

SELF-DUAL CUSPIDAL REPRESENTATIONS

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ABSTRACT. Let G be a connected reductive group over a finite field \mathfrak{f} of order q . When $q \leq 5$, we make further assumptions on G . Then we determine precisely when $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal representations that are self-dual, of Deligne-Lusztig type, or both. Finally, we outline some consequences for the existence of self-dual supercuspidal representations of reductive p -adic groups.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let G denote a connected reductive F -group, where F is either a finite or a local nonarchimedean field. A representation π of $G(F)$ is called *self-dual* (or sometimes *self-contragredient* when F is local) if π is isomorphic to its (smooth) dual π^\vee . In this article, we give necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of complex, irreducible, self-dual, (super)cuspidal representations of such groups.

When F is finite, we also determine when one can find such representations that are of Deligne-Lusztig type. Using that result, we determine, in the case where F is local, when one can find such representations which are *regular* and have depth zero. The latter are those representations that arise from suitable Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representations of reductive quotients of parahoric subgroups of $G(F)$ (see Definition 8.1).

The existence or nonexistence of self-dual representations for specific groups has been studied in several works. Suppose F is local. When G is a general linear group, the first-named author gave necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence of *tame* self-dual supercuspidal representations [1]. Here, “tame” refers to the supercuspidals constructed by Howe [12]. When the residue characteristic p of F is even, Bushnell-Henniart showed the existence of self-dual representations for linear groups and division algebras of odd degree [5]. For division algebras of odd degree when p is odd, D. Prasad showed the nonexistence of self-dual representations of dimension greater than 1 [17].

Some of our results require us to impose certain hypotheses on G . These hypotheses disallow G to have certain small-rank factors of type 2A_k , $k \leq 4$ (see Terminology), when the field (in case F is finite) or the residue field (in case F is local) is of cardinality ≤ 5 .

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Our main results are as follows.

- (A) (Theorem 7.3) Let \mathfrak{f} denote a finite field of order q . Let G denote a connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -group. Then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal representations. If G satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(a), then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal, *Deligne-Lusztig* representations. If G also satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(b), then the following are equivalent:
 - (i) $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, *self-dual*, cuspidal representations.
 - (ii) $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal, *Deligne-Lusztig* representations.
 - (iii) G has no simple factor of type A_n for any even n (see Terminology below).
 - (B) Let F denote a nonarchimedean local field with residue field \mathfrak{f} of order q . Let G denote a connected reductive F -group. If G satisfies Hypothesis 8.11(a), then (Theorem 8.12) $G(F)$ admits regular, depth-zero, supercuspidal representations. Moreover, if G also satisfies Hypotheses 8.11(b) and 8.6, then $G(F)$ admits irreducible, *self-dual*, regular, depth-zero supercuspidal representations. Moreover (combining this result with Proposition 8.4), if the residue characteristic p of \mathfrak{f} is odd, then the following are equivalent:
 - (i) $G(F)$ admits irreducible, self-dual, supercuspidal representations.
 - (ii) $G(F)$ admits irreducible, self-dual, regular, *depth-zero* supercuspidal representations.
 - (iii) G has no F -almost-simple factor of type A_n for any even n .
- Finally (Theorem 8.13), if $p = 2$, and either $q \neq 2$ or G has no factor of type 2A_3 or 2A_4 , then $G(F)$ admits irreducible, self-dual, supercuspidal representations.

In the course of the proofs of our theorems, we show the existence of cuspidal representations of all connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -groups (Theorem 7.2), and thus depth-zero supercuspidal representations of all connected reductive F -groups (Proposition 8.2), without any restriction on \mathfrak{f} or F . This result is folklore, and can be inferred from [9, Prop. 7.1.4] using some facts about dual groups. (The proof in loc. cit. omitted the case of the group $G_2(2)$, but the result is nonetheless true, as can be seen below.) When F has characteristic zero, the existence of supercuspidals was also proved by Beuzart-Plessis [3] using methods of harmonic analysis, bypassing questions about finite groups.

Our proofs of theorems (A) and (B) are mostly uniform, except for the fact that certain unitary and orthogonal groups require special handling, as do several other groups when $q = 2$.

Terminology. Let F be any finite or nonarchimedean local field. If G is F -almost-simple, then G is isogenous to $R_{E/F} H$ for some finite extension E/F and some absolutely almost-simple group H . If we say that G has a certain “type”, then we are specifying both the absolute root system of H and the $*$ -action on this root system of the absolute Galois group of E . The “type” will sometimes include an indication of the order of E , if E is finite. Thus, for example, “ A_n ” refers to a group that is F -isogenous to an inner form of $R_{E/F} \mathrm{SL}_{n+1}$; “ 2A_n ” refers to a group that is F -isogenous to an inner form of $R_{E/F} \mathrm{SU}_{n+1}$; and “ ${}^2A_n(q)$ ” refers more specifically to a group that is F -isogenous to $R_{E/F} \mathrm{SU}_{n+1}$, where E has order q . Whenever F

is local, a twisted type (e.g., 2E_6) will by default refer to a group that splits over an *unramified* extension of E .

2. CUSPIDALS ARISING FROM ELLIPTIC TORI

Let G be a connected reductive group defined over a finite field \mathfrak{f} of order q . Let $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ denote the Frobenius endomorphism. Let B_0 be a Borel \mathfrak{f} -subgroup of G containing a maximally split maximal \mathfrak{f} -torus T_0 of G . Let ω be a $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ -elliptic element in the absolute Weyl group $W = W(G, T_0)$, and let $T = T_{\omega}$ be the corresponding elliptic torus. Note that T depends only on the $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ -twisted conjugacy class of ω in W . The Weyl group $W(G, T)(\mathfrak{f})$ of T is the $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ -centralizer Ω of ω in W [8, Prop. 3.3.6]. There is an Ω -equivariant isomorphism [8, Prop. 3.2.3 and Prop. 3.3.4]

$$(2.1) \quad L = L_{\omega} := \frac{X}{(\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}\omega^{-1} - 1)X} \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}(T(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^{\times}).$$

Here $X = X(T_0)$ denotes the character lattice of T_0 .

A complex character χ of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ in general position gives rise to a Deligne-Lusztig representation $\pi(T, \chi)$ of $G(\mathfrak{f})$ which is irreducible and cuspidal. The representation $\pi(T, \chi)$ is self-dual if and only if the pair (T, χ) is Ω -conjugate to (T, χ^{-1}) [10, Prop. 11.4]. We will call such a character χ *conjugate self-dual*. We will call an element in L *conjugate self-dual* (resp., *in general position*) if its inverse image under the isomorphism in (2.1) is conjugate self-dual (resp., in general position).

Thus, to prove the existence of irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations of $G(\mathfrak{f})$, it is sufficient prove the existence of conjugate self-dual elements in L that are in general position.

We first consider the existence of such elements in the special case where T is a Coxeter torus.

Proposition 2.2. *Suppose that G is absolutely almost simple, t is the degree of the splitting field of G , T is the Coxeter torus in G , and h is the Coxeter number of G . If h/t is odd, then $T(\mathfrak{f})$ has no conjugate self-dual characters in general position. Moreover, suppose that G does not have type ${}^2A_2(2)$ or $G_2(2)$. Then the following hold:*

- The group $T(\mathfrak{f})$ has a character that is in general position.
- If $h \neq 2$, then we can choose such a character to have order ℓ , where ℓ is a prime such that the multiplicative order of $q \pmod{\ell}$ is h .
- If h/t is even, then $T(\mathfrak{f})$ has such a character that is also conjugate self-dual.

Proof. Let ω be a $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ -Coxeter element of W . The endomorphism $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ of X is of the form $\sigma_0 \cdot q$, where σ_0 is a finite-order automorphism of X . Write $w := \sigma_0\omega^{-1}$ and let t denote the order of σ_0 . Then Ω is a cyclic group generated by $(w^{-1})^t$ [19, Theorem 7.6(v)] and w^{-1} acts on the abelian group L by multiplication by q .

Suppose that h/t is odd. Let $u \in L$ be conjugate self-dual and in general position. If $u = -u$, then $2u = 0$. Therefore, $qu = u$ if q is odd and $qu = 0$ if q is even. In either case, this contradicts u being in general position. So $(q^t)^{\alpha}u = -u$ for some $0 < \alpha < h/t$ and therefore $((q^t)^{2\alpha} - 1)u = 0$. But then $2\alpha = h/t$ since u is in general position. But this contradicts the fact that h/t is odd.

