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COLLEGE ON  
REPRESENTATION THEORY OF LIE GROUPS  
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**BOREL - WEIL THEOREM**

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These are preliminary lecture notes, intended only for distribution to participants.

### 1. Complex manifolds.

Let  $\Omega$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . A map  $\phi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$  is said to be holomorphic if for  $i = 1, \dots, m$ , the function  $p_i \circ \phi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a holomorphic (complex valued) function, where  $p_i : \mathbb{C}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  denotes the  $i$ th projection (i.e., if  $\phi = (f_1, \dots, f_m)$  then the functions  $f_i$  are holomorphic).

Let  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  be two open sets in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . A map  $\phi : \Omega_1 \rightarrow \Omega_2$  is said to be a holomorphic diffeomorphism if  $\phi$  is bijective and both  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  are holomorphic.

Let  $M$  be a Hausdorff topological space which we assume to be paracompact. Suppose that we are given an open cover  $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$  of  $M$  and for each  $\alpha$  a homeomorphism

$$\phi_\alpha : U_\alpha \rightarrow \phi_\alpha(U_\alpha)$$

onto an open set  $\phi_\alpha(U_\alpha)$  of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that whenever  $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \neq \emptyset$  the map

$$\phi_\alpha \circ \phi_\beta^{-1} : \phi_\beta(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta) \rightarrow \phi_\alpha(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta)$$

is a holomorphic diffeomorphism. Then we say that  $M$  has a structure of a complex manifold or simply that  $M$  is a complex manifold (of complex dimension  $n$ ). The family of "charts"  $(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)$  is called an atlas. We shall assume that the atlas we have is a maximal atlas in the sense that we can not add more charts to the atlas still preserving the compatibility on the overlaps. Any atlas is contained in a unique maximal atlas.

Let  $M$  be a complex manifold. A function  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is said to be holomorphic if for each  $\alpha$  the function  $f \circ \phi_\alpha^{-1} : \phi_\alpha(U_\alpha) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is holomorphic.

Let  $M$  and  $N$  be complex manifolds and  $\phi : M \rightarrow N$  be a map. We say that  $\phi$  is holomorphic if  $\phi$  is continuous and the following condition is satisfied: let  $\{(U_\alpha, \phi_\alpha)\}$  be an atlas for  $M$  and  $\{(V_\beta, \psi_\beta)\}$  an atlas for  $N$ ; then for each  $(\alpha, \beta)$  with  $W = U_\alpha \cap \phi^{-1}(V_\beta) \neq \emptyset$  the map

$$\psi_\beta \circ \phi \circ \phi_\alpha^{-1} : \phi_\alpha(U_\alpha) \rightarrow \psi_\beta(V_\beta)$$

is holomorphic.

If  $M$  and  $N$  are complex manifolds, a holomorphic diffeomorphism  $\phi : M \rightarrow N$  is a bijective mapping that  $\phi$  and  $\phi^{-1}$  are holomorphic.

If  $M$  (resp.  $N$ ) is a complex manifold of dimension  $m$  (resp.  $n$ ) then  $M \times N$  is in a natural way a complex manifold of dimension  $m + n$ .

### 2. Holomorphic vector bundles.

Let  $M$  be a complex manifold of dimension  $n$ . A holomorphic vector bundle of rank  $m$  over  $M$  is a complex manifold  $E$  of dimension  $m + n$  together with a holomorphic map  $\pi : E \rightarrow M$  such that the following two conditions are satisfied:

(i) For each  $x \in M$ ,  $\pi^{-1}(x)$  has the structure of an  $m$ -dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

(ii) For each  $x \in M$  there exists an (open) neighbourhood  $U$  of  $x$  and a holomorphic diffeomorphism

$$\tau : \pi^{-1}(U) \rightarrow U \times \mathbb{C}^m$$

such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \pi^{-1}(U) & \xrightarrow{\tau} & U \times \mathbb{C}^m \\ \pi \searrow & & \swarrow p_U \\ & U & \end{array}$$

commutes and such that the induced map  $\tau_y : \pi^{-1}(y) \rightarrow y \times \mathbb{C}^m = \mathbb{C}^m$  is a bijective linear map for each  $y \in U$ . ( $p_U : U \times \mathbb{C}^m \rightarrow U$  is the natural projection onto  $U$ ).

