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A NUMERICAL CRITERION FOR ADMISSIBILITY OF SEMI-SIMPLE ELEMENTS

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Abstract. In this article, we shall generalize a theorem of Cattani and Kaplan on horizontal representations of SL(2). Their theorem plays an important role in the construction of their partial compactifications of the classifying spaces D modulo an arithmetic subgroup of Hodge structures of weight 2.

Introduction. A horizontal SL_2 -representation is a generalization of the notion of "(H₁)-homomorphism" of SL_2 in the case of the classical theory of Hermitian symmetric domains (cf., e.g., [Sa, III]). More precisely, let $G = G_R := \operatorname{Aut}(H_R, S)$ be the automorphism group of the classifying space D of Hodge structures of weight w (see §1). A representation $\rho: SL_2(R) \to G$ is said to be *horizontal* at $r \in D$ if the morphism $\rho_*: \mathfrak{sl}_2(R) \to \mathfrak{g}$ of the Lie algebras is a morphism of Hodge structures of type (0, 0) with respect to the Hodge structures on $\mathfrak{sl}_2(C)$ and \mathfrak{g}_C induced by $i \in U:=$ (upper-half plane) and $r \in D$ respectively (see Definition (2.1)). In this case, the pair (ρ, r) is uniquely determined by the pair $(Y, r) \in \mathfrak{g} \times D$ with

(0.1)
$$Y := \rho_* \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Conversely, a pair $(Y, r) \in g \times D$ is said to be *admissible* if there exists a representation $\rho : SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \to G$ horizontal at r and satisfying (0.1). The main result in the present article is a numerical criterion for admissibility of a pair (Y, r) in the case of general weight.

Given a pair (ρ, r) as above, one can refine the Hodge decomposition $H_{\mathbf{c}} = \bigoplus H_{\mathbf{r}}^{p,q}$, corresponding to $r \in D$, under the horizontal action of $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{C})$ at r, called a *Hodge*- (Z, X_{\pm}) decomposition (see (2.7)). Our proof of the main result is based on an elementary but useful observation (Corollary (2.11), see also Remark (2.12)), which says that the transformation of the Hodge- (Z, X_{\pm}) decomposition by the inverse c^{-1} of the Cayley element

$$c := \rho \left(\exp \frac{\pi i}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

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yields a split mixed Hodge structure, called a mixed Hodge- (Y, N_{\pm}) decomposition, which is nothing but the limiting mixed Hodge structure of the associated SL_2 -orbit $\tilde{\rho}: U \rightarrow D$ defined by $\tilde{\rho}(gi):=\rho(g)r$ for $g \in SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ (cf. [Sc, Theorem (6.16)] and its proof). By virtue of this observation, we can view the relationship between the pairs (ρ, r) and (Y, r) from a better perspective, and generalize a numerical criterion [CK, Theorem (2.22)] for admissibility of (Y, r) in the case of weight 2 to the case of general weight.

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1. **Preliminaries.** We recall first the definition of a (polarized) Hodge structure of weight w. Fix a free Z-module H_z of finite rank. Set $H_Q := Q \otimes H_Z$, $H = H_R := R \otimes H_Z$ and $H_C := C \otimes H_Z$, whose complex conjugation is denoted by σ . Let w be an integer. A Hodge structure of weight w on H_C is a decomposition

(1.1)
$$H_{c} = \bigoplus_{p+q=w} H^{p,q} \quad \text{with} \quad \sigma H^{p,q} = H^{q,p}.$$

The integers

 $h^{p,q} := \dim H^{p,q}$

are called the Hodge numbers.

A polarization S for a Hodge structure (1.1) of weight w is a non-degenerate bilinear form on H_{Q} , symmetric if w is even and skew-symmetric if w is odd, such that its C-bilinear extension, denoted also by S, satisfies

(1.3)
$$S(H^{p,q}, \sigma H^{p',q}) = 0 \quad \text{unless} \quad (p,q) = (p',q'),$$
$$i^{p-q}S(v,\sigma v) > 0 \quad \text{for all} \quad 0 \neq v \in H^{p,q}.$$

REMARK (1.4). In the geometric case, i.e., the Hodge structure on the w-th cohomology group $H^w(X, Q)$ of a smooth projective variety $X \subset \mathbb{P}^N$ of dimension d over C, we take as a polarization

$$S(u,v):=(-1)^{w(w-1)/2}\int_X u\wedge v\wedge \eta^{d-w}$$

for primitive classes $u, v \in H^w_{\text{prim}}(X, \mathbb{C}) \simeq H^w_{\text{prim}}(X, \Omega^1_X)$ where $\eta \in H^1(X, \Omega^1_X)$ is the cohomology class of a hyperplane section of X.

