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We prove the multiplicity-one theorem for irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representations of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ occurring in the space of cuspidal automorphic functions on $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, where \mathbb{A} is the ring of adèles of a totally real number field k .

In this note, we prove the multiplicity-one theorem for irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representations of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ occurring in the space of cuspidal automorphic functions on $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, where \mathbb{A} is the ring of adèles of a totally real number field k . This result has been expected for a long time. Recently, F. Shahidi encouraged us to write up a complete proof, which has an important application to the proof of the existence of certain stable Siegel modular forms of weight three on GSp_4 . See [Ramakrishnan and Shahidi 2007] for details.

The restriction that the number field k is totally real stems from our use of [Kudla et al. 1992, Theorem 8.1], where this is an assumption on k . Otherwise, this restriction is not needed any further.

The proof we give is self-contained. Some of the ideas we use may be found in [Piatetski-Shapiro 1979]. To state the theorem, we denote by $L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ the space of cuspidal automorphic functions on $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ with central character ξ .

Theorem. *The multiplicity $m_c(\pi)$ of an irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representation π occurring in the space of cuspidal automorphic forms, $L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$, is one.*

Proof. Let $B = TU$ be a Borel subgroup of GSp_4 , where T , the reductive part, is a maximal split torus and U , the unipotent radical, is a maximal unipotent subgroup. Then

$$U/[U, U] \cong k \cdot X_\alpha \oplus k \cdot X_\beta,$$

where α is the short simple root and β is the long simple root, and X_α (or X_β) is a basis vector in the one-dimensional k -root space of α (or β respectively). Let ψ be a character of $U(\mathbb{A})$ that is trivial when restricted to $U(k)$. Then ψ factorizes

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through $U(\mathbb{A})/U(k)[U(\mathbb{A}), U(\mathbb{A})]$, which is isomorphic, as an abelian group, to $(\mathbb{A}/k) \cdot X_\alpha \oplus (\mathbb{A}/k) \cdot X_\beta$. We say that ψ is *generic* if it is nontrivial on each of the simple root subgroups, via the isomorphism above. By Pontriagin duality, such characters of $U(\mathbb{A})$ are parametrized by pairs $\underline{a} = (a_1, a_2) \in (k^\times)^2$, once we fix a nontrivial character $\psi^{(0)}$ of \mathbb{A}/k . We denote the character corresponding to \underline{a} by $\psi_{\underline{a}}^{(0)}$.

For any automorphic form ϕ on $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ and generic character ψ of $U(\mathbb{A})$, the ψ -Whittaker–Fourier coefficient of ϕ is defined by

$${}^{\circ}W^\psi(\phi)(g) = \int_{U(k)\backslash U(\mathbb{A})} \phi(ug)\psi^{-1}(u) du.$$

If the integral on the right is nonzero as a function of g , we say that ϕ is ψ -generic. An automorphic representation π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, acting in a space of automorphic forms V_π , is called globally ψ -generic if there is some $\phi \in V_\pi$, which is ψ -generic. For $t \in T(k)$, since ϕ is automorphic, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{U(k)\backslash U(\mathbb{A})} \phi(ug)\psi^{-1}(u) du &= \int_{U(k)\backslash U(\mathbb{A})} \phi(t^{-1}ug)\psi^{-1}(u) du \\ &= \int_{U(k)\backslash U(\mathbb{A})} \phi(ut^{-1}g)\psi^{-1}(tut^{-1}) du. \end{aligned}$$

If $\psi = \psi_{\underline{a}}^{(0)}$, we have

$$\psi_{\underline{a}}^{(0)}(tut^{-1}) = \psi_{t \cdot \underline{a}}^{(0)}(u),$$

where

$$t \cdot \underline{a} = (\alpha(t) \cdot a_1, \beta(t) \cdot a_2).$$

$T(k)$ acts transitively on the set of generic characters of $U(\mathbb{A})$. We conclude that any automorphic form ϕ on $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, which is ψ -generic, is also generic with respect to each generic character of $U(\mathbb{A})$. This implies that, for an automorphic representation π (acting in a space of automorphic forms) on $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, the notion of global genericity is independent of the choice of generic characters of $U(\mathbb{A})$. In this case, we will say that π is globally generic, once we know that it is globally generic with respect to some (and hence all) generic characters.

Let F be a local field and let τ be a smooth representation of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(F)$, acting in a space V_τ . As above, we have the notion of generic characters of $U(F)$, and they are parametrized by ordered pairs of elements in F^* , once we fix a nontrivial character of F . Given a generic character ψ of $U(F)$, we say that τ is ψ -generic if there is a nontrivial linear functional l on V_τ such that

$$l(\pi(u)v) = \psi(u)l(v),$$

for all $u \in U(F)$ and all $v \in V_\tau$. As above, if τ is ψ -generic, then it is ψ' -generic, with respect to all generic characters ψ' of $U(F)$.

