

ON SQUARE INTEGRABLE FACTOR REPRESENTATIONS
OF LOCALLY COMPACT GROUPS

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Let G be a separable locally compact unimodular group, Z a closed central subgroup of G . Let χ be a character of Z , a representation π of G is said to be a χ -representation if $\pi|_Z$ is equivalent to a multiple of χ . A factor representation π of G (which must be a χ -representation for a certain χ) is said to be *square integrable mod Z* (abbrev. *SI mod Z*) if there exist non zero vectors φ, ψ in the representation space $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$ such that:

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} < \infty \quad (1)$$

Note that the integration on G/Z makes sense since the integrand is constant on each Z -coset.

If π is a *SI mod Z* irreducible representation, (1) holds for all φ, ψ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$ and we have Schur's orthogonality relations. In this note we prove that a *SI mod Z* factor representations π is of type *I* if and only if (1) holds for all φ, ψ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$. In particular the unimodular Lie groups with factor representations *SI mod Z* in the latter sense are precisely those groups with *SI mod Z* irreducible representations which have been classified in [1]. In the second part of the note we give some necessary and sufficient conditions for a *SI mod Z* representation to be factor, and in particular to be irreducible.

1. A GENERALIZATION OF SCHUR'S ORTHOGONALITY RELATIONS

LEMMA 1.1. *If π is a χ -representation of G such that all matrix coefficients of π are *SI mod Z* , then there exists a constant $C_\pi > 0$ such that*

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} \leq C_\pi \|\varphi\|^2 \|\psi\|^2, \varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{H}(\pi) \quad (2)$$

Proof. For fixed φ and ψ the matrix coefficient $(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)$ belongs to the hilbert space L_χ^2 of all measurable functions f on G such that for all z in $Z: f(zx) = \chi(z)f(x)$ for almost all x , and $\int_{G/Z} |f(x)|^2 dx < \infty$. Let $\varphi_n \rightarrow \varphi$ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$ such that $(\pi(g)\varphi_n, \psi)$ is convergent in L_χ^2 .

Since $(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi) \rightarrow (\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)$ for all g in G , $(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)$ also converges to $(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)$ in $L^2_{\mathcal{H}}$. Thus by the closed graph theorem, the linear map $\varphi \rightarrow (\pi(\cdot)\varphi, \psi)$ is continuous for every fixed ψ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$. Similarly, for every fixed φ the anti-linear map $\psi \rightarrow (\pi(\cdot)\varphi, \psi)$ is also continuous. Therefore the sesquilinear map $(\varphi, \psi) \rightarrow (\pi(\cdot)\varphi, \psi)$ is jointly continuous (cf [3], p. 83), and hence there exists $C_{\pi} > 0$ such that (2) holds.

PROPOSITION 1. 2. *The assumptions being as in Lemma 1. 1, then (i) for every ψ, ψ' in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$, there exists $d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')$ in $L(\mathcal{H}(\pi))$ such that*

$$\int_{G/Z} (\pi(g)\varphi, \psi) \overline{(\pi(g)\varphi', \psi')} d\bar{g} = (d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')\varphi, \varphi') \quad (3)$$

(ii) $(\psi, \psi') \rightarrow d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')$ is a continuous sesquilinear mapping from

$\mathcal{H}(\pi) \times \mathcal{H}(\pi)$ into $L(\mathcal{H}(\pi))$.

(iii) each $d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')$ is an intertwining operator for π .

