

①

A representation of a group  $G$  is a homomorphism  $\rho: G \rightarrow GL(V)$ , where  $V = V/\mathbb{C}$  is a vector space often equipped by structure of a Hilbert space. The notions of irreducible, unitary, direct sum and equivalence, applied to representations of a fixed group  $G$  (finite, discrete, topological, compact, smooth, ...), will be reviewed later.

There are two general problems to consider, for any given  $G$ :

- 1/ Classify the set  $\Pi(G)$  of equivalence classes of irreducible unitary representations of  $G$ .
- 2/ If  $R: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  is some natural unitary representation of  $G$ , decompose  $R$  explicitly into irreducible representations. This amounts to find a  $G$ -equivariant ~~isomorphism~~ isomorphism  $V \cong W$ , where  $W$  is a space built explicitly out of irreducible representations as a direct sum  $W \cong \bigoplus_{\pi \in \Pi(G)} n_{\pi} V_{\pi}$ ,  $n_{\pi} \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ , or perhaps in some more general fashion.

Harmonic analysis aims to resolve 1, 2) by analytical tools; it is based on the following vocabulary between geometrical-topological and spectral quantities:

(2)

Geometric/topological  
objects

Spectral = analytical  
objects

Linear  
algebra

sum of diagonal  
entries of a  
square matrix

sum of eigenvalues  
of the matrix

Finite  
groups

Conjugacy  
classes

Irreducible  
characters

Number  
theory

Logarithms of  
powers of prime  
numbers

Zeros of zeta  
functions, i.e.,  $\zeta(s)$

Automorphic  
forms

Rational  
conjugacy  
classes

Automorphic  
representations

Differential  
geometry

Length of  
closed  
geodesics

Eigenvalues of  
the Laplace operator

Algebraic  
geometry

Algebraic  
cycles

Motives

Topology

Singular  
homology

De-Rham  
cohomology

Physics

Particles in  
classical  
mechanics

Waves in  
quantum  
mechanics

③ Here are two well-known examples from the basic course of analysis:

Example 1: (Fourier analysis and compact-discrete duality):  
~~(Compact)~~  $G = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z} \cong S^1$ ,  $V = L^2(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})$ ,

$$(\mathcal{R}(y)f)(x) = f(x+y), \quad x, y \in G, f \in V$$

Fourier analysis on  $\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ ; the set  $\Pi(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})$  is parametrized by  $\mathbb{Z}$ :

$$\pi \in \Pi(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}) \Leftrightarrow V_\pi \cong \mathbb{C}$$

$$\pi(y)v = e^{-2\pi i n y} v, \quad v \in V_\pi, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

The space

$$\hat{V} = L^2(\mathbb{Z}) = \{c = \{c_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} : \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |c_n|^2 < \infty\}$$

supports the representation

$$\left( \hat{\mathcal{R}}(y)c \right)_n = e^{2\pi i n y} c_n, \quad c = \{c_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$$

which is a direct sum of all irreducible representations of  $G$ , <sup>each</sup> occurring with multiplicity one.

The Fourier coefficients  $\{\hat{f}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  of  $f$ ,

$$f \rightarrow \hat{f}_n := \int_{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}} f(x) e^{-2\pi i n x} dx,$$

gives the isomorphism from  $V$  to  $\hat{V}$  such that  $\mathcal{R} \cong \hat{\mathcal{R}}$ . It satisfies the Plancherel formula

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}} |f(x)|^2 dx = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} |\hat{f}_n|^2.$$

④ Example 4:  $G = \mathbb{R}$  (additive group),  $V_{\mathbb{R}} = L^2(\mathbb{R})$ ,  
 $(R(y)f)(x) = f(x+y)$ ,  $y \in G, f \in V_{\mathbb{R}}$ .

In this case is  $\Pi(G)$  parametrized by  $\mathbb{R}$ :

$$\pi \in \Pi(G) \Leftrightarrow V_{\pi} \cong \mathbb{C}$$

$$\pi(y)v = e^{-i\lambda y}v, \quad v \in V_{\pi}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

We define  $\hat{V} = L^2(\mathbb{R})$ , and

$$(\hat{R}(y)\varphi)(\lambda) = e^{i\lambda y}\varphi(\lambda), \quad \varphi \in \hat{V}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Then  $\hat{V}$  is a "continuous direct sum", or direct integral of irreducible representations.  
 The Fourier transform

$$f \rightarrow \hat{f}(\lambda) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x)e^{-i\lambda x} dx,$$

$$f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}),$$

where  $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  are smooth compactly supported functions (dense in  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ ) extends to a topological isomorphism  $V \rightarrow \hat{V}$  that satisfies Plancherel formula

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} |f(x)|^2 dx = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\hat{f}(\lambda)|^2 d\lambda.$$



# Harmonic analysis on finite groups

Notation:

$X$  - finite set,  $\mathcal{F}(X) := \{f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  (fin.-dim)  
 (top. space with the discrete topology)  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{F}(X) = |X|$  ... vector space of  $\mathbb{C}$ -valued functions on  $X$

$x \in X$ ,  $\delta_x \in \mathcal{F}(X)$  Dirac function supported at  $x \in X$ :  
 $\delta_x(y) = \begin{cases} 1 & y=x \\ 0 & y \neq x \end{cases}$

$\{\delta_x \mid x \in X\}$  ... natural basis for  $\mathcal{F}(X)$ ,  
 $f \in \mathcal{F}(X) \Rightarrow f = \sum_{x \in X} f(x) \delta_x$ .

$\mathcal{F}(X)$  carries scalar product  $\langle, \rangle: \mathcal{F}(X) \times \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$   
 $f_1, f_2 \mapsto \langle f_1, f_2 \rangle := \sum_{x \in X} f_1(x) \overline{f_2(x)}$

and set  $\|f\|^2 := \langle f, f \rangle$ .

The basis  $\{\delta_x \mid x \in X\}$  is ON with respect  $\langle, \rangle$ .

For  $Y \subseteq X$ ,  $1_Y$  ... characteristic function of  $Y$   
 $1_Y(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in Y \\ 0 & x \notin Y \end{cases}$

( $Y=X$  write  $1 = 1_X$ .)

$X = Y_1 \dot{\cup} Y_2$  disjoint union ( $Y_1 \cap Y_2 = \emptyset$ ), iterated for any finite collection of subspaces.)

⑥

$A: \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X)$  linear operator;

set  $a(x, y) := (A \bar{1}_y)(x)$ ,  $x, y \in X$  arbitrary

$$(Af)(x) = \sum_{y \in X} a(x, y) f(y), \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{F}(X)$$

so the operator  $A$  is represented by matrix  $a = \{a(x, y)\}_{x, y \in X}$

For  $A_1, A_2: \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X)$  linear operators

$$A_1 \leftrightarrow \{a_1(x, y)\}_{x, y \in X}$$

$$A_2 \leftrightarrow \{a_2(x, y)\}_{x, y \in X}$$

$\Rightarrow A_1 \circ A_2$  is represented by product of matrices

$$a(x, y) = \sum_{z \in X} a_1(x, z) a_2(z, y)$$

Identity operator is represented by identity matrix  $I = \{\delta_x(y)\}_{x, y \in X}$

Harmonic analysis on finite cyclic groups

$C_n = \{\bar{0}, \bar{1}, \dots, \bar{n-1}\}$  cyclic group of order  $n$

$$\cong \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$$

$$\bar{x} = x + n\mathbb{Z}$$

$$\overline{x+y} = \bar{x} + \bar{y}$$

, notation  $\bar{x} = x$  (and  $-$  denotes complex conjugation)

$$f \in \mathcal{F}(C_n) \cong \left\{ f: \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f(x+n) = f(x) \right. \\ \left. \forall x \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$

The functions  $\chi_x, x \in C_n$ , defined by

$$\chi_x(y) := \omega^{xy}, \quad x, y \in C_n, \quad \omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$$

are characters (homom.  $C_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ ), such that  $\chi_x(y) = \chi_y(x)$

$$\chi_y(-x) = \overline{\chi_y(x)}, \quad \chi_0 = 1.$$

In fact, any  $\varphi: C_n \rightarrow S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$  satisfying

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \varphi(x+y) &= \varphi(x) \varphi(y) \\ \varphi(0) &= 1 \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \varphi = \chi_z \text{ for some } z \in C_n.$$

(7)

Lemma 1: (orthogonality relations) Set  $\delta_0(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \equiv_n 0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

Then  $\sum_{y=0}^{n-1} \chi_{x_1}(y) \overline{\chi_{x_2}(y)} = n \delta_0(x_1 - x_2)$ .

Pf:  $\chi_{x_1}(y) \overline{\chi_{x_2}(y)} = \omega^{y(x_1 - x_2)} = \left(\omega^{x_1 - x_2}\right)^y$ , For  $x_1 \not\equiv_n x_2$

$z = \omega^{x_1 - x_2}$  satisfies  $z^n - 1 = 0$  but not  $z - 1 = 0$ , and from

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{y=0}^{n-1} \chi_{x_1}(y) \overline{\chi_{x_2}(y)} = \sum_{y=0}^{n-1} z^y = \frac{z^n - 1}{z - 1} = 0.$$

For  $x_1 \equiv_n x_2$  then  $\omega^{x_1 - x_2} = 1 \Rightarrow \text{sum} = n$ .  $\square$

By  $\chi_x(y) = \chi_y(x) \Rightarrow \sum_{x \in C_n} \chi_x(y_1) \overline{\chi_x(y_2)} = n \delta_0(y_1 - y_2)$ .

$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{F}(C_n) = n \Rightarrow \{\chi_x \mid x \in C_n\}$  is an OG-basis of  $\mathcal{F}(C_n)$

Def 2: (Fourier transform) The Fourier transform for  $f \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$  is  $\hat{f} \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$ :

$$\hat{f}(x) := \langle f, \chi_x \rangle = \sum_{y \in C_n} f(y) \overline{\chi_x(y)}.$$

$\chi_x$ 's are OG-basis for  $\mathcal{F}(C_n)$ :

Theorem 3: (Fourier inversion formula)  $|C_n| = n$

$$f = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \hat{f}(x) \chi_x \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{F}(C_n).$$

Pf:  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \hat{f}(x) \chi_x(y_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \sum_{y \in C_n} f(y) \overline{\chi_x(y)} \chi_x(y_1)$

$$= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{y \in C_n} f(y) \sum_{x \in C_n} \overline{\chi_x(y)} \chi_x(y_1) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{y \in C_n} f(y) \delta_0(y - y_1) n$$

$$= f(y_1)$$

$\square$

④ Th 4: (Plancherel formula) For  $f \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$  we have  $\|f\| \sqrt{n} = \|\hat{f}\|$ .

Pf:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{f}\|^2 &= \langle \hat{f}, \hat{f} \rangle = \sum_{x \in C_n} \hat{f}(x) \overline{\hat{f}(x)} = \\ &= \sum_{x \in C_n} \left( \sum_{y_1 \in C_n} f(y_1) \chi_x(y_1) \right) \overline{\left( \sum_{y_2 \in C_n} f(y_2) \chi_x(y_2) \right)} = \\ &= \sum_{\substack{y_1 \in C_n \\ y_2 \in C_n}} f(y_1) \overline{f(y_2)} \sum_{x \in C_n} \overline{\chi_x(y_1)} \chi_x(y_2) \\ &= n \sum_{y \in C_n} f(y) \overline{f(y)} = n \|f\|^2 \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

$f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$ , the convolution of  $f_1, f_2$  is

$$(f_1 * f_2)(y) := \sum_{x \in C_n} f_1(y-x) f_2(x), \quad y \in C_n.$$

$A/k$  ... algebra (vector space  $k$ , ring structure)

In our case:  $A/k = \mathcal{F}(C_n)$  with convolution

Lemma 5:  $f_1, f_2, f_3 \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$

1/  $f_1 * f_2 = f_2 * f_1$  (commutativity)

2/  $(f_1 * f_2) * f_3 = f_1 * (f_2 * f_3)$  (associativity)

3/  $(f_1 + f_2) * f_3 = f_1 * f_3 + f_2 * f_3$  (distributivity)

4/  $\delta_0 * f = f * \delta_0 = f$ .

5/  $\widehat{f_1 * f_2} = \hat{f}_1 \cdot \hat{f}_2$

Pf: 5/  $\widehat{f_1 * f_2}(y) = \sum_{x \in C_n} (f_1 * f_2)(x) \overline{\chi_y(x)}$

$$= \sum_{x \in C_n} \sum_{t \in C_n} f_1(x-t) f_2(t) \overline{\chi_y(x-t)} \overline{\chi_y(t)}$$

$$= \hat{f}_1(y) \hat{f}_2(y).$$



⑨ For  $f = \delta_x$ , we have  $\widehat{\delta_x} = \overline{\chi_x} \quad \forall x \in C_n$ .

The translation operator

$$T_x : \mathcal{F}(C_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(C_n)$$

$$f \mapsto (T_x f)(y) = f(y-x) \quad \forall x, y \in C_n.$$

We have  $(T_x f)(y) = \overline{\chi_y(x)} \widehat{f}(y)$ , as follows from

$$(T_x f) = f * \delta_x$$

Let  $R : \mathcal{F}(C_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(C_n)$  be a linear operator, associated with matrix

$\{r(x, y)\}_{x, y \in C_n}$ , i.e.

$$(Rf)(x) = \sum_{y \in C_n} r(x, y) f(y).$$

We say  $R$  is  $C_n$ -invariant if commutes in  $\text{End}(\mathcal{F}(C_n))$  with

$T_x \quad \forall x \in C_n$ , i.e.

$$RT_x = T_x R \quad \forall x \in C_n.$$

We say  $R$  is a convolution operator if there exists  $h \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$  such that  $Rf = f * h \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{F}(C_n)$ . The function  $h$  is called the convolution kernel of  $R$ .

Lemma 6 The linear operator  $R$  associated with the matrix  $\{r(x, y)\}_{x, y \in C_n}$  is  $C_n$ -invariant iff

$$r(x-z, y-z) = r(x, y), \quad \forall x, y, z \in C_n.$$

Pf:  $R$  is  $C_n$ -invariant iff  $(T_z(Rf))(x) = (R(T_z f))(v)$  iff

$$\sum_{u \in C_n} r(v-z, u) f(u) = \sum_{u \in C_n} r(v, u) f(u-z)$$

equivalent to  $(u \rightarrow u-z)$

$$\sum_{u \in C_n} r(v-z, u-z) f(u-z) = \sum_{u \in C_n} r(v, u) f(u-z).$$

□



⑩ Theorem 7:  $R: \mathcal{F}(C_n) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(C_n)$  a linear operator. TFEAE:

- 1/  $R$  is  $C_n$ -invariant,
- 2/  $R$  is convolution operator,
- 3/ Every  $\chi_x$  is an eigenvector of  $R$ .

Pf: 1/  $\Rightarrow$  2/

By previous lemma,  $r(x, y) = r(x-y, 0)$ , and so for  $h(x) := r(x, 0)$  we have

$$(Rf)(x) = \sum_{y \in C_n} h(x-y) f(y) = (h * f)(x),$$

so that  $R$  is convolution operator.

The converse 2/  $\Rightarrow$  1/ is easy, because  $\forall$  convolution operator is  $C_n$ -invariant.

2/  $\Rightarrow$  3/

$$\exists h \in \mathcal{F}(C_n): R = * h, \quad Rf = f * h \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{F}(C_n).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} (R\chi_x)(y) &= \sum_{t \in C_n} \chi_x(y-t) h(t) = \chi_x(y) \sum_{t \in C_n} \overline{\chi_x(t)} h(t) = \\ &= \hat{h}(x) \chi_x(y) \Rightarrow \forall \chi_x \text{ is an eigenvector} \end{aligned}$$

with eigenvalue  $\hat{h}(x)$ .

