CHARACTERIZATION OF POISSON INTEGRALS FOR NON-TUBE BOUNDED SYMMETRIC DOMAINS

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Abstract. We characterize the $L^p$–range, $1 < p < +\infty$, of the Poisson transform on the Shilov boundary for non-tube bounded symmetric domains. We prove that this range is a Hua-Hardy type space for harmonic functions satisfying a Hua system.

1. Introduction

Let $\Omega = G/K$ be a Riemannian symmetric space of non-compact type. To each boundary $G/P$ one can define a Poisson transform, which is an integral operator from hyperfunctions on $G/P$ into the space of eigenfunctions on $\Omega$ of the algebra $D(\Omega)^G$ of invariant differential operators. For the maximal boundary, $G/P_{\text{min}}$, the most important result is the Helgason conjecture, proved by Kashiwara et al. [8] which states that a function is eigenfunction of all invariant differential operators on $\Omega$ if and only if it is Poisson integral

$$P_\lambda f(gK) = \int_K f(k) e^{-\langle \lambda + \rho, H(g^{-1}k) \rangle} dk,$$

of a hyperfunction on the maximal boundary, for a generic $\lambda \in a_C^*$. For other function spaces such as $L^p(G/P_{\text{min}})$ the characterization is in connection with Fatou’s theorems. We mention here the work of Helgason [5] and Michelson [14] for $p = \infty$, and Sjörgen [17] for $1 \leq p < \infty$ using weak $L^p$–spaces. Another characterization for $1 \leq p \leq \infty$, using Hardy-type spaces, was done by Stoll [18] in the harmonic case and by Ben Saïd et al. [1] in the general case.

If $\Omega$ is a bounded symmetric domain, one is interested in functions whose boundary values are supported on the Shilov boundary (minimal boundary) $S := G/P_{\text{max}}$ rather than the maximal boundary $G/P_{\text{min}}$.

1991 Mathematics Subject Classification. 43A85; 32A25; 32M15.

Key words and phrases. Bounded symmetric domains, Shilov boundary, Hua operator, Poisson transform, Fatou-type theorem.
For the Shilov boundary the Poisson transform is defined by
\[
P_s f(gK) = \int_K f(k) e^{-\langle s \rho_0 + \rho_1, H_1(g^{-1}) \rangle} dk, \quad s \in \mathbb{C}.
\]

In this case, Hua [6] had proved that the algebra of invariant differential operators is not necessarily the most appropriate for characterizing harmonic functions (i.e., annihilated by the algebra \(D(\Omega)^G\)). Johnson and Korányi [7], generalizing the earlier work of Hua, Korányi and Stein [10], and Korányi and Malliavin [11], introduced an invariant second order (\(t_C\)-valued) operator \(\mathcal{H}\), called since, second-order Hua operator (or Hua system). They showed, in the tube case, that a function is annihilated by the Hua operator if and only if it is the Poisson integral \(P_{s_0} f\) (\(s_0 = n/r\)) of a hyperfunction on the Shilov boundary. Thus, in the tube case, The Hua operator plays the same role with respect to the Shilov boundary as the algebra \(D(\Omega)^G\) does with respect to the maximal boundary. In his paper [13], Lassalle showed the existence of a smaller system (a projection of the Hua operator) with the same properties.

Later Shimeno [16] generalize the result of Johnson and Korányi; namely he proved that a function is eigenfunction of \(\mathcal{H}\) if and only if it is a Poisson transform \(P_s f\) of a hyperfunction on the Shilov boundary for generic \(s \in \mathbb{C}\).

In [2], the first author gave a characterization of the Poisson transform \(P_s\) on \(L^p(S)\), which closes the tube type symmetric domains case characterization.

It thus arises the question of characterizing the range of the Poisson transform \(P_s\) on \(L^p(S)\), \(1 < p < +\infty\), for non-tube bounded symmetric domains on \(L^p(S)\). The purpose of this paper is to answer this question.

For general bounded symmetric domains the Poisson integrals are not eigenfunctions of the second-order Hua operator \(\mathcal{H}\), see for instance [3] or [12]. However for type \(I_{r,r+b}\) domains of non-tube type, (see [3] and [12]) there is a variant of the second-order Hua operator, \(\mathcal{H}^{(1)}\), by taking the first component of \(\mathcal{H}\), since in this case \(t_C\) is a sum of two irreducible ideals \(t_C = t_C^{(1)} \oplus t_C^{(2)}\). It is proved, in [12] (and in [3] for the harmonic case, \(s = (2r + b)/r\)) that a smooth function \(f\) on \(I_{r,r+b}\) is a solution of the Hua system, \(\mathcal{H}^{(1)} f = \frac{1}{4}(s^2 - (r + b)^2)fI_r\) if and only if it is the Poisson transform \(P_s\) of a hyperfunction on the Shilov boundary.
For general non-tube domains, and for the harmonic case (i.e., for $s = n/r$ in our parametrization) the characterization of the image of the Poisson transform $P_{s}$ on hyperfunctions over the Shilov boundary was done by Berline and Vergne [3] where certain third-order Hua operator was introduced. Recently, the second author and Zhang [12] generalize the result of Berline and Vergne to any (generic) $s$. They introduce two third-order Hua operators $U$ and $W$ (different from the Berline and Vergne operator) and prove that an eigenfunction $f$ of $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)^{G}$ is a solution the Hua system [6] if and only if it is a Poisson transform of a hyperfunction on the Shilov boundary.

