The Distributions in the Invariant Trace Formula Are Supported on Characters

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Abstract. J. Arthur put the trace formula in invariant form for all connected reductive groups and certain disconnected ones. However his work was written so as to apply to the general disconnected case, modulo two missing ingredients. This paper supplies one of those missing ingredients, namely an argument in Galois cohomology of a kind first used by D. Kazhdan in the connected case.