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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 “ (H_1) -homomorphism” of SL_2 in the case of the classical theory of Hermitian symmetric domains (cf., e.g., [Sa, III]). More precisely, let $G = G_{\mathbf{R}} := \text{Aut}(H_{\mathbf{R}}, S)$ be the automorphism group of the classifying space D of Hodge structures of weight w (see §1). A representation $\rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G$ is said to be *horizontal* at $r \in D$ if the morphism $\rho_*: \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ of the Lie algebras is a morphism of Hodge structures of type $(0, 0)$ with respect to the Hodge structures on $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{C})$ and $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}$ induced by $i \in U := (\text{upper-half plane})$ 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

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

Conversely, a pair $(Y, r) \in \mathfrak{g} \times D$ is said to be *admissible* if there exists a representation $\rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G$ 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 $H_{\mathbf{C}} = \bigoplus H_r^{p,q}$, 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 $g \in SL_2(\mathbf{R})$ (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 \mathbf{Z} -module $H_{\mathbf{Z}}$ of finite rank. Set $H_{\mathbf{Q}} := \mathbf{Q} \otimes H_{\mathbf{Z}}$, $H = H_{\mathbf{R}} := \mathbf{R} \otimes H_{\mathbf{Z}}$ and $H_{\mathbf{C}} := \mathbf{C} \otimes H_{\mathbf{Z}}$, whose complex conjugation is denoted by σ . Let w be an integer. A *Hodge structure of weight w* on $H_{\mathbf{C}}$ is a decomposition

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

The integers

$$(1.2) \quad h^{p,q} := \dim H^{p,q}$$

are called the Hodge numbers.

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

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

REMARK (1.4). In the geometric case, i.e., the Hodge structure on the w -th cohomology group $H^w(X, \mathbf{Q})$ of a smooth projective variety $X \subset \mathbf{P}^N$ of dimension d over \mathbf{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 $u, v \in H_{\text{prim}}^w(X, \mathbf{C}) \simeq H_{\text{prim}}^w(X, \Omega_X^1)$ where $\eta \in H^1(X, \Omega_X^1)$ 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

$$\begin{aligned}
 \check{D} &:= \{ \{ H^{p,q} \} \mid \text{Hodge structure on } H_{\mathbf{C}} \text{ with } \dim H^{p,q} = h^{p,q}, \\
 &\quad \text{satisfying the first condition in (1.3)} \}, \\
 (1.5) \quad D &:= \{ \{ H^{p,q} \} \in \check{D} \mid \text{satisfying also the second condition in (1.3)} \}.
 \end{aligned}$$

These are homogeneous spaces under the natural actions of the groups

$$(1.6) \quad G_{\mathbf{C}} := \text{Aut}(H_{\mathbf{C}}, S), \quad G = G_{\mathbf{R}} := \{ g \in G_{\mathbf{C}} \mid gH_{\mathbf{R}} = H_{\mathbf{R}} \},$$

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

$$(1.7) \quad \check{D} \simeq G_{\mathbf{C}}/B_{\mathbf{C}}, \quad D \simeq G/V,$$

where $B_{\mathbf{C}}$ and V are the isotropy subgroups of $G_{\mathbf{C}}$ and of G at $r \in D$, respectively. It is a direct consequence of the definition that

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

where $k := \sum_{|j| \leq [t/2]} h^{t+2j,t-2j}$ 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

$$(1.9) \quad h^{p,q} = 0 \quad \text{unless } (p, q) = \begin{cases} (t+1, t-1), & (t, t) \quad \text{or} \quad (t-1, t+1), \\ & \text{and } h^{t+1,t-1} = 1 \quad \text{if } w=2t, \\ (t+1, t) \quad \text{or} \quad (t, t+1) & \text{if } w=2t+1. \end{cases}$$

A reference Hodge structure $r = \{ H_r^{p,q} \} \in D$ induces a Hodge structure of weight 0 on the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}} := \text{Lie } G_{\mathbf{C}}$ by

$$(1.10) \quad \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}^{s,-s} := \{ X \in \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}} \mid XH_r^{p,q} \subset H_r^{p+s,q-s} \text{ for all } p, q \}.$$

One can define the associated Cartan involution θ_r on $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}$ by