For fixed S and $\{h^{p,q}\}$, the classifying space D for Hodge structures and its "compact dual" \check{D} are defined by

$$\vec{D} := \{\{H^{p,q}\} | \text{Hodge structure on } H_c \text{ with } \dim H^{p,q} = h^{p,q}, \text{ satisfying the first condition in (1.3)} \},$$

 $D := \{ \{H^{p,q}\} \in \check{D} \mid \text{satisfying also the second condition in (1.3)} \}.$

These are homogeneous spaces under the natural actions of the groups

(1.6)
$$G_{\boldsymbol{c}} := \operatorname{Aut}(H_{\boldsymbol{c}}, S), \qquad G = G_{\boldsymbol{R}} := \{g \in G_{\boldsymbol{c}} \mid gH_{\boldsymbol{R}} = H_{\boldsymbol{R}}\},$$

respectively. Taking a reference point $r \in D$, one obtains identifications

(1.7)
$$\check{D} \simeq G_c / B_c$$
, $D \simeq G / V$,

where B_c and V are the isotropy subgroups of G_c and of G at $r \in D$, respectively. It is a direct consequence of the definition that

(1.8)
$$G \simeq \begin{cases} O(2h,k), \\ \operatorname{Sp}(2h,\mathbf{R}), \end{cases} V \simeq \begin{cases} U(h^{w,0}) \times \cdots \times U(h^{t+1,t-1}) \times O(h^{t,t}) & \text{if } w = 2t, \\ U(h^{w,0}) \times \cdots \times U(h^{t+1,t}) & \text{if } w = 2t+1, \end{cases}$$

where $k := \sum_{|j| \le [t/2]} h^{t+2j,t-2j}$ and $h := (\dim H - k)/2$ if w = 2t, and $h := \dim H/2$ if w = 2t + 1. It is an important observation that V is compact, but not maximal compact in general. Hence D is a symmetric domain of Hermitian type if and only if

$$h^{p,q} = 0 \quad \text{unless} \ (p,q) = \begin{cases} (t+1,t-1), & (t,t) \quad \text{or} \quad (t-1,t+1), \\ \text{and} \quad h^{t+1,t-1} = 1 \quad \text{if} \quad w = 2t, \\ (t+1,t) \quad \text{or} \quad (t,t+1) \quad \text{if} \quad w = 2t+1. \end{cases}$$

A reference Hodge structure $r = \{H_r^{p,q}\} \in D$ induces a Hodge structure of weight 0 on the Lie algebra $g_c := \text{Lie } G_c$ by

(1.10)
$$\mathfrak{g}_{\boldsymbol{c}}^{s,-s} := \left\{ X \in \mathfrak{g}_{\boldsymbol{c}} \middle| X H_{\boldsymbol{r}}^{p,q} \subset H_{\boldsymbol{r}}^{p+s,g-s} \text{ for all } p,q \right\}.$$

One can define the associated Cartan involution θ_r on g_c by

(1.11)
$$\theta_r(X) := \sum_s (-1)^s X^{s,-s} \quad \text{for} \quad X = \sum_s X^{s,-s} \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mathfrak{C}} = \bigoplus_s \mathfrak{g}_{\mathfrak{C}}^{s,-s}.$$

This can be interpreted in the following way: Set

(1.12)
$$H_r^+ := H_r^{w,0} \oplus H_r^{w-2,2} \oplus H_r^{w-4,4} \oplus \cdots, \\ H_r^- := H_r^{w-1,1} \oplus H_r^{w-3,3} \oplus H_r^{w-5,5} \oplus \cdots$$

It is clear by definition that the isotropy subgroup of the decomposition $H_c = H_r^+ \oplus H_r^$ induces the maximal compact subgroup

(1.13)
$$K \simeq \begin{cases} O(2h) \times O(k) & \text{if } w = 2t, \\ U(h) & \text{if } w = 2t+1 \end{cases}$$

of G which contains V, and the Cartan involution θ_r in (1.11) is the one associated to

K. Define a C-linear automorphism

(1.14)
$$E_r: H_c \to H_c \quad \text{by} \quad E_r: = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{on } H_r^+, \\ -1 & \text{on } H_r^-. \end{cases}$$

Then the Cartan involution θ_r in (1.11) can also be written as

(1.15)
$$\theta_r X = (\operatorname{Ad} E_r) X$$
 for $X \in \mathfrak{g}_c$.

We recall now well-known results on SL_2 -representations. Let ξ , η be two variables, and write

(1.16)
$$\begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix}^{(m)} := \begin{pmatrix} \xi^m \\ \xi^{m-1}\eta \\ \vdots \\ \eta^m \end{pmatrix} \qquad (m=0, 1, 2, \cdots).$$

A representation

(1.17)
$$\rho_m \colon SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \to SL_{m+1}(\mathbf{R})$$
 defined by $\rho_m(g) \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix}^{(m)} \coloneqq \left(g \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix}\right)^{(m)}$

is called a symmetric tensor representation of dimension m+1. It is known that the ρ_m $(m=0, 1, 2, \cdots)$ are absolutely irreducible and constitute a full set of representatives for the equivalence classes of finite dimensional irreducible representations of $SL_2(\mathbf{R})$.

