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ESTIMATES FOR MATRIX COEFFICIENTS OF REPRESENTATIONS

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In memory of Elias M. Stein

ABSTRACT. Estimates for matrix coefficients of unitary representations of semisimple Lie groups have been studied for a long time, starting with the seminal work by Bargmann, by Ehrenpreis and Mautner, and by Kunze and Stein. Two types of estimates have been established: on the one hand, L^p estimates, which are a dual formulation of the Kunze–Stein phenomenon, and which hold for all matrix coefficients, and on the other pointwise estimates related to asymptotic expansions at infinity, which are more precise but only hold for a restricted class of matrix coefficients. In this paper we prove a new type of estimate for the irreducible unitary representations of $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and for the so-called metaplectic representation, which we believe has the best features of, and implies, both forms of estimate described above. As an application outside representation theory, we prove a new L^2 estimate of dispersive type for the free Schrödinger equation in \mathbb{R}^n .

1. INTRODUCTION

Let π be a strongly continuous unitary representation of a locally compact group G on a Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_π . A matrix coefficient of π is a function on G of the form $x \mapsto \langle \pi(x)\xi, \eta \rangle$, where $\xi, \eta \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$. These matrix coefficients encode the properties of π .

We consider the particular case where $G := \mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. This group has two special subgroups A and K : the former consists of diagonal matrices and the latter of rotation matrices; more precisely, we set

$$(1.1) \quad a_r := \begin{pmatrix} e^{-r} & 0 \\ 0 & e^r \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad k_\theta := \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{pmatrix}$$

for all $r, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$. Note that every element x of G admits a Cartan decomposition, that is, we may write $x = k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}$ where $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ and $r \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cup \{0\}$.

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We are going to prove estimates for matrix coefficients of irreducible representations π of the form

$$(1.2) \quad \left(\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle \pi(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) \xi, \eta \rangle|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \right)^{1/2} \leq C \|\xi\|_{\mathcal{H}_\pi} \|\eta\|_{\mathcal{H}_\pi} \exp(-\lambda r)$$

for all $\xi, \eta \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$ and all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$; the real parameter λ depends on π . These generalise and extend various estimates that have been proved over the years, which we now describe in more detail.

The unitary representations and harmonic analysis of G have been studied for many years, starting with the fundamental paper of Bargmann [2], which identified three families of irreducible unitary representations of G , namely, the principal series, the discrete series, the complementary series, and one additional representation, the trivial representation. We describe these in detail below. Amongst many other things, Bargmann found explicit formulae in terms of special functions for the ‘‘generalised spherical functions’’, that is, the matrix coefficients $\langle \pi(\cdot)\xi, \eta \rangle$ of these representations π when the vectors ξ and η are particular normalised vectors that transform by scalars under the action of K , that is, $\pi(k_\theta)\xi = e^{in\theta}\xi$ and $\pi(k_\theta)\eta = e^{im\theta}\eta$. These led to asymptotic formulae of the form

$$\langle \pi(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) \xi, \eta \rangle \sim C_1(\pi, m, n) \exp(-\lambda_1 r) + C_2(\pi, m, n) \exp(-\lambda_2 r)$$

as $r \rightarrow +\infty$; the (possibly complex) parameters λ_1 and λ_2 depend on which representation is under consideration, and in some cases only one term is present. These formulae were instrumental in his proof of the Plancherel formula, which involves the representations of the principal and discrete series only.

Bargmann observed that all the generalised spherical functions associated to the discrete series belong to $L^2(G)$; those associated to the principal series belong to $L^{2+\varepsilon}(G)$, by which we mean that they belong to $L^{2+\varepsilon}(G)$ for all $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$; those associated to the complementary series belong to $L^{p+}(G)$ for some p depending only on the representation. The matrix coefficients of the trivial representation are all constants that do not decay at infinity at all. The estimates that follow from his analysis do not seem to be uniform in r when we consider different ‘‘ K -types’’ m and n and different representations.

Another great leap forward was the work of Kunze and Stein [18]. They showed that every matrix coefficient of every representation involved in the Plancherel formula, and hence every matrix coefficient of the regular representation, lies in $L^{2+}(G)$. This is a dual formulation of a convolution estimate $\|f * g\|_2 \leq C(p) \|f\|_p \|g\|_2$ for all $p \in [1, 2)$, now known as the Kunze–Stein phenomenon; see [7] for more details of this equivalence. Kunze and Stein also established L^{p+} estimates for the complementary series. A typical estimate is of the form

$$\|\langle \pi(\cdot)\xi, \eta \rangle\|_q \leq C(\pi, q) \|\xi\|_{\mathcal{H}_\pi} \|\eta\|_{\mathcal{H}_\pi} \quad \forall \xi, \eta \in \mathcal{H}_\pi \quad \forall q \in (p, +\infty).$$

As time went on, other forms of decay estimates were established for $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and for more general groups. We mention in particular the pointwise estimates of Howe and Tan [15] for $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and the estimates of Howe [14] for more general groups, as well as the L^p estimates of the second author

[8]. The asymptotic formulae found by Bargmann (see also Ehrenpreis and Mautner [10]) have been generalised to general semisimple Lie groups to give asymptotic expansions of K -finite matrix coefficients of irreducible representations by Harish-Chandra. See Warner [24] or Casselman and Milićić [5] for a comprehensive exposition; see also Knapp [16] and Wallach [23]. These pointwise estimates are very precise “at infinity”, but they only hold for some matrix coefficients and it is hard to see the sort of uniform behaviour that the Kunze–Stein phenomenon tells us must occur. On the other hand, L^{p+} estimates hold for all matrix coefficients of a given irreducible unitary representation, but as students of Lebesgue integration know, the fact that a function lies in some L^q -space does not mean much. Despite this, L^{p+} estimates have also found applications in representation theory and in related areas; see, for example, [19] and [4].

The aim of this paper is to present a new form of estimates for matrix coefficients, which we believe has the best features of both of the forms of estimate above. These estimates were inspired by similar estimates for the free group due to Haagerup [12] that have been extended to estimates for representations of groups of isometries of trees, and in particular, therefore, to groups such as $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{Q}_p)$; see [9] for more information. We treat only $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and some special representations of the metaplectic group. We prove estimates for all matrix coefficients that reduce to sharp forms of the pointwise estimates of Howe [14] for K -finite matrix coefficients and imply similar estimates to the L^p estimates of Kunze–Stein [18] for $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$. It would be nice to extend these to more general semisimple Lie groups in the future, and we envisage applications in representation theory for these.

As an application outside representation theory, we present some multi-dimensional dispersive estimates that go beyond the current fascination with dispersive estimates for the Schrödinger equation (see Tao [20] and also [6] for a representation theoretic perspective).

Here is a plan of the rest of this work. In Section 2, we describe the principal and complementary series, and in Section 3 the discrete series. In Section 4 we prove estimates of the form (1.2). For the principal and complementary series, we use the approach of Astengo, Cowling and Di Blasio [1]; for the discrete series, we use that of Bargmann [2]. In Section 5, we consider the matrix coefficients of the metaplectic representation and we provide the above mentioned application to the Schrödinger equation.

We write $A \lesssim B$ to indicate that there is a constant C such that $A \leq CB$. The implied constants C do not depend on explicitly quantified parameters. All “constants” are positive.

2. THE PRINCIPAL AND COMPLEMENTARY SERIES

We write elements of \mathbb{R}^2 as row vectors, so that G acts on \mathbb{R}^2 by right multiplication, and o for the origin. For $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}$, we define $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ to be the space of smooth functions on $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{o\}$ such that

$$f(\delta v) = \mathrm{sgn}(\delta)^\varepsilon |\delta|^{2\zeta-1} f(v) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{o\} \quad \forall \delta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\},$$

and the representation $\pi_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ of G on $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ by

$$\pi_{\zeta, \varepsilon}(x)f(v) := f(vx) \quad \forall v \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{o\} \quad \forall x \in G.$$

Observe that the functions in $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ are determined by their values on the unit circle. Hence the space $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ is spanned topologically by functions whose restriction to the unit circle is a complex exponential. For every $\mu \in \mathbb{Z}$, we denote by $f_{\zeta, \mu}$ the function in $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ such that

$$f_{\zeta, \mu}(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) = \frac{1}{\pi^{1/2}} e^{i\mu\theta} \quad \forall \theta \in \mathbb{R}.$$

This forces $\mu - \varepsilon$ to be even.

