# A HYPERGEOMETRIC EQUATION ON THE LINE BUNDLE OVER $SL(n + 1, \mathbb{R})/S(GL(1, \mathbb{R}) \times GL(n, \mathbb{R}))$

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we study the differential equation on the line bundle over the pseudo-Riemannian symmetric space  $SL(n+1,\mathbb{R})/S(GL(1,\mathbb{R})\times GL(n,\mathbb{R}))$ . We use Lie algebraic method, i.e., Casimir operator to obtain the desired differential operator. The differential equation turns out to be a hypergeometric differential equation, which generalizes the differential equations in [1, 3, 5].

**Keywords:** Casimir operator; pseudo-Riemannian symmetric space; line bundle; hypergeometric equation

2010 MR Subject Classification: 22E46; 33C05

Document code: A Article ID: 0255-7797(2017)04-0667-05

#### 1 Introduction

Hypergeometric functions play important roles in harmonic analysis over pseudo-Rieman nian symmetric spaces. Hyperbolic spaces are examples of pseudo-Riemannian symmetric spaces. There are a lot of work on hyperbolic spaces such as [3, 4]. Using a geometric method, Faraut obtained a second order differential equation in the explicit case of hyperbolic spaces  $U(p,q;\mathbb{F})/U(1;\mathbb{F}) \times U(p-1,q;\mathbb{F})$  with  $\mathbb{F} = \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$  or  $\mathbb{H}$  in [3]. Later in an algebraic way, i.e., through Casimir operator of  $\mathfrak{sl}(n+1,\mathbb{R})$ , van Dijk and Kosters obtained a hypergeometric equation on the pseudo-Riemannian symmetric space  $SL(n+1,\mathbb{R})/GL(n,\mathbb{R})$  in [5].

A natural extension of [3, 5] is harmonic analysis on the sections of vector bundles over pseudo-Riemannian symmetric spaces. Charchov obtained a hypergeometric equation on the sections of line bundles over complex hyperbolic spaces  $U(p,q;\mathbb{C})/U(1;\mathbb{C}) \times U(p-1,q;\mathbb{C})$  in his doctor thesis [1]. The differential equation in [1] is the same as the one in [3]. In this paper we will follow the method in [6] to obtain the hypergeometric equation on the sections of line bundles over  $SL(n+1,\mathbb{R})/GL(n,\mathbb{R})$ . When the parameter  $\lambda$  is zero, our result degenerates to the differential equation in [5]. Our hypergeometric equation will be used to obtaining the Plancherel formula on the sections of the line bundle over  $SL(n+1,\mathbb{R})/S(GL(1,\mathbb{R}) \times GL(n,\mathbb{R}))$  in a future paper.

**Foundation item:** Supported by the Research Foundation of Education Department of Hubei Province (Q20121512).

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### 2 Preliminaries and Main Result

Let  $G = \mathrm{SL}(n+1,\mathbb{R})$  and  $H_1 = \mathrm{SL}(n,\mathbb{R})$ . We imbed  $H_1$  in G as usual, i.e., for any  $h \in H_1, h \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ h \end{pmatrix} \in G$ . Let H be the subgroup of G:

$$H = S(\operatorname{GL}(1,\mathbb{R}) \times \operatorname{GL}(n,\mathbb{R})) = \left\{ \left( \begin{array}{cc} \det h^{-1} & \\ & h \end{array} \right) : h \in \operatorname{GL}(n,\mathbb{R}) \right\}.$$

