

7. On a Relation between Characters of Discrete and Non-Unitary Principal Series Representations

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§ 1. Introduction. For the general linear group $G=SL(2, R)$, it was proved by I. M. Gelfand and M. I. Graev, N. Ya Vilenkin in [6] that the quotient representation of certain non-unitary principal series representations by its finite dimensional invariant subrepresentation is infinitesimally equivalent to a representation which belongs to the discrete series.

Our purpose is to prove a similar relation for any group G satisfying the following conditions:

(C.1) G is a connected real simple Lie group.

(C.2) There is a simply connected complex simple Lie group G_c which is the complexification of G .

(C.3) The symmetric space G/K is of rank one and G has a compact Cartan subgroup, where K denotes the maximal compact subgroup of G .

In § 3, we prove the relation using the explicit character formulas for the representations in discrete series and in non-unitary principal series obtained by Harish-Chandra ([2], [4], [5]).

In § 4, we state some results for $G=Spin(2l, 1)$ ($l \geq 1$) using Theorem 1.

§ 2. Preliminaries. Let G be a Lie group satisfying conditions C.1, C.2 and C.3 with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} . We shall always denote by \mathfrak{g}_c the complexification of Lie sub-algebra \mathfrak{g} of \mathfrak{g} . By C.2, \mathfrak{g}_c is the Lie algebra of G_c .

Let $\mathfrak{g}=\mathfrak{k}+\mathfrak{p}$ be a Cartan decomposition and K be the analytic subgroup of G whose Lie algebra is \mathfrak{k} . We shall fix a Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{h}(\subset \mathfrak{k})$ of \mathfrak{g} . Let Ω be the non-zero root system of \mathfrak{g}_c with respect to \mathfrak{h}_c . For any root α , we can select a root vector X_α such that $B(X_\alpha, X_{-\alpha})=1$ (Where B is the Killing form of \mathfrak{g}_c). As usual we identify \mathfrak{h}_c with the dual space of \mathfrak{h}_c by the relation $\lambda(H)=B(H, H_\lambda)$ and denote $(\lambda, \mu)=B(H_\lambda, H_\mu)$ for two linear functions λ, μ on \mathfrak{h}_c . Then we have $[X_\alpha, X_{-\alpha}]=H_\alpha$ for any root $\alpha \in \Omega$. For a fixed non-compact root γ , we select a compatible ordering in dual space of RH_γ and $\sqrt{-1}b$ such that $\gamma > 0$. Put