

## 2. Induction and reciprocity

Objektyp: **Chapter**

Zeitschrift: **L'Enseignement Mathématique**

Band (Jahr): **28 (1982)**

Heft 1-2: **L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE**

PDF erstellt am: **26.09.2024**

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern. Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

### **Haftungsausschluss**

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

## 2. INDUCTION AND RECIPROCITY

The notion of induced representations for finite groups was introduced in 1898 by G. Frobenius in the paper [37]. In the same paper Frobenius established what is now called the Frobenius reciprocity relation. We recall his basic construction which is fundamental in the entire theory of group representations.<sup>1)</sup>

Let  $G$  be a finite group and let  $P$  be a subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $\pi$  be a representation of  $G$  on a finite dimensional vector space  $V$ . That is  $\pi: G \rightarrow GL(V)$  is a homomorphism of  $G$  into the group of non-singular endomorphisms of  $V$ . We shall also refer to  $V$  as a (left)  $G$  module. By restriction  $V$  is also a  $P$  module. Conversely there is a functor  $I$  which converts  $P$  modules to  $G$  modules: Given a  $P$  module  $W$  the  $G$  module  $IW$  is defined to be the space of functions  $f: G \rightarrow W$  such that  $f(ap) = p^{-1} \cdot f(a)$  for every  $(a, p)$  in  $G \times P$ . The action of  $G$  on  $IW$  is defined by

$$(a \cdot f)(x) = f(a^{-1}x)$$

for  $(f, a, x)$  in  $(IW) \times G \times G$ .  $IW$  is called the  $G$  module *induced* by the  $P$  module  $W$ . Induction and restriction are related in the following way.

**THEOREM 2.1** (Frobenius reciprocity relation, 1898). *If  $W$  is a  $P$  module and if  $V$  is a  $G$  module then*

$$\text{Hom}_G(V, IW) = \text{Hom}_P(V, W).$$

We wish to consider extensions or analogues of this relation in a wider context. For this it is most convenient first of all to re-describe the  $G$  module  $IW$ . The following "geometric" interpretation of  $IW$  is well-known. Consider the right action of  $P$  on  $G \times W$  given by

$$(a, w) \cdot p = (ap, p^{-1}w)$$

for  $(a, p, w)$  in  $G \times P \times W$ . Let

$$(2.2) \quad E_W = \text{orbit space } (G \times W)/P = G \times_P W.$$

Let  $\gamma: E_W \rightarrow G/P$  be the canonical (well-defined) map  $[a, w] \rightarrow aP$ , where  $[a, w]$  is the orbit of  $(a, w) \in G \times W$ . For each  $a \in G$  the map  $w \rightarrow [a, w]$  of  $W$  to  $\gamma^{-1}\{aP\}$  is a bijection. That is we may identify  $W$  as the fibre over each point of

<sup>1)</sup> For the theory of induced representations of locally compact groups see G. Mackey [55], [56].

$G/P$ .  $G$  acts naturally on  $E_W$  and  $G/P$  on the left.  $\gamma$  is an equivariant map. Let  $\Gamma(E_W)$  be the space of sections of  $E_W$ . That is  $s \in \Gamma(E_W)$  is a map from  $G/P$  to  $E_W$  satisfying  $\gamma \circ s = 1$ ; hence  $s$  maps each point to the fibre over it.  $\Gamma(E_W)$  is a left  $G$  module:

$$(2.3) \quad (a \cdot s)(x) = a \cdot s(a^{-1} \cdot x)$$

for  $(a, s, x)$  in  $G \times \Gamma(E_W) \times G/P$ . Moreover

PROPOSITION 2.4. *There is a natural  $G$  module isomorphism  $s \rightarrow f^s$  of  $\Gamma(E_W)$  onto  $IW$  such that for every  $a$  in  $G$ ,  $s(aP) = [a, f^s(a)]$ . Hence by Theorem 2.1*