In what follows  ${}^{t}A$  denotes the transpose of a matrix A. Let  $X_1$  be the algebraic manifold of

$$\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* \times \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* \ (\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* = \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\})$$

defined by

$$X_1 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* \times \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* : \langle x, y \rangle = x_0 y_0 + x_1 y_1 + \dots + x_n y_n = 1\},$$

where  $x = {}^{t}(x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n), y = {}^{t}(y_0, y_1, \dots, y_n), G \text{ acts on } \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* \times \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_*$  by

$$g \cdot (x, y) = (gx, {}^{t}g^{-1}y) \tag{2.1}$$

for any  $g \in G$  and any  $(x,y) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_* \times \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_*$ . With this action,  $X_1$  is transitive under G. Let  $x^0 = (e_0, e_0) \in X_1$  where  $e_0$  is the first standard unit vector in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , i.e.,  $e_0 = {}^t(1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Then the stabilizer of  $x^0$  in G is  $H_1$ . An elementary proof shows that  $X_1 \simeq G/H_1$ . We also have  $X \simeq G/H$  where  $X = \{x \in M_{n+1}(\mathbb{R}) : \operatorname{rank} x = \operatorname{tr} x = 1\}$ , here  $M_{n+1}(\mathbb{R})$  is the space of all real  $(n+1) \times (n+1)$  matrices. G acts on  $M_{n+1}(\mathbb{R})$  by conjugation (see [5])

$$g \cdot x = gxg^{-1} \quad (g \in G, x \in \mathcal{M}_{n+1}(\mathbb{R})). \tag{2.2}$$

Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n+1,\mathbb{R})$  be the Lie algebra of G. The Killing form of  $\mathfrak{g}$  is  $B(X,Y) = 2(n+1) \operatorname{tr} XY$  for  $X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}$ . The Killing form induces a measure on  $X_1$ . With this measure, the Casimir operator  $\Omega$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$  induces a second order differential operator on  $X_1$ . We call it the Laplace operator and denote it as  $\square_1$ .

For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ , set  $\chi_0(t) = t^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}_*$  be a continuous unitary character of  $\mathbb{R}_*$ . Define a character  $\chi_{\lambda}$  of H as  $\chi_{\lambda}(h) = \chi_0(h_0) = h_0^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}$  for

$$h = \left(\begin{array}{cc} h_0 \\ h_1 \end{array}\right) \in H.$$

Let  $\mathcal{D}(X_1)$  be the space of complex-valued  $C^{\infty}$ -functions on  $X_1$  with compact support. The action of G on  $X_1$  induces a representation U of G in  $\mathcal{D}(X_1)$ :

$$U(g)f(x) = f(g^{-1}x), \quad g \in G, \ x \in X_1, \ f \in \mathcal{D}(X_1)$$

and by inverse transposition a representation U of G in  $\mathcal{D}'(X_1)$ .

We define

$$\mathcal{D}'(X_1, \chi_{\lambda}) = \{ T \in \mathcal{D}'(X_1) : U(h)T = \chi_{\lambda}(h)^{-1}T, h \in H \}.$$

Because  $\chi_{\lambda} = 1$  on  $H_1$ , the above distributions T can be viewed as the bi- $H_1$ -invariant distributions on G satisfying  $U(h)T = \chi_{\lambda}(h)^{-1}T$ ,  $h \in H$ .

If  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ , define

$$\mathcal{D}'(X_1,\chi_{\lambda},\mu) = \{ T \in \mathcal{D}'(X_1,\chi_{\lambda}) : \Box_1'T = \mu T \},\$$

where  $\square'_1$  is the transpose of the Laplace operator  $\square_1$ .

**Definition 2.1** The  $\chi_{\lambda}$ -spherical distributions T on  $X_1$  are the distributions on G satisfying the following properties

- T is  $H_1$ -invariant,
- $T(hx) = \chi_{\lambda}(h)T(x), h \in H, x \in X_1,$
- $\square_1'T = \mu T$  for some  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ .

As in [2], we define a mapping  $Q_1: X_1 \to \mathbb{R}$  by  $Q_1(x,y) = x_0y_0$ . We take the open subsets  $X_1^0 = \{(x,y) \in X_1: Q_1(x,y) < 1\}$  and  $X_1^1 = \{(x,y) \in X_1: Q_1(x,y) > 0\}$  of  $X_1$ . There is an averaging mapping  $\mathcal{M}_1: f \mapsto \mathcal{M}_1 f$  defined by

$$\mathcal{M}_1 f(t) = \int_{X_1} f(x, y) \delta(Q_1(x, y) - t) d(x, y),$$

where  $\delta$  is the Dirac measure and d(x,y) is a G-invariant measure on  $X_1$ . Define  $\xi: X_1 \to \mathbb{R}^2$  by  $\xi(x,y) = (\xi_1(x,y), \xi_2(x,y)) = (x_0,y_0)$ . Then  $\chi_0 \circ \xi_1(x,y) = x_0^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}$ . Let  $\mathcal{M}'_{1,\sqrt{-1}\lambda} = (\chi_0 \circ \xi_1) \cdot \mathcal{M}'_1$  where  $\mathcal{M}'_1$  is the adjoint of  $\mathcal{M}_1$ . Then we have the main theorem of this paper.

**Theorem 2.1** There is a second order differential operator  $L_{\lambda}$  on  $\mathbb R$  such that the following formula holds

$$\square_1' \circ \mathcal{M}_{1,\sqrt{-1}\lambda}' = \mathcal{M}_{1,\sqrt{-1}\lambda}' \circ L_\lambda, \tag{2.3}$$

where

$$L_{\lambda} = 4t(t-1)\frac{d^2}{dt^2} + \left[4((n+1)t-1) + 4\sqrt{-1}\lambda(t-1)\right]\frac{d}{dt} + \frac{2n}{n+1}\sqrt{-1}\lambda(\sqrt{-1}\lambda + n + 1). \quad (2.4)$$

## 3 Proof of Main Result

We take a basis of  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{sl}(n+1,\mathbb{R})$  as

$$\left\{E_{11} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=2}^{n+1} E_{ii}, E_{jj} - E_{j+1,j+1} (2 \le j \le n), E_{1s}, E_{s1} (2 \le s \le n+1), E_{kl} (2 \le k \ne l \le n+1)\right\},$$

where  $E_{\alpha\beta} = (\delta_{\alpha\mu}\delta_{\beta\nu})_{\mu\nu}$  is as usual.

On  $X_1$  we take the coordinates  $\{x_0, y_0, x_1, y_1, \cdots, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, x_n\}$ . Using (2.1), we follow

the way in [6] to express  $E_{\alpha\beta}$  as differential operators on  $X_1$  in terms of the coordinates  $\{x_0, y_0, x_1, y_1, \dots, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, x_n\}$ . The results are

$$E_{11} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=2}^{n+1} E_{ii} = x_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} - y_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} + \frac{1}{n} \left( -\sum_{i=1}^n x_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} y_i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} \right), \quad (3.1)$$

$$E_{1j} = x_{j-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} - y_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{j-1}}, \quad 2 \le j \le n, \tag{3.2}$$

$$E_{1,n+1} = x_n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0},\tag{3.3}$$

$$E_{j1} = x_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{j-1}} - y_{j-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0}, \quad 2 \le j \le n, \tag{3.4}$$

$$E_{n+1,1} = x_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n} - \frac{1 - x_0 y_0 - x_1 y_1 - \dots - x_{n-1} y_{n-1}}{x_n} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0}.$$
 (3.5)

Following [1], let the function F on  $X_1$  be the form  $F(x,y) = F(x_0,y_0)$ . We calculate the action of the Laplace operator  $\square_1$  or the Casimir operator  $\Omega$  on such functions. Because F depends on  $x_0, y_0$  only, we take  $\Omega$  as

$$2(n+1)\Omega = \frac{n}{n+1} \left( E_{11} - \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=2}^{n+1} E_{ii} \right)^2 + \sum_{k=2}^{n+1} (E_{1k} E_{k1} + E_{k1} E_{1k}) + \text{other terms}, \quad (3.6)$$

where the 'other terms' are the combinations of  $E_{kl}(2 \le k \ne l \le n+1)$ . With the coordinates  $\{x_0, y_0, x_1, y_1, \cdots, x_{n-1}, y_{n-1}, x_n\}$ , using (3.1)–(3.5), we have

$$2(n+1)\Omega F(x_0, y_0) = \left\{ \frac{n}{n+1} \left( x_0^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_0^2} + y_0^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y_0^2} \right) + \left( \frac{2}{n+1} x_0 y_0 - 2 \right) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_0 \partial y_0} + \frac{n(n+2)}{n+1} x_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} + \frac{n(n+2)}{n+1} y_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial y_0} \right\} F(x_0, y_0).$$
(3.7)

