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HIGH FREQUENCY LIMITS FOR INVARIANT RUELLE DENSITIES

LIMITES HAUTES FRÉQUENCES POUR LES DENSITÉS INVARIANTES DE RUELLE

ABSTRACT. — We establish an equidistribution result for Ruelle resonant states on compact locally symmetric spaces of rank 1. More precisely, we prove that among the first band Ruelle resonances there is a density one subsequence such that the respective products of resonant and co-resonant states converge weakly to the Liouville measure. We prove this result by establishing an explicit quantum-classical correspondence between eigenspaces of the scalar Laplacian and the resonant states of the first band of Ruelle resonances, which also leads to a new description of Patterson–Sullivan distributions.

RÉSUMÉ. — On établit un résultat d'équidistribution pour les états résonants de Ruelle sur les espaces localement symétriques compacts de rang 1. Plus précisément, on montre que, parmi les résonances de Ruelle dans la première bande, il y a une sous-suite de densité 1 pour laquelle le produit des états résonants et co-résonants associés converge faiblement vers la mesure de Liouville. On démontre ce résultat via l'obtention d'une correspondance exacte entre les espaces propres du Laplacien et les états résonants de Ruelle de la première bande, ce qui par ailleurs donne une nouvelle description des distributions de Patterson–Sullivan.

Keywords: Ruelle resonances, quantum ergodicity, semi-classical measures.

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1. Introduction

Let X be a smooth Anosov vector field on a compact Riemannian manifold \mathcal{M} . Then the resolvent $R(\lambda) := (-X - \lambda)^{-1} : L^2(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathcal{M})$ is holomorphic for $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda) \gg 0$ and has a meromorphic continuation to \mathbb{C} [BL07, DZ16, FS11, Liv04] as a family of continuous operators $R(\lambda) : C^\infty(\mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$. The poles of this meromorphic continuation are called *Ruelle resonances*. Given a pole λ_0 of the resolvent, (minus) the residue of the resolvent $R(\lambda)$ at λ_0 is a finite rank operator Π_{λ_0} and we call its range $\operatorname{Ran}(\Pi_{\lambda_0}) \subset \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ the space of *generalized Ruelle resonant states*. The generalized resonant states are known to be distributions which are supported on the whole manifold \mathcal{M} [Wei17] and they lie in $\ker(-X - \lambda_0)^J$ for some $J \geq 1$, and $J = 1$ if and only if there are no Jordan blocks. Furthermore, to each Ruelle resonance λ_0 we can define a canonical generalized density in the following way: Because the wavefront set of Π_{λ_0} is precisely known [FS11, Theorem 1.7] [DZ16, Proposition 3.3], there is a well defined notion of a trace of Π_{λ_0} , the so called flat trace Tr^b and we can define the following continuous linear functional

$$\mathcal{T}_{\lambda_0} : \begin{cases} C^\infty(\mathcal{M}) & \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ f & \mapsto \operatorname{Tr}^b(f\Pi_{\lambda_0}) \end{cases}$$

If $\lambda_0 = 0$, then the functional \mathcal{T}_{λ_0} is given by the SRB measure⁽¹⁾, see [BL07]. For a general resonance $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ these functionals are only distributional densities and not measures. As X commutes with Π_{λ_0} , they are still invariant under the flow, i.e. $X\mathcal{T}_{\lambda_0} = 0$, and we call them *invariant Ruelle densities*. Note that these invariant Ruelle densities have also explicit expressions in terms of the Ruelle resonant states: In the simplest case of a first order pole of multiplicity one the invariant density is simply the distributional product of a resonant and co-resonant state, where *co-resonant states* are resonant states for the flow in backward time.

We want to study *high frequency limits* (also called *semiclassical limits*) of these invariant Ruelle distributions. For Ruelle resonances the reasonable notion of semiclassical limit is to fix a range in the real part $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda) > -C$ and consider $|\operatorname{Im}(\lambda)| \rightarrow \infty$. In this limit there have recently been established several results on the distributions of resonances such as Weyl laws [DDZ14, FS11, FT17a] or band structures [FT13, FT17b].

1.1. High-frequency limits.

If G/K is a rank one Riemannian symmetric space of noncompact type, $\Gamma \subset G$ a co-compact torsion free discrete subgroup, then the locally symmetric space $\mathbf{M} := \Gamma \backslash G/K$ is a compact Riemannian manifold of strictly negative curvature. Its geodesic flow on the unit sphere bundle $\mathcal{M} := S\mathbf{M}$ is Anosov. Any compact manifold of constant negative curvature can be realized in this way, but the rank one locally symmetric spaces contain also families with nonconstant sectional curvature. In

⁽¹⁾More precisely by an SRB measure, because the eigenvalue λ_0 might be degenerate and the SRB measure not unique.

constant curvature the spectrum is known to obey an exact band structure [DFG15, KW19], i.e. for any Ruelle resonance λ_0 one has either $\text{Im}(\lambda_0) = 0$, or $\text{Re}(\lambda_0) \in -\rho - \mathbb{N}_0$, where $\rho > 0$ is the positive constant that is associated to a Riemannian symmetric space by taking half the sum of its positive restricted roots. Our first result is the following equidistribution Theorem 1.1.

THEOREM 1.1. — *Let \mathbf{M} be a compact locally symmetric space of rank one, $\mathcal{M} = S\mathbf{M}$ be the unit sphere bundle and $d\mu_{\mathbf{L}}$ the Liouville measure on \mathcal{M} . Let $r_n \in \mathbb{R}^+$ be such that $\lambda_n = -\rho + ir_n$ are the Ruelle resonances with $\text{Re}(\lambda_n) = -\rho$, $\text{Im}(\lambda_n) > 0$ for the geodesic flow on \mathcal{M} . Then there exists a subsequence $(r_{k_n})_{n>0} \subset (r_n)_{n>0}$, such that*

- $\mathcal{T}_{-\rho+ir_{k_n}}$ converges weakly towards $d\mu_{\mathbf{L}}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.
- The subsequence is of density one, i.e.

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{k_n < N} \dim(\text{Ran } \Pi_{-\rho+ir_{k_n}})}{\sum_{n < N} \dim(\text{Ran } \Pi_{-\rho+ir_n})} = 1.$$

To prove this result, we have to show an explicit correspondence between the Ruelle resonant states on $\text{Re}(\lambda) = -\rho$ and the eigenstates of the Laplacian $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$. This allows us to reduce the problem to a quantum ergodicity result for the Laplacian and use the Shnirelman–Zelditch–Colin de Verdière theorem [CdV85, Shn74, Zel87]. In fact, we prove several results in this article which are of independent interest.

1.2. The quantum-classical correspondence (Theorem 4.5 and Theorem 4.6).

In [DFG15, GHW18, Had20] it is shown that for geodesic flows on compact (resp. convex cocompact) constant negative curvature manifolds the Ruelle resonances are related to eigenvalues (resp. quantum resonances) for the Laplacian. A central ingredient in the proof is to establish an explicit bijection between the Ruelle resonant states in $\mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M})$ that are killed by unstable derivatives and the eigenstates of the Laplacian $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$ on \mathbf{M} , at least for Ruelle resonances that are not in a certain exceptional set. The map from Ruelle resonant states to eigenfunctions of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$ is given by the pushforward $\pi_{0*} : \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{M})$, where $\pi_0 : S\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ is the projection onto the base. We extend this bijection to the setting of all compact locally symmetric spaces of rank one in Theorem 4.5 and Theorem 4.6. To prove the bijection, one uses as in [DFG15] a correspondence between Ruelle (generalized) resonant states killed by the unstable derivatives and the distributions on the boundary of G/K that have a certain conformal equivariance by the group Γ , and the bijection between these distributions and Γ -invariant eigenfunctions of Laplacian on G/K , which thus descend to \mathbf{M} . The quantum-classical correspondence that we establish in this article form a crucial basis for the generalizations to vector bundles [KW20, KW19].

We note that the correspondence between the distributions on the boundary and the Laplace eigenfunctions follows from works of [BS87, GO05, Hel74, OS80, Ota98] on the Poisson transformation. Some results related to the quantum-classical correspondence were obtained previously in [Cos05, FF03] for $G = \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ where the

authors study distributions on SM invariant by the horocycle flow. In particular in [Cos05], a relation is made between such distributions and conformally equivariant distributions on the boundary $\partial(G/K)$, similarly to what we discussed above.

1.3. A new description of Patterson–Sullivan distributions (Theorem 5.2).

In [AZ07], Anantharaman and Zelditch introduced Patterson–Sullivan distributions on compact hyperbolic surfaces. Given an eigenfunction of the Laplacian in $C^\infty(\mathbf{M})$, these distributions are distributions in $\mathcal{D}'(SM)$ which are invariant under the geodesic flow and become equivalent to usual semiclassical lifts such as Wigner distributions in the semiclassical limit. In [HHS12] this construction has been generalized to compact higher rank locally symmetric spaces. Using the quantum–classical correspondence we give in Theorem 5.2 a new description of these Patterson–Sullivan distributions for rank one spaces: given a Laplace eigenfunction $\varphi \in C^\infty(\mathbf{M})$ the quantum–classical correspondence allows us to associate a unique Ruelle resonant state $v \in \mathcal{D}'(SM)$ as well as a Ruelle co-resonant state $v^* \in \mathcal{D}'(SM)$. The Patterson–Sullivan distribution is then precisely given by the distributional product of $v \cdot v^*$ which is well defined by a wavefront condition.

1.4. A pairing formula (Theorem 6.1).

If the Ruelle resonance λ_0 associated to a Patterson–Sullivan distribution is simple, then it is easy to check that the Patterson–Sullivan distribution coincides with the invariant Ruelle density. If $\text{Rank}(\Pi_{\lambda_0}) > 1$, one additionally needs a pairing formula in order to express the invariant Ruelle density in terms of the Patterson–Sullivan distributions. The pairing formula relates pairings of resonant states with co-resonant states to pairings of the associated eigenfunctions of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$. Such pairing formulas have previously been proved in [AZ07] for hyperbolic surfaces and in [DFG15] for compact constant negative curvature manifolds using different methods. We extend them to all rank one cases in Theorem 6.1. We follow the strategy of [DFG15] but we emphasize that new difficulties appear due to the anisotropy of the Lyapunov exponents given by the fact that the curvature is not constant anymore.

We would like to end the introduction with the following remark: in this article we use the precise correspondence between Ruelle and Laplace resonant states in order to prove the first version of quantum ergodicity for Ruelle resonant states. If however it becomes possible to prove stronger properties like quantum unique ergodicity for the high frequency limits of Ruelle resonant states, then the quantum–classical correspondence would allow to transfer these results to the semiclassical limits of Laplace eigenfunctions.

2. Ruelle resonances

In this section we introduce the spectral theory of Ruelle resonances for Anosov flows as well as the notion of their resonant states and invariant distributions.

Within this section let \mathcal{M} be a smooth, compact manifold without boundary, $X \in C^\infty(\mathcal{M}, T\mathcal{M})$ a smooth vector field that generates an Anosov flow φ_t .

We want to introduce Ruelle resonances as the discrete spectrum of the differential operator X on suitable Hilbert spaces, as they have been introduced by Liverani [Liv04], Butterley–Liverani [BL07] and Faure–Sjöstrand [FS11] and Dyatlov–Zworski [DZ16]. We will use the microlocal approach from [DZ16, FS11]. Generalizations to flows on noncompact manifolds can be found in [DG16, GBW17].

PROPOSITION 2.1. — *There exists a family of Hilbert spaces denoted by \mathcal{H}^N and parametrized by $N > 0$. Each \mathcal{H}^N is an anisotropic Sobolev space that fulfills the relations*

$$H^N(\mathcal{M}) \subset \mathcal{H}^N(\mathcal{M}) \subset H^{-N}(\mathcal{M}),$$

where $H^N(\mathcal{M})$ denotes the ordinary L^2 -based Sobolev space of order N . Consider furthermore the operator X acting on $\mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ and define

$$\text{Dom}_N(X) := \left\{ u \in \mathcal{H}^N \mid Xu \in \mathcal{H}^N \right\},$$

which is a dense subset in \mathcal{H}^N . Then the operator $X : \mathcal{H}^N \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^N$ is an unbounded closed operator defined on a dense domain satisfying:

- (1) There is $C_0 > 0$ such that for any $N > 0$ the operator $(X + \lambda) : \text{Dom}_N(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^N$ is Fredholm of index 0 depending analytically on λ in the region

$$\{\text{Re}(\lambda) > -N/C_0\}.$$

- (2) There is a constant $C_1 > 0$ such that for $\text{Re} \lambda > C_1$ the operator $(X + \lambda) : \text{Dom}_N(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^N$ is invertible for all $N > 0$.

Proof. — For the Fredholm property see [FS11, Theorem 1.4] ([DZ16, Proposition 3.2], respectively) and for the invertibility [FS11, Lemma 3.3] ([DZ16, Proposition 3.1], respectively). \square

Consequently, the operator $-X$ has discrete spectrum on $\{\text{Re}(\lambda) > -N/C_0\}$ of finite algebraic multiplicity. We recall that the algebraic multiplicity of an eigenvalue λ_0 of $-X$ is

$$\dim \left\{ u \in \mathcal{H}^N \mid \exists j \geq 1, (X + \lambda_0)^j u = 0 \right\},$$

while the geometric multiplicity of λ_0 is $\dim \ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda_0)$. We call $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ a *Ruelle resonance* if

$$\text{Res}_X(\lambda) := \ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda) \neq 0$$

for some $N > -C_0 \text{Re}(\lambda)$.

It can also be shown [FS11, Theorem 1.5] that for each $j \geq 0$, $\ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda)^j \subset \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ is independent of the choice of $N > -C_0 \cdot \text{Re}(\lambda)$, so $\text{Res}_X(\lambda)$ is well defined and we call it the space of *Ruelle resonant states* associated to the resonance λ . In general the geometric and algebraic multiplicity of a Ruelle resonance λ need not be equal. Thus we define $J(\lambda)$ to be the smallest integer such that

$$\ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda)^k = \ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda)^{J(\lambda)}$$

for all $k \geq J(\lambda)$. We call $\ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda)^{J(\lambda)}$ the space of *generalized Ruelle resonant states*. Spectral theory also provides us with a finite rank spectral projector

$$\Pi_{\lambda_0} : \mathcal{H}^N \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^N$$

satisfying $\Pi_{\lambda_0}^2 = \Pi_{\lambda_0}$ and $\text{Ran}(\Pi_{\lambda_0}) = \ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda_0)^{J(\lambda_0)}$, which commutes with the Anosov flow, i.e. $[X, \Pi_{\lambda_0}] = 0$. Note that this spectral projector coincides with the residue of the meromorphically continued resolvent as defined in the introduction (see [DZ16, Section 4]). For $f \in C^\infty(\mathcal{M})$, the multiplication operator by f is continuous on \mathcal{H}^N and the spectral projector allows to define a distribution

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{T}_{\lambda_0} : \begin{cases} C^\infty(\mathcal{M}) & \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ f & \mapsto \frac{1}{m_{\lambda_0}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}^N}(f \Pi_{\lambda_0}) \end{cases}$$

where $m_{\lambda_0} := \dim(\ker_{\mathcal{H}^N}(X + \lambda_0)^{J(\lambda_0)})$ is called multiplicity of the resonance λ_0 . From the invariance of Π_{λ_0} under the Anosov flow it directly follows that \mathcal{T}_{λ_0} is flow-invariant as well. Note that from the microlocal description of Π_{λ_0} in [DZ16] it follows that $\mathcal{T}_{\lambda_0} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ does not depend on the choice of \mathcal{H}^N and is an intrinsic invariant distribution associated to each Ruelle resonance which we will call *invariant Ruelle distribution*. Note that if the space of generalized resonant states for $\lambda_0 = 0$ is one-dimensional, then the invariant Ruelle distribution corresponds to the unique SRB-measure.

