# VANISHING OF CERTAIN EQUIVARIANT DISTRIBUTIONS ON *p*-ADIC SPHERICAL SPACES, AND NON-VANISHING OF SPHERICAL BESSEL FUNCTIONS.

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ABSTRACT. We prove vanishing of distribution on p-adic spherical spaces that are equivariant with respect to a generic character of the nilradical of a Borel subgroup and satisfy a certain condition on the wave-front set. We deduce from this nonvanishing of spherical Bessel functions for Galois symmetric pairs.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Let **G** be a reductive group, quasi-split over a non-Archimedean local field F of characteristic zero. Let **B** be a Borel subgroup of **G**, and let **U** be the unipotent radical of **B**. Let **H** be a closed subgroup of **G**. Let G, B, U, H denote the F-points of **G**, **B**, **U**, **H** respectively. Suppose that **H** is an F-spherical subgroup of **G**, i.e. that there are finitely many  $B \times H$ -double cosets in G. Let  $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}$  be the Lie algebras of G, H respectively. Let  $\psi$  be a non-degenerate character of U and let  $\chi$  be a character of H. For  $x \in G$  denote  $H^x := xHx^{-1}$  and denote by  $\chi^x$  the character of  $H^x$  defined by conjugation of  $\chi$ . For a  $B \times H$ -double coset  $\mathcal{O} \subset G$  define

$$\mathcal{O}_c := \left\{ x \in \mathcal{O} \mid \psi \right|_{H^x \cap U} = \chi^x |_{H^x \cap U} \right\}.$$

Let

$$Z := \bigcup_{\mathcal{O} \text{ s.t. } \mathcal{O} \neq \mathcal{O}_c} \mathcal{O}.$$

Identify  $T^*G$  with  $G \times \mathfrak{g}^*$  and let  $\mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$  be the set of nilpotent elements in  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ .

In this paper we prove the following theorem.

**Theorem A** (see Section 3). Let  $\xi \in S^*(G)^{(U \times H, \psi \times \chi)}$  be a  $(U, \psi)$ -left equivariant and  $(H, \chi)$ -right equivariant distribution on G. Suppose that the wave-front set (see section 2.3)  $WF(\xi)$  lies in  $G \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$  and  $\operatorname{Supp}(\xi) \subset Z$ . Then  $\xi = 0$ .

In the case when  $\mathbf{H}$  is a subgroup of Galois type we can prove a stronger statement. By a subgroup of Galois type we mean a subgroup  $\mathbf{H} \subset \mathbf{G}$  such that

 $(\mathbf{G} \times_{\operatorname{Spec} F} \operatorname{Spec} E, \mathbf{H} \times_{\operatorname{Spec} F} \operatorname{Spec} E) \simeq (\mathbf{H} \times_{\operatorname{Spec} F} \mathbf{H} \times_{\operatorname{Spec} F} \operatorname{Spec} E, \Delta \mathbf{H} \times_{\operatorname{Spec} F} \operatorname{Spec} E)$ for some field extension E of F, where  $\Delta \mathbf{H}$  is the diagonal copy of  $\mathbf{H}$  in  $\mathbf{H} \times_{\operatorname{Spec} F} \mathbf{H}$ .

**Corollary B** (see Section 4). Let  $\mathbf{H} \subset \mathbf{G}$  be a subgroup of Galois type, and let  $\chi$  be a character of H. Let S be the union of all non-open  $B \times H$ -double cosets in G. Let  $\xi \in \mathcal{S}^*(G)^{(U \times H, \psi \times \chi)}$ . Suppose that  $WF(\xi) \subset G \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$  and  $\operatorname{Supp}(\xi) \subset S$ . Then  $\xi = 0$ .

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Note that if  $\chi$  is trivial, we can consider the distribution  $\xi$  as a distribution on G/H. Considering  $\mathbf{G}' := \mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G}$  and taking  $\mathbf{H}$  to be the diagonal copy of  $\mathbf{G}$  we obtain the following corollary for the group case.