The pair  $(U, \tau)$  will be called a local trivialisaton of  $E$ .

If  $x \in X$ , we will denote  $\pi^{-1}(x)$  by  $E_x$  and call it the fibre over  $x$ . Let  $E^* = \coprod_{x \in M} E_x^*$ , where  $E_x^*$  is the dual of the vector space  $E_x$ . Then  $E^*$  has a natural structure of a vector bundle and  $E^*$  will be called the dual bundle of  $E$ . One can also define the tensor product  $E \otimes F$  of two holomorphic vector bundles in an obvious way and this is a holomorphic vector bundle whose rank is the product of ranks of  $E$  and  $F$ .

A holomorphic vector bundle of rank 1 will be called a line bundle.

If  $M$  is a complex manifold, then  $M \times \mathbb{C}^m$  as the structure of a holomorphic vector bundle of rank  $m$ . This bundle is called the trivial bundle of rank  $m$  over  $M$ .

**Remark 2.1.** Let  $M$  be a complex manifold and  $x \in M$ . Let  $\mathcal{O}_x$  be the ring of (germs of) holomorphic functions at  $x$  (i.e. defined in a neighbourhood of  $x$ ). A  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear map  $L : \mathcal{O}_x \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $L(f \cdot g) = L(f)g(x) + f(x)L(g)$  is called a (holomorphic) tangent vector  $x$ . If we denote by  $T_x$  the holomorphic tangent space at  $x$ , then  $\coprod_{x \in M} T_x$  forms an  $n$ -dimensional holomorphic

bundle, the tangent bundle  $T(M)$ . A section of  $T(M)$  is called a holomorphic vector field.

Let  $E$  be a (holomorphic) vector bundle over  $M$ . A section of  $E$  over  $U$  is a holomorphic map  $\sigma : U \rightarrow E$  such that  $(\pi \circ \sigma)(x) = x$  for each  $x \in U$ . The sections of  $E$  over  $U$  form a vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ , if we define  $(\lambda_1 \sigma_1 + \lambda_2 \sigma_2)(x) = \lambda_1 \sigma_1(x) + \lambda_2 \sigma_2(x)$ , where  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2$  are sections over  $U$ . A section of the trivial bundle over  $U$  can be identified with a holomorphic function  $U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^m$  (In fact if  $\sigma(x) = (x, f(x))$ ,  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}^m$ ,  $\sigma$  is identified with  $f$ ).

We shall denote by  $\Gamma(E)$  the vector space of sections of  $E$  over  $M$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $E$  be a holomorphic vector bundle on a compact complex manifold. Then the sections of  $E$  over  $M$  form a finite dimensional vector over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

**Sketch of proof :** Let  $(U_\alpha, \tau_\alpha)$  be local trivialisations of  $E$  such that  $\{U_\alpha\}$  form a finite open covering of  $M$ . Let  $V_\alpha$  be a shrinking of  $U_\alpha$ , that is  $V_\alpha$  is an open cover such that  $\bar{V}_\alpha \subset U_\alpha$ . Let  $\Gamma$  be the space of sections of  $E$  over  $M$ . Let  $s \in \Gamma$ . Over each  $U_\alpha$  the section  $s$  is given by  $m$  holomorphic functions  $(f_1^\alpha, \dots, f_m^\alpha)$ . Let  $b_{\alpha, i} = \sup_{V_\alpha} |f_i^\alpha|$  and put  $\|s\| = \max_{i, \alpha} b_{\alpha, i}$ . This defines the structure of a normed linear space on  $\Gamma$ . By using Montel's theorem one sees that the unit ball in this normed linear space is relatively compact. By a well-known result in functional analysis this implies that  $\Gamma$  is finite dimensional.

