Contents

Chapter 1

Spatial Derivatives

Spatial derivatives were introduced by A. Connes in [1]. In this chapter, we give an alternative definition (equivalent to that given in [1]) suggested to us by U. Haagerup, based on the notion of the extended positive part of a von Neumann algebra. This definition permits us to obtain very easily some elementary properties of spatial derivatives. After this, we recall their main modular properties and the characterization as (-1)-homogeneous operators.

1.1 Definition and elementary properties of spatial derivatives

Let M be a von Neumann algebra acting on a Hilbert space H, and let ψ be a normal faithful semifinite weight on the commutant M' of M.

We shall use the following standard notation: $n_\psi = \{y \in M' | \psi(y^*y) < \infty\}$, H_ψ the Hilbert space completion of n_ψ with respect to the inner product $(y_1, y_2) \mapsto \psi(y_2^* y_1)$, Λ_ψ the canonical injection of n_ψ into H_ψ, π_ψ the canonical representation of M' on H_ψ.

Definition 1. *For each $\xi \in H$, we denote by $R^\psi(\xi)$ the (densely defined) operator from H_ψ to H defined by*

$$R^\psi(\xi)\Lambda_\psi(y) = y\xi, y \in n_\psi. \tag{1}$$

Proposition 2. *For all $\xi, \xi_1, \xi_2 \in H$, $x \in M$, and $y \in M'$ we have*

(i) $R^\psi(\xi_1 + \xi_2) = R^\psi(\xi_1) + R^\psi(\xi_2)$,

(ii) $R^\psi(x\xi) = xR^\psi(\xi)$,

(iii) $yR^\psi(\xi) \subset R^\psi(\xi)\pi_\psi(y)$,

and

*(i)** $R^\psi(\xi_1)^* + R^\psi(\xi_2)^* \subset R^\psi(\xi_1 + \xi_2)^*$,

*(ii)** $R^\psi(x\xi)^* = R^\psi(\xi)^* x^*$,

*(iii)** $\pi_\psi(y)R^\psi(\xi)^* \subset R^\psi(\xi)^* y$.

Proof. (i) and (ii) are immediate from Definition 1. (iii): For all $z \in n_\psi$, we have $yR^\psi(\xi)\Lambda_\psi(z) = yz\xi = R^\psi(\xi)\Lambda_\psi(yz) = R^\psi(\xi)\pi_\psi(y)\Lambda_\psi(z)$.

(i)*, (ii)*, and (iii)* follow from (i), (ii), and (iii) using $R^\psi(\xi_1) + R^\psi(\xi_2) \subset (R^\psi(\xi_1) + R^\psi(\xi_2))^*$, $(xR^\psi(\xi))^* = R^\psi(\xi)^* x^*$, and $(y^* R^\psi(\xi))^* = R^\psi(\xi)^* y^*$. □

Definition 3. *A vector $\xi \in H$ is called ψ-bounded if the operator $R^\psi(\xi)$ is bounded. The set of ψ-bounded vectors is denoted $D(H, \psi)$.*

Notation. *If $\xi \in D(H, \psi)$, $R^\psi(\xi)$ extends to a bounded operator $H_\psi \to H$ which we shall also denote $R^\psi(\xi)$.*

Proposition 4. *The set $D(H, \psi)$ is an M-invariant dense subspace of H.*

Proof. That $D(H, \psi)$ is an M-invariant subspace of H follows from Proposition 2, i) and (ii). Denote by e the projection onto $\overline{D(H, \psi)}$; then $e \in M'$. Suppose that $e \neq 1$. Then $\psi(1 - e) > 0$. We can write $\psi = \sum_{i \in I} \omega_{\zeta_i, \zeta_i}$ for certain $\zeta_i \in H$. Then for at least one ζ_i, we have $((1 - e)\zeta_i | \zeta_i) \neq 0$ so that $(1 - e)\zeta_i \neq 0$. On the other hand, we have

$$\forall y \in n_\psi : \|y\zeta_i\|^2 \leq \psi(y^* y) = \|\Lambda_\psi(y)\|^2$$

so that $\zeta_i \in D(H, \psi)$ and hence $e\zeta_i = \zeta_i$. This is a contradiction. Hence we must have $e = 1$ and $D(H, \psi)$ is dense in H. □