3/  $\Rightarrow$  2/ By Fourier inversion formula  $(f = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \hat{f}(x) \chi_x)$  and  $\mathbb{C}$  linearity of  $R$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (Rf)(z) &= \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \hat{f}(x) \lambda(x) \chi_x(z) \\ &= \sum_{y \in C_n} f(y) \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \lambda(x) \chi_x(z-y) \\ &= (h * f)(z), \quad h(y) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{x \in C_n} \lambda(x) \chi_x(y). \end{aligned}$$

□

11) Důležitá věta 8:  $R$  ... conv. operator with kernel  $h \in F(C_n)$ . Then  
 $R \chi_x = \hat{h}(x) \chi_x$ . The spectrum of  $R$  is given by  
 $\sigma(R) = \{ \hat{h}(x) \mid x \in C_n \}$ .

A matrix of the form

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & \dots & a_{n-1} \\ a_{n-1} & a_0 & a_1 & \dots & a_{n-2} \\ a_{n-2} & a_{n-1} & a_0 & \dots & a_{n-3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & \dots & a_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1} \in \mathbb{C}$

is circulant.  $\mathcal{C}_n \equiv$  the set of all  $n \times n$  circulant matrices.

Důvětež:

If  $A, B \in \mathcal{C}_n$ , then  $AB = BA$  and  $AB \in \mathcal{C}_n$ . Since  $aA + bB \in \mathcal{C}_n$   
 $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_n$  is commutative algebra with unit (identity matrix).

For  $F(C_n)$  take the basis  $B = \{ \delta_0, \delta_1, \dots, \delta_{n-1} \}$ . A lin. op.

$T: F(C_n) \rightarrow F(C_n)$  is convolution of  $Tf = f * h$  iff  
in  $B$  can be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} f(0) \\ f(1) \\ \vdots \\ f(n-1) \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} h(0) & h(n-1) & \dots & h(1) \\ h(1) & h(0) & \dots & h(2) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ h(n-1) & h(n-2) & \dots & h(0) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f(0) \\ f(1) \\ \vdots \\ f(n-1) \end{pmatrix}$$

ie., iff the matrix of  $T$  is circulant. In particular,  $\mathcal{C}_n \cong F(C_n)$  as algebras.

Denote

$$F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & \omega^{-1} & \omega^{-2} & \omega^{-(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \omega^{-2} & \omega^{-4} & \omega^{-2(n-1)} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & \omega^{-(n-1)} & \omega^{-2(n-1)} & \omega^{-(n-1)^2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$F$  is symmetric  $\Rightarrow$   
 $F^* \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is adjoint  
 $\frac{F^*}{F}$  of  $F$   
ON - relations for characters  
 $\Rightarrow F$  is unitary

12

A matrix  $A$  ( $n \times n$ ) belongs to  $E_n$  iff  $FAF^*$  is diagonal  
(note that columns of  $F$  are given by values of characters on  $C_n$ .)

The matrix  $FAF^*$  is called the matrix form of the Fourier transform on  $C_n$  (discrete Fourier transform.)

# Harmonic analysis on finite group / set

**X** - a finite set,  $G$  - a finite group

Def: A (left) action of  $G$  on  $X$  :  $G \times X \rightarrow X$   
 $(g, x) \mapsto gx$

$$\begin{aligned} 1) & (gh) \cdot x = g \cdot (hx) \quad \forall g, h \in G, x \in X, \\ 2) & e \cdot x = x \quad \forall e \in G \end{aligned}$$

transitive action:  $\forall x_1, x_2 \in X \exists g : gx_1 = x_2$

fixed point :  $x \in X$  is fixed by  $g \in G$  if  $gx = x$

$$\text{Stab}_G(x) = \{g \in G : g \cdot x = x\} \quad \dots \text{stabilizer of } x \in X$$

$$\text{Orb}_G(x) = \{g \cdot x : g \in G\} \quad \dots G\text{-orbit of } x$$

$$x_1 \in \text{Orb}_G(x) \Leftrightarrow \text{Orb}_G(x) = \text{Orb}_G(x_1) ; \text{Orb}_G(x) \subseteq X$$

" $\sim$ " : equivalence relation  $x_1 \sim x_2 \Leftrightarrow x_1 = gx_2$  for some  $g \in G$

transitive action  $\Leftrightarrow \text{Orb}_G(x) = X \quad \forall x \in X$

$$X = \bigcup_{x \in \Gamma} \text{Orb}_G(x), \quad \Gamma \dots \text{a set of representatives of the orbits}$$

Ex:  $G, K \leq G, X = G/K = \{gK : g \in G\}$

$G$  acts from the left on  $X$  by  $g' \cdot (gK) = (g'g)K, g', g \in G$ .

This action is transitive. The action of  $K \leq G$  is not transitive, e.g.,  $K$  stabilizes  $eK$  :  $\text{Orb}_K(eK) = eK$ ;  $K$ -orbits correspond to double cosets  $K \backslash G / K$ .

$S_X$  ... the group of bijections  $X \rightarrow X$ ,  $\sigma \in S_X$  is a permutation of  $X$ . For  $X = \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  $S_X \cong S_n$ .

Lemma: Assume  $G$  acts on  $X$ .

1)  $\forall g \in G$  induces  $\sigma_g \in S_X$ ,

2) The map  $G \rightarrow S_X$   
 $g \mapsto \sigma_g$

is a group homomorphism.

3) There is bijection between  $\forall$  actions  $G \times X \rightarrow X$  and the set of homomorphisms  $G \rightarrow S_X$ .



(14)

$$G \times X \rightarrow X, \quad \text{Ker}(\sigma_g) = H \leq G$$

$$\{g \in G : gx = x \quad \forall x \in X\}$$

kernel of  $G$  acting on  $X$ If  $H = e$ , the action is faithful ( $G \leq S_X$ )

Two  $G$ -spaces  $X, X'$  are isomorphic if  $\exists$  a bijection  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X'$  fulfilling  $\varphi(g \cdot x) = g \cdot \varphi(x) \quad \forall x \in X, g \in G$  ( $G$ -equivariant)

Lemma  $X$  a  $G$ -space,  $x \in X$ ,  $K = \text{Stab}_G(x)$ . Then the map

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi: G/K &\rightarrow X \\ gK &\mapsto g \cdot x \end{aligned}$$

is a  $G$ -equivariant bijection ( $G/K \cong X$ )  
 $G$  acts transitively on  $X$   
 $G$ -spaces

Pf: 1/  $\Psi$  is well-defined + injective:

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 K = g_2 K &\Leftrightarrow g_1^{-1} g_2 \in K \Leftrightarrow (g_1^{-1} g_2) \cdot x = x \Leftrightarrow \\ &\Leftrightarrow g_1^{-1} \cdot (g_2 \cdot x) = x \Leftrightarrow g_2 \cdot x = g_1 \cdot x. \end{aligned}$$

2/  $\Psi$  is surjective (clear)

3/  $G$ -equivariance  $\Psi$ :

$$\begin{aligned} g_1 \Psi(g_2 K) &= g_1 \cdot (g_2 \cdot x) = (g_1 g_2) \cdot x = \Psi(g_1 g_2 K) \\ &= \Psi(g_1 \cdot g_2 K) \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma: Let  $G$  act on  $X$ . Then

$$|G| = |\text{Stab}_G(x)| \cdot |\text{Orb}_G(x)| \quad \forall x \in X.$$

Pf: The previous lemma applied to  $G$  acting on  $\text{Orb}_G(x)$ ,  
 $x \in X$  arbitrary:  $|\text{Orb}_G(x)| = |G / \text{Stab}_G(x)| = |G| / |\text{Stab}_G(x)|$ .

For  $\varphi: X \rightarrow X'$  an isomorphism of  $G$ -spaces we have  $\forall x \in X$ :

$$\text{Stab}_G(x) \cong \text{Stab}_G(\varphi(x)). \quad \square$$



15

Lemma:  $X$  a  $G$ -space. Then  $\text{Stab}_G(g \cdot x) = g \text{Stab}_G(x) g^{-1}$

Pf:  $h \in \text{Stab}_G(g \cdot x) \Leftrightarrow h \cdot (g \cdot x) = g \cdot x \Leftrightarrow g^{-1} [h \cdot (g \cdot x)] = (g^{-1} h g) x = x$   
 $\Leftrightarrow g^{-1} h g \in \text{Stab}_G(x)$ .  $\square$

Lemma:  $H, K \leq G$  subgroups. Then  $G/H, G/K$  are isomorphic  $G$ -spaces iff  $H, K$  are conjugate in  $G$  (i.e.,  $\exists g \in G$   $K = g^{-1} H g$ .)

Pf:  $\Leftarrow \exists g \in G: K = g^{-1} H g, X = G/H, x = \bar{g^{-1} H}$ , then  
 $K = \text{Stab}_G(x) \Rightarrow$  Lemma for  $\Psi: G/K \xrightarrow{\sim} X = G/H$ ,  $G$ -space

$\Rightarrow \varphi: G/H \rightarrow G/K$  is  $G$ -equiv. isom; let  $g \in G$  such that  $\varphi(H) = gK$ . Then by lemma above  $\Rightarrow \text{Stab}_G(H) = \text{Stab}_G(gK)$ . Since  $\text{Stab}_G(gK) = gK g^{-1}$  and  $\text{Stab}_G(H) = H \Rightarrow H = gK g^{-1}$ .  $\square$

Ex 1: (trivial action)

$G, X: g \cdot x = x \forall g \in G, x \in X$  trivial action.

$\forall x \in X: \text{Orb}_G(x) = \{x\},$   
 $\text{Stab}_G(x) = G.$

Ex 2:  $G, X = G, G$  acts on  $X$  by left action.

A/  $G \times G \rightarrow G$

$(g \cdot h) := g \cdot h$

B/  $G \times G \rightarrow G$

$(g \cdot h) := h g^{-1}$

transitive, faithful action

Ex 3:  $G \times G \rightarrow G$

$g \cdot h := g h g^{-1}$ , the orbits = conjugacy classes

conj. action

stabilizer of  $x \in G - Z(x)$  centralizer of  $x$  in  $G$

A fixed point = central element (commutes  $\forall g \in G$ )

$G$  abelian  $\Rightarrow \forall$  element is central

Ex: Let  $\Omega$  denote the set of all subgroups  $H \leq G$ . Define the action of  $G$  on  $\Omega$ :  $g \cdot H := gHg^{-1} = \{ghg^{-1} \mid h \in H\}$ . (Conjugation action on subgroups.)  $H \leq G$  is fixed by conjugation action if it is normal subgroup. The stabilizer of  $H$  is called the normalizer of  $H$  in  $G$ .

Ex: (Diagonal action)  $G$  acts on  $\Omega$ . Define the action of  $G$  on  $\Omega \times \Omega$  by  $g \cdot (w_1, w_2) = (g \cdot w_1, g \cdot w_2)$ , and if the action of  $G$  on  $\Omega$  is transitive, the description of  $G$ -orbits on  $\Omega \times \Omega$  is known (maybe will be discussed as an exercise). It is diagonal action of  $G \times G$  on  $\Omega \times \Omega$ , i.e.  $\tilde{G} = \{(g, g) : g \in G\}$  acting on  $\Omega \times \Omega$ .

Ex:  $G$  group,  $\Omega_1, \Omega_2$  sets. If  $G$  acts on  $\Omega_1$ , it acts on

$$\Omega_2^{\Omega_1} := \{f: \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2\} \text{ by}$$

$$(g \cdot f)(w_1) = f(g^{-1} \cdot w_1), \quad w_1 \in \Omega_1, g \in G, f \in \Omega_2^{\Omega_1}$$

When  $\Omega_1 = G, \Omega_2 = \mathbb{C}, \Omega_2^{\Omega_1} = L(G)$  is the left (right) regular representation (see Cayley action).

When the action of  $G$  on  $\Omega_1$  is transitive,  $\Omega_1 = G/K$  ( $K$  is the stabilizer of  $[g] \in G/K$ ) and  $\Omega_2 = \mathbb{C}, L(X)$  is called permutation represent. on  $L(X)$ .

Representations, irreducibility, unitarity, ...

$V_{\mathbb{C}}$  - fin. dim vect. space,  $GL(V)$  ... group of invert. transformations  
( $A: V \rightarrow V$  invert. map)

Def: A repr.  $(\rho, V)$  of  $G$  on  $V$  is

$$G \times V \rightarrow V$$

$$(g, v) \mapsto \rho(g)v$$

$\rho$  is homomorphism:

$$1) \rho(g) \in GL(V)$$

$$2) \rho(g_1 g_2) = \rho(g_1) \rho(g_2),$$

$$3) \rho(e) = \mathbb{I}_V.$$

When a basis is chosen in  $V$ , then  $GL(V) \cong GL(n, \mathbb{C})$  for  $n = \dim V$ .

①  $(\rho, V)$  a represent. of  $G$ ;  $W \subseteq V$  a  $G$ -invariant subspace, i.e.  
 $\rho(g)w \in W \quad \forall g \in G, w \in W \implies \rho(G)W \subseteq W$ . Then

$\rho_W : g \in G \mapsto \rho(g)|_W \in GL(W)$  on  $W$  is subrepr. of  $G$

$(\rho, V) \supseteq (\rho_W, W)$ . We use the notation  $\rho_W \leq \rho$  (clearly  $\rho \leq \rho$ )

$(\rho, V)$  is irreducible if  $G$ -invariant subspaces are  $W = \{0\}$  or  $W = V$ .  
 (the improper subspaces only.) E.g., all 1-dim representations are irreducible.

Equivalence of repr. :  $(\rho, V) \sim (\sigma, W)$  for two  $G$ -repr.

$J : V \rightarrow W$  linear bijection such that  $\sigma(g)J = J\rho(g) \quad \forall g \in G$ .

Let  $V$  be endowed with a scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ .

$(V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_V), (W, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_W) \quad T : V \rightarrow W$

$T^* : W \rightarrow V$  adjoint of  $T$

$$\langle w, Tv \rangle_W = \langle T^*w, v \rangle_V \quad \forall v \in V, w \in W.$$

A linear op.  $U : V \rightarrow W$  is unitary if  $U^*U = Id = UU^*$ , i.e.

$$\langle Uv, Uv' \rangle_W = \langle v, v' \rangle_V \quad \forall v, v' \in V.$$

Its spectrum is characterized by  $\sigma(U) \subseteq \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| = 1\}$ .

A repr. is unitary if it preserves the scalar product, i.e.,

$$\langle \rho(g)v, \rho(g)v' \rangle = \langle v, v' \rangle \quad \forall g \in G, v, v' \in V.$$

Equivalently,  $(\rho, V)$  is unitary if  $\rho(g) \in U(V)$  is a subgroup of unitary group.

Given  $(\rho, V)$ , it is possible to endow it with an inner product for which the action is unitary:

$$\langle v, w \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} \langle \rho(g)v, \rho(g)w \rangle, \quad v, w \in V.$$

Lemma: The representation  $(\rho, V_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$  is unitary and equivalent to  $(\rho, V_{\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle})$ . In particular, every representation is equivalent to a unitary repr.



(18) Pf:  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is clearly an inner product on  $V$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} (\rho(h)v, \rho(h)w) &= \sum_{g \in G} \langle \rho(g)\rho(h)v, \rho(g)\rho(h)w \rangle \\ &= \sum_{g \in G} \langle \rho(gh)v, \rho(gh)w \rangle \\ &= \sum_{h \in G} \langle \rho(h)v, \rho(h)w \rangle \\ &= (v, w) \quad \Rightarrow G\text{-invariant} \end{aligned}$$

The equivalence  $(\rho, V, (\cdot, \cdot))$  and  $(\rho, V, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle)$  is trivial (given by  $\text{Id}_V$ ).  $\square$

Equivalence class of representations  $\Rightarrow$  unitary representations.

Unitarity assumption:  $\rho(g^{-1}) = \rho(g)^{-1} = \rho(g)^* \quad \forall g \in G$ .