Let $E_{s}(\Omega)$ be the space of harmonic functions on $\Omega$ that are solutions of the Hua system (for type $I_{r+1}$ domains, an eigenfunction of $H_{r,r}^{(1)}$ is indeed harmonic). Then the image $P_{s}(L^{p}(S))$ is a proper closed subspace of $E_{s}(\Omega)$. For $1 < p < +\infty$, we introduce the Hua-Hardy type space, $E_{s}^{p}(\Omega)$ of functions $f \in E_{s}(\Omega)$ such that

$$
\|f\|_{s,p} = \sup_{t>0} e^{-t(\Re(s)r-n)} \left( \int_{K} |f(ka_{t})|^{p} dk \right)^{1/p} < +\infty.
$$

Our main result (see Theorem 4.10) says that if $s \in \mathbb{C}$ is such that $\Re(s) > \frac{n}{2}(r-1)$, a smooth function $F$ on $\Omega$ is the Poisson transform $F = P_{s}f$ of a function $f \in L^{p}(S)$ if and only if $f \in E_{s}^{p}(\Omega)$. Our method of proving this characterization uses an $L^{2}$ version of this theorem (see Theorem 4.8) and an inversion formula for the Poisson transform (see Proposition 4.9) which needs Fatou-type theorems (see Theorem 4.3 and Theorem 4.5).

2. Preliminaries

Let $\Omega$ be an irreducible bounded symmetric domain in a complex $n$-dimensional space $V$. Let $G$ be the identity component of the group of biholomorphic automorphisms of $\Omega$, and $K$ be the isotropy subgroup of $G$ at the point $0 \in \Omega$. Then $K$ is a maximal compact subgroup of $G$ and as a Hermitian symmetric space, $\Omega = G/K$. Let $\mathfrak{g}$ be the Lie algebra of $G$, and

$$
\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{p}
$$

be its Cartan decomposition. The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{k}$ of $K$ has one dimensional center $\mathfrak{z}$. Then there exists an element $Z_{0} \in \mathfrak{z}$ such that $\text{ad}Z_{0}$ defines the complex structure of $\mathfrak{p}$. Let

$$
\mathfrak{g}_{C} = \mathfrak{p}^{+} \oplus \mathfrak{t}_{C} \oplus \mathfrak{p}^{-}
$$
be the corresponding eigenspaces decomposition of $g_C$, the complexification of $g$. Let $G_C$ be a connected Lie group with Lie algebra $g_C$ and $P^+, K_C, P^-$ be the analytic subgroups of $G_C$ corresponding to $p^+, k_C, p^-$. Denote by $\sigma$ the conjugaison of $G_C$ with respect to $G$. Then we have, $\sigma(P^\pm) \subset P^\pm$ and $\sigma(K_C) \subset K_C$.

Let $h$ be a maximal Abelian subalgebra of $k_C$, and let $\Delta(g_C, h_C)$ be the corresponding set of roots. As $Z_0$ belongs to $h$, the space $p^+$ is stable by $ad_h$. The roots $\gamma \in \Delta(g_C, h_C)$ such that $g_\gamma \subset p^+$ are said to be positive non-compact, and we denote by $\Phi$ the set of such roots. Let $\gamma \in \Phi$, then one may choose elements $H_\gamma \in i h, E_\gamma \in g_\gamma^+, E_{-\gamma} \in g_\gamma^-$ such that $[E_\gamma, E_{-\gamma}] = H_\gamma$ and $\sigma(E_\gamma) = -E_{-\gamma}$. Let $X_\gamma = E_\gamma + E_{-\gamma}$ and $Y_\gamma = i(E_\gamma - E_{-\gamma})$. Then, by a classical Harish-Chandra construction, there exists a maximal set $\Gamma = \{\gamma_1, \ldots, \gamma_r\}$ of strongly orthogonal roots in $\Phi$. For simplicity, let us set for, $1 \leq j \leq r$,

$$E_j = E_{\gamma_j}, \quad X_j = X_{\gamma_j}, \quad Y_j = Y_{\gamma_j}.$$  

Then,

$$a = \sum_{j=1}^{r} \mathbb{R} X_j,$$

is a Cartan subspace of the pair $(g, k)$. Let $a^*$ denote the dual of $a$ and let $\{\beta_1, \beta_2, \ldots, \beta_r\}$ be a basis of $a^*$ determined by

$$\beta_j(X_k) = 2\delta_{j,k}, \quad 1 \leq j, k \leq n.$$

The restricted root system $\Sigma = \Sigma(g, a)$ of $g$ relative to $a$ is (of type $C_r$ or $BC_r$) given by

$$\pm \beta_j \quad (1 \leq j \leq r) \quad \text{each with multiplicity } 1,$$

$$\pm \frac{1}{2}(\beta_j \pm \beta_k) \quad (1 \leq j \neq k \leq r) \quad \text{each with multiplicity } a,$$

and possibly

$$\pm \frac{1}{2} \beta_j \quad (1 \leq j \leq r) \quad \text{each with multiplicity } 2b.$$