Let $\xi \in H$. By Proposition 2, (iii)*, $D(R^\psi(\xi)^*)$ is invariant under the action of M'. Hence the projection p onto $\overline{D(R^\psi(\xi)^*)}$ is in M. Considered as an operator from pH to H_ψ, $R^\psi(\xi)^*$ is closed and densely defined and hence $\left|R^\psi(\xi)^*\right|^2$ exists as a positive self-adjoint operator on pH which by Proposition 2, (iii)*, is affiliated with pMp. We denote by $\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)$ the element of $\widehat{M}_+$ (the extended positive part of M) associated with the couple $(pH, \left|R^\psi(\xi)^*\right|^2)$ as in [7, Example 1.2 and Lemma 1.4], i.e.

Definition 5. *For each $\xi \in H$, we denote by*

$$\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)$$

the element of $\widehat{M}_+$ characterized by

$$\forall \eta \in H : \langle \omega_{\eta,\eta}, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle = \begin{cases} \left\|R^\psi(\xi)^*\eta\right\|^2 & \text{if } \eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi)^*) \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}. \tag{2}$$

Remark 6. *If $\xi \in D(H,\psi)$, we simply have*

$$\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi) = R^\psi(\xi)R^\psi(\xi)^*. \tag{3}$$

Proposition 7. *For all $\xi \in H$ and $x \in M$, we have*

$$\theta^\psi(x\xi, x\xi) = x \cdot \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi) \cdot x^*.$$

Proof. For all $\eta \in H$, we have, using Proposition 2, (ii)*, and Definition 5

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \omega_{\eta,\eta}, \theta^\psi(x\xi, x\xi)\rangle &= \langle \omega_{x^*\eta, x^*\eta}, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle \\ &= \langle x^* \cdot \omega_{\eta,\eta} \cdot x, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle \\ &= \langle \omega_{\eta,\eta}, x \cdot \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi) \cdot x^*\rangle \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality simply follows from the definition of the operation $m \mapsto x \cdot m \cdot x^*$ in $\widehat{M}_+$. □

Recall that by [7, Proposition 1.10], every normal weight φ has a unique extension, also denoted φ, to a normal weight on $\widehat{M}_+$.

Definition 8. *Let φ be a normal weight on M. We define*

$$q_\varphi : H \to [0, \infty]$$

by

$$q_\varphi(\xi) = \langle \varphi, \theta^\psi(\xi, \xi) \rangle, \xi \in H. \tag{4}$$

Proposition 9. *Let φ be a normal weight on M. Then q_φ is a l.s.c. quadratic form on M, i.e.*

(i) $\forall \xi_1, \xi_2 \in H : q_\varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2) + q_\varphi(\xi_1 - \xi_2) = 2q_\varphi(\xi_1) + 2q_\varphi(\xi_2)$,

(ii) $\forall \xi \in H \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{C} : q_\varphi(\lambda \xi) = |\lambda|^2 q_\varphi(\xi)$,

(iii) q_φ *is lower semi-continuous.*

Proof. (ii) is immediate. For the proof of (i) and (iii), first suppose that $\varphi = \omega_{\eta,\eta}$ for some $\eta \in H$. Then

$$q_\varphi(\xi) = \langle \omega_{\eta,\eta}, \theta^\psi(\xi, \xi) \rangle = \begin{cases} \left\| R^\psi(\xi)^* \eta \right\|^2 & \text{if } \eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi)^*) \\ \infty \quad \text{otherwise} \end{cases} . \tag{5}$$

