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(8) ii)
$$\overline{\partial}_{b}^{*} \phi = -\sum_{|J|=q} \sum_{j=1}^{n} Z_{j} \phi_{J} \overline{\omega}^{j} \perp \overline{\omega}^{J},$$

iii) $\Box_{b} \phi = \sum_{|J|=q} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n} (Z_{j} \overline{Z}_{j} + \overline{Z}_{j} Z_{j}) + i(n-2q)T \right) \phi_{J} \overline{\omega}^{J}.$

Define the function

$$\Phi_{\alpha}(z, t) = (|z|^{2} - it)^{-\frac{n+\alpha}{2}} (|z|^{2} + it)^{-\frac{n-\alpha}{2}}.$$

Let $\phi \in \Lambda_c^{0, q}$, $q \neq 0$, *n*. For an appropriate constant, c_q , define

(9)
$$K_{q}\phi(v) = c_{q} \sum_{|J|=q} \left(\int_{H} \phi_{J}(u) \Phi_{n-2q}(u^{-1}v) du \right) \bar{\omega}^{J}.$$

Folland and Stein prove that for the appropriate c_a

THEOREM 1. Let $\phi \in \Lambda_c^{0, q}$, $q \neq 0, n$. Then $\Box_b K_q \phi = K_q \Box_b \phi = \phi$.

In [4] we prove a stronger version of the following Hodge decomposition theorem.

THEOREM 2. Let $\phi \in \Lambda_c^{0, q}$, $q \neq 0$, n. Then

- i) $H\phi = 0$ where H is the orthogonal projection onto the kernel of \Box_b .
- ii) $\phi = \overline{\partial}_b \overline{\partial}_b^* K_q \phi + \overline{\partial}_b^* \overline{\partial}_b K_q \phi$.

We also prove

THEOREM 3. If $\phi \in \Lambda_c^{0, q}$, $q \neq 0$, n and if $\overline{\partial}_b \phi = 0$ then $\psi = \overline{\partial}_b^* K_q \phi$ satisfies $\overline{\partial}_b \psi = \phi$.

These two theorems are special cases of theorems 6 and 7 proven in section 4.

3. DIFFERENTIAL COMPLEXES ON STRATIFIED GROUPS

We study a class of nilpotent Lie groups which we describe in terms of their Lie algebras. A graded Lie algebra, n, is a finite dimensional nilpotent algebra which has a direct sum decomposition, $n = \bigoplus_{i=1}^{r} n_i$ where the n_i satisfy

i)	$[\mathfrak{n}_i,\mathfrak{n}_j]\subseteq\mathfrak{n}_{i+j}$	if	$i+j\leqslant r$,
ii)	$[\mathfrak{n}_i,\mathfrak{n}_j]=0$	if	i+j>r.

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Let $n = \dim n$. Define the homogeneous dimension to be $Q = \sum_{j=1}^{r} j \dim(n_j)$. If n is a graded algebra and if n_1 generates n then n is called a stratified algebra. A Lie group is called a stratified group if its Lie algebra is a stratified algebra. For a given stratified algebra n we will restrict our attention to the simply connected group associated to it.

The Heisenberg group is a simply connected stratified group. In fact, identifying the Lie algebra with the left invariant vector fields, we may take n_1 to be the span of the X's and Y's and n_2 to be the span of T. By (3) and (4) we see that $[n_1, n_1] = n_2$ and $[n_1, n_2] = [n_2, n_2] = 0$.

Any graded nilpotent group has a natural family of dilations. First we define them on the Lie algebra. Let $X \in \mathfrak{n}$. Then by definition $X = \sum_{j=1}^{r} X_j$ where $X_j \in \mathfrak{n}_j$. For s > 0 set $\delta_s(X) = \sum_{j=1}^{r} s^j X_j$. Because \mathfrak{n} is nilpotent the exponential map is globally defined. Suppose $x \in N$ and $x = \exp(X)$ for $X \in \mathfrak{n}$. Define $\delta_s(x) = \exp(\delta_s X)$. Suppose we are given an inner product on \mathfrak{n} such that $\mathfrak{n}_i \perp \mathfrak{n}_j$ for all $i \neq j$. Let ||X|| be the length defined by the inner product. Suppose $x = \exp(X)$ where $X = \sum_{j=1}^{r} X_j$, $X_j \in \mathfrak{n}_j$. Then define the homogeneous norm function to be

$$|x| = \left(\sum_{j=1}^{r} ||X_j||^{\frac{2r!}{j}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2r!}}$$

Then (i) |x| = 0 if and only if x = 0, (ii) $x \to |x|$ is continuous on N and C^{∞} on $N - \{0\}$, (iii) $|\delta_s x| = s |x|$.