Unitary equivalence = equivalence +  $\exists U: V \rightarrow W$  unitary oper.  
 $\sigma(g)U = U\rho(g)$

lemma: Suppose  $(\rho, V), (\sigma, W)$  are unitary representations of finite group  $G$ . If they are equivalent  $\Rightarrow$  they are also unitarily equivalent.

Pf: Assume  $\exists T: V \rightarrow W$

$$\rho(g) = T^{-1}\sigma(g)T \quad \forall g \in G$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{for } \rho(g)^* = \rho(g^{-1})$$

$$\rho(g) = T^* \sigma(g) (T^*)^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \rho(g)^{-1} (TT^*) \rho(g) = T^* T \quad \forall g \in G$$

$\Rightarrow$  Taking  $T = U|T|$  the polar decomposition of  $T$ , where  $U$  is unitary and  $|T|$  is positive

~~linear operator~~  $T = \sqrt{T^*T}$  (pos. square root)

$$\rho(g)^{-1} |T| \rho(g) = |T|$$

$\Rightarrow |T|$  is invertible, so

$$U\rho(g)U^{-1} = T|T|^{-1}\rho(g)|T|T^{-1} = T\rho(g)T^{-1} = \sigma(g).$$

$\square$

$(\rho_i, W_i)$  represent,

$\rho = \rho_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \rho_k$  is repr. on  $W_1 \oplus \dots \oplus W_k$   
direct sum representation

$$\rho(g)v = \rho_1(g)w_1 + \dots + \rho_k(g)w_k$$

$$\forall v = w_1 + \dots + w_k \in V, w_i \in W_i, g \in G.$$

$W \subseteq V$  a  $G$ -invariant subspace of  $(\rho, V)$ ,

$W^\perp := \{v \in V \mid \langle v, w \rangle = 0 \ \forall w \in W\}$  the orthogonal complement of  $W$ , is also  $G$ -invariant: for  $v \in W^\perp, w \in W$

$$\langle \rho(g)v, w \rangle = \langle v, \rho(g^{-1})w \rangle = \langle v, \underset{W}{w'} \rangle = 0 \ \forall w \in W.$$

$$\rho_1 = \rho|_W, \rho_2 = \rho|_{W^\perp} \quad \therefore \rho = \rho|_W \oplus \rho|_{W^\perp}$$

This implies, by induction:

Lemma:  $\forall$  representation of  $G$  is a direct sum of a finite number of irreducible repr.

Def:  $G$  a finite group,  $\hat{G} :=$  a complete set of irreducible pairwise inequivalent (unitary) represent. of  $G$ .

Ex:  $L(G) := \{f: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\}$  the space of  $\mathbb{C}$ , the scalar product is

$$\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} f_1(g) \overline{f_2(g)}$$

and the  $G$ -action

$$(\rho(g)f)(h) = f(g^{-1}h).$$

Ex:  $C_n = \{1, a, a^2, \dots, a^{n-1}\}$  cyclic group of order  $n$ , set  $\omega = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$ ,  $(\rho_k, \mathbb{C})$  is defined by  $\rho_k(a^h) = \omega^{kh}$

is 1-dim ( $\Rightarrow$  irreducible) repr. of  $C_n$ .  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$

Intertwining maps and Schur's Lemma

$(\rho, V), (\sigma, W)$  repr. of  $G$ ,  $L: V \rightarrow W$  a linear map  
 $L$  intertwines  $\rho, \sigma$ :  $L\rho(g) = \sigma(g)L \ \forall g \in G$ .

Lemma (Schur) irred vs  $\exists$  of intertw. map:

$(\rho, V), (\sigma, W)$  irred. repr. of  $G$ . If  $L$  intertwines  $\rho, \sigma$ , then either  $L=0$  or  $L$  is an isomorphism.



(20)

$$\text{Pf: } V_0 = \underbrace{\{v \in V \mid L(v) = 0\}}_{\text{kernel}}, \quad W_0 = \underbrace{\{L(v) \mid v \in V\}}_{\text{range}} \subseteq W \text{ of } L$$

$L$  is intertwiner  $\Rightarrow V_0, W_0$  are inv. subspaces.

Irreducibility  $\Rightarrow \nexists V_0 = V, W_0 = \{0\}$ , or  
(and non-triviality  $\nexists V_0 = \{0\}, W_0 = W$  of  $V, W$ )

$\Rightarrow \nexists L$  is trivial,  
 $\nexists L$  is an isomorphism.  $\square$

Dual:  $(\rho, V)$  irrep. of  $G$ .  $L: V \rightarrow V$  intertwining  $\rho$ ,  $L\rho(g) = \rho(g)L$   
 $\forall g \in G$ . Then  $L \in \mathbb{C} \cdot \text{Id}_V$ .

Pf:  $\lambda \in \sigma(L)$ . Then  $L - \lambda \text{Id}_V$  also intertwines  $\rho$  with itself,  
by previous lemma:  $L - \lambda \text{Id}_V$  is either invertible or  
zero. By definition of eigenvalue, it is not invertible  
 $\Rightarrow$  it is zero  $\Rightarrow L \in \mathbb{C} \cdot \text{Id}_V$ .  $\square$

Ex:  $\rho \in \hat{G}$ ,  $g_0 \in Z(G) = \{g \in G \mid gh = hg \forall h \in G\}$

### Matrix coefficients and their orthogonality relations

$(\rho, V)$  - unitary repr. of  $G$ ;  $v, w \in V$   $u_{v,w}(g): G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

$u_{v,w}$  - matrix coefficient of  $(\rho, V)$

$$u_{v,w}(g) = \langle \rho(g)w, v \rangle, \quad g \in G$$

$\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$  - ON-basis for  $V$ ,  $\rho(g)$  -  $(n \times n)$ -matrix  $(u_{v_i, v_j}(g))_{i,j}$   
 $\forall g \in G$

Any  $u: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  can be realized as a coefficient of a unitary repr.:

$V = \mathbb{C}(G)$  with scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \dots$

$u(g) = \langle \rho(g)\delta_e, \bar{u} \rangle$ ,  $\rho$  is left regular repr. ( $\delta_e$  is the Dirac  
function supported on  $e \in G$ .)  
Coefficients of irred. repr. constitute an ON-basis of  $L(G)$ !

Lemma:  $(\rho, V), (\sigma, W)$  are irred. non-equivalent repr. of  $G$ .  
Then all coefficients of  $\rho$  are orthogonal to all  
coefficients of  $\sigma$ .



(22) Pf:

Fix  $i, k \in \{1, \dots, d\}$  and consider  $L_{ik} : V \rightarrow V$

$$L_{ik}(v) := \langle v, v_i \rangle_V v_k.$$

Observe  $\text{Tr}(L_{ik}) = \delta_{ik}$ . Define  $\tilde{L}_{ik} = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \rho(g^{-1}) L_{ik} \rho(g)$

and observe  $\tilde{L}_{ik} \rho(g) = \rho(g) \tilde{L}_{ik}$ . As  $\rho$  is irreducible,

$\tilde{L}_{ik} = \alpha \text{Id}_V$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ . Because  $d\alpha = \text{Tr}(\tilde{L}_{ik}) = \text{Tr}(L_{ik}) = \delta_{ik}$

(take the trace of),  $\alpha = \frac{\delta_{ik}}{d}$ . Then  $\tilde{L}_{ik} = \frac{1}{d} \delta_{ik} \text{Id}_V$ ,  
 $\langle \tilde{L}_{ik} v_j, v_e \rangle_V = \frac{1}{d} \delta_{je} \delta_{ik}$ . So

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \tilde{L}_{ik} v_j, v_e \rangle_V &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \langle L_{ik} \rho(g) v_j, \rho(g) v_e \rangle_V \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{g \in G} \langle \rho(g) v_j, v_i \rangle_V \langle v_k, \rho(g) v_e \rangle_V \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \langle u_{ij}, u_{ke} \rangle_{L(G)}. \end{aligned}$$

Matrix coefficients of unitary representations have further properties:

Lemma:  $\forall g_1, g_2 \in G, 1 \leq i, j, k \leq d$ :

1/  $u_{ij}(g_1 g_2) = \sum_{k=1}^d u_{ik}(g_1) u_{kj}(g_2)$ ,

2/  $u_{ij}(g^{-1}) = \overline{u_{ji}(g)}$ ,

3/  $\sum_{j=1}^d u_{ji}(g) u_{jk}(g) = \delta_{ik}$ ;

Pf: 2/ follows from  $\rho(g)^* = \rho(g^{-1})$ ,  $\langle x, y \rangle = \overline{\langle y, x \rangle}$   
 $\forall g \in G, x, y \in V$ .

1/, 3/ analogous. □

### Characters ...

$(\rho, V)$  irred. repr.,  $\chi_\rho = \text{Tr} \rho$  a function on  $G$   
 $g \mapsto \text{Tr} \rho(g) \in \mathbb{C}$

$\text{Tr} : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  a unique lin. functional characterized by

1/  $\text{Tr}(TS) = \text{Tr}(ST) \quad \forall S, T \in \text{End}(V)$ ,

2/  $\text{Tr}(\text{Id}_V) = \dim V$ .



(23)

$\text{Tr}(\rho(g)) = \sum_{j=1}^d u_{jj}(g)$ , independent of ON-basis  
 $\{v_1, \dots, v_d\}$  of  $V$  and of a representative of the equivalence  
 class of representations; if  $\dim V = 1$ ,  $\rho = \chi_\rho$

Proposition:  $(\rho, V)$  a repr. of  $G$ ,  $\chi_\rho$  its character,  $\dim V = d$ . Then for  
 all  $s, t \in G$ :

$$1/ \chi_\rho(\text{Id}_G) = d,$$

$$2/ \chi_\rho(s^{-1}) = \overline{\chi_\rho(s)},$$

$$3/ \chi_\rho(t^{-1}st) = \chi_\rho(s).$$

Pf: 1/, 3/ clear. Unitarity of  $(\rho, V) \Rightarrow$  2/

$$\chi_\rho(s^{-1}) = \text{Tr}(\rho(s^{-1})) = \text{Tr}(\rho(s)^*) = \overline{\chi_\rho(s)},$$

$$\text{since } \rho(s^{-1}) = \rho(s)^*, \text{Tr}(A^*) = \overline{\text{Tr}(A)}. \quad \square$$

(1)

Characters

$\neq$  irred. repr. (or, <sup>vs</sup> equivalence class)  $\mapsto \chi_\rho$ ;  $\chi_\rho \in \mathcal{F}(G)$

$$g \mapsto \chi_\rho(g) := \text{Tr}(\rho(g))$$

$V$  ... fin. dim complex vector space,  $\text{End}(V)$  ... algebra of linear maps

$T: V \rightarrow V$ ,  $\text{Tr}: \text{End}(V) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a linear form characterized by

- $\text{Tr}(TS) = \text{Tr}(ST)$ ,  $S, T \in \text{End}(V)$ ,
- $\text{Tr}(1_V) = \dim V$ .

Ex (Basic properties of trace)  $V$  ... fin. dim. vect space,

$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: V \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  scalar product,  $\{v_1, \dots, v_d\}$  an ON-basis of  $V$ .

Then  $\text{Tr}(T) = \sum_{i=1}^d \langle T v_i, v_i \rangle$ ,  $T \in \text{End}(V)$ , and

$$\text{Tr}(TS) = \sum_{i,j=1}^d \langle T v_j, v_i \rangle \langle S v_i, v_j \rangle, \quad S, T \in \text{End}(V).$$

$(\rho, V)$ ,  $\chi_\rho = \chi_V$

Lemma:  $(\rho, V)$  a representation of  $G$ ,  $\chi_\rho$  its character. Denote by  $d = d_\rho = \dim V$  its degree. Then for all  $s, t \in G$ :

- 1/  $\chi_\rho(e) = d$ ,
- 2/  $\chi_\rho(s^{-1}) = \overline{\chi_\rho(s)}$ ,
- 3/  $\chi_\rho(t^{-1} s t) = \chi_\rho(s)$ .

Pf: 2/  $\rho$  is unitary  $\Rightarrow \rho(s^{-1}) = \rho(s)^*$ , and so

$$\chi_\rho(s^{-1}) = \text{Tr}(\rho(s^{-1})) = \text{Tr}(\rho(s)^*) = \overline{\chi_\rho(s)},$$

since  $\text{Tr}(A^*) = \overline{\text{Tr}(A)}$ .

1/ 3/ are clear.  $\square$

The consequence of orthogonality of matrix functions of irreducible representations:

Lemma: Let  $\rho, \sigma$  be irreducible representations of a group  $G$ .

- 1/ If  $\rho, \sigma$  are inequivalent, then  $\langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\sigma \rangle = 0$ ,
- 2/  $\langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\rho \rangle = |G|$ .

Prop: Let  $\rho, \sigma$  be two repr. of a group  $G$ . Suppose  $\rho$  decomposes into irreducibles as  $\rho = \rho_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \rho_k$ ,  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and  $\sigma$  is irreducible.

Then for  $m_\sigma = |\{j: \rho_j \sim \sigma\}|$ , one has

$$m_\sigma = \frac{1}{|G|} \langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\sigma \rangle.$$

(In particular,  $m_\sigma$  does not depend on the chosen decomposition of  $\rho$ .)



(2) Pf:  $\rho \approx \rho_1 \oplus \rho_2 \oplus \dots \oplus \rho_k$  of irred. subrepr., then  $\chi_\rho = \sum_{j=1}^k \chi_j$ .  
This implies the claim.  $\square$

$m_\sigma$  is called the multiplicity of  $\sigma$  as a subrepresentation of  $\rho$ .

Decl 1: let  $\rho$  be a repr. of  $G$ . Then  $\rho = \bigoplus_{\sigma \in \hat{G}} m_\sigma \sigma$ , where  
 $m_\sigma \sigma = \underbrace{\sigma \oplus \dots \oplus \sigma}_{m_\sigma \times}$ ,  $\chi_\rho = \sum_{\sigma \in \hat{G}} m_\sigma \chi_\sigma$ .

Decl 2:  $\rho, \sigma$  repr. of  $G$ . Suppose  $\rho = \bigoplus_{i \in I} m_i \rho_i$ ,  $\sigma = \bigoplus_{j \in J} n_j \rho_j$ , where  $\rho_i, \rho_j$  are irreducible. Then denoting by  $I \cap J$  the subset of common irreducible repr., we have

$$\frac{1}{|G|} \langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\sigma \rangle = \sum_{i \in I \cap J} m_i n_i.$$

Decl 3: Representations  $\rho$  groupy  $G$  irreducible  $\Leftrightarrow \langle \chi_\rho, \chi_\rho \rangle = |G|$ .

Decl 4: ~~Two representations~~ Two representations  $\rho, \sigma$  are equivalent iff  $\chi_\rho = \chi_\sigma$ .

Theorem (Peter-Weyl):  $G$  - finite group,  $(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))$  - left regular representation.

1/  $\forall$  irred. repr.  $(\rho, V)$ ,  $\rho \in \hat{G}$ , appears in the decomposition  $(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))$  with multiplicity equal to its dimension  $d_\rho$ .

2/  $u_{ij}$  matrix coefficients of  $\rho \in \hat{G}$  w.r. to an orthonormal basis, then the functions  $\left\{ \sqrt{\frac{d_\rho}{|G|}} u_{ij} \mid i, j = 1, \dots, d_\rho, \rho \in \hat{G} \right\}$

is an ON-basis of  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ .

$$3/ |G| = \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho^2, \quad \mathcal{F}(G) = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho V.$$

Pf:  $(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G)) \approx \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} m_\rho \rho$ ,  $m_\rho \in \mathbb{N}$ .

