

Lp-regularity of subelliptic operators on Lie groups

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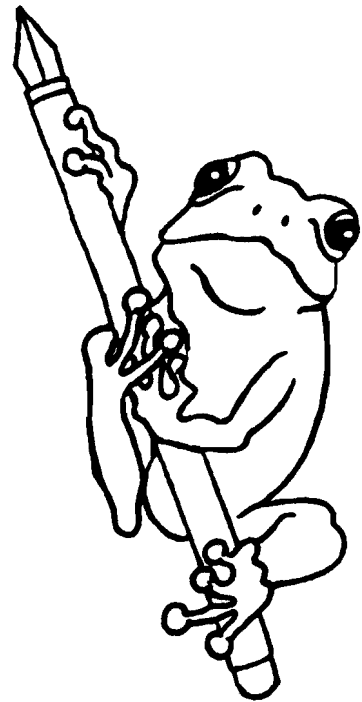
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**L_p -regularity
of subelliptic operators
on Lie groups**

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Abstract

Let G be a Lie group with a left Haar measure dg and let L denote the action of G as left translations on $L_p(G; dg)$. If $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ are elements of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G and $A_i = dL(a_i)$ the generators of the corresponding one-parameter subgroups $t \mapsto L(\exp(ta_i))$ define the C^n -subspace $L'_{p;n}$ as the common domain of all n -th order monomials M_n in the A_i and introduce the norm $\|\cdot\|'_{p;n}$ on $L'_{p;n}$ by

$$\|\varphi\|'_{p;n} = \sup_{0 \leq k \leq n} \|M_k \varphi\|_p$$

where the supremum is over all monomials of order $k \leq n$. Then define

$$H = - \sum_{i,j=1}^{d'} c_{ij} A_i A_j + \sum_{i=1}^{d'} c_i A_i$$

with domain $D(H) = L'_{p;2}$, where $c_{ij}, c_i \in \mathbf{C}$ and the real part of the matrix $C = (c_{ij})$ is strictly positive-definite. We establish that for each $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$, $n \in \mathbf{N}$ and all large positive λ the spaces $L'_{p;n}$ and $D((\lambda I + \overline{H})^{n/2})$ coincide and there is a $C_{p,n,\lambda} > 0$ such that

$$C_{p,n,\lambda}^{-1} \|\varphi\|'_{p;n} \leq \|(\lambda I + \overline{H})^{n/2} \varphi\|_p \leq C_{p,n,\lambda} \|\varphi\|'_{p;n}$$

for all $\varphi \in L'_{p;n}$. Similar inequalities are valid for left translations on the spaces $L_p(G; d\hat{g})$ constructed with right Haar measure $d\hat{g}$. More generally, if H is an m -th order subcoercive operator then $L'_{p;n} = D((\lambda I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ with equivalent norms.

It should be emphasized that we do not assume that $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ is an algebraic basis of \mathfrak{g} , i.e., the $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ are not required to satisfy the Hörmander condition.

1 Introduction

In an earlier paper, [EIR2] Theorem 5.3.I, it was established that the C^∞ -structure of each continuous representation of a Lie group coincides with the C^∞ -structure for each strongly elliptic, or subcoercive, operator, i.e., the C^∞ -elements of the representation are precisely the C^∞ -elements with respect to the subcoercive operator. It is known, however, that the differential structures, i.e., the C^n -elements, do differ for certain representations such as the left regular representation in $L_1(\mathbf{R}^2)$ or $L_\infty(\mathbf{R}^2)$ (see, for example, [Orn] and [LeM]). Nevertheless, in many particular classes of representations the differential structures are the same. For strongly elliptic operators this equality was established for unitary representations in [Rob], Example II.5.10, for Lipschitz representations in [Rob], Theorem II.5.8, and for principal series representations in [Els] Theorem 6. Moreover, for subcoercive operators the coincidence was proven for unitary representations in [EIR2], Theorem 6.3.II, and for second-order operators with real symmetric coefficients and Lipschitz spaces a comparable conclusion was reached in [EIR1], Theorem 5.1.III. (The last result extends to general subcoercive operators although the proof is not explicitly given in [EIR1].) In the present paper we prove that the differential structure for the left regular representation on the L_p -spaces with respect to the left-, or right-, Haar measure on the Lie group G coincides with the differential structure of each subcoercive operator if $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$.

It is perhaps worthwhile mentioning in this context that the analytic structure of a continuous representation coincides with the analytic structure for each strongly elliptic operator, [Rob] Theorem II.3.1, but there are subcoercive operators for which these structures differ, even in the case of a unitary representation, [EIR1] Example 8.2.

The comparison of the differential structures is related to the Lie group version of the boundedness of the Riesz transforms. If H is the sublaplacian associated with the left derivatives A_1, \dots, A_d , then we establish that the operators $X_n(\nu) = M_n(\nu I + H)^{-n/2}$, with M_n an n -th order monomial in the A_i , are bounded on the L_p -spaces, $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$, whenever $\nu > 0$. The operators $A_i H^{-1/2}$ are the analogues of the Riesz transforms and correspond to the X_1 in the limiting case $\nu = 0$. It should be stressed that one cannot expect the $X_n(0)$ to be bounded for all groups, all sublaplacians and all n . Gaudry, Qian and Sjögren [GQS] have shown that for the $(ax + b)$ -group, which is a non-unimodular group of exponential growth, there is an algebraic subbasis such that the operators $A_i H^{-1/2}$ are bounded on L_p , $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$, but the $A_i A_j H^{-1}$ are not bounded on any of the L_p -spaces. Nevertheless, boundedness is restored if H is replaced by $\nu I + H$ with $\nu > 0$. The parameter ν introduces an exponential decrease in the kernels of the operators $X_n(\nu)$ and hence boundedness of these operators becomes a local problem, albeit a problem which has to be handled uniformly over the group. Seemingly stronger results can be obtained if one considers special classes of groups. Lohoué [Loh] established boundedness of the Riesz transforms for non-amenable unimodular groups and an algebraic basis of left derivatives but since the non-amenability is simply used to deduce an exponential decrease of the operator kernel his results follow from our arguments, even for non-unimodular groups. Folland, [Fol] Corollary 4.13, established boundedness of the Riesz transforms for stratified groups with H the canonical sublaplacian but this is a simple corollary of our results and

a rescaling which removes the factor ν . Other results in this direction have been given by Saloff-Coste [Sal] who proved boundedness of first-order transforms $A_i H^{-1/2}$ on polynomial groups and by Anker, [Ank], who established a similar result on noncompact symmetric spaces obtained by the quotient of a semisimple group G by a maximal compact subgroup K . We emphasize that all our results hold for general Lie groups, which need not be unimodular.

In the sequel we adopt the general notation used in [Rob] and [EIR2] but now we consider two connected Lie groups G and G_1 with $G \subseteq G_1$ and the continuous representation U of G is identified with left translations L acting on the spaces $L_p(G_1; dg)$ and $L_p(G_1; d\hat{g})$ where dg and $d\hat{g}$ denote left and right Haar measure, respectively. We use the abbreviated notation $L_p(G_1)$ and $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ and let Δ denote the modular function over G_1 . In fact, the group G need not be connected since all analysis takes part on the connected component of the identity of G .

