

On Non-unitary Representations of the Heisenberg Group

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1 Introduction

Let G be a connected, simply connected nilpotent Lie group and $\mathfrak{g}$ be its Lie algebra. Irreducible unitary representations can be described by the orbit method due to A.Kirillov([K]). Let f be an element of the dual space $\mathfrak{g}'$ of $\mathfrak{g}$. Let G_f be the isotropy subgroup of f in G and $\mathfrak{g}_f$ be its Lie algebra. The polarization at f is, by definition([AK]), a complex subalgebra $\mathfrak{h}$ of $\mathfrak{g}_G$ such that

- (1) $\mathfrak{g}_f \subseteq \mathfrak{h}$ and $\mathfrak{h}$ is stable under $\text{Ad}(G_f)$,
- (2) $2 \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{g}_G / \mathfrak{h} = \dim_{\mathbb{R}} \mathfrak{g} / \mathfrak{g}_f$,
- (3) $f|[\mathfrak{h}, \mathfrak{h}] = 0$,
- (4) $\mathfrak{h} + \bar{\mathfrak{h}}$ is a Lie subalgebra of $\mathfrak{g}_G$.

A polarization $\mathfrak{h}$ is called real if $\mathfrak{h} = \bar{\mathfrak{h}}$. Let $\mathfrak{h}$ be a real polarization at f . Then f defines a one-dimensional representation τ_f of a subgroup $D = \exp(\mathfrak{g} \cap \mathfrak{h})$ of G . We can get an irreducible unitary representation $U^{f, \mathfrak{h}}$ of G , which is the induced representation from the representation τ_f of D . The representation $U^{f, \mathfrak{h}}$ is independent of $\mathfrak{h}$ and depends only on the coadjoint orbit containing f . And any irreducible unitary representation of G is equivalent to one of $U^{f, \mathfrak{h}}$.

In the present paper we treat the Heisenberg group of n -th order. Irreducible unitary representations of the Heisenberg group are parametrized by unitary characters of the center. V.S.Petrosyan([P]) studied the irreducibility of non-unitary representations of the Heisenberg group corresponding to non-unitary characters of the center. To prove the operator irreducibility he used the method of the invariant bilinear forms which is used in [GGV].

In our case, for any linear form which does not vanish on the center all real polarization is abelian. So any element $\Lambda \in \mathfrak{g}'_G$ defines a non-unitary character of $\mathfrak{h}$. We study the invariant bilinear forms for non-unitary representations corresponding to non-unitary characters of polarizations. We define a representation τ_{Λ} of D by $\tau_{\Lambda}(\exp X) = \exp(\sqrt{-1}\Lambda(X))$, $X \in \mathfrak{g} \cap \mathfrak{h}$. And we define a non-unitary representation $U^{\Lambda, \mathfrak{h}}$ of G induced from τ_{Λ} . We realize it on the functions space $\mathcal{D}(G/D)$ of C^{∞} -functions on G/D with compact support. In our case if $\Lambda \neq 0$ on the center of $\mathfrak{g}$, then $G/D \cong \mathbb{R}^n$. So we denote $\mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ by $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda}^{\mathfrak{h}}$ as the representation space of $U^{\Lambda, \mathfrak{h}}$. We get a necessary and sufficient condition to exist an invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^{\mathfrak{h}} \times \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^{\mathfrak{h}}$ (Theorem 1). And we also get a necessary and sufficient condition to exist an intertwining operator from $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^{\mathfrak{h}}$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^{\mathfrak{h}}$ (Theorem 2). We call the representation $U^{\Lambda, \mathfrak{h}}$ is operator irreducible if any intertwining operator from

$\mathcal{D}_A^h$ to itself is a scalar multiple of the identity operator. We prove that $U^{A,h}$ is operator irreducible if A is not zero on the center of $\mathfrak{g}$ (Theorem 3). Moreover, we determine when the representation $U^{A,h}$ is unitary (Theorem 4).

In Theorem 5 we prove that two representations $U^{A_1,h}$ and $U^{A_2,h}$ are equivalent if and only if they are on the same orbit in $(\mathfrak{g}')_G$ of a subgroup B of G_G containing G . In §7 we study an invariant bilinear form for representations corresponding to different types of polarizations. Generally, the intertwining operators are not operators of $\mathcal{D}$. In §8 we get an intertwining operator for unitary representations corresponding to different type of polarizations on the Schwartz space $\mathcal{S}$. This is an integral operator whose kernel is exponential of a polynomial of degree 2 (Theorem 9).

