

# Continuous wavelet transforms on spaces of vector-valued functions

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## Abstract

Let  $G$  be the semidirect product of a locally compact abelian group  $N$  with a closed subgroup  $H$  of  $\text{Aut}(N)$ . We consider continuous wavelet transforms associated to unitary representations of  $G$  realized on spaces of vector-valued square integrable functions on  $N$ .

## 1 Introduction

Continuous wavelet transforms for the semidirect product group with a commutative normal subgroup have been studied by many authors. The simplest example is the one associated to a quasi-regular representation of the  $ax + b$  group [2]. Furthermore wavelet transforms for a semidirect group with a unimodular, not necessarily commutative, normal subgroup are studied in [8].

Let  $G$  be the semidirect group  $N \rtimes H$  of a locally compact abelian group  $N$  and a closed subgroup  $H$  of  $\text{Aut}(N)$ . An element  $g \in G$  is written as  $g = (n, h)$  with  $n \in N$  and  $h \in H$ . This group law is given by

$$(n, h)(n', h') = (n + hn', h'h) \quad (n, n' \in N, h, h' \in H).$$

Let  $d\mu_H(h)$  denote a left Haar measure of  $H$  and  $dn$  a Lebesgue measure on  $N$ . We define the measure of  $G$  by

$$d\mu_G(g) = \delta(h)^{-1} dnd\mu_H(h), \quad g = (n, h) \in N \rtimes H,$$

where  $\delta$  is the map from  $H$  to  $\mathbb{R}_+$  such that  $d(hn) = \delta(h)dn$ . Then  $d\mu_G$  is a left Haar measure of  $G$ . Let  $\sigma$  be an irreducible unitary representation of  $H$

on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_\sigma$ . We define the unitary representation  $\pi$  of  $G$  on the space  $L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  of  $\mathcal{H}_\sigma$ -valued square integrable functions on  $N$  by

$$\pi(n, h)f(n_0) = \delta(h)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\sigma(h)f(h^{-1}(n_0 - n)) \quad (n, n_0 \in N, h \in H).$$

This representation is equivalent to the induced representation  $\text{Ind}_H^G \sigma$ . In particular, when  $\sigma$  is trivial,  $\pi$  is called a *quasi-regular representation*. In this case, continuous wavelet transforms arising from  $\pi$  have been developed in various directions [7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14]. In this paper, we consider a more general case. We introduce the wavelet transforms obtained from the unitary representation  $\pi$  with  $\sigma$  not necessarily finite dimensional.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we recall basic notions about wavelet transform associated to a unitary representation of a locally compact group. Let  $G$  be a locally compact group and  $\pi$  an irreducible unitary representation of  $G$  defined on a complex separable Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_\pi$ . The representation  $\pi$  is said to be *square-integrable* if there exists a nonzero vector  $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$  such that the image of the map  $\widetilde{W}_\varphi : \mathcal{H}_\pi \rightarrow C(G)$  given by

$$\widetilde{W}_\varphi \psi(g) = \langle \psi, \pi(g)\varphi \rangle \quad (\psi \in \mathcal{H}_\pi, g \in G)$$

is contained in  $L^2(G)$ , that is,

$$\int_G |\widetilde{W}_\varphi \psi(g)|^2 d\mu(g) < \infty$$

for all  $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$ . Then  $\varphi$  is called an *admissible vector*.

**Theorem 1** ([1, Theorem 3.1]). *Suppose  $\pi$  is a square integrable representation of  $G$  defined on  $\mathcal{H}_\pi$ . There exists a unique positive self-adjoint operator  $C$  whose domain coincides with the set of admissible vectors such that*

$$\int_G \langle W_{\varphi_1} \psi_1(g), W_{\varphi_2} \psi_2(g) \rangle d\mu(g) = \langle \psi_1, \psi_2 \rangle \langle C\varphi_2, C\varphi_1 \rangle \quad (g \in G, \psi_1, \psi_2 \in \mathcal{H}_\pi).$$

for any admissible vectors  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$ .

