

76. Criteria for the Finiteness of Restriction of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules to Subalgebras and Applications to Harish-Chandra Modules

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Let \mathfrak{g} be a finite-dimensional complex Lie algebra, and $U(\mathfrak{g})$ be the universal enveloping algebra of \mathfrak{g} . In this paper, we give simple and useful criteria for finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules H to remain finite under the restriction to subalgebras $A \subset U(\mathfrak{g})$, by using the algebraic varieties in \mathfrak{g}^* associated to H and A . It is shown that, besides the finiteness, the $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules H satisfying our criteria preserve some important invariants under the restriction.

Applying the criteria to Harish-Chandra modules of a semisimple Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , we specify among other things, a large class of Lie subalgebras of \mathfrak{g} on which all the Harish-Chandra modules are of finite type. This allows us to extend largely the finite multiplicity theorems for induced representations of a semisimple Lie group, established in our earlier work [8].

1. Associated varieties for finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules. We begin with defining three important invariants: the associated variety, the Bernstein degree and the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension, of finitely generated modules over a complex Lie algebra (cf. [6]).

Let V be a finite-dimensional complex vector space. We denote by $S(V) = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\infty} S^k(V)$ the symmetric algebra of V , where $S^k(V)$ is the homogeneous component of $S(V)$ of degree k . Let $M = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\infty} M_k$ be a finitely generated, nonzero, graded $S(V)$ -module, on which $S(V)$ acts in such a way as $S^k(V) M_{k'} \subset M_{k+k'}$ ($k, k' \geq 0$). Then each homogeneous component M_k of M is finite-dimensional.

Proposition 1 (Hilbert-Serre, see [9, Ch. VII, §12]). (1) *There exists a unique polynomial $\varphi_M(q)$ in q such that $\varphi_M(q) = \dim(M_0 + M_1 + \cdots + M_q)$ for sufficiently large q .*

(2) *Let $(c(M)/d(M)!)q^{d(M)}$ be the leading term of φ_M . Then $c(M)$ is a positive integer, and the degree $d(M)$ of this polynomial coincides with the dimension of the associated algebraic cone*

$$(1.1) \quad \nu(M) := \{\lambda \in V^* \mid f(\lambda) = 0 \text{ for all } f \in \text{Ann}_{S(V)} M\}.$$

Here, $\text{Ann}_{S(V)} M$ denotes the annihilator of M in $S(V)$, V^* the dual space of V , and $S(V)$ is identified with the polynomial ring over V^* in the canonical way.

For a finite-dimensional complex Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , let $(U_k(\mathfrak{g}))_{k=0,1,\dots}$ denote the natural filtration of enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{g} , where $U_k(\mathfrak{g})$ is the subspace of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ generated by elements $X_1 \dots X_m$ with $m \leq k$ and $X_j \in \mathfrak{g}(1 \leq j \leq m)$. We identify the associated commutative ring $\text{gr } U(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0}$

$U_k(\mathfrak{g})/U_{k-1}(\mathfrak{g})$ ($U_{-1}(\mathfrak{g}) := (0)$) with the symmetric algebra $S(\mathfrak{g}) = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} S^k(\mathfrak{g})$ of \mathfrak{g} in the canonical way.

Now let H be a finitely generated, non-zero $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module. Take a finite-dimensional generating subspace H_0 of $H : H = U(\mathfrak{g})H_0$. Setting $H_k = U_k(\mathfrak{g})H_0$ for $k = 1, 2, \dots$, and $H_{-1} = (0)$, we get a finitely generated, graded $S(\mathfrak{g})$ -module

$$(1.2) \quad M = \text{gr}(H ; H_0) := \bigoplus_k M_k \text{ with } M_k = H_k / H_{k-1}.$$

The variety $\nu(M) \subset \mathfrak{g}^*$, the integers $c(M)$ and $d(M)$ defined for this M as in Proposition 1, are independent of the choice of a generating subspace H_0 . These three invariants of H are called respectively the *associated variety*, the *Bernstein degree* and the *Gelfand-Kirillov dimension* of H . We denote $\nu(M)$, $c(M)$ and $d(M)$ respectively by $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; H)$, $c(\mathfrak{g}; H)$ and $d(\mathfrak{g}; H)$, emphasizing that H is being considered as a $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module.

2. Restriction of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules to subalgebras. Let A be a subalgebra of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ containing the identity element $1 \in U(\mathfrak{g})$. We denote by R the graded subalgebra of $S(\mathfrak{g}) = \text{gr } U(\mathfrak{g})$ associated to $A : R = \text{gr } A := \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} A_k / A_{k-1}$ with $A_k = A \cap U_k(\mathfrak{g})$. We say that a finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module H has the *good restriction* to A if there exists a finite-dimensional generating subspace H_0 of H for which the associated graded $S(\mathfrak{g})$ -module $\text{gr}(H ; H_0)$ is finitely generated over R .