We may define the pairing (see [1, Lemma 3.2])

$$\begin{aligned} (f, g) &:= \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) g(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) d\theta \\ (2.1) \quad &= \int_{-\pi/2}^{\pi/2} f(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) g(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) d\theta \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(1, t) g(1, t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

We recall that if either $\operatorname{Re} \zeta = 0$ (the *principal series*), or $\zeta \in \pm(0, \frac{1}{2})$ and $\varepsilon = 0$ (the *complementary series*), then $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ may be endowed with an inner product whose completion is a Hilbert space on which the representation $\pi_{\zeta, \varepsilon}$ acts unitarily and, except when $\zeta = 0$ and $\varepsilon = 1$, is irreducible.

2.1. The principal series. If $\zeta = \frac{1}{2}is$, where $s \in \mathbb{R}$ (the so-called *principal series*), the completion of the space $\mathcal{V}_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}$ with respect to the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle := (f, \bar{g})$$

is a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}$ on which $\pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}$ acts unitarily. Moreover, the functions $f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}$ form an orthonormal basis, and each transforms under the action of K by a complex exponential (recall the definitions (1.1) of A and K).

Theorem 2.1. *For all $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, all $\varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}$ and all $\mu, \nu \in 2\mathbb{Z} + \varepsilon$,*

$$\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(a_r) f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}, f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \nu} \rangle \right| \lesssim \frac{|s| + 1}{|s|} e^{-r} \quad \forall r \in \mathbb{R}^+.$$

Proof. The result is trivially true if $r \in (0, 1)$, so we may and shall assume that $r \in [1, +\infty)$. We abbreviate $f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}$ to f_{μ} .

From the properties of f_{μ} ,

$$\begin{aligned} (2.2) \quad \langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(x) f_{\mu}, f_{\nu} \rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_{\mu}(e^{-r}, e^r t) f_{-\nu}(1, t) dt \\ &= e^{-r} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_{\mu}(e^{-r}, t) f_{-\nu}(1, e^{-r} t) dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-r} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{(is-1)/2} e^{i\mu \arctan(e^r t)} \\ &\quad \times (1 + e^{-2r} t^2)^{-(is+1)/2} e^{-i\nu \arctan(e^{-r} t)} dt \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-r} \int_0^{+\infty} \dots dt + \frac{1}{\pi} e^{-r} \int_{-\infty}^0 \dots dt. \end{aligned}$$

The second integral on the last line is the same as the first with the signs of μ and ν changed; since we are looking for estimates that are uniform in μ and ν it is enough to consider only the first integral, and bound it by a multiple of $(|s| + 1)/|s|$; we change variables, setting $t := e^y$, and rewrite the integral in the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{-2r} + e^{2y})^{(is-1)/2} e^{i\mu \arctan(e^{y+r})} (1 + e^{-2r} e^{2y})^{-(is+1)/2} e^{-i\nu \arctan(e^{y-r})} e^y dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha_r(y) \exp(i\varphi_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)) dy, \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha_r(y)$ is equal to $[(1 + e^{-2y-2r})(1 + e^{2y-2r})]^{-1/2}$, which lies in $(0, 1)$, and $\varphi_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)$ is equal to

$$\frac{s}{2} [2y + \log(1 + e^{-2y-2r}) - \log(1 + e^{2y-2r})] + \mu \arctan(e^{y+r}) - \nu \arctan(e^{y-r}).$$

The right hand side of the last integral changes to its complex conjugate when s , μ and ν all change signs, so we may suppose that $s \in \mathbb{R}^+$.

For brevity, we write $\tilde{r} := r - 1$. Now

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{-\tilde{r}} \alpha_r(y) dy &\leq \int_{-\infty}^{-\tilde{r}} e^{y+r} dy = e, \\ \int_{\tilde{r}}^{+\infty} \alpha_r(y) dy &\leq \int_{\tilde{r}}^{+\infty} e^{-y-r} dy = e, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\tilde{r}}^{\tilde{r}} 1 - \alpha_r(y) dy &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\tilde{r}}^{\tilde{r}} e^{-2y-2r} + e^{2y-2r} + e^{-4r} dy \\ &= e^{-2r} \sinh(2\tilde{r}) + e^{-4r} \tilde{r} \leq \frac{1}{2e^2} + \frac{1}{4e^5}, \end{aligned}$$

since $1 - [1 + z]^{-1/2} \leq \frac{1}{2}z$ when $z \in \mathbb{R}^+$. Because

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}} \alpha_r(y) \exp(i\varphi_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)) dy \right| \\ &\leq \int_{-\infty}^{-\tilde{r}} |\alpha_r(y)| dy + \int_{\tilde{r}}^{+\infty} |\alpha_r(y)| dy + \int_{-\tilde{r}}^{\tilde{r}} |\alpha_r(y) - 1| dy \\ &\quad + \left| \int_{-\tilde{r}}^{\tilde{r}} \exp(i\varphi_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)) dy \right|, \end{aligned}$$

it will suffice to show that

$$I := \left| \int_{-\tilde{r}}^{\tilde{r}} \exp(i\varphi_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)) dy \right| \lesssim \frac{s+1}{s}.$$

Let $N(\mu, \nu, r, s)$ be the number of zeros of $\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}$ in $[-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}]$. Then van der Corput's Lemma applied to the integral over $\{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : |\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)| \geq s/2\}$ and the trivial estimate applied to the complementary integral show that

$$I \lesssim \frac{N(\mu, \nu, r, s)}{s} + |\{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : |\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)| < s/2\}|.$$

An easy computation shows that

$$\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y) = s \left[1 - \frac{e^{-2(y+r)}}{1 + e^{-2(y+r)}} - \frac{e^{2(y-r)}}{1 + e^{2(y-r)}} \right] + \frac{\mu}{2 \cosh(y+r)} - \frac{\nu}{2 \cosh(y-r)}.$$

Now $\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}$ is a rational function of e^y with coefficients that depend on r , s , μ and ν , so the same holds for $\varphi''_{r,s,\mu,\nu}$; therefore the number of zeros of $\varphi''_{r,s,\mu,\nu}$ is uniformly bounded with respect to these parameters. Thus $N(\mu, \nu, r, s) \leq N$ for a universal constant N . It remains only to show that

$$(2.3) \quad \left| \{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : |\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)| < s/2\} \right| \lesssim 1.$$

Observe that

$$1 - \frac{e^{-2(y+r)}}{1 + e^{-2(y+r)}} - \frac{e^{2(y-r)}}{1 + e^{2(y-r)}} = \frac{1 - e^{-4r}}{1 + e^{-2y-2r} + e^{2y-2r} + e^{-4r}},$$

and to minimise this last expression for y in $[-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}]$, we take $y = \tilde{r}$ and obtain

$$1 - \frac{e^{-2(y+r)}}{1 + e^{-2(y+r)}} - \frac{e^{2(y-r)}}{1 + e^{2(y-r)}} \geq \frac{1 - e^{-4r}}{1 + e^{2-4r} + e^{-2} + e^{-4r}}.$$

As a function of r , the numerator of this function is increasing while the denominator is decreasing, so we conclude that

$$1 > 1 - \frac{e^{-2(y+r)}}{1 + e^{-2(y+r)}} - \frac{e^{2(y-r)}}{1 + e^{2(y-r)}} \geq \frac{1 - e^{-4}}{1 + e^{-2} + e^{-2} + e^{-4}} = \tanh(1) > \frac{3}{4}$$

for all $r \in [1, +\infty)$ and all $y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}]$. Define

$$\psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) := \frac{\nu}{2 \cosh(y-r)} - \frac{\mu}{2 \cosh(y+r)};$$

then $|\varphi'_{r,s,\mu,\nu}(y)| < s/2$ implies that $\psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) \in [s/4, 3s/2]$. We consider two cases.

