

L-groups for double covers of Chevalley-Steinberg groups

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Outline

Covering groups after Brylinski and Deligne

The dual group

The L-group

Evidences and questions

Covering groups after Brylinski and Deligne

What is a covering group?

Let F be a field, and let \mathbf{G} be a reductive group over F .

Definition (My working definition)

A cover of \mathbf{G} over F is a pair $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} = (\mathbf{G}', n)$, where

- $\mathbf{K}_2 \hookrightarrow \mathbf{G}' \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{G}$ is a central extension of \mathbf{G} by \mathbf{K}_2 ;
- $1 \leq n$ (the degree) is such that $\#\mu_n(F) = n$.

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A “central extension of \mathbf{G} by \mathbf{K}_2 ” was defined by Brylinski and Deligne (Pub. Math. IHES 94 (2001)). They classified such central extensions by root-theoretic data.

What does a covering group over \mathbb{R} give us?

Let \tilde{G} be a degree 2 cover of a reductive group G over \mathbb{R} . Taking \mathbb{R} -points and applying the Hilbert symbol yields a topological central extension,

$$\mu_2 \hookrightarrow \tilde{G} \twoheadrightarrow G,$$

where $G = \mathbf{G}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mu_2 = \{\pm 1\}$.

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Two questions:

1. What topological central extensions arise?
2. Why should one work with the Brylinski-Deligne class of covers anyways?

Proposition

Let \mathbf{S} be an algebraic torus over \mathbb{R} such that $S = \mathbf{S}(\mathbb{R})$ is compact. Then every topological central extension,

$$\mu_2 \hookrightarrow \tilde{S} \twoheadrightarrow S$$

arises from a cover $\tilde{\mathbf{S}} = (\mathbf{S}', 2)$.

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arises from a cover $\tilde{\mathbf{S}} = (\mathbf{S}', 2)$.

Proof: A straightforward consequence of Brylinski-Deligne, §12.6.

N.B. the cover $\tilde{\mathbf{S}}$ is not uniquely determined by the topological cover \tilde{S} .

Definition

A Chevalley group (respectively Chevalley-Steinberg group) over a field F is a split (resp., quasisplit), absolutely almost simple, simply-connected linear algebraic group \mathbf{G} over F .

Chevalley-Steinberg groups over \mathbb{R}

Type	Group $G = \mathbf{G}(\mathbb{R})$	$\pi_1(G)$
$A_\ell, \ell \geq 2$	$SL_{\ell+1}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
$B_\ell, \ell \geq 3$	$Spin_{\ell,\ell+1}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
$C_\ell, \ell \geq 1$	$Sp_{2\ell}(\mathbb{R})$	\mathbb{Z}
$D_\ell, \ell \geq 4$	$Spin_{\ell,\ell}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
E_6, E_7, E_8, F_4, G_2	Exceptional groups	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
$A_{2p}^{(2)}, p \geq 1$	$SU_{p,p+1}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
$A_{2p-1}^{(2)}, p \geq 2$	$SU_{p,p}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
$D_\ell^{(2)}, \ell \geq 4$	$D_\ell^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$
$E_6^{(2)}$	$E_6^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

A good reference is Tits, "Tabellen zu den einfachen Lie Gruppen und ihren Darstellungen" (LNM 40, 1967).

Covers of Chevalley-Steinberg groups over \mathbb{R}

Fix G a Chevalley-Steinberg group over \mathbb{R} . There exists a unique, up to unique isomorphism, nonsplit topological central extension,

$$\mu_2 \hookrightarrow \tilde{G} \twoheadrightarrow G.$$

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Theorem (Brylinski-Deligne)

There is a canonical central extension

$$\mathbf{K}_2 \hookrightarrow \mathbf{G}' \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{G}.$$

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Theorem (Prasad-Rapinchuk, Prasad, Brylinski-Deligne)

The double cover arising from the canonical extension of Brylinski-Deligne is uniquely isomorphic to the nonsplit extension \tilde{G} .