Proof: (i) follows from Lemma 1.1 and Riesz representation theorem. Moreover we have the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g)\varphi, \psi) \overline{(\pi(g)\varphi', \psi')} d\bar{g} \right|^2 &\leq \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} \times \\ &\quad \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi', \psi')|^2 d\bar{g} \\ &\leq C_{\pi}^2 \|\varphi\|^2 \|\psi\|^2 \|\varphi'\|^2 \|\psi'\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

This proves (ii). Finally, for every ψ, ψ' in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} (d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')\pi(g)\varphi, \varphi') &= \int_{G/Z} (\pi(x)\pi(g)\varphi, \psi) \overline{(\pi(x)\varphi', \psi')} d\bar{x} \\ &= \int_{G/Z} (\pi(x)\varphi, \psi) \overline{(\pi(xg^{-1})\varphi', \psi')} d\bar{x} \\ &= (d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')\varphi, \pi(g^{-1})\varphi') \\ &= (\pi(g)d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')\varphi, \varphi') \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i. e. } d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')\pi(g) = \pi(g)d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi') \quad \begin{array}{l} A \ g \in G \\ Q. \ E. \ D. \end{array}$$

Remark: if π is irreducible, then $d_{\pi}(\psi, \psi')$ is a scalar operator and hence (3) is just the ordinary Schur's orthogonality relations.

LEMMA 1. 3. *The assumptions being as above. Then each multiple of π has all of its matrix coefficients SI mod Z .*

Proof: Let $n\pi$ be a multiple of π so that the space $\mathcal{H}(n\pi)$ may be realized as $\mathcal{H}(\pi) \otimes \mathcal{K}$ where \mathcal{K} is a n -dimensional ⁽¹⁾ hilbert space. Let $\{e_i\}$ be an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{K} , then for every φ in $\mathcal{H}(n\pi)$ we have $\varphi = \sum_i \varphi_i \otimes e_i$ where $\varphi_i \in \mathcal{H}(\pi)$ and $\|\varphi\|^2 = \sum_i \|\varphi_i\|^2$. The action of $n\pi$ on φ is given by $n\pi(g)\varphi = \sum_i \pi(g)\varphi_i \otimes l_i$. We have $(n\pi(g)\varphi, \varphi) = \sum_i (\pi(g)\varphi_i, \varphi_i)$ for every g in G . On the other hand it follows from Lemma 1.1 that

$$\|(\pi(g)\varphi_i, \varphi_i)\|^2 = \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi_i, \varphi_i)|^2 d\bar{g} \leq C_\pi \|\varphi_i\|^4$$

Hence $\sum_i \|(\pi(g)\varphi_i, \varphi_i)\| \leq \sqrt{C_\pi} \sum_i \|\varphi_i\|^2 = \sqrt{C_\pi} \|\varphi\|^2$

Therefore $(n\pi(g)\varphi, \varphi) = \sum_i (\pi(g)\varphi_i, \varphi_i) \in L_\chi^2$. By polarization we see that all matrix coefficients of $n\pi$ belong to L_χ^2 .

Q. E. D.

2. THE PROOF OF THE MAIN RESULT.

Recall that L_χ^2 is the space of all measurable functions f on G such that for all z in Z we have $f(zx) = \chi(z)f(x)$ for almost all x , and $\int_{G/Z} |f(x)|^2 d\bar{x} < \infty$.

The representation ρ of G defined by $\rho(g)f(x) = f(xg)$ is called the induced representation of χ and denoted by $\text{ind}_{Z \uparrow G} \chi$. Let λ be the representation of G in L_χ^2 given by $\lambda(g)f(x) = f(g^{-1}x)$. Let $\mathcal{K}(G)$ be the algebra of continuous functions with compact support on G . For every f in $\mathcal{K}(G)$ we set $f_0(x) = \int_Z \chi(z)^{-1} f(zx) dz, \forall x \in G$. The set M_χ of all f_0 so obtained is dense in

L_χ^2 and each f_0 has compact support mod Z (cf [4], Lemma 3.5). For f_0, g_0 in M_χ , put:

(i) $f_0^*(x) = \overline{f_0(x^{-1})} \quad \forall x \in G$

(ii) $(f_0^*g_0)(x) = \int_{G/Z} f_0(y) g_0(y^{-1}x) dy \quad \forall x \in G$

(iii) $(f_0, g_0) = \int_{G/Z} f_0(y) \overline{g_0(y)} d\bar{y}$

The addition and multiplication are defined pointwise.

