

REPRESENTATION THEORETIC EMBEDDING OF TWISTED DIRAC OPERATORS

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ABSTRACT. Let G be a non-compact connected semisimple real Lie group with finite center. Suppose L is a non-compact connected closed subgroup of G acting transitively on a symmetric space G/H such that $L \cap H$ is compact. We study the action on $L/L \cap H$ of a Dirac operator $D_{G/H}(E)$ acting on sections of an E -twist of the spin bundle over G/H . As a byproduct, in the case of $(G, H, L) = (SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R}), \Delta(SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R})), SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(2))$, we identify certain representations of L which lie in the kernel of $D_{G/H}(E)$.

1. INTRODUCTION

In a recent paper [MO1] and an ongoing project [MO2], Mehdi and Olbrich study representation theoretic features of the spectrum of locally symmetric spaces arising as follows. Let G be a non-compact connected semisimple real Lie group with finite center and H a non-compact connected closed subgroup of G so that G/H is a symmetric space with respect to an involution σ of G . Suppose there exists a non-compact connected real closed subgroup L of G which acts transitively and cocompactly on G/H , i.e., $G/H \simeq L/L \cap H$ with $L \cap H$ compact. In particular, if $D(G/H)$ (resp. $D(L/L \cap H)$) denotes the algebra of G -invariant (resp. L -invariant) differential operators on G/H (resp. $L/L \cap H$), one gets an embedding of algebras (1.1)

$$\iota : D(G/H) \hookrightarrow D(L/L \cap H).$$

Now pick a discrete subgroup Γ in G which is contained in L and such that $\Gamma \backslash G/H$ is a smooth compact manifold, i.e., a compact Clifford-Klein form of G/H . Using (1.1), Mehdi and Olbrich describe the joint spectral decomposition of the (commutative) algebra $D(G/H)$ on the Hilbert space $L^2(\Gamma \backslash G/H)$ of square integrable functions on $\Gamma \backslash G/H$ in terms of the spectrum of $D(L/L \cap H)$ on $L^2(\Gamma \backslash L/L \cap H) \simeq L^2(\Gamma \backslash L)^{L \cap H}$. In particular, they prove the L -admissibility of certain G -representations involved in the spectrum.

In this paper, we extend the embedding (1.1) to the case of differential operators acting on sections of spin bundles over G/H and $L/L \cap H$ twisted by a finite-dimensional representation E . Then we show that the image, under this embedding, of the Dirac operator $D_{G/H}(E)$ on G/H splits as combination of both geometric and algebraic Dirac operators attached to the homogeneous spaces $L/L \cap H$, $L/L \cap K$, $L \cap K/L \cap H$ and $H/H \cap K$ (here K is a maximal compact subgroup of G fixed by

Received by the editors February 6, 2021, and, in revised form, June 6, 2021.

2020 *Mathematics Subject Classification*. Primary 22E46; Secondary 43A85.

Key words and phrases. Dirac operators, Lie groups, spin, representations, $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$.

The second author was supported by the QuantiXLie Center of Excellence, a project cofinanced by the Croatian Government and European Union through the European Regional Development Fund - the Competitiveness and Cohesion Operational Programme (KK.01.1.1.01.0004).

a Cartan involution θ , and H and L are assumed to be θ -stable). Note that while most of these spaces are symmetric, $L/L \cap H$ is not, and for this space we use the cubic Dirac operator defined in [G] and [K].

Finally, we use this splitting formula to relate the kernels of the various Dirac operators and we identify certain representations of L occurring in the kernel of $D_{G/H}(E)$ when $G = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, $H = \Delta(SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R}))$ is the diagonal in G and $L = SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(2)$.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we define the triples (G, H, L) and we collect their main features. In Section 3 we review some facts about Clifford algebras and spin modules. In Section 4, we describe the geometric and the algebraic Dirac operators, as well as the various bundles and sections on which they act. In Section 5, we compute the transfer of the cubic Dirac operator from G/H to $L/L \cap H$ in terms of “smaller” Dirac operators. Finally, in Section 6, we use this transfer formula when $(G, H, L) = (SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R}), \Delta(SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R})), SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(2))$ to relate the kernels of various Dirac operators. Moreover, we identify some of the representations of L involved in the kernel of the twisted cubic Dirac operator $D_{G/H}(E)$ on G/H .

2. TRANSITIVE TRIPLES

Let G be a non-compact connected semisimple real Lie group with finite center and Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and let $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ be the Killing form on \mathfrak{g} . Fix a Cartan involution θ on G and let K be the corresponding maximal compact subgroup of G with Lie algebra \mathfrak{k} . The associated Cartan decomposition of \mathfrak{g} is

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} \oplus \mathfrak{s}, \quad \text{with } [\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{s}] \subset \mathfrak{s} \text{ and } [\mathfrak{s}, \mathfrak{s}] \subset \mathfrak{k}.$$

Let H be a non-compact connected semisimple closed subgroup of G with Lie algebra \mathfrak{h} such that the homogeneous space G/H is a symmetric space with respect to some involution σ . There is therefore a decomposition of \mathfrak{g} :

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{q}, \quad \text{with } [\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{q}] \subset \mathfrak{q} \text{ and } [\mathfrak{q}, \mathfrak{q}] \subset \mathfrak{h}.$$

Recall the following invariance properties of the Killing form. For all X, Y and Z in \mathfrak{g} , one has:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \theta(X), \theta(Y) \rangle &= \langle X, Y \rangle \\ \langle \sigma(X), \sigma(Y) \rangle &= \langle X, Y \rangle \\ \langle \text{ad}(X)(Z), Y \rangle &= -\langle Z, \text{ad}(X)Y \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the restrictions of $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ to $\mathfrak{k} \times \mathfrak{k}$, $\mathfrak{s} \times \mathfrak{s}$, $\mathfrak{h} \times \mathfrak{h}$ and $\mathfrak{q} \times \mathfrak{q}$ are non-degenerate so that

$$\mathfrak{k} \perp \mathfrak{s} \text{ and } \mathfrak{h} \perp \mathfrak{q} \text{ with respect to } \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle.$$

We assume that θ and σ commute, so that \mathfrak{k} and \mathfrak{s} are σ -stable:

$$\mathfrak{k} = (\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{h}) \oplus (\mathfrak{k} \cap \mathfrak{q}) \text{ and } \mathfrak{s} = (\mathfrak{s} \cap \mathfrak{h}) \oplus (\mathfrak{s} \cap \mathfrak{q}).$$

Next, let L be a non-compact connected semisimple closed subgroup of G with Lie algebra \mathfrak{l} such that

- (i) L is reductively embedded in G ,
- (ii) L acts transitively on G/H ,
- (iii) $L \cap H$ is compact.

We will refer to triples (G, H, L) satisfying (i),(ii) and (iii) as *transitive triples*. L need not be σ -stable in general, however we may assume that L is θ -stable:

$$\mathfrak{l} = (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}) \oplus (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}).$$

The restriction to \mathfrak{l} of the Killing form \langle, \rangle of \mathfrak{g} remains non-degenerate and

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} + \mathfrak{l} \text{ and } \mathfrak{q} \cap \mathfrak{l}^\perp = \{0\},$$

where \mathfrak{l}^\perp is the orthogonal of \mathfrak{l} in \mathfrak{g} with respect to the Killing form. Transitive triples were classified in the late 1960s by Onišćik in a more general setting [O]. A complete list can be found in [KY] or [MO2].

Examples 2.1.

- (a1) $G = G' \times G', H = \Delta(G' \times G'), L = G' \times \{e\}$.
- (a2) $G = G' \times G', H = \Delta(G' \times G'), L = G' \times K'$
 where G' is a non-compact connected semisimple real Lie group with finite center and K' is a maximal compact subgroup of G' .
- (b) $G = SO_e(2, 2n), H = SO_e(1, 2n), L = U(1, n), n \geq 1$.
- (c) $G = SO_e(2, 2n), H = U(1, n), L = SO_e(1, 2n), n \geq 1$.
- (d) $G = SO_e(4, 4n), H = SO_e(3, 4n), L = Sp(1, n), n \geq 1$.
- (e) $G = SU(2, 2n), H = SU(1, 2n), L = Sp(1, n), n \geq 1$.
- (f) $G = SU(2, 2n), H = Sp(1, n), L = SU(1, 2n), n \geq 1$.
- (g) $G = SO_e(8, 8), H = SO_e(7, 8), L = Spin_e(1, 8)$.
- (h) $G = SO_e(4, 4), H = SO_e(4, 1) \times SO(3), L = Spin_e(4, 3)$.
- (i) $G = SO_e(4, 3), H = SO_e(4, 1) \times SO(2), L = G_{2(2)}$.
- (j) $G = SO(8, \mathbb{C}), H = SO_e(1, 7), L = Spin(7, \mathbb{C})$.
- (k) $G = SO(8, \mathbb{C}), H = SO(7, \mathbb{C}), L = Spin_e(1, 7)$.