$$(2.5) \quad \text{Hom}_G(V, \Gamma(E_W)) = \text{Hom}_P(V, W).$$

This sets the stage for a possible extension of Frobenius. Namely, following Bott, we consider the following data.  $G$  is a complex Lie group,  $P$  is a closed complex Lie subgroup (thus the injection  $P \rightarrow G$  is holomorphic), and  $W$  is a finite dimensional holomorphic  $P$  module (i.e. for each  $w$  in  $W$  and  $f$  in the complex dual space of  $W$  the map  $p \rightarrow f(p \cdot w)$  of  $P$  to the complex numbers is holomorphic). We define  $E_W$  exactly as above. Then  $E_W$  has the structure of a holomorphic vector bundle over the complex manifold  $G/P$ . Let  $\Gamma(E_W)$  now denote the space of  $C^\infty$  sections with the  $G$  module structure given by (2.3) and let  $\Gamma_{\text{hol}}(E_W)$  denote the  $G$  stable subspace of holomorphic sections. Since all of our data is now holomorphic the most natural question to ask, considering (2.5), is: When is it true that

$$(2.6) \quad \text{Hom}_G(V, \Gamma_{\text{hol}}(E_W)) = \text{Hom}_P(V, W)$$

for a holomorphic  $G$  module  $V$ ? (2.6) would then represent an exact holomorphic analogue of Frobenius reciprocity. It turns out that (2.6) is valid if the space  $G/P$  is sufficiently nice. For example suppose that  $G/P$  is a compact simply connected Kahler manifold. Group theoretically this means that  $G$  is a connected complex semisimple Lie group and  $P$  is a parabolic subgroup. Then it is due to Bott [12] that (2.6) is valid. In fact in [12] Bott proves considerably more: Let  $SE_W$  be the sheaf of germs of local holomorphic sections of  $E_W$  and let  $H^*(G/P, SE_W)$  be the cohomology of  $G/P$  with coefficients in  $SE_W$ . Then we have

THEOREM 2.7 (R. Bott, 1957). *Suppose  $G$  is a connected complex semisimple Lie group and  $P$  is a parabolic subgroup of  $G$ . Let  $\mathfrak{p}$  be the Lie algebra of  $P$  and let  $V, W$  be finite dimensional holomorphic  $G$  and  $P$  modules respectively. Then*

$$(2.8) \quad \text{Hom}_G(V, H^j(G/P, SE_W)) = H^j(p, p \cap \bar{p}, \text{Hom}(V, W))$$

for each  $j \geq 0$ .

The bar  $\bar{\phantom{x}}$  denotes conjugation of  $G$  with respect to a maximal compact subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  and the right hand side of (2.8) is the *relative* Lie algebra cohomology of  $p$  (in the sense of Hochschild, Serre [44]). Here  $H^j(G/P, SE_W)^1$  has the  $G$  module structure induced by the left action of  $G$  on  $E_W$  and  $\text{Hom}(V, W)$  has the  $p$  module structure defined by

$$(2.9) \quad (x \cdot \phi)(v) = -\phi(x \cdot v) + x \cdot \phi(v)$$

for  $(x, \phi, v)$  in  $p \times \text{Hom}(V, W) \times V$ .

*Remarks.* (i) For  $j = 0$ ,  $H^0(p, p \cap \bar{p}, \text{Hom}(V, W))$  is independent of the subalgebra  $p \cap \bar{p}$  of  $p$  and has the value  $\text{Hom}(V, W)^P$  (the space of invariants) which is precisely  $\text{Hom}_p(V, W) = \text{Hom}_P(V, W)$  by (2.9) ( $P$  is connected). Also  $H^0(G/P, SE_W)$  is precisely  $\Gamma_{\text{hol}}(E_W)$ . Thus taking  $j = 0$  in (2.8) we get

$$\text{Hom}_G(V, \Gamma_{\text{hol}}(E_W)) = \text{Hom}_P(V, W)$$

which is (2.6). This shows that (2.8) represents a rather remarkable extension of Frobenius reciprocity to higher cohomology. Here the induction functor is  $I: W \rightarrow H^*(G/P, SE_W)$ .

