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# $L^p$ SPECTRAL MULTIPLIERS ON THE FREE GROUP $N_{3,2}$

#### ALESSIO MARTINI AND DETLEF MÜLLER

ABSTRACT. Let L be a homogeneous sublaplacian on the 6-dimensional free 2-step nilpotent Lie group  $N_{3,2}$  on 3 generators. We prove a theorem of Mihlin-Hörmander type for the functional calculus of L, where the order of differentiability s > 6/2 is required on the multiplier.

# 1. Introduction

The free 2-step nilpotent Lie group  $N_{3,2}$  on 3 generators is the simply connected, connected nilpotent Lie group defined by the relations

$$[X_1, X_2] = Y_3, \quad [X_2, X_3] = Y_1, \quad [X_3, X_1] = Y_2,$$

where  $X_1, X_2, X_3, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$  is a basis of its Lie algebra (that is, the Lie algebra of the left-invariant vector fields on  $N_{3,2}$ ). In exponential coordinates,  $N_{3,2}$  can be identified with  $\mathbb{R}^3_x \times \mathbb{R}^3_y$ , where the group law is given by

$$(x,y) \cdot (x',y') = (x+x',y+y'+x \wedge x'/2)$$

and  $x \wedge x'$  denotes the usual vector product of  $x, x' \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . The family  $(\delta_t)_{t>0}$  of automorphic dilations of  $N_{3,2}$ , defined by

$$\delta_t(x,y) = (tx, t^2y),$$

turns  $N_{3,2}$  into a stratified group of homogeneous dimension Q=9.

Let L be a homogeneous sublaplacian on  $N_{3,2}$ ; without loss of generality, we may assume that  $L = -(X_1^2 + X_2^2 + X_3^2)$ . L is a self-adjoint operator on  $L^2(N_{3,2})$ , hence a functional calculus for L is defined via spectral integration and, for all Borel functions  $F : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$ , the operator F(L) is bounded on  $L^2(N_{3,2})$  whenever the "spectral multiplier" F is a bounded function. Here we are interested in giving a sufficient condition for the  $L^p$ -boundedness (for  $p \neq 2$ ) of the operator F(L), in terms of smoothness properties of the multiplier F.

Let  $W_2^s(\mathbb{R})$  denote the  $L^2$  Sobolev space of (fractional) order s. Then our main result reads as follows.

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**Theorem 1.1.** Suppose that a function  $F : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$  satisfies

$$\sup_{t>0} \|\eta F(t\cdot)\|_{W_2^s} < \infty$$

for some s > 6/2 and some nonzero  $\eta \in C_c^{\infty}(]0, \infty[)$ . Then the operator F(L) is of weak type (1,1) and bounded on  $L^p(N_{3,2})$  for all  $p \in ]1, \infty[$ .

Observe that the general multiplier theorem for homogeneous sublaplacians on stratified Lie groups by Christ [3] and Mauceri and Meda [16] requires the stronger regularity condition s > Q/2 = 9/2. To the best of our knowledge, in the case of  $N_{3,2}$  none of the results and techniques known so far allowed one to go below the condition s > Q/2. Our result pushes the regularity assumption down to s > d/2 = 6/2, where d = 6 is the topological dimension of  $N_{3,2}$ . We conjecture that this condition is sharp.

The problem of  $L^p$ -boundedness for spectral multipliers on nilpotent Lie groups has a long history, and the theorem by Christ and Mauceri and Meda is itself an improvement of a series of previous results (see, e.g., [4, 8, 5]). Nevertheless it is still an open question, whether the homogeneous dimension in the smoothness condition may always be replaced by the topological dimension.

It has been known for a long time [10, 17] that such an improvement of the multiplier theorem holds true in the case of the Heisenberg and related groups (more precisely, for direct products of Métivier and abelian groups; see also [11, 14]). This class of groups, however, does not include  $N_{3,2}$ , nor any free 2-step nilpotent group  $N_{n,2}$  on n generators (see [20, §3] for a definition), except for the smallest one,  $N_{2,2}$ , which is the 3-dimensional Heisenberg group. The free groups  $N_{n,2}$  have in a sense the maximal structural complexity among 2-step groups, since every 2-step nilpotent Lie group is a quotient of a free one. Our result should then hopefully shed some new light and contribute to the understanding of the problem for general 2-step nilpotent Lie groups.

## 2. Strategy of the proof

The sublaplacian L is a left-invariant operator on  $N_{3,2}$ , hence any operator of the form F(L) is left-invariant too. Let  $\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}$  then denote the convolution kernel of F(L). As shown, e.g., in [14, Theorem 4.6], the previous Theorem 1.1 is a consequence of the following  $L^1$ -estimate.