Let $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ be elements of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G and let A_i , for all $i \in \{1, \dots, d'\}$, denote the infinitesimal generator of the one-parameter group $t \mapsto L(\exp(ta_i))$ from \mathbf{R} into $L_p(G_1)$ or $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$. It will be clear from the context on which space the A_i act. We also denote by $A_i\varphi$ the pointwise left derivative in the direction a_i of a function $\varphi: G \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$. The constant $(A_i\Delta)(e)$ is denoted by b_i . We use multi-index notation for products of the generators A or for products of the b_i . For $n \in \mathbf{N}_0$ let

$$J_n(d') = \bigcup_{k=0}^n \{1, \dots, d'\}^k .$$

If $\alpha = (i_1, \dots, i_k) \in \{1, \dots, d'\}^k$, we define $|\alpha| = k$, $A^\alpha = A_{i_1} \dots A_{i_k}$ and $b^\alpha = b_{i_1} \dots b_{i_k}$. Let $J(d') = \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} J_n(d')$. Then for each $n \in \mathbf{N}_0$ we denote the subspace $\bigcap_{\alpha \in J_n(d')} D(A^\alpha)$ in $L_p(G_1)$, or $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$, by $L'_{p;n}(G_1)$, or $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$, respectively. We define a norm and a seminorm on $L'_{p;n}(G_1)$ by setting

$$\|\varphi\|'_{p;n} = \sup_{\alpha \in J_n(d')} \|A^\alpha \varphi\|_p \quad , \quad N'_{p;n}(\varphi) = \sup_{|\alpha|=n} \|A^\alpha \varphi\|_p \quad ,$$

for each $\varphi \in L'_{p;n}(G_1)$, and $\|\cdot\|'_{\hat{p};n}$, $N'_{\hat{p};n}$, are defined analogously on $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$. Let $L'_{p;\infty}(G_1) = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} L'_{p;n}(G_1)$ and $L'_{\hat{p};\infty}(G_1) = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$. We also adopt the corresponding notation \mathcal{X}'_n and \mathcal{X}'_∞ for the subspaces $\bigcap_{\alpha \in J_n(d')} D(A^\alpha)$ and $\bigcap_{\alpha \in J(d')} D(A^\alpha)$ associated with the generators of a continuous representation of G in a Banach space \mathcal{X} .

In the absence of a statement to the contrary we assume that $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ is an algebraic basis for \mathfrak{g} , i.e., a finite sequence of linearly independent elements of \mathfrak{g} which generate \mathfrak{g} . Thus there is an integer r such that $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ together with all commutators $(\text{ada}_{i_1}) \dots (\text{ada}_{i_{n-1}})(a_{i_n})$, $i_j = 1, \dots, d'$, where $n \leq r$, span the vector space \mathfrak{g} . The smallest integer r with this property is referred to as the rank of the subbasis and a vector space basis is defined to have rank one. Moreover, the algebraic basis determines in a canonical fashion (see, [Rob] Section IV.4c) a modulus function $g \mapsto |g|'$ on the group. This function in turn determines a unique local dimension D' such that the ball $B'_\rho = \{g \in G : |g|' < \rho\}$ has measure $|B'_\rho|$, with respect to Haar measure on G , satisfying bounds $c_1 \rho^{D'} \leq |B'_\rho| \leq c_2 \rho^{D'}$ for all $\rho \in (0, 1]$.

An m -th order form is a function $C: J_m(d') \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ such that $C(\alpha) \neq 0$ for some $\alpha \in J_m(d')$ with $|\alpha| = m$. The principal part P of C is the form with $P(\alpha) = C(\alpha)$ if $|\alpha| = m$ and $P(\alpha) = 0$ if $|\alpha| < m$. The formal adjoint C^\dagger of C is the function $C^\dagger: J_m(d') \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ defined by $C^\dagger(\alpha) = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \overline{C(\alpha_*)}$ where $\alpha_* = (i_n, \dots, i_1)$ whenever $\alpha = (i_1, \dots, i_n)$. We consider the operator

$$dL(C) = \sum_{\alpha \in J_m(d')} c_\alpha A^\alpha$$

with domain $L'_{p;m}(H)$ or $L'_{\tilde{p};m}(H)$.

Next we want to introduce the concept of subcoercive form of step s , with $s \in \mathbf{N}$. Let $\mathfrak{g}(d', s)$ denote the nilpotent Lie algebra with d' generators which is free of step s , i.e., the quotient of the free Lie algebra with d' generators $\tilde{a}_1, \dots, \tilde{a}_{d'}$ by the ideal generated by the commutators of order at least $s + 1$. Further let $\tilde{G} = G(d', s)$ be the connected simply connected Lie group with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}(d', s)$ and $L_{\tilde{G}}$ left translations on $L_2(\tilde{G}; dg)$, where dg denotes left Haar measure on \tilde{G} . We say that C is an m -th order subcoercive form (of step s) if m is even and there exists $\mu > 0$ such that

$$\operatorname{Re}(dL_{\tilde{G}}(P)\varphi, \varphi) \geq \mu(N'_{2;m/2}(\varphi))^2$$

for all $\varphi \in L_{2;\infty}(\tilde{G}; dg)$. The largest such μ is called the ellipticity constant of C .

The main result of this paper is that if C is a subcoercive form of order m and step r , where r is the rank of the algebraic basis of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of the group G , and if $H = dL(C)$, with L acting on $L_p(G_1)$, then

$$L'_{p;n}(G_1) = D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}) \quad , \quad (1)$$

with equivalent norms, for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$, all large ν and all $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$. A similar identification is valid on the $L_{\tilde{p}}(G_1)$ -spaces.

Finally note that if $\nu_0 \in \mathbf{R}$ is such that $\nu_0 I + \overline{H}$ generates a bounded semigroup and if (1) is valid for some $\nu \geq \nu_0$ then it is automatically valid for all $\nu \geq \nu_0$. This follows because $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ is independent of the value of ν for all $\nu \geq \nu_0$, by [Rob] Lemma II.3.2. Moreover, the identity (1) for one $\nu \geq \nu_0$ implies the $L_p(G_1)$ -boundedness of the operators $M_n(\nu I + H)^{-n/m}$, with M_n an n -th order monomial in the subelliptic derivatives A_i , for all $\nu > \nu_0$. But the analysis of the $(ax + b)$ -group in [GQS] gives an example of a second-order operator which generates a contraction semigroup for which (1) is valid for $n = 1$ and $\nu \geq 0$ but $M_2(\nu I + H)^{-1}$ is not bounded for the critical value $\nu = 0$. Therefore the boundedness properties are more delicate.

2 Regularity of the left regular representation

In this section we prove that domains of the fractional powers of subcoercive operators associated with left translations of the group G acting on the $L_p(G_1)$ -spaces, $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$, of the larger group G_1 coincide with the corresponding C^n -vectors. We begin by observing that it suffices to establish this coincidence for the left differential operators on the space $L_{\tilde{p}}(G_1)$.

First let C be a subcoercive form of order m and for $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$ define the m -th order forms $C_{\pm p}$ by

$$C_{\pm p} = \sum_{\alpha \in J_m(d')} \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in J_m(d') \\ (\beta, \gamma) \in Lb(\alpha)}} c_\alpha (\pm p)^{-|\gamma|} b^\gamma$$

where $Lb(\alpha)$ is the set of all $(\beta, \gamma) \in J_m(d')^2$ such that β is a multi-index obtained from α by omission of some indices and γ is the multi-index formed by the omitted indices, i.e., the (β, γ) occurring are the pairs of multi-indices in the Leibniz formula for the multi-derivative A^α of a product. Then the principal parts of $C_{\pm p}$ equal the principal part of C , so $C_{\pm p}$ are also subcoercive. In addition the map $C \mapsto C_p$ is invertible and $C = (C_p)_{-p}$. Since $\Delta^{-1/p} A_i \Delta^{1/p} = A_i + p^{-1} b_i I$ it follows that

$$dL(C_p) \Delta^{-1/p} \varphi = \Delta^{-1/p} dL(C) \varphi$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. Thus if $H = dL(C)$ and $H_p = dL(C_p)$ on $L_p(G_1)$ one formally has the relation

$$H_p = \Delta^{-1/p} H \Delta^{1/p}$$

and this is the key to the first result.

Lemma 2.1 *Let C be a subcoercive form of order m and step r , and $H = dL(C)$ and $H_p = dL(C_p)$ the corresponding operators associated with left translations L by the group G acting on the spaces $L_p(G_1)$ and $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ with $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$. Further let $n \in \mathbf{N}$. The following conditions are equivalent.*

- I. *The spaces $L'_{p,n}(G_1)$ and $D((\nu I + \overline{H}_p)^{n/m})$ are equal, with equivalent norms, for some large $\nu > 0$.*
- II. *The spaces $L'_{\hat{p},n}(G_1)$ and $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ are equal, with equivalent norms, for some large $\nu > 0$.*

Proof We only prove I \Rightarrow II since the proof of the other implication is almost identical but the map $C \rightarrow C_p$ is replaced by its inverse. Moreover, we assume that the real part of the zero-order coefficient of C is large and then we may take $\nu = 0$. We begin by proving that $D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$ is continuously embedded in $L'_{\hat{p},n}(G_1)$.