For an admissible vector  $\varphi$ , we define  $C_\varphi = \langle C\varphi, C\varphi \rangle$ . Applying  $\varphi_1 = \varphi_2 = \psi_1 = \psi_2 = \varphi$  in Theorem 1, we have

$$C_\varphi = \frac{1}{\langle \varphi, \varphi \rangle} \int_G |\widetilde{W}_\varphi \varphi(g)|^2 d\mu(g) < \infty.$$

We define the map  $W_\varphi$  from  $\mathcal{H}_\pi$  into  $L^2(G)$  by

$$W_\varphi \psi = C_\varphi^{-\frac{1}{2}} \widetilde{W}_\varphi \psi \quad (\psi \in \mathcal{H}_\pi).$$

Then  $W_\varphi$  is isometry by Theorem 1, so that for any  $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_\pi$  we have

$$\psi = \int_G W_\varphi \psi(g) \pi(g) \varphi d\mu(g)$$

in the weak sense. The map  $W_\varphi$  is called a *continuous wavelet transform*.

### 3 Construction of the wavelet transforms associated to $\pi$

From now on, let  $G$  be the semidirect product group as in Section 1. We denote by  $\widehat{N}$  the unitary dual of  $N$ . Since  $N$  is commutative, any element of  $\widehat{N}$  is one-dimensional. The dual action of  $G$  on  $\widehat{N}$  is defined by

$$g \cdot \nu(n) = \nu(g^{-1}ng) \quad (g \in G, \nu \in \widehat{N}, n \in N).$$

For each  $\nu \in \widehat{N}$ , we denote by  $G_\nu$  the stabilizer of  $\nu$ , that is,

$$G_\nu = \{g \in G ; g \cdot \nu = \nu\},$$

which is a closed subgroup of  $G$ . We define  $H_\nu = G_\nu \cap H$ . Then  $G_\nu = N \rtimes H_\nu$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{O}_\nu$  the  $G$ -orbit in  $\widehat{N}$  through  $\nu$  :

$$\mathcal{O}_\nu = \{g \cdot \nu, g \in G\}.$$

In this section, we construct the wavelet transforms associated to the unitary representation  $\pi$  after giving an irreducible decomposition of  $\pi$ .

For the study of irreducible subrepresentation of  $\pi$ , it is useful to introduce a unitary representation which is equivalent to  $\pi$ . We define the Fourier transform  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  by

$$\mathcal{F}f(\nu) = \widehat{f}(\nu) = \int_N \nu(n) f(n) dn \quad (\nu \in \widehat{N}).$$

Taking the conjugate of  $\pi$  by  $\mathcal{F}$ , we obtain the unitary representation  $\widehat{\pi} = \mathcal{F} \circ \pi \circ \mathcal{F}^{-1}$  on  $L^2(\widehat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$ . The representation  $\widehat{\pi}$  is described as

$$\widehat{\pi}(n, h)\varphi(\nu) = \nu(n)\delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}}\sigma(h)\varphi(h^{-1} \cdot \nu) \quad (\varphi \in L^2(\widehat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)). \quad (1)$$

Now let us assume the following [3, 8] :

(A1) The orbit space is *countably separated*, that is, there is a countable family  $\{E_j\}$  of  $G$ -invariant Borel set in  $\widehat{N}$  such that each orbit in  $\widehat{N}$  is the intersection of all the  $\{E_j\}$ 's that contain it.

(A2) For each  $\nu \in \widehat{N}$ , the map  $G/G_\nu \ni gG_\nu \mapsto g \cdot \nu \in \mathcal{O}_\nu$  is a homeomorphism.

(A3) Let  $\mu$  be the Plancherel measure on  $\widehat{N}$ . There exists elements  $\nu_k$  ( $k \in K$ ) of  $\widehat{N}$ , indexed by some set  $K$ , such that  $\mu(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}) > 0$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k} \cap \mathcal{O}_{\nu_{k'}} = \emptyset$  ( $k \neq k'$ ) and  $\mu(\widehat{N} \setminus \bigsqcup_{k \in K} \mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}) = 0$ .

