

ABSTRACT. Let  $G$  be a semisimple simply connected affine algebraic group over an algebraically closed field  $k$  of characteristic zero, let  $A(G)$  be the  $k$ -algebra of regular functions of  $G$ , and let  $C(G)$  be the subalgebra consisting of class functions. We explain how Lusztig's work on canonical bases affords a constructive proof of the fact, due to Richardson, that  $A(G)$  is a free  $C(G)$ -module.