We will not need any detailed knowledge on the construction of the Hilbert space structure of \mathcal{H}^N . However, we will use the microlocal description of the resonant states using the wavefront set. Therefore, let

$$T_m \mathcal{M} = E_0(m) \oplus E_s(m) \oplus E_u(m)$$

be the Anosov splitting of the tangent bundle into neutral, stable and unstable bundles. We can introduce the following dual splitting of the cotangent space

$$T_m^* \mathcal{M} = E_0^*(m) \oplus E_s^*(m) \oplus E_u^*(m),$$

which is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} E_0^*(m)(E_s(m) \oplus E_u(m)) &= 0, & E_u^*(m)(E_0(m) \oplus E_s(m)) &= 0, \\ E_s^*(m)(E_0(m) \oplus E_u(m)) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 2.2 ([DFG15, Lemma 5.1]). — *The space of Ruelle resonant states for a resonance λ_0 is given by*

$$(2.2) \quad \text{Res}_X(\lambda_0) = \{u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M}) \mid (X + \lambda_0)u = 0 \text{ and } \text{WF}(u) \subset E_u^*\},$$

where $\text{WF}(u) \subset T^* \mathcal{M}$ denotes the wavefront set of the distribution u . The generalized resonant states can be characterized similarly:

$$(2.3) \quad \ker(X + \lambda_0)^{J(\lambda_0)} = \left\{ u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M}) \mid (X + \lambda_0)^{J(\lambda_0)} u = 0 \text{ and } \text{WF}(u) \subset E_u^* \right\}.$$

By duality one can define the *co-resonant states* which we will denote by $\text{Res}_{X^*}(\lambda_0)$ and if the Anosov flow preserves a smooth volume density⁽²⁾, they can microlocally be described as

$$(2.4) \quad \text{Res}_{X^*}(\lambda_0) = \{u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M}) \mid (X - \lambda_0)u = 0 \text{ and } \text{WF}(u) \subset E_s^*\}.$$

⁽²⁾For the geodesic flows considered in the sequel, there is a canonical smooth preserved measure, the so called Liouville measure.

Note that given a Ruelle resonance λ_0 , since $E_s^* \cap E_u^* = 0$, the resonant and co-resonant states satisfy conditions on their wavefront sets ensuring that their product is well-defined in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ by [Hör90, Theorem 8.2.10]. For $u \in \text{Res}_X(\lambda_0)$, $v \in \text{Res}_{X^*}(\lambda_0)$, the product is a flow-invariant distribution:

$$X(u \cdot v) = (Xu) \cdot v + u \cdot Xv = (\lambda_0 - \lambda_0)(u \cdot v) = 0.$$

We will see in Section 5 that the Patterson–Sullivan distributions on compact locally symmetric spaces of rank one can be interpreted as such a product of resonant states. It turns out that in the case of a nondegenerate Ruelle resonance without Jordan block, (i.e. for $\dim(\text{Res}_X(\lambda_0)) = 1$ and $J(\lambda_0) = 1$) also the invariant Ruelle distribution \mathcal{T}_{λ_0} can be expressed in this way.

3. Ruelle resonances on rank one locally symmetric spaces

In this section we want to relate the Ruelle resonant states of the so called “first band” on rank one locally symmetric spaces to certain distributional vectors in principal series representations (Proposition 3.8).

3.1. Riemannian symmetric spaces

We first recall some standard notations for Riemannian symmetric spaces. Let G be a noncompact, connected, real, semisimple Lie group of real rank 1 with finite center and $K \subset G$ a maximal compact subgroup. We will write $G = KAN$ for an Iwasawa decomposition and let M be the centralizer of A in K in what follows. The Killing form $\mathcal{K} : \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a non-degenerate bilinear form and the Cartan involution $\theta : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ on the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G allows to define a natural positive-definite scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathfrak{g}} = -\mathcal{K}(\cdot, \theta \cdot)$ on \mathfrak{g} (and thus on \mathfrak{g}^* as well). Moreover, as G/K is of rank 1, i.e. $\dim_{\mathbb{R}}(A) = 1$, we have an isomorphism $\mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ by identifying λ with $\lambda(H_0)$, after choosing a suitable element $H_0 \in \mathfrak{a}$: we choose H_0 to be the uniquely determined element of \mathfrak{a} which satisfies $\alpha_0(H_0) = \sqrt{\langle \alpha_0, \alpha_0 \rangle_{\mathfrak{g}}} =: \|\alpha_0\|$, where $\alpha_0 \in \mathfrak{a}^*$ is the unique simple positive restricted root. We shall denote by $\rho \in \mathfrak{a}^*$ the half-sum of the positive restricted roots weighted by multiplicity, and let $m_{\alpha_0} := \dim \mathfrak{g}_{\pm\alpha_0}$ and $m_{2\alpha_0} := \dim \mathfrak{g}_{\pm 2\alpha_0}$ be the multiplicities of the possible restricted roots. In particular, one gets $\rho = \frac{1}{2}\|\alpha_0\|m_{\alpha_0} + \|\alpha_0\|m_{2\alpha_0}$ when identifying $\mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \simeq \mathbb{C}$.

Under the above assumptions G/K is a Riemannian symmetric space of rank 1. More precisely, G/K is a hyperbolic space $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbb{K}}$ where \mathbb{K} is either $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{O}$ (\mathbb{H} denotes the quaternions and \mathbb{O} the octonions) and we will denote by n its real dimension⁽³⁾. To simplify notation, we will write $\mathbf{H} = G/K$. The Killing form induces a canonical Riemannian metric on \mathbf{H} and with this metric the space \mathbf{H} has negative sectional curvature (equal to -1 if $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{R}$ and in $[-4, -1]$ in the other cases). Furthermore, it induces a smooth left G -invariant measure, which we denote by dx . The unit sphere

⁽³⁾Note that this choice implies, that e.g. for complex hyperbolic spaces n has always to be chosen even. For $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{O}$ only $n = 16$ is possible (Cayley plane).

bundle $S\mathbf{H}$ can be identified with G/M and we denote the left G -invariant Liouville measure by $d\mu_L$. Using a trivialization $S\mathbf{H} \cong \mathbf{H} \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ the Liouville measure can be written as $d\mu_L = dx \otimes d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}}$ where $d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}}$ is the standard Lebesgue measure on the unit sphere. Note that the measures dx and $d\mu_L$ are intrinsically defined by the Riemannian geometry of \mathbf{H} . We normalize the bi-invariant Haar measures on the Lie groups G, M, K, A and N in a consistent way as follows: we start by fixing dm by the condition $\text{vol}(M) = 1$ and in addition set $\text{vol}(K) = \text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})$. The adjoint action of K on \mathfrak{p} gives an identification $K/M \cong \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ and our choice implies that, under this identification, $d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} = d(kM)$. Next we fix dg such that $d(gK) = dx$. With these choices one obtains the identification $d(gM) = d\mu_L$ in the following way: the $G = NAK$ decomposition gives a trivialization $G/M \cong G/K \times K/M$ and using the normalizations from above one checks that $d(gM) = d(gK) \otimes d(kM) = dx \otimes d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} = d\mu_L$. Finally it remains to normalize da : recall that we identify $\mathfrak{a} \cong \mathbb{R}$ or respectively $\mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \cong \mathbb{C}$ by the choice of an element H_0 that is normalized w.r.t. the Killing form. This imposes an analogous normalization of the measure da .

Let $\Gamma \subset G$ be a torsion-free discrete co-compact subgroup, then $\mathbf{M} := \Gamma \backslash G/K$ is a smooth compact Riemannian locally symmetric space of rank 1. We denote the respective positive Laplacians by $\Delta_{\mathbf{H}}$ and $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$. Again we have a Lebesgue measure defined by the Riemannian metric as well as the Liouville measure and by slight abuse of notation we also denote them by dx and $d\mu_L$. The unit tangent bundle $\mathcal{M} := S\mathbf{M}$ of $\mathbf{M} = \Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H}$ can be identified with the quotient $\Gamma \backslash G/M$. Under this identification the geodesic flow is simply the right action of A : i.e

$$A \times \Gamma \backslash G/M \rightarrow \Gamma \backslash G/M, \quad (a, \Gamma gM) \mapsto \Gamma gaM.$$

It is known to be an Anosov flow (see e.g. [Hil05]), thus all the definitions of Ruelle resonances and resonant states from Section 2 apply. Moreover, the Anosov splitting of $T\mathcal{M}$ into neutral, stable, and unstable directions can be expressed explicitly as associated vector bundles $T\mathcal{M} = \Gamma \backslash G \times_M (\mathfrak{a} \oplus \mathfrak{n}_+ \oplus \mathfrak{n}_-)$. Here \mathfrak{n}_+ is the Lie algebra of N and $\mathfrak{n}_- = \theta \mathfrak{n}_+$ is the Lie algebra of $\bar{N} := \theta N$, where θ denotes the Cartan involution on G as well as its derivative on the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G . The bundles E_u and E_s are identified with

$$E_u = \Gamma \backslash G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_-, \quad E_s = \Gamma \backslash G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_+.$$

Similarly, the geodesic flow on the cover $S\mathbf{H} = G/M$ also has an Anosov splitting with smooth stable and unstable bundles

$$\tilde{E}_u := G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_-, \quad \tilde{E}_s := G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_+.$$

3.2. The first band of classical Ruelle resonances

In [DFG15] it is shown for compact real hyperbolic manifolds that the spectrum of Ruelle resonances forms an exact band structure. A particularly important subset of resonances are those that are invariant by the horocyclic flows (i.e. killed by the unstable derivatives).

DEFINITION 3.1. — A Ruelle resonant state u is said to belong to the first band, if for each smooth section U_- of E_u we have $U_-u = 0$ and we write $\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda_0)$ for the first band Ruelle resonant states at the resonance $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{C}$.

Similarly, we say a co-resonant state u belongs to the first band if for each section U_+ of E_s we have $U_+u = 0$. We write $\text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda_0)$ for the first band Ruelle co-resonant states at the resonance $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{C}$.

Remark 3.2. — The notion *first band* is justified by the following result of an exact band structure (see [DFG15] for constant negative curvature manifolds and [KW19] for compact locally symmetric spaces of rank one): If $\lambda_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ is a Ruelle resonance with $\text{Im}(\lambda_0) \neq 0$, then $\text{Re}(\lambda_0) \in -\rho - \mathbb{N}_0\alpha_0$, i.e. the resonances with nonvanishing imaginary parts are arranged on vertical lines parallel to the imaginary axis. Furthermore, if $\lambda = -\rho + ir$ for $r \neq 0$ i.e. if λ lies on the first line, then it is shown in [DFG15, KW19], that the resonant states are first band resonances in the sense of Definition 3.1.

We can lift the resonant states to the cover G/M by the quotient map $\pi_\Gamma: G/M \rightarrow \Gamma \backslash G/M$. By a slight abuse of notation, X will also denote the infinitesimal generator of the geodesic flow on G/M which descends to the infinitesimal generator of the geodesic flow on $\Gamma \backslash G/M$ via π_Γ . The geodesic flow (the flow of X) on $\mathcal{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M$ and on $S\mathbf{H} = G/M$ will be denoted by φ_t . The splitting $G \times_M (\mathfrak{a} + \mathfrak{n}_+ + \mathfrak{n}_-)$ of the tangent bundle of G/M is G -invariant and descends to the Anosov splitting for $\Gamma \backslash G/M$ via π_Γ . With this notation, for $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}_\mathbb{C}^*$, let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_\pm(\lambda) &= \left\{ u \in \mathcal{D}'(G/M) \mid (X \mp \lambda(H_0))u = 0, \forall U_\pm \in C^\infty(G/M; G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_\pm), U_\pm u = 0 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Remark 3.3. — In view of the above characterizations of $\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda)$ and $\text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda)$ we obtain the linear isomorphisms

$$(\pi_\Gamma)^* : \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda(H_0)) \rightarrow {}^\Gamma\mathcal{R}_-(\lambda), \quad (\pi_\Gamma)^* : \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda(H_0)) \rightarrow {}^\Gamma\mathcal{R}_+(\lambda),$$

where ${}^\Gamma\mathcal{R}_\pm(\lambda)$ denotes the subspace of Γ -invariant elements of $\mathcal{R}_\pm(\lambda)$.

3.3. Points at infinity

Next we want to identify the first band of (co)-resonant states with distributions on the Furstenberg boundary $\partial\mathbf{H}$ of the symmetric space, which is identified with $G/P = K/M$ where $P = MAN$ is the minimal parabolic of G . Let us explain how this boundary can be naturally obtained from the geodesic flow on G/M . For any point $y \in S\mathbf{H} = G/M$ we define the limiting points of the geodesic passing through y :

$$B_\pm(y) := \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \tilde{\pi}_0(\varphi_{\pm t}(y)) \in \partial\mathbf{H}$$

if $\tilde{\pi}_0 : S\mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H}$ is the projection onto the base. In terms of Lie groups, the resulting maps are simply the projections

$$(3.1) \quad B_\pm : G/M \rightarrow G/P = K/M, \quad gM \mapsto gw_\pm P,$$

where w_+ represents the trivial and w_- the nontrivial element of the Weyl group $W = N_K(A)/M \sim \mathbb{Z}_2$ (cf. [DFG15, Hil05, HHS12]); here $N_K(A)$ denotes the normalizer of A in K . We will refer to B_- and B_+ as the *initial* respectively the *end point map*.

Remark 3.4. — The values of the initial and the end point map are invariant under the geodesic flow on G/M , i.e.

$$(3.2) \quad \forall a \in A, \quad B_{\pm}(gaM) = B_{\pm}(gM).$$

Furthermore, the initial and the end point map are invariant under changes in the unstable, resp. the stable direction.

$$(3.3) \quad \forall U_{\pm} \in \mathfrak{n}_{\pm} : \quad \frac{d}{ds}\Big|_{s=0} B_{\pm}(ge^{sU_{\pm}}M) = 0.$$

To see (3.2) and (3.3) for the initial point map, note that $\text{Ad}(w_-)$ interchanges \mathfrak{n}_+ and \mathfrak{n}_- and is $-\text{id}$ on \mathfrak{a} . Finally, both maps intertwine the left G -actions on G/M and $K/M = G/P$

$$(3.4) \quad \forall \gamma \in G : B_{\pm}(\gamma gM) = \gamma \cdot B_{\pm}(gM)$$

LEMMA 3.5. — *The maps*

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\pm} : \begin{cases} \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{R}_{\pm}(0) \subset \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{SH}) \\ T & \mapsto & B_{\pm}^*T \end{cases}$$

are topological, linear isomorphisms intertwining the pullback actions of G on $\mathbf{SH} = G/M$ and $\partial\mathbf{H} = K/M$.

Proof. — As $B_{\pm} : G/M \rightarrow K/M$ are surjective submersions, the pullback operators B_{\pm}^* are injective operators on $\mathcal{D}'(K/M)$. We show that their images lie in the indicated spaces: for $T \in \mathcal{D}'(K/M)$, Remark 3.4 implies

$$X(B_{\pm}^*T) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad U_{\pm}(B_{\pm}^*T) = 0$$

for all $U_{\pm} \in C^{\infty}(G/M; G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_{\pm})$. For the surjectivity of \mathcal{Q}_+ consider a $v \in \mathcal{D}'(G/M)$ such that

$$(3.5) \quad Xv = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \forall U_+ \in C^{\infty}(G/M; G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_+), U_+v = 0.$$

Now consider the AN -fiber bundle $B_+ : G/M \rightarrow G/P$ and note that (3.5) implies that v is a distribution which is constant along the fibers. Thus there is a $T_+ \in \mathcal{D}'(G/P)$ such that $v = B_+^*T_+$. Analogously, we obtain the surjectivity of \mathcal{Q}_- .

The fact that \mathcal{Q}_{\pm} intertwines the pullback action is a direct consequence of the intertwining property (3.4) of B_{\pm} .

