

*HARDY'S THEOREM FOR THE HELGASON  
FOURIER TRANSFORM ON NONCOMPACT  
RANK ONE SYMMETRIC SPACES*

BY

S. THANGAVELU (Bangalore)

**Abstract.** Let  $G$  be a semisimple Lie group with Iwasawa decomposition  $G = KAN$ . Let  $X = G/K$  be the associated symmetric space and assume that  $X$  is of rank one. Let  $M$  be the centraliser of  $A$  in  $K$  and consider an orthonormal basis  $\{Y_{\delta,j} : \delta \in \widehat{K}_0, 1 \leq j \leq d_\delta\}$  of  $L^2(K/M)$  consisting of  $K$ -finite functions of type  $\delta$  on  $K/M$ . For a function  $f$  on  $X$  let  $\tilde{f}(\lambda, b)$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , be the Helgason Fourier transform. Let  $h_t$  be the heat kernel associated to the Laplace–Beltrami operator and let  $Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)$  be the Kostant polynomials. We establish the following version of Hardy's theorem for the Helgason Fourier transform: Let  $f$  be a function on  $G/K$  which satisfies  $|f(ka_r)| \leq Ch_t(r)$ . Further assume that for every  $\delta$  and  $j$  the functions

$$F_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)^{-1} \int_{K/M} \tilde{f}(\lambda, b) Y_{\delta,j}(b) db$$

satisfy the estimates  $|F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)| \leq C_{\delta,j} e^{-t\lambda^2}$  for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f$  is a constant multiple of the heat kernel  $h_t$ .

**1. Introduction.** A classical theorem of Hardy on Fourier transform pairs says that if a nontrivial function  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfies the estimates  $|f(x)| \leq Ce^{-a|x|^2}$  and  $|\widehat{f}(\xi)| \leq Ce^{-b|\xi|^2}$  for some constants  $a, b \geq 0$  then  $ab \leq 1/4$ , and if  $ab = 1/4$  then  $f$  is essentially the Gaussian  $e^{-a|x|^2}$ . This can be viewed as a theorem on entire functions of order 2 on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . In fact, if  $F(\zeta)$  is an entire function of order 2 and type  $b$  on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  which decays like  $e^{-b|\xi|^2}$  when restricted to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $F$  is a constant multiple of the Gaussian  $e^{-b|\xi|^2}$ . The best possible result of this kind has been proved in [17].

Let us compare this with the classical Paley–Wiener theorem which characterises compactly supported smooth functions in terms of their Fourier transforms. This can be viewed as a theorem on entire functions of exponential type which have polynomial decay when restricted to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . More

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precisely, if  $F(\zeta)$  is entire and satisfies  $|F(\zeta)| \leq C_N(1 + |\zeta|)^{-N} e^{R|\text{Im } \zeta|}$  for all  $N$  then  $F(\xi) = \widehat{f}(\xi)$  for a smooth  $f$  supported in  $|x| \leq R$ . To motivate what we intend to do let us consider the following refinement of the Paley–Wiener theorem proved by Helgason [10].

We can view  $\mathbb{R}^n$  as the homogeneous space  $M(n)/O(n)$  where  $M(n)$  is the group of all isometries of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and  $O(n)$  is the orthogonal group. In this setup it is better to view the Fourier transform in polar coordinates. Writing  $\xi = \lambda w$ ,  $\lambda = |\xi|$  and  $w \in S^{n-1}$ , we have

$$(1.1) \quad \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\lambda x \cdot w} f(x) dx.$$

Note that  $e^{-i\lambda x \cdot w}$  are all eigenfunctions of the Laplacian  $\Delta$  which generates the class of all  $M(n)$ -invariant differential operators on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Helgason proved a Paley–Wiener theorem relating support and smoothness properties of  $f$  in terms of properties of  $\widehat{f}(\lambda, w)$ .

For each nonnegative integer  $m$  let  $\mathcal{H}_m$  be the space of all spherical harmonics of degree  $m$ . If  $\widehat{f}(\lambda, w)$  is an entire function of exponential type satisfying estimates uniformly in  $w$  and if for each  $S_m \in \mathcal{H}_m$  the function

$$(1.2) \quad \lambda \mapsto \lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_m(w) dw$$

is even and holomorphic, then  $f$  is a compactly supported smooth function. In this article we are interested in a version of Hardy’s theorem along these lines which serves as a motivation for a similar result on symmetric spaces.

Let  $G/K$  be a rank one symmetric space of noncompact type. The Helgason Fourier transform  $\widetilde{f}(\lambda, b)$  of a function  $f$  on  $G/K$  is given by

$$(1.3) \quad \widetilde{f}(\lambda, b) = \int_{G/K} f(x) e^{(-i\lambda + \varrho)A(x,b)} dx$$

where  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $b \in K/M$  (see Section 3). Helgason [10] characterised compactly supported smooth functions on  $G/K$  in terms of holomorphic properties of the functions  $\widetilde{f}(\lambda, b)$  and

$$(1.4) \quad \lambda \mapsto \int_{K/M} \widetilde{f}(\lambda, b) e^{(i\lambda + \varrho)A(x,b)} db.$$

There is a refinement of this theorem, due to Strichartz [24] and Bray [4], in terms of the spectral projections  $f * \Phi_\lambda$  where  $\Phi_\lambda$  are spherical functions on  $G/K$ .