We now recall some features of transitive triples described in [MO2]. Fix a transitive triple (G, H, L) . Let $\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}$ be the orthogonal of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ in \mathfrak{l} with respect to the Killing form:

$$\mathfrak{l} = (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}) \oplus \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} \text{ with } \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} = (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h})^\perp \text{ and } [\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}] \subset \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}.$$

Note that as $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -modules, one has the decomposition:

$$(2.2) \quad \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} = \mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l} \oplus (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}),$$

where $\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}$ is the orthogonal of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ in $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}$ with respect to the Killing form. Since L acts transitively on G/H , the $L \cap H$ -equivariant map

$$p^- : \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} \xrightarrow{\simeq} \mathfrak{q}, X \mapsto \frac{X - \sigma(X)}{2}$$

is an isomorphism of $L \cap H$ -modules. However, the map

$$p^+ : \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{h}, X \mapsto \frac{X + \sigma(X)}{2}$$

need not be injective or surjective. In order to turn the isomorphism p^- into an isometry, we diagonalize the symmetric bilinear form

$$\mathfrak{l} \times \mathfrak{l} \ni (X, Y) \mapsto \langle \sigma(X), Y \rangle$$

with respect to the Killing form \langle, \rangle . More precisely, for a real number ν , define the vector subspace $\mathfrak{l}(\nu)$ of \mathfrak{l} :

$$\mathfrak{l}(\nu) := \{X \in \mathfrak{l} \mid \langle \sigma(X), Y \rangle = \nu \langle X, Y \rangle \forall Y \in \mathfrak{l}\}.$$

Then $\mathfrak{l}(\nu)$ is invariant under the adjoint action of $L \cap H$ and $\mathfrak{l}(\nu) \perp \mathfrak{l}(\nu')$ whenever $\nu \neq \nu'$. One can check that $\nu \in [-1, 1]$, with $\mathfrak{l}(1) = \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ and $\mathfrak{l}(-1) = \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{q}$. In fact, each $\mathfrak{l}(\nu)$ is θ -stable so that

$$\mathfrak{q}'_{\mathfrak{l}} = \bigoplus_{\nu \neq 1} \mathfrak{l}(\nu) \cap \mathfrak{k} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s} = \bigoplus_{\nu} \mathfrak{l}(\nu) \cap \mathfrak{s}.$$

We will denote by $X(\nu)$ an element in $\mathfrak{l}(\nu)$. For $\nu \neq 1$, set

$$d_{\nu} = \left(\frac{1 - \nu}{2} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

and consider the $L \cap H$ -equivariant maps

$$\begin{aligned} \rho^{-} : \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{q}, \quad X(\nu) \mapsto d_{\nu} p^{-}(X(\nu)) \\ \rho^{+} : \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{h}, \quad X(\nu) \mapsto d_{\nu} p^{+}(X(\nu)). \end{aligned}$$

Then ρ^{-} is an isometry, and ρ^{+} is a partial isometry but it need not be injective or surjective. One easily checks that for all $X(\nu)$, whenever $\nu \neq 1$ [MO2]:

$$\begin{aligned} [X(\nu), \sigma(X(\nu))] &= 0 \\ \rho^{+}(X(\nu)) + \rho^{-}(X(\nu)) &= d_{\nu} X(\nu) \\ [\rho^{+}(X(\nu)), \rho^{-}(X(\nu))] &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We will write λ for the compact ν , i.e the ν involved in the decomposition of $\mathfrak{q}'_{\mathfrak{l}}$, and μ for the non-compact ν , i.e the ν involved in the decomposition of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$.

Transitive triples split into three families, depending on the map ρ^{+} being injective but not surjective (type I), surjective but not injective (type S) or neither (type N).

Examples 2.3.

- (a1) $G = G' \times G', H = \Delta(G' \times G'), L = G' \times \{e\}$ is of type I.
- (a2) $G = G' \times G', H = \Delta(G' \times G'), L = G' \times K'$ is of type S.
- (b) $G = SO_e(2, 2n), H = SO_e(1, 2n), L = U(1, n)$ is of type S.
- (c) $G = SO_e(2, 2n), H = U(1, n), L = SO_e(1, 2n)$ is of type S.
- (d) $G = SO_e(4, 4n), H = SO_e(3, 4n), L = Sp(1, n)$ is of type I.
- (e) $G = SU(2, 2n), H = SU(1, 2n), L = Sp(1, n)$ is of type S.
- (f) $G = SU(2, 2n), H = Sp(1, n), L = SU(1, 2n)$ is of type S.
- (g) $G = SO_e(8, 8), H = SO_e(7, 8), L = Spin_e(1, 8)$ is of type I.
- (h) $G = SO_e(4, 4), H = SO_e(4, 1) \times SO(3), L = Spin_e(4, 3)$ is of type N.
- (i) $G = SO_e(4, 3), H = SO_e(4, 1) \times SO(2), L = G_{2(2)}$ is of type N.
- (j) $G = SO(8, \mathbb{C}), H = SO_e(1, 7), L = Spin(7, \mathbb{C})$ is of type N.
- (k) $G = SO(8, \mathbb{C}), H = SO(7, \mathbb{C}), L = Spin_e(1, 7)$ is of type I.

We fix an orthonormal basis $\{Z_j(\lambda)\}$ (resp. $\{T_k(\mu)\}$) of $\mathfrak{l}(\lambda)$ (resp. $\mathfrak{l}(\mu)$) so that $\{Z_j\} = \cup_{\lambda} \{Z_j(\lambda)\}$ (resp. $\{T_k\} = \cup_{\mu} \{T_k(\mu)\}$) is an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{q}'_{\mathfrak{l}}$ (resp. $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$) and

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} [Z_j(\lambda), \sigma(Z_j(\lambda))] &= 0, \quad \forall j, \lambda. \\ [T_k(\mu), \sigma(T_k(\mu))] &= 0, \quad \forall k, \mu. \end{aligned}$$

It is worth to mention that transitive triples of type S have the following additional features [MO2]:

- (a) $L \cap K$ is σ -stable, i.e., $L \cap K/L \cap H$ is a symmetric space with respect to the involution σ .
- (b) \mathfrak{q}'_l is irreducible as an $L \cap H$ -module and $\lambda = -1$ (only one value for λ).
- (c) $l \cap \mathfrak{s}$ is irreducible as an $L \cap H$ -module and $\mu = 0$ (only one value for μ).

3. CLIFFORD ALGEBRAS AND SPIN MODULES

Let (G, H, L) be a transitive triple, and let as before \mathfrak{q} denote the orthogonal complement of \mathfrak{h} in \mathfrak{g} with respect to the form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. Then $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is non-degenerate on both \mathfrak{h} and \mathfrak{q} .

Let $C(\mathfrak{q})$ be the Clifford algebra of \mathfrak{q} with respect to $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. In other words, it is the associative algebra with unit, generated by \mathfrak{q} , with relations

$$XY + YX = \langle X, Y \rangle, \quad X, Y \in \mathfrak{q}.$$

It is well known that the category of complex $C(\mathfrak{q})$ -modules is semisimple, with only one irreducible module if $\dim \mathfrak{q}$ is even, and two irreducible modules if $\dim \mathfrak{q}$ is odd. These modules are called spin modules and they can be constructed as follows. Let $\mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+$ and $\mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^-$ be maximal isotropic subspaces of $\mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}$, nondegenerately paired by $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C} &= \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+ \oplus \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^- && \text{if } \dim \mathfrak{q} \text{ is even;} \\ \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C} &= \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+ \oplus \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^- \oplus \mathbb{C}Z && \text{if } \dim \mathfrak{q} \text{ is odd,} \end{aligned}$$

where in the odd case $Z \in \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}$ is a vector orthogonal to $\mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+ \oplus \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^-$ such that $\langle Z, Z \rangle = 1$. We define

$$S_\mathfrak{q} = \bigwedge \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+,$$

with elements of $\mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+$ acting by wedging and elements of $\mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^-$ acting by contracting. If $\dim \mathfrak{q}$ is even, this determines a $C(\mathfrak{q})$ -module structure on the spin module $S_\mathfrak{q}$, and if $\dim \mathfrak{q}$ is odd we still need to define the action of Z . There are two choices: Z can act by $1/\sqrt{2}$ on $\bigwedge^{\text{even}} \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+$ and by $-1/\sqrt{2}$ on $\bigwedge^{\text{odd}} \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+$, or by $-1/\sqrt{2}$ on $\bigwedge^{\text{even}} \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+$ and by $1/\sqrt{2}$ on $\bigwedge^{\text{odd}} \mathfrak{q}_\mathbb{C}^+$. We fix one of these choices. We denote by

$$(3.1) \quad \gamma_\mathfrak{q} : C(\mathfrak{q}) \rightarrow \text{End}(S_\mathfrak{q})$$

the action map for the $C(\mathfrak{q})$ -module $S_\mathfrak{q}$.

