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# $L^p$ SPECTRAL MULTIPLIERS ON THE FREE GROUP $N_{3,2}$

ALESSIO MARTINI AND DETLEF MÜLLER

ABSTRACT. Let  $L$  be a homogeneous sublaplacian on the 6-dimensional free 2-step nilpotent Lie group  $N_{3,2}$  on 3 generators. We prove a theorem of Mihlin-Hörmander type for the functional calculus of  $L$ , where the order of differentiability  $s > 6/2$  is required on the multiplier.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The free 2-step nilpotent Lie group  $N_{3,2}$  on 3 generators is the simply connected, connected nilpotent Lie group defined by the relations

$$[X_1, X_2] = Y_3, \quad [X_2, X_3] = Y_1, \quad [X_3, X_1] = Y_2,$$

where  $X_1, X_2, X_3, Y_1, Y_2, Y_3$  is a basis of its Lie algebra (that is, the Lie algebra of the left-invariant vector fields on  $N_{3,2}$ ). In exponential coordinates,  $N_{3,2}$  can be identified with  $\mathbb{R}_x^3 \times \mathbb{R}_y^3$ , where the group law is given by

$$(x, y) \cdot (x', y') = (x + x', y + y' + x \wedge x' / 2)$$

and  $x \wedge x'$  denotes the usual vector product of  $x, x' \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . The family  $(\delta_t)_{t>0}$  of automorphic dilations of  $N_{3,2}$ , defined by

$$\delta_t(x, y) = (tx, t^2y),$$

turns  $N_{3,2}$  into a stratified group of homogeneous dimension  $Q = 9$ .

Let  $L$  be a homogeneous sublaplacian on  $N_{3,2}$ ; without loss of generality, we may assume that  $L = -(X_1^2 + X_2^2 + X_3^2)$ .  $L$  is a self-adjoint operator on  $L^2(N_{3,2})$ , hence a functional calculus for  $L$  is defined via spectral integration and, for all Borel functions  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , the operator  $F(L)$  is bounded on  $L^2(N_{3,2})$  whenever the “spectral multiplier”  $F$  is a bounded function. Here we are interested in giving a sufficient condition for the  $L^p$ -boundedness (for  $p \neq 2$ ) of the operator  $F(L)$ , in terms of smoothness properties of the multiplier  $F$ .

Let  $W_2^s(\mathbb{R})$  denote the  $L^2$  Sobolev space of (fractional) order  $s$ . Then our main result reads as follows.

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**Theorem 1.1.** *Suppose that a function  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  satisfies*

$$\sup_{t>0} \|\eta F(t\cdot)\|_{W_2^s} < \infty$$

*for some  $s > 6/2$  and some nonzero  $\eta \in C_c^\infty(]0, \infty[)$ . Then the operator  $F(L)$  is of weak type  $(1, 1)$  and bounded on  $L^p(N_{3,2})$  for all  $p \in ]1, \infty[$ .*

Observe that the general multiplier theorem for homogeneous sublaplacians on stratified Lie groups by Christ [3] and Mauceri and Meda [16] requires the stronger regularity condition  $s > Q/2 = 9/2$ . To the best of our knowledge, in the case of  $N_{3,2}$  none of the results and techniques known so far allowed one to go below the condition  $s > Q/2$ . Our result pushes the regularity assumption down to  $s > d/2 = 6/2$ , where  $d = 6$  is the topological dimension of  $N_{3,2}$ . We conjecture that this condition is sharp.

The problem of  $L^p$ -boundedness for spectral multipliers on nilpotent Lie groups has a long history, and the theorem by Christ and Mauceri and Meda is itself an improvement of a series of previous results (see, e.g., [4, 8, 5]). Nevertheless it is still an open question, whether the homogeneous dimension in the smoothness condition may always be replaced by the topological dimension.

It has been known for a long time [10, 17] that such an improvement of the multiplier theorem holds true in the case of the Heisenberg and related groups (more precisely, for direct products of Métivier and abelian groups; see also [11, 14]). This class of groups, however, does not include  $N_{3,2}$ , nor any free 2-step nilpotent group  $N_{n,2}$  on  $n$  generators (see [20, §3] for a definition), except for the smallest one,  $N_{2,2}$ , which is the 3-dimensional Heisenberg group. The free groups  $N_{n,2}$  have in a sense the maximal structural complexity among 2-step groups, since every 2-step nilpotent Lie group is a quotient of a free one. Our result should then hopefully shed some new light and contribute to the understanding of the problem for general 2-step nilpotent Lie groups.

## 2. STRATEGY OF THE PROOF

The sublaplacian  $L$  is a left-invariant operator on  $N_{3,2}$ , hence any operator of the form  $F(L)$  is left-invariant too. Let  $\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}$  then denote the convolution kernel of  $F(L)$ . As shown, e.g., in [14, Theorem 4.6], the previous Theorem 1.1 is a consequence of the following  $L^1$ -estimate.