The following theorem characterizes, by means of the associated varieties, the $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules H having the good restriction to A .

Theorem 1. (1) *The restriction of H to A is good whenever the condition*

$$(2.1) \quad \nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) \cap R_+^\# = (0)$$

on algebraic varieties in \mathfrak{g}^ is satisfied. Here $R_+^\# := \{\lambda \in \mathfrak{g}^* \mid f(\lambda) = 0 \text{ for all } f \in R_+\}$ denotes the variety in \mathfrak{g}^* associated to the maximal graded ideal $R_+ := \bigoplus_{k > 0} (R \cap S^k(\mathfrak{g}))$ of $R = \text{gr } A$.*

(2) *Conversely, if R is Noetherian and if $H \neq (0)$ admits the good restriction to A , one necessarily has (2.1).*

Let \mathfrak{n} be a Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} . Applying this theorem to the case $A = U(\mathfrak{n})$ ($R = S(\mathfrak{n})$ is obviously Noetherian), we obtain immediately the following

Corollary 1. *A finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module $H \neq (0)$ has the good restriction to $U(\mathfrak{n})$ if and only if $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) \cap \mathfrak{n}^\perp = (0)$ holds, where $\mathfrak{n}^\perp := \{\lambda \in \mathfrak{g}^* \mid \langle \lambda, X \rangle = 0 \text{ for all } X \in \mathfrak{n}\}$ is the orthogonal of \mathfrak{n} in \mathfrak{g}^* .*

The $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules admitting the good restriction enjoy nice properties as follows.

Theorem 2. *Suppose that H has the good restriction to a subalgebra $A \subset U(\mathfrak{g})$.*

(1) *H is finitely generated as an A -module.*

(2) *If $A = U(\mathfrak{n})$ for a Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{n} of \mathfrak{g} , then H is of finite type over $U(\mathfrak{n})$, and so one can define the associated variety $\nu(\mathfrak{n}; H)$, Bernstein degree $c(\mathfrak{n}; H)$, and Gelfand-Kirillov dimension $d(\mathfrak{n}; H)$ of H as a $U(\mathfrak{n})$ -module as well as those as a $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module. These two kinds of quantities have the relations*

$$(2.2) \quad c(\mathfrak{g}; H) = c(\mathfrak{n}; H), \quad d(\mathfrak{g}; H) = d(\mathfrak{n}; H),$$

and hence

$$(2.3) \quad \dim \nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) = \dim \nu(\mathfrak{n}; H).$$

Moreover one has

$$(2.4) \quad \mathfrak{p}^* \nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) \subset \nu(\mathfrak{n}; H),$$

where $\mathfrak{p}^* : \mathfrak{g}^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{n}^*$ denotes the restriction map of linear forms.

We can give two interesting consequences of the above theorems, as follows.

Corollary 2. *Let \mathfrak{n} be a Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} , and H be a finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module satisfying the condition $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) \cap \mathfrak{n}^\perp = (0)$. Then, the \mathfrak{n} -homology groups $H_k(\mathfrak{n}, H)$ ($k = 0, 1, \dots$) of H (see e.g., [2] for the definition) are all finite-dimensional.*

Corollary 3. *If a finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module H has the good restriction to $U(\mathfrak{n})$, the Gelfand-Kirillov dimension $d(\mathfrak{g}; H)$ of H does not exceed $\dim \mathfrak{n}$.*

3. Nilpotent variety $\mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{p})$ and good restriction of Harish-Chandra modules. Now, assume \mathfrak{g} to be semisimple, and let $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{p}$ be a symmetric decomposition of \mathfrak{g} determined by an involutive automorphism of \mathfrak{g} . We consider the category $\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{k})$ of finitely generated $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -modules H on which the subalgebra $U(\mathfrak{k})Z(\mathfrak{g})$ acts locally finitely, where $Z(\mathfrak{g})$ denotes the center of $U(\mathfrak{g})$. Such an H in $\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{k})$ is called a *Harish-Chandra $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})$ -module*. We regard the varieties $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) \subset \mathfrak{g}^*$ as algebraic cones in \mathfrak{g} by identifying \mathfrak{g}^* with \mathfrak{g} through the Killing form of \mathfrak{g} .

Lemma. *The associated variety $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; H)$ of any Harish-Chandra $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})$ -module H is contained in the variety $\mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{p})$ of all nilpotent elements of \mathfrak{p} . Moreover, there exists an \tilde{H} in $\mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{k})$ such that $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; \tilde{H})$ coincides with the whole $\mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{p})$.*

Theorem 1 together with this lemma yields the following result.