**Corollary C** (see Section 4). Let  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  be non-degenerate characters of U. Let  $B \times B$  act on G by  $(b_1, b_2)g := b_1gb_2^{-1}$ . Let S be the complement to the open  $B \times B$ -orbit in G. For any  $x \in G$ , identify  $T_xG$  with  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $T_x^*G$  with  $\mathfrak{g}^*$ . Let

$$\xi \in \mathcal{S}^*(G)^{U \times U, \psi_1 \times \psi_2}$$

and suppose that  $WF(\xi) \subset S \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$ . Then  $\xi = 0$ .

1.1. Applications to non-vanishing of spherical Bessel functions. Let  $\pi$  be an admissible representation of G (of finite length). Let  $\mathbf{H} \subset \mathbf{G}$  be an algebraic spherical subgroup and let  $\chi$  be a character of H. For equivariant functionals  $\phi \in (\pi^*)^{(U,\psi)}$  and  $v \in (\tilde{\pi}^*)^{(H,\chi)}$  define the spherical Bessel distribution by

$$\xi_{v,\phi}(f) := \langle v, \pi^*(f)\phi \rangle.$$

By [AGS, Theorem A] we have  $WF(\xi_{v,\phi}) \subset G \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$ .

The spherical Bessel function is defined to be the restriction  $j_{v,\phi} := \xi_{v,\phi}|_{G-S}$ , where S is the union of all non-open  $B \times H$ -double cosets in G. One can easily deduce from [AGS, Theorem A] and Lemma 3.1 that  $j_{v,\phi}$  is a smooth function. Theorem A and Corollary B imply the following corollary.

**Corollary D.** Suppose that  $\pi$  is irreducible and  $v, \phi$  are non-zero. Then

- (i)  $\xi_{v,\phi}|_{G\setminus\overline{Z}} \neq 0.$
- (ii) If **H** is a subgroup of Galois type then  $j_{v,\phi} \neq 0$ .

For the group case this corollary was proven in [LM, Appendix B].

1.2. **Related results.** In [AG] a certain Archimedean analog of Theorem A is proven (see [AG, Theorem A]). This analog implies that the Archimedean analog of Corollary D(ii) holds for any spherical pair (G, H) (see [AG, Corollary B]).

Corollary C together with [AGS, Theorem A] can replace [GK75, Theorem 3] in the proof of uniqueness of Whittaker models [GK75, Theorem C].

Theorem A can be used in order to study the dimensions of the spaces of H-invariant functionals on irreducible generic representations of G (see [AG, §1.3] for more details). It can also be used in the study of analogs of Harish-Chandra's density theorem (see [AGS, §1.7] for more details).

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#### 2. Preliminaries

### 2.1. Conventions.

• We fix F, G, B, U, X and  $\psi$  as in the introduction.

- All the algebraic groups and algebraic varieties that we consider are defined over *F*. We will use capital bold letters, e.g. **G**, **X** to denote algebraic groups and varieties defined over *F*, and their non-bold versions to denote the *F*-points of these varieties, considered as *l*-spaces or *F*-analytic manifolds (in the sense of [Ser64]).
- When we use a capital Latin letter to denote an *F*-analytic group or an algebraic group, we use the corresponding Gothic letter to denote its Lie algebra.
- We denote by  $G_x$  the stabilizer of x and by  $\mathfrak{g}_x$  its Lie algebra.

2.2. Vanishing of equivariant distributions. The following criterion for vanishing of equivariant distributions follows from [BZ76, §6] and [Ber83, §§1.5].

**Theorem 2.1** (Bernstein-Gelfand-Kazhdan-Zelevinsky). Let an algebraic group **H** act on an algebraic variety **X**, both defined over *F*. Let  $\chi$  be a character of *H*. Let  $Z \subset X$  be a closed *H*-invariant subset. Suppose that for any  $x \in Z$  we have

$$\chi|_{H_x} \neq \Delta_H|_{H_x} \Delta_{H_x}^{-1},$$

where  $\Delta_H$  and  $\Delta_{H_x}$  denote the modular functions of the groups H and  $H_x$ . Then there are no non-zero  $(H, \chi)$ -equivariant distributions on X supported in Z.

2.3. Wave front set. In this section we give an overview of the theory of the wave front set as developed by D. Heifetz [Hef85], following L. Hörmander (see [Hör90, §8]). For simplicity we ignore here the difference between distributions and generalized functions.