The continuity of \mathcal{Q}_{\pm} follows directly from the continuity of push-forwards of distributions under submersions. For the continuity of the inverse map consider the embedding $\iota : K/M \hookrightarrow G/M$. Then (3.5) implies that for elements $v \in \mathcal{R}_+(0)$, $\text{WF}(v)$ is a subset of the annihilator of $G \times_M (\mathfrak{a} \oplus \mathfrak{n}_+)$ in $T^*(G/M)$. Thus the Hörmander condition for pullbacks [Hör90, Theorem 8.2.4] implies that $\iota^* : \mathcal{R}_{\pm}(0) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(K/M)$ is well defined and continuous. As $B_{\pm} \circ \iota = \text{Id}_{K/M}$ and \mathcal{Q}_{\pm} is bijective, we find that $\iota^* = \mathcal{Q}_{\pm}^{-1}$ and we deduce the continuity of the inverse map. \square

Similar isomorphisms can also be defined for nontrivial resonances $\lambda \neq 0$. This requires the so called *Busemann function* (based at the origin) defined on $\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H} = G/K \times K/M$ by

$$(3.6) \quad \beta : \begin{cases} G/K \times K/M & \rightarrow & \mathfrak{a} \\ (gK, kM) & \mapsto & \beta(gK, kM) := -H(g^{-1}k), \end{cases}$$

where $H: G \rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$ is given by $H(kan) = \log a$. Using this horocycle bracket as well as the initial and end point maps, we can define the smooth functions on

$$(3.7) \quad \Phi_{\pm} : \begin{cases} G/M & \rightarrow & \mathbb{R} \\ gM & \mapsto & e^{\nu_0\beta(gK, B_{\pm}(gM))}, \end{cases}$$

where $\nu_0 := \alpha_0/\|\alpha_0\|$. A straightforward computation using (3.2) and (3.3) shows that they are ± 1 eigenfunctions of the geodesic vector field,

$$(3.8) \quad X\Phi_{\pm} = \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} \Phi_{\pm}(ge^{tH_0}M) = \pm\Phi_{\pm},$$

and they are constant in the stable and unstable directions, respectively:

$$(3.9) \quad \forall U_{\pm} \in \mathfrak{n}_{\pm} : \quad U_{\pm}\Phi_{\pm} = \frac{d}{ds}\Big|_{s=0} \Phi_{\pm}(ge^{sU_{\pm}}M) = 0.$$

For $\gamma \in G$, $x \in \mathbf{H} = G/K$ and $b \in \partial\mathbf{H} = K/M$ we have the following equalities

$$(3.10) \quad \beta(\gamma x, \gamma b) = \beta(x, b) + \beta(\gamma K, \gamma b)$$

$$(3.11) \quad \beta(\gamma K, \gamma b) = -\beta(\gamma^{-1}K, b),$$

see for example [HHS12, Lemma 2.3]. Then for $\gamma, g \in G$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\pm}(\gamma gM) &\stackrel{(3.4)}{=} e^{\nu_0\beta(\gamma gK, \gamma \cdot B_{\pm}(gM))} \stackrel{(3.10)}{=} e^{\nu_0\beta(gK, B_{\pm}(gM))} e^{\nu_0\beta(\gamma K, \gamma B_{\pm}(gM))} \\ &\stackrel{(3.11)}{=} e^{\nu_0\beta(gK, B_{\pm}(gM))} e^{-\nu_0\beta(\gamma^{-1}K, B_{\pm}(gM))}. \end{aligned}$$

If we introduce, generalizing [DFG15, (3.26)], the function

$$N_{\gamma}(kM) := e^{-\nu_0\beta(\gamma^{-1}K, kM)}$$

on $\partial\mathbf{H} = K/M$, we get the identity (cf. [DFG15, (3.28)])

$$(3.12) \quad \Phi_{\pm}(\gamma gM) = N_{\gamma}(B_{\pm}(gM))\Phi_{\pm}(gM).$$

A last ingredient is the compact picture of the spherical principal series.

DEFINITION 3.6. — *Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ and $H_{\mu} := L^2(\partial\mathbf{H})$ be the Hilbert space of square integrable functions w.r.t. the K -invariant measure on $\partial\mathbf{H} = K/M$. Then the spherical principal series representation $(\pi_{\mu}^{\text{cpt}}, H_{\mu})$ is the representation of G on H_{μ} given by*

$$(3.13) \quad \begin{aligned} (\pi_{\mu}^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma)f)(k'M) &:= e^{-(\mu+\rho)H(\gamma^{-1}k')} f(k(\gamma^{-1}k')M) \\ &= e^{(\mu+\rho)\beta(\gamma K, k'M)} f(k(\gamma^{-1}k')M). \end{aligned}$$

Here $k(\gamma^{-1}k') = k_{KAN}(\gamma^{-1}k')$ denotes the K -component of $\gamma^{-1}k' \in G$ in the KAN -decomposition.

Note that these principal series representations are unitary iff $\mu \in i\mathbb{R}$. Furthermore we can express (3.13) via the functions N_γ as follows:

$$(3.14) \quad \left(\pi_\mu^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma)f\right) = N_{\gamma^{-1}}^{-(\mu+\rho)(H_0)} \left(\gamma^{-1}\right)^* f,$$

where $(\gamma^{-1})^*$ is the pullback of distributions with the diffeomorphism obtained by the left G -action on $K/M = G/P$.

PROPOSITION 3.7. — For $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}_\mathbb{C}^*$ the initial and end point transforms defined by

$$(3.15) \quad \mathcal{Q}_{\lambda,\pm}(T) := \Phi_\pm^{\lambda(H_0)} \mathcal{Q}_\pm(T)$$

are topological isomorphisms

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\lambda,\pm} : \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{R}_\pm(\lambda)$$

intertwining the left regular representation on $\mathcal{R}_\pm(\lambda) \subset \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{SH})$ with the representation $(\pi_{-(\lambda+\rho)}^{\text{cpt}}, \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}))$.

Proof. — In view of Lemma 3.5 and the properties of Φ_\pm , the property of $\mathcal{Q}_{\lambda,\pm}$ being a topological isomorphism is clear. It only remains to verify the intertwining property: for $\gamma \in G$ and $T \in \mathcal{D}'(K/M)$ we compute

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma^{-1})^* (\mathcal{Q}_{\lambda,\pm} T) &= \left((\gamma^{-1})^* \Phi_\pm^{\lambda(H_0)}\right) \cdot \left((\gamma^{-1})^* B_\pm^* T\right) \\ &\stackrel{(3.12),(3.4)}{=} \left(B_\pm^* \left(N_{\gamma^{-1}}^{\lambda(H_0)}\right) \Phi_\pm^{\lambda(H_0)}\right) \cdot \left(B_\pm^* (\gamma^{-1})^* T\right) \\ &= \left(\Phi_\pm^{\lambda(H_0)}\right) \cdot \left(B_\pm^* \left(N_{\gamma^{-1}}^{\lambda(H_0)} \cdot (\gamma^{-1})^* T\right)\right) \\ &\stackrel{(3.14), \lambda = -(\mu+\rho)}{=} \left(\Phi_\pm^{\lambda(H_0)}\right) \cdot \left(\mathcal{Q}_\pm \left(\pi_\mu^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma) T\right)\right) \\ &= \mathcal{Q}_{\lambda,\pm} \left(\pi_\mu^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma) T\right). \end{aligned}$$

□

Combining Proposition 3.7 with Remark 3.3 we arrive at the promised description of the first band of Ruelle resonances.

PROPOSITION 3.8. — There are isomorphisms of finite dimensional vector spaces

$$\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda) \cong^\Gamma \left(H_{-(\lambda+\rho)}^{-\infty}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda) \cong^\Gamma \left(H_{-(\lambda+\rho)}^{-\infty}\right),$$

where ${}^\Gamma(H_{-(\lambda+\rho)}^{-\infty})$ denotes the spaces of Γ -invariant distributional vectors in the spherical principal series with spectral parameter $\mu = -(\lambda + \rho)$.

After having described the Ruelle resonances by distributions on the boundary, we now turn to the description of generalized resonant states via boundary distributions.

PROPOSITION 3.9. — Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ be a Ruelle resonance of X on $\mathcal{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M$. Then the following conditions are equivalent.

- (1) There is a Jordan block of first band resonant states of size J , i.e. there are distributions $u_0, \dots, u_{J-1} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ and some λ such that

$$(3.16) \quad (X + \lambda)u_0 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (X + \lambda)u_k = u_{k-1} \quad \text{for} \quad k = 1, \dots, J - 1$$

and $U_- u_k = 0$ for all smooth sections U_- of the bundle $E_u = \Gamma \backslash G \times_M \mathfrak{n}_-$.

(2) *There exist distributions $T_0, \dots, T_{J-1} \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$ such that for $1 \leq k \leq J-1$ and all $\gamma \in \Gamma$*

$$(3.17) \quad \gamma^* T_k = N_\gamma^{-\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{(\log N_\gamma)^{k-l}}{(k-l)!} T_l$$

Proof. — We start with a Jordan basis u_k on $\mathcal{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M$ as in (1) and we lift them to a set of Γ -invariant distributions on the cover $S\mathbf{H} = G/M$

$$(3.18) \quad \tilde{u}_k := (\pi_\Gamma)^* u_k, \quad k = 0, \dots, J-1.$$

where $\pi_\Gamma : S\mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{M} = S\mathbf{M}$ is the natural projection. They satisfy the relations (3.16) with \tilde{u}_k replacing u_k . Then we use the functions Φ_- defined in (3.7) and define the distributions on $S\mathbf{H}$

$$(3.19) \quad v_k := \Phi_-^{-\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{(\log \Phi_-)^{k-l}}{(k-l)!} \tilde{u}_l.$$

From (3.9) we deduce $U_- v_k = 0$ for all sections U_- in \tilde{E}_u . Using (3.8) as well as the Γ -invariance of \tilde{u}_k , a straightforward computation yields $X v_i = 0$. According to Lemma 3.5 there are unique distributions $T_k \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$ fulfilling $v_k = \mathcal{Q}_- T_k$. The transformation property (3.17) finally follows, as \mathcal{Q}_- intertwines the pullback actions, from the following computation for $\gamma \in \Gamma$:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma^* v_k &= \gamma^* \Phi_-^{-\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{(\log \gamma^* \Phi_-)^{k-l}}{(k-l)!} \tilde{u}_l \\ &\stackrel{(3.12)}{=} (B_-^* N_\gamma^{-\lambda}) \Phi_-^{-\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{(\log \Phi_- + B_-^* \log N_\gamma)^{k-l}}{(k-l)!} \tilde{u}_l \\ &= (B_-^* N_\gamma^{-\lambda}) \Phi_-^{-\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^k \sum_{r=0}^{k-l} \frac{(k-l)!}{r!(k-l-r)!} \frac{(\log \Phi_-)^r (B_-^* \log N_\gamma)^{k-l-r}}{(k-l)!} \tilde{u}_l \\ &= B_-^* N_\gamma^{-\lambda} \sum_{j=0}^k \frac{(B_-^* \log N_\gamma)^{k-j}}{(k-j)!} v_j \end{aligned}$$

This proves that (1) implies (2).

The converse follows similarly: Given $T_0, \dots, T_{J-1} \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$ fulfilling (3.17) we can define $v_k = \mathcal{Q}_- T_k$. Next, we can obtain \tilde{u}_l from the v_k by (3.19). From (3.17) we conclude that $\tilde{u} \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{H})$ are Γ -invariant, thus we obtain distributions $u_k \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$. By a straightforward computation they fulfill (3.18) and $U_- u_k = 0$ for all smooth sections U_- of E_u . \square

4. Quantum-classical correspondence

4.1. Poisson Transformation

A central role for the relation between classical and quantum resonances is played by the Poisson transformation which we now introduce.

As explained in Section 3.2, we can identify \mathfrak{a}^* with \mathbb{C} via $\lambda \mapsto \lambda(H_0)$, and we shall do so in what follows, writing λ^2 instead of $\lambda(H_0)^2$. Given a spectral parameter $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ we introduce the eigenspace (cf. [BS87])

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H}) := \left\{ u \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{H}) \mid (\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) u = 0 \right\}$$

for the positive Laplacian $\Delta_{\mathbf{H}}$ on \mathbf{H} . Note that by elliptic regularity the elements of $\mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H})$ are real analytic. If we define the space of *quantum eigenstates* of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$ on \mathbf{M} as

$$\text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu) := \left\{ u \in L^2(\mathbf{M}) \mid (\Delta_{\mathbf{M}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) u = 0 \right\},$$

taking the lift to the universal cover $\tilde{\pi}_{\Gamma} : \mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ we obtain a bijection between eigenfunctions of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$ and Γ -invariant elements in $\mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H})$, denoted by

$${}^{\Gamma}\mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H}) := \{ f \in \mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H}) \mid \forall \gamma \in \Gamma, \gamma^* f = f \}.$$

DEFINITION 4.1. — *Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ and define*

$$p_{\mu}(gK, kM) := e^{(\mu+\rho)\beta(gK, kM)} \in C^{\infty}(G/K \times K/M),$$

which is the Schwartz kernel of the Poisson transformation and which defines, using the K -invariant measure $db := d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} = d(kM)$ on K/M , a linear operator

$$P_{\mu} : \begin{cases} \mathcal{D}'(K/M) & \rightarrow & C^{\infty}(G/K) \\ T & \mapsto & T(db)[p_{\mu}(gK, kM)]. \end{cases}$$

Here we use the notation that $T(db)$ is the generalized density associated with the distribution T via the invariant measure db .

In the case of rank 1 symmetric spaces, kernel and image of the Poisson transformation have very explicit descriptions. In this paper we mostly restrict our attention to spectral parameters μ for which the Poisson transformation is injective. The maximal domains of definition for the Poisson transformations are spaces of hyperfunctions. As we restrict our attention to spaces of distributions we need to introduce spaces of smooth functions with moderate growth in order to describe the image of our Poisson transformations.

For $f \in C^{\infty}(\mathbf{H})$ and $r \geq 0$ the norm

$$\|f\|_r := \sup_{x \in \mathbf{H}} \left| f(x) e^{-r \cdot d_{\mathbf{H}}(o, x)} \right|,$$

where $d_{\mathbf{H}}$ is the Riemannian distance function on $\mathbf{H} = G/K$ and $o = eK$ is the base point of \mathbf{H} . Then we define

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu}^r(\mathbf{H}) := \{ f \in \mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H}), \|f\|_r \leq \infty \}.$$

The space of eigenfunctions of *weak moderate growth* (see [BS87, Remark 12.5]) can then be defined as

$$\mathcal{E}_{\mu}^*(\mathbf{H}) := \bigcup_{r>0} \mathcal{E}_{\mu}^r(\mathbf{H})$$

and we can equip it with the direct limit topology.

In the following proposition we collect the mapping properties of the Poisson transformation we will use (cf. [BS87]).

PROPOSITION 4.2. — Define the set of exceptional parameters to be

$$(4.1) \quad \mathbf{Ex} := \left(-\frac{m_{\alpha_0}}{2} - 1 - 2\mathbb{N}_0\right) \alpha_0 \cup \left(-\frac{m_{\alpha_0}}{2} - m_{2\alpha_0} - 2\mathbb{N}_0\right) \alpha_0 \subset \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*.$$

For $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ the Poisson transformation P_μ is a bounded continuous map

$$(4.2) \quad P_\mu : \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_\mu^*(\mathbf{H}),$$

which is a topological isomorphism if and only if $\mu \notin \mathbf{Ex}$.

Note that $\mathcal{E}_\mu^*(\mathbf{H})$ is invariant under the left regular representation. Moreover, if one considers the compact picture $\pi_{-\mu}^{\text{cpt}}$ of the spherical principal series representation of G associated with the spectral parameter μ , then $\mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$ can be interpreted as the space of distribution vectors of $\pi_{-\mu}^{\text{cpt}}$ (cf. [BS87]). As is well-known, the Poisson transformation P_μ intertwines these two representations.

For later reference we collect some of the spectral properties of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$.

Remark 4.3. — Let $\Gamma \subset G$ be a co-compact discrete subgroup. Then for all $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ the pullback of smooth functions is a bijection

$$(\tilde{\pi}_\Gamma)^* : \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu) \rightarrow {}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H}),$$

where ${}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H})$ denote the space of Γ -invariant elements in $\mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H})$. Consequently ${}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H})$ is finite dimensional and ${}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H}) \neq 0$ only holds on a discrete set of values for $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ that fulfill $\|\rho\|^2 - \|\mu\|^2 \geq 0$. Furthermore,

$${}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H}) \subset \mathcal{E}_\mu^0(\mathbf{H}) \subset \mathcal{E}_\mu^*(\mathbf{H}).$$

4.2. Correspondence of spectra and resonant states

Let us now come to the proof of the first main result. Consider the canonical projection $\tilde{\pi}_0 : S\mathbf{H} = G/M \rightarrow \mathbf{H} = G/K$ on the base of the fibration and similarly $\pi_0 : S\mathbf{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M \rightarrow \mathbf{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/K$. The pullback of smooth functions leads to a map $\pi_0^* : C_c^\infty(\mathbf{M}) \rightarrow C_c^\infty(S\mathbf{M})$. Using the canonical measures on both spaces we can identify distributions as dual spaces of smooth compactly supported functions and by duality we obtain a map $\pi_{0*} : \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{M})$. In the same way we obtain the associated pushforward on distributions $\tilde{\pi}_{0*}$ on the universal cover, which allows us to state the following useful expressions for the Poisson transformation.

PROPOSITION 4.4. — Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ be an arbitrary spectral parameter. Then we have the equalities $P_\mu = \tilde{\pi}_{0*} \circ \mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho,-}$, and $P_\mu = \tilde{\pi}_{0*} \circ \mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho,+}$, respectively, as maps $\mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{H})$.

