

# $L^p$ -analysis on Homogeneous Manifolds of Reductive Type and Representation Theory

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(Communicated by Shokichi IYANAGA, M. J. A., April 14, 1997)

## §1. Introduction.

**1.1.** Let  $G$  be a real reductive linear Lie group,  $K$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $G$ , and  $\theta$  the corresponding Cartan involution. Suppose that  $H$  is a closed  $\theta$ -stable subgroup of  $G$  with finitely many connected components. Then the coset space  $G/H$  is called a *homogeneous manifold of reductive type*. Riemannian symmetric spaces (e.g.  $GL(n, \mathbf{R})/O(n)$ ), semisimple Lie group manifolds (e.g.  $GL(n, \mathbf{R})/\{e\} \simeq GL(n, \mathbf{R}) \times GL(n, \mathbf{R})/\text{diag } GL(n, \mathbf{R})$ ), or more generally, reductive symmetric spaces (e.g.  $GL(n, \mathbf{R})/O(p, n-p)$ ), and semisimple orbits in semisimple Lie algebras under the adjoint action (e.g.  $GL(n, \mathbf{R})/GL(n_1, \mathbf{R}) \times \cdots \times GL(n_k, \mathbf{R})$  ( $\sum n_j = n$ )) are typical examples of homogeneous manifolds of reductive type. Various geometric structures of homogeneous manifolds of reductive type may be found in the survey [7] and references therein.

**1.2.** If  $G/H$  is of reductive type, then there exists a  $G$ -invariant measure  $d\mu$  on  $G/H$ , which is unique up to a scalar multiple. Then we have a continuous representation of  $G$  on the Banach space  $L^p(G/H; d\mu) \equiv L^p(G/H)$  ( $p \geq 1$ ) by left translations. A fundamental problem in  $L^p$ -analysis on a homogeneous manifold  $G/H$  is to construct an irreducible representation of  $G$  in a closed  $G$ -invariant subspace of  $L^p(G/H)$ . In particular, if  $p = 2$ , then  $G$  acts unitarily on the Hilbert space  $L^2(G/H)$  and an irreducible representation  $\pi$  of  $G$  is called a *discrete series representation* for  $G/H$ , provided  $\pi$  is realized in a closed  $G$ -invariant subspace of  $L^2(G/H)$ . Discrete series representations are automatically unitary and we denote by  $\text{Disc}(G/H)$  the unitary equivalence classes of discrete series representations for  $G/H$ . By definition,  $\text{Disc}(G/H) \subset \hat{G}$ , where  $\hat{G}$  denotes the unitary dual of  $G$ .

**1.3.** It is a celebrated work due to Harish-Chandra that  $\text{Disc}(G/\{e\}) \neq \emptyset$  iff  $\text{rank } G = \text{rank } K$ . Generalizing this, Flensted-Jensen, Matsuki and Oshima proved in [1] and [12] that  $\text{Disc}(G/H) \neq \emptyset$  iff

$$(1.3.1) \quad \text{rank } G/H = \text{rank } K/H \cap K$$

for a reductive symmetric space  $G/H$  (see §3.2 for definition).

**1.4.** However, except for reductive symmetric spaces, our current knowledge about the existence of discrete series representations for  $G/H$  (or more generally, the existence of irreducible representations in  $L^p(G/H)$ ) is very poor. This is partly because the known methods relied on

- i) the commutativity of  $G$ -invariant differential operators on  $G/H$ ,
- ii) a Cartan decomposition  $G = KAH$  ([1], §2),
- iii) the dual space  $G^d/H^d$  (see [2] for the notation).

In our more general setting where  $G/H$  is of reductive type, (i) may fail, and neither (ii) nor (iii) always exists.

Thus, we need a new method to investigate the  $L^p$ -analysis on  $G/H$  for a general homogeneous manifold of reductive type. Our approach in this paper is based on the recent theory of the discrete decomposable restriction of unitary representations ([5] and [6]), and on a comparison theorem of two homogeneous manifolds (Theorem 2.7) together with well-developed results on reductive symmetric spaces ([1], [2], and [12]).

## §2. Invariant measure on homogeneous manifolds of reductive type.

**2.1.** For a reductive symmetric space  $G/H$ , there is a generalized Cartan decomposition " $G = KAH$ " with  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^l$ , which is an analog of the polar coordinate in the Euclidean space. Then, the corresponding integration formula ([1], Theorem 2.6) is a basic tool on harmonic analysis on a symmetric space  $G/H$ , because the  $L^p$ -estimate of functions on  $G/H$  can be studied

by the decay condition along the abelian part  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}'$ .