Let $\xi_1, \xi_2 \in H$. We shall prove that

$$q_\varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2) + q_\varphi(\xi_1 - \xi_2) \leq 2q_\varphi(\xi_1) + 2q_\varphi(\xi_2). \tag{6}$$

If either $\eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi_1)^*)$ or $\eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi_2)^*)$, the right hand side of (6) is $+\infty$ and hence (6) holds. Now suppose that $\eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi_1)^*)$ and $\eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi_2)^*)$. Then by Proposition 2, (i)*, also $\eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi_1 + \xi_2)^*)$ and $\eta \in D(R^\psi(\xi_1 - \xi_2)^*)$. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\| R^\psi(\xi_1 + \xi_2)^* \eta \right\|^2 + \left\| R^\psi(\xi_1 - \xi_2)^* \eta \right\|^2 \\ =&\left\| R^\psi(\xi_1)^* \eta + R^\psi(\xi_2)^* \eta \right\|^2 + \left\| R^\psi(\xi_1)^* \eta - R^\psi(\xi_2)^* \eta \right\|^2 \\ =&2\left\| R^\psi(\xi_1)^* \eta \right\|^2 + 2\left\| R^\psi(\xi_2)^* \eta \right\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have proved (6) in all cases.

By (6) applied to $\xi_1 + \xi_2$ and $\xi_1 - \xi_2$ we get

$$4(q_\varphi(\xi_1) + q_\varphi(\xi_2)) = q_\varphi(2\xi_1) + q_\varphi(2\xi_2) \leq 2q_\varphi(\xi_1 + \xi_2) + 2q_\varphi(\xi_1 - \xi_2).$$

In all, we have shown (i).

By (5), we have

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \omega_{\eta,\eta}, \theta^{\psi}(\xi,\xi)\rangle =& \sup\{\left|(R^{\psi}(\xi)^{*}\eta|\zeta)\right|^{2} | \zeta \in D(R^{\psi}(\xi)), \|\zeta\| \leq 1\}\\ =& \sup\{\left|(\eta|R^{\psi}(\xi)\Lambda_{\psi}(y))\right|^{2} | y \in n_{\psi}, \|\Lambda_{\psi}(y)\| \leq 1\}\\ =& \sup\{|(\eta|y\xi)|^{2} | y \in n_{\psi}, \|\Lambda_{\psi}(y)\| \leq 1\}\end{aligned}$$

for all $\xi \in H$. Since each $\xi \mapsto |(\eta|y\xi)|^{2}$ is continuous, this implies (iii).

Now let φ be an arbitrary normal weight. Then we can write

$$\varphi = \sum_{i \in I} \omega_{\eta_i,\eta_i}$$

and thus (cf. the proof of [7, Proposition 1.10])

$$\forall \xi \in H : q_{\varphi}(\xi) = \langle \varphi, \theta^{\psi}(\xi,\xi)\rangle = \sum_{i=I} \langle \omega_{\eta_i,\eta_i}, \theta^{\psi}(\xi,\xi)\rangle.$$

Now (i) and (iii) follow by the first part of the proof. □

Remark 10. *Let φ be a normal weight on M. Write*

$$\mathrm{Dom}(q_{\varphi}) = \{\xi \in H | q_{\varphi}(\xi) < \infty\}. \tag{7}$$

Then for all $x \in n_{\varphi}$ and $\xi \in D(H,\psi)$, we have

$$x^{*}\xi \in \mathrm{Dom}(q_{\varphi}). \tag{8}$$

Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned}q_{\varphi}(x^{*}\xi) =& \langle \varphi, \theta^{\psi}(x^{*}\xi, x^{*}\xi)\rangle\\ =& \langle \varphi, x^{*} \cdot \theta^{\psi}(\xi,\xi) \cdot x\rangle\\ \leq& \left\|\theta^{\psi}(\xi,\xi)\right\| \langle \varphi, x^{*}x\rangle < \infty.\end{aligned}$$

In particular, if φ is semifinite then $\mathrm{Dom}(q_{\varphi})$ is dense in H (since n_{φ}^{*} is strongly dense in M).