(ii) As shown by Bott (2.8) is valid, more generally, for  $C$ -spaces  $G/P$  in the sense of Wang [90]. The latter need not be Kahler, as we have assumed for our purposes.

The functor  $I$  in remark (i) can be explicated by the use of differential forms: Let  $\Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  denote the space of  $E_W$  valued  $C^\infty$  differential forms on  $G/P$  of pure type  $(0, j)$ . That is

$$\omega \in \Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$$

assigns to each  $x \in G/P$  a skew-symmetric  $j$  linear map

$$\omega_x: T_x(G/P)^{\mathbb{C}} \times \dots \times T_x(G/P)^{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow (E_W)_x = \gamma^{-1}\{x\}$$

on the complexified tangent space  $T_x(G/P)^{\mathbb{C}}$  of  $G/P$  at  $x$  to the fiber  $(E_W)_x$  over  $x$  such that (a) given smooth vector fields  $X_1, \dots, X_j$  on  $G/P$  the map

$$\omega(X_1, \dots, X_j): x \rightarrow \omega_x(X_{1x}, \dots, X_{jx})$$

is  $C^\infty$ —i.e. it belongs to  $\Gamma(E_W)$  and (b) for each real number  $\theta$ ,

$$\omega(U_\theta X_1, \dots, U_\theta X_j) = e^{-\sqrt{-1}j\theta} \omega(X_1, \dots, X_j)$$

<sup>1</sup>) Since  $G/P$  is compact  $H^j(G/P, SE_W)$  is known to be finite-dimensional.

where

$$U_\theta X_l = \cos \theta X_l + \sin \theta JX_l$$

and  $J$  is the complex structure tensor on  $G/P$ . Let  $\bar{\partial}: \Lambda^{0,j} \rightarrow \Lambda^{0,j+1}$  denote, as usual, the Cauchy-Riemann operator so that  $\bar{\partial}^2 = 0$ . If  $f$  is a  $C^\infty$  function on  $G/P$  and  $X$  is a  $C^\infty$  vector field on  $G/P$  then

$$(2.10) \quad (\bar{\partial}f)(X) = \frac{1}{2} [Xf + \sqrt{-1}(JX)f].$$

Since  $\bar{\partial}^2 = 0$  let  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  denote the corresponding  $\bar{\partial}$  cohomology:

$$(2.11) \quad H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) = \frac{\ker \bar{\partial}: \Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) \rightarrow \Lambda^{0,j+1}(G/P, E_W)}{\bar{\partial}\Lambda^{0,j-1}(G/P, E_W)}.$$

By Dolbeault's theorem [35]

$$(2.12) \quad H^j(G/P, SE_W) = H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W).$$

The induced action of  $G$  on  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  is given explicitly as follows. First  $G$  acts on  $\Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  by

$$(2.13) \quad (a \cdot \omega)_x(L_1, \dots, L_j) = a \cdot \omega_{a^{-1}x}(dl_{a^{-1}x}(L_1), \dots, dl_{a^{-1}x}(L_j))$$

where

$$(a, \omega, x) \in G \times \Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) \times G/P,$$

each  $L_l \in T_x(G/P)^{\mathbb{C}}$  and  $dl_{ax}$  is the derivative of left translation  $l_a: G/P \rightarrow G/P$  on  $G/P$  at  $x$ . Note that (2.13) generalizes the action of  $G$  on

$$\Gamma(E_W) = \Lambda^{0,0}(G/P, E_W)$$

given in (2.3). Because left translation is holomorphic the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} & \Lambda^{0,j+1}(G/P, E_W) \\ a \downarrow & & \downarrow a \\ \Lambda^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} & \Lambda^{0,j+1}(G/P, E_W) \end{array}$$

is commutative for each  $a$  in  $G$ . Thus (2.13) induces a well-defined action of  $G$  on  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$ . We may now write (2.8) as

$$(2.14) \quad \text{Hom}_G(V, H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)) = H^j(p, p \cap \bar{p}, \text{Hom}(V, W)).$$