Besides the obvious embedding of \mathfrak{q} into $C(\mathfrak{q})$, there is also an embedding of $\mathfrak{so}(\mathfrak{q})$ into $C(\mathfrak{q})$ induced by the skew symmetrization (Chevalley isomorphism):

$$\mathfrak{so}(\mathfrak{q}) \simeq \Lambda^2 \mathfrak{q} \xrightarrow{j} C(\mathfrak{q}), \quad j(X \wedge Y) = \frac{1}{2}(XY - YX).$$

The image of this map is equal to the Lie subalgebra $C^2(\mathfrak{q})$ of $C(\mathfrak{q})$, consisting of “pure degree 2” elements. Its main property is that the natural action of $\mathfrak{so}(\mathfrak{q})$ on \mathfrak{q} corresponds to the action of $C^2(\mathfrak{q})$ on $\mathfrak{q} \subset C(\mathfrak{q})$ by Clifford algebra commutators.

Composing the above map with the adjoint action map $\mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{so}(\mathfrak{q})$, we get a map

$$(3.2) \quad \alpha_{\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}} = \alpha_\mathfrak{h} : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow C(\mathfrak{q})$$

such that

$$(3.3) \quad [\alpha_\mathfrak{h}(X), Y]_{C(\mathfrak{q})} = [X, Y]_\mathfrak{g}, \quad X \in \mathfrak{h}, Y \in \mathfrak{q}.$$

Moreover, $\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}$ is a Lie algebra morphism, i.e.,

$$[\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(X), \alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(Z)]_{C(\mathfrak{q})} = [X, Z]_{\mathfrak{g}}, \quad X, Z \in \mathfrak{h}.$$

In the last two formulas, the subscript of a bracket denotes the Lie algebra in which the bracket is taken.

Lemma 3.4 describes $\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}$ more explicitly. The proof can be found for example in [HP], Section 2.3.3 (but note that the conventions there are different, so a factor shows up in the formula).

Lemma 3.4. *Let $\{e_i\}$ be an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{q} , and let $\varepsilon_i = \langle e_i, e_i \rangle \in \{\pm 1\}$. Then for any $X \in \mathfrak{h}$,*

$$\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(X) = - \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \langle [X, e_i], e_j \rangle e_i e_j = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i, j} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \langle [X, e_i], e_j \rangle e_i e_j.$$

Using the map $\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}$, we can view the spin module $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ as an \mathfrak{h} -module, with $X \in \mathfrak{h}$ acting as $\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(X) \in C(\mathfrak{q})$.

Recall that $\rho^- : \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}} \rightarrow \mathfrak{q}$ is an isometry, and therefore ρ^- extends to an isomorphism of the Clifford algebras $C(\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}})$ and $C(\mathfrak{q})$, where $\rho^- : C(\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}) \rightarrow C(\mathfrak{q})$ is defined by

$$\rho^-(Y_1 \dots Y_k) = \rho^-(Y_1) \dots \rho^-(Y_k), \quad Y_1, \dots, Y_k \in \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}.$$

It follows that also the spin modules $S_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}$ and $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ are isomorphic as vector spaces. On the other hand, $S_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}$ has an action of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$, while $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ has an action of \mathfrak{h} , and hence also of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ by restriction.

Lemma 3.5. *With notation as above,*

$$\rho^-(\alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X)) = \alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(X), \quad X \in \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}.$$

In particular, the isomorphism of $S_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}$ and $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ induced by ρ^- is $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -equivariant.

Proof. Recall that $\rho^- : \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}} \rightarrow \mathfrak{q}$ is an $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -equivariant isometry. This implies that for any $X \in \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ and $Y, Z \in \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}$,

$$(3.6) \quad \langle [X, \rho^-(Y)], \rho^-(Z) \rangle = \langle \rho^-([X, Y]), \rho^-(Z) \rangle = \langle [X, Y], Z \rangle.$$

Let now $\{e_i\}$ be an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}$ with $\langle e_i, e_i \rangle = \varepsilon_i = \pm 1$. By Lemma 3.4, if $X \in \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X) &= - \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \langle [X, e_i], e_j \rangle e_i e_j; \\ \alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(X) &= - \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \langle [X, \rho^-(e_i)], \rho^-(e_j) \rangle \rho^-(e_i) \rho^-(e_j). \end{aligned}$$

So the lemma follows from (3.6). □

We also consider the spin modules $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_{\mathfrak{l}}}$ and $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ for the pairs $(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h})$ and $(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k})$ respectively. Recall that by (2.2)

$$\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}} = \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s} \oplus \mathfrak{q}'_{\mathfrak{l}}.$$

This implies that

$$C(\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}) = C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}) \bar{\otimes} C(\mathfrak{q}'_{\mathfrak{l}}),$$

where $\bar{\otimes}$ denotes the graded tensor product of superalgebras, i.e.,

$$(a \bar{\otimes} b)(c \bar{\otimes} d) = (-1)^{\deg b \deg c} ac \bar{\otimes} bd,$$

with \deg being 0 for even elements and 1 for odd elements.

To get an analogous decomposition of the spin module, we first note that if $(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm}$ and $(\mathfrak{q}'_l)_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm}$ are maximal isotropic subspaces of $(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})_{\mathbb{C}}$ respectively $(\mathfrak{q}'_l)_{\mathbb{C}}$, then $(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm} \oplus (\mathfrak{q}'_l)_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm}$ is a maximal isotropic subspace of $(\mathfrak{q}_l)_{\mathbb{C}}$, unless $\dim(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})$ and $\dim(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$ are both odd. (In case they are both odd, there is an isotropic vector outside of $(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm} \oplus (\mathfrak{q}'_l)_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm}$.) To simplify matters, we make Assumption 3.7.

Assumption 3.7. The dimension of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$ is even.

Since the triples of type S other than $(G, H, L) = (G' \times G', \Delta(G' \times G'), G' \times K')$ all have L of equal rank, Assumption 3.7 is satisfied for all of them. For the triples $(G' \times G', \Delta(G' \times G'), G' \times K')$, we have $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s} = \mathfrak{s}' \times 0$, so Assumption 3.7 is equivalent to $\dim \mathfrak{s}'$ being even. This is certainly true if G' is of equal rank, and if G' is of unequal rank it is still often true. For example, if $G' = SL(n, \mathbb{R})$, then $\dim \mathfrak{s}' = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} - 1$, which is even if n is congruent to 1 or 2 modulo 4 (and odd otherwise).

The above discussion about isotropic subspaces implies that under Assumption 3.7 we have $S_{\mathfrak{q}_l} = S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l}$ as vector spaces. The isomorphism $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l} \rightarrow S_{\mathfrak{q}_l}$ can be realized as the exterior algebra multiplication map.

This vector space isomorphism is also an isomorphism of $C(\mathfrak{q}_l) = C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}) \bar{\otimes} C(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$ -modules. To see this, we first note that since $\dim \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$ is even, the $C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})$ -module $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ is \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded, with

$$S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}^0 = \bigwedge^{\text{even}} (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm}; \quad S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}^1 = \bigwedge^{\text{odd}} (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})_{\mathbb{C}}^{\pm}.$$

We can now define an action of $C(\mathfrak{q}_l) = C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}) \bar{\otimes} C(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$ on $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l}$ by

$$(3.8) \quad (c \otimes d) \cdot (s \otimes t) = (-1)^{\deg d \deg s} cs \otimes dt.$$

To see that this is a well defined algebra action, we check

$$(3.9) \quad (a \otimes b) \cdot [(c \otimes d) \cdot (s \otimes t)] = [(a \otimes b)(c \otimes d)] \cdot (s \otimes t),$$

for any $a, c \in C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})$, $b, d \in C(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$, $s \in S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ and $t \in S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l}$ such that b, c, d and s are homogeneous.

Up to sign, both sides of (3.9) are equal to $acs \otimes bdt$. The sign on the left side is -1 to the power of $\deg d \deg s + \deg b \deg(cs)$, while the sign on the right side is -1 to the power of $\deg b \deg c + \deg(bd) \deg s$. Both exponents are equal to

$$\deg b \deg c + \deg b \deg s + \deg d \deg s,$$

so (3.9) is true and the action (3.8) is well defined. Moreover, we have

Lemma 3.10. *The exterior algebra multiplication map*

$$m : S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l} \rightarrow S_{\mathfrak{q}_l}$$

is an isomorphism of $C(\mathfrak{q}_l) = C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}) \bar{\otimes} C(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$ -modules, where the action of $C(\mathfrak{q}_l)$ on $S_{\mathfrak{q}_l}$ is the usual one, and the action on $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l}$ is the one defined by (3.8).

