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Laguerre Calculus and Its Applications on the Heisenberg Group

Carlos Berenstein, Der-Chen Chang, and Jingzhi Tie

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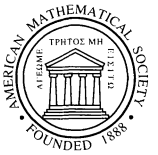

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This book is dedicated to our teachers

Leon Ehrenpreis, Elias M. Stein,

and Peter C. Greiner

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Contents

Preface **xi**

1 The Laguerre Calculus **1**
1.1 The Heisenberg group 1
1.2 The twisted and P.V. convolution operators 2
1.3 Laguerre calculus 6

2 Estimates for Powers of the Sub-Laplacian **33**
2.1 Introduction 33
2.2 The powers of the sub-Laplacian 37
2.3 The heat kernel 40
2.4 Estimates of Ψ_m in Hardy spaces 44
2.5 BMO estimates for the operator Ψ_m 55
2.6 The Riesz transforms on H_n 58
2.7 Connection with R^{2n} 68

3 Estimates for the Spectrum Projection Operators of the Sub-Laplacian **77**
3.1 The L^p spectrum of $(\mathcal{L}, i\mathbf{T})$ 77
3.2 Estimates for the operator $T_{\mathbf{k},\varepsilon}$ in Morrey spaces 84
3.3 The spectral projection operator 89
3.4 The Schrödinger operator 94
3.5 The fundamental solution of $\Delta_{\lambda,\alpha}$ 96
3.6 Estimate $\bar{\partial}_b$ operator in Morrey space 102
Appendix: The Isotropic Heisenberg Group 105

4 Inverse of the Operator $\Box_\alpha = \sum_{j=1}^{n}(\mathbf{X}_j^2 - \mathbf{X}_{j+n}^2) - 2i\alpha\mathbf{T}$ **111**
4.1 Introduction 111
4.2 Inverting $\Box_\alpha$: symbols 112
4.3 Inverting $\Box_\alpha$: the kernel 124
4.4 Real α : Müller and Ricci's result 135
4.5 The wave equation on the Heisenberg group 139

5 The explict solution of the $\bar{\partial}$-Neumann problem in a non-isotropic Siegel domain 151
5.1 Introduction 151
5.2 $\bar{\partial}$ operators and $\bar{\partial}$ Laplacian on $\mathcal{U}^{\mathbf{n}}$ 152
5.3 The Laguerre calculus on $\mathrm{H}_n \times \mathrm{R}^d$ 156
5.4 The Fundamental solution of $\Box_\alpha$ 158
5.5 $\bar{\partial}$-Neumann problem 162
5.6 The associated heat equation 166
5.7 The Laplacian operator on the Heisenberg group 176

6 Injectivity of the Pompeiu Transform in the Isotropic H_n 185
6.1 Introduction 185
6.2 Preliminaries 186
6.3 The group algebras $L^1_0(\mathrm{H}_n)$ and $L^1_{\mathbf{0}}(\mathrm{H}_n)$ 188
6.4 Description of $\mathbf{U}(n)$ and $\mathbb{T}^n$-spherical functions and the spaces $\mathfrak{M}^*$ and $\mathfrak{M}$ 191
6.5 Convolution equations systems with 0 and $\mathbf{0}$-homogeneous compactly supported Radon measures as coefficients 210
6.6 Pompeiu type theorems in H_n 216
6.7 The interpretation from the point of view of the Weyl functional calculus 223

7 Morera-type Theorems for Holomorphic $\mathcal{H}^p$ Spaces in H_n (I) 229
7.1 Introduction 229
7.2 Boundary analogues of the Morera theorem - A Morera type theorem for CR functions in the class $L^2(\mathrm{H}_n)$ 234
7.3 A Morera-type theorem for CR functions on the unit ball . . 247