2 Representations of Heisenberg group

Let G be the Heisenberg group of n -th order:

$$G = \left\{ g = g(a, b, c) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_1 & \dots & a_n & c \\ & 1 & & & b_1 \\ & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & & & b_n \\ 0 & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}.$$

Let

$$\mathfrak{g} = \left\{ X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & x_1 & \dots & x_n & z \\ & 0 & & & y_1 \\ & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & & & y_n \\ 0 & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

be the Lie algebra of G . We denote by $\mathfrak{g}' = \{A = (\lambda, \mu, \nu) | \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{R}^n, \nu \in \mathbb{R}\}$ the real dual space of $\mathfrak{g}$ defined by

$$\langle A, X \rangle = \lambda \cdot x + \mu \cdot y + \nu z.$$

The group G acts on $\mathfrak{g}'$ by coadjoint:

$$\langle g \cdot A, X \rangle = \langle A, \text{Ad}(g^{-1})X \rangle.$$

Then

$$g(a, b, c) \cdot (\lambda, \mu, \nu) = (\lambda + \nu b, \mu - \nu a, \nu).$$

For any $A \in \mathfrak{g}'$ we denote by G_A the isotropy subgroup of A in G . If $\nu \neq 0$, then $G_A = \{(0, 0, c) \in G\}$, which is the center of G . The Lie algebra of G_A is

$\mathfrak{g}_A = \{(0, 0, z) \in \mathfrak{g}\}$. The polarization for Heisenberg group at $A = (\lambda, \mu, \nu)$ for $\nu \neq 0$ is

$$\mathfrak{h}_\infty = \{(x, 0, z) | x, z \in \mathbf{C}\}$$

or

$$\mathfrak{h}_k = \{(ky, y, z) | y, z \in \mathbf{C}\}$$

for some $k \in \mathbf{C}$. It is easy to see that $\mathfrak{h}_\infty$ is real and $\mathfrak{h}_k$ is real if and only if $k \in \mathbf{R}$. We assume that k is real. These algebras $\mathfrak{h}_\infty$ and $\mathfrak{h}_k$ are abelian.

Let $D_k = \exp(\mathfrak{g} \cap \mathfrak{h}_k)$. Then $D_k = \{p = (kb, b, c) \in G\}$. Each $A = (\lambda, \mu, \nu) \in (\mathfrak{g}')_G$ defines one-dimensional representation of D_k . We denote it by τ_A :

$$\tau_A(h) = \tau_A((kb, b, c)) = \exp \sqrt{-1} \{k\lambda \cdot b + \mu \cdot b + \nu(c - (kb \cdot b)/2)\}$$

for $h = (kb, b, c)$. Let $A = \{(a, 0, 0) \in G\}$. Let $U^{A,k}$ be a continuous representation of G induced by the representation Λ of D_k . Let $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{R}^n)$ be the space of infinitely differentiable functions with compact support on $\mathbf{R}^n$ with usual topology. We realize $U^{A,k}$ on $C_c^\infty(A) \cong \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{R}^n)$, which we denote by $\mathcal{D}_A^k$:

$$(2.1) \quad (U_g^{A,k} F)(x) = e^{\sqrt{-1} \{ (k\lambda + \mu) \cdot b + \nu(c - b \cdot x - (kb \cdot b)/2) \}} F(x - a + kb)$$

for $g = (a, b, c) \in G$ and $F \in \mathcal{D}_A^k$.

In the same way,

$$(2.2) \quad (U_g^{A,\infty} F)(x) = e^{\sqrt{-1} \{ \lambda \cdot a + \nu(c + a \cdot x - a \cdot b) \}} F(x - b)$$

for $g = (a, b, c) \in G$ and $F \in \mathcal{D}_A^k$.