Now suppose that $h = 2$. Then X has rank one and $L = \frac{X}{(q+1)X}$. In this case, a generator of L is a conjugate self-dual element in general position.

Now suppose that $h \neq 2$ and $(q, h) \neq (2, 6)$. Then by [4, Theorem V], there exists a prime ℓ such that the multiplicative order of $q \pmod{\ell}$ is h . Let ch_w denote the

characteristic polynomial of the action of w on X , and let r denote the rank of X . Then the order $|L|$ is $|\det(wq-1)| = |q^{-r} \det(w-q^{-1})| = |q^{-r} \text{ch}_w(q^{-1})| = |\text{ch}_w(q)|$. The last equality follows because ch_w is a product of cyclotomic polynomials, and thus its sequence of coefficients is symmetric.

Let Φ_h denote the h th cyclotomic polynomial. Then ℓ divides $\Phi_h(q)$. By [19, Theorem 7.6(ii)], $\Phi_h \mid \text{ch}_w(q)$ and therefore $\ell \mid \text{ch}_w(q)$. Therefore L has a cyclic subgroup C of order ℓ . Let v be a generator of C . Then v is in general position.

Suppose h/t is even. Since q has order h mod ℓ , it follows that $\ell \nmid (q^{h/2}-1)$. Therefore $\ell \mid (q^{h/2}+1)$. Thus $(q^t)^{(h/t)/2}$ acts by -1 on v and therefore v is conjugate self-dual.

It remains to handle the cases where $(q, h) = (2, 6)$. From [13, §3.18, Table 2] and [19, Table 10, page 184], G has one of the following types: A_5 , C_3 , D_4 , G_2 , 2A_2 , 2A_3 . By hypothesis, G does not have type 2A_2 or G_2 , and we consider each of the other cases in turn. From Lemma 3.1, we may replace G by any isogenous group. In each case, it will be sufficient to find a cyclic subgroup of L (equivalently, of $T(\mathfrak{f})$) of order 9. For let v be a generator of such a subgroup. Then $2^3v = -v$, and $2^iv \neq v$ for all $0 < i < 6$, so v is in general position. Moreover, v is conjugate self-dual if h/t is even, i.e., G does not have type 2A_3 .

Type A_5 : The group $T(\mathfrak{f})$ is cyclic of order 63, so it contains a cyclic subgroup of order 9.

Type C_3 : The group $T(\mathfrak{f})$ is isomorphic to the kernel of $N_{E/K}$, where K/\mathfrak{f} is a cubic extension and E/K is a quadratic extension. Thus, $T(\mathfrak{f}) \cong E^\times/K^\times$, a cyclic group of order 9.

Type D_4 : The group $T(\mathfrak{f})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}$, so it contains a cyclic subgroup of order 9.

Type 2A_3 : The group $T(\mathfrak{f})$ is cyclic of order $q^3 + 1 = 9$. □

Lemma 2.3. *Let G and ℓ be as in Proposition 2.2, and let Z denote the center of G . Assume that $h \neq 2$ and $(q, h) \neq (2, 6)$. Then ℓ is coprime to $|Z|$.*

Proof. Assume that the absolute root system of G is of type other than A_{n-1} or E_6 . Then Z is a 2-group. Since the order of q mod ℓ is $h > 2$, we cannot have $\ell = 2$.

Now suppose G is of type E_6 or 2E_6 . Then $h = 12$ or 18 and $|Z|$ divides 3. Suppose $\ell = 3$. Then $q^2 \bmod \ell$ is 0 or 1, contradicting that the order of q is h .

If G is of type A_{n-1} , then $|Z|$ divides $h = n$. If ℓ divides n , then $q^{n/\ell} \equiv q^n \equiv 1 \bmod \ell$, contradicting the order of q . Similar arguments work for type 2A_n ($n \geq 2$). □

3. USEFUL FACTS ABOUT ISOGENIES

Lemma 3.1. *Let \mathfrak{f} be a finite field, and let $\zeta : G \rightarrow G'$ be a central \mathfrak{f} -isogeny of connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -groups. If the kernel has no nontrivial \mathfrak{f} -points, then ζ induces an isomorphism $G(\mathfrak{f}) \xrightarrow{\sim} G'(\mathfrak{f})$.*

Proof. It immediately follows from [20, §4.5] that the cokernel of the embedding $G(\mathfrak{f}) \rightarrow G'(\mathfrak{f})$ is trivial and therefore the map is an isomorphism. □

Lemma 3.2. *Let F be either a finite or a nonarchimedean local field, and let $\zeta : G \rightarrow G'$ be a central F -isogeny of connected reductive F -groups, with kernel K*

of odd order. Then $G(F)$ admits irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representations if and only if $G'(F)$ does.

Proof. Let τ' be a self-dual cuspidal representation of $G'(F)$, and let τ denote its restriction to $G(F)$ along ζ . If F is finite or has characteristic zero, then the map from $G(F)$ into $G'(F)$ has a finite cokernel of odd order, so τ decomposes into a finite direct sum of an odd number of irreducible representations. More generally, the cokernel could be a product of a finite group of odd order and a pro- p -group, where p is the characteristic of F . From [18], we still have that τ decomposes into a finite direct sum of irreducible components, and so the number of components must again be odd. Therefore, at least one of the components must be self-dual. Also by [18, Lemma 1], since τ' is cuspidal, then so is τ . Therefore, a self-dual component of τ must also be cuspidal.

Conversely, if (τ, V) is an irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representation of $G(F)$, then the restriction to $K(F)$ of the central character of τ must be self-dual, and so must take values in $\{\pm 1\}$. But since $|K(F)|$ is odd, $\tau|_{K(F)}$ must be trivial. Therefore τ descends to a self-dual representation of $\zeta(G(F))$.

Since (τ, V) is cuspidal, we claim that the representation $(\text{Ind}_{\zeta(G(F))}^{G'(F)} \tau, W)$ is also cuspidal. Recall that a representation (π', V') of $G'(F)$ is cuspidal if and only if $V'_{N'(F)} = 0$ for all parabolic F -subgroups P' of G' with Levi decomposition $P' = M'N'$. Let P , M , and N be the inverse images of P' , M' , and N' under ζ . Then $P = MN$ is a parabolic F -subgroup of G , and ζ induces an isomorphism from N to N' . There is a natural isomorphism $(W)_{N'(F)} \cong \text{Ind}_{\zeta(M(F))}^{M'(F)}(V_{N(F)})$. Since τ is cuspidal, $V_{N(F)} = 0$, and therefore $W_{N'(F)} = 0$. This proves that $(\text{Ind}_{\zeta(G(F))}^{G'(F)} \tau, W)$ is cuspidal.

The representation $\text{Ind}_{\zeta(G(F))}^{G'(F)} \tau$ is self-dual. It decomposes into an odd number of irreducible components by [18] and Frobenius reciprocity (in the generality presented in [6, §2.4]), and therefore at least one of the components must be self-dual. \square

Lemma 3.3. *Let \mathfrak{f} be a finite field, and let $\zeta : G \longrightarrow G'$ be a central \mathfrak{f} -isogeny of connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -groups, with kernel K of odd order. If $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations, then so does $G'(\mathfrak{f})$.*

Proof. Suppose T is a maximal elliptic \mathfrak{f} -torus in G , and χ is a character of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ that is in general position and conjugate self-dual. Then the restriction of χ to K must be self-dual, and thus trivial. Let T' be the image of T under ζ . Then χ factors through ζ to give a character χ' of the image A of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ in $T'(\mathfrak{f})$, and χ' is also in general position and conjugate self-dual. Every extension of χ' from A to $T'(\mathfrak{f})$ is in general position. Since the index of A in $T'(\mathfrak{f})$ is odd, at least one of these extensions must be conjugate self-dual. \square

4. SIMPLY CONNECTED GROUPS

We collect here some of the assumptions that we will sometimes have to make about a connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -group G .

Hypothesis 4.1. *The group G has no factor of type ${}^2A_k(q)$, where*

- (a) $k = 2$ and $q = 2$;

- (b) $k = 2$ and $q \in \{3, 4\}$; or $k = 3$ and $q \in \{2, 3, 5\}$; or $k = 4$ and $q \in \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$.