For each irreducible unitary representation  $\delta$  of  $K$  with a unique  $M$ -fixed vector, there are functions  $Y_\delta$  on  $K/M$  which play the role of spherical

harmonics. The holomorphic properties of the functions

$$\lambda \mapsto (Q_\delta(\varrho + i\lambda)Q_\delta(\varrho - i\lambda))^{-1} \int_K f * \Phi_\lambda(ka_r)Y_\delta(k) dk$$

are used in [4] to characterise compactly supported functions  $f$  on  $G/K$ . In this article we establish a version of Hardy's theorem in terms of exponential decay and growth of the functions

$$\lambda \mapsto Q_\delta(\varrho + i\lambda)^{-1} \int_{K/M} \tilde{f}(\lambda, b)Y_\delta(b) db.$$

See Theorem 5.1 for the precise statement.

We conclude this introduction with the following remarks and references on Hardy's theorem. In 1933, Hardy [8] proved his theorem for the Fourier transform on the real line. The most optimal result for the Euclidean Fourier transform was proved in [17] by Pfannschmidt. Analogues of Hardy's theorem for Fourier transforms on Lie groups have attracted considerable attention in recent years. It all started with the work of Sitaram and Sundari [21] who established a Hardy theorem for certain semisimple Lie groups. For other versions of this theorem for semisimple Lie groups see Cowling *et al.* [5] and Sengupta [20]. Analogues of Hardy's theorem for the Heisenberg group have been obtained in Sitaram *et al.* [22] and Thangavelu [25]–[27]. Step two nilpotent Lie groups were considered by Bagchi and Ray [3], Astengo *et al.* [2], and general nilpotent Lie groups by Kaniuth and Kumar [13]. General symmetric spaces of noncompact type were considered by Narayanan and Ray [16] and solvable extensions of H-type groups were treated in [2]. See also the works of Sarkar [18] and [19] for semisimple groups. For the latest works of the author on Hardy's theorem and related results we refer to [28] and [29].

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**2. The Euclidean case.** Consider the Euclidean Fourier transform written in polar coordinates as

$$(2.1) \quad \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\lambda x \cdot w} f(x) dx$$

where  $w \in S^{n-1}$  and  $\lambda \geq 0$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}_m$  be the space of spherical harmonics of degree  $m$  on  $S^{n-1}$ . Let

$$p_t(x) = (4\pi t)^{-n/2} e^{-|x|^2/(4t)}$$

be the heat kernel associated to the Laplacian on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The following is our version of Hardy’s theorem for the Euclidean Fourier transform written in the above form. It should be compared with the Paley–Wiener theorem proved in Helgason [9].

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $f$  be a measurable function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  which satisfies the estimate  $|f(x)| \leq Cp_s(x)$ ,  $s > 0$ . For each nonnegative integer  $m$  and  $S_m \in \mathcal{H}_m$  assume that*

$$\left| \lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_m(w) dw \right| \leq C_m e^{-t\lambda^2}$$

for all  $\lambda > 0$  for some constants  $C_m \geq 0$  and  $t > 0$ . Then

- (i)  $f = 0$  when  $s < t$ ;
- (ii)  $f$  is a constant multiple of  $p_t$  when  $s = t$ ;
- (iii) there are infinitely many linearly independent functions satisfying the above two conditions when  $s > t$ .

*Proof.* Consider the integral

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_m(w) dw = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \int_{S^{n-1}} e^{i\lambda x \cdot w} S_m(w) dw \right) f(x) dx.$$

Writing  $x = rx'$ ,  $x' \in S^{n-1}$ , and using the identity (see Helgason [9])

$$(2.2) \quad \int_{S^{n-1}} e^{i\lambda r x' \cdot w} S_m(w) dw = C_{n,m} \frac{J_{n/2+m-1}(\lambda r)}{(\lambda r)^{n/2-1}} S_m(x')$$

we get

$$\int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_m(w) dw = C_{n,m} \int_0^\infty f_m(r) \frac{J_{n/2+m-1}(\lambda r)}{(\lambda r)^{n/2+m-1}} (\lambda r)^m r^{n-1} dr,$$

where  $f_m(r)$  is defined by

$$(2.3) \quad f_m(r) = \int_{S^{n-1}} f(rx') S_m(x') dx'$$

and  $J_\alpha$  stands for the Bessel function of order  $\alpha$ .

From the above equation it follows that the function

$$F_m(\lambda) = \lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_m(w) dw$$

is an even function of  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  and satisfies the estimate

$$|F_m(\lambda)| \leq C_m e^{-t\lambda^2}$$

for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Using the formula for the Fourier transform of a radial function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  we infer that

$$(2.4) \quad F_m(\lambda) = C \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+2m}} f_m(|x|)|x|^{-m} e^{-i\lambda x \cdot w} dx$$

for any  $w \in S^{n+2m-1}$ . Under the hypothesis on  $f$ , we see that  $|f_m(|x|)| \leq C_m p_s(x)$  and hence  $F_m$  can be extended to the complex plane as an entire function of  $\lambda$ . It is easy to see that for  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  we have

$$|F_m(\lambda)| \leq C_m(1 + |\lambda|)^{n+m-1} e^{s|\text{Im } \lambda|^2},$$

which follows from the estimate  $|p_s(x)| \leq C e^{-|x|^2/(4s)}$ .

We now appeal to the following complex-analytic lemma, a proof of which can be found in [16], [18].

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $f$  be an entire function of one complex variable which satisfies the following estimates for some  $a > 0$ :*

- (i)  $|f(z)| \leq C(1 + |z|)^m e^{a|\text{Im } z|^2}$  for  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ ;
- (ii)  $|f(x)| \leq C(1 + |x|)^m e^{-ax^2}$  for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then  $f(z) = P(z)e^{-az^2}$  where  $P$  is a polynomial of degree  $\leq m$ .