Let S and K denote the semigroup and kernel corresponding to H acting on $L_p(G_1)$ and S^p and K^p the pair corresponding to H_p . Arguing as in the proof of Corollary 3.5 of [EIR3] it follows that $K_t(g) = \Delta^{-1/p}(g) K_t^p(g)$ for all $t > 0$ and $g \in G$. So $S_t \varphi = \Delta^{1/p} S_t^p \Delta^{-1/p} \varphi$ for all $t > 0$ and $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. Since

$$\overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi = c \int_0^\infty dt t^{-1-n/m} (I - S_t)^n \varphi$$

for all $\varphi \in D^\infty(\overline{H})$ (see, for example, [LaR]), where

$$c^{-1} = \int_0^\infty dt t^{-1-n/m} (I - e^{-t})^n, \quad ,$$

with a similar expression for $\overline{H}_p^{n/m}$, it follows that

$$\Delta^{1/p} \overline{H}_p^{n/m} \Delta^{-1/p} \varphi = \overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$.

Finally, by assumption, one has bounds $\|\varphi\|'_{p;n} \leq c \|\overline{H}_p^{n/m} \varphi\|_p$ for $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \|\varphi\|'_{\hat{p};n} &\leq c' \|\Delta^{-1/p} \varphi\|'_{p;n} \\ &\leq cc' \|\overline{H}_p^{n/m} \Delta^{-1/p} \varphi\|_p \\ &\leq cc' \|\Delta^{-1/p} \overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi\|_p = cc' \|\overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \quad , \end{aligned}$$

for some $c' > 0$ and all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. Since $C_c^\infty(G_1)$ is dense in $L'_{\hat{p};\infty}(G_1)$ by [Pou] Theorem 1.3, it is a core for $\overline{H}^{n/m}$ and it follows that $D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$ is continuously embedded in $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$.

Similarly it follows that $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ is continuously embedded in $D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$ since $L'_{\hat{p};\infty}(G_1)$ and hence $C_c^\infty(G_1)$ is dense in $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ by [ElR3] Lemma 2.4. \square

Corollary 2.2 *Let $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$. The following are equivalent.*

- I. *For any subcoercive form C of order m and step r , for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$, all large $\nu > 0$ and with $H = dL(C)$ the operator in L_p the spaces $L'_{p;n}$ and $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ are equal with equivalent norms.*
- II. *For any subcoercive form C of order m and step r , for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$, all large $\nu > 0$ and with $H = dL(C)$ the operator in $L_{\hat{p}}$ the spaces $L'_{\hat{p};n}$ and $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ are equal with equivalent norms.*

The problem is now reduced to the examination of the left differential operators on the $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ -spaces. These operators automatically commute with right translations and as the measure is right-invariant this is useful for obtaining uniform estimates.

Theorem 2.3 *Let $H = dL(C)$ be an m -th order subcoercive operator associated with left translations L by the group G acting on the spaces $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$. If $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$ and $n \in \mathbf{N}$ then $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}) = L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ for all large $\nu > 0$ and the spaces have equivalent norms. In particular, the operator H is closed.*

Similar statements are valid on the $L_p(G_1)$ -spaces.

Proof The proof is in several steps.

First we aim to establish that $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}) = R((\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m})$ is continuously embedded in $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ and this requires proving that $A^\alpha(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}$, with $|\alpha| = n$, is defined as a bounded operator on $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$. This is achieved by establishing that the operator and its adjoint are bounded on $L_2(G_1)$ and are also bounded from $L_1(G_1)$ to weak- $L_1(G_1)$.

Then the desired result is obtained by interpolation and duality. But the $L_2(G_1)$ -bounds follow from [EIR2], Theorem 6.3.II, and the main onus of the proof is the derivation of the $L_1(G_1)$ -bounds.

The approach to the $L_1(G_1)$ -bounds begins by observing that

$$(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m} \varphi = L(R_{\nu, n/m}) \varphi$$

for an appropriate kernel $R_{\nu, n/m}$ over G where

$$L(f) = \int_G dg f(g) L(g)$$

with dg left Haar measure over G . But if $\alpha \in J_n(d')$, $|\alpha| = n$, then $A^\alpha R_{\nu, n/m}$ is not locally integrable and the $L_1(G)$ -integral is logarithmically divergent at the identity. Therefore the idea is to use singular integration theory to prove the bound from $L_1(G_1)$ to weak- $L_1(G_1)$. Now a straightforward adaptation of the singular integration methods would begin by approximating $A^\alpha R_{\nu, n/m}$ with a sequence of functions obtained by excision of a decreasing family of neighbourhoods of the identity. Thus the convolution formally corresponding to the action of $A^\alpha (\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}$ would be replaced by a principal value integral. But the problem with this approach is that it appears difficult to obtain suitable $L_2(G_1)$ -bounds for the sequence of approximating operators. Therefore we adopt a different type of approximation.

Fix $N \in \mathbf{N}$, $N > D'$ and for large $\nu > 0$ and all $j \in \mathbf{N}$ with $j > 2\nu$ consider the operators

$$X_j = j^N (jI + \overline{H})^{-N} (\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m} .$$

Then $A^\alpha X_j$ ‘approaches’ $A^\alpha (\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}$ as j tends to infinity. Therefore if the $A^\alpha X_j$ are bounded, uniformly in j , on $L_p(G_1)$ one deduces that $(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}$ maps into the domain of A^α and the $A^\alpha (\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}$ are bounded on $L_p(G_1)$. The uniform bounds on the $A^\alpha X_j$ are obtained by following the above outline. In particular the bounds from $L_1(G_1)$ to weak- $L_1(G_1)$ use singular integration theory and as a prerequisite it is necessary to have uniform $L_2(G_1)$ -bounds on the approximating sequence.

First observe that if $j \in \mathbf{N}$ and $\alpha \in J_n(d')$ one can write $A^\alpha X_j = A^\alpha (\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m} \circ j^N (jI + \overline{H})^{-N}$. But by Corollary 2.2 and [EIR2] Theorem 6.3.II the operators $A^\alpha (\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}$ are bounded on $L_2(G_1)$. First they are bounded on $L_2(G_1)$ by [EIR2] Theorem 6.3.II because the representation of G by left translations is unitary. Then they are bounded on $L_2(G_1)$ by Corollary 2.2. Moreover, since \overline{H} generates a holomorphic semigroup, the operators $j^N (jI + \overline{H})^{-N}$ are bounded, uniformly for all large j , on $L_2(G_1)$. Thus the operators $A^\alpha X_j$ are bounded on $L_2(G_1)$, uniformly for all large j .

Secondly, remark that if $j \in \mathbf{N}$ then

$$j^N (jI + \overline{H})^{-N} \varphi = j^N L(R_{j, N}) \varphi$$

and $(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m} \varphi = L(R_{\nu, n/m}) \varphi$, where

$$R_{j, N}(g) = \Gamma(N)^{-1} \int_0^\infty dt t^{N-1} e^{-jt} K_t(g)$$

with an analogous expression for $R_{\nu, n/m}$. Using the convolution property of the kernel K_t one then obtains

$$j^N(jI + \overline{H})^{-N}(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi = L(k_j)\varphi$$

where $k_j: G \setminus \{e\} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is defined by

$$k_j(g) = \int_0^\infty dt f_j(t) K_t(g)$$

and

$$f_j(t) = j^N(N-1)!^{-1}\Gamma(n/m)^{-1} \int_0^t dx x^{N-1} e^{-jx} (t-x)^{n/m-1} e^{-\nu(t-x)} \quad . \quad (2)$$

We need some estimates for $f_j(t)$.

Lemma 2.4 *There exists an $a > 0$ such that*

$$f_j(t) \leq at^{n/m-1}(jt)^\mu e^{-\nu t}$$

uniformly for all $t > 0$, $\nu > 0$, $j \in \mathbf{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$ and $\mu \in [0, N]$.