If $\mu\nu \geq 0$, then $\psi_{r,\mu,\nu}$ is monotone (increasing if either both $\mu > 0$ and $\nu > 0$ or both $\mu = 0$ and $\nu > 0$; decreasing if either both $\mu < 0$ and $\nu < 0$ or both $\mu < 0$ and $\nu = 0$). Moreover, $|\{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) \in [s/4, 3s/2]\}|$ is equal to

$$|\{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) > 0, \log(\psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y)) \in [\log(s/4), \log(3s/2)]\}|.$$

To prove that this quantity is bounded by a constant independent of r , s , μ , and ν , it suffices to show that the derivative of $\log(\psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(\cdot))$ is bounded away from 0, uniformly in r , μ , and ν , that is,

$$|\psi'_{r,\mu,\nu}(y)| \gtrsim \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y).$$

There are various cases to consider; for instance, if $\mu > 0$ and $\nu > 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi'_{r,\mu,\nu}(y)| &= \psi'_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) = \frac{\nu \sinh(r-y)}{2 \cosh^2(r-y)} + \frac{\mu \sinh(r+y)}{2 \cosh^2(r+y)} \\ &= \frac{\nu}{2 \cosh(r-y)} \tanh(r-y) + \frac{\mu}{2 \cosh(r+y)} \tanh(r+y) \\ &\geq \tanh(1) \frac{\nu}{2 \cosh(r-y)} \geq \tanh(1) \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y). \end{aligned}$$

The other cases that arise when $\mu\nu \geq 0$ may be treated analogously.

If $\mu\nu < 0$, then the set $\{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) \in [s/4, 3s/2]\}$ is empty unless $\mu < 0$ and $\nu > 0$. In this case, $\psi_{r,\mu,\nu} > 0$. Moreover, for y in $[-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}]$, there are uniform estimates

$$\frac{1}{2}e^{r+y} \leq \cosh(r+y) \leq e^{r+y} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{2}e^{r-y} \leq \cosh(r-y) \leq e^{r-y}.$$

Hence if $s/4 \leq \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) \leq 3s/2$, then $se^r/4 \leq \nu e^y - \mu e^{-y} \leq 3se^r$, and so

$$\frac{se^r}{8|\mu\nu|^{1/2}} \leq \frac{e^{y+z} + e^{-y-z}}{2} \leq \frac{3se^r}{2|\mu\nu|^{1/2}},$$

where $z := \frac{1}{2} \log(\nu/|\mu|) > 0$.

We claim that

$$|\{y \in \mathbb{R} : \cosh(y+z) \in [a, b]\}| \leq 2 \log(2b/a)$$

whenever $0 < a < b < +\infty$ and $z \in \mathbb{R}$. From this claim, it follows immediately that

$$|\{y \in [-\tilde{r}, \tilde{r}] : \psi_{r,\mu,\nu}(y) \in [s/4, 3s/2]\}| \leq 2 \log(24),$$

as required. So we need to establish our claim.

Evidently, the truth (or otherwise) of the claim does not depend on z , so we shall assume that $z = 0$. By symmetry, the size of the required set is twice $|\{y \in \mathbb{R}^+ : \cosh(y) \in [a, b]\}|$. But

$$|\{y \in \mathbb{R}^+ : a \leq \cosh(y) \leq b\}| = |\{y \in \mathbb{R}^+ : a \leq e^y \leq 2b\}| = \log(2b) - \log(a),$$

and the claim follows.

The proof of (2.3) and thus of the theorem is complete. \square

2.2. The complementary series. Let $\operatorname{Re} \zeta \in (-\frac{1}{2}, 0)$, and define the intertwining operator $J_{\zeta,\varepsilon}$ by setting $J_{\zeta,\varepsilon} f(\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi)$ equal to

$$\frac{1}{2c(\zeta, \varepsilon)} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(\cos \theta, \sin \theta) \operatorname{sgn}^{\varepsilon}(\sin(\varphi - \theta)) |\sin(\theta - \varphi)|^{-1-2\zeta} d\theta$$

where $c(\zeta, \varepsilon) := i^{\varepsilon} \pi^{1/2} 2^{-2\zeta} \frac{\Gamma(\varepsilon/2 - \zeta)}{\Gamma((1+\varepsilon)/2 + \zeta)}$. It is known (see, for instance, [1, Lemma 3.6]) that, for these ζ ,

- $J_{\zeta,\varepsilon}$ maps $\mathcal{V}_{\zeta,\varepsilon}$ bijectively and bicontinuously onto $\mathcal{V}_{-\zeta,\varepsilon}$;
- $J_{\zeta,\varepsilon} f_{\zeta,\mu} = d(\zeta, \varepsilon, \mu) f_{-\zeta,\mu}$, where $d(\zeta, \varepsilon, \mu) = 2^{2\zeta} \frac{\Gamma(1/2 + \zeta + \mu/2)}{\Gamma(1/2 - \zeta + \mu/2)}$;
- $J_{\zeta,\varepsilon} \pi_{\zeta,\varepsilon}(x) = \pi_{-\zeta,\varepsilon}(x) J_{\zeta,\varepsilon}$ for all $x \in G$;

further, the map $\zeta \mapsto J_{\zeta,\varepsilon}$ extends analytically to $\{\zeta \in \mathbb{C} : \operatorname{Re} \zeta \in (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})\}$ and the three properties above continue to hold in this region. Therefore if $\operatorname{Re} \zeta \in \pm(0, \frac{1}{2})$, for all $f, g \in \mathcal{V}_{\zeta,\varepsilon}$ the pairing (as in (2.1))

$$(J_{\zeta,\varepsilon} f, g) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} J_{\zeta,\varepsilon} f(\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi) g(\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi) d\varphi$$

is well defined.

Now take $\zeta = \lambda \in \pm(0, \frac{1}{2})$ and $\varepsilon = 0$, and write π_{λ} , \mathcal{V}_{λ} and J_{λ} for $\pi_{\lambda,0}$, $\mathcal{V}_{\lambda,0}$ and $J_{\lambda,0}$ respectively. This corresponds to the so-called *complementary series*. In this case, one may define on \mathcal{V}_{λ} an inner product, written $\langle\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\rangle$ to distinguish it from the previous one:

$$\langle\langle f, g \rangle\rangle := (J_{\lambda} f, \bar{g}),$$

and the completion of \mathcal{V}_{λ} with respect to this inner product is a Hilbert space \mathcal{H}_{λ} on which π_{λ} acts unitarily (see, for example, [1, Lemma 3.4]). We

write $d(\lambda, \mu)$ for $d(\lambda, 0, \mu)$, and then

$$\begin{aligned} \|f_{\lambda, \mu}\|_{\mathcal{H}_\lambda}^2 &= \langle\langle f_{\lambda, \mu}, f_{\lambda, \mu} \rangle\rangle = (J_\lambda f_{\lambda, \mu}, \bar{f}_{\lambda, \mu}) = d(\lambda, \mu) (f_{-\lambda, \mu}, \bar{f}_{\lambda, \mu}) \\ &= d(\lambda, \mu) (f_{-\lambda, \mu}, f_{\lambda, -\mu}) = d(\lambda, \mu). \end{aligned}$$

With respect to the inner product $\langle\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle\rangle$, the functions $f_{\lambda, \mu}$ are not normalised. By the previous computation, it is clear that $d(\lambda, \mu) > 0$. This may be seen explicitly using the recurrence formula for the gamma function, which implies that

$$\frac{\Gamma(1/2 + \lambda + \mu/2)}{\Gamma(1/2 - \lambda + \mu/2)} = (-1)^\mu \frac{\Gamma(1/2 + \lambda - \mu/2)}{\Gamma(1/2 - \lambda - \mu/2)}$$

where, in our case, μ is even since $\varepsilon = 0$ (see, for instance, [1, eq. (2.8)]). Hence we may define

$$g_{\lambda, \mu} := \frac{1}{(d(\lambda, \mu))^{1/2}} f_{\lambda, \mu}.$$

We shall prove the following.

