

# SÉMINAIRE N. BOURBAKI

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*Séminaire N. Bourbaki*, 1958, exp. n° 160, p. 319-326

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SOME APPLICATIONS OF INVARIANT DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

ON A SEMISIMPLE LIE ALGEBRA

by HARISH-CHANDRA

Let  $R$  and  $C$  be the fields of real and complex numbers respectively and  $E_0$  a vector space of finite dimension over  $R$ . We assume that there is given on  $E_0$  a real, non-degenerate, symmetric bilinear form  $\langle X, Y \rangle$  ( $X, Y \in E_0$ ). Let  $E$  denote the complexification of  $E_0$  and  $S(E)$  the symmetric algebra over  $E$ . By means of the above bilinear form, we can identify  $E$  with its dual. In this way any element of  $S(E)$  becomes a polynomial function on  $E$ . Now let  $C^\infty(E_0)$  denote the space of all indefinitely differentiable functions (with complex values) on  $E_0$ . For any  $X \in E_0$ , we define a differential operator  $\partial(X)$  on  $E_0$  as follows :

$$(\partial(X)f)(Y) = \left\{ \frac{d}{dt} f(Y + tX) \right\}_{t=0} \quad (f \in C^\infty(E_0), Y \in E_0, t \in R).$$

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be the algebra of all differential operators on  $E_0$ . The mapping  $X \rightarrow \partial(X)$  can obviously be extended uniquely to a homomorphism  $\partial$  of  $S(E)$  into  $\mathcal{L}$ . Thus for every  $p \in S(E)$ , we get a differential operator on  $E_0$ . Moreover  $p$ , being a polynomial function on  $E_0$ , is also a differential operator of order zero. Thus  $S(E)$  and  $\partial(S(E))$  are both subalgebras of  $\mathcal{L}$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{D}(E)$  the subalgebra of  $\mathcal{L}$  generated by  $S(E) \cup \partial(S(E))$ .  $\mathcal{D}(E)$  will be called the algebra of polynomial differential operators on  $E$ .

For any two elements  $p, q$  in  $S(E)$ , let  $\langle p, q \rangle$  denote the value of the polynomial function  $\partial(p)q$  at zero. It is easy to see that in this way we get an extension of our original bilinear form to a non-degenerate bilinear form on  $S(E)$ .

We fix the following notation. For any open set  $U$  in  $E_0$ ,  $C^\infty(U)$  denotes the space of all indefinitely differentiable functions on  $U$  and  $C_c^\infty(U)$  the subspace of  $C^\infty(U)$  consisting of those functions which vanish outside some compact subset of  $U$ . Moreover  $\mathcal{C}(U)$  is the space of those  $f \in C^\infty(U)$  such that

$$\nu_D(f) = \sup_{X \in U} |(Df)(X)| < \infty$$

for every  $D \in \mathcal{D}(E)$ . We topologise  $\mathcal{C}(U)$  by means of the seminorms  $\nu_D$  ( $D \in \mathcal{D}(E)$ ).

Now let  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  be a semisimple Lie algebra over  $R$ . Put  $\langle X, Y \rangle = \text{tr}(\text{ad } X \text{ ad } Y)$

$(X, Y \in \mathfrak{g}_0)$ , where  $X \rightarrow \text{ad } X$  is the adjoint representation of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ . Then the above procedure is applicable to  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ . Let  $G$  denote the connected component of 1 in the adjoint group of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ . Naturally  $G$  operates on the algebra  $\mathcal{C}$  of all differential operators on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  in the obvious way. Moreover since the fundamental bilinear form is invariant under  $G$ ,  $p^x$  is the function  $X \rightarrow p(x^{-1}X)$  ( $X \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ ) and  $\partial(p^x) = (\partial(p))^x$  ( $p \in S(\mathfrak{g})$ ,  $x \in G$ ). It is clear that  $\mathcal{D}(\mathfrak{g})$  is stable under the operations of  $G$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$  denote the set of those elements of  $\mathcal{D}(\mathfrak{g})$  which are invariant under  $G$ . Also let  $I^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$  denote the set of invariant functions in  $C^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$  (i.e. those  $f$  for which  $f(xX) = f(X)$  for all  $x \in G$  and  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ ). Then  $I^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$  is stable under any operator in  $\mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  be a Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ . For any  $f \in I^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ , let  $\bar{f}$  denote the restriction of  $f$  on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . Then for a fixed  $D \in \mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$ , we seek the relation between the two functions  $\bar{f}$  and  $\overline{Df}$  ( $f \in I^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ ).