We will need to assume (a) to assure that G has irreducible, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations (but see Remark 5.6 concerning $\mathrm{PU}(3)$). Parts (a) and (b) together will assure that G has irreducible, *self-dual*, Deligne-Lusztig, supercuspidal representations.

Theorem 4.2. *Suppose that G is simply connected. Then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal representations. If G satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(a), then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations. Moreover, if G also satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(b), then the following are equivalent:*

- (1) G has no factor of type A_n (n even).
- (2) $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representations.
- (3) $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations.

Proof. Since G is a direct product of absolutely almost simple groups, we may assume that G is absolutely almost simple.

If G has type ${}^2A_2(2)$, then our result will follow from Remark 5.6, so assume from now on that G has a different type.

If G has type 2A_n ($n \geq 2$), 2D_n ($n \geq 4$, odd), or 2E_6 , then our result will follow from Proposition 5.2, 5.1, or 4.3, respectively, so assume from now on that G has a different type.

When G has type other than A_n (n even), then $h' := h/t$ is even [21, Section 5, table]. Therefore our result follows from Proposition 2.2 unless G has type $G_2(2)$.

Suppose G has type $G_2(2)$. Let T be the Coxeter torus of $\mathrm{SL}(3)$, which is a subgroup of G_2 . Then T is an anisotropic maximal \mathfrak{f} -torus in G . If w is the Coxeter element of $W(G_2)$, then T corresponds to w^2 , which is the Coxeter element of the subgroup $W(A_3)$. Since w^2 is Coxeter for A_3 we know the structure of $T(\mathfrak{f})$, and thus of its character group L : they are cyclic of order $(2^3 - 1)/(2 - 1) = 7$. The centralizer of w^2 in $W(G_2)$ is $\langle w \rangle$, a group of order 6. Since the automorphism of L is also cyclic of order 6, it must be the case that the action of w on L generates all of the automorphisms of it. Every element of L is thus conjugate self-dual, and every nontrivial element of L is in general position.

We have shown that under Hypothesis 4.1(a,b), statement (1) above implies statement (3). Suppose $G = \mathrm{SL}_{n+1}$, with n even. From [7, Prop. 23], the elliptic elements of the Weyl group are precisely the Coxeter elements. For $\mathrm{GL}_{n+1}(\mathfrak{f})$ and thus for PGL_{n+1} , all cuspidal representations are of Deligne-Lusztig type. Therefore, by Proposition 2.2, $\mathrm{PGL}_{n+1}(\mathfrak{f})$ has no irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representations. By Lemma 3.2, the same is true for $G(\mathfrak{f})$. \square

Proposition 4.3. *Suppose G is absolutely almost simple of type 2E_6 . Then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations.*

Proof. With notation as in Section 2, write $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}} = \sigma_0 \cdot q$, where σ_0 is an involution of X . From [19, Table 8, §6.12], we see that 2E_6 admits a regular element $w := \omega\sigma_0$ of order $h = 12$ in the twisted Weyl group $W\sigma_0$. Also by loc. cit., its characteristic polynomial is $\Phi_{12}\Phi_6$, so none of the eigenvalues of $\omega\sigma_0$ are 1, i.e., $\omega\sigma_0$ is elliptic. Let $T = T_\omega$ (resp., $L = L_\omega$) be the associated elliptic torus (resp., group of complex characters of $T(\mathfrak{f})$) as in the notation of Section 2. The centralizer Ω of w in W has exactly one *degree* (see [19, §2.3] for the definition of degree), which is 12. Therefore

by [19, Corollary 3.3], Ω is a cyclic subgroup of W of order 12. By [4, Theorem V], there exists a prime ℓ such that the multiplicative order of $q \bmod \ell$ is 12. The cyclic group generated by w^2 in W is a subgroup of Ω of index 2, and w acts on L by multiplication by q . As in the proof of Theorem 4.2, there exists a cyclic subgroup C of L of order ℓ such that the generator v of C is in general position with respect to the subgroup generated by w in W . Let τ be a generator of Ω such that τ^2 acts by q^2 on C . Write $v' = \tau v$. If $v' \notin C$, then the subgroup C' of L generated by v' is cyclic of order ℓ . In this case, it is clear that v is in general position with respect to Ω . Now if τ stabilizes C , then τ acts by multiplication by an integer r and $r^2 \equiv q^2 \bmod \ell$, i.e., $r \equiv \pm q \bmod \ell$. In either case, r has order 12 mod ℓ . Therefore v is in general position with respect to Ω . Since r^6 acts by -1 on v , v is also conjugate self-dual. \square

5. GROUPS OF TYPE 2D_n ($n \geq 4$ ODD) AND 2A_n

Here we conclude some leftover business from the proof of Theorem 4.2: certain groups of classical type that require special handling. We include some statements about non-simply-connected groups here because we find it convenient to do so.

Proposition 5.1. *Suppose $n \geq 4$ is odd, and G_0 is an absolutely almost simple group of type 2D_n . Then $G_0(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations. Moreover, some of these representations come from a character of odd order.*

Proposition 5.2. *Suppose G_0 is an absolutely almost simple group of type 2A_n . Then $G_0(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal representations. If G_0 satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(a), then $G_0(\mathfrak{f})$ also admits irreducible, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations. If G_0 also satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(b), then $G_0(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representations.*

Our proofs require some notation and background. Let E/\mathfrak{f} be the quadratic extension. For each natural number d , let E_d and \mathfrak{f}_d denote the extensions of E and \mathfrak{f} of degree d . Let \mathcal{T}_d denote the kernel of the norm map from E_d^\times to \mathfrak{f}_d^\times .

Let $G = \mathrm{U}(m)$ or the nonsplit form of $\mathrm{SO}(m)$ (with m even in the latter case). If T is a maximal elliptic torus in G , then $T(\mathfrak{f})$ is isomorphic to a direct product $\prod_{i=1}^r \mathcal{T}_{d_i}$, where $\sum d_i = m$. If G is unitary, then we require all d_i to be odd. If G is orthogonal, then the number of factors r must be odd. Conversely, given any product as above, there is at least one associated maximal elliptic torus $T \subset G$.

The action on $T(\mathfrak{f})$ of the rational Weyl group W of T in G is generated by the action of $\mathrm{Gal}(E_{d_i}/E)$ on each factor \mathcal{T}_i , together with those permutations in S_r that give rise to automorphisms of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ via permuting factors in the product above.

Thus, each elliptic torus in $\mathrm{U}(m)$ or $\mathrm{SO}(m)$ is a product of Coxeter tori from smaller-rank groups. Specifically, \mathcal{T}_d is isomorphic to the group of rational points of the Coxeter torus T' in $\mathrm{Sp}(2d)$. The Weyl group of T' in $\mathrm{Sp}(2d)$ acts on $T'(\mathfrak{f})$ via $\mathrm{Gal}(E_d/\mathfrak{f})$. Restricting this action to $\mathrm{Gal}(E_d/E)$, we obtain our action on the factor \mathcal{T}_d of $T(\mathfrak{f})$, where a generator acts via multiplication by q^2 .

Lemma 5.3. *Let T be an elliptic torus such that $T(\mathfrak{f})$ is the direct product of two copies of \mathcal{T}_{k_1} , zero or two copies of \mathcal{T}_{k_2} (with k_1 and $k_2 > 1$, $k_1 \neq k_2$), and r copies of \mathcal{T}_1 , where $0 \leq r \leq 3$. Then the character group L of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ has an element that is conjugate self-dual and in general position. If $r \leq 1$, then L has such an*

element whose Weyl orbit lies in a subgroup of order coprime to 2 and, if $q \neq 2$, also coprime to $q + 1$.

Definition 5.4. Let T and r be as in Lemma 5.3. We call T *good* if $r \leq 1$ and *bad* otherwise. If T is bad, then we call the product of factors other than \mathcal{T}_1 the *good part* and the product of the rest the *\mathcal{T}_1 part*. If G_0 is simply connected of type 2A_n (resp., 2D_n) and T_0 is a torus in G_0 , then we say that T_0 is *fine* if it comes from (resp., is a pull back of) a good torus of $U(n)$ (resp., $SO(2n)$).

Proof of Lemma 5.3. Write L as a product $(L_{k_1} \times L_{k_1}) \times \cdots$ analogously to our product decomposition for $T(\mathfrak{f})$. Since L is thus a direct product of subgroups that are preserved by the action of the Weyl group, we may consider each of these subgroups independently.