We take the standard generators for the Lie algebras $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{R})$ and $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ which are related by the Cayley transformation Ad c_1 , where

(1.18)
$$c_1 := \exp \frac{\pi i}{4} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

as follows:

$$\mathfrak{sl}_{2}(\mathbf{R}) \quad \exists y := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad n_{+} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad n_{-} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(1.19) \quad \operatorname{Ad} c_{1} \downarrow \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow$$

$$\mathfrak{su}(1, 1) \quad \exists z := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad x_{+} := \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -i & 1 \\ 1 & i \end{pmatrix}, \quad x_{-} := \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} i & 1 \\ 1 & -i \end{pmatrix}.$$

The following lemma can be verified directly by using the monomial basis (1.16) and the definition (1.19), and so we omit the proof.

LEMMA (1.20). (i) In the above notation,
$$Y_m := \rho_{m*}(y)$$
 and $N_{m\pm} := \rho_{m*}(n_{\pm})$ satisfy
 $Y_m(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) = (m-2j)\xi^{m-j}\eta^j$,
 $N_{m+}(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) = (m-j)\xi^{m-j-1}\eta^{j+1}$,
 $N_{m-}(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) = j\xi^{m-j+1}\eta^{j-1}$.

(ii) For the Cayley element $c_m := \rho_m(c_1) \in SL_{m+1}(C)$, $\sigma c_m = c_m^{-1}\sigma$, where σ is the complex conjugation. $c_m^{\pm 2}(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) = (\pm i)^m \eta^{m-j} \xi^j$, $c_m^4(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) = (-1)^m \xi^{m-j} \eta^j$.

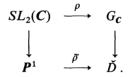
REMARK (1.21). The Hodge structure on $g_{1c} := \mathfrak{sl}_2(C)$ induced by $i \in U :=$ (upperhalf plane) $\simeq SL_2(\mathbf{R})/U(1)$ coincides with the canonical decomposition by the standard "*H*-element" $(n_+ - n_-)/2$ (cf., e.g., [Sa, II. §7]):

$$g_{1c} = g_{1c}^{1,-1} + g_{1c}^{0,0} + g_{1c}^{-1,1} = \mathfrak{p}_{-} + \mathfrak{k}_{c} + \mathfrak{p}_{+} = \{x_{-}\}_{c} + \{z\}_{c} + \{x_{+}\}_{c}.$$

2. Horizontal SL_2 -representations. From now on, we assume that w > 0 and all Hodge structures of weight w satisfy $H^{p,q} = 0$ unless $p, q \ge 0$.

DEFINITION (2.1) (cf. [Sc, p. 258]). An SL₂-representation ρ : SL₂(\mathbf{R}) $\rightarrow G$ is said to be horizontal at $r = \{H_r^{p,q}\} \in D$ if $\rho_*(x_+) \in \mathfrak{g}_c^{-1,1} := \{X \in \mathfrak{g}_c \mid XH_r^{p,q} \subset H_r^{p-1,q+1} \text{ for all } p, q\}.$

REMARK (2.2). It is clear that an SL_2 -representation ρ is horizontal if and only if $\rho_*: \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{R}) \to \mathfrak{g}$ is a morphism of Hodge structures of type (0, 0) with respect to the Hodge structures induced by $i \in U$ and $r \in D$, respectively. A horizontal SL_2 representation ρ induces an equivariant horizontal map $\tilde{\rho}: \mathbf{P}^1 \to \check{D}$ with $\tilde{\rho}(i) = r$:



This is a generalization to the present context of the notion of (H_1) -homomorphism' in the case of symmetric domains of Hermitian type (cf., e.g., [Sa, II. (8.5), III. §1]).

Let $\rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \to G$ be a representation horizontal at $r \in \{H_r^{p,q}\} \in D$, and set

(2.3)
$$Y := \rho_*(y), \quad N_{\pm} := \rho_*(n_{\pm}); \quad Z := \rho_*(z), \quad X_{\pm} := \rho_*(x_{\pm}).$$

Notice that by (1.19) these are related under the Cayley transformation:

(2.4)
$$Z = (\operatorname{Ad} c)Y, \quad X_{\pm} = (\operatorname{Ad} c)N_{\pm}, \quad c := \rho(c_1).$$

 (Y, N_{\pm}) and (Z, X_{\pm}) define direct sum decompositions of H and H_c whose summands are

(2.5)
$$P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} := N_{-}^{k}(H(Y; \lambda+2k) \cap \operatorname{Ker} N_{+}),$$

(2.6)
$$Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} := X_{-}^{k}(H_{c}(Z; \lambda+2k) \cap \operatorname{Ker} X_{+}).$$

for all eigenvalues $\lambda \in \{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm w\}$ of Y and Z and for $k \ge \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$, respectively. Here we denote by $H(Y; \lambda + 2k)$ etc. the eigenspace of an endomorphism

Y of H with eigenvalue $\lambda + 2k$. Since ρ is horizontal at $r = \{H_r^{p,q}\}$, (2.6) is compatible with this Hodge structure and we set

(2.7)
$$Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} := Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} \cap H_r^{a+k,b+\lambda+k} \qquad (a,b \ge 0) .$$

These form a refined direct sum decomposition which we call the Hodge- (Z, X_{\pm}) decomposition of (ρ, r) (cf. Remark (2.12) below). Transforming this by the inverse c^{-1} of the Cayley element, we define

$$(2.8) P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} := c^{-1}Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k}.$$