Let $\Sigma^+ = \{\beta_j, \frac{1}{2} \beta_j, \frac{1}{2}(\beta_\ell \pm \beta_k); \ 1 \leq j \leq r, 1 \leq k \leq r\}$ the set of positive restricted roots. Then the set $\Lambda = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{r-1}, \alpha_r\}$ of simple roots in $\Sigma^+$ is such that

$$\alpha_j = \frac{1}{2}(\beta_{r-j+1} - \beta_{r-j}), \quad 1 \leq j \leq r - 1$$

and

$$\alpha_r = \begin{cases} 
\beta_1 & \text{for tube case} \\
\frac{1}{2} \beta_1 & \text{for non-tube case.}
\end{cases}$$
Let $\Lambda_1 = \{\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_{r-1}\}$ and write $\Sigma_1 = \Sigma \cap \mathbb{Z} \cdot \Lambda_1$. Define
\[
m_{1,1} = m + a + \sum_{\gamma \in \Sigma_1} g^\gamma, \quad n_{1}^+ = \sum_{\gamma \in \Sigma^+ \setminus \Sigma_1} g^\gamma.
\]
Let
\[a_1 = \{H \in a : \gamma(H) = 0 \forall \gamma \in \Lambda_1\},\]
then $m_{1,1}$ is the centralizer of $a_1$ in $g$ and $p_1 = m_{1,1} + n_1^+$ is a standard parabolic subalgebra of $g$ with Langlands decomposition $m_1 + a_1 + n_1^+$, where $m_1$ is the orthocomplement of $a_1$ in $m_{1,1}$ with respect to the Killing form. Note that $\theta(n_1^+) = \sum_{\gamma \in \Sigma^+ \setminus \Sigma_1} g^{-\gamma}$. Let $P_1$ be the corresponding parabolic subgroup and $P_1 = M_1 A_1 N_1^+$ its Langlands decomposition. Obviously, $P_1$ is a maximal parabolic subgroup of $G$, thus the Shilov boundary $S$ can be viewed as $S = G/P_1 = K/K_1$, where $K_1 = M_1 \cap K$.

If we define the element $X_0 = \sum_{j=1}^r X_j$, then $a_1 = \mathbb{R}X_0$. Let
\[a(1) = \sum_{j=1}^{r-1} \mathbb{R}(X_j - X_{j+1})\]
be the orthocomplement of $a_1$ in $a$ with respect to the Killing form,

(1) \[a = a_1 \oplus \mathbb{R}X_0 \oplus \sum_{j=1}^{r-1} \mathbb{R}(X_j - X_{j+1}).\]

We denote $\rho_0$ the linear form on $a_1$ such that, $\rho_0(X_0) = r$. We extend $\rho_0$ to $a$ via the orthogonal projection (1). If $\rho_1$ is the restriction of $\rho$ to $a_1$, then it is clear that
\[\rho_1(X_0) = rb + r + a - \frac{r(r - 1)}{2} = n.
\]
Again, we extend $\rho_1$ to $a$ via the orthogonal projection (1). Then
\[\rho_1 = (b + 1 + a - \frac{r - 1}{2})\rho_0 = \frac{n}{r}\rho_0.
\]
For $g \in G$, define $H(g) \in a$ as the unique element such that
\[g \in K \exp(H(g))N \subset KAN = G.
\]
We also denote by $\kappa(g) \in K$ and $H_1(g) \in a_1$ the unique elements such that
\[g \in \kappa(g) M_1 \exp(H_1(g))N_1 \subset KM_1 A_1 N_1 = G.
\]
The following lemma will be useful for the sequel.
Lemma 2.1 ([15], Lemma 6.1.6)]. (i) Let \( x, y \in G \), \( \tilde{n} \in \tilde{N}_1 \) and \( a \in A_1 \). Then
\[
H_1(x\kappa(y)) = H_1(xy) - H_1(y)
\]
\[
H_1(\tilde{n}a^{-1}) = H_1(\tilde{n}) - H_1(a)
\]
(ii) Let \( t > 0 \) and \( \tilde{n} \in \tilde{N}_1 \). Then
\[
\rho_0(H_1(at\tilde{n}a^{-1})) \leq \rho_0(H_1(\tilde{n})).
\]

3. The Poisson Transform and the Hua Operators

For any real analytic manifold \( X \), we denote by \( \mathcal{B}(X) \) the space of all hyperfunctions on \( X \). We will view a function on the Shilov boundary \( S = G/P_1 \) as a \( P_1 \)-invariant function on \( G \). For \( s \in \mathbb{C} \), we denote by \( \mathcal{B}(G/P_1; s) \) the space of hyperfunctions \( f \) on \( G \) satisfying
\[
f(gma) = e^{(s\rho_0 - \rho_1) \log a} f(g), \quad \forall g \in G, \ m \in M_1, \ a \in A_1, \ n \in N_1^+.
\]

The Poisson transform of a function \( f \in \mathcal{B}(G/P_1; s) \), is defined by
\[
\mathcal{P}_sf(gK) = \int_K e^{-s\rho_0 - \rho_1 H_1(g^{-1}k)} f(k)dk.
\]

Since \( G = K P_1 \), the restriction from \( G \) to \( K \) defines a \( G \)-isomorphism from \( \mathcal{B}(G/P_1, s) \) onto the space \( \mathcal{B}(K/K_1) \) of all hyperfunctions \( f \) on \( K \) such that \( f(kh) = f(k) \) for all \( h \in K_1 \).

We review the construction of Hua operators of the second order (see [7]) and the third order (see [3], [12]).

Let \( \{v_j\} \) be a basis of \( p^+ \) and \( \{v^*_j\} \) be the dual basis of \( p^- \) with respect to the Killing form. Let \( \mathcal{U}(g_C) \) denote the universal enveloping algebra of \( g_C \). The second-order Hua operator, is the element of \( \mathcal{U}(g_C) \otimes \mathfrak{k}_C \) defined by
\[
\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i,j} v_i v_j^* \otimes [v_j, v_i^*]
\]

It is known that the Hua operator does not depends on basis, therefor, for computations one can choose the root vectors basis \( \{E_j\}_j \).