Definition 11. *For each normal weight φ on M, we define the spatial derivative $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ as the unique element of $\widehat{B(H)}_+$ such that*

$$\forall \xi \in H : \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \rangle = \langle \varphi, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi) \rangle. \tag{9}$$

The existence of $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ follows from Proposition 9 and [7, proof of Lemma 1.4].

Remark 12. *If φ is semifinite, $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is simply a positive self-adjoint operator on H (since in this case, $\{\xi \in H | \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \rangle < \infty\} = \mathrm{Dom}(q_\varphi)$ is dense in H). Note that*

$$\forall \xi \in H : q_\varphi(\xi) = \begin{cases} \left\| \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \xi \right\|^2 & \text{if } \xi \in D\left(\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \right) \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} . \tag{10}$$

We shall see below (Proposition 22 that the definition of $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ given here agrees with that given in [1]. (This is not quite obvious. Note that in [1, Lemma 6], the quadratic form q is only defined on the subspace $D(H,\psi)$, and then extended by [1, Lemma 5] to the whole of H.)

Lemma 13. *Let $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, (\varphi_i)_{i\in I}$, and φ be normal weights on M and let $x \in M$. Then*

(i) $\forall m \in \widehat{M}_+ : \langle \varphi_1 + \varphi_2, m \rangle = \langle \varphi_1, m \rangle + \langle \varphi_2, m \rangle$,

(ii) $\forall m \in \widehat{M}_+ : \langle x \cdot \varphi \cdot x^*, m \rangle = \langle \varphi, x^* \cdot m \cdot x \rangle$,

(iii) if $\varphi_i \nearrow \varphi$, then $\forall m \in \widehat{M}_+ : \langle \varphi_i, m \rangle \nearrow \langle \varphi, m \rangle$.

Proof. (i) and (ii) are immediate consequences of [7, Proposition 1.10] (or its proof). As for (iii), we have by the proof of [7, Proposition 1.10], using the notation from there,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \varphi_i, m \rangle =& \sup_n \langle \varphi_i, \int_0^n \lambda \mathrm{d}e_\lambda \rangle + \infty \cdot \varphi_i(p) \\ &\nearrow \sup_n \langle \varphi, \int_0^n \lambda \mathrm{d}e_\lambda \rangle + \infty \cdot \varphi_i(p) = \langle \varphi, m \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 14. *For all normal weights φ_1, φ_2, and φ on M and all $x \in M$ we have*

(a) $\frac{\mathrm{d}(\varphi_1+\varphi_2)}{\mathrm{d}\psi} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_2}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$,

(b) $\frac{\mathrm{d}(x\cdot\varphi\cdot x^*)}{\mathrm{d}\psi} = x \cdot \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \cdot x^*$.

Remark 15. *The sums and products occurring at the right hand side of (a) and (b) are to be understood in the sense of the operations in $\widehat{B(H)}_+$. In particular, if φ_1, φ_2, $\varphi_1+\varphi_2$ are semifinite, $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_2}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is the form sum of the positive self-adjoint operators $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ and $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_2}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$. Similarly, if $x \cdot \varphi \cdot x^*$ is semifinite, $x \cdot \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \cdot x^*$ is the form product.*

Remark 16. *In [1], the sum property is simply stated without proof. It seems to be difficult to give a proof using only the methods of [1] (one only gets "$\geq$"). - The product property is stated (and proved) only for invertible $x \in M$.*

