A GROWTH CONDITION FOR CUSPIDAL COHOMOLOGY OF ARITHMETICALLY DEFINED QUATERNIONIC HYPERBOLIC n-MANIFOLDS

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Abstract. Let $G/\mathbb{Q}$ be the simple algebraic group $Sp(n,1)$ and $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$ a principal congruence subgroup of level $N \geq 3$. Denote by K a maximal compact subgroup of the real Lie group $G(\mathbb{R})$. Then a double quotient $\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})/K$ is called an arithmetically defined, quaternionic hyperbolic n-manifold. In this paper we give an explicit growth condition for the dimension of cuspidal cohomology $H^*_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})/K)$ in terms of the underlying arithmetic structure of G and certain values of zeta-functions. These results rely on the work of T. Arakawa, [2, 1].

Introduction

Let G be a semisimple algebraic group over the rationals $\mathbb{Q}$, K a maximal compact subgroup of the real Lie group $G(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mathfrak{g} = Lie(G(\mathbb{R}))$. Then for each irreducible, finite-dimensional representation E of $G(\mathbb{R})$ and for each torsionfree arithmetic subgroup $\Gamma \subset G(\mathbb{Q})$ the space of *cuspidal cohomology* of $S(\Gamma) = \Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})/K$ is defined as the $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$-cohomology of the space of (smooth and K-finite) cuspidal L^2-functions on $\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})$:

$$H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty \otimes E).$$

Recall that a square-integrable function $f : \Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{C}$ is called cuspidal, if all of its constant Fourier coefficients along proper parabolic $\mathbb{Q}$-subgroups vanish. Let $Z(\mathfrak{g})$ be the centre of the universal enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C})$ of the complexification $\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C} = \mathfrak{g} \otimes_\mathbb{R} \mathbb{C}$. It acts naturally on the $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$-module $V(\Gamma) = L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty_{(K)}$ of smooth and K-finite functions inside $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$. The subspace determined by the $Z(\mathfrak{g})$-finite functions in $V(\Gamma)$ equals the space of cuspidal automorphic forms $\mathcal{A}_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ for the arithmetic group Γ.

We recall that by a fundamental work [8] of J. Franke (for the number field case) it is now known that one can - at least theoretically - construct each automorphic form out of cuspidal automorphic forms on smaller algebraic groups $L \subseteq G$. On the other hand, the theory of unitary representations shows that the natural inclusion $\mathcal{A}_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})) \hookrightarrow L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ gives rise to an isomorphism

$$H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty \otimes E) = H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, \mathcal{A}_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})) \otimes E),$$

pointing out deep arithmetic connections between cuspidal cohomology and automorphic forms in general. In particular, a solid and comprehensive understanding of cohomological automorphic forms should be preceded by a thorough analysis of cuspidal cohomology.

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Using the work of Gelfand, Graev and Piatetski-Shapiro ([10]), one can show that

$$H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty \otimes E) = \bigoplus_{\pi\in\widehat{G}_{\mathrm{coh}}} H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, \pi_{(K)} \otimes E)^{m(\pi,\Gamma)},$$

the sum ranging over the set $\widehat{G}_{\mathrm{coh}}$ of all equivalence classes of irreducible, unitary, cohomological representations π of $G(\mathbb{R})$, all of which having finite multiplicity $m(\pi,\Gamma)$ inside $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$. As $\widehat{G}_{\mathrm{coh}}$ is known by Vogan and Zuckerman, [22], the real problem in analyzing cuspidal cohomology consists in an effective description of the multiplicities $m(\pi,\Gamma)$. This question is far from being answered in this generality, though e. g. for discrete series representations π, non-vanishing results have already been established by a wide range of people.

Let G be the simple algebraic group $Sp(n,1)$ to be defined as the group of isometries of a non-degenerate Hermitian form of signature $(n,1)$ on a definite quaternion algebra B over $\mathbb{Q}$. It is a connected $\mathbb{Q}$-group of ranks $rk_{\mathbb{Q}}(G) = rk_{\mathbb{R}}(G) = 1$ whose associate real Lie group $G(\mathbb{R})$ has discrete series. Assume that $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$ is a principal congruence subgroup of G of level $N \geq 3$. The aim of this paper is to give a concrete formula which expresses the multiplicity $m(\pi,\Gamma)$ for certain cohomological discrete series representations π in terms of the arithmetic of the underlying quaternion algebra B and values of the classical Riemannian ζ-function. In particular this will give rise to a growth condition of the dimension of the space of cuspidal cohomology of Γ.

