

# Characters of finite reductive groups: a survey

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## 1 An example: $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$

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  - An example: inducing 1 from the Borel subgroup
  - Howlett-Lehrer-Lusztig-Geck Theorem

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- $\mathbf{GL}_{2,3,4}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ : Steinberg 1952
- $\mathbf{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ : Green 1955
- $\mathbf{Sp}_4(\mathbb{F}_q)$ : Srinivasan 1968
- Deligne-Lusztig 1976
- Lusztig's conjecture 1990

- $\mathbf{G} = \mathrm{GL}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q)$ ,  $F : \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} a^q & b^q \\ c^q & d^q \end{pmatrix}$ .
- $\mathbf{G}^F = \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$
- $\mathbf{B}_0 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ ,  $\mathbf{T}_0 = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 \\ 0 & * \end{pmatrix} \right\}$ ,  $\mathbf{T}_0^F \simeq \mathbb{F}_q^\times \times \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ .

For  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$ , let  $\theta_{\alpha, \beta} : \mathbf{B}_0^F \longrightarrow \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell^\times$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & x \\ 0 & b \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto \alpha(a)\beta(b)$$

By the **Mackey formula** (and the **Bruhat decomposition**  $\mathbf{G}^F = \mathbf{B}_0^F \amalg \mathbf{B}_0^F \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}_0^F$ ), we have

$$\langle \mathrm{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} \theta_{\alpha, \beta}, \mathrm{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} \theta_{\alpha, \beta} \rangle = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \alpha \neq \beta \\ 2 & \text{if } \alpha = \beta \end{cases}$$

- $\mathrm{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} \theta_{1,1} = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell[\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F] = \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell[\mathbf{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_q)] = 1_{\mathbf{G}} + \mathrm{St}_{\mathbf{G}}$ , where  $\mathrm{St}_{\mathbf{G}}$  is the **Steinberg character**.
- $\mathrm{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} \theta_{\alpha,\alpha} = (\alpha \circ \det) + \mathrm{St}_{\mathbf{G}} \cdot (\alpha \circ \det)$

What about the others?

Several constructions: Steinberg ( $\mathrm{GL}_{2,3,4}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , 1952), Green ( $\mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ , 1955), Drinfeld (geometric, 1974)

→ parametrized by orbits (under  $? \mapsto ?^q$ ) of  $\omega \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times)^\wedge$  such that  $\omega \neq \omega^q$ .



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## Harish-Chandra Theory

- $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{V}$   $F$ -stable Levi decomposition of an  $F$ -stable parabolic subgroup
- Harish-Chandra induction

$$R_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}} : \begin{array}{ccc} \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell} \mathbf{L}^F - \text{mod} & \longrightarrow & \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell} \mathbf{G}^F - \text{mod} \\ M & \longmapsto & \text{Ind}_{\mathbf{P}^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} \tilde{M} \end{array}$$

where  $\tilde{M}$  is the lift of  $M$  to  $\mathbf{P}^F$

- Harish-Chandra restriction

$${}^*R_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}} : \begin{array}{ccc} \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell} \mathbf{G}^F - \text{mod} & \longrightarrow & \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell} \mathbf{L}^F - \text{mod} \\ M & \longmapsto & M^{\mathbf{V}^F} \end{array}$$

- They are adjoint, transitive...

- An irreducible module  $M$  (resp. character  $\gamma$ ) is called **cuspidal** if, for all **proper**  $F$ -stable parabolic subgroup  $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{V}$ , we have  $*R_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{G}}M = 0$  (resp.  $*R_{\mathbf{L}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{P}}^{\mathbf{G}}\gamma = 0$ ).
- $\text{CuspPairs}(\mathbf{G}, F) = \{(\mathbf{L}, \lambda) \mid \mathbf{L} \text{ is an } F\text{-stable Levi subgroup of an } F\text{-stable parabolic subgroup of } \mathbf{G} \text{ and } \lambda \text{ is an irreducible cuspidal character of } \mathbf{L}^F\}$ .
- $\text{Irr}(\mathbf{G}^F, \mathbf{L}, \lambda) = \{\chi \in \text{Irr } \mathbf{G}^F \mid \langle \chi, R_{\mathbf{L}}^{\mathbf{G}}\lambda \rangle \neq 0\}$