For the (complete) ON-system  $\{\delta_g\}_{g \in G}$  in  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ , we obtain  $\chi_{(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))}(e) = |G|$  and  $\chi_{(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))}(g) = 0$  if  $g \neq e$ ; this follows

from the fact that if  $g, h \in G$ ,  $\rho(h) \delta_g = \delta_{hg}$ .

On the other hand, if  $\rho \in \hat{G} \Rightarrow$  Prop.  $m_\rho = \frac{1}{|G|} \langle \chi_\rho, \chi_{(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))} \rangle = \chi_\rho(e)$

(because  $\chi_{(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))}(g) = 0$  for  $g \neq e$ ). This implies  $m_\rho = d_\rho$ ,  
 $|G| = \dim \mathcal{F}(G) = \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} m_\rho d_\rho = \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho^2$ ; this also follows from

$$\chi_{(\rho, \mathcal{F}(G))}(e) = |G| = \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} m_\rho \chi_\rho(e).$$

We know that  $\left\{ \sqrt{\frac{d_\rho}{|G|}} u_{ij} \mid \rho \in \hat{G}, i, j \in d_\rho \right\}$  is ON-system for  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ .

This system is complete, as  $\sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho^2 = |G|$  implies

$$|G| = \left| \left\{ \sqrt{\frac{d_\rho}{|G|}} u_{ij} \mid \rho \in \hat{G}, i, j \in d_\rho \right\} \right| = \dim \mathcal{F}(G). \quad \square$$

(3)

Example:

$$D_n = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^n = 1, aba = b^{-1} \rangle$$

be the dihedral group of degree  $n$  (the group of isometries of a regular polygon with  $n$ -vertices.)

Let  $n$  be even. There are 4 1-dim. representations (identified with their characters.) For  $h=0,1$

$$\chi_1(a^h b^k) = 1,$$

$$\chi_2(a^h b^k) = (-1)^h,$$

$$\chi_3(a^h b^k) = (-1)^k,$$

$$\chi_4(a^h b^k) = (-1)^{h+k}.$$

$$k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

Set  $\omega = e^{2\pi i/n}$ , for  $t=0, \dots, n$  define the representation

$$\rho_t(a^h b^k) = \begin{pmatrix} \omega^{tk} & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^{-tk} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \rho_t(a b^k) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \omega^{-tk} \\ \omega^{tk} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Show: 1/  $\rho_t$  is a representation,  
2/  $\rho_t \sim \rho_{n-t}$ ,

$$\chi_{\rho_0} = \chi_1 + \chi_2, \quad \chi_{\rho_{n/2}} = \chi_3 + \chi_4,$$

3/  $\rho_t$  for  $t=1, \dots, \frac{n}{2}-1$  are pairwise non-equivalent repr. by

1/ inspecting invariant subspaces and intertwining operators, or

2/ computing characters and their inner products.

$$4/ \chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3, \chi_4, \chi_{\rho_t}, \quad 1 \leq t \leq \frac{n}{2}$$

constitute a complete list of irred. repr.

④ Convolution and Fourier transform

Def:

$P, Q \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ ,  $P, Q: G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . The convolution of  $P, Q$  is defined by

$$(P * Q)(g) = \sum_{\substack{h \in G \\ kh = g}} P(h^{-1}) Q(k)$$

$$= \sum_{\substack{h, k \in G \\ kh = g}} P(h) Q(k).$$

Prop:  $P * Q \neq Q * P$ , convolution is commutative iff  $G$  is abelian.  
 $a, b \in G$       $\delta_a * \delta_b = \delta_{ab}$ ,  $\delta_b * \delta_a = \delta_{ba}$  ( $\delta$  is the Dirac function.)  
 (commut. of group law is necessary cond.)  
 $G$  abelian  $\Rightarrow P * Q = Q * P$

Lemma: The space  $\mathcal{F}(G)$  endowed with convolution product is an algebra /  $\mathbb{C}$  satisfying:

- 1/  $\mathcal{F}(G)$  is a vector space /  $\mathbb{C}$ ,
- 2/  $*$  is distributive (both left, right):  
 $(P + Q) * R = P * R + Q * R$ ,  $R * (P + Q) = R * P + R * Q$ ,
- 3/  $\mathcal{F}(G)$  has  $\delta_e$  as a unit with respect to the convolution product on  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ :  $P * \delta_e = P = \delta_e * P \forall P \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ ,
- 4/ The convolution is associative:  $(P * Q) * R = P * (Q * R)$ .

PF: 1/, 2/, 3/ obvious.

$$4/ P, Q, R \in \mathcal{F}(G): (P * (Q * R))(g) = \sum_{h \in G} P(g h^{-1}) (Q * R)(h)$$

$$= \sum_{h, t \in G} P(g h^{-1}) Q(R t^{-1}) R(t) = \sum_{\substack{h = mt \\ t, m \in G}} P(g t^{-1} m^{-1}) Q(m) R(t)$$

$$= \sum_{t \in G} (P * Q)(g t^{-1}) R(t) = [(P * Q) * R](g). \quad \square$$

Prop:  $(\mathcal{F}(G), *)$  is called the group algebra. The center (central subalgebra) is given by  $P \in \mathcal{F}(G): P * Q = Q * P \forall Q \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ .

Lemma:  $P \in \mathcal{F}(G)$  is central iff  $P(a^{-1}ta) = P(t) \forall a, t \in G$ , i.e., it is constant on each conjugacy class.



(5) Pf:  $P$  is in the center iff

$$\sum_{h \in G} Q(gh^{-1})P(h) = \sum_{h \in G} P(gh^{-1})Q(h) \quad \forall Q \in \mathcal{F}(G), \forall g \in G.$$

For  $Q = \delta_a$ ,  $g = ta \Rightarrow P(a^{-1}ta) = P(t) \quad \forall a, t \in G$ . The converse is trivial.  $\square$

Def: Let  $P \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ ,  $(\rho, V)$  a representation of  $G$ . The Fourier transform of  $P$  with respect to  $(\rho, V)$  is a linear operator  $\hat{P}(\rho) : V \rightarrow V$  defined by  $\hat{P}(\rho) := \sum_{g \in G} P(g)\rho(g)$ .

Lemma:  $\forall P, Q \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ ,  $\forall (\rho, V)$  a representation of  $G$ , we have

$$\widehat{P * Q}(\rho) = \hat{P}(\rho)\hat{Q}(\rho).$$

Pf:

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{(P * Q)}(\rho) &= \sum_{g \in G} \left( \sum_{h \in G} P(gh^{-1})Q(h) \right) \rho(g) \\ &= \sum_{g, h \in G} P(gh^{-1})Q(h) \rho(gh^{-1})\rho(h) \\ &= \sum_{h \in G} \left( \sum_{g \in G} P(gh^{-1})\rho(gh^{-1}) \right) Q(h)\rho(h) = \hat{P}(\rho)\hat{Q}(\rho) \end{aligned}$$

Lemma: If  $P$  is a central function, then its Fourier transform with respect to irreducible repr.  $(\rho, V)$  of  $G$  is given by

$$\hat{P}(\rho) = \lambda \text{Id}_V, \quad \lambda = \frac{1}{d_\rho} \sum_{g \in G} P(g) \chi_\rho(g) = \frac{1}{d_\rho} \langle P, \overline{\chi_\rho} \rangle.$$

Pf:  $\forall g \in G$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(g) \hat{P}(\rho) \rho^{-1}(g) &= \sum_{h \in G} P(h) \rho(g) \rho(h) \rho(g^{-1}) = \sum_{h \in G} P(h) \rho(ghg^{-1}) \\ &= \sum_{h \in G} P(ghg^{-1}) \rho(ghg^{-1}) = \hat{P}(\rho), \end{aligned}$$

so  $\hat{P}(\rho)$  intertwines  $\rho \Rightarrow \hat{P}(\rho) = \lambda \text{Id}_V$  (follows from irreducibility of  $(\rho, V)$ .)

Taking traces  $\text{Tr}(\hat{P}(\rho)) = \sum_{h \in G} P(h) \chi_\rho(h) = \lambda d_\rho. \quad \square$

Theorem (Fourier inversion formula)

For  $P \in \mathcal{F}(G)$  the formula

$$P(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho \text{Tr}(\rho(g^{-1}) \hat{P}(\rho)) \quad \forall g \in G.$$

⑥ In particular if  $P_1, P_2 \in \mathcal{F}(G)$  satisfy  $\hat{P}_1(\rho) = \hat{P}_2(\rho) \quad \forall \rho \in \hat{G}$ , then we have  $P_1 = P_2$ .

Pf: We know:  $\sqrt{\frac{d_\rho}{|G|}} u_{ij}^\rho$ , computed with resp. to ON-basis  $\{u_1^\rho, \dots, u_{d_\rho}^\rho\}$   $\forall \rho \in \hat{G}$ , constitute ON-basis of  $\mathcal{F}(G)$ . The same is true for the complex conjugates, there for  $\forall P \in \mathcal{F}(G)$

$$P(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho \sum_{ij=1}^{d_\rho} \langle P, \overline{u_{ij}^\rho} \rangle \overline{u_{ij}^\rho}(g),$$

$1 \leq ij \leq d_\rho$ . Because  $\hat{P}(\rho) = \sum_{g \in G} P(g) \rho(g)$ ,  $u_{ij}^\rho(g) = \langle \rho(g) v_j^\rho, v_i^\rho \rangle$  we have

$$\langle P, \overline{u_{ij}^\rho} \rangle = \sum_{g \in G} P(g) u_{ij}^\rho(g) = \sum_{g \in G} P(g) \langle \rho(g) v_j^\rho, v_i^\rho \rangle =$$

$$\text{and } \sum_{ij=1}^{d_\rho} \langle P, \overline{u_{ij}^\rho} \rangle \overline{u_{ij}^\rho}(g) = \sum_{ij=1}^{d_\rho} \langle \hat{P}(\rho) v_j^\rho, v_i^\rho \rangle \langle v_i^\rho, \rho(g) v_j^\rho \rangle$$

$$= \sum_{ij=1}^{d_\rho} \langle \hat{P}(\rho) v_j^\rho, v_i^\rho \rangle \langle \rho(g^{-1}) v_i^\rho, v_j^\rho \rangle = \text{Tr}(\rho(g^{-1}) \hat{P}(\rho))$$

$$\text{Tr}(ST) = \sum_{ij=1}^{\dim V} \langle S v_i, v_j \rangle \langle T v_j, v_i \rangle.$$

$S, T \in \text{End}(V)$   $v_i$  basis of  $V$

Let us define  $C(G) := \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} \{ \hat{P}(\rho) \mid P \in \mathcal{F}(G) \}$ .

Corollary: The Fourier transform  $P \in \mathcal{F}(G) \mapsto \hat{P} \in C(G)$  and the map  $Q \in C(G) \mapsto \check{Q} \in \mathcal{F}(G)$  for  $\check{Q}(g) = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_\rho \text{Tr}(\rho(g^{-1}) Q(\rho))$ , are bijective inverses one each other. We have  $C(G) = \bigoplus_{\rho \in \hat{G}} \text{End}(V_\rho)$ .

Theorem: The characters  $\{\chi_\rho, \rho \in \hat{G}\}$  constitute ON-basis for the subspace of central functions. In particular,  $|\hat{G}|$  equals the number of conjugacy classes in  $G$ .

Pf: Characters of irred. repr. are central functions, pairwise OG for non-equiv. repr. If  $P$  is a central function OG to all charact. of irred. repr.,  $\hat{P}(\rho) = 0 \quad \forall \rho \in \hat{G} \Rightarrow$   $P = 0$ .  
Fourier inversion



7) The claim follows.  $\square$

Theorem (Plancherel formula):  $P, Q \in \mathcal{F}(G)$ . Then

$$\langle P, Q \rangle = \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_{\rho} \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{P}(\rho) \hat{Q}(\rho)^*)$$

Pf: The proof is analogous to Fourier inversion formula:

$$\langle P, Q \rangle = \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} \frac{d_{\rho}}{|G|} \sum_{i,j=1}^{d_{\rho}} \langle P, \overline{u_{ij}^{\rho}} \rangle \langle \overline{u_{ij}^{\rho}}, Q \rangle,$$

and the formula from the previous lemma implies

$$\begin{aligned} \langle P, Q \rangle &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_{\rho} \sum_{i,j=1}^{d_{\rho}} \langle \hat{P}(\rho) v_{j,1}^{\rho}, v_i^{\rho} \rangle \langle v_i^{\rho}, \hat{Q}(\rho) v_j^{\rho} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_{\rho} \sum_{i,j=1}^{d_{\rho}} \langle \hat{P}(\rho) v_{j,1}^{\rho}, v_i^{\rho} \rangle \langle v_i^{\rho}, \hat{Q}(\rho) v_j^{\rho} \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{|G|} \sum_{\rho \in \hat{G}} d_{\rho} \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{P}(\rho) \hat{Q}(\rho)^*). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Description of convolution of matrix coefficients of representations:

Lemma: Let  $\rho, \sigma \in \hat{G}$ ,  $u_{ij}^{\rho}, \overline{u_{h,k}^{\sigma}}$ ,  $1 \leq i,j \leq d_{\rho}$  matrix coefficients  
 $1 \leq h,k \leq d_{\sigma}$

(for ON bases of  $V^{\rho}, V^{\sigma}$ ) Then  $u_{ij}^{\rho} * \overline{u_{h,k}^{\sigma}} = \frac{|G|}{d_{\rho}} \delta_{j,h} \delta_{\rho,\sigma} u_{i,k}^{\rho}$

Pf: OG-relations for matrix coefficients imply

$$\begin{aligned} [u_{ij}^{\rho} * \overline{u_{h,k}^{\sigma}}](g) &= \sum_{s \in G} u_{ij}^{\rho}(gs) \overline{u_{h,k}^{\sigma}(s^{-1})} = \\ &= \sum_{e=1}^{d_{\rho}} u_{ij}^{\rho}(g) \sum_{s \in G} u_{e,j}^{\rho} \overline{u_{k,h}^{\sigma}(s)} \\ &= \sum_{e=1}^{d_{\rho}} u_{ie}^{\rho}(g) \delta_{e,k} \delta_{j,h} \delta_{\rho,\sigma} \frac{|G|}{d_{\rho}} \\ &= \frac{|G|}{d_{\rho}} \delta_{j,h} \delta_{\rho,\sigma} u_{i,k}^{\rho}(g). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$



# Exercises

## Restricted/Induced modules

Def.  $H \leq G$  finite groups,  $(\rho, V)$  a finite dim represent. of  $G$ ; Then the restriction of  $\rho$  to  $H$  is denoted  $\text{Res}_H^G(\rho)$ . The restriction of character of  $G$ ,  $\chi_\rho$ , to  $H$  is a character denoted  $\text{Res}_H^G(\chi)$

Ex.  $S_3$ , and its 2-dim repr.  $\rho$  (see the character table for  $S_3$  and its character.)

Take  $A_3 \leq S_3$ , the alternating subgroup ( $A_3 \cong \mathbb{Z}/3$ .) Determine  $\text{Res}_{A_3}^{S_3}(\rho)$ .

Def:  $H \leq G$ ,  $\rho: H \rightarrow GL(W)$ . The induced represent.  $\text{Ind}_H^G(\rho)$  is

1/  $\{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$  left  $H$ -cosets in  $G$ ;  $g \in G$   $g = b_j h$  for some  $b_j \in \{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$  and  $h \in H$  ( $b_j, h$  are unique),

2/  $\mathbb{C}[G/H]$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ -vector space and basis  $\{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$ ,

3/ Let  $V = \mathbb{C}[G/H] \otimes W$  as a vector space,

4/  $g \in G$  acts on  $b_i \otimes w \in V$ :  $\exists!$   $b_j \in \{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$ ,  $h \in H$ :  $g b_i = b_j h$ ,  
 $g \cdot (b_i \otimes w) = b_j \otimes h w$ .