We will achieve this using Selberg's Trace Formula for groups of $\mathbb{R}$-rank one together with T. Arakawa's explicit calculations for certain integrable discrete series of $G = Sp(n,1)$. To be more precise, let λ be the highest weight of our finite-dimensional representation E of $G(\mathbb{R})$. Suppose, that $\lambda = (\nu-2n)\varpi_1$ where $\nu > 4n$ is an integer and ϖ_1 is the first fundamental weight of $\mathfrak{g}$. Then Arakawa showed in [2] that the discrete series representation $A(\lambda)$ which is of Harish-Chandra parameter $\lambda+\rho$ (ρ being the sum of all fundamental weights) is integrable. Whence, by the work of Osborne and Warner ([16], [23]), we can compute the multiplicity $m(A(\lambda),\Gamma)$ as a sum of terms showing up in the Selberg Trace Formula. The fact that Γ is "nice" if $N \geq 3$ (i.e. any element $\gamma \in \Gamma$ for which there is an integer ℓ such that γ^ℓ is unipotent must be itself unipotent) will simplify this sum and we end up in calculating the formal degree d_λ of $A(\lambda)$, the covolume $vol(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ and the contribution of the unipotent elements of Γ to the Selberg Trace Formula. If $n \geq 2$, this last contribution was shown to vanish by Arakawa. Therefore we arrive at the following formula $m(A(\lambda),\Gamma) = d_\lambda vol(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$. Now suppose $S(B)$ is the set of prime numbers p, for which B does not split and say h_N is the finite index of Γ in $G(\mathbb{Z})$. Then an explicit calculation (cf. proposition 4.1) will show our main result here (cf. theorem 5.1):

Theorem. *Let G be the simple algebraic group $Sp(n,1)$, $n \geq 2$, defined via a quaternion algebra $B/\mathbb{Q}$ and $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$ a principal congruence subgroup of level $N \geq 3$. Let E be a finite-dimensional, irreducible, complex representation of the Lie group $G(\mathbb{R})$ of highest weight $\lambda = (\nu-2n)\varpi_1$ and suppose $\nu > 4n$. Then the multiplicity of the discrete series representation $A(\lambda)$ of Harish-Chandra parameter $\lambda+\rho$ within the space $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ of classical cusp forms is given by*

$$m(A(\lambda),\Gamma) = \frac{h_N(\nu+1)!}{(2n+1)!(\nu-2n)!}\prod_{j=1}^{n+1}\left(\frac{(2j-1)!}{(2\pi)^{2j}}\zeta(2j)\prod_{p\in S(B)}(p^j+(-1)^j)\right).$$

Recall that the symmetric space $\mathcal{H}_n = G(\mathbb{R})/K$ is the quaternionic hyperbolic n-space. Thus the above theorem will give the following corollary on the dimension of cuspidal cohomology of arithmetically defined quaternionic hyperbolic n-manifolds:

Corollary (Growth condition)**.** *Keeping the assumptions of the theorem, the dimension of the space of cuspidal cohomology of an arithmetically defined, quaternionic hyperbolic n-manifold $\Gamma\backslash\mathcal{H}_n$ grows at least as*

$$\frac{h_N(\nu+1)!}{(2n+1)!(\nu-2n)!}\prod_{j=1}^{n+1}\left(\frac{(2j-1)!}{(2\pi)^{2j}}\zeta(2j)\prod_{p\in S(B)}(p^j+(-1)^j)\right).$$

The (in fact more difficult) case $n = 1$ was already treated by Arakawa in details in [1], Thm. 2 and transferred to the cohomological setting by us in [11], Prop. 7.1. The resulting growth condition of cuspidal cohomology of principal congruence subgroups Γ of $Sp(1,1)$ is in fact identical to the one given in our above corollary (for $n = 1$), except that now the contribution of the unipotent elements of Γ does not vanish (whence it has to be added to the formula of the corollary). Compare this also to our discussion in section 4.2.

Notation and Conventions. Throughout this paper G will be a connected, simple algebraic group over $\mathbb{Q}$ of ranks $rk_{\mathbb{Q}}(G) = rk_{\mathbb{R}}(G) = 1$. Lie algebras of groups of real points of algebraic groups will be denoted by the same but fractional letter, e.g. $\mathrm{Lie}(G(\mathbb{R})) = \mathfrak{g}$.