Now assume that  $W$  is in fact irreducible. The parabolic subalgebra  $p$  has a decomposition  $p = (p \cap \bar{p}) \oplus n$  into a reductive part  $p \cap \bar{p}$  and a nilpotent part  $n =$  an ideal in  $p$ . By general principles

$$\begin{aligned} H^j(p, p \cap \bar{p}, \text{Hom}(V, W)) &= H^j(n, \text{Hom}(V, W))^{p \cap \bar{p}} \\ &= H^j(n, V^* \otimes W)^{p \cap \bar{p}} = (H^j(n, V^*) \otimes W)^{p \cap \bar{p}}. \end{aligned}$$

The last statement of equality follows by the irreducibility of  $W$  since by Lie's theorem,  $W$  is a trivial  $n$  module. Now

$$(H^j(n, V^*) \otimes W)^{p \cap \bar{p}} = \text{Hom}_{p \cap \bar{p}}(W^*, H^j(n, V^*)).$$

From (2.14) we obtain (see [50]).

**THEOREM 2.15 (Bott-Kostant reciprocity, 1960).** *Let  $G, P$  be as in Theorem 2.7, let  $n$  be the nilradical of the parabolic subalgebra  $p$ , and let  $W$  be a finite dimensional irreducible holomorphic  $P$  module. Then for any finite dimensional holomorphic  $G$  module  $V$  we have*

$$(2.16) \quad \text{Hom}_G(V, H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)) = \text{Hom}_{p \cap \bar{p}}(W^*, H^j(n, V^*)).$$

Again  $p \cap \bar{p}$  is the reductive part of  $p$  where the bar denotes conjugation of  $G = K^{\mathbb{C}}$  with respect to a maximal compact subgroup  $K$ . We refer to (2.16) as "the debut of  $n$  cohomology"! Since 1960 it has played some rather important roles in both finite dimensional and infinite dimensional representation theory. There is an equivalent version of (2.16): The  $G$  module structure on  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  induced by (2.13) may be restricted to  $K$ . Let  $\hat{K}$  denote, as usual, the equivalence classes of the irreducible unitary representations of  $K$  and let  $V_{\pi}$  be the representation space of  $\pi \in \hat{K}$ . Then we have (again for  $W$  irreducible).

**THEOREM 2.17 (B. Kostant).** *The decomposition of  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  as a  $K$  module is*

$$\begin{aligned} (2.18) \quad H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) &= \sum_{\pi \in \hat{K}} V_{\pi} \otimes \text{Hom}_{p \cap \bar{p}}(W^*, H^j(n, V_{\pi}^*)) \\ &= \sum_{\pi \in \hat{K}} V_{\pi}^* \otimes \text{Hom}_{p \cap \bar{p}}(W^*, H^j(n, V_{\pi})). \end{aligned}$$

In the direct sum on the right hand side the action of  $K$  on a summand is  $\pi \otimes 1$  or  $\pi^* \otimes 1$  in the second equation.

From (2.18) (or from (2.16)) we see that the multiplicity of an irreducible  $K$  module  $V_{\pi}$  in  $H_{\bar{\partial}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  is governed precisely by the  $n$  cohomology

$H^j(n, V_\pi^*)$ . Here, by analytic continuation, we consider  $V_\pi$  also as a representation of the complex Lie algebra of  $G$ . Its  $n$  module structure is the restriction thereof to  $n$ .

*Remarks.* (i) In contrast to remark (ii) made earlier, following Theorem 2.7, Theorems (2.15) and (2.17) do require that  $G/P$  should be Kahler.

(ii) One knows that  $K$  acts transitively on  $G/P$  so that  $G/P$  is diffeomorphic to  $K/K \cap P$ .