**Proposition 2.1.** *For all  $s > 6/2$ , for all compact sets  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$ , and for all functions  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  such that  $\text{supp } F \subseteq K$ ,*

$$(2.1) \quad \|\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_1 \leq C_{K,s} \|F\|_{W_2^s}.$$

Let  $|\cdot|_\delta$  be any  $\delta_t$ -homogeneous norm on  $N_{3,2}$ ; take, e.g.,  $|(x, y)|_\delta = |x| + |y|^{1/2}$ . The crucial estimate in the proof of [16] of the general theorem for stratified groups, that is,

$$(2.2) \quad \|(1 + |\cdot|_\delta)^\alpha \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_2 \leq C_{K,\alpha,\beta} \|F\|_{W_2^\beta}$$

for all  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $\beta > \alpha$ , implies (2.1) when  $s > 9/2$ , by Hölder's inequality. In order to push the condition down to  $s > 6/2$ , here we prove an enhanced version of (2.2), that is,

$$(2.3) \quad \|(1 + |\cdot|_\delta)^\alpha w^r \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_2 \leq C_{K,\alpha,\beta,r} \|F\|_{W_2^\beta},$$

for some “extra weight” function  $w$  on  $N_{3,2}$ , and suitable constraints on the exponents  $\alpha, \beta, r$ .

A similar approach is adopted in the mentioned works on the Heisenberg and related groups. However, in [17] the extra weight  $w$  is the full weight  $1 + |\cdot|_\delta$ , while [10] employs the weight  $w(x, y) = 1 + |x|$ . Here instead the weight  $w(x, y) = 1 + |y|$  is used, and (2.3) is proved under the conditions  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $0 \leq r < 3/2$ ,  $\beta > \alpha + r$  (see Proposition 4.6 below).

The proof of (2.3) when  $\alpha = 0$  is based on a careful analysis exploiting identities for Laguerre polynomials, somehow in the spirit of [4, 17, 19], but with additional complexity due, inter alia, to the simultaneous use of generalized Laguerre polynomials of different types. The estimate for arbitrary  $\alpha$  is then recovered by interpolation with (2.2). An analogous strategy is followed in [15], where identities for Hermite polynomials are used in order to prove a sharp spectral multiplier theorem for Grushin operators.

### 3. A JOINT FUNCTIONAL CALCULUS

It is convenient for us to embed the functional calculus for the sublaplacian  $L$  in a larger functional calculus for a system of commuting left-invariant differential operators on  $N_{3,2}$ . Specifically, the operators

$$(3.1) \quad L, -iY_1, -iY_2, -iY_3$$

are essentially self-adjoint and commute strongly, hence they admit a joint functional calculus (see, e.g., [13]).

If  $\mathbf{Y}$  denotes the “vector of operators”  $(-iY_1, -iY_2, -iY_3)$ , then we can express the convolution kernel  $\mathcal{K}_{G(L,\mathbf{Y})}$  of the operator  $G(L, \mathbf{Y})$  in terms of Laguerre functions (cf. [7]). Namely, for all  $n, k \in \mathbb{N}$ , let

$$L_n^{(k)}(u) = \frac{u^{-k} e^u}{n!} \left( \frac{d}{du} \right)^n (u^{k+n} e^{-u})$$

be the  $n$ -th Laguerre polynomial of type  $k$ , and define

$$\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = (-1)^n e^{-t} L_n^{(k)}(2t).$$

Further, for all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , define  $\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}$  and  $\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}$  by

$$\xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} = \langle \xi, \eta/|\eta| \rangle, \quad \xi_{\perp}^{\eta} = \xi - \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta} \eta/|\eta|.$$

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $G : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be in the Schwartz class, and set*

$$(3.2) \quad m(n, \mu, \eta) = G((2n+1)|\eta| + \mu^2, \eta),$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3$  with  $\eta \neq 0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y) &= \frac{2}{(2\pi)^6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_{\parallel}^{\eta}, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|\xi_{\perp}^{\eta}|^2/|\eta|) e^{i\langle \xi, x \rangle} e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} d\xi d\eta. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* For all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$ , choose a unit vector  $E_{\eta} \in \eta^{\perp}$ , and set  $\bar{E}_{\eta} = (\eta/|\eta|) \wedge E_{\eta}$ ; moreover, for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , denote by  $x_1^{\eta}, x_2^{\eta}, x_{\parallel}^{\eta}$  the components of  $x$  with respect to the positive orthonormal basis  $E^{\eta}, \bar{E}^{\eta}, \eta/|\eta|$  of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .

For all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  and all  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ , an irreducible unitary representation  $\pi_{\eta, \mu}$  of  $N_{3,2}$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$  is defined by

$$\pi_{\eta, \mu}(x, y)\phi(u) = e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} e^{i|\eta|(u+x_1^{\eta}/2)x_2^{\eta}} e^{i\mu x_{\parallel}^{\eta}} \phi(x_1^{\eta} + u)$$

for all  $(x, y) \in N_{3,2}$ ,  $u \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\phi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$ . Following, e.g., [1, §2], one can see that these representations are sufficient to write the Plancherel formula for the group Fourier transform of  $N_{3,2}$ , and the corresponding Fourier inversion formula:

$$(3.3) \quad f(x, y) = (2\pi)^{-5} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \text{tr}(\pi_{\eta, \mu}(x, y) \pi_{\eta, \mu}(f)) |\eta| d\mu d\eta$$

for all  $f : N_{3,2} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  in the Schwartz class and all  $(x, y) \in N_{3,2}$ , where  $\pi_{\eta, \mu}(f) = \int_{N_{3,2}} f(z) \pi_{\eta, \mu}(z^{-1}) dz$ .