For tube domains the Hua operator \( \mathcal{H} \) maps the Poisson kernels
\[
P_s(gk) = e^{-s\rho_0 + \rho_1 H_1(g^{-1})}
\]
into the center of \( \mathfrak{k}_C \), namely the Poisson kernels are its eigenfunctions up to an element in the center, but it is not true for non-tube domains, see [12, Theorem 5.3]. However for non-tube type I domains, \( I_{r, r+b} \simeq SU(r, r + b)/S(U(r) \times U(r + b)) \), the situation is not quite different
from the tube case. In fact, $k_C$ is a sum of two irreducible ideals, $k_C = k_C^{(1)} + k_C^{(2)}$ where

$$k_C^{(1)} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & I_{r+b} \end{pmatrix}^{\text{tr}(A)} 0, \ A \in \mathfrak{g}l(r+b, \mathbb{C}) \right\},$$

$$k_C^{(1)} = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D \end{pmatrix}, \ D \in \mathfrak{s}l(r+b, \mathbb{C}) \right\}.$$

There is a variant of the Hua operator, $\mathcal{H}^{(1)}$ see [3], [12], by taking the projection of $\mathcal{H}$ onto $k_C^{(1)}$. In [12], the second author and Zhang showed that the operator $\mathcal{H}^{(1)}$ has the Poisson kernels as its eigenfunctions and they found the eigenvalues. They proved further that the eigenfunctions of the Hua operator $\mathcal{H}^{(1)}$ are harmonic functions (i.e., eigenfunctions of all invariant differential operators on $\Omega$), and gave the following characterization of the range of the Poisson transform for $I_{r,r+b}$.

**Theorem 3.1 ([12 Theorem 6.1]).** Suppose $s \in \mathbb{C}$ satisfies the following condition

$$-4[b + 1 + j + \frac{1}{2}(s - r - b)] \not\in \{1, 2, 3, \cdots\}, \text{ for } j = 0 \text{ and } 1.$$  

Then the Poisson transform $P_s$ is a $G$–isomorphism of $\mathcal{B}(S)$ onto the space of smooth functions $f$ on $\Omega$ that satisfy

$$\mathcal{H}^{(1)} f = \frac{1}{4}(s^2 - (r + b)^2)fI_r.$$

For the characterization of range of the Poisson transform for general non-tube domains the second author and Zhang [12] introduced new third-order Hua operators $\mathcal{U}$ and $\mathcal{W}$:

$$\mathcal{U} = \sum_{i,j,k} v_i^* v_j^* v_k \otimes [v_i, [v_j, v_k]],$$

$$\mathcal{W} = \sum_{i,j,k} v_k v_i^* v_j \otimes [[v_k^*, v_i], v_j]].$$

Similarly to $\mathcal{H}$, the operators $\mathcal{U}$ and $\mathcal{W}$ do not depend on the basis.

Denote

$$c = 2(n + 1) + \frac{1}{n}(a^2 - 4) \dim(\mathcal{P}^{(1,1)}),$$

where $\mathcal{P}^{(1,1)}$ is the dimension of the irreducible subspaces of holomorphic polynomials on $\mathfrak{p}^+$ with lowest weight $-\gamma_1 - \gamma_2$. For any $s \in \mathcal{C}$, put $\sigma = \frac{1}{2}(s + \frac{n}{r})$. For general non-tube domains we have the following
Theorem 3.2 ([12, Theorem 7.2]). Let $\Omega$ be a bounded symmetric non-tube domain of rank $r$ in $\mathbb{C}^n$. Suppose $s \in \mathbb{C}$ satisfies

$$-4[b + 1 + j \frac{a}{2} + \frac{1}{2}(s - \frac{r}{n})] \notin \{1, 2, 3, \ldots\}, \text{ for } j = 0 \text{ and } 1.$$ 

Then the Poisson transform $P_s$ is a $G-$isomorphism of $\mathcal{B}(S)$ onto the space of harmonic functions $f$ on $\Omega$ that satisfy

$$\left( \mathcal{U} - \frac{-2\sigma^2 + 2p\sigma + c}{\sigma(2\sigma - p - b)} \mathcal{W} \right) f = 0,$$

4. The $L^p -$range of the Poisson transform

For $1 < p < +\infty$, we will consider the space $L^p(S) = L^p(K/K_1)$ as the space of all complex valued measurable (classes) functions $f$ on $K$ that are $K_1-$invariant and satisfying

$$\|f\|_p = \left( \int_K |f(k)|^p dk \right)^{1/p} < +\infty,$$

where $dk$ is the Haar measure of $K$. Let $d\bar{n}$ be the invariant measure on $\bar{N}_1 = \theta(N_1)$ with the normalization

$$\int_{\bar{N}_1} e^{\langle -2\rho_1, H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} d\bar{n} = 1.$$ 

Then for a continuous function $f$ on $S$ we have

$$\int_K f(k) dk = \int_{\bar{N}_1} f(\bar{n}) e^{-2\langle \rho_1, H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} d\bar{n}.$$ 

The space $L^p(S)$ can be viewed as a subspace of $\mathcal{B}(S)$, thus its image $\mathcal{P}_s(L^p(S))$ is a proper closed subspace of $\mathcal{E}_s(\Omega)$. We will now, for specific $s$, characterize this image. For this we need some information on the integral $c_s$ in following proposition.

Proposition 4.1. For $s \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r - 1)$, the integral

$$c_s = \int_{\bar{N}_1} e^{-\langle s\rho_0 + \rho_1, H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} d\bar{n}$$

converges absolutely to a constant $c_s \neq 0$.

