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MOGENS FLENSTED-JENSEN

DAVID L. RAGOZIN

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## SPHERICAL FUNCTIONS ARE FOURIER TRANSFORMS OF $L_1$ -FUNCTIONS

BY MOGENS FLENSTED-JENSEN AND DAVID L. RAGOZIN \*

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In this brief note we apply a result of Kostant, (4.1) in [2], to prove the following. (All notation is as in Kostant's paper).

**THEOREM 1.** — *Let  $(G, K)$  be an irreducible Riemannian symmetric pair of non-compact type. Fix an Iwasawa decomposition  $G = KAN$ . For each  $b \in A$ ,  $b \neq 1$ , let  $\mu_b \in M^1(\mathfrak{a})$  be the finite measure on  $\mathfrak{a}$  such that*

$$\int_K f(\log a(bv)) dv = \int_{\mathfrak{a}} f(x) d\mu_b(x) \quad f \in \mathcal{K}(\mathfrak{a}).$$

*Then  $\mu_b \in L_1(\mathfrak{a})$  and  $\text{supp } \mu_b$  is the compact set  $\mathfrak{a}(\log b)$ .*

**REMARK 2.** — T. H. Koornwinder has proved this in the rank 1 case by explicitly computing  $\mu_b$  (see [1]).

This result has an immediate application to the spherical functions on  $G$ . If we write  $\hat{\mu}(\tau) = \int_{\mathfrak{a}} e^{-i\tau(x)} d\mu(x)$ ,  $\tau \in \mathfrak{a}^*$ , for the Fourier Stieltjes transform on  $\mathfrak{a}$ , then we have

**COROLLARY 3.** — *For  $b \neq 1$ ,  $b \in A$  and  $\nu = \sigma - i\tau \in \mathfrak{a}^* + i\mathfrak{a}^*$ , the spherical function  $\varphi_{\nu}(b) = \int_K e^{\langle \nu, \log a(bv) \rangle} dv$  is, as a function of  $\tau$ , the Fourier transform of the compactly supported measure  $e^{\sigma} \mu_b \in L_1(\mathfrak{a})$ . Hence, for any tube  $T = C + i\mathfrak{a}^*$  with  $C$  compact in  $\mathfrak{a}^*$ ,  $\varphi_{\nu}(b) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\nu \rightarrow \infty$  in  $T$ .*

**REMARK 4.** — The second sentence generalizes (3.13) in [3].

*Proof of Theorem 1.* — The map  $g_b : K \rightarrow \mathfrak{a}$  with  $g_b(v) = \log a(bv)$ ,  $v \in K$ , is real analytic and, for  $S \subseteq \mathfrak{a}$ ,  $\mu_b(S) = m_K(g_b^{-1}(S))$  where  $m_K$  is Haar measure on  $K$ . We must show  $\mu_b(S) = 0$  when  $S$  has Lebesgue measure zero. We claim that it suffices to show that  $g_b$  has rank equal to  $\dim \mathfrak{a}$  at some point of  $K$ . For if this is so then  $g_b$  has rank equal to  $\dim \mathfrak{a}$  except on a proper real analytic subvariety  $U$  of  $K$  since  $K$  is

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connected. But then  $\dim U < \dim K$  and hence  $m_K(U) = 0$ . Now, on  $K - U$ ,  $g_b$ , in appropriate coordinates, is just an orthogonal projection between Euclidean spaces. So since  $m_K$  is equivalent to Lebesgue measure in any coordinate patch, Fubini's theorem shows

$$m_K(g_b^{-1}(S)) = m_K(g_b^{-1}(S) \cap K - U) = 0,$$

when  $S$  has Lebesgue measure zero.

Now to see  $g_b$  has rank equal to  $\dim \mathfrak{a}$  at some point, it suffices by Sard's theorem (or the theorem on functional dependence) to show that the range of  $g_b$  has interior points in  $\mathfrak{a}$ . Now Kostant shows in (4.1) of [2] that  $g_b(K) = \mathfrak{a}(\log b) = \text{co}(W \cdot \log b)$ , in particular,  $\mathfrak{a}(\log b)$  is a non-trivial convex  $W$ -invariant set. So by the irreducibility of the action of  $W$  on  $\mathfrak{a}$ ,  $0 \in \mathfrak{a}(\log b)$  and  $\text{span}(\mathfrak{a}(\log b)) = \mathfrak{a}$ . Thus  $\mathfrak{a}(\log b)$  must have interior.

It is clear that  $\text{supp } \mu_b = g_b(K) = \mathfrak{a}(\log b)$  and so is compact.  $\square$

REMARK 5. — The same proof holds for non-irreducible  $(G, K)$  provided  $\mathfrak{a}(\log b)$  has interior in  $\mathfrak{a}$ . For instance if  $b$  is regular or more generally if  $b$  has non-zero coordinate in each irreducible factor.

*Proof of Corollary 3.* — The first statement follows from the definition of  $\mu_b$ . For the second note that if  $C = \{\sigma\}$ , then the Riemann-Lebesgue lemma says  $\varphi_{\sigma+i\tau}(b) = (e^\sigma \mu_b)^\wedge(\tau) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ . In general,  $\sigma \rightarrow e^\sigma \mu_b$  is a continuous function from  $\mathfrak{a}^*$  to  $L_1(\mathfrak{a})$  since  $\mu_b$  has compact support. So it is uniformly continuous on the compact set  $C$  from which the result follows as

$$|\varphi_{\sigma+i\tau}(b) - \varphi_{\sigma'+i\tau}(b)| \leq \|e^\sigma \mu_b - e^{\sigma'} \mu_b\|_{L_1(\mathfrak{a})}. \quad \square$$

One would like to have more precise asymptotic information on  $\varphi_\nu$  as  $\nu \rightarrow \infty$ , but that does not seem to be obtainable by our simple methods.

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Mogens FLENSTED-JENSEN,  
University of Copenhagen,  
Universitetsparken 5,  
DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark.  
and David L. RAGOZIN,  
University of Washington,  
Seattle, Washington 98195.