Applying this lemma to  $F_m(\lambda)$  we conclude that  $F_m(\lambda) = C_m e^{-t\lambda^2}$  in the case when  $s \leq t$ . Since  $F_m(\lambda)$  is the Fourier transform of  $f_m(|x|)|x|^{-m}$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+2m}$  we see that

$$f_m(|x|) = C_m |x|^m p_t(x).$$

If  $s < t$ , this is not compatible with the estimate  $|f_m(|x|)| \leq C p_s(x)$  unless of course  $C_m = 0$  for all  $m$ . Thus we get  $f = 0$  when  $s < t$ . Again when  $s = t$  we get  $f_m = 0$  for all  $m > 0$  and therefore  $f(x) = f_0(|x|) = C_0 p_t(x)$ .

Let  $P$  be a solid harmonic of degree  $k \geq 1$ . When  $s > t$  choose  $\delta > 0$  such that  $s > (1 + \delta)t$  and consider

$$(2.5) \quad h_{k,\delta}(x) = P(x)p_{(1+\delta)^{-1}s}(x).$$

Then it is clear that

$$|h_{k,\delta}(x)| \leq C p_s(x).$$

We also have  $\widehat{h}_{k,\delta}(\lambda, w) = CP(\lambda w)e^{-s\lambda^2/(1+\delta)}$ . It follows that for any  $S \in \mathcal{H}_m$ ,

$$\left| \lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{h}_{k,\delta}(\lambda, w) S(w) dw \right| \leq C e^{-t\lambda^2}$$

since  $s > (1 + \delta)t$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

We conclude this section with the following observation. Let  $L_k^\alpha(t)$  be the Laguerre polynomials of type  $\alpha > -1$  and consider the conditions

$$(2.6) \quad \left| \lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_{m_j}(w) dw \right| \leq C_{m_j} |L_k^{n/2+m-1}(\lambda^2)| e^{-\lambda^2/2}$$

where  $\{S_{m_j} : j = 1, \dots, d_m\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{H}_m$ . Suppose  $f$  satisfies the estimate

$$|f(x)| \leq C(1 + |x|^2)^N e^{-|x|^2/2}$$

where  $N$  is a nonnegative integer. Then by appealing to the general form of the complex-analytic Lemma 2.2 we can conclude that

$$\lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_{m_j}(w) dw = P_{m_j}(\lambda) e^{-\lambda^2/2}$$

where  $P_{m_j}(\lambda)$  is a polynomial satisfying

$$|P_{m_j}(\lambda)| \leq C_{m_j} |L_k^{n/2+m-1}(\lambda^2)|.$$

As all the zeros of the Laguerre polynomial  $L_k^\alpha(t)$  are real we conclude that

$$P_{m_j}(\lambda) = C_{m_j} L_k^{n/2+m-1}(\lambda^2).$$

If we let  $f_{m_j}(|x|) = \int_{S^{n-1}} f(|x|w) S_{m_j}(w) dw$  then we conclude that the Fourier transform of  $f_{m_j}(|x|)|x|^{-m}$  considered as a function on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+2m}$  is given by the Laguerre function. Thus we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n+2m}} f_{m_j}(|x|) |x|^{-m} e^{-i\lambda x \cdot w} dx = C_{m_j} L_k^{n/2+m-1}(\lambda^2) e^{-\lambda^2/2}.$$

Since Laguerre functions  $L_k^\alpha(t^2)e^{-t^2/2}$  are eigenfunctions of the Hankel transform we get

$$f_{m_j}(|x|) = C_{m_j} |x|^m L_k^{n/2+m-1}(|x|^2) e^{-|x|^2/2}.$$

The estimate on  $f(x)$  implies that  $f_{m_j}(|x|) = 0$  for  $m > 2(N - k)$ . In conclusion

$$f(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{2(N-k)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{d_m} C_{m_j} S_{m_j}(x') |x|^m \right) L_k^{n/2+m-1}(|x|^2) e^{-|x|^2/2}.$$

Thus we have

**THEOREM 2.3.** *Suppose  $f$  satisfies  $|f(x)| \leq C(1 + |x|^2)^{N+k} e^{-|x|^2/2}$  for some nonnegative integers  $N$  and  $k$ , and for each  $S_m \in \mathcal{H}_m$ ,*

$$\left| \lambda^{-m} \int_{S^{n-1}} \widehat{f}(\lambda, w) S_m(w) dw \right| \leq C_m |L_k^{n/2+m-1}(\lambda^2)| e^{-\lambda^2/2}.$$

Then

$$f(x) = \left( \sum_{m=0}^{2N} P_m(x) L_k^{n/2+m-1}(|x|^2) \right) e^{-|x|^2/2}$$

where  $P_m$  are homogeneous harmonic polynomials of degree  $m$ .

**3. Preliminaries on symmetric spaces.** In this section we collect relevant material from the theory of symmetric spaces. General references for this section are the monographs [9] and [10] of Helgason.

Let  $X = G/K$  be a noncompact, rank one symmetric space. The semi-simple Lie group  $G$  is assumed to be connected with finite centre. Let  $G = NAK$  be the Iwasawa decomposition with  $N$  nilpotent,  $K$  maximal compact and  $A$  one-dimensional. Every  $g \in G$  has the unique decomposition  $g = n(g) \exp A(g)k(g)$  where  $A(g)$  belongs to the Lie algebra of  $A$ . Let  $M$  be the centraliser of  $A$  in  $K$ . Then the function  $A(gK, kM) = A(k^{-1}g)$  is right  $K$ -invariant in  $g$  and right  $M$ -invariant in  $K$ . We use the symbols  $x$  and  $b$  to denote elements of  $X$  and  $K/M$  respectively.