**Exercise.** Prove that a holomorphic function on a compact connected complex manifold is constant.

### 3. The Complex projective space and the tautological line bundle.

Consider the set  $\mathbb{P}^n$  of 1-dimensional vector subspaces of  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ . We shall put a structure of an  $n$ -dimensional complex manifold on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . Note that  $\mathbb{P}^n$  can be identified with the quotient space of  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1} - \{0\}$  by the action of  $\mathbb{C}^*$  given by  $(\lambda, v) \mapsto \lambda v$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $v \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} - \{0\}$ . (Two points  $(Z_1, \dots, Z_{n+1})$  and  $(Z'_1, \dots, Z'_{n+1})$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1} - \{0\}$  are equivalent if there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$  with  $\lambda Z_i = Z'_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n+1$ ). We endow  $\mathbb{P}^n$  with the quotient topology. For fixed  $i$  consider the open set  $U_i$  of points  $\underline{a} \in \mathbb{P}^n$  whose representatives are of the form  $(Z_1, \dots, Z_i, \dots, Z_{n+1})$  with  $Z_i \neq 0$ . Then the map  $\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ ,

$$\underline{a} \mapsto \left( \frac{Z_1}{Z_i}, \frac{Z_{i-1}}{Z_i}, \frac{Z_{i+1}}{Z_i}, \dots, \frac{Z_{n+1}}{Z_i} \right) \in \mathbb{C}^n$$

gives a chart. These charts cover  $\mathbb{P}^n$  and are related by holomorphic functions on overlaps. In fact

$$\varphi_i \circ \varphi_j^{-1} : \varphi_j(U_i \cap U_j) = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n \text{ with } z_i \neq 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$$

is given by

$$(z_1, \dots, z_n) \mapsto \left( \frac{z_1}{z_i}, \dots, \frac{1}{z_i}, \dots, \frac{z_n}{z_i} \right).$$

In particular  $\mathbb{P}^1$  is the Riemann sphere  $\mathbb{C} \cup \infty$ .

If  $V$  is a finite dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$  of dimension  $(n+1)$  then the space  $\mathbb{P}(V)$  of 1-dimensional subspaces of  $V$  has a

natural structure of a complex manifold of dimension  $n$ .

If to every 1-dimensional subspace  $\xi$  of  $V$  we associate the vector space  $\xi$  itself as the fibre over  $\xi$  we get a line bundle on  $\mathbb{P}(V)$ , called the tautological line bundle on  $\mathbb{P}(V)$ . More formally, consider the subset  $\mathcal{O}(-1)$  of  $\mathbb{P}^n \times V$  consisting of pair  $(\xi, v)$  with  $v \in \xi$  (recall that  $\xi$  is a subspace of  $V$  and  $v$  is an element of  $V$ ); then  $(\mathcal{O}(-1), \pi)$ , where  $\pi$  is the restriction to  $\mathcal{O}(-1)$ , of the projection of  $\mathbb{P}^n \times V$  to  $\mathbb{P}^n$ , forms a line bundle. The dual line bundle of  $\mathcal{O}(-1)$  will be denoted  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  and called the hyperplane bundle on  $\mathbb{P}(V)$ . We will denote by  $\mathcal{O}$  the trivial line bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^n$  and for an integer  $k > 0$  by  $\mathcal{O}(k)$  the  $k$ -fold tensor product of  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** We have

$$1) \Gamma(\mathcal{O}) \cong \mathbb{C}$$

$$2) \Gamma(\mathcal{O}(k)) \cong S^k(V^*),$$

where  $S^k(V^*)$  denotes the space of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $k$  on  $V$ .

**Sketch of proof.** We may assume  $V = \mathbb{C}^{n+1}$ ,  $n \geq 1$ . We verify that a section of  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  is given by a holomorphic function  $f : \mathbb{C}^{n+1} - \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfying  $f(\lambda Z) = \lambda^n f(Z)$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$ . By a well known result in several complex variables, a holomorphic function of  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1} - \{0\}$  has a unique holomorphic extension to  $\mathbb{C}^{n+1}$  and we denote this extension still by  $f$ . If  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n+1})$ ,

$\alpha_i \geq 0$ ,  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  is a multi-index and  $D^\alpha = \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z_1}\right)^{\alpha_1} \dots \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z_{n+1}}\right)^{\alpha_{n+1}}$  then  $(D^\alpha f)(\lambda z) = \lambda^{k-|\alpha|} D^\alpha f(z)$ , where  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \dots + \alpha_{n+1}$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}^*$ ,  $z \neq 0$ . If  $|\alpha| > k$ , it follows, letting  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  that  $D^\alpha f(z) = 0$ . On the other hand if  $|\alpha| < k$ ,  $D^\alpha f(0) = 0$ . It follows by the Taylor series expansion at 0, that  $f$  is homogeneous polynomial of degree  $k$ .