### Theorem (Harish-Chandra Theory)

$$\text{Irr } \mathbf{G}^F = \coprod_{(\mathbf{L}, \lambda) \in \text{CuspPairs}(\mathbf{G}, F) / \sim_{\mathbf{G}^F}} \text{Irr}(\mathbf{G}^F, \mathbf{L}, \lambda)$$

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## An example: $\text{Irr}(\mathbf{G}^F, \mathbf{T}_0, \mathbf{1})$

We have  $\text{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} 1 = \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F]$ .

$$\text{End}_{\mathbf{G}^F} \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F] \simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F]^* \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F]$$

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 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F \times \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F]^{\mathbf{G}^F} \\
 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[(\mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F \times \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F)/\mathbf{G}^F] \\
 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{B}_0^F \backslash \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F]
 \end{aligned}$$

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 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[\mathbf{B}_0^F \backslash \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F] \\
 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}[W^F]
 \end{aligned}$$

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as a vector space!

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 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell[\mathbf{B}_0^F \backslash \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F] \\
 &\simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell[W^F]
 \end{aligned}$$

as a vector space!

but also as an algebra!!! (Tits deformation theorem)

We get a bijection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Irr } W^F & \longrightarrow & \text{Irr}(\mathbf{G}^F, \mathbf{T}_0, 1) \\ \chi & \longmapsto & \gamma_\chi \end{array}$$

such that

$$\text{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} 1 = \sum_{\chi \in \text{Irr } W^F} \chi(1) \gamma_\chi.$$

**Sub-example:**  $\mathbf{G}^F = \mathbf{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ,  $W = W^F = \mathfrak{S}_n$

$$\{\text{partitions of } n\} \longleftrightarrow \text{Irr } \mathfrak{S}_n \longleftrightarrow \text{Irr}(\mathbf{G}^F, \mathbf{T}_0, 1)$$

$$\lambda \vdash n \quad \longmapsto \quad \gamma_\lambda$$

$$\gamma_\lambda(u_\mu) = 0 \quad \text{unless } \mu \trianglelefteq \lambda$$

- $u_\mu$ : unipotent element associated to  $\mu$
- $\trianglelefteq$ : dominance order

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- $(\mathbf{L}, \lambda) \in \text{CuspPairs}(\mathbf{G}, F)$
- Let  $W_{\mathbf{G}^F}(\mathbf{L}, \lambda) = N_{\mathbf{G}^F}(\mathbf{L}, \lambda)/\mathbf{L}^F$

### Theorem (Howlett-Lehrer, 1979).

$$\text{End}_{\mathbf{G}^F} R_{\mathbf{L}}^{\mathbf{G}} \lambda \simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_{\ell}^{[\omega]} W_{\mathbf{G}^F}(\mathbf{L}, \lambda)$$

where  $\omega$  is a 2-cocycle.

- **Lusztig (1984)**: if the centre of  $\mathbf{G}$  is connected, then  $\omega$  is trivial
- **Geck (1992)**:  $\omega$  is always trivial

$$\text{Irr}(\mathbf{G}^F, \mathbf{L}, \lambda) \longleftrightarrow \text{Irr } W_{\mathbf{G}^F}(\mathbf{L}, \lambda)$$

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## Drinfeld's example (1974):

- $\mathcal{C} = \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q) \mid (xy^q - yx^q)^{q-1} = 1\}$ .
- $\mathbf{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$  acts linearly on  $\mathbf{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q)$  and stabilizes  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times$  acts on  $\mathbf{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q)$  by multiplication and stabilizes  $\mathcal{C}$ .
- These two actions commute.
- Let  $\theta \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times)^\wedge$  be such that  $\theta \neq \theta^q$ .
- Drinfeld proved that the  $\theta$ -isotypic component of  $H_c^1(\mathcal{C}, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$  is an irreducible cuspidal  $\mathbf{G}^F$ -module (he was 19 years-old!).