Now taking function  $F(x_0, y_0)$  with the form  $F(x_0, y_0) = x_0^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda} F_0(x_0 y_0)$  and  $t = x_0 y_0$ , we obtain

$$4(n+1)\Omega(x_0^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}F_0(x_0y_0)) = x_0^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}L_{\lambda}F_0(x_0y_0)$$
(3.8)

with

$$L_{\lambda} = 4t(t-1)\frac{d^2}{dt^2} + \left[4((n+1)t-1) + 4\sqrt{-1}\lambda(t-1)\right]\frac{d}{dt} + \frac{2n}{n+1}\sqrt{-1}\lambda(\sqrt{-1}\lambda + n + 1). \quad (3.9)$$

For  $f \in \mathcal{D}(X_1)$ ,  $T \in \mathcal{D}'(\mathbb{R})$ ,

$$\int_{X_{1}} \Box_{1}[(T \circ Q_{1}) \cdot \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}](x,y)f(x,y)d(x,y) 
= \int_{X_{1}} (L_{\lambda}T)(Q_{1}(x,y)) \cdot \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}(x,y)f(x,y)d(x,y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} (L_{\lambda}T)(t) \int_{Q_{1}(x)=t} \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}(x)f(x)dxdt 
= \langle L_{\lambda}T, \mathcal{M}_{1}\xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}f \rangle_{\mathbb{R}} = \langle \mathcal{M}'_{1}L_{\lambda}T, \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}f \rangle_{X_{1}} = \langle \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda} \mathcal{M}'_{1}L_{\lambda}T, f \rangle_{X_{1}},$$
(3.10)

$$\int_{X_{1}} \Box_{1}[(T \circ Q_{1}) \cdot \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}](x,y)f(x,y)d(x,y)$$

$$= \int_{X_{1}} (T \circ Q_{1})(x,y) \cdot \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}(x,y)(\Box_{1}f)(x,y)d(x,y)$$

$$= \langle T, \mathcal{M}_{1}(\xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}\Box_{1}f)\rangle_{\mathbb{R}} = \langle \mathcal{M}'_{1}T, \xi_{1}^{\sqrt{-1}\lambda}\Box_{1}f\rangle_{X_{1}} = \langle \Box_{1}\mathcal{M}'_{1,\sqrt{-1}\lambda}T, f\rangle_{X_{1}}. \quad (3.11)$$

Comparing (3.10) and (3.11), we have  $\Box_1 \circ \mathcal{M}'_{1,\sqrt{-1}\lambda} = \mathcal{M}'_{1,\sqrt{-1}\lambda} \circ L_\lambda$ . This completes the proof of Theorem 2.1.

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# $\mathrm{SL}(n+1,\mathbb{R})/S(\mathrm{GL}(1,\mathbb{R})\times\mathrm{GL}(n,\mathbb{R}))$ 上线丛的一个超几何方程

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**摘要**: 本文研究了伪黎曼对称空间 $SL(n+1,\mathbb{R})/S(GL(1,\mathbb{R})\times GL(n,\mathbb{R}))$ 线丛上的微分方程. 利用李代数方法,即Casimir 算子得到这个微分算子. 这个微分算子是一个超几何方程,这个结论推广了文献[1,3,5]中的微分方程.

关键词: Casimir算子; 伪黎曼对称空间; 线丛; 超几何方程

MR(2010)主题分类号: 22E46; 33C05 中图分类号: O152.5