Fix  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ . The operators (3.1) are represented in  $\pi_{\eta, \mu}$  as

$$(3.4) \quad d\pi_{\eta, \mu}(L) = -\partial_u^2 + |\eta|^2 u^2 + \mu^2, \quad d\pi_{\eta, \mu}(-iY_j) = \eta_j.$$

If  $h_n$  is the  $n$ -th Hermite function, that is,

$$h_n(t) = (-1)^n (n! 2^n \sqrt{\pi})^{-1/2} e^{t^2/2} \left( \frac{d}{dt} \right)^n e^{-t^2},$$

and  $\tilde{h}_{\eta, n}$  is defined by

$$\tilde{h}_{\eta, n}(u) = |\eta|^{1/4} h_n(|\eta|^{1/2} u),$$

then  $\{\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  is a complete orthonormal system for  $L^2(\mathbb{R})$ , made of joint eigenfunctions of the operators (3.4); in fact,

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} d\pi_{\eta,\mu}(L)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n} &= (|\eta|(2n+1) + \mu^2)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}, \\ d\pi_{\eta,\mu}(-iY_j)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n} &= \eta_j\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover the corresponding diagonal matrix coefficients  $\varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}$  of  $\pi_{\eta,\mu}$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x, y) &= \langle \pi_{\eta,\mu}(x, y)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}, \tilde{h}_{\eta,n} \rangle \\ &= e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} e^{i\mu x_\parallel^\eta} |\eta|^{1/2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{i|\eta|u x_2^\eta} h_n(|\eta|^{1/2}(u + x_1^\eta/2)) h_n(|\eta|^{1/2}(u - x_1^\eta/2)) du. \end{aligned}$$

The last integral is essentially the Fourier-Wigner transform of the pair  $(h_n, h_n)$ , whose Fourier transform has a particularly simple expression (cf. [9, formula (1.90)]); the parity of the Hermite functions then yields

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x, y) &= e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} e^{i\mu x_\parallel^\eta} \frac{(-1)^n}{\pi|\eta|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{iv_2 x_2^\eta} e^{iv_1 x_1^\eta} \\ &\quad \times \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-it(2v_1/|\eta|^{1/2})} h_n(t + v_2/|\eta|^{1/2}) h_n(t - v_2/|\eta|^{1/2}) dt dv, \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$(3.6) \quad \varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x, y) = \frac{1}{\pi|\eta|} e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} e^{i\mu x_\parallel^\eta} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} e^{iv_1 x_1^\eta} e^{iv_2 x_2^\eta} \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|v|^2/|\eta|) dv$$

(see [21, Theorem 1.3.4] or [9, Theorem 1.104]).

Note that  $\mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})} \in \mathcal{S}(N_{3,2})$  since  $G \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^4)$  (see [2, Theorem 5.2] or [12, §4.2]). Moreover

$$\pi_{\eta,\mu}(\mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})})\tilde{h}_{\eta,n} = G(|\eta|(2n+1) + \mu^2, \eta)\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}$$

by (3.5) and [18, Proposition 1.1], hence

$$\langle \pi_{\eta,\mu}(x, y)\pi_{\eta,\mu}(\mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})})\tilde{h}_{\eta,n}, \tilde{h}_{\eta,n} \rangle = m(n, \mu, \eta) \varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x, y).$$

Therefore, by (3.3) and (3.6),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y) &= (2\pi)^{-5} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \mu, \eta) \varphi_{\eta,\mu,n}(x, y) |\eta| d\mu d\eta \\ &= \frac{2}{(2\pi)^6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_3, \eta) e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} e^{i\langle \xi, (x_1^\eta, x_2^\eta, x_\parallel^\eta) \rangle} \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}((\xi_1^2 + \xi_2^2)/|\eta|) d\xi d\eta. \end{aligned}$$

The conclusion follows by a change of variable in the inner integral.  $\square$

## 4. WEIGHTED ESTIMATES

For convenience, set  $\mathcal{L}_n^{(k)} = 0$  for all  $n < 0$ . The following identities are easily obtained from the properties of Laguerre polynomials (see, e.g., [6, §10.12]).