(1) Here n can be an arbitrary cardinal, finite or infinite.

LEMMA 2.1. M_χ is a hilbert algebra.

Proof: Note that the multiplication $f_0 * g_0$ in M_χ is well defined. Now it is clear that:

$$(f_0, g_0) = (g_0^*, \overset{*}{f_0}) \text{ and}$$

$$(f_0 * g_0, h_0) = (g_0, f_0 * h_0)$$

for all f_0, g_0, h_0 in M_χ . Moreover

$$(f_0 * g_0)(x) = \int_{G/Z} f_0(y) g_0(y^{-1}x) d\bar{y}$$

$$= \int_{G/Z} \int_Z f_0(z y) \chi(z)^{-1} g_0(y^{-1}x) dz d\bar{y}$$

$$= \int_G f_0(y) g_0(y^{-1}x) dy = \lambda(f_0) g_0(x)$$

Hence the mapping $g_0 \rightarrow f_0 * g_0$ is continuous in the prehilbert space M_χ . Finally we have

$$(f_0 * g_0)_x(y) = (f_0 * (g_0)_x)(y), \text{ and}$$

$$(\alpha f_0)(x) = (\alpha f_0)(x)$$

for all f, g in $\mathcal{K}(G)$, and α is a bounded continuous function on G which is constant on the Z -cosets, where f_x is the right translation of f by x : $f_x(y) = f(yx)$. Thus by Lemma 3.3 of [4] $M_\chi * M_\chi$ is dense in M_χ , and M_χ is a hilbert algebra (cf. [2], A 54)

Q.E.D.

Let A_χ be the perfect hilbert algebra of M_χ consisting of all bounded elements in L_χ^2 . By the same computation as above we see that for all f in $\mathcal{K}(G)$ and all ξ in L_χ^2 : $(f_0 * \xi)(x) = \lambda(f) \xi(x)$. Similarly: $(\xi * f_0)(x) = \rho(\check{f}) \xi(x)$ where $\check{f}(x) = f(x^{-1})$. Hence $\mathcal{U}(A_\chi) = \lambda(G)'$ and $\mathcal{U}(A_\chi) = \rho(G)'$. But $\mathcal{U}(A_\chi) = \mathcal{U}(A_\chi)'$ (cf. [2], A54), therefore $\lambda(G)' = \rho(G)''$.

Recall that if ρ is a representation of G , and π is a subrepresentation of ρ defined by a projection $E \in \rho(G)'$, then there exists a unique projection F in the center of $\rho(G)'$ such that $E \leq F$ and F is minimal among the projections lying in the center of $\rho(G)'$ majorizing E ; the projection F is called the central support of π . The representation π is a factor if and only if E is minimal in the center of $\rho(G)'$.

Now assume that π is a $SI \text{ mod } Z$ factor representation of G , then π is quasi equivalent to a subrepresentation π' of $\rho = \text{ind}_{G \uparrow Z} \chi$ (cf. [5]). Let π'' be the subrepresentation of ρ corresponding to the central support F of π' . Since F is minimal in the center of $\rho(G)'$, π'' is a factor and $\pi \sim \pi' \sim \pi''$. Assume