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

This can be interpreted in the following way: Set

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1.12) \quad H_r^+ &:= H_r^{w,0} \oplus H_r^{w-2,2} \oplus H_r^{w-4,4} \oplus \cdots, \\
 H_r^- &:= H_r^{w-1,1} \oplus H_r^{w-3,3} \oplus H_r^{w-5,5} \oplus \cdots.
 \end{aligned}$$

It is clear by definition that the isotropy subgroup of the decomposition $H_{\mathbf{C}} = H_r^+ \oplus H_r^-$ induces the maximal compact subgroup

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A representation

$$(1.17) \quad \rho_m: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow SL_{m+1}(\mathbf{R}) \quad \text{defined by} \quad \rho_m(g) \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix}^{(m)} := \left(g \begin{pmatrix} \xi \\ \eta \end{pmatrix} \right)^{(m)}$$

is called a symmetric tensor representation of dimension $m+1$. It is known that the ρ_m ($m=0, 1, 2, \dots$) 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 $\text{Ad } c_1$, where

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

as follows:

$$(1.19) \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{R}) & \ni y := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, & n_+ := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & n_- := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{Ad } c_1 \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ \mathfrak{su}(1, 1) & \ni z := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, & x_+ := \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -i & 1 \\ 1 & i \end{pmatrix}, & x_- := \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} i & 1 \\ 1 & -i \end{pmatrix}. \end{array}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} Y_m(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) &= (m-2j)\xi^{m-j}\eta^j, \\ N_{m+}(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) &= (m-j)\xi^{m-j-1}\eta^{j+1}, \\ N_{m-}(\xi^{m-j}\eta^j) &= j\xi^{m-j+1}\eta^{j-1}. \end{aligned}$$

- (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 $\mathfrak{g}_{1C} := \mathfrak{sl}_2(C)$ induced by $i \in U := (\text{upper-half plane}) \simeq SL_2(\mathbf{R})/U(1)$ coincides with the canonical decomposition by the standard “H-element” $(n_+ - n_-)/2$ (cf., e.g., [Sa, II, §7]):

$$\mathfrak{g}_{1C} = \mathfrak{g}_{1C}^{1,-1} + \mathfrak{g}_{1C}^{0,0} + \mathfrak{g}_{1C}^{-1,1} = \mathfrak{p}_- + \mathfrak{k}_C + \mathfrak{p}_+ = \{x_-\}_C + \{z\}_C + \{x_+\}_C.$$

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 $p, q \geq 0$.

DEFINITION (2.1) (cf. [Sc, p. 258]). An SL_2 -representation $\rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G$ 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 $\rho_*: \mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}$ 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 $\tilde{\rho}: P^1 \rightarrow \check{D}$ with $\tilde{\rho}(i) = r$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} SL_2(C) & \xrightarrow{\rho} & G_C \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ P^1 & \xrightarrow{\tilde{\rho}} & \check{D}. \end{array}$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

$$(2.6) \quad Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)} := X_{-}^k(H_C(Z; \lambda+2k) \cap \text{Ker } X_{+}),$$

for all eigenvalues $\lambda \in \{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm w\}$ of Y and Z and for $k \geq \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$, 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

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

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

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

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 $c P_\lambda^{(\lambda+2k)} = Q_\lambda^{(\lambda+2k)}$. 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 $P_\lambda^{(\lambda+2k)}$

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

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

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

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

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

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 $X_{\mp}^{\pm \lambda} \in \mathfrak{g}_c^{\lambda, -\lambda}$. 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 $k \geq \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$, we see that

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

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 :

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

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.

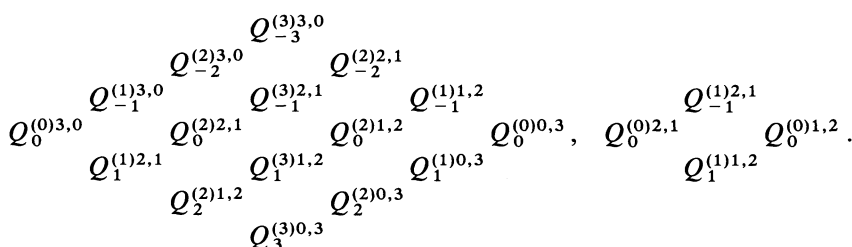


FIGURE 1.