Let π be an irreducible automorphic representation of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, acting in a space of automorphic forms. We know that π is isomorphic, as a representation, to a restricted tensor product $\pi \cong \otimes' \pi_v$. We say that π is locally generic at a place v if π_v is generic, and we say that π is abstractly generic if π is locally generic at all places. Clearly, if π is globally generic, then π is abstractly generic. The converse to this statement is not known.

For a given generic character ψ of $U(\mathbb{A})$, define

$$(1) \quad L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi) = \{\phi \in L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi) \mid \mathfrak{W}^\psi(\phi) \equiv 0\}.$$

It is clear that $L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ is a subspace of $L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$. Let $L_{0^\perp}^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ be the orthogonal complement of $L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ in $L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$. Then

$$L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi) = L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi) \perp L_{0^\perp}^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi),$$

and for an irreducible cuspidal automorphic representation π , realized in a given subspace $V_\pi \subset L_c^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$, we have

$$(2) \quad m_c(\pi) = m_0(\pi) + m_{0^\perp}(\pi),$$

where $m_0(\pi)$ (or $m_{0^\perp}(\pi)$) is the multiplicity of π occurring in $L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ (or in $L_{0^\perp}^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$, resp.). In order to prove the theorem, we show that

$$m_0(\pi) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad m_{0^\perp}(\pi) = 1$$

for all irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representations π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, with central character ξ .

We first note that

$$(3) \quad m_{0^\perp}(\pi) \leq 1,$$

for all irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representations π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, with central character ξ . The argument here is due to Piatetski-Shapiro [1979]. We need to show that any two isomorphic irreducible submodules $V_{\pi'}$, $V_{\pi''}$ of $L_{0^\perp}^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ affording the cuspidal representations π' and π'' are equal.

Let $\mathcal{T} : V_{\pi'} \rightarrow V_{\pi''}$ be an isomorphism as representations of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. Clearly π' and π'' are globally generic. By the local and global uniqueness of ψ -Whittaker models, there is a nonzero constant $c \in \mathbb{C}$, such that

$$\mathfrak{W}_{\mathcal{T}(\phi)}^\psi = c \cdot \mathfrak{W}_\phi^\psi.$$

It follows that

$$(4) \quad \mathfrak{W}_{\mathcal{T}(\phi) - c\phi}^\psi = \mathfrak{W}_{\mathcal{T}(\phi)}^\psi - c \cdot \mathfrak{W}_\phi^\psi = 0.$$

Note that the space of all $\mathcal{T}(\phi) - c\phi$, as ϕ varies in $V_{\pi'}$, is either zero or an irreducible submodule, isomorphic to π' . We claim that $\mathcal{T}(\phi) - c \cdot \phi = 0$, for all ϕ in

$V_{\pi'}$. Otherwise, if $\mathcal{T}(\phi) - c \cdot \phi \neq 0$ for some ϕ , we get that the nonzero cuspidal automorphic form $\mathcal{T}(\phi) - c \cdot \phi$ generates an irreducible cuspidal automorphic subrepresentation $V_{\pi'''}$ in $L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$. This is clear from (4) and (1). However, it is also clear that $V_{\pi'''}$ is contained in

$$V_{\pi'} + V_{\pi''} \subset L_{0^\perp}^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi),$$

and this is a contradiction. This implies that $\mathcal{T} = c \cdot \mathrm{id}_{V_{\pi'}}$, and therefore, $V_{\pi'} = V_{\pi''}$.

Next, we show that $m_0(\pi) = 0$ for all irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representations π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. Once we prove this, we get from (2) and (3) that

$$1 \leq m_c(\pi) = m_{0^\perp}(\pi) \leq 1,$$

and hence $m_c(\pi) = 1$, as we want.

Assume that $m_0(\pi) \neq 0$. Then there is an irreducible subrepresentation $V_{\pi'} \subset L_0^2(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$ such that $\pi \cong \pi'$, as representations of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. It follows that π' has the following two properties.

Property (a). π' is equivalent to an irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic, representation π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ (in particular, π' is abstractly generic).

Property (b). π' has (identically) zero Whittaker–Fourier coefficients with respect to any generic character of $U(\mathbb{A})$.

We want to show that if such a π' exists for $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, we can construct an irreducible cuspidal automorphic representation σ' of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ satisfying three properties about to be stated, where the notions of local genericity of a representation of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$ and of global genericity of an automorphic representation of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ with respect to a given generic character are defined as in the case of GSp_4 .

Property 1. At each place v , the representation σ'_v is (locally) generic, with respect to some (local) generic character of $U(k_v)$. (We do not require that the local generic characters patch together to a global generic character of $U(\mathbb{A})/U(k)$.)