in addition that all matrix coefficients of π are $SI \text{ mod } Z$. By Lemma 1.3 all matrix coefficients of $\infty\pi$ are $SI \text{ mod } Z$ and hence so are those of π'' . Thus for all ξ and η in $\mathcal{H}(\pi'') = FL_\chi^2$ we have: $(\eta^* \cdot \xi)(g) = (\eta^*, \lambda(g)\xi^*) = (\eta^*, (\rho(g)\xi)^*) = (\pi''(g)\xi, \eta) \in L_\chi^2$. Since $(\eta^* \cdot \xi)(g) = (\rho(g)\xi, \eta) = 0$ if ξ is perpendicular to FL_χ^2 we see that for every fixed η in FL_χ^2 , $\xi \rightarrow \eta^* \cdot \xi$ is an every where defined linear operator from L_χ^2 into itself. Therefore by the same argument as in the proof of Lemma 1.1 we see that this operator is continuous, i.e. $\eta^* \in A_\chi$. Finally, since FL_χ^2 is clearly self conjugate, $FL_\chi^2 = FA_\chi$ is a complete hilbert algebra. Hence the Von Neumann algebra $\mathcal{U}(A_\chi)_F = \mathcal{U}(F, A_\chi)$ is of type I, i. e. π is of type I (cf. [2], A 65). Thus we have proved the first part of.

THEOREM 2. 2. *Let π be a $SI \text{ mod } Z$ factor representation of G , then π is of type I if and only if all of its matrix coefficients are $SI \text{ mod } Z$, i. e. for all φ, ψ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$*

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} < \infty$$

Proof: It remains to prove the necessary condition. Assume that π is of type I so that π is equivalent to a multiple of some irreducible representation π_0 of type I so that π is equivalent to a multiple of some irreducible representation π_0 of G . Since π is quasi equivalent to a subrepresentation of $\text{ind}_{Z \uparrow G} \chi$, so is π_0 , i. e. π_0 is $SI \text{ mod } Z$. Therefore by Schur's orthogonality relations, all matrix coefficients of π_0 are $SI \text{ mod } Z$. Thus by Lemma 1. 3 all matrix coefficients of π are also $SI \text{ mod } Z$.

Q. E. D.

3. In view of Theorem 2. 2, it would be interesting if we could find conditions for a representation with all matrix coefficients $SI \text{ mod } Z$ to be a factor, and in particular to be irreducible. First note that if π is the sum of two non-equivalent $SI \text{ mod } Z$ irreducible representations then all matrix coefficients of π are $SI \text{ mod } Z$ but π is not a factor. Now let π be a χ -representation such that all of its matrix coefficients are $SI \text{ mod } Z$. For all ψ and ψ' in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$, let $d_\pi(\psi, \psi')$ be the intertwining operator for π determined by Lemma 1. 3.

Put $\mathcal{D} = \{d_\pi(\psi, \psi') \mid \psi, \psi' \in \mathcal{H}(\pi)\}$. It is easy to see that \mathcal{D} is self conjugate. Hence $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{D}''$ is a Von Neumann algebra. We have

PROPOSITION 3. 1. *π is a factor if and only if \mathcal{A} is a factor. Moreover if it is the case then $\mathcal{A} = \pi(G)'$.*

Proof: Assume that π is a factor, then π is of type I by Theorem 2.2, hence we may assume that $\pi = \pi_0 \otimes \text{Id}$, $\mathcal{H}(\pi) = \mathcal{H}(\pi_0) \otimes \mathcal{K}$, where π_0 is an

irreducible representation and \mathcal{K} is some hilbert space. Thus $\pi(G)' = C \otimes L(\mathcal{K})$. In virtue of Proposition 1.2. $\mathcal{D} \subset \pi(G)'$, hence for every ψ, ψ' in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$, there exists an operator $d'_\pi(\psi, \psi') \in L(\mathcal{K})$ such that $d_\pi(\psi, \psi') = \text{Id} \otimes d'_\pi(\psi, \psi')$.

