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Non-vanishing for group  $L^p$ -cohomology of solvable and semisimple Lie groups

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## NON-VANISHING FOR GROUP $L^p$ -COHOMOLOGY OF SOLVABLE AND SEMISIMPLE LIE GROUPS

BY MARC BOURDON & BERTRAND RÉMY

**ABSTRACT.** — We obtain non-vanishing of group  $L^p$ -cohomology of Lie groups for  $p$  large and when the degree is equal to the rank of the group. This applies both to semisimple and to some suitable solvable groups. In particular, it confirms that Gromov's question on vanishing below the rank is formulated optimally. To achieve this, some complementary vanishings are combined with the use of spectral sequences. To deduce the semisimple case from the solvable one, we also need comparison results between various theories for  $L^p$ -cohomology, allowing the use of quasi-isometry invariance.

**RÉSUMÉ** (Non-annulation de la cohomologie  $L^p$  pour les groupes résolubles et semi-simples)

Nous obtenons des résultats de non-annulation de la cohomologie  $L^p$  pour des groupes de Lie lorsque  $p$  est grand et quand le degré est égal au rang du groupe. Ces résultats s'appliquent à la fois aux groupes semi-simples et à certains groupes résolubles. En particulier, ils confirment que la question de Gromov concernant l'annulation en-dessous du rang est formulée de façon optimale. Pour obtenir ces résultats, des annulations complémentaires sont combinées à l'usage de suites spectrales. Afin de déduire le cas semi-simple du cas résoluble, nous utilisons également des comparaisons entre diverses versions de la cohomologie  $L^p$ , et nous appliquons l'invariance par quasi-isométrie.

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## INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with several variants of group  $L^p$ -cohomology, where  $p$  is a real number in  $(1, +\infty)$ .

The first one, the *continuous  $L^p$ -cohomology* of locally compact second countable groups  $G$ , is the continuous cohomology [BW00, Chap. IX] with coefficients in the right-regular representation on  $L^p(G)$ ; we denote it by  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G))$ . We also consider the associated *reduced continuous  $L^p$ -cohomology*, denoted by  $\overline{H}_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G))$  (it is the largest Hausdorff quotient of the previous one). It is known that both topological vector spaces  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G))$  and  $\overline{H}_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G))$  are invariant for the equivalence relation given by quasi-isometries between groups  $G$  as before when equipped with a left-invariant proper metric (see [BR20, Th. 1.1] and [SS18]).

One variant of  $L^p$ -cohomology makes sense for  $C^\infty$  manifolds: it is the *de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology*, denoted by  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(M)$  for a  $C^\infty$  manifold  $M$ . It was studied thoroughly by P. Pansu and, as the name suggests, it is defined by imposing  $L^p$ -integrability conditions on differential forms on the manifold (and on their differentials). There are also intermediate variants, for instance the *asymptotic  $L^p$ -cohomology* of suitable metric spaces, which elaborates on simplicial cohomology by adding  $L^p$ -integrability conditions; it is denoted by  $L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(X)$  for a suitable measured metric space  $(X, d, \mu)$ . Reduced quotients are also considered in these contexts.

When it makes sense, comparison results between these cohomologies are often available (see for instance [BR20], [SS18] and the appendix in this paper; again, this part owes a lot to P. Pansu's work).

Beyond these comparisons, our main goal remains to exhibit some sufficient conditions for vanishing and non-vanishing of  $L^p$ -cohomologies for topological groups, taking into account the degree of the cohomology space and the exponent  $p$ .

The topological groups we are considering in the present paper for these (non-)vanishing questions are connected Lie groups. This enables us to use many differential geometric and combinatorial tools. The most popular Lie groups are the semisimple ones, and this is the family about which we present the first results in this introduction, but we will see that we are quickly led to considering solvable non-unimodular groups. This is explained by the fact that some contraction arguments are crucial for our purposes, and this is made possible by the aforementioned quasi-isometric invariance of group  $L^p$ -cohomology combined with Iwasawa decompositions.

**0.1. SEMISIMPLE GROUPS AND QUASI-ISOMETRY INVARIANCE.** — Let us start with semisimple real Lie groups. Our work is motivated by the following question, asked by M. Gromov [Gro93, p. 253].

**QUESTION 0.1.** — *Let  $G$  be a semisimple real Lie group. We assume that*

$$\ell = \text{rk}_{\mathbf{R}}(G) \geq 2.$$

*Let  $k$  be an integer  $< \ell$  and  $p$  be a real number  $> 1$ . Do we have:  $H_{\text{ct}}^k(G, L^p(G)) = \{0\}$ ?*

In degree 1, a general result of Pansu [Pan07] and Cornuier-Tessera [CT11] shows that  $H_{\text{ct}}^1(G, L^p(G)) = \{0\}$  for every  $p > 1$  and every connected Lie group  $G$ , unless  $G$  is Gromov hyperbolic or amenable unimodular. In a previous paper, we obtained some partial vanishing results which lead to the latter result when the Lie groups are semisimple of rank  $\geq 2$ , and admissible in the sense that the solvable radical of some (maximal) parabolic subgroup is quasi-isometric to a real hyperbolic space [BR20, Cor. 1.6]. This result in degree 1 can also be proved via the fixed point property for continuous affine isometric actions of higher rank semisimple groups on  $L^p$ -spaces [BFGM07]. In general, we show in [BR20] the existence, for any admissible semisimple Lie group  $G$  and any  $p > 1$ , of an interval of degrees out of which the spaces  $H_{\text{ct}}^k(G, L^p(G))$  vanish.

Our main result in the present paper is complementary to Gromov's question; it is the following.

**THEOREM A.** — *Let  $G$  be a semisimple real Lie group with finite center and let  $\ell = \text{rk}_{\mathbf{R}}(G)$ .*

- (i) *We have:  $\overline{H_{\text{ct}}^\ell}(G, L^p(G)) \neq \{0\}$  for any large enough  $p > 1$ .*
- (ii) *For every  $k > \ell$ , we have:  $H_{\text{ct}}^k(G, L^p(G)) = \{0\}$  for any large enough  $p > 1$ .*

This result is proved thanks to the following line of arguments. We introduce an Iwasawa decomposition  $G = KAN$ . Geometrically, if  $X$  denotes the symmetric space of  $G$  and if  $F$  denotes the maximal flat attached to the maximal  $\mathbf{R}$ -split torus  $A$  in  $G$ , then the subgroup  $K$  can be chosen to be the stabilizer of a point in  $F$ ; the subgroup  $N$  consists of the unipotent elements in a parabolic subgroup defined by a regular element in the boundary  $\partial_\infty F$  of  $F$ . Since  $G$  has finite center, the group  $K$  is compact (it is in fact a maximal compact subgroup in  $G$ ). We have the following identifications:

$$H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G)) \simeq H_{\text{ct}}^*(AN, L^p(AN)) \simeq L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(AN) \simeq L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(AN),$$

and similar ones for reduced cohomology. The first identification comes from quasi-isometric invariance [BR20, Th. 1.1], the second one is a comparison between continuous  $L^p$ -cohomology and asymptotic  $L^p$ -cohomology proved in [BR20, Th. 3.6] and the last one is given here by Theorem A.1 (proved in the appendix). This reduction explains why the main part of the paper focuses on solvable Lie groups. The latter situation is investigated in the remaining two subsections of this introduction and it leads to the desired vanishing and non-vanishing results above. See Theorem D below for the conclusion of the argument.

Since the proof of our main result on semisimple groups is spread all over our paper, here is a summary of the strategy.

*Step 1: quasi-isometry invariance and Iwasawa decomposition.* — The decomposition  $G = KAN$  implies that  $G$  is quasi-isometric to the solvable group  $A \times N$ . Invariance of  $L^p$ -cohomology under quasi-isometric invariance then gives  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G)) = H_{\text{ct}}^*(AN, L^p(AN))$  and  $\overline{H_{\text{ct}}^*}(G, L^p(G)) = \overline{H_{\text{ct}}^*}(AN, L^p(AN))$ . We denote  $R = AN =$

$A \times N$  so that we have  $R \simeq \mathbf{R}^D$  where  $D$  is the dimension of the Riemannian symmetric space  $G/K$ , as well as  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^\ell$  where  $\ell$  is the real rank of  $G$ .

*Step 2: Poincaré duality and vanishing (after Pansu).* — Poincaré duality reduces the proof of Theorem A to showing that for  $p$  close enough to 1, we have  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}$  for every  $k < D - \ell$  and that  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R)$  is Hausdorff and non-zero. Arguments due to Pansu show that a certain contraction condition on the  $A$ -action on  $N$  (called (nC) in Theorem 0.2 below) implies the assertions about vanishing and Hausdorff property (see Corollary 2.4).

We concentrate now on the non-vanishing  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R) \neq \{0\}$ .

*Step 3: Actions of abelian groups on Heintze groups and spectral sequences.* — We pass now from the decomposition  $R = A \times N$  to the decomposition  $R = B \times (\{e^{t\xi}\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \times N)$  where  $\xi$  is given by condition (nC) as before,  $H = \{e^{t\xi}\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \times N$  is a Heintze group and  $B$  is a suitable (abelian) complement of  $\{e^{t\xi}\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}}$  in  $A$ . The motivation for the decomposition  $R = B \times H$  is the possibility to use a spectral sequences and the already proved vanishings to obtain the identification:  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R) \simeq L^p(B, L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(H))^B$ . We conclude by exhibiting  $L^p$  de Rham cohomology classes  $c$  on  $H$  such that the map  $b \mapsto \|b \cdot c\|_p$  belongs to  $L^p(B)$  for the  $B$ -action on  $c$  given by (pull-back of) conjugation by  $B$  on  $H$ . This is the content of the (technical) Proposition 3.2, which uses condition (nT), a condition of non-triviality required for the action of all elements in the Lie algebra of  $A$  (see Question 0.3 below).

Before we definitely move to the framework of solvable groups, let us mention the case when  $p = 2$  for semisimple groups. This situation is more directly relevant to representation theory and was considered by A. Borel decades ago [Bor85]. The main results are:

- $\overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{ct}}^k(G, L^2(G)) = 0$  unless  $k = D/2$ ,
- $\mathbf{H}_{\text{ct}}^k(G, L^2(G)) \neq 0$  at least for  $k \in (D/2 - \ell_0/2, D/2 + \ell_0/2]$ ,

where  $D$  is the dimension of the Riemannian symmetric space  $G/K$  and  $\ell_0$  is the difference between the complex rank of  $G$  and the complex rank of  $K$ . In the case  $G = \text{SL}_n(\mathbf{R})$ , one has  $D = (n^2 + n - 2)/2$  and  $\ell_0 = \lfloor (n - 1)/2 \rfloor$ . See also [BFS14] for related results about vanishing of the reduced  $L^2$ -cohomology. Since the dimension  $D$  is a quadratic polynomial in the rank of the group  $G$ , A. Borel's results show that the assumption that  $p$  should be large enough in our results is necessary.

**0.2. SOLVABLE GROUPS AND CONTRACTIONS.** — As explained above, we are henceforth dealing with solvable Lie groups until the end of the introduction. The following result on cohomology vanishing is a consequence of [Pan99, Cor. 53]:

**THEOREM 0.2.** — *Let  $R$  be a connected Lie group of the form  $A \times N$  with  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^\ell$  and  $\ell \geq 1$ . Let  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{n}$  be the Lie algebras of  $A$  and  $N$ , respectively. Suppose that the group  $R$  satisfies the following contraction property:*

(nC) *there exists an element  $\xi \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that all the eigenvalues of  $\text{ad } \xi|_{\mathfrak{n}}$  have negative real parts.*

Then for  $p > 1$  large enough and for all  $k > \ell$ , we have the vanishings:

$$L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}.$$

Note that the assumptions force  $N$  to be nilpotent and contractible, and  $R$  to be solvable, non-unimodular and diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ , where  $D = \dim(R)$  (the notation  $D$  is consistent with the previous one on dimensions of symmetric spaces by Iwasawa decomposition). We also mention the fact that condition (nC) already appears in N. Varopoulos' paper [Var96, OV.3 p. 799].

We address here the following question:

**QUESTION 0.3.** — *Let  $R$  be a solvable connected Lie group as in the previous theorem, satisfying in particular condition (nC). Suppose additionally that  $R$  satisfies the following non-triviality condition:*

(nT) *for every non-trivial  $X \in \mathfrak{a}$ , the operator  $\text{ad } X|_{\mathfrak{n}}$  admits an eigenvalue with non-zero real part.*

*Do we have  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^\ell(R) \neq \{0\}$  for  $p > 1$  large enough?*

If we denote by  $\text{sp}(u)$  the spectrum (in the field of complex numbers) of an endomorphism  $u$  of a finite-dimensional real vector space, the above conditions can be reformulated as follows:

(nC) there exists  $\xi \in \mathfrak{a}$  such that  $\text{sp}(\text{ad } \xi|_{\mathfrak{n}}) \subset \mathbf{R}_-^\times \oplus i\mathbf{R}$ ,

(nT) for every  $X \in \mathfrak{a} \setminus \{0\}$ , we have:  $\text{sp}(\text{ad } X|_{\mathfrak{n}}) \cap (\mathbf{R}^\times \oplus i\mathbf{R}) \neq \emptyset$ .

Condition (nC)+(nT) forces  $N$  to be the nilpotent radical of  $R$ . When  $\ell = 1$ , condition (nC) implies trivially condition (nT); moreover the groups  $R$  that satisfy (nC) form precisely the class of connected Lie groups that carry a left-invariant Riemannian metric of negative curvature [Hei74]. For them, it is known that Question 0.3 admits a positive answer [Pan07, CT11]. The goal of the paper is to enlarge the family of groups for which Question 0.3 is known to have a positive answer. In Section 4, we prove two non-vanishing results described below. Note that at least since we are using spectral sequences techniques, vanishing results are also useful in the proof of non-vanishing ones; this explains why condition (nC) is made before condition (nT).

The first positive result makes a commutativity assumption on the nilpotent radical of the solvable group.

**THEOREM B.** — *The answer to Question 0.3 is yes, if one assumes in addition that  $N \simeq \mathbf{R}^n$  with  $n \geq 1$ .*

The second positive result makes a rank assumption on the solvable group, i.e., a dimension assumption on the quotient of the group by its nilpotent radical.

**THEOREM C.** — *The answer to Question 0.3 is yes, if one assumes in addition that  $\ell = 2$ , i.e., if  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^2$ .*

Fundamental examples of groups satisfying conditions (nC) and (nT) are provided by the groups  $AN$  that appear in the Iwasawa decompositions  $KAN$  of the semisimple Lie groups with finite center.

**THEOREM D.** — *The answer to Question 0.3 is yes for the groups  $AN$  that appear in the Iwasawa decompositions  $KAN$  of the semisimple Lie groups with finite center.*

Together with the reduction contained in Section 0.1, the latter result proves Theorem A on semisimple groups.

**0.3. SKETCH OF PROOF OF THE NON-VANISHING THEOREMS.** — Recall that  $D = \dim(R)$ . By Poincaré duality (see Proposition 1.11), proving vanishing and non-vanishing as stated in Theorem 0.2 and Question 0.3, is equivalent to showing that for  $p > 1$  close enough to 1:

- (1)  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}$  for every  $k < D - \ell$ ,
- (2)  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R)$  is Hausdorff and non-zero.

The assumption on the existence of  $\xi \in \mathfrak{a}$  satisfying condition (nC), in combination with Pansu's results on  $L^p$ -cohomology [Pan99, Pan08, Pan09], imply that item (1) holds, as well as the Hausdorff property in item (2) (see Corollary 2.4 for a proof).

It remains to establish that  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R) \neq \{0\}$ . For that, we use  $\xi$  as in condition (nC) in order to decompose  $R$  as follows. Write  $\mathfrak{a} = \mathbf{R}\xi \oplus \mathfrak{b}$ , where the second factor is  $\mathfrak{b} := \{X \in \mathfrak{a} : \text{trace}(\text{ad } X) = 0\}$ , the Lie algebra of a connected Lie subgroup  $B < A$  isomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^{D-1}$ . Then  $R$  can be expressed as  $R = B \times H$ , with  $H = \{e^{t\xi}\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \times N$ . Again the assumption on  $\xi$  and Pansu's results on  $L^p$ -cohomology, give a precise rather simple description of the  $L^p$ -cohomology of  $H$  for  $p > 1$  close to 1 – see Corollaries 2.4 and 2.5. In particular the above items (1) and (2) hold for  $H$ , in other words  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(H)$  vanishes for  $k < \dim(H) - 1 = D - \ell$ , and  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(H)$  is Hausdorff and non-zero.

Now, by using a spectral sequence argument taken from [BR20] – see Corollary 6.10, we obtain a linear isomorphism:

$$(0.4) \quad L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R) \simeq L^p(B, L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(H))^B,$$

where  $B$  acts by translations on itself and by conjugacy on  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(H)$ . The  $B$ -invariance implies that the right hand side space is isomorphic to

$$\left\{ \psi \in L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(H) : \int_B \|C_b^*(\psi)\|^p db < +\infty \right\},$$

where  $C_b$  denotes the conjugation by  $b \in B$ . Under the assumptions (nC) and (nT), we give a criterion to ensure that the latter space is non-zero (see Proposition 3.2). Finally we show that the groups in Theorems B, C and D satisfy the criterion.

It is worth mentioning that the above strategy would answer affirmatively Question 0.3 in full generality, if the following question admitted a positive answer:

QUESTION 0.5. — Let  $N$  be a connected simply connected nilpotent Lie group. Let  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_k$  be non-trivial left-invariant vector fields on  $N$ . Does  $N$  admit a non-zero, compactly supported,  $C^1$  function  $f : N \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ , whose integral along every orbit of  $X_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, k$ ) is null?

When the fields commute or when  $k = 2$ , we answer affirmatively Question 0.5 – see Lemmas 4.2 and 4.1.

#### 0.4. REMARKS AND QUESTIONS

(1) We suspect that Condition (nT) in Question 0.3 is a necessary condition. For example if  $\mathfrak{a}$  contains a non-trivial vector  $X_0$  such that  $\text{ad } X_0|_{\mathfrak{n}}$  is *semisimple* with imaginary eigenvalues, then one has  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}$  for every  $k \geq 0$  and  $p > 1$ . To see this, observe that for such an  $X_0$  the operator  $\text{ad } X_0$  acting on  $\text{Lie}(R)$  is skew-symmetric. Therefore, the left-invariant vector field associated to  $X_0$  is a Killing vector field on  $R$ . Moreover, its flow acts properly on  $R$  (since it does on  $A$ ). These properties, in combination with Poincaré duality, imply vanishing of  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R)$  in every degree – see [Pan08, Proof of Prop. 15].

(2) Cornulier told us that conditions (nC) and (nT) should admit geometric characterizations. He claims that a simply connected solvable Lie group satisfies condition (nC) if and only if its asymptotic cone (one or every) is bi-Lipschitz homeomorphic to a CAT(0)-space. Moreover, he thinks that condition (nT) should be equivalent to the non-existence of direct  $\mathbf{R}$ -factor in the asymptotic cone. In the same vein, we notice that the rank  $\ell$  of a condition (nC) group is equal to the dimension of its asymptotic cone, see [Cor08, Th. 1.1].