Proof. We already know that m is a vector space isomorphism, so we only need to check it respects the actions. This follows immediately from the definitions. \square

It is now not difficult to see that we also have

$$(3.11) \quad S_{\mathfrak{q}_l} = S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l}$$

on the level of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -modules, where $S_{\mathfrak{q}_l}$ is viewed as an $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -module through the map $\alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}} : \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow C(\mathfrak{q}_l)$, $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}$ is viewed as an $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -module through the restriction

of the map $\alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}} : \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k} \rightarrow C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})$, and $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l}$ is viewed as an $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -module through the map $\alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}} : \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow C(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$. Indeed, we have

Lemma 3.12. *Let (G, H, L) be a triple of type S satisfying Assumption 3.7. Then for any $X \in \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$, $\alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X)$ decomposes under $C(\mathfrak{q}_l) = C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}) \otimes C(\mathfrak{q}'_l)$ as*

$$\alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X) = \alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(X) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X).$$

In particular, the isomorphism of Lemma 3.10 is an isomorphism of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -modules.

Proof. Let $\{Z_i\}$ respectively $\{T_k\}$ be orthonormal bases of \mathfrak{q}'_l respectively $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$. Since $\langle Z_i, Z_i \rangle = -1$ and $\langle T_k, T_k \rangle = 1$ for any i and k , Lemma 3.4 implies that for any $X \in \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$,

$$(3.13) \quad \alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X) = - \sum_{i < j} \langle [X, Z_i], Z_j \rangle Z_i Z_j + \sum_{i, r} \langle [X, Z_i], T_r \rangle Z_i T_r - \sum_{r < s} \langle [X, T_r], T_s \rangle T_r T_s.$$

Since $[X, Z_i] \in \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k} \perp \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$, the second sum in (3.13) is 0, i.e.,

$$(3.14) \quad \alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X) = - \sum_{i < j} \langle [X, Z_i], Z_j \rangle Z_i Z_j - \sum_{r < s} \langle [X, T_r], T_s \rangle T_r T_s.$$

Since the first sum in (3.14) is equal to $\alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X) = 1 \otimes \alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}(X)$ by Lemma 3.4, and the second sum is equal to $\alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(X) = \alpha_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(X) \otimes 1$, the lemma follows. \square

4. TWISTED DIRAC OPERATORS

As before, let G be a non-compact connected semisimple real Lie group with finite center and with Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} , K a maximal compact subgroup of G with respect to a Cartan involution θ and H a non-compact connected semisimple closed subgroup of G with Lie algebra \mathfrak{h} such that G/H is a symmetric space with respect to an involution σ commuting with θ .

Let $U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})$ (resp. $U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})$) be the enveloping algebra of the complexification of \mathfrak{g} (resp. \mathfrak{h}). For $i = 1, 2$, let

$$\tau_i : H \rightarrow GL(F_i)$$

be finite-dimensional smooth complex representations of H . Write $\text{Hom}(F_1, F_2)$ for the vector space of complex homomorphisms from F_1 to F_2 . The enveloping algebra $U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})$ is both a right $U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})$ -module and an H -module:

$$\begin{aligned} X \cdot A &= AX \\ h \cdot A &= \text{Ad}(h)A \end{aligned}$$

for all $h \in H$, $X \in U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})$ and $A \in U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})$. Write $X \mapsto X^0$ for the anti-automorphism of $U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})$ defined by

$$(X_1 \cdots X_n)^0 = (-1)^n X_n \cdots X_1 \quad \text{for } X_j \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}}.$$

In particular, the vector space $\text{Hom}(F_1, F_2)$ is equipped with a structure of $U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})$ -module:

$$(4.1) \quad X \cdot T = T \circ d\tau_1(X^0), \quad X \in U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}}), T \in \text{Hom}(F_1, F_2),$$

where $d\tau_1$ denotes the differential of τ_1 extended naturally to $U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})$. Let $\mathcal{F}_i \rightarrow G/H$ be the homogeneous vector bundle over G/H induced by the H -module F_i and write $C^\infty(G/H, \mathcal{F}_i)$ for the space of smooth sections on which the group G acts by left translations. As a G -module, $C^\infty(G/H, \mathcal{F}_i)$ is isomorphic to the space of H -invariant vectors $(C^\infty(G) \otimes F_i)^H$. Here the G -action on $C^\infty(G) \otimes F_i$ is given

by left translations on $C^\infty(G)$ and trivial on F_i , while the H -action is given by the right translations on $C^\infty(G)$ and by τ_i on F_i . Let $\mathcal{D}_{G/H}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2)$ be the vector space of left-invariant differential operators $C^\infty(G/H, \mathcal{F}_1) \rightarrow C^\infty(G/H, \mathcal{F}_2)$. One has the following isomorphism:

$$\mathcal{D}_{G/H}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2) \simeq \left\{ U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})} \text{Hom}(F_1, F_2) \right\}^H,$$

where the H -action on $U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})} \text{Hom}(F_1, F_2)$ is given by

$$(4.2) \quad h \cdot (A \otimes T) = (\text{Ad}(h)A) \otimes \tau_2(h) \circ T \circ \tau_1(h)^{-1}.$$

When $F_1 = F_2$, $\mathcal{D}_{G/H}(\mathcal{F}_1, \mathcal{F}_2)$ is an algebra and in the case when $F_1 = F_2 = \mathbb{C}$, one has an isomorphism of algebras

$$\mathcal{D}_{G/H}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C}) \simeq U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})^H / U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})^H \cap U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}})\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}},$$

where $\mathcal{D}_{G/H}(\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{C})$ coincides with the commutative algebra $\mathcal{D}(G/H)$ of left-invariant differential operators acting on smooth functions on G/H .

Let (β, E) be a finite-dimensional representation of \mathfrak{h} such that the tensor product $S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E$ lifts to a representation (τ, F) of the group H . There is an associated smooth homogeneous vector bundle over G/H , which we denote by $S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E}$, whose space of smooth sections is

$$\begin{aligned} & C^\infty(G/H, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) \\ & \simeq \left\{ C^\infty(G) \otimes (S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E) \right\}^H \\ & \simeq \{ f : G \rightarrow S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E \mid f \text{ is smooth and } f(gh) = \tau(h)^{-1}(f(g)), \forall h \in H \}. \end{aligned}$$

For $X \in \mathfrak{q}$ and $\varphi \in C^\infty(G)$, define the right differential of φ along X as follows:

$$(R(X)\varphi)(g) = \frac{d}{dt} \varphi(g \exp(tX))|_{t=0}.$$

Pick an orthonormal basis $\{X_j\}$ of \mathfrak{q} and consider the G -invariant differential operator

$$(4.3) \quad \widehat{D}_{G/H}(E) : C^\infty(G/H, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow C^\infty(G/H, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E})$$

defined by

$$\widehat{D}_{G/H}(E) = \sum_j \langle X_j, X_j \rangle R(X_j) \otimes (\gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(X_j) \otimes 1).$$

Note that $\widehat{D}_{G/H}(E)$ is independent of the basis $\{X_j\}$. One checks that $\widehat{D}_{G/H}(E)$ belongs to the space $\left\{ U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})} \text{Hom}(S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E) \right\}^H$ and therefore defines a G -invariant differential operator acting on $C^\infty(G/H, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E})$. $\widehat{D}_{G/H}(E)$ is known as the *twisted geometric Dirac operator* associated with E .

There is an algebraic analog of the geometric Dirac operator. Namely, attached to a \mathfrak{g} -module (π, V) there is the Dirac operator

$$D_{\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}}(V) : V \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}} \rightarrow V \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}}$$

with

$$(4.4) \quad D_{\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}}(V) := \sum_j \langle X_j, X_j \rangle \pi(X_j) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(X_j).$$

The operator $D_{\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}}(V)$ is independent of the choice of basis $\{X_j\}$ and is \mathfrak{h} -invariant.

5. EMBEDDING OF DIRAC OPERATORS

Fix a transitive triple (G, H, L) . Recall that the spin modules $S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}}$ and $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ for $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ and \mathfrak{h} respectively are isomorphic as $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -modules. Let (β, E) be a finite-dimensional representation of \mathfrak{h} such that the tensor product $S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E$ lifts to a representation (τ, F) of the group H . There is an associated smooth homogeneous vector bundle over both G/H and $L/L \cap H$, which we denote by $S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E} \rightarrow G/H$ and $S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E} \rightarrow L/L \cap H$ respectively. The spaces of smooth sections are, as above, denoted respectively by $C^\infty(G/H, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E})$ and $C^\infty(L/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E})$. The transitive action of L on G/H implies that restriction to L is an isomorphism of L -modules:

$$(5.1) \quad j : C^\infty(G/H, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) \xrightarrow{\cong} C^\infty(L/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}), \quad f \mapsto f|_L.$$

On the other hand, if $U(\mathfrak{l}_\mathbb{C})$ denotes the enveloping algebra of the complexification of \mathfrak{l} , the transitive action of L on G/H and the Poincaré-Birkhoff-Witt theorem induce an isomorphism of algebras

$$U(\mathfrak{g}_\mathbb{C}) \simeq U(\mathfrak{h}_\mathbb{C}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{l}_\mathbb{C} \cap \mathfrak{h}_\mathbb{C})} U(\mathfrak{l}_\mathbb{C}).$$