3 Invariant bilinear forms on $\mathcal{D}_{A_1}^k \times \mathcal{D}_{A_2}^k$

Let B be a non-zero continuous bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_{A_1}^k \times \mathcal{D}_{A_2}^k$ ($k \in \mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty\}$) which is invariant under G , that is

$$B(U_g^{A_1,k} F_1, U_g^{A_2,k} F_2) = B(F_1, F_2)$$

for all $g \in G$, $F_1 \in \mathcal{D}_{A_1}^k$ and $F_2 \in \mathcal{D}_{A_2}^k$.

THEOREM 1. Let $A_1 = (\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1)$, $A_2 = (\lambda_2, \mu_2, \nu_2) \in \mathbf{C}^{2n+1}$ and $k \in \mathbf{R}$. There exist a continuous non-trivial invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_{A_1}^k \times \mathcal{D}_{A_2}^k$ if and only if

$$(1) \quad \nu_1 = -\nu_2 \neq 0, \quad \frac{k(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) + \mu_1 + \mu_2}{\nu_1} \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

or

$$(2) \quad \nu_1 = \nu_2 = 0, \quad k(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) + \mu_1 + \mu_2 = 0.$$

When (1) holds,

$$B(F_1, F_2) = C \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_1(x) F_2\left(x - \frac{k(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) + \mu_1 + \mu_2}{\nu_1}\right) dx$$

for non zero $C \in \mathbb{C}$. In the case of (2)

$$B(F_1, F_2) = \langle B_0, \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} F_1(y) F_2(x + y) dy \rangle$$

for any distribution B_0 on $\mathbb{R}^n$.

When $k = \infty$, it suffices only to change $k\lambda_1 + \mu_1$ to λ_1 and $k\lambda_2 + \mu_2$ to λ_2 .

Remark that there always exists a continuous invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_A^k \times \mathcal{D}_{-A}^k$.

4 Intertwining operators between $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^k$ and $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$

Let $A = A(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2)$ be a non-trivial intertwining operator between $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^k$ and $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$, i.e. it is a continuous linear mapping of $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^k$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$ such that

$$AU_g^{\Lambda_1, k} = U_g^{\Lambda_2, k} A$$

for all $g \in G$.

THEOREM 2. *There exists an intertwining operator between $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^k \times \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$ if and only if*

$$(1) \quad \nu_1 = \nu_2 \neq 0, \quad \frac{(k\lambda_1 + \mu_1) - (k\lambda_2 + \mu_2)}{\nu_1} \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

or

$$(2) \quad \nu_1 = \nu_2 = 0, \quad k\lambda_1 + \mu_1 = k\lambda_2 + \mu_2.$$

In the case of (1)

$$(A(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2)F)(x) = CF \left(x + \frac{(k\lambda_1 + \mu_1) - (k\lambda_2 + \mu_2)}{\nu_1} \right), \quad C \neq 0.$$

And in the case of (1) $A(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2)$ is a continuous operator on $\mathcal{D}$ which commutes with translations.

When $k = \infty$, it suffices only to change $k\lambda_1 + \mu_1$ to λ_1 and $k\lambda_2 + \mu_2$ to λ_2 .

In the case (1) of Theorem 2 we put $\Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2$, then we have

$$A(\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2) = CI.$$

Thus we have the following theorem.

THEOREM 3. *The representation $U^{A,k}(\Lambda = (\lambda, \mu, \nu))$ on $\mathcal{D}_A^k$ ($k \in \mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty\}$) is operator irreducible if $\nu \neq 0$.*

5 Invariant hermitian form on $\mathcal{D}_A^k$

A hermitian form $H(F_1, F_2)$ on $\mathcal{D}_A^k$ is said invariant if

$$H(U_g^{A,k} F_1, U_g^{A,k} F_2) = H(F_1, F_2)$$

for all $F_1, F_2 \in \mathcal{D}_A^k$. Let $H(F_1, F_2)$ be a non-trivial continuous hermitian form on $\mathcal{D}_A^k$.