Let  $\ell$  be the rank of  $\mathfrak{g}$ . An element  $X \in \mathfrak{g}$  is called regular if  $\text{ad } X$  takes the eigenvalue zero exactly with the multiplicity  $\ell$ . Let  $\mathfrak{g}'_0$  denote the set of all regular elements in  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  and put  $\mathfrak{h}'_0 = \mathfrak{g}'_0 \cap \mathfrak{h}_0$ . Then  $\mathfrak{g}'_0$  and  $\mathfrak{h}'_0$  are both open and dense subsets of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  and  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  respectively.

LEMMA 1. - For each  $D \in \mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$  there exists a unique differential operator  $\delta'(D)$  on  $\mathfrak{h}'_0$  such that

$$\overline{Df} = \delta'(D)\bar{f} \quad \text{on } \mathfrak{h}_0$$

for every  $f \in I^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ . Moreover  $D \rightarrow \delta'(D)$  is a homomorphism of  $\mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$  into the algebra of all differential operators on  $\mathfrak{h}'_0$

So now we have to determine the operator  $\delta'(D)$ . Let  $I(\mathfrak{g})$  denote the algebra of invariant elements in  $S(\mathfrak{g})$  so that  $I(\mathfrak{g}) = S(\mathfrak{g}) \cap \mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$ . Then  $I(\mathfrak{g})$  and  $\partial(I(\mathfrak{g}))$  are both subalgebras of  $\mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$ . Denote by  $\mathcal{F}(\mathfrak{g})$  the subalgebra of  $\mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$  generated by  $I(\mathfrak{g}) \cup \partial(I(\mathfrak{g}))$ . We intend to give an explicit formula for  $\delta'(D)$  in case  $D \in \mathcal{F}'(\mathfrak{g})$ . First of all notice that if  $p \in I(\mathfrak{g})$ , then  $\overline{pf} = \bar{p}\bar{f}$ . Hence  $\delta'(p) = \bar{p}$ . In view of the fact that  $\delta'$  is a homomorphism and  $\mathcal{F}(\mathfrak{g})$  is generated by  $I(\mathfrak{g})$  and  $\partial(I(\mathfrak{g}))$ , it is sufficient to determine  $\delta'(\partial(p))$  for  $p \in I(\mathfrak{g})$ .

The restriction of our fundamental bilinear form on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  is also non-degenerate. Hence we can take  $E_0 = \mathfrak{h}_0$  in our earlier set up. Then for any  $q \in S(\mathfrak{h})$ ,  $\partial(q)$  is a differential operator on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . Also  $\mathcal{D}(\mathfrak{h})$  is the algebra of all polynomial differential operators on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . Let  $W$  denote the Weyl group

of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{h}$ . Then  $W$  operates on  $\mathfrak{h}$  and therefore also on  $S(\mathfrak{h})$  and  $\mathfrak{D}(\mathfrak{h})$ . Moreover our bilinear form on  $\mathfrak{h}$  is invariant under  $W$ . Let  $\mathfrak{A}'(\mathfrak{h})$  denote the set of those elements in  $\mathfrak{D}(\mathfrak{h})$  which are invariant under  $W$ . Also put  $I(\mathfrak{h}) = S(\mathfrak{h}) \cap \mathfrak{A}'(\mathfrak{h})$ . Then CHEVALLEY has proved the following result (see [1], p. 10).

LEMMA 2 (CHEVALLEY). - The mapping  $p \rightarrow \bar{p}$  ( $p \in I(\mathfrak{g})$ ) is an isomorphism of  $I(\mathfrak{g})$  onto  $I(\mathfrak{h})$ .

