

THE \square_b -HEAT EQUATION ON FINITE TYPE CR MANIFOLDS WITH COMPARABLE LEVI FORM*

РІВНЯННЯ \square_b -ТЕПЛОПРОВІДНОСТІ НА СР МНОГОВИДАХ СКІНЧЕННОГО ТИПУ ЗІ СПІВВИМІРНИМИ ФОРМАМИ ЛЕВІ

The main purpose of this paper is to study the initial-value problems for the heat equations associated with the operator \square_b on compact CR manifolds of finite type. The critical component of our analysis is the condition called $D^\epsilon(q)$ and introduced by K. D. Koenig [Amer. J. Math. – 2002. – **124**. – P. 129–197]. Actually, it states that the $\min\{q, n-1-q\}$ th smallest eigenvalue of the Levi form is comparable with the largest eigenvalue of the Levi form.

Основною метою цієї роботи є вивчення початкових задач для рівнянь теплопровідності, асоційованих з оператором \square_b , на компактних СР многовидах скінченного типу. Критичним компонентом нашого аналізу є так звана умова $D^\epsilon(q)$, що була запропонована К. Д. Кьонігом [Amer. J. Math. – 2002. – **124**. – P. 129–197]. Фактично вона встановлює, що $\min\{q, n-1-q\}$ -найменше власне значення форми Леві є співвимірним із найбільшим власним значенням форми Леві.

1. Introduction. In Riemannian geometry, the Laplace–Beltrami operator defined on a Riemannian manifold M is $\Delta = d^*d$. In order to study the relation between geometry and analysis on M , a well-known approach is to use the heat equation associated to the Laplace–Beltrami operator. Let u be defined on $(0, \infty) \times M$. We say that u solves the heat equation on M when

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} + \Delta u = 0 \quad \text{on } (0, \infty) \times M.$$

Moreover, we are also interested in the initial-value problem for the heat equation. That is, finding a function $u(s, x)$ solving the heat equation on M and satisfying

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0^+} u(s, \cdot) = f$$

with convergence in an appropriate norm on M . It is well-known that there is a unique fundamental solution $H(s, x, y)$ of the initial-value problem so that

$$u(s, x) = \int_M H(s, x, y) f(y) dV(y),$$

where $dV(\cdot)$ is the volume form on M . The kernel $H(s, x, y)$ is a smooth function only for $s > 0$. For $s = 0$, it agrees with the delta distribution of the diagonal, and it is obviously not smooth. The smoothness is a consequence of the ellipticity of the Laplace–Beltrami operator.

The study of the heat equation and the heat kernel for operators of the Laplace-type has numerous applications, including heat-kernel proofs of the Atiyah–Singer index theorem and its various generalizations.

In the present work, we will consider one analogue of the heat equation in Cauchy–Riemann (CR) geometry. That is an equation associated to the \square_b -heat operator. Here, the operator \square_b

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is the Laplacian associated to the $\bar{\partial}_b$ -complex on a given CR manifold. Unfortunately, none of these are elliptic on CR manifolds. Hence, the classical analysis approach in Riemannian geometry does not allow us to deal with the \square_b -heat equation. For non degenerate CR manifolds, the study of the \square_b -heat equation culminates with Beals–Greiner–Stanton [1]. They actually built a class of pseudodifferential operators with a full symbolic calculus that allows us to construct explicit parametrices for the \square_b -heat equation on (p, q) -forms under the condition $Y(q)$. In the strictly pseudoconvex case, this was used to derive a full short-time asymptotic for the heat kernel in terms of local pseudo-Hermitian invariants (i.e., universal polynomial in the covariant derivatives of the curvature and torsion tensors of the Tanaka–Webster connection). These results are the complete analogues of the results of the heat equation associated with Laplace type operators in the Riemannian setting.

The condition $Y(q)$ cannot hold on weakly pseudoconvex CR manifolds that are not strongly pseudoconvex. For finite type CR manifolds there were various attempts to give estimates in terms of the associated Carnot–Carathéodory metric for the fundamental solution of the \square_b -equation. In particular, Nagel–Stein [8] established such estimates for the \square_b -heat equation on finite type domains in \mathbb{C}^2 .

The main purpose of this paper is to give an attempt to extend Nagel–Stein’s results to finite type, compact CR manifolds of real dimension ≥ 5 by using the $D^\epsilon(q)$ -condition introduced by K. Koenig [6]. Using this condition, K. Koenig [6] established that the Kohn–Laplacian has an inverse that belongs to a class of operators called nonisotropic smoothing (NIS) operators. This implies that its Schwartz kernel (i.e., the Green function of \square_b) satisfies suitable metric distance estimates. The present work is also motivated to the fourth level in Fefferman’s hierarchy [4], deriving estimates directly from the singularities of the integral kernels.

The main result of this paper is as follows:

Theorem 1.1. *Let M be a pseudoconvex, finite type, compact CR manifold for which the range of $\bar{\partial}_b$ is closed in L^2 and which satisfies the $D^\epsilon(q_0)$ condition. Then, for every $s > 0$, the heat solution operators $e^{-s\square_b}$ is a NIS operator of order zero on $(0, q)$ -forms, with $q_0 \leq q \leq n - 1 - q_0$, and associated estimates are uniform in $s > 0$.*

The paper is organized as follows. We will recall the definition of the operator \square_b and its properties, see [10] for all notions. Section 3 includes a short review on the class of NIS operators. The last section contains the full proof of Theorem 1.1, which is divided into two main steps: Theorems 4.3 and 4.4.

2. The hypoellipticity of the \square_b -heat operator. Throughout this paper M is a compact oriented CR manifold of dimension $(n - 1)$ with $n \geq 3$. The existence of a CR structure means there is a rank $(n - 1)$ complex subbundle $T^{1,0}(M)$ of the complexified tangent bundle $\mathbb{C}T(M) = T(M) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$(1) \quad T^{1,0}(M) \cap T^{0,1}(M) = \{0\}, \text{ where } T^{0,1}(M) = \overline{T^{1,0}(M)},$$

and

$$(2) \quad \text{if } Z \text{ and } W \text{ are smooth sections of } T^{1,0}(M), \text{ then } [Z, W] \text{ is also a smooth section of } T^{1,0}(M).$$

We always assume that the manifold M is equipped with a Hermitian metric on $\mathbb{C}T(M)$ so that $T^{1,0}(M)$ is orthogonal to $T^{0,1}(M)$. Denote by $\eta(M)$ the orthogonal complement of $T^{1,0}(M) \oplus T^{0,1}(M)$. Let $T^{*1,0}(M)$ and $T^{*0,1}(M)$ be the dual bundles of $T^{1,0}(M)$ and $T^{0,1}(M)$, respectively.

For $0 \leq p, q \leq n - 1$, the vector bundle $\Lambda^{p,q}(M)$ is defined as

$$\Lambda^{p,q}(M) = \Lambda^p T^{*1,0}(M) \oplus \Lambda^q T^{*0,1}(M).$$

The tangential CR complex $\bar{\partial}_b : C^\infty(\Lambda^{p,q}(M)) \rightarrow C^\infty(\Lambda^{p,q+1}(M))$ is defined by

$$\bar{\partial}_b := \pi_{p,q+1} \circ d,$$

where $\pi_{p,q+1}$ is the orthogonal projection of $\Lambda^{p+q+1}(M)$ onto $\Lambda^{p,q+1}(M)$ and d is the exterior differentiation. Let $\bar{\partial}_b^*$ be the formal adjoint of $\bar{\partial}_b$ in $L^2_{(p,q)}(M)$, where $L^2_{(p,q)}(M)$ is the closure of $C^\infty(M, \Lambda^{p,q}(M))$ with respect to the appropriate pre-Hermitian inner product. The operator \square_b is the Laplacian associated to the $\bar{\partial}_b$ -complex

$$\square_b = \bar{\partial}_b \bar{\partial}_b^* + \bar{\partial}_b^* \bar{\partial}_b.$$

The associated initial-value problem is to find a function u on $(0, \infty) \times M$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{H}[u](s, x) &:= \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial s} + \square_b \right] u(s, x) = 0 \quad \text{for } s > 0 \text{ and } x \in M, \\ \lim_{s \rightarrow 0^+} u(s, \cdot) &= \phi(\cdot) \quad \text{in } L^2_{(0,q)}(M). \end{aligned}$$

Let U be a suitable small open subset of M . We pick an orthogonal basis $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{n-1}, \bar{\omega}_1, \bar{\omega}_2, \dots, \bar{\omega}_{n-1}, \omega_0\}$ of $T^*(U)$ such that $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{n-1}\}$ is a frame of $\Lambda^{1,0}(U)$, and ω_0 is a real annihilator of $T^{0,1}$. Next, let $\{L_1, \dots, L_{n-1}, \bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_{n-1}, T\}$ be the (local) basis dual to $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_{n-1}, \bar{\omega}_1, \bar{\omega}_2, \dots, \bar{\omega}_{n-1}, \omega_0\}$.