Theorem 2.2. *For all $\lambda \in \pm(0, \frac{1}{2})$, all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and all $\mu, \nu \in 2\mathbb{Z}$,*

$$|\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_r) g_{\lambda, \mu}, g_{\lambda, \nu} \rangle\rangle| \lesssim \frac{1}{|\lambda|} e^{-r(1-2|\lambda|)}.$$

Proof. Again, we may and shall assume that $r \in [1, +\infty)$. Observe first that for all $x \in G$,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle\langle \pi_\lambda(x) g_{\lambda, \mu}, g_{\lambda, \nu} \rangle\rangle &= (J_\lambda \pi_\lambda(x) g_{\lambda, \mu}, \bar{g}_{\lambda, \nu}) \\ &= \frac{1}{(d(\lambda, \mu) d(\lambda, \nu))^{1/2}} (J_\lambda \pi_\lambda(x) f_{\lambda, \mu}, \bar{f}_{\lambda, \nu}) \\ &= \frac{1}{(d(\lambda, \mu) d(\lambda, \nu))^{1/2}} (\pi_{-\lambda}(x) J_\lambda f_{\lambda, \mu}, f_{\lambda, -\nu}) \\ &= \frac{d(\lambda, \mu)}{(d(\lambda, \mu) d(\lambda, \nu))^{1/2}} (\pi_{-\lambda}(x) f_{-\lambda, \mu}, f_{\lambda, -\nu}) \\ &= \left(\frac{d(\lambda, \mu)}{d(\lambda, \nu)} \right)^{1/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \pi_{-\lambda}(x) f_{-\lambda, \mu}(1, t) f_{\lambda, -\nu}(1, t) dt. \end{aligned}$$

If $x = a_{\pm r}$, then, proceeding as in (2.2), we see that

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_{\pm r}) g_{\lambda, \mu}, g_{\lambda, \nu} \rangle\rangle \\ &= \left(\frac{d(\lambda, \mu)}{d(\lambda, \nu)} \right)^{1/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} f_{-\lambda, \mu}(e^{\mp r}, e^{\pm r} t) f_{\lambda, -\nu}(1, t) dt \\ &= \left(\frac{d(\lambda, \mu)}{d(\lambda, \nu)} \right)^{1/2} \frac{e^{\mp r}}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{\mp 2r} + t^2)^{-\frac{2\lambda+1}{2}} e^{i\mu \arctan(e^{\pm r} t)} \\ &\quad \times (1 + e^{\mp 2r} t^2)^{\frac{2\lambda-1}{2}} e^{-i\nu \arctan(e^{\mp r} t)} dt \\ &=: \left(\frac{d(\lambda, \mu)}{d(\lambda, \nu)} \right)^{1/2} A_{\lambda, \mu, \nu}(\pm r). \end{aligned}$$

We claim that

$$(2.4) \quad |A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(\pm r)| \lesssim \frac{1}{|\lambda|} e^{-r(1-2|\lambda|)}.$$

Assuming the claim, we prove the theorem. Since

$$\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_r)g_{\lambda,\mu}, g_{\lambda,\nu} \rangle\rangle = \langle\langle g_{\lambda,\mu}, \pi_\lambda(a_{-r})g_{\lambda,\nu} \rangle\rangle = \overline{\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_{-r})g_{\lambda,\nu}, g_{\lambda,\mu} \rangle\rangle}$$

and

$$\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_{\pm r})g_{\lambda,\mu}, g_{\lambda,\nu} \rangle\rangle = \left(\frac{d(\lambda, \mu)}{d(\lambda, \nu)} \right)^{1/2} A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(\pm r),$$

we have, by the claim,

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_r)g_{\lambda,\mu}, g_{\lambda,\nu} \rangle\rangle| &= |\langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_r)g_{\lambda,\mu}, g_{\lambda,\nu} \rangle\rangle \langle\langle \pi_\lambda(a_{-r})g_{\lambda,\nu}, g_{\lambda,\mu} \rangle\rangle|^{1/2} \\ &= (A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(r)A_{\lambda,\nu,\mu}(-r))^{1/2} \lesssim \frac{1}{|\lambda|} e^{-r(1-2|\lambda|)}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore it remains to prove the claim.

To do this, we first observe that it is enough to prove (2.4) for $A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(r)$, since

$$A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(-r) = A_{-\lambda,-\nu,-\mu}(r).$$

Thus, consider $A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(r)$. First,

$$\begin{aligned} \pi |A_{\lambda,\mu,\nu}(r)| &\leq e^{-r} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{-(2\lambda+1)/2} (1 + e^{-2r}t^2)^{(2\lambda-1)/2} dt \\ &= 2e^{-r} \int_0^{+\infty} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{-(2\lambda+1)/2} (1 + e^{-2r}t^2)^{(2\lambda-1)/2} dt \\ &= 2e^{-r} \left(\int_0^{e^{-r}} \dots dt + \int_{e^{-r}}^{e^r} \dots dt + \int_{e^r}^{+\infty} \dots dt \right) \\ &=: 2e^{-r} (A_1 + A_2 + A_3), \end{aligned}$$

say. Then

$$A_1 \leq \int_0^{e^{-r}} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{-\lambda-1/2} dt \leq e^{2r(\lambda+1/2)} e^{-r} = e^{2r\lambda},$$

while

$$A_2 \leq \int_{e^{-r}}^{e^r} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{-\lambda-1/2} dt \leq \int_{e^{-r}}^{e^r} t^{-2\lambda-1} dt \lesssim \frac{1}{|\lambda|} e^{2|\lambda|r},$$

and finally

$$\begin{aligned} A_3 &\leq \int_{e^r}^{+\infty} (1 + e^{-2r}t^2)^{\lambda-1/2} t^{-2\lambda-1} dt \\ &= e^{-2\lambda r} \int_1^{+\infty} (1 + s^2)^{\lambda-1/2} s^{-2\lambda-1} ds \lesssim e^{-2\lambda r}, \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof of the claim and of the theorem. \square

2.3. Optimality. Theorem 2.1 is best possible, in the sense that the term $(|s|+1)/|s|$ cannot be significantly improved. Indeed, the asymptotic formulae of Bargmann [2] imply that

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow +\infty} e^r \left| \langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(a_r) f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}, f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \nu} \rangle \right| = C \begin{cases} |s|^{-1/2} \coth^{1/2}(\pi|s|) & \text{when } \varepsilon = 0, \\ |s|^{-1/2} \tanh^{1/2}(\pi|s|) & \text{when } \varepsilon = 1. \end{cases}$$

This implies immediately that we cannot do better when $|s| \leq 1$, but suggests that $(|s|+1)/|s|$ may not be optimal when $|s| \geq 1$. However, it is evident that

$$\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(a_0) f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}, f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu} \rangle \right| = 1,$$

and so no bound that vanishes when $|s| \rightarrow +\infty$ can be valid.

Howe and Tan [15] found a uniform estimate for the principal series which also holds when $s = 0$, namely,

$$\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(a_r) f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}, f_{s, \nu} \rangle \right| \lesssim (1+r)e^{-r}$$

for all $\varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}$, all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and all $\mu, \nu \in 2\mathbb{Z} + \varepsilon$.