**Lemma 4.1.** *For all  $k, n, n' \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,*

$$(4.1) \quad \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \mathcal{L}_{n-1}^{(k+1)}(t) + \mathcal{L}_n^{(k+1)}(t),$$

$$(4.2) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \mathcal{L}_{n-1}^{(k+1)}(t) - \mathcal{L}_n^{(k+1)}(t),$$

$$(4.3) \quad \int_0^\infty \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) \mathcal{L}_{n'}^{(k)}(t) t^k dt = \begin{cases} \frac{(n+k)!}{2^{k+1}n!} & \text{if } n = n', \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We introduce some operators on functions  $f : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \tau f(n, \mu, \eta) &= f(n+1, \mu, \eta), \\ \delta f(n, \mu, \eta) &= f(n+1, \mu, \eta) - f(n, \mu, \eta), \\ \partial_\mu f(n, \mu, \eta) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} f(n, \mu, \eta), \\ \partial_\eta^\alpha f(n, \mu, \eta) &= \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \right)^\alpha f(n, \mu, \eta), \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ . For all multiindices  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ , we denote by  $|\alpha|$  its length  $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \alpha_3$ . We set moreover  $\langle t \rangle = 2|t| + 1$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Note that, for all compactly supported  $f : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\tau^l f$  is null for all sufficiently large  $l \in \mathbb{N}$ ; hence the operator  $1 + \tau$ , when restricted to the set of compactly supported functions, is invertible, with inverse given by

$$(1 + \tau)^{-1} f = \sum_{l \in \mathbb{N}} (-1)^l \tau^l f,$$

and therefore the operator  $(1 + \tau)^q$  is well-defined for all  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $G : \mathbb{R}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be smooth and compactly supported in  $\mathbb{R} \times (\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\})$ , and let  $m(n, \mu, \eta)$  be defined by (3.2). For all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,*

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_{N_{3,2}} |y^\alpha \mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \\ & \leq C_\alpha \sum_{\iota \in I_\alpha} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta^\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \mu, \eta)|^2 \\ & \quad \times \mu^{2b_\iota} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^\iota| - 2|\alpha| - 2k_\iota + |\beta^\iota| + 1} \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^\iota|} d\mu d\eta, \end{aligned}$$

where  $I_\alpha$  is a finite set and, for all  $\iota \in I_\alpha$ ,

- $\gamma^\iota \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,  $l_\iota, k_\iota \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\gamma^\iota \leq \alpha$ ,  $\min\{1, |\alpha|\} \leq |\gamma^\iota| + l_\iota + k_\iota \leq |\alpha|$ ,

- $b_l \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\beta^\nu \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,  $b_l + |\beta^\nu| = l_\nu + 2k_\nu$ ,  $|\gamma^\nu| + l_\nu + b_l \leq |\alpha|$ .

*Proof.* Proposition 3.1 and integration by parts allow us to write

$$(4.5) \quad y^\alpha \mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y) \\ = \frac{2i^{|\alpha|}}{(2\pi)^6} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \right)^\alpha \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_\parallel^\eta, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2/|\eta|) \right] e^{i\langle \xi, x \rangle} e^{i\langle \eta, y \rangle} d\xi d\eta.$$

From the definition of  $\xi_\parallel^\eta$  and  $\xi_\perp^\eta$ , the following identities are not difficult to obtain:

$$(4.6) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_j} \xi_\parallel^\eta = (\xi_\perp^\eta)_j \frac{1}{|\eta|}, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_j} (\xi_\perp^\eta)_k = -\xi_\parallel^\eta \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_j} \frac{\eta_k}{|\eta|} - (\xi_\perp^\eta)_j \frac{\eta_k}{|\eta|^2}, \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_j} \frac{|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2}{|\eta|} = -\xi_\parallel^\eta (\xi_\perp^\eta)_j \frac{2}{|\eta|^2} - |\xi_\perp^\eta|^2 \frac{\eta_j}{|\eta|^3}.$$

The multiindex notation will also be used as follows:

$$(\xi_\perp^\eta)^\beta = (\xi_\perp^\eta)_1^{\beta_1} (\xi_\perp^\eta)_2^{\beta_2} (\xi_\perp^\eta)_3^{\beta_3}$$

for all  $\xi, \eta \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $\eta \neq 0$ , and all  $\beta \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ; consequently

$$|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2 = (\xi_\perp^\eta)^{(2,0,0)} + (\xi_\perp^\eta)^{(0,2,0)} + (\xi_\perp^\eta)^{(0,0,2)}.$$

Via these identities, one can prove inductively that, for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ ,

$$(4.7) \quad \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \right)^\alpha \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_\parallel^\eta, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2/|\eta|) \\ = \sum_{\iota \in I_\alpha} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \delta^{k_\iota} m(n, \xi_\parallel^\eta, \eta) (\xi_\parallel^\eta)^{b_\iota} (\xi_\perp^\eta)^{\beta^\iota} \Theta_\iota(\eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(k_\iota)}(|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2/|\eta|),$$

where  $I_\alpha$ ,  $\gamma^\iota$ ,  $l_\iota$ ,  $k_\iota$ ,  $b_\iota$ ,  $\beta^\iota$  are as in the statement above, while  $\Theta_\iota : \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is smooth and homogeneous of degree  $|\gamma^\iota| - |\alpha| - k_\iota$ . For the inductive step, one employs Leibniz' rule, and when a derivative hits a Laguerre function, the identity (4.2) together with summation by parts is used.