One deduces the following $L \cap H$ -equivariant embedding of invariant differential operators:

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \iota : \mathcal{D}_{G/H}(S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E}, S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) &\hookrightarrow \mathcal{D}_{L/L \cap H}(S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) \\ \iota(D)(j(f)) &= j(D(f)). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, recall that under Assumption 3.7, the spin modules $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}}$ for the pair $(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h})$ and $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ for the pair $(\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k})$ satisfy the isomorphism (3.11) of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -modules: $S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \simeq S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}}$. We get the following isomorphism of L -modules:

$$(5.3) \quad \begin{aligned} \Phi : C^\infty(L/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) &\xrightarrow{\cong} C^\infty(L/L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes C^\infty(L \cap K/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E})) \\ \Phi(f)(l)(k) &= (k \otimes 1) \cdot (f(lk)) \quad \forall l \in L, k \in L \cap K, \end{aligned}$$

where k acts on the first factor of $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes (S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes E)$. Define the $L \cap K$ -module \tilde{E} and $\tilde{\mathcal{E}}$ the corresponding homogeneous vector bundle over $L \cap K/L \cap H$:

$$(5.4) \quad \tilde{E} := C^\infty(L \cap K/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\mathcal{E}} \rightarrow L \cap K/L \cap H.$$

Next, as in (4.3), one can define the operator

$$(5.5) \quad \widehat{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E) : C^\infty(L/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}) \rightarrow C^\infty(L/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes \mathcal{E}).$$

Let $c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}$ be the degree three element in $C(\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l})$ defined as the image under the Chevalley isomorphism of the 3-form on $\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}$ given by

$$\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} \times \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} \times \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} \ni (X, Y, Z) \mapsto \langle X, [Y, Z] \rangle.$$

If $\{e_j\}$ is an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}$ with $\langle e_j, e_j \rangle = \varepsilon_j = \pm 1$, then

$$(5.6) \quad c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}} = \sum_{i < j < k} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_k \langle [e_i, e_j], e_k \rangle e_i e_j e_k = \frac{1}{6} \sum_{i, j, k} \varepsilon_i \varepsilon_j \varepsilon_k \langle [e_i, e_j], e_k \rangle e_i e_j e_k.$$

Note that both $\widehat{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E)$ and $c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}$ belong to the space

$$\left\{ U(\mathfrak{l}_\mathbb{C}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{l}_\mathbb{C} \cap \mathfrak{h}_\mathbb{C})} \text{Hom}(S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes E, S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes E) \right\}^{L \cap H}.$$

The L -invariant differential operator $\widehat{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E)$ is the non-cubic geometric Dirac operator and

$$(5.7) \quad D_{L/L \cap H}(E) := \widehat{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E) - 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_l}(c_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1$$

is the cubic geometric Dirac operator.

Similarly, following (4.4), one can define respectively the cubic and non-cubic algebraic Dirac operator $D_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}(E)$ and $\widehat{D}_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}(E)$ on $S_{\mathfrak{q}_l} \otimes E$:

$$D_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}(E) = \widehat{D}_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}(E) - 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_l}(c_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}).$$

The algebraic Dirac operator for $(\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k})$ is defined analogously. Note that since G/H (resp. $K/K \cap H$) is a symmetric space, the cubic term $c_{\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h}}$ (resp. $c_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}$) for the pair $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$ (resp. $(\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k})$) vanishes, so that cubic and non-cubic Dirac operators coincide. In particular, one may write equivalently $D_{G/H}(E)$ or $\widehat{D}_{G/H}(E)$. Using the isomorphism Φ , the operator $D_{L/L \cap H}(E)$ may be pushed over to the right side of (5.3) to an L -invariant differential operator:

$$(5.8) \quad \widetilde{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E)(\Phi(f)) = \Phi(D_{L/L \cap H}(E)(f)).$$

We will omit the tilde and still write $D_{L/L \cap H}(E)$ for the pushed operator $\widetilde{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E)$ when there is no confusion.

Theorem 5.9. *For transitive triples of type S , one has:*

$$\begin{aligned} \iota(D_{G/H}(E)) &= \sqrt{2} D_{L/L \cap H}(E) + (1 - \sqrt{2})D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E) + \\ &\quad (\sqrt{2} - 2) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_l}(c_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E). \end{aligned}$$

Another way to express $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ is

$$\iota(D_{G/H}(E)) = \sqrt{2} D_{L/L \cap K}(\widetilde{E}) + D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E) - 2 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_l}(c_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E).$$

The actions of $D_{L/L \cap H}(E)$ and $c_{l, l \cap \mathfrak{h}}$ were defined above, while $D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E)$ acts on $\widetilde{E} = C^\infty(L \cap K/L \cap H, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_l} \otimes \mathcal{E})$, $D_{L/L \cap K}(\widetilde{E})$ acts on $C^\infty(L/L \cap K, S_{l \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \widetilde{\mathcal{E}})$ and $D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E)$ acts on $S_{\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes E \simeq S_{l \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes E$.

Proof. Recall that for triples of type S the only λ is -1 with $d_\lambda = 1$ and the only μ is 0 with $d_\mu = \sqrt{2}$. We denote by $\{Z_j\}$ and $\{T_k\}$ the orthonormal bases of \mathfrak{q}'_l and $l \cap \mathfrak{s}$ defined in (2.4). The Dirac operator $D_{G/H}(E)$ is then given by

$$D_{G/H}(E) = - \sum_j \rho^-(Z_j) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(Z_j)) \otimes 1 + \sum_k \rho^-(T_k) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k)) \otimes 1.$$

It is an H -invariant element of

$$U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})} \text{End}(S_{\mathfrak{q}} \otimes E) = U(\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}) \otimes_{U(\mathfrak{h}_{\mathbb{C}})} \text{End}(S_{\mathfrak{q}}) \otimes \text{End}(E).$$

We know from Section 2 that

$$\begin{aligned} \rho^-(Z_j) &= Z_j, & \rho^+(Z_j) &= 0; \\ \rho^-(T_k) &= \sqrt{2}T_k - \rho^+(T_k). \end{aligned}$$

Using (4.1) and remembering that the \mathfrak{h} -action on $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ is through the map $\alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}$ of (3.2), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_{G/H}(E) &= - \sum_j \rho^-(Z_j) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(Z_j)) \otimes 1 + \sum_k \rho^-(T_k) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k)) \otimes 1 \\
 &= - \sum_j Z_j \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(Z_j)) \otimes 1 + \sqrt{2} \sum_k T_k \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k)) \otimes 1 \\
 &\quad - \sum_k \rho^+(T_k) \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k)) \otimes 1 \\
 &= - \underbrace{\sum_j Z_j \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(Z_j)) \otimes 1 + \sqrt{2} \sum_k T_k \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k)) \otimes 1}_{D_1} \\
 &\quad + 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}} \left(\underbrace{\sum_k \rho^-(T_k) \alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(\rho^+(T_k))}_{D_2} \right) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \left(\underbrace{\sum_k \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k)) \otimes \beta(\rho^+(T_k))}_{D_3} \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\beta(\rho^+(T_k)) \in \text{End}(E)$ is the action of $\rho^+(T_k) \in \mathfrak{h}$ on the \mathfrak{h} -module E .

It follows that

$$\iota(D_{G/H}(E)) = \iota(D_1) + \iota(1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(D_2) \otimes 1) + \iota(1 \otimes D_3).$$

Recall that the embedding ι includes using the isometry $\rho^- : \mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}} \rightarrow \mathfrak{q}$ to identify the Clifford algebra and spin module for $\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}$ with the Clifford algebra and spin module for \mathfrak{q} . Effectively this means that in the Clifford algebra factor of the above expressions we replace $\gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(Z_j))$ respectively $\gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(\rho^-(T_k))$ with $\gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(Z_j)$ respectively $\gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(T_k)$.

In particular,

$$\iota(D_1) = - \sum_j Z_j \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(Z_j) \otimes 1 + \sqrt{2} \sum_k T_k \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(T_k) \otimes 1.$$

We now recall that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \widehat{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E) &= - \sum_j Z_j \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(Z_j) \otimes 1 + \sum_k T_k \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(T_k) \otimes 1; \\
 D_{L/L \cap H}(E) &= \widehat{D}_{L/L \cap H}(E) - 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1; \\
 D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E) &= - \sum_j Z_j \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(Z_j) \otimes 1; \\
 D_{L/L \cap K}(\widetilde{E}) &= \sum_k T_k \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(T_k) \otimes 1.
 \end{aligned}$$

(Note that $D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E) = \widehat{D}_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E)$ since $L \cap K/L \cap H$ is symmetric for triples of type S . Also, the definition of this operator has $\gamma_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ in place of $\gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}$, but the two can be identified via the embedding of $C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})$ into $C(\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}})$.)