(3) Nice examples of groups satisfying condition (nC) are provided by Lie groups that carry a left-invariant non-positively curved Riemannian metric; although these two classes of groups do not exactly coincide (see [AW76, Th. 7.6]).

(4) Cornulier advertised us of the following potentially interesting quasi-isometric invariant:

$$p(R) := \inf \{ p > 1 \mid L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^\ell(R) \neq \{0\} \},$$

for groups  $R$  of rank  $\ell$  that satisfy conditions (nC) and (nT). (In case the right side set is void we set  $p(R) = +\infty$ ). Similarly is defined the invariant  $\bar{p}(R)$  associated to the reduced  $L^p$ -cohomology. When  $\ell = 1$ , these invariants have been considered and computed by Pansu [Pan07] (see also [CT11] for related results).

ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER. — Section 1 is a brief presentation of results on de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology of manifolds mainly due to P. Pansu. Section 2 applies these results to the case of Lie groups, and Section 3 provides a general non-vanishing criterion in terms of spectra of adjoint actions on solvable groups. Section 4 then applies the criterion to prove our first two non-vanishing results, namely Theorems B and C above. Section 5 is dedicated to semisimple Lie groups: it shows, by combinatorial arguments using Cartan's classification of Riemannian symmetric spaces, that the



solvable subgroups arising from Iwasawa decompositions do satisfy the previous criterion; Theorem D follows. Section 6 deals with semi-direct products and allows the use of spectral sequences, modulo a comparison result between cohomologies, available when the involved groups are diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$  and which is proved in the appendix.

*Acknowledgements.* — We thank Pierre Pansu: the present paper elaborates on several of his ideas and results. We thank Yves Cornuier for useful remarks and questions.

## 1. DE RHAM $L^p$ -COHOMOLOGY

Pansu's work on de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology is dense and subtle. In this section, we extract from his papers [Pan08, Pan09] the ideas and results that are needed in the sequel. Since [Pan09] is not published yet, and because we only need special cases which require simpler arguments, we include full proofs of the statements. We hope that this section could also serve as a gentle introduction to the subject.

1.1. DEFINITIONS. — Let  $M$  be a  $C^\infty$  Riemannian manifold. We denote by  $d \operatorname{vol}$  its Riemannian measure, and by  $|v|$  the Riemannian length of a vector  $v \in TM$ . For  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ , let  $\Omega^k(M)$  be the space of  $C^\infty$  differential  $k$ -forms on  $M$ .

Let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ . The  $L^p$ -norm of  $\omega \in \Omega^k(M)$  is

$$\|\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k} = \left( \int_M |\omega|_m^p d \operatorname{vol}(m) \right)^{1/p},$$

$$\text{where } |\omega|_m := \sup\{|\omega(m; v_1, \dots, v_k)| : v_1, \dots, v_k \in T_m M, |v_i| = 1\}.$$

We denote by  $L^p\Omega^k(M)$  the norm completion of the normed space  $\{\omega \in \Omega^k(M) : \|\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k} < +\infty\}$ , i.e., the Banach space of  $k$ -differential forms with measurable  $L^p$  coefficients.

Let also

$$\|\omega\|_{\Omega^{p,k}} := \|\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k} + \|d\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1}}.$$

One defines  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$  to be equal to the norm completion of the normed space

$$\{\omega \in \Omega^k(M) : \|\omega\|_{\Omega^{p,k}} < +\infty\}.$$

By construction  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$  is a Banach space and the standard differential operator extends to a bounded operator

$$d_k : \Omega^{p,k}(M) \longrightarrow \Omega^{p,k+1}(M),$$

which satisfies  $d \circ d = 0$ .

DEFINITION 1.1. — The *de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology* of  $M$  is the cohomology of the complex  $\Omega^{p,0}(M) \xrightarrow{d_0} \Omega^{p,1}(M) \xrightarrow{d_1} \Omega^{p,2}(M) \xrightarrow{d_2} \dots$ . It will be denoted by  $L^p\mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^*(M)$ . Its largest Hausdorff quotient is denoted by  $L^p\overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{dR}}^*(M)$  and is called the *reduced de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology* of  $M$ .

REMARK 1.2. — According to [GT06, Th. 12.8], the inclusion map

$$\{\omega \in \Omega^*(M) : \|\omega\|_{\Omega^{p,*}} < +\infty\} \subset \Omega^{p,*}(M)$$

induces a topological isomorphism in cohomology. Therefore, every element in  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^*(M)$  can be represented by a smooth form. In particular, when  $M$  is a compact manifold, its de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology coincides with the standard de Rham cohomology.

1.2. VANISHING. — Let  $\varphi : M \rightarrow M$  be a  $C^\infty$  map and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ . We denote by  $\varphi^* : \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^k(M)$ ,  $\omega \mapsto \varphi^*(\omega)$ , the associated linear map. In case it induces a bounded operator  $\varphi^* : L^p\Omega^k(M) \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k(M)$ , we denote its operator norm by  $\|\varphi^*\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k}$ . Otherwise we set  $\|\varphi^*\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} = +\infty$ . We define similarly  $\|\varphi^*\|_{\Omega^{p,k} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k}}$ .

Let  $\xi$  be a  $C^\infty$  unit complete vector field on  $M$ , and let  $(\varphi_t)_{t \in \mathbf{R}}$  be its flow. We assume that  $\varphi_t^* : L^p\Omega^k(M) \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k(M)$  is bounded for every  $t \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ . For  $k \in \mathbf{N}^*$ , let  $\iota_\xi : \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(M)$  be the inner product with  $\xi$ . We observe that  $\varphi_t^* \circ \iota_\xi = \iota_\xi \circ \varphi_t^*$ . Moreover,  $\iota_\xi$  contracts the norms  $\|\cdot\|_{L^p\Omega^*}$ ; indeed  $|\iota_\xi \omega|_m \leq |\omega|_m$ , since  $|\xi|_m = 1$  by assumption.

LEMMA 1.3. — For  $t \geq 0$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}^*$ , the linear map:  $B_t^k : \Omega^k(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(M)$  defined by

$$B_t^k(\omega) = \int_0^t \varphi_s^*(\iota_\xi \omega) ds,$$

induces a bounded linear operator from  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$  to  $\Omega^{p,k-1}(M)$ , still denoted by  $B_t^k$ , that satisfies the following homotopy relation

$$d \circ B_t^k + B_t^{k+1} \circ d = \varphi_t^* - \text{id},$$

and whose operator norm satisfies

$$\|B_t^k\|_{\Omega^{p,k} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}} \leq \|\varphi_t^* - \text{id}\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} + \int_0^t \|\varphi_s^*\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} ds.$$

*Proof.* — For smooth forms the homotopy relation holds as a standard application of the classical Cartan formula

$$\mathcal{L}_\xi = d \circ \iota_\xi + \iota_\xi \circ d$$

(see e.g. [GHL04, Prop. 1.121] for this formula). Indeed for  $\omega \in \Omega^k(M)$  one has

$$\varphi_t^*(\omega) - \omega = \int_0^t \frac{d}{ds}(\varphi_s^*\omega) ds = \int_0^t \varphi_s^*(\mathcal{L}_\xi \omega) ds = dB_t^k(\omega) + B_t^{k+1}(d\omega).$$

We will prove that  $B_t^k$  is a bounded linear operator from  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$  to  $\Omega^{p,k-1}(M)$ . Since smooth forms are dense in  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$  the homotopy formula will remain valid in  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$ .

For  $\omega \in \Omega^k(M)$ , one has by definition

$$\|B_t^k(\omega)\|_{\Omega^{p,k-1}} = \|B_t^k(\omega)\|_{L^p\Omega^{k-1}} + \|dB_t^k(\omega)\|_{L^p\Omega^k}.$$

From the homotopy relations we get that

$$\begin{aligned} \|B_t^k(\omega)\|_{\Omega^{p,k-1}} &\leq \|B_t^k\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{k-1}} \cdot \|\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k} \\ &\quad + \|\varphi_t^* - \text{id}\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \cdot \|\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k} \\ &\quad + \|B_t^{k+1}\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \cdot \|d\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\varphi_s^* \circ \iota_\xi = \iota_\xi \circ \varphi_s^*$ , and since the maps  $\iota_\xi : L^p\Omega^*(M) \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{*-1}(M)$  are contracting, one has

$$\|B_t^*\|_{L^p\Omega^* \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{*-1}} \leq \int_0^t \min\{\|\varphi_s^*\|_{L^p\Omega^{*-1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{*-1}}, \|\varphi_s^*\|_{L^p\Omega^* \rightarrow L^p\Omega^*}\} ds.$$

The expected upper bound for  $\|B_t^k\|_{\Omega^{p,k} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}}$  follows easily. □

We now establish a vanishing result.

**PROPOSITION 1.4** ([Pan08, Prop. 10]). — *Let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}^*$ . Suppose that there exists  $C, \eta > 0$ , such that for every  $t \geq 0$ :*

$$\max_{i=k-1, k} \|\varphi_t^*\|_{L^p\Omega^i \rightarrow L^p\Omega^i} \leq Ce^{-\eta t}.$$

Then  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^k(M) = \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* — First, the assumption (with  $i = k$ ) and the previous lemma imply that the operators  $B_t^k : \Omega^{p,k}(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}(M)$  are bounded independently of  $t \geq 0$ . Secondly, the assumption (with  $i = k - 1$ ) implies that  $\|\varphi_t^*\|_{\Omega^{p,k-1} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}} \rightarrow 0$ , when  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . We claim that these two observations imply that  $B_t^k$  converges in norm to an operator  $B_\infty^k : \Omega^{p,k}(M) \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}(M)$ , when  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . Indeed, by using a change of variable, one has for  $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2$ :

$$B_{t_2}^k - B_{t_1}^k = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \varphi_s^* \circ \iota_\xi ds = \varphi_{t_1}^* \circ B_{t_2-t_1}^k.$$

Thus the above observations yield:

$$\|B_{t_2}^k - B_{t_1}^k\|_{\Omega^{p,k} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}} \leq \|\varphi_{t_1}^*\|_{\Omega^{p,k-1} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}} \cdot \|B_{t_2-t_1}^k\|_{\Omega^{p,k} \rightarrow \Omega^{p,k-1}} \rightarrow 0$$

when  $t_1, t_2$  tend to  $+\infty$ . Thus the claim follows from completeness.

Now let  $\omega \in \Omega^{p,k}(M) \cap \ker d$ . From the homotopy relations in the previous lemma, we have for every  $t \geq 0$

$$dB_t^k(\omega) = \varphi_t^*(\omega) - \omega.$$

By letting  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ , we obtain the following relation in  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$

$$dB_\infty^k(\omega) = -\omega.$$

Therefore,  $\omega \in d\Omega^{p,k-1}$  and thus  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^k(M) = \{0\}$ . □

**1.3. IDENTIFICATION.** — We relate the  $L^p$ -cohomology of  $M$  with the cohomology of certain complexes of currents (Proposition 1.9). In some cases, this will lead to non-vanishing cohomology. See [DS05] for a nice introduction to the theory of currents.

Another point of view for  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$ . — Let  $D = \dim(M)$ . Let  $\Omega_c^k(M)$  be the space of compactly supported  $C^\infty$  differential  $k$ -forms, endowed with the  $C^\infty$  topology. A  $k$ -current on  $M$  is by definition a continuous real valued linear form on  $\Omega_c^{D-k}(M)$ . We denote by  $\mathcal{D}^k(M)$  the space of  $k$ -currents on  $M$  endowed with the weak\*-topology.

The differential of a  $k$ -current  $T$  is the  $(k + 1)$ -current  $dT$  defined by  $dT(\alpha) := (-1)^{k+1}T(d\alpha)$ , for every  $\alpha \in \Omega_c^{D-k-1}(M)$ . It defines a map  $d$  satisfying  $d \circ d = 0$ .

To every  $\omega \in L^p\Omega^k(M)$ , one associates the  $k$ -current  $T_\omega$  defined by  $T_\omega(\alpha) := \int_M \omega \wedge \alpha$ . The differential in the sense of currents of  $\omega \in L^p\Omega^k(M)$  is the  $(k+1)$ -current  $d\omega := dT_\omega$ . One says that  $d\omega$  belongs to  $L^p\Omega^{k+1}(M)$  if there exists  $\theta \in L^p\Omega^{k+1}(M)$  such  $d\omega = T_\theta$ . These definitions are consistent with the Stokes formula:

$$\int_M d\omega \wedge \alpha = (-1)^{k+1} \int_M \omega \wedge d\alpha.$$

We will use the following characterization of the space  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$ :

LEMMA 1.5. — The space  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$  is equal to the subspace of  $L^p\Omega^k(M)$  consisting of the  $L^p$   $k$ -forms whose differentials in the sense of currents belong to  $L^p\Omega^{k+1}(M)$ . Moreover, the differential operator  $d$  on  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$  agrees with the differential in the sense of currents.

Proof. — Since convergence in  $L^p$  implies convergence in the sense of currents,  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$  is contained in space of  $L^p$   $k$ -forms whose differentials in the sense of currents belong to  $L^p$ . The proof of the reverse inclusion is based on a regularization process: according to [GT06, Th.12.5] there exists a family of operators  $R_\varepsilon$ , such that for every  $L^p$   $k$ -form  $\omega$  whose differential in the sense of currents belongs to  $L^p$ , one has:

- (1)  $R_\varepsilon\omega$  is a  $C^\infty$   $k$ -form on  $M$ ,
- (2)  $dR_\varepsilon\omega = R_\varepsilon d\omega$ ,
- (3)  $\|R_\varepsilon\omega - \omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k}$  and  $\|R_\varepsilon d\omega - d\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1}}$  tends to 0 when  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ .

These properties imply that  $\omega$  belongs to  $\Omega^{p,k}(M)$ . □

The complexes  $\Psi^{p,*}(M)$  and  $\Psi^{p,*}(M, \xi)$ . Following [Pan09], we introduce two complexes of currents.

DEFINITION 1.6. — For  $p \in (1, +\infty)$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ , let  $\Psi^{p,k}(M)$  be the space of  $k$ -currents  $\psi \in \mathcal{D}^k(M)$  that can be written  $\psi = \beta + d\gamma$ , with  $\beta \in L^p\Omega^k(M)$  and  $\gamma \in L^p\Omega^{k-1}(M)$ . In particular  $\Psi^{p,0}(M) = L^p(M)$ . For  $\psi \in \Psi^{p,k}(M)$ , let

$$\|\psi\|_{\Psi^{p,k}} = \inf \left\{ \|\beta\|_{L^p\Omega^k} + \|\gamma\|_{L^p\Omega^{k-1}} : \psi = \beta + d\gamma, \right. \\ \left. \text{with } \beta \in L^p\Omega^k(M) \text{ and } \gamma \in L^p\Omega^{k-1}(M) \right\}.$$

LEMMA 1.7. —  $\|\cdot\|_{\Psi^{p,k}}$  is a norm on  $\Psi^{p,k}(M)$ . With this norm  $\Psi^{p,k}(M)$  is a Banach space. The inclusion maps  $L^p\Omega^k(M) \subset \Psi^{p,k}(M) \subset \mathcal{D}^k(M)$  are continuous. The differentials in the sense of currents induce continuous operators  $d_k : \Psi^{p,k}(M) \rightarrow \Psi^{p,k+1}(M)$ , that satisfy  $d \circ d = 0$ .

*Proof.* — To see that  $\|\cdot\|_{\Psi^{p,k}}$  is a norm, we only need to check that  $\|\psi\|_{\Psi^{p,k}} = 0$  implies  $\psi = 0$ . This is a consequence of the following inequality. Let  $\psi = \beta + d\gamma \in \Psi^{p,k}(M)$ , then by Hölder inequality one has for every  $\alpha \in \Omega_c^{D-k-1}(M)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(\alpha)| &= \left| \int_M \beta \wedge \alpha + (-1)^{k+1} \int_M \gamma \wedge d\alpha \right| \\ &\leq \|\beta\|_{L^p\Omega^k} \cdot \|\alpha\|_{L^q\Omega^{D-k}} + \|\gamma\|_{L^p\Omega^{k-1}} \cdot \|d\alpha\|_{L^q\Omega^{D-k+1}}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $1/p + 1/q = 1$ . It also shows that the inclusion map  $\Psi^{p,k}(M) \subset \mathcal{D}'^k(M)$  is continuous. The continuity of  $L^p\Omega^k(M) \subset \Psi^{p,k}(M)$  is obvious. To show the completeness, one notices that  $\Psi^{p,k}(M)$  is isometric to  $L^p\Omega^k(M) \times L^p\Omega^{k-1}(M)/E$ , where  $E$  is the subspace

$$E := \{(\beta, \gamma) \mid \beta + d\gamma = 0\}.$$

Since  $\|\cdot\|_{\Psi^{p,k}}$  is a norm,  $E$  is a closed subspace. Since  $L^p\Omega^k(M) \times L^p\Omega^{k-1}(M)$  is a Banach space, the quotient space is Banach too. Finally the last statement in the lemma is obvious.  $\square$

Let  $\xi$  be a  $C^\infty$  unitary complete vector field on  $M$ , and denote its flow by  $\varphi_t$ . We suppose that it induces a bounded linear operator  $\varphi_t^* : L^p\Omega^k(M) \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k(M)$ , for every  $t \in \mathbf{R}$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ . Then it induces an automorphism of the complex  $\Psi^{p,*}(M)$  whose operator norm satisfies

$$\|\varphi_t^*\|_{\Psi^{p,k} \rightarrow \Psi^{p,k}} \leq \max_{i=k-1,k} \|\varphi_t^*\|_{L^p\Omega^i \rightarrow L^p\Omega^i}.$$

DEFINITION 1.8. — For  $p \in (1, +\infty)$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ , we set

$$\Psi^{p,k}(M, \xi) = \{\psi \in \Psi^{p,k}(M) : \varphi_t^*(\psi) = \psi \text{ for every } t \in \mathbf{R}\}.$$

The complex  $\Psi^{p,*}(M, \xi)$  is a closed subcomplex of  $\Psi^{p,*}(M)$ . Let

$$\mathcal{Z}^{p,k}(M, \xi) = \text{Ker}(d : \Psi^{p,k}(M, \xi) \longrightarrow \Psi^{p,k+1}(M, \xi))$$

be the space of  $k$ -cocycles.

The next proposition elaborates on [Pan08, Prop.10]. It is also a special case of [Pan09, Cor. 12].

PROPOSITION 1.9. — Let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ . Suppose that there exists  $C, \eta > 0$  such that for every  $t \geq 0$ , one has

$$\max_{i=k-1,k} \|\varphi_t^*\|_{L^p\Omega^i \rightarrow L^p\Omega^i} \leq Ce^{-\eta t}.$$

(When  $i = -1$ , we set  $L^p\Omega^{-1} := \{0\}$ .) Then there is a canonical Banach isomorphism

$$L^p\mathbb{H}_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M) \simeq \mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi),$$

in particular  $L^p\mathbb{H}_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M)$  is Hausdorff.

*Proof.* — The proof is divided into several steps.