One can also write  $g = b_j h b_i^{-1}$ ,

$$(b_j h b_i^{-1}) \cdot (b_i \otimes w) = (b_j h b_i^{-1} b_i) \otimes w = b_j h \otimes w = b_j \otimes h w$$

5/ Extend this to  $G$ -action on  $V$  by linearity.

Lemma:  $\text{Ind}_H^G(\rho)$  is independent on the choice of left coset representatives  $\{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$ . Moreover,

$$\chi_{\text{Ind}_H^G(\rho)}(g) = \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{\substack{k \in G \\ k^{-1} g k \in H}} \chi_\rho(k^{-1} g k)$$

The proof is easy.

Regarding  $\text{Ind}_H^G(\rho)(g)$  as a  $r \times r$  matrix:  $\forall g \in G$  acts on that by  $r \times r$ -matrix (in the basis  $\{b_1, \dots, b_r\}$ )

$$\chi_{\text{Ind}_H^G(\rho)}(g) = \text{tr}(g: \mathbb{C}[G/H] \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} W \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[G/H] \otimes_{\mathbb{C}} W)$$

$$= \sum_{i \in [r]} \chi_{\rho}(h) = \dots$$

$g b_i = b_i h$   
for some  $\exists h \in H$

$$= \frac{1}{|H|} \sum_{\substack{k \in G: \\ k^{-1} g k \in H}} \chi_{\rho}(k^{-1} g k)$$

(if  $\nexists$  any  $k \in G$   
 $\Rightarrow \sum$  is interpreted to be zero.)

Frobenius reciprocity (adjunction of  $\text{Res}, \text{Ind}$ ):

Theorem:  $H \leq G$ ,  $(\rho, V)$  a representation of  $H$ ,  
 $(\rho_G, W)$  a represent. of  $G$ . Then

$$\text{Hom}_G(\text{Ind}_H^G V, W) = \text{Hom}_H(V, \text{Res}_H^G W)$$

Ex:

$\mathbb{C}[G/H]$  for  $G = S_3$   
 $H = e$  (trivial group)

$\text{Ind}_H^G(1) =$  functions on  $G$   
"  $\mathbb{C}[G]$

} Frob. recipr. ( $H$  has just triv. repr.)  
 $\Rightarrow \chi_{\text{Ind}_e^G(1)} = \chi_{\mathbb{C}[G]} =$

	1	(12)	(123)
$\chi_{\text{triv}}$	1	1	1
$\chi_{\text{sign}}$	1	-1	1
$\chi_{2\text{-dim}}$	2	0	-1

$= \chi_1 + \chi_2 + 2\chi_3$   
(triv.) (sign) (2-dim)  
of  $G = S_3$

}  $\Rightarrow \chi_{\text{reg}} = (6, 0, 0)$   
(as it should be)

①

# Harmonic analysis of Lie groups

classical topic of spherical harmonic; we shall treat one explicit induced representation for the Lie group  $SO(d, \mathbb{R})$  and its subgroup  $SO(d-1, \mathbb{R})$ .

## Spherical harmonics and orthogonal bases

$\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\langle x, y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^d x_i y_i$ ,  $\|x\| = \sqrt{\langle x, x \rangle}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_0 = \{1, 2, \dots\}$

For  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_d) \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$ , a monomial  $x^\alpha = x_1^{\alpha_1} \dots x_d^{\alpha_d}$ , its degree is  $|\alpha| = \sum_{j=1}^d \alpha_j$ , a homogeneous polynomial  $P$ ,  $\deg P = n$ , is  $P(x) = \sum C_\alpha x^\alpha$  for  $C_\alpha \in \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ . A polynomial of degree at most  $n$  is  $P(x) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq n} C_\alpha x^\alpha$ .

$\mathcal{P}_n^d$  ... vector space of hom. n polyn on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$\Pi_n^d$  ... — " — pol. degree  $\leq n$  — " —.

Counting the dimensions of  $\{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^d \mid |\alpha| = n\}$ ,  $\{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^d \mid |\alpha| \leq n\}$ , get

$$\dim \mathcal{P}_n^d = \binom{n+d-1}{n} = \binom{n+d-1}{d-1}, \quad \dim \Pi_n^d = \binom{n+d}{n}.$$

We denote  $\partial_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ ,  $i=1, \dots, d$  and Laplace operator  $\Delta = \partial_1^2 + \dots + \partial_d^2$ .

Def: For  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , let  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  be the vector space of harmonic pol. of degree  $n$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_n^d = \{P \in \mathcal{P}_n^d \mid \Delta P = 0\}$ .

Spherical harmonics are restrictions of elements in  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  to  $S^{d-1} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ . If

$Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ , then  $Y(x) = \|x\|^n Y(x')$ , where  $x = \|x\| x'$ ,  $x' \in S^{d-1}$ . We

will not distinguish between  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  and its restriction to the sphere  $S^{d-1}$ , perhaps will write  $\mathcal{H}_n^d|_{S^{d-1}}$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_n^d(S^{d-1}) := \mathcal{P}_n^d|_{S^{d-1}}$ ,  $\Pi_n^d(S^{d-1}) := \Pi_n^d|_{S^{d-1}}$ .

So we shall call  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  the space of spherical harmonics.

For two smooth functions  $f, g \in \mathcal{F}(S^{d-1})$ , we define the scalar product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(x) g(x) d\sigma(x),$$

$d\sigma$  is area measure of  $S^{d-1}$ ,

$$\omega_d = \int_{S^{d-1}} d\sigma = \frac{2\pi^{d/2}}{\Gamma(d/2)}.$$



(2)

Th: If  $Y_n \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ ,  $Y_m \in \mathcal{H}_m^d$ , and  $m \neq n$ . Then  $\langle Y_n, Y_m \rangle_{S^{d-1}} = 0$ .

Pf:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial r}$  ... normal derivative (vector field) to  $S^{d-1}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

Since  $Y_n$  is homogeneous,  $Y_n(x) = r^n Y_n(x')$ , where  $x = rx'$ ,  $x' \in S^{d-1}$ .

Then  $\frac{\partial}{\partial r} Y_n(x') = n Y_n(x')$ ,  $x' \in S^{d-1}$ ,  $n \geq 0$ . By Green's theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} (n-m) \int_{S^{d-1}} Y_n Y_m d\sigma &= \int_{S^{d-1}} \left( Y_m \frac{\partial Y_n}{\partial r} - Y_n \frac{\partial Y_m}{\partial r} \right) d\sigma \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{B}^d} (Y_m \Delta Y_n - Y_n \Delta Y_m) dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

because  $\Delta Y_n = 0$ ,  $\Delta Y_m = 0$ . The proof follows.  $\square$

Th: For  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , there is a decomposition of  $\mathcal{P}_n^d$ ,

$$\mathcal{P}_n^d = \bigoplus_{0 \leq j \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \|x\|^{2j} \mathcal{H}_{n-2j}^d.$$

i.e.,  $\forall P \in \mathcal{P}_n^d$ , there  $\exists!$  decomposition

$$P(x) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \|x\|^{2j} P_{n-2j}(x), \quad P_{n-2j}(x) \in \mathcal{H}_{n-2j}^d.$$

Pf: By induction. We have  $\mathcal{P}_0^d = \mathcal{H}_0^d$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_1^d = \mathcal{H}_1^d$ . Since  $\Delta \mathcal{P}_n^d \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d$ ,  $\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d \geq \dim \mathcal{P}_n^d - \dim \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d$ . Suppose the statement holds for  $m=0, 1, \dots, n-1$   $\Rightarrow$  does it hold for  $n$ ?

Polynomial ring is a domain, i.e.  $\|x\|^2 \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d$  is a subspace of  $\mathcal{P}_n^d$  isomorphic to  $\mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d$ . By induction hypothesis,

$$\|x\|^2 \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d = \bigoplus_{0 \leq j \leq \lfloor n/2 \rfloor - 1} \|x\|^{2j+2} \mathcal{H}_{n-2-2j}^d.$$

By previous theorem,  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  is orthogonal to  $\|x\|^2 \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d$ , so that

$\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d + \dim \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d \leq \dim \mathcal{P}_n^d$ . Consequently,  $\mathcal{P}_n^d = \mathcal{H}_n^d \oplus \|x\|^2 \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d$ .

Corollary: For  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,

$$\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d = \dim \mathcal{P}_n^d - \dim \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d = \binom{n+d-1}{n} - \binom{n+d-3}{n-2},$$

where  $\dim \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d = 0$  for  $n=0, 1$ .

(3)

Corollary: For  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,

$$1/ \Pi_n(S^{d-1}) = P_n(S^{d-1}) \oplus P_{n-1}(S^{d-1}),$$

$$2/ \dim \Pi_n(S^{d-1}) = \dim P_n^d + \dim P_{n-1}^d = \binom{n+d-1}{n} + \binom{n+d-2}{n-1}.$$

Pf: By previous Theorem,  $\|x\|=1$  for the restriction to  $S^{d-1}$  and  $\Pi_n(S^{d-1})$  is a sum of  $\mathcal{H}_k^d$  for  $0 \leq k \leq n$ , and the first claim follows. Moreover,

$$\dim \Pi_n(S^{d-1}) = \sum_{k=0}^n \dim \mathcal{H}_k^d = \sum_{k=0}^n (\dim P_k^d - \dim P_{k-2}^d),$$

which simplifies to the equation in 2/; the proof is complete.  $\square$

Prop: If  $P$  is a homogeneous polyn of degree  $n$  and  $P$  is  $0 \neq$  all pol of degree less than  $n$  with respect to  $\langle \cdot \rangle_{S^{d-1}}$ , then  $P \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ .

Pf:  $P \in P_n^d$ ,  $P$  can be expressed as  $P(x) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} \|x\|^{2j} P_{n-2j}(x)$ ,  $P_{n-2j} \in \mathcal{H}_{n-2j}^d$ . The  $0 \neq$ -nality then shows that  $P = P_n \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ .  $\square$

Let  $O(d)$  be the orthogonal group (the group of  $d \times d$  orthogonal matrices),  $SO(d) = \{g \in O(d) \mid \det g = 1\}$  special orthogonal group. Any rotation in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is determined by an element in  $SO(d)$ .

Theorem: The space  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  is invariant for the action  $f \mapsto f(Q \cdot)$ ,  $\forall Q \in O(d)$ .  
Moreover, if  $\{Y_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$  is an ON-basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ , then so is  $\{Y_\alpha(Q \cdot)\}_{\alpha \in I}$ ,  $\#I < \infty$ .

Pf: Since  $\Delta$  is invariant under  $O(d)$  (i.e.,  $\Delta f(Q \cdot) = Q(\Delta f) - \forall f$  smooth functions) - this will be treated later,  $\Delta = \nabla \cdot \nabla$  and the change of variables does the work  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Qx}$  - if  $Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$  and  $Q \in O(d)$ ,  $Y(Qx) \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ :  
 $\Delta Y(Qx) = \Delta QY(x) = Q(\Delta Y)(x) = 0 \Rightarrow QY$  is harmonic polynomial.

④ ON-ality of  $\{Y_\alpha(Q-x)\}_{\alpha \in I}$  for  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ :

$$\frac{1}{\omega} \int_{S^{d-1}} Y_\alpha(Qx) Y_\beta(Qx) d\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{\omega} \int_{S^{d-1}} Y_\alpha(x) Y_\beta(x) d\sigma(x) = \delta_{\alpha,\beta},$$

which follows by change of variables and the fact that  $d\sigma$  is  $O(d)$ -invariant.

Besides  $\langle f, g \rangle_{S^{d-1}}$ , another useful inner product can be defined on  $\mathcal{P}_n^d$ . For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$ , let  $\partial^\alpha := \partial_1^{\alpha_1} \dots \partial_d^{\alpha_d}$ . Let  $(a)_n := a(a+1)\dots(a+n-1)$  be the Pochhammer symbol.

Th:  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}_n^d$ , define a bilinear form

$$\langle p, q \rangle_{\partial} := p(\partial)q,$$

where  $p(\partial)$  is the diff-operator given by  $x^\alpha \mapsto \partial^\alpha$  in  $p(x)$  (the "Fourier transform" of  $p$ .) Then

- 1/  $\langle p, q \rangle_{\partial}$  is an inner product on  $\mathcal{P}_n^d$ ,
- 2/ The reproducing kernel for  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\partial}$  is  $k_n(x, y) = \langle x, y \rangle_{\partial}^n / n!$ , that is,
 
$$\langle k_n(x, -), q \rangle_{\partial} = p(x), \quad \forall p \in \mathcal{P}_n^d$$
- 3/ For  $p \in \mathcal{P}_n^d, q \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ ,

$$\langle p, q \rangle_{\partial} = 2^n \binom{d}{2}_n \langle p, q \rangle_{S^{d-1}}$$

Pf:

$$p, q \in \mathcal{P}_n^d, \quad p(x) = \sum_{|\alpha|=n} a_\alpha x^\alpha, \quad q(x) = \sum_{|\alpha|=n} b_\alpha x^\alpha, \quad a_\alpha, b_\alpha \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$\text{Then } \langle p, q \rangle_{\partial} = \sum_{|\alpha|=n} a_\alpha \partial^\alpha \sum_{|\beta|=n} b_\beta x^\beta = \sum_{|\alpha|=n} \alpha! a_\alpha b_\alpha,$$

and so  $\langle p, p \rangle_{\partial} > 0$  for  $p \neq 0$ . Consequently,  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\partial}$  is an inner product on  $\mathcal{P}_n^d$ .

By the multi-binomial formula, for  $q_\alpha(x) = x^\alpha, |\alpha|=n$ ,

$$\langle k_p(x, -), q_\alpha \rangle_{\partial} = \frac{1}{n!} \sum_{|\beta|=n} \binom{n}{\beta} x^\beta \frac{\partial^\beta}{\partial y^\beta} y^\alpha = q_\alpha(x)$$

$\Rightarrow k_n(x, y)$  is the reproducing kernel w.r. to  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\partial}$ .



(5) Note: multi-nomial formula:

$$\langle k_n(x, y), q_\alpha(y) \rangle_\alpha = \frac{1}{n!} \langle x, \partial \rangle^n q_\alpha(y) = \frac{1}{n!} \left( \sum_{j=1}^n x_j \partial_{y_j} \right)^n q_\alpha(y),$$

and for  $n \geq j_1 \geq j_2 \geq \dots \geq j_k \geq 0$ ,  $j = (j_1, j_2, \dots, j_k)$

$$\binom{n}{j} = \frac{n!}{(n-j_1)! (j_1-j_2)! \dots (j_k)!}$$

$$\sum = n - j_1 + (j_1 - j_2) + \dots + j_k = n.$$

This is a generalization of binomial formula, e.g.

$$(a+b+c)^n = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} (a+b)^j c^{n-j} = \sum_{j=0}^n \binom{n}{j} \binom{j}{k} a^k b^{j-k} c^{n-j}$$

$$= \sum_{j,k} \frac{n!}{(n-j)! (j-k)! k!} \dots$$

To prove 3/1, we notice

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_i f)(x) g(x) e^{-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2}} = - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) (\partial_i g)(x) - x_i g(x) e^{-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2}} dx.$$

Since  $p(\partial)q$  is a constant, the integration by parts shows

$$\langle p, q \rangle_\alpha = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p(\partial)q(x) e^{-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2}} dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} q(x) (p(x) + s(x)) e^{-\frac{\|x\|^2}{2}} dx,$$

for some  $s \in \prod_{n-1}^d$ . Since  $q \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ ,  $p \in \mathcal{P}_n^d$ , substitution to polar coordinates & orthogonality of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ , we obtain

$$\langle p, q \rangle_\alpha = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{d/2}} \int_0^\infty r^{2n+d-1} e^{-\frac{r^2}{2}} dr \int_{S^{d-1}} q(x') p(x') d\sigma(x').$$

Evaluating the radial integral gives the proof.  $\square$

Spherical harmonic polynomials can be constructed by differentiation.