Suppose $L = L_k \times L_k$ with $k > 1$. Assume also that $k \neq 3$ if $q = 2$. From Proposition 2.2 and Lemma 2.3, we can choose an element $v_k \in L_k$ that is in general position (with respect to the action of $\text{Gal}(E_k/\mathfrak{f})$) and of odd order ℓ . Since the order of $q \bmod \ell$ is $2k > 2$ (recall that \mathcal{T}_k is the \mathfrak{f} -points of a Coxeter torus of $Sp(2k)$), we have that ℓ is also coprime to $q + 1$. If k is even, then we can and do choose v_k to be conjugate self-dual, and let $v'_k = qv_k$. If k is odd, then let $v'_k = -v_k$. In either case, note that v'_k is not in the orbit of v_k under the action of $\text{Gal}(E_k/E)$, so $v := (v_k, v'_k)$ is conjugate self-dual and in general position. The Weyl orbit lies inside $\langle v_k \rangle \times \langle v'_k \rangle$, a group of order ℓ^2 .

When $(k, q) = (3, 2)$, then L_k is a cyclic group of order 9. In this case, choose v_k to be a generator of L_k and let $v'_k = -v_k$. Then $v = (v_k, v'_k)$ is conjugate self-dual in general position.

If $L = L_1$, then the Weyl group is trivial, and $v = 0$ is conjugate self-dual and in general position.

If L is a product of two or three copies of L_1 , then let v_1 be a generator of L_1 , and let $v := (v_1, -v_1)$ or $(v_1, -v_1, 0)$ according as $r = 2$ or 3. Then v is conjugate self-dual and in general position. \square

Proof of Proposition 5.1. Write $n = 2k + 1$ with $k > 1$. Choose a maximal elliptic torus T such that $T(\mathfrak{f}) \cong \mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_1$. Then the group L of complex characters of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ has the form $L_k \times L_k \times L_1$, where L_i is the character group of \mathcal{T}_i . From Lemma 5.3, there is an element $v \in L$ that is conjugate self-dual and in general position, and its Weyl orbit lies inside a subgroup C of L of odd order.

The existence of v proves our result for $SO(2n)$.

Let T' denote the inverse image of T in $\text{Spin}(2n)$. Then the character group L of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ surjects onto the character group L' of $T'(\mathfrak{f})$, with kernel of order 2. This surjection is equivariant with respect to the action of the Weyl group. Since C has odd order, it is isomorphic to its image under this surjection. Therefore, the image of v in L' is conjugate self-dual and in general position, proving our result for $\text{Spin}(2n)$.

Similar reasoning proves our result for the adjoint group of type 2D_n . \square

One can obtain crude results for unitary groups $U(n)$ by choosing our elliptic torus in a way that is independent of n . We include such results here, since they are the best possible when n is small.

Lemma 5.5. *If q is even and n is odd, then assume $q \geq n - 1$. Otherwise, assume $q \geq n$. Then the following are true:*

- (a) $\mathrm{U}(n)(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations that descend to $\mathrm{PU}(n)(\mathfrak{f})$.
- (b) *If q is even or n is odd, then suppose that $q \geq n$. If q is odd and n is even, then suppose that $q > n + 1$. Then some of our representations of $\mathrm{U}(n)(\mathfrak{f})$ above remain irreducible upon restriction to $\mathrm{SU}(n)(\mathfrak{f})$.*

The proof for $\mathrm{U}(n)$ was suggested to us by Dipendra Prasad.

Proof. We have a maximal elliptic torus T in $\mathrm{U}(n)$ such that $T(\mathfrak{f}) \cong \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{T}_1$. Let L be the group of complex characters of $T(\mathfrak{f})$. Then L is a direct product of n copies of a cyclic group C of order $q + 1$. Write $n = 2k$ or $n = 2k + 1$ according as n is even or odd. Let c be a generator of C , and let $v = (c, -c, 2c, -2c, \dots, kc, -kc)$ if $n = 2k$, or $(0, c, -c, \dots, kc, -kc)$ if $n = 2k + 1$. Our assumption on q assures that the coordinates of v are all distinct. Thus, v is in general position, and it is easily seen to be conjugate self-dual, thus providing an irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representation of $\mathrm{U}(n)(\mathfrak{f})$. Since the coordinates of v sum to 0, this representation has trivial central character, and so gives us a representation of $\mathrm{PU}(n)(\mathfrak{f})$ as well, proving part (a).

Now consider the torus $T' := T \cap \mathrm{SU}(n)$ in $\mathrm{SU}(n)$. It will be enough to show that the image of v in the group L' of characters of $T'(\mathfrak{f})$ is still in general position. Note that L' is the quotient of L by the diagonally embedded subgroup $\mathrm{diag}(C)$. If $q = n - 1$, then it is easy to see that our element $v \in L$ above is, up to permutations, the only element in general position, and that its image in L' is not in general position. Therefore, we must and do assume from now on that $q \geq n$.

Thus, the set \mathcal{C} of elements of C that appear as coordinates in v is a proper subset of C . Since v is in general position, so is its image in L' , provided that the set \mathcal{C} is not invariant under addition by any nonzero element of C . If n is odd or q is even, then indeed \mathcal{C} is not invariant. Suppose n is even and q is odd, and $\mathcal{C} + \lambda = \mathcal{C}$ for some nonzero $\lambda \in C$. Then $q = n + 1$, and $2\lambda = 0$. Therefore, if $q \geq n + 1$, then \mathcal{C} is not invariant, proving part (b). \square

Remark 5.6. We gather together some facts about the unitary groups that Hypothesis 4.1 excludes.

- (a) From Lemmas 5.5(a), 3.2, and 3.1, if G is an isogenous image of $\mathrm{SU}(n)$ ($n = 3, 4$, or 5), then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representations except possibly in the following cases: $G = \mathrm{PU}(4)$ and $q \in \{2, 3\}$; G is an isogenous preimage of $\mathrm{PU}(4)$ and $q \in \{2, 3, 5\}$; $n = 5$ and $q \in \{2, 3\}$.
- (b) Let $G = \mathrm{U}(n)$, $\mathrm{SU}(n)$, or $\mathrm{PU}(n)$, where $n = 3, 4$, or 5 . Then the only elliptic tori in G are the Coxeter torus and the torus used in the proof of Lemma 5.5. The Coxeter torus has no conjugate self-dual characters. Therefore, $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has no irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations unless some were constructed in Lemma 5.5.
- (c) Independent of q , $\mathrm{SU}(3)$ has one cuspidal unipotent representation which, by uniqueness, is self-dual.

Proof of Proposition 5.2. Our claims on the existence of self-dual cuspidal representations, and of self-dual Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representations, for $\mathrm{SU}(4)(\mathfrak{f})$

and all isogenous images of $SU(3)(\mathfrak{f})$ and $SU(5)(\mathfrak{f})$ follow from Remark 5.6 and Lemma 5.5.

Suppose from now on that $n > 5$. Let $G = U(n)$ and $G' = SU(n)$.

Suppose $n \equiv 2$ or $3 \pmod{4}$. Write $n = 2k$ or $2k+1$, where $k > 1$ is odd. Choose an elliptic torus $T \subset G$ such that $T(\mathfrak{f}) \cong \mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_k$ or $\mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_1$ according as n is even or odd. From Lemma 5.3, we can choose an element v in the character group L of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ that is conjugate self-dual and in general position. If $(k, q) \neq (3, 2)$, the Weyl orbit of v generates a group C of order coprime to $q+1$.

Now let $T' = T \cap SU(n)$. The restriction map induces a surjection from the character group L of $T(\mathfrak{f})$ onto the character group L' of $T'(\mathfrak{f})$ with kernel of order $q+1$. Therefore, if $(k, q) \neq (3, 2)$, the group C is isomorphic to its image C' under this surjection. The surjection is equivariant with respect to the action of the Weyl group. Therefore, the image v' of v in L' is conjugate self-dual and in general position. If $(k, q) = (3, 2)$, then again it is easy to check that the image v' of v in L' remains conjugate self-dual and in general position. Suppose G'' is an isogenous image of $SU(n)$, and T'' is the image of T' under the isogeny. Letting L'' be the character group of $T''(\mathfrak{f})$, we obtain a map $L'' \rightarrow L'$ whose kernel and cokernel have order dividing $q+1$. Therefore, if $(k, q) \neq (3, 2)$, C' lies in the image of L'' , and its preimage contains a subgroup C'' isomorphic to C' . The preimage of v'' of v' is then conjugate self-dual and in general position. If $(k, q) = (3, 2)$, then the kernel and cokernel of $L'' \rightarrow L'$ have odd order. Therefore the existence of a conjugate self-dual element $v'' \in L''$ follows from Lemma 3.3.