On the Heisenberg group, $\delta_s((z, t)) = (sz, s^2t)$ and $|z| = (|z|^4 + t^2)^{\frac{1}{4}}$.

Recall that the homogeneous dimension is $Q = \sum_{j=1}^{r} j \dim(n_j)$. Let f be a function on N. We say f is homogeneous of degree p if $f(\delta_s(x)) = s^p f(x)$. If -Q < p then such an f is in L^k_{loc} for $1 \le k < \infty$. A distribution F is called homogeneous of degree p if

$$< F, s^{-Q}g(\delta_{s^{-1}}x) > = s^{p} < F, g >$$

where $g \in C_c^{\infty}(N)$ and $\langle F, g \rangle$ is the pairing of $C_c^{\infty}(N)$ with its dual, D'(N). A differential operator L (acting on functions) is homogeneous of degree p if $L(f \cdot \delta_s) = s^p(Lf) \circ \delta_s$. Observe that if f is a homogeneous function of degree p and if L is a homogeneous differential operator of degree p' then Lf is a homogeneous function of degree p - p'. Let $X_{i,1}, ..., X_{i, \dim(n_i)}$ be an orthonormal basis of n_i with respect to our inner product. Since $n_i \perp n_j$ for $i \neq j$ the set

$$\{X_{i,j}: 1 \leq i \leq r, 1 \leq j \leq \dim(\mathfrak{n}_i)\}$$

is an orthonormal basis of n. Define the global coordinate chart on N by

(10)
$$(x_{ij}) \rightarrow \Sigma x_{ij} X_{ij} \rightarrow \exp(\Sigma x_{ij} X_{ij})$$
.

This identifies N with \mathbf{R}^n as a manifold.

Let m_1 , m_2 and m_3 be positive integers. For i = 1, 2, 3 define $E_i = \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{F}^{m_i}$ to be the trivial bundle over $N = \mathbb{R}^n$ with fiber \mathbb{F}^{m_i} . Consider the differential complex (1). We know that each D_i can be expressed as an $m_{i+1} \times m_i$ matrix of differential operators on functions, i = 1, 2. If each entry is homogeneous of degree p we say D_i is a homogeneous differential operator of degree p. If each entry is left-invariant we say D_i is a left-invariant differential operator.

On our prototype, the Heisenberg group, we have the left-invariant metric which makes the Z's, \overline{Z} 's, and T into an orthonormal basis. Let $\overline{\omega}_1, ..., \overline{\omega}_n$ be a basis for $T^{0, 1}$ which is dual to $\overline{Z}_1, ..., \overline{Z}_n$. Then

$$\{\bar{\omega}^J : J = (j_1, ..., j_q), 1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < ... < j_q \leq n\}$$

is a global orthonormal basis of $\Lambda^{0,q}$ for each q. So $\Lambda^{0,q}$ is a trivial bundle over $H \approx \mathbb{R}^{2n+1}$, and we may identify sections of $\Lambda^{0,q}$ with $C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{2n+1}, \mathbb{C}^m)$ where m = n!/q!(n-q)!. By (8(iii)) the operator $\Box_b \colon \Lambda^{0,q} \to \Lambda^{0,q}$ is given by the matrix $(\delta_{ij} L)_{1 \leq i, j \leq m}$ where $L = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n} (Z_j \overline{Z}_j + \overline{Z}_j Z_j) + i(n-2q)T$. L is left-invariant and homogeneous of degree 2. So, \Box_b is left-invariant and homogeneous of degree 2. Similarly, $K_q \phi$ defined by (9) can be written as

$$K_q \phi = \int_H c_q \, \Phi_{n-2q}(u^{-1}v) I \phi du$$

where $\phi \in \Lambda_c^{0, q}$ is a $q \times 1$ column vector and I is the $q \times q$ identity matrix. Note that Φ_{n-2q} is a homogeneous function of degree -2n. This example motivates the following definition of a homogeneous convolution operator.

Return to N, our stratified Lie group with global coordinates defined by (10). Let $k: N \to Mat(m' \times m, \mathbf{F})$ be a mapping of N into the space of $m' \times m$ matrices with entries in **F**. Given $f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^m)$ and $x, y \in N$ the product $k(y^{-1}x)f(y)$ is an $m' \times 1$ column vector. We set

(11)
$$Kf(x) = \int_{N} k(y^{-1}x)f(y)dy .$$

The measure, dy, is the Haar measure on N. Under suitable restrictions on k the integral exists. The operator K is called a convolution operator with kernel k. If each entry of k is smooth away from 0 and homogeneous of degree -Q + p, $0 , we say that K is a homogeneous convolution operator of type p. As we mentioned before, a homogeneous function is in <math>L_{loc}^{p}$ so the integral in (11) exists for $f \in C_{c}^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m})$.