Now Kostant in [50] has computed the Lie algebra cohomology groups  $H^j(n, V_\pi^*)$ . Two outstanding consequences of his results, among others, which we shall briefly discuss are (a) Weyl's character formula and (b) Bott's generalized Borel-Weil theorem. Suppose more generally that  $g$  is any complex semisimple Lie algebra (for example  $g$  could be the Lie algebra of  $G$  above). Let  $h \subset g$  be a Cartan subalgebra of  $g$ , let  $\Delta$  be the set of non-zero roots of  $(g, h)$ , and let  $\Delta^+$  be a choice of positive roots. The equivalence classes of finite dimensional irreducible representations of  $g$  (over the complex numbers) correspond univalently to linear

functionals  $\Lambda$  on  $h$  which satisfy the condition that  $2 \frac{(\Lambda, \alpha)}{(\alpha, \alpha)}$  is a non-negative

integer for each  $\alpha$  in  $\Delta^+$ . That is  $\Lambda$  is  $\Delta^+$  dominant integral;  $(, )$  denotes the Killing form on  $g$ . This is Cartan's highest weight theory alluded to in the introduction. Let  $\pi_\Lambda$  be a finite dimensional irreducible representation of  $g$  with corresponding highest weight  $\Lambda \in h^*$ . Its character  $X_\Lambda: h \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  is defined to be the function  $H \rightarrow \text{trace exp } \pi_\Lambda(H)$ ,  $H \in h$ . This definition is independent of the choice of Cartan subalgebra  $h$  since any two are conjugate. We consider the special "minimal" parabolic subalgebra  $p \subset g$  whose nilradical is

$$(2.19) \quad n = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} g_\alpha$$

and whose reductive part is  $h$  where  $g_\alpha$  is the root space of  $\alpha \in \Delta$ . That is  $p$  is just the Borel subalgebra  $h + n$ . Let  $V_\Lambda$  denote the representation space of  $\pi_\Lambda$ . Then by restriction to  $n$  we again form the Lie algebra cohomology groups  $H^j(n, V_\Lambda)$ . Let  $\theta$  denote the adjoint representation of  $h$  on  $\Lambda n^*$ . Then  $\theta \otimes \pi_\Lambda$  defines a representation of  $h$  on the cochain complex  $\Lambda n^* \otimes V_\Lambda$ . This  $h$  action commutes with the coboundary operator and therefore passes to cohomology. Applying the Euler-Poincaré principle one gets

$$(2.20) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{\dim n} (-1)^j \text{trace exp } \theta \otimes \pi_\Lambda(H) \Big|_{\Lambda^j n^* \otimes V_\Lambda} = \sum_{j=0}^{\dim n} (-1)^j \text{trace exp } \theta \otimes \pi_\Lambda(H) \Big|_{H^j(n, V_\Lambda)}$$

for each  $H$  in  $\mathfrak{h}$ . One evaluates the left hand side of (2.20) by general principles and the right hand side using Kostant's main theorem, Theorem 5.14 of [50]. Actually Theorem 5.14 of [50] gives the  $\mathfrak{h}_1$  module structure of  $H^j(n_1, V_\Lambda)$  for an arbitrary parabolic  $\mathfrak{p}_1 = \mathfrak{h}_1 + \mathfrak{n}_1$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with reductive and nilpotent parts  $\mathfrak{h}_1, \mathfrak{n}_1$  respectively. For the derivation of Weyl's formula only the simplest case  $\mathfrak{p}_1 = \mathfrak{p} = \mathfrak{h} + \mathfrak{n}$  is needed, where  $\mathfrak{n}$  is given in (2.19). Thus we shall state only a special case of Kostant's result.