In the rank one case there are two roots, denoted by  $\gamma$  and  $2\gamma$ , and we define  $\varrho = \frac{1}{2}(m_\gamma + 2m_{2\gamma})$  where  $m_\gamma$  and  $m_{2\gamma}$  are the multiplicities of  $\gamma$  and  $2\gamma$ . Then for each  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ , the function  $x \mapsto e^{(i\lambda+\varrho)A(x,b)}$  is a joint eigenfunction of all invariant differential operators on  $X$ . Using these functions we define the *Helgason Fourier transform* of a function by

$$(3.1) \quad \tilde{f}(\lambda, b) = \int_X f(x) e^{(-i\lambda+\varrho)A(x,b)} dx$$

where  $dx$  is the measure induced from the Haar measure  $dg$  on  $G$  via

$$\int_G f(gK) dg = \int_X f(x) dx.$$

For the Helgason Fourier transform we have inversion and Plancherel theorems. For instance, the inversion formula for compactly supported smooth  $f$  says that

$$f(x) = C \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{K/M} \tilde{f}(\lambda, b) e^{(i\lambda+\varrho)A(x,b)} |c(\lambda)|^{-2} d\lambda db.$$

Here  $d\lambda$  is the usual Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $db$  is the normalised measure on  $K/M$  and  $c(\lambda)$  is the Harish-Chandra  $c$ -function.

In the spectral Paley–Wiener theorem proved in [4] a key role is played by certain irreducible unitary representations of  $K$  with  $M$ -fixed vectors. Let  $\widehat{K}_0 \subset \widehat{K}$  stand for the set of all irreducible unitary representations of  $K$  with  $M$ -fixed vectors. Let  $V_\delta$ ,  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$ , be the finite-dimensional vector space on which  $\delta$  is realised. Then it is known (see Kostant [15]) that  $V_\delta$  contains

a unique normalised  $M$ -fixed vector. Let  $\{v_1, \dots, v_{d_\delta}\}$  be an orthonormal basis for  $V_\delta$  with  $v_1$  as the  $M$ -fixed vector. Define the functions

$$Y_{\delta,j}(kM) = (v_j, \delta(k)v_1)$$

on  $K/M$  for  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  and  $1 \leq j \leq d_\delta$ . We have the following result (see Helgason [10]).

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *The system  $\{Y_{\delta,j} : 1 \leq j \leq d_\delta, \delta \in \widehat{K}_0\}$  is an orthonormal basis for  $L^2(K/M)$ .*

If we make use of the identification of  $K/M$  with the unit sphere in the Lie algebra corresponding to  $AN$ , we can get an explicit realisation of  $\widehat{K}_0$ . With this identification  $L^2(K/M)$  has the spherical harmonic decomposition and so the functions  $Y_{\delta,j}$  can be identified with spherical harmonics. The spherical harmonic decomposition leads to a parametrisation of  $\widehat{K}_0$  by a pair  $(p, q)$  of integers. This was first proved by Kostant [15]; see also the works of Johnson [11] and Johnson and Wallach [12]. In the rank one case  $p$  and  $q$  are integers,  $p \geq 0$  and  $p \pm q$  is always even and nonnegative (see Bray [4]).

For each  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  we can define the functions

$$(3.2) \quad \Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(x) = \int_K e^{(i\lambda+\varrho)A(x,kM)} Y_{\delta,1}(kM) dk.$$

These are called *spherical functions of type  $\delta$* . Note that  $\Phi_{\lambda,\delta}$  are  $K$ -biinvariant and they are eigenfunctions of the Laplace–Beltrami operator  $\mathcal{L}$  with eigenvalue  $-(\lambda^2 + \varrho^2)$ . When  $\delta$  is the unit representation,  $\Phi_{\lambda,\delta}$  is denoted by  $\Phi_\lambda$  and is simply called the *spherical function*. This is given by

$$(3.3) \quad \Phi_\lambda(x) = \int_K e^{(i\lambda+\varrho)A(x,kM)} dk.$$

The spherical functions are expressible in terms of Jacobi functions (see Helgason [10]). In fact, let  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}(m_\gamma + m_{2\gamma} - 1)$  and  $\beta = \frac{1}{2}(m_{2\gamma} - 1)$ . Then for each  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  there is a pair  $(p, q)$  of integers such that

$$(3.4) \quad \Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(x) = Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)(\alpha + 1)_p^{-1} (\text{sh } r)^p (\text{ch } r)^q \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha+p, \beta+q)}(r),$$

where  $\varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha+p, \beta+q)}$  are the Jacobi functions with parameters  $(\alpha + p, \beta + q)$ ,  $(z)_m = \Gamma(z + m)/\Gamma(z)$  and  $Q_\delta$  are the polynomials

$$(3.5) \quad Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho) = \binom{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha + \beta + 1 + i\lambda)}{(p+q)/2} \binom{\frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \beta + 1 + i\lambda)}{(p-q)/2}$$

(called the *Kostant polynomials*). In the above formula  $r = \log a$  if  $x = gK$  and  $g = kak'$  is the polar decomposition of  $g$ . By abuse of notation we will denote this correspondence by writing  $x = ka_r$ .



We conclude this section by recalling the following formula which is crucial for us. For each  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  we have

$$(3.6) \quad \int_K e^{(i\lambda+\varrho)A(x,k'M)} Y_{\delta,j}(k'M) dk' = Y_{\delta,j}(kM)\Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(a_r)$$

if  $x = ka_r$ . A proof can be found in Helgason [10].

**4. Results from Jacobi analysis.** In this section we will collect some information about Jacobi functions which are needed in the proof of Hardy's theorem for symmetric spaces. General reference for this section is Koornwinder [14]. See also Anker *et al.* [1].