Property 2. The representation σ' is nearly equivalent to an irreducible, cuspidal, automorphic representation σ of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, which is globally generic, with respect to some generic character.

Property 3. The representation σ' has (identically) zero Whittaker–Fourier coefficients with respect to any generic character of $U(\mathbb{A})$.

However, by [Kudla et al. 1992, Theorem 8.1], there exists no irreducible cuspidal automorphic representation σ' of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ satisfying Properties 1, 2, and 3 for $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. For this, we have to show that the degree 5 partial L -function of σ' does not vanish at $s = 1$, and indeed, we have $L^S(\sigma', s) = L^S(\sigma, s)$, for a large enough finite set of places S , including the archimedean ones. Since σ is globally generic,

it follows, by a theorem of Shahidi [1981], that $L^S(\sigma, s)$ does not have a zero at $s = 1$. This will prove that $m_0(\pi) = 0$ for all irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representations π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. We remark that the work in [Kudla et al. 1992] was carried out under the assumption that k is totally real, so we have to make this assumption as well. This is the only place where this restriction is needed.

To finish the proof, we assume that there exists an irreducible cuspidal automorphic representation π' of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ satisfying Properties (a) and (b), such that $V_{\pi'} \subset L^2_0(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$. Consider the restriction map from $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$

$$f' \in V_{\pi'} \mapsto f'|_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}.$$

This is an $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ -equivariant map. Let $[V_{\pi'}]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}$ be the subspace generated by all $f'|_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}$. It is clear that $[V_{\pi'}]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}$ is a nonzero subspace of $L^2_c(\mathrm{Sp}_4)$, the space of all cuspidal automorphic functions on $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. If we define $L^2_0(\mathrm{Sp}_4)$ to be the subspace of $L^2_c(\mathrm{Sp}_4)$ consisting of all cuspidal automorphic functions having (identically) zero Whittaker–Fourier coefficients with respect to any generic character for $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, then $[V_{\pi'}]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}$ is included in $L^2_0(\mathrm{Sp}_4)$. Hence we may decompose

$$(5) \quad [V_{\pi'}]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})} = \bigoplus_j V_{\sigma'_j},$$

where $V_{\sigma'_j}$ are irreducible subspaces of $L^2_0(\mathrm{Sp}_4)$, corresponding to irreducible cuspidal automorphic representations σ'_j of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. We want to show that the σ'_j satisfy Properties 1, 2, and 3.

It is easy to see that Property 3 holds for σ'_j , since $[V_{\pi'}]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})} \subset L^2_0(\mathrm{Sp}_4)$. Next, we show that the σ'_j satisfy Property 1, i.e., the σ'_j are locally generic at all places. From (5), it follows that, for each j , there is a nontrivial $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ -homomorphism from $V_{\pi'}$ onto $V_{\sigma'_j}$. This implies that

$$(6) \quad \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}(V_{\pi'}, V_{\sigma'_j}) \neq 0.$$

Let $\mathcal{P}_j : V_{\pi'} \rightarrow V_{\sigma'_j}$ be a nonzero projection in (6). Then we may restrict \mathcal{P}_j to one place, as follows. Fix $\phi_v = \phi_{v,0} \in V_{\pi_v}$, for all $v \neq v_0$, such that ϕ_v is a previously chosen unramified vector, at almost all finite places, and for $\phi_{v_0} \in V_{\pi_{v_0}}$, we define

$$\mathcal{P}_{j,v_0}(\phi_{v_0}) = \mathcal{P}_j(\otimes_v \phi_v)$$

There is a choice of the $\phi_{v,0}$, for $v \neq v_0$, such that \mathcal{P}_{j,v_0} is nonzero, and then it defines a nonzero element in

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_{v_0})}(V_{\pi'_{v_0}}, V_{\sigma'_j}).$$

As a representation of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_{v_0})$, $V_{\sigma'_j}$ is an isotypic module of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_{v_0})$, and is a multiple of σ'_{j,v_0} . Hence there is a nonzero element in

$$\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_{v_0})}(V_{\pi'_{v_0}}, V_{\sigma'_{j,v_0}}).$$

This works for all places v_0 . As a representation of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$, the restriction of π'_v to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$ decomposes into a direct sum of irreducible admissible representations of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$. Clearly each summand is generic with respect to a certain generic character of $U(k_v)$. Hence, at each place v , $\sigma'_{j,v}$ is generic with respect to some generic character of $U(k_v)$. This is **Property 1**.

It remains to show that the σ'_j satisfy **Property 2**. Since π' enjoys **Property (a)**, we know that the irreducible, globally generic, cuspidal, automorphic representation π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ is equivalent to π' . We want to construct an irreducible, cuspidal, automorphic representation σ of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, which is globally generic with respect to some generic character, and such that σ is nearly equivalent to σ'_j .