#### Definition 2.2.

- (1) Let V be a finite-dimensional vector space over F. Let  $f \in C^{\infty}(V^*)$  and  $w_0 \in V^*$ . We say that f vanishes asymptotically in the direction of  $w_0$  if there exists  $\rho \in \mathcal{S}(V^*)$  with  $\rho(w_0) \neq 0$  such that the function  $\phi \in C^{\infty}(V^* \times F)$  defined by  $\phi(w, \lambda) := f(\lambda w) \cdot \rho(w)$  is compactly supported.
- (2) Let  $U \subset V$  be an open set and  $\xi \in S^*(U)$ . Let  $x_0 \in U$  and  $w_0 \in V^*$ . We say that  $\xi$  is smooth at  $(x_0, w_0)$  if there exists a compactly supported non-negative function  $\rho \in S(V)$  with  $\rho(x_0) \neq 0$  such that the Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}^*(\rho \cdot \xi)$ vanishes asymptotically in the direction of  $w_0$ .
- (3) The complement in  $T^*U$  of the set of smooth pairs  $(x_0, w_0)$  of  $\xi$  is called the wave front set of  $\xi$  and denoted by  $WF(\xi)$ .
- (4) For a point  $x \in U$  we denote  $WF_x(\xi) := WF(\xi) \cap T_x^*U$ .

Remark 2.3. Heifetz defined  $WF_{\Lambda}(\xi)$  for any open subgroup  $\Lambda$  of  $F^{\times}$  of finite index. Our definition above is slightly different from the definition in [Hef85]. They relate by

$$WF(\xi) - (U \times \{0\}) = WF_{F^{\times}}(\xi).$$

**Proposition 2.4** (see [Hör90, Theorem 8.2.4] and [Hef85, Theorem 2.8]). Let  $U \subset F^m$ and  $V \subset F^n$  be open subsets, and suppose that  $f: U \to V$  is an analytic submersion. Then for any  $\xi \in S^*(V)$ , we have

$$WF(f^*(\xi)) \subset f^*(WF(\xi)) := \{(x,v) \in T^*U | \exists w \in WF_{f(x)}(\xi) \text{ s.t. } d^*_{f(x)}f(w) = v\}.$$

**Corollary 2.5.** Under the assumption of Proposition 2.4 we have

$$WF(f^*(\xi)) = f^*(WF(\xi)).$$

*Proof.* The case when f is an analytic diffeomorphism follows immediately from Proposition 2.4. This implies the case of open embedding. It is left to prove the case of linear projection  $f: F^{n+m} \to F^n$ . In this case the assertion follows from the fact that  $f^*(\xi) = \xi \boxtimes 1_{F^m}$  where  $1_{F^m}$  is the constant function 1 on  $F^m$ .  $\Box$ 

**Corollary 2.6.** Let X be an F-analytic manifold. We can define the wave front set of any distribution in  $S^*(X)$ , as a subset of the cotangent bundle  $T^*X$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** (Corollary from [A13, Theorem 4.1.5]) Let an *F*-analytic group *H* act on an *F*-analytic manifold *Y* and let  $\chi$  be a character of *H*. Let  $\xi \in S^*(Y)^{(H,\chi)}$ . Then

$$WF(\xi) \subset \{(x, v) \in T^*Y | v(T_x(Hx)) = 0\}.$$

**Theorem 2.8** ( [A13, Theorem 4.1.2]). Let  $Y \subset X$  be *F*-analytic manifolds and let  $y \in Y$ . Let  $\xi \in S^*(X)$  and suppose that  $\operatorname{Supp}(\xi) \subset Y$ . Then  $WF_y(\xi)$  is invariant with respect to shifts by the conormal space  $CN_{Y,y}^X$ .

**Corollary 2.9.** Let M be an F-analytic manifold and  $N \subset M$  be a closed algebraic submanifold. Let  $\xi$  be a distribution on M supported in N. Suppose that for any  $x \in N$ , we have  $CN_{N,x}^M \notin WF_x(\xi)$ . Then  $\xi = 0$ .