It follows that

$$(5.10) \quad \iota(D_1) = \sqrt{2} (D_{L/L \cap H}(E) + 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_{\mathfrak{l}}}(c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1) + (1 - \sqrt{2}) D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E),$$

and also that

$$(5.11) \quad \iota(D_1) = \sqrt{2} D_{L/L \cap K}(\widetilde{E}) + D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E).$$

We next compute the summand $\iota(1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(D_2) \otimes 1)$ of $\iota(D_{G/H})$. Since $\rho^-(Z_r)$ and $\rho^-(T_i)$ form an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{q} , with $\|\rho^-(Z_r)\|^2 = -1$ and $\|\rho^-(T_i)\|^2 = 1$, Lemma 3.4 gives

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\mathfrak{h}}(\rho^+(T_k)) &= - \sum_{r < s} \underbrace{\langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(Z_r)], \rho^-(Z_s) \rangle}_{=0 \text{ since } \mathfrak{k} \perp \mathfrak{s}} \rho^-(Z_r) \rho^-(Z_s) \\ &+ \sum_{r,i} \langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(Z_r)], \rho^-(T_i) \rangle \rho^-(Z_r) \rho^-(T_i) \\ &- \sum_{i < j} \underbrace{\langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(T_i)], \rho^-(T_j) \rangle}_{=0 \text{ since } \mathfrak{k} \perp \mathfrak{s}} \rho^-(T_i) \rho^-(T_j) \\ &= \sum_{r,i} \langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(Z_r)], \rho^-(T_i) \rangle \rho^-(Z_r) \rho^-(T_i). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$(5.12) \quad D_2 = \sum_{k,r,i} \langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(Z_r)], \rho^-(T_i) \rangle \rho^-(T_k) \rho^-(Z_r) \rho^-(T_i),$$

and hence

$$(5.13) \quad \iota(1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(D_2) \otimes 1) = 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}\mathfrak{t}} \left(\sum_{k,r,i} \langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(Z_r)], \rho^-(T_i) \rangle T_k Z_r T_i \right) \otimes 1.$$

Lemma 5.14 will help us to simplify the coefficients in the above expression.

Lemma 5.14. *In the above setting, we have*

$$\langle [\rho^+(T_k), \rho^-(Z_r)], \rho^-(T_i) \rangle = \langle [T_k, Z_r], T_i \rangle.$$

We postpone the proof until after we prove Theorem 5.9. Using Lemma 5.14, we rewrite (5.13) as

$$(5.15) \quad \iota(1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(D_2) \otimes 1) = 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}\mathfrak{t}} \left(\sum_{k,r,i} \langle [T_k, Z_r], T_i \rangle T_k Z_r T_i \right) \otimes 1.$$

On the other hand, by (5.6) we know

$$c_{\mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{t} \cap \mathfrak{h}} = - \left(\sum_{r < s < t} \langle [Z_r, Z_s], Z_t \rangle Z_r Z_s Z_t + \sum_{r;k < i} \langle [T_k, Z_r], T_i \rangle T_k Z_r T_i \right)$$

(the terms with $Z_r Z_s T_k$ and $T_i T_j T_k$ vanish because $\mathfrak{k} \perp \mathfrak{s}$). We also know that

$$c_{\mathfrak{t} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t} \cap \mathfrak{h}} = - \sum_{r < s < t} \langle [Z_r, Z_s], Z_t \rangle Z_r Z_s Z_t = 0$$

since $L \cap K / L \cap H$ is a symmetric space for triples of type S . So

$$c_{\mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{t} \cap \mathfrak{h}} = - \sum_{r;k < i} \langle [T_k, Z_r], T_i \rangle T_k Z_r T_i,$$

and comparing this with (5.15) we conclude that

$$(5.16) \quad \iota(1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}}(D_2) \otimes 1) = -2 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}\mathfrak{t}}(c_{\mathfrak{t}, \mathfrak{t} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1.$$

Finally we consider the third summand of $\iota(D_{G/H})$,

$$\iota(1 \otimes D_3) = 1 \otimes \sum_k \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}\mathfrak{t}}(T_k) \otimes \beta(\rho^+(T_k)).$$

We know from Section 2 that ρ^+ maps $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$ isometrically onto $\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}$. In particular, $\rho^+(T_k)$ form an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}$. Also, we can identify $C(\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}) = C(\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}) \otimes C(\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s})$ with $C(\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}) \otimes C(\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s})$, and $S_{\mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l}} = S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ with $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$. In this way we see that we can identify

$$(5.17) \quad \iota(1 \otimes D_3) = D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{t}}(E),$$

with $D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{t}}(E)$ acting on $S_{\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes E$.

We now add up (5.10), (5.16) and (5.17) to get the first claim of Theorem 5.9, or (5.11), (5.16) and (5.17) to get the second claim of Theorem 5.9. This finishes the proof of Theorem 5.9 modulo Lemma 5.14. \square

Proof of Lemma 5.14. Let ω denote the invariant trilinear alternating form on \mathfrak{g} given by

$$\omega(X, Y, Z) = \langle [X, Y], Z \rangle.$$

Suppose $X \in \mathfrak{l}(\nu)$, $Y \in \mathfrak{l}(\nu')$ and $Z \in \mathfrak{l}(\nu'')$. We claim that

$$(5.18) \quad \omega(\rho^+(X), \rho^-(Y), \rho^-(Z)) = \frac{1}{4} d_\nu d_{\nu'} d_{\nu''} (1 + \nu - \nu' - \nu'') \omega(X, Y, Z).$$

If we prove this claim, the lemma follows immediately by applying the claim to $X = T_k, Y = Z_r, Z = T_i$, since in that case

$$\nu = \nu'' = 0; \quad \nu' = -1; \quad d_\nu = d_{\nu''} = \sqrt{2}; \quad d_{\nu'} = 1.$$

To prove (5.18), we first recall that

$$\rho^+(X) = \frac{d_\nu}{2}(X + \sigma(X)), \quad \rho^-(Y) = \frac{d_{\nu'}}{2}(Y - \sigma(Y)), \quad \rho^-(Z) = \frac{d_{\nu''}}{2}(Z - \sigma(Z)),$$

so (5.18) will follow if we prove

$$(5.19) \quad \omega(X + \sigma(X), Y - \sigma(Y), Z - \sigma(Z)) = 2\omega(X, Y, Z).$$

By definition of $\mathfrak{l}(\nu)$,

$$(5.20) \quad \omega(\sigma(X), Y, Z) = \langle [\sigma(X), Y], Z \rangle = \langle \sigma(X), \underbrace{[Y, Z]}_{\in \mathfrak{l}} \rangle = \nu \langle X, [Y, Z] \rangle = \nu \omega(X, Y, Z).$$

Since ω is skew symmetric, this implies that also

$$(5.21) \quad \omega(X, \sigma(Y), Z) = \nu' \omega(X, Y, Z), \quad \omega(X, Y, \sigma(Z)) = \nu'' \omega(X, Y, Z).$$

The σ -invariance of ω now implies

$$(5.22) \quad \omega(\sigma(X), \sigma(Y), Z) = \omega(X, Y, \sigma(Z)) = \nu'' \omega(X, Y, Z),$$

so by the skew symmetry of ω also

$$(5.23) \quad \omega(\sigma(X), Y, \sigma(Z)) = \nu' \omega(X, Y, Z), \quad \omega(X, \sigma(Y), \sigma(Z)) = \nu \omega(X, Y, Z).$$

The equation (5.19) follows immediately from (5.20)–(5.23). \square

Remark 5.24. Similar formulas for $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ can also be obtained for triples (G, H, L) of type I or N . They are however more complicated, and therefore less likely to have nice applications. Especially, we do not have a nice interpretation as above for the operator D_3 and its action seems hard to understand.

If however the subgroup H is simply connected, the spin module $S_{\mathfrak{q}}$ admits an action of H and one can choose the \mathfrak{h} -module E to be the trivial representation.

In this case, the operator D_3 is zero and the above problem with interpretation disappears.

6. EXAMPLE: $(G, H, L) = (G' \times G', \Delta(G' \times G'), G' \times K')$ FOR $G' = SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ AND $K' = SO(2)$

Let (G, H, L) be a triple $(G' \times G', \Delta(G' \times G'), G' \times K')$, where G' is a non-compact connected semisimple real Lie group with finite center, with maximal compact subgroup K' , $G = G' \times G'$, $H = \Delta(G' \times G')$ and $L = G' \times K'$. Note that the maximal compact subgroup of G is $K = K' \times K'$. Moreover, $L \cap H = \Delta(K' \times K')$, and $L \cap K = K$.