Unfortunately, there does not always exist an analog of a generalized Cartan decomposition  $G = KAH$  in our general setting where  $G/H$  is of reductive type, as one can easily observe by an argument of dimension (e.g. the case where  $\dim H$  is very small).

Thus, in order to give an  $L^p$ -estimate of functions on  $G/H$ , we need a nice estimate of the invariant measure on  $G/H$  without using the  $KAH$  decomposition, which is the main goal of this section.

Let us fix some notation. Let  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{k} + \mathfrak{p}$  be a Cartan decomposition of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  of  $G$  corresponding to a Cartan involution  $\theta$  of  $G$ , and we fix an  $\text{Ad}(G)$ -invariant non-degenerate symmetric bilinear form  $B$  on  $\mathfrak{g}$  such that  $B|_{\mathfrak{k} \times \mathfrak{k}}$  is negative definite,  $B|_{\mathfrak{p} \times \mathfrak{p}}$  is positive definite and that  $\mathfrak{k}$  and  $\mathfrak{p}$  are orthogonal to each other (e.g. we can take  $B$  to be the Killing form if  $\mathfrak{g}$  is semisimple). We write  $\|X\|$  ( $X \in \mathfrak{p}$ ) for the induced norm on  $\mathfrak{p}$ .

**2.2.** Suppose  $G/H$  is a homogeneous manifold of reductive type. We write  $\mathfrak{h}$  for the Lie algebra of  $H$ . Then the restriction  $B|_{\mathfrak{h} \times \mathfrak{h}}$  is non-degenerate. Let  $\mathfrak{h}^\perp$  be the orthogonal complementary subspace of  $\mathfrak{h}$  in  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then, we have a direct sum decomposition  $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{h} + \mathfrak{h}^\perp$ .

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $G/H$  be a homogeneous manifold of reductive type. Then there exists a non-negative function  $\delta : \mathfrak{h}^\perp \cap \mathfrak{p} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that*

$$\int_{G/H} f(x) d\mu(x) = \int_K \int_{\mathfrak{h}^\perp \cap \mathfrak{p}} f(ke^X \cdot H) \delta(X) dk dX$$

for any  $f \in C_c(G/H)$ .

Here  $dk$  is the bi-invariant measure on  $K$  and  $dX$  is the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathfrak{h}^\perp \cap \mathfrak{p}$ . Furthermore, there exist constants  $\nu_{G/H} > 0$  and  $C > 0$  such that

$$\delta(X) \leq C \exp(\nu_{G/H} \|X\|) \text{ for any } X \in \mathfrak{h}^\perp \cap \mathfrak{p}.$$

**Remark 2.3.** One can prove that there exists a constant  $\nu \equiv \nu(G)$  such that  $\nu_{G/H} \leq \nu$  for any  $\theta$ -stable closed subgroup  $H$  with finitely many connected components.

**2.4.** Given  $\xi \in \mathbf{R}$ , we introduce a subspace of continuous functions on  $G/H$ :

$$C(G/H; \xi) := \{f \in C(G/H) : \sup_{k \in K} \sup_{X \in \mathfrak{p} \cap \mathfrak{h}^\perp} f(k \exp X) \exp(\xi \|X\|) < \infty\}.$$

There is an obvious inclusive relation  $C(G/H; \xi)$

$\subset C(G/H; \xi')$  for  $\xi > \xi'$ .

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $G/H$  be a homogeneous manifold of reductive type. If  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , then we have*

$$C(G/H; \xi) \subset L^p(G/H) \text{ if } p\xi > \nu_{G/H}.$$

We put  $C^\infty(G/H; \xi) := C(G/H; \xi) \cap C^\infty(G/H)$ . We say that an admissible irreducible representation  $\pi$  of  $G$  is of decay type  $\xi$  for  $G/H$  if the underlying  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module  $\pi_K$  can be realized as a subrepresentation of  $C^\infty(G/H; \xi)$ .

If  $\pi$  is of decay type  $\xi$  for  $G/H$  with  $\xi > \frac{1}{2} \nu_{G/H}$ , then  $\pi_K$  is unitarizable and  $\text{Disc}(G/H) \neq \emptyset$  by Corollary 2.4.

