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The Bernstein-Gelfand-Gelfand complex for the groups $Sp(n, 1)$ and $F_{4(-20)}$ as a Kasparov module

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0. Introduction.

Let G be a locally compact group and A be any $G - C^*$ -algebra. We say that G satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients in A if that the Baum-Connes assembly map:

$$K_*^G(\mathbf{E}G, A) \rightarrow K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$$

is an isomorphism. The left hand side is the G -equivariant K -homology of the universal proper space for proper G -actions, which is well defined up to G -equivariant homotopy, with coefficients in A . The right hand side is the K -theory of the reduced crossed product of A by G .

We say that G satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients if it satisfies the conjecture with coefficients in any $G - C^*$ -algebra A . On the other hand, G satisfies the usual Baum-Connes conjecture, i.e. the conjecture without coefficients, if it satisfies the conjecture with scalar coefficients, i.e. for $A = \mathbf{C}$, the algebra of complex numbers. The important point about the conjecture *with* coefficients is that it is stable by restriction to closed subgroup. In particular, if G is a group which satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients, then any closed, and in particular any discrete subgroup of G satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture.

We are interested in the following situation: let us assume that G is a semi-simple Lie group, connected with finite centre. The conjecture without coefficients for G is known to be true. There are actually two completely distinct proofs of that fact. In 1984, A. Wassermann [W](following the work of Pennington-Plymen and Valette) has proved the conjecture using the Harish-Chandra theory which allows to describe the reduced dual of such groups. However the philosophy of A. Connes non commutative geometry suggested that one should provide a proof of the conjecture completely

independent of such a representation theory. This has been done in the remarkable work of V. Lafforgue in 1998 [L].

On the other hand, let Γ be a discrete subgroup of G , the question of Baum-Connes for Γ can be summerized as follows:

1) injectivity is known to be true since the work of Kasparov on the Novikov conjecture in 1980 [K1][K3]; in fact this is a consequence of the injectivity of the Baum-connes assembly map with coefficient in any A for the Lie group G .

2) the question of surjectivity of the Baum-Connes assembly map for the discrete group Γ , or more generally the surjectivity of the Baum-Connes assembly map with coefficients in any A for the Lie group G is a difficult problem and a test for the conjecture. Let us list a few results and open problems.

In the case where G is simple with real rank one, there is a dichotomy between two classes of groups:

(i) if G is (locally isomorphic to) one of the groups $SO_0(n, 1)$ or $SU(n, 1)$ ($n \geq 2$), G has the Haagerup property. Therefore, by the Higson-Kasparov theorem [HK][J4], G satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients, and so do all its discrete subgroups. Moreover, G is K -amenable [JV]: the reduced crossed products $C_r^*(G, A)$ can be replaced by the full crossed products $C^*(G, A)$.

The case of $SO_0(n, 1)$ had in fact been solved by Kasparov [K2] already in 1983, combining geometry (the conformal structure on the sphere at infinity of the hyperbolic space) and the theory of unitary representations (complementary series). This was generalized to $SU(n, 1)$ by Kasparov and the author [JK].

(ii) if G is (locally isomorphic to) one of the groups $Sp(n, 1)$ ($n \geq 2$) or $F_{4(-20)}$, then G has Kazhdan's property T . This fact makes the Baum-Connes conjecture more difficult since the full and reduced crossed product do not have in general the same K -theory. The first deep result in that direction was obtained by V. Lafforgue in 1998 [L]: if Γ is a cocompact discrete subgroup of such a group G , then Γ satisfies the Baum-connes conjecture (without coefficients), and even the conjecture with coefficients in a commutative C^* -algebra.

In this paper we present the main step in the proof of the following result:

Theorem 1 *Let G be one of the groups $Sp(n, 1)$ ($n \geq 2$) or $F_{4(-20)}$. Then G satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients. In particular all discrete subgroups of G satisfy the Baum-Connes conjecture.*

Our proof is a generalisation of the method of [JK]. The difference is that it is no longer possible to use the theory of unitary representations since the complementary series stays away from the trivial representation. The main ingredient in our proof is the use of a family of uniformly bounded representations, constructed by M. Cowling, which approach the trivial representation.

Recently, V. Lafforgue has shown that any Gromov hyperbolic group Γ satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients. Note that the range of application of Lafforgue's method and ours are in general position: the case where Γ is a cocompact discrete subgroup of $Sp(n, 1)$ ($n \geq 2$) or $F_{4(-20)}$ can therefore be obtained by both. However we obtain the case of all discrete subgroups of such Lie groups, and Lafforgue obtains all Gromov hyperbolic groups.

Let us say a few words about the case of higher rank. Very few is known. Let G be a simple Lie group of real rank at least 2, and Γ a discrete subgroup of G .

(i) Assume that G is $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ or $SL_3(\mathbf{C})$. V. Lafforgue has shown that any discrete cocompact subgroup Γ of G satisfies the Baum-connes conjecture (without coefficients). I. Chatterji has generalized this fact to $SL_3(\mathbf{H})$ and $E_{6(-26)}$. It is not known whether such a group Γ (or *a fortiori* the Lie group G) satisfies the conjecture with coefficients. Moreover, nothing is known about the Baum-Connes conjecture for general discrete subgroups of G .

(ii) If G is either another real rank 2 simple group, or a simple group with real rank at least 3, nothing is known.

In particular there are two very difficult open problems: Prove that $SL_3(\mathbf{Z})$ satisfies the Baum-Connes conjecture, or prove that $SL_3(\mathbf{R})$ satisfies the Baum-Connes with coefficients.

On the other hand, leaving the world of Lie groups, the so called Gromov random groups (or Gromov's monsters) are known to be counterexamples to the Baum-Connes conjecture with coefficients (but possibly not to the plain conjecture).

1. K -theory and Fredholm modules.

1.1 Review of Kasparov's Dirac-dual Dirac method.

From now on, G will be a semi-simple Lie group, connected with finite centre. Let K be a maximal compact subgroup of G . The Riemannian

symmetric space $X = G/K$ representative of the universal space $\mathbf{E}G$. The subgroup K is the stabilizer of a point x_0 in the symmetric space and therefore acts by a linear representation in the real vector space V tangent to X at point x_0 . The left hand side is isomorphic to the K -theory of the crossed product of $C_0(V^*) \otimes A$ by K . The Baum-Connes conjecture for that case is the so-called Connes-Kasparov conjecture: the map

$$\alpha_A : K_*(C^*(K, C_0(V^*) \otimes A)) \rightarrow K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$$

is an isomorphism. That map α_A is called the Dirac map because it can be constructed using a Dirac operator on G/K .

G. Kasparov (cf [K1][K3]) has shown that the map α_A is injective. More precisely he constructed a left inverse $\beta_A : K_*(C_r^*(G, A)) \rightarrow K_*(C^*(K, C_0(V^*) \otimes A))$, called dual Dirac. The composition $\beta_A \alpha_A$ is the identity of $K_*(C^*(K, C_0(V^*) \otimes A))$, but the composition $\gamma_A = \alpha_A \beta_A$ is *a priori* only an idempotent map of the K -theory group $K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$. The conjecture is therefore equivalent to the fact that the map γ_A is the identity.