Now consider $n = 4k$. If $k > 1$ is odd, then choose an elliptic torus $T \subset G$ such that $T(\mathfrak{f}) = \mathcal{T}_{k+2} \times \mathcal{T}_{k+2} \times \mathcal{T}_{k-2} \times \mathcal{T}_{k-2}$. If k is even, then choose $\mathcal{T}_{k+1} \times \mathcal{T}_{k+1} \times \mathcal{T}_{k-1} \times \mathcal{T}_{k-1}$. Finally for the case $n = 4k+1$, choose $\mathcal{T}_{2k-1} \times \mathcal{T}_{2k-1} \times \mathcal{T}_1 \times \mathcal{T}_1 \times \mathcal{T}_1$. In all these cases, Lemma 5.3 shows the existence of a conjugate self-dual element of L in general position. Note that the tori constructed above are good except when $n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, or $n = 8$ or 12 . In the cases where the torus is good, we have such an element $v \in L$ whose Weyl orbit lies in a group of order coprime to $q+1$. Such a group must have an isomorphic image in the character group L' of $T'(\mathfrak{f})$, where $T' = T' \cap SU(n)$, and an isomorphic preimage in the character group of the corresponding torus in any isogenous image of $SU(n)$.

The result about isogenous images of $SU(n)$ for $n = 4k+1$ follows from Lemma 3.3.

We will deal with the cases of $SU(8)$ and $SU(12)$ in Lemma 5.7, with the isogenous images of $SU(4)$, $SU(8)$, and $SU(12)$ in Proposition 6.1. \square

Lemma 5.7. *Let $n = 8$ or 12 . Then $U(n)(\mathfrak{f})$ has a self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representation that has trivial central character, and whose restriction to $SU(n)(\mathfrak{f})$ remains irreducible.*

Proof. Choose an elliptic torus $T^u \subset U(n)$ such that $T^u(\mathfrak{f}) = \mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_k \times \mathcal{T}_1 \times \mathcal{T}_1$, where $k = (n/2) - 1$. Let $T = T^u \cap SU(n)$, and let T_{der} be the image of T^u in $PU(n)$. Let L^u , L , and L_{der} denote the groups of characters of the groups of rational points of these tori. Then L^u is a product $L_k \times L_k \times L_1 \times L_1$, where each L_i is cyclic of order $q^i + 1$. Write $v^u = (c, -c, d, -d)$, where $c \in L_k$ generates a subgroup C_k of prime order ℓ which is coprime to $q_i + 1$, and d is a generator of L_1 . The element $v^u \in L^u$ is conjugate self-dual and in general position. Regarding L_1 as a subgroup of L_k , we see that the sum of the coordinates of v^u is 0, meaning that $v^u \in \text{im}(L_{\text{der}} \rightarrow L^u)$.

Therefore, our Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representation of $U(n)(\mathfrak{f})$ constructed from v^u is an isogeny restriction of a representation of $PU(n)(\mathfrak{f})$.

Since L_1 embeds in each factor of L^u we have a diagonally embedded subgroup $\text{diag}(L_1) \subset L^u$, and L is the quotient $L^u/\text{diag}(L_1)$.

Let v denote the image of v^u in L . Then v is obviously conjugate self-dual. It remains to see that v is in general position. That is, we need to see that for nonzero $\lambda \in L_1$, $v^u + (\lambda, \lambda, \lambda, \lambda)$ cannot be a Weyl conjugate of v^u . But this follows from the fact that the Weyl orbit of v^u is contained in $C_k \times C_k \times L_1 \times L_1$, and $c + \lambda \notin C_k$ since $\gcd(\ell, q + 1) = 1$. \square

6. SEMISIMPLE GROUPS

We assume now that G is semisimple. Consider the central k -isogeny $\tilde{G} \rightarrow G$, where \tilde{G} is the simply connected cover of G , and let \tilde{T}_0 be the maximal torus of \tilde{G} that surjects to T_0 under this isogeny. Write $\tilde{G} = \prod_{i \in I} R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{G}_i$ (resp., $\tilde{T}_0 = \prod_{i \in I} R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{T}_{0i}$), where I is a finite indexing set and the groups \tilde{G}_i (resp., \tilde{T}_{0i}) are absolutely almost simple (resp., maximally split maximal tori of \tilde{G}_i), and E_i/\mathfrak{f} are finite extensions of degree n_i . Let \tilde{X} (resp., \tilde{X}_i) denote the character lattice of \tilde{T}_0 (resp., \tilde{T}_{0i}). Let $\Gamma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ (resp., Γ_{E_i}) denote the absolute Galois group of \mathfrak{f} (resp., E_i). They are cyclic groups generated by $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}$ (resp., $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}^{n_i}$). The isogeny induces an inclusion of lattices

$$X \hookrightarrow \tilde{X} = \bigoplus_{i \in I} \text{Ind}_{\Gamma_{E_i}}^{\Gamma_{\mathfrak{f}}} \tilde{X}_i.$$

The Weyl group W is a product of Weyl groups $\prod_{i \in I} W_i^{n_i}$, where W_i is the Weyl group of \tilde{G}_i . Let ω_i be a $\sigma_{\mathfrak{f}}^{n_i}$ -elliptic element of W_i , and let $\overset{\circ}{\omega}_i$ be the element of $W_i^{n_i}$ that acts on $\text{Ind}_{\Gamma_{E_i}}^{\Gamma_{\mathfrak{f}}} \tilde{X}_i$ via the action of ω_i on \tilde{X}_i . Write $\omega = \prod \overset{\circ}{\omega}_i$, $\tilde{T} = (\tilde{T}_0)_\omega$, and $\tilde{T}_i = (\tilde{T}_{0i})_{\omega_i}$. Let

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{L} &:= \text{Hom}(\tilde{T}(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^\times), \\ L &:= \text{Hom}(T(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^\times), \\ \tilde{L}_i &:= \text{Hom}(R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{T}_i(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^\times). \end{aligned}$$

Let $z_i := \ker(R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{T}_i \rightarrow T)$. Then $\text{coker}(L \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i) = \text{Hom}(z_i(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^\times)$. Consequently, the order of $\text{coker}(L \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i)$ divides the order of $\tilde{Z}_i(E_i)$, where \tilde{Z}_i denotes the center of \tilde{G}_i .

We let h_i denote the Coxeter number of \tilde{G}_i and $q_i := q^{n_i}$.

Proposition 6.1. *Suppose G is semisimple and satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(a). Then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal, Deligne-Lusztig representations. Moreover, if G also satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(b) and has no factor of type A_n (n even), then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig representations.*

Proof. Recall that we write the simply connected cover \tilde{G} of G as $\prod_{i \in I} R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{G}_i$.

We first reduce to the case where none of the factors in this product has any of the types that required special handling in the proofs of Proposition 2.2 and Theorem 4.2. We have a central \mathfrak{f} -isogeny $H_1 \times H_2 \rightarrow G$, where H_1 is a direct product of groups having one of the types $A_5(2)$, $C_3(2)$, $D_4(2)$, $G_2(2)$, or ${}^2A_3(2)$, no factor of H_2 has any of those types, and the restriction of the isogeny to H_2 has trivial

kernel. Since the center of H_1 has no nontrivial rational points, Lemma 3.1 shows that $H_1(\mathfrak{f}) \times H_2(\mathfrak{f})$ is isomorphic to $G(\mathfrak{f})$. From Theorem 4.2, every factor of $H_1(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations and if H_1 has no factor of type ${}^2A_3(2)$, then it also has self-dual Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representations. Therefore, we may replace G by H_2 , and thus assume from now on that G has no factor of type $A_5(2)$, $C_3(2)$, $D_4(2)$, $G_2(2)$, or ${}^2A_3(2)$.