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## Deligne-Lusztig varieties:

- $\mathbf{P} = \mathbf{L}\mathbf{V}$  Levi decomposition with  $F(\mathbf{L}) = \mathbf{L}$  but  $\mathbf{P}$  is not necessarily  $F$ -stable!

$$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}} = \{g\mathbf{V} \in \mathbf{G}/\mathbf{V} \mid g^{-1}F(g) \in \mathbf{V} \cdot F(\mathbf{V})\}.$$

- $\mathbf{G}^F$  acts on the left,  $\mathbf{L}^F$  acts on the right; these actions commute.
- Deligne-Lusztig induction

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}} : \mathbb{Z} \operatorname{Irr} \mathbf{L}^F &\longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \operatorname{Irr} \mathbf{G}^F \\ [M] &\longmapsto \sum (-1)^i [H_c^i(\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}}, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell) \otimes_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell} M] \end{aligned}$$

- Deligne-Lusztig restriction

$$\begin{aligned} {}^*R_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}} : \mathbb{Z} \operatorname{Irr} \mathbf{G}^F &\longrightarrow \mathbb{Z} \operatorname{Irr} \mathbf{L}^F \\ [M] &\longmapsto \sum (-1)^i [H_c^i(\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}}, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)^* \otimes_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell} M] \end{aligned}$$

## Examples:

(1) If  $F(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{P}$ , then  $F(\mathbf{V}) = \mathbf{V}$  and

$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{LCP}}^{\mathbf{G}} = (\mathbf{G}/\mathbf{V})^F = \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{V}^F$  is a finite set.

Then Deligne-Lusztig induction = Harish-Chandra induction

(2)  $\mathbf{G}^F = \mathbf{GL}_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ : there is an  $F$ -stable maximal torus  $\mathbf{T}'$  of a non- $F$ -stable Borel subgroup  $\mathbf{B}'$  of  $\mathbf{G}$  such that  $\mathbf{T}'^F \simeq \mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times$  and

$\mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{T}'\subset\mathbf{B}'}^{\mathbf{G}} \simeq \mathcal{C}$  (Drinfeld's variety).

Then, if  $\theta \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^2}^\times)^\wedge = (\mathbf{T}'^F)^\wedge$  is such that  $\theta \neq \theta^q$ , then

$H_c^2(\mathcal{C}, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_\theta = 0$  and

$$[H_c^1(\mathcal{C}, \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)_\theta] = -R_{\mathbf{T}'}^{\mathbf{G}}(\theta)$$

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## Lusztig series:

- $(\mathbf{G}^*, F^*)$  dual to  $(\mathbf{G}, F)$  (dual root system)
- $\nabla(\mathbf{G}, F) = \{(\mathbf{T}, \theta) \mid \mathbf{T} \text{ is an } F\text{-stable maximal torus of } \mathbf{G} \text{ and } \theta \in (\mathbf{T}^F)^\wedge\}$ .
- $\nabla^*(\mathbf{G}, F) = \{(\mathbf{T}^*, s) \mid \mathbf{T}^* \text{ is an } F^*\text{-stable maximal torus of } \mathbf{G}^* \text{ and } s \in \mathbf{T}^{*F^*}\}$ .
- **Deligne-Lusztig:**  $\nabla(\mathbf{G}, F)/\sim_{\mathbf{G}^F} \longleftrightarrow \nabla^*(\mathbf{G}, F)/\sim_{\mathbf{G}^{*F^*}}$ .  
 $\longrightarrow$  we set  $R_{\mathbf{T}}^{\mathbf{G}}(\theta) = R_{\mathbf{T}^*}^{\mathbf{G}^*}(s)$  if  $(\mathbf{T}, \theta)$  is associated to  $(\mathbf{T}^*, s)$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{G}^F, s) = \{\text{irreducible components of virtual characters of the form } R_{\mathbf{T}^*}^{\mathbf{G}^*}(t) \text{ where } (\mathbf{T}^*, t) \in \nabla^*(\mathbf{G}, F) \text{ and } s \text{ and } t \text{ are } \mathbf{G}^{*F^*}\text{-conjugate}\}$ : **Lusztig series**

## Theorem (Deligne-Lusztig, 1976).

$$\text{Irr } \mathbf{G}^F = \coprod_{s \in \mathbf{G}_{\text{sem}}^{*F*} / \sim} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{G}^F, s).$$

## Theorem (Lusztig, 1976-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84).

- (a) If the centre of  $\mathbf{G}$  is connected, then there is a bijection  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{G}^F, s) \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{G}(s)^F, 1)$  where  $\mathbf{G}(s)$  is dual to  $C_{\mathbf{G}^*}(s)$ :

### Jordan decomposition

- (b) Parametrization of  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{G}^F, 1)$  by a set depending only on  $(W, F)$ , not on  $q$ .