Proof of Theorem 14. Let $\xi \in H$. Then, using successively Definition 11, Lemma 13, Definition 11 again, and the definition of the sum in $\widehat{B(H)}_+$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}(\varphi_1+\varphi_2)}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle =& \langle \varphi_1+\varphi_2, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle \\ =& \langle \varphi_1, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle + \langle \varphi_2, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle \\ =& \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle + \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_2}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle \\ =& \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi} + \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_2}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle.\end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}(x\cdot\varphi\cdot x^*)}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle =& \langle x\cdot\varphi\cdot x^*, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle = \langle \varphi, x^*\cdot\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\cdot x\rangle \\ =& \langle \varphi, \theta^\psi(x^*\xi, x^*\xi)\rangle = \langle \omega_{x^*\xi,x^*\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle \\ =& \langle x^*\cdot\omega_{\xi,\xi}\cdot x, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle = \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, x\cdot\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\cdot x^*\rangle\end{aligned}$$

where we have used Lemma 13 and Proposition 7. □

Theorem 17. *Let $(\varphi_i)_{i\in I}$ and φ be normal weights on M. Suppose that*

$$\varphi_i \nearrow \varphi.$$

Then

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_i}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \nearrow \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}.$$

Remark 18. *In particular, if φ is semifinite, we have $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_i}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \nearrow \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ in the usual sense of positive self-adjoint operators.*

Proof of Theorem 17. For all $\xi \in H$, we have by Lemma 13

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_i}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle =& \langle \varphi_i, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle \\ &\nearrow \langle \varphi, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle = \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle.\end{aligned}$$

□

Lemma 19. *Let φ be a normal semifinite weight on M. Write $p = \operatorname{supp}\varphi$. Then for all $m \in \widehat{M}_+$, we have*

$$\langle \varphi, m\rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow p \cdot m \cdot p = 0.$$

Proof. Let $m = \int_0^\infty \lambda \mathrm{d}e_\lambda + \infty \cdot (1-r)$ be the spectral resolution of m. Put $x_n = \int_0^n \lambda \mathrm{d}e_\lambda, n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \varphi, m\rangle = 0 \Leftrightarrow & \forall n \in \mathbb{N} : \langle \varphi, x_n\rangle = 0 \text{ and } \langle \varphi, 1-r\rangle = 0 \\ & \forall n \in \mathbb{N} : p \cdot x_n \cdot p = 0 \text{ and } p \cdot (1-r) \cdot p = 0 \\ & \Leftrightarrow p \cdot m \cdot p = 0.\end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 20. *Let φ be a normal semifinite weight on M. Then*

$$\operatorname{supp}\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right) = \operatorname{supp}(\varphi). \tag{11}$$

In particular, $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is injective if and only if φ is faithful.

Proof. Put $p = \operatorname{supp}\varphi \in M$. Now for all $\xi \in H$, we have, using Lemma 19 and Proposition 7:

$$\begin{aligned}
\xi \in \ker(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}) &\Leftrightarrow \langle \omega_{\xi,\xi}, \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\rangle = 0 \\
&\Leftrightarrow \langle \varphi, \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle = 0 \\
&\Leftrightarrow p \cdot \theta^\psi(\xi,\xi) \cdot p = 0 \\
&\Leftrightarrow \theta^\psi(p\xi, p\xi) = 0 \\
&\Leftrightarrow p\xi = 0 \\
&\Leftrightarrow \xi \in (1-p)H.
\end{aligned}$$

Since *ker* $\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right) = \operatorname{supp}\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^\perp$, the result follows. □

Proposition 21. *Let $\xi \in H$. Then there exists a sequence $(\xi_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ in $D(H,\psi)$ satisfying*

$$\xi_n \to \xi \text{ as } n \to \infty$$

and such that

$$q_\varphi(\xi_n) \to q_\varphi(\xi) \text{ as } n \to \infty \tag{12}$$

for all normal weights φ on M.

Proof. Let

$$\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi) = \int_0^\infty \lambda \mathrm{d}e_\lambda + \infty \cdot (1-p)$$

be the spectral resolution of $\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)$. Then p is the projection onto $\overline{D(R^\psi(\xi)^*)}$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the operator $R^\psi(e_n\xi)^*$, being closed and everywhere defined (since $R^\psi(e_n\xi)^* = R^\psi(\xi)^* e_n$), must be bounded; hence $R^\psi(e_n\xi)$ is bounded and $e_n\xi \in D(H,\psi)$.