**Proposition 2.1.** For all s > 6/2, for all compact sets  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$ , and for all functions  $F : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$  such that supp  $F \subseteq K$ ,

Let  $|\cdot|_{\delta}$  be any  $\delta_t$ -homogeneous norm on  $N_{3,2}$ ; take, e.g.,  $|(x,y)|_{\delta} = |x| + |y|^{1/2}$ . The crucial estimate in the proof of [16] of the general theorem for stratified groups, that is,

(2.2) 
$$\|(1+|\cdot|_{\delta})^{\alpha} \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_{2} \leq C_{K,\alpha,\beta} \|F\|_{W_{2}^{\beta}}$$

for all  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $\beta > \alpha$ , implies (2.1) when s > 9/2, by Hölder's inequality. In order to push the condition down to s > 6/2, here we prove an enhanced version of (2.2), that is,

(2.3) 
$$\|(1+|\cdot|_{\delta})^{\alpha} w^{r} \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_{2} \leq C_{K,\alpha,\beta,r} \|F\|_{W_{\alpha}^{\beta}},$$

for some "extra weight" function w on  $N_{3,2}$ , and suitable constraints on the exponents  $\alpha, \beta, r$ .

A similar approach is adopted in the mentioned works on the Heisenberg and related groups. However, in [17] the extra weight w is the full weight  $1 + |\cdot|_{\delta}$ , while [10] employs the weight w(x,y) = 1 + |x|. Here instead the weight w(x,y) = 1 + |y| is used, and (2.3) is proved under the conditions  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq r < 3/2$ ,  $\beta > \alpha + r$  (see Proposition 4.6 below).

The proof of (2.3) when  $\alpha = 0$  is based on a careful analysis exploiting identities for Laguerre polynomials, somehow in the spirit of [4, 17, 19], but with additional complexity due, inter alia, to the simultaneous use of generalized Laguerre polynomials of different types. The estimate for arbitrary  $\alpha$  is then recovered by interpolation with (2.2). An analogous strategy is followed in [15], where identities for Hermite polynomials are used in order to prove a sharp spectral multiplier theorem for Grushin operators.

#### 3. A Joint functional calculus

It is convenient for us to embed the functional calculus for the sublaplacian L in a larger functional calculus for a system of commuting leftinvariant differential operators on  $N_{3,2}$ . Specifically, the operators

$$(3.1) L, -iY_1, -iY_2, -iY_3$$

are essentially self-adjoint and commute strongly, hence they admit a joint functional calculus (see, e.g., [13]).

If **Y** denotes the "vector of operators"  $(-iY_1, -iY_2, -iY_3)$ , then we can express the convolution kernel  $\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}$  of the operator  $G(L,\mathbf{Y})$  in terms of Laguerre functions (cf. [7]). Namely, for all  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let

$$L_n^{(k)}(u) = \frac{u^{-k}e^u}{n!} \left(\frac{d}{du}\right)^n (u^{k+n}e^{-u})$$

be the n-th Laguerre polynomial of type k, and define

$$\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = (-1)^n e^{-t} L_n^{(k)}(2t).$$

Further, for all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , define  $\xi^{\eta}_{\parallel}$  and  $\xi^{\eta}_{\perp}$  by

$$\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} = \langle \xi, \eta/|\eta| \rangle, \qquad \xi_{\perp}^{\eta} = \xi - \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} \eta/|\eta|.$$

**Proposition 3.1.** Let  $G: \mathbb{R}^4 \to \mathbb{C}$  be in the Schwartz class, and set

(3.2) 
$$m(n, \mu, \eta) = G((2n+1)|\eta| + \mu^2, \eta),$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3$  with  $\eta \neq 0$ . Then

$$\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y) = \frac{2}{(2\pi)^6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \sum_{\eta \in \mathbb{N}} m(\eta, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta) \, \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^2/|\eta|) \, e^{i\langle \xi, x \rangle} \, e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} \, d\xi \, d\eta.$$

Proof. For all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ , choose a unit vector  $E_{\eta} \in \eta^{\perp}$ , and set  $\bar{E}_{\eta} = (\eta/|\eta|) \wedge E_{\eta}$ ; moreover, for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , denote by  $x_1^{\eta}$ ,  $x_2^{\eta}$ ,  $x_{\parallel}^{\eta}$  the components of x with respect to the positive orthonormal basis  $E^{\eta}$ ,  $\bar{E}^{\eta}$ ,  $\eta/|\eta|$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

For all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  and all  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ , an irreducible unitary representation  $\pi_{\eta,\mu}$  of  $N_{3,2}$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  is defined by

$$\pi_{\eta,\mu}(x,y)\phi(u) = e^{i\langle \eta,y\rangle} e^{i|\eta|(u+x_1^{\eta}/2)x_2^{\eta}} e^{i\mu x_{\parallel}^{\eta}} \phi(x_1^{\eta}+u)$$

for all  $(x, y) \in N_{3,2}$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\phi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ . Following, e.g., [1, §2], one can see that these representations are sufficient to write the Plancherel formula for the group Fourier transform of  $N_{3,2}$ , and the corresponding Fourier inversion formula:

(3.3) 
$$f(x,y) = (2\pi)^{-5} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \operatorname{tr}(\pi_{\eta,\mu}(x,y) \, \pi_{\eta,\mu}(f)) \, |\eta| \, d\mu \, d\eta$$

for all  $f: N_{3,2} \to \mathbb{C}$  in the Schwartz class and all  $(x,y) \in N_{3,2}$ , where  $\pi_{\eta,\mu}(f) = \int_{N_{3,2}} f(z) \, \pi_{\eta,\mu}(z^{-1}) \, dz$ .