Note that, for all compactly supported  $f : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f(n, \mu, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (1 + \tau) f(n, \mu, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(k+1)}(t),$$

by (4.1). Since  $1 + \tau$  is invertible, simple manipulations and iteration yield the more general identity

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} f(n, \mu, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(k)}(t) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} (1 + \tau)^{k'-k} f(n, \mu, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(k')}(t),$$



for all  $k, k' \in \mathbb{N}$ . This formula allows us to adjust in (4.7) the type of the Laguerre functions to the exponent of  $\xi_\perp$ , and to obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \right)^\alpha \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} m(n, \xi_\parallel^\eta, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(0)}(|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2 / |\eta|) \\ &= \sum_{\iota \in I_\alpha} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_\eta^{\gamma_\iota} \partial_\mu^{\iota_\mu} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta_\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \xi_\parallel^\eta, \eta) \\ & \quad \times (\xi_\parallel^\eta)^{b_\iota} (\xi_\perp^\eta)^{\beta_\iota} \Theta_\iota(\eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(|\beta_\iota|)}(|\xi_\perp^\eta|^2 / |\eta|), \end{aligned}$$

By plugging this identity into (4.5) and exploiting Plancherel's formula for the Fourier transform, the finiteness of  $I_\alpha$  and the triangular inequality, we get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{N_{3,2}} |y^\alpha \mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \\ & \leq C_\alpha \sum_{\iota \in I_\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left| \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_\eta^{\gamma_\iota} \partial_\mu^{\iota_\mu} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta_\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \mu, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(|\beta_\iota|)}(|\zeta|^2 / |\eta|) \right|^2 \\ & \quad \times \mu^{2b_\iota} |\zeta|^{2|\beta_\iota|} |\eta|^{2|\gamma_\iota| - 2|\alpha| - 2k_\iota} d\zeta d\mu d\eta \end{aligned}$$

A passage to polar coordinates in the  $\zeta$ -integral and a rescaling then give that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{N_{3,2}} |y^\alpha \mathcal{K}_{G(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \\ & \leq C_\alpha \sum_{\iota \in I_\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_0^\infty \left| \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \partial_\eta^{\gamma_\iota} \partial_\mu^{\iota_\mu} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta_\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \mu, \eta) \mathcal{L}_n^{(|\beta_\iota|)}(s) \right|^2 s^{|\beta_\iota|} ds \\ & \quad \times \mu^{2b_\iota} |\eta|^{2|\gamma_\iota| - 2|\alpha| - 2k_\iota + |\beta_\iota| + 1} d\mu d\eta, \end{aligned}$$

and the conclusion follows by applying the orthogonality relations (4.3) for the Laguerre functions to the inner integral.  $\square$

Note that  $\tau f(\cdot, \mu, \eta)$ ,  $\delta f(\cdot, \mu, \eta)$  depend only on  $f(\cdot, \mu, \eta)$ ; in other words,  $\tau$  and  $\delta$  can be considered as operators on functions  $\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ . The next lemma will be useful in converting finite differences into continuous derivatives.

**Lemma 4.3.** *Let  $f : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  have a smooth extension  $\tilde{f} : [0, \infty[ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , and let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then*

$$\delta^k f(n) = \int_{J_k} \tilde{f}^{(k)}(n + s) d\nu_k(s)$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $J_k = [0, k]$  and  $\nu_k$  is a Borel probability measure on  $J_k$ .

In particular

$$|\delta^k f(n)|^2 \leq \int_{J_k} |\tilde{f}^{(k)}(n + s)|^2 d\nu_k(s)$$

for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

*Proof.* Iterated application of the fundamental theorem of integral calculus gives

$$\delta^k f(n) = \int_{[0,1]^k} \tilde{f}^{(k)}(n + s_1 + \cdots + s_k) ds.$$

The conclusion follows by taking as  $\nu_k$  the push-forward of the uniform distribution on  $[0,1]^k$  via the map  $(s_1, \dots, s_k) \mapsto s_1 + \cdots + s_k$ , and by Hölder's inequality.  $\square$

We give now a simplified version of the right-hand side of (4.4), in the case where we restrict to the functional calculus for the sublaplacian  $L$  alone. In order to avoid divergent series, however, it is convenient at first to truncate the multiplier along the spectrum of  $\mathbf{Y}$ .

**Lemma 4.4.** *Let  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  be supported in  $[1/2, 2]$ ,  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$  be compact and  $M \in ]0, \infty[$ . If  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is smooth and supported in  $K$ , and  $F_M : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is given by*

$$F_M(\lambda, \eta) = F(\lambda) \chi(|\eta|/M),$$

then, for all  $r \in [0, \infty[$ ,

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} ||y|^r \mathcal{K}_{F_M(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \leq C_{K, \chi, r} M^{3-2r} \|F\|_{W_2^r}^2.$$

*Proof.* We may restrict to the case  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ , the other cases being recovered a posteriori by interpolation. Hence we need to prove that

$$(4.8) \quad \int_{N_{3,2}} |y^\alpha \mathcal{K}_{F_M(L, \mathbf{Y})}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \leq C_{K, \chi, \alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \|F\|_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$$

for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^3$ . On the other hand, if

$$m(n, \mu, \eta) = F(|\eta|\langle n \rangle + \mu^2) \chi(|\eta|/M),$$

then the left-hand side of (4.8) can be majorized by (4.4), and we are reduced to proving that

$$(4.9) \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{k_\iota} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta^\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \mu, \eta)|^2 \mu^{2b_\iota} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^\iota| - 2|\alpha| - 2k_\iota + |\beta^\iota| + 1} \\ \times \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^\iota|} d\mu d\eta \leq C_{K, \chi, \alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \|F\|_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$$

for all  $\iota \in I_\alpha$ .