LEMMA (2.9). (i)
$$\sigma Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))b+\lambda+k,a+k}$$
.
(ii) $c Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = c^2 P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k}$.
 $c^{-1} P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = c^{-2} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+k}$

PROOF. It is easy to see, by definition, that $cP_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$. Hence, by the first equality in (1.20.ii), we have

$$\sigma Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = \sigma c P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = c^{-1} \sigma P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = c^{-1} P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = c^{-2} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$$

On the other hand, by the second equality in (1.20.ii), the third and the second equalities in (1.20.i), we see that on $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$

$$c^{-2} = \begin{cases} (-i)^{\lambda+2k} \frac{k!}{(\lambda+k)!} N^{\lambda}_{-} & \text{if } \lambda \ge 0, \\ \\ (-i)^{\lambda+2k} \frac{(\lambda+k)!}{k!} N^{-\lambda}_{+} & \text{if } \lambda < 0. \end{cases}$$

Taking their Cayley transforms, we see that on $Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$

(2.10)
$$c^{-2} = \begin{cases} (-i)^{\lambda+2k} \frac{k!}{(\lambda+k)!} X^{\lambda}_{-} & \text{if } \lambda \ge 0, \\ (-i)^{\lambda+2k} \frac{(\lambda+k)!}{k!} X^{-\lambda}_{+} & \text{if } \lambda < 0. \end{cases}$$

Thus, by the definition of the $Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$, we have in both cases that

$$\sigma Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = c^{-2} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = X_{\pm}^{\pm \lambda} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))}.$$

This together with $\sigma H_r^{a+k,b+\lambda+k} = H_r^{b+\lambda+k,a+k}$ yields the assertion (i). By horizontality, $X_- \in \mathfrak{g}_c^{1,-1}$ and $X_+ \in \mathfrak{g}_c^{-1,1}$, hence $X_+^{\pm\lambda} \in \mathfrak{g}_c^{\lambda,-\lambda}$. This together with (2.10) shows that

$$c^{-2}Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = X_{\mp}^{\pm\lambda}Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+k}$$

Thus we obtain the second equality in (ii). The first equality in (ii) follows from the second.

COROLLARY (2.11). Let (ρ, r) be as above. For each eigenvalue λ of Y and for $k \ge \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$, we see that

$$C \otimes P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = \bigoplus_{\substack{a+b+2k=w-\lambda\\a,b \ge 0}} P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$$

is a Hodge structure of weight $w - \lambda$. Moreover, in the case $\lambda = k = 0$, this is S-polarized.

PROOF. We should observe the behavior under the complex conjugation σ :

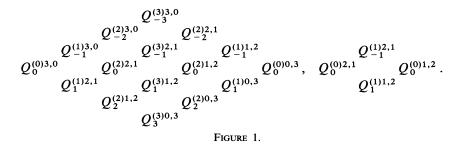
$$\sigma P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = \sigma c^{-1} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = c Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))b+\lambda+k,a+k}$$
$$= c^2 P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))b+\lambda+k,a+\lambda+k} = P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)b+k,a+k}.$$

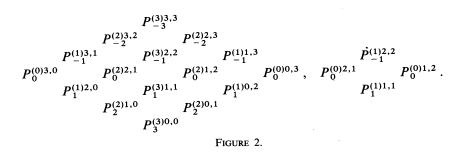
This shows the first assertion.

The representation ρ is trivial on $Q_0^{(0)}$, hence $P_0^{(0)a,b} = c^{-1}Q_0^{(0)a,b} = Q_0^{(0)a,b}$, and so the second assertion trivially holds.

We call a direct sum decomposition in (2.11) the mixed Hodge- (Y, N_{\pm}) decomposition of (ρ, r) .

REMARK (2.12). We remark here some observations which are verified easily by (1.20.i), their Cayley transforms and horizontality of ρ at r. A Hodge- (Z, X_{\pm}) decomposition and a mixed Hodge- (Y, N_{\pm}) decomposition form "nests of diamonds", respectively. For example, in the case of weight w=3, these nests of diamonds are illustrated respectively as in Figures 1 and 2.





On these nests of diamonds, the complex conjugation by σ sends respectively a summand $Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k}$ to a summand $Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))b+\lambda+k,a+k}$ which are symmetric with respect to the origin of the diamonds, and a summand $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$ to a summand $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)b+k,a+k}$ which are symmetric with respect to the vertical axis. The operator X_{+} (resp. X_{-}) sends a summand $Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k}$ one step down (resp. up) to a summand $Q_{\lambda+2}^{(\lambda+2+2(k-1))a+k-1,b+\lambda+2+k-1}$ (resp. $Q_{\lambda-2}^{(\lambda-2+2(k+1))a+k+1,b+\lambda-2+k+1}$), and X_{\pm} are inverse to each other up to non-zero constant between these summands whenever both summands actually appear in the nest of diamonds. Similarly, the operator N_+ (resp. N_{-}) sends a summand $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$ one step down (resp. up) to a summand $P_{\lambda+2}^{(\lambda+2+2(k-1))a+k-1,b+k-1}$ (resp. $P_{\lambda-2}^{(\lambda-2+2(k+1))a+k+1,b+k+1}$), and N_{\pm} are inverse to each other up to non-zero constant between these summands whenever both summands actually appear in the nest of diamonds. The Cayley element c transforms the second nest of diamonds together with the action of the operators Y, N_+ to the first nest of diamonds together with the action of the operators Z, X_{\pm} : $cP_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} =$ $O_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k}$.