Definition 2.1. *The Levi matrix associated with the Levi form is a Hermitian matrix $(c_{kj})_{k,j=1,\dots,n-1}$ presented by*

$$[L_k, \bar{L}_j] = ic_{kj}T, \quad \text{mod } (L_1, \dots, L_{n-1}, \bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_{n-1}).$$

Now, we will consider what is called the comparable Levi form condition on the CR manifolds. For $1 \leq q \leq n - 1$, let σ_q denote any of the $\binom{n-1}{q}$ sums of q eigenvalues λ_j of the Levi matrix (c_{kj}) and $\tau = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \lambda_j$ be the trace.

Definition 2.2 [6]. *We say that the $D^\epsilon(q)$ condition holds on M if there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that*

$$\epsilon\tau \leq \sigma_q \leq (1 - \epsilon)\tau \quad \text{on } M, \text{ for all possible } \sigma_q.$$

Moreover, for $1 \leq q_0 \leq n - 2$, if the $D^\epsilon(q_0)$ condition holds in U , so does the $D^\epsilon(q)$ condition also holds for all $\min(q_0, n - 1 - q_0) \leq q \leq \max(q_0, n - 1 - q_0)$. For this reason, we will always assume that $1 \leq q_0 \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$, that means the range of $D^\epsilon(q_0)$ is for $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$.

Theorem 2.1. *Assume $U \subset M$ (suitable small open subset) is of finite commutator type and satisfies the $D^\epsilon(q_0)$ condition defined as above, for $1 \leq q_0 \leq (n - 1)/2$. Then the heat operator \mathfrak{H} acting on $(0, q)$ forms is hypoelliptic in $(0, \infty) \times U$ with $q_0 \leq q \leq n - 1 - q_0$.*

Here and in what follows, \lesssim and \gtrsim denote inequality up to a positive constant. Moreover, we will use \approx for the combination of \lesssim and \gtrsim .

Proof. It suffices to prove the theorem on $(0, q_0)$ -forms.

Since the finite type and $D^\epsilon(q_0)$ conditions, in the distributional sense, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathfrak{H}[u]\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2 &= \|\partial_s u\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2 + \|\square_b u\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2 + \\ &+ \langle \partial_s u, \square_b u \rangle_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)} + \langle \square_b u, \partial_s u \rangle_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}. \end{aligned}$$

But \square_b is self-adjoint and $\partial_s^* = -\partial_s$, then

$$\|\mathfrak{H}[u]\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2 = \|\partial_s u\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2 + \|\square_b u\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2.$$

Let $u = u(s, x)$, for $s > 0$ and $x \in U$. The condition of finite commutator type for $L_1, \dots, L_{n-1}, \bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_{n-1}$ on U also implies the finite commutator type for $L_1, \dots, L_{n-1}, \bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_{n-1}, \partial_s$ on $(0, \infty) \times U$. Since the $D^\epsilon(q)$ condition holds, we have obtained the well-known subelliptic estimate for the heat operator and the maximal estimate for \square_b [6]. Then these imply that

$$\|u\|_{H^{\epsilon_0}}^2 \lesssim \|\mathfrak{H}[u]\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2 + \|u\|_{L^2_{(0,q_0)}((0,\infty)\times M)}^2.$$

Let ζ, ζ_1 be smooth real-valued cutoff functions supported in U , with $\zeta \prec \zeta_1$ (i.e., $\zeta = 1$ on $\text{supp} \zeta_1$). For any $\delta \in \mathbb{R}$ and $N > 0$, by the same method to prove Theorem 8.2.9 in [3], the following estimate holds:

$$\|\zeta u\|_{H^{\delta+\epsilon_0}} \leq C_{\delta,N} (\|\zeta_1 \mathfrak{H}[u]\|_{H^\delta} + \|\zeta_1 u\|_{H^{-N}}).$$

Therefore, \mathfrak{H} is hypoelliptic on all $(0, q_0)$ -forms defined on $(0, \infty) \times U$.

Theorem 2.1 is proved.

3. Spaces of homogeneous type. In this section, we also assume that the holomorphic vector fields $L_1, \dots, L_{n-1}, \bar{L}_1, \dots, \bar{L}_{n-1}$ defined on $U \subset M$ satisfy the condition of finite commutator type and the condition $D^\epsilon(q)$. The real vector fields X_1, \dots, X_{2n-2} are defined by $X_j = \text{Re } L_j, X_{n+j-1} = \text{Im } L_j, j = 1, \dots, n-1$. For each finite sequence i_1, \dots, i_k of integers with $1 \leq i_j \leq 2n-2$, setting $I = (i_1, \dots, i_k)$ and the length $|I| = k$. We can write the commutator

$$[X_{i_k}, [X_{i_{k-1}}, \dots, [X_{i_2}, X_{i_1}], \dots]] = \lambda_{i_1 \dots i_k} T, \quad \text{mod } (X_1, \dots, X_{2n-2}),$$

where $\lambda_{i_1 \dots i_k} \in C^\infty(U)$.

Definition 3.1. For $x \in U$ and $r > 0$, the size functions are defined by

$$\Lambda_l(x) = \left(\sum_{2 \leq |I| \leq l} |\lambda_{i_1 \dots i_k}(x)|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad l \geq 2,$$

and

$$\Lambda(x, r) = \sum_{l=2}^m \Lambda_l(x) r^l.$$

Definition 3.2. For each $x, y \in U$, the natural nonisotropic distance $\rho_M(x, y)$ corresponding to the vector fields X_1, \dots, X_{2n-2} is defined by

$$\rho_M(x, y) = \inf \left\{ \delta > 0 : \text{there exists a continuous, piecewise smooth map} \right.$$

$$\phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow U \text{ such that } \phi(0) = x, \phi(1) = y,$$

$$\text{and } \phi'(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{2n-2} \alpha_j(t) X_j \text{ almost everywhere,}$$

$$\left. \text{with } |\alpha_j(t)| < \delta, \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, 2n - 2 \right\}.$$

The nonisotropic ball centered at $x \in U$, with radius $r > 0$ is given by

$$B_M(x, r) = \{y \in U : \rho_M(x, y) < r\}.$$

For any $x, y \in U$, we also define $V(x, y) = |B_M(x, \rho_M(x, y))|$.

Let \mathbb{B}_0 denote the unit ball (defined by the Euclidean metric) in \mathbb{R}^{2n-1} . For $x \in U$ and $r > 0$, we set

$$\Phi_{x,r}(u) = \exp(ru_1 X_1 + \dots + ru_{2n-2} X_{2n-2} + \Lambda(x, r)u_{2n-1} T)(x),$$

where $u = (u_1, \dots, u_{2n-1}) \in \mathbb{B}_0$. There is $R_0 > 0$ depending on the manifold M so that for all $0 < r < R_0$, the map $\Phi_{x,r}$ is a diffeomorphism of the unit ball \mathbb{B}_0 to its image. Hereafter, $0 < r < R_0$ when we have calculations on the exponential map $\Phi_{x,r}$. Now, let

$$\tilde{B}_M(x, r) = \Phi_{x,r}(\mathbb{B}_0),$$

that is

$$\tilde{B}_M(x, r) = \left\{ y \in U : y = \exp(a_1 X_1 + \dots + a_{2n-2} X_{2n-2} + aT)(x), \right.$$

$$\left. \text{where } |a_j| < r \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, 2n - 2, \text{ and } |a| < \Lambda(x, r) \right\}.$$

We have the following facts about the size function Λ and the above families of nonisotropic balls, which were proved in [9].

Theorem 3.1. Assume that $U \subset M$ of finite commutator type, there exists $R_0 > 0$ such that:

(1) There are positive constants C_1, C_2 so that for all $x \in U$ and $0 < r < R_0$,

$$B_M(x, C_1 r) \subset \tilde{B}_M(x, r) \subset B_M(x, C_2 r).$$

(2) There are two constants $C_3, C_4 > 0$ such that for all $x, y \in U$

$$C_3 \leq \frac{V_M(x, y)}{(\rho_M(x, y))^{2n-2} \Lambda(x, \rho_M(x, y))} \leq C_4.$$

(3) Let $J_{x,r}(u)$ denote the Jacobian matrix of $\Phi_{x,r}(u)$. Then $|\det(J_{x,r}(u))| \approx r^{2n-2} \Lambda(x, r)$ uniformly in x and $0 < r < R_0$.