Now introduce some lexicographic order among the roots of  $\mathfrak{g}$  with respect to  $\mathfrak{h}$  and let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_r$  be all the distinct positive roots under this order. Put  $\pi = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_r$ . Then  $\pi$  is a polynomial function on  $\mathfrak{h}$ .

LEMMA 3. - Let  $p$  be an element in  $I(\mathfrak{g})$ . Then  $\delta'(\partial(p)) = \pi^{-1} \partial(\bar{p}) \circ \pi$  (where  $\circ$  denotes the product of two differential operators). See [4], p. 98, for the proof.

Let  $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{h})$  denote the subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{A}'(\mathfrak{h})$  generated by  $I(\mathfrak{h}) \cup \partial(I(\mathfrak{h}))$ . Then it is easy to obtain the following theorem from lemmas 1, 2 and 3.

THEOREM 1. - There exists a unique homomorphism  $\delta$  of  $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{g})$  onto  $\mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{h})$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad & \delta(p) = \bar{p} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta(\partial(p)) = \partial(\bar{p}) \quad (p \in I(\mathfrak{g})) \\ \text{(ii)} \quad & \delta'(D) = \pi^{-1} \delta(D) \circ \pi \quad (D \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{g})). \end{aligned}$$

We shall now derive some consequences of this theorem. First consider the case when  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is compact (i.e. the quadratic form  $\langle X, X \rangle$  is negative definite on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ ). For any  $f \in C^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ , put

$$\Phi_f(H) = \pi(H) \int_G f(xH) dx \quad (H \in \mathfrak{h}_0)$$

where  $dx$  is the normalized Haar measure on  $G$ . It follows from theorem 1 that  $\Phi_{Df} = \delta(D)\Phi_f$  for  $D \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{g})$ . Hence in particular  $\Phi_{\partial(p)f} = \partial(\bar{p})\Phi_f$

( $p \in I(\mathfrak{g})$ ). Apply this in particular to the function  $f = e^{H_0}$  where  $H_0$  is a fixed element in  $\mathfrak{h}$ . (We recall that  $H_0$  is a linear function on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  and

(therefore  $f(X) = e^{\langle H_0, X \rangle}$  for  $X \in \mathfrak{g}_0$ ). Obviously  $\partial(p)f = p(H_0)f$  for any  $p \in S(\mathfrak{g})$ . Hence

$$\partial(\bar{p})\Phi_f = \Phi_{\partial(p)f} = p(H_0)\Phi_f \quad (p \in I(\mathfrak{g})).$$

Hence by Chevalley's theorem (Lemma 2),  $\partial(q)\Phi_f = q(H_0)\Phi_f$  for every  $q \in I(\mathfrak{h})$ . Let  $\chi$  be any homomorphism of  $I(\mathfrak{h})$  into  $\mathbb{C}$ . We consider the system of differential equations  $\partial(q)\Phi = \chi(q)\Phi$  ( $q \in I(\mathfrak{h})$ ) on a non-empty connected open set  $U$  of  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . First of all, one sees easily that this system always contains equations of the elliptic type. Hence every solution  $\Phi$  of this system is analytic. Let  $w$  be the order of the group  $W$ . It follows from a result of CHEVALLEY [2] that  $S(\mathfrak{h})$  is a free abelian module over  $I(\mathfrak{h})$  of rank  $w$ . Hence we can select  $u_1, \dots, u_w \in S(\mathfrak{h})$  such that  $\sum_{1 \leq i \leq w} I(\mathfrak{h})u_i = S(\mathfrak{h})$ . Therefore it is clear that if the derivatives  $\partial(u_i)\Phi$  vanish simultaneously at some point  $H$  of  $U$  for some solution  $\Phi$  of our system, all derivatives  $\partial(u)\Phi$  are zero at  $H$  and therefore  $\Phi$ , being analytic, is identically zero on  $U$ . Hence our system can have at most  $w$  linearly independent solutions. Now assume that  $H_0$  is regular. Then  $sH_0 \neq H_0$  for  $s \neq 1$  in  $W$ . Then  $e^{sH_0}$  ( $s \in W$ ) are  $w$  linearly independent solutions of the system  $\partial(q)\Phi = q(H_0)\Phi$  ( $q \in I(\mathfrak{h})$ ) on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . Therefore  $\Phi_f = \sum_{s \in W} c_s e^{sH_0}$  where  $c_s$  are constants. On the other hand it is known that  $\pi^2 \in I(\mathfrak{h})$  and therefore  $\pi^s = \xi(s)\pi$  ( $s \in W$ ) where  $\xi(s) = \pm 1$ . Moreover  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  being compact, for every  $s \in W$ , we can choose  $x \in G$  such that  $sH = xH$  for all  $H \in \mathfrak{h}$ . Hence it is obvious from its definition that  $\Phi_f(sH) = \xi(s)\Phi_f(H)$ . Therefore

