

# LEBESGUE POINTS OF MEASURES AND NON-TANGENTIAL CONVERGENCE OF POISSON-HERMITE INTEGRALS

G. FLORES, G. GARRIGÓS, B. VIVIANI

ABSTRACT. We study differentiability conditions on a complex measure  $\nu$  at a point  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , in relation with the boundary convergence at that point of the Poisson-type integral  $\mathbb{P}_t\nu = e^{-t\sqrt{L}}\nu$ , where  $L = -\Delta + |x|^2$  is the Hermite operator. In particular, we show that  $x_0$  is a Lebesgue point for  $\nu$  iff a slightly stronger notion than non-tangential convergence holds for  $\mathbb{P}_t\nu$  at  $x_0$ . We also show non-tangential convergence when  $x_0$  is a  $\sigma$ -point of  $\nu$ , a weaker notion than Lebesgue point, which for  $d = 1$  coincides with the classical Fatou condition.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\nu$  be a locally finite complex measure in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , meaning that  $\nu = \nu_1 + i\nu_2$  and  $\nu_1, \nu_2$  are signed Borel measures which are finite in compact sets.

We shall use the notion of Lebesgue point for  $\nu$  as defined by Saeki in [14]. Namely, we say that  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is a Lebesgue point of  $\nu$ , denoted  $x_0 \in \mathcal{L}_\nu$ , if there exists  $\ell \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{|\nu - \ell dy|(B_r(x_0))}{|B_r(x_0)|} = 0. \quad (1.1)$$

Here  $dy(E) = |E|$  denotes the standard Lebesgue measure of a set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$  and  $B_r(x_0) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x - x_0| < r\}$ . If we write  $\nu$  in terms of the Lebesgue-Radon-Nikodym decomposition, that is

$$\nu = f dy + \lambda, \quad \text{with } \lambda \perp dy \quad (1.2)$$

(see e.g. [6, Thm 3.12]), then using the property that  $|\mu + \lambda| = |\mu| + |\lambda|$  when  $\mu \perp \lambda$ , we see that  $x_0 \in \mathcal{L}_\nu$  if and only if for some  $\ell \in \mathbb{C}$  it holds

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{B_r(x_0)} |f(y) - \ell| dy = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{|\lambda|(B_r(x_0))}{|B_r(x_0)|} = 0. \quad (1.3)$$

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In particular, if  $\nu = f dx$ , this is the usual notion of Lebesgue point for the function  $f$ , while for a general  $\nu$  as in (1.2) we have

$$\mathcal{L}_\nu = \mathcal{L}_f \cap \mathcal{L}_\lambda.$$

Observe also that, if  $x_0 \in \mathcal{L}_\nu$ , we can express the value of  $\ell$  in (1.1) without appealing to the Lebesgue-Radon-Nikodym decomposition, by letting

$$\ell = D\nu(x_0) := \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\nu(B_r(x_0))}{|B_r(x_0)|}. \quad (1.4)$$

Indeed, this identity follows from the elementary bound

$$\left| \frac{\nu(B_r(x_0))}{|B_r(x_0)|} - \ell \right| = \left| \frac{(\nu - \ell dy)(B_r(x_0))}{|B_r(x_0)|} \right| \leq \frac{|\nu - \ell dy|(B_r(x_0))}{|B_r(x_0)|} \rightarrow 0.$$

The quantity  $D\nu(x_0)$  in (1.4) is sometimes called the *symmetric derivative* of the measure  $\nu$  at  $x_0$ ; see e.g. [13, Def 7.2].

Consider now the Hermite operator

$$L = -\Delta + |x|^2, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^d,$$

and its associated Poisson semigroup

$$\mathbb{P}_t = e^{-t\sqrt{L}} = \frac{t}{\sqrt{4\pi}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\frac{t^2}{4\tau}} e^{-\tau L} \frac{d\tau}{\tau^{3/2}};$$

see e.g. [17, Ch 2.2]. This semigroup (and its close relative involving the Ornstein-Uhlenbeck operator  $-\Delta + 2x \cdot \nabla$ ) have been widely studied in Harmonic Analysis; see e.g. [11, 19, 18, 9, 20]. We wish to find mild differentiability conditions on a measure  $\nu$  at an individual point  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  so that the Poisson integrals

$$\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{P}_t(x, y) d\nu(y), \quad (t, x) \in (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d, \quad (1.5)$$

have a non-tangential limit when  $(t, x) \rightarrow (0, x_0)$ .

When  $L$  is the Hermite operator, the kernel  $\mathbb{P}_t(x, y)$  is partially explicit (see (2.1) below for a precise expression), and its growth (for fixed  $t$  and  $x$ ) is well determined by the function

$$\Phi(y) := \frac{e^{-|y|^2/2}}{(1 + |y|)^{\frac{d}{2}} [\log(e + |y|)]^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^d. \quad (1.6)$$

Namely, it was shown in [8, Lemma 4.1] that for each  $t > 0$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  there exist  $c_j(t, x) > 0$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , such that

$$c_1(t, x) \Phi(y) \leq \mathbb{P}_t(x, y) \leq c_2(t, x) \Phi(y), \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^d. \quad (1.7)$$

In particular, if  $\mathcal{M}(\Phi)$  denotes the set of (locally finite) complex measures  $\nu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(y) d|\nu|(y) < \infty,$$

then it follows from (1.7) that, if  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\Phi)$ , the function  $\mathbb{P}_t\nu(x)$  in (1.5) is well-defined for all  $t > 0$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Moreover,  $u(t, x) = \mathbb{P}_t\nu(x)$  is smooth in  $\mathbb{R}_+^{d+1} = (0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d$  and satisfies the PDE

$$u_{tt} = -\Delta_x u + |x|^2 u,$$

see e.g. [5, Theorem 1.3].