Set $\varphi = \varphi_o \otimes \varphi_1, \psi = \psi_o \otimes \psi_1, \varphi' = \varphi'_o \otimes \varphi'_1, \psi' = \psi'_o \otimes \psi'_1$ in (3) we obtain

$$C_\pi(\overline{\psi_o, \psi'_o})(\varphi_1, \psi_1)(\psi'_1, \varphi'_1) = (d'_\pi(\psi, \psi') \varphi_1, \varphi'_1),$$

where $\frac{1}{C_\pi}$ is the formal degree (or dimension) of π_o , i. e.

$$d'_\pi(\psi, \psi') \varphi_1 = C_\pi \overline{(\psi_o, \psi'_o)}(\varphi_1, \psi_1) \psi'_1 \quad \text{for all } \varphi_1, \psi_1, \psi'_1 \in \mathcal{K}_1$$

From this it follows that $\mathcal{A} = \pi(G)' \simeq L(\mathcal{K})$.

Conversely assume that \mathcal{A} is a factor. Let E be any projection belonging to the center of $\pi(G)'$, we will prove that $E = 0$ or 1 .

Note that $E \in \mathcal{A}'$ since $\pi(G)'' \subset \mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{A}'$. Now let $A \in \mathcal{A}'$, then:

$$\begin{aligned} (d_\pi(\psi, \psi') \varphi, E A \varphi') &= (d_\pi(\psi, \psi') E \varphi, A \varphi') \\ &= \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g) E \varphi, \psi) \overline{(\pi(g) A \varphi', \psi')} dg \\ &= \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g) \varphi, E \psi) \overline{(\pi(g) A \varphi', \psi')} dg \\ &= (d_\pi(E \psi, \psi') \varphi, A \varphi') \\ &= (d_\pi(E \psi, \psi') A^* \varphi, \varphi') \\ &= \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g) A^* \varphi, E \psi) \overline{(\pi(g) \varphi', \psi')} dg \\ &= \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g) E A^* \varphi, \psi) \overline{(\pi(g) \varphi, \psi')} dg \\ &= (d_\pi(\psi, \psi') A E^* \varphi, \varphi') \\ &= (d_\pi(\psi, \psi') \varphi, A E \varphi') \end{aligned}$$

Since the vectors $d_\pi(\psi, \psi') \varphi$ where $\psi, \psi', \varphi \in \mathcal{H}(\pi)$ span $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$, we see that $AE = EA$, i. e. $E \in \mathcal{A}' = \mathcal{A}$. Therefore $E \in \mathcal{A} \cap \mathcal{A}' = \Phi \cdot \text{Id}$, and hence $E = 0$ or 1 .

Q. E. D.

COROLLARY 3. 2. π is irreducible if and only if for all φ, ψ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$ we have

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} = C_\pi \|\varphi\|^2 \|\psi\|^2, \quad (4)$$

where C_π is a positive constant.

Proof: the necessary condition follows immediately from Schur's orthogonality relations. To prove the sufficient condition we observe that it follows from (3) and (4):

$$(d_\pi(\psi, \psi)\varphi, \varphi) = (C_\pi(\psi, \psi)\varphi, \varphi)$$

Thus by polarization:

$$d_\pi(\psi, \psi) = C_\pi \|\psi\|^2 \text{Id}$$

Hence $\mathcal{A} \simeq \mathbb{C}$ and $\pi(G)' = \mathcal{A} \simeq \mathbb{C}$, i. e. π is irreducible. Q.E.D

Remark: the sufficient condition may also be proved directly by observing that if π is not irreducible then we can select φ and ψ in two non zero mutually orthogonal invariant subspaces of $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$ so that

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} = 0, \text{ while (4) implies that}$$

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \psi)|^2 d\bar{g} = C_\pi \|\varphi\|^2 \|\psi\|^2 \neq 0; \text{ contradiction}$$

PROPOSITION 3. 3. Let π be a λ -representation such that

$$\int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi, \varphi)|^2 d\bar{g} = C \|\varphi\|^4 \quad (5)$$

for all φ in $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$, where C is some positive constant.

Under this condition, if π is not irreducible then it is equivalent to a multiple of some one-dimensional representation of G . In particular G/Z must be compact.