Consider the restriction map from $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ for π as before, i.e.,

$$f \in V_\pi \mapsto f|_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})} \in [V_\pi]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}.$$

There exists $f \in V_\pi$ such that $f|_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}$ has a nonzero Whittaker–Fourier coefficient on $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, with respect to a given generic character of $U(\mathbb{A})$. As before, we have

$$(7) \quad [V_\pi]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})} = \bigoplus_j V_{\sigma_j},$$

where σ_j are irreducible, cuspidal, automorphic, representations of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. This is formula (5) for V_π . Since $[V_\pi]_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})}$ has nonzero Whittaker–Fourier coefficients with respect to a certain generic character of $U(\mathbb{A})$, there exists at least one summand in (7) having nonzero Whittaker Fourier coefficients with respect to this character. Such a summand σ is an irreducible, cuspidal, automorphic representation of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, which is globally generic with respect to some generic character. We want to show that the σ'_j are nearly equivalent to σ .

For any irreducible admissible, representation Π of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, which may not be automorphic, the restriction of Π to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ is a direct sum of irreducible admissible representations of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. At a local unramified place v , the restriction of Π_v to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$ has one and only one spherical irreducible summand with respect to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{O}_v)$. More precisely, for an irreducible unramified representation Π_v of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(k_v)$, consider its restriction of to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$

$$(8) \quad \Pi_v|_{\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)} = \bigoplus_j \sigma_{j,v}.$$

Exactly one of the summands in (8) is unramified with respect to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{O}_v)$. The reason for this is simple, and we thank the referee for pointing it to us. We may

assume that Π_v is an irreducible subrepresentation of $\mathrm{Ind}_{B_v}^{\mathrm{GSp}_4(k_v)} \chi$, where χ is an unramified character. Consider the map given by restriction of functions to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$:

$$(9) \quad \mathrm{Ind}_{B_v}^{\mathrm{GSp}_4(k_v)} \chi \longrightarrow \mathrm{Ind}_{B_v \cap \mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)}^{\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)} \chi',$$

where χ' is the restriction of χ to $B_v \cap \mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$. This map is clearly $\mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$ -equivariant. It is injective since $\mathrm{GSp}_4(k_v) = B_v \mathrm{Sp}_4(k_v)$. Since the right-hand side of (9) has a one-dimensional space of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{O}_v)$ -fixed vectors, so does the left-hand side, and hence Π_v , as well.

We conclude that the irreducible summands in the restriction of Π to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ are nearly equivalent, since they share the same unramified local component at all local unramified places.

Now we apply this to the case of $\pi \cong \pi'$. It follows that, as irreducible admissible representations of $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, σ'_j occurs in the restriction of π' to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ and σ occurs in the restriction of π to $\mathrm{Sp}_4(\mathbb{A})$. Hence σ must be nearly equivalent to σ'_j . This proves that σ'_j enjoys [Property 2](#). This completes the proof of the [Theorem](#). \square

We remark that the strong multiplicity-one theorem for globally generic cuspidal representations of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ was proved in [[Soudry 1987](#)], namely, two irreducible, automorphic, cuspidal, globally generic representations π_1, π_2 of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$ that are nearly equivalent are isomorphic. From the [Theorem](#) in the present paper it also follows that the two representations are, in fact, equal, in the sense that $V_{\pi_1} = V_{\pi_2}$. (In [[Soudry 1987](#)] a reference is made [[Piatetski-Shapiro 1979](#)] to derive this equality; it was only later that the author noted that the multiplicity-one theorem proved in that reference applies only to the space $L^2_{0^\perp}(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$.) We thus get this corollary:

Corollary. *Let π_1 and π_2 be two irreducible, automorphic, cuspidal representations of $\mathrm{GSp}_4(\mathbb{A})$, which are nearly equivalent, and act in the spaces of cusp forms V_{π_1} and V_{π_2} respectively. Assume that π_1 is globally generic and π_2 is abstractly generic. Then $V_{\pi_1} = V_{\pi_2}$.*

Proof. We first show that π_2 is globally generic. Otherwise, it follows that V_{π_2} is a subspace of $L^2_0(\mathrm{GSp}_4, \xi)$, where ξ is the central character of π_2 (which is equal to that of π_1). Next, we can find σ and σ' as before — that is, satisfying [Properties Property 1–Property 3](#), with π_1 playing the role of π and π_2 that of π' . (In our previous argument, we used the isomorphism between π and π' just to conclude that π' is abstractly generic, and hence σ' is also locally generic at all places.) This leads to a contradiction as before. Now that π_2 is also globally generic, we can use [[Soudry 1987](#)], to conclude that π_1 and π_2 are isomorphic, and then, by the [Theorem](#), we get $V_{\pi_1} = V_{\pi_2}$. \square

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