(1) We define a bounded linear map

$$P : \Omega^{p,k+1}(M) \cap \text{Ker } d \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$$

as follows. Consider the operators  $B_t^*$  defined in Lemma 1.3. We claim that the operators  $B_t^{k+1} : L^p\Omega^{k+1}(M) \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k(M)$  converge in norm to an operator  $B_\infty^{k+1}$ , when  $t$  tends to  $+\infty$ . Indeed from its definition one has

$$\|B_t^{k+1}\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \leq \int_0^t \|\varphi_s^*\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} ds.$$

Thus our assumption implies that  $B_t^{k+1}$  is bounded independently of  $t \geq 0$ . Moreover, one has  $B_{t_2}^{k+1} - B_{t_1}^{k+1} = \varphi_{t_1}^* \circ B_{t_2-t_1}^{k+1}$  for  $0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2$ . With our assumption we get that:

$$\|B_{t_2}^{k+1} - B_{t_1}^{k+1}\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \leq \|\varphi_{t_1}^*\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \cdot \|B_{t_2-t_1}^{k+1}\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \longrightarrow 0$$

when  $t_1, t_2 \rightarrow +\infty$ . The claim follows from completeness.

Let  $\omega \in \Omega^{p,k+1}(M) \cap \text{Ker } d$ . For  $t \geq 0$  one has thanks to Lemma 1.3:

$$\varphi_t^*(\omega) = \omega + dB_t^{k+1}(\omega).$$

By letting  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ , and by using the fact that  $\Omega^{p,k+1}(M) \cap \text{Ker } d \subset L^p\Omega^{k+1}(M)$ , the claim implies that  $\varphi_t^*(\omega)$  converges in  $\Psi^{p,k+1}(M)$  to the current  $\omega_\infty := \omega + dB_\infty^{k+1}(\omega)$ .

We set  $P(\omega) := \omega_\infty$ . Since the maps  $d$  and  $\varphi^*$  are continuous on  $\Psi^{p,k+1}(M)$ , one has  $d\omega_\infty = 0$  and  $\varphi_t^*(\omega_\infty) = \omega_\infty$ . Therefore,  $P(\omega)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$ . Moreover,  $P$  is continuous; indeed

$$\|P\| \leq 1 + \|B_\infty^{p,k+1}\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k}.$$

(2)  $P(\omega) = 0$  implies  $[\omega] = 0$  in  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M)$ : If  $\omega_\infty = 0$ , one has  $\omega = -dB_\infty^{k+1}(\omega)$  with  $B_\infty^{k+1}(\omega) \in L^p\Omega^k(M)$ . Therefore, by Lemma 1.5 one has  $[\omega] = 0$ .

(3)  $P$  is surjective: Let  $\psi \in \mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$ . Then there exists  $\beta \in L^p\Omega^{k+1}(M)$  and  $\gamma \in L^p\Omega^k(M)$  such that  $\psi = \beta + d\gamma$  and  $d\beta = 0$ . By Lemma 1.5, one has  $\beta \in \Omega^{p,k+1}(M) \cap \text{Ker } d$ , and:

$$\beta_\infty = \beta + dB_\infty^{k+1}(\beta) = \psi + d(B_\infty^{k+1}(\beta) - \gamma).$$

Since  $\psi$  and  $\beta_\infty$  are both  $\varphi_t^*$ -invariant, so is  $d(B_\infty^{k+1}(\beta) - \gamma)$ . But by our assumption, one has  $\|\varphi_t^*\|_{\Psi^{p,k} \rightarrow \Psi^{p,k}} \leq Ce^{-\eta t}$ , and thus:

$$\varphi_t^*(d(B_\infty^{k+1}(\beta) - \gamma)) = d(\varphi_t^*(B_\infty^{k+1}(\beta) - \gamma)) \longrightarrow 0$$

when  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ . Therefore, we get that  $d(B_\infty^{k+1}(\beta) - \gamma) = 0$ , and so  $\psi = \beta_\infty \in \text{Im } P$ .

(4)  $[\omega] = 0$  implies  $P(\omega) = 0$ : Suppose that  $\omega = d\alpha$  with  $\alpha \in \Omega^{p,k}(M)$ . Then

$$\omega_\infty = d\alpha + dB_\infty^{k+1}(\omega) = d(\alpha + B_\infty^{k+1}(\omega)),$$

with  $\alpha + B_\infty^{k+1}(\omega) \in \Psi^{p,k}(M)$ . The argument in point (3) yields that  $d(\alpha + B_\infty^{k+1}(\omega)) = 0$ . Thus  $\omega_\infty = 0$ .

(5) Conclusion: Items (1) and (4) show that  $P$  induces a continuous homomorphism from  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M)$  to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$ ; and items (2) and (3) that it is bijective. In particular  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M)$  is Hausdorff and thus a Banach space. By Lemma 1.7, the space  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$  is Banach too. Therefore, Banach Theorem completes the proof.  $\square$

1.4. NON-VANISHING. — The next proposition is a non-vanishing result which complements Proposition 1.9. It is a special case of [Pan09, Cor. 32].

Observe that the space  $\text{Ker}(\iota_\xi : L^p \Omega^*(M) \rightarrow L^p \Omega^{*-1}(M))$  is  $\varphi_t^*$ -invariant, since  $\iota_\xi$  and  $\varphi_t^*$  commute.

PROPOSITION 1.10. — *Let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$  and  $k \in \{0, \dots, D-2\}$  where  $D = \dim M$ . Suppose that  $(\varphi_t)_{t \in \mathbf{R}}$  acts properly on  $M$  and that there exists  $C, \eta > 0$  such that for  $t \geq 0$ :*

$$\|\varphi_t^*\|_{L^p \Omega^k \rightarrow L^p \Omega^k} \leq C e^{-\eta t},$$

$$\text{and } \|\varphi_{-t}^*\|_{L^p \Omega^{k+1} \cap \text{Ker } \iota_\xi \rightarrow L^p \Omega^{k+1} \cap \text{Ker } \iota_\xi} \leq C e^{-\eta t}.$$

(Note the opposite signs in front of  $t$  in the left side members). Then  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$  is non-trivial.

*Proof.* — Since  $(\varphi_t)_{t \in \mathbf{R}}$  acts properly on  $M$ , every orbit admits an invariant open neighborhood  $U \simeq \mathbf{R} \times V$  on which  $\varphi_t$  acts like a translation along the  $\mathbf{R}$  factor. In the sequel we suppose that such an orbit neighborhood has been chosen.

Pick a non-trivial  $\varphi_t$ -invariant form  $\alpha \in \Omega^k(M) \cap \text{Ker } \iota_\xi$  which is supported in  $U$ . Since  $k \in \{0, \dots, D-2\}$ , we can choose  $\alpha$  so that  $d\alpha \neq 0$ . Set  $\psi := d\alpha$ . We claim that  $\psi \in \mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$ .

Let  $\chi$  be a  $C^\infty$  function on  $U \simeq \mathbf{R} \times V$ , depending only on the  $\mathbf{R}$ -variable, and such that  $\chi(t) = 0$  for  $t \leq 0$  and  $\chi(t) = 1$  for  $t \geq 1$ . One has  $\alpha = \chi \cdot \alpha + (1 - \chi) \cdot \alpha$ , and thus:

$$\psi = \beta + d\gamma \quad \text{with } \beta = d(\chi \cdot \alpha) = d\chi \wedge \alpha + \chi \cdot d\alpha \text{ and } \gamma = (1 - \chi) \cdot \alpha.$$

The form  $d\chi \wedge \alpha$  has compact support. The form  $d\alpha$  belongs to  $\text{Ker } \iota_\xi$ , thanks to the formula  $\mathcal{L}_\xi = d \circ \iota_\xi + \iota_\xi \circ d$ . Since the restriction of  $d\alpha$  to  $[0, 1] \times V$  belongs to  $L^p$ , the assumption on the norm of  $\varphi_{-t}^*$  implies that the restriction of  $d\alpha$  to  $[0, +\infty) \times V$  belongs to  $L^p$  too. Therefore,  $\beta \in L^p \Omega^{k+1}(M)$ .

Since the restriction of  $\alpha$  to  $[0, 1] \times V$  belongs to  $L^p$ , the assumption on the norm of  $\varphi_t^*$  implies that the restriction of  $\alpha$  to  $(-\infty, 0] \times V$  belongs to  $L^p$  too. Therefore,  $\gamma \in L^p \Omega^k(M)$ .  $\square$

1.5. POINCARÉ DUALITY. — Parts of vanishing and non-vanishing results for  $L^p$ -cohomology rely on the following version of Poincaré duality.

PROPOSITION 1.11. — *Let  $M$  be a complete oriented Riemannian manifold of dimension  $D$ . Let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ ,  $q = p/(p-1)$  its Hölder conjugate, and  $k \in \{0, \dots, D\}$ . Then*

$$- L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(M) \text{ is Hausdorff if and only if } L^q H_{\text{dR}}^{D-k+1}(M) \text{ is.}$$

–  $L^p\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(M)$  and  $L^q\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-k}(M)$  are dual Banach spaces. Thus  $L^p\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(M) = \{0\}$  if and only if  $L^q\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-k}(M) = \{0\}$ .

*Proof.* — See [Pan08, Cor. 14] or [GT10]. □

### 1.6. EXAMPLES AND COMPLEMENTS

(1) Let  $M$  be a complete connected Riemannian manifold of infinite volume and dimension  $D$ , and let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ ,  $q = p/(p-1)$ . It is obvious that  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^0(M) = \{0\}$ . By Poincaré duality (Proposition 1.11) this implies that  $L^q\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^D(M) = \{0\}$ . In another hand, again by Poincaré duality,  $L^qH_{\text{dR}}^D(M)$  is Hausdorff if and only if  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^1(M)$  is. When  $M$  admits a complete unit vector field whose flow expands exponentially the volume of  $M$ , then  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^1(M)$  is Hausdorff for every  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ . Indeed this follows from Proposition 1.9 applied with  $k = 0$ . This shows in particular that any connected non-unimodular Lie group  $G$  of dimension  $D$  satisfies  $L^qH_{\text{dR}}^D(G) = \{0\}$  for every  $q \in (1, +\infty)$ . In fact, Pansu in [Pan07, Th. 1] shows that for any non-compact connected Lie group  $G$ , either  $L^pH_{\text{dR}}^1(G)$  is Hausdorff or  $G$  is amenable unimodular. See also [Tes09] for generalizations to topological groups.

(2) Under assumptions of Proposition 1.9, one has  $\|\varphi_t^*\|_{\Psi^{p,k} \rightarrow \Psi^{p,k}} \rightarrow 0$  when  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ , and thus  $\Psi^{k,p}(M, \xi) = \{0\}$ . Therefore, the conclusion of Proposition 1.9 can be stated as  $L^p\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M) \simeq H^{k+1}(\Psi^{p,*}(M, \xi))$ . In [Pan09, Th. 4], Pansu establishes a general result that relates the  $L^p$ -cohomology of  $M$  with the cohomology of  $\Psi^{p,*}(M, \xi)$ .

(3) Suppose  $M$  is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R} \times N$  and that  $\xi = \partial/\partial t$  is the unit vector field carried by the  $\mathbf{R}$ -factor. Let  $\pi : M \rightarrow N$  be the projection, and let  $\pi^* : \mathcal{D}^i(N) \rightarrow \mathcal{D}^i(M)$  be the continuous extension of the pull-back map  $\pi^* : \Omega^i(N) \rightarrow \Omega^i(M)$ . Then, under the assumptions of Proposition 1.9, one can prove that every  $\psi \in \mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$  can be written as  $\psi = \pi^*(T)$ , with  $T \in \mathcal{D}^{k+1}(N) \cap \text{Ker } d$ . In other words, one has

$$\mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi) = \pi^*(\mathcal{D}^{k+1}(N) \cap \text{Ker } d) \cap \Psi^{p,k+1}(M).$$

Therefore, the isomorphism  $L^p\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M) \simeq \mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$  can be interpreted by viewing  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$  as a “boundary values” space for the cohomology classes in  $L^p\overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(M)$ . See [Pan09] for more information along these lines.

## 2. THE LIE GROUP CASE

This section collects applications of the previous results to Lie groups. It will serve as a main tool in the paper.

Let  $G$  be a connected Lie group equipped with a left-invariant Riemannian metric. Let  $D = \dim(G)$  and let  $\mathfrak{g}$  be its Lie algebra. As usual the left and right multiplications by  $g \in G$  are denoted  $L_g$  and  $R_g$ , and we let  $C_g = L_g \circ R_{g^{-1}}$  be the conjugacy by  $g$ . Given a unit vector  $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we will still denote by  $\xi$  the associated left-invariant vector field on  $G$ . Its flow is  $\varphi_t = R_{\exp t\xi}$ .

The following result is implicit in [Pan99], see in particular [Pan99, Cor. 53] and [Pan99, Prop. 57].



**PROPOSITION 2.1.** — *Let  $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$  and suppose that its flow acts properly on  $G$ . Let  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda_2 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_D$  be the real parts of the eigenvalues of  $(-\text{ad } \xi) \in \text{End}(\mathfrak{g})$ , enumerated with their multiplicities in their generalized eigenspaces. We denote by  $w_k = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i$  the sum of the  $(k + 1)$  first ones, and by  $W_k = \sum_{j=1}^k \lambda_{D-j+1}$  the sum of the  $k$  last ones. Let  $h = \sum_{i=1}^D \lambda_i$  be the trace of  $(-\text{ad } \xi)$ , and suppose that  $h > 0$ . Let  $k \in \{0, \dots, D - 1\}$ .*

- (1) *If  $1 < p < h/W_k$ , then  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(G) = \{0\}$ .*
- (2) *Under the same assumptions, the space  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(G)$  is Hausdorff and Banach isomorphic to  $Z^{p,k+1}(M, \xi)$ .*
- (3) *If  $1 \leq h/w_{k+1} < p < h/W_k$ , then  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^{k+1}(G) \neq \{0\}$ .*

*(When  $k = 0$ , we set  $W_0 := 0$  and  $h/W_0 := +\infty$ .)*

**REMARK 2.2.** — The above proposition applies to non-unimodular Lie groups only (but no solvability or semi-simplicity assumption is made). Indeed the trace of  $\text{ad } \xi$  is supposed to be non-zero.

*Proof.* — (1) and (2). To obtain vanishing and identification of the cohomology from Propositions 1.4 and 1.9, we need to control the norm of  $\varphi_t^* : L^p \Omega^*(G) \rightarrow L^p \Omega^*(G)$ , for  $t \geq 0$ . Let  $k \in \{0, \dots, D - 1\}$  and  $\omega \in \Omega^k(G)$ . Suppose first that  $\omega$  is left-invariant. Then  $\varphi^*(\omega)$  is left-invariant too. In particular their norms  $|\omega|_g$  and  $|\varphi_t^*(\omega)|_g$  are independent of  $g \in G$ . We have

$$\varphi_t^*(\omega) = R_{\exp t\xi}^*(\omega) = L_{\exp -t\xi}^*(R_{\exp t\xi}^*(\omega)) = C_{\exp -t\xi}^*(\omega).$$

Moreover, for  $X_1, \dots, X_k \in \mathfrak{g}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} C_{\exp -t\xi}^*(\omega)(X_1, \dots, X_k) &= \omega(\text{Ad}(\exp -t\xi)X_1, \dots, \text{Ad}(\exp -t\xi)X_k) \\ &= \omega(e^{-t \text{ad } \xi} X_1, \dots, e^{-t \text{ad } \xi} X_k). \end{aligned}$$

In other words, by identifying the space of left-invariant  $k$ -forms with  $\Lambda^k \mathfrak{g}^*$ , we get that  $C_{\exp -t\xi}^*(\omega) = (e^{-t \text{ad } \xi})^*(\omega)$ .

Observe that  $W_k$  is the largest real part of the eigenvalues of  $(-\text{ad } \xi)^*$  acting on  $\Lambda^k \mathfrak{g}^*$ . Thus for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a constant  $C = C(\varepsilon, k) > 0$  such that for all  $\omega \in \Lambda^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  and  $t \geq 0$ , one has

$$|\varphi_t^*(\omega)| \leq C e^{(W_k + \varepsilon)t} |\omega|.$$

Now let  $\omega$  be any element of  $\Omega^k(G)$  (it is not supposed to be left-invariant anymore). Pick a basis  $(\theta_I)$  of  $\Lambda^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  seen as the space of left-invariant  $k$ -forms on  $G$ . Then  $\omega$  decomposes uniquely as  $\omega = \sum_I f_I \theta_I$ , where  $f_I \in \Omega^0(G)$ . Since the norms on  $\Lambda^k \mathfrak{g}^*$  are all equivalent, there exists a constant  $D = D(k) > 0$  such that for every  $\omega \in \Omega^k(G)$  and  $g \in G$ :

$$D^{-1} \left( \sum_I |f_I(g)|^p \right)^{1/p} \leq |\omega|_g \leq D \left( \sum_I |f_I(g)|^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

On the other hand, for  $t \geq 0$ :

$$|\varphi_t^*(\omega)|_g = \left| \sum_I f_I \circ \varphi_t \cdot \varphi_t^*(\theta_I) \right|_g \leq C \sum_I |(f_I \circ \varphi_t)(g)| e^{(W_k + \varepsilon)t}.$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\varphi_t^*(\omega)\|_{L^p\Omega^k}^p &= \int_G |\varphi_t^*(\omega)|_g^p d \operatorname{vol}(g) \leq C^p e^{p(W_k + \varepsilon)t} \int_G \sum_I |(f_I \circ \varphi_t)(g)|^p d \operatorname{vol}(g) \\ &= C^p e^{p(W_k + \varepsilon)t} \int_G \sum_I |f_I(h)|^p \operatorname{Jac}(\varphi_t^{-1})(h) d \operatorname{vol}(h) \\ &= C^p e^{p(W_k + \varepsilon - h/p)t} \int_G \sum_I |f_I(h)|^p d \operatorname{vol}(h) \\ &\leq C^p D^p e^{p(W_k + \varepsilon - h/p)t} \|\omega\|_{L^p\Omega^k}^p, \end{aligned}$$

since the Jacobian of  $\varphi_t$  is  $e^{ht}$ . Finally, by letting  $E := CD$ , one obtains that

$$\|\varphi_t^*\|_{L^p\Omega^k \rightarrow L^p\Omega^k} \leq E e^{(W_k + \varepsilon - h/p)t}.$$

Suppose that  $k \geq 1$  and  $1 < h/W_k$ . Then, just from their definitions, one sees that  $0 \leq W_{k-1} \leq W_k < h$  (recall that  $h > 0$  by assumption). This implies that  $W_k + \varepsilon - h/p < 0$  for  $1 < p < h/W_k$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough; and that the same holds with  $W_{k-1}$  instead of  $W_k$ . We conclude then by using Propositions 1.4 and 1.9.

Suppose that  $k = 0$ . Then  $W_0 + \varepsilon - h/p = \varepsilon - h/p < 0$  for  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough. Thus we can conclude as well by using Propositions 1.4 and 1.9.

(3) To prove non-vanishing of the cohomology by using Propositions 1.9 and 1.10, we need in addition to control the norm of

$$\varphi_{-t}^* : L^p\Omega^{k+1}(G) \cap \operatorname{Ker} \iota_\xi \longrightarrow L^p\Omega^{k+1}(G) \cap \operatorname{Ker} \iota_\xi,$$

for  $t \geq 0$ .