We use the standard terminology and hypotheses concerning algebraic groups and their subgroups to be found in [14] I.1.4-I.1.12. In particular we assume that a minimal (and so because of $rk_{\mathbb{Q}}(G) = 1$ also maximal) parabolic subgroup P has been fixed. Assume that L is a Levi subgroup of P and N is an unipotent radical of P so that we have the Levi decomposition $P = LN$. If we additionally denote by A a maximal, central $\mathbb{Q}$-split torus in L then we also get the Langlands decomposition $P = MAN$. As usual, $M = \bigcap_\chi \ker\chi$, χ ranging over the group $X(L)$ of all $\mathbb{Q}$-characters on L. We write $\Delta(P, A)$ for the set of weights of the adjoint action of P with respect to A. ρ_P denotes the half-sum of these weights, counted with multiplicity. That is the half sum of positive restricted roots of $G(\mathbb{R})$ with respect to $A(\mathbb{R})$, counted with multiplicity.

Fix the Lebesgue measures on the Lie algebras $\mathfrak{a}$ and $\mathfrak{n}$, which are normalized relative to the Euclidean structure associated with the Killing form. Exponentiating it, we get a Haar measure da on $A(\mathbb{R})^\circ$ and dn on $N(\mathbb{R})$. Let us also denote by dk the unique Haar measure on K, which gives it total volume one. Our choice of a Haar measure on $G(\mathbb{R})$ (with respect to which all volumes or integrability conditions will be defined in this article) is defined as $dg(g) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}e^{\rho_P \log(a)}dk(k)da(a)dn(n)$, where $g = kan$ according to the Iwasawa decomposition $G(\mathbb{R}) = KA(\mathbb{R})^\circ N(\mathbb{R})$.

1. Cuspidal cohomology: Generalities

1.1. Let G be a simple algebraic group over $\mathbb{Q}$, which satisfies the assumptions of our section of conventions. These are imposed on G in order to avoid difficulties later on. Let K be a maximal compact subgroup of the real Lie group $G(\mathbb{R})$. Then $X = G(\mathbb{R})/K$ is a Riemannian symmetric space associated to $G(\mathbb{R})$ and K. We let Γ be any torsionfree arithmetic subgroup of $G(\mathbb{Q})$. The double quotient

$$S(\Gamma) = \Gamma\backslash X \tag{1}$$

is a locally symmetric space, which is by the present assumptions a smooth, non-compact manifold of dimension $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} S(\Gamma) = \dim_{\mathbb{R}} X$ and of finite volume. Let E be a finite-dimensional, irreducible, complex representation of $G(\mathbb{R})$. Then this representation gives rise to a locally constant sheaf $\widetilde{E}$ on (1). Hence, the sheaf-cohomology $H^*(S(\Gamma), \widetilde{E})$ is defined.

It is well-known (cf. [5], VII, Corollary 2.7) that there is an equality

$$H^*(S(\Gamma), \widetilde{E}) = H^*(\mathfrak{g}, K, C^\infty(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})) \otimes E).$$

1.2. Let P be the unique standard parabolic $\mathbb{Q}$-subgroup of G having Langlands decomposition $P = MAN$. Let $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ be the space of cuspidal, square-integrable functions $f : \Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{C}$. Recall that cuspidality just means by the present assumptions that

$$\int_{\Gamma\cap N(\mathbb{R})\backslash N(\mathbb{R})} f(ng)dn = 0 \quad \forall g \in G(\mathbb{R}).$$

By [4], Corollary 5.5. the natural map

$$H^*(\mathfrak{g}, K, L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty \otimes E) \to H^*(\mathfrak{g}, K, C^\infty(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})) \otimes E)$$

given by the inclusion $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty \hookrightarrow C^\infty(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ is injective. (We remark that this would not be true if E is infinite-dimensional, see [7], Cor. 5.2.) This motivates the definition of the subspace of *cuspidal cohomology* of $S(\Gamma)$:

$$H^*_{cusp}(S(\Gamma), \widetilde{E}) := H^*(\mathfrak{g}, K, L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))^\infty \otimes E).$$

1.3. The space $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ decomposes as a $G(\mathbb{R})$-module as a direct Hilbert sum over all irreducible, unitary representations of $G(\mathbb{R})$, each of which occurring with finite multiplicity $m(\pi, \Gamma) = \dim \operatorname{Hom}_{G(\mathbb{R})}(\pi, L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R})))$, see [10], Theorem p. 97. Let $\widehat{G}_{\mathrm{coh}}$ be the cohomological, unitary dual of $G(\mathbb{R})$, i.e. the set of all (equivalence classes of) irreducible unitary representations π of $G(\mathbb{R})$, which have non-trivial $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$-cohomology when twisted by some finite dimensional representation of $G(\mathbb{R})$. By [5], VII, Lemma 3.3, we get a *finite* direct sum decomposition

$$H^*_{cusp}(S(\Gamma), \widetilde{E}) = \bigoplus_{\pi\in\widehat{G}_{\mathrm{coh}}} H^*(\mathfrak{g}, K, \pi_{(K)} \otimes E)^{m(\pi,\Gamma)}.$$

1.4. The set $\widehat{G}_{\mathrm{coh}}$ was classified by D. Vogan and G. Zuckerman in [22]. Fix a maximally compact Cartan subgroup T of $G(\mathbb{R})$ and some choice of positive roots Δ^+. Then our coefficient-module E has a highest weight λ with respect to this system. Let us write $E = E_\lambda$ to indicate this. In [22] is was shown that for each irreducible, finite-dimensional representations E_λ of $G(\mathbb{R})$, there exist finitely many irreducible, unitary representations - written $A_{\mathfrak{q}}(\lambda)$ - which are cohomological with respect to E_λ.