Proof. For $s \in \mathbb{C}$ let $\lambda_s \in a^*_C$ be the linear form defined by

$$\lambda_s(H) = (s\rho_0 - \rho_1)(H_1) + \rho(H), \quad H \in a$$

where $H_1$ is the projection of $H$ onto $a_1$. Then the condition $\Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r - 1)$ is equivalent to

$$\Re(\langle \lambda_s, \alpha \rangle) > 0 \quad \forall \alpha \in \Sigma^+ \setminus \Sigma_1.$$
Moreover, we can choose (see for example [15, Lemma 6.1.4]) \( \omega \) in the Weyl group \( W \) of \( \Sigma \) such that

\[
(i) \quad \omega \cdot H = H, \quad \forall H \in a_1,
(ii) \quad \omega(\Sigma^+ \cap \Sigma_1) = -\Sigma^+ \cap \Sigma_1,
(iii) \quad \omega(\Sigma^+ \setminus \Sigma_1) = \Sigma^+ \setminus \Sigma_1.
\]

Since \( \langle \omega \lambda_s, \alpha \rangle = \langle \lambda_s, \omega^{-1} \alpha \rangle \), the condition \( (\text{ii}) \) is equivalent to

\[\Re(\langle \omega \lambda_s, \alpha \rangle) > 0, \quad \forall \alpha \in \Sigma^+\]

Furthermore

\[\langle s \rho_0 + \rho_1, H_1(g) \rangle = \langle \omega \lambda_s + \rho, H(g) \rangle\]

so that

\[
\int_{N_1} e^{-\langle s \rho_0 + \rho_1, H_1(\tilde{n}) \rangle} d\tilde{n} = \int_{N_1} e^{-\langle \omega \lambda_s + \rho, H(\tilde{n}) \rangle} d\tilde{n}
\]

and the right hand side is the Harish-Chandra \( c \) function, \( c(\omega \lambda_s) \) associated with the maximal parabolic subgroup, which converges absolutely, see [15].

Let \( s \in \mathbb{C} \). Let \( \mathcal{E}_s(\Omega) \) be the space of harmonic functions on \( \Omega \) that satisfy [1] in type I domains or [10] in general domains. It is clear that the image \( \mathcal{P}_s(L^p(S)) \) is a proper closed subspace of the eigenspace \( \mathcal{E}_s(\Omega) \). Hence, it is natural to look for a characterization of those \( F \in \mathcal{E}_s(\Omega) \) that are Poisson transform of some \( f \in L^p(S) \).

For any \( 1 < p < \infty \), let \( \mathcal{E}_s^p(\Omega) \) denote the Hua-Hardy type space of functions \( f \in \mathcal{E}_s(\Omega) \) such that

\[\|f\|_{s,p} = \sup_{a \in a_1} e^{-\langle \Re(s)\rho_0 - \rho_1, \log a \rangle} \left( \int_K |f(ka)|^p dk \right)^{1/p} < +\infty.\]

Since \( a_1 = \mathbb{R} X_0 \), the above integral becomes

\[\|f\|_{s,p} = \sup_{t > 0} e^{-t\langle \Re(s)\rho_0 - \rho_1, \log a \rangle} \left( \int_K |f(ka)|^p dk \right)^{1/p},\]

where \( a_t = \exp(tX_0) \).

4.1. Fatou type theorems. As a preparation to Fatou-type theorems we prove the following

**Proposition 4.2.** Let \( s \in \mathbb{C} \) be such that \( \Re(s) > \frac{r}{2}(r-1) \). Let \( \Psi_t \) be the function defined on \( \tilde{N}_1 \) by

\[\Psi_t(\tilde{n}) = e^{-\langle s \rho_0 + \rho_1, H_1(\tilde{n}) \rangle + \langle s \rho_0 - \rho_1, H_1(a_tna^{-1}) \rangle}.\]

Then there exists a non-negative function \( \Phi \in L^1(\tilde{N}_1) \) such that \( \Psi_t \leq \Phi \) for each \( t \).
Proof. It follows from (4), that for any \( t > 0 \) and for any \( \bar{n} \in \bar{N}_1 \),
\[
0 \leq \rho_0(H_1(a_t\bar{n}a_{-t})) \leq \rho_0(H_1(\bar{n})).
\]
Therefore,
\[
|\Psi_t(\bar{n})| \leq \begin{cases} 
e^{-\langle \Re(s)\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} & \text{if } \frac{a}{2}(r-1) < \Re(s) \leq \frac{a}{2}(r-1) + b + 1 \\ e^{-2\langle \rho_1,H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} & \text{if } \Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r-1) + b + 1 \end{cases}
\]
and the second hand is an integrable function on \( \bar{N}_1 \) by (7) and Proposition 4.1.
\[\square\]

Let \( C(S) \) be the space of complex-valued continuous functions on \( S \) with the topology of uniform convergence.

**Theorem 4.3.** Let \( s \in \mathbb{C} \) be such that \( \Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r-1) \). Then
\[
f(k) = c_s^{-1} \lim_{t \to +\infty} e^{-(rs-n)t} \mathcal{P}_s f(ka_t)
\]
uniformly, for \( f \in C(S) \).