Theorem 3. *All the Harish-Chandra $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})$ -modules have the good restriction to a subalgebra A of $U(\mathfrak{g})$ if $\mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{p}) \cap R_+^\# = (0)$ holds for $R = \text{gr } A$. The converse is also true provided that R is Noetherian.*

4. Large Lie subalgebras of a real semisimple Lie algebra. Let \mathfrak{g}_0 be a real semisimple Lie algebra, and $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_0$ be the Cartan decomposition of \mathfrak{g}_0 determined by an involution θ . Conventionally, we write $\mathfrak{h} (\subset \mathfrak{g})$ for the complexification of a real vector subspace \mathfrak{h}_0 of \mathfrak{g}_0 by dropping the subscript ‘0’.

A Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{n}_0 of \mathfrak{g}_0 is said to be *large* in \mathfrak{g}_0 if there exists an element $x \in \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ for which every Harish-Chandra $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})$ -module has the good restriction to $U(x \cdot \mathfrak{n})$. By Theorem 3, this amounts to a simple geometric condition:

$$(4.1) \quad (x \cdot \mathfrak{n})^\perp \cap \mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{p}) = (0) \text{ for some } x \in \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}_0).$$

Here $\text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ denotes the group of inner automorphisms of \mathfrak{g}_0 . Notice that the largeness of a Lie subalgebra does not depend on the choice of a \mathfrak{k}_0 .

We now specify many of large Lie subalgebras of \mathfrak{g}_0 .

At first, here are two kinds of typical large Lie subalgebras.

Proposition 2. (1) Let $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 + \mathfrak{a}_{p,0} + \mathfrak{u}_{m,0}$ be an Iwasawa decomposition of \mathfrak{g}_0 . Then the maximal nilpotent Lie subalgebra $\mathfrak{u}_{m,0}$ of \mathfrak{g}_0 is large.

(2) The symmetrizing Lie subalgebra $\mathfrak{h}_0 = \{X \in \mathfrak{g}_0 \mid \sigma X = X\}$ is large in \mathfrak{g}_0 for any involutive automorphism σ of \mathfrak{g}_0 .

The claim (1), together with Theorem 3, covers the results of Casselman–Osborne [3, Th.2.3] and Joseph [4, II, 5.6] on the restriction of Harish–Chandra modules to \mathfrak{u}_m . The second one allows us to deduce the finite multiplicity theorem of van den Ban, for the quasi-regular representation on $L^2(G/H)$, associated to a semisimple symmetric space G/H (cf. [8]).

Now let \mathfrak{q}_0 be any parabolic subalgebra of \mathfrak{g}_0 , and $\mathfrak{q}_0 = \mathfrak{l}_0 + \mathfrak{u}_0$ with $\mathfrak{l}_0 = \mathfrak{q}_0 \cap \theta\mathfrak{q}_0$, be its Levi decomposition. Since the Levi component \mathfrak{l}_0 is reductive, one can define large Lie subalgebras of \mathfrak{l}_0 just in the same way.

The largeness of Lie subalgebras is preserved by parabolic induction.

Proposition 3. If \mathfrak{h}_0 is a large Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{l}_0 , the semidirect product Lie subalgebra $\mathfrak{h}_0 + \mathfrak{u}_0$ is large in \mathfrak{g}_0 .

Let $\mathfrak{q}_{m,0} = \mathfrak{m}_0 + \mathfrak{a}_{p,0} + \mathfrak{u}_{m,0}$ be a minimal parabolic subalgebra of \mathfrak{g}_0 , where \mathfrak{m}_0 denotes the centralizer of $\mathfrak{a}_{p,0}$ in \mathfrak{k}_0 . We say that a Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{n}_0 of \mathfrak{g}_0 is *quasi-spherical* if there exists a $z \in \text{Int}(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ such that $z \cdot \mathfrak{n}_0 + \mathfrak{q}_{m,0} = \mathfrak{g}_0$. This is equivalent to saying that, if G is a connected Lie group with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}_0 , the analytic subgroup of G corresponding to \mathfrak{n}_0 has an open orbit on the flag variety G/Q_m with Q_m a minimal parabolic subgroup of G (cf. [1], [5]).

It is easy to verify that the large Lie subalgebras in Proposition 2 are quasi-spherical. The next theorem is the principal result of this section.

Theorem 4. *Quasi-spherical Lie subalgebras are always large in \mathfrak{g}_0 .*

Remark. One can see from Theorem 3, coupled with a recent result of Bien and Oshima, that the converse is also true in the above theorem under the assumption that a large Lie subalgebra \mathfrak{n}_0 is algebraic in \mathfrak{g}_0 .