(4) $\left| \frac{\partial^\alpha}{\partial u^\alpha} \det(J_{x,r}(u)) \right| \lesssim r^{2n-2} \Lambda(x, r)$ uniformly in x and $0 < r < R_0$, for each multiindex α .

For any function $f \in C^1(\mathbb{B}_0)$, the scaled pullbacks to \mathbb{B}_0 of the vector fields X_j are defined by

$$(\widehat{X}_j f)(u) = (\widehat{X}_j f)_{x,r}(u) = r(X_j \check{f})(\Phi_{x,r}(u)), \quad j = 1, \dots, 2n - 2,$$

where $\check{f}(y) = f \circ \Phi_{x,r}^{-1}(y)$ for $y \in \widetilde{B}_M(x, r)$. Therefore, $\widehat{X}_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_{2n-2}$ may be written (in the u -coordinates) as linear combinations of the vector fields $\frac{\partial}{\partial u_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial u_{2n-1}}$. Also, we define the scaled pullback to \mathbb{B}_0 of the function ϕ on $\widetilde{B}_M(x, r)$ by

$$\widehat{\phi}(u) = \phi(\Phi_{x,r}(u))$$

for $u \in \mathbb{B}_0$.

The following facts are also from [2, 9].

Theorem 3.2. (1) *The coefficients of the \widehat{X}_j (expressed in u -coordinates), together with their derivatives, are bounded above uniformly in x and r .*

(2) *The vector fields $\widehat{X}_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_{2n-2}$ are of finite commutator type on \mathbb{B}_0 , and*

$$\left| \det(\widehat{X}_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_{2n-2}, Z) \right| > C$$

for a commutator Z (of the \widehat{X}_j) of length $\leq m$ such that $\widehat{X}_1, \dots, \widehat{X}_{2n-2}, Z$ span the tangent space ($C > 0$ is independent of x and r).

In particular, we can write

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial u_j} = \sum_{l=1}^{2n-2} b_{jl} \widehat{X}_l + b_{j,2n-1} Z,$$

so that $b_{j,l}$ and its derivatives are bounded above uniformly in x and r , for $j, l = 1, \dots, 2n - 1$.

Now, let us define the CR structure on \mathbb{B}_0 determined by the following vector fields:

$$\widehat{L}_j = \widehat{X}_j + i\widehat{X}_{n+j-1}, \quad \widehat{\bar{L}}_j = \widehat{X}_j - i\widehat{X}_{n+j-1},$$

and the basis of $(0, 1)$ -forms dual to $\widehat{L}_1, \dots, \widehat{L}_{n-1}$ by $\widehat{\omega}_1, \dots, \widehat{\omega}_{n-1}$.

We consider the equation on $\widetilde{B}(x, r)$

$$\bar{L}_j \phi = f.$$

From the definition,

$$\widehat{\bar{L}}_j \widehat{\phi} = r(\bar{L}_j \phi)(\Phi_{x,r}(u)) = r f(\Phi_{x,r}(u)) = r \widehat{f} = r \widehat{\bar{L}}_j \widehat{\phi}.$$

So, $\widehat{\bar{L}}_j \widehat{\phi} = r^{-1} \widehat{\bar{L}}_j \widehat{\phi}$ is the scaled pullback of the equation $\bar{L}_j \phi = f$. Now, $\bar{L}_j^* = -L_j + a_j$, for some $a_j \in C^\infty(U)$, we also define

$$\widehat{\bar{L}}_j^* = -\widehat{L}_j + r a_j.$$

Similarly, we obtain $\widehat{\bar{L}}_j^* \widehat{\phi} = r^{-1} \widehat{\bar{L}}_j^* \widehat{\phi}$. We also define the pullbacks $\widehat{\bar{\partial}}_b$ and $\widehat{\bar{\partial}}_b^*$ of the operators $\bar{\partial}_b$ and $\bar{\partial}_b^*$ by

$$\widehat{(\bar{\partial}_b \phi)} = r^{-1} \widehat{\bar{\partial}}_b \widehat{\phi},$$

and

$$\widehat{(\bar{\partial}_b^* \phi)} = r^{-1} \widehat{\bar{\partial}}_b^* \widehat{\phi},$$

respectively.

Lemma 3.1 [6]. *Let $(\bar{\partial}_b)^B$ and $(\bar{\partial}_b^*)^B$ be the operators defined in the terms of the CR structure on the unit ball \mathbb{B}_0 which is determined by the vector fields $\{\widehat{L}_j, \widehat{\bar{L}}_j\}$. Then $\widehat{\partial}_b = (\bar{\partial}_b)^B$ and $r\widehat{\partial}_b^* - (\bar{\partial}_b^*)^B$ is a differential operator of order zero on \mathbb{B}_0 uniformly in x and r .*

Finally, we also extend the map $\Phi_{x,r}$ on \mathbb{B}_0 to the map $\Phi_{(s,x),r}$ on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0$ by

$$\Phi_{(s,x),r}(s, u) = (r^{-2}s, \Phi_{x,r}(u))$$

with $0 < r < R_0$.

The scaled pullback of the heat equation on $\mathbb{R} \times M$ to $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0$ is

$$\left(\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial s} + \square_b \right) \phi(s, x) \right)^\wedge = r^{-2} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \widehat{\phi}(s, u) + r^{-2} \widehat{\square}_b \widehat{\phi}(s, u),$$

where $\widehat{\square}_b = \widehat{\partial}_b \widehat{\partial}_b^* + \widehat{\partial}_b^* \widehat{\partial}_b$ is defined on \mathbb{B}_0 .

Next, under the condition of finite commutator type on M , we also define the parabolic non-isotropic metric on $\mathbb{R} \times M$. Recall that the family of dilation δ_λ on $\mathbb{R} \times M$ is

$$\delta_\lambda(s, x) = (\lambda^2 s, \lambda x),$$

for $s \in \mathbb{R}, x \in M$ and the parameter $\lambda > 0$.

Definition 3.3. *Denote by Y the vector field $\frac{\partial}{\partial s}$ on \mathbb{R} , then the family of the vector fields $\{Y, X_1, \dots, X_{2n-2}\}$ also satisfies the condition of finite commutator type. For every $p = (s, x), q = (t, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times U$, the following function is finite:*

$$\rho_{\mathbb{R} \times M}(p, q) = \rho_M(x, y) + \sqrt{|s - t|}.$$

This distance associates to the corresponding balls $B_{\mathbb{R} \times M}((s, x), r)$ on $\mathbb{R} \times M$. Note that

$$|B_{\mathbb{R} \times M}((s, x), |t - s|)| \approx (t - s)^2 |B_M(x, |t - s|)|.$$

Let $\widetilde{\mathbb{B}}_0$ denote the unit ball in \mathbb{R}^{2n} . For each $(u, u_0) \in \widetilde{\mathbb{B}}_0$ the exponential mapping on $\mathbb{R} \times M$ is

$$\widetilde{\Phi}_{(s,x),r}(u, u_0) = \exp(r^2 u_0 Y + r u_1 X_1 + \dots + r u_{2n-2} X_{2n-2} + \Lambda(x, r) u_{2n-1} T)(s, x)$$

and

$$\widetilde{B}_{\mathbb{R} \times M}((s, x), r) = \widetilde{\Phi}_{(s,x),r}(\widetilde{\mathbb{B}}_0).$$

Now, we briefly recall the definition of the class of NIS operators on the CR manifold M . For more discussions, see [6–8].

Let $\mathcal{D}'(M)$ be the space of distributions defined on M and \mathbb{I}_k be the set of multiindexes $(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{2n-2})$ such that $\sum_{j=1}^{2n-2} \alpha_j = k$ for $k = 0, 1, \dots$.