When  $f$  is a  $K$ -invariant function on  $X$  the Helgason Fourier transform  $\tilde{f}(\lambda, b)$  is independent of  $b$  and is given by

$$(4.1) \quad \tilde{f}(\lambda) = \int_X f(x)\Phi_\lambda(x) dx.$$

Writing this in the polar form we get

$$(4.2) \quad \tilde{f}(\lambda) = \int_0^\infty f(a_r)\varphi_\lambda(r)\Delta(r) dr,$$

where  $\Delta(r) = \Delta_{\alpha,\beta}(r) = (2 \operatorname{sh} r)^{2\alpha+1}(2 \operatorname{ch} r)^{2\beta+1}$  and  $\varphi_\lambda(r) = \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha,\beta)}(r)$  is the Jacobi function of type  $(\alpha, \beta)$ . Thus results about the spherical Fourier transforms of  $K$ -biinvariant functions on  $G$  follow from the general theory of Jacobi transform.

The Jacobi functions  $\varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha,\beta)}(r)$  are defined by hypergeometric functions for all  $\alpha, \beta, \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\alpha$  not a negative integer. These functions are eigenfunctions of the Jacobi operator

$$\mathcal{L}_{\alpha,\beta} = \frac{d^2}{dr^2} + ((2\alpha + 1) \operatorname{coth} r + (2\beta + 1) + \operatorname{th} r) \frac{d}{dr}$$

with eigenvalues  $-(\lambda^2 + \varrho^2)$  where  $\varrho = \alpha + \beta + 1$ . The Jacobi transform of a suitable function  $f$  on  $\mathbb{R}^+$  is given by

$$(4.3) \quad \tilde{f}(\lambda) = \int_0^\infty f(r)\varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha,\beta)}(r)\Delta_{\alpha,\beta}(r) dr.$$

For this transform we have inversion, Plancherel and Paley–Wiener theorems. For instance we have

**THEOREM 4.1.** *Let  $\alpha, \beta$  be real,  $\alpha > -1$  and  $|\beta| \leq \alpha + 1$ . For  $f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  which is even we have*

$$f(r) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \tilde{f}(\lambda)\varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha,\beta)}(r)|c_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda)|^{-2} d\lambda$$

where  $c_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda)$  is the Harish-Chandra  $c$ -function

$$c_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda) = \frac{2^{e-i\lambda}\Gamma(\alpha+1)\Gamma(i\lambda)}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(i\lambda+\varrho))\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}(i\lambda+\alpha-\beta+1))}.$$

We need asymptotic properties of the Jacobi functions. If  $\text{Im } \lambda < 0$ , then

$$(4.4) \quad \varphi_{\lambda}^{(\alpha,\beta)}(r) = c_{\alpha,\beta}(\lambda)e^{(i\lambda-\varrho)r}(1+O(1))$$

as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ . A more precise expansion of  $\varphi_{\lambda}^{(\alpha,\beta)}$  in terms of Bessel functions can be found in Stanton and Tomas [23]. We will make use of the estimate

$$(4.5) \quad |\varphi_{\lambda}^{(\alpha,\beta)}(r)| \leq C(1+r)e^{r(|\text{Im } \lambda|-\varrho)}$$

valid for all  $r \geq 0$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ . A proof of this estimate can be found in Flensted-Jensen [7].

The Jacobi transform and the Euclidean Fourier transform are related via the Abel transform. This transform is defined as the composition of two Weyl fractional integral operators. For  $\text{Re } \mu > 0, \tau > 0$  define

$$(4.6) \quad W_{\mu}^{\tau}f(r) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\mu)} \int_r^{\infty} f(s)(\text{ch } \tau s - \text{ch } \tau r)^{\mu-1} d(\text{ch } \tau s).$$

The Abel transform  $Af$  of a function  $f$  is then given by

$$(4.7) \quad Af(r) = 2^{3\alpha+1/2}\pi^{-1/2}\Gamma(\alpha+1)W_{\alpha-\beta}^1W_{\beta+1/2}^2f(r).$$

The Jacobi transform and the Abel transform are related by

$$(4.8) \quad \tilde{f}(\lambda) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{i\lambda r} Af(r) dr.$$

Therefore, if we can invert  $A$  then an inversion formula for the Jacobi transform can be obtained.

In order to invert the Abel transform we can make use of the fact that  $\{W_{\mu}^{\tau} : \mu \in \mathbb{C}\}$  is a one-parameter group of transformations with

$$W_{-1}^{\tau}f(r) = -\frac{d}{d(\text{ch } \tau r)}f(r).$$

Thus  $A^{-1}$  is given by

$$A^{-1}f(r) = \pi^{1/2}2^{-3\alpha-1/2}\Gamma(\alpha+1)^{-1}W_{-\beta-1/2}^2W_{\beta-\alpha}^1f(r).$$

More explicitly, letting  $D_{\tau}$  stand for the differential operator  $-d/d(\text{ch } \tau r)$ , we have

$$(4.9) \quad A^{-1}f(r) = c(\alpha,\beta)D_2^{\beta+1/2}D_1^{\alpha-\beta}f(r)$$

when  $\beta + 1/2$  and  $\alpha - \beta$  are integers. If  $\alpha - \beta$  is an integer and  $2\beta + 1$  is an odd integer, then

$$(4.10) \quad A^{-1}f(r) = c'(\alpha, \beta) \int_r^\infty D_2^{\beta+1} D_1^{\alpha-\beta} f(s) \frac{d(\operatorname{ch} s)}{\sqrt{\operatorname{ch} 2s - \operatorname{ch} 2r}}.$$

We obtain  $f$  by applying  $A^{-1}$  to the Euclidean inverse Fourier transform of  $\tilde{f}(\lambda)$ .