Take a sequence $(\zeta_n)_{n\in N}$ in $D(H,\psi)$ such that $\zeta_n \to \xi$ (possible by Proposition 4). Then also $(1-p)\zeta_n \in D(H,\psi)$.

Now for each $n \in \mathbb{N}$, put

$$\xi_n = e_n\xi + (1-p)\zeta_n \in D(H,\psi).$$

Then

$$\xi_n \to p\xi + (1-p)\xi = \xi \text{ as } n \to \infty.$$

We claim that $(\xi_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ (12).

Hence, let φ be a normal weight on M. We consider two cases. If $\langle\varphi,\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle=\infty$, (12) is trivially true; indeed, by the lower semicontinuity of q_φ, we have

$$\infty=q_\varphi(\xi)\leq\liminf_{n\to\infty}q_\varphi(\xi_n).$$

Now suppose that $\langle\varphi,\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle<\infty$. We can write

$$\varphi=\sum_{i\in I}\omega_{\eta_i,\eta_i}$$

for certain $\eta_i\in H$. Then all

$$\langle\omega_{\eta_i,\eta_i},\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle<\infty$$

so that $\eta_i\in D(R^\psi(\xi)^*)\subset pH$, whence

$$\omega_{\eta_i,\eta_i}=p\cdot\omega_{\eta_i,\eta_i}\cdot p.$$

Hence

$$\varphi=p\cdot\varphi\cdot p.$$

Now using

$$\begin{aligned}p\cdot\theta^\psi(\xi_n,\xi_n)\cdot p=&\theta^\psi(p\xi_n,p\xi_n)\\=&\theta^\psi(e_n\xi,e_n\xi)\\=&e_n\cdot\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\cdot e_n\\\nearrow&p\cdot\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\cdot p\end{aligned}$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\langle\varphi,\theta^\psi(\xi_n,\xi_n)\rangle=&\langle\varphi,p\cdot\theta^\psi(\xi_n,\xi_n)\cdot p\rangle\\\nearrow&\langle\varphi,p\cdot\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\cdot p\rangle\\=&\langle\varphi,\theta^\psi(\xi,\xi)\rangle.\end{aligned}$$

□

Using Proposition 21, we can now prove that our definition of $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ agrees with Connes' [1]. Note that we also prove the existence of a biggest positive self-adjoint operator satisfying (13) below so that we do not need [1, Lemma 5].

Proposition 22. *Let φ be a normal semifinite weight on M.*

1) The operator $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is the biggest positive self-adjoint operator d satisfying

$$\forall \xi \in D(H,\psi) : q_\varphi(\xi) = \begin{cases} \left\| d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi \right\|^2 & \text{if } \xi \in D(d^{\frac{1}{2}}) \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} . \tag{13}$$

2) The operator $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is the unique positive self-adjoint operator satisfying (13) *and*

$$d^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left[d^{\frac{1}{2}}|_{D(H,\psi)\cap D(d^{\frac{1}{2}})} \right]. \tag{14}$$

Proof. 1) The operator $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is characterized by (10). Hence, in particular, (13) holds.

Now let d be any positive self-adjoint operator satisfying (13). We shall prove that $d \le \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$. Let $\xi \in D\left(\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)$. By Proposition 21, there exist $\xi_n \in D(H,\psi)$ such that $\xi_n \to \xi$ and

$$q_\varphi(\xi_n) \to q_\varphi(\xi).$$

On the other hand, the mapping $p : H \to [0,\infty]$ defined by

$$p(\xi) = \begin{cases} \left\| d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi \right\|^2 & \text{if } \xi \in D(d^{\frac{1}{2}}) \\ \infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{15}$$

is lower semi-continuous (since $p(\xi) = \int_0^\infty \lambda \, \mathrm{d}(e_\lambda\xi|\xi) = \sup \int_0^n \lambda \, \mathrm{d}(e_\lambda\xi|\xi)$, where $d = \int_0^\infty \lambda \mathrm{d}e_\lambda$ is the spectral resolution of d), whence

$$p(\xi) \le \liminf_{n\to\infty} q_\varphi(\xi_n) = q_\varphi(\xi) = \left\| \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \xi \right\|^2.$$

This shows that $d \le \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$.