Consider first the case  $|\beta^\iota| \geq k_\iota$ . A smooth extension  $\tilde{m} : \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  of  $m$  is defined by

$$\tilde{m}(t, \mu, \eta) = F(|\eta|(2t + 1) + \mu^2) \chi(|\eta|/M).$$

Then, by Lemma 4.3,

$$\begin{aligned} & \partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta^\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \mu, \eta) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{|\beta^\iota| - k_\iota} \binom{|\beta^\iota| - k_\iota}{j} \int_{J_\iota} \partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \partial_t^{k_\iota} \tilde{m}(n + j + s, \mu, \eta) d\nu_\iota(s), \end{aligned}$$

where  $J_\iota = [0, k_\iota]$  and  $\nu_\iota$  is a suitable probability measure on  $J_\iota$ ; consequently (4.9) will be proved if we show that

$$(4.10) \quad \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |\partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \partial_t^{k_\iota} \tilde{m}(n + s, \mu, \eta)|^2 \mu^{2b_\iota} |\eta|^{2|\gamma^\iota| - 2|\alpha| - 2k_\iota + |\beta^\iota| + 1} \\ \times \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^\iota|} d\mu d\eta \leq C_{K, \chi, \alpha} M^{3 - 2|\alpha|} \|F\|_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$$

for all  $s \in [0, |\beta^\iota|]$ . On the other hand, it is easily proved inductively that

$$\begin{aligned} & \partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \partial_t^{k_\iota} \tilde{m}(t, \mu, \eta) \\ &= \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota| - l_\iota + r} \sum_{q=0}^{|\gamma^\iota| - v} \Psi_{l, v, q}(\eta) \langle t \rangle^v \mu^{2r - l_\iota} M^{-q} F^{(k_\iota + v + r)}(|\eta| \langle t \rangle + \mu^2) \chi^{(q)}(|\eta|/M) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ , where  $\Psi_{l, v, q} : \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is smooth and homogeneous of degree  $k_\iota + v + q - |\gamma^\iota|$ ; hence

$$(4.11) \quad |\partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \partial_t^{k_\iota} \tilde{m}(t, \mu, \eta)|^2 \leq C_{\chi, \alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota| - l_\iota + r} M^{2k_\iota + 2v - 2|\gamma^\iota|} \langle t \rangle^{2v} \mu^{4r - 2l_\iota} \\ \times |F^{(k_\iota + v + r)}(|\eta| \langle t \rangle + \mu^2)|^2 \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M),$$

where  $\tilde{\chi}$  is the characteristic function of  $[1/2, 2]$ , and we are using the fact that  $|\eta| \sim M$  in the region where  $\tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) \neq 0$ . Consequently the left-hand

side of (4.10) is majorized by

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{\chi,\alpha} & \sum_{r=\lceil l_i/2 \rceil}^{l_i} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^t|} M^{2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^t|+1} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^t|} \langle n+s \rangle^{2v} \\
& \times \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} |F^{(k_i+v+r)}(|\eta| \langle n+s \rangle + \mu^2)|^2 \mu^{2b_i+4r-2l_i} \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) d\mu d\eta \\
& \leq C_{\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_i/2 \rceil}^{l_i} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^t|} M^{2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^t|+3} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n+s \rangle^{|\beta^t|+2v} \\
& \times \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty |F^{(k_i+v+r)}(\rho \langle n+s \rangle + \mu^2)|^2 \mu^{2b_i+4r-2l_i} \tilde{\chi}(\rho/M) d\mu d\rho \\
& \leq C_{\chi,\alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_i/2 \rceil}^{l_i} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^t|} M^{2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^t|+3} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty |F^{(k_i+v+r)}(\rho + \mu^2)|^2 \\
& \times \mu^{2b_i+4r-2l_i} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n+s \rangle^{|\beta^t|+2v-1} \tilde{\chi}(\rho/(\langle n+s \rangle M)) d\mu d\rho,
\end{aligned}$$

by passing to polar coordinates and rescaling. The last sum in  $n$  is easily controlled by  $(\rho/M)^{|\beta^t|+2v}$ , hence the left-hand side of (4.10) is majorized by