THEOREM 4. *There exists a non-trivial continuous invariant hermitian form H on $\mathcal{D}_A^k$ if and only if $\Lambda = (\lambda, \mu, \nu) \in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}$. If $\nu \neq 0$, then*

$$H(F_1, F_2) = C \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} F_1(x) \overline{F_2(x)} dx, \quad C \neq 0.$$

6 G -and B_k -orbits in $(\mathfrak{g}')_G$

Let $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 \in (\mathfrak{g}')_G$. Two elements $\Lambda_1 = (\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1)$ and $\Lambda_2 = (\lambda_2, \mu_2, \nu_2)$ are on the same G -orbit if and only if $\Lambda_2 = g \cdot \Lambda_1$ for some $g = g(a, b, c) \in G$. Then

$$\lambda_2 = \lambda_1 + \nu_1 b, \quad \mu_2 = \mu_1 - \nu_1 a \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_1 = \nu_2.$$

Hence if $\nu_1 = 0$, then

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2, \quad \mu_1 = \mu_2 \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_2 = 0.$$

We assume that k is not infinity. If $\nu_1 \neq 0$, then

$$\nu_1 = \nu_2, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{(k\lambda_2 + \mu_2) - (k\lambda_1 + \mu_1)}{\nu_1} = kb - a \in \mathbf{R}^n.$$

Then $U^{A_1,k}$ is equivalent to $U^{A_2,k}$ from Theorem 1. However, even if two representations $U^{A_1,k}$ and $U^{A_2,k}$ are equivalent, Λ_1 and Λ_2 are not necessarily on the same G -orbit.

Let G_G be the complexification of G , i.e. the group of elements

$$g = g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1 & \dots & \alpha_n & \gamma \\ & 1 & 0 & & \beta_1 \\ & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & & & \beta_n \\ 0 & & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$(\alpha, \beta \in \mathbf{C}^n, \gamma \in \mathbf{C})$. The Lie algebra of $G_{\mathbf{C}}$ is $\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}}$. Then $G_{\mathbf{C}}$ acts naturally on $(\mathfrak{g}')_{\mathbf{C}}$:

$$g(\alpha, \beta, \gamma) \cdot (\lambda, \mu, \nu) = (\lambda + \nu\beta, \mu - \nu\alpha, \nu).$$

Let B_k be a subgroup of $G_{\mathbf{C}}$ consisting of elements

$$(6.1) \quad g = g(a + \sqrt{-1}ku, b + \sqrt{-1}u, \gamma), \quad a, b, u \in \mathbf{R}^n, \gamma \in \mathbf{C}.$$

We assume that Λ_1 and Λ_2 satisfy the condition (1) of Theorem 2. We put

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\lambda_1 - \lambda_2}{\nu_1} &= -b - \sqrt{-1}u, \\ \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_2}{\nu_1} &= a + \sqrt{-1}u, \end{aligned}$$

where $a, b, u \in \mathbf{R}^n$. We put

$$g = (a + \sqrt{-1}ku, b + \sqrt{-1}u, 0).$$

Then $g \cdot \Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2$.

Conversely, if $g \cdot \Lambda_1 = \Lambda_2$ for $g \in B_k$ of the form (6.1), then it is easy to see that Λ_1 and Λ_2 satisfy the condition (1) of Theorem 2.

Next we assume that $k = \infty$. If $\nu_1 = \nu_2$ and $(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)/\nu_1 \in \mathbf{R}^n$, we put $b = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)/\nu_1$. We define a subgroup

$$B_{\infty} = \{g(\alpha, b, \gamma) \in G_{\mathbf{C}} | \alpha \in \mathbf{C}^n, b \in \mathbf{R}^n, \gamma \in \mathbf{C}\}.$$

Then $U^{\Lambda_1, \infty}$ and $U^{\Lambda_2, \infty}$ are equivalent if and only if Λ_1 and Λ_2 belong to the same B_{∞} -orbit in $(\mathfrak{g}')_{\mathbf{C}}$. Thus we have the following theorem.

THEOREM 5. *Let $k \in \mathbf{R} \cup \{\infty\}$. We assume that $\Lambda_1 = (\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1)$, $\Lambda_2 = (\lambda_2, \mu_2, \nu_2) \in (\mathfrak{g}')_{\mathbf{C}}$ and $\nu_1 \neq 0, \nu_2 \neq 0$. Then two representations $U^{\Lambda_1, k}$ and $U^{\Lambda_2, k}$ are equivalent if and only if Λ_1 and Λ_2 are on the same B_k -orbit in $(\mathfrak{g}')_{\mathbf{C}}$. Especially, if they are on the same G -orbit, then they are equivalent.*