Proof. — By a density argument we restrict our attention to the map for smooth functions $\phi \in C^\infty(K/M)$. Recall from Section 3.1 that the invariant measures on G/K , G/M and K/M are normalized such that

$$\int_{G/M} f(gM) \, d(gM) = \int_{G/K} \int_{K/M} f(gkM) \, d(kM) \, d(gK).$$

For $f \in C_c^\infty(G/M)$ and $\phi \in C_c^\infty(G/K)$ we find

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{G/K} \tilde{\pi}_{0*} f \cdot \phi \, d(gK) &= \int_{G/M} f \cdot \tilde{\pi}_0^* \phi \, d(gM) \\ &= \int_{G/K} \int_{K/M} f(gkM) \tilde{\pi}_0^* \phi(gkM) \, d(kM) \, d(gK) \\ &= \int_{G/K} \int_{K/M} f(gkM) \phi(gK) \, d(kM) \, d(gK). \end{aligned}$$

This implies

$$(4.3) \quad \tilde{\pi}_{0*} f(gK) = \int_{K/M} f(gkM) \, d(kM).$$

For $\psi \in C^\infty(K/M) = C^\infty(G/P)$ we recall $\mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho,-}(\psi) \in C^\infty(G/M)$ from (3.15) and note that (we use the isomorphism $gP \mapsto k(g)M$ identifying G/P with K/M , $k(g)$ being the K element in the KAN -decomposition of g)

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho,-}\psi)(gM) &= \Phi_-^{(\mu-\rho)(H_0)}(gM) \psi(gw_-P) \\ &= \left(e^{\nu_0 \beta(gK, B_-(gM))} \right)^{(\mu-\rho)(H_0)} \psi(gw_-P) \\ &= e^{(\mu-\rho)\beta(gK, k(gw_-)M)} \psi(k(gw_-)M). \end{aligned}$$

Now (4.3) and [Hel84, Lemma I.5.19] allow us to compute

$$\begin{aligned} [(\tilde{\pi}_{0*} \circ \mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho,-})\psi](gK) &= \int_{K/M} e^{(\mu-\rho)\beta(gk'K, k(gk'w_-)M)} \psi(k(gk'w_-)M) \, d(k'M) \\ &= \int_{K/M} e^{(\mu-\rho)\beta(gK, k(gk')M)} \psi(k(gk')M) \, d(k'M) \\ &= \int_{K/M} e^{(\mu-\rho)\beta(gK, kM)} \psi(kM) e^{-2\rho(H(g^{-1}k))} \, d(kM) \\ &= \int_{K/M} e^{(\mu-\rho)\beta(gK, kM)} \psi(kM) e^{2\rho\beta(gK, kM)} \, d(kM) \\ &= (\mathcal{P}_\mu \psi)(gK) \end{aligned}$$

(the third line corresponds to a change of variable $k' \mapsto k := k(gk')$ in $\partial\mathbf{H} = K/M$). The equality $\mathcal{P}_\mu = \tilde{\pi}_{0*} \circ \mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho,+}$ follows analogously. \square

THEOREM 4.5. — *Let G be of real rank 1 and $\Gamma \subset G$ a discrete, torsion-free, co-compact subgroup, let $\mathbf{H} = G/K$ and $\mathbf{M} = \Gamma \backslash \mathbf{H}$. If $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_\mathbb{C}^* \setminus \mathbf{E}_\mathbf{x}$ is a regular spectral parameter, then the pushforward $\pi_{0*} : \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M}) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{M})$ restricts to isomorphisms*

$$(4.4) \quad \pi_{0*} : \text{Res}_X^0(\mu - \rho) \rightarrow \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu) \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_{0*} : \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\mu - \rho) \rightarrow \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu).$$

Proof. — Note that we have a bijection $(\tilde{\pi}_\Gamma)^* : \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu) \rightarrow {}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu(\mathbf{H})$ (Remark 4.3) as well as bijections $(\pi_\Gamma)^* : \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda(H_0)) \rightarrow {}^\Gamma \mathcal{R}_-(\lambda)$ and $(\pi_\Gamma)^* : \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda(H_0)) \rightarrow {}^\Gamma \mathcal{R}_+(\lambda)$ (Remark 3.3). If we consider the projections on the covers we have the

following commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Gamma \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{H}) & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\pi}_{0*}} & \Gamma \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{H}) \\ \pi_{\Gamma}^* \uparrow & & \uparrow \tilde{\pi}_{\Gamma}^* \\ \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M}) & \xrightarrow{\pi_{0*}} & \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{M}). \end{array}$$

We see that it is sufficient to prove that $\tilde{\pi}_{0*} : \Gamma \mathcal{R}_{\pm}(\mu - \rho) \mapsto \Gamma \mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H})$ is an isomorphism. By Propositions 4.2 and 3.7 we already know that $\mathcal{P}_{\mu} \circ (\mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho, \pm})^{-1} : \Gamma \mathcal{R}_{\pm}(\mu - \rho) \mapsto \Gamma \mathcal{E}_{\mu}(\mathbf{H})$ is an isomorphism and we conclude with Proposition 4.4. \square

We can also give a precise description of first band Jordan blocks: we write

$$\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, k) := \left\{ u \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M}) \mid (X + \lambda)^k u = 0, U_- u = 0, \forall U_- \in C^{\infty}(S\mathbf{M}; E_u) \right\}.$$

THEOREM 4.6. — *If $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \setminus \mathbf{Ex}$ is a regular spectral parameter and $\mu \neq 0$, then there are no first band Jordan blocks with spectral parameter $\lambda = -\rho + \mu$:*

$$\forall k \in \mathbb{N}^* : \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, k) = \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, 1).$$

If $\mu = 0$, then the first band Jordan block at $\lambda = -\rho$ is precisely of size two, i.e.

$$\forall k \geq 2, \quad \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, k) = \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, 2), \quad \text{and} \quad \dim \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, 2) = 2 \dim \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda, 1).$$

Proof. — Let $\mu \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$, $\mu \notin \mathbf{Ex} \cup \{0\}$. In order to simplify the notation, let us identify throughout this proof $\mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \cong \mathbb{C}$ by identifying ν_0 with 1. Assume that there is a non-trivial Jordan block for $\lambda = -\rho + \mu$. Then there are nonzero distributions $u_0, u_1 \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M})$ with $(X + \lambda)u_0 = 0$, $(X + \lambda)u_1 = u_0$ and $U_- u_0 = U_- u_1 = 0$ for all smooth sections U_- in \tilde{E}_u . From Theorem 4.5 we know that $\phi_0 := \pi_{0*}(u_0) \in C^{\infty}(\mathbf{M})$ is a nonzero element that fulfills $(\Delta_{\mathbf{M}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2)\phi_0 = 0$. We claim that by setting $\phi_1 := \pi_{0*}(u_1)$ we obtain

$$(\Delta_{\mathbf{M}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) \phi_1 = 2\mu\phi_0.$$

If this holds, then pairing this equation with ϕ_0 , for $\mu \neq 0$ we get $2\mu \|\phi_0\|_{L^2}^2 = 0$ so that $\phi_0 = 0$, which is a contradiction.

Now let us prove the claim: let $\tilde{u}_0, \tilde{u}_1 \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M})$ and $\tilde{\phi}_0, \tilde{\phi}_1 \in C^{\infty}(\mathbf{H})$ be the lifts of ϕ_i to the universal cover. By Proposition 3.9 and its proof we can write $\tilde{u}_1 = \Phi_-^{\mu-\rho}(B_-^* T_1 - \log \Phi_- B_-^* T_0)$ with $T_0, T_1 \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$. Furthermore, by Proposition 4.4 we can write $\partial_{\mu} P_{\mu}(T_0) = \tilde{\pi}_{0*}(\Phi_-^{\mu-\rho} \log \Phi_- B_-^* T_0)$. Thus we get $\tilde{\phi}_1 = \mathcal{P}_{\mu}(T_1) - \partial_{\mu} \mathcal{P}_{\mu}(T_0)$ and

$$(4.5) \quad (\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) \tilde{\phi}_1 = -(\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) \partial_{\mu} \mathcal{P}_{\mu}(T_0).$$

Now it is easily checked that

$$(4.6) \quad 2\mu \mathcal{P}_{\mu}(T_0) + (\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) \partial_{\mu} \mathcal{P}_{\mu}(T_0) = 0,$$

by taking the derivative of the equation $(\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) \mathcal{P}_{\mu}(T_0) = 0$ with respect to μ . Thus, (4.5) and (4.6) imply the above claim.

Let us finally consider the case $\mu = 0$ and assume there is a Jordan block of size larger than two. Then there are nonzero distributions $u_0, u_1, u_2 \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M})$ such that

$$(X - \rho)u_2 = u_1, (X - \rho)u_1 = u_0, (X - \rho)u_0 = 0$$

and $U_- u_i = 0$ for all smooth sections U_- in \tilde{E}_u . We set for $i = 1, 2, 3$, $\phi_i = \pi_{0*}(u_i) \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{M})$ and claim that

$$(4.7) \quad (\Delta_{\mathbf{M}} - \rho^2) \phi_2 = -\phi_0.$$

As above, pairing this equation with ϕ_0 we get a direct contradiction. In order to prove this claim, let $\tilde{u}_0, \tilde{u}_1, \tilde{u}_2 \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{H})$ and $\tilde{\phi}_0, \tilde{\phi}_1, \tilde{\phi}_2 \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbf{H})$ be the lifts to the covers. By Proposition 3.9 and its proof we can write

$$\tilde{u}_2 = \Phi_-^{-\rho} \left(B_-^* T_2 - (\log \Phi_-) B_-^* T_1 + \frac{1}{2} (\log \Phi_-)^2 B_-^* T_0 \right)$$

with $T_0, T_1, T_2 \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$.

Using again the representation of the Poisson transformation from Proposition 4.4 we get

$$(4.8) \quad \tilde{\phi}_2 = \mathcal{P}_\mu(T_2) - (\partial_\mu \mathcal{P}_\mu)|_{\mu=0}(T_1) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu^2 \mathcal{P}_\mu)|_{\mu=0}(T_0).$$

Now taking the second derivative of $(\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2 + \mu^2) \mathcal{P}_\mu(T_0) = 0$ at $\mu = 0$ we get

$$(4.9) \quad 2\mathcal{P}_0(T_0) + (\Delta_{\mathbf{H}} - \rho^2) (\partial_\mu^2 \mathcal{P}_\mu)|_{\mu=0}(T_0) = 0.$$

Finally (4.8), (4.6) and (4.9) together imply (4.7). This shows that the first band Jordan blocks of X at $\lambda = -\rho$ are maximally of size two.

Let us finally show that at $\mu = 0$ the Jordan blocks are at least of size two. To this end we assume that $\text{Res}_X^0(-\rho)$ is nonzero and $u_0 \in \text{Res}_X^0(-\rho) \setminus \{0\}$. By Proposition 3.7 we know that for $\tilde{u}_0 \in \mathcal{R}_-(-\rho)$ there exists a classical boundary value $T_0 \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$ such that $\tilde{u}_0 = \mathcal{Q}_{-\rho,-}(T_0)$. From the same proposition we obtain $\pi_0^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma)T_0 = T_0$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$. For $\mu \notin \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \setminus \mathbf{Ex}$ we define the scattering operator for \mathbf{H}

$$(4.10) \quad S_\mu : \begin{cases} \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) & \rightarrow & \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) \\ T & \mapsto & \mathcal{P}_\mu^{-1} \circ \mathcal{P}_{-\mu}(T). \end{cases}$$

Note that by Proposition 4.2 this operator is well defined and we have

$$(4.11) \quad S_\mu \pi_\mu^{\text{cpt}}(g) = \pi_{-\mu}^{\text{cpt}}(g) S_\mu \quad \text{for all } g \in G.$$

Obviously, we have $S_0 = \text{Id}$. Taking the derivative of (4.11) with respect to μ at $\mu = 0$, we obtain

$$(4.12) \quad \pi_0^{\text{cpt}}(g) (\partial_\mu S_\mu)|_{\mu=0} - (\partial_\mu S_\mu)|_{\mu=0} \pi_0^{\text{cpt}}(g) = -2 (\partial_\mu \pi_{-\mu}^{\text{cpt}}(g))|_{\mu=0} \quad \text{for all } g \in G.$$

If we now set $T_1 := -\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu S_\mu)|_{\mu=0} T_0 \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$, then (4.12), together with the transformation properties of T_0 , yields

$$\pi_0^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma)T_1 - T_1 = (\partial_\mu \pi_{-\mu}^{\text{cpt}}(\gamma))|_{\mu=0} T_0 \quad \text{for all } \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

With (3.14) this implies

$$\gamma^* T_1 = N_\gamma^\rho (T_1 + \log N_\gamma T_0) \quad \text{for all } \gamma \in \Gamma.$$

Note that Proposition 3.9 implies that the existence of such a pair of distributions $T_0, T_1 \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$ is equivalent to the existence of $u_1 \in \mathcal{D}'(S\mathbf{M})$ with $(X - \rho)u_1 = u_0$.

We have thus constructed for any $u_0 \in \text{Res}_X^0(-\rho)$ a Jordan block of size two. This finishes the proof of Theorem 4.6. \square

For the special case of a real hyperbolic space a description of Jordan blocks is given in [DFG15]. The proof there however relies on the pairing formula and the self adjointness of the Laplacian. Here we have given a different proof, more in the spirit of [GHW18], that also allows the precise description of the spectral value at $\lambda = -\rho$ which was untractable with the methods in [DFG15]. For $G = \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{R})$, it is also shown in [Cos05, FF03] that $-\rho$ has a Jordan block.

Let us finally give a rough description of the first band resonant states at the exceptional points. At these points the Poisson transformation is not injective anymore, but one has a nontrivial, closed G -invariant subspace $\ker P_\mu \subset \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H}) \cong H_\mu^{-\infty}$ as well as a G -invariant subspace $\text{Im } P_\mu \subset \mathcal{E}_\mu^*(\mathbf{H})$. In particular, the existence of the kernel implies that at these exceptional points there could be more Ruelle resonant states in the first band than expected from the Laplace spectrum.

PROPOSITION 4.7. — *Let $\mu \in \mathbf{Ex} \subset \mathfrak{a}_\mathbb{C}^*$ be an exceptional spectral parameter. Then*

$$(4.13) \quad \dim \text{Res}_X^0(\mu - \rho) = \dim \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\mu - \rho) = \dim({}^\Gamma \ker P_\mu) + \dim({}^\Gamma \text{Im } P_\mu).$$

In particular, if $\|\mu\| > \|\rho\|$, then we have

$$(4.14) \quad \dim \text{Res}_X^0(\mu - \rho) = \dim \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\mu - \rho) = \dim({}^\Gamma \ker P_\mu).$$

If $\mu = -\rho$, then we get $\dim \text{Res}_X^0(\mu - \rho) = \dim \text{Res}_{X^}^0(\mu - \rho) = \dim({}^\Gamma \ker P_\mu) + 1$.*

Proof. — The statement follows directly from Proposition 3.8. If we write the finite dimensional vector space ${}^\Gamma(H_\mu^{-\infty}) = {}^\Gamma(\ker P_\mu) \oplus C$ with an arbitrary linear complement $C \subset {}^\Gamma(H_\mu^{-\infty})$, then $P_\mu : C \rightarrow {}^\Gamma \text{Im } P_\mu$ is a bijection and we get (4.13). Furthermore, if $\|\mu\| > \|\rho\|$, then by positivity of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$ we know that ${}^\Gamma \mathcal{E}_\mu^*(\mathbf{H}) \cong \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu) = 0$, thus $\dim({}^\Gamma \text{Im } P_\mu) = 0$ and we obtain (4.14). If $\mu = -\rho$, then $\text{Im } P_\mu = \mathbb{C}$. \square

Note that for real and complex hyperbolic spaces, $\|\mu\| \geq \|\rho\|$ if $\mu \in \mathbf{Ex}$.