By using these operators, we can explain why the summands outside the nests of diamonds vanish in the following way. We claim first that $Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = 0$ for $\lambda > 0$ and b < 0. Indeed, $X_{-}^{\lambda+k}$ is injective on this summand by the Cayley transform of the third equality in (1.20.i). On the other hand, looking at the Hodge type, we see that $X_{-k}^{\lambda+k}Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} \subset Q_{-\lambda-2k}^{(-\lambda-2k+2(\lambda+2k))a+\lambda+2k,b} = 0 \text{ by horizontality. Thus we get our}$ claim. It follows by symmetry under the complex conjugation σ that $Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = 0$ for $\lambda < 0$ and a < 0. Finally, by the inverse of the Cayley transformation, we have $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = 0$ for $\lambda > 0$ and b < 0, and for $\lambda < 0$ and a < 0.

We call the length of the side of the biggest diamond in a nest the size of the nest of diamonds.

Another remark is that a mixed Hodge- (Y, N_{\pm}) decomposition is nothing but the limiting split mixed Hodge structure of the associated SL_2 -orbit $\tilde{\rho}: U \rightarrow D$, $\tilde{\rho}(gi) := \rho(g)r \ (g \in SL_2(\mathbf{R}))$, and the monodromy weight filtration L is described as $L_i = \bigoplus_{\lambda \le i} \bigoplus_k P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$ (cf. [Sc, (6.16)] and its proof, [CK, pp. 13–14]).

In the above notation, for all λ , a and b, put

(2.13)
$$n_{\lambda} := \dim_{\mathbf{R}} H(Y; \lambda) = \dim_{\mathbf{C}} H_{\mathbf{C}}(Z; \lambda) ,$$
$$p_{\lambda}^{a,b} := \dim_{\mathbf{C}} P_{\lambda-2k}^{(\lambda)a+k,b+k} = \dim_{\mathbf{C}} Q_{\lambda-2k}^{(\lambda)a+k,b+\lambda-k}$$

Notice that, by construction, the middle terms and the terms on the extreme right hand side of the second equality in (2.13) are independent of k (cf. Remark (2.12)).

LEMMA (2.14). For (ρ, r) as above, the following hold:

- (i) $\sum_{a+b=w-\lambda} p_{\lambda}^{a,b} = n_{\lambda} n_{\lambda+2}$ for all $0 \le \lambda \le w$.
- (ii) $p_{\lambda}^{a,b} = p_{\lambda}^{a,b}$ for all λ , a, b with $0 \le \lambda \le w$, $a \ge 0$, $b \ge 0$ and $a + b = w \lambda$. (iii) $h^{a,b} = h^{a+1,b-1} (p_0^{a+1,b-1} + p_1^{a+1,b-2} + \dots + p_{b-1}^{a+1,0}) + (p_0^{a,b} + p_1^{a-1,b} + \dots + p_{b-1}^{a+1,0})$

 $p_a^{0,b}$) for all a, b with $a \ge 0, b \ge 0$ and a+b=w.

PROOF. We first observe that there is an exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda)} \longrightarrow H(Y; \lambda) \xrightarrow{N_{+}} H(Y; \lambda+2) \longrightarrow 0$$

for every $\lambda \ge 0$ (and N_{-} yields a right splitting). (i) and (ii) follow from this and (2.11).

In order to show (iii), we look at the morphism $X_+: H^{a+1,b-1} \rightarrow H^{a,b}$ and its kernel and cokernel:

$$\operatorname{Ker} = Q_{0}^{(0)a+1,b-1} \oplus Q_{1}^{(1)a+1,b-1} \oplus \cdots \oplus Q_{b-1}^{(b-1)a+1,b-1}$$

$$\stackrel{c}{\leftarrow} P_{0}^{(0)a+1,b-1} \oplus P_{1}^{(1)a+1,b-2} \oplus \cdots \oplus P_{b-1}^{(b-1)a+1,0},$$

$$\operatorname{Coker} \simeq Q_{0}^{(0)a,b} \oplus Q_{-1}^{(1)a,b} \oplus \cdots \oplus Q_{-a}^{(a)a,b}$$

$$\simeq Q_{0}^{(0)a,b} \oplus Q_{1}^{(1)a-1,b+1} \oplus \cdots \oplus Q_{a}^{(a)0,b+a}$$

$$\stackrel{c}{\leftarrow} P_{0}^{(0)a,b} \oplus P_{1}^{(1)a-1,b} \oplus \cdots \oplus P_{a}^{(a)0,b}.$$

Looking at the dimension, we get (iii).

DEFINITION (2.15). We call a set of integers $\{p_{\lambda}^{a,b}\}$, which satisfies the conditions (i), (ii) and (iii) of (2.14), a set of primitive Hodge numbers belonging to $\{h^{p,q}, n_{\lambda}\}$.