The maps α_A and β_A are described by Kasparov thanks to explicit elements in equivariant KK -theory:

$$\alpha \in KK_G(C_0(T^*X), \mathbf{C})$$

$$\beta \in KK_G(\mathbf{C}, C_0(T^*X))$$

such that $\alpha \otimes \beta = 1$ in $KK_G(C_0(T^*X), C_0(T^*X))$. In particular , the map γ_A comes from the idempotent element $\gamma = \beta \otimes \alpha$ of the commutative ring $R(G) = KK_G(\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{C})$. The abelian groups $K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$ are modules over the ring $R(G)$ via the following ring homomorphisms:

$$R(G) = KK_G(\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{C}) \rightarrow KK_G(A, A) \rightarrow KK(C_r^*(G, A), C_r^*(G, A)) \rightarrow \text{End} K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$$

The Baum-Connes conjecture for G with coefficients in A is therefore equivalent to the following statement:

Conjecture. The above map $R(G) \rightarrow \text{End} K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$ sends the Kasparov element γ to the identity.

In this paper we prove the above conjecture for the groups $Sp(n, 1)$ and $F_{4(-20)}$. The proof also applies to the case of $SO(n, 1)$ or $SU(n, 1)$, but in that case one has in fact the much stronger result $\gamma = 1$ in $R(G)$: this was shown in [K2][JK], and also results from [HK], see for example [J]. It also implies K -amenability (cf [JV]).

1.2 Idea of our proof.

The crucial point in our work is the role of *uniformly bounded representations*. Michael Cowling has shown [C][ACD], already in 1980, that the non unitary principal series representations π_s on the suitable Sobolev spaces associated to the hypoelliptic sublaplacian, are not only bounded, but uniformly bounded provided the complex parameter lies in some vertical strip (section 3.1).

On the other hand, there is a link between uniformly bounded representations and K -theory which we had already observed in 1984 [J2]: the fact that the map $R(G) \rightarrow \text{End}K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$ factors through a group $R_{\text{ub}}(G)$ which is defined using uniformly bounded representations instead of unitary ones (section 3.2).

The idea of our proof is therefore the following: since we cannot (because of property T) make a homotopy from γ to 1 with unitary representations, we construct such a homotopy with uniformly bounded representations. The strip of uniformly bounded representations of M. Cowling plays here the role of the complementary series for $SO(n, 1)$ [K2] and $SU(n, 1)$ [JK].

Stricly speaking, there is another technical difficulty due to the fact that at the end of the homotopy the representations are no more uniformly bounded: the uniform bounds blow up. This problem can be fixed using a trick which appears in the Banach context of V. Lafforgue's thesis in 1998. The idea of adapting the argument to our situation had been suggested to us in 1999 by N. Higson and V. Lafforgue. Technically we replace the uniformly bounded representations by representations of ε -exponential type, i.e. satisfying $\|\pi(g)\| \leq Ce^{\varepsilon l(g)}$, where $l(g)$ is the length of $g \in G$. We can perform a homotopy to 1 for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and a result of N. Higson and V. Lafforgue is that it is enough to show that our element of $R_{\text{ub}}(G)$ acts by the identity on the K -theory of any reduced crossed product $C_r^*(G, A)$.

1.3. Uniformly bounded representations and K -theory.

A representation $g \mapsto \pi(g)$ of a locally compact group G in a Hilbert space is a strongly continuous morphism of the group G to the group of invertible elements of the C^* -algebra $\mathcal{L}(H)$ of bounded operators on H .

Definition 2 *A G -Fredholm module is a triple (H, π, T) where: H is a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -graded Hilbert space; π a representation of G in H which is even (i.e. commutes with the grading); T a bounded operator on H which is odd (i.e. anticommutes with the grading), Fredholm (i.e. there exists a bounded operator S on H such that $TS - 1$ and $ST - 1$ are compact operators), and almost G -intertwining (i.e. $g \mapsto [T, \pi(g)]$ is a normly continuous map from G to the compact operators).*

Definition 3 A homotopy of G -Fredholm modules is a triple (E, π, T) where: E is a $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -graded Hilbert module over the C^* -algebra $C[0, 1]$ of continuous functions on $[0, 1]$; π a representation of G in H which is even (i.e. commutes with the grading); F a bounded operator on E which is odd (i.e. anti-commutes with the grading), Fredholm (i.e. there exists a bounded operator S on E such that $TS - 1$ and $ST - 1$ are compact operators), and almost G -intertwining (i.e. $g \mapsto [T, \pi(g)]$ is a normly continuous map from G to the compact operators).

Definition 4 A bounded representation π of G is a representation of the group G by bounded operators on a Hilbert space which is strongly continuous. Such a representation is uniformly bounded if moreover

$$\sup_{g \in G} \|\pi(g)\| < \infty.$$

Unitary representations are special cases of uniformly bounded representations.

The other crucial fact which makes the uniformly bounded representations relevant for our problem is the following. Let (G, A) be a C^* -dynamical system. We will show below that the map $R(G) \rightarrow \text{End} K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$ factors, as a map of additive groups, through a group $R_{\text{u.b.}}(G)$ defined using uniformly bounded representations instead of unitary representations.

We will need the following lemma:

Lemma 5 1) Let π be a uniformly bounded representation of G . Let λ be the left regular representation of G on $L^2(G)$. There exists an operator U on $H \otimes L^2(G)$, which is bounded and has a bounded inverse, such that

$$\pi(g) \otimes \lambda(g) = U(1 \otimes \lambda(g))U^{-1}$$

2) If moreover π is a unitary representation, U is a unitary operator.

The unitary case is classical and its generalisation to the uniformly bounded case is straitforward.

Let λ_A be the canonical map $C^*(G, A) \rightarrow C_r^*(G, A)$.

To a Hilbert space H equipped with a uniformly bounded representation π , associate the Hilbert module $E = H \otimes C_r^*(G, A)$ and the covariant representation of (G, A) with values in $\mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$ defined by:

$$a \mapsto 1 \otimes a, \quad g \mapsto \pi(g) \otimes \lambda(g).$$

Lemma 6 *The representation $\tilde{\pi} : L^1(G, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$ extending the above covariant representation factors through the reduced crossed product $C_r^*(G, A)$.*

Proof. The reduced crossed product $C_r^*(G, A)$ is by definition a sub- C^* -algebra of $\mathcal{L}_A(L^2(G) \otimes A)$. Therefore the C^* -algebra $\mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$ is a sub- C^* -algebra of $\mathcal{L}_A(H \otimes L^2(G) \otimes A)$. It follows easily from lemma 1 that for any $a \in L^1(G, A)$, one has

$$\tilde{\pi}(a) = \tilde{U}(1 \otimes \lambda_A(a))\tilde{U}^{-1}$$

where

$$\lambda_A : L^1(G, A) \rightarrow C_r^*(G, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_A(L^2(G) \otimes A)$$

The map $\tilde{\pi}$ therefore extends to a continuous (but not $*$) homomorphism

$$\tilde{\pi} : C_r^*(G, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E).$$

A G -Fredholm module (resp. a homotopy of G -Fredholm modules) is uniformly bounded if the representation π is uniformly bounded. Let us consider the monoid of uniformly bounded G -Fredholm modules (for the direct sum), and take the quotient by the equivalence relation defined by the uniformly bounded homotopies. We obtain an abelian group denoted by $R_{\text{ub}}(G)$. The same construction with "unitary" instead of "uniformly bounded" yields the Kasparov group $R(G) = KK_G(\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{C})$ (we do not consider here the ring structure). Since any unitary map is uniformly bounded, there is an obvious map $R(G) \rightarrow R_{\text{ub}}(G)$.