Our first result in this paper investigates the relation between the Lebesgue point condition,  $x_0 \in \mathcal{L}_\nu$ , and the existence of the non-tangential limit

$$\lim_{|x-x_0| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t\nu(x),$$

for every  $\alpha > 0$ . We shall prove the following

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\Phi)$  and  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Then, the following assertions are equivalent*

- (i)  $x_0 \in \mathcal{L}_\nu$ ;
- (ii)  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t(|\nu - \ell dy|)(x_0) = 0$ , for some  $\ell \in \mathbb{C}$ ;
- (iii)  $\lim_{|x-x_0| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t(|\nu - \ell dy|)(x) = 0$ , for some  $\ell \in \mathbb{C}$  and some (all)  $\alpha > 0$ .

Moreover, if these assertions hold we can take  $\ell = D\nu(x_0)$ , and for every  $\alpha > 0$  it also holds

$$\lim_{|x-x_0| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t\nu(x) = D\nu(x_0). \quad (1.8)$$

As a second result, we give a weaker condition than Lebesgue point which still ensures non-tangential convergence. This is the notion of  $\sigma$ -point introduced by V. Shapiro in [16]; see also [15]. We say that  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  is a  $\sigma$ -point of a (locally finite) complex measure  $\nu$ , denoted  $x_0 \in \mathfrak{S}_\nu$ , if there exists  $\ell \in \mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\lim_{|x-x_0|+r \rightarrow 0} \frac{|(\nu - \ell dy)(B_r(x))|}{(|x-x_0|+r)^d} = 0. \quad (1.9)$$

Note that, if  $x_0$  is a  $\sigma$ -point, then  $\nu$  has a symmetric derivative at  $x_0$ , and we can take  $\ell = D\nu(x_0)$  in (1.9). This follows by just restricting the above limit to  $x = x_0$ . Also, since  $B_r(x) \subset B_{r+|x-x_0|}(x_0)$ , we have

$$\mathcal{L}_\nu \subset \mathfrak{S}_\nu,$$

and the inclusion can be strict in view of the examples in [16, §3]. Finally, when  $d = 1$  there is a simple characterization: write  $\nu$  as a Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure  $\nu = dm_F$ , with

$$\nu((a, b]) = F(b) - F(a);$$

see e.g. [6, Thm 1.16]. Then  $x_0 \in \mathfrak{S}_\nu$  iff  $F$  is differentiable at  $x_0$ , in which case

$$F'(x_0) = \ell = D\nu(x_0).$$

The proof is elementary; see also [15, Proposition 3.4].

Our second result has the following statement.

**Theorem 1.2.** *Let  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\Phi)$  and  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$  a  $\sigma$ -point of  $\nu$ . Let  $\ell = D\nu(x_0)$ .*

(i) *If  $d \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  then*

$$\lim_{|x-x_0|<\alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) = \ell, \quad \forall \alpha > 0. \quad (1.10)$$

(ii) *If  $d \geq 4$  then (1.10) holds if it is additionally assumed that*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{|\nu - \ell dy|(B_r(x_0))}{r^{d-3}} = 0. \quad (1.11)$$

As a corollary, when  $d = 1$  we obtain the non-tangential convergence under the classical Fatou condition, see [2] or [21, Thm III.7.9.ii]. This result seems to be new for Poisson-Hermite integrals.

**Corollary 1.3.** *Let  $d = 1$  and  $\nu = m_F$  be a Lebesgue-Stieljes measure in  $\mathcal{M}(\Phi)$ . If  $F$  is differentiable in  $x_0$  then*

$$\lim_{|x-x_0|<\alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) = F'(x_0), \quad \forall \alpha > 0.$$

Finally, we remark that, when  $x_0 = 0$ , one can slightly relax the condition (1.11) (and even remove it, if  $d = 4$ ), due to the special symmetry of the resulting kernel  $\mathbb{P}_t(0, y)$ ; see a precise statement in Theorem 3.3 below.

We comment on previous results on these matters for the Poisson-Hermite semi-group. When the initial datum is a function, that is  $\nu = f dy$ , generic results on a.e. convergence of  $\mathbb{P}_t f$  go back to [11], see also [18, 8]. These references contain the main kernel estimates, but do not consider convergence at individual Lebesgue points of  $f$ . A statement for these was recently given in [7] (for the related Laguerre operator), and requires an argument that we elaborate further here in the new Lemma 2.4. Concerning measures  $\nu$  as initial data, we are only aware of the a.e. results for  $\mathbb{P}_t \nu$  in [5, Theorem 1.3], which again do not consider the behavior at individual points.