Proof. Let \( f \in C(S) \), then
\[
\mathcal{P}_s f(ka_t) = \int_K e^{-(s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(a_t\bar{n}))} f(kh) dh.
\]
We transform this integral using the formula (8) to an integral over \( \bar{N}_1 \),
\[
\mathcal{P}_s f(ka_t) = \int_{\bar{N}_1} e^{-\langle s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(a_{-t}\bar{n}) \rangle} f(k\bar{n}) e^{-2\langle \rho_1,H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} d\bar{n},
\]
and by (2) we get
\[
\mathcal{P}_s f(ka_t) = \int_{\bar{N}_1} e^{-\langle s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(a_{-t}\bar{n}) \rangle} e^{\langle s\rho_0-\rho_1,H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} f(k\bar{n}) d\bar{n}.
\]
which by the substitution \( \bar{n} \mapsto a_{-t}\bar{n}a_t \) and (3), becomes
\[
\mathcal{P}_s f(ka_t) = e^{\langle s\rho_0-\rho_1,H_1(a_t) \rangle} \int_{\bar{N}_1} e^{-\langle s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} e^{\langle s\rho_0-\rho_1,H_1(\bar{n}) \rangle} f(k\bar{n}) (a_t\bar{n}a_{-t}) d\bar{n}.
\]
But \( \rho_1 = \frac{a}{r}\rho_0 \), and \( a_t\bar{n}a_{-t} \to e \) when \( t \to +\infty \), thus, by Proposition 4.2
\[
\lim_{t \to +\infty} e^{-(rs-n)t} \mathcal{P}_s f(ka_t) = c_s f(k).
\]
\[\square\]
Let
\[ \phi_s(a_t) := \int_K e^{-(s\rho_0 + \rho_1, H(a-tk))} dk. \]
then, it follows from the above theorem that
\[ \lim_{t \to \infty} e^{-(rs-n)t} \phi_s(a_t) = c_s, \quad \text{if} \quad \Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r-1). \]

As a consequence we can prove the following

**Proposition 4.4.** Let \( s \in \mathbb{C} \) be such that \( \Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r-1) \). Then there exists a positive constant \( \gamma_s \) such that, for \( 1 < p < \infty \) and \( f \in L^p(S) \), we have
\[ \left( \int_K |P_s f(ka_t)|^p dk \right)^{1/p} \leq \gamma_s e^{(rs-n)t} \|f\|_p. \]

**Proof.** For \( t > 0 \), we define the function \( p^t_s \) by
\[ p^t_s(k) = e^{-(s\rho_0 + \rho_1, H(a-tk))}, \quad k \in K. \]
Then the Poisson transform can be written as the convolution
\[ P_s f(ka_t) = (f * p^t_s)(k). \]
Hence, to prove the proposition we use the Haussedorf-Young inequality,
\[ \left( \int_K |P_s f(ka_t)|^p dk \right)^{1/p} \leq \|p^t_s\|_1 \|f\|_p \quad (p > 1), \]
and (10).

\[ \square \]

Let, as usual, \( \hat{K} \) be the set of equivalence classes of finite dimensional irreducible representations of \( K \). For \( \delta \in \hat{K} \), let \( C(S)_\delta \) be the linear span of all \( K \)-finite vectors on \( S \) of type \( \delta \). It is well known that the space \( \mathcal{C}^K(S) := \bigoplus_{\delta \in \hat{K}} C(S)_\delta \) is dense in \( \mathcal{C}(S) \). Recall also, that the space \( \mathcal{C}(S) \) is dense in \( L^p(S) \) for \( 1 < p < \infty \).

**Theorem 4.5.** Let \( s \in \mathbb{C} \) be such that \( \Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r-1) \). Then
\[ f(k) = c_s^{-1} \lim_{t \to +\infty} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_s f(ka_t) \]
in \( L^p(S) \), for \( 1 < p < \infty \).

**Proof.** Let \( f \in L^p(S) \). By the above density arguments, for any \( \epsilon > 0 \), there exists \( \varphi \in \mathcal{C}^K(S) \) such that \( \|f - \varphi\|_p < \epsilon \). Then we have
\[ \|c_s^{-1} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_s f - f\|_p \leq \|c_s^{-1} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_s (f - \varphi)\|_p + \|c_s^{-1} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_s \varphi - \varphi\|_p + \|\varphi - f\|_p \]
where the function $P_t f$ is defined by

$$P_t f(k) = \mathcal{P}_s f(k a_t).$$

By Proposition 4.4,

$$\|c_s^{-1} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_t(f - \varphi)\|_p \leq \gamma_s |c_s^{-1}| \|f - \varphi\|_p,$$

and by Theorem 4.3

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} \|c_s^{-1} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_t \varphi - \varphi\|_p = 0.$$

Thus, $\lim_{t \to +\infty} \|c_s^{-1} e^{-(rs-n)t} P_t f - f\|_p \leq \epsilon(\gamma_s + 1)$ and this proves the theorem. □

We can now prove the following estimates

**Proposition 4.6.** Let $s \in \mathbb{C}$ be such that $\Re(s) > \frac{3}{2}(r - 1)$. Then there exists a positive constant $\gamma_s$ such that for $1 < p < +\infty$ and $f \in L^p(S)$,

$$(12) \quad |c_s| \|f\|_p \leq \|\mathcal{P}_s f\|_{s,p} \leq \gamma_s \|f\|_p.$$

**Proof.** In fact, the right hand side of the estimate (12) follows from Proposition 4.4. On the other hand, by Theorem 4.5 we have

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} e^{(n-r)s)t} \mathcal{P}_s f(k a_t) = c_s f(k)$$

in $L^p(S)$. Hence, there exists a sequence $(t_j)_j$ with $t_j \to +\infty$ when $j \to +\infty$ such that $\lim_{j \to +\infty} e^{(n-r)s)t_j} \mathcal{P}_s f(k a_{t_j}) = c_s f(k)$, almost everywhere in $K$. Therefore, by the classical Fatou lemma,

$$|c_s| \|f\|_p \leq \sup_j e^{(n-r\Re(s))t_j} \|P_{t_j} f\|_p$$

and this is how we prove the left hand side of (12). □

### 4.2. The $L^2$–Poisson transform range.

Recall that

$$L^2(S) = \oplus_{\delta \in \hat{K}} V_\delta$$

where $V_\delta$ is the finite linear span of $\{\varphi_\delta \circ k, \ k \in K\}$, where $\varphi_\delta$ is the zonal spherical function corresponding to $\delta$.