Theorem 7 *For any G - C^* -algebra A , the Kasparov map $R(G) \rightarrow \text{End}K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$ factors through the map $R(G) \rightarrow R_{\text{ub}}(G)$.*

Proof. Let us construct a map $R_{\text{ub}}(G) \rightarrow \text{End}K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$. To a G -Fredholm module (H, π, T) we associate the triple $(H \otimes C_r^*(G, A), \tilde{\pi}, \tilde{T})$ where $\tilde{\pi} : C_r^*(G, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$ is the Banach algebra homomorphism defined above, and $\tilde{T} = T \otimes 1 \in \mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(H \otimes C_r^*(G, A))$.

Proposition 8 *A is a Banach algebra, B a C^* -algebra and E a $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -graded B -Hilbert module, if π is a Banach algebra morphism $A \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_B(E)$, and $T \in \mathcal{L}_B(E)$ which is odd, Fredholm (i.e. invertible modulo the B -compact operators) and commutes modulo the B -compact operators with the operators $\pi(a)$, $a \in A$. Then (E, π, T) defines maps $K_0(A) \rightarrow K_0(B)$ and $K_1(A) \rightarrow K_1(B)$.*

This is a classical statement. It is here unnecessary to use the powerful tool of Lafforgue's $KK^{ban}(A, B)$.

1.4 Slow-growth representations.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. We say that a representation π of G is of ε -exponential type if there is a constant C such that for any $g \in G$,

$$\|\pi(g)\| \leq Ce^{\varepsilon l(g)}$$

where $l(g) = d(gx_0, x_0)$ is the length of g . We define as above a G -Fredholm module (resp. a homotopy of G -Fredholm modules) of ε -exponential type. Let $R_\varepsilon(G)$ be the abelian group of homotopy classes of such Fredholm modules. There are obvious maps $R_\varepsilon(G) \rightarrow R_{\varepsilon'}(G)$ for $\varepsilon < \varepsilon'$, and we consider the projective limit $\lim R_\varepsilon(G)$ when $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. We would like to replace in the above result the group R_{ub} by $\lim R_\varepsilon(G)$. In fact there is a slightly weaker result due to Higson and Lafforgue (cf [L], théorème 2.3):

Theorem. The kernel of the map

$$R(G) \rightarrow \lim R_\varepsilon(G)$$

is included in the kernel of the map

$$R(G) \rightarrow \text{End} K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$$

The idea of their proof is the following. For given ε there is a Banach algebra C_ε which is a completion of $C_c(G, A)$ such that the map

$$\tilde{\pi} : C_c(G, A) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$$

extending the covariant representation of (G, A) with values in $\mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$ defined by $a \mapsto 1 \otimes a$, $g \mapsto \pi(g) \otimes \lambda(g)$ extends to a map $C_\varepsilon \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{C_r^*(G, A)}(E)$, which is compatible with the obvious maps $C_\varepsilon \rightarrow C_{\varepsilon'}$ for $\varepsilon' < \varepsilon$.

One has a commutative diagramme (cf [L] prop 2.5)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} R(G) & \rightarrow & \text{End} K_*(C_r^*(G, A)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \lim R_\varepsilon(G) & \rightarrow & \lim \text{Hom}(K_*(C_\varepsilon), K_*(C_r^*(G, A))) \end{array}$$

The theorem of Higson-Lafforgue follows immediatly from the lemma:
Lemma. The group $K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$ is the union of the images of the maps $K_*(C_\varepsilon) \rightarrow K_*(C_r^*(G, A))$.

The proof of their lemma is subtle. Using the idea of finite asymptotic dimension, they first show an estimate of the form (prop 2.6 in [L])

$$\|f\|_{C_\varepsilon} \leq k_\varepsilon e^{\varepsilon(ar+b)} \|f\|_{C_r^*(G,A)}$$

for $f \in C_c(G, A)$ with support in a ball of radius r (for the length l). Using the spectral radius formula in Banach algebras one immediately gets:

$$\rho_{C_\varepsilon}(f) \leq e^{\varepsilon ar} \rho_{C_r^*(G,A)}(f).$$

Hence the crucial fact that $\rho_{C_r^*(G,A)}(f) = \inf \rho_{C_\varepsilon}(f)$, which by standard holomorphic calculus implies the lemma.

1.5 A characterisation of the element γ .

We shall need a characterisation of the element γ of $R(G)$, which already appears in [JK] . Consider $\bar{X} = X \cup \partial X$ the natural compactification of X . We have the following fact:

Proposition 9 *The map $KK_G(C(\bar{X}), \mathbf{C}) \rightarrow KK_K(C(\bar{X}), \mathbf{C})$ is an isomorphism. In other words, $(1 - \gamma)KK_G(C(\bar{X}), \mathbf{C}) = 0$.*

The proof reproduces exactly the proof of [JK] , prop. 1.2.

Corollary 10 *An element of $R(G)$ which is in the image of $KK_G(C(\bar{X}), \mathbf{C}) \rightarrow R(G)$ and maps to 1 in $R(K)$ is equal to γ .*

2. Construction of a family of Fredholm modules on the boundary of a symmetric space of rank 1.

The main technical tools of the proof are introduced in this chapter . Let X be a symmetric space of rank 1, and $M = \partial X$ its boundary or sphere at infinity. Then M is a generalized contact manifold, i.e. a smooth manifold equipped with a subbundle E of the tangent bundle. The group G of isometries of M leaves invariant not only the generalized contact structure, but a conformal class of Carnot-Carathéodory metrics (i.e. metrics on the subbundle E and on the quotient bundle TM/E) (section 2.1).

To such a geometric data is associated a hypoelliptic sublaplacian and a pseudodifferential calculus $\Psi(M, E)$ [CGGP] modelled on the theory of representations a two step graded nilpotent groups (section 2.2). This fact

allows to construct the families of representations which play a central role in our proof. We start with unitary principal representations, i.e. geometrically the spaces of L^2 sections of some equivariant hermitian bundles on M . We deform them to non unitary principal series π_s (depending on a complex parameter $s \in \mathbf{C}$), which by the virtue of the pseudodifferential calculus $\Psi(M, E)$, become bounded on some Sobolev spaces associated to the hypoelliptic sublaplacian (section 2.3). On the other hand, there is a complex of differential operators, introduced by M. Rumin [R], which is more adapted than the de Rham complex to the generalized contact and Carnot-Caratheodory structure and whose hypoelliptic regularity is expressed in terms of the pseudodifferential calculus $\Psi(M, E)$. A crucial fact that we prove in section 2.4 is the G -invariance of the Rumin complex on the boundary of a rank one symmetric space.

All of the above geometric and analytic datas above are combined in the construction of a family (indexed by $s \in \mathbf{C}$) of Fredholm modules (section 2.5).

2.1 Field of graded Lie algebras associated to a Heisenberg manifold.

We shall call Heisenberg manifold a smooth manifold M equipped with a subbundle E of the tangent bundle TM . To such a subbundle is associated a bundle homomorphism

$$\bigwedge^2 E \rightarrow TM/E$$

which to $X \wedge Y$ associates $[X, Y]$ modulo E . This map is indeed well defined because the formula $[fX, gY] = fg[X, Y] + fX(g)Y - Y(g)fX \equiv fg[X, Y]$ modulo E shows that the value of the vector field $[X, Y]$ modulo E at a given point only depends on the value of X and Y at the same point.