Nontrivial covers can yield (topologically) linear Lie groups.

Example

There exists a cover $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} = (\mathbf{G}', 2)$, where $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{PGL}_2$, and the resulting extension

$$\mu_2 \hookrightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{G}} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{PGL}_2(\mathbb{R})$$

is isomorphic (nonuniquely) to the extension

$$\mu_2 \hookrightarrow \frac{GL_2(\mathbb{R})}{\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix} : t > 0 \right\}} \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{PGL}_2(\mathbb{R}).$$

N.B. $\tilde{g} \mapsto g \cdot |\det(g)|^{-1/2}$ is a faithful continuous representation.

If F is a local field, and \tilde{G} is a degree n cover of a reductive group G over F , then one gets a topological central extension,

$$\mu_n \hookrightarrow \tilde{G} \twoheadrightarrow G,$$

where $G = G(F)$. Universal extensions of Chevalley-Steinberg groups arise from such a construction.

Unramified and global properties

If F is a global field and $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ is a degree n cover of a reductive group \mathbf{G} over F , then one gets a topological central extension,

$$\mu_n \hookrightarrow \tilde{G}_{\mathbb{A}} \twoheadrightarrow G_{\mathbb{A}} = \mathbf{G}(\mathbb{A}),$$

as well as a splitting of this extension over $\mathbf{G}(F)$.

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If \mathcal{O} is the ring of integers in a nonarchimedean local field F , and $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ is a degree n cover of a reductive group \mathbf{G} over \mathcal{O} , then one gets a topological central extension

$$\mu_n \hookrightarrow \tilde{G}_F \twoheadrightarrow G_F = \mathbf{G}(F),$$

as well as a splitting of this extension over $\mathbf{G}(\mathcal{O})$.

The class of covers described here has some nice properties:

- They include the most important topological central extensions, at least those that seem connected to arithmetic.
- Splitting properties allow one to study genuine unramified representations and genuine automorphic representations.
- They include some central extensions that can be studied using techniques for linear groups, but would not ordinarily get attention.
- They have a nice classification due to Brylinski and Deligne.

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I aim to extend the Langlands program to covers. For this purpose, I have defined an L-group associated to all covers of quasisplit groups over local and global fields.

The dual group

A quadratic form

Let $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ be a degree n cover of a quasisplit reductive group \mathbf{G} over a field F . Let \mathbf{T} be a maximal torus in a Borel subgroup $\mathbf{B} \subset \mathbf{G}$. Define

$$Y = \mathrm{Hom}(\mathbf{G}_m, \mathbf{T}), \quad X = \mathrm{Hom}(\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{G}_m).$$

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$$Q: Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}.$$

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$$Q: Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}.$$

Simplest case: If \mathbf{G} a Chevalley-Steinberg group and $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ is the canonical double cover, $Q: Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ is the unique Weyl-invariant quadratic form such that

$$Q(\alpha^\vee) = 1 \text{ for all short coroots } \alpha^\vee.$$

Modified root data

Let $\Phi \subset X$ and $\Phi^\vee \subset Y$ the subsets of roots and coroots. Let $\Delta \subset \Phi$ and $\Delta^\vee \subset \Phi^\vee$ be the subsets of simple roots and coroots.

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$$n_\alpha = \frac{n}{\text{GCD}(n, Q(\alpha^\vee))} \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi.$$

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Define modified roots and coroots

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\alpha} &= n_\alpha^{-1} \alpha, & \tilde{\alpha}^\vee &= n_\alpha \alpha^\vee \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Phi. \\ \tilde{\Phi} &= \{\tilde{\alpha} : \alpha \in \Phi\}, & \tilde{\Phi}^\vee &= \{\tilde{\alpha}^\vee : \alpha \in \Phi\}. \end{aligned}$$

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Define a modified coweight lattice

$$Y_{Q,n} = \{y \in Y : Q(y+y') - Q(y) - Q(y') \in n\mathbb{Z} \text{ for all } y' \in Y\} \subset nY.$$

Define a modified weight lattice

$$X_{Q,n} = \text{Hom}(Y_{Q,n}, \mathbb{Z}) \subset n^{-1}X.$$

Modified root data

Theorem (Lusztig, Finkelberg-Lysenko, McNamara, Reich, W.)