1.5. Discrete Series. Let us suppose from now on that $G(\mathbb{R})$ has discrete series representations, i.e. $rk_{\mathbb{C}}(G) = rk_{\mathbb{C}}(K)$ or again equivalently that our Cartan subgroup T is already compact: $T \subset K$. Let Δ^+ (resp. Δ^+_c) be a choice of positive roots of $G(\mathbb{R})$ (resp. K) with respect to T and suppose that these choices are compatible, i.e. $\Delta^+_c \subseteq \Delta^+$. The corresponding Weyl groups are denoted W_G resp. W_K. It is well known that for each discrete series representation π there is a character τ of T which is regular with respect to Δ^+ and unique up to the natural action of W_K and a discrete series representation π_τ such that $\pi_\tau \cong \pi$. Otherwise put, these regular characters, to be called *Harish-Chandra parameters* parameterize the discrete series. As a consequence, there are exactly $|W_G|/|W_K|$ many pairwisely inequivalent representations among the $\pi_{w(\tau)}$, w running through W_G. For all of this see (cf. [12]; [13], 9 + 12).

By the description of the $A_{\mathfrak{q}}(\lambda)$-modules in [22], Thm. 5.3, we conclude that the Harish-Chandra parameter of a discrete series representation which is cohomological with respect to E_λ looks like

$$\tau = w(\lambda + \rho), \quad w \in W_G.$$

Hence, for each E_λ there are exactly $b := |W_G|/|W_K| \geq 1$ many inequivalent discrete series representations, $A_i(\lambda)$, $1 \leq i \leq b$, which have non-trivial cohomology when twisted by E_λ. All of them contribute in the middle degree (cf. [5], II, Prop. 5.3 + Thm. 5.4):

$$H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, A_i(\lambda) \otimes E) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} & \text{if } q = q(G) := \frac{1}{2}\dim_{\mathbb{R}} X \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

In [20] it was finally proved that for each infinite decreasing tower of torsionfree arithmetic groups

$$\Gamma = \Gamma_1 \supset \Gamma_2 \supset \Gamma_3 \supset ...,$$

satisfying $\bigcap_i \Gamma_i = \{id\}$ and for each discrete series representation π, the multiplicity $m(\pi, \Gamma_i)$ will grow in i like the covolume $vol(\Gamma_i \backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$. So, indeed we know that

$$H^{q(G)}_{cusp}(S(\Gamma), \widetilde{E}) \neq 0$$

for Γ small enough.

2. Quaternionic hyperbolic space

2.1. The aim of this paper is to exploit calculations of T. Arakawa (see [2], [1]) to get hold of a *concrete formula* for the multiplicity $m(A(\lambda), \Gamma)$ of certain cohomological discrete series representations of $G = Sp(n,1)$ and principal congruence subgroups $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$, $N \geq 3$; and so to determine an explicit growth condition for cuspidal cohomology of arithmetically defined, quaternionic hyperbolic manifolds $S(\Gamma)$.

Similar results have already been obtained for arithmetically defined, real and complex hyperbolic manifolds, see e.g. [18] for $SO(n,1)$.

2.2. Let us collect some basic information on quaternionic hyperbolic manifolds. Therefore let B be a quaternion algebra over $\mathbb{Q}$ with canonical involution $x \mapsto \overline{x}$, s.t. $B \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{R} \cong \mathbb{H}$ where $\mathbb{H}$ equals the real Hamilton quaternions. We denote by $S(B)$ the finite set of non-archimedean places p where B does not split, i.e. $p \neq \infty$ and $B \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_p$ is a division algebra. Suppose $f : B^{n+1} \times B^{n+1} \to B$ is a Hermitian form of signature $(n, 1)$, where $n \geq 1$ and B^{n+1} is being regarded as a B-right module. We suppose that f is equivalent to $(x, y) \mapsto \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \overline{y}_i - x_{n+1}\overline{y}_{n+1}$. Then we define $Sp(n, 1)$ to be the group of all B-linear automorphisms of B^{n+1} leaving invariant f:

$$G := Sp(n,1) = \{g \in GL_{n+1}(B) | g^* K_{n,1} g = K_{n,1}\}.$$

Here, $g^* = (\overline{g}_{ji})_{i,j} = \overline{g}^t$ and

$$K_{n,1} := \begin{pmatrix} id_{n\times n} & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$Sp(n, 1)$ is a connected, simply connected, simple algebraic group over $\mathbb{Q}$ of ranks $rk_{\mathbb{Q}}(G) = rk_{\mathbb{R}}(G) = 1$ and $rk_{\mathbb{C}}(G) = n + 1$. It is a non-quasisplit inner form of