$$\Phi_f = c \sum_{s \in W} \xi(s) e^{sH_0}$$

where  $c$  is a constant. On the other hand, it is obvious that

$$(\partial(\pi)\Phi_f)_{H=0} = \langle \pi, \pi \rangle f(0) = \langle \pi, \pi \rangle .$$

But  $\partial(\pi)e^{sH_0} = \xi(s)\pi(H_0)e^{sH_0}$ . Hence

$$\langle \pi, \pi \rangle = c \pi(H_0)w$$

and so we get the following result.

**THEOREM 2.** - Suppose  $G$  is compact. Then

$$\pi(H_0)\pi(H) \int_G e^{\langle H_0, xH \rangle} dx = w^{-1} \sum_{s \in W} \xi(s) e^{\langle H_0, sH \rangle}$$

for  $H_0, H \in \mathfrak{h}$ . (Here  $dx$  is the normalized Haar measure on  $G$ ).

We actually proved this result for  $H_0 \in \mathfrak{h}'_0$  and  $H \in \mathfrak{h}_0$ . But since both sides are holomorphic in  $H_0, H$  the more general case follows immediately.

For later use we also note the formula

$$(1) \quad (\partial(\pi)\bar{\Phi}_f)_{H=0} = \langle \pi, \pi \rangle f(0) \quad (f \in C^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0)) .$$

The proof is trivial.

Now we take up the more difficult case when  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is not compact so that the quadratic form  $\langle X, X \rangle$  is indefinite on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ . Let  $A$  be the Cartan subgroup of  $G$  corresponding to  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . (By definition,  $A$  is the centralizer of  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  in  $G$ ). We denote by  $x \rightarrow x^*$  the natural mapping of  $G$  on  $G^* = G/A$ . Put  $x^*H = xH$  ( $x \in G, H \in \mathfrak{h}_0$ ) and let  $dx^*$  denote the invariant measure on  $G^*$  (normalized in some fixed but arbitrary way). For any  $f \in C(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ , put

$$\bar{\Phi}_f(H) = \pi(H) \int_{G^*} f(x^*H) dx^* \quad (H \in \mathfrak{h}'_0)$$

Then it can be shown without difficulty that the integral converges for  $H \in \mathfrak{h}'_0$  and that  $\bar{\Phi}_f$  is of class  $C^\infty$  on  $\mathfrak{h}'_0$ . Again, we can conclude from theorem 1 that  $\bar{\Phi}_{Df} = \delta(D)\bar{\Phi}_f$  for all  $D \in \mathfrak{A}(\mathfrak{g})$  and so in particular  $\bar{\Phi}_{\partial(p)f} = \partial(\bar{p})\bar{\Phi}_f$  for  $p \in I(\mathfrak{g})$ . Now an important consequence of this relation is the following result (see [5], theorem 3, p. 225).

LEMMA 4. - For any  $f \in C(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ ,  $\bar{\Phi}_f$  lies in  $C(\mathfrak{h}'_0)$ . Moreover  $f \rightarrow \bar{\Phi}_f$  is a continuous mapping of  $C(\mathfrak{g}_0)$  into  $C(\mathfrak{h}'_0)$ .