Proof A substitution $x = ty$ in (2) gives

$$\begin{aligned} f_j(t) &= j^N(N-1)!^{-1}\Gamma(n/m)^{-1} t^{N+n/m-1} \int_0^1 dy y^{N-1} e^{-jty} (1-y)^{n/m-1} e^{-\nu t(1-y)} \\ &\leq (N-1)!^{-1}\Gamma(n/m)^{-1} t^{n/m-1} e^{-\nu t} (jt)^N \int_0^1 dy y^{N-1} (1-y)^{n/m-1} e^{-2^{-1}jty} \quad . \quad (3) \end{aligned}$$

Now define the function $g: [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ by

$$g(x) = x^N \int_0^1 dy y^{N-1} (1-y)^{n/m-1} e^{-2^{-1}xy} \quad .$$

We shall prove that g is bounded. In order to evaluate g we estimate the integral in two parts: over $\langle 0, 2^{-1} \rangle$ and over $\langle 2^{-1}, 1 \rangle$. The first can be estimated as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{2^{-1}} dy x^N y^{N-1} (1-y)^{n/m-1} e^{-2^{-1}xy} &\leq \max(2^{1-n/m}, 1) \int_0^{2^{-1}} dy x^N y^{N-1} e^{-2^{-1}xy} \\ &= 2^N \max(2^{1-n/m}, 1) \int_0^{4^{-1}x} dt t^{N-1} e^{-t} \\ &\leq 2^N N! \max(2^{1-n/m}, 1) \quad . \end{aligned}$$

Alternatively,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{2^{-1}}^1 dy x^N y^{N-1} (1-y)^{n/m-1} e^{-2^{-1}xy} &\leq x^N e^{-4^{-1}x} \int_{2^{-1}}^1 dy (1-y)^{n/m-1} \\ &= mn^{-1} 2^{-n/m} x^N e^{-4^{-1}x} \quad . \end{aligned}$$

So there exists an $a > 0$, depending only on N , such that

$$f_j(t) \leq at^{n/m-1} e^{-\nu t}$$

uniformly for all $j \in \mathbf{N}$ and $t > 0$ with $j \geq 2\nu$. This proves the case $\mu = 0$.

The case $\mu = N$ follows from (3):

$$f_j(t) \leq (N-1)!^{-1} \Gamma(n/m)^{-1} t^{n/m-1} e^{-\nu t} (jt)^N \int_0^1 dy y^{N-1} (1-y)^{n/m-1} .$$

The general case can be obtained by interpolation. \square

By the ‘Gaussian’ bounds on K_t and its derivatives one deduces that k_j is infinitely differentiable on $G \setminus \{e\}$. Moreover, using Lemma 2.4 with $\mu = 0$ and with $\operatorname{Re} c_0$ large enough, then it follows by the argument in Theorem III.6.7 of [Rob] that for all $\alpha \in J_n(d')$ and $\beta \in J(d')$ there exist $a, b > 0$ such that

$$|(A^\beta A^\alpha k_j)(g)| \leq a(|g|')^{-D'-|\beta|} e^{-b\nu^{1/m}|g|'} \quad (4)$$

uniformly for all $g \in G \setminus \{e\}$ and $j \in \mathbf{N}$. Alternatively, using Lemma 2.4 with $\mu = N$, the inequality $N > D'$ and the argument in Theorem III.6.7 of [Rob], one deduces for large $\operatorname{Re} c_0$ that for all $j \in \mathbf{N}$, $j \geq 2\nu$, one has bounds

$$|(A^\alpha k_j)(g)| \leq c_j e^{-b\nu^{1/m}|g|'} \quad (5)$$

uniformly for $\alpha \in J_n(d')$ and $g \in G \setminus \{e\}$. So $k_j \in L'_{1;n}(G; e^{\rho|g|'} dg) \cap L_\infty(G; dg)$ for each $j \in \mathbf{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$, if ν is large enough, where $\rho > 0$ is such that $\Delta(g) \leq e^{\rho|g|'}$ for all $g \in G$.

Next note that $A^\alpha X_j \varphi = L(A^\alpha k_j) \varphi$ for all $\alpha \in J_n(d')$. So each operator $A^\alpha X_j$ is continuous on each of the $L_p(G_1)$ -spaces. In order to prove that the $A^\alpha X_j$ are uniformly continuous if $p \in (1, \infty)$ we have to consider two cases, $p \leq 2$ and $p \geq 2$.

Case 1: $p \in (1, 2]$.

Let $\chi \in C_c^\infty(B'_2)$ with $\chi(g) = 1$ for all $g \in B'_1$ and $0 \leq \chi \leq 1$. Then

$$A^\alpha X_j \varphi = L(\chi A^\alpha k_j) \varphi + L((1-\chi) A^\alpha k_j) \varphi . \quad (6)$$

But

$$\sup_j \int_G dg |(1-\chi)(g) (A^\alpha k_j)(g)| e^{\rho|g|'} < \infty$$

if ν is large enough. Because of the bounds (4) the operators $\varphi \mapsto L((1-\chi)(A^\alpha k_j)) \varphi$ are bounded on all the $L_p(G_1)$ -spaces, $p \in [1, \infty]$, uniformly for $j \in \mathbf{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$. In particular, this is the case for $p = 1$ and $p = 2$.

Next we prove a local weak- $L_1(G_1)$ estimate for $A^\alpha X_j$, which is uniform in j . Because of the equality (6) it is sufficient to establish a local weak- $L_1(G_1)$ estimate for the operator $\varphi \mapsto L(\chi A^\alpha k_j) \varphi$ which is uniform in j . We obtain this estimate by application of Theorem III.2.4 of [CoW] but since $L(\chi A^\alpha k_j)$ acts by convolution with respect to the subgroup G of G_1 some care has to be taken in applying the result.

Let $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}, \dots, a_d$ be a vector space basis for the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G obtained by completing the algebraic basis $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$. Further let $a_1, \dots, a_d, \dots, a_{d_1}$ be a vector space

basis for the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}_1 of G_1 obtained by completing the basis of G . Now G_1 and $G \times \mathbf{R}^{d_1-d}$ are locally isomorphic. More precisely, define $\Phi: G \times \mathbf{R}^{d_1-d} \rightarrow G_1$ by

$$\Phi(g, \xi_{d+1}, \dots, \xi_{d_1}) = g \exp(\xi_{d+1} a_{d+1}) \dots \exp(\xi_{d_1} a_{d_1}) \quad .$$

Next let $U \subset G$ and $V \subset \mathbf{R}^{d_1-d}$ be open bounded neighbourhoods of the identity and the origin. One may choose U and V such that Φ restricted to $U \times V$ is an analytic diffeomorphism from $U \times V$ onto an open neighbourhood Ω of the identity of G_1 . If U and V are small enough there exist $\delta, M > 0$ and a C^∞ function $\sigma: U \times V \rightarrow [\delta, M]$ such that

$$\int_{\Omega} d\hat{g} \varphi(g) = \int_U d\hat{g} \int_V d\xi \varphi(\Phi(g, \xi)) \sigma(g, \xi)$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c(\Omega)$. We may assume that $U = B'_4$ and $V = (-4, 4)^{d_1-d}$. One can then introduce $\chi_1 \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ such that if $\chi_2 = \chi_1 \circ \Phi$ then $\chi_2 = \chi_3 \otimes \chi_4$ for some $\chi_3 \in C_c^\infty(B'_2)$ and $\chi_4 \in C_c^\infty([-2, 2]^{d_1-d})$ and, moreover, $0 \leq \chi_4 \leq 1$ and $\chi_2(g, \xi) = 1$ for all $(g, \xi) \in B'_1 \times [-1, 1]^{d_1-d}$. Then for all $\varphi \in L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ one has

$$\begin{aligned} (L(\chi A^\alpha k_j)(\chi_1 \varphi))(\Phi(g, \xi)) &= \int_G dh (\chi A^\alpha k_j)(h) (L(h)(\chi_1 \varphi))(\Phi(g, \xi)) \\ &= \int_G d\hat{h} (\chi A^\alpha k_j)(gh^{-1}) \chi_3(h) \chi_4(\xi) \varphi(\Phi(h, \xi)) \end{aligned}$$

for (g, ξ) -almost everywhere in $U \times V$ and for all large j .