(A4) The stabilizer  $H_{\nu_k} = \{h \in H ; h \cdot \nu_k = \nu_k\}$  at each  $\nu_k \in \widehat{N}$  is compact.

(A5) For every  $k \in K$ , the restriction  $\sigma|_{H_{\nu_k}}$  is multiplicity free. Namely, there exists a index set  $\Lambda_k$  such that  $\sigma|_{H_{\nu_k}} = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_k} \rho_\alpha$  and  $\rho_\alpha \not\cong \rho_{\alpha'}$  ( $\alpha \neq \alpha'$ ).

We say that  $G$  is *regular* if the two conditions (A1) and (A2) are satisfied. If  $\nu \in \widehat{N}$  and  $\rho$  is an irreducible representation of  $H_\nu$ , we define a unitary representation  $\nu \otimes \rho$  of  $G_\nu$  by

$$(\nu \otimes \rho)(n, h) = \nu(n)\rho(h) \quad (n \in N, h \in H_\nu).$$

**Theorem 2** ([3, Theorem 6.42]). *Suppose  $G$  is regular. If  $\nu \in \widehat{N}$  and  $\rho$  is an irreducible unitary representation of  $H_\nu$ , then  $\text{Ind}_{G_\nu}^G \nu \otimes \rho$  is an irreducible representation of  $G$ . Every irreducible unitary representation of  $G$  is equivalent to one of this form. Moreover,  $\text{Ind}_{G_\nu}^G \nu \otimes \rho$  and  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu'}}^G \nu' \otimes \rho'$  are equivalent if and only if  $\nu$  and  $\nu'$  belong to the same orbit, say  $\nu' = g \cdot \nu$ , and  $h \rightarrow \rho(h)$  and  $h \rightarrow \rho'(g^{-1}hg)$  are equivalent representation of  $H_\nu$ .*

The following theorem is useful in order to investigate whether  $\text{Ind}_{G_\nu}^G \nu \otimes \rho$  is square-integrable.

**Theorem 3** ([10, Theorem 2]). *Let  $\nu \in \widehat{N}$  and  $\rho$  be an irreducible unitary representation of  $H_\nu$ . The representation  $\text{Ind}_{G_\nu}^G \nu \otimes \rho$  is square-integrable if and only if  $\mu(\mathcal{O}_\nu) > 0$  and  $\rho$  is square-integrable.*

For  $k \in K$ , we regard  $L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  as a subspace of  $L^2(\widehat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  by zero extension. Thanks to (1), the space  $L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  is  $G$ -invariant. We denote by  $\widehat{\pi}_k$  the subrepresentation  $\widehat{\pi}|_{L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)}$ . By the assumption (A3), we have  $\widehat{\pi} = \bigoplus_{k \in K} \widehat{\pi}_k$ .

**Proposition 1.** *The unitary representation  $\widehat{\pi}_k$  is equivalent to  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \sigma|_{H_{\nu_k}}$ .*

*Proof.* We denote by  $\Pi_k$  the unitary representation  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \sigma|_{H_{\nu_k}}$ . Let  $q$  be the canonical quotient map from  $G$  to  $G_{\nu_k}$ . The unitary representation  $\Pi_k$  is the left-regular representation on the Hilbert space completion  $\widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma}$  of the space  $\mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma}$  defined by

$$\mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma} = \left\{ F : G \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_\sigma; \quad \begin{array}{l} q(\text{supp}F) \text{ is compact and} \\ F((n, h)(n', h')) = \nu_k(n')^{-1} \sigma(h')^{-1} F(n, h) \text{ for} \\ n, n' \in N, h \in H, h' \in H_{\nu_k} \end{array} \right\}$$

with the inner product

$$\langle F, F' \rangle = \int_{G/G_{\nu_k}} \langle F(g), F'(g) \rangle_\sigma d\mu_{G/G_{\nu_k}}(gG_{\nu_k}).$$

We define the map  $\Phi$  from  $\mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma}$  to  $L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  by

$$\Phi(F)(\nu) = \delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sigma(h) F(0, h) \quad (\nu = h \cdot \nu_k).$$