5. A new description of Patterson–Sullivan distributions

We briefly recall the construction of Patterson–Sullivan distributions from [AZ07, HHS12, HS09]. For $\mu, \mu' \in \mathfrak{a}_\mathbb{C}^*$ we introduce a weighted Radon transform $\mathcal{R}_{\mu, \mu'}$ by

$$(\mathcal{R}_{\mu, \mu'} f)(g) := \int_A e^{(\mu+\rho)H(ga) + (\mu'+\rho)H(gaw)} f(ga) da$$

for each $f \in C_c^\infty(G/M)$. By definition this Radon transformation is right MA -invariant and we have [HHS12, Lemma 4.4]

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mu, \mu'} : C_c^\infty(G/M) \rightarrow C_c^\infty(G/MA).$$

The Patterson–Sullivan distributions are then defined as follows:

DEFINITION 5.1. — Let $\mu, \mu' \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ and $\varphi_{\mu} \in \mathcal{E}_{\mu}^*(G/K)$, $\varphi_{\mu'} \in \mathcal{E}_{\mu'}^*(G/K)$. Then the associated Patterson–Sullivan distribution $\text{PS}_{\varphi_{\mu}, \varphi_{\mu'}} \in \mathcal{D}'(G/M)$ is the generalized density defined by its evaluation at $f \in C_c^{\infty}(G/M)$:

$$\text{PS}_{\varphi_{\mu}, \varphi_{\mu'}}(f) := \int_{G/MA} (\mathcal{R}_{\mu, \mu'} f)(gMA) [P_{\mu}^{-1}(\varphi_{\mu})](db) \otimes [P_{\mu'}^{-1}(\overline{\varphi_{\mu'}})](db').$$

Here $[P_{\mu}^{-1}(\varphi_{\mu})](db)$ and $[P_{\mu'}^{-1}(\overline{\varphi_{\mu'}})](db')$ are the generalized densities on $\partial\mathbf{H} = K/M = G/P$ obtained by the boundary distributions and the invariant measure. Their tensor product is a generalized density on $\partial\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H}$ and can be restricted to the open subset $(\partial\mathbf{H})_{\Delta}^2 := (\partial\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H}) \setminus \Delta(\partial\mathbf{H})$, where $\Delta(\partial\mathbf{H})$ is the diagonal in $\partial\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H}$. Note that G acts transitively on $(\partial\mathbf{H})_{\Delta}^2$ with respect to the diagonal action and that $(\partial\mathbf{H})_{\Delta}^2 \cong G/MA$ as a G -homogeneous space.

Let us denote by $\mathcal{I}_+(\mu)$ and $\mathcal{I}_-(\mu)$ the respective inverse maps of the isomorphisms (4.4), defined on $\text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu)$ by

$$\mathcal{I}_+(\mu) := (\pi_{\Gamma}^*)^{-1} \mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho, +} \circ (P_{\mu})^{-1} \tilde{\pi}_{\Gamma}^*, \quad \mathcal{I}_-(\mu) := (\pi_{\Gamma}^*)^{-1} \mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho, -} \circ (P_{\mu})^{-1} \tilde{\pi}_{\Gamma}^*.$$

THEOREM 5.2. — Let $\mu, \mu' \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^* \setminus \mathbf{Ex}$ and $\varphi_{\mu} \in \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu)$ and $\varphi_{\mu'} \in \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu')$. Then the Patterson–Sullivan distribution $\text{PS}_{\varphi_{\mu}, \varphi_{\mu'}}$ descends to $S\mathbf{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M$ and is given by

$$(5.1) \quad \text{PS}_{\varphi_{\mu}, \varphi_{\mu'}} = \mathcal{I}_+(\mu)(\varphi_{\mu}) \cdot \mathcal{I}_-(\mu')(\overline{\varphi_{\mu'}}).$$

Here the product of the distributions $\mathcal{I}_+(\mu)(\varphi_{\mu})$ and $\mathcal{I}_-(\mu')(\overline{\varphi_{\mu'}})$ is well defined by the wavefront condition. The descended Patterson–Sullivan distribution will be denoted by $\text{PS}_{\varphi_{\mu}, \varphi_{\mu'}}^{\Gamma}$.

Proof. — We will prove the statement for the corresponding Γ -invariant distributions on G/M . Let $\tilde{\varphi}_{\mu} \in \mathcal{E}_{\mu}(G/K)$ and $\tilde{\varphi}_{\mu'} \in \mathcal{E}_{\mu'}(G/K)$ be the lifted Laplace eigenfunctions. Then the lift of the left hand side of (5.1) simply becomes $\text{PS}_{\tilde{\varphi}_{\mu}, \tilde{\varphi}_{\mu'}}$, while the right hand side becomes

$$\left[[\mathcal{Q}_{\mu'-\rho, -} \circ (\mathcal{P}_{\mu'})^{-1}] (\overline{\tilde{\varphi}_{\mu'}}) \cdot [\mathcal{Q}_{\mu-\rho, +} \circ (\mathcal{P}_{\mu})^{-1}] (\tilde{\varphi}_{\mu}) \right] (d(gM)) \in \mathcal{D}'(G/M).$$

Note that with the diffeomorphism

$$\Psi : \begin{cases} G/M & \rightarrow & A \times (\partial\mathbf{H})_{\Delta}^2 \\ gM & \mapsto & (a(g), B_+(gM), B_-(gM)) \end{cases}$$

we can write the G invariant measure $d(gM)$ as

$$d(gM) = e^{2\rho(H(g)+H(gw))} (\Psi^{-1})_*(da db db').$$

In fact, in view of $G/MA \cong (\partial\mathbf{H})_{\Delta}^2$ and the description of the K -invariant measures on $G/P \cong K/M$ and $G/\overline{P} \cong K/M$ this follows from

$$\int_{G/M} f(gM) d(gM) = \int_{G/MA} \int_A f(gaM) da d(gMA)$$

and $\Psi(gaM) = (a(g)a, B_+(gM), B_-(gM))$. Now inserting the expressions for $\mathcal{Q}_{\lambda, \pm}$ from (3.15) and replacing the measure, we obtain for the right-hand-side

$$e^{(\mu+\rho)H(g)+(\mu'+\rho)H(gw)}(\Psi^{-1})_* \left(da \otimes [\mathcal{P}_\mu^{-1}(\tilde{\varphi}_\mu)](db) \otimes [\mathcal{P}_{\mu'}^{-1}(\tilde{\varphi}_{\mu'})](db') \right).$$

This is exactly the Patterson–Sullivan distribution as defined in Definition 5.1. \square

6. A pairing formula for Ruelle resonant states

Let us normalize the Haar measure⁽⁴⁾ on \bar{N} by $\int_{\bar{N}} e^{-2\rho H(\bar{n})} d\bar{n} = \text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^{n-1})$. Now we can define the Harish–Chandra c -function as the holomorphic function given by the convergent integral for $\text{Re}(z) > 0$

$$(6.1) \quad c(z) := \int_{\bar{N}} e^{-(\rho+z)H(\bar{n})} d\bar{n}.$$

It has a meromorphic continuation to $z \in \mathbb{C}$ (see e.g. [Hel84, IV.6]) which is given by

$$c(\lambda \| \alpha_0 \|) = c_0 \frac{2^{-\lambda} \Gamma(\lambda)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}m_{\alpha_0} + 1 + \lambda\right)\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{2}m_{\alpha_0} + m_{2\alpha_0} + \lambda\right)\right)},$$

where

$$c_0 = \frac{\pi^{n/2} 2^{1+\frac{1}{2}m_{\alpha_0}+m_{2\alpha_0}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}(m_{\alpha_0} + m_{2\alpha_0} + 1)\right)}{\Gamma(n/2)}.$$

One easily checks that the zeros and poles of the c -function are contained in the real line.

THEOREM 6.1. — *Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-\rho - \mathbb{N}_0 \alpha_0\}$ be a Ruelle resonance in the first band and let $v \in \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda)$ and $v^* \in \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda)$ be some associated resonant/co-resonant states. Then we have*

$$\int_{\mathbf{M}} \pi_{0*}(v) \pi_{0*}(v^*) dx = c(\rho + \lambda) v \cdot v^* [1_{S\mathbf{M}}].$$

The product $v \cdot v^*$ is well defined by the wavefront set properties of v and v^* and can be paired with the constant one function $1_{S\mathbf{M}}$.

As a direct consequence of Theorem 6.1 we obtain that for two quantum eigenstates $\varphi, \varphi' \in \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu)$ the normalization of the corresponding Patterson–Sullivan distribution is given by

$$\text{PS}_{\varphi, \varphi'}[1_{S\mathbf{M}}] = \frac{1}{c(\mu)} \langle \varphi, \varphi' \rangle_{L^2(\mathbf{M})}.$$

Furthermore, the pairing formula allows to relate the invariant Ruelle distributions (defined in (2.1)) to Patterson–Sullivan distributions:

⁽⁴⁾This normalization is slightly different from normalizations common in the literature of symmetric spaces, where one has $c(\rho) = 1$. We have chosen this normalization such that they give simple formulas in our geometric context.

COROLLARY 6.2. — *Let $r > 0$ such that $-\rho + ir$ is a Ruelle resonance of multiplicity m in the first band. Then $\rho^2 + r^2$ is an eigenvalue of $\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}$ with multiplicity m and, for an L^2 -orthonormal basis $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_m$ of $\text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(ir)$, we have*

$$\mathcal{T}_{-\rho+ir} = \frac{c(ir)}{m} \sum_{l=1}^m \text{PS}_{\varphi_l, \varphi_l}.$$

Proof. — Via the quantum-classical correspondence (Theorem 4.5) we define a basis of Ruelle resonant states $u_l := \mathcal{I}_-(ir)(\varphi_l) \in \text{Res}_X(-\rho + ir)$ as well as a basis of co-resonant states $u_l^* := c(ir)\mathcal{I}_+(ir)(\overline{\varphi_l}) \in \text{Res}_{X^*}(-\rho + ir)$. Now the pairing formula (Theorem 6.1) together with the chosen normalization of u_i^* implies the bilinear pairing formula

$$\langle u_i^*, u_j \rangle := \int_{\text{SM}} u_i \cdot u_j^* d\mu_L = \delta_{ij},$$

which means that the basis u_i^* is dual to the chosen basis u_i . By Theorem 4.6 we know that there are no Jordan blocks at the spectral parameter $-\rho + ir$ and thus the spectral projector can be written as $\Pi_{-\rho+ir} = \sum_{l=1}^m u_l \otimes u_l^*$. Now for $f \in C^\infty(\mathcal{M})$ we obtain

$$\mathcal{T}_{\rho+ir}[f] = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{l=1}^m \langle u_l^*, f u_l \rangle = \frac{c(ir)}{m} \sum_{l=1}^m \text{PS}_{\varphi_l, \varphi_l}[f]$$

which completes the proof of Corollary 6.2. \square

So far, pairing formulas like Theorem 6.1 have been shown for compact hyperbolic surfaces [AZ07, Theorem 1.2] and compact real hyperbolic manifolds [DFG15, Lemma 5.10]. We follow the strategy of proof of [DFG15]: first we consider the pairing $\int_{\mathbf{M}} \pi_{0*}(v)\pi_{0*}(v^*)$ with respect to the measure which is obtained by restricting the measure dx on G/K to a Γ -fundamental domain. Then we construct a coordinate transformation on an open dense subset that formally makes the Harish–Chandra c -function appear as an integral over N (see Lemma 6.3). However, as we integrate distributions, we have to cut out an ϵ -neighborhood of the points where the coordinate transformation is not defined and consider the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ (see Lemma 6.4). As in [DFG15] this turns out to be a subtle limit that requires a suitable regularization of divergent integrals. Compared to the constant curvature case there are two major challenges: first, one has to replace the explicit computations in the hyperboloid model in the construction of the coordinate transformations. Second, one has to deal with the fact that the defining integral of the c -function becomes an integral over a non-commutative group N , adding some anisotropy to the regularization process.

6.1. A suitable coordinate transformation

Let us define the double unit sphere bundle $\mathbb{S}^{n-1} \times \mathbb{S}^{n-1} \rightarrow S^2\mathbf{M} \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ as the pullback of $\text{SM} \times \text{SM}$ under the diagonal embedding $\mathbf{M} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{M} \times \mathbf{M}$ (or equivalently as $S^2\mathbf{M} = \{((x, \eta_+), (x', \eta_-)) \in \text{SM} \times \text{SM} \mid x = x'\}$) and equip this bundle with the measure $dx \otimes d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} \otimes d\mu_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}}$ for which we will use the slightly shorter notation $dx d\eta_+ d\eta_-$. Define

$$I := \int_{\mathbf{M}} \pi_{0*}(v)\pi_{0*}(v^*) dx = \int_{S^2\mathbf{M}} v(x, \eta_+)v^*(x, \eta_-) dx d\eta_+ d\eta_-.$$

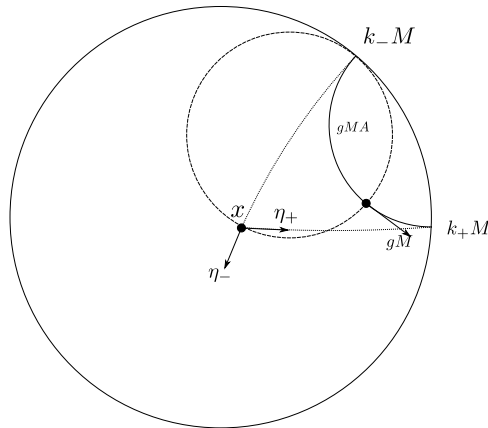


Figure 6.1. The figure visualizes the coordinate transformation for the case $G = SL(2, \mathbb{R})$: A base point $x \in G/K$ can be thought as a point in the Poincaré disk and η_{\pm} are tangent vectors of this point. The points $k_{\pm}M \in K/M$ are the starting and end points through the geodesics, tangent to the vectors η_{\pm} . Except in the case $\eta_+ + \eta_- = 0$ those are two disjoint points on the boundary K/M and they define a unique geodesic which can be interpreted by gMA . On this geodesic, the point gM is by construction chosen such that it is the projection of x along an unstable manifold of the geodesic gMA .

The integral on the right makes sense by the wavefront set properties of v, v^* : indeed, $v \otimes v^* \in \mathcal{D}'(SM \times SM)$ has wavefront set contained in $E_u^* \times E_s^*$ and its restriction to the submanifold $S^2\mathbf{M}$ makes sense since $N^*(S^2\mathbf{M}) \cap (E_u^* \times E_s^*) = \emptyset$ because of the transversality $E_u^* \cap E_s^* = \{0\}$. We furthermore define the open dense subset $S_{\Delta}^2\mathbf{M} := \{(x, \eta_-, \eta_+) \in S^2\mathbf{M} \mid \eta_- + \eta_+ \neq 0\}$. Recall that the unstable bundle $E_u \rightarrow \mathbf{M}$ is given by an associated vector bundle $E_u = \Gamma \backslash G \times_M \mathbf{n}_-$ and, using the exponential map, can be identified with $\Gamma \backslash G \times_M \overline{N}$. We will denote points in E_u by equivalence classes $[g, \overline{n}]$, where $[gm, \overline{n}] = [g, m\overline{n}m^{-1}]$ for all $m \in M$. Thus, any M -conjugation invariant function $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\overline{N})$ defines a function in $C_c^\infty(E_u, \mathbb{C})$, which we also denote by χ . We have:

LEMMA 6.3. — *There is a diffeomorphism $\mathcal{A} : S_{\Delta}^2\mathbf{M} \rightarrow E_u$ such that for any M -conjugation invariant function $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\overline{N})$, any Ruelle resonance $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ in the first band and associated resonant/co-resonant states $v \in \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda)$, $v^* \in \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda)$, we have*

$$(6.2) \quad \int_{S_{\Delta}^2\mathbf{M}} v(x, \eta_-) v^*(x, \eta_+) \chi \circ \mathcal{A}(x, \eta_-, \eta_+) dx d\eta_- d\eta_+ = \int_{SM} v v^* d\mu_L \int_{\overline{N}} e^{-(2\rho+\lambda)H(\overline{n})} \chi(\overline{n}) d\overline{n}$$

Proof. — (For a geometric interpretation of the constructions below, see Figure 6.1). We first give an explicit construction of the diffeomorphism by constructing a left G -invariant diffeomorphism $\tilde{\mathcal{A}} : S_{\Delta}^2\mathbf{H}^n \rightarrow \tilde{E}_u \cong G \times_M \overline{N}$. In a first step consider

the G -equivariant diffeomorphism

$$\mathcal{E} : \begin{cases} S^2\mathbf{H} & \rightarrow & \mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H} \\ (x, \eta_-, \eta_+) & \mapsto & (x, B_-(x, \eta_-), B_+(x, \eta_+)) \end{cases}$$

via the initial and end point maps $B_{\pm} : S\mathbf{H} \rightarrow \partial\mathbf{H}$ from (3.1) and note that it restricts to a diffeomorphism $\mathcal{E} : S^2_{\Delta}\mathbf{H} \rightarrow \mathbf{H} \times (\partial\mathbf{H})^2_{\Delta}$. Furthermore, recall (see e.g. [HS09, Section 2] and [HHS12, Proposition 2.7]) that there is a G -equivariant diffeomorphism

$$(6.3) \quad \mathcal{G} : \begin{cases} G/MA & \rightarrow & (\partial\mathbf{H})^2_{\Delta} \\ gMA & \mapsto & (gwP, gP) \end{cases}$$

after identifying $\partial\mathbf{H} \cong G/P$, where $w = w_-$ denotes a representative of the nontrivial Weyl group element. Note that the map

$$(6.4) \quad \psi : \begin{cases} G \times_M \bar{N} & \rightarrow & G/K \times G/MA \\ [g, \bar{n}] & \mapsto & (g\bar{n}K, gMA) \end{cases}$$

is well defined and left G -equivariant. Furthermore, we can construct an inverse using the $A\bar{N}K$ -decomposition $g = a_{A\bar{N}K}(g)\bar{n}_{A\bar{N}K}(g)k_{A\bar{N}K}(g)$

$$\psi^{-1} : (hK, gMA) \mapsto [ga_{A\bar{N}K}(g^{-1}h), \bar{n}_{A\bar{N}K}(g^{-1}h)].$$

Using these three diffeomorphisms we define $\mathcal{A} := \psi^{-1} \circ \mathcal{G}^{-1} \circ \mathcal{E}$.