Definition 3.4. *An operator $\mathcal{T} : C_0^\infty(M) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'(M)$ is called a NIS operator of order $\kappa \geq 0$ if the following conditions hold:*

(1) *There is a function $T_0(x, y) \in C^\infty(M \times M \setminus \Delta_M)$ (smooth of the diagonal) so that if $\phi, \psi \in C_0^\infty(M)$ have disjoint supports,*

$$\langle \mathcal{T}[\phi], \psi \rangle = \int_M \int_M \phi(y) \psi(x) T_0(x, y) dV(x) dV(y).$$

(2) For any $s \geq 0$, there exist parameters $\alpha(s) < \infty, \beta < \infty$ such that if $\zeta, \zeta' \in C^\infty(M)$, $\zeta \prec \zeta'$, then there is a constant C_s so that

$$\|\zeta \mathcal{T}[f]\|_s \leq C_s(\|\zeta' f\|_{\alpha(s)} + \|f\|_\beta) \tag{3.1}$$

for all $f \in C^\infty(M)$.

(3) For any $\alpha \in \mathbb{I}_k, \beta \in \mathbb{I}_l$, there exists a constant $C_{k,l}$ so that

$$|X_x^\alpha X_y^\beta T_0(x, y)| \leq C_{k,l} \rho_M(x, y)^{\kappa-k-l} V_M(x, y)^{-1}.$$

(4) For any ball $B_M(x_0, r) \subset U$, for each integer $k \geq 0$, there is a positive integer N_k and a constant C_k so that if $\phi \in C_0^\infty(B_M(x_0, r))$ and $\alpha \in \mathbb{I}_k$, we have

$$\sup_{x \in B_M(x_0, r)} |X_x^\alpha \mathcal{T}[\phi](x)| \leq C_k r^{\kappa-k} \sup_{y \in M} \sum_{|J| \leq N_k} r^{|J|} |X^J[\phi](y)|.$$

(5) The above conditions also hold for the adjoint operator T^* with kernel $\overline{T_0(y, x)}$.

We also generalize this definition to a class of operators defined on $(0, q)$ -forms. Let \mathcal{T} be an operator from $C_{0,q_1}^\infty(M)$ into $C_{0,q_2}^\infty(M)$ and $\phi = \sum'_{|I|=q_1} \phi_I \bar{\omega}_I \in C_{0,q_1}^\infty(U)$, then

$$\mathcal{T}[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q_2} (\mathcal{T}[\phi])_J(x) \bar{\omega}_J,$$

where

$$(\mathcal{T}[\phi])_J(x) = \sum'_{|I|=q_1} \langle \mathcal{T}[\phi_I(x) \bar{\omega}_I], \bar{\omega}_J \rangle_{L^2}.$$

Then we define $\mathcal{T}^{IJ}[g](x) = \langle \mathcal{T}[g(x) \bar{\omega}_I], \bar{\omega}_J \rangle_{L^2}$ for $g \in C_0^\infty(U)$. We say that \mathcal{T} is a NIS operator of order κ on $(0, q_1)$ -form if and only if \mathcal{T} and \mathcal{T}^* satisfy the estimate in condition (2) of the Definition 3.4 and each \mathcal{T}^{IJ} is a NIS operator of order κ on functions.

Example 3.1 (Szego projections). Let \mathcal{S}_q and \mathcal{S}'_q denote the orthogonal projections in $L^2_{(0,q)}(M)$ onto $\ker(\bar{\partial}_b^{0,q})$ and $\ker(\bar{\partial}_b^{*0,q})$, respectively, where $\bar{\partial}_b^{0,q}$ and $\bar{\partial}_b^{*0,q}$ mean $\bar{\partial}_b, \bar{\partial}_b^*$ acting on $(0, q)$ -forms. We can rewrite these operators by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_q[\phi](x) &= \sum'_{|J|=q_2} \sum'_{|I|=q_1} \langle \mathcal{S}_q[\phi_I(x) \bar{\omega}_I], \bar{\omega}_J \rangle_{L^2} \bar{\omega}_J = \sum'_{|J|=q_2} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q_1} \mathcal{S}_q^{IJ}[\phi_I](x) \right) \bar{\omega}_J, \\ \mathcal{S}'_q[\phi](x) &= \sum'_{|J|=q_2} \sum'_{|I|=q_1} \langle \mathcal{S}'_q[\phi_I(x) \bar{\omega}_I], \bar{\omega}_J \rangle_{L^2} \bar{\omega}_J = \sum'_{|J|=q_2} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q_1} (\mathcal{S}'_q)^{IJ}[\phi_I](x) \right) \bar{\omega}_J \end{aligned}$$

for $\phi = \sum'_{|I|=q_1} \phi_I \bar{\omega}_I$. Now, by the Riesz representation theorem,

$$\mathcal{S}_q[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q_2} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q_1} \int_M S_q^{IJ}(x, y) \phi_I(y) dV(y) \right) \bar{\omega}_J,$$

$$\mathcal{S}'_q[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q_2} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q_1} \int (S_q^{IJ})'(x, y) \phi_I(y) dV(y) \right) \bar{\omega}_J,$$

where $S_q^{IJ}(x, y)$ and $(S_q^{IJ})'(x, y)$ are the respective Schwartz kernels of $\mathcal{S}_q^{IJ}[\cdot]$ and $(\mathcal{S}_q^{IJ})'[\cdot]$. In [6], the author showed that the operators \mathcal{S}_q and \mathcal{S}'_q are the NIS operators of order zero with $q_0 \leq q \leq n - 1 - q_0$.

As a consequence, we have the following proposition.

Proposition 3.1. *Let α be a multiindex with $|\alpha| = k \geq 1$. For $0 \leq j \leq [k/2]$, there are NIS operators $A_{j,1}, \dots, A_{j,2n-2}, A_{j,2n-1}$ smoothing of order zero such that*

$$X^\alpha(I - \mathcal{H}_q) = \sum_{j=0}^{[k/2]} \left(\sum_{l=1}^{2n-2} (A_{j,l} X_l) + A_{j,2n-1} \right) \square_b^j.$$

Here the operator \mathcal{H}_q is the orthogonal projection in $L^2_{0,q}$ onto its harmonic subspace. In particular, if $k = 2j$, $A_{j,1} = A_{j,2} = \dots = A_{j,2n-2} = 0$.

Proof. The proof uses the fact (which is established in [6]) that the relative inverse K to \square_b is a NIS operator of order 2, in the cases of comparable Levi form. Here the modification to Proposition 3.4.7 in [8] is that now $\square_b K = I - \mathcal{H}_q$ instead of $I - \mathcal{S}_q$ in dimension $n = 2$.

The scaling method also provides following Sobolev type theorem.

Theorem 3.3. *Assume that the $D^\epsilon(q)$ and finite type conditions hold on M . Then there are a constant C and an even integer L_m so that if $f \in C^\infty(U)$, then, for all $x \in U$ and all $r \leq r_0$,*

$$\sup_{B_M(x,r)} |f| \leq C |B_M(x,r)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{0 \leq |I| \leq L_m, |I| \text{ even}} r^{|I|} \|X^I f\|_{L^2(B_M(x,2r))}.$$

Let $f \in \Lambda^{0,q'}(C^\infty(M)) \cap L^2_{0,q'}(M)$ with $q \leq q' \leq n - 1 - q$. Moreover, if $f \in (\ker(\square_b))^\perp$, then

$$\sup_{B_M(x,r)} |f| \leq C |B_M(x,r)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{j=0}^{L_m/2} r^{2j} \|\square_b^j f\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}}.$$

Proof. We apply the scaling method introduced above. From the property (1) in Theorem 3.1, we have

$$\sup_{y \in B_M(x,r)} |f(y)| \leq \sup_{y \in \tilde{B}_M(x,C_1r)} |f(y)| \leq \sup_{u \in \mathbb{B}_0} |f(\Phi_{x,C_2r}(u))|.$$

Set $F(u) = f(\Phi_{x,C_2r}(u))$ for $u \in \mathbb{B}_0$. Let $G(u) = F(u)\theta(u)$, where $\theta \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{2n-1})$, $\theta = 1$ on \mathbb{B}_0 , and $\theta = 0$ outside the ball $\mathbb{B}(0, 2) \subset \mathbb{R}^{2n-1}$. So,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{u \in \mathbb{B}_0} |F(u)| &\leq \sup_{u \in \mathbb{R}^{2n-1}} |G(u)| \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n-1}} |\widehat{G}(\xi)| dV(\xi) \leq \\ &\leq \|(1 + |\xi|^4)^{1/N} \widehat{G}(\xi)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n-1})} \|(1 + |\xi|^4)^{-1/N}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{2n-1})} \leq \\ &\quad (N \text{ can be chosen large enough to guarantee integrability}) \\ &\leq C \sum_{0 \leq |I| \leq 2, |I| \text{ even}} \left\| \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial u} \right)^I F \right\|_{L^2(\mathbb{B}(0,2))}. \end{aligned}$$

Now, from the statement (2) in Theorem 3.2, there is a positive integer number l depending on m (the constant l should be the higher power to make the Hölder's inequality work) such that

$$\sup_{\mathbb{B}_0} |F| \leq C \sum_{0 \leq |I| \leq 2l, |I| \text{ even}} \|(\widehat{X})^I F\|_{L^2(\mathbb{B}(0,2))}.$$

Then, after rescaling pullback, by Theorem 3.1, we have the first statement. The analogue of the first statement for forms is immediately obvious. In order to estimate $X^I f$ in the terms of $\square_b^j f$, with $f = f - \mathcal{H}_q[f]$, we will apply the basic decomposition in Proposition 3.1. Since $|I|$ is even, there exists a NIS operator of smoothing of order zero A_I such that

$$X^I(I - \mathcal{H}_q) = A_I \square_b^{\frac{|I|}{2}}.$$

Therefore, if f is orthogonal to the null space of \square_b , we obtain the second assertion.