Remark 3.2. Consider the case  $V = \mathbb{C}^2$ . One knows that all irreducible representations of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  are given by the natural representations of  $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$  on  $S^k(V)$ . By Proposition 3.1,  $S^k(V^*)$  is the space of sections of a line bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . Thus all irreducible representations are realised on the dual of the space of sections of line bundles on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . A generalization of this result to arbitrary complex semi-simple algebras will be the Borel-Weil theorem.

#### 4. Line bundles and mappings into a projective space.

Let  $L$  be a line bundle on a complex manifold  $M$ . We shall say that  $L$  is generated by its sections if the evaluation map  $\Gamma(L) \rightarrow L_x$  is surjective for every  $x \in X$ , where  $L_x$  is the fibre of  $L$  at  $x$  (This is equivalent to requiring that given  $x \in X$  there exists a (holomorphic) section  $s$  of  $L$  with  $s(x) \neq 0$ ).

Proposition 4.1. Let  $M$  be a compact (connected) complex manifold and  $L$  a line bundle on  $M$  generated by its sections. Then there exists a canonical holomorphic map

$$\varphi_L : M \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Gamma(L)^*)$$

where  $\Gamma(L)^*$  is the dual space of the space  $\Gamma(L)$  of sections of  $L$ . (Note that by Theorem 2.1,  $\Gamma(L)$  is finite dimensional).

Proof : Let  $x \in M$ . By hypothesis, the evaluation mapping at  $x$ ,  $\Gamma(L) \rightarrow L_x$  is surjective. Hence the dual mapping  $L_x^* \rightarrow \Gamma(L)^*$  is injective and we define  $\varphi_L(x) \in \mathbb{P}(\Gamma(L)^*)$  to be the image. (The space of sections vanishing at  $x$  is of codimension 1 in  $\Gamma(L)$  and  $\varphi_L(x)$  is the subspace of  $\Gamma(L)^*$  orthogonal to this space).

Let  $s_1, \dots, s_{N+1}$  be a basis of  $H^0(X, L)$  and let  $s_i$  be given, with respect to a trivialisation of  $L$  in a neighbourhood of  $x$ , by the function  $f_i$ . Then it is easily checked that  $\varphi_L$  is given locally by  $Z \rightarrow (f_1(Z), \dots, f_{N+1}(Z))$  in terms of the homogeneous coordinates with respect to the dual basis  $s_1^*, \dots, s_{N+1}^*$ . This proves that  $\varphi_L$  is holomorphic.

Proposition 4.2. With the hypothesis and notation of Proposition 4.1, let  $p : \Gamma(L)^* - 0 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Gamma(L)^*)$  be the canonical projection. Then  $p^{-1}(\varphi_L(M))$  generates the vector space  $\Gamma(L)^*$ .

Proof. Let  $W$  be the vector space generated by  $p^{-1}(\varphi_L(M))$ . To prove that  $W = \Gamma(L)^*$  it is enough to show that if  $s \in \Gamma(L)$  and  $\langle s, w \rangle = 0$ , for every  $w \in W$ , then  $s = 0$ . (Hence  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the pairing between  $\Gamma(L)$  and  $\Gamma(L)^*$ ). If  $\langle s, w \rangle = 0$  for all  $w \in W$ , then in particular, for every  $w \in \varphi_L(x) = L_x^*$ ,  $\langle s, w \rangle = 0$ . But for  $w \in L_x^*$ ,  $\langle s, w \rangle = \langle s(x), w \rangle$  where the pairing on the right is given by the duality between  $L_x$  and  $L_x^*$ . Hence  $s(x) = 0$  for every  $x$  in  $M$ , that is  $s = 0$ .

### 5. Complex Lie groups.

Let  $G$  be a group which has a structure of a complex manifold. We say that  $G$  is a complex Lie group if the map  $G \times G \rightarrow G$ , given by  $(x, y) \mapsto xy^{-1}$  is holomorphic. The left invariant holomorphic vector fields on  $G$  form a complex Lie algebra  $\text{Lie}(G)$ . We shall assume that  $G$  is connected.  $G$  is said to be semi-simple if its Lie algebra is semi-simple.