2) First, let us show that $d = \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ satisfies (14). Let $\xi \in D(d^{\frac{1}{2}})$. Take a sequence $(\xi_n)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ in $D(H,\psi)$ as in Proposition

21. Since $q_\varphi(\xi_n) \to q_\varphi(\xi) = \left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi\right\|^2 < \infty$, we may assume that all $q_\varphi(\xi_n) < \infty$, i.e. all $\xi_n \in D(H,\psi) \cap D(d^{\frac{1}{2}})$. Now $\xi_n \to \xi$ and $\left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2 \to \left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi\right\|^2$. It follows that $d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n \to d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi$. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned}
0 \leq &\limsup_{n\to\infty} \left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi - d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2 \\
= &\limsup_{n\to\infty}(2\left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi\right\|^2 + 2\left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2 - \left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi + d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2) \\
= &2\left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi\right\|^2 + 2\lim_{n\to\infty}\left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2 - \liminf_{n\to\infty}\left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi + d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2 \leq 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Next, assume that d is a positive self-adjoint operator satisfying (13) and (14). We shall prove that then d is the maximal positive self-adjoint operator satisfying (13). Define $p : H \to [0,\infty]$ as above (15). Then

$$\forall\xi \in H : q_\varphi(\xi) \leq p(\xi). \tag{16}$$

Indeed, if $\xi \in D(d^{\frac{1}{2}})$, this is trivially true; if $\xi \in D(d^{\frac{1}{2}})$, take, by (14), $\xi_n \in D(H,\psi) \cap D(d^{\frac{1}{2}})$ such that

$$\xi_n \to \xi \text{ and } d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n \to d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi.$$

Then $q_\varphi(\xi_n) = \left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi_n\right\|^2 \to \left\|d^{\frac{1}{2}}\xi\right\|^2 = p(\xi)$ so that

$$q_\varphi(\xi) \leq \liminf_{n\to\infty} q_\varphi(\xi_n) = p(\xi).$$

Finally, (16) implies that $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \leq d$, whence $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} = d$ by 1). □

We recall [1, proof of Theorem 9]:

Example 23. *Let M be the left algebra associated with a left Hilbert algebra $\mathfrak{A}$ in H. Let φ_0, resp. ψ_0, be the canonical weight on M, resp. M', associated with $\mathfrak{A}''$, resp. $\mathfrak{A}'$. Then*

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_0}{\mathrm{d}\psi_0} = \Delta,$$

where Δ is the modular operator associated with φ_0.

Spatial derivatives are preserved by spatial isomorphisms:

Proposition 24. *Let M_1 be a von Neumann algebra acting on a Hilbert space H_1. Suppose that*

$$u : H \to H_1$$

is a unitary such that

$$uMu^* = M_1.$$

Then for all normal semifinite weights φ on M and all normal faithful semifinite weights ψ on M', $u \cdot \varphi \cdot u^*$ and $u \cdot \psi \cdot u^*$ are weights on M_1 and M_1' respectively, and we have

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}(u \cdot \varphi \cdot u^*)}{\mathrm{d}(u \cdot \psi \cdot u^*)} = u \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} u^*.$$

The proof is left to the reader.

1.2 Modular properties of spatial derivatives

Here, we first recall, without proof, some main results from [1] and then state some immediate corollaries. For the first theorems, recall that the spatial derivatives occurring in them are injective by Theorem 20.

