

MSRI 5-minute talks

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GRTA program

- 1 Representation theory of real reductive groups.
- 2 Algebraic geometry and analysis on algebraic varieties.

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Gelfand pairs and a conjecture of van Dijk

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Definition

1) Let G be a finite group and $H \leq G$ a subgroup. We say that (G, H) is a **Gelfand pair** if $\forall \pi \in \text{Irr}(G)$, we have $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\pi^*)^H \leq 1$, or equivalently

$$\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Hom}_G(\pi, \mathbb{C}[G/H]) \leq 1.$$

2) This notion can be generalized to a pair (G, H) where G is a reductive group and $H \leq G$ is a closed subgroup.

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The following are Gelfand pairs:

- (S_n, S_{n-1}) , $(G \times G, \Delta G)$.
- $(GL_n(\mathbb{C}), O_n(\mathbb{C}))$, $(GL_n(\mathbb{C}), GL_m(\mathbb{C}) \times GL_{n-m}(\mathbb{C}))$, (G, K) , where G is a real reductive group and K a maximal compact subgroup.

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Conjecture (van Dijk)

Let G be a complex reductive group, $\theta : G \rightarrow G$ a complex involution, and H an open subgroup of G^θ . Then (G, H) is a Gelfand pair.