Fix  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ . The operators (3.1) are represented in  $\pi_{\eta,\mu}$  as

(3.4) 
$$d\pi_{\eta,\mu}(L) = -\partial_u^2 + |\eta|^2 u^2 + \mu^2, \qquad d\pi_{\eta,\mu}(-iY_j) = \eta_j.$$

If  $h_n$  is the *n*-th Hermite function, that is,

$$h_n(t) = (-1)^n (n! \, 2^n \sqrt{\pi})^{-1/2} e^{t^2/2} \left(\frac{d}{dt}\right)^n e^{-t^2},$$

and  $\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}$  is defined by

$$\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}(u) = |\eta|^{1/4} h_n(|\eta|^{1/2} u),$$

then  $\{\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$  is a complete orthonormal system for  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ , made of joint eigenfunctions of the operators (3.4); in fact,

(3.5) 
$$d\pi_{\eta,\mu}(L)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n} = (|\eta|(2n+1) + \mu^2)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}, \\ d\pi_{\eta,\mu}(-iY_j)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n} = \eta_j\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}.$$

Moreover the corresponding diagonal matrix coefficients  $\varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}$  of  $\pi_{\eta,\mu}$  are given by

$$\begin{split} & \varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x,y) = \langle \pi_{\eta,\mu}(x,y) \tilde{h}_{\eta,n}, \tilde{h}_{\eta,n} \rangle \\ & = e^{i\langle \eta,y \rangle} e^{i\mu x_{\parallel}^{\eta}} |\eta|^{1/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{i|\eta|ux_{2}^{\eta}} \, h_{n}(|\eta|^{1/2}(u+x_{1}^{\eta}/2)) \, h_{n}(|\eta|^{1/2}(u-x_{1}^{\eta}/2)) \, du. \end{split}$$

The last integral is essentially the Fourier-Wigner transform of the pair  $(h_n, h_n)$ , whose Fourier transform has a particularly simple expression (cf. [9, formula (1.90)]); the parity of the Hermite functions then yields

$$\varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x,y) = e^{i\langle \eta,y\rangle} e^{i\mu x_{\parallel}^{\eta}} \frac{(-1)^{n}}{\pi |\eta|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2}} e^{iv_{2}x_{2}^{\eta}} e^{iv_{1}x_{1}^{\eta}}$$

$$\times \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-it(2v_{1}/|\eta|^{1/2})} h_{n}(t+v_{2}/|\eta|^{1/2}) h_{n}(t-v_{2}/|\eta|^{1/2}) dt dv,$$

that is,

(3.6) 
$$\varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x,y) = \frac{1}{\pi|\eta|} e^{i\langle\eta,y\rangle} e^{i\mu x_{\parallel}^{\eta}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{iv_1 x_1^{\eta}} e^{iv_2 x_2^{\eta}} \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|v|^2/|\eta|) dv$$

(see [21, Theorem 1.3.4] or [9, Theorem 1.104]).

Note that  $\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})} \in \mathcal{S}(N_{3,2})$  since  $G \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4)$  (see [2, Theorem 5.2] or [12, §4.2]). Moreover

$$\pi_{\eta,\mu}(\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})})\tilde{h}_{\eta,n} = G(|\eta|(2n+1) + \mu^2, \eta)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}$$

by (3.5) and [18, Proposition 1.1], hence

$$\langle \pi_{\eta,\mu}(x,y)\pi_{\eta,\mu}(\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})})\tilde{h}_{\eta,n},\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}\rangle = m(n,\mu,\eta)\,\varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x,y).$$

Therefore, by (3.3) and (3.6),

$$\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y) = (2\pi)^{-5} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}\setminus\{0\}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} m(n,\mu,\eta) \,\varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x,y) \,|\eta| \,d\mu \,d\eta 
= \frac{2}{(2\pi)^{6}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} m(n,\xi_{3},\eta) \,e^{i\langle\eta,y\rangle} e^{i\langle\xi,(x_{1}^{\eta},x_{2}^{\eta},x_{\parallel}^{\eta})\rangle} \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(0)}((\xi_{1}^{2}+\xi_{2}^{2})/|\eta|) \,d\xi \,d\eta.$$

The conclusion follows by a change of variable in the inner integral.  $\Box$ 

## 4. Weighted estimates

For convenience, set  $\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)} = 0$  for all n < 0. The following identities are easily obtained from the properties of Laguerre polynomials (see, e.g., [6, §10.12]).