**2.5.** Next, we give a comparison theorem of invariant measures of two homogeneous manifolds  $G'/H' \subset G/H$ . Consider the following setting:  $G$  is a real reductive linear Lie group with a Cartan involution  $\theta$ ; both  $H$  and  $G'$  are  $\theta$ -stable closed subgroups of  $G$  with finitely many connected components. Let  $H' := H \cap G'$ . Then  $G'/H'$  is also of reductive type. We write  $\iota : G'/H' \hookrightarrow G/H$  for the natural embedding, and  $\iota^* : C(G/H) \rightarrow C(G'/H')$  for the pullback of continuous functions.

**2.6.** In the setting of §2.5, we write  $\mathfrak{g}'$  and  $\mathfrak{h}'$  for the Lie algebras of  $G'$  and  $H'$ , respectively. We put  $\mathfrak{p}' := \mathfrak{g}' \cap \mathfrak{p}$ , and define  $\mathfrak{h}'^\perp$  to be the orthogonal complement of  $\mathfrak{h}'$  in  $\mathfrak{g}'$  with respect to  $B|_{\mathfrak{g}' \times \mathfrak{g}'}$ . Then, we have direct sum decompositions  $\mathfrak{g}' = \mathfrak{h}' \oplus \mathfrak{h}'^\perp$  and  $\mathfrak{p}' = (\mathfrak{h}' \cap \mathfrak{p}') \oplus (\mathfrak{h}'^\perp \cap \mathfrak{p}')$ . We define

$$(2.6.1) \quad b(G'/H'; G/H) := \sin \phi(q' \cap \mathfrak{p}', \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{p}).$$

Here,  $(0 \leq) \phi(q' \cap \mathfrak{p}', \mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{p}) \left( \leq \frac{\pi}{2} \right)$  is the angle between the subspaces of  $\mathfrak{p}$ ,  $q' \cap \mathfrak{p}'$  and  $\mathfrak{h} \cap \mathfrak{p}$ .

**Lemma 2.6.** *If  $G'/H'$  is noncompact, then  $b(G'/H'; G/H) > 0$ .*

**2.7.** Here is a comparison theorem that gives an estimate of the decay of a function on  $G/H$  restricted to a submanifold  $G'/H'$ .

**Theorem 2.7.** *Let  $b := b(G'/H'; G/H)$  be the constant given in (2.6.1). Then*

$$\iota^* C(G/H; \xi) \subset C(G'/H'; b\xi) \text{ for any } \xi \geq 0.$$

**Corollary 2.8.** *Retain the setting of Theorem 2.7. Let  $\nu_{G'/H'}$  be the constant given in Theorem 2.2. Then for any  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ , we have*

$$\iota^* C(G/H; \xi) \subset L^p(G'/H') \text{ if } bp\xi > \nu_{G'/H'}.$$

**§3. Irreducible representations in  $L^p(G/H)$ .**  
In this section, we investigate a sufficient condi-

tion for the existence of irreducible representations realized in closed subspaces of  $L^p(G/H)$ . In particular, we construct new discrete series representations which play a fundamental role in the non-commutative harmonic analysis on  $G/H$ .

**3.1.** Suppose  $G' \subset G$  are real reductive Lie groups with maximal compact groups  $K' \subset K$ . We say that  $\pi \in \widehat{G}$  is  $K'$ -admissible if

$$\dim \text{Hom}_{K'}(\tau, \pi|_{K'}) < \infty \quad \text{for any } \tau \in \widehat{K'}.$$

Then we also say that the underlying  $(\mathfrak{g}_C, K)$ -module  $\pi_K$  is  $K'$ -admissible. Suppose we are in the setting 2.5 and 2.6. Let  $b = b(G'/H'; G/H)$ . Here is a key lemma in the proof of Theorem 3.5, the main result in this section:

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\pi \in \widehat{G}$  be  $K'$ -admissible. If  $\pi$  is of decay type  $\xi$  for  $G/H$ , then there exists  $\tau \in \widehat{G'}$  that is of decay type  $b\xi$  for  $G'/H'$ .*

This lemma follows directly from an algebraic result in representation theory ([5], Part III, Proposition 1.6).

