Tempered representations and K-theory



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A higher index for finite-volume locally symmetric spaces

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Let G be a connected real semisimple Lie group, and K < G maximal compact. For a discrete subgroup $\Gamma < G$, we have the locally symmetric space $X = \Gamma \setminus G/K$. If X is smooth and compact, then Atiyah-Singer index theory is a source of useful and computable invariants of X. One then also has the higher index, with values in the K-theory of the C^* -algebra of Γ . In many relevant cases X is noncompact, but still has finite volume. Then Moscovici showed in the 1980s that a relevant index of Dirac operators on X can still be defined. Barbasch and Moscovici computed this index in terms of group- and representation-theoretic information in the case of real rank 1 groups. (Stern generalised this to groups of higher real rank.) With Hao Guo and Hang Wang, we construct a K-theoretic index, from which Moscovici's index, and the individual terms in Barbasch and Moscovici's index theorem, can be extracted and computed.

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