The sextuple $(Y_{Q,n}, \tilde{\Phi}^\vee, \tilde{\Delta}^\vee, X_{Q,n}, \tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Delta})$ is a based root datum.

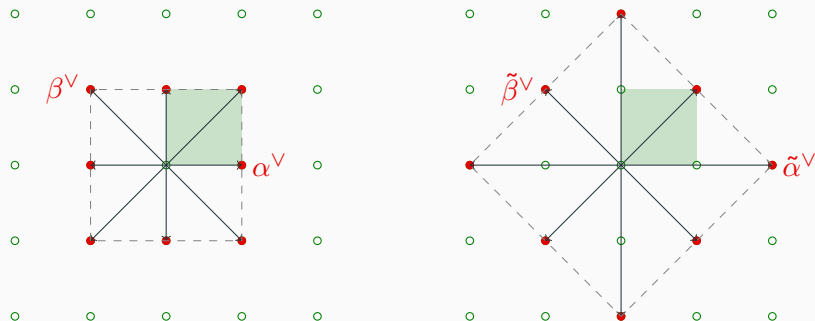


Figure 1: Modifying the root datum for the double cover of Sp_4 . On the left, $Y \supset \Phi^\vee \supset \Delta^\vee$. On the right, $Y_{Q,2} \supset \tilde{\Phi}^\vee \supset \tilde{\Delta}^\vee$. In this case $Y = Y_{Q,2}$ (I call such covers “sharp”).

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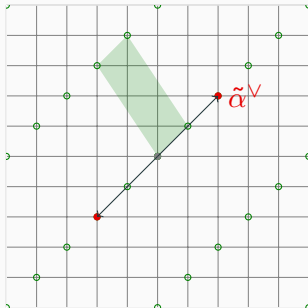
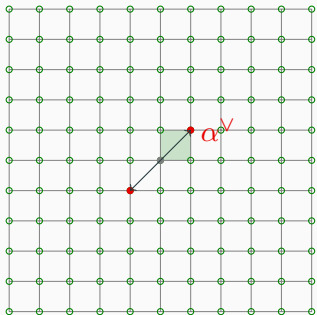


Figure 2: Modifying the root datum for a double cover of GL_2 , with $\alpha^\vee = (1, 1)$ and $Q(u, v) = u^2 + uv + v^2$ in standard coordinates.

The dual group

Theorem (Lusztig, Finkelberg-Lysenko, McNamara, Reich, W.)

The sextuple $(Y_{Q,n}, \tilde{\Phi}^\vee, \tilde{\Delta}^\vee, X_{Q,n}, \tilde{\Phi}, \tilde{\Delta})$ is a based root datum.

Definition

The dual group of the cover \tilde{G} is the pinned complex reductive group \tilde{G}^\vee associated to the based root datum above.

The pinning gives a Borel subgroup and maximal torus:

$\tilde{G}^\vee \supset \tilde{B}^\vee \supset \tilde{T}^\vee$. Note $\tilde{T}^\vee = \text{Hom}(Y_{Q,n}, \mathbb{C}^\times)$.