Examples.  $\text{GL}(n, \mathbb{C})$  is a complex Lie group.  $\text{SL}(n, \mathbb{C})$  is a complex semi-simple Lie group. If  $V$  is a finite dimensional vector space over  $\mathbb{C}$ , then the group  $\text{GL}(V)$  of linear automorphisms of  $V$  is a complex Lie group.

A holomorphic homomorphism  $\rho : G \rightarrow \text{GL}(V)$  is said to be a (holomorphic) representation on  $V$ . A (holomorphic) homomorphism into  $\mathbb{C}^*$  will be called a character.

If  $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  is a holomorphic homomorphism then  $\varphi$  induces a homomorphism of  $\text{Lie}(G_1)$  into  $\text{Lie}(G_2)$ . Conversely if  $G_1$  is simply connected, a homomorphism of  $\text{Lie}(G_1)$  into  $\text{Lie}(G_2)$  is induced by a homomorphism of  $G_1$  into  $G_2$ .

### 6. Homogeneous vector bundles and induced representations.

Let  $G$  be a complex Lie group. If  $H$  is a closed holomorphic subgroup then the left coset space  $G/H$  has a natural structure of a complex manifold. Let  $\rho : H \rightarrow \text{Aut}(V)$  be a finite dimensional holomorphic representation of  $H$ . We will associate to  $\rho$  a holomorphic vector bundle on  $G/H$  and  $G$  will operate on  $E_\rho$  as vector bundle automorphisms

in such a way that the action of an element  $g \in G$  on  $E_\rho$  projects into the natural action of  $g$  on  $G/H$ . The bundle  $E_\rho$  will be called the homogeneous vector bundle associated with  $\rho$ .

Consider on  $G \times V$  the action on the right by  $H$  given by

$$(g, v) \cdot h = (g \cdot h, \rho(g)^{-1}v), \quad g \in G, v \in V, h \in H.$$

The quotient space of  $G \times V$  by this action of  $H$  is in a natural way a holomorphic vector bundle  $E_\rho$  on  $G/H$ . The action of  $G$  (on the left) on  $G \times V$  given by  $g'(g, v) = (g'g, v)$ ,  $g', g \in G, v \in V$  descends to an action of  $G$  on  $E_\rho$  and  $G$  acts on  $E_\rho$  as vector bundle automorphisms. As such,  $G$  also acts on the space of sections of  $E_\rho$ .

This action of  $G$  on  $\Gamma(E_\rho)$  can be made explicit as follows. One first checks that a section of  $E_\rho$  can be identified with a holomorphic function  $f : G \rightarrow V$  satisfying

$$f(gh) = \rho(h)^{-1}f(g), \quad \text{for } g \in G, h \in H.$$

With this identification the action  $\text{Ind}(\rho) = \underline{\rho}$  of  $G$  on  $\Gamma(E_\rho)$  is given by :

$$\underline{\rho}(g)f(x) = f(g^{-1}x), \quad \text{for } x \in G.$$

If  $G/H$  is compact we thus obtain a finite dimensional representation  $\text{Ind}(\rho)$  of  $G$  on  $\Gamma(E_\rho)$ . The representation  $\text{Ind}(\rho)$  will be called the representation induced by  $\rho$ .

Remark 6.1. Note that if  $\underline{e}$  denotes the coset  $(H)$ , then the group  $H$  acts on the fibre of  $E_\rho$  at  $\underline{e}$  and we thus get a representation of  $H$  on  $(E_\rho)_{\underline{e}}$ .

We claim that this representation of  $H$  is equivalent to  $\rho$ . In fact let  $q$  be the canonical map  $G \times V \rightarrow E_\rho$ . Consider the isomorphism  $\psi : V \rightarrow (E_\rho)_\underline{e} = \text{fibre of } E_\rho \text{ at } \underline{e}$ , given by  $v \mapsto q(e, v)$  for  $v \in V$ , where  $e$  is the identity element of  $G$ . If  $h \in H$ , then the image of  $\rho(h)v$  under  $\psi$  is  $q(e, \rho(h)v) = q(h \cdot h^{-1}, \rho(h)v) = q(h, v)$ . But the action of  $h$  on  $(E_\rho)_\underline{e}$  is induced by the map  $(g, v) \rightarrow (hg, v)$  and hence  $h \cdot q(e, v) = q(h, v)$ . Thus  $\psi$  commutes with the actions of  $H$  on  $V$  and  $(E_\rho)_\underline{e}$ . This proves the claim.