In order to prove suitable weak L_1 -bounds we first restrict ourselves to the case $G = G_1$. Define $T_j: L_{\hat{p}}(B'_4) \rightarrow L_{\hat{p}}(B'_4)$ by

$$(T_j \varphi)(g) = \int_{B'_4} d\hat{h} (\chi A^\alpha k_j)(gh^{-1}) \chi_3(h) \varphi(h)$$

for all $j \in \mathbf{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$. Then T_j has the form

$$(T_j \varphi)(g) = \int d\mu(h) \kappa_j(g, h) \varphi(h)$$

where $\kappa_j(g, h) = (\chi A^\alpha k_j)(gh^{-1}) \chi_3(h)$ and μ denotes the restriction to B'_4 of the right Haar measure on G . Alternatively

$$T_j \varphi = (A^\alpha X_j)(\chi_3 \varphi) - L((1 - \chi) A^\alpha k_j)(\chi_3 \varphi)$$

for all $\varphi \in L_p(B'_4; \mu)$. Since we have already established that $A^\alpha X_j$ is bounded on $L_2(G; d\hat{g})$, uniformly in j , and since $\|\chi_3 \varphi\|_2 \leq \|\varphi\|_2$ it follows from the observation of the previous paragraph that $\sup_j \|T_j\|_{2 \rightarrow 2} < \infty$. This is the first condition of [CoW] for the T_j and it is uniform in the j .

Secondly, κ_j has support in $B'_4 \times B'_4$, and in fact $\kappa_j \in L_2(B'_4 \times B'_4; \mu \otimes \mu)$. This follows because $A^\alpha k_j \in L_\infty(G; dg)$ by (5). Finally, for the third and most difficult condition, it suffices to prove that

$$\sup_j \sup_{h, h_0 \in B'_4} \int_{\Omega(h, h_0)} d\mu(g) |\kappa_j(g, h) - \kappa_j(g, h_0)| < \infty$$

where $\Omega(h, h_0) = \{g \in B'_4 : d(g, h_0) > 4d(h, h_0)\}$ and d is the subelliptic distance on G , defined by $d(g, h) = |hg^{-1}|'$. Then by right invariance

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_j \sup_{h, h_0 \in B'_4} \int_{\Omega(h, h_0)} d\mu(g) |\kappa_j(g, h) - \kappa_j(g, h_0)| \\ \leq \sup_j \sup_{h, h_0 \in B'_4} \int_{\Omega_1(h, h_0)} d\mu(g) |\kappa_j(gh_0, h) - \kappa_j(gh_0, h_0)| \quad , \end{aligned}$$

where $\Omega_1(h, h_0) = \{g \in B'_8 : |g|' > 4|hh_0^{-1}|'\}$ and μ also denotes the restriction to B'_8 of the right Haar measure on G . For $a_i \in \mathfrak{g}$ let \widetilde{X}_i be the corresponding **right** invariant vector field on G . So

$$(\widetilde{X}_i \psi)(g) = \left. \frac{d}{dt} \psi(\exp(ta_i)g) \right|_{t=0}$$

for all $\psi \in C_c^\infty(G)$. Now let $h, h_0 \in G$ and choose an absolutely continuous path $\omega: [0, 1] \rightarrow G$ from h_0 to h with tangential coordinates in the directions \widetilde{X}_i , i.e.,

$$\dot{\omega}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{d'} \omega_i(t) \widetilde{X}_i \Big|_{\omega(t)} \quad ,$$

such that

$$\int_0^1 dt \left(\sum_{i=1}^{d'} \omega_i(t)^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq 2d(h, h_0) \quad .$$

Then

$$|\kappa_j(gh_0, h) - \kappa_j(gh_0, h_0)| \leq \int_0^1 dt \left| \frac{d}{dt} \kappa_j(gh_0, \omega(t)) \right| \quad .$$

Now if $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G)$, $k \in G$ and $\psi(g) = \varphi(kg^{-1})$, then

$$\frac{d}{dt} \psi(\omega(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{d'} \omega_i(t) \left(L(k\omega(t)^{-1}) A_i L((k\omega(t)^{-1})^{-1}) \varphi \right) (k\omega(t)^{-1}) \quad .$$

By [EIR2], Lemma 7.3, there exist functions $c_{i,\beta}: G \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, where $i \in \{1, \dots, d'\}$ and $\beta \in J_r(d')$, and constants $M_1, \sigma > 0$ such that

$$L(g^{-1}) A_i L(g) = \sum_{\substack{\beta \in J_r(d') \\ |\beta| \neq 0}} c_{i,\beta}(g) A^\beta$$

with $|c_{i,\beta}(g)| \leq M_1 (|g|')^{|\beta|-1} e^{\sigma|g|'}$ for all $g \in G$, $i \in \{1, \dots, d'\}$ and $\beta \in J_r(d')$, $|\beta| \neq 0$. So

$$\frac{d}{dt} \psi(\omega(t)) = \sum_{i=1}^{d'} \sum_{\substack{\beta \in J_r(d') \\ |\beta| \neq 0}} \omega_i(t) c_{i,\beta}(k\omega(t)^{-1}) (A^\beta \varphi)(k\omega(t)^{-1}) \quad .$$

Moreover, for all $t \in [0, 1]$ and $g \in \Omega_1(h, h_0)$ one has

$$|gh_0\omega(t)^{-1}|' \geq |g|' - d(h_0, \omega(t)) \geq |g|' - 2d(h_0, h) \geq 2^{-1}|g|' \quad .$$

Combining these two observations with the bounds (4) one obtains for all $g \in \Omega_1(h, h_0)$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left| \frac{d}{dt} \kappa_j(gh_0, \omega(t)) \right| \\
& \leq \sum_{i=1}^{d'} |\omega_i(t)| \cdot |(\chi A^\alpha k_j)(gh_0 \omega(t)^{-1}) (\widetilde{X}_i \chi_3)(\omega(t))| \\
& \quad + \sum_{i=1}^{d'} \sum_{\substack{\beta \in J_r(d') \\ |\beta| \neq 0}} |\omega_i(t)| \cdot |c_{i,\beta}(gh_0 \omega(t)^{-1})| \cdot |(A^\beta (\chi A^\alpha k_j))(gh_0 \omega(t)^{-1})| \cdot |\chi_3(\omega(t))| \\
& \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^{d'} |\omega_i(t)| \right) \left(a 2^{D'} (|g'|)^{-D'} \sum_{i=1}^{d'} \|\widetilde{X}_i \chi_3\|_\infty \right. \\
& \quad \left. + \sum_{\substack{\beta \in J_r(d') \\ |\beta| \neq 0}} \sum_{(\gamma, \delta) \in Lb(\beta)} M_1 (2|g'|)^{|\beta|-1} e^{2\sigma|g'|} a (2^{-1}|g'|)^{-D'-|\gamma|} \|A^\delta \chi\|_\infty \|\chi_3\|_\infty \right) \\
& \leq M_2 (|g'|)^{-D'-1} \sum_{i=1}^{d'} |\omega_i(t)| \quad .
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$|\kappa_j(gh_0, h) - \kappa_j(gh_0, h_0)| \leq (d')^{1/2} M_2 d(h_0, h) (|g'|)^{-D'-1} \quad .$$

But if $c = \sup_{t \in (0, 8]} t^{-D'} |B'_t|$, $s = d(h, h_0)$ and $N_s \in \mathbf{N}_0$ is such that $2^{N_s-1} \leq s^{-1} \leq 2^{N_s}$ then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{B'_8 \setminus B'_4} d\hat{g} s (|g'|)^{-D'-1} & \leq \sum_{n=0}^{N_s} \int_{B'_{2^{-n+3}} \setminus B'_{2^{-n+2}}} d\hat{g} s (|g'|)^{-D'-1} \\
& \leq \sum_{n=0}^{N_s} c s (2^{-n+2})^{-D'-1} (2^{-n+3})^{D'} \\
& = 2^{D'-2} c s (2^{N_s+1} - 1) \leq 2^{D'} c \quad .
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\int_{\Omega_1(h, h_0)} d\hat{g} |\kappa_j(gh_0, h) - \kappa_j(gh_0, h_0)| \leq 2^{D'} c (d')^{1/2} M_2 \quad ,$$

which is the third condition of Theorem III.2.4 of [CoW], uniform in j .

Now we can use this latter theorem to deduce that there exists $M_3 > 0$, independent of j , such that

$$\mu(\{g \in B'_4 : |(T_j \varphi)(g)| > \gamma\}) \leq M_3 \gamma^{-1} \|\varphi\|_i$$

for all $\varphi \in L_1(B'_4; d\hat{g}) \cap L_2(B'_4; d\hat{g})$ and $\gamma > 0$.

