

Arithmetic and Algebraic Geometry: A conference in honor of Ofer Gabber  
on the occasion of his 60th birthday

ID de Contribution: 1

Type: Non spécifié

## Character formulas in the modular representation theory of algebraic groups

*lundi 11 juin 2018 11:45 (1 heure)*

I will review present two formulas for the characters of representations of reductive algebraic groups in positive characteristic  $p$ . Both formulas involve certain polynomials (" $p$ -Kazhdan-Lusztig polynomials") which measure the failure of the decomposition theorem for resolutions of affine Schubert varieties, when the sheaf coefficients are of characteristic  $p$ . These formulas are proven under mild bounds on  $p$  (e.g.  $p \geq 2 \times$  Coxeter number) and are expected to hold uniformly. (This is joint work with S. Riche, with parts also joint with P. Achar and S. Makisumi.)

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