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} & \sum_{r=\lceil l_i/2 \rceil}^{l_i} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^t|} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty |F^{(k_i+v+r)}(\rho + \mu^2)|^2 \mu^{2b_i+4r-2l_i} \rho^{|\beta^t|+2v} d\mu d\rho \\
& \leq C_{K,\chi,\alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \sum_{r=\lceil l_i/2 \rceil}^{l_i} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^t|} \sup_{u \in [0, \max K]} \int_0^\infty |F^{(k_i+v+r)}(\rho + u)|^2 d\rho,
\end{aligned}$$

because  $2b_i + 4r - 2l_i \geq 0$  and  $|\beta^t| + 2v \geq 0$  if  $r$  and  $v$  are in the range of summation, and  $\text{supp } F \subseteq K$ . Since moreover  $k_i + v + r \leq k_i + |\gamma^t| + l_i \leq |\alpha|$ , the last integral is dominated by  $\|F\|_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$  uniformly in  $r, v, u$ , and (4.10) follows.

Consider now the case  $|\beta^t| < k_i$ . Via the identity

$$(1 + \tau)^{-1} = (1 - \tau)(1 - \tau^2)^{-1} = -\delta(1 - \tau^2)^{-1} = -\delta \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \tau^{2j},$$

together with Lemma 4.3, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}
(4.12) \quad & \partial_\eta^{\gamma^t} \partial_\mu^{l_i} \delta^{k_i} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta^t| - k_i} m(n, \mu, \eta) \\
& = (-1)^{k_i - |\beta^t|} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \binom{j+k_i-|\beta^t|-1}{k_i-|\beta^t|-1} \int_{J_i} \partial_\eta^{\gamma^t} \partial_\mu^{l_i} \partial_t^{2k_i-|\beta^t|} \tilde{m}(n+2j+s, \mu, \eta) d\nu_i(s),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $J_i = [0, 2k_i - |\beta^t|]$  and  $\nu_i$  is a suitable probability measure on  $J_i$ . Note that, because of the assumptions on the supports of  $F$  and  $\chi$ , the sum on  $j$

in the right-hand side of (4.12) is a finite sum, that is, the  $j$ -th summand is nonzero only if  $\langle n + 2j \rangle \leq 2M^{-1} \max K$ ; consequently, by applying the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality to the sum in  $j$ , and by (4.11),

$$\begin{aligned} & |\partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \delta^{k_\iota} (1 + \tau)^{|\beta^\iota| - k_\iota} m(n, \mu, \eta)|^2 \\ & \leq C_{K, \alpha} M^{1+2|\beta^\iota| - 2k_\iota} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{J_\iota} |\partial_\eta^{\gamma^\iota} \partial_\mu^{l_\iota} \partial_t^{2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota|} \tilde{m}(n + 2j + s, \mu, \eta)|^2 d\nu_\iota(s) \\ & \leq C_{K, \chi, \alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota|} M^{1+2k_\iota+2v-2|\gamma^\iota|} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \int_{J_\iota} \langle n + 2j + s \rangle^{2v} \mu^{4r-2l_\iota} \\ & \quad \times |F^{(2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + v+r)}(|\eta| \langle n + 2j + s \rangle + \mu^2)|^2 \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) d\nu_\iota(s). \end{aligned}$$

Remember that  $|\eta| \sim M$  in the region where  $\tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) \neq 0$ . Hence the left-hand side of (4.9) is majorized by

$$\begin{aligned} & C_{K, \chi, \alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota|} \int_{J_\iota} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n + 2j + s \rangle^{2v} \langle n \rangle^{|\beta^\iota|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} M^{2+2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^\iota|} \\ & \quad \times \mu^{2b_\iota+4r-2l_\iota} |F^{(2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + v+r)}(|\eta| \langle n + 2j + s \rangle + \mu^2)|^2 \tilde{\chi}(|\eta|/M) d\mu d\eta d\nu_\iota(s) \\ & \leq C_{K, \chi, \alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota|} \int_{J_\iota} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \langle n + 2j + s \rangle^{2v+|\beta^\iota|} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty M^{4+2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^\iota|} \\ & \quad \times \mu^{2b_\iota+4r-2l_\iota} |F^{(2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + v+r)}(\rho \langle n + 2j + s \rangle + \mu^2)|^2 \tilde{\chi}(\rho/M) d\mu d\rho d\nu_\iota(s) \\ & \leq C_{K, \chi, \alpha} \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota|} M^{4+2v-2|\alpha|+|\beta^\iota|} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty |F^{(2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + v+r)}(\rho + \mu^2)|^2 \\ & \quad \times \mu^{2b_\iota+4r-2l_\iota} \int_{J_\iota} \sum_{(n, j) \in \mathbb{N}^2} \frac{\tilde{\chi}(\rho / (\langle n + 2j + s \rangle M))}{\langle n + 2j + s \rangle^{1-2v-|\beta^\iota|}} d\nu_\iota(s) d\mu d\rho, \end{aligned}$$

by passing to polar coordinates and rescaling. The sum in  $(n, j)$  is dominated by  $(\rho/M)^{2v+|\beta^\iota|+1}$ , uniformly in  $s \in J_\iota$ , and moreover  $\text{supp } F \subseteq K$ . Therefore the left-hand side of (4.9) is majorized by

$$C_{K, \chi, \alpha} M^{3-2|\alpha|} \sum_{r=\lceil l_\iota/2 \rceil}^{l_\iota} \sum_{v=0}^{|\gamma^\iota|} \sup_{u \in [0, \max K]} \int_0^\infty |F^{(2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + v+r)}(\rho + u)|^2 d\rho.$$