The group  $(\varphi_{-t})_{t \in \mathbf{R}}$  is the flow of the vector field  $-\xi$ . The real parts of the eigenvalues of  $\operatorname{ad} \xi$  are  $-\lambda_D \leq -\lambda_{D-1} \leq \dots \leq -\lambda_1$ . The sum of the  $(k+2)$  last ones is  $-w_{k+1}$ ; and the trace of  $\operatorname{ad} \xi$  is  $-h$ . We notice that  $\xi$  is an eigenvector of eigenvalue 0. By assumption one has  $w_{k+1} > 0$ ; thus the eigenvalue 0 appears in the list  $\lambda_1 \leq \dots \leq \lambda_{k+2}$ , whose sum is  $w_{k+1}$ . Therefore,  $-w_{k+1}$  is largest real part of the eigenvalues of  $(\operatorname{ad} \xi)^*$  acting on  $(\Lambda^{k+1}\mathfrak{g}^*) \cap \operatorname{Ker} \iota_\xi$ .

By the same argument as in the first part of the proof, one obtains that for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there is a constant  $E' = E'(\varepsilon, k) > 0$ , such that for every  $t \geq 0$ :

$$\|\varphi_{-t}^*\|_{L^p\Omega^{k+1} \cap \operatorname{Ker} \iota_\xi \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{k+1} \cap \operatorname{Ker} \iota_\xi} \leq E' e^{(-w_{k+1} + \varepsilon + h/p)t}.$$

For  $p > h/w_{k+1}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  small enough, one has  $-w_{k+1} + \varepsilon + h/p < 0$ . We conclude by using Propositions 1.9 and 1.10.  $\square$

EXAMPLE 2.3. — Let  $R = \mathbf{R} \rtimes_\alpha \mathbf{R}^{D-1}$  with  $\alpha : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \operatorname{GL}(\mathbf{R}^{D-1})$  defined by  $\alpha(t) = e^t \cdot \operatorname{id}$ . Then  $R$  is isometric to the real hyperbolic space  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathbf{R}}^D$ . Consider the vector field  $\partial/\partial t$ . The linear map  $\operatorname{ad}(\partial/\partial t)$  is the projection on the  $\mathbf{R}^{D-1}$  factor. Put  $\xi = -\partial/\partial t$ . The list of the eigenvalues of  $(-\operatorname{ad} \xi)$  is  $0 = \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 = \dots = \lambda_D = 1$ . For every  $k \in \{0, \dots, D-1\}$  one has  $w_k = W_k = k$ . Moreover,  $h = D-1$ . Therefore, the

above proposition applied in combination with Poincaré duality (Proposition 1.11), shows that for  $k \in \{1, \dots, D-1\}$ :

- $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}$  for  $1 < p < (D-1)/k$  or  $p > (D-1)/(k-1)$ .
- If  $(D-1)/k < p < (D-1)/(k-1)$ , then  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R) \neq \{0\}$  and is Banach isomorphic to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,k}(M, \xi)$ .

Moreover, by Section 1.6(1), one has  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^0(R) = L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^D(R) = \{0\}$  for every  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ .

Apart for the above example, and few other ones, the  $L^p$ -cohomology is only partially known. In the sequel we will use the following consequences of Proposition 2.1.

**COROLLARY 2.4.** — *Suppose that  $R$  is a connected Lie group of the form  $R = A \rtimes N$ , with  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^\ell$  and  $\ell \geq 1$ , that satisfies the contraction condition (nC) of the introduction (for a given  $\xi$  in the Lie algebra of  $A$ ). Let  $D = \dim(R)$ . Then, with the notations of Proposition 2.1, the numbers  $w_\ell, W_{D-1-\ell}$  belongs to  $(0, h)$ , and we have:*

- If  $1 < p < h/W_{D-1-\ell}$ , then  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}$  for all  $k < D - \ell$ .
- Under the same assumption, the space  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R)$  is Hausdorff and Banach isomorphic to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p, D-\ell}(R, \xi)$ .
- If  $p > h/w_\ell$ , then  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(R) = \{0\}$  for all  $k > \ell$ .

*Proof.* — By condition (nC), the list of the real parts of the eigenvalues of  $(-\text{ad } \xi)$  is of the form

$$0 = \lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_\ell < \lambda_{\ell+1} \leq \dots \leq \lambda_D.$$

Thus, one has  $0 < W_k \leq W_{D-1-\ell} < h$  for every  $k < D - \ell$ . By Proposition 2.1 the first two items follow. The last one is a consequence of the previous ones in combination with Poincaré duality (Proposition 1.11). It holds for  $p$  larger than the Hölder conjugate of  $h/W_{D-\ell-1}$ , i.e., for  $p > h/w_\ell$  (since  $W_{D-\ell-1} + w_\ell = h$ ). Note that  $w_\ell = \lambda_{\ell+1}$ .  $\square$

In the special case  $\ell = 1$ , one gets in addition:

**COROLLARY 2.5.** — *Let  $R$  be as in the previous corollary, and assume in addition that  $\ell = 1$ . If  $1 < p < h/W_{D-2}$ , then  $L^p \mathbf{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-1}(R)$  is non-trivial.*

*Proof.* — With the notations of Proposition 2.1, we have:  $0 < W_{D-2} < w_{D-1} < h$ . Thus the result follows from Proposition 2.1, applied with  $k = D - 2$ .  $\square$

### 3. A NON-VANISHING CRITERION

Let  $R$  be a connected Lie group of the form  $R = A \rtimes N$  with  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^\ell$  and  $\ell \geq 1$ , that satisfies conditions (nC) and (nT) of the introduction. As explained in Section 0.3, it decomposes as  $R = B \rtimes H$  and the analysis of  $L^p \overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{dR}}^\ell(R)$  – for large  $p$  and  $\ell = \dim(A)$  – reduces to the study of the action of  $B$  on  $L^p \overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(H)$  for  $p$  close to 1. The goal of this section is to give a sufficient condition on this action (Proposition 3.2), to ensure non-vanishing of  $L^p \overline{\mathbf{H}}_{\text{dR}}^\ell(R)$  for large  $p$  (Corollary 3.4).

As an application we will prove Theorems B, C and D in the next two sections. We keep the objects and notations of Section 0.3. Recall that the Lie algebra of  $A$  is denoted by  $\mathfrak{a}$ , and that the Lie algebra of  $B$  is  $\mathfrak{b} = \{X \in \mathfrak{a} : \text{trace}(\text{ad } X) = 0\}$ . The group  $H$  is defined by  $H = \{e^{t\xi}\}_{t \in \mathbf{R}} \times N$ , where  $\xi \in \mathfrak{a}$  is a vector that satisfies condition (nC).

As in the statement of Proposition 2.1, we consider the real parts of the eigenvalues of  $(-\text{ad } \xi)$  acting on the Lie of  $R$ . Since  $\xi$  satisfies condition (nC), one has

$$0 = \lambda_1 = \dots = \lambda_\ell < \lambda_{\ell+1} \leq \dots \leq \lambda_D.$$

Recall that  $w_k := \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i$  denotes the sum of the  $(k + 1)$  first ones, and  $W_k := \sum_{j=1}^k \lambda_{D-j+1}$  the sum of the  $k$  last ones. The trace of  $(-\text{ad } \xi)$  is  $h := \sum_{i=1}^D \lambda_i$ .

We also set  $n := D - \ell = \dim(N)$ , and we denote by  $\pi$  the projection  $\pi : H \rightarrow N$  and by  $\text{vol}$  the Riemannian volume form on  $N$ .

**3.1. INTERPOLATION.** — Our first result is a quantitative version of Proposition 1.10. It shows that the norm  $\|\cdot\|_{\Psi^{p,n}(H)}$  interpolates (in some sense) between  $\|\cdot\|_{L^p\Omega^n(N)}$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(N)}$ .

**LEMMA 3.1.** — *For every  $p$  such that  $1 < p < h/W_{n-1}$ , there exist constants  $a, b, C > 0$ , such that for every  $\theta \in \Omega^{p,n-1}(N)$  the form  $\pi^*(d\theta)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,n}(H, \xi)$ , and satisfies:*

$$\|\pi^*(d\theta)\|_{\Psi^{p,n}(H)} \leq C \inf_{s \geq 0} \{e^{-as} \|d\theta\|_{L^p\Omega^n(N)} + e^{bs} \|\theta\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(N)}\}.$$

*Proof.* — Recall that the flow of  $\xi$  in  $H$  is denoted by  $\varphi_t$ . It is simply a translation along the  $\mathbf{R}$  factor of  $H$ . From Corollary 2.5 (and its proof), for every  $p$  such that  $1 < p < h/W_{n-1}$  there exist  $\eta > 0$  and  $C_1 > 0$  such that for  $t \geq 0$ :

- (1)  $\|\varphi_t^*\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{n-1}} \leq C_1 e^{-\eta t}$ ,
- (2)  $\|\varphi_{-t}^*\|_{L^p\Omega^n \cap \text{Ker } \iota_\xi \rightarrow L^p\Omega^n \cap \text{Ker } \iota_\xi} \leq C_1 e^{-\eta t}$ .

For  $s \in \mathbf{R}$ , let  $\chi_s \in C^\infty(H)$  which depends only on the first variable, and such that  $\chi_s(t) = 0$  for  $t \leq s$ , and  $\chi_s(t) = 1$  for  $t \geq s + 1$ . Let  $\alpha = \pi^*(\theta)$ . Then  $\alpha$  and  $d\alpha$  are  $\varphi_t^*$ -invariant. One has

$$\pi^*(d\theta) = d\alpha = d(\chi_s \cdot \alpha + (1 - \chi_s) \cdot \alpha) = \beta + d\gamma,$$

with  $\beta = d(\chi_s \cdot \alpha) = d\chi_s \wedge \alpha + \chi_s \cdot d\alpha$ , and  $\gamma = (1 - \chi_s) \cdot \alpha$ . Thus  $\|\pi^*(d\theta)\|_{\Psi^{p,n}(H)} \leq \|\beta\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} + \|\gamma\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(H)}$ .

The form  $d\alpha$  belongs to  $\text{Ker } \iota_\xi$  and is  $\varphi_t^*$ -invariant. With the above property (2) we obtain (since  $s \geq 0$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \|\chi_s \cdot d\alpha\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} &\leq \|(d\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \geq s}\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \|(d\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [s+i, s+i+1]}\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} \\ &\leq C_1 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} e^{-\eta(s+i)} \|(d\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0,1]}\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} \\ &= \frac{C_1 e^{-\eta s}}{1 - e^{-\eta}} \|(d\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0,1]}\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the Haar measure on  $H$  is the product of those on  $\mathbf{R}$  and  $N$  times  $e^{-th}$ , the  $L^p$ -norms of  $(d\alpha) \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0,1]}$  and of  $d\theta$  are comparable. Therefore, there exists a constant  $C_2$ , depending only on  $C_1, \eta$  and  $H$ , such that

$$\|\chi_s \cdot d\alpha\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} \leq C_2 e^{-\eta s} \|d\theta\|_{L^p\Omega^n(N)}.$$

It remains to bound by above the  $L^p$ -norms of  $d\chi_s \wedge \alpha$  and  $\gamma$ . One has  $d\chi_s = \chi'_s(t)dt$ , with  $\chi'_s$  supported on  $[s, s + 1]$ . Thus

$$\|d\chi_s \wedge \alpha\|_{L^p\Omega^n(H)} \leq \|\chi'_s \cdot \alpha\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(H)} \leq C_3 \|\alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0, s+1]}\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(H)},$$

with  $C_3 = \|\chi'_s\|_\infty$ .

Similarly, by writing  $\gamma = \alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \leq 0} + (1 - \chi_s) \cdot \alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0, s+1]}$ , one has

$$\|\gamma\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(H)} \leq \|\alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \leq 0}\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(H)} + \|\alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0, s+1]}\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(H)}.$$

The form  $\alpha$  is  $\varphi_t^*$ -invariant. By using property (1) and a similar argument as above, one obtains that the  $L^p$ -norm of  $\alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \leq 0}$  is control by above by a constant times  $\|\theta\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}(N)}$ .

Since  $\varphi_t$  increases the norms at most exponentially, there exists  $b > 0$  and  $C_4 > 0$  such that for  $t \geq 0$  one has

$$\|\varphi_{-t}^*\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1} \rightarrow L^p\Omega^{n-1}} \leq C_4 e^{bt}.$$

Thus the  $L^p$ -norm of  $\alpha \cdot \mathbf{1}_{t \in [0, s+1]}$  is bounded by above by a constant times  $e^{bs} \|\theta\|_{L^p\Omega^{n-1}}$ . The statement follows with  $a = \eta$ . □

**3.2. THE CRITERION.** — We now state the criterion that will lead to non-vanishing of cohomology. It requires some preparations.

Since  $\mathfrak{a}$  is abelian, there is a basis of  $\mathfrak{n} \otimes \mathbf{C}$  relative to which the matrices of  $\text{ad } X|_{\mathfrak{n}}$  ( $X \in \mathfrak{a}$ ) are upper triangular [Hum78, 4.1. Cor. A]. For  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , denote by  $\varpi_i$  the  $i$ -th diagonal coefficient; it is a linear form on  $A$  with real or complex values. Since we assume that condition (nT) holds, we have:

$$\bigcap_{i=1}^n \text{Ker } \Re(\varpi_i) = \{0\}.$$

By definition of the factor  $\mathfrak{b} < \mathfrak{a}$ , one has  $\text{trace}(\text{ad } X) = 0$  for every  $X \in \mathfrak{b}$ ; and thus  $\sum_{i=1}^n \Re(\varpi_i(X)) = 0$ . In combination with the above trivial intersection, this implies that for every  $X \in \mathfrak{b} \setminus \{0\}$ , there exists  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  such that  $\Re(\varpi_i(X)) > 0$ .

**PROPOSITION 3.2.** — *Suppose that we are given:*

- (1) *A non-empty subset  $J \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ , such that for every vector  $X \in \mathfrak{b} \setminus \{0\}$  there exists  $j \in J$  with  $\Re(\varpi_j(X)) > 0$ .*
- (2) *To every  $j \in J$ , a vector  $Z_j \in \mathfrak{n}$  or  $\mathfrak{n} \otimes \mathbf{C}$  depending whether  $\varpi_j$  takes real or complex values, such that  $\text{ad}(X) \cdot Z_j = \varpi_j(X)Z_j$  for every  $X \in \mathfrak{b}$ .*
- (3) *A non-zero  $C^1$  function  $f : N \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  with compact support, whose integral along every orbit of the left-invariant vector fields  $Y_j := \Re Z_j$  ( $j \in J$ ) is null.*

Then for  $1 < p < h/W_{n-1}$ , the form  $\psi = \pi^*(f \text{ vol})$  belongs to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,n}(H, \xi)$ , and satisfies:

$$\int_{X \in \mathfrak{b}} \|C_{\exp X}^*(\psi)\|_{\Psi^{p,n}(H)}^p dX < +\infty.$$

REMARK 3.3. — Note that assumption (2) holds for any  $J$ , since the  $w_i$ 's are also the weights of the representation  $\text{ad} : A \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathfrak{n} \otimes \mathbf{C})$ . Moreover, as explained above, assumption (1) is valid with the maximal choice  $J = \{1, \dots, n\}$ . In general, condition (1) leads to choosing big subsets  $J$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  but this balanced by condition (3). The latter assumption is *not* a straightforward consequence of our previous hypothesis and the main part of the next section will be dedicated to sufficient conditions for it.

COROLLARY 3.4. — Suppose that the conditions (1), (2), (3) above are satisfied. Then  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^\ell(R) \neq \{0\}$  for  $p > h/w_\ell$ .

Proof. — Let  $p$  be such that  $1 < p < h/W_{n-1}$ . According to Corollary 2.4 applied with  $R = H$ , the space  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^k(H)$  vanishes for  $k < n$ , and is Hausdorff and Banach isomorphic to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,n}(H, \xi)$  when  $k = n$ . As explained in the sketch of proof in Section 0.3, these properties in combination with a spectral sequence argument taken from [BR20] – see Corollary 6.10, imply that there exists a linear isomorphism:

$$L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R) \simeq \left\{ \psi \in \mathcal{Z}^{p,n}(H, \xi) : \int_{X \in \mathfrak{b}} \|C_{\exp X}^*(\psi)\|_{\Psi^{p,n}(H)}^p dX < +\infty \right\}.$$

Thus by Proposition 3.2, the space  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^{D-\ell}(R)$  is non-trivial. Moreover, it Hausdorff (see Corollary 2.4). By Poincaré duality (Proposition 1.11) we obtain that  $L^p \overline{H}_{\text{dR}}^\ell(R) \neq \{0\}$  for  $p > h/w_\ell$ ; indeed  $h/w_\ell$  and  $h/W_{n-1}$  are Hölder conjugated (since  $w_\ell + W_{n-1} = h$ ).  $\square$

Proof of Proposition 3.2. — Let  $\phi_j^t := R_{\exp tY_j}$  be the flow of  $Y_j$ , and set  $\omega := f \text{ vol}$ , so that  $\psi = \pi^*(\omega)$ . Then for every  $j \in J$  the form  $\theta_j := \int_{-\infty}^0 (\phi_j^t)^*(\iota_{Y_j} \omega) dt$  is a primitive of  $\omega$ . Indeed by applying the Cartan formula  $\mathcal{L}_{Y_j} = d \circ \iota_{Y_j} + \iota_{Y_j} \circ d$  to the compactly supported closed form  $\omega$ , one gets

$$d\theta_j = \int_{-\infty}^0 (\phi_j^t)^*(d\iota_{Y_j} \omega) dt = \int_{-\infty}^0 (\phi_j^t)^*(\mathcal{L}_{Y_j} \omega) dt = \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d}{dt} ((\phi_j^t)^* \omega) dt,$$

which is equal to  $\omega$ .

For  $X \in \mathfrak{b}$ , we want to estimate the  $L^p$  norms of  $C_{\exp X}^*(\omega)$  and of its primitives  $C_{\exp X}^*(\theta_j)$ , in order to apply Lemma 3.1 to the form  $C_{\exp X}^*(\psi) = \pi^*(C_{\exp X}^*(\omega))$ .

Observe that

$$\|C_{\exp X}^*(\omega)\|_{L^p \Omega^n(N)} = \|(f \circ C_{\exp X}) \cdot C_{\exp X}^*(\text{vol})\|_{L^p \Omega^n(N)} = \|\omega\|_{L^p \Omega^n(N)},$$

since  $C_{\exp X}$  preserves the Riemannian volume on  $N$  (by definition of the factor  $\mathfrak{b} < \mathfrak{a}$ ). To estimate the  $L^p$ -norm of  $C_{\exp X}^*(\theta_j)$ , we proceed as follows. Set  $F_j = \int_{-\infty}^0 f \circ \phi_j^t dt$ . By assumption (3) the function  $F_j$  has compact support. Since  $\text{vol}$  is bi-invariant on  $N$ , one has  $\theta_j = F_j \cdot (\iota_{Y_j} \text{ vol})$ ; and thus, since  $\text{vol}$  is  $C_{\exp X}$ -invariant:

$$C_{\exp X}^*(\theta_j) = (F_j \circ C_{\exp X}) \cdot (\iota_{C_{\exp X}^*(Y_j)} \text{ vol}).$$

By assumption (2), one has  $\text{Ad}(\exp X)Z_j = e^{-\varpi_j(X)}Z_j$ . Since  $Y_j = \Re Z_j$ , and since it is left-invariant, one has  $|C_{\exp X}^*(Y_j)|_g = e^{-\Re \varpi_j(X)}|Y_j|$ , for every  $g \in N$ . Thus for every  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ :

$$\|C_{\exp X}^*(\theta_j)\|_{L^p \Omega^{n-1}(N)} = e^{-\Re \varpi_j(X)}|Y_j|\|F_j\|_{L^p(N)}.$$

Note that all the  $Y_j$ 's are non-zero, indeed the operators  $\text{ad } X$  are *real* endomorphisms.