The proof of this estimate goes as follows; we first show that

$$\left| \langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(a_r) f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \mu}, f_{\frac{1}{2}is, \nu} \rangle \right| \lesssim e^{-r} \int_{\mathbb{R}} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{-1/2} (1 + e^{-2r}t^2)^{-1/2} dt,$$

by estimating as in the proof of Theorem 2.2, and then break this integral into three parts and estimate each, much as we estimated A_1 , A_2 and A_3 above. However, the integral corresponding to A_2 is estimated as follows:

$$\int_{e^{-r}}^{e^r} (e^{-2r} + t^2)^{-1/2} dt \leq \int_{e^{-r}}^{e^r} t^{-1} dt \lesssim r$$

when $r \in [1, +\infty)$. This approach also gives complementary series estimates that do not blow up when the parameter λ approaches 0.

3. THE DISCRETE SERIES

Conjugation with the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ i & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

converts $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ into the group $\mathrm{SU}(1, 1)$ of complex matrices of determinant 1 that preserve the quadratic form B defined by $B(w, z) := |w|^2 - |z|^2$. We follow Bargmann [2] (with minor notational differences), and refer in particular to [2, §9]. Hence, we identify the elements of G with the matrices

$$(3.1) \quad x = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & \bar{\beta} \\ \beta & \bar{\alpha} \end{pmatrix},$$

where $|\alpha|^2 - |\beta|^2 = 1$. For $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, we denote by \mathcal{H}_ℓ the Hilbert space of holomorphic functions on the unit disk $D := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : |z| < 1\}$ endowed with the inner product

$$\langle f, g \rangle_\ell := \frac{\ell - 1}{2\pi i} \int_D (1 - |z|^2)^{\ell-2} \bar{f}(z) g(z) d\sigma(z)$$

if $\ell > 1$, and when $\ell = 1$,

$$\langle f, g \rangle_1 := \lim_{\ell \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{\ell - 1}{\pi} \int_D (1 - |z|^2)^{\ell-2} \bar{f}(z) g(z) d\sigma(z),$$

where σ denotes Lebesgue measure in \mathbb{C} . Write h for $\frac{1}{2}\ell$.

3.1. The discrete series D_h^+ . Consider the action of G on D given by

$$xz := \frac{\bar{\alpha}z + \bar{\beta}}{\beta z + \alpha} \quad \forall z \in D,$$

and the representation π_ℓ^+ on \mathcal{H}_ℓ given by

$$\pi_\ell^+(x)f(z) := \mu^+(x, x^{-1}z)^\ell f(x^{-1}z) \quad \forall x \in D \quad \forall z \in D,$$

where $\mu^+(x, z) := \beta z + \alpha$. Then π_ℓ^+ is an irreducible unitary representation of G on \mathcal{H}_ℓ , and we say that it belongs to the class D_h^+ . The functions

$$g_{\ell, m}^+(z) := (-1)^{m-h} \binom{\ell - 1 + m - h}{m - h}^{1/2} z^{m-h} \quad \forall m \in h + \mathbb{N},$$

form an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{H}_ℓ . Define now

$$\tilde{a}_r := \begin{pmatrix} \cosh r & \sinh r \\ \sinh r & \cosh r \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{k}_\theta := \begin{pmatrix} e^{-i\theta} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta} \end{pmatrix}$$

for all $r \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\theta \in [-\pi, \pi)$. We shall prove the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1. *For all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$, all $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, and all $m, n \in \frac{1}{2}\ell + \mathbb{N}$,*

$$|\langle g_{\ell, m}^+, \pi_\ell^+(\tilde{a}_r)g_{\ell, n}^+ \rangle_\ell| \leq (\cosh r)^{-1}.$$

Proof. In this proof, we omit the superscript $+$ and hide the dependence on ℓ . Define

$$v_{m, n}(x) := \langle g_{\ell, m}, \pi_\ell(x)g_{\ell, n} \rangle_\ell \quad \forall x \in G,$$

$y := \sinh^2 r$ and $W_{m, n}(y) := v_{m, n}(\tilde{a}_r)$. Then by [2, (11.2)],

$$\begin{aligned} W_{m, n}(y) &= \frac{(-1)^{n-h}}{\Gamma(2h)} \left(\frac{\Gamma(m+h)\Gamma(n+h)}{\Gamma(m+1-h)\Gamma(n+1-h)} \right)^{1/2} y^{-h} \left(\frac{y}{y+1} \right)^{(m+n)/2} \\ &\quad \times F(h-m, h-n, 2h, -1/y) \\ &= \frac{(-1)^{n-h}}{\Gamma(2h)} \left(\frac{\Gamma(m+h)\Gamma(n+h)}{\Gamma(m+1-h)\Gamma(n+1-h)} \right)^{1/2} y^{-h} \left(\frac{y}{y+1} \right)^{(m+n)/2} \\ &\quad \times F(h-n, h-m, 2h, -1/y) \\ (3.2) \quad &= \frac{(-1)^{n-h}}{\Gamma(2h)} \left(\frac{\Gamma(m+h)\Gamma(n+h)}{\Gamma(m+1-h)\Gamma(n+1-h)} \right)^{1/2} y^{-h} \left(\frac{y}{y+1} \right)^{(m+n)/2} \\ &\quad \times \binom{n+h-1}{n-h}^{-1} \left(\frac{y}{y+1} \right)^{h-n} P_{n-h}^{(2h-1, m-n)} \left(\frac{y-1}{y+1} \right) \\ &= (-1)^{n-h} \left(\frac{\Gamma(m+h)\Gamma(n+1-h)}{\Gamma(n+h)\Gamma(m+1-h)} \right)^{1/2} y^{-h} \left(\frac{y}{y+1} \right)^{h+(m-n)/2} \\ &\quad \times P_{n-h}^{(2h-1, m-n)} \left(\frac{y-1}{y+1} \right), \end{aligned}$$

where $P_\nu^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ is the usual Jacobi polynomial, by the symmetry of the hypergeometric function and [3, p. 170].

Following Koornwinder et al. [17, eq. (4.4)], we define

$$\mathbf{g}_\nu^{(\alpha,\beta)}(x) = \left(\frac{\Gamma(\nu+1)\Gamma(\nu+\alpha+\beta+1)}{\Gamma(\nu+\alpha+1)\Gamma(\nu+\beta+1)} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{1-x}{2} \right)^{\alpha/2} \left(\frac{1+x}{2} \right)^{\beta/2} P_\nu^{(\alpha,\beta)}(x)$$

for all $\alpha, \beta, \nu \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $x \in [-1, 1]$. By [17, eq. (4.8)],

$$(3.3) \quad \left| \mathbf{g}_\nu^{(\alpha,\beta)}(x) \right| \leq 1.$$

(This is an immediate consequence of relating this function to a matrix coefficient of a unitary representation of $SU(2)$, an observation which goes back at least as far as Vilenkin [22].) Now take $\alpha = 2h - 1$, $\beta = m - n$, $\nu = n - h$, and

$$x := \frac{y-1}{y+1}, \quad \text{whence} \quad \frac{1-x}{2} = \frac{1}{y+1} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1+x}{2} = \frac{y}{y+1}.$$

Then $x \in (-1, 1)$ when $y \in \mathbb{R}^+$, so (3.2) implies the equality

$$W_{m,n}(y) = \frac{(-1)^{n-h}}{(y+1)^{1/2}} \mathbf{g}_\nu^{(\alpha,\beta)}(x),$$

and (3.3) yields the desired inequality immediately. \square

Haagerup and Schlichtkrull [13] found sharper estimates for $\mathbf{g}_\nu^{(\alpha,\beta)}(x)$, but these do not seem to yield better inequalities for *all* matrix coefficients.