On the other hand,  $b_\iota + |\beta^\iota| = l_\iota + 2k_\iota$ , hence  $2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + v + r \leq 2k_\iota - |\beta^\iota| + |\gamma^\iota| + l_\iota = b_\iota + |\gamma^\iota| \leq |\alpha|$  if  $r$  and  $v$  are in the range of summation, therefore the last integral is dominated by  $\|F\|_{W_2^{|\alpha|}}^2$  uniformly in  $r, v, u$ , and (4.9) follows.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.5.** *Let  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be smooth and such that  $\text{supp } F \subseteq K$  for some compact set  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$ . For all  $r \in [0, 3/2[$ ,*

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} |(1 + |y|)^r \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \leq C_{K,r} \|F\|_{W_2^r}^2.$$

*Proof.* Take  $\chi \in C_c^\infty(]0, \infty[)$  such that  $\text{supp } \chi \subseteq [1/2, 2]$  and  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \chi(2^{-k}t) = 1$  for all  $t \in ]0, \infty[$ . Note that, if  $(\lambda, \eta)$  belongs to the joint spectrum of  $L, \mathbf{Y}$ , then  $|\eta| \leq \lambda$ . Therefore, if  $k_K \in \mathbb{Z}$  is sufficiently large so that  $2^{k_K-1} > \max K$ , and if  $F_M$  is defined for all  $M \in ]0, \infty[$  as in Lemma 4.4, then

$$F(L) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}, k \leq k_K} F_{2^k}(L, \mathbf{Y})$$

(with convergence in the strong sense). Hence an estimate for  $\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}$  can be obtained, via Minkowski's inequality, by summing the corresponding estimates for  $\mathcal{K}_{F_{2^k}(L, \mathbf{Y})}$  given by Lemma 4.4. If  $r < 3/2$ , then the series  $\sum_{k \leq k_K} (2^k)^{3/2-r}$  converges, thus

$$\int_{N_{3,2}} ||y|^r \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \leq C_{K,r} \|F\|_{W_2^r}^2.$$

The conclusion follows by combining the last inequality with the corresponding one for  $r = 0$ .  $\square$

Recall that  $|\cdot|_\delta$  denotes a  $\delta_t$ -homogeneous norm on  $N_{3,2}$ , thus  $|(x, y)|_\delta \sim |x| + |y|^{1/2}$ . Interpolation then allows us to improve the standard weighted estimate for a homogeneous sublaplacian on a stratified group.

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $F : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be smooth and such that  $\text{supp } F \subseteq K$  for some compact set  $K \subseteq ]0, \infty[$ . For all  $r \in [0, 3/2[$ ,  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $\beta > \alpha + r$ ,*

$$(4.13) \quad \int_{N_{3,2}} |(1 + |(x, y)|_\delta)^\alpha (1 + |y|)^r \mathcal{K}_{F(L)}(x, y)|^2 dx dy \leq C_{K,\alpha,\beta,r} \|F\|_{W_2^\beta}^2.$$

*Proof.* Note that  $1 + |y| \leq C(1 + |(x, y)|_\delta)^2$ . Hence, in the case  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $\beta > \alpha + 2r$ , the inequality (4.13) follows by the standard estimate [16, Lemma 1.2]. On the other hand, if  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta \geq r$ , then (4.13) is given by Proposition 4.5. The full range of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  is then obtained by interpolation (cf. the proof of [16, Lemma 1.2]).  $\square$

We can finally prove the fundamental  $L^1$ -estimate, and consequently Theorem 1.1.

*Proof of Proposition 2.1.* Take  $r \in ]9/2 - s, 3/2[$ . Then  $s - r > 3/2 + 3 - 2r$ , hence we can find  $\alpha_1 > 3/2$  and  $\alpha_2 > 3 - 2r$  such that  $s - r > \alpha_1 + \alpha_2$ .

Therefore, by Proposition 4.6 and Hölder's inequality,

$$\|\mathcal{K}_{F(L)}\|_1^2 \leq C_{k,s} \|F\|_{W_2^s}^2 \int_{N_{3,2}} (1 + |(x, y)|_\delta)^{-2\alpha_1 - 2\alpha_2} (1 + |y|)^{-2r} dx dy.$$

The integral on the right-hand side is finite, because  $2\alpha_1 > 3$ ,  $\alpha_2 + 2r > 3$ , and

$$(1 + |(x, y)|_\delta)^{-2\alpha_1 - 2\alpha_2} (1 + |y|)^{-2r} \leq C_s (1 + |x|)^{-2\alpha_1} (1 + |y|)^{-\alpha_2 - 2r},$$

and we are done.  $\square$

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