Now assumption (1), in combination with the last equality and compactness of the unit sphere in  $\mathfrak{b}$ , implies that there exist constants  $c, C > 0$  such that for every  $p \in (1, +\infty)$  and every  $X \in \mathfrak{b}$ , one has

$$\inf_{j \in J} \|C_{\exp X}^*(\theta_j)\|_{L^p \Omega^{n-1}(N)} \leq C e^{-c|X|}.$$

Thus, by Lemma 3.1, the forms  $\psi$  and  $C_{\exp X}^*(\psi)$  belong to  $\mathcal{Z}^{p,n}(H, \xi)$  for  $1 < p < h/W_{n-1}$ . Moreover, the norm of  $C_{\exp X}^*(\psi)$  decreases exponentially fast to 0 when  $|X| \rightarrow +\infty$ . The statement follows.  $\square$

#### 4. FIRST APPLICATIONS: PROOF OF TWO NON-VANISHING RESULTS

This section is dedicated to the proof of the first two non-vanishing theorems, namely Theorem B and Theorem C mentioned in the introduction; they deal with general solvable groups satisfying conditions (nC) and (nT).

4.1. FUNCTIONS WITH PRESCRIBED VANISHING INTEGRALS. — The following lemmas will serve to exhibit functions satisfying condition (3) of Proposition 3.2; these functions will eventually provide suitable non-zero forms leading to our targeted non-vanishing results by Corollary 3.4.

LEMMA 4.1. — *Let  $Y, T$  be non-trivial left-invariant vector fields on a connected simply connected nilpotent Lie group  $N$ . Then  $N$  admits a non-zero smooth compactly supported function, whose integral along every orbit of  $Y$  and  $T$  is null.*

*Proof.* — Let  $\mathfrak{n}$  be the Lie algebra of  $N$ , and let  $\mathfrak{l}$  be the subalgebra generated by  $Y$  and  $T$ . We will prove the lemma by induction on the length of the descending central series of  $\mathfrak{l}$ , i.e., on the smallest integer  $k \geq 1$  such that  $\mathfrak{l}^{k+1} = 0$  (where  $\mathfrak{l}^1 := \mathfrak{l}$ ,  $\mathfrak{l}^2 := [\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l}]$ ,  $\mathfrak{l}^{i+1} := [\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l}^i]$ ). Let denote the length by  $\text{length}(\mathfrak{l})$ .

If  $\text{length}(\mathfrak{l}) = 1$ , then  $Y$  and  $T$  commute, and the statement follows from (the proof of) Lemma 4.2. Suppose now that  $\text{length}(\mathfrak{l}) > 1$ .

Let  $\phi_Y^t$  and  $\phi_T^t$  be the flows of  $Y$  and  $T$ . Let  $f_0$  be a non-zero compactly supported smooth function on  $N$ . The flow of every non-trivial left-invariant vector field acts properly on such a Lie group  $N$ ; thus there exists  $t_0 \in \mathbf{R}$  with

$$(\text{support } f_0) \cap \phi_T^{-t_0}(\text{support } f_0) = \emptyset.$$

The function  $f := f_0 - f_0 \circ \phi_T^{t_0}$  is non-zero, smooth, compactly supported, and its integrals along the  $T$ -orbits are null.

We are looking for a sufficient condition on  $f_0$  which guaranties that the integrals of  $f$  along the  $Y$ -orbits are also null. For  $g \in N$  one has

$$\int_{\mathbf{R}} (f \circ \phi_Y^t)(g) dt = \int_{\mathbf{R}} (f_0 \circ \phi_Y^t)(g) dt - \int_{\mathbf{R}} (f_0 \circ \phi_T^{t_0} \circ \phi_Y^t \circ \phi_T^{-t_0})(\phi_T^{t_0}(g)) dt.$$

Thus, for the integrals of  $f$  along the  $Y$ -orbits to be null, it is enough that the integrals of  $f_0$  along the orbits of  $Y$  and of  $(\phi_T^{-t_0})^*(Y)$  are null.

The vector field  $(\phi_T^{-t_0})^*(Y)$  is left-invariant. Its value at  $1_N$  is

$$Z := \text{Ad}(-t_0T)Y = e^{\text{ad}(-t_0T)}Y.$$

According to the induction hypothesis, such an  $f_0$  exists if the subalgebra  $\mathfrak{m}$  generated by  $Y$  and  $Z$  satisfies  $\text{length}(\mathfrak{m}) < \text{length}(\mathfrak{l})$ .

Since  $Y, Z \in \mathfrak{l}$ , one has  $\mathfrak{m} \subset \mathfrak{l}$ . Moreover:

$$[Y, Z] = [Y, e^{\text{ad}(-t_0T)}Y] = [Y, Y] - t_0[Y, [T, Y]] + \dots \in \mathfrak{l}^3.$$

It follows that  $\mathfrak{m}^2 \subset \mathfrak{l}^3$ , thus  $\mathfrak{m}^3 = [\mathfrak{m}, \mathfrak{m}^2] \subset [\mathfrak{l}, \mathfrak{l}^3] = \mathfrak{l}^4, \dots$ , and so  $\mathfrak{m}^i \subset \mathfrak{l}^{i+1}$  for every  $i \geq 2$ . Therefore, one has  $\text{length}(\mathfrak{m}) < \text{length}(\mathfrak{l})$  as expected.  $\square$

**LEMMA 4.2.** — *Let  $M$  be a smooth manifold and  $Y_1, \dots, Y_k, T$  be a family of complete smooth vector fields. Assume that  $T$  commutes with all the  $Y_i$ 's, and that its flow acts properly on  $M$ . Suppose that the subfamily  $Y_1, \dots, Y_k$  satisfies the following property: there exists a non-zero  $C^1$  compactly supported function on  $M$ , whose integral along every orbit of the  $Y_i$ 's is null. Then the same property holds for the entire family  $Y_1, \dots, Y_k, T$ .*

*Proof.* — Let  $f_0$  be a function satisfying the property for the subfamily  $Y_1, \dots, Y_k$ . Let  $\phi^t$  be the flow of  $T$ . Since it acts properly on  $M$  there exists  $t_0 \in \mathbf{R}$  such that  $(\text{support } f_0) \cap \phi^{-t_0}(\text{support } f_0) = \emptyset$ . Define  $f = f_0 - f_0 \circ \phi^{t_0}$ . It is a non-zero  $C^1$  compactly supported function whose integral along every orbit of  $T$  is null. Since  $T$  commutes with the  $Y_i$ 's, the integrals of  $f$  along their orbits remain null.  $\square$

**4.2. TWO NON-VANISHING RESULTS FOR SOLVABLE GROUPS.** — We can now give the proofs of Theorems B and C.

*Proof of Theorem B.* — We can assume that  $N = \mathbf{R}^n$ . With the notations of Section 3.2, let  $J \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$  be a minimal subset such that

$$\{\varpi_j : j \in J\} \cup \{\overline{\varpi_j} : j \in J\} = \{\varpi_1, \dots, \varpi_n\}$$

as sets of linear forms on  $\mathfrak{a}$ . It satisfies assumption (1) of Proposition 3.2. For every  $j \in J$ , let  $Z_j$  be as in assumption (2) of Proposition 3.2. The orbits in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  of the vector field  $Y_j := \Re Z_j$  are the lines parallel to  $Y_j$ . They commute. Thus Lemma 4.2 provides a function which satisfies assumption (3) of Proposition 3.2. Now Theorem B follows from Corollary 3.4.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem C.* — Since  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^2$ , one has  $B \simeq \mathbf{R}$ . Let  $X_0$  be a non-zero vector in  $\mathfrak{b}$ . Let  $J = \{j_1, j_2\} \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$  be such that  $\Re(\varpi_{j_1}(X_0)) > 0$  and  $\Re(\varpi_{j_2}(-X_0)) > 0$ . It satisfies assumption (1) of Proposition 3.2. For every  $j \in J$ , let  $Z_j$  be as in



assumption (2) of Proposition 3.2, and let  $Y_j := \Re Z_j$ . By applying Lemma 4.1 to the pair of left-invariant vector fields  $Y_{j_1}, Y_{j_2}$ , one obtains a function that satisfies assumption (3) of Proposition 3.2. Now Theorem C follows from Corollary 3.4.  $\square$

## 5. SEMISIMPLE LIE GROUPS

In this section, we are looking for connected solvable Lie subgroups  $R$  in semisimple real Lie groups which are of the form  $R = A \ltimes N$  with  $A \simeq \mathbf{R}^\ell$  and  $\ell \geq 1$ . Of course these groups will satisfy the contraction condition (nC) and the non-triviality condition (nT). More precisely, our goal is to prove that in any semisimple real Lie group with finite center, the solvable subgroups appearing in Iwasawa decompositions fulfill the assumptions of our non-vanishing criterion Corollary 3.4. As a consequence we obtain a proof of Theorem D, hence a proof for Theorem A, in view of the reduction contained in Section 0.1. From a technical viewpoint, the proofs in this section are ultimately relevant to the combinatorics of root systems.

5.1. LIE-THEORETIC NOTIONS AND NOTATIONS. — Let  $G$  be a semisimple real Lie group with finite center. We pick in  $G$  a subgroup  $A$  which is maximal for the properties of being connected, abelian and diagonalizable over the real numbers in the adjoint representation of  $G$ . We denote the latter representation by

$$\text{Ad} : G \longrightarrow \text{GL}(\mathfrak{g}),$$

with  $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie } G$ . We have a direct sum decomposition

$$\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{g}_0 \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi(G,A)} \mathfrak{n}_\alpha,$$

where  $\mathfrak{g}_0$  is the subspace on which the adjoint  $A$ -action is trivial and where  $\mathfrak{n}_\alpha$  is the weight space associated with the character  $\alpha$  of  $A$ :

$$\mathfrak{n}_\alpha = \{X \in \mathfrak{g} : \text{Ad}(a)X = \alpha(a)X \text{ for all } a \in A\}.$$

We also pick a minimal parabolic subgroup  $P$  containing  $A$ , which provides a basis and a positive root subset  $\Phi^+$  for the root system  $\Phi = \Phi(G, A)$  of  $G$ . In order to fit with the notation of [Bou68], we set  $V = \mathfrak{a}^*$ . This real vector space is equipped with the Killing form, which makes it a Euclidean space; this enables us to identify  $\mathfrak{a}$  and  $\mathfrak{a}^*$ . Finally, we set:

$$2\rho_G = \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \dim(\mathfrak{n}_\alpha)\alpha,$$

and we denote by  $N$  the nilpotent group integrating  $\bigoplus_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \mathfrak{n}_\alpha$ . Thus,  $R = AN$  is the solvable part of an Iwasawa decomposition of  $G$ , and all such solvable subgroups of  $G$  can be obtained by varying the choices of  $A$  and  $P$  above. The remaining choice is that of a maximal compact subgroup  $K$ : the stabilizer of any point in the maximal flat associated to  $A$  in the Riemannian symmetric space associated to  $G$  does the job.

From a combinatorial viewpoint, in the main part of this section we are looking for a subset  $\Psi \subset \Phi^+$  and a family of real numbers  $(m_\beta)_{\beta \in \Psi}$ , with  $m_\beta > 0$  for each  $\beta \in \Psi$ , such that

- (i) we have:  $2\rho_G = \sum_{\beta \in \Psi} m_\beta \beta$ ,
- (ii) we have:  $V = \sum_{\beta \in \Psi} \mathbf{R}\beta$ ,
- (iii) if  $\beta, \beta' \in \Psi$  then:  $\beta + \beta' \notin \Phi$ .

We will sometimes relax condition (iii) to the following one

- (iii') if  $\beta, \beta' \in \Psi$  then:  $\beta + \beta' \notin \Phi$  except maybe for one pair  $\{\beta; \beta'\} \subset \Psi$ .

5.2. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NON-VANISHING CRITERION. — Let us explain why the above combinatorial conditions are relevant to the non-vanishing criterion of the previous section. In 3.2, the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is determined by the dimension of the nilpotent group  $N$ : in the present section, we see it more concretely as the set of positive roots counted with their multiplicities; accordingly, the subset  $J$  of 3.2 is denoted here by  $\Psi$  in view of its interpretation in terms of roots. Note also that, by the choice of  $A$  here (a maximal  $\mathbf{R}$ -split torus), we do not need to extend the scalars to  $\mathbf{C}$  in our context.

First of all, the solvable group  $R = AN$  from 5.1 satisfies condition (nC) since we can choose  $-\xi$  to be the sum of the fundamental coweights for the root system of  $G$  (in fact, we can take any vector in  $\mathfrak{a}^+$ , i.e., in the Weyl cone given by  $AN$ , tangent to a regular geodesic in the symmetric space). The group  $R$  also satisfies condition (nT) by definition of a root as a *non-trivial* character of  $A$  (or  $\mathfrak{a}$ ). We now concentrate on checking the conditions of the non-vanishing criterion in the present situation.

LEMMA 5.1. — *We assume we are given  $\Psi$  satisfying (i)–(iii'). Then the choice  $J = \Psi$  fulfills the assumptions of Proposition 3.2.*

The lemma will lead to the desired non-vanishing statement, hence most of the rest of the section will be dedicated to exhibiting such a subset  $\Psi$  for any semisimple real Lie group  $G$ .

*Proof.* — As mentioned in Remark 3.3, Condition (2) is automatically satisfied by definition of the adjoint representation and of the roots.

Let us check Condition (1). By (i), we have:

$$\sum_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \dim(\mathfrak{n}_\alpha) \alpha = 2\rho_G = \sum_{\beta \in \Psi} m_\beta \beta.$$

Now let  $X \in \mathfrak{b}$ . Note first that for any  $X \in \mathfrak{a}$ , we have:  $\text{trace}(\text{ad } X) = 2\rho_G(X)$ ; therefore  $\mathfrak{b}$ , defined in Section 0.3 by  $\mathfrak{b} = \{X \in \mathfrak{a} : \text{trace}(\text{ad } X) = 0\}$ , can be seen as  $\mathfrak{b} = \{X \in \mathfrak{a} : \rho_G(X) = 0\}$ . We assume that  $\beta(X) \leq 0$  for each  $\beta \in \Psi$ . Since  $m_\beta > 0$  for each  $\beta \in \Psi$ , we deduce that  $\beta(X) = 0$  for each  $\beta \in \Psi$ . Finally this implies that  $X = 0$  by (ii), proving that (1) is satisfied.

Condition (3) is more delicate to check but it is treated thanks to the lemmas in Section 4.1 combined with the fact that if for  $\alpha, \alpha' \in \Phi^+$  we have  $\alpha + \alpha' \notin \Phi$  then  $[\mathfrak{n}_\alpha, \mathfrak{n}_{\alpha'}] = \{0\}$ . Indeed, in view of this, the function requested by Condition (3) is directly given by an inductive use of Lemma 4.2 in case  $\Psi$  satisfies (iii); if  $\Psi$  satisfies (iii') only, then one has to apply first Lemma 4.1 to the pair of roots in  $\Psi$  whose sum is a root, and then again apply inductively Lemma 4.2.  $\square$

In the rest of the section, we are thus reduced to exhibiting subsets  $\Psi$  satisfying (i)–(iii'), or even better satisfying (i)–(iii). Note that in view of Theorem C we may – and shall – assume that the rank  $\ell = \dim(A)$  of  $G$  is at least 3.

5.3. A PRELIMINARY RESULT IN LINEAR ALGEBRA. — We use the notation from [Bou68, Planches], and more precisely the concrete descriptions of root systems in terms of linear algebra. In particular, we consider the standard Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^\ell$  with canonical basis  $(\varepsilon_i)_{1 \leq i \leq \ell}$ . We are interested in sums of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{m=1}^M m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1}) \\ = \sum_{m=1}^M m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + 2\varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1}), \end{aligned}$$

where  $M$  is a suitably chosen integer. We will see below that such linear combinations are very useful to approximate the sum of positive roots of some fixed norm in suitable root systems.

In addition, the vectors appearing in these sums are sums of two consecutive vectors of the form  $\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_{i+1}$ : in many root systems, such a vector  $\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_{i+1}$  is a positive root and the sum of two such vectors is *not* a root, which is useful to achieve condition (iii), or maybe (iii'), above.

More precisely, in many root systems the sum of positive roots of norm equal to  $\sqrt{2}$  is the vector  $\sigma$  given by:

$$\sigma = \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} \left( \sum_{j>i} (\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_j + \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) \right) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} (\ell - i) \varepsilon_i = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} i \varepsilon_{\ell-i},$$

and we want to see  $\sigma$  as a linear combination, with positive coefficients, of vectors  $\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_{i+1}$ .

LEMMA 5.2. — Besides the vector  $\sigma = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq \ell} \varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} i \varepsilon_{\ell-i}$  above, we introduce the sum  $S = \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor (\ell-2)/2 \rfloor} m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1})$ . Then:

- if  $\ell$  is even, we have:  $\sigma = 2S + \ell \varepsilon_1$ ;
- if  $\ell$  is odd, we have:  $\sigma = 2S + (\ell - 1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + (\ell - 1)\varepsilon_1$ .

*Proof.* — In the sum  $S_M = \sum_{m=1}^M m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1})$ , we consider the sum of two consecutive terms, that is:

$$\begin{aligned} k(\varepsilon_{\ell-2k+1} + 2\varepsilon_{\ell-2k} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2k-1}) + (k+1)(\varepsilon_{\ell-2k-2+1} + 2\varepsilon_{\ell-2k-2} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2k-2-1}) \\ = k\varepsilon_{\ell-2k+1} + 2k\varepsilon_{\ell-2k} + (2k+1)\varepsilon_{\ell-2k-1} + (2k+2)k\varepsilon_{\ell-2k-2} + (k+1)\varepsilon_{\ell-2k-3}. \end{aligned}$$

The three middle terms also appear in  $\frac{1}{2}\sigma$ . The maximal index of summation  $M$  is the biggest integer  $m$  satisfying  $\ell - 2m - 1 \geq 1$ , that is  $m \leq (\ell - 2)/2$ . This explains why we are led to considering:

$$S = S_{\lfloor (\ell-2)/2 \rfloor} = \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor (\ell-2)/2 \rfloor} m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1}).$$

The sum  $S = S_{\lfloor(\ell-2)/2\rfloor}$  approximates  $\frac{1}{2}\sigma$  down to the index  $\ell - 2\lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor - 1$ .