5. Finite multiplicity criteria for induced representations. Let G be a connected semisimple Lie group with finite center, and K be a maximal compact subgroup of G . The corresponding Lie algebras are denoted respectively by \mathfrak{g}_0 and \mathfrak{k}_0 . We have a Cartan decomposition $\mathfrak{g}_0 = \mathfrak{k}_0 \oplus \mathfrak{p}_0$ of \mathfrak{g}_0 as in §4.

Let H be a Harish–Chandra $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{k})$ -module on which the compact group K acts in such a way as

$$k \cdot v = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (1/n!) X^n v$$

for $v \in H$ and $k = \exp X$ with $X \in \mathfrak{k}_0$. Such an H is called a *Harish–Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module*. A fundamental theorem of Harish–Chandra says that the (irreducible) Harish–Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -modules correspond to the (irreducible) admissible representations of G , by passing to the K -finite part (see e.g., [7, Chap.8]).

If (η, E) is a smooth Fréchet representation (cf. [8, I, 2.1]) of a closed subgroup N of G , the group G acts on the space $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ of real analytic functions $f : G \rightarrow E$ satisfying

$$f(gn) = \eta(n)^{-1}f(g) \text{ for } (n, g) \in N \times G,$$

by left translation L . $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ has the structure of a $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module through differentiation. We call the gained $(L, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta))$ the G -representation or the $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module analytically induced from η .

We study $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -homomorphisms from a Harish-Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module H into $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$, and especially the intertwining numbers

$$(5.1) \quad I_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta)) := \dim \text{Hom}_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta)),$$

which give the multiplicities of H in $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ as $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -submodules for irreducible H 's.

For a Harish-Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module H , we can and do take a finite-dimensional, K -stable generating subspace H_0 of H . Then the associated graded $S(\mathfrak{g})$ -module $M = \text{gr}(H; H_0) = \bigoplus_k M_k$ has a natural K -module structure.

The intertwining number $I_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta))$ from H to $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ can be estimated as in

Proposition 4. *For each $x \in G$, one has the inequality*

$$(5.2) \quad I_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta)) \leq \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \dim \text{Hom}_{K \cap xNx^{-1}}(M_k / ((x \cdot n)M)_k, E_x),$$

where $((x \cdot n)M)_k = M_k \cap (x \cdot n)M$ with $x \cdot n = \text{Ad}(x)n$, is $(K \cap xNx^{-1})$ -stable, and (η_x, E_x) denotes the representation of xNx^{-1} on E defined by $\eta_x(xnx^{-1}) = \eta(n)$ ($n \in N$).

This proposition together with Theorem 1, enables us to deduce a useful criterion for the finiteness of intertwining numbers $I_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta))$, as follows.

Theorem 5. *The intertwining number $I_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta))$ from a Harish-Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module H to an induced $U(\mathfrak{g})$ -module $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ takes finite value if there exists an $x \in G$ such that*

$$(5.3) \quad \nu(\mathfrak{g}; H) \cap (x \cdot n)^\perp = (0),$$

and that

$$(5.4) \quad \dim \text{Hom}_{K \cap xNx^{-1}}(V_r, E_x) < \infty \text{ holds}$$

for every irreducible constituent V_r of $(K \cap xNx^{-1})$ -module $M / (x \cdot n)M$. Here $M = \text{gr}(H; H_0)$ with K -stable H_0 , and $\nu(\mathfrak{g}; H)$ is the associated variety of H .

We say that the induced module $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ has the *finite multiplicity property* if the intertwining number $I_{U(\mathfrak{g})}(H, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta))$ is finite for every Harish-Chandra (\mathfrak{g}, K) -module H . As a consequence of Theorem 5, we establish

Theorem 6. *Let N be a closed subgroup of G whose Lie algebra \mathfrak{n}_0 is large in \mathfrak{g}_0 , and take an element $x \in G$ such that $(x \cdot \mathfrak{n})^\perp \cap \mathcal{N}(\mathfrak{p}) = (0)$. Then, for a smooth Fréchet representation (η, E) of N , the induced module $\mathcal{A}(G; \eta)$ has the finite multiplicity property if so is the restriction of η to the compact subgroup $x^{-1}Kx \cap N$.*

Corollary 4. *If $\mathfrak{n}_0 = \text{Lie}(N)$ is large in \mathfrak{g}_0 , the representation $(L, \mathcal{A}(G; \eta))$ is of multiplicity finite for any finite-dimensional N -representation η .*

The above theorem extends one of the principal results in our previous work [8, I, Th.2.12], where we studied the case of semidirect product large

Lie subalgebras $\mathfrak{n}_0 = \mathfrak{h}_0 + \mathfrak{u}_0$ specified in Proposition 3 with symmetrizing \mathfrak{h}_0 , through the theory of (K, N) -spherical functions.

The details of this article will appear elsewhere.

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