

**Yiannis Sakellaridis  
Akshay Venkatesh**

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**PERIODS AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS  
ON SPHERICAL VARIETIES**

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Maison de la SMF B.P. 67 13274 Marseille Cedex 9 France christian.smf@cirm-math.fr	AMS P.O. Box 6248 Providence RI 02940 USA www.ams.org
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Secrétariat : Nathalie Christiaën

Astérisque

Société Mathématique de France

Institut Henri Poincaré, 11, rue Pierre et Marie Curie

75231 Paris Cedex 05, France

Tél : (33) 01 44 27 67 99 • Fax : (33) 01 40 46 90 96

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*Y. Sakellaridis*

*E-mail* : sakellar@rutgers.edu

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Rutgers University,  
Newark, NJ, USA.

*A. Venkatesh*

*E-mail* : akshay@math.stanford.edu

Department of Mathematics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA.

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# PERIODS AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS ON SPHERICAL VARIETIES

Yiannis Sakellaridis, Akshay Venkatesh

**Abstract.** — Given a spherical variety  $X$  for a group  $G$  over a non-Archimedean local field  $k$ , the Plancherel decomposition for  $L^2(X)$  should be related to “distinguished” Arthur parameters into a dual group closely related to that defined by Gaitsgory and Nadler. Motivated by this, we develop, under some assumptions on the spherical variety, a Plancherel formula for  $L^2(X)$  up to discrete (modulo center) spectra of its “boundary degenerations”, certain  $G$ -varieties with more symmetries which model  $X$  at infinity. Along the way, we discuss the asymptotic theory of subrepresentations of  $C^\infty(X)$  and establish conjectures of Ichino-Ikeda and Lapid-Mao. We finally discuss global analogues of our local conjectures, concerning the period integrals of automorphic forms over spherical subgroups.

**Résumé.** — Ce volume développe l'idée selon laquelle l'analyse harmonique d'une variété sphérique  $X$  est étroitement liée au programme de Langlands. Dans le cas local, la conjecture principale dit que la décomposition spectrale de  $L^2(X)$  est contrôlée par un groupe dual attaché à  $X$ . En poursuivant cette idée, les auteurs établissent une formule de Plancherel pour  $L^2(X)$ , faisant intervenir des variétés sphériques plus simples qui apparaissent dans la géométrie du bord de  $X$ . Cette étude locale est ensuite reliée aux conjectures globales sur les périodes de formes automorphes le long de sous-groupes sphériques.



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