Theorem 3.3 is proved.

4. Proof of the main theorem. 4.1. The heat kernel. For convenience, we recall some results for the heat semigroup of unbounded operators $e^{-s\square_b}$ via Hilbert space theory.

Theorem 4.1. *Let $\phi \in L^2_{(0,q)}(M)$ for $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$, then:*

- (1) $\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \|e^{-s\square_b}[\phi] - \phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)} = 0$;
- (2) for $s > 0$, $\|e^{-s\square_b}[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)} \leq \|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)}$;
- (3) if $\phi \in \text{Dom}(\square_b)$, then $\|e^{-s\square_b}[\phi] - \phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)} \leq s \|\square_b[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)}$;
- (4) for $s > 0$ and j nonnegative integer, $\|(\square_b)^j e^{-s\square_b}[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)} \leq \left(\frac{j}{e}\right)^j s^{-j} \|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)}$;
- (5) $e^{-s\square_b} \mathcal{H}_q[\phi] = \mathcal{H}_q e^{-s\square_b}[\phi] = \mathcal{H}_q[\phi]$;
- (6) $e^{-s\square_b}[\phi] = (I - \mathcal{H}_q)e^{-s\square_b}[\phi] + \mathcal{H}_q[\phi] = e^{-s\square_b}(I - \mathcal{H}_q)[\phi] + \mathcal{H}_q[\phi]$;
- (7) for any $\phi \in L^2_{(0,q)}(M)$ and any $s > 0$, the Hilbert space valued form $e^{-s\square_b}[\phi]$ satisfies

$$[\partial_s + \square_b][e^{-s\square_b}[\phi]] = 0 \quad \text{for } s > 0,$$

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow 0} e^{-s\square_b}[\phi] = \phi \quad \text{in } L^2_{(0,q)}((0, \infty) \times M);$$

- (8) for any $s \geq 0$, $e^{-s\square_b}$ is a self-adjoint operator on $L^2_{(0,q)}(M)$.

From Proposition 4.1 in [6], the operator \mathcal{H}_q does exactly equal to $\mathcal{S}_q + \mathcal{S}'_q - I$. Therefore, \mathcal{H}_q is a NIS operator of order zero, with $q_0 \leq q \leq n - 1 - q_0$. This fact and Theorem 4.1 imply the pseudolocal property (3.1) for $\mathcal{T} = e^{-s\square_b}$ uniformly in $s > 0$.

Lemma 4.1. *Let M be a pseudoconvex finite type compact CR manifold for which the range of $\bar{\partial}_b$ is closed in L^2 and which satisfies the $D^\epsilon(q_0)$ condition. Let $|\alpha| = a \geq 0$ and $K \subset M$ be a compact set. Choose an integer N so that $N\epsilon_0 > 2n - 1 + a$. Then there is a constant C such that for each $s > 0$, if $x \in K$, and for all $\phi \in L^2_{(0,q)}(M)$ with $q_0 \leq q \leq n - 1 - q_0$,*

$$|X^\alpha e^{-s\square_b}[\phi](x)| \leq C(1 + s^{-N}) \|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)}.$$

As a consequence of the condition of finite commutator type, for any derivative D on M ,

$$|D^\alpha e^{-s\square_b}[\phi](x)| \leq C(1 + s^{-N}) \|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)}.$$

Proof. Choose $\zeta \in C_0^\infty(M)$ with $\zeta(x) = 1$ for all $x \in K$. Then, pick cutoff functions $\zeta \prec \zeta_1 \prec \dots \prec \zeta_N = \zeta'$. By Sobolev imbedding theorem, we have

$$|X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x)| = |X^\alpha \zeta(x) e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x)| \leq C \|\zeta e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{H^{2n-1+a}}.$$

Applying the basic subelliptic estimate, we get

$$\|\zeta e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{H^{2n-1+a}} \leq C [\|\zeta_1 \Box_b e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{H^{2n-1+a-\epsilon_0}} + \|\zeta_1 e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{L^2}].$$

If we repeat this argument N times, by (4) in Theorem 4.1, we will obtain

$$\|\zeta e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{H^{2n-1+a}} \leq C \sum_{j=0}^N \|\zeta' \Box_b^j e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)} \leq C(1 + s^{-N}) \|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)}.$$

Lemma 4.1 is proved.

We also have integral kernels for $X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]$.

Lemma 4.2. For each $x \in M$ and $s > 0$, and for each multiindex $|\alpha| = a$, there exist unique functions $H_{s,x,\alpha}^{IJ} \in L^2(M)$, where $|I| = |J| = q$, $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$, so that

$$X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q} \int_M H_{s,x,\alpha}^{IJ}(y) \phi_I(y) dV(y) \right) \bar{\omega}_J$$

or in short

$$X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x) = \int_M H_{s,x,\alpha}(y) \phi(y) dV(y),$$

where $\phi = \sum'_{|I|=q} \phi_I \bar{\omega}_I$. Moreover, if $K \subset M$ is compact and if C is the corresponding constant in Lemma 4.1, then, if $x \in K$,

$$\sum_{I,J} \int_M |H_{s,x,\alpha}^{IJ}(y)|^2 dy \leq C^2(1 + s^{-N})^2.$$

Proof. For each $s > 0$, $x \in M$, we define the mapping $\phi \mapsto X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x)$. By Lemma 4.1, this functional is bounded. Moreover, since

$$X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q} \sum'_{|I|=q} \langle X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi_I \bar{\omega}_I], \bar{\omega}_J \rangle_{L^2}(x) \bar{\omega}_J,$$

and so by the Riesz representation theorem, there exist functions $H_{s,x,\alpha}^{IJ} \in L^2(M)$ so that

$$X^\alpha ((e^{-s\Box_b})_{IJ}[\phi_I](x)) = \langle X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi_I \bar{\omega}_I], \bar{\omega}_J \rangle(x) = \int_M H_{s,x,\alpha}^{IJ}(y) \phi_I(y) dV(y).$$

Hence, by duality, we obtain

$$\sum'_{I,J} \int_M |H_{s,x,\alpha}^{IJ}(y)|^2 dy \leq C^2(1 + s^{-N})^2.$$

Lemma 4.2 is proved.

Definition 4.1. We define the following $(0, q)$ -forms, for $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$,

$$H_y^I(s, x) = \sum'_{|J|=q} H^{IJ}(s, x, y) \bar{\omega}_J(x),$$

$$H_x^J(s, y) = \sum'_{|I|=q} H^{IJ}(s, x, y) \bar{\omega}_I(y),$$

and, for $s > 0$,

$$H_s(x, y) = \sum'_{\substack{|I|=q \\ |J|=q}} H^{IJ}(s, x, y) \bar{\omega}_J(x) \otimes \bar{\omega}_I(y).$$

It turns out that $e^{-s\square_b}[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q} \langle H_x^J(s, \cdot), \phi \rangle_{L^2_{(0,q)}(M)} \bar{\omega}_J$.

For fixed $s > 0$, since $H^{IJ}(s, x, y) = H_{s,x,0}^{IJ}$, for all I, J , Lemma 4.2 says that the maps $y \mapsto H^{IJ}(s, x, y)$ belong to $L^2(M)$ for all I, J , and

$$e^{-s\square_b}[\phi](x) = \sum'_{|J|=q} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q} \int_M H^{IJ}(s, x, y) \phi_I(y) dV(y) \right) \bar{\omega}_J.$$

We denote these sums as $\int_M H(s, x, y) \phi(y) dV(y)$.