**3.2.** Let  $\mathfrak{t}$  be a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{k}$ . We fix a positive system  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$ . Let  $\tau$  be an involutive automorphism of  $G$ , and  $G'$  an open subgroup of  $G^\tau := \{g \in G : \tau g = g\}$ . Then  $(G, G')$  is called a *reductive symmetric pair*. The homogeneous manifold  $G/G'$  is called a *reductive symmetric space* (or a *semisimple symmetric space* if  $G$  is semisimple). We say that  $\tau$  is *in a standard position* with respect to  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$  if the following four conditions are satisfied:

$$(3.2.1) \quad \tau\theta = \theta\tau.$$

$$(3.2.2) \quad \tau(\mathfrak{t}) = \mathfrak{t}.$$

$$(3.2.3) \quad \mathfrak{t}^{-\tau} \text{ is a maximal abelian subspace in } \mathfrak{k}^{-\tau}.$$

$$(3.2.4) \quad \{\alpha|_{\mathfrak{t}^{-\tau}} : \alpha \in \Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})\} \setminus \{0\} \text{ defines a positive system } \Sigma^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\tau}) \text{ of } \Sigma(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\tau}).$$

Here, we wrote  $\mathfrak{m}^{-\tau} := \{X \in \mathfrak{m} : \tau X = -X\}$  for a subspace  $\mathfrak{m}$  of  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

**3.3.** Given an element  $X \in \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{t}$ , we define a  $\theta$ -stable parabolic subalgebra

$$\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{l}_C + \mathfrak{u} \equiv \mathfrak{l}(X)_C + \mathfrak{u}(X) \quad (\subset \mathfrak{g}_C)$$

such that  $\mathfrak{l}_C$  and  $\mathfrak{u}$  are the sum of eigenspaces with 0 and positive eigenvalues of  $\text{ad}(X) \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g}_C)$ , respectively. Then  $\mathfrak{l}_C$  is the complexification of the Lie algebra of  $L = Z_G(X)$ , the centralizer of  $X$  in  $G$ . We write  $A_{\mathfrak{q}}(\lambda)$  for the Zuckerman's derived functor  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module for a metaplectic  $L^\sim$ -character  $C_\lambda$  in the good range (see [3]).

We say that  $\mathfrak{q}$  is *in a standard position* for a fixed positive system  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$  if  $X$  sits inside a

dominant chamber with respect to  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$ . We denote by  $\mathbf{R}_+ \langle \mathfrak{u} \cap \mathfrak{p}_C \rangle$  the cone in  $\sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{t}^*$  defined by the  $\mathbf{R}_+$ -span of  $\Delta(\mathfrak{u} \cap \mathfrak{p}_C, \mathfrak{t})$ .

**Fact 3.3.** *Suppose  $(G, G')$  is a reductive symmetric pair defined by an involution  $\tau$  in a standard position with respect to  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$ . Suppose  $\mathfrak{q}$  is a  $\theta$ -stable parabolic subalgebra in a standard position with respect to  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$ . Then the following three conditions on  $(\mathfrak{q}, G, G')$  are equivalent:*

$$1) \quad \mathbf{R}_+ \langle \mathfrak{u} \cap \mathfrak{p}_C \rangle \cap \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{t}^{-\tau} = \{0\}.$$

2) *The restriction of  $A_{\mathfrak{q}}(\lambda)$  to  $K'$  is  $K'$ -admissible.*

3)  *$A_{\mathfrak{q}}(\lambda)$  is decomposed into an algebraic sum of irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}', K')$ -modules.*

*Proof.* See [5], Part I, Theorem 3.2 for (1)  $\Rightarrow$  (2); and [5], Part III, Theorem 4.2 for other implications.  $\square$

**3.4.** Let  $(G, H)$  and  $(G, G')$  be reductive symmetric pairs defined by involutive automorphisms  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  of  $G$ , respectively, which are in a standard position with respect to  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$ . We employ an analogous notation of §3.2 for  $\sigma$ . If (1.3.1) is satisfied, then  $\mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma}$  is a maximal abelian subspace in  $\mathfrak{g}^{-\sigma}$ . We denote by  $W(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma}) \supset W(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$  the Weyl groups of  $\Sigma(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma}) \supset \Sigma(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$ , respectively. Fix a positive system  $\Sigma^+(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$  which contains  $\Sigma^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$ . A  $\theta$ -stable parabolic subalgebra  $\mathfrak{q} \equiv \mathfrak{q}(X) = \mathfrak{l}_C + \mathfrak{u}$  is attached by a strictly dominant element  $X \in \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma}$  with respect to  $\Sigma^+(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$  (see §3.3). For each  $w \in W(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma}) \setminus W(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$ , we choose a representative  $m_w \in K$  such that  $\text{Ad}(m_w)X$  is dominant with respect to  $\Delta^+(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t})$ , and define a  $\theta$ -stable parabolic subalgebra  $\mathfrak{q}^w := \text{Ad}(m_w)\mathfrak{q} = \mathfrak{l}_C + \mathfrak{u}^w$ , where  $\mathfrak{u}^w := \text{Ad}(m_w)\mathfrak{u}$ .