It remains to prove (6.2). We clearly have that the left hand side equals

$$\int_{E_u} \mathcal{A}_*(vv^*)\chi(\bar{n})\mathcal{A}_*(dx d\eta_- d\eta_+).$$

Thus, we have to compute the pushforward of the distribution $\mathcal{A}_*(vv^*)$ and the measure $\mathcal{A}_*(dx d\eta_- d\eta_+)$.

Let us first consider the pushforward \mathcal{A}_*v^* : as v^* is a first band co-resonant state, we know by Proposition 3.7 that $v^* = \Phi_+^{\lambda} B_+^* w$ for some distribution $w \in \mathcal{D}'(\partial\mathbf{H})$. If we write $\mathcal{A}(x, \eta_-, \eta_+) = [g, \bar{n}]$, then by the construction of \mathcal{A} we have $B_+(x, \eta_+) = B_+(gM) = k_{KAN}(g)M$ and consequently

$$(\mathcal{A}_*v^*)([g, \bar{n}]) = v^*(x, \eta_+) = e^{\lambda(\beta(x, k_{KAN}(g)M) - \beta(gK, k_{KAN}(g)M))} v^*(gM).$$

Since $x = g\bar{n}K$, we can use (3.6) and (3.10) to simplify this expression to

$$(\mathcal{A}_*v^*)([g, \bar{n}]) = e^{\lambda\beta(\bar{n}k, g^{-1}k_{KAN}(g)M)} v^*(gM) = e^{-\lambda H(\bar{n}^{-1})} v^*(gM).$$

In a similar manner we obtain the equality $(\mathcal{A}_*v)([g, \bar{n}]) = v(gM)$. The latter equality can also be understood geometrically as (x, η_-) and gM lie, by construction, on the same unstable manifold and v is constant along the unstable leaves, because it is a first band co-resonant state.

Next, let us consider the transformation of measures. In analogy to the final step in the proof of Proposition 4.4 we use [Hel84, Lemma I.5.19] to establish the formula

$$\mathcal{E}_*(dx d\eta_- d\eta_+) = e^{2\rho(\beta(x, k_-M) + \beta(x, k_+M))} dx d(k_-M) d(k_+M).$$

Moreover, by the Propositions B.2 and B.3 proved in the appendix, we have

$$\mathcal{G}_* \left(e^{-2\rho(H(g) + H(gw))} d(gMA) \right) = c_{\mathcal{G}} d(k_- M) d(k_+ M)$$

and

$$c_{\psi} \psi_* (d(gM) d\bar{n}) = d(gK) d(gMA).$$

Putting these three transformations together and simplifying the exponents using (3.6) and (3.10) we obtain a constant $c_{\mathcal{A}} > 0$ such that

$$(6.5) \quad \mathcal{A}_*(dx d\eta_- d\eta_+) = c_{\mathcal{A}} e^{-2\rho H(\bar{n}^{-1})} d(gM) d\bar{n}.$$

Because $d\bar{n}$ is invariant under inversion, this establishes (6.2) up to a multiplicative constant. However, this constant is equal to 1 by the choice of the normalizations of the measures. This can be seen by passing to a co-compact quotient and integrating a constant function on both sides of the variable transform. This completes the proof of Lemma 6.3. \square

6.2. Renormalization

The formula of Lemma 6.3 would directly imply the desired pairing formula if we could set $\chi = 1$. However, as v, v^* are distributions, this is not allowed and in fact we see for the important case of taking a Ruelle resonance with $\text{Re}(\lambda) = -\rho$ that the integral over \bar{N} on the right hand side of (6.2) would not converge anymore. We thus have to perform a careful regularization of the appearing quantities.

As a first step we introduce a suitable cutoff function: We take an arbitrary M -conjugation invariant function $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\bar{N})$ which is equal to 1 in a neighborhood of the identity. Then we define for any $\varepsilon > 0$

$$\chi_\varepsilon(\bar{n}) := \chi \left(e^{-\ln(\varepsilon)\check{H}_0} \bar{n} e^{\ln(\varepsilon)\check{H}_0} \right),$$

where $\check{H}_0 := H_0 / \|\alpha_0\|$. Since the conjugation by $\exp(-\ln(\varepsilon)\check{H}_0)$ strictly contracts \bar{N} to the identity, the function χ_ε converges to 1 on compact sets of \bar{N} as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. As M centralizes A , χ_ε is still M -conjugation invariant, so that it defines a function in $C_c^\infty(\Gamma \backslash G \times_M \bar{N}, \mathbb{C})$. After a pullback with \mathcal{A} this function can be identified with a function in $C_c^\infty(S_\Delta^2 \mathbf{M}) \subset C^\infty(S^2 \mathbf{M})$. By abuse of notation we will denote all these instances of the function by χ_ε and it will be clear from the context where the function lives. Having defined χ_ε we can write

$$I = \underbrace{\int_{S_\Delta^2 \mathbf{M}} v(x, \eta_-) v^*(x, \eta_+) \chi_\varepsilon dx d\eta_- d\eta_+}_{=: I_c(\varepsilon)} + \underbrace{\int_{S^2 \mathbf{M}} v(x, \eta_-) v^*(x, \eta_+) (1 - \chi_\varepsilon) dx d\eta_- d\eta_+}_{=: I_0(\varepsilon)}.$$

Note that by this decomposition the term $I_c(\varepsilon)$ can now be treated with the transformation from Lemma 6.3. The idea of taking formally $\chi = 1$ would correspond to considering the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. We will see that in general this limit is defined neither

for $I_c(\varepsilon)$ nor for $I_0(\varepsilon)$. However, we can prove the following important asymptotic expansions.

LEMMA 6.4. — *Given a Ruelle resonance $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-\rho - \mathbb{N}_0\alpha_0\}$ in the first band and corresponding Ruelle resonant/coresonant states $v \in \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda), v^* \in \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda)$, there are nonzero exponents $\beta_\ell \in \mathbb{C}$, $\ell = 1, \dots, \ell_0$ such that for some coefficients $\alpha_\ell \in \mathbb{C}$*

$$(6.6) \quad \left| I_c(\varepsilon) - c(\lambda + \rho) \int_{S^*\mathbf{M}} v v^* d\mu_L - \sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} \alpha_\ell \varepsilon^{\beta_\ell} \right| = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

and for some other set of coefficients α'_ℓ ,

$$(6.7) \quad \left| I_0(\varepsilon) - \sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} \alpha'_\ell \varepsilon^{\beta_\ell} \right| = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon).$$

Remark 6.5. — As we know that $I = I_c(\varepsilon) + I_0(\varepsilon)$ is independent of ε , we directly conclude that for all ℓ with $\text{Re}(\beta_\ell) < 0$ we have $\alpha_\ell = -\alpha'_\ell$ and Theorem 6.1 is a direct consequence of Lemma 6.4.

An important tool in the proof of the expansions (6.6) and (6.7) will be the following differential operator on \overline{N}

$$(Lf)(\overline{n}) := \frac{d}{d\tau} \Big|_{\tau=0} f \left(e^{-\tau \check{H}_0} \overline{n} e^{\tau \check{H}_0} \right), \quad f \in C^\infty(\overline{N}),$$

which satisfies the relation $\varepsilon \partial_\varepsilon \chi_\varepsilon = L\chi_\varepsilon$. Note that for $U_1 \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha}, U_2 \in \mathfrak{g}_{-2\alpha}$ we have

$$(6.8) \quad Lf(\exp(U_1 + U_2)) = \frac{d}{d\tau} \Big|_{\tau=0} f \circ \exp \left(e^\tau U_1 + e^{2\tau} U_2 \right).$$

Thus, the operator L corresponds to a special linear combination of Euler operators on the two different root spaces.

As L commutes with the M -conjugation on \overline{N} we can lift it to a differential operator \tilde{L} with smooth coefficients on $\Gamma \backslash G \times_M \overline{N}$ in the following way:

$$\tilde{L}f([g, \overline{n}]) := \frac{d}{d\tau} \Big|_{\tau=0} f \left([\Gamma g \exp(\tau \check{H}_0), e^{-\tau \check{H}_0} \overline{n} e^{\tau \check{H}_0}] \right).$$

Note that \tilde{L} is not just the differential operator that differentiates along the fibers of $\Gamma \backslash G \times_M \overline{N}$, but it is twisted with a derivative along the geodesic flow on the base space $\Gamma \backslash G/M$. Nevertheless, we still have the property $\varepsilon \partial_\varepsilon \chi_\varepsilon = \tilde{L}\chi_\varepsilon$, where χ_ε is now understood as a function on $\Gamma \backslash G \times_M \overline{N}$. The twist is crucial for the following lemma.

LEMMA 6.6. — *The differential operator $(\mathcal{A}^{-1})_* \tilde{L}$ on the open dense set $S_\Delta^2 \mathbf{M} \subset S^2 \mathbf{M}$ extends to a first order differential operator on $S^2 \mathbf{M}$ with smooth coefficients.*

By abuse of notation we will denote this extended operator on $S^2 \mathbf{M}$ again by \tilde{L} .

Proof. — Just as we did for the definition of \mathcal{A} , we lift everything to \mathbf{H} . By definition the vector field $\mathcal{A}_*^{-1} \tilde{L}$ is smooth on $S_\Delta^2 \mathbf{H}$, so we have to study its behavior near the antidiagonal $\{\eta_- + \eta_+ = 0\} \subset S^2 \mathbf{H}$, and we need some appropriate coordinates for this neighborhood. By the NAK -decomposition we can identify

$S^2\mathbf{H} \cong G/K \times K/M \times K/M \cong G/K \times G/P \times G/P$. The antidiagonal consists of the points (naK, kP, kwP) , $na \in NA, k \in K$, where again w is some representative of the nontrivial Weyl group element. By the Bruhat decomposition $(naK, kP, kw\bar{n}_\Delta P)$ with $na \in NA, k \in K, \bar{n}_\Delta \in \bar{N}$ parametrizes an open neighborhood of the antidiagonal and the antidiagonal corresponds to $\bar{n}_\Delta = e$. We now want to compute how these coordinates are transformed for $\bar{n}_\Delta \neq e$ under the diffeomorphism \mathcal{A} .

The crucial point is that we need an explicit expression for \mathcal{G}^{-1} . This can also be achieved by the Bruhat decomposition which for real rank one implies that $\bar{N}P \subset G$ is open and dense. Given $g \in \bar{N}P$ we define $\bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(g) \in \bar{N}$ to be the unique element such that $gP = \bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(g)P$. Then we can write

$$\mathcal{G}^{-1}(g_1wP, g_2P) = g_1\bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(g_1^{-1}g_2)MA.$$

Putting everything together we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}(naK, kP, kw\bar{n}_\Delta P) &= \psi^{-1}\mathcal{G}^{-1}(naK, nakwP, nakw\bar{n}_\Delta P) \\ &= \psi^{-1}(naK, nak\Omega(\bar{n}_\Delta)MA) = [nak\Omega(\bar{n}_\Delta), \Omega(\bar{n}_\Delta)^{-1}], \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\Omega : \begin{cases} \bar{N} \setminus \{e\} & \rightarrow \bar{N} \setminus \{e\} \\ \bar{n} & \mapsto \bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(w\bar{n}). \end{cases}$$

The inverse transformation reads

$$(6.9) \quad \mathcal{A}^{-1}([g, \bar{n}]) = (g\bar{n}K, k_{NAK}(g\bar{n})P, k_{NAK}(g\bar{n})w\Omega^{-1}(\bar{n}^{-1})P).$$

Now the crucial observation for the smoothness of \tilde{L} is that for any $\bar{n} \in \bar{N}$

$$we^{-\tau\check{H}_0}\bar{n}e^{\tau\check{H}_0}P = e^{\tau\check{H}_0}w\bar{n}P = e^{\tau\check{H}_0}\bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(w\bar{n})P = e^{\tau\check{H}_0}\bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(w\bar{n})e^{-\tau\check{H}_0}P,$$

so that one has $\Omega(e^{-\tau\check{H}_0}\bar{n}e^{\tau\check{H}_0}) = e^{\tau\check{H}_0}\Omega(\bar{n})e^{-\tau\check{H}_0}$ and $\Omega_*L = -L$.

Using this identity and (6.9) we compute the transformation of the global vector field:

$$\begin{aligned} (6.10) \quad & (\mathcal{A}_*^{-1}\tilde{L})f([naK, kP, kw\bar{n}_\Delta P]) \\ &= \frac{d}{d\tau}\Big|_{\tau=0} f\left(\mathcal{A}^{-1}\left[nak\Omega(\bar{n}_\Delta)e^{\tau\check{H}_0}, e^{-\tau\check{H}_0}\Omega(\bar{n}_\Delta)^{-1}e^{\tau\check{H}_0}\right]\right) \\ &= \frac{d}{d\tau}\Big|_{\tau=0} f\left(nake^{\tau\check{H}_0}K, k_{NAK}(ke^{\tau\check{H}_0})P, k_{NAK}(ke^{\tau\check{H}_0})we^{\tau\check{H}_0}\bar{n}_\Delta e^{-\tau\check{H}_0}P\right), \end{aligned}$$

which clearly is smooth in a neighborhood of the diagonal.⁽⁵⁾ □

⁽⁵⁾ Without the derivative along the geodesics in \tilde{L} there would occur a derivative

$$\frac{d}{d\tau}\Big|_{\tau=0} nake^{-\tau\check{H}_0}\Omega(\bar{n})e^{\tau\check{H}_0}$$

or $\mathcal{A}_*^{-1}L$. But near the diagonal in the limit $\bar{n} \rightarrow e, \Omega(\bar{n}) \rightarrow \infty$, so this derivative would diverge. This shows the necessity of the precise choice of \tilde{L} .

Using the smooth vector field \tilde{L} on $S^2\mathbf{M}$ we get the identity $\varepsilon\partial_\varepsilon\chi_\varepsilon = -\tilde{L}(1 - \chi_\varepsilon)$ (for the last equality note that $\tilde{L}1 = 0$). Now integration by parts yields

$$(6.11) \quad \begin{aligned} \varepsilon\partial_\varepsilon I_0(\varepsilon) &= \int_{S^2\mathbf{M}} \left(\tilde{L}^*(vv^*)\right) (1 - \chi_\varepsilon) \, dx \, d\eta_- \, d\eta_+ \\ \varepsilon\partial_\varepsilon I_c(\varepsilon) &= \int_{S^2\mathbf{M}} \left(\tilde{L}^*(vv^*)\right) \chi_\varepsilon \, dx \, d\eta_- \, d\eta_+, \end{aligned}$$

where $\tilde{L}^* = -\tilde{L} - \operatorname{div}_{dx \, d\eta_- \, d\eta_+}(\tilde{L})$ is the L^2 adjoint on $S^2\mathbf{M}$. By virtue of Lemma 6.3 we obtain the alternative expression

$$\varepsilon\partial_\varepsilon I_c(\varepsilon) = \int_{S\mathbf{M}} vv^* \, d\mu_L \cdot \int_{\bar{N}} \left(L^* e^{-2(\rho+\lambda)H(\bar{n})}\right) \chi_\varepsilon(\bar{n}) \, d\bar{n},$$

where $L^* = -L - \operatorname{div}_{d\bar{n}}(L)$ is the L^2 -adjoint on \bar{N} .

The following Lemma 6.7 implies that L is suitable for a regularization at infinity in \bar{n} and \tilde{L} is suitable for a regularization near the antidiagonal in S^2M . In order to formulate it, let us define $\langle \bar{n} \rangle := \|U_1\|^2 + \|U_2\|$ where $\bar{n} = \exp(U_1 + U_2)$, $U_1 \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha_0}$, $U_2 \in \mathfrak{g}_{-2\alpha_0}$.