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The map (a homomorphism, in fact)

$$Y_{Q,n} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times, \quad y \mapsto e^{2\pi i Q(y)/n}$$

defines a 2-torsion element

$$\xi \in \tilde{Z}^\vee := Z(\tilde{G}^\vee) = \text{Hom} \left(\frac{Y_{Q,n}}{\text{Span}_{\mathbb{Z}}(\tilde{\Phi}^\vee)}, \mathbb{C}^\times \right).$$

Double cover	\tilde{G}^\vee	Double cover	\tilde{G}^\vee
$\widetilde{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$	$*SL_2(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{Sp}_{2\ell}(\mathbb{R})$	$*Sp_{2\ell}(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{SL}_3(\mathbb{R})$	$PGL_3(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{Spin}_8(\mathbb{R})$	$Spin_8(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{SL}_4(\mathbb{R})$	$SL_4(\mathbb{C})/\mu_2$	$\widetilde{Spin}_{10}(\mathbb{R})$	$SO_{10}(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{SL}_5(\mathbb{R})$	$PGL_5(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{Spin}_{12}(\mathbb{R})$	$*Spin_{12}(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{SL}_6(\mathbb{R})$	$*SL_6(\mathbb{C})/\mu_3$	$\widetilde{E}_6(\mathbb{R})$	$E_6(\mathbb{C})/\mu_3$
$\widetilde{Spin}_7(\mathbb{R})$	$SO_7(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{E}_7(\mathbb{R})$	$*E_7(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{Spin}_9(\mathbb{R})$	$Spin_9(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{E}_8(\mathbb{R})$	$E_8(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{Spin}_{11}(\mathbb{R})$	$SO_{11}(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{G}_2(\mathbb{R})$	$G_2(\mathbb{C})$
$\widetilde{Spin}_{13}(\mathbb{R})$	$*Spin_{13}(\mathbb{C})$	$\widetilde{F}_4(\mathbb{R})$	$F_4(\mathbb{C})$

Table 1: Table of double covers of real Chevalley groups and their dual groups. Asterisks denote the cases where the 2-torsion element ξ is nontrivial. (For quasisplit groups, Gal acts by outer automorphisms preserving ξ)

The L-group

The naïve L-group

Others (e.g., Savin, Adams-Barbasch-Paul-Trapa-Vogan, Crofts, Finkelberg-Lysenko, McNamara, Reich) related the dual \tilde{G}^\vee to the parameterization of genuine representations of \tilde{G} .

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I suggest a more elaborate L-group is the natural L-group. It will be an extension,

$$\tilde{G}^\vee \hookrightarrow {}^L\tilde{G} \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal},$$

but **without a distinguished splitting** in general.

The first twist

The first step in constructing the L-group is the “first twist”.

Let σ denote complex conjugation, so $\text{Gal} = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) = \{1, \sigma\}$.

Define a cocycle, $\text{Gal} \times \text{Gal} \rightarrow \tilde{Z}^\vee = Z(\tilde{G}^\vee)$ by

$$(\sigma, \sigma) \mapsto \xi.$$

$$(1, 1) \text{ and } (1, \sigma) \text{ and } (\sigma, 1) \mapsto 1.$$

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This yields a central extension,

$$\tilde{Z}^\vee \hookrightarrow E_1 \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}.$$

The second Brylinski-Deligne invariant

But this isn't enough – a second twist is needed, which requires another invariant of covers due to Brylinski-Deligne.

To a cover $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ of a reductive group \mathbf{G} over a field F , Brylinski and Deligne associate a $\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F)$ -equivariant extension of groups,

$$\bar{F}^\times \hookrightarrow D \twoheadrightarrow Y,$$

where Y is the coweight lattice and \bar{F} is a separable closure of F .

Chevalley-Steinberg groups

Consider $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ the canonical double cover of a Chevalley-Steinberg group \mathbf{G} over \mathbb{R} . We can describe D by generators and relations.

Generators: all elements of \mathbb{C}^\times , and elements d_α for each simple root $\alpha \in \Delta$.

Relations: \mathbb{C}^\times is contained in the center of D , and for any $\alpha, \beta \in \Delta$, $[d_\alpha, d_\beta] = (-1)^{Q(\alpha+\beta) - Q(\alpha) - Q(\beta)}$.