The inverse map  $\Phi^{-1}$  is given by

$$\Phi^{-1}\varphi(n, h) = \delta(h)^{-\frac{1}{2}} h \cdot \nu_k^{-1}(n) \sigma(h)^{-1} \varphi(h \cdot \nu_k).$$

The map  $\Phi$  extends to a unitary operator from  $\widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma}$  onto  $L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$ . Therefore, it suffices to show that  $\widehat{\pi}_k(n, h) \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \Pi_k(n, h)$  for all  $(n, h) \in G$ . For any  $F \in \mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma}$ , we have

$$\widehat{\pi}_k(n, h) \circ \Phi F(\nu) = \nu(n) \delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}} \sigma(h) \Phi(F)(h^{-1} \cdot \nu).$$

On the other hand, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Phi \circ \Pi_k(n, h)F(\nu) &= \delta(h')^{\frac{1}{2}}\sigma(h')\Pi_k(n, h)F(0, h') \\
&= \delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}}\sigma(h')\varphi(-h^{-1}n, h^{-1}h') \\
&= \delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}}h^{-1}h' \cdot \nu_k(h^{-1}n)\sigma(h)\Phi(F)(h^{-1}h' \cdot \nu_k) \\
&= \delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}}\nu(n)\sigma(h)\Phi(F)(h^{-1} \cdot \nu),
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\nu = h' \cdot \nu_k$ . Therefore we see that  $\Phi$  intertwines  $\widehat{\pi}_k$  and  $\Pi_k$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 2** ([3, Proposition 6.9]). *Let  $G'$  be a closed subgroup of  $G$ . If  $\{\tau_\beta\}$  is any family of unitary representations of  $G'$ , then  $\text{Ind}_{G'}^G(\bigoplus \tau_\beta)$  is equivalent to  $\bigoplus \text{Ind}_{G'}^G \tau_\beta$ .*

By Proposition 1 and Proposition 2, the unitary representation  $\widehat{\pi}_k$  is equivalent to  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$ . Combining Theorem 2 with the remarks following Theorem 3 and the assumption (A5), we see that  $\widehat{\pi}$  is multiplicity free and  $\widehat{\pi} = \bigoplus_{k \in K} \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$ . By Theorem 3, an irreducible unitary representation  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$  is square-integrable by the assumption (A4) because every irreducible unitary representation of a compact group is square-integrable. Therefore we obtain the following proposition :

**Proposition 3.** *Irreducible decomposition of the unitary representation  $\widehat{\pi}$  into  $\bigoplus_{k \in K} \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$  is multiplicity free. Moreover, for each  $k \in K$  and  $\alpha \in \Lambda_K$ , the induced representation  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$  is square-integrable.*

We construct the representation space of  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$ . By the assumption (A5),  $\sigma|_{H_{\nu_k}}$  is decomposed into  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_k} \rho_\alpha$  and each  $\rho_\alpha$  is finite dimensional representation on the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_{\rho_\alpha}$ . Therefore  $\mathcal{H}_\sigma$  is a direct sum of irreducible  $H_{\nu_k}$ -invariant subspaces, that is,

$$\mathcal{H}_\sigma = \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_k} \mathcal{H}_{\rho_\alpha}. \quad (2)$$

We define the invariant subspace  $\mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  of  $\mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma}$  by

$$\mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma,\alpha} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{L}_{k,\sigma} ; \varphi(n, h) \in \mathcal{H}_{\rho_\alpha}, \text{ a.a. } (n, h) \in G\}.$$

The Hilbert completion  $\widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  is the representation space of  $\text{Ind}_{G_{\nu_k}}^G \nu_k \otimes \rho_\alpha$ . By (2), the space  $\widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma}$  is decomposed as  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$ . Now we denote by  $\mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  the subspace  $\Phi(\widetilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma,\alpha})$  of  $L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$ .