Suppose k is homogeneous of degree -Q and for each entry

$$k_{ij}, 1 \leq i \leq m', 1 \leq j \leq m,$$

we have

(12)
$$\int_{a \leq |x| \leq b} k_{ij}(x) dx = 0$$

for all a and b. We say an operator K is of type 0 if for some constant c we have

$$Kf(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \int_{\varepsilon \le |y| \le 1/\varepsilon} k(y^{-1}x)f(y)dy + cf(0) \quad \text{for all} \quad f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^m)$$

where k satisfies (12). We refer the reader to Folland [9] or Rothschild and Stein [16] for details.

To study the continuity properties of these operators we define L^p spaces and Sobolev-type spaces of sections from N to \mathbf{F}^m . Let $\| \|_{L^p}$ denote the usual L^p norm on functions. Let $f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^m)$ and let $f_i, i = 1, ..., m$ be the components of f. Define the norm

$$\| f \|_{L^{p}(F^{m})} = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} \| f_{i} \|_{L^{p}}^{p} \right)^{1/p}.$$

Let $L^{p}(\mathbf{F}^{m})$ be the completion of $C_{c}^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m})$ under this norm.

Let $\{X_{1,1}, ..., X_{1,d}\}$ be the orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{n}_1 , with $d = \dim(\mathfrak{n}_1)$. For brevity, we will drop reference to the first subscript. Let J be a multiindex, $J = (j_1, j_2, ..., j_q)$ with $1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < ... < j_q \leq d$. Define |J| = q and define $X_J = X_{j_1}X_{j_2} ... X_{j_q}$. Define $S_q^p(\mathbf{F}^m)$ to be the closure of $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^m)$ under the norm

$$\| f \|_{S^{p}_{q}(F^{m})} = \left(\| f \|_{L^{p}(F^{m})}^{p} + \sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{|J| \leq q} \| X_{J}f_{i} \|_{L^{p}}^{p} \right)^{1/p}.$$

A modification of a theorem by Folland [9] yields

THEOREM 4. (i) Let K be a convolution operator of type r for r > 0. Then K extends from $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^m)$ to a bounded operator from $L^p(\mathbf{F}^m)$ to $L^q(\mathbf{F}^{m'})$ where $1 and <math>q^{-1} = p^{-1} - r/Q$. (ii) Let K be a convolution operator of type 0. Then K extends from $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^m)$ to a bounded operator from $S_k^p(\mathbf{F}^m)$ to $S_k^p(\mathbf{F}^{m'})$.

Finally, we mention the interaction between the homogeneous convolution operators and the left-invariant differential operators. Let $D: C^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m'}) \rightarrow C^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m''})$ be a left-invariant homogeneous differential operator of degree 1 and let K be a homogeneous convolution operator of type r, with $r \ge 1$. Then DK is a homogeneous convolution operator of type r - 1. Moreover, if r > 1 the kernel of DK is given by Dk(x).

4. The Hodge decomposition

Consider the complex (1) where $E_i = \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{F}^{m_i}$. Assume that each of the D_i is a first order, left-invariant operator, homogeneous of degree 1. So each entry of D_i is of the form $\sum_{j=1}^d a_j X_{1,j}$ where a_j is constant. Construct the Laplacian, Δ , with respect to the euclidian inner products on \mathbf{F}^{m_i} , i = 1, 2, 3. Assume there exists a homogeneous convolution operator of type 2, K, which inverts Δ . If $f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$ then $f(x) = \Delta K f(x) = K \Delta f(x)$.

THEOREM 5. Let $f \in S_2^2(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$. As distributions, $\Delta f = 0$ if and only if f = 0.

Proof. Obviously, if f = 0 then $\Delta f = 0$.

Assume $\Delta f = 0$. Let $\{f_j\}$ be a sequence in $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$ such that $f_j \to f$ in $S_2^2(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$. Then $f_j \to f$ in the sense of distributions. Moreover, $\Delta f_j \to \Delta f = 0$ in $L^2(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$. Let $g \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$. Then

$$\langle f,g \rangle = \lim_{j \to \infty} \langle f_j,g \rangle = \lim_{j \to \infty} \langle f_j,\Delta Kg \rangle = \lim_{j \to \infty} \langle \Delta f_j,Kg \rangle.$$

Because $g \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$ it is in L^p where p = 2Q/(Q+4). Therefore, by Theorem 4(i), $Kg \in L^q$ where

$$q^{-1} = (Q+4)/2Q - 2/Q = 1/2$$
, i.e., $Kg \in L^2(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})$.

For $Q \ge 5, 1 . So$

$$| < f, g > | = \lim_{j \to \infty} | < \Delta f_j, Kg > | \leq \lim_{j \to \infty} || \Delta f_j ||_{L^2(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})} || Kg ||_{L^2(\mathbf{F}^{m_2})} = 0.$$