**Lemma 4.1.** For all  $k, n, n' \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

(4.1) 
$$\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \mathcal{L}_{n-1}^{(k+1)}(t) + \mathcal{L}_n^{(k+1)}(t),$$

(4.2) 
$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{L}_{n}^{(k)}(t) = \mathcal{L}_{n-1}^{(k+1)}(t) - \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(k+1)}(t),$$

(4.3) 
$$\int_0^\infty \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) \, \mathcal{L}_{n'}^{(k)}(t) \, t^k \, dt = \begin{cases} \frac{(n+k)!}{2^{k+1}n!} & \text{if } n = n', \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We introduce some operators on functions  $f: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{C}$ :

$$\begin{split} \tau f(n,\mu,\eta) &= f(n+1,\mu,\eta), \\ \delta f(n,\mu,\eta) &= f(n+1,\mu,\eta) - f(n,\mu,\eta), \\ \partial_{\mu} f(n,\mu,\eta) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} f(n,\mu,\eta), \\ \partial_{\eta}^{\alpha} f(n,\mu,\eta) &= \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right)^{\alpha} f(n,\mu,\eta), \end{split}$$

for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ . For all multiindices  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ , we denote by  $|\alpha|$  its length  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$ . We set moreover  $\langle t \rangle = 2|t| + 1$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Note that, for all compactly supported  $f: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\tau^l f$  is null for all sufficiently large  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ ; hence the operator  $1 + \tau$ , when restricted to the set of compactly supported functions, is invertible, with inverse given by

$$(1+\tau)^{-1}f = \sum_{l \in \mathbb{N}} (-1)^l \tau^l f,$$

and therefore the operator  $(1+\tau)^q$  is well-defined for all  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** Let  $G : \mathbb{R}^4 \to \mathbb{C}$  be smooth and compactly supported in  $\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\})$ , and let  $m(n, \mu, \eta)$  be defined by (3.2). For all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,

$$(4.4) \int_{N_{3,2}} |y^{\alpha} \mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y)|^{2} dx dy$$

$$\leq C_{\alpha} \sum_{\iota \in I_{\alpha}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta)|^{2}$$

$$\times \mu^{2b_{\iota}} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^{\iota}|-2|\alpha|-2k_{\iota}+|\beta^{\iota}|+1} \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|} d\mu d\eta,$$

where  $I_{\alpha}$  is a finite set and, for all  $\iota \in I_{\alpha}$ ,

• 
$$\gamma^{\iota} \in \mathbb{N}^3$$
,  $l_{\iota}, k_{\iota} \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\gamma^{\iota} \leq \alpha$ ,  $\min\{1, |\alpha|\} \leq |\gamma^{\iota}| + l_{\iota} + k_{\iota} \leq |\alpha|$ ,

• 
$$b_{\iota} \in \mathbb{N}, \ \beta^{\iota} \in \mathbb{N}^3, \ b_{\iota} + |\beta^{\iota}| = l_{\iota} + 2k_{\iota}, \ |\gamma^{\iota}| + l_{\iota} + b_{\iota} \le |\alpha|.$$

*Proof.* Proposition 3.1 and integration by parts allow us to write

$$(4.5) \quad y^{\alpha} \mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y)$$

$$= \frac{2i^{|\alpha|}}{(2\pi)^{6}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \right)^{\alpha} \sum_{\eta \in \mathbb{N}} m(\eta, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta) \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(0)}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2}/|\eta|) \right] e^{i\langle \xi, x \rangle} e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} d\xi d\eta.$$

From the definition of  $\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}$  and  $\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}$ , the following identities are not difficult to obtain:

(4.6) 
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_{j}} \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} = (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{j} \frac{1}{|\eta|}, \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_{j}} (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{k} = -\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_{j}} \frac{\eta_{k}}{|\eta|} - (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{j} \frac{\eta_{k}}{|\eta|^{2}}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_{j}} \frac{|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2}}{|\eta|} = -\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{j} \frac{2}{|\eta|^{2}} - |\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2} \frac{\eta_{j}}{|\eta|^{3}}.$$

The multiindex notation will also be used as follows:

$$(\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})^{\beta} = (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{1}^{\beta_{1}} (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{2}^{\beta_{2}} (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})_{3}^{\beta_{3}}$$

for all  $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $\eta \neq 0$ , and all  $\beta \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ; consequently

$$|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^2 = (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})^{(2,0,0)} + (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})^{(0,2,0)} + (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})^{(0,0,2)}$$