Proof: it is easy to see that (5) implies that all matrix coefficients of π are $SI \text{ mod } Z$. Let \mathcal{A} be as above then $\mathcal{A} \subset \pi(G)'$. Let E be any projection belonging to the center of \mathcal{A} . Put $F = 1 - E$. It follows from (3) and (5) that:

$$(d_\pi(\varphi, \varphi)\varphi, \varphi) = C \|\varphi\|^4 \quad (6)$$

On the other hand:

$$\begin{aligned} C \|\varphi\|^4 &= C (\|E\varphi\|^2 + \|F\varphi\|^2)^2 \\ &= C \|E\varphi\|^4 + C \|F\varphi\|^4 + 2C \|E\varphi\|^2 \|F\varphi\|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (d_\pi(\varphi, \varphi)\varphi, \varphi) &= (d_\pi(\varphi, \varphi)E\varphi, E\varphi) + (d_\pi(\varphi, \varphi)F\varphi, F\varphi) \\ &= \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)E\varphi, \varphi)|^2 dg + \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)F\varphi, \varphi)|^2 dg \\ &= \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)E\varphi, E\varphi)|^2 d\bar{g} + \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)F\varphi, F\varphi)|^2 d\bar{g} \\ &= C \|E\varphi\|^4 + C \|F\varphi\|^4 \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Now it follows from (6), (7) and (8) that

$$\|E\varphi\|^2 \|F\varphi\|^2 = 0 \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathcal{H}(\pi)$$

Therefore $E = 0$ or 1 , i. e. \mathcal{A} is a factor and hence π is a factor as indicated by Proposition 3.1. Moreover π is of type I by Theorem 2.2. Assume that π is not irreducible. Then we can select two mutually orthogonal minimal invariant subspaces \mathcal{H}_1 and \mathcal{H}_2 of $\mathcal{H}(\pi)$. Let T be a unitary intertwining operator between two equivalent irreducible subrepresentations of π corresponding to \mathcal{H}_1 and \mathcal{H}_2 respectively so that $\pi(g)T\varphi = T\pi(g)\varphi$, $\forall \varphi \in \mathcal{H}_1$. By Schur's orthogonality relations we have

$$\int_{G/Z} (\pi(g)\varphi_1, \varphi_1) \overline{(\pi(g)\varphi_2, \varphi_2)} d\bar{g} = \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g)\varphi_1, \varphi_1) \overline{(\pi(g)T^{-1}\varphi_2, T^{-1}\varphi_2)} d\bar{g} = C |(\varphi_1, T^{-1}\varphi_2)|^2 \quad (9)$$

Note that the formal degree of $\pi|_{\mathcal{H}_1}$ is just C . On the other hand it follows from (5) that

$$C \|\varphi_1 + \varphi_2\|^4 = \int_{G/Z} |(\pi(g)\varphi_1 + \varphi_2, \varphi_1 + \varphi_2)|^2 d\bar{g} \\ = C \|\varphi_1\|^4 + C \|\varphi_2\|^4 + 2 \operatorname{Re} \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g)\varphi_1, \varphi_1) \overline{(\pi(g)\varphi_2, \varphi_2)} d\bar{g}$$

i. e.

$$\operatorname{Re} \int_{G/Z} (\pi(g)\varphi_1, \varphi_1) \overline{(\pi(g)\varphi_2, \varphi_2)} d\bar{g} = C \|\varphi_1\|^2 \|\varphi_2\|^2 \quad (10)$$

Now (9) and (10) imply:

$$|(\varphi_1, T^{-1}\varphi_2)|^2 = \|\varphi_1\|^2 \|T^{-1}\varphi_2\|^2 \quad \forall \varphi_1 \in \mathcal{H}_1, \forall \varphi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_2$$

Thus by Schwartz - Cauchy inequality we must have $\dim \mathcal{H}_1 = \dim \mathcal{H}_2 = 1$. Moreover in this case G/Z must be compact or, otherwise π can not be $SI \bmod Z$.

Q.E.D.

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