# Holonomicity of spherical characters and applications to multiplicity bounds

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## Holonomic D-modules and distributions

A D-module over a smooth affine algebraic variety X is a module over the ring D(X) of differential operators on X. A D-module M given by generators and relations can be thought of as a system of PDE. A solution of M is a D-module homomorphism of M to an appropriate space of functions.

#### Definition

Let M be a D-module over X with generators  $m_1 \ldots m_k$ . Define  $F_i(D(X))$  to be the space of differential operators of degree i and  $F_i(M) := F_i(D(X))(m_1 \ldots m_k)$ . Define

$$SS(M) := supp(gr_F(M)) \subset T^*X$$
.

For a distribution  $\xi$  on  $X(\mathbb{R})$  define

$$SS(\xi) := SS(D(X)\xi) = \bigcap_{d\xi=0} Zeros(symbol(d)).$$

A distribution (or a *D*-module)  $\xi$  is called holonomic if  $\dim(SS(\xi)) = \dim X$ .

## Main results

## Theorem (Aizenbud, G., Minchenko 2015)

Let G be an algebraic reductive group,  $H_1, H_2 \subset G$  be spherical subgroups (i.e.  $H_i \setminus G/B$  is finite). The following system of equations on a distribution  $\xi$  on G is holonomic:

- $\xi$  is left  $H_1$  invariant
- $\xi$  is right  $H_2$  invariant
- $\xi$  is eigen w.r.t. the center  $\mathfrak{z}(u(\mathfrak{g}))$  of the universal enveloping algebra of the Lie algebra of G.

## Corollary

Let  $(\pi, V)$  be an admissible representation of  $G(\mathbb{R})$  and  $v_1 \in (V^*)^{H_1}$ ,  $v_2 \in (\tilde{V}^*)^{H_2}$ . Let  $\xi$  be the corresponding spherical character:

$$\langle \xi, f \rangle := \langle \pi^*(f) v_1, v_2 \rangle.$$

Then  $\xi$  is a holonomic distribution.

## Applications to the spherical character

## Corollary (Aizenbud, G., Minchenko, Sayag)

Let F be a local field of characteristic zero. Then the wave front set of any spherical character of an admissible representation of G(F) is included in a conic subvariety of  $T^*G$  of middle dimension. If  $F = \mathbb{R}$  then the subvariety is Lagrangian.

### Corollary

Any spherical character of an admissible representation of G(F) is smooth in a Zariski open dense set.

## Bernstein-Kashiwara theorem

#### Theorem (Bernstein, Kashiwara ~1974)

Let X be a real algebraic manifold. Let M be a holonomic right  $D_X$ -module. Then dim  $Hom(M, S^*(X)) < \infty$ .

#### Theorem (Bernstein, Kashiwara, Aizenbud, G., Minchenko)

Let X, Y be smooth algebraic varieties and  $\mathcal{M}$  be a family of  $D_X$ -modules parameterized by Y. Suppose that  $\mathcal{M}_y$  is holonomic. Then dim  $Hom(\mathcal{M}_y, \mathcal{S}^*(X))$  is bounded when y ranges over Y.

#### Corollary (Aizenbud, G., Minchenko)

Let a real algebraic group G act on a real algebraic manifold X with finitely many orbits. Let  $\mathcal E$  be an algebraic G-equivariant bundle on X and  $\chi$  be a character of  $\mathfrak g$ . Then,

$$\dim \mathcal{S}^*(X,\mathcal{E})^{\mathfrak{g},\chi} < \infty.$$

Moreover, it remains bounded when we change  $\chi$  or tensor  $\mathcal E$  with a representation of  $\mathfrak g$  of a fixed dimension.

## Applications to multiplicities

We reprove the following theorem

## Theorem (Kobayashi, Krötz, Oshima, Schlichtkrull 2013)

Let G be a real reductive group, H be a Zariski closed subgroup, and h be the Lie algebra of H.

- If H is a spherical subgroup then there exists  $C \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\dim(\pi^*)^{\mathfrak{h},\chi} \leq C$  for any  $\pi \in Irr(G)$  and any character  $\chi$  of  $\mathfrak{h}$ .
- If H is a real spherical subgroup then, for every irreducible admissible representation  $\pi \in Irr(G)$ , and natural number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $C_n \in \mathbb{N}$  such that for every n-dimensional representation  $\tau$  of  $\mathfrak{h}$  we have

 $\dim Hom_{\mathfrak{h}}(\pi,\tau) \leq C_n$ .