Note that the duality transpose of the above map is the map

$$E^\perp \rightarrow \bigwedge^2 E^*$$

which to a form τ vanishing on the subbundle E associates the restriction to E of $d\tau$. Here again the formula $d(f\tau) = fd\tau + df \wedge \tau$ shows that the map is defined pointwise.

Let us consider TM as a filtered bundle (by the increasing filtration $E \subset TM$) and let $\text{gr}(TM) = E \oplus TM/E$ the associated graded bundle. Then there is a field of graded Lie algebra structures on the bundle $\text{gr}(TM)$ defined (pointwise) by

$$((X, Z), (Y, T)) \mapsto (0, [X, Y] \text{ mod. } E)$$

The graded Lie algebra $\text{gr}(TM)$ is equipped with the automorphism θ_t defined by $\theta_t(X) = tjX$ if $X \in E$ and $\theta_t(Z) = t^2Z$ if $Z \in TM/E$

Remark: This construction can be generalized as follows. We consider a filtration of the tangent bundle TM :

$$F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \dots \subset F_l = TM$$

subject to the following condition: if X is a section of F_i and Y a section of F_j then the Lie bracket $[X, Y]$ is a section of F_{i+j} . Then we can equip the associated graded bundle $\text{gr}(TM) = F_1 \oplus F_2/F_1 \oplus F_3/F_2 \dots \oplus TM/F_{l-1}$ with a field of graded Lie algebra structure as follows. If X is a section of F_i and Y a section of F_j , then the section $[X, Y]$ of F_{i+j} modulo F_{i+j-1} clearly only depends on X modulo F_{i-1} and Y modulo F_{j-1} . Moreover the formula $[fX, gY] = fg[X, Y] + fX(g)Y - Y(g)fX$ again proves that the value of $[X, Y] \in F_{i+j}/F_{i+j-1}$ at a given point only depends on the values of $X \in F_i/F_{i-1}$ and $Y \in F_j/F_{j-1}$ at the same point. Note that the grading on the Lie algebra $\text{gr}(TM)$ gives rise to the automorphism θ_t defined by $\theta_t(X) = t^jX$ if $X \in F_j/F_{j-1}$.

2.2 Differential forms on a Heisenberg manifold.

The increasing filtration $E \subset TM$ defines a dual decreasing filtration $T^*M \supset E^\perp$, and induces filtrations of the exterior algebras $\bigwedge TM$ and $\bigwedge T^*M$. Namely:

$$\bigwedge_1 TM \subset \bigwedge_2 TM \subset \dots \subset \bigwedge TM$$

where $\bigwedge_w TM$ the space of multivectors of weight $\leq w$ is defined as the span of $X \wedge Y$ where $X \in \bigwedge^i E$, $Y \in \bigwedge^j TM$ and $i + 2j \leq w$. Dually

$$\bigwedge T^*M \supset \bigwedge_1 T^*M \supset \bigwedge_2 T^*M \supset \dots$$

where $\bigwedge_w T^*M$, the space of forms of weight $\geq w$ is the span of $\alpha \wedge \beta$, $\alpha \in \bigwedge^i E^\perp$, $\beta \in \bigwedge^j T^*M$ where $i + 2j \geq w$. Note that in the duality between $\bigwedge TM$ and $\bigwedge T^*M$, $\bigwedge_w T^*M$ is the orthogonal of $\bigwedge_{w-1} TM$.

Lemma 11 *The associated graded algebra $\text{gr} \bigwedge T^*M = \bigoplus_w \bigwedge_w T^*M / \bigwedge_{w+1} T^*M$ is canonically isomorphic to the exterior algebra $\bigwedge (E \oplus TM/E)^*$ of the dual of the Lie algebra $\text{gr}(TM) = E \oplus TM/E$.*

Let us consider the algebra $\Omega(M) = \Gamma(\wedge T^*M)$ of differential forms on M . Let $\Omega_w(M)$ be the space of sections of the bundle $\wedge_w T^*M$, defining a filtration of the algebra $\Omega(M)$. The associated graded algebra $\text{gr}(\Omega(M)) = \bigoplus \Omega_w(M)/\Omega_{w+1}(M)$ is the algebra of sections of the algebra bundle $\wedge(E \oplus TM/E)^*$.

Lemma 12 *The map $d : \Omega(M) \rightarrow \Omega(M)$ preserves the spaces $\Omega_w(M)$. The induced map on the associated graded algebra is map d_0 given by the bundle map*

$$d_0 : \bigwedge^k (E \oplus TM/E)^* \rightarrow \bigwedge^{k+1} (E \oplus TM/E)^*$$

which is nothing but the coboundary map for the Lie algebra cohomology of the Lie algebra $E \oplus TM/E$.

Remark: This can be generalized as follows to the case of a filtration by the F_j 's. We define $\Lambda_w T^*M$ as the ideal of ΛT^*M generated by the forms $\alpha_1 \wedge \alpha_2 \wedge \dots \wedge \alpha_l$, with $\alpha_j \in \Lambda^{i_j} F_{j-1}^\perp$ and the multiindex (i_1, \dots, i_l) satisfies $i_1 + 2i_2 + \dots + li_l = w$. Both lemma 1 and lemma 2 can be generalized to the case of a filtration by F_j 's. The fact that d preserves $\Omega_w(M)$ follows from the fact that $d(F_j^\perp) \subset T^*M \wedge F_{j-1}^\perp$.

We now consider the operator d as a differential operator on Ω . We equip the algebra $\text{Diff}(M, \Lambda T^*M)$ of differential operators on the bundle ΛT^*M with the following increasing filtration. Let us choose a connection on $\Gamma(TM)$ such that for any vector field X , $\nabla_X(\Gamma(E)) \subset \Gamma(E)$. Such connections do exist.

We equip the subalgebra of bundle operators (i.e. zero order operators) with the \mathbf{Z} -filtration such that:

- (i) an element of $\text{End}(\Lambda T^*M)$ is of weight $\leq w$ if it maps $\Lambda_u T^*M$ to $\Lambda_{u-w} T^*M$.
- (ii) if a vector field X is in $\Gamma(E)$ (resp. $\Gamma(TM)$) then ∇_X has weight ≤ 1 (resp. 2).

The filtration thus obtained is independent of the choice of the connection ∇ .

Lemma 13 *The operator d in $\text{Diff}(M, \Lambda T^*M)$ has 0-order in the above filtration.*

The differential calculus given by $\text{Diff}(M, \Lambda T^*M)$ with the above filtration extends to a pseudodifferential calculus $\Psi(M, E, \Lambda T^*M)$. Such a pseudodifferential calculus generalizes the pseudodifferential calculus associated to the tangent groupoid for the Heisenberg manifold [JvE], [vEY], see also [M].

2.3 Quasi-conformal structure on a Heisenberg manifold.

To any riemannian metric γ on the manifold M we associate a bundle isomorphism

$$\varphi_\gamma : \text{gr}(TM) \rightarrow T^*M$$

as follows: we map $\text{gr}(TM)$ isomorphically to TM by identifying each quotient F_j/F_{j-1} to the orthogonal (for the given metric) of F_{j-1} in F_j , then the metric defines an isomorphism from TM to its dual T^*M . Note that the map φ_γ is filtration preserving, if $\text{gr}(TM)$ is equipped with the decreasing filtration induced by its grading, and T^*M by the decreasing filtration by the (duality) orthogonals to the increasing F_j 's.