Via these identities, one can prove inductively that, for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,

$$(4.7) \quad \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right)^{\alpha} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta) \, \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(0)}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2}/|\eta|)$$

$$= \sum_{\iota \in I_{\alpha}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma_{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} m(n, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta) \, (\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta})^{b_{\iota}} \, (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})^{\beta^{\iota}} \, \Theta_{\iota}(\eta) \, \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(k_{\iota})}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2}/|\eta|),$$

where  $I_{\alpha}$ ,  $\gamma^{\iota}$ ,  $l_{\iota}$ ,  $k_{\iota}$ ,  $b_{\iota}$ ,  $\beta^{\iota}$  are as in the statement above, while  $\Theta_{\iota} : \mathbb{R}^{3} \setminus \{0\} \to \mathbb{R}$  is smooth and homogeneous of degree  $|\gamma^{\iota}| - |\alpha| - k_{\iota}$ . For the inductive step, one employs Leibniz' rule, and when a derivative hits a Laguerre function, the identity (4.2) together with summation by parts is used.

Note that, for all compactly supported  $f: \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f(n, \mu, \eta) \, \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (1 + \tau) f(n, \mu, \eta) \, \mathcal{L}_n^{(k+1)}(t),$$

by (4.1). Since  $1 + \tau$  is invertible, simple manipulations and iteration yield the more general identity

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} f(n,\mu,\eta) \,\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} (1+\tau)^{k'-k} f(n,\mu,\eta) \,\mathcal{L}_n^{(k')}(t),$$

for all  $k, k' \in \mathbb{N}$ . This formula allows us to adjust in (4.7) the type of the Laguerre functions to the exponent of  $\xi_{\perp}$ , and to obtain that

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta}\right)^{\alpha} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta) \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(0)}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2}/|\eta|)$$

$$= \sum_{\iota \in I_{\alpha}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta)$$

$$\times (\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta})^{b_{\iota}} (\xi_{\perp}^{\eta})^{\beta^{\iota}} \Theta_{\iota}(\eta) \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(|\beta^{\iota}|)}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^{2}/|\eta|),$$

By plugging this identity into (4.5) and exploiting Plancherel's formula for the Fourier transform, the finiteness of  $I_{\alpha}$  and the triangular inequality, we get that

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} |y^{\alpha} \mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y)|^{2} dx dy 
\leq C_{\alpha} \sum_{\iota \in I_{\alpha}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2}} \left| \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta) \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(|\beta^{\iota}|)}(|\zeta|^{2}/|\eta|) \right|^{2} 
\times \mu^{2b_{\iota}} |\zeta|^{2|\beta^{\iota}|} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^{\iota}|-2|\alpha|-2k_{\iota}} d\zeta d\mu d\eta$$

A passage to polar coordinates in the  $\zeta$ -integral and a rescaling then give that

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} |y^{\alpha} \mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y)|^{2} dx dy$$

$$\leq C_{\alpha} \sum_{\iota \in I_{\alpha}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{0}^{\infty} \left| \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta) \mathcal{L}_{n}^{(|\beta^{\iota}|)}(s) \right|^{2} s^{|\beta^{\iota}|} ds$$

$$\times \mu^{2b_{\iota}} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^{\iota}|-2|\alpha|-2k_{\iota}+|\beta^{\iota}|+1} d\mu d\eta,$$

and the conclusion follows by applying the orthogonality relations (4.3) for the Laguerre functions to the inner integral.

Note that  $\tau f(\cdot, \mu, \eta)$ ,  $\delta f(\cdot, \mu, \eta)$  depend only on  $f(\cdot, \mu, \eta)$ ; in other words,  $\tau$  and  $\delta$  can be considered as operators on functions  $\mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{C}$ . The next lemma will be useful in converting finite differences into continuous derivatives.

**Lemma 4.3.** Let  $f: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{C}$  have a smooth extension  $\tilde{f}: [0, \infty[ \to \mathbb{C}, \text{ and let } k \in \mathbb{N}.$  Then

$$\delta^k f(n) = \int_{J_k} \tilde{f}^{(k)}(n+s) \, d\nu_k(s)$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $J_k = [0, k]$  and  $\nu_k$  is a Borel probability measure on  $J_k$ . In particular

$$|\delta^k f(n)|^2 \le \int_{I_*} |\tilde{f}^{(k)}(n+s)|^2 d\nu_k(s)$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* Iterated application of the fundamental theorem of integral calculus gives

$$\delta^k f(n) = \int_{[0,1]^k} \tilde{f}^{(k)}(n + s_1 + \dots + s_k) ds.$$

The conclusion follows by taking as  $\nu_k$  the push-forward of the uniform distribution on  $[0,1]^k$  via the map  $(s_1,\ldots,s_k) \mapsto s_1 + \cdots + s_k$ , and by Hölder's inequality.

We give now a simplified version of the right-hand side of (4.4), in the case where we restrict to the functional calculus for the sublaplacian L alone. In order to avoid divergent series, however, it is convenient at first to truncate the multiplier along the spectrum of  $\mathbf{Y}$ .