– If  $\ell$  is even, we have  $\lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor = (\ell - 2)/2$ , then  $\ell - 2\lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor - 1 = 1$  and therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor(\ell-2)/2\rfloor} m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^{\ell-2} j\varepsilon_{\ell-j} + \left(\frac{\ell}{2} - 1\right)\varepsilon_1 = \frac{1}{2}\sigma - \frac{\ell}{2}\varepsilon_1, \end{aligned}$$

so that in this case:

$$\frac{1}{2}\sigma = S + \frac{\ell}{2}\varepsilon_1.$$

– If  $\ell$  is odd, we have  $\lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor < (\ell - 2)/2$ , then

$$\ell - 2\lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor - 1 = \ell - (\ell - 3) - 1 = 2$$

and therefore:

$$S = \sum_{m=1}^{\lfloor(\ell-2)/2\rfloor} m(\varepsilon_{\ell-2m+1} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m} + \varepsilon_{\ell-2m-1}) = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell-3} j\varepsilon_{\ell-j} + \lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor\varepsilon_2.$$

If we denote  $\ell = 2r + 1$  with  $r \geq 1$ , then  $\lfloor(\ell - 2)/2\rfloor = \lfloor(2r - 1)/2\rfloor = \lfloor r - 1/2\rfloor = r - 1$  and we have:

$$S = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell-3} j\varepsilon_{\ell-j} + (r - 1)\varepsilon_2,$$

so that, since the coefficient of  $\varepsilon_2$  in  $\frac{1}{2}\sigma$  is  $\ell - 2 = (2r + 1) - 2 = 2r - 1$ , we have  $\frac{1}{2}\sigma = S + r(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + r\varepsilon_1$  and finally

$$\frac{1}{2}\sigma = S + \frac{\ell - 1}{2}(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + \frac{\ell - 1}{2}\varepsilon_1.$$

This concludes the proof. □

At this stage, in order to find subsets  $\Psi$  of positive roots achieving the conditions (i)–(iii') at the end of Section 5.1, we use the classification of simple real Lie groups. The parameters of this classification are: a (possibly non-reduced) root system, and the multiplicities of the roots. According to É. Cartan's classification, a simple real Lie group either is a simple complex Lie group seen as a real one (in which case the root system is reduced and all multiplicities are equal to 2), or is absolutely simple (i.e., its Lie algebra stays simple after complexification) and belongs to the list given for instance in [Hel01, Chap. X, Table VI, pp. 532-534]. One useful fact is that the Weyl group acts transitively on roots of given norm (see [Hum78, Lem. C, p. 53]), so that not so many possibilities of root multiplicities appear (one multiplicity if the root system is simply laced i.e., if the edges in the Dynkin diagram are all simple, at most 2 if it is reduced, at most 3 otherwise). This also implies that  $2\rho_G = \sum_{\alpha \in \Phi^+} \dim(\mathfrak{n}_\alpha)\alpha$  can be computed as a sum of at most 3 partial sums, namely packets of roots of given norm multiplied by the corresponding multiplicity.

In the rest of this section, we check that we can find a suitable root subset  $\Psi$  for each isomorphism class of simple real Lie groups by sorting them according to their relative root system first and then their multiplicities. The reader will easily check that all Cartan types appearing in [Hel01, Chap. X, Table VI, pp. 532-534] are covered.

5.4. ALL TYPES EXCEPT  $A_\ell$ . — To be consistent with the notation of [Hel01, Chap. X, Table VI, pp. 532-534], we denote by  $\ell$  the real rank of  $G$  and by  $r$  its complex rank (recall that the latter rank is the dimension of a subalgebra in  $\mathfrak{g} \otimes_{\mathbf{R}} \mathbf{C}$  consisting of diagonalizable elements in the adjoint representation, and maximal for this element-wise property). Recall that we can restrict our attention to the case  $\ell \geq 3$ , thanks to Theorem C.

Type  $B_\ell$  [Bou68, Planche II, p. 252]. — This is a non simply laced root system, and indeed some cases with different multiplicities do appear in Cartan's classification. This is the root system in the standard Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^\ell$  with canonical basis  $(\varepsilon_i)_{1 \leq i \leq \ell}$ , where the positive roots are the vectors of the form  $\varepsilon_i$  (there are  $\ell$  such roots, of norm 1) or  $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$  with  $i < j$  (there are  $\ell(\ell - 1)$  such roots, of norm  $\sqrt{2}$ ). We still denote the partial sum of roots of norm  $\sqrt{2}$  by

$$\sigma = \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} i \varepsilon_{\ell-i},$$

and we denote the partial sum of roots of norm 1 by  $\tau = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \varepsilon_i$ . The Cartan types where this root system appears are the types  $B_I$  and  $D_I$ , in which cases we have:

$$2\rho_{B_I} = \sigma + (2(r - \ell) + 1)\tau \quad \text{and} \quad 2\rho_{D_I} = \sigma + 2(r - \ell)\tau.$$

Let us treat thoroughly the Cartan type  $B_I$ , the type  $D_I$  being similar. We invoke Lemma 5.2, together with the associated notation.

If  $\ell$  is even, we have:

$$2\rho_{B_I} = 2S + \ell\varepsilon_1 + (2(r - \ell) + 1) \sum_{m=1}^{\ell/2} (\varepsilon_{2m-1} + \varepsilon_{2m}),$$

so that we can take the subset of positive roots  $\Psi$  to be consisting of  $\varepsilon_1$  and of the roots  $\varepsilon_j + \varepsilon_{j+1}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq \ell - 1$ . This choice of  $\Psi$  gives immediately (i) in view of the definition of the sum  $S$  and (ii), i.e., the fact that  $\Psi$  generates  $V$ , is easy; at last, (iii) follows from the fact that no coefficient 2 appears in the coordinates of roots and the fact that the support of roots has cardinality  $\leq 2$ .

If  $\ell$  is odd, we have

$$\begin{aligned} 2\rho_{B_I} &= 2S + 2(\ell - 1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + (\ell - 1)\varepsilon_1 \\ &\quad + (2(r - \ell) + 1) \sum_{m=1}^{(\ell-1)/2} (\varepsilon_{2m} + \varepsilon_{2m+1}) + (2(r - \ell) + 1)\varepsilon_1. \end{aligned}$$

The expression is more complicated but it gives (i) and the same arguments as above work to give (ii) and (iii).

At last, as already mentioned, the Cartan type  $D_I$  is deduced from this case after replacing the coefficient  $(2(r - \ell) + 1)$  by  $2(r - \ell)$ .

*Type  $C_\ell$*  [Bou68, Planche III, p. 254]. — This is a non simply laced root system, and again some cases with different multiplicities do appear in Cartan’s classification. This is the root system in the standard Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^\ell$  with canonical basis  $(\varepsilon_i)_{1 \leq i \leq \ell}$ , where the positive roots are the vectors of the form  $2\varepsilon_i$  (there are  $\ell$  such roots, of norm 2) or  $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$  with  $i < j$  (there are  $\ell(\ell - 1)$  such roots, of norm  $\sqrt{2}$ ). We still denote the partial sum of roots of norm  $\sqrt{2}$  by

$$\sigma = \sum_{i < j} \varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} i\varepsilon_{\ell-i},$$

and we denote the partial sum of roots of norm 2 by  $\kappa = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} 2\varepsilon_i$ . The Cartan types covered by this root system are: some cases  $A_{III}$ , all cases  $C_I$ , some cases  $C_{II}$ , half of the cases  $D_{III}$  and the case  $E_{VII}$ . For any such type, say  $G$ , we have:

$$2\rho_G = m_\sigma \sigma + m_\tau \kappa$$

where  $m_\sigma$  and  $m_\tau$  are integers  $\geq 1$ .<sup>(1)</sup>

We choose for  $\Psi$  the set of roots  $2\varepsilon_j$  for  $1 \leq j \leq \ell$ . Conditions (i) to (iii) are trivially satisfied, for a choice of integral coefficients in (i) thanks to the coefficients 2 in the expressions of  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ .

*Type  $BC_\ell$*  [Bou68, Chap. VI.14, p. 222]. — This is the only type of non-reduced root systems: the system  $BC_\ell$  consists of the union of the system  $B_\ell$  and of the system  $C_\ell$  as described above. The Cartan types covered by this root system are: the remaining cases  $A_{III}$  and  $C_{II}$ , as well as the remaining half of the cases  $D_{III}$ . More precisely, still denoting by  $r$  the complex rank, we have

$$2\rho_{A_{III}} = 2(r - 2\ell + 1)\tau + 2\sigma + \kappa$$

in the remaining cases of  $A_{III}$ ,

$$2\rho_{C_{II}} = 4(r - 2\ell)\tau + 4\sigma + 3\kappa$$

in the remaining cases of  $C_{II}$ , and

$$2\rho_{D_{III}} = 4\tau + 4\sigma + \kappa$$

in the remaining cases of  $D_{III}$ .

This type is treated by taking  $\Psi = \{2\varepsilon_j\}_{1 \leq j \leq \ell}$ , as for the previous case. Conditions (i) to (iii) are trivially satisfied, for a choice of integral coefficients in (i).

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<sup>(1)</sup>More precisely, we have:  $2\rho_{A_{III}} = 2\sigma + \kappa$  in the  $C_\ell$  case of  $A_{III}$ ,  $2\rho_{C_I} = \sigma + \kappa$ ,  $2\rho_{C_{II}} = 4\sigma + 3\kappa$  in the  $C_\ell$  case of  $C_{II}$ , we have  $2\rho_{D_{III}} = 4\sigma + \kappa$  in the  $C_\ell$  case of  $D_{III}$  and  $2\rho_{E_{VII}} = 8\sigma + \kappa$ , the root system being  $C_3$  in the latter case.

*Type D $_{\ell}$*  [Bou68, Planche IV, p.256]. — This is a simply laced type but in fact it occurs only once in Cartan's classification, namely for  $D_I$ . This is the root system in the standard Euclidean space  $\mathbf{R}^{\ell}$  with canonical basis  $(\varepsilon_i)_{1 \leq i \leq \ell}$ , where the positive roots are the vectors of the form  $\varepsilon_i \pm \varepsilon_j$  with  $i < j$  (there are  $\ell(\ell - 1)$  such roots, of norm  $\sqrt{2}$ ). In this situation, we have

$$2\rho_{D_I} = \sigma = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-1} i\varepsilon_{\ell-i}.$$

We use the subset of positive roots  $\Psi$  to be consisting of the roots  $\varepsilon_j + \varepsilon_{j+1}$  for  $1 \leq j \leq \ell - 1$ , together with the roots  $\varepsilon_1 \pm \varepsilon_{\ell}$ . Condition (ii) is checked by the fact that  $\varepsilon_1$  is the average of the last two roots, and then the other canonical vectors are obtained by an easy induction. Condition (iii') is checked by seeing that the only pair of roots in  $\Psi$  whose sum is a root is  $\{\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{\ell}, \varepsilon_{\ell-1} + \varepsilon_{\ell}\}$ , again by considerations of support or coefficient  $\geq 2$ . For condition (i), we use Lemma 5.2. If  $\ell$  is even we have

$$2\rho_{D_I} = 2S + \ell\varepsilon_1 = 2S + \frac{\ell}{2} ((\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_{\ell}) + (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{\ell})),$$

and if  $\ell$  is odd we have

$$2\rho_{D_I} = 2S + (\ell - 1)(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + \frac{\ell - 1}{2} ((\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_{\ell}) + (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{\ell})).$$

The rest of the root systems consists of exceptional types. In the case of  $E_6$ ,  $E_7$  and  $E_8$  the root systems are simply laced and can be realized in  $\mathbf{R}^8$ . We merely mention the targeted vector  $\rho$ , the subset  $\Psi$  and the linear combination achieving (i).

*Type E $_6$*  [Bou68, Planche V, p.260]. — It occurs in Cartan's classification for  $E_I$  only. The underlying vector space  $V$  is the 6-dimensional subspace  $x_6 = x_7 = -x_8$  in  $\mathbf{R}^8$  endowed with the canonical orthonormal basis  $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_8$ . The positive roots are  $\pm\varepsilon_i + \varepsilon_j$ , for  $1 \leq i < j \leq 5$ , and

$$\frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_7 - \varepsilon_6 + \sum_{i=1}^5 (-1)^{\nu(i)} \varepsilon_i), \quad \text{with } \sum_{i=1}^5 \nu(i) \text{ even.}$$

The targeted vector is

$$2\rho_{E_I} = 2\varepsilon_2 + 4\varepsilon_3 + 6\varepsilon_4 + 8\varepsilon_5 + 8(\varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_7 - \varepsilon_6).$$

To simplify the notation we let  $v := \varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_7 - \varepsilon_6$ , and we consider the positive roots  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_5$  defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} 2\beta_1 &= v + \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5, \\ 2\beta_2 &= v - \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5, \\ 2\beta_3 &= v - \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4 - \varepsilon_5, \\ 2\beta_4 &= v + \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5, \\ 2\beta_5 &= v - \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5. \end{aligned}$$

Then one checks easily that

$$2\rho_{E_I} = 6\beta_1 + 2\beta_2 + 4\beta_3 + 2\beta_4 + 2\beta_5 + 2(-\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_5) + 2(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_5).$$

We define  $\Psi$  to be the union of  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_5$  with  $\pm\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_5$ . Condition (i) is then satisfied. To show that condition (ii) holds, one first observes that the two roots  $\pm\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_5$  generates  $\varepsilon_1$  and  $\varepsilon_5$ . Moreover, one has

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_2 - \beta_1 &= -\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2, \\ \beta_3 - \beta_1 &= -\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_5, \\ \beta_4 - \beta_1 &= -\varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3, \\ \beta_5 - \beta_1 &= -\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2 - \varepsilon_3 - \varepsilon_4,\end{aligned}$$

from which one obtains that  $\Psi$  generates  $\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_5$ . Condition (ii) follows easily. Moreover,  $\{\beta_3, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_5\}$  is the only pair of roots in  $\Psi$  whose sum is a root in  $E_6$ . Thus condition (iii') is satisfied.

*Type E<sub>7</sub>* [Bou68, Planche VI, p. 266]. — The targeted vector is

$$2\rho_{E_V} = 2\varepsilon_2 + 4\varepsilon_3 + 6\varepsilon_4 + 8\varepsilon_5 + 10\varepsilon_6 - 17\varepsilon_7 + 17\varepsilon_8,$$

which we decompose as the sum of  $2\varepsilon_2 + 4\varepsilon_3 + 6\varepsilon_4 + 8\varepsilon_5 + 10\varepsilon_6$  and of  $17(\varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_7)$ . It turns out that  $\varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_7$  is the longest root in the system; we take it in  $\Psi$  together with the four roots  $\varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4, \varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5, \varepsilon_5 + \varepsilon_6$ , as well as the roots  $\varepsilon_6 \pm \varepsilon_1$ . Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}2\rho_{E_V} &= 2(\varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3) + 2(\varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4) + 4(\varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5) + 4(\varepsilon_5 + \varepsilon_6) \\ &\quad + 3(\varepsilon_6 + \varepsilon_1) + 3(\varepsilon_6 - \varepsilon_1) + 17(\varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_7).\end{aligned}$$

The subset  $\Psi$  satisfies (i), (ii) and (iii), the latter condition being easily checked by the concrete description of  $E_7$  in terms of the canonical vectors  $\varepsilon_i$ .

*Type E<sub>8</sub>* [Bou68, Planche VII, p. 268]. — The targeted vector is

$$2\rho_{E_{VIII}} = 2\varepsilon_2 + 4\varepsilon_3 + 6\varepsilon_4 + 8\varepsilon_5 + 10\varepsilon_6 + 12\varepsilon_7 + 46\varepsilon_8.$$

We use the subset  $\Psi$  consisting of the roots  $\varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4, \varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5, \varepsilon_5 + \varepsilon_6, \varepsilon_6 + \varepsilon_7, \varepsilon_7 + \varepsilon_8$  together with  $\varepsilon_8 \pm \varepsilon_1$ . Then we have:

$$\begin{aligned}2\rho_{E_V} &= 2(\varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3) + 2(\varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4) + 4(\varepsilon_4 + \varepsilon_5) + 4(\varepsilon_5 + \varepsilon_6) \\ &\quad + 6(\varepsilon_6 + \varepsilon_7) + 6(\varepsilon_7 + \varepsilon_8) + 20(\varepsilon_8 - \varepsilon_1) + 20(\varepsilon_8 + \varepsilon_1).\end{aligned}$$

The subset  $\Psi$  satisfies (i), (ii) and (iii), the latter condition being easily checked by the concrete description of  $E_8$  in terms of the canonical vectors  $\varepsilon_i$ .

*Type F<sub>4</sub>* [Bou68, Planche VIII, p. 272]. — This is a non simply laced root system corresponding to four cases in Cartan's classification, namely  $E_{II}, E_{VII}, E_{IX}$  and  $F_I$ . The sum of the positive roots of norm  $\sqrt{2}$  is  $\sigma = 2(3\varepsilon_1 + 2\varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3)$  and the sum of the positive roots of norm 1 is  $\tau = 5\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4$ . The targeted vectors are of the form  $\sigma + 2^j\tau$  with  $0 \leq j \leq 3$ , so it is enough to treat separately  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$ . We choose  $\Psi = \{\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2, \varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3, \varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4\}$ . Condition (ii) is clear and (iii) is checked by the concrete description of  $F_4$  in terms of the canonical vectors  $\varepsilon_i$ . For (i), we use the fact that:  $\sigma = 2(\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + 2(\varepsilon_2 + \varepsilon_3) + 4\varepsilon_1$  and  $\tau = (\varepsilon_1 + \varepsilon_2) + (\varepsilon_3 + \varepsilon_4) + 4\varepsilon_1$ .



Type  $G_2$  [Bou68, Planche IX, p. 274]. — This is a root system of rank 2, corresponding to only one case in Cartan's classification, so we do not need to consider it. Still, we can simply say that using the root notation we have:  $2\rho_G = 10\alpha_1 + 6\alpha_2$ , which can be written as:  $2\rho_G = \alpha_1 + 3(3\alpha_1 + 2\alpha_2)$ .

5.5. THE TYPE  $A_\ell$ . — This type is more delicate because pairs of positive roots more often lead to a sum providing another root.

According to [Bou68, Planche I, p. 250], type  $A_\ell$  is a simply laced root system in the subspace  $V \subset \mathbf{R}^{\ell+1}$  defined by  $\sum_{i=1}^{\ell+1} x_i = 0$ . The positive roots are the  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j$ , with  $1 \leq i < j \leq \ell + 1$ .

The Cartan types where it appears are the types  $A_I$  and  $A_{II}$ . One has

$$2\rho_{A_I} = \ell\varepsilon_1 + (\ell - 2)\varepsilon_2 + (\ell - 4)\varepsilon_3 + \cdots - (\ell - 2)\varepsilon_\ell - \ell\varepsilon_{\ell+1},$$

and  $\rho_{A_{II}} = 4\rho_{A_I}$ . The latter relation shows that the same root subset  $\Psi$  holds for both type. We will thus restrict ourselves to the type  $A_I$ . The idea here is to write  $2\rho_{A_I}$  by using long roots.

### PROPOSITION 5.3

(1) If  $\ell$  is odd, write  $\ell = 2k - 1$  with  $k \geq 1$ . Then:

$$2\rho_{A_I} = 2 \sum_{k < j-i} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) + \sum_{i=1}^k (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+k}).$$

Moreover, if  $\Psi$  is the set of roots that appear in the right side member, then  $\Psi$  satisfies the conditions (i), (ii), (iii).

(2) If  $\ell$  is even, write  $\ell = 2k$  with  $k \geq 1$ . Then:

$$2\rho_{A_I} = 2 \sum_{k < j-i < \ell} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) + 2(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+1}) + 2(\varepsilon_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}).$$

Moreover, if  $\Psi$  is the set of roots that appear in the right side member, then  $\Psi$  satisfies the conditions (i), (ii), (iii').