LEMMA 6.7. — *There are functions $\mathcal{V}_\ell = \mathcal{V}_{\ell,\lambda} \in C^\infty(\bar{N})$ depending polynomially on λ as well as polynomials $\beta_\ell(\lambda)$, $\ell = 1, 2, \dots$ that do not vanish for $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-\rho - \mathbb{N}_0\alpha_0\}$ such that*

$$(6.12) \quad (L^* - \beta_\ell(\lambda))\mathcal{V}_{\ell-1}(\bar{n})e^{-(2\rho+\lambda)H(\bar{n})} = \mathcal{V}_\ell(\bar{n})e^{-(2\rho+\lambda)H(\bar{n})},$$

where we set $\mathcal{V}_0(\bar{n}) = 1$ and for fixed λ the functions \mathcal{V}_ℓ satisfy the uniform pointwise estimate $\mathcal{V}_\ell = \mathcal{O}(\langle \bar{n} \rangle^{-\ell})$ for $\langle \bar{n} \rangle \rightarrow \infty$.

Furthermore $\mathcal{V}_\ell \circ \mathcal{A} \in C^\infty(S_\Delta^2\mathbf{M})$ extends to a smooth function $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\ell \in C^\infty(S^2\mathbf{M})$ that vanishes of order $\mathcal{O}(\langle \bar{n}_\Delta \rangle^\ell)$ at the antidiagonal.⁽⁶⁾ Moreover, if $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{-\rho - \mathbb{N}_0\alpha_0\}$ is a Ruelle resonance in the first band and v, v^* are corresponding resonant/co-resonant states, then

$$(6.13) \quad (\tilde{L}^* - \beta_\ell(\lambda))\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell-1}vv^* = \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\ell vv^*$$

Before we prove Lemma 6.7 let us show how it implies Lemma 6.4:

Proof of Lemma 6.4. — From (6.11) and (6.13) we get

$$\prod_{\ell=0}^{\ell_0-1} (\varepsilon\partial_\varepsilon - \beta_{\ell_0-\ell}(\lambda))I_0(\varepsilon) = \int_{S^2\mathbf{M}} (vv^*) \cdot \left(\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell_0}(1 - \chi_\varepsilon)\right) \, dx \, d\eta_- \, d\eta_+.$$

Recall that $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell_0}$ vanishes to the order ℓ_0 at the antidiagonal and $(1 - \chi_\varepsilon)$ (identified with its pull-back $\mathcal{A}^*(1 - \chi_\varepsilon)$) is supported in an ε -neighbourhood of the antidiagonal, thus $\|(\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell_0}(1 - \chi_\varepsilon))\|_{C(S^2\mathbf{M})} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{\ell_0})$. Furthermore we have $\|(1 - \chi_\varepsilon)\|_{C^k(S\mathbf{M})} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{-k})$, and because $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell_0}$ is vanishing to order ℓ_0 at the antidiagonal and is also C^∞ , the Taylor formula implies that for any smooth k^{th} order differential operator P on $S^2\mathbf{M}$ and $k < \ell_0$ the function $P\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell_0}$ vanishes to order $\ell_0 - k$ at the antidiagonal. Putting everything together we get $\|(\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_{\ell_0}(1 - \chi_\varepsilon))\|_{C^{\ell_0-1}(S^2\mathbf{M})} = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$. As vv^* is a distribution

⁽⁶⁾Recall that the coordinates \bar{n}_Δ near the antidiagonal have been introduced in the proof of Lemma 6.6.

of finite order we get that $\prod_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} (\varepsilon \partial_\varepsilon - \beta_{\ell_0-\ell}(\lambda)) I_0(\varepsilon) = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$ for sufficiently large ℓ_0 depending on the order of vv^* . Consequently, there exist $\alpha_\ell \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$\left| I_0(\varepsilon) - \sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} \alpha_\ell \varepsilon^{\beta_\ell(\lambda)} \right| = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon).$$

Next let us define for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$

$$c_\varepsilon(\lambda) := \int_N e^{-(2\rho+\lambda)H(\bar{n})} \chi_\varepsilon(\bar{n}) \, d\bar{n},$$

which, by [Hel84, Chapter IV.6], converges for $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda) > -\rho$ to $c(\lambda + \rho)$. While the meromorphic continuation of the Harish–Chandra c -function is well-known, we also need a precise asymptotic expansion in powers of ε . To that end we consider (6.12) which implies

$$(6.14) \quad \prod_{\ell=0}^{\ell_0-1} (\varepsilon \partial_\varepsilon - \beta_{\ell_0-\ell}(\lambda)) c_\varepsilon(\lambda) = \int_N e^{-(2\rho+\lambda)H(\bar{n})} \mathcal{V}_{\ell_0}(\bar{n}) \chi_\varepsilon(\bar{n}) \, d\bar{n}.$$

From [Hel78, Theorem IX.3.8] we know that $e^{-(2\rho+\lambda)H(\bar{n})} = \mathcal{O}(\langle \bar{n} \rangle^{-(2\rho+\operatorname{Re}(\lambda)) / \|\alpha_0\|})$. Thus, if we fix $C > 0$, then for sufficiently large ℓ_0 the right side of (6.14) converges to a function $h(\lambda)$ holomorphic on $\{\operatorname{Re}(\lambda) > -C\}$:

$$\prod_{\ell=0}^{\ell_0-1} (\varepsilon \partial_\varepsilon - \beta_{\ell_0-\ell}(\lambda)) c_\varepsilon(\lambda) = h(\lambda) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

and consequently there exist $\alpha'_\ell \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$\left| c_\varepsilon(\lambda) - \frac{h(\lambda)}{\prod_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} \beta_\ell(\lambda)} - \sum_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} \alpha'_\ell \varepsilon^{\beta_\ell(\lambda)} \right| = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon).$$

As we know that the integral defining $c_\varepsilon(\lambda)$ converges for $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda)$ large enough, we get by uniqueness of meromorphic continuation that

$$\frac{h(\lambda)}{\prod_{\ell=1}^{\ell_0} \beta_\ell(\lambda)} = c(\lambda + \rho).$$

This yields (6.6). □

The only remaining task is to prove Lemma 6.7

Proof of Lemma 6.7. — In order to simplify notation let us define $\mathcal{N}(\bar{n}) := e^{\alpha_0 H(\bar{n})}$, $\check{\rho} := \rho / \|\alpha_0\|$ and $\check{\lambda} := \lambda / \|\alpha_0\|$. For $\bar{n} = \exp(U_1 + U_2)$, we then have the explicit expression [Hel78, Theorem IX.3.8]

$$(6.15) \quad \mathcal{N}(\bar{n}) = \left[\left(1 + c \|U_1\|^2 \right)^2 + 4c \|U_2\|^2 \right]^{1/2},$$

where $c = (4m_{\alpha_0} + 16m_{2\alpha_0})^{-1}$. Thus, we have $\mathcal{N}(\bar{n}) \asymp \langle \bar{n} \rangle$ for $\bar{n} \rightarrow \infty$.

We first want to prove the existence of β_ℓ and \mathcal{V}_ℓ fulfilling (6.12) by induction. In order to study (6.12) for $\ell = 1$ we compute

$$L^* \mathcal{N}^{-(2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda})} = \left((2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda}) \frac{L\mathcal{N}}{\mathcal{N}} - 2\check{\rho} \right) \mathcal{N}^{-(2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda})}.$$

Here we used the fact that $(\log)_* d\bar{n}$ is the Lebesgue measure on \mathfrak{n}_- and from the expression of L as an Euler operator (6.8), we get $\operatorname{div}_{d\bar{n}}(L) = 2\check{\rho}$. We are thus led to study the properties of $(L\mathcal{N})/\mathcal{N}$. Using (6.15) we get

$$(6.16) \quad \frac{L\mathcal{N}}{\mathcal{N}} = 2 - \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2},$$

where $\mathcal{Q}(\bar{n}) = 2 + 2c\|U_1\|^2$. Putting everything together we get

$$(6.17) \quad L^* \mathcal{N}^{-(2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda})} = \left(2(\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda}) - (2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda}) \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2} \right) \mathcal{N}^{-(2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda})}.$$

We note that $\frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2} = \mathcal{O}(\langle \bar{n} \rangle^{-1})$ for $\bar{n} \rightarrow \infty$. Thus, we have found $\beta_1(\lambda) = 2(\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda})$ and $\mathcal{V}_{1,\lambda} = -(2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda}) \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2}$. In order to examine (6.12) for $\ell = 2$ we additionally need to compute $L \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2}$. A straightforward computation yields

$$(L + 2) \frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2} = 2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2} \right)^2 - 4 \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}^2}.$$

First of all, both terms on the right hand side are $\mathcal{O}(\langle \bar{n} \rangle^{-2})$. This observation directly implies that \mathcal{V}_2 is $\mathcal{O}(\langle \bar{n} \rangle^{-2})$. Secondly on the right hand side, only powers of $\frac{\mathcal{Q}}{\mathcal{N}^2}$ and $\frac{1}{\mathcal{N}^2}$ appear. This allows for a straightforward induction procedure because all appearing \mathcal{V}_ℓ are some homogeneous polynomials of degree ℓ in the variable $(\mathcal{Q}/\mathcal{N}^2, 1/\mathcal{N}^2)$ with coefficients polynomial in $\check{\lambda}$. Furthermore one checks that $\beta_\ell(\lambda) = 2(\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda} + \ell - 1)$. This establishes the existence of $\beta_\ell, \mathcal{V}_\ell$ fulfilling (6.12).

Let us now turn to (6.13). We note that, as \tilde{L} is a smooth differential operator, we can compute its divergence on $S_\Delta^2 \mathbf{M}$. Using (6.5) as well as the fact that $d\mu_L$ is preserved by the geodesic flow, we compute

$$\operatorname{div}(\tilde{L}) = -2\check{\rho} \frac{L\mathcal{N}}{\mathcal{N}} + \operatorname{div}_{d\bar{n}}(L).$$

Furthermore, using $(\mathcal{A}_*(vv^*))([g, \bar{n}]) = (vv^*)(gM)\mathcal{N}^{-\check{\lambda}}(\bar{n})$ as well as the description of \tilde{L} near the antidiagonal (6.10), we obtain $\tilde{L}(vv^*) = -\check{\lambda} \frac{L\mathcal{N}}{\mathcal{N}}(vv^*)$, whence

$$\tilde{L}^*(vv^*) = \left((2\check{\rho} + \check{\lambda}) \frac{L\mathcal{N}}{\mathcal{N}} - \operatorname{div}_{d\bar{n}}(L) \right) (vv^*).$$

Comparing this equation to (6.17) and recalling $\operatorname{div}_{d\bar{n}}(L) = 2\check{\rho}$ we directly see that we are led to the same recursion as for (6.12) and consequently $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\ell = \mathcal{V}_\ell \circ \mathcal{A}$ on $S_\Delta^2 \mathbf{M}$. The existence of a smooth extension to $S^2 \mathbf{M}$ is obvious by the following global argument: \tilde{L} is a smooth vector field thus its divergence is a smooth function, and all $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\ell$ are built out of derivatives of this divergence. The smoothness can, however, also be seen in the coordinates n, a, k, \bar{n}_Δ around the antidiagonal, which were introduced in the proof of Lemma 6.6. In these coordinates

$$\mathcal{N} = e^{\alpha_0 H(\bar{n}_{\bar{N}P}(w\bar{n}_\Delta))} = e^{\alpha_0(H(\bar{n}_\Delta) - B(w\bar{n}_\Delta))}$$

where $B = \log(a_{\overline{NMAN}})$. Now for $\bar{n}_\Delta = \exp(V_1 + V_2)$, $V_1 \in \mathfrak{g}_{-\alpha_0}$, $V_2 \in \mathfrak{g}_{-2\alpha_0}$ [Hel78, Theorem IX.3.8] gives us

$$e^{\alpha_0 B(w\bar{n}_\Delta)} = \left[c^2 \|V_1\|^4 + 4c \|V_2\|^2 \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

and with a completely analogous computation as above we check the vanishing of the iteratively defined $\tilde{\mathcal{V}}_\ell$. □

7. Equidistribution for Ruelle resonant states

Let us finally draw the desired conclusions concerning the high frequency limits of invariant Ruelle distributions from the explicit relations between Ruelle resonant states and Patterson–Sullivan distributions.

For $\mathcal{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M = SM$ a number $\lambda = -\rho + \mu \in \mathbb{C}$ is a Ruelle resonance of the first band if and only if the complex conjugate $\bar{\lambda}$ is a Ruelle resonance of the first band as well. This follows from the fact that the generating vector field X commutes with complex conjugation. By this symmetry of the spectrum it is enough to consider first band resonances with $\text{Im}(\lambda) \geq 0$, and since we are interested in high frequency limits, we take $\text{Im}(\mu) > 0$. We thus denote by $\lambda_n = -\rho + ir_n \in \mathbb{C}$ a sequence of Ruelle resonances in the first band with $r_n > 0$ and $r_{n+1} > r_n$. We do not want to repeat them according to multiplicity but rather work with the multiplicities $m_n := \dim(\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda_n))$. Now to any subsequence $(r_{k_n})_{n>0} \subset (r_n)_{n>0}$ we can associate the sequence of invariant Ruelle distributions $\mathcal{T}_{\lambda_{k_n}} \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ and we study the weak limits of these sequences.

Then we obtain the following reformulation of Theorem 1.1.

THEOREM 7.1. — *Let $\mathcal{M} = \Gamma \backslash G/M = SM$ the unit tangent bundle of a compact locally Riemannian symmetric space of rank one and $d\mu_L$ the Liouville measure. Then there is a subsequence $(r_{k_n})_{n>0} \subset (r_n)_{n>0}$ of density one, i.e. with*

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{k_n < N} m_{k_n}}{\sum_{n < N} m_n} = 1,$$

such that $\mathcal{T}_{r_{k_n}}$ converges weakly to $d\mu_L$ in $\mathcal{D}'(\mathcal{M})$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Proof. — According to Theorem 4.5 we can associate to each Ruelle resonance $\lambda_n = -\rho + ir_n$ a spectral parameter $\mu_n := ir_n \in \mathfrak{a}_\mathbb{C}^*$ of the Laplacian such that $\dim(\text{Eig}_{\Delta_M}(\mu_n)) = \dim(\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda_n)) = m_n$. For each of these Δ_M -eigenspaces we choose an orthonormal basis $\varphi_{n,l}$ of real-valued functions, where $l = 1, \dots, m_n$. Let $B = \{\varphi_{n,l}\}$ be the set of all these basis vectors. Then the quantum ergodicity theorem of Shnirelman–Zelditch–Colin de Verdière [Shn74, CdV85, Zel87] implies the existence of a density one subsequence such that the Wigner distributions $\mathcal{W}_{\phi,n}$ (see Appendix A for a precise definition) converge towards the Liouville measure. More precisely, we can split B into the disjoint union $B = B^{\text{good}} \cup B^{\text{bad}}$ such that for any sequence in B^{good} the Wigner distributions converge towards the Liouville measure and

$$q_N := \frac{\sum_{n \leq N} m_n^{\text{bad}}}{\sum_{n \leq N} m_n} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty,$$

where $m_n^{\text{bad}} := \#(B^{\text{bad}} \cap \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(ir_n))$. In order to obtain the subsequence r_{k_n} for the convergence of the invariant Ruelle distributions, we remove from the full sequence $(r_n)_{n>0}$ all elements for which $m_n^{\text{bad}}/m_n \geq \epsilon_n$, where $\epsilon_n := (\sup_{k \geq n} q_k)^{1/2}$ is a decreasing sequence converging to 0. Thus, we obtain a subsequence $(r_{k_n})_{n \geq 0}$ for which we have

$$\frac{\sum_{n < N} m_n - \sum_{k_n \leq N} m_{k_n}}{\sum_{n \leq N} m_n} \leq \frac{q_N}{\epsilon_N} \leq \sqrt{q_N}$$

or, equivalently,

$$\frac{\sum_{k_n \leq N} m_{k_n}}{\sum_{n \leq N} m_n} \geq 1 - \sqrt{q_N} \rightarrow 1.$$

Let us finally show the convergence of the subsequence of invariant Ruelle distributions: we fix a Ruelle resonance λ_{k_n} . Then, using the basis $\varphi_{k_n,l}$ and the isomorphism $\mathcal{I}_-(ir_{k_n})$, we define a basis $u_l := \mathcal{I}_-(\mu_{k_n})(\varphi_{k_n,l}) \in \text{Res}_X(\lambda_{k_n})$. Theorem 4.5 implies that u_l is a basis of $\text{Res}_X^0(\lambda_n)$. In addition we define the basis of co-resonant states

$$u_l^* := \frac{1}{\text{PS}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}, \varphi_{k_n,l}}^\Gamma(1)} \mathcal{I}_+(\mu_{k_n})(\varphi_{k_n,l}) \in \text{Res}_{X^*}(\lambda_{k_n}).$$

The pairing of co-resonant states and resonant states is simply given by the pairing of distributions with disjoint wavefront sets, which in turn is the product of the distributions paired with 1. We recall the pairing formula of Theorem 6.1: let $\lambda \in \mathfrak{a}_{\mathbb{C}}^*$ and for $v \in \text{Res}_X^0(\lambda)$, $v^* \in \text{Res}_{X^*}^0(\lambda)$. Then one has the identity

$$(7.1) \quad \langle \pi_{0*} v^*, \overline{\pi_{0*} v} \rangle_{L^2(\Gamma \backslash G/K)} = c(\lambda + \rho) \cdot (vv^*)[1_{S\mathbf{M}}],$$

where $c(\mu) = \int_N e^{-(\mu+\rho)H(nw)} dn$ is the Harish–Chandra c-function.