**Lemma 1.** For any  $\nu \in \mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}$ , we define

$$\mathcal{H}_{\alpha,\nu} = \sigma(h)\mathcal{H}_{\rho_\alpha},$$

where  $\nu = h \cdot \nu_k$  ( $h \in H$ ). Then  $\mathcal{H}_{\alpha,\nu}$  is well-defined. Moreover  $\mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  is described as

$$\mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha} = \{\varphi \in L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma) ; \varphi(\nu) \in \mathcal{H}_{\alpha,\nu} \text{ a.a. } \nu\}.$$

*Proof.* For any element  $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  there exists  $F \in \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  such that  $\varphi = \Phi(F)$ . Then

$$\varphi(\nu) = \Phi(F)(\nu) = \delta(h)^{\frac{1}{2}}\sigma(h)\varphi(0, h) \in \sigma(h)\mathcal{H}_{\rho_\alpha},$$

therefore we have

$$\mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha} \subset \{F \in L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma) ; \varphi(\nu) \in \mathcal{H}_{\alpha,\nu} \text{ a.a. } \nu\}.$$

On the other hand, for any  $\varphi \in L^2(\mathcal{O}_{\nu_k}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  satisfying  $\varphi(\nu) \in \mathcal{H}_{\alpha,\nu}$  a.a.  $\nu$ , we have

$$\Phi^{-1}\varphi(n, h) = \delta(h)^{-\frac{1}{2}}h \cdot \nu_k(n)\sigma(h)\varphi(h \cdot \nu_k) \in \mathcal{H}_{\rho_\alpha}.$$

Therefore we see that  $\Phi^{-1}\varphi \in \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{k,\sigma,\rho}$ , so that  $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 4.** Irreducible decomposition of the space  $L^2(\hat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  into  $\bigoplus_{k \in K} \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  is multiplicity free.

Let us construct the wavelet transforms associated to  $\pi$ . We choose an admissible vector  $\varphi_{k,\alpha} \in \mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$  such that  $C_{\varphi_{k,\alpha}} = 1$  for each  $k$  and  $\alpha$ . We assume that

$$(A6) \quad \varphi = \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \varphi_{k,\alpha} \text{ converge in } L^2(\hat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma).$$

**Theorem 4.** Put  $f = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\varphi \in L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$ . We can define the map  $W_f$  from  $L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  to  $L^2(G)$  by

$$W_f\psi(g) = \langle \psi, \pi(g)f \rangle \quad (\psi \in L^2(\hat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)).$$

Then  $W_f$  is isometry, and for any  $\psi \in L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  we have

$$\psi = \int_G W_f\psi(g)\pi(g)f d\mu_G(g)$$

in the weak sense.

*Proof.* For any  $\psi = \mathcal{F}^{-1}\phi \in L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$  ( $\phi \in L^2(\widehat{N}, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$ ), we have

$$\int_G |W_f\psi(g)|^2 d\mu_G(g) = \int_G |\langle \psi, \pi(n, h)f \rangle|^2 d\mu_G(g) = \int_G |\langle \phi, \widehat{\pi}(n, h)\varphi \rangle|^2 d\mu_G(g).$$

By Proposition 4 and the orthogonality formula, the last term equals

$$\sum_{k \in K} \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \int_G |\langle \phi_{k,\alpha}, \widehat{\pi}(n, h)\varphi_{k,\alpha} \rangle|^2 d\mu_G(g),$$

where  $\phi = \sum_{k \in K} \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} \phi_{k,\alpha}$  ( $\phi_{k,\alpha} \in \mathcal{H}_{k,\sigma,\alpha}$ ). Theorem 1 tell us that the expression above equals

$$\sum_{k \in K} \sum_{\alpha \in \Lambda_K} C_{\varphi_{k,\alpha}} \langle \phi_{k,\alpha}, \phi_{k,\alpha} \rangle = \langle \phi, \phi \rangle = \langle \psi, \psi \rangle$$

since  $C_{\varphi_{k,\alpha}} = 1$ . Therefore we have

$$\int_G |W_f\psi(g)|^2 d\mu_G(g) = \langle \psi, \psi \rangle$$

for any  $\psi \in L^2(N, \mathcal{H}_\sigma)$ . Hence, Theorem 4 is proved.  $\square$

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