Next we drop the restriction that $G = G_1$ and extend the last bounds to G_1 . Let μ_2 denote the product measure of μ and the Lebesgue measure on \mathbf{R}^{d_1-d} . Then with $\varphi^\xi(g) = \varphi(\Phi(g, \xi))$ one has

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mu_2(\{(g, \xi) \in U \times V : |((L(\chi A^\alpha k_j))(\chi_3 \varphi))(\Phi(g, \xi))| > \gamma\}) \\
& = \mu_2(\{(g, \xi) \in U \times V : \chi_4(\xi) |(T_j \varphi^\xi)(g)| > \gamma\})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\leq \int_{[-4,4]^{d_1-d}} d\xi \mu(\{g \in B'_4 : |(T_j \varphi^\xi)(g)| > \gamma\}) \\
&\leq M_3 \int_{[-4,4]^{d_1-d}} d\xi \int_{B'_4} d\hat{g} |\varphi^\xi(g)| \gamma^{-1} \\
&\leq M_3 \delta^{-1} \int_{[-4,4]^{d_1-d}} d\xi \int_{B'_4} d\hat{g} |\varphi(\Phi(g, \xi))| \sigma(g, \xi) \gamma^{-1} \\
&= M_3 \delta^{-1} \|\varphi\|_i \gamma^{-1}
\end{aligned}$$

for all $\varphi \in L_1(\Omega; d\hat{g})$. In particular, if $\varphi \in L_1(G_1; \mu_1) \cap L_2(G_1; \mu_1)$, where we now use μ_1 to denote right Haar measure on G_1 , with $\text{supp } \varphi \subset \Omega' = \Phi(B'_1 \times [-1, 1]^{d_1-d})$, then there exists $c > 0$ such that

$$\mu_1(\{g \in G_1 : |(L(\chi A^\alpha k_j) \varphi)(g)| > \gamma\}) \leq c \|\varphi\|_i \gamma^{-1}$$

with c independent of j .

Next for $j \in \mathbf{N}$, $j \geq 2\nu$ define $P_j: L_1(G_1) \rightarrow L_1(G_1)$ by

$$P_j \varphi = L(\chi A^\alpha k_j) \varphi .$$

Obviously each P_j is continuous by the estimates (5). It follows that

$$\mu_1(\{g \in G_1 : |(P_j \varphi)(g)| > \gamma\}) \leq c \gamma^{-1} \|\varphi\|_i$$

for all $\varphi \in L_1(\Omega'; \mu_1) \cap L_2(\Omega'; \mu_1)$ and $\gamma > 0$.

Moreover, for all $k \in G_1$ and $\varphi \in L_1(G_1; \mu_1)$, one has

$$R(k) L(\chi A^\alpha k_j) \varphi = L(\chi A^\alpha k_j) R(k) \varphi ,$$

where R denotes right translations. Therefore

$$\mu_1(\{g \in G_1 : |(P_j \varphi)(g)| > \gamma\}) \leq c \|\varphi\|_i \gamma^{-1} \tag{7}$$

for all $j \in \mathbf{N}$, $\gamma > 0$ and all $\varphi \in L_1(G_1; \mu_1)$ such that $\text{supp } \varphi \subset \Omega' k$ for some $k \in G_1$. It then follows by a finite covering argument that a similar estimate is valid for all $\varphi \in L_1(\Omega; \mu_1)$ and for each bounded open neighbourhood Ω of e . So if G_1 is compact it follows that the P_j satisfy a global weak- L_1 estimate. However, we need a global bound also if G_1 is not compact.

Next we establish that the operators P_j satisfy a global weak- L_1 estimate if G_1 is not compact by use of the following covering lemma, [Bur] Lemma 3.2.7 (see also [Pie] page 66).

Lemma 2.5 *Suppose G_1 is not compact and let B_ϵ denote the ball $\{g_1 \in G_1; |g_1| < \epsilon\}$ relative to a fixed modulus on G_1 . Given $\epsilon > 0$, there is a sequence g_1, g_2, \dots of points in G_1 such that*

$$G_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_\epsilon g_i$$

and the additional two properties are valid.

- I. There is an $N_1 \in \mathbf{N}$ such that each $g \in G_1$ lies in at most N_1 balls $B_\epsilon g_i$.
- II. Given $\delta > 0$ there is an $N_2 \in \mathbf{N}$ such that each $g \in G_1$ lies in at most N_2 of the balls $B_{\epsilon+\delta} g_i$.

Proof The existence of a covering sequence with the first property has been established by Pier (see [Pie] page 66). The second property is established as follows.

Fix $g \in G$ and let \mathcal{I} denote the set of indices i such that $B_\epsilon g_i \subseteq B_{2\epsilon+\delta} g$. Further let m_j denote the μ_1 -measure of the set of $h \in B_{2\epsilon+\delta}$ such that h lies in exactly j of the balls $B_\epsilon g_i$ with $i \in \mathcal{I}$. Then

$$\sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \mu_1(B_\epsilon g_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{N_1} j m_j$$

since any point of $B_{2\epsilon+\delta}$ is contained in at most N_1 of the balls $B_\epsilon g_i$. But

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N_1} m_j \leq \mu_1(B_{2\epsilon+\delta}) \quad .$$

Therefore if k denotes the number of indices in \mathcal{I} then

$$k \mu_1(B_\epsilon) = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{I}} \mu_1(B_\epsilon g_i) \leq N_1 \mu_1(B_{2\epsilon+\delta})$$

and k has the g -independent bound

$$k \leq N_1 \mu_1(B_{2\epsilon+\delta}) / \mu_1(B_\epsilon) \quad .$$

Finally suppose that $h \in G$ lies in l balls $B_{\epsilon+\delta} g_i$; then $B_\epsilon g_i \subseteq B_{2\epsilon+\delta} h$ for each such ball. Hence one may choose

$$N_2 = N_1 \mu_1(B_{2\epsilon+\delta}) / \mu_1(B_\epsilon)$$

independent of the choice of g . □

Now apply the lemma with an $\epsilon > 0$ such that $B_\epsilon \subseteq \Omega'$ and and $\delta > 0$ such that $\Phi(B'_3 \times [-1, 1]^{d_1-d}) \subseteq B_{\epsilon+\delta}$. Choose a partition of the unity $(\psi_i)_i$ relative to the cover $G_1 = \bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} B_\epsilon g_i$, i.e., $\text{supp } \psi_i \subseteq B_\epsilon g_i$. Then for all $j \in \mathbf{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$ and $\varphi \in L_1(G_1; \mu_1)$ one has $\varphi = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \psi_i \varphi$ in $L_1(G_1; \mu_1)$. Then by the continuity of P_j

$$P_j \varphi = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} P_j(\psi_i \varphi) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} R(g_i^{-1}) P_j R(g_i)(\psi_i \varphi) \quad .$$

Moreover, $\text{supp } R(g_i)(\psi_i \varphi) \subseteq B_\epsilon$ and $\text{supp } R(g_i^{-1}) P_j R(g_i)(\psi_i \varphi) \subseteq B_{\epsilon+\delta} g_i$, so each $g \in G_1$ lies in the support of at most N_2 functions $R(g_i^{-1}) P_j R(g_i)(\psi_i \varphi)$. Therefore we obtain by (7) that

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_1(\{g \in G_1 : |(P_j \varphi)(g)| > \gamma\}) &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mu_1(\{g \in G_1 : |(R(g_i^{-1}) P_j R(g_i)(\psi_i \varphi))(g)| > \gamma N_2^{-1}\}) \\ &\leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c \gamma^{-1} N_2 \|\psi_i \varphi\|_i \\ &= c \gamma^{-1} N_2 \|\varphi\|_i \quad . \end{aligned}$$

Thus the operators P_j satisfy a global weak- L_1 estimate for any Lie group G_1 , uniformly in j . Hence the operators $A^\alpha X_j$ also satisfy a global weak- L_1 estimate, uniformly in j . By interpolation one deduces that the operators $A^\alpha X_j$ are uniformly bounded on the $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ -spaces, with $p \in \langle 1, 2 \rangle$ and $\alpha \in J_n(d')$.