Thus, the pairing formula together with the chosen normalization of u_i^* implies that $u_i^*[u_j] = \delta_{ij}$, which means, that the basis u_i^* is dual to the chosen basis u_i . By Theorem 4.6 we know that there are no Jordan blocks at the spectral parameter λ_{k_n} , and thus the spectral projector can be written as $\widehat{\Pi}_{k_n} = \sum_{l=1}^{m_{k_n}} u_l \otimes u_l^*$. Now for $f \in C^\infty(\mathcal{M})$ we obtain that

$$\mathcal{T}_{k_n}[f] = \frac{1}{m_{k_n}} \sum_{l=1}^{m_{k_n}} u_l^*[f \cdot u_l] = \frac{1}{m_{k_n}} \sum_{l=1}^{m_{k_n}} \frac{\text{PS}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}, \varphi_{k_n,l}}[f]}{\text{PS}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}, \varphi_{k_n,l}}[1]}$$

If $\tilde{f} \in C_c^\infty(T\mathbf{M})$ is an arbitrary compactly supported function such that $\tilde{f}|_{S\mathbf{M}} = f$, then by [HHS12]

$$\mathcal{T}_{k_n}[f] = \frac{1}{m_{k_n}} \sum_{l=1}^{m_{k_n}} \mathcal{W}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}}[\tilde{f}] + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r_{k_n}}\right).$$

Note that there can still appear some Wigner distributions from the bad eigenfunctions φ_{k_n} that do not converge towards the Liouville measure. However, by the choice of the subsequence, there are only few of them and we can write

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{T}_{k_n}[f] = \\ & \frac{1}{m_{k_n}} \left(\sum_{\varphi_{k_n,l} \in B^{\text{good}} \cap \text{Eig}_{\Delta_\Gamma}(\mu_{k_n})} \mathcal{W}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}}[\tilde{f}] + \sum_{\varphi_{k_n,l} \in B^{\text{bad}} \cap \text{Eig}_{\Delta_\Gamma}(\mu_{k_n})} \mathcal{W}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}}[\tilde{f}] \right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r_{k_n}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

The Wigner distributions in the first sum converge towards the Liouville measure and the contributions of the second sum can be bounded with a standard L^2 estimate (see e.g. [Zwo12, Theorem 5.1]) by

$$|\mathcal{W}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}}[\tilde{f}]| \leq C \sup |\tilde{f}| + \mathcal{O}(1/r_{k_n}).$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{k_n}[f] &= \frac{1}{m_{k_n}} \left(\sum_{\varphi_{k_n,l} \in B^{\text{good}} \cap \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\Gamma}}(\mu_{k_n})} \mathcal{W}_{\varphi_{k_n,l}}[\tilde{f}]_+ \right) + \frac{m_{k_n}^{\text{bad}}}{m_{k_n}} C \sup |\tilde{f}| \\ &\quad + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{r_{k_n}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

But as we have chosen the subsequence such that $\frac{m_{k_n}^{\text{bad}}}{m_{k_n}} \rightarrow 0$, we conclude that in the limit $n \rightarrow \infty$ only the “good” Wigner distributions contribute and we obtain

$$\mathcal{T}_{k_n}[f] \rightarrow \int_{S\mathbf{M}} f \, d\mu_L,$$

concluding the proof of Theorem 7.1. □

Appendix A. Wigner distributions

DEFINITION A.1. — *Let $r > 0, \mu = ir$ and $\varphi \in \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(\mu)$ be an L^2 -normalized eigenfunction of the Laplacian. Then we define the associated Wigner-distribution⁽⁷⁾ $\mathcal{W}_{\varphi} \in C^{-\infty}(T^*\mathbf{M})$ as follows:*

$$\mathcal{W}_{\varphi} : \begin{cases} C_c^{\infty}(T^*\mathbf{M}) & \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \\ a & \mapsto \langle \text{Op}_{1/|\mu|}(a)\varphi, \varphi \rangle_{L^2} \end{cases}$$

Here $\langle \bullet, \bullet \rangle_{L^2}$ is the L^2 -scalar product on \mathbf{M} and for any $\hbar > 0$, $\text{Op}_{\hbar}^w(a)$ is a bounded operator on $L^2(\mathbf{M})$ obtained by a semiclassical Weyl quantization (see e.g. [Zwo12],[DZ19, Appendix E]).

In quantum ergodicity one is then interested in understanding the weak limits of these generalized densities. They have the following important properties.

PROPOSITION A.2. — *Let $r_n > 0$ be the positive real numbers such that the eigenspaces $\text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(ir_n) \neq 0$, where we repeat r_n according to the multiplicity (dimension of $\text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(ir_n)$), and let $\psi_n \in \text{Eig}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}}(ir_n)$ be an associated L^2 -normalized eigenfunction. If there is $\mu \in C^{-\infty}(T^*\mathbf{M})$ as well as a subsequence r_{n_k} such that $\mathcal{W}_{\psi_{n_k}} \rightarrow \mu$ weakly, then μ is a positive Radon measure that is supported on $S^*\mathbf{M}$ and we call it a semiclassical measure.*

Proof. — The fact that the semiclassical limits are positive Radon measures follows from a standard compactness argument (see e.g. [Zwo12, Chapter 5]). For the support on $S^*\mathbf{M}$ see e.g. [Zwo12, Chapter 15]. □

⁽⁷⁾Although they are commonly called distributions, strictly speaking, Wigner distributions are by definition generalized densities. However, the space $C^{-\infty}(T^*\mathbf{M})$ of generalized densities can be identified with the space $\mathcal{D}'(T^*\mathbf{M})$ of distributions via the canonical measure on $T^*\mathbf{M}$.

Appendix B. Transformation formulas

In this appendix we prove the transformation formulas used in the proof of Lemma 6.3.

Let $d(gMA)$ be the G -invariant measure on G/MA which is uniquely determined⁽⁸⁾ by the condition that for all $f \in C_c^\infty(G)$ we have

$$(B.1) \quad \int_G f(g) dg = \int_{G/MA} \int_M \int_A f(gma) da dm d(gMA).$$

The following lemma gives two helpful expressions for $d(gMA)$

LEMMA B.1. —

(i) *There is a constant c_1 such that for all $f \in C_c(G/MA)$*

$$\int_{G/MA} f(gMA) d(gMA) = c_1 \int_K \int_N f(knMA) dn dk$$

(ii) *There is a constant c_2 such that for all $f \in C_c(G/MA)$*

$$\int_{G/MA} f(gMA) d(gMA) = c_2 \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} f(n\bar{n}MA) d\bar{n} dn$$

Proof.

(i) Let $f \in C_c^\infty(G/MA)$ and fix $\chi \in C_c^\infty(A)$ such that $\int_A \chi(a) da = 1$. Using the KNA decomposition we can find a function $\tilde{f} \in C_c^\infty(KN)^M$ such that $f(gMA) = \tilde{f}(k_{KNA}(g)n_{KNA}(g))$. Then by (B.1) we and [Hel84, Corollary I.5.3] we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{G/M} f(gM) &= \int_G \tilde{f}(k_{KNA}(g)n_{KNA}(g)) \chi(a_{KNA}(g)) dg \\ &= c_1 \int_K \int_N \int_A \tilde{f}(kn) \chi(a) da dn dk \\ &= c_1 \int_K \int_N f(knMA) dn dk \end{aligned}$$

(ii) The Bruhat decomposition of G implies that the group multiplication induces a diffeomorphism $N \times \bar{N} \times M \times A \rightarrow N\bar{N}MA$ with $N\bar{N}MA \subseteq G$ open dense and complement of measure zero. It is thus enough to prove the equality for $f \in C_c^\infty(N\bar{N}MA/MA) = C_c^\infty(N\bar{N})$. The equality then follows from [Hel84, Proposition I.5.21], which implies

$$(B.2) \quad \int_G f(g) dg = c_2 \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} \int_M \int_A f(n\bar{n}ma) da dm d\bar{n} dn.$$

□

PROPOSITION B.2. — *There is a constant c_G such that*

$$\mathcal{G}_* d(gMA) = c_G (d_0(kM, k'M))^2 \left(d(kM) \otimes d(k'M) \right) \Big|_{(\partial\mathbf{H})_\Delta^2}.$$

⁽⁸⁾Recall that the measures $dg, da dm$ have been fixed in Section 3.1.

Proof. — Let $f \in C_c^\infty((\partial\mathbf{H})_\Delta^2) \subseteq C^\infty(\partial\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H})$. Lemma B.1 (i), together with [HHS12, Proposition 2.11] and [Hel84, Theorem. 5.20], shows that

$$\int_{(\partial\mathbf{H})_\Delta^2} f d_0^{-2} \mathcal{G}_* d(gMA) = \int_{G/MA} f(gP, gwP) d_0(gP, gwP)^{-2} d(gMA)$$

is actually equal to

$$c_1 \int_K \int_K f(kP, k'P) dk' dk = \int_{\partial\mathbf{H} \times \partial\mathbf{H}} f d(kM) \otimes d(k'M).$$

□

Recall the map $\psi : G \times_M \bar{N} \rightarrow G/K \times G/MA$ from (6.4) and note that

$$\psi^{-1}(G/K \times N\bar{N}MA/MA) = (N\bar{N}MA \times \bar{N})/M \cong N\bar{N}A \times \bar{N}.$$

Let $d(gK)$ be the G -invariant measure on G/K normalized by the Killing metric on G/K . By our choices in Section 3.1 this coincides with the push-forward of the Haar measure on G by the canonical projection $\text{pr}_K : G \rightarrow G/K$. Further, let $\tilde{\text{pr}}_M : G \times \bar{N} \rightarrow G \times_M \bar{N}$ be the canonical projection with respect to the M -action.

PROPOSITION B.3. — *There is a constant $c_\psi > 0$*

$$\left(\psi^{-1}\right)_* \left(d(gK) \otimes d(g'MA)\right) = c_\psi (\tilde{\text{pr}}_M)_*(dg \otimes d\bar{n}).$$

Proof. — For $h \in C_c^\infty(G/K \times N\bar{N}MA/MA) = C_c^\infty(G/K \times N\bar{N})$ we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{G/K \times N\bar{N}MA/MA} h(gK, g'MA) d(gK) \otimes d(g'MA) \\ &= c_1 \int_{G/K} \int_{\bar{N}} \int_N h(gK, n\bar{n}MA) dn d\bar{n} d(gK) \\ &= c_1 c_2 \int_A \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} \int_N h(an'K, n\bar{n}MA) dn d\bar{n} dn' da \end{aligned}$$

using Lemma B.1 (ii). Now, if $\tilde{h} \in C_c^\infty(N\bar{N}MA \times \bar{N})^M = C_c^\infty(N\bar{N}A \times \bar{N})$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{(N\bar{N}MA \times \bar{N})/M} \tilde{h} \left(\psi^{-1}\right)_* (d(gK) \otimes d(g'MA)) \\ &= \int_{G/K \times N\bar{N}MA/MA} (\tilde{h} \circ \psi^{-1}) d(gK) \otimes d(g'MA) \\ &= c_1 c_2 \int_A \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} \int_N (\tilde{h} \circ \psi^{-1}) (an'K, n\bar{n}MA) dn d\bar{n} dn' da \\ &= c_1 c_2 \int_A \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} \int_N \tilde{h}(n\bar{n} a_{A\bar{N}K} ((n\bar{n})^{-1} an'), \bar{n}_{A\bar{N}K} ((n\bar{n})^{-1} an')) dn d\bar{n} dn' da. \end{aligned}$$

We now use Fubini theorem and arrange the integrals such that the dn' integral is the inner integral. Then the invariance of $d\bar{n}'$ by left multiplication implies that the latter integral equals

$$c_1 c_2 \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} \int_A \int_N \tilde{h}(n\bar{n} a_{A\bar{N}K} (\bar{n}^{-1} an'), \bar{n}_{A\bar{N}K} (\bar{n}^{-1} an')) dn' da d\bar{n} dn.$$

Reordering the integrals such that the da integral is the interior integral and using the invariance of da we can transform our expression to

$$c_1 c_2 \int_N \int_{\bar{N}} \int_A \int_N \tilde{h}(n\bar{n} a, (a^{-1} \bar{n}^{-1} a) \bar{n}_{A\bar{N}K}(n')) da dn' d\bar{n} dn.$$

Note that $N \rightarrow \bar{N}$, $n' \mapsto w^{-1}n'w$ is measure preserving. Therefore we can rewrite this integral as

$$c_1 c_2 \int_N \int_A \int_{\bar{N}} \int_{\bar{N}} \tilde{h} \left(n\bar{n}a, \left(a^{-1}\bar{n}^{-1}a \right) \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}} \left(w\bar{n}'w^{-1} \right) \right) d\bar{n}' d\bar{n} da dn.$$

Moreover we have that the map $\nu : \bar{N} \rightarrow \bar{N}, \bar{n} \rightarrow \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}}(w\bar{n}w^{-1})$ has Jacobian equal to one (see Lemma B.4). Thus we obtain

$$c_1 c_2 \int_N \int_A \int_{\bar{N}} \int_{\bar{N}} \tilde{h} \left(n\bar{n}a, \left(a^{-1}\bar{n}^{-1}a \right) \bar{n}' \right) d\bar{n}' d\bar{n} da dn.$$

Using again the Fubini trick, this time with the invariance of $d\bar{n}'$ we obtain

$$c_1 c_2 \int_N \int_A \int_{\bar{N}} \int_{\bar{N}} \tilde{h}(n\bar{n}a, \bar{n}') d\bar{n}' d\bar{n} da dn = c_1 c_2 \int_G \int_{\bar{N}} \tilde{h}(g, \bar{n}') dn' dg,$$

where we use (B.2) for the final equality. In summary we have shown

$$c_1 c_2 \int_{(N\bar{N}MA \times \bar{N})/M} \tilde{h}(\psi^{-1})_* (d(gK) \otimes d(g'MA)) = c_1 c_2 \int_{N\bar{N}A} \int_{\bar{N}} \tilde{h} d\bar{n}' dg.$$

Since ψ is a diffeomorphism so that the measure zero set $G \setminus (N\bar{N}MA)$ gets mapped to a measure zero set, namely $(N\bar{N}AM \times \bar{N})/M$, this proves the claim. \square

LEMMA B.4. — *The diffeomorphism*

$$\nu : \begin{cases} \bar{N} & \rightarrow & \bar{N} \\ \bar{n} & \mapsto & \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}}(w\bar{n}w^{-1}) \end{cases}$$

has Jacobi determinant $|\det D\nu| = 1$.

Proof. — Note that $\tilde{n} = \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}}(w\bar{n}w^{-1})$ implies that there are $\tilde{a} \in A$ and $\tilde{k} \in K$ such that $w\bar{n}w^{-1} = \tilde{a}\tilde{n}\tilde{k}$. But then

$$w^{-1}\tilde{n}w = w^{-1}\tilde{a}^{-1}w\bar{n}w^{-1}\tilde{k}^{-1}w$$

so that $\bar{n} = \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}}(w^{-1}\tilde{n}w)$.

Case 1 Suppose that $w = w^{-1}$. Then $n = \nu(\tilde{n})$, i.e. we have that $\nu = \nu^{-1}$. As a consequence the Jacobian determinant is 1.

Case 2 Suppose that one cannot choose w such that $w = w^{-1}$. Then one can choose w of order 4. The computation above shows that

$$\bar{n} = \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}} \left(ww^{-2}\tilde{n}w^2w^{-1} \right) \nu \left(w^{-2}\tilde{n}w^2 \right).$$

On the other hand, $w = w^{-3}$ so that

$$\nu(\nu(\bar{n})) = \nu(\tilde{n}) = \bar{n}_{AN\bar{K}} \left(w\tilde{n}w^{-1} \right) = \tilde{n} \left(w^{-1} \left(w^{-2}\tilde{n}w^2 \right) w \right) = \nu^{-1} \left(w^{-2}\tilde{n}w^2 \right).$$

Thus we deduce $\nu^4 = \text{Id}$ and the Jacobian determinant is again equal to 1. \square

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