*Proof.* — By counting the number of times  $\varepsilon_i$  and  $\varepsilon_j$  appear, one has:

$$\sum_{k < j-i} \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j = \sum_{i=1}^{\ell-k} (\ell + 1 - k - i)\varepsilon_i - \sum_{j=k+2}^{\ell+1} (j - k - 1)\varepsilon_j.$$

(1) Suppose  $\ell = 2k - 1$  with  $k \geq 1$ . Then:

$$\sum_{k < j-i} \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (k - i)\varepsilon_i - \sum_{j=k+2}^{\ell+1} (j - k - 1)\varepsilon_j.$$

Since  $2(k - i) + 1 = \ell - 2i + 2$  and  $2(j - k - 1) + 1 = 2j - \ell - 2$ , one obtains

$$2 \sum_{k < j-i} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) + \sum_{i=1}^k (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+k}) = 2\rho_{A_I}.$$

Thus  $\Psi$  satisfies (i). The roots contained in  $\Psi$  are those of the form  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j$  with  $j - i \geq k$ . No root of the system  $A_\ell$  is the sum of two of them, thus (iii) holds. Moreover, the above roots generate  $V$ . Indeed:

- for  $i < k$ , one has  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} = (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}) - (\varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1})$ , with  $\ell + 1 - i \geq \ell + 1 - (i + 1) \geq k$ ,
- for  $i > k$ , one has  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} = (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{i+1}) - (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_i)$ , with  $i + 1 - 1 \geq i - 1 \geq k$ ,
- and for  $i = k$ :  $\varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_{k+1} = (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+1}) + (\varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}) - (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{\ell+1})$ .

Therefore, (i)–(iii) are satisfied.

(2) Suppose  $\ell = 2k$  with  $k \geq 1$ . Then:

$$\sum_{k < j-i} \varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j = \sum_{i=1}^k (k + 1 - i)\varepsilon_i - \sum_{j=k+2}^{\ell+1} (j - k - 1)\varepsilon_j.$$

Since  $2(k + 1 - i) = \ell - 2i + 2$  and  $2(j - k - 1) = 2j - \ell - 2$ , one obtains that  $2 \sum_{k < j-i} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) = 2\rho_{A_1}$ . Therefore

$$2 \sum_{k < j-i < \ell} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) + 2(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+1}) + 2(\varepsilon_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}) = 2\rho_{A_1}.$$

Thus  $\Psi$  satisfies (i). The roots in  $\Psi$  are those of the form  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j$ , with  $k < j - i < \ell$ , and the roots  $\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+1}$ ,  $\varepsilon_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}$ . Apart  $\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}$  which is the sum of the last ones, no root of the system  $A_\ell$  is the sum of two of them. Thus (iii') holds. In addition the above roots generate  $V$ . Indeed:

- $\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{\ell+1} = (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+1}) + (\varepsilon_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1})$ ,
- for  $i < k$ , one has  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} = (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}) - (\varepsilon_{i+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1})$ , with  $\ell + 1 - i \geq \ell + 1 - (i + 1) > k$ ,
- for  $i > k + 1$ , one has  $\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_{i+1} = (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{i+1}) - (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_i)$ , with  $i + 1 - 1 \geq i - 1 > k$ ,
- for  $i = k$ :  $\varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_{k+1} = (\varepsilon_k - \varepsilon_{\ell+1}) - (\varepsilon_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{\ell+1})$ ,
- for  $i = k + 1$ :  $\varepsilon_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+2} = (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+2}) - (\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_{k+1})$ .

This concludes the proof. □

5.6. PROOF OF NON-VANISHING FOR SEMISIMPLE GROUPS. — We can finally put things together in order to provide a proof for Theorem D, hence a proof for Theorem A of the Introduction, in view of the reduction contained in 0.1.

*Proof of Theorem D.* — By Lemma 5.1, it suffices to exhibit a suitable subset  $\Psi$  of positive roots for any semisimple group. This can be done separately for each connected component of the Dynkin diagram, which amounts to dealing with simple real Lie groups. The absolutely simple cases were treated by a case-by-case analysis in Sections 5.3 to 5.5. The remaining cases correspond to the simple non absolutely simple groups, i.e., simple complex Lie groups seen as real groups. In the latter cases, the root multiplicities are all equal to 2 since the groups are split over  $\mathbf{C}$  and the root groups are all isomorphic to the real Lie group  $\mathbf{C}$ . Therefore, the function  $\rho_G$  in this case is twice the corresponding function for the split groups over  $\mathbf{R}$  with the same root system, showing that the same subset  $\Psi$  can be chosen, up to multiplying the coefficients  $m_\beta$  by 2 for each  $\beta \in \Psi$ . □

## 6. COHOMOLOGIES OF SEMI-DIRECT PRODUCTS

This section relates the de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology with the group  $L^p$ -cohomology. Our goal is to transfer to the setting of de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology, a result issued from [BR20] about the group  $L^p$ -cohomology of semi-direct products, see Corollary 6.10. It leads to the key relation (0.4) of the introduction.

The section is also an opportunity to advertise several incarnations of  $L^p$ -cohomology, and to present their properties in a synthetic way. It collects results issued from [Pan95, SS18, BR20] (see also [Ele98] for related results in the discrete group case).

**6.1. ASYMPTOTIC AND GROUP  $L^p$ -COHOMOLOGIES.** — The asymptotic  $L^p$ -cohomology of a metric space has been defined by Pansu in [Pan95]. Let  $(X, d)$  be a metric space equipped with a Borel measure  $\mu$ . Suppose it satisfies the following “bounded geometry” condition. There exist non-decreasing functions  $v, V : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$ , such for every ball  $B(x, R) \subset X$  one has

$$v(R) \leq \mu(B(x, R)) \leq V(R).$$

For  $R > 0$  and  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ , let

$$\Delta_R^{(k)} = \{(x_0, \dots, x_k) \in X^{k+1} \mid d(x_i, x_j) \leq R \text{ for all } i, j\}.$$

Let  $AS^{p,k}(X)$  be the space of (classes of) measurable functions  $f : X^{k+1} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  such that for every  $R > 0$  one has

$$N_R(f)^p := \int_{\Delta_R^{(k)}} |f(x_0, \dots, x_k)|^p d\mu(x_0) \dots d\mu(x_k) < +\infty.$$

We equip  $AS^{p,k}(X)$  with the topology induced by the set of the semi-norms  $N_R$  ( $R > 0$ ).

**DEFINITION 6.1.** — The *asymptotic  $L^p$ -cohomology* of  $X$  is the cohomology of the complex  $AS^{p,0}(X) \xrightarrow{\delta_0} AS^{p,1}(X) \xrightarrow{\delta_1} AS^{p,2}(X) \xrightarrow{\delta_2} \dots$ , where the  $\delta_k$ 's are defined by:

$$(6.2) \quad (\delta_k f)(x_0, \dots, x_{k+1}) = \sum_{i=0}^{k+1} (-1)^i f(x_0, \dots, \hat{x}_i, \dots, x_{k+1}).$$

The *reduced asymptotic  $L^p$ -cohomology* is defined similarly. They are denoted by  $L^pH_{AS}^*(X)$  and  $L^p\overline{H}_{AS}^*(X)$  respectively.

**THEOREM 6.3** ([Pan95, §2]). — *Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be metric spaces. Assume that each of them admits a Borel measure with respect to which it is of bounded geometry (as defined above). Let  $F : X \rightarrow Y$  be a quasi-isometry. Then  $F$  induces a homotopy equivalence<sup>(2)</sup> between the complexes  $AS^{p,*}(Y)$  and  $AS^{p,*}(X)$ , and a canonical isomorphism of graded topological vector spaces  $F^* : L^pH_{AS}^*(Y) \rightarrow L^pH_{AS}^*(X)$ . In particular  $F^*$  depends only on the bounded perturbation class of  $F$ . The same holds in reduced cohomology.*

<sup>(2)</sup>All the maps occurring in homotopies are supposed to be continuous.

See also [Gen14, SS18] for a detailed proof. We now turn our attention to the continuous group cohomology, see [BW00, Chap. IX] or [Gui80] for more details.

Let  $G$  be a locally compact second countable group. It admits a left-invariant proper metric defining its topology, see e.g. [CdlH16, Struble Th. 2.B.4]. Let  $(\pi, V)$  be a *topological  $G$ -module* i.e., a Hausdorff locally convex vector space over  $\mathbf{R}$  on which  $G$  acts via a continuous representation  $\pi$ . We denote by  $V^G \subset V$  the subspace of  $\pi(G)$ -invariant vectors. For  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ , let  $C^k(G, V)$  be the space of continuous maps from  $G^{k+1}$  to  $V$  equipped with the compact open topology. Then  $C^k(G, V)$  is a topological  $G$ -module by means of the following action: for  $g, x_0, \dots, x_k \in G$ ,

$$(g \cdot f)(x_0, \dots, x_k) = \pi(g)(f(g^{-1}x_0, \dots, g^{-1}x_k)).$$

Consider the following complex of invariants:

$$C^0(G, V)^G \xrightarrow{\delta_0} C^1(G, V)^G \xrightarrow{\delta_1} C^2(G, V)^G \xrightarrow{\delta_2} \dots,$$

where the  $\delta_k$ 's are defined as in (6.2). The *continuous cohomology of  $G$  with coefficients in  $(\pi, V)$*  is the cohomology of this complex, it will be denoted by  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, V)$ . Similarly is defined the reduced cohomology  $\overline{H}_{\text{ct}}^*(G, V)$ .

DEFINITION 6.4. — Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a left-invariant Haar measure on  $G$ . The *group  $L^p$ -cohomology* of  $G$  is the continuous cohomology of  $G$ , with coefficients in the right-regular representation of  $G$  on  $L^p(G, \mathcal{H})$ , i.e., the representation defined by

$$(\pi(g)u)(x) = u(xg) \text{ for } u \in L^p(G, \mathcal{H}) \text{ and } g, x \in G.$$

It will be denoted by  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G))$ . The *reduced group  $L^p$ -cohomology* of  $G$  is defined similarly and is denoted by  $\overline{H}_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G))$ .

Observe that the right-regular representation on  $L^p(G, \mathcal{H})$  is isometric if and only if  $G$  is unimodular.

THEOREM 6.5 ([SS18, Th. 10], [BR20, Th. 3.6]). — *Suppose  $G$  is a locally compact second countable topological group equipped with a left-invariant proper metric. Then the complex of invariants  $C^*(G, L^p(G))^G$  is canonically homotopy equivalent to  $AS^{p,*}(G)$ . In consequence, there exists a canonical isomorphism of graded topological vector spaces  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G, L^p(G)) \simeq L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(G)$ . The same holds for the reduced cohomology.*

We notice that the above isomorphism admits the following property. Suppose we are given an isomorphism  $\varphi : G_1 \rightarrow G_2$  of topological groups as above. It induces isomorphisms of complexes:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\text{ct}}^* : C^k(G_2, L^p(G_2))^{G_2} &\longrightarrow C^k(G_1, L^p(G_1))^{G_1} \\ \varphi_{\text{ct}}^*(f)(x_0, \dots, x_k; x) &= f(\varphi(x_0), \dots, \varphi(x_k); \varphi(x)), \\ \text{and} \\ \varphi_{\text{AS}}^* : AS^{p,k}(G_2) &\longrightarrow AS^{p,k}(G_1) \\ \varphi_{\text{AS}}^*(f)(x_0, \dots, x_k) &= f(\varphi(x_0), \dots, \varphi(x_k)). \end{aligned}$$

Then the isomorphisms  $H_{\text{ct}}^*(G_i, L^p(G_i)) \simeq L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(G_i)$ , together with the induced isomorphisms

$$\varphi_{\text{ct}}^* : H_{\text{ct}}^*(G_2, L^p(G_2)) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ct}}^*(G_1, L^p(G_1)), \quad \varphi_{\text{AS}}^* : L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(G_2) \longrightarrow L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(G_1),$$

form a commutative diagram.

**6.2. ASYMPTOTIC AND DE RHAM  $L^p$ -COHOMOLOGIES.** — Let  $M$  be a  $C^\infty$  complete Riemannian manifold. Unlike its asymptotic  $L^p$ -cohomology, its simplicial  $L^p$ -cohomology is not invariant by quasi-isometry (e.g. for compact manifolds it is isomorphic to the standard de Rham cohomology). For that reason we restrict ourselves to manifolds which are “uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ ”.

**DEFINITION 6.6.** — Let  $B = B(0, 1)$  be the unit open ball in  $\mathbf{R}^D$ . A manifold  $M$  is said *uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$* , if there exist functions  $\rho, \lambda : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow [1, +\infty)$ , and for every  $m \in M$  a  $C^\infty$ -diffeomorphism  $\varphi_m : B \rightarrow M$ , such that

- for every  $m \in M$  and  $R > 0$ , there exists  $r \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$  with

$$B(m, R) \subset \varphi_m(B(0, r)) \subset B(m, \rho(R)),$$

- and  $\varphi_m|_{B(0, r)}$  is  $\lambda(R)$ -bi-Lipschitz.

For example a Riemannian manifold which is diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ , and which admits a cocompact group of isometries, is uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ .

**THEOREM 6.7** ([Pan95]). — *Let  $M$  be a  $C^\infty$  Riemannian manifold which is uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ . There exists a homotopy equivalence between the complexes  $AS^{p,*}(M)$  and  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$ . It induces a canonical isomorphism of graded topological vector spaces  $L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(M) \simeq L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(M)$ . The same holds for reduced cohomology.*

The proof that Pansu gives in [Pan95] goes through the simplicial  $\ell^p$ -cohomology. A more direct proof is presented in the appendix below.

We notice that the isomorphism in Theorem 6.7 above admits the following property. Suppose we are given a bi-Lipschitz  $C^\infty$  diffeomorphism  $\varphi : M_1 \rightarrow M_2$  between Riemannian manifolds as above. Then the isomorphisms  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(M_i) \simeq L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(M_i)$ , together with the induced isomorphisms  $\varphi_{\text{dR}}^* : L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(M_2) \rightarrow L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(M_1)$ ,  $\varphi_{\text{AS}}^* : L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(M_2) \rightarrow L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(M_1)$ , form a commutative diagram.

**6.3. SEMI-DIRECT PRODUCTS.** — We transfer to de Rham  $L^p$ -cohomology a result about group  $L^p$ -cohomology of semi-direct products, see Corollary 6.10. This leads to relation (0.4) of the introduction.

Let  $(V, \|\cdot\|_V)$  be a separable normed space, let  $X$  be a locally compact second countable topological space endowed with a Radon measure  $\mu$ , and let  $p \in (1, +\infty)$ . We denote by  $L^p(X, V)$  the normed space consisting of the (classes of) measurable maps  $f : X \rightarrow V$  such that

$$\|f\|_{L^p(X, V)}^p := \int_X \|f(x)\|_V^p d\mu(x) < +\infty.$$

Let  $G$  be a locally compact second countable group. Suppose it decomposes as a semi-direct product  $G = Q \ltimes H$ , with  $Q, H$  closed subgroups and the standard multiplicative law

$$(q_1, h_1) \cdot (q_2, h_2) = (q_1 q_2, q_2^{-1} h_1 q_2 h_2).$$

Let  $\mathcal{H}_Q, \mathcal{H}_H$  be left-invariant Haar measures on  $Q, H$  respectively. Then  $\mathcal{H}_G := \mathcal{H}_Q \times \mathcal{H}_H$  is a left-invariant Haar measure on  $G$ . One has:

**THEOREM 6.8** ([BR20, Cor. 5.5]). — *Let  $G = Q \ltimes H$  as above. Assume that the complex of invariants  $C^*(H, L^p(H))^H$  is homotopically equivalent to a complex of Banach spaces. Suppose also that there exists  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , such that  $H_{\text{ct}}^k(H, L^p(H)) = 0$  for  $0 \leq k < n$  and such that  $H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(H))$  is Hausdorff. Then  $H_{\text{ct}}^k(G, L^p(G)) = 0$  for  $0 \leq k < n$  and there is a linear isomorphism*

$$(6.9) \quad H_{\text{ct}}^n(G, L^p(G)) \simeq L^p\left(Q, H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(H))\right)^Q,$$

where the  $Q$ -action on  $L^p(Q, H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(H)))$  is by right multiplication on itself and by conjugacy on  $H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(H))$ ; in other words it is the action induced by

$$(q \cdot f)(y)(x_0, \dots, x_n; x) = f(yq)(q^{-1}x_0q, \dots, q^{-1}x_nq; q^{-1}xq),$$

for every  $q, y \in Q, f : Q \rightarrow C^n(H, L^p(H))$  and  $x_0, \dots, x_n, x \in H$ .

For Lie groups diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ , one gets the following result which implies the relation (0.4) in the introduction.

**COROLLARY 6.10.** — *Let  $G$  be a Lie group diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ . Suppose it decomposes as  $G = Q \ltimes H$  with  $Q, H$  closed subgroups and  $H$  diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^d$  for some  $d$ . Suppose that there exists  $n \in \mathbf{N}$ , such that  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(H) = 0$  for  $0 \leq k < n$  and such that  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H)$  is Hausdorff. Then  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^k(G) = 0$  for  $0 \leq k < n$  and there is a linear isomorphism*

$$(6.11) \quad L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(G) \simeq L^p\left(Q, L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H)\right)^Q,$$

where the  $Q$ -action on  $L^p(Q, L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H))$  is by right multiplication on itself and by conjugacy on  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H)$ ; in other words, it is induced by the action

$$(q \cdot f)(y) = C_{q^{-1}}^*(f(yq)),$$

for every  $q, y \in Q, f : Q \rightarrow \Omega^{p,n}(H)$ .

*Proof.* — Since  $G$  and  $H$  are homogeneous and respectively diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$  and  $\mathbf{R}^d$ , they are uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$  and  $\mathbf{R}^d$ . By applying successively Theorems 6.5 and 6.7, one sees that the complexes  $C^*(G, L^p(G))^G$  and  $\Omega^{p,*}(G)$  are homotopy equivalent. The same holds for  $C^*(H, L^p(H))^H$  and  $\Omega^{p,*}(H)$ . In particular  $C^*(H, L^p(H))^H$  is homotopy equivalent to a complex of Banach spaces, and thus Theorem 6.8 applies.

It remains to relate the expressions of the  $Q$ -action on  $H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(H))$  and on  $L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H)$ . For that we need to find the expressions the conjugacy  $C_q^* : L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H) \rightarrow L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H)$  by  $q \in Q$ , when transformed by the successive isomorphisms

$$L^p H_{\text{dR}}^n(H) \simeq L^p H_{\text{AS}}^n(H) \simeq H_{\text{ct}}^n(R, L^p(H)).$$

It is done by using their functional properties described right after Theorems 6.7 and 6.5.  $\square$

REMARK 6.12. — The linear isomorphism (6.9) in Theorem 6.8 is the composition of the following two isomorphisms

$$H_{\text{ct}}^n(G, L^p(G)) \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(G))^Q \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} L^p(Q, H_{\text{ct}}^n(H, L^p(H)))^Q.$$

The second one is a topological isomorphism [BR20, Prop. 5.2]; it comes from a Fubini type argument. The first one comes from the Hochschild-Serre spectral sequence [BW00, Th. IX.4.3]. When  $G$  is countable, the continuous cohomology  $H_{\text{ct}}^n(G, L^p(G))$  coincides with the standard one  $H^n(G, \ell^p(G))$ . In this case it is known that  $\varphi_1$  equals the restriction map [HS53, Th. III.2]. We suspect that the equality between  $\varphi_1$  and the restriction map holds in general under the assumptions of Theorem 6.8. Since the restriction map is continuous, this would imply that  $H_{\text{ct}}^n(G, L^p(G))$  is Hausdorff and that the isomorphisms (6.9) and (6.11) are canonical and Banach.