Next we prove by induction that

$$D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}) \subseteq L'_{\hat{p};k}(G_1)$$

for all $k \in \{0, \dots, n\}$ and that the inclusion is continuous. The case $k = 0$ is trivial. Let $\alpha \in J_{n-1}(d')$, $i \in \{1, \dots, d'\}$ and suppose that $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ is continuously embedded in $L'_{\hat{p};|\alpha|}(G_1)$. Then there exists a $c > 0$ such that $\|\varphi\|'_{\hat{p};|\alpha|} \leq c\|(\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}\varphi\|_{\hat{p}}$ for all $\varphi \in D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$. Let $p \in \langle 1, 2 \rangle$ and $\varphi \in L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$. Then for all $j \in \mathbb{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$ one obtains the estimate

$$\begin{aligned} & \|A^\alpha(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi - A^\alpha j^N(jI + \overline{H})^{-N}(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \\ & \leq c\|(\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}((\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi - j^N(jI + \overline{H})^{-N}(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi)\|_{\hat{p}} \\ & = c\|(I - j^N(jI + \overline{H})^{-N})\varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \quad . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} A^\alpha j^N(jI + \overline{H})^{-N}(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi = A^\alpha(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi$$

in the $L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ -sense. Now let $M > 0$ be such that $\|A^\alpha X_j\|_{\hat{p} \rightarrow \hat{p}} \leq M$ for all $j \in \mathbb{N}$, $j \geq 2\nu$, $1 < p \leq 2$ and $\alpha \in J_n(d')$. Then for all $\psi \in D(A_i^*) \subseteq L_{\hat{q}}(G_1)$, where q is the conjugate to p , one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle A_i^* \psi, A^\alpha(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi \rangle| &= \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} |\langle A_i^* \psi, A^\alpha j^N(jI + \overline{H})^{-N}(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi \rangle| \\ &= \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} |\langle \psi, A_i A^\alpha X_j \varphi \rangle| \\ &\leq M \|\psi\|_{\hat{q}} \|\varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \quad . \end{aligned}$$

Hence $A^\alpha(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi \in D((A_i)^{**}) = D(A_i)$ and $\|A_i A^\alpha(\nu I + \overline{H})^{-n/m}\varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \leq M \|\varphi\|_{\hat{p}}$.

Case 2: $p \in [2, \infty)$.

For all $\alpha \in J_{n-1}(d')$, $i \in \{1, \dots, d'\}$, $j \in \mathbb{N}$ with $j \geq 2\nu$, $\varphi \in L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$ and $\psi \in D(A_i^*) \subset L_{\hat{q}}(G_1)$, where q is the conjugate to p , one has

$$\langle A_i^* \psi, A^\alpha X_j \varphi \rangle = \langle \psi, A_i A^\alpha X_j \varphi \rangle = \langle \psi, L(A_i A^\alpha k_j) \varphi \rangle = \langle L(\overline{(A_i A^\alpha k_j)})^\vee \psi, \varphi \rangle \quad ,$$

where $\tau^\vee(g) = \tau(g^{-1})$. Now $q \in \langle 1, 2 \rangle$ since $p \in [2, \infty)$. Because

$$\|L(\overline{(A_i A^\alpha k_j)})^\vee \psi\|_{\hat{2}} = \|(A_i A^\alpha X_j)^* \psi\|_{\hat{2}} \leq \|A_i A^\alpha X_j\|_{\hat{2} \rightarrow \hat{2}} \|\psi\|_{\hat{2}}$$

it follows that the operators $\psi \mapsto L(\overline{(A_i A^\alpha k_j)})^\vee \psi$ are bounded on $L_{\hat{2}}(G_1)$ uniformly in j . Moreover, if $\text{Re } c_0$ is large, then for all $\beta \in J(d')$ one has bounds

$$|L(\overline{(A_i A^\alpha k_j)})^\vee(g)| \leq a(|g'|)^{-D' - |\beta|} e^{-b\nu^{1/m}|g'|}$$

because of the inequalities (4). Therefore, arguing as above, it follows that the operators $(A; A^\alpha X_j)^*$ are uniformly bounded on $L_{\hat{q}}(G_1)$. Finally by repetition of the foregoing induction argument one deduces that $D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$ is continuously embedded in $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ for all $p \in [2, \infty)$.

The next step in the proof consists of establishing the converse inclusion, $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1) \subseteq D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m})$.

First suppose that $n \in \{1, \dots, m-1\}$. We may assume that the real part of the zero-order coefficient of C is sufficiently large that \overline{H} has a bounded inverse. Let $C_1: J_m(d') \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be the form defined by

$$C_1 = \sum_{\alpha \in J_m(d')} \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in J_m(d') \\ (\beta, \gamma) \in Lb(\alpha)}} c_\alpha b^\gamma$$

and let $H_1^\dagger = dL(C_1^\dagger)$. So $\langle \psi, H\varphi \rangle = \langle H_1^\dagger \psi, \varphi \rangle$ for all smooth enough φ and ψ . Next, for all $\alpha \in J_m(d')$ let $\alpha' \in J_{m-n}(d')$ and $\alpha'' \in J_n(d')$ be such that $\alpha = \langle \alpha', \alpha'' \rangle$. By the first part of the proof of this theorem there exists $c > 0$ such that

$$\|\psi\|'_{\hat{q};m-n} \leq c \|(\overline{H}_1^\dagger)^{(m-n)/m} \psi\|_{\hat{q}}$$

for all $\psi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. Then for all $\varphi, \psi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$ one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \psi, \varphi \rangle| &= |\langle \psi, \overline{H}^{-(m-n)/m} H \overline{H}^{-n/m} \varphi \rangle| \\ &= \left| \sum_{\alpha \in J_m(d')} c_\alpha \langle (A^{\alpha'})^* (\overline{H}_1^\dagger)^{-(m-n)/m} \psi, A^{\alpha''} \overline{H}^{-n/m} \varphi \rangle \right| \\ &= \left| \sum_{\alpha \in J_m(d')} c_\alpha (-1)^{|\alpha'|} \sum_{(\beta, \gamma) \in Lb(\alpha')} b^\gamma \langle (A^{\beta \bullet} (\overline{H}_1^\dagger)^{-(m-n)/m} \psi, A^{\alpha''} \overline{H}^{-n/m} \varphi \rangle \right| \\ &\leq c \sum_{\alpha \in J_m(d')} |c_\alpha| \sum_{(\beta, \gamma) \in Lb(\alpha')} b^\gamma \|\psi\|_{\hat{q}} \|\overline{H}^{-n/m} \varphi\|'_{\hat{p};n}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\|\varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \leq c' \|\overline{H}^{-n/m} \varphi\|'_{\hat{p};n}$ for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$ for some $c' > 0$ and, by density, for all $\varphi \in L_{\hat{p}}(G_1)$. So $\|\overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \leq c' \|\varphi\|'_{\hat{p};n}$ for all $\varphi \in D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$. Since $L'_{\hat{p};\infty}(G_1)$ and hence $D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$ is dense in $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$, see [ElR3] Lemma 2.4, it follows that $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ is continuously embedded in $D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$.

Finally we consider the case $n \geq m$. Write $n = Nm + k$ with $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and $k \in \{0, \dots, m-1\}$. There exists $c > 0$ such that $\|\overline{H}^{k/m} \varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \leq c \|\varphi\|'_{\hat{p};k}$ for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. Then

$$\|\overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi\|_{\hat{p}} = \|\overline{H}^{k/m} H^N \varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \leq c \|H^N \varphi\|'_{\hat{p};k}$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. But H^N is an operator of order Nm . So

$$\|\overline{H}^{n/m} \varphi\|_{\hat{p}} \leq c' \|\varphi\|'_{\hat{p};k+Nm} = c' \|\varphi\|'_{\hat{p};n}$$

for all $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(G_1)$. Again, since $C_c^\infty(G_1)$ is dense in $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ it follows that $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G_1)$ is continuously embedded in $D(\overline{H}^{n/m})$. This completes the proof of the theorem. \square

One can immediately deduce from the theorem a characterization of the C^n -elements associated with a finite sequence $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ of elements of \mathfrak{g} . Let \mathfrak{g}' be the Lie subalgebra of \mathfrak{g} generated by $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$. If G' is the connected subgroup of G with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}' one can apply the theorem with G and G_1 replaced by G' and G , respectively.