**Remark** - The Jordan decomposition "commutes" with Harish-Chandra theory

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## Unipotent characters

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{G}^F, 1) = \{\text{unipotent characters}\}$$

If  $w \in W$ , let

$$\mathbf{X}(w) = \{g\mathbf{B}_0 \in \mathbf{G}/\mathbf{B}_0 \mid g^{-1}F(g) \in \mathbf{B}_0 w \mathbf{B}_0\}.$$

Then  $\mathbf{G}^F$  acts on the left on  $\mathbf{X}(w)$ . Let

$$\mathcal{R}_w = \sum_{i \geq 0} (-1)^i [H_c^i(\mathbf{X}(w), \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)] \in \mathbb{Z} \text{Irr } \mathbf{G}^F.$$

**Fact:**  $\gamma \in \text{Irr } \mathbf{G}^F$  is unipotent if and only if it occurs in some  $\mathcal{R}_w$ .

**Remarks** - (1)  $\mathbf{X}(1) = (\mathbf{G}/\mathbf{B}_0)^F = \mathbf{G}^F/\mathbf{B}_0^F$  so  $\mathcal{R}_1 = \text{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} 1$ .

So all the  $(\gamma_\chi)_{\chi \in \text{Irr } W^F}$  are unipotent characters.

(2)  $\sum_{w \in W} \mathcal{R}_w = |W| 1_{\mathbf{G}^F}$ .

## Almost characters

From now on, we assume that  $(G, F)$  is split, so that  $F$  acts trivially on  $W$ .

$$\Rightarrow \langle \mathcal{R}_w, \mathcal{R}_{w'} \rangle = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } w \not\sim w' \\ |C_W(w)| & \text{if } w \sim w' \end{cases} \quad (\text{Deligne-Lusztig})$$

If  $\chi$  is a class function on  $W$ , let

$$R_\chi = \frac{1}{|W|} \sum_{w \in W} \chi(w) \mathcal{R}_w.$$

Then  $\langle R_\chi, R_\psi \rangle = \langle \chi, \psi \rangle$ . So, if  $\chi \in \text{Irr } W$ , then  $\langle R_\chi, R_\chi \rangle = 1$ . But, in general,  $R_\chi \neq \gamma_\chi!!!$

If  $\chi \in \text{Irr } W$ ,  $R_\chi$  is called an **almost character**.

**Lusztig** has constructed other (unipotent) almost characters: he has determined the transition matrix between almost characters and irreducible characters (diagonal by blocks with "small" blocks).

## What happens in $G^F = \mathrm{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ?

$$\gamma_\chi = R_\chi$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}(G^F, 1) = \{R_\chi \mid \chi \in \mathrm{Irr} W\}.$$

**In general**, character values of almost characters are much nicer than those of characters. Explanation (?): theory of [character sheaves](#).

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- Let  $\mathbf{X}$  be a variety and  $F : \mathbf{X} \rightarrow \mathbf{X}$  be a Frobenius endomorphism
- Let  $D^b(\mathbf{X})$  denote the bounded derived category of constructible  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves.
- Let  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{X}} : D^b(\mathbf{X}) \rightarrow D^b(\mathbf{X})$  be the Verdier duality.
- A bounded complex of  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves  $K$  is called **perverse** if  $\dim \operatorname{supp}(\mathcal{H}^i K) \leq -i$  for all  $i$  and similarly for  $\mathcal{D}_{\mathbf{X}}(K)$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{X})$  denote the category of perverse sheaves: it is an **abelian** category.
- If  $C$  is a bounded complex of  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves on  $\mathbf{X}$  and if  $\tau : F^*C \rightarrow C$  is an isomorphism, then, if  $x \in \mathbf{X}$ , then  $\tau_x$  induces an isomorphism  $(F^*C)_x = C_{F(x)} \simeq C_x$ . If moreover  $x \in \mathbf{X}^F$ , we set

$$\mathcal{X}_{C,\tau}(x) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} (-1)^i \operatorname{Tr}(\mathcal{H}^i(\tau_x), \mathcal{H}^i(C_x)).$$

$\mathcal{X}_{C,\tau}$  is called the **characteristic function** of  $(C, t)$ .