If $\mathfrak{g}' = \mathfrak{k}' \oplus \mathfrak{s}'$ is the Cartan decomposition of the Lie algebra of G' , then we have

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{g}', \quad \mathfrak{h} = \Delta(\mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{g}'), \quad \mathfrak{l} = \mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{k}',$$

and furthermore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{q} &= \Delta^-(\mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{g}'), & \mathfrak{q}_\mathfrak{l} &= \mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l} \oplus (\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}) = \Delta^-(\mathfrak{k}' \times \mathfrak{k}') \oplus (\mathfrak{s}' \times 0); \\ \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k} &= \Delta(\mathfrak{k}' \times \mathfrak{k}') = \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}, & \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s} &= \Delta(\mathfrak{s}' \times \mathfrak{s}'); \\ \mathfrak{q} \cap \mathfrak{k} &= \Delta^-(\mathfrak{k}' \times \mathfrak{k}'), & \mathfrak{q} \cap \mathfrak{s} &= \Delta^-(\mathfrak{s}' \times \mathfrak{s}'); \\ \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k} &= \mathfrak{k}, & \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s} &= \mathfrak{s}' \times 0, \end{aligned}$$

where Δ^- denotes the anti-diagonal. From now on we let $G' = SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $K' = SO(2)$. Let

$$h = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad e = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad f = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -i \\ -i & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

be the usual $\mathfrak{sl}(2)$ -basis of $\mathfrak{g}'_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$, with commutators

$$[h, e] = 2e, \quad [h, f] = -2f, \quad [e, f] = h.$$

We consider the trace form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathfrak{g}' and the direct sum form on \mathfrak{g} . It is easy to check that

$$\tilde{h} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}h, \quad \tilde{e} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(e + f), \quad \tilde{f} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(e - f)$$

form an orthonormal basis of \mathfrak{g}' , i.e., they are orthogonal to each other and satisfy

$$\langle \tilde{h}, \tilde{h} \rangle = -1, \quad \langle \tilde{e}, \tilde{e} \rangle = \langle \tilde{f}, \tilde{f} \rangle = 1.$$

So if we set

$$Z = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{h}, -\tilde{h}), \quad T_1 = (\tilde{e}, 0), \quad T_2 = (\tilde{f}, 0),$$

we see that Z forms an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{q}'_\mathfrak{l}$ (i.e., $\langle Z, Z \rangle = -1$), while T_1 and T_2 form an orthonormal basis of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$ (i.e., $\langle T_1, T_1 \rangle = \langle T_2, T_2 \rangle = 1$, $\langle T_1, T_2 \rangle = 0$).

Since $L \cap K$ is σ -stable, then $\lambda = -1$, i.e., $Z \in \mathfrak{q}$ and $d_\lambda = 1$. Moreover, $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}$ is irreducible under the action of $L \cap H$, with $\mu = 0$ and $d_\mu = \sqrt{2}$. We see immediately that

$$(6.1) \quad \rho^+(Z) = 0, \quad \rho^-(Z) = Z;$$

$$(6.2) \quad \rho^+(T_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{e}, \tilde{e}), \quad \rho^-(T_1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{e}, -\tilde{e});$$

$$(6.3) \quad \rho^+(T_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{f}, \tilde{f}), \quad \rho^-(T_2) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{f}, -\tilde{f}).$$

Since $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ acts on any finite-dimensional representation of $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$, we may choose E to be any finite-dimensional representation of $\Delta(\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C}) \times \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C}))$. By the second statement of Theorem 5.9, the embedding of $D_{G/H}(E)$ can be written as

$$(6.4) \quad \iota(D_{G/H}(E)) = \sqrt{2}D_{L/L \cap K}(\tilde{E}) + D_{L \cap K/L \cap H}(E) - 2 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_1}(c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E).$$

This is an equality of operators acting on the space

$$(6.5) \quad C^\infty(L, S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes C^\infty(L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H})^{L \cap K}.$$

The $L \cap H$ -invariants are taken with respect to the right translation on $C^\infty(L \cap K)$ and lift of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ -action on $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E$ and the $L \cap K$ -invariants are taken with respect to the right translation on $C^\infty(L)$ and lift of $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}$ -action on $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \tilde{E}$. Recall that we are using the isometry $\rho^+ : \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s} \rightarrow \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}$ to identify $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ with $S_{\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$.

We first consider the action of the summand

$$-2 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_1}(c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1$$

of (6.4). By (5.6),

$$c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}} = -ZT_1T_2,$$

so we have to determine the action of $2ZT_1T_2$ on the spin module $S_{\mathfrak{q}_1} = S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}$. To construct the spin module we use the dual isotropic vectors

$$u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(T_1 + iT_2), \quad v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(T_1 - iT_2).$$

Then $S_{\mathfrak{q}_1}$ is spanned by 1 and u , and the action of u and v is given by

$$u \cdot 1 = u, \quad u \cdot u = 0; \quad v \cdot 1 = 0, \quad v \cdot u = 1.$$

Since $T_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(u + v)$ and $T_2 = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(u - v)$, they act by

$$(6.6) \quad T_1 \cdot 1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}u, \quad T_1 \cdot u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}; \quad T_2 \cdot 1 = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}u, \quad T_2 \cdot u = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

Finally, Z acts by $\pm i/\sqrt{2}$ on S^\pm , so

$$Z \cdot 1 = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad Z \cdot u = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}u.$$

A straightforward computation now proves

Lemma 6.7. *The summand*

$$-2 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_1}(c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1 = 1 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}_1}(2ZT_1T_2) \otimes 1$$

of the expression for $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ given by (6.4) acts by the scalar $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ on the whole space (6.5).

To understand the action of the other summands of (6.4), we describe

$$\tilde{E} = C^\infty(L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H}$$

more explicitly. The group

$$L \cap K = K' \times K' = SO(2) \times SO(2)$$

is abelian, compact and connected, and its Lie algebra is

$$\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k} = \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h} \oplus \mathfrak{q}'_1.$$

The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ is one-dimensional, spanned by

$$W = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\tilde{h}, \tilde{h}).$$

Furthermore, W and Z form an orthonormal basis for the abelian Lie algebra $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}$. We denote by $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$ the one-dimensional character of $L \cap K$ on which $(h, 0)$ acts by the scalar a and $(0, h)$ acts by the scalar b . Since $h \in \mathfrak{k}'_{\mathbb{C}}$ acts by integers on the characters of $K' = SO(2)$, a and b are integers. Furthermore, $W = \frac{i}{2}(h, h)$ acts on $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$ by the scalar $\frac{i(a+b)}{2}$, while $Z = \frac{i}{2}(h, -h)$ acts on $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$ by the scalar $\frac{i(a-b)}{2}$.

Since the space of smooth vectors in $L^2(L \cap K)$ coincides with $C^\infty(L \cap K)$ and the dual of $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$ is $\mathbb{C}_{-a,-b}$, Peter-Weyl theorem implies that

$$C^\infty(L \cap K) = \overline{\bigoplus_{a,b} \mathbb{C}_{-a,-b} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{a,b}}$$

with the left regular action of $L \cap K$ realized on the first factor of each summand, and the right regular action of $L \cap K$ realized on the second factor of each summand. Here $\overline{\bigoplus}$ denotes the closure of the algebraic direct sum in the smooth topology (see [MO2] for more detail in a more general setting.) Since the $L \cap H$ -invariants are taken with respect to the right regular action, we have (up to passing to a dense subspace)

$$(6.8) \quad C^\infty(L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H} = \bigoplus_{a,b} \mathbb{C}_{-a,-b} \otimes (\mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H}.$$

Since $L \cap H$ is connected, and $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}$ is spanned by (h, h) , the $L \cap H$ -invariants are simply the 0-eigenspace of (h, h) . The map

$$\alpha_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}} : \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow C(\mathfrak{q}'_1)$$

is zero since $\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{k}$ is abelian, so (h, h) acts by 0 on $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}$. Furthermore, (h, h) acts by $a + b$ on $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$. It follows that taking the $L \cap H$ -invariants in (6.8) amounts to pairing each $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$ with the $(-a - b)$ -weight space of E . So (6.8) can be rewritten as

$$(6.9) \quad C^\infty(L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H} = \bigoplus_{a,b; a+b \in \Delta(E)} \mathbb{C}_{-a,-b} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E_{-a-b},$$

with $\Delta(E)$ denoting the set of weights of E . So the space (6.5) can be identified with

$$(6.10) \quad C^\infty[L, S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \left(\bigoplus_{a,b; a+b \in \Delta(E)} \mathbb{C}_{-a,-b} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E_{-a-b} \right)]^{L \cap K}.$$

We now consider the summand

$$(6.11) \quad D_{L \cap K / L \cap H}(E) = -Z \otimes Z$$

of (6.4). Recall that the first factor Z is acting on $C^\infty(L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H}$ by the right regular action, while the second factor Z is acting on $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}$. So the action of $D_{L \cap K / L \cap H}(E)$ on the space (6.10) is on $\mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}$.