Proof. Suppose  $\xi \neq 0$  and let  $x \in \text{Supp}(\xi)$ . Then  $(x, 0) \in WF_x(\xi)$ . But then from Theorem 2.8 we have  $CN_{N,x}^M \subseteq WF_x(\xi)$  which contradicts our assumption on  $\xi$ .  $\Box$ 

# 3. Proof of Theorem A

**Lemma 3.1.** Let  $x \in G$ . Let  $\xi$  be a  $(U, \psi)$ -left equivariant and  $(H, \chi)$ -right equivariant distribution on G such that  $WF(\xi) \subset G \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$ . Then  $WF_x(\xi) \subset CN^G_{BxH,x}$ .

Proof. Let  $\mathfrak{t}$  be the Lie algebra of a maximal torus contained in B, and let  $\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{u}$  be the Lie algebras of H, U respectively. Identify  $T_x^*G$  with  $\mathfrak{g}^*$  using the right multiplication by  $x^{-1}$ . We have  $CN_{BxH,x}^G = (\mathfrak{t} + \mathfrak{u} + ad(x)\mathfrak{h})^{\perp}$ . Since  $\xi$  is  $\mathfrak{u}$ -equivariant, by Theorem 2.7 we have  $WF_x(\xi) \subset \mathfrak{u}^{\perp}$ . Similarly, since  $\xi$  is  $\mathfrak{h}$ -equivariant on the right, we have  $WF_x(\xi) \subset (ad(x)\mathfrak{h})^{\perp}$ . By our assumption  $WF_x(\xi) \subset \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$ . Now,  $\mathfrak{u}^{\perp} \cap \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*} = (\mathfrak{t} + \mathfrak{u})^{\perp}$  and thus

$$WF_x(\xi) \subset (ad(x)\mathfrak{h})^{\perp} \cap \mathfrak{u}^{\perp} \cap \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*} = (ad(x)\mathfrak{h})^{\perp} \cap (\mathfrak{u}+\mathfrak{t})^{\perp} = (\mathfrak{t}+\mathfrak{u}+ad(x)\mathfrak{h})^{\perp} = CN^G_{BxH,x}.$$

Proof of Theorem A. Suppose that there exists a non-zero right  $(U, \psi)$ -equivariant and left  $(H, \chi)$ -equivariant distribution  $\xi$  supported on Z such that  $WF(\xi) \subset G \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$ . We decompose G into  $B \times H$ -double cosets and prove the required vanishing coset by coset. For a  $B \times H$ -double coset  $\mathcal{O} \subset G$  define  $\mathcal{O}_s := \mathcal{O} \setminus \mathcal{O}_c$  and stratify  $\mathcal{O}_c$  to a union of smooth locally closed F-analytic subvarieties  $\mathcal{O}_c^i$ . The collection

 $\{\mathcal{O}_c^i \mid \mathcal{O} \text{ is a } B \times H \text{-double coset}\} \cup \{\mathcal{O}_s \mid \mathcal{O} \text{ is a } B \times H \text{-double coset}\}$ 

is a stratification of G. Order this collection to a sequence  $\{S_i\}_{i=1}^N$  of smooth locally closed F-analytic submanifolds of G such that  $U_k := \bigcup_{i=1}^k S_i$  is open in G for any  $1 \le k \le N$ . Let k be the maximal integer such that  $\xi|_{U_{k-1}} = 0$ . Suppose  $k \le N$  and let  $\eta := \xi|_{U_k}$ . Note that  $\operatorname{Supp}(\eta) \subset S_k$ . We will now show that  $\eta = 0$ , which leads to a contradiction. Case 1.  $S_k = \mathcal{O}_s$  for some orbit  $\mathcal{O}$ . Then  $\eta = 0$  by Theorem 2.1 since  $\eta$  is  $(U \times H, \psi \times \chi)$ -equivariant.

Case 2.  $S_k \subset \mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}_c$  for some orbit  $\mathcal{O}$ . Then  $S_k \subset G \setminus Z$  and  $\eta = 0$  by the conditions. Case 3.  $S_k \subset \mathcal{O}_c \nsubseteq \mathcal{O}$  for some orbit  $\mathcal{O}$ . In this case dim  $\mathcal{O}_c < \dim \mathcal{O}$  and thus

$$CN^G_{S_k,x} \supseteq CN^G_{\mathcal{O},x}$$

By Lemma 3.1 we have, for any  $x \in S_k$ ,

$$WF_x(\eta) \subset CN^G_{\mathcal{O},x}$$
 and thus  $CN^G_{S_k,x} \nsubseteq WF_x(\eta)$ .