For $s \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\delta \in \hat{K}$, define the generalized spherical function $\Phi_{s,\delta}$ on $A_1$ by

$$\Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t) = (\mathcal{P}_s \varphi_\delta)(a_t).$$

**Proposition 4.7.** Let $s \in \mathbb{C}$, $\delta \in \hat{K}$ and $f \in V_\delta$. Then for any $k \in K$ and $a_t \in A_1$,

$$(\mathcal{P}_s f)(ka_t) = \Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)f(k).$$
Proof. Since $M_1$ centralizes $A_1$, we can view the operator (11) as a bounded operator on $L^2(S)$. Moreover, $P_t^s$ commutes with the left regular representation of $K$ in $L^2(S)$. Hence, by Schur’s lemma, $P_t^s = \Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t) \cdot I$ on each $V_\delta$ and the proposition follows. □

The first main theorem of this section can now be stated as follows:

**Theorem 4.8.** Let $s \in \mathbb{C}$ be such that $\Re(s) > \frac{a_2}{2}(r-1)$. A smooth function $F$ on $\Omega$ is the Poisson transform $F = P_s f$ of a function $f \in L^2(S)$ if and only if $F \in \mathcal{E}^2_s(\Omega)$.

**Proof.** The necessary condition follows from Proposition 4.6 and Theorem 6.1 and Theorem 7.2. On the other hand, let $F \in \mathcal{E}^p_s(\Omega)$. We apply again Theorem 6.1 and Theorem 7.2. Then, there exists a hyperfunction $f \in \mathcal{B}(S)$ such that $F = P_s f$. Let $f = \sum_{\delta \in K} f_\delta$ be its $K$-type decomposition. By Proposition 4.7, we can write

$$F(ka_t) = \sum_{\delta \in K} \Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)f_\delta(k)$$

in $C^\infty(K \times [0, +\infty[)$. Now observe that

$$\|F\|^2_{s,2} = \sup_{t > 0} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \sum_{\delta \in K} |\Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)|^2 \|f_\delta\|^2_2 < \infty.$$

Then, if $\Lambda$ is an arbitrary finite subset of $\hat{K}$, we get

$$e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \sum_{\delta \in \Lambda} |\Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)|^2 \|f_\delta\|^2_2 \leq \|F\|^2_{s,2}$$

for every $t > 0$ and hence form Theorem 4.3 it follows immediately that

$$|c_s|^2 \sum_{\delta \in \Lambda} \|f_\delta\|^2_2 \leq \|F\|^2_{s,2}$$

which implies that $f = \sum_{\delta \in K} f_\delta$ in $L^2(S)$ and that

$$|c_s|^2 \|f\|_2 \leq \|F\|_{s,2}.$$

This ends the proof of the theorem. □

In the following proposition we show how to recover a function $f \in L^2(S)$ from its Poisson transform $P_s f$.

**Proposition 4.9.** Let $s \in \mathbb{C}$ be such that $\Re(s) > \frac{2}{2}(r-1)$. Let $F \in \mathcal{E}^2_s(\Omega)$ and $f \in L^2(S)$ its boundary value. Then the following inversion formula

$$f(k) = |c_s|^{-2} \lim_{t \to \infty} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \int_K e^{-\langle s \rho_0 + \rho_1 H_1(a_{\delta^{-1}k^{-1}}) \rangle} F(ha_t) dh$$

(13)
holds in $L^2(S)$.

Proof. Let $F \in \mathcal{E}_s^2(\Omega)$, then its follows from Theorem 4.8 that there exists a unique $f \in L^2(S)$ such that $F = \mathcal{P}_sf$. Let $f = \sum_{\delta \in \hat{K}} f_{\delta}$ be its $K$--type expansion, then similarly to the preceding proof, we get

$$F(ka_t) = \sum_{\delta \in \hat{K}} \Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)f_{\delta}(k).$$

(14)

For any $t > 0$, define the complex-valued function on $K$ by

$$g_t(ka_t) = |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-rs)t} \int_{K} e^{-\langle sp_0 + \rho_1 \delta_1, k \rangle} F(ha_t) dh.$$

Next, using the above series expansion we can write according to Theorem 4.5,

$$g_t(h) = |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-rs)t} \sum_{\delta \in \hat{K}} |\Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)|^2 f_{\delta}(h).$$

Thus,

$$\|g_t - f\|_2^2 = \sum_{\delta \in \hat{K}} \left| |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-rs)t} |\Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t)|^2 - 1 \right|^2 \|f_{\delta}\|_2^2,$$

which shows that $\|g_t - f\|_2 \to 0$, since $\lim_{t \to \infty} e^{(n-rs)t} \Phi_{s,\delta}(a_t) = c_s$. □

4.3. The $L^p$-Poisson transform range, $p \neq 2$. We shall now prove the second main result of this paper, more precisely, we shall characterize the $L^p$--range of the Poisson transform. We will need the following notation. For each function $f$ on $\Omega$, define the function $f^t$, $t > 0$, on $K$ by

$$f^t(k) = f(ka_t).$$

Theorem 4.10. Let $s \in \mathbb{C}$ be such that $\Re(s) > \frac{a}{2}(r-1)$. A smooth function $F$ on $\Omega$ is the Poisson transform $F = \mathcal{P}_sf$ of a function $f \in L^p(S)$ if and only if $F \in \mathcal{E}^p_s(\Omega)$.