THEOREM 2.21 (B. Kostant, 1960). *The decomposition of  $H^j(n, V_\Lambda)$  as a  $\mathfrak{h}$  module is*

$$H^j(n, V_\Lambda) = \sum V_{\Lambda, \sigma},$$

$$\sigma \in \text{Weyl group } \mathcal{W} \text{ of } (\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}) \text{ such that } l(\sigma) = j,$$

where each summand  $V_{\Lambda, \sigma}$  in the direct sum is one-dimensional and  $H \in \mathfrak{h}$  acts on  $V_{\Lambda, \sigma}$  by the scalar  $[\sigma(\Lambda + \delta) - \delta](H)$ .

Here by definition  $2\delta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \alpha$  and  $l(\sigma)$  (the length of  $\sigma$ ) is the cardinality of the set  $\Delta^+ \cap \sigma(-\Delta^+)$ . From the remarks following (2.20) and the knowledge of  $n$  cohomology given by Theorem 2.21 one derives Weyl's famous character formula [93]:

THEOREM 2.22 (H. Weyl, 1926). *For  $H \in \mathfrak{h}$*

$$X_\Lambda(H) = \frac{\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{W}} (\det \sigma) e^{[\sigma(\Lambda + \delta)](H)}}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} (e^{\alpha(H)/2} - e^{-\alpha(H)/2})}.$$

The denominator is also given by the sum  $\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{W}} (\det \sigma) e^{(\sigma\delta)(H)}$  (this fact can be proved too using  $n$  cohomology) and  $\det \sigma = (-1)^{l(\sigma)}$ . As a corollary of Theorem 2.22 one obtains Weyl's formula for the dimension of the irreducible module  $V_\Lambda$  in terms of its highest weight  $\Lambda$ . The result is

$$(2.23) \quad \dim V_\Lambda = \frac{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha)}{\prod_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} (\delta, \alpha)}.$$

Kostant's result on  $n$  cohomology can also be used to derive the generalized Borel-Weil theorem. Here one may apply formula (2.18) decisively. Let  $\mathfrak{g}$  now denote the Lie algebra of  $G$ . Extend a maximal abelian subalgebra of the Lie algebra of  $K$  to a Cartan subalgebra  $\mathfrak{h}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Again let  $\Delta^+ \subset \Delta$  be a choice of positive roots where  $\Delta$  is the set of non-zero roots of  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$  and let  $2\delta = \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \alpha$ .



We choose the parabolic  $P$  such that its Lie algebra  $p$  contains the Borel subalgebra  $h + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} g_{-\alpha} \cdot h$  is also a Cartan subalgebra of the reductive Lie algebra  $p \cap \bar{p}$  so that we have the decompositions

$$(2.24) \quad \begin{aligned} p &= (p \cap \bar{p}) \oplus n, & p \cap \bar{p} &= h + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})} g_{\alpha} \\ n &= \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} \sum_{-\Delta(p \cap \bar{p})} g_{-\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Delta(p \cap \bar{p})$  is the set of roots of  $(p \cap \bar{p}, h)$ .

Let  $W$  be an irreducible holomorphic  $P$  module. Then  $W$  is an irreducible  $p \cap \bar{p}$  module thereby such that  $n \cdot W = 0$ . We let  $\Lambda$  denote its highest weight relative to the positive system  $\Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})$  for  $p \cap \bar{p}$ . Applying Kostant's cohomology theorem to (2.18) one obtains (see [12], [50]).

**THEOREM 2.25 (R. Bott, 1957).** *The spaces  $H_{\bar{\delta}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W)$  vanish for all but at most one  $j$ . If*