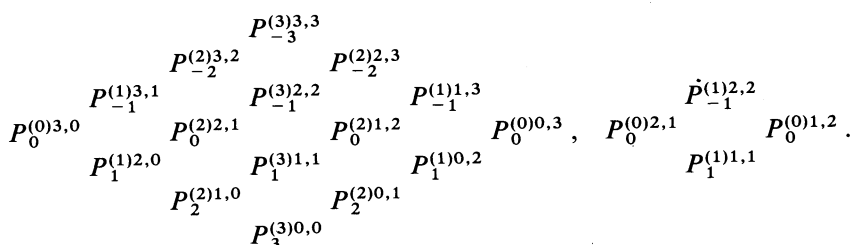


FIGURE 2.

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_{\pm} to the first nest of diamonds together with the action of the operators Z, X_{\pm} : $cP_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+k} = Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+\lambda+k}$.

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 $X_-^{\lambda+k} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+\lambda+k} \subset Q_{-\lambda-2k}^{(-\lambda-2k+2(\lambda+2k))a+\lambda+2k, b} = 0$ 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 $L_i = \bigoplus_{\lambda \leq i} \bigoplus_k P_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)}$ (cf. [Sc, (6.16)] and its proof, [CK, pp. 13–14]).

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

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

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 $0 \leq \lambda \leq w$.
- (ii) $p_{\lambda}^{b,a} = p_{\lambda}^{a,b}$ for all λ, a, b with $0 \leq \lambda \leq w, a \geq 0, b \geq 0$ and $a+b=w-\lambda$.
- (iii) $h^{a,b} = h^{a+1, b-1} - (p_0^{a+1, b-1} + p_1^{a+1, b-2} + \cdots + p_{b-1}^{a+1, 0}) + (p_0^{a,b} + p_1^{a-1, b} + \cdots +$

$p_a^{0,b}$) for all a, b with $a \geq 0, b \geq 0$ 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 $\lambda \geq 0$ (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:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ker} &= Q_0^{(0)a+1, b-1} \oplus Q_1^{(1)a+1, b-1} \oplus \dots \oplus Q_{b-1}^{(b-1)a+1, b-1} \\ &\stackrel{\subset}{=} P_0^{(0)a+1, b-1} \oplus P_1^{(1)a+1, b-2} \oplus \dots \oplus P_{b-1}^{(b-1)a+1, 0}, \\ \text{Coker} &\simeq Q_0^{(0)a, b} \oplus Q_{-1}^{(1)a, b} \oplus \dots \oplus Q_{-a}^{(a)a, b} \\ &\simeq Q_0^{(0)a, b} \oplus Q_1^{(1)a-1, b+1} \oplus \dots \oplus Q_a^{(a)0, b+a} \\ &\stackrel{\subset}{=} P_0^{(0)a, b} \oplus P_1^{(1)a-1, b} \oplus \dots \oplus P_a^{(a)0, b}. \end{aligned}$$

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 $(Y, r) \in \mathfrak{g} \times D$, there exists at most one representation $\rho : SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G$ which is horizontal at r and $\rho_*(y) = Y$.

PROOF. Since y and z generate $\mathfrak{sl}_2(\mathbf{C})$, 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