Corollary 2.6 *Let $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ be elements of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of a connected Lie group G and $L'_{p;n}(G)$, $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G)$ the corresponding C^n -subspaces. Then*

$$L'_{p;n}(G) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{d'} D(A_i^n)$$

for all $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$ and $n \in \mathbf{N}$. Similar identities are valid for the $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G)$ -spaces.

Proof We may assume that $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ are linearly independent. Let C_{2n} be the form such that $dL(C_{2n}) = (-1)^n \sum_{i=1}^{d'} A_i^{2n}$. Let $\varphi \in \bigcap_{i=1}^{d'} D(A_i^n) \subset L_p(G)$. Let $c_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{d'} \|A_i^n \varphi\|_p + \|\varphi\|_p$. Then for all $\psi \in L'_{q;\infty}(G)$

$$\begin{aligned} |((dL(C_{2n}) + I)\psi, \varphi)| &= |(-1)^n (\sum_{i=1}^{d'} A_i^{2n} \psi, \varphi) + (\psi, \varphi)| \\ &= | \sum_{i=1}^{d'} (A_i^n \psi, A_i^n \varphi) + (\psi, \varphi) | \\ &\leq c_1 \|\psi\|'_{q;n} . \end{aligned}$$

By Theorem 2.3, with G and G_1 replaced by G' and G , respectively, there exists $c_2 > 0$ such that

$$\|\psi\|'_{q;n} \leq c_2 \|(dL(C_{2n}) + I)^{1/2} \psi\|_q$$

for all $\psi \in L'_{q;\infty}(G)$. Since $(dL(C_{2n}) + I)^{1/2}$ maps $L'_{q;\infty}(G)$ onto $L'_{q;\infty}(G)$ it follows that

$$|((dL(C_{2n}) + I)^{1/2} \psi, \varphi)| \leq c_1 c_2 \|\psi\|_q$$

for all $\psi \in L'_{q;\infty}(G)$ and, by continuity, for all $\psi \in D((dL(C_{2n}) + I)^{1/2})$. So $\varphi \in D((dL(C_{2n}) + I)^{1/2})^* = D((dL(C_{2n}) + I)^{1/2}) = L'_{p;n}(G)$ by Theorem 2.3 again.

The proof for $L'_{\hat{p};n}(G)$ is nearly the same but a minor complication occurs because of the modular function. This can be handled as before. \square

The theorem and the corollary can be combined to give a variety of other statements. For example, if

$$H = - \sum_{i=1}^{d'} A_i^2$$

is the sublaplacian formed from the left derivatives associated with the general subbasis $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ then

$$D((\nu I + H)^{n/2}) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{d'} D(A_i^n)$$

on each L_p -space with $p \in (1, \infty)$, for all $\nu \geq 0$. In particular, if $d' = 1$, and one sets $A_i = A$ and $\nu = 0$, then

$$D(|A|^n) = D(A^n)$$

for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$ where the modulus of A is defined by $|A| = (-A^2)^{1/2}$.

The situation on the $L_{\hat{p}}$ -spaces is slightly more complicated. But one finds that

$$D((\nu I + H)^{n/2}) = \bigcap_{i=1}^{d'} D(A_i^n)$$

on each $L_{\hat{p}}$ -space with $p \in (1, \infty)$, for all $\nu \geq b^2/p^2$ where $b = (\sum_{i=1}^{d'} (A_i \Delta)(e)^2)^{1/2}$.

The foregoing argument with G and G' can be used to extend earlier results on unitary representations. One has the direct analogue of the foregoing corollary and theorem.

Corollary 2.7 *Let (\mathcal{H}, G, U) be a unitary representation, $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ elements of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of the Lie group G and $A_i = dU(a_i)$ the corresponding generators. Further let \mathcal{H}'_n denote the C^n -subspaces associated with $A_1, \dots, A_{d'}$ and set*

$$H = - \sum_{i,j=1}^{d'} c_{ij} A_i A_j + \sum_{i=1}^{d'} c_i A_i$$

where $c_{ij}, c_i \in \mathbf{C}$ and the real part $2^{-1}(C + C^*)$ of the matrix $C = (c_{ij})$ is strictly positive-definite.

Then

$$\mathcal{H}'_n = \bigcap_{i=1}^{d'} D(A_i^n) = D((\nu I + H)^{n/2})$$

for all $n \in \mathbf{N}$ and $\nu \geq 0$.

The corollary is a direct consequence of [ElR2], Theorem 6.3, applied to the unitary representation (\mathcal{H}, G', U') where G' is defined as above and $U' = U|_{G'}$. More general statements are possible in terms of higher-order subelliptic operators.

For general representations one has the following extension of [ElR2] Corollary 6.2. If $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ is a basis for the Lie algebra this result reproduces Theorem 1.1 of [Goo].

Corollary 2.8 *Let (\mathcal{X}, G, U) be a strongly continuous, or weakly*-continuous, representation of G on a Banach space \mathcal{X} , $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ elements of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of the Lie group G and $A_i = dU(a_i)$ the corresponding generators. Then*

$$\mathcal{X}'_\infty = \bigcap_{i=1}^{d'} D^\infty(A_i) \quad .$$

Next we consider homogeneous spaces for which the subgroup is compact.

Theorem 2.9 *Let K be a compact subgroup of a unimodular connected group G_1 and let μ be a left invariant measure on the homogeneous space G/K . Let G be a subgroup of G_1 . Let $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$ and let U be the left regular representation of G in $\mathcal{X} = L_p(G_1/K; \mu)$. If $a_1, \dots, a_{d'}$ is an algebraic basis of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} of G and $C: J_m(d') \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ a subcoercive form of order m and step r then for $H = dU(C)$ one has*

$$D((\nu I + \overline{H})^{n/m}) = \mathcal{X}'_n$$

for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and all large ν , with equivalent norms.

Proof Consider the corresponding problem in $L_p(G_1; dg)$. If X_j is the operator on $L_p(G_1; dg)$ as in the proof of Theorem 2.3 and X_j^\flat is the corresponding convolution operator on $\mathcal{X} = L_p(G_1/K; \mu)$, then the $A^\alpha X_j$ satisfy a weak L_1 -estimate uniformly in j , so since K is compact it immediately follows that also the $A^\alpha X_j^\flat$ satisfy a weak L_1 -estimate on the homogeneous space, uniformly in j . Since U is a unitary representation if $p = 2$, the theorem is valid for $p = 2$ by [EIR2] Theorem 6.3.II. Hence by interpolation and a similar approximation to that used in the proof of Theorem 2.3 the result follows for $p \in \langle 1, 2 \rangle$. But the same argument also works for $(A^\alpha X_j^\flat)^*$ and hence the result for $p \in [2, \infty)$ follows by duality. \square

3 Conclusion

The characterization of the differential structure given by Theorem 2.3 is related to the Lie group version of the boundedness of the Riesz transforms. If H is the sublaplacian formed from the left derivatives $A_1, \dots, A_{d'}$ then we have established that $D(H^{n/2}) = L'_{p;n}$ and one has bounds

$$\|A^\alpha \varphi\|_p \leq c_{p,n,\nu} \|(\nu I + H)^{n/2} \varphi\|_p \quad (8)$$

for all α with $|\alpha| = n$, all $\varphi \in L'_{p;n}$ with $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$ and all $\nu > 0$. The limit case $\nu = 0$ corresponds to the Riesz transform problem. Our results do extend to $\nu = 0$ for certain classes of groups, e.g., compact groups.

If G is compact and φ is a constant function then $\varphi \in L_p$ and since $A^\alpha \varphi = 0 = H\varphi$ the required estimates are obvious. Next let $P\varphi = \int_G dg L(g)\varphi$ be the projection of φ on the space of constant functions. Then on the subspace $(I - P)L_p$ of L_p the operator H has a bounded inverse as a direct consequence of spectral properties (see [Rob] Proposition I.7.1). Therefore it follows straightforwardly from (8) that one has bounds

$$\|A^\alpha \varphi\|_p \leq c_{p,n} \|H^{n/2} \varphi\|_p \quad (9)$$

for all α with $|\alpha| = n$ and all $\varphi \in L'_{p;n}$ with $p \in \langle 1, \infty \rangle$. Therefore these estimates are valid on L_p .

If G is non-compact the boundedness of the Riesz transforms is much more delicate and the example of Gaudry, Qian and Sjögren [GQS] shows that (9) may be valid with $n = 1$ but false for $n = 2$.

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