**3.5.** We write  $\text{pr}_{\mathfrak{g}-\mathfrak{q}'} : \mathfrak{g}_C^* \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_C^*$  for the natural projection. We denote by  $\text{Ass}(\pi) \subset \mathfrak{g}_C^*$  the associated variety of a  $(\mathfrak{g}'_C, K')$ -module  $\pi$  of finite length.

**Theorem 3.5.** *Let  $G/H$  be a reductive symmetric space satisfying (1.3.1). Retain the notation in §3.4. We assume that there exists  $w \in W(\mathfrak{k}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma}) \setminus W(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$  such that*

$$\mathbf{R}_+ \langle \mathfrak{u}^w \cap \mathfrak{p}_C \rangle \cap \sqrt{-1}\mathfrak{t}^{-\tau} = \{0\}.$$

*We put  $H'_x := G' \cap xHx^{-1}$  for  $x \in K$ . Then the following statements hold:*

1) *For any  $x \in K$ , there exists an irreducible  $(\mathfrak{g}'_C, K')$ -module  $\pi$  such that*

$$(3.5.1) \quad \text{Ass}(\pi) \supset \text{pr}_{\mathfrak{g}-\mathfrak{q}'} \text{Ad}(K_C) (\mathfrak{u}^w \cap \mathfrak{p}_C),$$

$$(3.5.2) \quad \text{Hom}_{(\mathfrak{g}'_C, K')}(\pi, C^\infty(G/H) \cap \bigcap_{1 \leq p \leq \infty} L^p(G'/H'_x)) \neq \{0\}.$$

In particular,  $\text{Disc}(G'/H'_x) \neq \emptyset$  for any  $x \in K$ .

2) Assume moreover that  $Z_G(\mathfrak{t}^{-\sigma})$  is compact. Then  $\text{Disc}(G'/H'_x) \cap \text{Disc}(G') \neq \emptyset$  for any  $x \in K$ .

The point here is that  $G'/H'_x$  gives different homogeneous manifolds of reductive type as  $x \in K$  varies. In general,  $G'/H'_x$  is non-symmetric. A recent study of the double coset decomposition  $G^\tau \backslash G/G^\sigma$  by Matsuki ([10] and [11]) helps us to compute explicitly the isotropy subgroup  $H'_x$ .

**Example 3.6.** The assumptions of Theorem 3.5 are satisfied, if the triple of Lie groups  $(G, H, G') \equiv (G, G^\sigma, G^\tau)$  is one of the following cases:

$$\begin{aligned} & (U(2p, 2q), \text{Sp}(p, q), U(i, j) \times U(2p-i, 2q-j)), \\ & (O(p, q), O(m) \times O(p-m, q), O(p, q-r) \times O(r)), \\ & (U(p, q), U(m) \times U(p-m, q), U(p, q-r) \times U(r)), \\ & (\text{Sp}(p, q), \text{Sp}(m) \times \text{Sp}(p-m, q), \text{Sp}(p, q-r) \times \text{Sp}(r)), \end{aligned}$$

where  $0 \leq i \leq 2p$ ,  $0 \leq j \leq 2p$ ,  $0 \leq 2m \leq p$  and  $0 \leq r \leq q$ . We note that  $\sigma$  does not commute with  $\tau$  if  $i$  or  $j$  is odd in the first case.

**Remark 3.7.** The special case where  $\dim H + \dim G' = \dim G + \dim(H \cap G')$  (and  $x = e$ ) was studied in [5], Corollary 5.6, where we dealt with so-called the (non-symmetric) *spherical homogeneous spaces*.

**Example 3.8.** The homogeneous manifolds

$$G/H = O(4m, n)/U(2m, j), \quad (0 \leq 2j \leq n)$$

admit discrete series representations. This was previously known when  $n = 2j$  and  $2j - 1$ , where  $G/H$  is a semisimple symmetric space, and a non-symmetric spherical homogeneous space, respectively. Other cases are new.