Definition 14 *Two metrics γ_1 and γ_2 are quasi-conformal if the composition $\varphi_{\gamma_1}^{-1} \circ \varphi_{\gamma_2}$ is a (filtered) Lie algebra isomorphism of $\text{gr}(TM)$ which is of the form $\text{Ad}(X) \circ \theta_t$ where $X \in \text{gr}(TM)$ and $t \in \mathbf{R}_+^*$.*

The notion of quasi-conformality defines an equivalence relation among metrics on M . We shall call quasi-conformal structure on a Heisenberg manifold the choice of an equivalence class. Given a quasi-conformal structure on a Heisenberg manifold there is a unique field of filtered Lie algebra structures on the cotangent bundle T^*M , such that the map $\varphi_\gamma : \text{gr}(TM) \rightarrow T^*M$ is a filtered Lie algebra morphism (fiberwise) for any metric g in the given class.

Let us assume that such a quasi-conformal class has been chosen, and let us consider the bundle T^*M equipped by a field of filtered Lie algebra structures. Let $\delta : \bigwedge^k T^*M \rightarrow \bigwedge^{k-1} T^*M$ be the bundle map which is on each fiber the boundary map for the Lie algebra homology of the Lie algebra T^*M .

Lemma 15 *The map δ preserves the filtration of $\bigwedge T^*M$, and induces on the associated graded space $\bigwedge \text{gr}(T^*M)$ the map $\delta_0 = d_0^*$, i.e. the adjoint of the coboundary map d_0 defined in lemma 2 for any metric γ in the quasi-conformal class.*

Let $\Omega = \Omega(M)$ be the graded algebra of differential forms on M . We consider on Ω the two operators d and δ , which $d^2 = 0$ and $\delta^2 = 0$. They have respectively degree 1 and -1 .

Let us consider the degree zero map $d\delta + \delta d$, which commutes both with d and δ .

Lemma 16 *The map $d\delta + \delta d$ induces on the sections of the vector bundle $\text{im } \delta$ a differential operator which is invertible among differential operators.*

Proof of the lemma. Consider the filtration $\Omega_w(M)$ of Ω . By lemmas 2 and 3 the maps d and δ are both filtration preserving and induce on the associated graded space $\Gamma(\wedge \text{gr}(T^*M))$ the map given by the bundle morphism $d_0 d_0^* + d_0^* d_0$, which is clearly invertible on $\text{im} d_0^*$. To deduce lemma 4, it is enough to observe that if a linear map on a filtered vector space induces an invertible map at the graded level, then it is invertible.

2.4 Complex associated to a quasi-conformal Heisenberg structure.

Let \mathcal{E} be the space of differential forms α on M such that $\delta\alpha = 0$ and $\delta d\alpha = 0$. It is graded by $E^k = \mathcal{E} \cap \Omega^k$ and is stable by d . We thus have a subcomplex (\mathcal{E}, d) of the complex (Ω, d) .

Consider the map ι from \mathcal{E} to the sections of the quotient bundle $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$ obtained by composing the canonical injection $\mathcal{E} = \ker\delta \cap \ker\delta d \rightarrow \ker\delta$ with the canonical surjection $\ker\delta \rightarrow \ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$. Note that $(\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta)^k$ is the space of sections of the homology groups $H_k(\wedge T_x^*M, \delta)$ of the Lie algebras T_x^*M at each point $x \in M$.

Theorem 17 1) *The canonical injection $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \Omega$ induces an isomorphism in cohomology.* 2) *The map ι is an isomorphism from \mathcal{E} to the sections of the quotient bundle $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$.*

Proof of the theorem:

Let us consider q be the differential operator on Ω by $q\alpha = (d\delta + \delta d)^{-1}\delta\alpha$ where $(d\delta + \delta d)^{-1}$ is the inverse of $d\delta + \delta d$ on $\text{im}\delta$. Note that the kernel of q (resp. the image of q) is the space of sections of the vector bundle $\ker\delta$ (resp. $\text{im}\delta$).

Proposition 18 *One has $q^2 = 0$ and $qdq = q$. The operator $\pi = dq + qd$ satisfies $\pi^2 = \pi$, $\pi d = d\pi$ and $\pi q = q\pi = q$*

Let us consider the decomposition $\Omega = \ker\pi \oplus \text{im}\pi$. It follows from lemma that the cohomologies of the two subcomplexes $(\ker\pi, d)$ and $(\text{im}\pi, d)$ are:

$$H^*(\text{im}\pi, d) = 0, \quad H^*(\ker\pi, d) = H^*(\Omega, d).$$

Indeed, the map $dq + qd$ vanishes in cohomology.

On the other hand $\ker\pi = \ker q \cap \ker qd$ and the map $\ker\pi \rightarrow \ker q/\text{im}q$ is an isomorphism. The first assertion follows immediately from the above lemma. The inverse of the last map is given by $1 - qd$ which leaves $\ker q$ stable and vanishes on $\text{im}q$.

Proposition 19 *The filtration $\Omega_w(M)$ of Ω restricts to a filtration of the space \mathcal{E} . It also induces a filtration of the bundle $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$, and the map ι is filtration preserving. Moreover the filtration on $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$ is associated to a canonical grading. So that the vector bundle $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$ is given with a bigrading (degree and weight).*

Corollary 20 *The operator $D = \iota d \iota^{-1}$ defines a differential operator on the space of sections of the bundle $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$ which satisfies $D^2 = 0$ and has degree one for the grading of $\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta$.*

The complex $\Gamma(\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta, D)$ is called the BGG-Rumin complex. Its cohomology is the de Rham homology of the manifold M .

In particular the BGG-Rumin complex has finite dimensional cohomology. In the classical case (i.e. when the subbundle $E = TM$) this also follows from the ellipticity of the complex (Ω, d) , namely the existence of a parametrix Q_0 , a pseudodifferential operator of degree -1 such that $dQ_0 + Q_0d - 1$ is smoothing. Here we have to replace the classical pseudodifferential calculus by the calculus $\Psi(M, E, \Lambda T^*M)$ associated by Melin to a Lie filtration, here the filtration $E \subset TM$.

Theorem 21 *There exists an operator $Q_0 \in \Psi(M, E, \Lambda T^*M)$ which has weight 0 (and degree -1 for the standard degree of forms) such that the operator $dQ_0 + Q_0d - 1$ is smoothing.*

To prove the theorem it is enough to consider the symbols, i.e. to look at the case of a nilpotent Lie group of Heisenberg type. For any X of degree 1 in the Lie algebra, one has the Cartan formulas $di_X + i_Xd = \mathcal{L}_X$ so that d and i_X commute with \mathcal{L}_X . Let (X_i) be an orthonormal basis of such vectors. Then $dA + Ad = \sum \mathcal{L}_{X_i}^2$ where $A = \sum i_{X_i} \mathcal{L}_{X_i}$, and $\sum \mathcal{L}_{X_i}^2$ can be shown to be invertible. Indeed $\mathcal{L}_X = X - \text{ad}(X)^*$ and $\sum \mathcal{L}_{X_i}^2$ is equal to $\sum X_i^2$ plus a nilpotent operator. We then use the classical fact that $\sum X_i^2$ is invertible in the algebra of pseudodifferential operators on a Heisenberg type group.