8 Morera-type Theorems for Holomorphic $\mathcal{H}^p$ Spaces in H_n (II) 257
8.1 m-homogeneous and $\mathbf{m}$-homogeneous functions on H_n 258
8.2 The subalgebra $L^1_{\mathbf{00}}(\mathrm{H}_n)$ and convolution equations for $\mathbf{m}$-homogeneous functions 290
8.3 Morera-type theorems for $\mathcal{H}^p(\mathrm{H}_n)$ spaces in H_n 300
8.4 The characterization of $\mathcal{H}^\infty(\partial\mathbb{B}^{n+1})$ via Morera theorems . . 314

Preface

In the same way that the study of holomorphic functions of one complex variable leads immediately to the recognition that there is a relation between the study of power series and of Fourier series, the corresponding study of holomorphic functions of several complex variables leads to the study boundary value problems for the Cauchy-Riemann operator $\bar{\partial}$ in the typically strongly pesudoconvex domain, the unit ball $\mathbf{B}_{n+1}$ in $\mathbf{C}^{n+1}$. As it turns out, $\partial\mathbf{B}_{n+1}$ is the one point compactification of the Heisenberg group H_n. (For $n = 0$, the unit circle can be identified to the one-point compactification of the real line $\mathbf{R}$.) This group not only acts on $\partial\mathbf{B}_{n+1}$, but also leaves the boundary operator $\bar{\partial}_b$ invariant in the sense of distributions. These analogies drive the analysis of the boundary value problem for $\bar{\partial}$ and makes this analysis dependent on the Fourier analysis of the nilpotent Lie group H_n. This has been the approach taken in the significant, insightful work of E.M. Stein and his collaborators (see *e.g.,* Folland and Stein [1], Müller, Ricci and Stein [2], [3]).

In this short monograph we take a slightly more direct path, inspired by the work of R. Beals, B. Gaveau, D. Geller, P. Greiner, J. Peetre, E.M. Stein and R. Strichartz, reducing the analysis to the symbolic calculus associated to the operator $\bar{\partial}_b$, the Laguerre calculus. The advantage of this approach is that it leads to an "elementary" introduction to the study of the Cauchy-Riemann operator and its fundamental questions for graduate students whose background knowledge includes only one year in complex analysis, as those at the University of Maryland, College Park. One of the additional payoffs of this approach is that the students are also introduced to the study of Lie groups via the study of the concrete compact Lie group $SO(n)$ and the simplest non-commutative and non-compact Lie group, the Heisenberg group H_n. This group serves as a model in many ways: as a contact manifold, a strongly pseudoconvex boundary in $\mathbf{C}^{n+1}$, and a subriemannian or Carnot-Carathéodory manifold. Note that although the concept of pseudoconvexity is essential to a complete study of the theory of functions of several complex variables, it does not play an explicit role here, thus accomodating the reduced background knowledge of the students rather small, while motivating them to continue their study of several complex variables on their own or through more advanced courses.

Another objective we had in mind was, in the tradition of the Calderón-Stein-Zygmund school, to introduce the student to non-conventional but elementary problems in harmonic analysis that arise naturally out the basic ideas of real and complex analysis; differentiation of integrals and Cauchy criterion for holomorphicity, namely, the Pompeiu and Morera problems in the unit ball and the Heisenberg group. After all, it is to this school of thought that we owe what now seems obvious, the seemless integration of harmonic analysis, complex analysis, and partial differential equations. A glance at the table of contents should reassure the prospective reader and, hopefully teacher, that this book may provide a natural introduction to wider classical analysis.

This work owes much to the generous help of many people, some of whom even allowed us to use unpublished material, while others gave important advise and valuable criticism: R. Beals, B. Gaveau, P. Greiner, J. Horváth, A. Korányi, S. Krantz, D.H. Phong, E.M. Stein and Y.T. Siu. Heartfelt thanks also to our collaborators: M. Agranovsky, D. Pascuas and L. Zalcman, whose joint works with us are used in the last three chapters, as well the International Press and its editors, and S.T. Yau for his very useful suggestions.

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