Theorem: Let  $d > 2$ . For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$ ,  $n = |\alpha|$ , define

$$P_\alpha(x) := \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n \binom{d-2}{2}_n} \|x\|^{2|\alpha| + d - 2} \partial^\alpha \left\{ \|x\|^{-d+2} \right\}.$$

(6)

Then

1/  $p_\alpha \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$  and  $p_\alpha$  is the monic spherical harmonic of the form

$$p_\alpha(x) = x^\alpha + \|x\|^2 q_\alpha(x), \quad q_\alpha \in \mathcal{P}_{n-2}^d.$$

2/  $p_\alpha$  satisfies the recurrence relation

$$p_{\alpha+e_i}(x) = x_i p_\alpha(x) - \frac{1}{2n+d-2} \|x\|^2 \partial_i p_\alpha(x).$$

3/  $\{p_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n, \alpha_d = 0 \text{ or } 1\}$  is a basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ .

Pf: Taking  $\partial_i$  - derivative of  $p_\alpha(x)$  gives 2/.

We have  $p_0(x) = 1$ , by induction it follows from the recurrence relation that  $p_\alpha$  is a homog. pol. of degree  $n$  is of the form  $x^\alpha + \|x\|^2 q_\alpha(x)$ .

We show that  $p_\alpha$  is a spherical harmonic. For  $g \in \mathcal{P}_n^d$  and  $\rho \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^d x_i \partial_{x_i} g(x) = n g(x) \text{ implies}$$

$$\Delta (\|x\|^\rho g(x)) = \rho(2n + \rho + d - 2) \|x\|^{\rho-2} g(x) + \|x\|^\rho \Delta g(x).$$

(Laplace op. in sph. coordinates acts on  $r^{\frac{\rho}{2}} g(x)$ )  $\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{d-1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_{S^{d-1}}$

In particular, for  $n=0$  and  $g(x)=1 \Rightarrow \Delta (\|x\|^{2-d}) = 0$ .

For  $g=p_\alpha$ ,  $\rho = -2n-d+2$ , this gives (substitute  $p_\alpha(x) = \frac{(-1)^n}{\|x\|^{2|\alpha|+d-2}} \partial_\alpha \left\{ \|x\|^{-d+2} \right\} = 0$ )

$$\Delta p_\alpha(x) = \|x\|^{-\rho} \Delta (\|x\|^\rho p_\alpha(x)) = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n \binom{d-1}{n}} \|x\|^{2|\alpha|+d-2} \partial_\alpha \left\{ \|x\|^{-d+2} \right\} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow p_\alpha \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ .

Now since  $p_\alpha(x) = x^\alpha + \|x\|^2 q_\alpha(x)$  and  $\|x\|^2 q_\alpha(x)$  is a lin. comb. of monomials  $x^\beta$ ,  $|\beta| \geq 2$ , the linear independence of  $\{x^\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n, \alpha_d = 0, 1\}$  implies lin. independence of  $\{p_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n, \alpha_d = 0 \text{ or } 1\}$ . The card. of this set is

$$\dim \mathcal{P}_n^{d-1} + \dim \mathcal{P}_{n-1}^{d-1} = \binom{n+d-2}{d-2} + \binom{n+d-3}{d-2}$$

$d, l = 0 \quad \alpha_d = 1$

which is by simple binomial identity  $= \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d = \square$

7

The complete set of  $\{p_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n\}$  is linearly dependent. By previous,

$$p_{\alpha+2e_1} + \dots + p_{\alpha+2e_d} = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n \binom{\frac{d}{2}}{n}} \|x\|^{2|\alpha|+d-2} \partial^\alpha \Delta \left\{ \|x\|^{-d+2} \right\} = 0,$$

which gives  $\dim P_{n-2}$  lin. ind. relations among  $\{p_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n\}$ .

The set  $\{p_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n\}$  contains many bases of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ , the one in 3/ is just an example = choice.

The proof of Theorem relies on the fact that  $\|x\|^{-d+2}$  is a harmonic function in  $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}$  for  $d > 2$ . In the case  $d = 2$ , replace by function  $\log \|x\|$ .

The basis  $\{p_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n, \alpha_d = 0 \text{ or } \pm 1\}$  of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  is not ON mal, have to use G-S ON mization process.

Projection operator on a harmonic function

$L^2(S^{d-1})$  :  $\langle f, f \rangle_{S^{d-1}} < \infty$ . Let  $\text{proj}_n : L^2(S^{d-1}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_n^d$ , denote the ON-projection  $L^2(S^{d-1})$  onto  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ . If  $P \in P_n^d$ , then

$P = P_n + \|x\|^2 Q_n$ , where  $P_n \in \mathcal{H}_n^d, Q_n \in P_{n-2}^d$ , so that  $\text{proj}_n P = P_n$ . In particular, the last theorem shows that

$p_\alpha(x) = \frac{(-1)^n}{2^n \binom{\frac{d-2}{2}}{n}} \|x\|^{2|\alpha|-d} \partial^\alpha (\|x\|^{-d+2})$  is the orthogonal projection of  $q_\alpha(x) = x^\alpha$ , i.e.,  $p_\alpha = \text{proj}_n q_\alpha$ .

This leads to the formula

Lemma: let  $p \in P_n^d$ . Then

$$\text{proj}_n p = \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{1}{4^j j! (-n+2-\frac{d}{2})_j} \|x\|^{2j} \Delta^j p.$$

Pf: By linearity, it is sufficient to discuss  $p = q_\alpha(x) = x^\alpha$ . By previous Theorem,  $\text{proj}_n q_\alpha(x) = p_\alpha(x)$ , and so have to show that  $p_\alpha(x)$  defined above can be expanded by this formula. Use induction on  $n, n=0$  works from trivial reasons.

Assume the formula works for  $m=0, 1, \dots, n \Rightarrow m=n+1$ .

Now we apply this formula for  $\text{proj}_n$  to  $q_\alpha(x), |\alpha| = n$  :



(8)

$$\partial^\alpha [\|x\|^{-d+2}] = (-1)^n 2^n \binom{\frac{d}{2}-1}{n} \|x\|^{-2n-d+2} \times \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{1}{4^j j! (-n+2-d/2)_j} \|x\|^{2j} \Delta^j (x^\alpha).$$

Application of  $\partial_i$  to this identity gives

$$\partial_i \partial^\alpha [\|x\|^{-d+2}] = (-1)^n 2^n \binom{\frac{d}{2}-1}{n} (-2n-d+2) \|x\|^{-2n-d+2} \times \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n+1}{2} \rfloor} \frac{1}{4^j j! (-n+1-d/2)_j} \|x\|^{2j} \underbrace{[x_i \Delta^j (x^\alpha) + 2j \Delta^{j-1} \partial_i (x^\alpha)]}_{\text{this is } \Delta^j (x_i x^\alpha)}$$

because  $[\Delta, x_i] = 2\partial_i$ ,  
 $[\Delta^j, x_i] = 2j \Delta^{j-1} \partial_i$ .

This means that the formula is true for  $p(x) = x_i x^\alpha$ , which completes induction step.  $\square$

Def: The reproducing kernel  $Z_n(\cdot, \cdot)$  of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  is uniquely determined by

$$\frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} Z_n(x, y) p(y) d\sigma(y) = p(x),$$

$\forall p \in \mathcal{H}_n^d, x \in S^{d-1}$ .

(Consequently,  $Z_n(x, \cdot)$  is an element of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d \forall x$ .)

This ( $\exists$  + uniqueness) is the consequence of Riesz repr. theorem applied to lin. functional  $L_x(Y) := Y(x), Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ , for fixed  $x \in S^{d-1}$ .

Lemma: let  $\{Y_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d\}$  be an ON-basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ . Then

$$Z_n(x, y) = \sum_{k=1}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d} Y_k(x) Y_k(y), \quad x, y \in S^{d-1}$$

and  $Z_n(x, y)$  is independent on the choice of the basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ .

Pf:  $Z_n(x, \cdot) \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$  (the linear form is represented by an element of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ ), so can be expressed as  $Z_n(x, y) = \sum_k c_k Y_k(y)$ , where the coeff are determ. by scalar product in Def<sup>9</sup> as

9

The uniqueness  $\Rightarrow$  independence on basis; a direct proof is:

$\{Y_1, \dots, Y_{\dim \mathcal{H}^d_n}\}$  ... a basis, then  $Z_n(x, y) = (Y_1, \dots, Y_{\dim \mathcal{H}^d_n}) \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_{\dim \mathcal{H}^d_n} \end{pmatrix}$   
 ("scalar product")

If  $\{Y'_1, \dots, Y'_{\dim \mathcal{H}^d_n}\}$  ... another basis, then

$(Y'_i) = Q(Y_1, \dots, Y_{\dim \mathcal{H}^d_n})$  and ON-basis =  $\frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} \sum_i Y'_i(x) Y'_i(x) d\sigma(x)$  is identity matrix  $\Rightarrow Q$  is OB-matrix  $\Rightarrow Z_n(x, y)$  is basis independent.  $\square$

The reproducing kernel is the kernel for projection operator.

Lemma: The projection operator  $\text{proj}_n$  is given by

$$(\text{proj}_n f)(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) Z_n(x, y) d\sigma(y)$$

Pf: Since  $\text{proj}_n f \in \mathcal{H}^d_n$ , it can be expanded in the basis  $Y_j, j=1, \dots, N_n, N_n = \dim \mathcal{H}^d_n$ , of  $\mathcal{H}^d_n$ ; the coefficients are (by ON-orthality)

$$(\text{proj}_n f)(x) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_n} c_j Y_j(x), \quad c_j = \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) Y_j(y) d\sigma(y)$$

Finite sum commutes with integration, the proof follows.  $\square$

Lemma: The kernel  $Z_n(-, -)$  satisfies:

1/  $\forall \xi, \eta \in S^{d-1}$ :

$$\frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} Z_n(\xi, y) Z_n(\eta, y) d\sigma(y) = Z_n(\xi, \eta),$$

2/  $Z_n(x, y) \stackrel{\text{depends on}}{\sim} \langle x, y \rangle$  only.

Pf: We know by uniqueness of  $Z_n(x, y)$  that  $Z_n(Qx, Qy) = Z_n(x, y) \quad \forall Q \in O(d)$ . Since for  $x, y \in S^{d-1} \exists Q \in SO(d)$

such that  $Qx = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$

$Qy = (0, \dots, 0, \sqrt{1 - \langle x, y \rangle^2}, \langle x, y \rangle)$

$\} \Rightarrow$  shows that  $Z_n(x, y)$  depends on  $\langle x, y \rangle$ .  $\square$

The hypergeometric function  ${}_2F_1$  is defined for  $|z| < 1$  by power series

$${}_2F_1(a, b, c; z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(a)_n (b)_n}{(c)_n} \frac{z^n}{n!}, \quad c \notin -\mathbb{N}_0$$

$$(a)_n = \begin{cases} 1 & n=0 \\ a(a+1)\dots(a+n-1) & n>0 \end{cases}$$

which is a polynomial if either a or b are non-positive integers. Then

$${}_2F_1(-m, b, c; z) = \sum_{n=0}^m (-1)^n \binom{m}{n} \frac{(b)_n}{(c)_n} z^n$$

and it is analytically continued to  $|z| \geq 1$  (avoiding the points  $z=0, 1$ )

Gegenbauer polynomials are orthogonal polynomials on  $[-1, 1]$  with respect to the weight function  $(1-x^2)^{\alpha-1/2}$ , given by

$$C_n^{(\alpha)}(z) = \frac{(2\alpha)_n}{n!} {}_2F_1\left(-n, 2\alpha+n, \alpha+\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1-z}{2}\right)$$

First few are

$$C_0^\alpha(x) = 1,$$

$$C_1^\alpha(x) = 2\alpha x,$$

$$C_n^\alpha(x) = \frac{1}{n} [2x(n+\alpha-1)C_{n-1}^\alpha(x) - (n+2\alpha-2)C_{n-2}^\alpha(x)]$$

(recursion relation)

and solve hypergeometric differential equation

$$(1-x^2)y'' - (2\alpha+1)xy' + n(n+2\alpha)y = 0.$$

The explicit form of  $C_n^\alpha(z)$  is

$$C_n^{(\alpha)}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} (-1)^k \frac{\Gamma(n-k+\alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha)k!(n-2k)!} (2z)^{n-2k}$$



(11)

The last lemma  $\Rightarrow Z_n(x, y) = F_n(\langle x, y \rangle)$  is

- harmonic,
- depends on  $\langle x, y \rangle$ .

Th: For  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,  $x, y \in S^{d-1}$ ,  $d \geq 3$ ,

$$Z_n(x, y) = \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} C_n^\lambda(\langle x, y \rangle), \quad \lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}.$$

Pf: Let  $p \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ , then  $p(x) = \langle k_n(x, -), p \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_n^d}$ . For fixed  $x$ , it follows from the same Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} p(x) &= \langle k_n(x, -), p \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_n^d} = \langle \text{proj}_n(k_n(x, -)), p \rangle_{\mathcal{H}_n^d} \\ &= \frac{2^n \binom{d}{2}_n}{\omega_d} \int_{S^d} \text{proj}_n(k_n(x, -))(y) p(y) d\sigma(y). \end{aligned}$$

Since the kernel is uniquely determined by reproducing property,  
 $Z_n(x, y) = 2^n \binom{d}{2}_n \text{proj}_n[k_n(x, -)](y)$ . Because  $\partial_i k_n(x, y) = x_i k_{n-1}(x, y)$   
 $\Delta^j k_n(x, y) = \|x\|^{2j} k_{n-2j}(x, y)$ , the lemma on realization of  $\text{proj}$   
 shows for  $x, y \in S^{d-1}$ :

$$Z_n(x, y) = 2^n \binom{d}{2}_n \text{proj}_n(k_n(x, -))(y) = \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{\binom{d}{2}_n 2^{n-2j}}{j! (1-n-2j)_j} k_{n-2j}(x, y),$$

and by  $\frac{1}{(n-2j)!} = \frac{(-n)_{2j}}{n!} = \frac{2^{2j} (-\frac{n}{2})_j (-\frac{n+1}{2})_j}{n!}$   $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$

we conclude

$$\begin{aligned} Z_n(x, y) &= \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} \frac{(\lambda)_n}{n!} 2^n \sum_{j=0}^{\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor} \frac{(-\frac{n}{2})_j (-\frac{n+1}{2})_j}{j! (1-n-2j)_j} \langle x, y \rangle^{n-2j} \\ &= \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} \frac{(\lambda)_n}{n!} \langle x, y \rangle^n {}_2F_1 \left( \begin{matrix} -\frac{n}{2}, \frac{1-n}{2} \\ 1-n-2 \end{matrix}; \frac{1}{\langle x, y \rangle^2} \right). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\{Y_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d\}$  be an orthonormal basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ . Then

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d} Y_j(x) Y_j(y) = \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} C_n^\lambda(\langle x, y \rangle), \quad \lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}.$$

Corollary:  $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ,  $x, y \in S^{d-1}$ ,  $d \geq 3$ . Then

$$|Z_n(x, y)| \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d, \quad Z_n(x, x) = \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d.$$

Pf: Let  $F_n(t) := \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} C_n^\lambda(t)$ . By  $Z_n(x, y) = \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} C_n^\lambda(\langle x, y \rangle)$

12

$Z_n(x, x)$  is constant  $\forall x \in S^{d-1}$ . Setting  $x=y$  in  $Z_n(x, y) = \sum_1^{\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d} Y_j(x) Y_j(y)$

and integrating over  $S^{d-1}$ :

$$F_n(1) = \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} Z_n(\langle x, x \rangle) d\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} \sum_{k=1}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_n^d} Y_k^2(x) d\sigma(x)$$

The inequality follows by application of  $\int = \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d$ .

