doesn't quite work for us

**Problem 1:** counts all reps with  $\pi_\infty \in \Pi_{(k-2)\beta}$  instead of all with  $\pi_\infty = \pi_k$

- **Solution Idea:** Use pseudocoefficient at  $\infty$  instead of EP-function.
- Geometric side doesn't simplify nicely then!
- **Stabilization** resolves this

**Problem 2:**  $(k-2)\beta$  not **regular!**

- Spectral side may not simplify nicely w/  $f_\infty = \eta_{(k-2)\beta}$  or  $\varphi_{\pi_k}$ .
- **Solution:** Facts from real representation theory  $\implies$  not an issue for specifically quaternionic ds

**Problem 3:** Terms on geometric side explicit but very hard

- **Solution:** Chenevier/Taïbi have tricks to simplify—only level 1

## Summary of full solution

Let  $H$  be the **endoscopic group**  $\mathrm{SO}_4 \cong \mathrm{SL}_2 \times \mathrm{SL}_2 / \pm 1$ :

$$I^{G_2}(\varphi_{\pi_k} \mathbf{1}_{K^\infty}) = I^{G_2^\zeta}(\eta_{(k-2)\beta}^{G_2^\zeta} \mathbf{1}_{K_{G_2^\zeta}^\infty}) - \frac{1}{2} I^H((\eta_{(k-2)\beta}^{G_2^\zeta})^H \mathbf{1}_{K_H^\infty}) \\ - \frac{1}{2} I^H((\varphi_{\pi_k})^H \mathbf{1}_{K_H^\infty})$$

- $I^{G_2}$  term : The count we want by problem 2 solution
- $I^{G_2^\zeta}$  term:  $G_2^\zeta$  compact  $\implies \# G_2^\zeta(\mathbb{Z})$ -fixed vectors in  $V_\lambda$ .
- $(\eta_\lambda^{G_2^\zeta})^H$  terms: **endoscopic transfers**, **explicit linear combinations of EP-functions**
- $I^H(\eta_\lambda)$  terms:  $H$  isogenous to  $\mathrm{SL}_2 \times \mathrm{SL}_2$  so products of counts of modular forms at level 1, weights from **above**

Quat. Aut. Reps.  
○○○○

Results  
○○○○

Trace Formulas  
○○○

Disc.-at- $\infty$  TF  
○○○

Tech. issues  
○○  
●

# Papers Mentioned



James Arthur, *The  $L^2$ -Lefschetz numbers of Hecke operators*, Invent. Math. **97** (1989), no. 2, 257–290. MR 1001841



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