$Sp_{2(n+1)}$, the $\mathbb{Q}$-split group of Cartan-type C_{n+1}. A maximal compact subgroup K of $G(\mathbb{R})$ is isomorphic to $K = Sp(1) \times Sp(n)$. The Riemannian symmetric quotient

$$\mathcal{H}_n := G(\mathbb{R})/K$$

is called the *quaternionic hyperbolic n-space*, which is of dimension $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{H}_n = 4n$.

2.3. Fix a maximal order $\mathfrak{O}$ of B. Then the principal congruence subgroup of G of level $N \geq 3$ is given explicitly as

$$\Gamma = \Gamma(N) = \{g = (g_{ij}) \in G(\mathbb{Q}) | g_{ij} - \delta_{ij} \in N\mathfrak{O}\},$$

where δ_{ij} is the Kronecker delta-function. The condition $N \geq 3$ ensures that it is "nice", meaning that for each $\gamma \in \Gamma$ for which there is a positive integer ℓ such that γ^ℓ is unipotent, γ itself must be unipotent. This particularly implies that Γ is torsionfree.

We call the locally symmetric space $S(\Gamma) = \Gamma \backslash \mathcal{H}_n$ an *arithmetically defined* quaternionic hyperbolic n-manifold.

2.4. As $rk_{\mathbb{C}}(K) = rk_{\mathbb{C}}(Sp(1)) + rk_{\mathbb{C}}(Sp(n)) = 1 + n$, there is a compact Cartan subgroup $T \subset K$ for $G(\mathbb{R})$. It is isomorphic to $T \cong U(1)^{n+1}$. As before, let Δ^+ (resp. Δ_c^+) be a choice of positive roots of $G(\mathbb{R})$ (resp. K) with respect to T. By a standard argument of Lie theory, we can arrange that these choices look like

$$\Delta^+ = \{\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j, 1 \leq i < j \leq n+1\} \cup \{2\varepsilon_i, 1 \leq i \leq n+1\},$$

which is of type C_{n+1} and

$$\Delta_c^+ = \{\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j, 2 \leq i < j \leq n+1\} \cup \{2\varepsilon_i, 1 \leq i \leq n+1\},$$

being of type $A_1\times C_n$. The orders of the corresponding Weyl groups W_G and W_K are readily computed as $|W_G| = 2^{n+1}(n+1)!$ and $|W_K| = 2^{n+1}n!$. So, by the considerations of section 1.5, we know that for each highest weight representation E_λ of $G(\mathbb{R})$, $\lambda = \sum_{i=1}^{n+1} \lambda_i \varepsilon_i$, there are precisely $b = n+1$ distinct discrete series representations $A_i(\lambda)$, $1 \leq i \leq n+1$, of $G(\mathbb{R})$, having non-trivial $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$-cohomology when tensorized by E_λ and

$$H^q(\mathfrak{g}, K, A_i(\lambda) \otimes E_\lambda) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C} & \text{if } q = q(G) = 2n \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

2.5. The half-sums of positive roots $\rho = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \alpha$, resp. $\rho_c = \frac{1}{2}\sum_{\alpha \in \Delta_c^+} \alpha$ look in the coordinates given by the ε_i, $1 \leq i \leq n+1$, like

$$\rho = (n+1, n, n-1, ..., 2, 1)$$

and

$$\rho_c = (1, n, n-1, ..., 2, 1).$$

Let us now consider highest weight representations E_λ with $\lambda = (\nu - 2n, 0, 0, ..., 0)$, $\nu > 4n$, the reason for that being clear in a second. The corresponding discrete series representation $A(\lambda) := A_1(\lambda)$ with Harish-Chandra parameter $\tau = \tau_1 = \lambda + \rho$ has minimal K-type $\sigma_\nu = S^\nu\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}$, where $S^j\mathbb{C}^2$ denotes the j-th symmetric power of the standard representation $\mathbb{C}^2$ of $Sp(1)$ and $\mathbb{C}$ the trivial representation of $Sp(n)$. This is clear, since the highest weight ξ of the minimal K-type of $A(\lambda)$ is connected to the Harish-Chandra parameter τ by

$$\xi = \tau + \rho - 2\rho_c = \lambda + 2(\rho - \rho_c) = (\nu, 0, 0, ..., 0).$$