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

For a subspace M of $H_{\mathbf{C}}$, we put, throughout this proof,

$$\begin{aligned} M^\perp &:= \{v \in H_{\mathbf{C}} \mid S(v, \sigma u) = 0 \text{ for all } u \in M\}, \\ \text{projection } \{M \rightarrow H_r^{p, q}\} &:= \text{Im} \left\{ M \subset H_{\mathbf{C}} = \bigoplus_{p'+q'=w} H_r^{p', q'} \rightarrow H_r^{p, q} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Then we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
Q_w^{(w)0,w} &= \text{projection} \{ Y^w H_r^{w,0} \rightarrow H_r^{0,w} \}, \\
Q_{w-2k}^{(w)k,w-k} &= \text{projection} \{ Y^k Q_w^{(w)0,w} \rightarrow H_r^{k,w-k} \} \quad (0 \leq k \leq w), \\
\bigoplus_{0 \leq \lambda \leq w-1} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} &= H_r^{w,0} \cap (Q_{-w}^{(w)w,0})^\perp, \\
Q_{w-1}^{(w-1)1,w-1} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{w-1} \left(\bigoplus_{0 \leq \lambda \leq w-1} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} \right) \rightarrow H_r^{1,w-1} \right\}, \\
Q_{w-1-2k}^{(w-1)1+k,w-1-k} &= \text{projection} \{ Y^k Q_{w-1}^{(w-1)1,w-1} \rightarrow H_r^{1+k,w-1-k} \} \quad (0 \leq k \leq w-1), \\
\bigoplus_{0 \leq \lambda \leq w-2} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} &= H_r^{w,0} \cap \left(\bigoplus_{w-1 \leq \lambda \leq w} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} \right)^\perp, \\
Q_{w-2}^{(w-2)2,w-2} &= \text{projection} \left\{ Y^{w-2} \left(\bigoplus_{0 \leq \lambda \leq w-2} Q_{-\lambda}^{(\lambda)w,0} \right) \rightarrow H_r^{2,w-2} \right\}, \\
Q_{w-2-2k}^{(w-2)2+k,w-2-k} &= \text{projection} \{ Y^k Q_{w-2}^{(w-2)2,w-2} \rightarrow H_r^{2+k,w-2-k} \} \quad (0 \leq k \leq w-2), \\
&\dots\dots\dots
\end{aligned}$$

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

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

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

DEFINITION (3.3). A pair $(Y, r) \in \mathfrak{g} \times D$ is admissible if there exists a representation $\rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G$ 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) .

$Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ 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 \mathbf{R} whose eigenvalues are contained in $\{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots, \pm w\}$ 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 \mathbf{R} , the eigenspaces $H(Y; \lambda)$ are defined over \mathbf{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 $n_{\lambda'} - n_{\lambda'+2} \geq 0$ for $\lambda' \geq 0$ by the condition (2.14.i), we can take a direct sum

decomposition

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 $\lambda \geq 0$ and $\lambda < 0$ altogether. For $k \geq \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$ and $a \geq b$, let

$$(3.9) \quad \{v_{\lambda, j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+k} \mid 1 \leq j \leq p_{\lambda+2k}^{a, b}\}$$

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

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

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

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

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

$$(3.12) \quad \begin{aligned} N_+ v_{\lambda, j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+k} &:= k v_{\lambda+2, j}^{((\lambda+2)+2(k-1))a+k-1, b+k-1}, \\ N_- v_{\lambda, j}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+k} &:= (\lambda+k) v_{\lambda-2, j}^{((\lambda-2)+2(k+1))a+k+1, b+k+1}, \end{aligned}$$

for all λ , non-negative a, b and $k \geq \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$. 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

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

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

$$(3.13) \quad \rho: SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G \quad \text{such that} \quad \rho_*(Y) = Y \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_*(n_{\pm}) = N_{\pm}, \quad \text{respectively.}$$

By using the Cayley element $c := \rho(c_1) \in G_c$, we define

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

where, on the right hand side of the second equality, the summation is taken over all the eigenvalues λ of Y , all integers $k \geq \max\{-\lambda, 0\}$ 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

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

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

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

one can compute as

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

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 $Z = (\text{Ad } c)Y$, $X_{\pm} = (\text{Ad } c)N_{\pm}$, one can compute, by (1.20), as

$$\begin{aligned}
Z Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+\lambda+k} &= c Y P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+k} = Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+\lambda+k}, \\
X_{\pm} Q_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+\lambda+k} &= c N_{\pm} P_{\lambda}^{(\lambda+2k)a+k, b+k}
\end{aligned}$$

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

This completes the proof of the theorem. \blacksquare

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

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

PROPOSITION (3.16). *We use the notation in Theorem (3.4). Let $Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ 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 \mathfrak{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 $\{h^{p,q}, n_\lambda\}$, $G_Y := \{g \in G \mid (\text{Ad } g)Y = Y\}$ 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 $(\text{Int } g)K' = K$ and $(\text{Ad } g)Y = Y$. Hence the admissibility of (Y, r') implies that of $((\text{Ad } g)Y, gr') = (Y, gr')$, 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 $\rho, \rho': SL_2(\mathbf{R}) \rightarrow G$ be the corresponding representations. It is enough to show that there exists $g \in G$ such that $\rho' = (\text{Int } g)\rho$. Indeed, if this is the case, then $(\text{Ad } g)Y = (\text{Ad } g)(\rho_*(y)) = \rho'_*(y) = Y$ 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. \blacksquare

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