The main point of interest here is the fact that  $\partial(q)\bar{\Phi}_f$  remains bounded on  $\mathfrak{h}'_0$  for every  $q \in \delta(\mathfrak{h})$ . The proof of this fact in the general case is rather complicated. So, as an illustration, let us consider the following example. Take  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  to be the Lie algebra of all  $2 \times 2$  real matrices with trace zero and  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  the Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  spanned over  $\mathbb{R}$  by the matrix  $H_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . Then  $A$  is compact and zero is the only singular point in  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . Hence we can write

$$\bar{\Phi}_f(\theta H_0) = 2i\theta \int_G f(\theta x H_0) dx \quad (f \in C_c^\infty(\mathfrak{g}_0), \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \theta \neq 0)$$

because  $\pi(H_0) = 2i$ . Put

$$F_f(\theta) = \theta \int_G f(\theta x H_0) dx \quad (\theta \neq 0) .$$

We have to show that  $\frac{d^k}{d\theta^k} F_f$  remains bounded around  $\theta = 0$  for every  $k \geq 0$ .

This is done as follows. Consider the polynomial  $\omega$  on  $\mathfrak{g}$  given by  $\omega(X) = \text{tr}(X^2)$  ( $X \in \mathfrak{g}$ ). Then  $\omega \in I(\mathfrak{g})$  and  $\omega(\theta H_0) = -2\theta^2$ . Therefore since  $\bar{\Phi}_{\partial(\omega)f} = \partial(\bar{\omega})\bar{\Phi}_f$ , we conclude that

$$\frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} F_f = -2 F_{\partial(\omega)} f .$$

Now first one proves by a crude estimate that there exists an integer  $n \geq 0$  with the property that  $c(f) = \sup_{\theta} |\theta^n F_f(\theta)| < \infty$  for every  $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathcal{Y}_0)$ . Assume now that  $n$  is the least possible such integer. We claim  $n = 0$ . For otherwise suppose  $n \geq 1$ . Then

$$\left| \frac{d^2}{d\theta^2} F_f \right| \leq 2 |F_{\partial(\omega)} f| \leq 2 |\theta|^{-n} c(\partial(\omega)f) .$$

Hence if  $n \geq 2$ , it follows easily by integration that

$$|F_f| \leq |\theta|^{2-n} c'(f)$$

where  $c'(f)$  is a positive constant depending on  $f$ . As this contradicts the choice of  $n$ , we must have  $n = 1$ . But since  $\log |\theta|$  is locally summable around  $\theta = 0$ , it follows by the same argument that  $|F_f| \leq c_1(f)$  where  $c_1(f)$  is another constant depending on  $f$ . Thus we again get a contradiction. Hence  $|F_f|$  remains bounded and therefore

$$\frac{d^{2k}}{d\theta^{2k}} F_f = (-2)^k F_{\partial(\omega)^k} f$$

also remains bounded for every  $k \geq 0$ . But then by integration we can conclude the same for

$$\frac{d^{2k-1}}{d\theta^{2k-1}} F_f \quad (k \geq 1)$$

The reasoning in the general case, although more complicated, is essentially the same.

Let  $dX$  and  $dH$  denote the Euclidean measures on  $\mathcal{Y}_0$  and  $\mathcal{H}_0$  respectively. For any  $f \in C(\mathcal{Y}_0)$  and  $g \in C(\mathcal{H}_0)$ , put

$$\tilde{f}(Y) = \int_{\mathcal{Y}_0} e^{i \langle Y, X \rangle} f(X) dX \quad (Y \in \mathcal{Y}_0)$$

$$\tilde{g}(H') = \int_{\mathcal{H}_0} e^{i \langle H', H \rangle} g(H) dH \quad (H' \in \mathcal{H}_0) .$$

Then, in the compact case, theorem 2 can be interpreted to mean that  $\tilde{\Phi}_f$  and  $\tilde{\Phi}_f$  are the same except for a constant factor which is independent of  $f$ . Similar but more complicated results hold when  $\mathcal{Y}_0$  is not compact (see [5], lemma 24). We give only one such result here (see [5] theorem 4, p. 247). Let  $K$  be a maximal compact subgroup of  $G$  and let  $dk$  denote the normalized Haar measure of  $K$ .

