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*Harmonic analysis on  $p$ -adic symmetric spaces, the discrete spectrum*

Let  $F$  be a  $p$ -adic field and  $G = \mathbf{G}(F)$  the  $F$ -points of a connected reductive group defined over  $F$ . Given an involution  $\theta$  of  $G$  we define  $H$  to be the subgroup of  $\theta$ -fixed points. The quotient  $H \backslash G$  is a  $p$ -adic symmetric space. In this talk we will discuss harmonic analysis on  $H \backslash G$  and the notion of distinguished representations. In particular, we will consider the problem of constructing the irreducible  $G$ -representations that occur as subrepresentations of the space of square-integrable functions on  $H \backslash G$ , the so called relative discrete series (RDS). We will give a construction of RDS representations for two symmetric quotients of  $p$ -adic general linear groups.