Write the indexing set I as a disjoint union $I = I_1 \sqcup I_2 \sqcup I_3$, where

$$\tilde{G}_i \text{ is of type } \begin{cases} A_1 & \text{if } i \in I_1, \\ {}^2A_k \ (k > 1 \text{ odd}) \text{ or } {}^2D_k \ (k > 4 \text{ odd}) & \text{if } i \in I_2, \\ \text{something else} & \text{if } i \in I_3. \end{cases}$$

For $i \in I$, let \tilde{T}_i^c (resp., \tilde{T}^c , T^c) denote the Coxeter torus of \tilde{G}_i (resp., \tilde{G} , G). Let $\tilde{L}_i^c := \text{Hom}(R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{T}_i^c(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^\times)$ and $L^c := \text{Hom}(T^c(\mathfrak{f}), \mathbb{C}^\times)$.

As in Proposition 2.2, for $i \in I \setminus I_1$, let \tilde{u}_i be an element in general position in \tilde{L}_i^c of order ℓ_i , where ℓ_i is a prime such that the multiplicative order of $q_i \bmod \ell_i$ is h_i . The Weyl orbit of \tilde{u}_i lies in a cyclic group \tilde{C}_i of order ℓ_i . Lemma 2.3 implies that ℓ_i is coprime to $|\text{coker}(L^c \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i^c)|$. Therefore \tilde{u}_i lifts to an element $u_i \in L^c$ such that the orbit of u_i is contained in a subgroup $C_i^c \cong \tilde{C}_i$ of L^c .

For $i \in I_1$, define u_i to be the image in L^c of a generator of the cyclic group \tilde{X}_i .

Write $u = \sum_{i \in I} u_i$. Then u is in general position. We had to assume Hypothesis 4.1(a) in order to construct u , so under these conditions, $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has an irreducible Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representation, as claimed.

Now assume that G also satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(b), and has no factor of type A_n for n even. It only remains to prove that $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig representations. We first make some more reductions.

Our central \mathfrak{f} -isogeny $\tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ factors into central \mathfrak{f} -isogenies $\tilde{G} \rightarrow G'$ and $G' \rightarrow G$, whose kernels are (respectively) a 2-group and a group of odd order. From Lemma 3.3, it would be enough to show that $G'(\mathfrak{f})$ has self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representations. Therefore, we may replace G by G' , and assume from now on that the kernel of our isogeny $\tilde{G} \rightarrow G$ is a 2-group.

Therefore, we may write $G = G_0 \times H$, where H is a direct product of simply connected groups of type E_6 , 2E_6 , or 2A_n ($n > 2$ even), and G_0 has no factors of those types. From Propositions 4.3 and 5.2, $H(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations. Therefore, we may replace G by G_0 , and assume from now on that G has no factors of type E_6 , 2E_6 , or 2A_n ($n > 2$ even).

If q is even, then our result follows from Theorem 4.2 and Lemma 3.1. Therefore, we may and will assume from now on that q is odd.

For $i \in I \setminus I_2$, choose \tilde{T}_i to be \tilde{T}_i^c . For $i \in I_2$, choose \tilde{T}_i to be an elliptic torus as in the proofs of Propositions 5.1 and 5.2. If \tilde{G}_i admits fine tori (Definition 5.4), we require \tilde{T}_i to be fine. These choices of \tilde{T}_i determine an elliptic torus T in G .

For $i \in I_1$, define v_i to be the image in L of a generator of the cyclic group \tilde{X}_i .

For $i \in I_3$, \tilde{u}_i lifts to an element $v_i \in L$ such that the orbit of v_i is contained in a subgroup $C_i \cong \tilde{C}_i$ of L .

For $i \in I_2$, let \tilde{v}_i be a conjugate self-dual element as in Lemma 5.3. If \tilde{T}_i is fine, Lemma 5.3 implies that the Weyl orbit of \tilde{v}_i lies in a subgroup $\prod_{j \in \mathfrak{S}} \tilde{C}_{ij}$ of \tilde{L}_i , where each \tilde{C}_{ij} is either trivial or cyclic of prime order ℓ_{ij} which is coprime to

$|\text{coker}(L \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i)|$. Therefore \tilde{v}_i lifts to an element v_i in L such that the orbit of v_i lies in a subgroup $\prod_{i \in S} C_{ij}$ of L with $C_{ij} \cong \tilde{C}_{ij}$.

If \tilde{G}_i admits no fine tori, then $\tilde{G}_i = \text{SU}(n)$ with $n = 4, 8$, or 12 . Let $\tilde{T}_i^u \subset \text{U}(n)$ be the elliptic torus containing our elliptic torus $\tilde{T}_i \subset \text{SU}(n)$. Let $T_{i,\text{der}}$ denote the image of \tilde{T}_i in $\text{PU}(n)$, and let $L_{i,\text{der}}$ denote the group of characters of $T_{i,\text{der}}(\mathfrak{f})$. In the proofs of Lemmas 5.5 and 5.7, we constructed an element $\tilde{v}_i^u \in \text{im}(L_{i,\text{der}} \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i^u)$ that is conjugate self-dual and in general position, and whose image $\tilde{v}_i \in \tilde{L}_i$ is also in general position. Since $\text{im}(L_{i,\text{der}} \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i)$ is contained in $\text{im}(L \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i)$, we have that $\tilde{v}_i \in \text{im}(L \rightarrow \tilde{L}_i)$.

Thus, for suitably large q , $\tilde{v}_i \in \text{im}(L)$ is conjugate self-dual and in general position. As usual, let \tilde{C}_i denote the group generated by the Weyl orbit of \tilde{v}_i . Then the preimage of \tilde{C}_i in L contains a subgroup C_i isomorphic to \tilde{C}_i , where the isomorphism is equivariant under the Weyl group action. Let $v_i \in L$ denote the inverse image of \tilde{v}_i under this map isomorphism. Then v_i is conjugate self-dual and in general position.

Write $v = \sum_{i \in I} v_i$. We had to assume Hypothesis 4.1(b) in order to construct v and it is easily seen to be conjugate self-dual. Thus, under these conditions, $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has an irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representation. \square

7. REDUCTIVE GROUPS

Let G be a connected reductive group defined over a finite field \mathfrak{f} of cardinality q . Let Z° denote the identity component of the center Z of G .

Lemma 7.1. *Let τ' be a representation of $(G/Z^\circ)(\mathfrak{f})$. Then τ' pulls back to a representation τ of $G(\mathfrak{f})$. Moreover, if τ' satisfies any combination of the properties of being irreducible, cuspidal, Deligne-Lusztig type, or self-dual, then for the same combination of properties, so does τ .*

Proof. We have a short exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow Z^\circ \rightarrow G \rightarrow G/Z^\circ \rightarrow 1.$$

This gives a long exact sequence

$$1 \rightarrow Z^\circ(\mathfrak{f}) \rightarrow G(\mathfrak{f}) \rightarrow G/Z^\circ(\mathfrak{f}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathfrak{f}, Z^\circ).$$

By Lang's theorem, $H^1(\mathfrak{f}, Z^\circ)$ is trivial. Therefore, $G(\mathfrak{f})$ surjects onto $(G/Z^\circ)(\mathfrak{f})$, and thus τ' can be pulled back to a representation τ of $G(\mathfrak{f})$. It is easy to see that if τ' satisfies any combination of the properties of being irreducible, cuspidal, of Deligne-Lusztig type, or self-dual, then for the same combination of properties, the same is true for τ . \square

Theorem 7.2. *Let G be a connected reductive group over a finite field \mathfrak{f} . Then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal representations.*

Proof. By Lemma 7.1, we can assume that G is semisimple. Then G is isogenous to a group $\prod R_{E_i/\mathfrak{f}} \tilde{G}_i$, where the factors \tilde{G}_i are absolutely almost simple. By an argument as in the third paragraph of the proof of Lemma 3.2, we can therefore assume that G is the restriction of scalars of an absolutely almost simple group. The result then follows from Theorem 4.2. \square

Theorem 7.3. *Let G be a connected reductive group defined over a finite field \mathfrak{f} . If G satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(a), then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, cuspidal, Deligne-Lusztig representations. Moreover, if G also satisfies Hypothesis 4.1(b) and has no factor of type A_n (n even), then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ admits irreducible, self-dual, Deligne-Lusztig, cuspidal representations. If G has a factor of type A_n for some even n , then $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has no self-dual cuspidal representations.*

Proof. From Lemma 7.1 and Proposition 6.1, $G(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, cuspidal, Deligne-Lusztig representations, and it has irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal, Deligne-Lusztig representations if G has no factor of type A_n (n even).