Schwarz inequality to  $\square$

The functions on  $S^{d-1}$ , depending on  $\langle x, y \rangle$  only, are analogues of radial functions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . The Funk-Hecke theorem states

Theorem:  $f \in L_1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ :  $\int_{-1}^1 |f(t)| (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} dt < \infty, d \geq 2$ .  
Then  $\forall Y_n \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ :

$$\int_{S^{d-1}} f(\langle x, y \rangle) Y_n(y) d\sigma(y) = \lambda_n(f) Y_n(x), x \in S^{d-1}$$

where  $\lambda_n(f)$  is defined by

$$\lambda_n(f) := \frac{\omega_{d-1} \int_{-1}^1 f(t) C_n^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(t) dt}{C_n^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(1) \int_{-1}^1 (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} dt}$$

Pf:  $f$  pol. degree  $m$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , then  $f$  can be expanded in terms of Gegenbauer pol. as (complete basis of polynomials)

$$f(t) = \sum_{k=0}^m \lambda_k \frac{k + \frac{d-2}{2}}{\frac{d-2}{2}} C_k^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(t)$$

where  $\lambda_k$  are determined by orthogonality of Gegenbauer polynomials:

$$\lambda_k = \frac{c_d}{C_k^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(1)} \int_{-1}^1 f(t) C_k^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(t) (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} dt,$$

$$c_d^{-1} = \int_{-1}^1 (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} dt = \frac{\omega_d}{\omega_{d-1}}$$

From  $Z_n(x, y) = \frac{n+\lambda}{\lambda} C_n^{\frac{d-2}{2}}(\langle x, y \rangle)$  and reproducing property of  $Z_n$  it follows for  $n \leq m$ :

(13)

$$\frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(\langle x, y \rangle) Y_n(y) d\sigma(y) = \lambda_n Y_n(x), \quad x \in S^{d-1}$$

The explicit formula used for the last statement is

$$\frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d} \int_{-1}^1 C_n^\lambda(t) C_m^\lambda(t) (1-t^2)^{\lambda-\frac{1}{2}} dt = h_n^\lambda \delta_{m,n}$$

with

$$h_n^\lambda = \frac{\lambda}{n+\lambda} C_n^\lambda(1).$$

Remark: A collection of points  $\{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$  in  $S^{d-1}$  is called a fundamental system of degree  $n$  on  $S^{d-1}$  if

$$\det [C_n^\lambda(\langle x_i, x_j \rangle)]_{i,j=1}^N > 0, \quad \lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}.$$

There exist infinitely many fundamental systems (of given degree), because the previous condition specifies a complement of an algebraic surface in  $\mathbb{R}^{(d-1)N}$ .

The claim is that if  $\{x_1, \dots, x_N\}$  is a fundamental system of points on  $S^{d-1}$ ,  $\{C_n^\lambda(\langle \cdot, x_i \rangle) \mid i=1, 2, \dots, N\}$ ,  $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$ , is a basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d|_{S^{d-1}}$ .

### Laplace - Beltrami operator

$x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $x \mapsto u = u(x)$  a change of variables (invertible bijection),  
 $u \mapsto x = x(u)$

Introduce the tensors  $g_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^d \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial u_i} \frac{\partial x_k}{\partial u_j}$ ,  $g^{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^d \frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_k} \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_k}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq d$ .  
 $g := \det(g_{ij})_{i,j=1}^d$ ,  $(g^{ij})^{-1} = g_{ij}$

A general result in tensor analysis shows the formula for Laplace op.

$$\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_i^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{g}} \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial u_i} \sqrt{g} g^{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial u_j}$$

in coordinates  $u$ ; the Laplace - Beltrami operator, i.e., the spherical



① part of the Laplace operator, is given by  $x \rightarrow (r, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_{d-1})$ ,  $r \in \mathbb{R}_+$  and  $(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{d-1}) \in S^{d-1}$ .

Lemma: In the spherical (polar) coordinates  $x = r\xi$ ,  $r > 0$ ,  $\xi \in S^{d-1}$ ,

the Laplace op. satisfies  $\Delta = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2} + \frac{d-1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_0$ ,

where  $\Delta_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \xi_i^2} - \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \xi_i \xi_j \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \xi_i \partial \xi_j} - (d-1) \sum_{i=1}^{d-1} \xi_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_i}$ .

Pf.:  $\xi \in S^{d-1}$ ,  $\xi_1^2 + \dots + \xi_{d-1}^2 = 1$ . For the change of variables

$$(x_1, \dots, x_d) \mapsto (r, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_{d-1}), \quad x = r\xi,$$

whose inverse is  $\xi_1 = \frac{x_1}{\|x\|}, \dots, \xi_{d-1} = \frac{x_{d-1}}{\|x\|}, \xi_d = \frac{x_d}{\|x\|}$ ,  
The chain rule implies  $r = \|x\|$ .

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_i} - \frac{\xi_i}{r} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \xi_j \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_j} + \xi_i \frac{\partial}{\partial r}, \quad 1 \leq i \leq d-1,$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_d} = -\frac{x_d}{r^2} \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} \xi_j \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_j} + \frac{x_d}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r}, \quad (x_d = r \xi_d, \sum_{i=1}^d \xi_i^2 = 1)$$

and the substitution back into  $\Delta$  gives the result.  $\square$

Lemma: Let  $\Delta_{0,d}$  be the Laplace-Beltrami operator for  $S^{d-1}$ . For  $\xi \in S^{d-1}$  write  $\xi = (\sqrt{1-t^2} \eta, t)$  with  $-1 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $\eta \in S^{d-2}$ . Then

$$\Delta_{0,d} = \frac{1}{(1-t^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( (1-t^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \right) + \frac{1}{1-t^2} \Delta_{0,d-2}.$$

Pf.: Let us make the following change of variables:

$$(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_{d-1}) \mapsto (\eta_1, \dots, \eta_{d-2}, t)$$

$$\xi_1 = \sqrt{1-t^2} \eta_1, \dots, \xi_{d-2} = \sqrt{1-t^2} \eta_{d-2}, \xi_{d-1} = t$$

$$\eta_1 = \frac{\xi_1}{\sqrt{1-\xi_{d-1}^2}}, \dots, \eta_{d-2} = \frac{\xi_{d-2}}{\sqrt{1-\xi_{d-1}^2}}, \quad t = \xi_{d-1},$$

and the chain rule implies

(15) and the substitution into  $\Delta_0$  gives

$$\Delta_{0,d} = (1-t^2) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - (d-1)t \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{1-t^2} \Delta_{0,d-1},$$

and this is the claim of the lemma.  $\square$

Let  $\nabla = (\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_d})$ . Then  $\nabla = \frac{1}{r} \nabla_0 + \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial r}$ ,  $x = r\xi$ ,  $\xi \in S^{d-1}$ , where  $\nabla_0$  is the spherical gradient, i.e., the spherical part of  $\nabla$  involving  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_i}$ 's only. (It is the part orthogonal to  $\frac{\partial}{\partial r}$ .)

A computation shows  $\Delta_0 = \nabla_0 \cdot \nabla_0$ , based on

$$\Delta = \nabla \cdot \nabla = \frac{1}{r^2} \nabla_0 \cdot \nabla_0 + \frac{1}{r} \nabla_0 \left( \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) + \xi \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{1}{r} \nabla_0 \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r^2}.$$

Theorem: The spherical harmonics are eigenfunctions of  $\Delta_0$ ,

$$(\Delta_0 Y)(\xi) = -n(n+d-2)Y(\xi) \quad \forall Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d, \xi \in S^{d-1}.$$

Pf:  $x = r\xi$ ,  $\xi \in S^{d-1}$ , and since  $Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$  is homogeneous,  $Y(x) = r^n Y(\xi)$ .  
So

$$0 = (\Delta Y)(\xi) = n(n-1)r^{n-2}Y(\xi) + (d-1)n r^{n-2}Y(\xi) + r^{n-2} \Delta_0 Y(\xi),$$

which is the previous equality.  $\square$

The previous identity implies that  $\Delta_0$  is self-adjoint operator.

### Spherical Harmonics in spherical coordinates

The polar coordinates  $(x_1, x_2) \mapsto (r \cos \theta, r \sin \theta)$

$$r \in \mathbb{R}_+, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

give coordinates on  $S^1$ . Spherical coordinates  
when  $r=1$

$$x_1 = r \sin \theta_{d-1} \dots \sin \theta_2 \sin \theta_1,$$

$$x_2 = r \sin \theta_{d-1} \dots \sin \theta_2 \cos \theta_1,$$

$\vdots$

$$x_{d-1} = r \sin \theta_{d-1} \cos \theta_{d-2}$$

$$x_d = r \cos \theta_{d-1}$$

(16)

$r \geq 0, 0 \leq \theta_1 \leq 2\pi, 0 \leq \theta_i \leq \pi$  for  $i=2, \dots, d-1$ .

When  $r=1$ ,  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{d-1}$  are coordinates on  $S^{d-1}$ ,  
recursively defined by  $x = (\xi \sin \theta_{d-1}, \cos \theta_{d-1}) \in S^{d-1}$  for  $\xi \in S^{d-2}$ .

Then  $d\sigma = d\sigma_d = \prod_{j=1}^{d-2} (\sin \theta_{d-j})^{d-j-1} d\theta_{d-1} \dots d\theta_2 d\theta_1$   
is the Lebesgue measure on  $S^{d-1}$  ( $\sqrt{|\det J|} d\theta_2 \dots d\theta_{d-1} dr / r^{d-1}$ )  
↑ Jacobian, det computed recursively

Recall the O.N.-relation for Gegenbauer polynomials:

$$\frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d} \int_{-1}^1 C_n^\lambda(t) C_m^\lambda(t) (1-t^2)^{\lambda-1/2} dt = \frac{\lambda}{n+\lambda} C_n^\lambda(1) \delta_{m,n},$$

$h_n^\lambda$   
 $\frac{\lambda}{n+\lambda} \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d$

which can be written also as ( $t = \cos \theta$ )

$$\int_0^\pi C_n^\lambda(\cos \theta) C_m^\lambda(\cos \theta) (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\frac{d-1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})} h_n^\lambda \delta_{m,n}$$

$\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$

We shall write a basis of spherical harmonics in terms of Gegenbauer polyn. in the spherical coordinates.

Theorem: For  $d > 2, \alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0^d$ , define

$$Y_\alpha(x) := \frac{1}{h_\alpha} r^{-|\alpha|} g_\alpha(\theta_1) \prod_{j=1}^{d-2} (\sin \theta_{d-j})^{|\alpha_j+1|} C_{\alpha_j}^{\lambda_j}(\cos \theta_{d-j})$$

where

$$g_\alpha(\theta_1) = \begin{cases} \cos \alpha_{d-1} \theta_1 & \alpha_d = 0 \\ \sin \alpha_{d-1} \theta_1 & \alpha_d = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\alpha^j| &= \alpha_j + \dots + \alpha_{d-1} \\ \lambda_j &= \frac{|\alpha^j| + (d-j-1)}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$h_\alpha = b_\alpha \prod_{j=1}^{d-2} \frac{\alpha_j! \left(\frac{d-j+1}{2}\right)_{|\alpha_j+1|} (\alpha_j + \lambda_j)}{(2\lambda_j)_{\alpha_j} \left(\frac{d-j}{2}\right)_{|\alpha_j+1|} \lambda_j}$$

$$\text{where } b_\alpha = \begin{cases} 2 & \alpha_{d-1} + \alpha_d > 0 \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then  $\{Y_\alpha \mid |\alpha| = n, \alpha_d = 0, 1\}$  is an O.N.-basis of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ ,  
 $\langle Y_\alpha, Y_\beta \rangle_{S^{d-1}} = \delta_{\alpha, \beta}$ .



(17)

Pf:

$Y_\alpha$  is a homogeneous polynomial : because  $\cos \theta_k = \frac{x_{k+1}}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_k^2}}$   
 $1 \leq k \leq d-1$  )  $Y_\alpha(x)$  can be rewritten as

$$Y_\alpha(x) = h_\alpha^{-1} g(x) \prod_{j=1}^{d-2} (x_1^2 + \dots + x_{d-j+1}^2)^{\frac{\alpha_j}{2}} C_{\alpha_j}^{\lambda_j} \left( \frac{x_{d-j+1}}{\sqrt{x_1^2 + \dots + x_{d-j+1}^2}} \right)$$

where  $g(x) = \rho^{d-1} \cos \alpha_{d-1} \theta_1$  for  $\alpha_d = 0$

$$= \rho^{d-1} \sin \alpha_{d-1} \theta_1 \text{ for } \alpha_d = 1 \quad \rho = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2}$$

Since  $x_1 = \rho \sin \theta_1$ ,  $x_2 = \rho \cos \theta_1$ ,  $g(x)$  is either real or imaginary part of  $(x_2 + i x_1)^{\alpha_{d-1}}$   $\Rightarrow$  it is a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $\alpha_{d-1}$  in  $x$ . All together,

~~we see that  $Y_\alpha \in P_n^d$~~  we see  $Y_\alpha \in P_n^d$ .  
(notice that  $C_n^\lambda(t)$  is even for  $n$  even and odd when  $n$  is odd.)

It also follows from the recursive parametrization of  $S^{d-1}$ :

$$\int_{S^{d-1}} f(x) d\sigma_d(x) = \int_0^\pi \int_{S^{d-2}} f(\xi \sin \theta, \cos \theta) d\sigma_{d-1}(\xi) (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta$$

for any smooth (continuous) function  $f \in C^\infty(S^{d-1})$ .

Then

$$\langle Y_\alpha, Y_{\alpha'} \rangle_{S^{d-1}} = \frac{h_\alpha^{-1} h_{\alpha'}^{-1}}{\omega_d} \int_0^{2\pi} g_\alpha(\theta_1) g_{\alpha'}(\theta_1) d\theta_1 \times \prod_{j=1}^{d-2} \int_0^\pi C_{\alpha_j}^{\lambda_j}(\cos \theta_{d-j}) C_{\alpha'_j}^{\lambda'_j}(\cos \theta_{d-j}) (\sin \theta_{d-j})^{2\alpha_j} d\theta_{d-j}$$

from which the orthogonality follows by orthogonality of Gegenbauer polynomials and functions  $\{\cos m\theta, \sin m\theta\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$  on  $(0, 2\pi)$ . The formula for  $h_\alpha$  follows from normalization constants of the Gegenbauer polynomials.  $\square$

(18)

## Representation of rotation group

We describe the representation of  $SO(d)$  on the space of harmonic polynomials.

$$\forall Q \in SO(d) \mapsto T(Q) \in \text{End}(L^2(S^{d-1}))$$

cont. invertible map

$$(T(Q)f)(x) = f(Q^{-1}x), \quad x \in S^{d-1}$$

$$T(Q_1 Q_2) = T(Q_1) T(Q_2), \quad \forall Q_1, Q_2 \in SO(d)$$

Since  $d\sigma$  is invariant under rotations  $SO(d)$ ,  $\|T(Q)f\|_{L^2} = \|f\|_{L^2}$  in  $L^2$ -norm on  $S^{d-1} \Rightarrow T(Q)$  is unitary. The trivial space and the whole space  $L^2(S^{d-1})$  are invariant subspaces of  $L^2(S^{d-1})$ , and also  $\mathcal{H}_n^d|_{S^{d-1}}$  are invariant subspaces  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , due to  $SO(d)$ -invariance of  $\Delta$ . We want to prove  $(SO(d), \mathcal{H}_n^d|_{S^{d-1}})$  is an irreducible repr.