Theorem 4.2. For each fixed $s > 0$ and $x \in M$, the function $y \mapsto H^{IJ}(s, x, y)$ belongs to $L^2(M)$, so each integral above converges absolutely. Moreover, each component $H^{IJ}(s, x, y)$ of $H(s, x, y)$ satisfies

- (1) for $s > 0$ and $x, y \in M$, $H^{IJ}(s, x, y) = \overline{H^{JI}(s, y, x)}$;
- (2) $[\partial_s + (\square_b)_x][H_y^I](s, x) = [\partial_s + (\square_b)_y][H_x^J](s, y) = 0$ and, hence,

$$[\partial_s + (\square_b)_x][H_s(x, y)] = [\partial_s + (\square_b)_y][H_s(x, y)] = 0;$$

- (3) for any integer $j, k \geq 0$,

$$(\square_b)_x^j (\square_b)_y^k H_s^{IJ}(x, y) = (\square_b)_x^{j+k} H_y^I(s, x) = (\square_b)_y^{j+k} H_x^J(s, y);$$

- (4) for each $s > 0$ and $y \in M$, for any nonnegative integer j , each function

$$x \mapsto (\square_b)_x^j H_y^I(s, x)$$

is orthogonal to $\ker(\square_b)$.

Proof. The proof of Theorem 4.2 is almost identical to the one in [8] (Theorem 5.1.2), hence it is omitted.

These heat kernels also provide the fundamental solutions for the initial-value problem on the whole space $\mathbb{R} \times M$.

Definition 4.2. For $\psi \in \Lambda^{0,q}(C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times M))$, we set

$$\langle \mathbb{H}_x, \psi \rangle = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \int_M \tilde{H}(s, x, y) \psi(s, y) dV(y) ds = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \int_M H(s, x, y) \psi(s, y) dV(y) ds,$$

where \tilde{H} 's components are

$$\tilde{H}^{IJ}(s, x, y) = \begin{cases} H^{IJ}(s, x, y), & \text{if } s > 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } s \leq 0. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 4.1. The limit defining \mathbb{H}_x exists. Moreover,

$$[\partial_s + (\square_b)_y][\mathbb{H}_x] = \delta_0 \otimes \delta_x$$

in the sense of distributions (in component-wise), i.e.,

$$\langle \mathbb{H}_x, [-\partial_s + \square_b]\psi \rangle = \psi(0, x).$$

Proof. Setting $\psi_s(y) = \psi(s, y)$, so $\psi_s \in \Lambda^{0,q}(C^\infty(M))$. Choose a positive integer N so that $N\epsilon > \frac{2n-1}{2}$. Choose $\zeta \prec \zeta_1 \prec \dots \prec \zeta_N = \zeta'$ with $\zeta(x) = 1$. Then, once again, by Sobolev imbedding theorem and the basic subelliptic estimate applied N times, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \int_M H(s, x, y) \psi(y) dV(y) \right| &= |\zeta e^{-s\square_b}[\psi_s](x)| \leq \\ &\leq C \|\zeta e^{-s\square_b}[\psi_s]\|_{N\epsilon} \leq \\ &\leq C [\|\zeta_1 \square_b[e^{-s\square_b}[\psi_s]]\|_{(N-1)\epsilon} + \|\zeta_1 e^{-s\square_b}[\psi_s]\|_0] \leq \\ &\leq \dots \text{repeating } N\text{-times as above } \dots \leq \\ &\leq C \sum_{j=0}^N \|\zeta' \square_b^j[e^{-s\square_b}[\psi_s]]\|_0. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since the operators \square_b and $e^{-s\square_b}$ commute,

$$\left| \int_M H(s, x, y) \psi(y) dV(y) \right| \leq C \sum_{j=0}^N \|\zeta' e^{-s\square_b}[\square_b^j \psi_s]\|_0 \leq C \sum_{j=0}^N \|\square_b^j \psi_s\|_0.$$

The right-hand side is uniformly bounded in s , and then, taking integral on $[\eta_1, \eta_2]$, we have

$$\left| \int_{\eta_1}^{\eta_2} \int_M H(s, x, y) \psi(y) dV(y) ds \right| \leq C |\eta_2 - \eta_1| \sup_s \sum_{j=0}^N \|\square_b^j \psi_s\|_0.$$

We see that the left-hand side goes to zero as $\eta_2 \rightarrow 0$, so the limit defining \mathbb{H}_x exists. Again, let $\psi \in \Lambda^{0,q}(C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times M))$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \mathbb{H}_x, [-\partial_s + \square_b]\psi_s \rangle &= \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} e^{-s\square_b} [[-\partial_s + \square_b]\psi_s] ds = \\
 &= - \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \int_M H(s, x, y) \partial_s \psi(s, x) dV(y) ds + \\
 &\quad + \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \int_M H(s, x, y) \square_b \psi(s, y) dV(y) ds.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.1}$$

Now, for the first term, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 &- \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \int_M H(s, x, y) \partial_s \psi(s, x) dV(y) ds = \\
 &= \sum'_{|J|=q} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q} \int_M H^{IJ}(\epsilon, x, y) \psi_I(\epsilon, y) dV(y) \right) \bar{\omega}_J + \\
 &\quad + \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \sum'_{|J|=q} \langle \partial_s H_x^J(s, \cdot), \psi(s, \cdot) \rangle \bar{\omega}_J ds.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.2}$$

For the second term,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \int_M H(s, x, y) \square_b \psi(s, y) dV(y) ds &= \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \sum'_{|J|=q} \langle H_x^J(s, \cdot), \square_b \psi(s, \cdot) \rangle \bar{\omega}_J ds = \\
 &= \int_{\epsilon}^{\infty} \sum'_{|J|=q} \langle (\square_b)_y H_x^J(s, \cdot), \psi(s, \cdot) \rangle \bar{\omega}_J ds.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.3}$$

Hence, since $[\partial_s + (\square_b)_y]H_x^J(s, y) = 0$, (4.1), (4.2), and (4.3) imply

$$\langle \mathbb{H}_x, [-\partial_s + \square_b]\psi_s \rangle = \psi(0, x) = \langle \delta_0 \otimes \delta_x, \psi \rangle.$$

Proposition 4.1 is proved.

A remark that, by translation, we also have

$$\langle \mathbb{H}_x, [-\partial_{s+t} + \square_b]\psi \rangle = \psi(t, x).$$

4.2. Pointwise estimates for the heat kernel. We begin by recalling the scaled pullback of the heat equation on $\mathbb{R} \times M$ to $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0$ by

$$((\partial_s + \widehat{\square_b})\widehat{\phi}(s, u)) = r^2 [(\partial_s + \square_b)\phi(s, x)]^\wedge.$$

Now, using the above changing of the variable $\Phi_{(s,x_0),r}$, with $s > 0$, $x_0 \in M$, $u, v \in \mathbb{B}_0$, we define the pullback of the heat kernel $H(s, x, y)$:

$$W^{IJ}(s, u, v) = W_{x_0,r}^{IJ}(s, u, v) = H^{IJ}(r^2s, \Phi_{x_0,r}(u), \Phi_{x_0,r}(v))$$

for each $|I| = |J| = q$, $q_0 \leq q \leq n - 1 - q_0$, and $0 < r < R_0$. Hence, from previous sections, we have

$$[\partial_s + (\widehat{\square}_b)_u][W_v^I](s, u) = 0,$$

$$[\partial_s + (\widehat{\square}_b)_v][W_u^J](s, v) = 0,$$

where $W_v^I(s, u)$ and $W_u^J(s, v)$ are defined by the same formulas as $H_y^I(s, x)$ and $H_x^J(s, y)$.

In the same way, for $s > 0$, and $\phi \in \Lambda^{0,q}(C_0^\infty(\mathbb{B}_0))$, we define the scaled pullback of $e^{-s\square_b}$ as

$$\mathbb{W}_s[\phi](u) = \int_{\mathbb{B}_0} W(s, u, v)\phi(v)dv = \int_{\mathbb{B}_0} H(r^2s, \Phi_{x_0,r}(u), \Phi_{x_0,r}(v))\phi(v)dv.$$

The key point is that the norm of the operator \mathbb{W}_s is bounded on $L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)$.