Theorem 25. *Let φ_1 and φ_2 be normal faithful semifinite weights on M, and let ψ be a normal faithful semifinite weight on M'. Then*

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R} : (D\varphi_1 : D\varphi_2)_t = \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_1}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{it} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi_2}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{-it}.$$

Theorem 26. *Let φ and ψ be normal faithful semifinite weights on M and M', respectively. Then*

(i) $\forall x \in M \forall t \in \mathbb{R} : \sigma_t^{\varphi}(x) = \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{it} x \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{-it}$,

(ii) $\forall y \in M' \forall t \in \mathbb{R} : \sigma_t^{\psi}(y) = \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{-it} y \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{it}$.

Corollary 27. *Let φ and ψ be normal faithful semifinite weights on M and M', respectively. Then*

(i) $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \eta M'$ *if and only if φ is a trace,*

(ii) $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \eta M$ *if and only if ψ is a trace,*

(iii) $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi} \eta Z(M)$ *if and only if both φ and ψ are traces.*

Theorem 28. *Let φ and ψ be normal faithful semifinite weights on M and M', respectively. Then*

$$\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}\right)^{-1} = \frac{\mathrm{d}\psi}{\mathrm{d}\varphi}.$$

Property (ii) in Theorem 26 characterizes operators having the form $\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$:

Theorem 29. *Let ψ be a normal faithful semifinite weight on M', and let a be a positive self-adjoint operator on H. Then the following are equivalent:*

(i) $a = \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ *for some (necessarily unique) normal semifinite weight φ on M,*

(ii) $\forall y \in M' \forall t \in \mathbb{R} : \sigma_{-t}^{\psi}(y) a^{it} = a^{it} y$.

Note that $\varphi \mapsto \frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\psi}$ is injective by (9) combined with [1, Proposition 3].

Corollary 30. *There is a bijective correspondence, characterized by the equation*

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\tau}{\mathrm{d}\tau'} = 1, \tag{17}$$

between the sets of normal faithful semifinite traces τ and τ' on M and M', respectively. (In particular, M is semifinite if and only if M' is semifinite.)

Proof. Given τ, there exists by Theorem 26 and 29 a weight τ' on M' such that $\frac{\mathrm{d}\tau}{\mathrm{d}\tau'} = 1$. By Corollary 27, τ' is a trace. Conversely, given τ', by the same arguments, we can define τ. □

In case of algebras on standard form, this correspondence reduces to the usual correspondence given by J:

Corollary 31. *Suppose that (M, H, J, P) is a standard form of M in the sense of [4, Definition 2.1]. Then for all normal faithful semifinite traces τ on M we have*

$$\tau' = \tau(J \cdot J).$$

Proof. Let u be the (unique) unitary carrying (M, H, J, P) onto $(M, H_\tau, J_\tau, P_\tau)$. In H_τ we have by Example 23

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\tau}{\mathrm{d}\tau(J \cdot J)} = \Delta_\tau = 1.$$

Hence, by Proposition 24, also

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\tau}{\mathrm{d}\tau(J \cdot J)} = 1.$$

in H, whence $\tau' = \tau(J \cdot J)$. □

Corollary 32. *Suppose that M is semifinite and that τ and τ' are normal faithful semifinite traces on M and M' related by* (17)*. Then for all normal semifinite weights φ on M, we have*

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R} : \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\varphi}{\mathrm{d}\tau'}\right)^{it} = (D\varphi : D\tau)_t.$$

Otherwise stated, for all positive self-adjoint operators $h \eta M$, we have

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\tau(h\cdot)}{\mathrm{d}\tau'} = h.$$

Finally, we recall the notion of γ-homogeneity.

Definition 33. *Let ψ be a normal faithful semifinite weight on M', and let $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$. A closed densely defined operator a on H with polar decomposition $a = u|a|$ is called γ-homogeneous with respect to ψ if*

$$u \in M \text{ and } \forall y \in M' \forall t \in \mathbb{R} : \sigma^{\psi}_{\gamma t}(y)|a|^{it} = |a|^{it} y. \qquad (18)$$