7 Invariant bilinear forms on $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^0 \times \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$ ($k \neq 0$)

In this section we consider an invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^0 \times \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$ for $k \neq 0, \infty$. Let B be a non-trivial continuous bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^0 \times \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} B(F_1, F_2) &= B(e^{\sqrt{-1}\{\mu_1 \cdot b + \nu_1(c - b \cdot x)\}} F_1(x - a), \\ &\quad e^{\sqrt{-1}\{(k\lambda_2 + \mu_2) \cdot b + \nu_2(c - b \cdot x - (kb \cdot b)/2)\}} F_2(x - a + kb)) \end{aligned}$$

for all $a, b \in \mathbf{R}^n, c \in \mathbf{R}, F_1 \in \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^0$ and $F_2 \in \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$.

THEOREM 6. Let $k \neq 0, \infty$. If $\nu_2 = -\nu_1$, then there exists a continuous invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_1}^0 \times \mathcal{D}_{\Lambda_2}^k$. It is of the form

$$B(F_1, F_2) = C \iint_{\mathbf{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2k} \{ \nu_1 |x-y|^2 - 2(k\lambda_2 + \mu_1 + \mu_2)(x-y) \}} F_1(x) F_2(y) dx dy,$$

where C is a non-zero constant.

8 Application to intertwining operators of the unitary representations $U^{\Lambda, k}$

We assume that Λ is real. Then the representation $U^{\Lambda, k}$ can be realized on the Schwartz space $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{R}^n)$ of rapidly decreasing functions by (2.1) and (2.2). We denote $\mathcal{S}(\mathbf{R}^n)$ by $\mathcal{S}_{\Lambda}^k$ as the representation space of $U^{\Lambda, k}$. Then we can prove the following theorems by the same way of the proof of Theorem 1 and Theorem 6.

THEOREM 7. Let $\Lambda_1 = (\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1), \Lambda_2 = (\lambda_2, \mu_2, \nu_2) \in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}$ and $k \in \mathbf{R}$. There exist a continuous non-trivial invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{S}_{\Lambda_1}^k \times \mathcal{S}_{\Lambda_2}^k$ if and only if

$$(1) \quad \nu_1 = -\nu_2 \neq 0$$

or

$$(2) \quad \nu_1 = \nu_2 = 0, \quad k(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) + \mu_1 + \mu_2 = 0.$$

When (1) holds,

$$B(F_1, F_2) = C \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} F_1(x) F_2\left(x - \frac{k(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) + \mu_1 + \mu_2}{\nu_1}\right) dx$$

for non zero $C \in \mathbf{C}$. In the case of (2)

$$B(F_1, F_2) = \langle B_0, \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} F_1(y) F_2(x+y) dy \rangle$$

for any tempered distribution B_0 on $\mathbf{R}^n$.

THEOREM 8. Let $k \neq 0, \infty$ and $\Lambda_1 = (\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1), \Lambda_2 = (\lambda_2, \mu_2, \nu_2) \in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}$. If $\nu_2 = -\nu_1$, then there exists a continuous invariant bilinear form on $\mathcal{S}_{\Lambda_1}^0 \times \mathcal{S}_{\Lambda_2}^0$. It is of the form

$$B(F_1, F_2) = C \iint_{\mathbf{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2k} \{ \nu_1 |x-y|^2 - 2(k\lambda_2 + \mu_1 + \mu_2)(x-y) \}} F_1(x) F_2(y) dx dy,$$

where C is a non-zero constant.

THEOREM 9. Let $k \neq 0, \infty$, $\Lambda_1 = (\lambda_1, \mu_1, \nu_1)$, $\Lambda_2 = (\lambda_2, \mu_2, \nu_2) \in \mathbf{R}^{2n+1}$. We assume that $\nu_1 = \nu_2 \neq 0$. Then any non-trivial intertwining operator of $S_{\Lambda_2}^k$ to $S_{\Lambda_1}^0$ is given by

$$(A(\Lambda_2, \Lambda_1)F)(x) = C \int_{\mathbf{R}^n} e^{-\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{2k} \{ \nu_1 |x-y|^2 - 2(k\lambda_2 - \mu_1 + \mu_2)(x-y) \}} F(y) dy$$

for non-zero constant C .

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