Lemma: A spherical harmonic  $Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$  is invariant under rotations in  $SO(d)$  preserving  $x_d$  (isomorphic to  $SO(d-1) \subseteq SO(d)$ ) iff

$$Y(x) = c \|x\|^n C_n^\lambda \left( \frac{x_d}{\|x\|} \right), \quad \lambda = \frac{d-2}{2},$$

for a constant  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Pf: A polynomial  $Y(x) = Y(x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}, x_d)$  is invariant under  $SO(d-1)$  acting by rotations in  $\langle x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}, x_d \rangle$  iff

$$Y(x) = \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} b_j x_d^{n-2j} (x_1^2 + \dots + x_{d-1}^2)^j$$

$$x_1^2 + \dots + x_{d-1}^2 = \|x\|^2 - x_d^2$$

$$= \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} c_j x_d^{n-2j} \|x\|^{2j},$$

for some  $\{b_j\}_j, \{c_j\}_j \in \mathbb{C}$ . Since  $Y(x)$  is harmonic,  $\Delta Y(x) = 0$  implies the recurrence relations

$$4(j+1)(n-j-1)c_{j+1} + (n-2j)(n-2j-1)c_j = 0,$$

which can be solved into

$$Y(x) = c_0 \sum_{0 \leq j \leq \frac{n}{2}} \frac{\left(-\frac{n}{2}\right)_j \left(\frac{1-n}{2}\right)_j}{j! (1-n-d-2)_j} x_d^{n-2j} \|x\|^{2j}.$$

(19)

The result follows by comparison with the definition of Gegenbauer polynomials.  $\square$

Theorem: The representation  $T_{n,d}$  of  $SO(d)$  on  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  is irreducible.

Pf: Assume  $U \subseteq \mathcal{H}_n^d$  is an invariant subspace,  $U \neq \{0\}$ .  
 Let  $\{\psi_j \mid 1 \leq j \leq M\}$ ,  $M \leq \dim \mathcal{H}_n^d$ , be an ON-basis of  $U$ . There is a polynomial of 1-variable  $F = F(t)$ , such that  $\sum_{j=1}^M \psi_j(x) \psi_j(y) = F(\langle x, y \rangle)$ . It is harmonic, and for  $y = e_d = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$  shows that  $F(\langle x, e_d \rangle)$  is in  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  and evidently invariant under  $SO(d-1) \subseteq SO(d)$  (rotations of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  preserving vector  $\langle (0, \dots, 0, 1) \rangle$  space " $e_d$ "). By

previous lemma,  $F(\langle x, e_d \rangle) = c \|x\|^n C_n^\lambda \left( \frac{x_d}{\|x\|} \right)$  and  $\|x\|^n C_n^\lambda \left( \frac{x_d}{\|x\|} \right) \in U$ .

Let  $U^\perp$  denote the OG-complement of  $U$  in  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$ . If  $f \in U^\perp$ ,  $g \in U$ ,  $\langle T(\mathcal{Q})f, g \rangle_{SO(d-1)} = \langle f, T(\mathcal{Q}^{-1})g \rangle_{SO(d-1)} = 0$ , which proves that  $U^\perp$  is an invariant subspace as well.

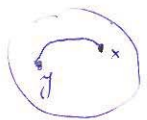
The application of the same argument as  $\uparrow$  of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  for  $U$  shows  $\|x\|^n C_n^\lambda \left( \frac{x_d}{\|x\|} \right) \in U^\perp$ , which contradicts to  $U \cap U^\perp = \{0\}$ . Thus  $U$  is trivial and the claim follows.  $\square$



(20)

# Convolution operator and spherical harmonic expansion

$x, y \in S^{d-1}$ , the distance of  $x, y$  is defined to be geodesic distance,  
 $d(x, y) = \arccos \langle x, y \rangle$ .



and the reproducing kernel of  $\mathcal{H}_n^d$  depends on  $\langle x, y \rangle$  only.

We introduce the notation for the weight,  $w_\lambda(x) = (1-x^2)^{\lambda-1/2}$ ,  
 $\lambda > -\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $x \in (-1, 1)$ . We give the definition of convolution operator on  
 the sphere:

Def: For  $f \in L^1(S^{d-1})$ ,  $g \in L^1(w_\lambda; \langle -1, 1 \rangle)$  with  $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$ .  
 We define

$$(f * g)(x) := \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) g(\langle x, y \rangle) d\sigma(y).$$

Define weighted  $L^p$ -space  $L^p(w_\lambda; \langle -1, 1 \rangle)$ : for  $g \in L^p(w_\lambda; \langle -1, 1 \rangle)$   
 the  $L^p$ -norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\lambda, p}$  is

$$\|g\|_{\lambda, p} := \left( c_\lambda \int_{-1}^1 |g(x)|^p w_\lambda(x) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{p}}, \quad 1 \leq p < \infty$$

for the normalization constant  $c_\lambda$ :  $c_\lambda \int_{-1}^1 w_\lambda(t) dt = 1$ ,  $L^p$ -norm  
 for  $p = \infty$  is the maximum norm  $L^\infty$  on  $\langle -1, 1 \rangle$ .

The convolution on the sphere  $S^{d-1}$  satisfies Young's inequality:

Theorem: Let  $p, q, r \geq 1$  and  $p^{-1} = r^{-1} + q^{-1} - 1$ . For  $f \in L^q(S^{d-1})$   
 and  $g \in L^r(w_\lambda; \langle -1, 1 \rangle)$  with  $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$ ,

$$\|f * g\|_p \leq \|f\|_q \|g\|_{\lambda, r}.$$

In particular, for  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  holds

$$\|f * g\|_p \leq \|f\|_p \|g\|_{\lambda, 1}$$

$$\|f * g\|_p \leq \|f\|_1 \|g\|_{\lambda, p}.$$

Df: By Minkowski's inequality,

$$\begin{aligned} \|f * g\|_q &\leq \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} |f(y)| \left( \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} |g(\langle x, y \rangle)|^r d\sigma(y) \right)^{\frac{1}{r}} d\sigma(x) \\ &= \|f\|_1 \|g\|_{\lambda, q} \end{aligned}$$

(21) and the standard interpolation argument implies the complete result.  $\square$

By our previous results, the operator of projection on harmonic part is convolution,

$$\text{proj}_n f = f * Z_n, \quad Z_n(t) = \frac{n+2}{2} C_n^\lambda(t) \quad \text{for } \lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}.$$

For  $g \in L^1(\omega_\lambda; \langle -1, 1 \rangle)$ , let  $\hat{g}_n^\lambda$  denote the Fourier coefficients of  $g$  with respect to the Gegenbauer polynomials:

$$\hat{g}_n^\lambda := c_\lambda \int_{-1}^1 g(t) \frac{C_n^\lambda(t)}{C_n^\lambda(1)} (1-t^2)^{\lambda-1/2} dt.$$

Theorem: For  $f \in L^1(S^{d-1})$ ,  $g \in L^1(\omega_\lambda; \langle -1, 1 \rangle)$  with  $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$ ,  
~~we have~~ we have  $\text{proj}_n(f * g) = \hat{g}_n^\lambda \text{proj}_n f, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$

Pf: By Funk-Hecke formula,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{proj}_n(f * g)(x) &= \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} (f * g)(\xi) Z_n(x, \xi) d\sigma(\xi) \\ &= \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) \left( \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} g(\langle \xi, y \rangle) Z_n(x, \xi) d\sigma(\xi) \right) d\sigma(y) \\ &= \hat{g}_n^\lambda \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) Z_n(x, y) d\sigma(y) = \hat{g}_n^\lambda \text{proj}_n f(x), \end{aligned}$$

where we used  $c_\lambda = \frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d}$ ,  $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$ .  $\square$

The previous identity can be viewed as an analogue of the fact that Fourier transform of  $f * g$  is equal to products of the Fourier transforms of  $f, g$ . It justifies the terminology convolution for

$$(f * g)(x) := \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} f(y) g(\langle x, y \rangle) d\sigma(y).$$

We define the translation operator  $T_\theta$  on the sphere can be interpreted in terms of geodesic distance.

Def: For  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ ,  $f \in L^1(S^{d-1})$ , define

$$(T_\theta f)(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_{d-1}(\sin \theta)^{d-1}} \int_{\langle x, y \rangle = \cos \theta} f(y) dl_{x, \theta}(y)$$

where  $dl_{x, \theta}(y)$  denotes Lebesgue measure on the set  $\{y \in S^{d-1} \mid \langle x, y \rangle = \cos \theta\}$ .

22

Prop: Let  $0 \leq \theta \leq \pi$ ,  $f \in L^2(S^{d-1})$ . Then

1/ Let  $S_x^\perp := \{y \in S^{d-1} \mid \langle x, y \rangle = 0\}$ , the equator in  $S^{d-1}$  with respect to  $x$ ; then

$$(T_\theta f)(x) = \frac{1}{\omega_{d-1}} \int_{S_x^\perp} f(x \cos \theta + u \sin \theta) d\sigma(u).$$

In particular, if  $f_0(x) := 1$ ,  $T_\theta f_0(x) = 1$ .

2/ For a generic  $g: \langle -1, 1 \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$(f * g)(x) = \frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d} \int_0^\pi g(\cos \theta) (T_\theta f)(x) (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta.$$

Pf: 1/ follows from a change of variables  $y \mapsto x \cos \theta + u \sin \theta$ .

As for 2/, choose a coordinate system such that  $x$  is the "north pole", and set  $y = x \cos \theta + u \sin \theta$  to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (f * g)(x) &= \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_0^\pi g(\cos \theta) \int_{S_x^\perp} f(x \cos \theta + u \sin \theta) d\sigma(u) (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta \\ &= \frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d} \int_0^\pi g(\cos \theta) (T_\theta f)(x) (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta, \end{aligned}$$

since  $S_x^\perp$  is isomorphic to the sphere  $S^{d-2}$ . □

Lemma: The operator  $T_\theta$  maps  $\Pi_n(S^{d-1})$  into itself  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For  $f \in L^1(S^{d-1})$ ,

$$\text{proj}_n(T_\theta f) = \frac{C_n^\lambda(\cos \theta)}{C_n^\lambda(1)} \text{proj}_n f, \quad \lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}.$$

Pf: For  $Y \in \mathcal{H}_n^d$ , we denote  $\langle f, Y \rangle$  the Fourier coef. of  $f$  w.r. to  $Y$ .

By previous Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f * g, Y \rangle &= \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} \text{proj}_n(f * g)(x) Y(x) d\sigma(x) \\ &= \langle f, Y \rangle \frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d} \int_0^\pi g(\cos \theta) \frac{C_n^\lambda(\cos \theta)}{C_n^\lambda(1)} (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta, \end{aligned}$$

while

$$\langle f * g, Y \rangle = \frac{\omega_{d-1}}{\omega_d} \int_0^\pi g(\cos \theta) \frac{C_n^\lambda(\cos \theta)}{C_n^\lambda(1)} (\sin \theta)^{d-2} d\theta.$$

$\langle T_\theta f, Y \rangle$



23

Since the above holds for a generic  $g$  (whenever the integrals make sense), this shows  $\langle T_\theta f, Y \rangle = \langle f, Y \rangle \frac{C_n^\lambda(\cos \theta)}{C_n^\lambda(1)}$ , which proves the claim.  $\square$

Lemma: For  $f \in L^p(S^{d-1})$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ , or  $f \in C_0(S^{d-1})$  and  $p = \infty$ ,  
 $\|T_\theta f\|_p \leq \|f\|_p$ , and  $\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0^+} \|T_\theta f - f\|_p = 0$ .

Pf:  $f \in L^1(S^{d-1})$ ,  $\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2}$ :

$$\|T_\theta f\|_1 \leq \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} T_\theta(|f|) d\sigma(x) = \text{proj}_0(T_\theta|f|)$$

by previous lemma

$$\frac{C_0^\lambda(\cos \theta)}{C_0^\lambda(1)} \text{proj}_0(|f|) = \frac{1}{\omega_d} \int_{S^{d-1}} |f(x)| d\sigma(x) = \|f\|_1.$$

(We used positivity of  $T_\theta$  in the first inequality.)

We have by definition  $\|T_\theta f\|_\infty \leq \|f\|_\infty$ , and the (Riesz-Thomson) interpolation theorem implies  $\|T_\theta f\|_p \leq \|f\|_p$ ,  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ . Furthermore,  $\|T_\theta f - f\|_p \leq 2\|f - P\|_p + \|T_\theta P - P\|_p$   $\forall$  polynomial  $P$ . By previous lemma:

$$T_\theta P - P = \sum_{j=0}^n \left( \frac{C_j^\lambda(\cos \theta)}{C_j^\lambda(1)} - 1 \right) \text{proj}_j P, \quad P \in \Pi_n(S^{d-1}),$$

so that  $T_\theta P - P \rightarrow 0$  for  $\theta \rightarrow 0^+$  and the convergence follows by density of polynomials.  $\square$

Fourier orthogonal expansion

The space of spherical harmonics has a close relationship to the approximation of the Hilbert space  $L^2(S^{d-1})$ .

Let us denote by  $S_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , the integral operator

$$(S_n f)(x) = (f * K_n)(x), \quad x \in S^{d-1}$$

where the kernel  $K_n$  satisfies  $(\lambda = \frac{d-2}{2})$

$$K_n(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{k+\lambda}{\lambda} C_k^\lambda(t) = \frac{(2\lambda+1)_n}{(\lambda+\frac{1}{2})_n} P_n^{(\lambda+\frac{1}{2}, \lambda-\frac{1}{2})}(t),$$

with  $P_n^{(\alpha, \beta)}(t)$  the Jacobi polynomial of degree  $n$  and spectral parameters  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Theorem: The family of spherical harmonics is dense in  $L^2(S^{d-1})$ ,

and

$$L^2(S^{d-1}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_n^d, \text{ i.e., } f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \text{proj}_n f,$$

in the sense that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f - S_n f\|_2 = 0 \quad \forall f \in L^2(S^{d-1}).$$

In particular, for  $f \in L^2(S^{d-1})$  the Parseval identity holds,

$$\|f\|_2^2 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \|\text{proj}_n f\|_2^2.$$

Just as in the case of classical Fourier series in several variables,  $S_n f$  does not in general converge either pointwise or in  $L^p$  for  $p \neq 2$ .

Def: For  $f \in L^1(S^{d-1})$ , the Poisson integral of  $f$  is defined by

$$(\mathbb{P}_r f)(\xi) := (f * \mathbb{P}_r)(\xi), \quad \xi \in S^{d-1},$$

where the kernel  $\mathbb{P}_r(\langle x, - \rangle)$  is given by

$$\mathbb{P}_r(t) := \frac{1-r^2}{(1-2rt+r^2)^{d/2}}, \quad 0 < r < 1.$$

Lemma: For  $0 < r < 1$ , the Poisson kernel satisfies the following properties:

$$1/ \forall x, y \in S^{d-1} : \mathbb{P}_r(\langle x, y \rangle) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} Z_n(x, y) r^n,$$

$$2/ \mathbb{P}_r f = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r^n \text{proj}_n f,$$

$$3/ \mathbb{P}_r(\langle x, y \rangle) \geq 0 \text{ and } \omega_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} \mathbb{P}_r(\langle x, y \rangle) d\sigma(y) = 1.$$

(25)

Pf: The proofs of 1/, 2/ are straightforward, the integration term by term in 2/ (which follows by uniform convergence in  $r$ ) gives 3/.

Theorem: Let  $f$  be a continuous function on  $S^{d-1}$ . For  $0 \leq r < 1$ ,

$$u(r\xi) := (P_r f)(\xi)$$

is a harmonic function in  $x = r\xi$ , and

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 1^-} u(r\xi) = f(\xi) \quad \forall \xi \in S^{d-1}$$

So this Theorem describes the converse to the restriction of a harmonic polynomial to  $S^{d-1}$ , and solves the Dirichlet problem  $\Delta u = 0$  in the unit ball of  $S^{d-1}$  with the boundary conditions  $u = f$  on  $S^{d-1}$ . Notice that for  $f, g \in L^1(S^{d-1})$  and  $\text{proj}_n f = \text{proj}_n g$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , then  $f = g$ .