3. Admissible *R*-semi-simple elements. We continue to use the notation in the previous sections.

PROPOSITION (3.1). Given a pair $(Y, r) \in g \times D$, there exists at most one representation $\rho: SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \to G$ which is horizontal at r and $\rho_*(y) = Y$.

PROOF. Since y and z generate $sl_2(C)$, it is enough to show that if such a representation ρ exists then the eigenspaces of Z, and hence Z itself, are determined by the pair (Y, r). Actually, we shall show by induction on the size w of the nest of diamonds of the Hodge- (Z, X_{\pm}) decomposition (2.7) (cf. Remark (2.12)) that this nest of diamonds is completely determined by (Y, r).

First notice that

(3.2)
$$Y = i(X_+ - X_-)$$
.

For a subspace M of H_c , we put, throughout this proof,

$$M^{\perp} := \{ v \in H_{\boldsymbol{c}} \mid S(v, \sigma u) = 0 \text{ for all } u \in M \},$$

projection $\{ M \to H_{\boldsymbol{r}}^{p,q} \} := \operatorname{Im} \left\{ M \subset H_{\boldsymbol{c}} = \bigoplus_{p'+q'=w} H_{\boldsymbol{r}}^{p',q'} \to H_{\boldsymbol{r}}^{p,q} \right\}.$

Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{w}^{(w)0,w} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{w} H_{r}^{w,0} \to H_{r}^{0,w} \right\}, \\ Q_{w-2k}^{(w)k,w-k} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{k} Q_{w}^{(w)0,w} \to H_{r}^{k,w-k} \right\} \quad (0 \le k \le w), \\ &\bigoplus_{0 \le \lambda \le w-1} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} = H_{r}^{w,0} \cap (Q_{-w}^{(w)w,0})^{\perp}, \\ Q_{w-1}^{(w-1)1,w-1} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{w-1} \left(\bigoplus_{0 \le \lambda \le w-1} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} \right) \to H_{r}^{1,w-1} \right\}, \\ Q_{w-1-2k}^{(w-1)1+k,w-1-k} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{k} Q_{w-1}^{(w-1)1,w-1} \to H_{r}^{1+k,w-1-k} \right\} \quad (0 \le k \le w-1), \\ &\bigoplus_{0 \le \lambda \le w-2} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} = H_{r}^{w,0} \cap \left(\bigoplus_{w-1 \le \lambda \le w} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} \right)^{\perp}, \\ Q_{w-2}^{(w-2)2,w-2} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{w-2} \left(\bigoplus_{0 \le \lambda \le w-2} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} \right) \to H_{r}^{2,w-2} \right\}, \\ Q_{w-2-2k}^{(w-2)2+k,w-2-k} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{k} Q_{w-2}^{(w-2)2,w-2} \to H_{r}^{2+k,w-2-k} \right\} \quad (0 \le k \le w-2), \end{aligned}$$

Thus $Q_{\lambda-2k}^{(\lambda)w-\lambda+k,\lambda-k}$ $(0 \le \lambda \le w, 0 \le k \le \lambda)$ are determined. Taking the complex conjugation by σ of these, we get $Q_{-\lambda+2k}^{(\lambda)\lambda-k,w-\lambda+k} = \sigma Q_{\lambda-2k}^{(\lambda)w-\lambda+k,\lambda-k}$ $(0 \le \lambda \le w, 0 \le k \le \lambda)$. Applying the induction hypothesis to the nest of diamonds of size $\le w-2$ in

$$\left(\bigoplus_{\substack{0\leq\lambda\leq w\\0\leq k<\lambda}} (Q_{\lambda-2k}^{(\lambda)w-\lambda+k,\lambda-k}\oplus Q_{-\lambda+2k}^{(\lambda)\lambda-k,w-\lambda+k}))^{\perp}\right)$$

(cf. Remark (2.12)), we get our assertion.

DEFINITION (3.3). A pair $(Y, r) \in g \times D$ is admissible if there exists a representation $\rho: SL_2(\mathbb{R}) \to G$ which is horizontal at r and $\rho_*(y) = Y$.

The set of primitive Hodge numbers $\{p_{\lambda}^{a,b}\}$ belonging to $\{h^{p,q}, n_{\lambda}\}$ is called the type of an admissible pair (Y, r).

 $Y \in g$ is said to be admissible if (Y, r) is an admissible pair for some $r \in D$.

Now we prove the following numerical criterion for admissibility:

THEOREM (3.4). $Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ is admissible if and only if Y is semi-simple over \mathbb{R} whose eigenvalues are contained in $\{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots, \pm w\}$ and there exists a set of primitive Hodge numbers $\{p_{\lambda}^{a,b}\}$ belonging to $\{h^{p,q}, n_{\lambda}\}$, where $n_{\lambda} := \dim H(Y; \lambda)$ (cf. Definition (2.15)).

PROOF. Since Y is semi-simple over **R**, the eigenspaces $H(Y; \lambda)$ are defined over **R** and $H(Y; \lambda)$ and $H(Y; \mu)$ are S-orthogonal unless $\lambda + \mu = 0$. Therefore $H(Y; \lambda)$ and $H(Y; -\lambda)$ are S-dual.