Inclusion of $\mathbb{C}^\times \hookrightarrow D$ and projection $d_\alpha \mapsto \alpha^\vee$ yields a central extension,

$$\mathbb{C}^\times \hookrightarrow D \twoheadrightarrow Y.$$

Galois-invariance of Q gives a $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$ -action on D .

Chevalley-Steinberg groups

From a double cover \tilde{G} , we have a central extension,

$$\mathbb{C}^\times \hookrightarrow D \twoheadrightarrow Y,$$

endowed with a $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$ -action.

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Pull back to the sublattice $Y_{Q,2} \subset Y$.

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This is an *abelian* extension.

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Take $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) = \{1, \sigma\}$ invariants.

$$\mathbb{R}^\times \hookrightarrow D_{Q,2}^\sigma \twoheadrightarrow Y_{Q,2}^\sigma.$$

Flipping the extension (split case)

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Definition

The flipped extension E_2 is the set of homomorphisms $f: D_{Q,2}^\sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ such that

- $f(t) = 1$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}^\times$.
- $f(d_\alpha^{n_\alpha} \cdot r_\alpha) = 1$ for all $\alpha \in \Delta$. Here $r_\alpha = (-1)^{Q(\alpha^\vee)} \cdot \binom{n_\alpha}{2}$.

This gives an extension (not so obviously)

$$\tilde{Z}^\vee \hookrightarrow E_2 \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}).$$

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$$s(\tilde{\alpha}^\vee) = d_\alpha^{n_\alpha} \cdot r_\alpha \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Delta.$$

Then ${}^\sigma s/s \in \text{Hom}(Y_{Q,2}, \mathbb{C}^\times)$, and has a square root $\sqrt{{}^\sigma s/s}$.

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There are two \tilde{Z}^\vee -torsors:

$$E_{2,1} = \tilde{Z}^\vee = \{f \in \text{Hom}(Y_{Q,2}, \mathbb{C}^\times) : f(\tilde{\alpha}^\vee) = 1 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Delta\}.$$

$$E_{2,\sigma} = \{f \in \text{Hom}(Y_{Q,2}, \mathbb{C}^\times) : \left[f \cdot \sqrt{\frac{\sigma s}{s}} \right] (\tilde{\alpha}^\vee) = 1 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \Delta\}.$$

Define $E_2 = E_{2,1} \sqcup E_{2,\sigma}$. Then we find a short exact sequence,

$$\tilde{Z}^\vee \hookrightarrow E_2 \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}).$$

The cocycle $(\sigma, \sigma) \mapsto \xi$ gave another short exact sequence,

$$\tilde{Z}^\vee \hookrightarrow E_1 \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}).$$

Take the Baer sum,

$$\tilde{Z}^\vee \hookrightarrow E_1 \dot{+} E_2 \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}).$$

Push out via the $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})$ -equivariant inclusion $\tilde{Z}^\vee \hookrightarrow \tilde{G}^\vee$ to get a short exact sequence.

$$\tilde{G}^\vee \hookrightarrow {}^L\tilde{G} \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}).$$

Evidences and questions

Theorem (W. (also see Gan-Gao))

Let \mathbf{T} be a split torus over a local or global field. Then there is a natural one-to-one parameterization:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{Irreducible genuine admissible/automorphic reps of } \tilde{\mathbf{T}} \} \\ & \hookrightarrow \{ \text{Weil parameters valued in } {}^L\tilde{\mathbf{T}} \} \end{aligned}$$

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Theorem (W.)

Let \mathbf{T} be a torus over \mathbb{R} with $T = \mathbf{T}(\mathbb{R})$ compact. Then there is a natural one-to-one parameterization:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{Irreducible genuine characters of } \tilde{\mathbf{T}} \} \\ & \hookrightarrow \{ \text{Weil parameters valued in } {}^L \tilde{\mathbf{T}} \} \end{aligned}$$

Evidence: Unramified representations

Let \tilde{G} be a cover of a reductive group G , defined over the ring of integers in a nonarchimedean local field.