By Corollary 2.9 this implies  $\eta = 0$ .

## 4. Proof of Corollaries B and C

Let  $\mathbf{U}'$  denote the derived group of  $\mathbf{U}$ .

**Lemma 4.1.** Let  $\overline{W}$  be the Weyl group of **G**. Let  $\overline{w} \in \overline{W}$  and let  $w \in G$  be its representative. Suppose that  $w \mathbf{U} w^{-1} \cap \mathbf{U} \subset \mathbf{U}'$ . Then  $\overline{w}$  is the longest element in  $\overline{W}$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\mathfrak{u}$  be the Lie algebra of  $\mathbf{U}$ . On the level of Lie algebras the condition  $wUw^{-1} \cap U \subset U'$  means that  $(Ad(w)\mathfrak{u}) \cap \mathfrak{u} \subset \mathfrak{u}'$ . The algebra  $\mathfrak{u}$  can be decomposed as

$$\mathfrak{u} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}.$$

It is easy to see that

$$(Ad(w)\mathfrak{u}) \cap \mathfrak{u} = \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi^+, \overline{w}^{-1}(\alpha) \in \Phi^+} \mathfrak{g}_{\alpha}.$$

Let  $\Delta \subset \Phi^+$  be the set of simple roots in  $\Phi^+$ . Then from the condition of the lemma we obtain that  $\overline{w}^{-1}(\Delta) \subset \Phi^-$ , and as a consequence  $\overline{w}^{-1}(\Phi^+) \subset \Phi^-$ . Let  $\overline{w}_0$  be the longest element in  $\overline{W}$ . Then  $\overline{w}_0 \overline{w}^{-1}(\Phi^+) \subset \Phi^+$ . Since  $\Phi^+$  is a finite set and  $\overline{w}_0 \overline{w}^{-1}$ acts by an invertible linear transformation, we get  $\overline{w}_0 \overline{w}^{-1}(\Phi^+) = \Phi^+$ . Since simple roots are the indecomposable ones, it follows that  $\overline{w}_0 \overline{w}^{-1}(\Delta) = \Delta$ . This implies that  $\overline{w}_0 \overline{w}^{-1} = 1$  (see e.g. [Hum72, §10.3]), and thus  $\overline{w}_0 = \overline{w}$ .

**Corollary 4.2.** Let **H** be a reductive group. Assume  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{H} \times \mathbf{H}$  and let  $\Delta \mathbf{H} \subset \mathbf{G}$  be the diagonal copy of **H**. Denote  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{G}/\mathbf{H}$  and let  $x \in X$  be such that  $\mathbf{U}_x \subset \mathbf{U}'$ . Then the orbit  $\mathbf{B}x$  is open in  $\mathbf{X}$ .

*Proof.* We can identify **X** with **H** using the projection on the first coordinate. We can assume that  $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}} \times \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}}$  where  $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}}$  is a Borel subgroup of **H**. Let  $\overline{W}$  be the Weyl group of **H** and W be a set of its representatives. By Bruhat decomposition,

$$\mathbf{H} = \bigsqcup_{w \in W} \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}} w \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}}$$

It is well-known that the only open  $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}} \times \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}}$  orbit in  $\mathbf{H}$  is  $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}} w_0 \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}}$ , where  $w_0 \in W$  is the representative of the longest Weyl element. Let  $w \in W$ . Let  $\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}}$  be the nilradical of  $\mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{H}}$ . Then

$$\mathbf{U}_w = \{ (u_1, u_2) | u_1 w u_2 = w, \ u_1, u_2 \in \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}} \},\$$

and we see that for a pair  $(u_1, u_2) \in \mathbf{U}_w$  we have  $u_1 = w u_2 w^{-1} \in w \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}} w^{-1}$ . Therefore,

 $\mathbf{U}_w \cong \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}} \cap w \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}} w^{-1}.$ 

Let

$$R = \{x \in \mathbf{X} \mid \mathbf{U}_x \subset \mathbf{U}'\} = \{x \in \mathbf{H} \mid \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}} \cap x\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}}x^{-1} \subset \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}}' = [\mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}}, \mathbf{U}_{\mathbf{H}}]\},\$$

and let  $\mathbf{R}$  be the corresponding algebraic variety. Since  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{U}'$  are normal in  $\mathbf{B}$ , we obtain that  $\mathbf{R}$  is  $\mathbf{B}$ -invariant. The corollary follows now from Lemma 4.1.