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## Grothendieck map:

- Let  $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} = \{(g, x\mathbf{B}_0) \mid g \in x\mathbf{B}_0x^{-1}\}$
- Let  $\pi: \tilde{\mathbf{G}} \rightarrow \mathbf{G}$  be the second projection (Grothendieck map). It is projective.
- $K = R\pi_* \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell[\dim \mathbf{G}]$  is a bounded complex of constructible  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$ -sheaves on  $\mathbf{G}$ ,  $\mathbf{G}$ -equivariant.
- The canonical isomorphism  $F^* \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell \simeq \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell$  induces (by the proper base change theorem), an isomorphism  $\varphi: F^*K \rightarrow K$ .
- $K$  is a perverse sheaf (because  $\pi$  is a **small** map).
- By the Proper Base Change Theorem and Lefschetz Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{X}_{K,\varphi}(g) &= \sum_{i \geq 0} (-1)^i \operatorname{Tr}(F, H_c^i(\pi^{-1}(g), \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)) \\
 &= |\pi^{-1}(g)^F| \\
 &= (\operatorname{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} 1)(g).
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{X}_{K,\varphi} = \operatorname{Ind}_{\mathbf{B}_0^F}^{\mathbf{G}^F} 1.$$

## Decomposition of $K$ :

$$\mathbf{G}_{\text{reg}} = \{\text{regular semisimple elements}\}, \quad \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}} = \pi^{-1}(\mathbf{G}_{\text{reg}}).$$

The map

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{G}/\mathbf{T}_0 \times (\mathbf{T}_0)_{\text{reg}} &\longrightarrow \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}} \\ (g\mathbf{T}_0, t) &\longmapsto (gtg^{-1}, g\mathbf{B}_0) \end{aligned}$$

is an isomorphism. So  $W$  acts on  $\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}}$  and  $\pi_{\text{reg}} : \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\text{reg}} \rightarrow \mathbf{G}_{\text{reg}}$  is a Galois étale covering with group  $W$ . Moreover,

$$K = IC(\mathbf{G}, (\pi_{\text{reg}})_* \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)[\dim \mathbf{G}].$$

But  $(\pi_{\text{reg}})_* \overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell \simeq \bigoplus_{\chi \in \text{Irr } W} \mathcal{L}_\chi^{\oplus \chi(1)}$ . So

$$K \simeq \bigoplus_{\chi \in \text{Irr } W} K_\chi^{\oplus \chi(1)},$$

where  $K_\chi = IC(\mathbf{G}, \mathcal{L}_\chi)[\dim \mathbf{G}]$ .  $\varphi$  induces an isomorphism  $\varphi_\chi : F^* K_\chi \rightarrow K_\chi$  and

$$\mathcal{X}_{K_\chi, \varphi_\chi} = R_\chi$$



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There exists a family of “ $F$ -stable”  $G$ -equivariant perverse sheaves on  $G$  which are indexed by the same set as the almost characters: the **character sheaves**. Their characteristic functions are class functions (by  $G$ -equivariance) and form an orthonormal basis of the space of class functions on  $G^F$  (Lusztig).

**Lusztig's conjecture:** *The characteristic function of a character sheaf is, up to a root of unity, an almost character.*

**Lusztig:** Transition matrix between irreducible and almost characters

**Lusztig (+Shoji):** Algorithm for computing characteristic functions of character sheaves.

## Proved:

- Shoji (1995): groups with connected centre in good characteristic
- Waldspurger (2003): symplectic, orthogonal groups in odd characteristic
- Shoji (2005):  $\mathbf{SL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$
- Bonnafé (2006):  $\mathbf{SL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ,  $\mathbf{SU}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$
- Shoji (today!): classical groups in characteristic 2