**Lemma 4.4.** Let  $\chi \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  be supported in [1/2, 2],  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$  be compact and  $M \in ]0, \infty[$ . If  $F : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$  is smooth and supported in K, and  $F_M : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{C}$  is given by

$$F_M(\lambda, \eta) = F(\lambda) \chi(|\eta|/M),$$

then, for all  $r \in [0, \infty[$ ,

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} ||y|^r \, \mathcal{K}_{F_M(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y)|^2 \, dx \, dy \le C_{K,\chi,r} \, M^{3-2r} ||F||_{W_2^r}^2.$$

*Proof.* We may restrict to the case  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , the other cases being recovered a posteriori by interpolation. Hence we need to prove that

(4.8) 
$$\int_{N_{3,2}} |y^{\alpha} \mathcal{K}_{F_M(L,\mathbf{Y})}(x,y)|^2 dx dy \le C_{K,\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} ||F||_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$$

for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ . On the other hand, if

$$m(n, \mu, \eta) = F(|\eta|\langle n \rangle + \mu^2) \chi(|\eta|/M),$$

then the left-hand side of (4.8) can be majorized by (4.4), and we are reduced to proving that

$$(4.9) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta)|^{2} \mu^{2b_{\iota}} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^{\iota}|-2|\alpha|-2k_{\iota}+|\beta^{\iota}|+1}$$

$$\times \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|} d\mu d\eta \leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} ||F||_{W_{2}^{|\alpha|}}^{2}$$

for all  $\iota \in I_{\alpha}$ .

Consider first the case  $|\beta^{\iota}| \geq k_{\iota}$ . A smooth extension  $\tilde{m} : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{C}$  of m is defined by

$$\tilde{m}(t, \mu, \eta) = F(|\eta|(2t+1) + \mu^2) \chi(|\eta|/M).$$

Then, by Lemma 4.3,

$$\begin{split} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} \binom{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}}{j} \int_{J_{\iota}} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \partial_{t}^{k_{\iota}} \tilde{m}(n+j+s,\mu,\eta) \, d\nu_{\iota}(s), \end{split}$$

where  $J_{\iota} = [0, k_{\iota}]$  and  $\nu_{\iota}$  is a suitable probability measure on  $J_{\iota}$ ; consequently (4.9) will be proved if we show that

$$(4.10) \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \partial_{t}^{k_{\iota}} \tilde{m}(n+s,\mu,\eta)|^{2} \mu^{2b_{\iota}} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^{\iota}|-2|\alpha|-2k_{\iota}+|\beta^{\iota}|+1}$$

$$\times \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|} d\mu d\eta \leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} ||F||_{W_{2}^{|\alpha|}}^{2}$$

for all  $s \in [0, |\beta^{\iota}|]$ . On the other hand, it is easily proved inductively that

$$\begin{split} &\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}}\partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}}\partial_{t}^{k_{\iota}}\tilde{m}(t,\mu,\eta) \\ &= \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2\rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} \sum_{q=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|-v} \Psi_{\iota,v,q}(\eta) \, \langle t \rangle^{v} \mu^{2r-l_{\iota}} M^{-q} F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(|\eta| \langle t \rangle + \mu^{2}) \, \chi^{(q)}(|\eta|/M) \end{split}$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ , where  $\Psi_{\iota,v,q} : \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\} \to \mathbb{R}$  is smooth and homogeneous of degree  $k_{\iota} + v + q - |\gamma^{\iota}|$ ; hence

$$(4.11) \quad |\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \partial_{t}^{k_{\iota}} \tilde{m}(t,\mu,\eta)|^{2} \leq C_{\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} M^{2k_{\iota}+2v-2|\gamma^{\iota}|} \langle t \rangle^{2v} \mu^{4r-2l_{\iota}} \times |F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(|\eta| \langle t \rangle + \mu^{2})|^{2} \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M),$$

where  $\tilde{\chi}$  is the characteristic function of [1/2,2], and we are using the fact that  $|\eta| \sim M$  in the region where  $\tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) \neq 0$ . Consequently the left-hand

side of (4.10) is majorized by

$$C_{\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} M^{2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^{\iota}|+1} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|} \langle n+s \rangle^{2v}$$

$$\times \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(|\eta|\langle n+s \rangle + \mu^{2})|^{2} \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) d\mu d\eta$$

$$\leq C_{\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} M^{2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^{\iota}|+3} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n+s \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|+2v}$$

$$\times \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} |F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(\rho\langle n+s \rangle + \mu^{2})|^{2} \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} \tilde{\chi}(\rho/M) d\mu d\rho$$

$$\leq C_{\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} M^{2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^{\iota}|+3} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} |F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(\rho+\mu^{2})|^{2}$$

$$\times \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n+s \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|+2v-1} \tilde{\chi}(\rho/(\langle n+s \rangle M)) d\mu d\rho,$$