T. Arakawa constructed in [2], 2.6, for each ν as above (in fact even for each $\nu \geq 2n$) a discrete series representation $U_{\nu,0}$ of $G(\mathbb{R})$ out of the minimal K-type σ_ν. Comparing the Harish-Chandra parameter of our $A(\lambda)$ to the Harish-Chandra parameter of the representation $U_{\nu,0}$, we see that they coincide, whence $A(\lambda) \cong U_{\nu,0}$ and we can use all computations made in [2] for $U_{\nu,0}$. This is also the reason for us to look at the representation $A(\lambda) = A_1(\lambda)$, given by the Harish-Chandra parameter corresponding to the representative of the trivial class in W_G/W_K. By the next lemma also the assumption $\nu > 4n$ becomes clear:

Lemma 2.1 ([2], Lemma 2.10.(ii)). *If $\nu > 4n$, the matrix coefficients ω_λ of $A(\lambda)$ satisfy*

$$\int_{G(\mathbb{R})} \|\omega_\lambda(g)\| dg < \infty.$$

In other words, the representations $A(\lambda)$ are integrable.

3. Selberg's Trace Formula

3.1. We keep the assumptions and notation of the previous section. We want to use Selberg's Trace Formula for $\mathbb{R}$-rank one groups, in order to get a formula for $m(A(\lambda), \Gamma)$. An introduction to this field of mathematics can be found in [23] and [16], whose results we will use freely.

Let us first recall that we can decompose any arithmetic group Γ as a finite union of disjoint sets C_Γ, E_Γ, H_Γ, U_Γ, L_Γ, called (in the order of appearance) the set of *central*, *elliptic*, *hyperbolic*, *unipotent* and *loxodromic* elements. A precise definition of these sets can be found in [23], 5. Recalling that the arithmetic congruence subgroups we are considering are all nice, we get the following simplification:

Proposition 3.1 ([2], Lemma 5.5). *Let Γ be a nice arithmetic subgroup of G. Then $C_\Gamma = \{id\}$, $E_\Gamma = L_\Gamma = \emptyset$.*

Let ω be a K-finite function in the L^p-Schwartz space of $G(\mathbb{R})$, which is denoted $\mathscr{C}^p(G(\mathbb{R}))$ in [23] and [12]. It acts by convolution on the discrete spectrum of our nice group Γ. If $0 < p < 1$, the Selberg Trace Formula roughly asserts that one can compute the trace of this action $tr(\omega)$ as the sum of three terms, denoted $C(\omega)$, $H(\omega)$ and $U(\omega)$, which stand for the contribution of the sets $C_\Gamma = \{id\}$ of central, H_Γ of hyperbolic and U_Γ of unipotent elements in Γ. We will be more precise in the case we need it. For a thorough treatment see [23], Thm. 8.4.

3.2. Let ω_λ be the matrix coefficient of $A(\lambda)$ with respect to a K-finite unit vector. Then also ω_λ will be K-finite. In addition, let d_λ be the *formal degree* of $A(\lambda)$. It is the unique positive, real number such that

$$\int_{G(\mathbb{R})} \langle A(\lambda)(g)u_1, v_1\rangle \overline{\langle A(\lambda)(g)u_2, v_2\rangle} dg = d_\lambda^{-1} \langle u_1, u_2\rangle \langle v_1, v_2\rangle$$

for all $u_1, u_2, v_1, v_2 \in A(\lambda)$.

By a theorem of Trombi and Varadarajan, [21], there is a p, $0 < p < 1$, such that $d_\lambda \omega_\lambda$ is in the L^p-Schwartz space $\mathscr{C}^p(G(\mathbb{R}))$ of $G(\mathbb{R})$. But this means that we can insert $d_\lambda \omega_\lambda$ into the Selberg Trace formula. Observing Harish-Chandra's "Selberg principle" (cf. [12], Thm. 11), which gives the vanishing of $H(\omega_\lambda)$, we finally get:

Proposition 3.2 ([16], p. 305). *If $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$, $N \geq 3$ then*

$$m(A(\lambda), \Gamma) = d_\lambda vol(\Gamma \backslash G(\mathbb{R})) + U(\omega_\lambda)$$

4. Computation of contributions

4.1. The central contribution. We need to calculate $d_\lambda vol(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$. We do this in two steps:

Step 1: We calculate the covolume of Γ. Therefore, we use the following notation: If $R=\mathbb{Z}$ (resp. $\mathbb{Z}_p$) and $\mathbb{K}=\mathbb{Q}$ (resp. $\mathbb{Q}_p$) we write for short $G(R):=G(\mathbb{K})\cap GL_{n+1}(\mathfrak{O}\otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} R)$. Now we observe that $\Gamma=\Gamma(N)$ has finite index $h_N=|\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{Z})|$ in $G(\mathbb{Z})$. Hence, $vol(\Gamma\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))=h_N vol(G(\mathbb{Z})\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ and we can concentrate on calculating the covolume of $G(\mathbb{Z})$ in $G(\mathbb{R})$. This is done in the next proposition.

Proposition 4.1. *We have*

$$vol(G(\mathbb{Z})\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))=\frac{2^{4n}\pi^{2n}}{(2n+1)!}\prod_{j=1}^{n+1}\left(\frac{(2j-1)!}{(2\pi)^{2j}}\zeta(2j)\prod_{p\in S(B)}(p^j+(-1)^j)\right).$$

Proof. Let $\mathscr{G}_p$ (resp. G_p) be the smooth affine $\mathbb{Z}_p$-group scheme associated with $Sp_{2(n+1)}(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ (resp. $G(\mathbb{Z}_p)$) and denote by $\overline{\mathscr{G}}_p$ (resp. $\overline{G}_p$) the group $\mathscr{G}_p\times_{\mathbb{Z}_p}\mathbb{F}_p$ (resp. $G_p\times_{\mathbb{Z}_p}\mathbb{F}_p$). Then both $\overline{\mathscr{G}}_p$ and $\overline{G}_p$ admit a Levi decomposition over $\mathbb{F}_p$ with Levi $\mathbb{F}_p$-subgroups $\overline{\mathscr{L}}_p$ and $\overline{L}_p$, say. Using Prasad's volume formula, cf. [17], Thm. 3.7. the volume for $G(\mathbb{Z})\backslash G(\mathbb{R})$ with respect to the Euler-Poincaré-measure equals

$$vol_{EP}(G(\mathbb{Z})\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))=\chi_{EP}(U/K)\cdot\prod_{j=1}^{n+1}\frac{m_j!}{(2\pi)^{m_j+1}}\mathrm{Tam(G)}\prod_p\frac{p^{\frac{1}{2}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\overline{L}_p+\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\overline{\mathscr{L}}_p)}}{|\overline{L}_p(\mathbb{F}_p)|},$$

where $U=Sp(n+1)$ is the compact dual of G and $\chi_{EP}(U/K)$ denotes the Euler-Poincaré-characteristic of the compact symmetric space U/K (which is nothing but the quaternionic projective space $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{H}^n)$). Also, $\mathrm{Tam}(G)$ denotes the Tamagawa measure of G, which equals $\mathrm{Tam}(G)=1$, G being simply connected.
The integers m_j can be found in [17] 1.5 or - more originally - in [6], VI, "Planche III" (IX): $m_j=2j-1$.
For all prime numbers $p\notin S(B)$, G splits over $\mathbb{Q}_p$ and $\overline{L}_p\cong\overline{\mathscr{L}}_p\cong Sp_{2(n+1)}$ over $\mathbb{F}_p$. For these primes we have thus:

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\overline{L}_p=2(n+1)^2+n+1$$

and

$$|\overline{L}(\mathbb{F}_p)|=|Sp_{2(n+1)}(\mathbb{F}_p)|=p^{(n+1)^2}\prod_{i=1}^{n+1}(p^{2i}-1).$$

The last equation is proved in [15] 1.2. Having collected this information, we can rewrite the covolume with respect to the Euler-Poincaré-measure as

$$vol_{EP}(G(\mathbb{Z})\backslash G(\mathbb{R}))=\chi_{EP}(U/K)\prod_{j=1}^{n+1}\left(\frac{(2j-1)!}{(2\pi)^{2j}}\zeta(2j)\prod_{p\in S(B)}\lambda_p\right),$$

if we set for $p\in S(B)$

$$\lambda_p=p^{\frac{1}{2}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\overline{L}_p-\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p}\overline{\mathscr{L}}_p)}\frac{|Sp_{2(n+1)}(\mathbb{F}_p)|}{|\overline{L}_p(\mathbb{F}_p)|}.$$