We can restrict the operator d to the subcomplex \mathcal{E} of Ω and consider the projection $\pi Q_0 \pi$ as an operator on \mathcal{E} . By transport to $\Gamma(\ker\delta/\text{im}\delta)$ we obtain a parametrix for the complex D . Let $\Psi(M, E, \ker\delta/\text{im}\delta)$ be the corresponding pseudodifferential calculus.

Corollary 22 *There exists an operator $Q_0 \in \Psi(M, E, \ker\delta/\text{im}\delta)$ which has weight 0 (and degree -1 for the standard degree of forms) such that the operator $DQ_0 + Q_0D - 1$ is smoothing.*

2.5 A family of representations.

Let (M, E) be a Heisenberg manifold equipped with a quasi-conformal structure manifold with M compact, and G be a Lie group acting on a (M, E) , preserving the structure. Let us fix metric in the class and let λ_g be a cocycle as above. Let us consider the Hilbert space $L^2(M)$ equipped with the unitary representation π defined by

$$\pi(g)f = \lambda_g^{\nu/2} g^{-1*} f$$

We shall use here the pseudodifferential calculus associated to the tangent groupoid for the Heisenberg manifold [JvE], [vEY], see also [M].

It follows from the above that for $g \in G$, $\lambda_g^s \pi(g) L^s \pi(g)^{-1} - L^s$ is in $\Psi^{s-1}(M, E)$, and that

$$L^{-s} \lambda_g^s \pi(g) L^s \pi(g)^{-1} - 1$$

is in $\Psi^{-1}(M, E)$, and therefore compact.

Corollary 23 *The operator $L^{-s} \lambda_g^s \pi(g) L^s$ extends to a bounded operator and*

$$L^{-s} \lambda_g^s \pi(g) L^s - \pi(g)$$

is compact.

The map $g \mapsto L^{-s} \lambda_g^s \pi(g) L^s$ thus defines a representation of G with values in bounded operators on $L^2(M)$ which differs from the unitary representation $\pi(g)$ by compact operators.

Remark. The above construction can be generalized to the sections of a G -equivariant bundle C equipped with a hermitian metric $\|\cdot\|_C^2$ of weight $w \in \mathbf{R}$, i.e. such that $g^* \|\cdot\|_C^2 = \lambda_g^{2w} \|\cdot\|_C^2$. One considers the Hilbert space $L^2(M, C)$ with the unitary representation defined by

$$\pi(g)f = \lambda_g^{\nu/2-w} g^{-1*} f$$

for any section f of C . The operator L is still defined by $L = (1 + \Delta_E)^{1/2}$, but now $\Delta_E = \nabla_E^* \nabla_E$ where $\nabla_E : C^\infty(M, C) \rightarrow C^*(M, C \otimes E^*)$ is the composition of a connection $\nabla : C^\infty(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M, C \otimes T^*M)$ with the restriction $T^*M \rightarrow E^*$ of 1-forms to the subbundle E . The operator has the same analytical properties and the statement of the above corollary holds without any change.

We shall need as a crucial point the result of M. Cowling. Let M be as above the boundary of a symmetric space of rank 1, with isometry group G , and C be a G -equivariant bundle equipped with a hermitian metric $\|\cdot\|_C^2$ of weight $w \in \mathbf{R}$, i.e. such that $g^* \|\cdot\|_C^2 = \lambda_g^{2w} \|\cdot\|_C^2$. We equip the Hilbert space $L^2(M, C)$ with the unitary representation defined by

$$\pi(g)f = \lambda_g^{\nu/2-w} g^{-1*} f$$

for any section f of C . The operator L is defined by $L = (1 + \Delta_E)^{1/2}$ as in section 2.3, remark.

Theorem 24 (*M. Cowling*) *The representation $g \mapsto L^{-s} \lambda_g^s \pi(g) L^s$ extends to a bounded operator for any $s \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $|\operatorname{Res}| < \nu/2$.*

2.6 A family of Fredholm modules.

A G -Fredholm module is a triple (H, π, T) where: H is a $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -graded Hilbert space; π a representation of G in H which is even (i.e. commutes with the grading); T a bounded operator on H which is odd (i.e. anticommutes with the grading), Fredholm (i.e. there exists a bounded operator S on H such that $TS - 1$ and $ST - 1$ are compact operators), and almost G -intertwining (i.e. $g \mapsto [T, \pi(g)]$ is a normly continuous map from G to the compact operators).

Note that in the above definition, the representation $g \mapsto \pi(g)$ does not have to be unitary.

Definition 25 *A homotopy of G -Fredholm modules is a triple (E, π, T) where: E is a $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -graded Hilbert module over the C^* -algebra $C[0, 1]$ of continuous functions on $[0, 1]$; π a representation of G in H which is even (i.e. commutes with the grading); T a bounded operator on E which is odd (i.e. anticommutes with the grading), Fredholm (i.e. there exists a bounded operator S on E such that $TS - 1$ and $ST - 1$ are compact operators), and almost G -intertwining (i.e. $g \mapsto [T, \pi(g)]$ is a normly continuous map from G to the compact operators).*

From now on, $M = \partial X$ is the boundary of a symmetric space of rank 1, with isometry group G . We make a choice of a point $x_0 \in X$, which determines a Carnot-Caratheodory metric in the G -conformal class on the generalized contact manifold (M, E) . We construct a family (indexed by $s \in \mathbf{C}$) of G -Fredholm modules associated to the geometry of M

Theorem 26 *There exists a \mathbf{Z} -graded Hilbert space $H = \bigoplus_k H^k$, equipped with: 1) a family indexed by $s \in \mathbf{C}$ of representations ρ_s of G by bounded operators in H , of degree zero for the \mathbf{Z} -grading, such that ρ_0 is unitary and $\rho_s(g) - \rho_0(g)$ is compact for any $s \in \mathbf{C}$ and any $g \in G$. 2) a bounded operator F in H , of degree one for the \mathbf{Z} -grading, with $F^2 = 0$, and such that $[F, \rho_s(g)]$ is compact for any $s \in \mathbf{C}$ and $g \in G$, and $[F, \rho_1(g)] = 0$. 3) a bounded operator Q in H , of degree -1 for the \mathbf{Z} -grading, such that the operators Q^2 , $FQ + QF - 1$ and $[Q, \rho_s(g)]$ are compact for any $s \in \mathbf{C}$ and $g \in G$.*

In particular, one has

Corollary 27 *For any $s \in \mathbf{C}$, the triple $(H, \rho_s, F + Q)$ is a G -Fredholm module. The Fredholm modules for different values of s are homotopic.*

Let us construct the objects appearing in the theorem.

i) Let H be the Hilbert space of L^2 sections of the bundle C on $M = \partial X$. One has a bigrading $H = \bigoplus H^{i,j}$ where the sum is over $0 \leq i \leq p$ and $0 \leq j \leq q$, and $H^{i,j}$ is the space of L^2 sections of $C^{i,j}$. We shall consider H as \mathbf{Z} -graded as follows: $H = \bigoplus_k H^k$ where

$$H^k = \bigoplus_{i+j=k} H^{i,j}.$$

The \mathbf{Z} -grading induces as usual a $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -grading, which grading operator $\gamma = (-1)^{i+j}$ on $H^{i,j}$.

ii) For any $s \in \mathbf{C}$, let π_s be the representation of G by bounded operators on each Hilbert space $H^{i,j}$ defined by

$$\pi_s(g)\alpha = \lambda_g^{(\nu/2-w)(1-s)} g^{-1*} \alpha$$

for any section α of $C^{i,j}$, where $w = i+2j$. Note that $\pi_s(g) = \lambda_g^{-(\nu/2-w)s} \pi_0(g)$ where π_0 is a unitary representation.