Since the spin module $S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}$ is one-dimensional, with $Z \in C(\mathfrak{q}'_1)$ acting by the scalar $\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}$, and since Z operates on $\mathbb{C}_{a,b}$ by the scalar $\frac{i(a-b)}{2}$, the operator $D_{L \cap K / L \cap H}(E)$

given by (6.11) acts on $\mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}$ by the scalar $\frac{a-b}{2\sqrt{2}}$. In this way we have diagonalized the action of $D_{L \cap K / L \cap H}(E)$ on the space (6.10): the eigenvalues are

$$\frac{k}{2\sqrt{2}}, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z},$$

and the eigenspace corresponding to k is the space

$$(6.12) \quad C^\infty \left[L, S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \left(\bigoplus_{a,b; a-b=k, a+b \in \Delta(E)} \mathbb{C}_{-a,-b} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E_{-a-b} \right) \right]^{L \cap K}.$$

In particular, if we set $k = -2$ and recall Lemma 6.7, we obtain

Corollary 6.13. *The part*

$$D_{L \cap K / L \cap H}(E) - 2 \otimes \gamma_{\mathfrak{q}'_1}(c_{\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{h}}) \otimes 1$$

of the expression for $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ given by (6.4) acts by 0 on the subspace

$$C^\infty \left[L, S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \left(\bigoplus_{a,b; a-b=-2, a+b \in \Delta(E)} \mathbb{C}_{-a,-b} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{a,b} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E_{-a-b} \right) \right]^{L \cap K}$$

of the space (6.10). This subspace is nonzero if and only if E has even weights.

We now turn our attention to the summand $D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E)$ of the expression for $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ given by (6.4). Identifying \mathfrak{h} with $\mathfrak{g}' = \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{R})$, we can use the basis e, f, h of $\mathfrak{g}'_{\mathbb{C}}$ to write

$$D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E) = e \otimes f + f \otimes e$$

with the second factor acting on

$$S_{\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}} = \mathbb{C}1 \oplus \mathbb{C}e$$

in the usual way. If E has highest weight $2m$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, then it is well known and easy to see that

$$\ker D_{\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{k}}(E) = (E_{2m} \otimes e) \oplus (E_{-2m} \otimes 1).$$

Identifying $S_{\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$ with $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$, the basis of the spin module becomes $\{1, u\}$, and we conclude

Corollary 6.14. *If the highest weight of E is $2m$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$, then the operators $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ and $\sqrt{2}D_{L/L \cap K}(\tilde{E})$ are equal on the subspace*

$$C^\infty \left(L, u \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m+1, m-1} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m-1, -m+1} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E_{2m} \oplus 1 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m+1, -m-1} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m-1, m+1} \otimes S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E_{-2m} \right)^{L \cap K}$$

of the space (6.10). In particular, $\iota(D_{G/H}(E))$ and $D_{L/L \cap K}(\tilde{E})$ have the same kernel on this subspace.

We now discuss the kernel of $D_{L/L \cap K}(\tilde{E})$ on the subspace of the space (6.10) described in Corollary 6.14. We first recall that in the definition of the space

$$C^\infty(L, S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \tilde{E})^{L \cap K} \cong (C^\infty(L) \otimes S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \tilde{E})^{L \cap K},$$

the $L \cap K$ -invariants are taken with respect to the right regular action on $C^\infty(L)$, the spin action on $S_{\mathfrak{l} \cap \mathfrak{s}}$, and the left regular action on

$$\tilde{E} = C^\infty(L \cap K, S_{\mathfrak{q}'_1} \otimes E)^{L \cap H}.$$

This means that we can identify the subspace described in Corollary 6.14 with

$$(6.15) \quad C^\infty(L, u \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m+1, m-1} \bigoplus 1 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m+1, -m-1})^{L \cap K};$$

the omitted factors are one-dimensional and carry no relevant action.

We now use $L = G' \times K'$ and $L \cap K = K' \times K'$ to rewrite the space (6.15) as

$$(6.16) \quad C^\infty(G', u \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m+1})^{K'} \otimes C^\infty(K', \mathbb{C}_{m-1})^{K'} \bigoplus C^\infty(G', 1 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m+1})^{K'} \otimes C^\infty(K', \mathbb{C}_{-m-1})^{K'}.$$

Here and below for any $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, \mathbb{C}_k denotes the character of K' on which h acts by k . Peter-Weyl theorem for K' implies that for any such character \mathbb{C}_k ,

$$C^\infty(K', \mathbb{C}_k)^{K'} = \overline{\bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}_{-n} \otimes (\mathbb{C}_n \otimes \mathbb{C}_k)^{K'}} = \mathbb{C}_k.$$

So (6.16) becomes

$$(6.17) \quad C^\infty(G', u \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m+1})^{K'} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m-1} \bigoplus C^\infty(G', 1 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m+1})^{K'} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m-1}.$$

Note that $D_{L/L \cap K}(\tilde{E}) = D_{G'/K'}$ is acting on the first factors in (6.17). To determine the kernel of this operator, we use a reciprocity result of [MZ]. More precisely, let V be a smooth admissible representation of G' , $V_{K'}$ the space of K' -finite vectors and $V_{K'}^*$ the K' -finite dual of $V_{K'}$. Let $S_{\mathfrak{s}'}$ be the spin module for \mathfrak{k}' and F a finite-dimensional representation of \mathfrak{k}' such that $S_{\mathfrak{s}'} \otimes F$ lifts to a K' -representation. Proposition 1.8 of [MZ] says that the map

$$\Psi : \text{Hom}_{G'}(V, C^\infty(G'/K', S_{\mathfrak{s}'} \otimes F)) \rightarrow \text{Hom}_{K'}(F^*, S_{\mathfrak{s}'} \otimes V_{K'}^*)$$

defined by

$$\Psi(T)(f^*)(v) = (\text{id}_{S_{\mathfrak{s}'}} \otimes f^*)[T(v)(1)],$$

where we identify $S_{\mathfrak{s}'} \otimes V_{K'}^*$ with $\text{Hom}(V_{K'}, S_{\mathfrak{s}'})$, induces an isomorphism

$$(6.18) \quad \text{Hom}_{G'}(V, \ker(D_{G'/K'}(F))) \simeq \text{Hom}_{K'}(F^*, \ker(D_{V_{K'}^*})),$$

where F^* is the dual of F . This isomorphism does not involve the spin module, so we can replace the spin module by any of its irreducible components and still have the same statement. This means that the kernel of $D_{G'/K'}$ on $C^\infty(G', u \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m+1})^{K'}$ contains irreducible representations (π, V_π) of G' with the property that the kernel of $D_{\mathfrak{g}', \mathfrak{k}'}$ on $u \otimes V_\pi^*$ contains $\mathbb{C}_{m+1}^* = \mathbb{C}_{-m-1}$. There is exactly one such π^* : the irreducible representation with highest weight $-m-2$. So π is the unique irreducible representation with lowest weight $m+2$, i.e., the discrete series representation with lowest weight $m+2$ (recall that $m \geq 0$, so $m+2 \geq 2$). We denote this representation by DS_{m+2}^+ .

Analogously, the kernel of $D_{G'/K'}$ on $C^\infty(G', 1 \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m+1})^{K'}$ contains irreducible representations (π, V_π) of G' with the property that the kernel of $D_{\mathfrak{g}', \mathfrak{k}'}$ on $1 \otimes V_\pi^*$ contains $\mathbb{C}_{-m+1}^* = \mathbb{C}_{m-1}$. There is exactly one such π^* : the irreducible representation with lowest weight m . The corresponding π is the irreducible representation with highest weight $-m$, so it is the discrete series representation DS_{-m}^- with highest weight $-m$ if $m \geq 2$, the limit of discrete series representation LDS^- with highest weight -1 if $m = 1$, or the trivial representation \mathbb{C} if $m = 0$.

The above discussion and (6.17) imply

Theorem 6.19. *Suppose that the highest weight of E is $2m$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. Then the kernel of $D_{L/L \cap K}(\tilde{E})$ on $C^\infty(L, S_{\Gamma \cap \mathfrak{s}} \otimes \tilde{E})^{L \cap K}$ contains the following representations of $L = G' \times K'$:*

$$\begin{aligned} & (DS_{m+2}^+ \otimes \mathbb{C}_{m-1}) \oplus (DS_{-m}^- \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-m-1}) && \text{if } m \geq 2; \\ & (DS_3^+ \otimes \mathbb{C}_0) \oplus (LDS^- \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-2}) && \text{if } m = 1; \\ & (DS_2^+ \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-1}) \oplus (\mathbb{C} \otimes \mathbb{C}_{-1}) && \text{if } m = 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the same L -representations appear in the kernel of $\iota(D_{G/H})$, and thus also in the kernel of $D_{G/H}$. On the other hand, the kernel of $D_{G/H}$ is a representation of G and not only of L , so our L -representations inside $\ker(D_{G/H})$ generate G -representations inside $\ker(D_{G/H})$. It is possible (but quite complicated) to identify the representations of G in $\ker(D_{G/H})$ whose restrictions to L contain the representations described in Theorem 6.19.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank the referee for careful reading and suggestions to improve the manuscript.

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