$$H_{\bar{\delta}}^{0,j_0}(G/P, E_W) \neq 0$$

*then  $H_{\bar{\delta}}^{0,j_0}(G/P, E_W)$  is an irreducible  $K$  module.*

More precisely we have the following. Let  $\Lambda$  be the highest weight of  $W$  (as above) relative to the positive roots in the reductive part of  $P$ . If  $(\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) = 0$  for some  $\alpha$  in  $\Delta$  then  $H_{\bar{\delta}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) = 0$  for every  $j$ . If  $(\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) \neq 0$  for each  $\alpha$  in  $\Delta$  (i.e.  $\Lambda + \delta$  is *regular*) there is a unique element  $\sigma$  in the Weyl group of  $(g, h)$  such that  $(\sigma(\Lambda + \delta), \alpha) > 0$  for every  $\alpha \in \Delta^+$ . Then  $H_{\bar{\delta}}^{0,j}(G/P, E_W) = 0$  for  $j \neq l(\sigma)$  where again  $l(\sigma)$  is the length of  $\sigma$  (see remarks following Theorem 2.21). Moreover  $H_{\bar{\delta}}^{0,l(\sigma)}(G/P, E_W)$  is an irreducible  $K$  module (= an irreducible  $g$  module since  $g$  is the complexification of the Lie algebra of  $K$ ) with highest weight  $\sigma(\Lambda + \delta) - \delta$  relative to  $\Delta^+$ .

*Remarks.* (i) By definition of  $\sigma$  it follows that

$$\sigma^{-1}\Delta^- \cap \Delta^+ = \{\alpha \in \Delta^+ \mid (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) < 0\}.$$

Also since  $\Lambda$  is a highest weight  $(\Lambda, \alpha) \geq 0$  for

$$\alpha \in \Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p}) \Rightarrow (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) > 0$$

for

$$\alpha \in \Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p}).$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} &\{\alpha \in \Delta^+ \mid (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) < 0\} \\ &= \{\alpha \in \Delta^+ - (\Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})) \mid (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) < 0\} \end{aligned}$$

so that  $l(\sigma)$  in Theorem 2.25 has the value

$$|\{\alpha \in \Delta^+ - (\Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})) \mid (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) < 0\}|^1).$$

$$\Delta^+ - \Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})$$

is the set of roots in the nilradical of the "opposite" parabolic  $\bar{p}$ . Since

$$(\sigma(\Lambda + \delta), \sigma\alpha) = (\Lambda + \delta, \alpha) > 0$$

for  $\alpha \in \Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})$  (as we have just seen) we also conclude that the Weyl group element  $\sigma$  in Theorem 2.25 satisfies

$$\Delta^- \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p}) \subset \sigma^{-1} \Delta^-.$$

(ii) The irreducible holomorphic  $P$  modules  $W$  in the statement of Theorem 2.25 can be obtained as follows. Start with an arbitrary irreducible representation  $\pi$  of  $P \cap K$  on a complex vector space  $W$ . Since  $p \cap \bar{p}$  is the complexification of the Lie algebra of  $P \cap K$ ,  $\pi$  defines a unique irreducible representation  $\pi$  on  $p$  such that  $\pi(n) = 0$ . This infinitesimal representation can be "integrated" to a representation of  $P$  since  $P$  and  $P \cap K$  have the same fundamental groups. Thus every irreducible representation  $\pi$  of  $P \cap K$  extends uniquely to an irreducible holomorphic representation of  $P$ . The highest weight  $\Lambda$  of  $\pi$  is integral and  $\Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})$  dominant. Conversely if  $G$  is simply connected, any integral  $\Lambda \in h^*$  which is  $\Delta^+ \cap \Delta(p \cap \bar{p})$  dominant is the highest weight of irreducible representation of  $P \cap K$  and hence is the highest weight of an irreducible holomorphic representation of  $P$ .

(iii) Suppose in particular  $G$  is simply connected,  $p$  is chosen to be

$$h + \sum_{\alpha \in \Delta^+} g_{-\alpha},$$

and that  $\Lambda$  is  $\Delta^+$  dominant integral. Then in Theorem 2.25  $\sigma = 1$  so that the irreducible  $K, G$  or  $g$  module with highest weight  $\Lambda$  is given by  $H_{\theta}^{0,0}(G/P, E_W) =$  space of holomorphic sections of the line bundle  $E_W$ . Indeed  $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} W = 1$  since in this case  $P \cap K$  is abelian. This gives the geometric realization of  $V_{\Lambda}$  [11].

<sup>1)</sup>  $|S|$  denotes the cardinality of a set  $S$ .