Since $n_{\lambda'} - n_{\lambda'+2} \ge 0$ for $\lambda' \ge 0$ by the condition (2.14.i), we can take a direct sum

decomposition

(3.5)
$$H(Y; \lambda) = P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda)} \oplus P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2)} \oplus P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+4)} \oplus \cdots \quad \text{for} \quad \lambda \ge 0,$$

with dim $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = n_{\lambda+2k} - n_{\lambda+2k+2}$. Moreover, in the case $\lambda = 0$, the decomposition (3.5) can be taken to be S-orthogonal. We denote the S-dual decomposition by

(3.6)
$$H(Y; -\lambda) = P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)} \oplus P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+2)} \oplus P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+4)} \oplus \cdots \qquad (\lambda \ge 0),$$

i.e., $P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$ and $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2m)}$ are S-orthogonal unless k=m.

By the conditions (i) and (ii) of (2.14), we can choose a Hodge decomposition

(3.7)
$$C \otimes P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} = \bigoplus_{\substack{a+b+2k=w-\lambda\\a,b\geq 0}} P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} \quad \text{for} \quad \lambda \geq 0, \quad k \geq 0,$$

with dim $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = p_{\lambda+2k}^{a,b}$. Moreover, in the case $\lambda = k = 0$, the Hodge structure (3.7) can be chosen to be S-polarized. We denote the $S(\cdot, \sigma \cdot)$ -orthogonal decomposition by

(3.8)
$$C \otimes P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))} = \bigoplus_{\substack{a+b+2\lambda+2k=w+\lambda\\a,b>0}} P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k} \qquad (\lambda \ge 0, k \ge 0),$$

i.e., $S(P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k}, \sigma P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a'+k,b'+k}) = 0$ unless (a, b) = (a', b'). Notice that $P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k} = P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k}$.

Now we consider the cases $\lambda \ge 0$ and $\lambda < 0$ altogether. For $k \ge \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$ and $a \ge b$, let

(3.9)
$$\left\{ v_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} \middle| 1 \le j \le p_{\lambda+2k}^{a,b} \right\}$$

be a C-basis of $P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$ such that

$$(3.10) \qquad S(v_{-\lambda,j}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k}, \sigma v_{\lambda,j'}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}) = \delta_{jj'}(-1)^a i^{w-\lambda} / \binom{\lambda+2k}{k}.$$

In the case a=b, we can moreover take the above basis (3.9) to consist of real elements. Put

(3.11)
$$v_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)b+k,a+k} = \sigma v_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} \qquad (a \ge b).$$

Define now C-linear endomorphisms N_{\pm} of H_c by

(3.12)
$$N_{+}v_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} := kv_{\lambda+2,j}^{((\lambda+2)+2(k-1))a+k-1,b+k-1}, \\ N_{-}v_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} := (\lambda+k)v_{\lambda-2,j}^{((\lambda-2)+2(k+1))a+k+1,b+k+1}$$

for all λ , non-negative a, b and $k \ge \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$. By construction, it is easy to see that N_{\pm} commute with the complex conjugation σ and satisfy the commutation relations: $[N_+, N_-] = Y$, and $[Y, N_{\pm}] = \pm 2N_{\pm}$, respectively. It is also easy to verify that $S(N_{\pm}, \cdot, \cdot) + S(\cdot, N_{\pm} \cdot) = 0$, respectively. Indeed, for example, one can compute as

$$S(N_{+}v_{-\lambda,j}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k},\sigma v_{\lambda-2,j'}^{((\lambda-2)+2(k+1))a+k+1,b+k+1}) + S(v_{-\lambda,j}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k},N_{+}\sigma v_{\lambda-2,j'}^{((\lambda-2)+2(k+1))a+k+1,b+k+1}) = \delta_{jj'}(-1)^{a}i^{w-\lambda} \frac{(\lambda+k)(\lambda+k-1)!(k+1)!}{(\lambda+2k)!} + \delta_{jj'}(-1)^{a}i^{w-\lambda} \frac{(k+1)k!(\lambda+k)!}{(\lambda+2k)!} = 0.$$

Thus we see that $N_{\pm} \in \mathfrak{g}$ and hence there exists a unique representation

(3.13) $\rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \to G$ such that $\rho_*(y) = Y$ and $\rho_*(n_{\pm}) = N_{\pm}$, respectively. By using the Cayley element $c:=\rho(c_1) \in G_c$, we define

$$(3.14) \qquad Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} := cP_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}, \quad H^{p,q} := \bigoplus_{\substack{a+k=p\\b+\lambda+k=q}} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k},$$

where, on the right hand side of the second equality, the summation is taken over all the eigenvalues λ of Y, all integers $k \ge \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$ and all non-negative integers a, b with $a+b+\lambda+2k=w$. This defines a Hodge structure. Indeed, by using (1.20.ii), one sees that

$$\sigma Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = \sigma c P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = c^{-1} \sigma P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$$
$$= c^{-1} P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)b+k,a+k} = c P_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))b+\lambda+k,a+\lambda+k} = Q_{-\lambda}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))b+\lambda+k,a+k},$$