We also define

$$\rho_s(g) = L^{(\nu/2-w)s} \pi_s(g) L^{-(\nu/2-w)s}$$

where again $w = i + 2j$. By section 2.3, ρ_s is a representation of G by bounded operators on $H^{i,j}$, and $\rho_s(g) - \pi_0(g)$ is compact.

We shall also denote π_s and ρ_s the representations of G on the Hilbert space H obtained by direct sum over all the (i, j) 's. One has

$$\rho_s(g) = L^{(\nu/2-W)s} \pi_s(g) L^{-(\nu/2-W)s}$$

where $L^{(\nu/2-W)s}$ is the non homogeneous pseudodifferential operator on sections of C defined by $L^{(\nu/2-w)s}$ on sections of $C^{i,j}$ with $i + 2j = w$. The operators $\rho_S(g)$ are of degree zero for the \mathbf{Z} -grading, and thus even operators for the $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -grading.

Note that the parametrisation has been chosen such that for $s = 1$, the representation π_1 is the natural representation of G acting functorially on the sections of the G -equivariant bundle C .

iii) Let F be the Rumin operator made bounded as follows:

$$F = L^{\nu/2-W} D L^{-(\nu/2-W)}.$$

By section 2.4, F is bounded since it belongs to $\Psi^0(M, E)$. It is of degree 1 for the \mathbf{Z} -grading, and thus an odd operator for the $\mathbf{Z}/2$ -grading. The G -invariance of D means that

$$[D, \pi_1(g)] = 0,$$

which implies

$$[F, \rho_1(g)] = 0.$$

But the fact that $\rho_s(g) - \pi_0(g)$ is compact for any s , together with the boundedness of F implies that

$$[F, \rho_s(g)]$$

is compact for any $g \in G$ and $s \in \mathbf{C}$.

Lemma 28 *There exists a $Q \in \Psi^0(M, E)$ such that $FQ + QF - 1$ is a smoothing operator. In particular Q is bounded and $FQ + QF - 1$ is compact. Moreover, one has for $g \in G$, $\rho_1(g)Q\rho_1(g)^{-1} - Q \in \Psi^{-1}(M, E)$, in particular $[Q, \rho_1(g)]$ is compact and so is $[Q, \rho_s(g)]$ for any s .*

The lemma follows from the corollary in 2.4 by considering

$$Q = L^{\nu/2-W} Q_0 L^{-(\nu/2-W)}$$

Remark: one can always assume that Q^2 is smoothing. Namely it is easy to check that FQ and QF are idempotent modulo smoothing, and that FQ^2F is smoothing. Now, replacing Q by $\tilde{Q} = QFQ$ we note that $\tilde{Q} - Q$ is smoothing, that \tilde{Q}^2 is smoothing and satisfies $F\tilde{Q} + \tilde{Q}F = 1$ modulo smoothing.

When $s = 0$, the representation ρ_0 is unitary, so that our Fredholm module is a representative of a class in Kasparov's ring $R(G) = KK_G(\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{C})$. When $s = 1$, the representation ρ_1 exactly commutes with F , a fact which implies the Fredholm module is homotopic to a trivial module since $F + Q$ can be replaced by $t^{-1}F + tQ$ whose commutator with $\rho_1(g)$ vanishes when $t \rightarrow 0$.

Note also that the index of the Fredholm operator $F + Q$ is equal to the Euler characteristic of the complex D , i.e. the Euler characteristic of the manifold M : it is 2 or 0 depending whether the sphere M is even (the $g = SO(2n + 1, 1)$ -case) or odd dimensional (all other cases). We shall have to modify the family of Fredholm modules to get an index one operator. *This modification will be explained in section 3*

2.7. Uniform boundedness.

The following crucial fact follows from M. Cowling's theorem stated at the end of 2.5.

Proposition 29 *The representation ρ_s on $H^{i,j}$ is uniformly bounded for any $s \in \mathbf{C}$ such that*

$$|\text{Res}| < \frac{\nu/2}{|\nu/2 - w|}$$

with $w = i + 2j$.

Note that the values of w are between 0 and $\nu = p + 2q$, so that $\nu/2 \leq |\nu/2 - w|$ with equality iff $w = 0$ or ν , i.e. $(i, j) = (0, 0)$ or (p, q) . In particular,

Corollary 30 *The representations ρ_s are uniformly bounded if $s \in [0, 1[$; the representation ρ_1 is uniformly bounded on $H^{i,j}$ for $(i, j) \neq (0, 0)$ and $\neq (p, q)$.*

A G -Fredholm module (resp. a homotopy of G -Fredholm modules) is uniformly bounded if the representation π is uniformly bounded. The G -Fredholm module $(H, \rho_s, F + Q)$ is uniformly bounded for any $s \in [0, 1[$

3. Sketch of proof of the Baum-Connes conjecture for $Sp(n, 1)$ and $F_{4(-20)}$

We shall first modify the Fredholm module $(H, \rho_s, F + Q)$ to make it of index 1. We will then obtain an element δ of $R_{\text{ub}}(G)$ and show that it is a representative of the Kasparov element $\gamma \in R(G)$. We would like to show that it is equal to 1 in the group $R_{\text{ub}}(G)$, but in fact we show a weaker statement, namely that it is equal to 1 in $R_\varepsilon(G)$ for any small ε . That is enough to assure that it acts by the identity on the K -theory of reduced crossed products, therefore proving the Baum-Connes conjecture (with coefficients).

3.1. The trunkated Fredholm module.

To obtain a G -Fredholm module of index one, we modify the triple $(H, \rho_s, F + Q)$ as follows. The idea is to truncate the complex in the middle.

1) Let $H' = \bigoplus_k H'^k$ be the \mathbf{Z} -graded Hilbert space defined as follows.

For $k \leq \frac{m-1}{2}$, we let $H'^k = H^k$.

For $k = \frac{m+1}{2}$, we define $H'^{\frac{m+1}{2}} = F(H^{\frac{m-1}{2}})$

For $k > \frac{m+1}{2}$, we let $H'^k = 0$.

2) The representation ρ'_s is defined as follows. For $k \leq \frac{m-1}{2}$, we let $\rho'_s = \rho_s$ on $H'^k = H^k$

For $k = \frac{m+1}{2}$, we define $\rho'_s = \rho_1$ (independent on s) which stabilizes $H'^{\frac{m+1}{2}} = F(H^{\frac{m-1}{2}})$ because $[F, \rho_1(g)] = 0$. Note that we still have $\rho'_s(g) - \rho_0(g)$ compact. The representation ρ'_s is uniformly bounded for $s \in [0, 1[$.

3) The operator F' is defined as follows: $F' : H'^k \rightarrow H'^{k+1}$ is the restriction of F to H^k for any $k \leq \frac{m-1}{2}$. Its parametrix Q' is defined similarly: $Q' : H'^k \rightarrow H'^{k-1}$ is the restriction of Q to H^k for all $k \leq \frac{m+1}{2}$.

The triple $(H', \rho'_s, F' + Q')$ is a Fredholm module, with index one for any s . It is uniformly bounded for $s \in [0, 1[$. Let δ be its class in $R_{\text{u.b.}}(G)$, which is independent of s .