THEOREM 3. - Suppose  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  is contained in the Lie algebra of  $K$ . Then it follows easily that  $s\mathfrak{h}_0 = \mathfrak{h}_0$  for every  $s \in W$ . For any  $f \in \mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{h}_0)$ , put

$$\hat{f}(X) = \int_{K \times \mathfrak{h}_0} e^{i \langle X, kH \rangle} \pi(H)^2 \sum_{s \in W} f(sH) dk dH \quad (X \in \mathfrak{g}_0).$$

Then the integral

$$\Phi_f^\wedge(H) = \pi(H) \int_{\mathfrak{g}^*} \hat{f}(x^*H) dx^*$$

converges for  $H \in \mathfrak{h}_0$ . Moreover there exists a complex number  $c \neq 0$  such that

$$\sum_{s \in W} \varepsilon(s) \Phi_f^\wedge(sH') = c \int_{\mathfrak{h}_0} \sum_{s \in W} \varepsilon(s) e^{i \langle H', sH \rangle} \pi(H) f(H) dH$$

for all  $H' \in \mathfrak{h}'_0$  and  $f \in \mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{h}_0)$ .

The main object of this theory is to obtain the analogue of (1) in the non-compact case. Fix a connected component  $\mathfrak{h}'_1$  of  $\mathfrak{h}'_0$  and put

$$T(f) = \lim_{H \rightarrow 0} \partial(\pi) \Phi_f \quad (H \in \mathfrak{h}'_1)$$

for  $f \in \mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ . It follows from lemma 4 that this limit exists and that  $T$  is a distribution on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$ . The main task now is to show that  $T$  is a constant multiple of the  $\delta$ -distribution corresponding to the unit mass at the origin. Let  $\tilde{T}$  denote the Fourier transform of  $T$ . Then we have to prove that  $\tilde{T}$  is a constant. As before, let  $\mathfrak{g}'_0$  be the set of all regular elements of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  and  $\mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_2, \dots, \mathfrak{g}_N$  all the distinct connected components of  $\mathfrak{g}'_0$ . It follows without much difficulty (again by using theorem 1) that on each  $\mathfrak{g}_i$   $\tilde{T}$  coincides with a constant  $c_i$ . The main remaining difficulty is to show that  $c_1, \dots, c_N$  are all equal (see [5], paragraphe 7). This however requires considerable work and a rather detailed investigation [6]. The final result can be stated as follows.

THEOREM 4. - There exists a real number  $c$  such that

$$\lim_{H \rightarrow 0} \partial(\pi) \Phi_f = c f(0) \quad (H \in \mathfrak{h}'_0)$$

for every  $f \in \mathcal{C}(\mathfrak{g}_0)$ .

Actually it turns out that  $c = 0$  most of the time. Put  $\omega(X) = \langle X, X \rangle$ . Then  $\omega$  is a quadratic form on  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  and its restriction  $\bar{\omega}$  on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  is a quadratic form on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$ . Let  $\ell_-$  denote the number of negative eigen-values of  $\bar{\omega}$  (taking into account their multiplicity). Then we say that  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  is a fundamental



Cartan subalgebra of  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  if  $\ell_-$  has the maximum possible value. Any two fundamental Cartan subalgebras are conjugate under  $G$ . Moreover, the constant  $c$  of theorem 4 is different from zero, if and only if,  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  is fundamental. In view of the arbitrary normalization of the measure  $dx^*$  on  $G^*$ , it is only the sign of  $c$  which is of interest (in case  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  is fundamental). Let  $K$  be a maximal compact subgroup of  $G$ . Then  $c$  has the sign  $(-1)^q$  where

$$q = \frac{1}{2}(\dim G/K - \text{rank } G + \text{rank } K)$$

(see the remark at the end of [7]).

Theorem 4 had been announced by GELFAND and GRAEV [3] in the case of the Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  of all  $n \times n$  real matrices with trace zero. However the reasoning sketched by them appears to me to be incorrect because they seem to assume (or to assert) that  $\Phi_f$  (or rather  $\frac{|\pi|}{\pi} \Phi_f$ ) can always be extended to a function of class  $C^\infty$  on  $\mathfrak{h}_0$  (see the lines between equations (4) and (5) on p. 462 of [3]). This is false even in the case of the algebra of all  $2 \times 2$  real matrices with trace zero.

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