We will be concerned in the sequel only with the case where  $\rho$  is one dimensional, that is, where  $\rho$  is a character  $\chi$ .

#### 7. Homogeneous line bundles and representations of semi-simple groups : Borel-Weil Theorem.

Let  $G$  be a complex semi-simple Lie group and  $\mathfrak{g}$  its Lie algebra. Let  $\mathfrak{h}$  be a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\phi$  the system of roots with respect to  $\mathfrak{h}$ . We set

$$\mathfrak{n}^+ = \sum_{\alpha > 0} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha, \quad \mathfrak{n}^- = \sum_{\alpha < 0} \mathfrak{g}^\alpha, \quad \alpha \in \phi.$$

Then  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{n}^- \oplus \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{n}^+$ . We denote by  $\mathfrak{b}$  the subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{n}^+$ . Let  $H$  (resp.  $B$ ) be the subgroup of  $G$  corresponding to  $\mathfrak{h}$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{b}$ ). Then  $H$  and  $B$  are closed complex subgroups of  $G$  and  $H \simeq (\mathbb{C}^*)^l$ . (Any conjugate of  $B$  is called a Borel subgroup of  $G$ ). Moreover the complex manifold  $G/B$  is compact. In fact, for a suitable maximal compact subgroup  $K$ , we have  $G/B = K/T$ , where  $T$  is the maximal torus of  $K$ .

Example. Let  $G = \text{SL}(n, \mathbb{C})$ . By a flag in  $\mathbb{C}^n$  we mean sequence of subspaces  $L_1, \dots, L_n$  of  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that  $L_1 \subset L_2 \subset \dots \subset L_n = \mathbb{C}^n$ , with  $\dim L_i = i$ . Let  $B$  be the upper triangular subgroup of  $\text{SL}(n)$  consisting of matrices in  $\text{SL}(n)$  whose elements below the diagonal are zero. Note that  $\text{SL}(n)$  acts on the flags in an obvious way. It is clear see that  $G/B = \text{space } F \text{ of flags in } \mathbb{C}^n$ . It is easy to see that  $\text{SU}(n)$  acts transitively on  $F$ .

Let  $\rho$  be a representation of  $G$  on a finite dimensional vector space  $V$ . If  $\xi$  is a 1-dimensional subspace left invariant by  $B$ , we will call  $\xi$  a primitive subspace and the character of  $B$  given by the representation on  $\xi$ , a dominant weight. It is known that every finite dimensional representation has a primitive subspace  $\xi$  and that on the  $G$ -subspace spanned by  $\xi$  the representation of  $G$  is irreducible. Moreover if  $\rho$  is irreducible there is a unique primitive subspace and the corresponding dominant weight will be called the highest weight of  $\rho$ .

Theorem 7.1. Let  $\chi$  be a character of  $B$  and let  $L$  denote the homogeneous line bundle on  $G/B$  associated to the homomorphism  $\chi^{-1} : B \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$ . Assume that  $L$  has a non-zero section. Then the representation on  $\Gamma(L)^*$ , dual to the induced representation of  $G$  on  $\Gamma(L)$ , is irreducible and has highest weight  $\chi$ .

Corollary 7.2. The induced representation on  $\Gamma(L)$  is irreducible.

Proof of Theorem 7.1. The action of an element  $g \in G$  on  $E_\rho$  as a line bundle automorphism projects into the natural action of  $g$  on  $G/H$ . Since

$G$  acts transitively on  $G/H$  and the line bundle has a non-zero section, it follows that the sections of  $L$  generate  $L$ . Let  $\varphi : G/B \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(\Gamma(L)^*)$  be the associated holomorphic map (Proposition 4.1). If  $\underline{e} \in G/B$  is the point corresponding to the coset  $B$ , then  $\varphi(\underline{e}) = L_{\underline{e}}^*$ , where  $L_{\underline{e}}$  is the fibre at  $\underline{e}$  (see the proof of Proposition 4.1). By Remark 6.1,  $B$  acts on the fibre  $L_{\underline{e}}$  by the character  $\chi^{-1}$ ; we see that under the dual representation  $B$  leaves the subspace  $L_{\underline{e}}^*$  invariant and acts by the character  $\chi$ . Thus  $\varphi(\underline{e})$  is a primitive subspace with dominant weight  $\chi$ . Since  $\varphi(G/B) = G(\varphi(\underline{e}))$  we see, using Proposition 4.2, that  $\Gamma(L)^*$  is generated by  $G(\varphi(\underline{e}))$ . Hence by the result on  $G$ -modules generated by primitive elements recalled above, the dual representation is irreducible and its highest weight is clearly  $\chi$ .