and hence $\sigma H^{p,q} = H^{q,p}$. One can moreover verify that (3.14) is S-polarized. Indeed, the direct sum in (3.14) is S-orthogonal by construction and, for

$$cv_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$$
, $cv_{\lambda,j'}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} \in Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} \subset H^{p,q}$

one can compute as

$$\begin{split} i^{p-q}S(cv_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k},\sigma cv_{\lambda,j'}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}) \\ &= i^{a-b-\lambda}S(cv_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k},c^{-1}\sigma v_{\lambda,j'}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}) \\ &= i^{a-b-\lambda}S(c^{2}v_{\lambda,j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k},\sigma v_{\lambda,j'}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}) \\ &= i^{a-b-\lambda+\lambda+2k}S(v_{-\lambda,j}^{(-\lambda+2(\lambda+k))a+\lambda+k,b+\lambda+k},\sigma v_{\lambda,j'}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}) \\ &= \delta_{jj'}i^{a-b+2k+2a+w-\lambda} \bigg/ \binom{\lambda+2k}{k} = \delta_{jj'} \bigg/ \binom{\lambda+2k}{k}. \end{split}$$

Thus we have $\{H^{p,q}\} \in D$.

Finally, we claim that the representation ρ in (3.13) is horizontal at $\{H^{p,q}\} \in D$. Indeed, since $Z = (\operatorname{Ad} c)Y, X_{\pm} = (\operatorname{Ad} c)N_{\pm}$, one can compute, by (1.20), as

$$ZQ_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = cYP_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k} = Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k},$$

$$X_{\pm}Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+\lambda+k} = cN_{\pm}P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k,b+k}$$

 $= c P_{1+2}^{((\lambda \pm 2) + 2(k \mp 1))a + k \mp 1, b + k \mp 1} = Q_{1+2}^{((\lambda \pm 2) + 2(k \mp 1))a + k \mp 1, b + \lambda + k \pm 1}.$

This completes the proof of the theorem.

We remark that the condition on $\{n_{\lambda}\}$ in Theorem (3.4) coincides with the one in [CK, (2.20)] in the case of weight 2.

Fix identifications $D \simeq G/V$ and $R \simeq G/K$, where K is a maximal compact subgroup of G containing V and R is the associated Riemannian symmetric domain, and let θ_K be the associated Cartan involution. We denote the projection by

$$(3.15) \qquad \pi: D \simeq G/V \rightarrow G/K \simeq R .$$

PROPOSITION (3.16). We use the notation in Theorem (3.4). Let $Y \in g$ be an admissible element.

(i) If there exists $r \in \pi^{-1}([K])$ such that (Y, r) is an admissible pair, then $\theta_r Y = -Y$, where θ_r is the Cartan involution on g induced from (1.11).

(ii) If $\theta_K Y = -Y$, then there exists $r \in \pi^{-1}([K])$ such that (Y, r) is an admissible pair.

(iii) For each set of primitive Hodge numbers $\{p_{\lambda}^{a,b}\}$ belonging to $\{h^{p,q}, n_{\lambda}\}$, $G_Y := \{g \in G \mid (Adg)Y = Y\}$ acts transitively on the set $\{r \in D \mid (Y, r) \text{ is an admissible pair of type } \{p_{\lambda}^{a,b}\}\}$.

PROOF. (i) follows from (3.2) and (1.11).

(ii): Assume $\theta_K Y = -Y$. Take a point $r' \in D$ at which Y is admissible and let K' be the maximal compact subgroup of G associated to the Cartan involution $\theta_{r'}$. By the result in (i) for (Y, r') and the assumption, Y can be viewed as a tangent vector to R at [K'] as well as at [K]: $Y \in T_R([K'])$, $Y \in T_R([K])$. By the transitivity of tangent spaces of a Riemannian symmetric domain, there exists $g \in G$ such that $(\operatorname{Int} g)K' = K$ and $(\operatorname{Ad} g)Y = Y$. Hence the admissibility of (Y, r') implies that of $((\operatorname{Ad} g)Y, gr') = (Y, gr')$, where $gr' \in \pi^{-1}([K])$.

(iii): Suppose that $r, r' \in D$ are points at which Y is admissible of the same type $\{p_{\lambda}^{a,b}\}$. Let $\rho, \rho': SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \to G$ be the corresponding representations. It is enough to show that there exists $g \in G$ such that $\rho' = (\operatorname{Int} g)\rho$. Indeed, if this is the case, then $(\operatorname{Ad} g)Y = (\operatorname{Ad} g)(\rho_*(y)) = \rho'_*(y) = Y$ and $gr = g\tilde{\rho}(i) = \tilde{\rho}'(i) = r'$.

We can construct such a $g \in G$ elementarily by using bases of H_c according to the S-polarized Hodge- (Z, X_{\pm}) decompositions, where $(Z, X_{\pm}) = (\rho_*(z), \rho_*(x_{\pm}))$, $(\rho'_*(z), \rho'_*(x_{\pm}))$. Thus we get our assertion.

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