The exact values for λ_p can be found in [9] 8, (8.10): $\lambda_p=\prod_{j=1}^{n+1}(p^j+(-1)^j)$. It is well-know (cf. [19], the proof of Prop. 4.5) that

$$vol=\frac{vol_{g_0}(U/K)}{\chi_{EP}(U/K)}vol_{EP},$$

where vol_{g_0} denotes the volume uniquely determined by the canonical Riemannian metric g_0 on $U/K = \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{H}^n)$ which gives it geodesic diameter π. For details, see [3]. *Ibidem*, (3.10), we can find the volume-formula

$$vol_{\frac{1}{2}g_0}(\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{H}^n)) = \frac{\pi^{2n}}{(2n+1)!}.$$

Since stretching the metric $\frac{1}{2}g_0$ to its double g_0 multiplies the corresponding volume by $2^{\dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{H}^n)} = 2^{4n}$, the proposition is proved. □

2. Step: We need to calculate the formal degree d_λ of $A(\lambda)$. One can do this by the general formula mentioned in [16] or one uses the concrete calculations in [2], Proposition 2.9, to get

Proposition 4.2. *The formal degree d_λ of $A(\lambda)$, $\lambda = (\nu - 2n)\varepsilon_1$, $\nu > 4n$, is given as*

$$d_\lambda = \frac{(\nu+1)!}{2^{4n}\pi^{2n}(\nu-2n)!}.$$

Thus the central contribution is calculated.

4.2. The unipotent contribution. Luckily, the summand $U(\omega_\lambda)$, standing for the contribution of the set of unipotent elements of Γ to the multiplicity of $A(\lambda)$ was calculated by T. Arakawa. Let us assume from now on that $n \geq 2$: In fact, the case $n = 1$ was investigated by Arakawa himself in details in [1], Thm. 2 and transferred to the cohomological setting by us in [11], Proposition 7.1. We get

Proposition 4.3 ([2], Prop. 5.4)**.** *If $n \geq 2$, then*

$$U(\omega_\lambda) = 0$$

Let us sketch the idea of the proof: Arakawa shows that $U(\omega_\lambda)$ can be written as a sum of special values of ζ-integrals. These special values can be themselves expressed in terms of values of the so-called Epstein-ζ-function $\zeta(\ :\ )$ attached to the quadratic form $Q(x) = x\overline{x}$ on $W = \{x \in \mathbb{H} | x + \overline{x} = 0\}$ for certain lattices $\Lambda \subset W$ at $1 - n$. We recall that this Epstein zeta function is (at least formally) defined as

$$\zeta(\Lambda : s) := \sum_{0 \neq x \in \Lambda} Q(x)^{-s},$$

and absolutely convergent for $Re(s) > \frac{3}{2}$. It can be meromorphically continued to all of $\mathbb{C}$ with only and simple pole at $s = \frac{3}{2}$. It vanishes at negative integers s. As $s = 1 - n$ will be such a negative number as soon as $n \geq 2$, the proposition can be therefrom deduced.

5. The main result

5.1. We summarize the results of the previous section in the following

Theorem 5.1. *Let G be the simple algebraic group $Sp(n,1)$, $n \geq 2$, defined via a quaternion algebra B (as in 2.2) and $\Gamma = \Gamma(N)$ a principal congruence subgroup of level $N \geq 3$. Let $E = E_\lambda$ be a finite-dimensional, irreducible, complex representation of the Lie group $G(\mathbb{R})$ of highest weight $\lambda = (\nu - 2n, 0, ..., 0)$ and suppose $\nu > 4n$. Then the multiplicity of the discrete series representation $A(\lambda)$ of Harish-Chandra parameter $\lambda + \rho = (\nu - n + 1, n, n - 1, ..., 2, 1)$ within the space $L^2_{cusp}(\Gamma \backslash G(\mathbb{R}))$ of classical cusp forms is given by*

$$m(A(\lambda), \Gamma) = \frac{h_N(\nu+1)!}{(2n+1)!(\nu-2n)!} \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} \left(\frac{(2j-1)!}{(2\pi)^{2j}} \zeta(2j) \prod_{p \in S(B)} (p^j + (-1)^j) \right).$$

Therefrom we can immediately read of the following corollary on the dimension of cuspidal cohomology:

Corollary 5.1 (Growth condition). *Keeping the assumptions of theorem 5.1, the dimension of the space of cuspidal cohomology of an arithmetically defined, quaternionic hyperbolic n-manifold $\Gamma\backslash\mathcal{H}_n$ grows at least as*

$$\dim H^*_{cusp}(S(\Gamma), \widetilde{E}) \geq$$
$$\frac{h_N(\nu+1)!}{(2n+1)!(\nu-2n)!} \prod_{j=1}^{n+1} \left(\frac{(2j-1)!}{(2\pi)^{2j}} \zeta(2j) \prod_{p \in S(B)} (p^j + (-1)^j) \right).$$

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