Lemma 4.3. *There is a constant C which is independent of x_0, r and $s > 0$ so that*

$$\|\mathbb{W}_s[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)} \leq C|B(x_0, r)|^{-1}\|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)}.$$

Proof. Let $x \in B(x_0, r)$, by changing of variables, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{W}_s[\phi](\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(x)) &= \int_{\mathbb{B}_0} H(r^2s, \Phi_{x_0,r}(\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(x)), \Phi_{x_0,r}(v))\phi(v)dv = \\ &= \int_M H(r^2s, x, y)(\phi \circ \Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1})(y)J_{x_0,r}(\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(y))\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(y)(y)dV(y) = \\ &= e^{-r^2s\square_b}[(\phi \circ \Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1})J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}](x). \end{aligned}$$

Since $\|e^{-r^2s\square_b}[(\phi \circ \Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1})J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}]\|_{L^2} \leq \|(\phi \circ \Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1})J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}\|_{L^2}$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_M |\mathbb{W}_s[\phi](\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(x))|^2dV(x) &\leq \int_M |\phi(\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(x))|^2(J_{x_0,r}(\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(x)))^2dV(x) = \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{B}_0} |\phi(u)|^2(J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(\Phi_{x_0,r}(u)))^2J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}(u)du \leq \\ &\leq C|B(x_0, r)|^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{B}_0} |\phi(u)|^2du. \end{aligned}$$

The last inequality is derived from the facts that $J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(\Phi_{x_0,r}(u)) = J_{x_0,r}\Phi_{x_0,r}(u)^{-1}$, and $J_{x_0,R}\Phi_{x_0,R}(u) \geq C^{-1}|B(x_0, r)|$ for $0 < r < R_0$ according to Theorem 3.1.

On the other hand,

$$\int_M |\mathbb{W}_s[\phi](\Phi_{x_0,r}^{-1}(x))|^2dV(x) \geq C^{-1}|B(x_0, r)| \int_{\mathbb{B}_0} |\mathbb{W}_s[\phi](u)|^2du.$$

Hence, we obtain

$$\|\mathbb{W}_s[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)} \leq C|B(x_0, r)|^{-1}\|\phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)}.$$

Lemma 4.3 is proved.

Next, we will obtain local estimates for the functions H^{IJ} 's, $|I| = |J| = q$, $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$.

Theorem 4.3. *Let j, k, l be nonnegative integers. For every positive integer N , there is a constant $C_N = C_{N,j,k,l}$ so that if $|\alpha| = k$, $|\beta| = l$,*

$$|\partial_s^j X_x^\alpha X_y^\beta H^{IJ}(s, x, y)| \leq \begin{cases} C_N \rho(x, y)^{-2j-k-l} |B(x, \rho(x, y))|^{-1} \left(\frac{s}{\rho(x, y)^2}\right)^N, & \text{if } s \leq \rho(x, y)^2, \\ C_N s^{-j-k/2-l/2} |B(x, \sqrt{s})|^{-1}, & \text{if } s \geq \rho(x, y)^2, \end{cases}$$

for all (s, x, y) with $\rho_{\mathbb{R} \times M}((s, x), (0, y)) = |s|^{1/2} + \rho(x, y) \leq 1$.

The proof is based the scaling method which was introduced M. Christ [2], and then developed in higher dimensions by K. Koenig [6]. We need the following subelliptic estimate for the scaled pullback of \square_b operator on \mathbb{B}_0 which is a consequence of the subelliptic estimate of \square_b and Theorem 3.1.

Proposition 4.2. *Fix $\zeta, \zeta' \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{B}_0)$ with $\zeta \prec \zeta'$. For smooth $(0, q)$ -forms, $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$, $\phi = \sum_{|K|=q} \phi_K \widehat{\omega}_K$ on \mathbb{B}_0 and $\delta \geq 0$, we have*

$$\|\zeta\phi\|_{\delta+\epsilon}^2 \leq C_\delta \left(\|\zeta' \widehat{\partial}_b \phi\|_\delta^2 + \|\zeta' \widehat{\partial}_b^* \phi\|_\delta^2 + \|\zeta' \phi\|_0^2 \right),$$

where C_δ is a positive constant independent of x and $0 < r < R_0$.

As a consequence, for $q \in [q_0, n - 1 - q_0]$, the heat operator $\partial_s + \widehat{\square}_b$ also satisfies the subelliptic estimate

$$\|\zeta\phi\|_{\delta+\epsilon}^2 \leq C_\delta \left(\|\zeta' [\partial_s + \widehat{\square}_b] \phi\|_\delta^2 + \|\zeta' \phi\|_0^2 \right),$$

for all smooth $(0, q)$ -forms ϕ on $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0$.

Proof of Theorem 4.3. We will prove the theorem with $N = 0$ first. By compactness, if $R_0 \leq |s|^{1/2} + \rho(x, y) \leq 1$, the estimates are trivial. Hence, it suffices to show that the estimates hold when $|s|^{1/2} + \rho(x, y) \leq R_0$. Now, let fix $(s_0, x_0) \in \mathbb{R} \times M$, and let $(s, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times M$ be another point so that $\rho_{\mathbb{R} \times M}((s_0, x_0), (s, x)) = r \leq R_0$. There exists a unique point $(t_0, v_0) \in (-1, 1) \times \mathbb{B}_0$ such that $(s, x) = (s_0 + r^2 t_0, \Phi_{x_0, r}(v_0))$. Let $\tau > 0$ such that $|t_0|^{1/2} + |v_0| \geq \tau$.

For $(t_1, u), (t_2, v) \in (-1, 1) \times \mathbb{B}_0$, we put

$$W^\#((t_1, u), (t_2, v)) = H(r^2(t_2 - t_1), \Phi_{x_0, r}(u), \Phi_{x_0, r}(v)),$$

in the sense that $(W^\#)^{IJ}((t_1, u), (t_2, v)) = H^{IJ}(r^2(t_2 - t_1), \Phi_{x_0, r}(u), \Phi_{x_0, r}(v))$ for all $|I| = |J| = q$. Then

$$[-\partial_{t_1} + (\widehat{\square}_b)_u][W^\#]_v^I = 0,$$

$$[\partial_{t_2} + (\widehat{\square}_b)_v][W^\#]_u^J = 0,$$

and

$$[\partial_s^j X_x^\alpha X_y^\beta H](r^2(t_2 - t_1), \Phi_{x_0, r}(u), \Phi_{x_0, r}(v)) = r^{-2j-k-l} [\partial_{t_2}^j \widehat{X}_u^\alpha \widehat{X}_v^\beta W^\#]((t_1, u), (t_2, v)).$$

Now, for $\phi \in C_0^\infty((-1, 1) \times \mathbb{B}_0)$, set

$$\mathcal{T}^\#[\phi](t_1, u) = \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} W^\#((t_1, u), (t_2, v)) \phi(t_2, v) dv dt_2$$

in the sense as above, i.e.,

$$\left(\mathcal{T}^\#[\phi](t_1, u)\right)_J = \left(\sum'_{|I|=q} \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} (W^\#)^{IJ}((t_1, u), (t_2, v)) \phi_I(t_2, v) dv dt_2\right)_J.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{T}^\#[\phi](t_1, u) = \sum'_{|J|=q} \left(\mathcal{T}^\#[\phi](t_1, u)\right)_J \widehat{\omega}_J.$$

The nonisotropic balls

$$B_1 = \left\{ (t_1, u) : |t_1|^{1/2} + |u| < \frac{1}{3}\tau \right\},$$

$$B_2 = \left\{ (t_2, v) : |t_2 - t_0|^{1/2} + |v - v_0| < \frac{1}{3}\tau \right\}$$

are disjoint.

Choose cutoff functions $\zeta \prec \zeta' \prec \zeta'' \in C_0^\infty(B_2)$ with $\zeta(t_0, v_0) = 1$, and $\eta \prec \eta' \in C_0^\infty(B_1)$ with $\eta(0, 0) = 1$. Then, by the Sobolev inequality and the basic subelliptic estimate for the operator $\partial_{t_2} + \widehat{\square}_b$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| [\partial_{t_2}^j \widehat{X}_u^\alpha \widehat{X}_v^\beta (W^\#)^J]((0, 0), (t_0, v_0)) \right| &= \left| \zeta(t_0, s_0) [\partial_{t_2}^j \widehat{X}_u^\alpha \widehat{X}_v^\beta (W^\#)^J]((0, 0), (t_0, v_0)) \right| \leq \\ &\leq C \left\| \zeta' (W^\#)^J((0, 0), (\cdot, \cdot)) \right\|_{2n+j+k+l} \leq \\ &\leq C \left[\left\| \zeta'' [\partial_{t_2} + (\widehat{\square}_b)_v] (W^\#)^J((0, 0), (\cdot, \cdot)) \right\|_{2n+j+k+l-\epsilon} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left\| \zeta'' (W^\#)^J((0, 0), (\cdot, \cdot)) \right\|_0 \right] \leq \\ &\leq C \left\| \zeta'' (W^\#)^J((0, 0), (\cdot, \cdot)) \right\|_0 \leq \\ &\leq C \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C_0^\infty(B_2) \\ \|\phi\|=1}} \left| \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta' \phi](0, 0) \right|, \end{aligned}$$

where the last estimate follows from the fact that $[\partial_{t_2} + \widehat{\square}_b] W^\#((0, 0), (t, s)) = 0$ on B_1 containing the support of ζ' .