by passing to polar coordinates and rescaling. The last sum in n is easily controlled by  $(\rho/M)^{|\beta^{\iota}|+2v}$ , hence the left-hand side of (4.10) is majorized by

$$C_{\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2\rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} |F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(\rho+\mu^{2})|^{2} \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} \rho^{|\beta^{\iota}|+2v} d\mu d\rho$$

$$\leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2\rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} \sup_{u \in [0, \max K]} \int_{0}^{\infty} |F^{(k_{\iota}+v+r)}(\rho+u)|^{2} d\rho,$$

because  $2b_{\iota} + 4r - 2l_{\iota} \geq 0$  and  $|\beta^{\iota}| + 2v \geq 0$  if r and v are in the range of summation, and supp  $F \subseteq K$ . Since moreover  $k_{\iota} + v + r \leq k_{\iota} + |\gamma^{\iota}| + l_{\iota} \leq |\alpha|$ , the last integral is dominated by  $||F||_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$  uniformly in r, v, u, and (4.10) follows.

Consider now the case  $|\beta^{\iota}| < k_{\iota}$ . Via the identity

$$(1+\tau)^{-1} = (1-\tau)(1-\tau^2)^{-1} = -\delta(1-\tau^2)^{-1} = -\delta\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \tau^{2j},$$

together with Lemma 4.3, we obtain that

$$(4.12) \quad \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta)$$

$$= (-1)^{k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} {j+k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|-1 \choose k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|-1} \int_{J_{\iota}} \partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \partial_{t}^{2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|} \tilde{m}(n+2j+s,\mu,\eta) \, d\nu_{\iota}(s),$$

where  $J_{\iota} = [0, 2k_{\iota} - |\beta^{\iota}|]$  and  $\nu_{\iota}$  is a suitable probability measure on  $J_{\iota}$ . Note that, because of the assumptions on the supports of F and  $\chi$ , the sum on j

in the right-hand side of (4.12) is a finite sum, that is, the *j*-th summand is nonzero only if  $\langle n+2j\rangle \leq 2M^{-1} \max K$ ; consequently, by applying the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality to the sum in j, and by (4.11),

$$\begin{split} |\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \delta^{k_{\iota}} (1+\tau)^{|\beta^{\iota}|-k_{\iota}} m(n,\mu,\eta)|^{2} \\ &\leq C_{K,\alpha} M^{1+2|\beta^{\iota}|-2k_{\iota}} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{J_{\iota}} |\partial_{\eta}^{\gamma^{\iota}} \partial_{\mu}^{l_{\iota}} \partial_{t}^{2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|} \tilde{m}(n+2j+s,\mu,\eta)|^{2} \, d\nu_{\iota}(s) \\ &\leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} M^{1+2k_{\iota}+2v-2|\gamma^{\iota}|} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{J_{\iota}} \langle n+2j+s \rangle^{2v} \mu^{4r-2l_{\iota}} \\ &\qquad \times |F^{(2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|+v+r)} (|\eta| \langle n+2j+s \rangle + \mu^{2})|^{2} \, \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) \, d\nu_{\iota}(s). \end{split}$$

Remember that  $|\eta| \sim M$  in the region where  $\tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) \neq 0$ . Hence the left-hand side of (4.9) is majorized by

$$C_{K,\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} \int_{J_{\iota}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n+2j+s \rangle^{2v} \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^{\iota}|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} M^{2+2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^{\iota}|} \\ \times \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} |F^{(2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|+v+r)}(|\eta| \langle n+2j+s \rangle + \mu^{2})|^{2} \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) d\mu d\eta d\nu_{\iota}(s) \\ \leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} \int_{J_{\iota}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n+2j+s \rangle^{2v+|\beta^{\iota}|} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} M^{4+2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^{\iota}|} \\ \times \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} |F^{(2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|+v+r)}(\rho \langle n+2j+s \rangle + \mu^{2})|^{2} \tilde{\chi}(\rho/M) d\mu d\rho d\nu_{\iota}(s) \\ \leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} M^{4+2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^{\iota}|} \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\infty} |F^{(2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|+v+r)}(\rho + \mu^{2})|^{2} \\ \times \mu^{2b_{\iota}+4r-2l_{\iota}} \int_{J_{\iota}} \sum_{(n,j) \in \mathbb{N}^{2}} \frac{\tilde{\chi}(\rho/(\langle n+2j+s \rangle M))}{\langle n+2j+s \rangle^{1-2v-|\beta^{\iota}|}} d\nu_{\iota}(s) d\mu d\rho,$$

by passing to polar coordinates and rescaling. The sum in (n, j) is dominated by  $(\rho/M)^{2v+|\beta^{\iota}|+1}$ , uniformly in  $s \in J_{\iota}$ , and moreover supp  $F \subseteq K$ . Therefore the left-hand side of (4.9) is majorized by

$$C_{K,\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \sum_{r=\lceil l_{\iota}/2 \rceil}^{l_{\iota}} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^{\iota}|} \sup_{u \in [0, \max K]} \int_{0}^{\infty} |F^{(2k_{\iota}-|\beta^{\iota}|+v+r)}(\rho+u)|^{2} d\rho.$$