3.2. The discrete series D_h^- . The construction is similar to that of D_h^+ . We start from the group action of G on D given by

$$xz := \frac{\alpha z + \beta}{\beta z + \bar{\alpha}} \quad \forall x \in G \quad \forall z \in D,$$

and consider the representation π_ℓ^- on \mathcal{H}_ℓ given by

$$\pi_\ell^-(x)f(z) := \mu^-(x, x^{-1}z)^\ell f(x^{-1}z),$$

where $\mu^-(x, z) := \bar{\alpha} + \bar{\beta}z$. Then π_ℓ^- is irreducible and acts unitarily on \mathcal{H}_ℓ , and we say it belongs to the class D_h^- with $h := \frac{1}{2}\ell$. The functions

$$g_{\ell,m}^-(z) := (-1)^{-h-m} \binom{\ell-1-h-m}{-h-m}^{1/2} z^{-h-m} := g_{\ell,-m}^+(z),$$

where $m \in -h - \mathbb{N}$, form an orthonormal basis of \mathcal{H}_ℓ . Evidently

$$\langle g_{\ell,m}^-, \pi_\ell^-(x)g_{\ell,n}^- \rangle_\ell = (-1)^{-m+n} \overline{\langle g_{\ell,-m}^+, \pi_\ell^+(x)g_{\ell,-n}^+ \rangle_\ell}$$

(see [2, eq. (10.29c)]), so the next result follows from Theorem 3.1.

Theorem 3.2. *For all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$, all $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, and all $m, n \in -\frac{1}{2}\ell - \mathbb{N}$,*

$$\left| \langle g_{\ell,m}^-, \pi_\ell^-(\tilde{a}_r)g_{\ell,n}^- \rangle_\ell \right| \leq (\cosh r)^{-1}.$$

4. FROM POINTWISE TO INTEGRAL ESTIMATES

In this section, we prove integral versions, as in (1.2), of the estimates of Theorems 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2. We begin with a general result.

Proposition 4.1. *Let π be a unitary representation of G on the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} , \mathbb{P} be a subset of \mathbb{Z} , and λ be a real number. Suppose that \mathcal{H} has an orthonormal basis of vectors e_μ , where $\mu \in \mathbb{P}$, such that $\pi(k_\theta)e_\mu = e^{i\mu\theta}e_\mu$ for all $\mu \in \mathbb{P}$. Then the following are equivalent:*

1. for all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $\mu, \nu \in \mathbb{P}$,

$$|\langle \pi(a_r)e_\mu, e_\nu \rangle| \leq Ce^{-\lambda r};$$

2. for all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $f, g \in \mathcal{H}$,

$$\left(\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle \pi(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) f, g \rangle|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \right)^{1/2} \leq Ce^{-\lambda r} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}}.$$

Proof. It is trivial that the second condition implies the first, so we need only prove the opposite implication.

Let $f, g \in \mathcal{H}$. Then we may write

$$f =: \sum_{\mu \in \mathbb{P}} b_\mu e_\mu \quad \text{and} \quad g =: \sum_{\nu \in \mathbb{P}} c_\nu e_\nu;$$

initially we suppose that only finitely many of the coefficients b_μ and c_ν are nonzero. Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & |\langle \pi(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) f, g \rangle|^2 \\ &= \langle \pi(a_r) \pi(k_{\theta_2}) f, \pi(k_{\theta_1}^{-1}) g \rangle \overline{\langle \pi(a_r) \pi(k_{\theta_2}) f, \pi(k_{\theta_1}^{-1}) g \rangle} \\ &= \sum_{\mu, \mu', \nu, \nu' \in \mathbb{P}} b_\mu \bar{b}_{\mu'} \bar{c}_\nu c_{\nu'} e^{i\theta_2(\mu' - \mu)} e^{i\theta_1(\nu' - \nu)} \langle \pi(a_r) e_\mu, e_\nu \rangle \overline{\langle \pi(a_r) e_{\mu'}, e_{\nu'} \rangle}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, integrating twice,

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle \pi(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) f, g \rangle|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 = \sum_{\mu, \nu \in \mathbb{P}} |b_\mu|^2 |c_\nu|^2 |\langle \pi(a_r) e_\mu, e_\nu \rangle|^2.$$

A limiting argument using Fatou's Lemma proves the general case. \square

For the principal and complementary series of representations, we use the notation of Section 2.

Corollary 4.2. *For all $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, $\varepsilon \in \{0, 1\}$, $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $f, g \in \mathcal{H}_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}$,*

$$\left(\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle \pi_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) f, g \rangle|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \right)^{1/2} \lesssim \frac{|s| + 1}{|s|} e^{-r} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}} \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}_{\frac{1}{2}is, \varepsilon}}.$$

For all $\lambda \in \pm(0, \frac{1}{2})$, $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $f, g \in \mathcal{H}_\lambda$,

$$\left(\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle \pi_\lambda(k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2}) f, g \rangle|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \right)^{1/2} \lesssim \frac{1}{|\lambda|} e^{-(1-2|\lambda|)r} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_\lambda} \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}_\lambda}.$$

For the discrete series, we use the notation of Section 3. Proposition 4.1 obviously also holds when we replace a_r and k_θ by \tilde{a}_r and \tilde{k}_θ , so the next result is also immediate.

Corollary 4.3. *Let $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^+$. Then for all $r \in \mathbb{R}^+$ and $f, g \in \mathcal{H}_\ell$,*

$$\left(\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle f, \pi_\ell^\pm(\tilde{k}_{\theta_1} \tilde{a}_r \tilde{k}_{\theta_2})g \rangle_\ell|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \right)^{1/2} \leq (\cosh r)^{-1} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_\ell} \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}_\ell}.$$

Sharper estimates, where $(\cosh r)^{-1}$ is replaced by $(\cosh r)^{-1-\delta}$ for some positive δ , cannot hold. Indeed, suppose that π is a unitary representation of G and Φ is a K -bi-invariant $L^2(G)$ -function such that

$$\int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} |\langle \pi(k_{\theta_1} x k_{\theta_2})f, g \rangle|^2 d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \leq \Phi^2(x)$$

for all $f, g \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$ of norm 1. Define the compact subset S_R of G by

$$S_R := \{k_{\theta_1} a_r k_{\theta_2} : r \in [0, R], \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

Then for all δ in \mathbb{R}^+ , there exists $R \in \mathbb{R}^+$ such that

$$\int_{G \setminus S_R} |\langle \pi(x)f, g \rangle|^2 dx \leq \delta$$

for all f and g in \mathcal{H}_π of norm 1 (where the integral is with respect to the Haar measure). But the set of matrix coefficients is invariant under translation and so this cannot be. Similarly, it is not possible for *all* the matrix coefficients of a unitary representation π to belong to $L^p(G)$ for some $p \in [1, 2)$ (see [7]).

Bargmann [2, eq. (12.8)] observed that, if π belongs to the discrete series class D_h^\pm , then

$$(4.1) \quad \left(\int_G |\langle \pi(x)f, g \rangle|^2 dx \right)^{1/2} = (2h-1)^{-1} \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}_\pi} \|g\|_{\mathcal{H}_\pi}$$

for all $f, g \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$. It seems unlikely that our pointwise estimate can hold with an additional constant such as $(2h-1)^{-1}$.

Later it was shown that equality (4.1) holds for all “square-integrable” representations of all locally compact groups, provided that $2h-1$ is replaced by a suitable constant, called the formal degree of the representation, and that in many cases the matrix coefficients $\langle \pi(\cdot)f, g \rangle$ are integrable for a dense set of vectors f and g . See Warner [24, Chapter 4] for more details.