Let  $h_t(r) = h_t^{(\alpha, \beta)}(r)$ ,  $t > 0$ ,  $r \geq 0$ , be the heat kernel associated with the operator  $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha, \beta}$ . Since  $\varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha, \beta)}$  are eigenfunctions of the operator  $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha, \beta}$ , the heat kernel is defined by the condition

$$(4.11) \quad \int_0^\infty h_t(r) \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha, \beta)}(r) \Delta_{\alpha, \beta}(r) dr = e^{-(\lambda^2 + \varrho^2)t}.$$

By the inversion formula,

$$(4.12) \quad h_t(r) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty e^{-(\lambda^2 + \varrho^2)t} \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha, \beta)}(r) |c_{\alpha, \beta}(\lambda)|^{-2} d\lambda.$$

In terms of the Abel transform

$$(4.13) \quad Ah_t(r) = (4\pi t)^{-1/2} e^{-\varrho^2 t} e^{-r^2/(4t)}.$$

We require the following sharp estimate on the heat kernel proved in Anker *et al.* [1].

**THEOREM 4.2.** *Let  $\alpha \geq \beta$  be integers,  $2\beta + 1 \geq 0$ . Let  $h_t$ ,  $t > 0$ , be the heat kernel (4.12) associated to the operator  $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha, \beta}$ . Then there are constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  such that*

$$C_1 t^{-3/2} e^{-\varrho^2 t} H_t(r) \leq h_t(r) \leq C_2 t^{-3/2} e^{-\varrho^2 t} H_t(r)$$

where  $H_t(r) = H_t^{(\alpha, \beta)}(r)$  is given by

$$H_t(r) = (1+r)(1+(1+r)/t)^{\alpha-1/2} e^{-\varrho r} e^{-r^2/(4t)}, \quad \varrho = \alpha + \beta + 1.$$

In [1] the authors estimated the heat kernel associated to the Laplace–Beltrami operator on an  $NA$  group. There the parameters are given by  $\alpha = (m+k-1)/2$  and  $\beta = (k-1)/2$  where  $m$  is an even integer. The same proof applies to our kernels  $h_t^{(\alpha, \beta)}$  under the conditions on  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  stated in the theorem. This covers all rank one symmetric spaces except the real hyperbolic case in which  $\alpha = (n-2)/2$  and  $\beta = -1/2$ . For this case heat kernel estimates of the above type are already known (see for example Davies and Mandouvalos [6]).

**5. Hardy’s theorem.** We are now ready to state and prove our version of Hardy’s theorem for the Helgason Fourier transform on rank one symmet-

ric spaces. Let  $h_t$  be the heat kernel associated with the Laplace–Beltrami operator on  $G/K$ .

**THEOREM 5.1.** *Let  $f$  be a measurable function on  $G/K$  which satisfies the following two conditions for some  $s, t > 0$ :*

- (i)  $|f(ka_r)| \leq Ch_s(r)$  for all  $ka_r \in G/K$ ;
- (ii) for each  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  and  $1 \leq j \leq d_\delta$  the function

$$F_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)^{-1} \int_{K/M} \widetilde{f}(\lambda, kM) Y_{\delta,j}(kM) dk$$

satisfies the estimate  $|F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)| \leq C_{\delta,j} e^{-t\lambda^2}$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Then

- (a)  $f = 0$  whenever  $s < t$ ;
- (b)  $f(x) = ch_t(x)$  when  $s = t$ ;
- (c) there are infinitely many linearly independent functions satisfying (i) and (ii) when  $s > t$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\widetilde{F}_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = \int_{K/M} \widetilde{f}(k, b) Y_{\delta,j}(b) db$ . Recalling the definition of  $\widetilde{f}(\lambda, b)$  we have

$$\widetilde{F}_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = \int_{G/K} \int_{K/M} f(x) e^{(-i\lambda + \varrho)A(x,b)} Y_{\delta,j}(b) db dx.$$

Writing  $x = ka_r$  and using the formula (3.6) we have

$$\widetilde{F}_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = \int_{G/K} f(x) Y_{\delta,j}(kM) \Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(a_r) dx.$$

Integrating in polar coordinates we get the formula

$$(5.1) \quad \widetilde{F}_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = \int_0^\infty f_{\delta,j}(r) \Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(a_r) \Delta_{\alpha,\beta}(r) dr,$$

where  $\alpha, \beta$  are the parameters associated to the group  $G$  and

$$(5.2) \quad f_{\delta,j}(r) = \int_K f(ka_r) Y_{\delta,j}(kM) dk.$$

Recall that for each  $\delta$  there are integers  $p$  and  $q$  such that

$$\Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(a_r) = Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)(\alpha + 1)_p^{-1} (\text{sh } r)^p (\text{ch } r)^q \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha+p, \beta+q)}(r).$$

In view of this we have

$$(5.3) \quad F_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = \frac{4^{p+q}}{(\alpha + 1)_p} \int_0^\infty \widetilde{f}_{\delta,j}(r) \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha+p, \beta+q)}(r) \Delta_{\alpha+p, \beta+q}(r) dr$$

where we have written

$$(5.4) \quad \tilde{f}_{\delta,j}(r) = f_{\delta,j}(r)(\operatorname{sh} r)^{-p}(\operatorname{ch} r)^{-q}.$$

Now the condition  $|f(ka_r)| \leq Ch_s(r)$  leads to the estimate

$$(5.5) \quad |f_{\delta,j}(r)| \leq C_1(\delta, j)(1+r)(1+(1+r)/s)^{\alpha-1/2}e^{-\varrho r}e^{-r^2/(4s)}.$$

If we use this estimate in the integral defining  $F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)$  then in view of the estimate (4.5) for the Jacobi functions we get

$$|F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)| \leq C_2(\delta, j) \int_0^\infty (1+r)^2(1+(1+r)/s)^{\alpha-1/2}e^{-r^2/(4s)+r|\operatorname{Im} \lambda|} dr.$$

From this it is clear that  $F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)$  extends to an entire function of order 2 which satisfies

$$(5.6) \quad |F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)| \leq C_3(\delta, j)(1+|\lambda|)^{\alpha+3/2}e^{s|\operatorname{Im} \lambda|^2}$$

for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ .

With this estimate and hypothesis (ii) on  $F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)$  we can appeal to the complex-analytic lemma to conclude that if  $s \leq t$ , then

$$F_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = C_4(\delta, j)e^{-t\lambda^2}.$$

But  $F_{\delta,j}(\lambda)$  is the Jacobi transform of type  $(\alpha + p, \beta + q)$  of the function  $\tilde{f}_{\delta,j}(r)$  and so we get, by the inversion formula for the Jacobi transform,

$$(5.7) \quad \tilde{f}_{\delta,j}(r) = C_5(\delta, j) \int_0^\infty e^{-t\lambda^2} \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha+p, \beta+q)}(r) |c_{\alpha+p, \beta+q}(\lambda)|^{-2} d\lambda.$$

If  $h_t^\delta$  is the heat kernel associated to  $\mathcal{L}_{\alpha+p, \beta+q}$  then we have proved

$$(5.8) \quad f_{\delta,j}(r) = C_6(\delta, j)e^{(\varrho+p+q)^2t}(\operatorname{sh} r)^p(\operatorname{ch} r)^qh_t^\delta(r).$$

Since  $f_{\delta,j}$  satisfies the estimate (5.5) we conclude that

$$(\operatorname{sh} r)^p(\operatorname{ch} r)^qh_t^\delta(r) \leq C_7(\delta, j)(1+(1+r)/s)^{\alpha-1/2}(1+r)e^{-\varrho r}e^{-r^2/(4s)}.$$

In view of the estimates given in Theorem 4.2 this is not possible for  $s < t$  unless  $C_7(\delta, j) = 0$ . As this is true for all  $j$  and  $\delta$ , we conclude that  $f = 0$ .

When  $s = t$ , again by Theorem 4.2 the above estimate is possible only when  $p = q = 0$ . Therefore,  $f_{\delta,j} = 0$  for all  $\delta$  except the unit representation. Hence  $f$  has to be a constant multiple of  $h_t$ .

In the case of the group  $G = \operatorname{SU}(1, n)$ , the integer  $q$  parametrising  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  can be negative. Since  $\beta = 0$  in this case we have

$$\Phi_{\lambda, \delta}(r) = Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)(\alpha + 1)_p^{-1}(\operatorname{sh} r)^p(\operatorname{ch} r)^q\varphi_\lambda^{(n-1+p, q)}(r).$$

If  $q$  is negative we can use the relation

$$\varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha, \beta)}(r) = (2 \operatorname{ch} r)^{-2\beta} \varphi_\lambda^{(\alpha, -\beta)}(r)$$

to get the formula

$$\Phi_{\lambda,\delta}(r) = 2^{-2q} Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)(\alpha + 1)_p^{-1} (\text{sh } r)^p (\text{ch } r)^{-q} \varphi_\lambda^{(n-1+p,-q)}(r)$$

and therefore, there is no problem in appealing to Theorem 4.2 for estimating the kernel  $h_t^\delta$ .

Given  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0$  which is not the unit representation consider

$$(5.9) \quad f(ka_r) = Y_{\delta,1}(k) h_t^\delta(r) (\text{sh } r)^p (\text{ch } r)^q.$$

Then for any  $\delta'$  not equivalent to  $\delta$ ,  $F_{\delta',j}(\lambda) = 0$  and  $F_{\delta,j}(\lambda) = 0$  for any  $j > 1$ . Since  $F_{\delta,1}(\lambda) = C e^{-t\lambda^2}$  condition (ii) of the theorem is satisfied for these functions. As in the Euclidean case, given  $s > t$  choose  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that  $s > (1 + \varepsilon)t$  and let

$$(5.10) \quad f_{p,q}(ka_r) = Y_{\delta,1}(k) h_{s/1+\varepsilon}^\delta(r) (\text{sh } r)^p (\text{ch } r)^q.$$

Then we see that the estimate

$$|f_{p,q}(ka_r)| \leq C h_s(r)$$

holds and as  $s > (1 + \varepsilon)t$  the second condition of the theorem is also satisfied for these functions. This proves (c) of the conclusion.

**COROLLARY 5.2.** *In the above theorem replace condition (i) by the estimate*

$$|f(ka_r)| \leq C(1 + r)^N h_t(r)$$

for some nonnegative integer  $N$ . Then  $f(ka_r)$  is a finite linear combination of terms of the form  $Y_{\delta,j}(k) (\text{sh } r)^p (\text{ch } r)^q h_t^\delta(r)$ .

**6. Some remarks.** We would like to conclude with the following remarks concerning Theorems 2.1 and 5.1. First of all, we can prove a “spectral version” of Hardy’s theorem for the Euclidean Fourier transform. Let us write down the inversion formula on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  in the form

$$(6.1) \quad f(x) = C_n \int_0^\infty f * \varphi_\lambda(x) \lambda^{n-1} d\lambda$$

where  $\varphi_\lambda(x) = 2^{n/2-1} \Gamma(n/2) J_{n/2-1}(\lambda|x|)(\lambda|x|)^{-n/2+1}$ . The following version of Hardy’s theorem for the spectral projections  $f * \varphi_\lambda$  is an easy consequence of Theorem 2.1.