3.2 Representing the γ element.

We show that the truncated Fredholm module defined in the previous section is a representative of Kasparov's γ element of $R(G)$. More precisely:

Theorem 31 *The class δ is the image of the Kasparov element γ under the map $R(G) \rightarrow R_{\text{u.b.}}(G)$.*

Proof. We take $s = 0$. The representation on all H'^k for $k \neq \frac{m+1}{2}$ is ρ_0 which is unitary, but it is ρ_1 on $H'^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$ so that it is only uniformly

bounded. The key lemma is that ρ_1 on $H^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$ is in fact equivalent to a unitary representation.

The crucial lemma is the following:

Lemma 32 *There exists a bounded operator U from $H^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$ to the Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$ of L^2 -harmonic forms (of degree $\frac{m+1}{2}$) on the symmetric space X , which is invertible with bounded inverse, and such that $U\rho_1(g) = \sigma(g)U$ for any $g \in G$, where σ is the natural unitary representation of G on $\mathcal{H}^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$ defined by $\sigma(g)\omega = g^{-1*}\omega$.*

Corollary 33 *The element δ is in the image of the map $R(G) \rightarrow R_{\text{ub}}(G)$.*

Proof of the corollary. Let us show that the above Fredholm module $(H', \rho'_0, F + Q)$ is conjugate to a unitary Fredholm module. We define

$$V : H' = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} H^k \oplus H^{\frac{m+1}{2}} \rightarrow \bar{H} = \bigoplus_{k=0}^{\frac{m-1}{2}} H^k \oplus \mathcal{H}^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$$

by $V = 1 \oplus U$. Then the conjugate Fredholm module $(\bar{H}, V\rho'_0(\cdot)V^{-1}, V(F + Q)V^{-1})$, defining the same class in $R_{\text{ub}}(G)$, is unitary since $V\rho'_0(\cdot)V^{-1} = \rho_0 \oplus U\rho_1(\cdot)U^{-1} = \rho_0 \oplus \sigma$ is a unitary representation.

To show that δ is actually the image of γ , one shows as in [JK] that it is in the image of $KK_G(C(\bar{X}), \mathbf{C})$ where $\bar{X} = X \cup \partial X$ is the compactification of X . Indeed, the spaces H^k of L^2 -sections of bundles on ∂X carry representations of the commutative C^* -algebra $C(\partial X)$ and hence of $C(\bar{X}) \rightarrow C(\partial X)$ by restriction. On the other hand, $C(\bar{X})$ is represented in the Hilbert space $L^2\Omega(X) = L^2(X, \wedge T^*X)$ of L^2 -forms on X . Let us replace in δ the spaces $\bar{H}^k = H^k$ ($0 \leq k \leq \frac{m-1}{2}$) and $\bar{H}^{\frac{m+1}{2}} = \mathcal{H}^{\frac{m+1}{2}}$ by

$$\tilde{H}^k = H^k \oplus L^2\Omega^k(X)$$

for $0 \leq k \leq \frac{m-1}{2}$ and

$$\tilde{H}^k = L^2\Omega^k(X)$$

for $\frac{m+1}{2} \leq k \leq m+1$

Note that

$$\tilde{H}^k = H^k \oplus \mathcal{H}^{k \perp}$$

for all k , where of course the space of harmonic L^2 -forms \mathcal{H}^k is non zero only in degree $k = \frac{m+1}{2}$. Let us extend the operator F' by the direct sum

with the phase of the de Rham operator d on $L^2\Omega^k(X)$. Then one shows as in [JK] that we still get a representative of δ . The key observation is the following lemma:

Lemma 34 *The above map $UF : H^{\frac{m-1}{2}} \rightarrow L^2(X, \wedge^{m+1/2} T^*X)$ commutes modul o compact operators with the action of $C(\bar{X})$.*

To summarize we obtain:

Corollary 35 *The element δ is in the image of the composition of maps*

$$KK_G(C(\bar{X}), \mathbf{C}) \rightarrow R(G) \rightarrow R_{\text{ub}}(G).$$

The proposition in 1.5 (cf. [JK] , prop. 1.2.) then implies theorem 1.

3.3 Homotopy to 1.

Theorem 36 *For any $\varepsilon > 0$, the class δ maps to 1 under the map*

$$R_{\text{u.b}}(G) \rightarrow R_\varepsilon(G).$$

Corollary 37 *For any $G - C^*$ -algebra A , the class δ maps to the identity under the map*

$$R_{\text{ub}}(G) \rightarrow \text{End}K_*(C_r^*(G, A)).$$

The above theorem relies on the following

Lemma 38 *Let $\varepsilon \in \mathbf{R}$, $s \in \mathbf{C}$ and $g \in G$. The operator*

$$\rho_s^\varepsilon(g) = L^{-\varepsilon} \rho_s(g) L^\varepsilon$$

on $H^{i,j}$, $i + 2j = w < \nu$ is bounded for any $g \in G$. Assume furthermore that $\varepsilon > 0$ if $w = 0$ and $\varepsilon < 0$ if $w = \nu$. The map $g \mapsto \rho_s^\varepsilon(g)$ defines a representation of G satisfying $\|\rho_s^\varepsilon(g)\| \leq C e^{\varepsilon \text{al}(g)}$, with constants C and a independant of g and s .

Proof of the lemma. One has $\pi_{s-\varepsilon}(g) = \lambda_g^{\varepsilon(\nu/2-w)} \pi_s(g)$, therefore

$$\rho_s^\varepsilon(g) = L^{(\nu/2-w)s-\varepsilon} \lambda_g^{-\varepsilon} L^{-(\nu/2-w)s+\varepsilon} \rho_{s-\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu/2-w}}(g).$$

where the operator $L^{\nu/2-w-\varepsilon}\lambda_g^{-\varepsilon}L^{-(\nu/2-w-\varepsilon)}$ is in $\Psi^0(M, E)$, and therefore bounded.

Note that the representations $\rho_{s-\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu/2-w}}(g)$ are uniformly bounded with a bound independent of s because $s - \frac{\varepsilon}{\nu/2-w}$ belongs to a compact interval strictly contained in $[0, \frac{\nu/2}{|\nu/2-w|}]$. Moreover, the map $g \mapsto L^{\nu/2-w-\varepsilon}\lambda_g L^{-(\nu/2-w-\varepsilon)}$ is a 1-cocycle with respect to the representation $\rho_{s-\frac{\varepsilon}{\nu/2-w}}(g)$ and satisfies an inequality

$$\|L^{\nu/2-w-\varepsilon}\lambda_g L^{-(\nu/2-w-\varepsilon)}\| \leq Ce^{al(g)}$$

with positive constants C and a .

Proof of theorem 2.

Let us consider $F_\varepsilon = L^\varepsilon F L^{-\varepsilon}$ and $Q_\varepsilon = L^\varepsilon Q L^{-\varepsilon}$. Then $[F^\varepsilon, \rho_s^\varepsilon(g)]$ is compact for any $g \in G$. The triple $(H, \rho_s^\varepsilon, F_\varepsilon + Q_\varepsilon)$ is a G -Fredholm module of ε -exponential type for any $s \in [0, 1]$, which represents the same homotopy class in $R_\varepsilon(G)$. Now for $s = 1$, $[F^\varepsilon, \rho_1^\varepsilon(g)] = 0$ so that the Fredholm module is trivial, i.e. equal to its index which is 1.

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