#### APPENDIX. ON ASYMPTOTIC AND DE RHAM $L^p$ -COHOMOLOGY

The goal of the appendix is to give a direct proof of Pansu's Theorem 6.7, that we restate below for commodity (see Definition 6.6 for the notion of *uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$* ):

THEOREM A.1. — *Let  $M$  be a  $C^\infty$  Riemannian manifold which is uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ . There exists a homotopy equivalence<sup>(3)</sup> between the complexes  $ASP^{p,*}(M)$  and  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$ . It induces a canonical isomorphism of graded topological vector spaces  $L^p H_{\text{AS}}^*(M) \simeq L^p H_{\text{dR}}^*(M)$ . The same holds for reduced cohomology.*

The following standard notion will serve repeatedly in the sequel.

DEFINITION A.2. — Let  $(A^*, d)$  be a complex of topological vector spaces, let  $(B^*, d) \subset (A^*, d)$  be a subcomplex, and let denote by  $i : B^* \rightarrow A^*$  the inclusion map. One says that  $A^*$  *retracts by deformation onto  $B^*$* , if there exists a continuous linear map  $r : A^* \rightarrow B^*$  such that  $r \circ d = d \circ r$ ,  $r \circ i = \text{id}$ , and  $i \circ r$  is homotopic to  $\text{id}$ .

When  $A^*$  retracts by deformation onto  $B^*$ , the inclusion map  $i : B^* \rightarrow A^*$  induces canonically isomorphisms of graded topological vector spaces  $H^*(B^*) \simeq H^*(A^*)$  and  $\bar{H}^*(B^*) \simeq \bar{H}^*(A^*)$ .

The method for proving Theorem A.1 is a variant of the double complex proof of the isomorphism between de Rham and Čech cohomologies (see e.g. [BT82, Th. 8.9 &

<sup>(3)</sup>Recall that all the maps occurring in homotopies are supposed to be continuous.

Prop. 9.5]). This method is used in [Pan95] to show the equivalence between the de Rham and the simplicial  $L^p$ -cohomologies. It is based on the following general lemma:

LEMMA A.3. — *Let  $(C^{k,\ell}, d', d'')_{(k,\ell) \in \mathbb{N}^2}$  be a double complex of topological vector spaces, with  $d' \circ d'' + d'' \circ d' = 0$ . Suppose that for every  $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$ , the complex  $(C^{*,\ell}, d')$  retracts by deformation onto the subcomplex that is null in degrees at least 1 and equal to  $E^\ell := \text{Ker } d'|_{C^{0,\ell}}$  in degree 0. Then the complex  $(D^*, d_D)$ , defined by  $D^m = \bigoplus_{k+\ell=m} C^{k,\ell}$  and  $d_D = d' + d''$ , retracts by deformation onto its subcomplex  $(E^*, d'')$ .*

This kind of result is well-known from the specialists (see e.g. [BT82, Prop. 9.5 & Rem. p. 104]). It is stated in this form in [Pan95, Lem. 5], with a sketch of proof. A detailed proof appears in [Seq20, Lem. 2.2.1].

A.1. DEFINITION OF THE DOUBLE COMPLEX  $C^{*,*}$ . — Let  $M$  be a  $C^\infty$  complete Riemannian manifold. We denote by  $\Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$  the space of (measurable)  $k$ -differential forms on  $M$  that belong to  $\Omega^{p,k}(U)$  for every relatively compact open subset  $U \subset M$ . The  $\Omega^{p,k}$ -norm of the restriction of  $\omega$  to  $U$  is denoted by  $\|\omega\|_U$  for simplicity. Equipped with the set of semi-norms  $\|\cdot\|_U$ , where  $U \subset M$  is open relatively compact, the space  $\Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$  is a separable Fréchet space.

For every pair  $(k, \ell) \in \mathbb{N}^2$ , every  $R > 0$  and every measurable map  $f : M^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$ , we define the semi-norm  $N_R(f)$  by

$$N_R(f)^p = \int_{\Delta_R^{(\ell)}} \|f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell)\|_{B(m_0, R)}^p d \text{vol}^{\ell+1}(m_0, \dots, m_\ell),$$

where  $\text{vol}^{\ell+1}$  denotes the product measure on  $M^{\ell+1}$ . We remark that changing  $B(m_0, R)$  by  $B(m_i, R)$  in the definition of  $N_R(f)$ , leads to an equivalent family of semi-norms; indeed one has  $B(m_i, R) \subset B(m_j, 2R)$  when  $(m_0, \dots, m_\ell) \in \Delta_R^{(\ell)}$ .

Let  $C^{k,\ell}$  be the topological vector spaces of (the classes of) the measurable maps  $f : M^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$  such that  $N_R(f) < +\infty$  for every  $R > 0$ . We define  $d' : C^{k,\ell} \rightarrow C^{k+1,\ell}$  and  $d'' : C^{k,\ell} \rightarrow C^{k,\ell+1}$  by

$$d'f = (-1)^\ell d \circ f \quad \text{and} \quad d''f = \delta f,$$

where  $d$  is the de Rham differential operator and  $\delta$  is the discrete operator defined in (6.2). Then  $C^{*,*} = (C^{k,\ell}, d', d'')_{(k,\ell) \in \mathbb{N}^2}$  is a double complex of topological vector spaces. It satisfies  $d' \circ d'' + d'' \circ d' = 0$ .

The complex  $C^{*,*}$  interpolates between the complexes  $AS^{p,*}(M)$  and  $\Omega^{p,*}$ . Indeed:

PROPOSITION A.4. — *There are canonical isomorphisms of topological complexes  $\text{Ker } d'|_{C^{0,*}} \simeq AS^{p,*}(M)$  and  $\text{Ker } d''|_{C^{*,0}} \simeq \Omega^{p,*}(M)$ .*

*Proof*

(1) One has  $f \in \text{Ker } d'|_{C^{0,\ell}}$  if and only if  $f : M^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,0}(M)$  satisfies  $d \circ f = 0$ , i.e.,  $f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell)$  is a constant function for a.a.  $(m_0, \dots, m_\ell) \in M^{\ell+1}$ . Moreover,



when  $f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell)$  is a constant function, one has

$$\|f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell)\|_{B(m_0, R)}^p = |f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell)|^p \operatorname{vol}(B(m_0, R)).$$

Therefore,  $\operatorname{Ker} d'|_{C^{0,*}} \simeq AS^{p,*}(M)$ .

(2) One has  $f \in \operatorname{Ker} d''|_{C^{k,0}}$  if and only if  $f : M \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$  satisfies  $\delta f = 0$  i.e.,  $f$  is a constant map. Let  $\omega$  be its constant value. Since  $M$  is uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ , it admits bounded geometry in the sense of Section 6.1; there exist functions  $v, V : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  such that for every ball  $B(m, R) \subset M$  one has

$$v(R) \leq \operatorname{vol}(B(m, R)) \leq V(R).$$

By Fubini one has for every  $R > 0$

$$v(R) \|\omega\|_{\Omega_{p,k}}^p \leq \int_M \|\omega\|_{B(m,R)}^p d \operatorname{vol}(m) \leq V(R) \|\omega\|_{\Omega_{p,k}}^p.$$

Therefore,  $\operatorname{Ker} d''|_{C^{*,0}} \simeq \Omega^{p,*}(M)$ .  $\square$

## A.2. HOMOTOPY TYPE OF THE COLUMNS

**PROPOSITION A.5.** — *For every  $\ell \in \mathbf{N}$ , the complex  $(C^{*,\ell}, d')$  retracts by deformation onto the subcomplex  $(\operatorname{Ker} d'|_{C^{0,\ell}} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots)$ .*

Its proof is postponed at the end of the subsection. A crucial ingredient is the following lemma issued from [IL93, §4].

**LEMMA A.6.** — *Let  $B = B(0, 1)$  be the unit Euclidean open ball in  $\mathbf{R}^D$ . Let  $h \in C^\infty(B)$  be non-negative, supported on  $B(0, \frac{1}{2})$ , and normalized so that  $\int_B h(x) dx = 1$ . There exists a continuous operator  $T : \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(B) \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k-1}(B)$  with the following homotopy properties:*

- (1)  $d \circ T + T \circ d = \operatorname{id}$  when  $k \geq 1$ .
- (2)  $(T \circ d)(f) = f - \int_B f(x) h(x) dx$ , for  $f \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,0}(B)$ .
- (3) For every  $r \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ ,  $k \geq 1$  and  $\omega \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(B)$ , one has

$$\|T\omega\|_{B(0,r)} \leq C \|\omega\|_{B(0,r)},$$

where  $C$  is a constant which depends only on the dimension  $D$ .

*Proof.* — This is precisely done in [IL93, §4]. We recall the construction for convenience. First, for every  $y \in B$ , one defines an operator  $K_y : \Omega^k(B) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(B)$  by H. Cartan's formula

$$(K_y \omega)(x; v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}) = \int_0^1 t^{k-1} \omega(y + t(x-y); x-y, v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}) dt.$$

It satisfies  $d \circ K_y + K_y \circ d = \operatorname{id}$  when  $k \geq 1$ , and  $(K_y \circ d)(f) = f(y)$  when  $k = 0$ . Then one averages  $K_y$  over all  $y \in B$ , to define the operator  $T : \Omega^k(B) \rightarrow \Omega^{k-1}(B)$ :

$$T\omega = \int_B (K_y \omega) h(y) dy.$$

Clearly it satisfies the homotopy relations (1) and (2) of the lemma. A bit of analysis is required to see that it extends to an operator from  $\Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(B)$  to  $\Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k-1}(B)$ , and

to show that it satisfies the property (3) of Lemma A.6 – see Inequality (4.15) and Lemma 4.2 in [IL93].  $\square$

By assumption  $M$  is uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ . Thus, for every  $m \in M$ , there is a diffeomorphism  $\varphi_m : B \rightarrow M$  with controlled geometry, see Definition 6.6.

We remark that we can (and will) assume that the map

$$M \times B \longrightarrow M, (m, x) \longmapsto \varphi_m(x)$$

is measurable. Indeed one can always transform the family  $\{\varphi_m\}_{m \in M}$  in such a way that the resulting map  $M \rightarrow C^\infty(B, M)$ ,  $m \mapsto \varphi_m$  is piecewise constant.

LEMMA A.7. — For  $f : M^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$  and  $(m_0, \dots, m_\ell) \in M^{\ell+1}$ , set

$$(Hf)(m_0, \dots, m_\ell) = ((\varphi_{m_0}^{-1})^* \circ T \circ \varphi_{m_0}^*)(f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell)),$$

where  $T$  is the homotopy operator in Lemma A.6. This defines a continuous operator  $H : C^{k,\ell} \rightarrow C^{k-1,\ell}$ , which satisfies the following homotopy relations

- $d' \circ H + H \circ d' = \text{id}$  for  $k \geq 1$ ,
- $H \circ d' = \text{id} - \psi$  for  $k = 0$ , where

$$(\psi f)(m_0, \dots, m_\ell) = \int_B f(m_0, \dots, m_\ell; \varphi_{m_0}(x)) h(x) dx.$$

*Proof*

(1) First, since  $(m, x) \mapsto \varphi_m(x)$  is measurable on  $M \times B$ , the map  $Hf$  is measurable on  $M^{\ell+1}$ .

(2) For  $\omega \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$ ,  $m \in M$  and  $R > 0$ , with the notations of Definition 6.6 and Lemma A.6, one has:

$$\begin{aligned} \|((\varphi_m^{-1})^* \circ T \circ \varphi_m^*)(\omega)\|_{B(m,R)} &= \|(\varphi_m^{-1})^*((T \circ \varphi_m^*)(\omega))\|_{B(m,R)} \\ &\leq \|(\varphi_m^{-1})^*((T \circ \varphi_m^*)(\omega))\|_{\varphi_m(B(0,r))} \leq \lambda(R)^{k+p/D} \|(T \circ \varphi_m^*)(\omega)\|_{B(0,r)} \\ &\leq C\lambda(R)^{k+p/D} \|\varphi_m^*(\omega)\|_{B(0,r)} \leq C\lambda(R)^{2k+1+2p/D} \|\omega\|_{\varphi_m(B(0,r))} \\ &\leq C\lambda(R)^{2k+1+2p/D} \|\omega\|_{B(m,\rho(R))}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore  $N_R(Hf) \leq C\lambda(R)^{2k+1+2p/D} N_{\rho(R)}(f)$ , and thus  $H$  maps  $C^{k,\ell}$  to  $C^{k-1,\ell}$  continuously.

(3) The homotopy relations follows easily from those in Lemma A.6.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition A.5.* — We keep the notations of Lemma A.7. Recall that the subspace  $\text{Ker } d'|_{C^{0,\ell}}$  is described in the proof on Proposition A.4. Define a retraction  $r : C^{*,\ell} \rightarrow (\text{Ker } d'|_{C^{0,\ell}} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots)$  by letting  $r = \psi$  on  $C^{0,\ell}$ , and  $r = 0$  on  $C^{k,\ell}$  when  $k \geq 1$ . Clearly it commutes with  $d'$ . Since  $\int_B h(x) dx = 1$ , one has  $r \circ i = \text{id}$ . Finally  $H$  is a homotopy between  $i \circ r$  and  $\text{id}$ .  $\square$

## A.3. HOMOTOPY TYPE OF THE ROWS

PROPOSITION A.8. — For every  $k \in \mathbf{N}$ , the complex  $(C^{k,*}, d'')$  retracts by deformation onto the subcomplex  $(\text{Ker } d''|_{C^{k,0}} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots)$ .

Again we start with two lemmas.

LEMMA A.9. — There exists, for every  $m \in M$ , a function  $\chi_m : M \rightarrow [0, +\infty)$  which enjoys the following properties:

- (1) its support is contained in  $B(m, 1)$ ,
- (2) the maps  $(m, m') \mapsto \chi_m(m')$  and  $(m, m') \mapsto (d\chi_m)(m')$  are  $C^\infty$  and bounded on  $M \times M$ ,
- (3)  $\int_M \chi_m d\text{vol}(m) = 1$ .

Proof. — Consider a  $C^\infty$  non-negative function  $\Phi$  on  $M \times M$ , which is equal to 1 on  $\{d(m, m') \leq 1/2\}$ , and 0 on  $\{d(m, m') \geq 1\}$ . Set

$$\chi_m(m') := \frac{\Phi(m, m')}{\int_M \Phi(m, m') d\text{vol}(m)}.$$

It satisfies the expected properties because  $M$  is uniformly diffeomorphic to  $\mathbf{R}^D$ .  $\square$

LEMMA A.10. — For  $f : M^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$  and  $(m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) \in M^\ell$ , set

$$(Kf)(m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) = \int_M \chi_m \cdot f(m, m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) d\text{vol}(m).$$

This defines a continuous operator  $K : C^{k,\ell} \rightarrow C^{k,\ell-1}$ , which satisfies the following homotopy relations:

- $d'' \circ K + K \circ d'' = \text{id}$  when  $\ell \geq 1$ ,
- $(K \circ d'')(f) = f - \int_M \chi_m \cdot f(m) d\text{vol}(m)$  when  $\ell = 0$ .

Proof. — We divide it into few steps.

- (1) The map  $K$  is a continuous linear from  $C^{k,\ell}$  to  $C^{k,\ell-1}$ :

For  $f \in C^{k,\ell}$ , thanks to properties (1), (2) in Lemma A.9, one has:

$$\begin{aligned} & \| (Kf)(m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) \|_{B(m_0, R)} \\ &= \left\| \int_M \chi_m \cdot f(m, m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) d\text{vol}(m) \right\|_{B(m_0, R)} \\ &\leq \int_M \left\| \chi_m \cdot f(m, m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) \right\|_{B(m_0, R)} d\text{vol}(m) \\ &\leq C \cdot \int_{B(m_0, R+1)} \|f(m, m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1})\|_{B(m_0, R)} d\text{vol}(m), \end{aligned}$$

where  $C$  is a constant which depends only on the upper bounds in Lemma A.9(2). Since  $M$  has bounded geometry the volume of the ball  $B(m_0, R+1)$  is bounded by above by a function of  $R$  only. Moreover, the relations  $m \in B(m_0, R+1)$  and  $(m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) \in \Delta_R^{(\ell-1)}$  imply that  $(m, m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) \in \Delta_{2R+1}^{(\ell)}$  and that  $B(m_0, R) \subset B(m, 2R+1)$ . These properties, in combination with Hölder inequality

and Fubini, yield the existence of a function  $\phi : (0, +\infty) \rightarrow (0, +\infty)$  such that  $N_R(Kf) \leq \phi(R) \cdot N_{2R+1}(f)$ .

(2) For  $m \in M$  and  $f : M^{\ell+1} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{loc}}^{p,k}(M)$ , put

$$(k_m f)(m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}) = f(m, m_0, \dots, m_{\ell-1}),$$

so that one can write  $Kf = \int_M \chi_m \cdot (k_m f) d \text{vol}(m)$ .

It is an easy and standard fact that  $\delta \circ k_m + k_m \circ \delta = \text{id}$  when  $\ell \geq 1$ , and  $(k_m \circ \delta)(f) = f - f(m)$  when  $\ell = 0$ . Since  $\int_M \chi_m d \text{vol}(m) = 1$  by Lemma A.9, and since  $d''f = \delta f$ , the operator  $K$  satisfies the expected homotopy relations.  $\square$

*Proof of Proposition A.8.* — We keep the notations of Lemma A.10. Recall that the subspace  $\text{Ker } d''|_{C^{k,0}}$  is described in the proof on Proposition A.4. Define a retraction  $s : C^{*,\ell} \rightarrow (\text{Ker } d''|_{C^{k,0}} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots)$ , by letting  $s(f) = \int_M \chi_m \cdot f(m) d \text{vol}(m)$  on  $C^{k,0}$ , and  $s = 0$  on  $C^{k,\ell}$  when  $k \geq 1$ . Clearly it commutes with  $d''$ . Since  $\int_M \chi_m d \text{vol}(m) = 1$ , one has  $s \circ i = \text{id}$ . Finally  $K$  is a homotopy between  $i \circ s$  and  $\text{id}$ .  $\square$

A.4. PROOF OF THEOREM A.1. — Let  $(D^*, d_D)$  be the complex  $D^m = \bigoplus_{k+\ell=m} C^{k,\ell}$  with  $d_D = d' + d''$ . From Propositions A.4, A.5 and Lemma A.3, it retracts by deformation onto  $AS^{p,*}(M)$ . From Propositions A.4, A.8 and Lemma A.3, it retracts by deformation onto  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$ . Therefore,  $AS^{p,*}(M)$  and  $\Omega^{p,*}(M)$  are homotopy equivalent. Their cohomologies are topologically isomorphic.  $\square$

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