**THEOREM 6.1.** *Let  $f$  satisfy for some  $t > 0$  the estimates  $|f(x)| \leq C p_t(x)$  and*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f * \varphi_\lambda(x) \bar{f}(x) dx \leq C e^{-t\lambda^2}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+.$$

Then  $f$  is a constant multiple of the heat kernel  $p_t$ .

To see this, let  $\{S_{mj} : 1 \leq j \leq d_m\}$  be an orthonormal basis for  $\mathcal{H}_m$ . Then using the formula (2.2) we have the addition theorem for the Bessel functions:

$$\varphi_\lambda(x - y) = \sum_{m=0}^\infty \sum_{j=1}^{d_m} C_{mj} S_{mj}(x') S_{mj}(y') \frac{J_{n/2+m-1}(\lambda|x|)}{(\lambda|x|)^{n/2-1}} \cdot \frac{J_{n/2+m-1}(\lambda|y|)}{(\lambda|y|)^{n/2-1}}$$

where  $x', y' \in S^{n-1}$ . From this it follows that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f * \varphi_\lambda(x) \bar{f}(x) dx = \sum_{m=0}^\infty \sum_{j=1}^{d_m} |C_{mj}|^2 \left| \int_0^\infty f_{mj}(r) \frac{J_{n/2+m-1}(\lambda r)}{(\lambda r)^{n/2-1}} r^{n-1} dr \right|^2.$$

Therefore, we see that hypothesis (ii) of Theorem 2.1 is satisfied. Hence we obtain the result.

A similar version of Theorem 5.1 is also available. Consider the spectral projections  $f * \Phi_\lambda$  defined by

$$(6.2) \quad f * \Phi_\lambda(x) = \int_G f(y) \Phi_\lambda(y^{-1}x) dy$$

where  $f$  and  $\Phi_\lambda$  are considered as right  $K$ -invariant functions on the group  $G$ . A simple calculation shows that

$$(6.3) \quad \int_{G/K} f * \Phi_\lambda(x) \bar{f}(x) dx = \int_{K/M} |\tilde{f}(\lambda, b)|^2 db.$$

This follows from the fact that

$$f * \Phi_\lambda(x) = \int_{K/M} e^{(i\lambda + \varrho)A(x,b)} \tilde{f}(\lambda, b) db.$$

Therefore, the condition

$$\left( \int_{K/M} |\tilde{f}(\lambda, b)|^2 db \right)^{1/2} \leq C e^{-t\lambda^2}$$

will guarantee that condition (ii) of Theorem 5.1 is true. Hence we have

**THEOREM 6.2.** *Let  $f$  satisfy for some  $t > 0$  the estimates  $|f(ka_r)| \leq Ch_t(r)$  and*

$$\int_{G/K} f * \Phi_\lambda(x) \bar{f}(x) dx \leq C e^{-t\lambda^2}$$

*for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f$  is a constant multiple of the heat kernel  $h_t$ .*

In view of the above remarks, this theorem is a restatement of Theorem 3.2 in [16] for the rank one case. Finally, we indicate how to get a version of Hardy's theorem for the group Fourier transform on the semisimple Lie group  $G$ .

For each  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  there is an irreducible unitary representation  $\pi_\lambda$  of  $G$  realised on  $L^2(K/M)$  which is given explicitly by

$$\pi_\lambda(g)f(k) = e^{(i\lambda+\varrho)A(g,k)}f(\kappa(g^{-1}k))$$

where  $\kappa(g)$  is the  $k$ -part of the  $KAN$  decomposition of  $g$ . These are called the *spherical principal series representations*. Define the group Fourier transform of a function  $f$  on  $G$  by

$$\widehat{f}(\lambda) = \int_G f(g)\pi_\lambda(g) dg.$$

For right  $K$ -invariant functions, the Plancherel measure is supported on the spherical principal series. Using the orthonormal basis  $\{Y_{\delta_j} : \delta \in \widehat{K}_0, 1 \leq j \leq d_\delta\}$  we calculate that

$$(6.4) \quad \|\widehat{f}(\lambda)\|_{\text{HS}}^2 = \int_{K/M} |\widetilde{f}(\lambda, b)|^2 db = \int_{K/M} |\widehat{f}(\lambda)Y_0(b)|^2 db$$

where  $Y_0$  is the constant function corresponding to the unit representation.

Therefore, the condition on  $f * \Phi_\lambda$  in the above theorem can be replaced by  $\|\widehat{f}(\lambda)\|_{\text{HS}} \leq Ce^{-t\lambda^2}$ , which gives Theorem 3.1 in [16]. If we use Theorem 5.1 we get the following refinement.

**THEOREM 6.3.** *Let  $f$  be a right  $K$ -invariant function on the Lie group  $G$  which satisfies the estimate  $|f(ka_r k')| \leq Ch_t(r)$  for some  $t > 0$ . Further assume that*

$$|Q_\delta(i\lambda + \varrho)^{-1}(\widehat{f}(\lambda)Y_0, Y_{\delta,j})| \leq C_{\delta,j}e^{-t\lambda^2}$$

for every  $\delta \in \widehat{K}_0, 1 \leq j \leq d_\delta$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f$  is a constant multiple of  $h_t$ .

The relation between the Helgason Fourier transform and the group Fourier transform of a right  $K$ -invariant function is given by  $\widetilde{f}(\lambda, b) = \widehat{f}(\lambda)Y_0(b)$ . Hence

$$\int_{K/M} \widetilde{f}(\lambda, b)Y_{\delta,j}(b) db = (\widehat{f}(\lambda)Y_0, Y_{\delta,j})$$

and so Theorem 6.3 follows from Theorem 5.1.

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Stat-Math Division  
Indian Statistical Institute  
8th Mile, Mysore Road  
Bangalore-560 059, India  
E-mail: veluma@isibang.ac.in

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