Suppose G has a factor of type A_n for some even n . Then there is a connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -group H , and a central \mathfrak{f} -isogeny $\mathrm{SL}_{n+1} \times H \rightarrow G$ whose kernel has odd cardinality and trivial intersection with H . Theorem 4.2 shows that $\mathrm{SL}_{n+1}(\mathfrak{f}) \times H(\mathfrak{f})$ has no self-dual cuspidal representations. By Lemma 3.2, neither does $G(\mathfrak{f})$. \square

8. REDUCTIVE p -ADIC GROUPS

Let F denote a nonarchimedean local field, with residue field \mathfrak{f} of characteristic p and order q . Let G be a connected reductive F -group. For any point x in the building of G over F , let $G(F)_x$, $G(F)_{x,0}$, and $\mathsf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ denote the stabilizer of x in $G(F)$, the parahoric subgroup of $G(F)$ associated to x , and the reductive quotient of the parahoric subgroup, i.e., the quotient of $G(F)_{x,0}$ by its pro- p -radical $G(F)_{x,0+}$. In particular, G_x is a connected reductive \mathfrak{f} -group. When G is a torus, all of the above are independent of the choice of point x , and it is customary to write $G(F)_b$, $G(F)_0$, and $G(F)_{0+}$ in place of $G(F)_x$, $G(F)_{x,0}$, and $G(F)_{x,0+}$. Here, $G(F)_b$ is the maximal bounded subgroup of $G(F)$.

Let π be an irreducible, supercuspidal representation of depth zero. Then there exists a vertex x in the building of G such that the restriction $\pi|G(F)_{x,0}$ contains the inflation to $G(F)_{x,0}$ of an irreducible, cuspidal representation κ of $\mathsf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$.

Definition 8.1 ([14, Definition 3.4.19]). The representation π of $G(F)$ is called *regular* if κ is a Deligne-Lusztig cuspidal representation $\pm R_{S',\bar{\theta}}$ of $\mathsf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$, associated to an elliptic maximal torus S' of $\mathsf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ and a character $\bar{\theta} : S'(\mathfrak{f}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ that is *regular* ([14, Definition 3.4.16]).

Regular depth-zero supercuspidals are in bijection with $G(F)$ -conjugacy classes of *elliptic regular pairs* (S, θ) , i.e., pairs in which S is a maximally unramified elliptic maximal torus of G and $\theta : S(F) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ is a regular depth-zero character. We denote by $\pi(S, \theta)$ the regular depth-zero supercuspidal representation of $G(F)$ associated to the elliptic regular pair (S, θ) as in [14, §3.4.3].

Proposition 8.2. *The group $G(F)$ has depth-zero supercuspidal representations.*

As remarked in Section 1, our method of proof is not new.

Proof. Let x be a point in the building of G over F whose image in the reduced building is a vertex. By Theorem 7.2, $\mathsf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ admits an irreducible, cuspidal representation $\bar{\rho}$. Let ρ denote the inflation of $\bar{\rho}$ to $G(F)_{x,0}$. Let τ denote any irreducible representation of $G(F)_x$ whose restriction to $G(F)_{x,0}$ contains ρ . From [16, Proposition 6.8], the representation $\mathrm{c}\text{-Ind}_{G(F)_x}^{G(F)} \tau$ of $G(F)$ is irreducible and supercuspidal, and has depth zero. \square

We now turn our attention to *self-dual* supercuspidal representations, starting with some situations where they do not exist.

Lemma 8.3. *Suppose that p is odd and G is an isotropic inner form of PGL_{n+1} for some even n . Then $G(F)$ has no irreducible, self-dual, supercuspidal representations.*

Proof. There exists a short exact sequence of connected F -groups

$$1 \longrightarrow \tilde{Z} \longrightarrow \tilde{G} \longrightarrow G \longrightarrow 1,$$

where \tilde{G} is an inner form of GL_{n+1} , and \tilde{Z} is isomorphic to GL_1 . Since $H^1(F, \tilde{Z})$ is trivial, the map $\tilde{G}(F) \rightarrow G(F)$ is thus surjective, so it will be enough to show that $\tilde{G}(F)$ has no self-dual supercuspidal representations. By [17, Proposition 5], a division algebra over F of odd degree has no irreducible, self-dual representations of dimension more than one. The Jacquet-Langlands correspondence commutes with taking duals, and every supercuspidal representation of \tilde{G} corresponds to a representation of a division algebra of dimension more than one. Therefore, $\tilde{G}(F)$ has no irreducible, self-dual, supercuspidal representations. \square

Proposition 8.4. *Suppose that p is odd and some F -almost-simple factor of G is isotropic, of type A_n for some even n , and an inner form of a split group. Then $G(F)$ has no self-dual supercuspidal representations.*

Proof. There exists a central F -isogeny $G \rightarrow H \times_{E/F} G_0$, where H is a connected reductive F -group, E/F is a finite, separable extension, G_0 is an E -group that is an inner form of PGL_{n+1} , and the kernel of the isogeny has odd order. By Lemma 3.2, it will be enough to show that $G_0(E)$ has no self-dual supercuspidal representations. But this follows from Lemma 8.3. \square

We remark that if G is an anisotropic group of type A_n , then $G(F)$ does have self-dual supercuspidal representations (e.g., the trivial representation), but they are not regular.

Remark 8.5. Suppose that G is quasi-split over F . As observed in [14, §3.4] or [2, §2.4], the building of G over F has a vertex x that is “absolutely special”, in the sense that it is a special vertex in the building of G over E for every algebraic extension E/F of finite ramification degree. Then the root systems of G and G_x are isomorphic. Let S denote a maximal elliptic f -torus in G_x . From [14, Lemma 3.4.3], there is a maximally unramified elliptic F -torus S in G whose parahoric subgroup $S(F)_0$ is $S(F) \cap G(F)_{x,0}$, and the image of $S(F)_0$ in $G_x(f)$ is $S(f)$. We will be particularly interested in the case where S satisfies the following hypothesis.

Hypothesis 8.6. *Let $S(F)_{\text{odd}}$ be the largest subgroup of $S(F)_b$ that contains $S(F)_0$ with odd index. Then $S(F)_{\text{odd}}/S(F)_{0+}$ is a direct factor of $S(F)_b/S(F)_{0+}$.*

Remark 8.7. Hypothesis 8.6 is automatic if $S(F)_0/S(F)_{0+}$ is a direct factor of $S(F)_b/S(F)_{0+}$. Therefore, it is true for all S in G in each of the following situations:

- (i) G splits over an unramified extension. For in this case, $S(F)_b = S(F)_0$.
- (ii) G splits over a totally wild extension of an unramified extension. For in this case, $S(F)_b/S(F)_0$ is a p -group, and $S(F)_0/S(F)_{0+}$ has order prime to p .
- (iii) G is simply connected. For in this case, $S(F)_b = S(F) \cap G(F)_x = S(F) \cap G(F)_{x,0} = S(F)_0$.

- (iv) G is a unitary group. If G is unramified or wildly ramified, then this follows from (i) or (ii). If G is ramified and tame, then it is easy to see the structure of S , and so one can check directly.
- (v) $p = 2$. In this case $S(F)_0/S(F)_{0+}$ has odd order, since it is the group of rational points of an \mathfrak{f} -torus. It follows that $S(F)_{\text{odd}}/S(F)_{0+}$ is the maximal subgroup of $S(F)_b/S(F)_{0+}$ of odd order and therefore the hypothesis is satisfied.

Proposition 8.8. *Suppose that G is quasi-split over F . Let x be an absolutely special vertex in the building of G over F . If $\mathbf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ has irreducible, cuspidal, Deligne-Lusztig representations, then $G(F)$ has irreducible, depth-zero, supercuspidal regular representations. Suppose G satisfies Hypothesis 8.6. If $\mathbf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ has such representations that are also self-dual, then so does $G(F)$.*

Proof. Let ρ be an irreducible, Deligne–Lusztig, cuspidal representation of $\mathbf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$. Then ρ arises from a pair $(S, \bar{\theta})$, where S is a maximal elliptic \mathfrak{f} -torus in \mathbf{G}_x , and $\bar{\theta}$ is a complex character of $S(\mathfrak{f})$ that is in general position. Let $S \subseteq G$ be a maximally unramified elliptic F -torus as in Remark 8.5, whose parahoric subgroup $S(F)_0$ is $S(F) \cap G(F)_{x,0}$, and where the image of $S(F)_0$ in $\mathbf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ is $S(\mathfrak{f})$. Inflate $\bar{\theta}$ to obtain a character of $S(F)_0$. Choose an extension θ of this character to $S(F)$. From [14, Lemmas 3.4.6 and 3.4.11], $\theta|_{S(F)_0}$, and thus θ , has trivial stabilizer in $N(S, G)(F)/S(F)$. From [14, Lemma 3.4.18], we obtain a regular, depth-zero, supercuspidal representation $\pi_{(S, \theta)}$ of $G(F)$, as desired.