#### §4. Holomorphic discrete series representations.

**4.1.** In this section, we investigate a nice subset of  $\text{Disc}(G/H)$ , namely, "holomorphic discrete series representations for  $G/H$ ". As in Theorem 3.4, analogous results in this section hold for  $L^p$ -representations ( $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ ), but we restrict to the case of  $p = 2$  for simplicity.

We assume that  $G/K$  is an irreducible Hermitian symmetric space. Equivalently,  $G$  is simple and the center  $\mathfrak{c}(\mathfrak{k})$  of  $\mathfrak{k}$  is one dimensional. Then we can take  $Z \in \mathfrak{c}(\mathfrak{k})$  so that

$$\mathfrak{g}_{\mathbf{C}} = \mathfrak{k}_{\mathbf{C}} \oplus \mathfrak{p}^+ \oplus \mathfrak{p}^-$$

are  $0, \sqrt{-1}$  and  $-\sqrt{-1}$  eigenspaces of  $\text{ad } Z$ . For  $\pi \in \widehat{G}$ , we say that  $\pi$  is a *highest weight module* if there exists a non-zero vector in the underlying  $(\mathfrak{g}, K)$ -module annihilated by  $\mathfrak{p}^+$ . We denote by  $\widehat{G}_{h.w.}$  ( $\subset \widehat{G}$ ) the unitary equivalence

class of irreducible unitary highest weight modules. Then an element of  $\text{Disc}(G/H) \cap \widehat{G}_{h.w.}$  is called a *holomorphic discrete series representation for  $G/H$* . This terminology coincides with the usual one if  $H = \{e\}$ . Lowest weight modules and anti-holomorphic discrete series representations are defined similarly with  $\mathfrak{p}^+$  replaced by  $\mathfrak{p}^-$ .

Suppose  $\tau$  is an involutive automorphism of  $G$  commuting with  $\theta$ . Since  $\tau\mathfrak{c}(\mathfrak{k}) = \mathfrak{c}(\mathfrak{k})$ , there are two exclusive possibilities:

$$(4.1.1) \quad \tau Z = Z,$$

$$(4.1.2) \quad \tau Z = -Z.$$

We note that the induced action of  $\tau$  on  $G/K$  is holomorphic for (4.1.1); anti-holomorphic for (4.1.2).

**4.2.** Retain the setting of §4.1. Let  $\sigma$  be an involutive automorphism of  $G$  satisfying  $\sigma\theta = \theta\sigma$  and  $\sigma Z = -Z$  (see (4.1.2)), and  $x \in K$ . We consider the following two settings:

**Setting 1:**  $L_x := \{g \in G : x\sigma(g)x^{-1} = g\}$ .

**Setting 2:** Let  $\tau$  be an involutive automorphism of  $G$  satisfying (4.1.1) and  $G' := G^\tau$ . We put  $H'_x := G^\tau \cap xG^\sigma x^{-1}$ .

Here is an existence theorem of holomorphic discrete series representations for homogeneous manifolds of reductive type.

**Theorem 4.2.** For any  $x \in K$ , we have

$$\#(\text{Disc}(G/L_x) \cap \text{Disc}(G) \cap \widehat{G}_{h.w.}) = \infty$$

in Setting 1,

$$\#(\text{Disc}(G'/H'_x) \cap \text{Disc}(G') \cap \widehat{G}_{h.w.}) = \infty$$

in Setting 2.

**4.3.** A very special case (i.e.  $x = e$  in Setting 1) leads to a new and elementary proof of the following result due to Ólafsson and Ørsted:

**Corollary 4.3** (see [13]). *There exist (infinitely many) holomorphic discrete series representations for a psend-Riemannian symmetric space of Hermitian type.*

**4.4.** Choosing  $x \in K$ ,  $\tau$  and  $\sigma$ , we can obtain a number of new holomorphic discrete series representations for homogeneous manifolds of reductive type ( $G/L_x$  and  $G'/H'_x$ ). For instance, we have:

**Example 4.4.** The homogeneous manifolds

$$G/H = \text{Sp}(2n, \mathbf{R}) / (\text{Sp}(n_0, \mathbf{C}) \times \text{GL}(n_1, \mathbf{C}) \times \cdots \times \text{GL}(n_k, \mathbf{C})) \quad (\sum n_j = n)$$

admit holomorphic discrete series representations. We note that  $G/H$  is a semisimple symmetric space if and only if  $n_1 = n_2 = \cdots = n_k = 0$ , which is previously the known case.

A detailed proof will appear in [8] and [9].

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