Now, to estimate the term with the supremum sign, again, we use the basic subelliptic for $-\partial_{t_1} + (\widehat{\square}_b)_u$,

$$\begin{aligned} \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C^\infty(B_2) \\ \|\phi\|=1}} \left| \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta'\phi](0,0) \right| &= \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C^\infty(B_2) \\ \|\phi\|=1}} \left| \eta(0,0) \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta'\phi](0,0) \right| \leq \\ &\leq C \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C^\infty(B_2) \\ \|\phi\|=1}} \left\| \eta \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta'\phi] \right\|_{2n} \leq \\ &\leq C \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C^\infty(B_2) \\ \|\phi\|=1}} \left[\left\| \underbrace{\eta' [-\partial_{t_1} + (\widehat{\square}_b)_u] \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta'\phi]}_{=0 \text{ on } B_1 \text{ containing } \text{supp}(\eta')} \right\|_{2n-\epsilon} + \left\| \eta' \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta'\phi] \right\|_0 \right] \leq \\ &\leq C \sup_{\substack{\phi \in C^\infty(B_2) \\ \|\phi\|=1}} \left\| \mathcal{T}^\#[\zeta'\phi] \right\|_0 \leq \\ &\leq C \|\mathcal{T}^\#\|. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have shown that

$$\left| \partial_s^j X_x^\alpha X_y^\beta H(r^2 t_0, x_0, x) \right| \leq C r^{-2j-k-l} \|\mathcal{T}^\#\|.$$

The last step is to estimate the norm $\|\mathcal{T}^\#\|$. Let ϕ, ψ be $(0, q)$ -forms whose coefficients are $C_0^\infty((-1, 1) \times \mathbb{B}_0)$, and let $\phi_s(v) = \phi(s, v)$, $\psi_t(u) = \psi(t, u)$. Then, in the sense as above, we get

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} \mathcal{T}^\#[\phi](t, u) \psi(t, u) \, du \, dt \right| = \\ &= \left| \sum'_{|J|=q} \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} \left(\sum'_{|I|=q} \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} (W^\#)^{IJ}((t, u), (s, v)) \phi_I(s, v) \, dv \, ds \right) \psi_J(t, u) \, du \, dt \right| = \\ &= \left| \sum'_{|J|=q} \sum'_{|I|=q} \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} (W^\#)^{IJ}((t, u), (s, v)) \phi_I(s, v) \psi_J(t, u) \, ds \, dt \, du \, dv \right| = \\ &= \left| \sum'_{|J|=q} \sum'_{|I|=q} \iiint H^{IJ}(r^2(s-t), \Phi_{x_0, x}(u), \Phi_{x_0, r}(v)) \phi_I(s, v) \psi_J(r, u) \, ds \, dt \, du \, dv \right| = \\ &= \left| \sum'_{|J|=q} \sum'_{|I|=q} \iiint H^{IJ}(r^2 s, \Phi_{x_0, x}(u), \Phi_{x_0, r}(v)) \phi_I(s+t, v) \psi_J(t, u) \, ds \, dt \, du \, dv \right| \leq \\ &\leq C \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} \|\mathbb{W}_s[\phi_{s+t}]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)} \|\psi_t\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)} \, ds \, dt. \end{aligned}$$

Now, by Lemma 4.3, $\|\mathbb{W}_s[\phi_{s+t}]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)} \leq C|B(x_0, r)|^{-1} \|\phi_{s+t}\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(\mathbb{B}_0)}$. Then

$$\left| \iint_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} \mathcal{T}^\#[\phi](t, u) \psi(t, u) \, du \, dt \right| \leq \leq C |B(x_0, r)|^{-1} \|\phi\|_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0} \|\psi\|_{\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{B}_0}.$$

Hence, we obtain

$$\left| \partial_s^j X_x^\alpha X_y^\beta H(s, x, y) \right| \leq C (\rho_{\mathbb{R} \times M}(s, x), (0, y))^{-2j-k-l} |B(x, \rho_{\mathbb{R} \times M}(s, x), (0, y))|^{-1}. \tag{4.4}$$

This implies the statement of Theorem 4.3 when $N = 0$. To deal with the case $N > 0$, we must use the facts that $s \mapsto H^{IJ}(s, x, y)$ is a smooth function when $x \neq y$, and vanishes to infinite order as $s \rightarrow 0$ by Proposition 4.1. Hence, applying Taylor’s formula and integrating by parts, we get

$$\begin{aligned} |H^{IJ}(s, x, y)| &\leq \frac{1}{(N-1)!} \int_0^s |\partial_t^N H(t, x, y)| (s-t)^{N-1} dt \leq \\ &\leq C_0 \frac{1}{(N-1)!} \rho(x, y)^{-2N} |B(x, \rho(x, y))|^{-1} \int_0^s (s-t)^{N-1} dt \leq \\ &\leq C_0 \frac{1}{N!} \left(\frac{s}{\rho(x, y)^2} \right)^N |B(x, \rho(x, y))|^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

when $s \leq \rho(x, y)$, and replace $\rho(x, y)$ by $s^{1/2}$ to obtain the expected estimate. This argument also provides the same results when $s \geq \rho(x, y)$. Finally, applying (4.4), estimates for other derivatives of $H^{IJ}(s, x, y)$ are handled in the same way.

Theorem 4.3 is proved.

Next, the action of the heat operator on bump functions is provided.

Theorem 4.4. Fix $s > 0$, for each multiindex α , there is an integer N_α and a constant C_α so that if $\phi \in \Lambda^{0,q}(C_0^\infty(B(x, r)))$, then

$$|X_x^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x)| \leq C_\alpha r^{-|\alpha|} \sup_{y \in M} \sum_{|\beta| \leq N_\alpha} r^{|\beta|} |X^\beta \phi(y)|. \tag{4.5}$$

Proof. By Sobolev type Theorem 3.3 and the argument before, for $\phi \in (\ker \Box_b)^\perp$ and $0 < r < < R_0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &r^{|\alpha|} |X^\alpha e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi](x)| \leq \\ &\leq C |B_M(x, r)|^{-1/2} \sum_{0 \leq |\beta| \leq L_m, |\beta| \text{ even}} r^{|\beta|+|\alpha|} \|X^{\alpha+\beta} e^{-s\Box_b}[\phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}} \leq \\ &\leq C |B_M(x, r)|^{-1/2} \sum_{l=0, l \text{ even}}^{L_m} r^{l+|\alpha|} \sum_{j=0}^{\frac{|\alpha|+l}{2}} \|e^{-s\Box_b}[(\Box_b)^j \phi]\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}} \leq \\ &\leq C |B_M(x, r)|^{-1/2} \sum_{l=0, l \text{ even}}^{L_m} r^{l+|\alpha|} \sum_{|\beta|=0}^{l+|\alpha|} \|X^\beta \phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}}, \end{aligned}$$

which yields the desired estimate in this case.

If $r \geq R_0$, applying Theorem 3.1 for $r = R_0$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |X^\alpha e^{-s\square_b}[\phi](x)| &\leq Cr^{-|\alpha|} |B_M(x, R_0)|^{-1/2} \sum_{l=0, l \text{ even}}^{L_m} R_0^{l+|\alpha|} \sum_{|\beta|=0}^{l+|\alpha|} \|X^\beta \phi\|_{L^2_{(0,q)}(B_M(x, 2r))} \leq \\ &\leq C' r^{-|\alpha|} \sum_{|\beta|=0}^{L_m+|\alpha|} r^{|\beta|} \sup_{B(x, 2r)} |X^\beta \varphi|. \end{aligned}$$

For the last inequality, note that $r \leq cR_0$ since M is compact. This yields (4.5) for $\phi \in (\ker \square_b)^\perp$. The general case follows from Theorem 4.1 and the fact that \mathcal{H}_q is NIS of order zero.

Theorem 4.4 is proved.

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