Now suppose that ρ is also self-dual, and that G satisfies Hypothesis 8.6. Then we can choose $(S, \bar{\theta})$ so that $\bar{\theta}$ is in general position and conjugate self-dual. In particular, θ is conjugate to its inverse via some element in $W(\mathbf{G}_x, S)$, necessarily of order two. Since x is absolutely special, by [14, Lemma 3.4.10(3)], this implies that the inflation of $\bar{\theta}$ to $S(F)_0$ is conjugate to its inverse via an element w of $W(G, S)$, also of order two. We have an odd number of ways of extending this character to a character θ_{odd} on $S(F)_{\text{odd}}$, so we can and do choose θ_{odd} so that it is conjugate to its inverse via $w \in W(G, S)$. From Hypothesis 8.6, we may extend $\bar{\theta}$ in a trivial way to obtain a character of $S(F)_b$. Since $S(F)$ is a direct product of $S(F)_b$ and an integer lattice, we may further extend our character in a trivial way to a character θ of $S(F)$. We have constructed θ to be conjugate to its inverse, so the representation $\pi_{(S, \theta)}$ is self-dual. \square

Proposition 8.9. *Suppose that G is a simply connected F -group. If the building of $G(F)$ has a vertex x such that $\mathbf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$ has an irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representation, then $G(F)$ has an irreducible, self-dual, supercuspidal representation.*

Proof. Let ρ be an irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representation of $\mathbf{G}_x(\mathfrak{f})$. Inflate ρ to the parahoric subgroup $G(F)_{x,0}$ of $G(F)$, and induce to $G(F)$. From [16, Proposition 6.8], we obtain an irreducible, supercuspidal representation π . Since ρ is self-dual, so is π . \square

Proposition 8.10. *Let G be a connected reductive F -group, and let G_0 be its quasi-split inner form. If $G_0(F)$ admits an irreducible, regular (resp., self-dual regular) supercuspidal representation of depth zero, then so does $G(F)$.*

Proof. Let π be such a representation of $G_0(F)$. Let $\pi \cong \pi_{(S_0, \theta_0)}$ for some maximally unramified maximal F -elliptic torus $S_0 \subset G_0$ and some depth-zero complex

character θ_0 of $S_0(F)$ that is in general position with respect to the action of the Weyl group $W(G_0, S_0)(F)$ (and is conjugate self-dual if π is assumed self-dual).

By [15, Lemma 1.5.1], there is a maximal elliptic torus $S \subset G$ that is stably conjugate to S_0 . We thus have that S and S_0 are F -isomorphic, as are $W(G, S)$ and $W(G_0, S_0)$. Therefore, $S(F)$ has a depth-zero complex character θ that is in general position with respect to the action of the Weyl group $W(G, S)(F)$. If θ_0 is conjugate self-dual, then so is θ . \square

Hypothesis 8.11. *The group G has no F -almost-simple factor isogenous to the unitary group $R_{E/F} \mathrm{SU}_{k+1}$, where E/F is totally ramified, and the unitary group is defined with respect to an unramified quadratic extension of F , and*

- (a) $k = 2$ and $q = 2$;
- (b) $k = 2$ and $q \in \{3, 4\}$; or $k = 3$ and $q \in \{2, 3, 5\}$; or $k = 4$ and $q \in \{2, 3, 4, 5\}$.

Theorem 8.12. *Let G be a connected reductive F -group.*

- (a) *If G satisfies Hypothesis 8.11(a), then $G(F)$ has irreducible, regular, supercuspidal representations of depth zero.*
- (b) *If G also satisfies Hypotheses 8.11(b) and 8.6 (the latter for all maximally unramified elliptic tori $S \subset G$), and G has no F -almost-simple factors of type A_n (n even), then $G(F)$ has irreducible, self-dual, regular, supercuspidal representations of depth zero.*

Proof. Let G_0 be the quasi-split inner form of G . It is clear that G_0 satisfies the various parts of Hypothesis 8.11 if and only if G does, and the same goes for Hypothesis 8.6. From Proposition 8.10, we may replace G by G_0 , and assume from now on that G is quasi-split.

Let x be an absolutely special vertex in the building of $G(F)$. Our result will follow from Proposition 8.8 and Theorem 7.3, provided that we can show that G_x satisfies Hypothesis 4.1 and that G_x has a factor of type A_n (n even) if and only if G does.

The decomposition of G into an almost-direct product of a torus and F -almost-simple factors induces an analogous decomposition of G_x .

Suppose that H is a factor of G , and H_x is the corresponding factor of G_x . (Here we are identifying x with its projection in the building of $H(F)$.) Note that the connected reductive quotient of $(R_{E/F}H)(F)_{x,0}$ is the group of \mathfrak{f} -points of H_x if E/F is totally ramified, and of $R_{\mathfrak{f}_E/\mathfrak{f}}H_x$ if E/F is unramified (and \mathfrak{f}_E denotes the residue field of E). Thus, we may assume that H is absolutely almost simple. If H splits over an unramified extension, then H and H_x have the same type (e.g., A_n , 2D_n , etc.). Suppose that H splits only over a ramified extension. From the proof of [11, Lemma 5.0.1], the Weyl group of H_x over \mathfrak{f} is isomorphic to the relative Weyl group $W(H, T_0)$, where T_0 is a maximal F -split torus in H . In particular, H_x cannot be a simply laced group, and so cannot have type A_n or 2A_n . \square

Theorem 8.13. *Suppose that G is a connected reductive F -group and $p = 2$. If $q = 2$, then assume that G has no factor of type 2A_3 or 2A_4 . Then $G(F)$ admits irreducible, self-dual, supercuspidal representations.*

Remark 8.14. At present, “regular” supercuspidal representations of positive depth have not been defined when F has residual characteristic two. Perhaps in the future they will be constructed from characters in general position, as in the case

of odd residual characteristic. But even should that happen, our proof will not be able to show that all such groups admit *regular* supercuspidals, because of its reliance on Lemma 3.2 and (when q is small) on the existence of unipotent cuspidal representations of $SU(3)(\mathfrak{f})$.

Proof of Theorem 8.13. From Lemma 3.2, we may replace G by a direct product $H \times G_0$, where G_0 is a direct product of inner forms of groups of the form $R_{E/F} \mathrm{SL}_{n+1}$ (n even) for finite separable field extensions E/F ; and $R_{E/F} \mathrm{SU}_3$ for finite, separable, totally ramified field extensions E/F , and the unitary groups are defined with respect to the quadratic unramified extension of F ; and no simple factor of H has any of these types. From Theorem 8.12(b) and Remark 8.7(v), $H(F)$ has self-dual supercuspidal representations. Therefore, it will be enough to show that the same is true for inner forms of $\mathrm{SL}_{n+1}(E)$ and $\mathrm{SU}_3(E)$.

From [1, Theorem 6.1], $\mathrm{GL}_{n+1}(E)$ has self-dual supercuspidal representations, and since the restriction of such a representation to $\mathrm{SL}_{n+1}(E)$ decomposes into an odd number of summands, at least one of them must be self-dual. By the Jacquet-Langlands correspondence, the same is true for inner forms.

The groups SU_n (for n odd) have no non-quasi-split inner forms. To obtain self-dual supercuspidal representations of $SU_n(E)$, Proposition 8.9 shows that it is enough to obtain an irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal, representation of $SU_n(\mathfrak{f}_E)$, where \mathfrak{f}_E is the residue field of E . Remark 5.6 provides such a representation when $n = 3$. \square

Remark 8.15. We have not determined whether or not $SU(5)(\mathfrak{f})$ has an irreducible, self-dual, cuspidal representation when \mathfrak{f} has order 2. If it does, then in Theorem 8.13, we need not exclude groups containing a factor of type 2A_4 when $q = 2$, because we can deal with such factors in the same way that we dealt with factors of type 2A_2 , changing only a few words of the proof.

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