**Corollary 4.3.** Let  $\mathbf{H} \subset \mathbf{G}$  be a subgroup of Galois type. Then for every non-open *B*-orbit  $\mathcal{O} \subset G/H$  there exists  $y \in \mathcal{O}$  such that  $\psi(U_y) \neq 1$ .

Proof. Let  $\mathcal{O} \subset G/H$  be a non-open *B*-orbit and  $x \in \mathcal{O}$ . Since  $\mathcal{O}$  is open in G/H if and only if  $\mathbf{B}x$  is (Zariski) open in  $\mathbf{G}/\mathbf{H}$ , Corollary 4.2 implies  $\mathbf{U}_x \not\subset \mathbf{U}'$ . Thus, there exists a non-degenerate character  $\varphi$  of U such that  $\varphi(U_x) \neq 1$ . For a fixed  $x \in \mathcal{O}$ , the set of characters  $\varphi'$  of U such that  $\varphi'(U_x) \neq 1$  is Zariski-open, thus dense in the l-space topology and thus intersects the *B*-orbit of  $\psi$ . Thus there exists  $y \in Bx = \mathcal{O}$ such that  $\psi(U_y) \neq 1$ .

Proof of Corollary B. By Theorem A it is enough to show that  $S \subset Z$ . Let  $\mathcal{O} \subset S$  be a  $B \times H$  double coset. Corollary 4.3 implies that there exists  $x \in \mathcal{O}$  such that  $\psi|_{U \cap H^x} \neq 1$ . Since  $H^x$  is reductive and U is unipotent, we have  $\chi^x|_{U \cap H^x} = 1$ , and thus  $\mathcal{O} \subset Z$ .

Proof of Corollary C. Define  $\mathbf{G}' = \mathbf{G} \times \mathbf{G}$ ,  $\mathbf{H}' = \Delta(\mathbf{G}) \subset \mathbf{G}'$  and  $\mathbf{B}' = \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{B}$ . The non-degenerate characters  $\psi_1, \psi_2$  define a non-degenerate character of the nilradical U' of B'. Note that  $\mathbf{H}' \subset \mathbf{G}'$  is a subgroup of Galois type and that G'/H' is naturally isomorphic to G. Let  $\eta$  be the pull-back of  $\xi$  to G' under the projection  $G \to G'/H' \cong$ G. Then we have  $\operatorname{Supp} \eta \subset S'$ , where S' is the union of all non-open  $B' \times H'$ -double cosets in G'. Also, by Corollary 2.5 we have  $WF(\eta) \subset G' \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}'^*}$ . By Corollary B we obtain  $\eta = 0$  and thus  $\xi = 0$ .

Remark 4.4. Corollary B can not be generalized literally to arbitrary symmetric pairs. The reason is that neither can Corollary 4.2. For example consider the pair  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{GL}_{2n}, \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{GL}_{n} \times \mathbf{GL}_{n}$ , where the involution is conjugation by the diagonal matrix with first *n* entries equal to 1 and others equal to -1. Let *x* be the coset of the permutation matrix given by the product of transpositions

$$\prod_{i=0}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor} (2i+1, 2n-2i),$$

and let **B** consist of upper-triangular matrices. Then  $\mathbf{U}_x \subset \mathbf{U}'$ , while **B**x is of middle dimension in  $\mathbf{G}/\mathbf{H}$ . It can be shown that there exists a  $(U, \psi)$ -left equivariant, H-right invariant distribution  $\xi$  on G supported in BxH and satisfying  $WF(\xi) \subset G \times \mathcal{N}_{\mathfrak{g}^*}$ .

However, Corollary D(ii) might hold for any spherical subgroup  $\mathbf{H}$ . In fact, this is the case over the archimedean fields, see [AG, Corollary B].

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