Theorem (W. (also see Gan-Gao))

There is a natural bijective parameterization:

$$\begin{aligned} & \{ \text{Irreducible genuine spherical reps of } \tilde{G} \} \text{ (mod equivalence)} \\ & \rightarrow \{ \text{Unramified Weil parameters valued in } {}^L\tilde{G} \} \text{ (mod } \text{Ad}(\tilde{G}^\vee) \text{)}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof: Satake isomorphism (McNamara, WenWei Li, Gan-Gao, W.)
+ Parameterization for split tori + carefully tracing through
Weyl-group action.

Let $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}$ be a cover of a quasisplit semisimple group \mathbf{G} over \mathbb{R} , such that \mathbf{G} contains a compact maximal torus \mathbf{T} over \mathbb{R} .

Theorem (W.)

There is a natural one-to-one parameterization:

$$\{ \text{Discrete series reps of } \tilde{\mathbf{G}} \} \text{ (mod equivalence)}$$

$$\leftrightarrow \{ \text{Discrete series Weil parameters valued in } {}^L\tilde{\mathbf{G}} \} \text{ (mod } \text{Ad}(\tilde{\mathbf{G}}^\vee) \text{)} .$$

Evidence: Hecke algebras

Let \tilde{G} be a degree n cover of a simple Chevalley group over \mathbb{Z}_p , type A,D,E, with $p = 3 \pmod{4}$. Let G_{lin} be the split reductive group whose Langlands dual group is \tilde{G}^\vee .

Theorem (Savin, 2004)

For each Satake painting S of the Dynkin diagram, choose a square root of $(-1)^{\#S}$ in \mathbb{C} . This set of choices determines an isomorphism from the Iwahori Hecke algebra of \tilde{G} to the Iwahori Hecke algebra of G_{lin} .

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Theorem (Gao? W.?)

For each Satake painting S of the Dynkin diagram, choose a square root of $(-1)^{\#S}$ in \mathbb{C} . This set of choices determines an isomorphism of L-groups from the L-group ${}^L\tilde{G}$ of the cover to the L-group ${}^L G_{lin} = \text{Gal} \times \tilde{G}^\vee$.

Question: Functoriality for linearish groups

Consider a “linearish cover” \tilde{G} . Then genuine irreps of \tilde{G} correspond to irreps of a linear group H with a specific central character.

Example

($G = PGL_2$ and $H = GL_2$)

There's a cover \tilde{G} for which $\mu_2 \hookrightarrow \tilde{G} \twoheadrightarrow PGL_2(\mathbb{R})$ in which

$$\tilde{G} \cong GL_2(\mathbb{R}) / \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 \\ 0 & t \end{pmatrix} : t > 0 \right\}.$$

Exercise: Pullback from \tilde{G} to H should be functorial, reflected in a homomorphism of L-groups ${}^L\tilde{G} \rightarrow {}^LH$. This has been considered for $H = GL_2$ by Gan and Gao.

Question: General tori (over \mathbb{R})

Parameterization has been accomplished for covers of split tori and covers of compact tori over \mathbb{R} .

Exercise: Complete the parameterization for all covers of tori over \mathbb{R} .

Problem: Complete the parameterization for all covers of tori over local fields.

Question: Which parameters are relevant?

The parameterizations are often one-to-one. Some Weil parameters do not correspond to irreducible genuine irreps.

Question: Which Weil parameters are “relevant”? I.e., what is the image of the parameterization map? This seems related to endoscopy for covering groups.

Question: The contragredient?

If \tilde{G} is a cover, there is an “opposite cover” \tilde{G}^{op} . (For double covers, they can be taken to be the same).

If π is a genuine irreducible representation of \tilde{G} (work over a local field), its contragredient is a genuine irreducible representation of \tilde{G}^{op} .

Question: (Adams-Vogan?) What is the corresponding map on L-groups?

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