

Degenerate Whittaker functionals for real reductive groups

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Let π be a smooth admissible representation of a quasi-split real reductive group. A Whittaker functional on π is a continuous functional that transforms by a non-degenerate character under the nilradical N of a Borel subgroup.

We consider functionals on π that transform by arbitrary characters of N , and we establish a connection between the existence of such functionals and the associated variety of π , thereby generalizing results of Kostant, Matumoto and others.