5. THE METAPLECTIC REPRESENTATION

Let G be the group $\mathrm{Sp}(n, \mathbb{R})$ of $2n \times 2n$ real matrices S such that $S^T J S = J$, where

$$J := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ -I & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let $\mathrm{U}(2n, \mathbb{R}) := \mathrm{Sp}(n, \mathbb{R}) \cap \mathrm{O}(2n, \mathbb{R})$ and recall the Cartan decomposition $G = K A^+ K$, where $K := \mathrm{U}(2n, \mathbb{R})$ and

$$A^+ := \{ \mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_1^{-1}, \dots, \lambda_n^{-1}) : \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 1 \}.$$

The matrix map $\iota: \mathcal{M}(n, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(2n, \mathbb{R})$, given by

$$\iota(A + iB) := \begin{pmatrix} A & -B \\ B & A \end{pmatrix},$$

identifies $U(n, \mathbb{C})$ with $U(2n, \mathbb{R})$. Then \mathbb{T}^n is a maximal torus of K , where

$$\mathbb{T}^n := \iota \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta_1} & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & e^{i\theta_n} \end{pmatrix} : \theta_1, \dots, \theta_n \in [-\pi, \pi) \right\}.$$

We normalise the Haar measures on K and \mathbb{T}^n .

Denote by $\rho: G \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(L^2(\mathbb{R}^n))$ the (projective) metaplectic representation, see [11, 25], and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ the inner product in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$.

The aim of this section is to prove the following theorem.

Theorem 5.1. *Let $g = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_1^{-1}, \dots, \lambda_n^{-1})$, where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in [1, +\infty)$. Then for all $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$,*

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} |\langle \rho(t_1 g t_2) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dt_1 dt_2 \right)^{1/2} \lesssim (\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n)^{-1/2} \|\varphi_1\|_2 \|\varphi_2\|_2.$$

Before the proof, we need some preliminaries. We define the cross-Wigner distribution $W(\varphi_1, \varphi_2)$ of φ_1 and φ_2 in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by

$$W(\varphi_1, \varphi_2)(x + iy) := (2\pi)^{-n/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-isy} \varphi_1\left(x + \frac{s}{2}\right) \overline{\varphi_2\left(x - \frac{s}{2}\right)} ds \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

see, e.g., [25, formula (3.1.2)]. We recall the Moyal identity [25, Theorem 3.2]

$$\langle W(\varphi_1, \varphi_2), W(\tilde{\varphi}_1, \tilde{\varphi}_2) \rangle = \langle \varphi_1, \tilde{\varphi}_1 \rangle \langle \varphi_2, \tilde{\varphi}_2 \rangle,$$

and the covariance property [25, Theorem 29.13]

$$W(\rho(g)\varphi_1, \rho(g)\varphi_2)(z) = W(\varphi_1, \varphi_2)(g^{-1}z) \quad \forall g \in G \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{C}^n.$$

We shall write $W(\varphi)$ for $W(\varphi, \varphi)$.

Denote by h_n , where $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the Hermite functions on \mathbb{R} . We recall that, if $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$, then (see [25, p. 113])

$$\begin{aligned} (5.1) \quad W(h_n)(z) &= 2(-1)^n (2\pi)^{-1/2} \mathcal{L}_n(2|z|^2) \\ W(h_{n+k}, h_n)(z) &= C(n, k) z^k \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(2|z|^2) \\ W(h_n, h_{n+k})(z) &= C(n, k) \bar{z}^k \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(2|z|^2) \end{aligned}$$

where the Laguerre functions $\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}$ are normalised in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^+)$ and $\mathcal{L}_n := \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}$. Therefore

$$(5.2) \quad \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} W(h_n, h_m)(e^{i\theta} z) d\theta = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } m \neq n, \\ 2\pi W(h_n)(z) & \text{if } m = n. \end{cases}$$

Denote now by h_β , where $\beta := (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_n) \in \mathbb{N}^n$, the tensor product of one-dimensional Hermite functions, that is,

$$h_\beta(x) := \prod_{\ell=1}^n h_{\beta_\ell}(x_\ell) \quad \forall x := (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

Since the cross-Wigner distribution is sesquilinear and compatible with tensor products,

$$W(h_\beta, h_\gamma)(z) = \prod_{\ell=1}^n W(h_{\beta_\ell}, h_{\gamma_\ell})(z_\ell) \quad \forall \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{N}^n$$

(where $z := (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$), and in particular

$$(5.3) \quad W(h_\beta)(z) = \prod_{\ell=1}^n W(h_{\beta_\ell})(z_\ell).$$

Thus, by (5.2),

$$(5.4) \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} W(h_\beta, h_\gamma)(kz) dk = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \beta \neq \gamma, \\ W(h_\beta)(z) & \text{if } \beta = \gamma. \end{cases}$$

The idea of the proof of Theorem 5.1 is to reduce the estimate to the case where $n = 1$. The following lemma will be the key to treating this case.

Lemma 5.2. *Suppose that $\varphi_j \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $F_j(z) := \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} W\varphi_j(e^{i\theta}z) d\theta$, where $j = 1, 2$, and that $\lambda \in [1, +\infty)$. Then*

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} F_1(\lambda^{-1}x + iy)F_2(x + i\lambda^{-1}y) dx dy \lesssim \|\varphi_1\|_2^2 \|\varphi_2\|_2^2.$$

Assuming the lemma, we prove the theorem.

Proof of Theorem 5.1. By the Moyal identity and the covariance property,

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle \rho(k_1 g k_2) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 &= \langle W(\rho(k_1 g k_2) \varphi_1), W(\varphi_2) \rangle \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} W(\varphi_1)(k_2^{-1} g^{-1} k_1^{-1} z) W(\varphi_2)(z) d\sigma(z) \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} W(\varphi_1)(k_2^{-1} g^{-1} z) W(\varphi_2)(k_1 z) d\sigma(z). \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$(5.5) \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} |\langle \rho(t_1 g t_2) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dt_1 dt_2 = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} F_1(g^{-1}z) F_2(z) d\sigma(z),$$

where

$$F_j(z) := \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} W(\varphi_j)(kz) dk.$$

We now decompose the functions φ_j as sums of Hermite functions h_β , where $\beta \in \mathbb{N}^n$. By (5.4), if $\varphi_1 = \sum_\beta b_\beta h_\beta$ and $\varphi_2 = \sum_\gamma c_\gamma h_\gamma$, then

$$(5.6) \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} W(\varphi_1)(kz) dk = \sum_\beta |b_\beta|^2 W(h_\beta)(z),$$

and an analogous result holds for φ_2 . By (5.5) and (5.3), then,

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} |\langle \rho(t_1 g t_2) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dt_1 dt_2 \\ &= \sum_{\beta, \gamma} |b_\beta|^2 |c_\gamma|^2 \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} W(h_\beta)(g^{-1}z) W(h_\gamma)(z) d\sigma(z) \\ &= \sum_{\beta, \gamma} |b_\beta|^2 |c_\gamma|^2 \prod_{\ell=1}^n \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} W(h_{\beta_\ell})(\lambda_\ell^{-1}x_\ell + i\lambda_\ell y_\ell) W(h_{\gamma_\ell})(x_\ell + iy_\ell) dx_\ell dy_\ell, \end{aligned}$$

where $z := (z_1, \dots, z_n)$ and $z_\ell := x_\ell + iy_\ell$. Thus Theorem 5.1 boils down to the estimate

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} W(h_{\beta_\ell})(\lambda_\ell^{-1}x_\ell + i\lambda_\ell y_\ell) W(h_{\gamma_\ell})(x_\ell + iy_\ell) dx_\ell dy_\ell \lesssim \lambda_\ell^{-1}$$

for all $\ell \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, which follows from Lemma 5.2. \square

It remains to prove Lemma 5.2.

Proof of Lemma 5.2. When λ belongs to a bounded subset of $[1, +\infty)$, the desired bound follows at once from the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality and the Minkowski inequality for integrals, since $\|W(\varphi_j)\|_2 = \|\varphi_j\|_2^2$ from the Moyal identity. Hence we may suppose that λ is large.