**Theorem 7.3.** Let  $\rho$  be a finite dimensional (holomorphic) irreducible representation of  $G$ . Then  $\rho$  is equivalent to the dual of the induced representation of  $G$  on a homogeneous line bundle  $L$  on  $G/B$ .

**Proof.** Let  $\xi$  be a primitive subspace of the representation space  $V$  and  $\chi$  be the corresponding dominant weight. Consider the map  $G/B \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(V)$  given by  $g \mapsto g\xi$ . For  $\lambda \in V^*$  consider the function  $f_\lambda$  on  $G$  given by  $f_\lambda(g) = \langle \lambda, \rho(g)v \rangle$ . For  $b \in B$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_\lambda(gb) &= \langle \lambda, \rho(gb)v \rangle = \langle \lambda, \rho(g)\rho(b)v \rangle = \langle \lambda, \chi(b)\rho(g)v \rangle \\ &= \chi(b) f_\lambda(g). \end{aligned}$$

Let  $L$  be the line bundle associated to the character  $b \mapsto \chi^{-1}(b)$ . Then,

since  $f_\lambda(gb) = \chi(b)f_\lambda(g)$ , we see that  $f_\lambda$  is a section of  $L$  (see § 6). Thus we have a linear map  $\psi : V^* \rightarrow \Gamma(L)$  given by  $\lambda \mapsto f_\lambda$ . The map  $\psi$  is non-zero, because the  $G$ -span of  $\xi$  is the whole of  $V$ , as  $\rho$  is an irreducible representation. We shall show that  $\psi$  commutes with the representation  $\rho^*$  on  $V^*$  and the induced representation,  $\text{Ind}$ , on  $\Gamma(L)$ ; this will prove the theorem by Schur's lemma, as the induced representation on  $\Gamma(L)$  is irreducible (Corollary 7.2). Now for  $g', g \in G$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ind}(g')(f_\lambda(g)) &= f_\lambda(g'^{-1}g) = \langle \lambda, \rho(g'^{-1}g)v \rangle \\ &= \langle \lambda, \rho(g'^{-1})\rho(g)v \rangle \\ &= \langle {}^t\rho(g'^{-1})\lambda, \rho(g)v \rangle \end{aligned}$$

which proves that  $(\text{Ind } g') \cdot \psi(\lambda) = \psi(\rho^*(g')\lambda)$  where  $\rho^*$  is the representation dual to  $\rho$ . Q.E.D.

Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be a semi-simple Lie algebra,  $\mathfrak{h}$  a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\Phi^+$  a system of positive roots. Let  $\omega$  be a dominant integral form on  $\mathfrak{h}$ , that is,  $\omega(H_\alpha)$  is a non-negative integer for each  $\alpha \in \Phi^+$ . Let  $G$  be a simply connected complex semi-simple group with  $\mathfrak{g}$  as its Lie algebra. Then it is known that  $\omega$  is the differential of a character  $\chi_0$  of the subgroup  $H$  corresponding to  $\mathfrak{h}$ . We extend  $\chi_0$  to a character  $\chi$  of  $B$  by putting  $\chi(u) = 1$  for  $u \in U$  where  $U$  is the subgroup corresponding to  $\mathfrak{u}^+$ . With this notation we have

**Theorem 7.4.** Let  $G$  be a simply connected semi-simple Lie group with Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Let  $\omega$  be a dominant integral linear form on  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\chi$  the

corresponding character on the Borel subgroup  $B$ . Let  $L$  be the homogeneous line bundle on  $G/B$  associated to the character  $\chi^{-1}$ . Then the representation of  $G$  on  $\Gamma(L)^*$  dual to the induced representation on  $\Gamma(L)$  is irreducible and the associated representation of  $\mathfrak{g}$  on  $\Gamma(L)^*$  is irreducible with highest weight  $\omega$ .

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