## Corollaries for homologies

## Theorem (Aizenbud, G., Krötz, Liu)

Let a real algebraic group G act on a real algebraic manifold X with finitely many orbits. Let  $\mathcal E$  be an algebraic G-equivariant bundle on X and  $\chi$  be a tempered character of G. Then, the homology  $\mathrm{H}_0(\mathfrak g,\mathcal S(X,\mathcal E)\otimes\chi))$  is separated and is non-degenerately paired with  $\mathcal S^*(X,\mathcal E)^{\mathfrak g,-\chi}$ . I.e.

$$\mathfrak{g}\mathcal{S}(X,\mathcal{E})\otimes\chi\subset\mathcal{S}(X,\mathcal{E})\otimes\chi$$

is closed and has finite codimension.

### Corollary

Let G be a real reductive group, H be a real spherical subgroup, and  $\mathfrak h$  be the Lie algebra of H. Let  $\chi$  be a tempered character of H. Then for any admissible representation  $\pi$  of G,  $H_0(\mathfrak h,\pi\otimes\chi)$  is separated and is non-degenerately paired with  $(\pi^*)^{\mathfrak h,-\chi}$ .

## Geometric formulation

#### Theorem (A., Gourevitch, Minchenko 2015)

Let

$$\begin{split} S &= \{g \in G, x \in \mathfrak{g}^* | x \in \mathfrak{h}_1^\perp, ad(g)(x) \in \mathfrak{h}_2^\perp, x \text{ is nilpotent}\} = \\ &= G \times \mathcal{N} \cap \bigcup_{g \in G} \mathit{CN}_{H_1gH_2,g}^G \end{split}$$

Then

$$\dim S = \dim G$$
.

## The group case

Assume  $H_1 = H_2 = H$ , diagonally embedded in  $G = H \times H$ . Translating the problem to H = G/H we obtain:

$$S' = \{g \in H, x \in \mathfrak{h}^* | Ad(g)(x) = x, x \in \mathcal{N}_H\} = H \times \mathcal{N}_H \cap \bigcup_{g \in H} CN_{ad(G)g,g}^H$$

passing to the Lie algebra

$$S' = \{g \in \mathfrak{h}, x \in \mathfrak{h} | [x, g] = 0, x \text{ is nilpotent}\}\$$

So

$$\mathcal{S}' \subset \bigcup_{x \in \mathcal{N}_H} \mathit{CN}^{\mathfrak{h}}_{\mathit{ad}(G)x,x}$$

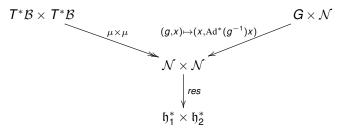
## Springer resolution and Steinberg theorem

Let  $\mathcal{B}$  be the flag variety.  $T^*\mathcal{B} \cong \{B \in \mathcal{B}, x \in \mathfrak{b}^{\perp}\}$ . We have a natural map  $\mu: T^*\mathcal{B} \to \mathcal{N}$ . It is called the Springer resolution.

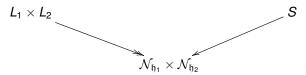
## Theorem (Steinberg 1976)

 $\forall \eta \in \mathcal{N}$  we have dim  $G_{\eta} - 2 \dim \mu^{-1}(\eta) = \operatorname{rk} G$ .

## Idea of the proof



Passing to the fiber of  $0 \in \mathfrak{h}_1^* \times \mathfrak{h}_2^*$  we get:



#### Where

$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{h}_i} := \mathcal{N} \cap \mathfrak{h}_i^{\perp}$$
 and  $L_i := \{(B, X) \in T^*\mathcal{B} \mid X \in \mathfrak{h}_i^{\perp}\} = \bigcup_{x \in \mathcal{B}} CN_{H_i x, x}^{\mathcal{B}}$ . The estimate on dim  $S$  follows from the Steinberg theorem and:

 $\dim L_i = \dim \mathcal{B}.$