Proof. We will follow the technique used by Korányi [9]. Let $(\chi_n)_{n}$ be an approximation of the identity in $C(K)$. That is $\chi_n \geq 0$, $\int_{K} \chi_n(k) dk = 1$ and $\lim_{n \to +\infty} \int_{K \setminus U} \chi_n(k) dk = 0$ for every neighborhood $U$ of $e$ in $K$. Let $F \in \mathcal{E}^p_s(\Omega)$. For each $n$, define the function $F_n$ on $\Omega$ by

$$F_n(gK) = \int_{K} \chi_n(k) F(k^{-1}g) dk.$$

Then $(F_n)_n$ converges point-wise to $F$, and since the set $\mathcal{E}_s(\Omega)$ of harmonic functions satisfying the Hua system is $G$--invariant, $F_n \in \mathcal{E}_s(\Omega)$, for each $n$. Furthermore,

$$F_n^t(ka_t K) = (\chi_n * F^t)(k).$$
and this shows
\[(15) \quad \| F_n^t \|_2 \leq \| \chi_n \|_2 \| \hat{F}^t \|_{p} , \]
and
\[(16) \quad \| F_n^t \|_p \leq \| \hat{F}^t \|_p . \]
It follows from (15)
\[\sup_{t > 0} e^{(n-rs)t} \left( \int_K |F_n(ka_t)|^2 dk \right)^{1/2} \leq \| \chi_n \|_2 \| F \|_{s,p} . \]
Thus \( F_n \in \mathcal{E}_{s,2}(\Omega) \) and by Theorem 4.8, there exists \( f_n \in L^2(S) \) such that \( F_n = \mathcal{P}_s f_n \). Now, our goal is to prove that \( f_n \) belongs to \( L^p(S) \).
Using the inversion formula (13) we can write in \( L^2(S) \),
\[ f_n(k) = \lim_{t \to +\infty} g_n^t(k) \]
where
\[ g_n^t(h) = g_n(ha_t) = |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \int_K \frac{e^{-(s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(a-ik^{-1}h))} F_n(ka_t) dk}{P_s \varphi(ka_t) F_n(ka_t) dk} \].
Let \( \varphi \in C(S) \) be a continuous function on \( S \), then
\[ \int_K f_n(h) \varphi(h) dh = \lim_{t \to \infty} \int_K g_n^t(h) \varphi(h) dh. \]
Moreover,
\[ \int_K g_n^t(h) \varphi(h) dh = |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \times \]
\[ \times \int_K \int_K F_n(ka_t) \varphi(h) e^{-(s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(a-ik^{-1}h))} dk dh = |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \int_K \overline{P_s \varphi(ka_t)} F_n(ka_t) dk. \]
By the Holder inequality, if \( q \) is such that \( 1/p + 1/q = 1 \), we get
\[ \left| \int_K g_n^t(h) \varphi(h) dh \right| \leq |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \| P_s \varphi \|_q \| F_n^t \|_p, \]
\[ \leq |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \| P_s \varphi \|_q \| \hat{F}^t \|_p, \]
where the second inequality follows from (16). But \( F \in \mathcal{E}_{s,p}(\omega) \), then
\[ \left| \int_K g_n^t(h) \varphi(h) dh \right| \leq |c_s|^{-2} e^{2(n-r\Re(s))t} \| P_s \varphi \|_q \| F \|_{s,p}. \]
Therefore, by Theorem 4.3
\[
\left| \int_K f_n(h)\varphi(h)dh \right| \leq |c_s|^{-1}\|\varphi\|_q\|F\|_{s,p},
\]
and by taking the supremum over \( \varphi \in \mathcal{C}(S) \) with \( \|\varphi\|_q = 1 \), we get
\[
\|f_n\|_p \leq |c_s|^{-1}\|F\|_{s,p}.
\]
Now, for each \( \varphi \in L^q(S) \), define the functional
\[
T_n(\varphi) = \int f_n(h)\varphi(h)dk.
\]
Then it is obvious by (4.3) that
\[
|T_n(\varphi)| \leq |c_s|^{-1}\|\varphi\|_q\|F\|_{s,p}
\]
hence, \( T_n \) is uniformly bounded operator in \( L^q(S) \) with \( \sup_n\|T_n\| \leq |c_s|^{-1}\|F\|_{s,p} \). Thanks to Banach-Alaouglu-Bourbaki’s theorem, there exists a subsequence of bounded operators \( (T_{n_j})_j \) which converges as \( n_j \to +\infty \) to a bounded operator \( T \) in \( L^q(S) \), under the *-weak topology, with \( \|T\| \leq |c_s|^{-1}\|F\|_{s,p} \). Then, by the Riesz representation theorem, there exists a unique function \( f \in L^p(S) \) such that
\[
T(\varphi) = \int_K f(h)\varphi(h)dh, \quad \forall \varphi \in L^q(S)
\]
with
\[
\|f\|_p \leq \|T_n\| \leq |c_s|^{-1}\|F\|_{s,p}.
\]
Now, observe that
\[
F_{n_j}(g) = T_{n_j}(e^{-s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(g^{-1}k)}),
\]
thus, by taking the limit as \( n \to +\infty \) we get
\[
F(g) = T(e^{-s\rho_0+\rho_1,H_1(g^{-1}k)}) = \mathcal{P}_sf(g)
\]
with \( |c_s|\|f\|_p \leq \|F\|_{s,p} \), by (17), and this finishes the proof of the theorem. \( \square \)

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