We begin by decomposing φ_1 and φ_2 in terms of Hermite functions h_n . We write

$$\varphi_1 =: \sum_m b_m h_m \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_2 =: \sum_n c_n h_n.$$

By (5.6) and (5.1), it will be necessary and sufficient to prove that

$$\left| \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} \mathcal{L}_m(2(\lambda^{-2}x^2 + \xi^2)) \mathcal{L}_n(2(x^2 + \lambda^{-2}\xi^2)) \, dx \, d\xi \right| \lesssim 1$$

for all sufficiently large λ and $m, n \in \mathbb{N}$, or equivalently

$$(5.7) \quad \left| \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} \mathcal{L}_m(\lambda^{-2}r_1 + r_2) \mathcal{L}_n(r_1 + \lambda^{-2}r_2) r_1^{-1/2} r_2^{-1/2} \, dr_1 \, dr_2 \right| \lesssim 1,$$

which, by the change of variables $\lambda^{-2}r_1 + r_2 =: u$, $r_1 + \lambda^{-2}r_2 =: v$, is in turn equivalent to

$$\left| \iint_{S_\varepsilon} \mathcal{L}_m(u) \mathcal{L}_n(v) (v - \varepsilon u)^{-1/2} (u - \varepsilon v)^{-1/2} \, du \, dv \right| \lesssim 1$$

for all small positive ε , where $S_\varepsilon =: \{(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{R}^+ : \varepsilon v \leq u \leq \varepsilon^{-1}v\}$. We will in fact show that

$$(5.8) \quad \iint_{S_\varepsilon} |\mathcal{L}_m(u)| |\mathcal{L}_n(v)| |v - \varepsilon u|^{-1/2} |u - \varepsilon v|^{-1/2} \, du \, dv \lesssim 1$$

for all $\varepsilon \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$.

The first step is an estimate for one integral. We know that

$$|\mathcal{L}_n(x)| \lesssim A_n(x) + B_n(x) + C(x) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^+,$$

where, by [21, pp. 27–28],

$$(5.9) \quad A_n(x) := (\nu x)^{-1/4} \mathbf{1}_{[0, \nu/2]}(x),$$

$$(5.10) \quad B_n(x) := \nu^{-1/4} |\nu - x|^{-1/4} \mathbf{1}_{[\nu/2, 3\nu/2]}(x),$$

$$(5.11) \quad C(x) := e^{-\tau x};$$

here $\nu := 4n + 2$ and τ is a suitable (positive) constant. Hence

$$(5.12) \quad \int_0^{+\infty} |\mathcal{L}_n(x)| |x - s|^{-1/2} \, dx \lesssim 1$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Indeed, set $s := \nu t$ and $x := \nu y$; then

$$\int_0^{\nu/2} (\nu x)^{-1/4} |x - s|^{-1/2} \, dx = \int_0^{1/2} y^{-1/4} |y - t|^{-1/2} \, dy \lesssim 1$$

uniformly in t ; moreover, similarly,

$$\int_{\nu/2}^{3\nu/2} \nu^{-1/4} |\nu - x|^{-1/4} |x - s|^{-1/2} \, dx = \int_{1/2}^{3/2} |1 - x|^{-1/4} |x - t|^{-1/2} \, dx \lesssim 1$$

uniformly in t ; and finally,

$$\int_0^{+\infty} e^{-\tau x} |x-s|^{-1/2} dx \lesssim 1$$

uniformly in s .

By symmetry, it will suffice to estimate the integral (5.8) over the region $T_\varepsilon := \{(u, v) : \varepsilon v \leq u \leq v\}$. In this region, $v - \varepsilon u \geq v/2$ since $\varepsilon \in (0, \frac{1}{2}]$, and so

$$\begin{aligned} & \iint_{T_\varepsilon} |\mathcal{L}_m(u)| |\mathcal{L}_n(v)| |v - \varepsilon u|^{-1/2} |u - \varepsilon v|^{-1/2} du dv \\ & \lesssim \iint_{T_\varepsilon} |\mathcal{L}_m(u)| |\mathcal{L}_n(v)| |v|^{-1/2} |u - \varepsilon v|^{-1/2} du dv \\ & \leq \int_0^{+\infty} \int_0^{+\infty} |\mathcal{L}_m(u)| |\mathcal{L}_n(v)| |v|^{-1/2} |u - \varepsilon v|^{-1/2} du dv \\ & \leq \int_0^{+\infty} |\mathcal{L}_n(v)| |v|^{-1/2} dv \lesssim 1, \end{aligned}$$

by two applications of (5.12), as required. \square

Before stating a corollary, we recall that $K := \mathrm{U}(2n, \mathbb{R})$.

Corollary 5.3. *Let $g \in G$ and let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_n^{-1}, \dots, \lambda_1^{-1}$ be its singular values, arranged so that $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n \in [1, +\infty)$. Then for all $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$,*

$$\left(\int_K \int_K |\langle \rho(k_2 g k_1) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dk_1 dk_2 \right)^{1/2} \lesssim (\lambda_1 \dots \lambda_n)^{-1/2} \|\varphi_1\|_2 \|\varphi_2\|_2.$$

Proof. By the Cartan decomposition of g and a change of variables, we see that it suffices to consider the case where $g = \mathrm{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n, \lambda_1^{-1}, \dots, \lambda_n^{-1})$ and $\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_n \geq 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_K \int_K |\langle \rho(k_2 g k_1) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dk_1 dk_2 \\ & = \int_K \int_K \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} |\langle \rho(k_2 t_2 g t_1 k_1) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dt_1 dt_2 dk_1 dk_2, \end{aligned}$$

as the Haar measure on K is invariant under translations on both sides. Now

$$\langle \rho(k_2 t_2 g t_1 k_1) \varphi_1, \varphi_2 \rangle = \langle \rho(t_2 g t_1) \rho(k_1) \varphi_1, \rho(k_2^{-1}) \varphi_2 \rangle,$$

so that the statement follows by applying Theorem 5.1 to the functions $\rho(k_1) \varphi_1$ and $\rho(k_2^{-1}) \varphi_2$, which have the same norm as φ_1 and φ_2 since ρ is unitary. \square

Now we present, as a consequence of the above results, a new fixed-time estimate of dispersive type for the Schrödinger equation in \mathbb{R}^n . In fact the propagator of the free Schrödinger equation is a particular metaplectic operator (see, e.g., [11, 25]).

Theorem 5.4. *Let $t \in \mathbb{R}$. Then for all $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$*

$$\left(\int_K \int_K |\langle e^{it\Delta} \rho(k_1) \varphi_1, \rho(k_2) \varphi_2 \rangle|^2 dk_1 dk_2 \right)^{1/2} \lesssim (1 + |t|)^{-n/2} \|\varphi_1\|_2 \|\varphi_2\|_2.$$

Proof. Up to a constant of modulus 1, $e^{it\Delta} := \rho(g_t)$, where

$$\mathrm{Sp}(n, \mathbb{R}) \ni g_t := \begin{pmatrix} I_n & 2tI_n \\ 0 & I_n \end{pmatrix},$$

where I_n is the $n \times n$ identity matrix, see [25, Proposition 29.10]. Hence we may apply Corollary 5.3. To compute the singular values of g_t , we observe that g_t is similar to a direct sum $c_t \oplus \cdots \oplus c_t$ (with n summands), where

$$c_t := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{whence} \quad c_t^T c_t := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2t \\ 2t & 1 + 4t^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The eigenvalues of $c_t^T c_t$ are $1 + 2t^2 \pm 2(t^4 + t^2)^{1/2}$. Hence the n singular values of g_t that are at least 1 are all equal to $(1 + 2t^2 + 2(t^4 + t^2)^{1/2})^{1/2}$, and the desired estimate follows. \square

Remark 5.5. The estimate of Theorem 5.4 is similar to the usual dispersive estimate for $e^{it\Delta}$ from $L^1 \rightarrow L^\infty$, but averaging on K gives an L^2 estimate.

Note that, when the dimension n is 1, the group K is just the circle group \mathbb{T}^1 and for $k_\theta \in \mathbb{T}^1$, the metaplectic operator $\rho(k_\theta)$ is just the fractional Fourier transform, where $\theta \in [-\pi, \pi)$.

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