On the other hand,  $b_{\iota} + |\beta^{\iota}| = l_{\iota} + 2k_{\iota}$ , hence  $2k_{\iota} - |\beta^{\iota}| + v + r \leq 2k_{\iota} - |\beta^{\iota}| + |\gamma^{\iota}| + l_{\iota} = b_{\iota} + |\gamma^{\iota}| \leq |\alpha|$  if r and v are in the range of summation, therefore the last integral is dominated by  $||F||_{W_{2}^{|\alpha|}}^{2}$  uniformly in r, v, u, and (4.9) follows.

**Proposition 4.5.** Let  $F : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$  be smooth and such that supp  $F \subseteq K$  for some compact set  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$ . For all  $r \in [0, 3/2[$ ,

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} \left| (1+|y|)^r \, \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}(x,y) \right|^2 \, dx \, dy \le C_{K,r} \|F\|_{W_2^r}^2.$$

Proof. Take  $\chi \in C_c^{\infty}(]0, \infty[)$  such that supp  $\chi \subseteq [1/2, 2]$  and  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \chi(2^{-k}t) = 1$  for all  $t \in ]0, \infty[$ . Note that, if  $(\lambda, \eta)$  belongs to the joint spectrum of  $L, \mathbf{Y}$ , then  $|\eta| \leq \lambda$ . Therefore, if  $k_K \in \mathbb{Z}$  is sufficiently large so that  $2^{k_K-1} > \max K$ , and if  $F_M$  is defined for all  $M \in ]0, \infty[$  as in Lemma 4.4, then

$$F(L) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}, \, k \leq k_K} F_{2^k}(L, \mathbf{Y})$$

(with convergence in the strong sense). Hence an estimate for  $\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}$  can be obtained, via Minkowski's inequality, by summing the corresponding estimates for  $\mathcal{K}_{F_{2k}(L,\mathbf{Y})}$  given by Lemma 4.4. If r < 3/2, then the series  $\sum_{k \leq k_K} (2^k)^{3/2-r}$  converges, thus

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} \left| |y|^r \, \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}(x,y) \right|^2 \, dx \, dy \le C_{K,r} \|F\|_{W_2^r}^2.$$

The conclusion follows by combining the last inequality with the corresponding one for r = 0.

Recall that  $|\cdot|_{\delta}$  denotes a  $\delta_t$ -homogeneous norm on  $N_{3,2}$ , thus  $|(x,y)|_{\delta} \sim |x| + |y|^{1/2}$ . Interpolation then allows us to improve the standard weighted estimate for a homogeneous sublaplacian on a stratified group.

**Proposition 4.6.** Let  $F : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{C}$  be smooth and such that supp  $F \subseteq K$  for some compact set  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$ . For all  $r \in [0, 3/2[$ ,  $\alpha \ge 0$  and  $\beta > \alpha + r$ , (4.13)

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} \left| (1 + |(x,y)|_{\delta})^{\alpha} (1 + |y|)^{r} \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}(x,y) \right|^{2} dx dy \leq C_{K,\alpha,\beta,r} ||F||_{W_{2}^{\beta}}^{2}.$$

Proof. Note that  $1 + |y| \leq C(1 + |(x,y)|_{\delta})^2$ . Hence, in the case  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $\beta > \alpha + 2r$ , the inequality (4.13) follows by the standard estimate [16, Lemma 1.2]. On the other hand, if  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta \geq r$ , then (4.13) is given by Proposition 4.5. The full range of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is then obtained by interpolation (cf. the proof of [16, Lemma 1.2]).

We can finally prove the fundamental  $L^1$ -estimate, and consequently Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Proposition 2.1. Take  $r \in ]9/2 - s, 3/2[$ . Then s - r > 3/2 + 3 - 2r, hence we can find  $\alpha_1 > 3/2$  and  $\alpha_2 > 3 - 2r$  such that  $s - r > \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ .

Therefore, by Proposition 4.6 and Hölder's inequality,

$$\|\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_{1}^{2} \leq C_{k,s} \|F\|_{W_{2}^{s}}^{2} \int_{N_{3,2}} (1 + |(x,y)|_{\delta})^{-2\alpha_{1}-2\alpha_{2}} (1 + |y|)^{-2r} dx dy.$$

The integral on the right-hand side is finite, because  $2\alpha_1 > 3$ ,  $\alpha_2 + 2r > 3$ , and

$$(1+|(x,y)|_{\delta})^{-2\alpha_1-2\alpha_2} (1+|y|)^{-2r} \le C_s (1+|x|)^{-2\alpha_1} (1+|y|)^{-\alpha_2-2r},$$
 and we are done.

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