Regarding Theorem 1.2, no results involving weaker notions than Lebesgue points seem to appear in the literature for Poisson-Hermite integrals, even when  $\nu$  equals  $f$  or  $d = 1$ . However, there is an extensive literature in the classical setting of harmonic functions regarding optimal conditions for non-tangential convergence; see e.g. [10, 12, 1], or the more recent [14, 16, 15] and references therein. The latter papers consider a general setting of approximations of the identity, but always associated with convolution kernels with a dilation structure, that is,

$$K_t(x, y) = t^{-d} \phi((x - y)/t), \quad t > 0,$$

and most often with a radially decreasing  $\phi$ .

One novelty here regards the fact that one must consider kernels  $\mathbb{P}_t(x, y)$  without this convolution structure, so different arguments are necessary to carry out the proofs. Our arguments will be based on a suitable kernel decomposition into radial and non-radial parts, and very precise estimates on the kernel which are optimal

for dimensions  $d \leq 3$ , but require the additional condition (1.11) when  $d \geq 4$ . We do not know whether Theorem 1.2 may hold without this hypothesis (if  $x_0 \neq 0$ ), although it seems unlikely in view of examples in [4], where a similar condition in relation with the *normal* convergence of  $\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x_0)$  appears for dimensions  $d \geq 4$ , and cannot be removed in that setting. We nevertheless remark that (1.11) is quite mild (certainly weaker than the Lebesgue point condition), due to the factor  $r^{d-3}$  in the denominator.

The paper is structured as follows. In section 2 we compile the notation and the required kernel estimates, and present the proof of Theorem 1.1. We establish in §2.3 a general Lemma 2.4, which may have an independent interest. Finally, in section 3 we give a detailed proof of Theorem 1.2.

## 2. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1

It is clear that (iii) implies (ii). We shall show in separate subsections the other implications. Below we use the notation

$$p_t(z) = \frac{t}{(t^2 + |z|^2)^{\frac{d+1}{2}}},$$

which except for a multiplicative constant is the standard Poisson kernel. Recall also that the Poisson kernel  $\mathbb{P}_t(x, y)$  associated with the Hermite operator can be explicitly given by

$$\mathbb{P}_t(x, y) = c_d t \int_0^1 \frac{e^{-\frac{t^2}{\ell(s)}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{1}{4}(\frac{|x-y|^2}{s} + s|x+y|^2)}}{s^{\frac{d}{2}} (\ell(s))^{3/2}} ds, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\ell(s) = 2 \ln \frac{1+s}{1-s}$  and  $c_d > 0$ ; see e.g. [8, (4.1)]. Note that  $\ell(s) \approx s$  when  $s \in (0, 1/2)$ , a fact that we shall use often below.

**2.1. Proof of (ii)  $\implies$  (i).** We quote the following estimate from below for the kernel  $\mathbb{P}_t(x, y)$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Given  $R \geq 1$ , there exists a constant  $\delta_R > 0$  such that*

$$\mathbb{P}_t(x, y) \geq \delta_R p_t(x - y), \quad \text{when } |x|, |y|, t \leq R. \quad (2.2)$$

*Proof.* If we restrict the range of integration in (2.1) to  $s \in (0, 1/2)$ , so that  $\ell(s) \approx s$ , after disregarding inessential terms we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_t(x, y) &\gtrsim t \int_0^{1/2} \frac{e^{-\frac{ct^2}{4s}} e^{-\frac{1}{4}(\frac{|x-y|^2}{s} + s|x+y|^2)}}{s^{\frac{d+3}{2}}} ds \\ &\geq e^{-\frac{R^2}{2}} t \int_0^{1/4} \frac{e^{-\frac{ct^2+|x-y|^2}{4s}}}{s^{\frac{d+1}{2}} s} ds \\ &= \frac{c_R t}{(ct^2 + |x-y|^2)^{\frac{d+1}{2}}} \int_{ct^2+|x-y|^2}^{\infty} e^{-u} u^{\frac{d+1}{2}} \frac{du}{u}, \end{aligned}$$

performing in the last step the change of variables  $u = (ct^2 + |x - y|^2)/(4s)$ . Using again the assumption  $|x|, |y|, t \leq R$ , the last integral is bounded below by

$$\int_{(4+c)R^2}^{\infty} e^{-u} u^{\frac{d+1}{2}} \frac{du}{u} = c'_R.$$

Combining these expressions one obtains (2.2).  $\square$

Going back to the proof of Theorem 1.1, assume that (ii) holds, and denote  $|\nu - \ell dx| = \mu$ . Pick  $R \geq |x_0| + 1$  and  $t \leq 1$ . Then the previous lemma gives

$$\mathbb{P}_t(\mu)(x_0) \gtrsim \delta_R \int_{|y-x_0| \leq t} p_t(x_0 - y) d\mu(y).$$

Since  $p_t(x_0 - y) \approx t^{-d}$  when  $|x_0 - y| \leq t$ , this implies

$$\mathbb{P}_t(\mu)(x_0) \gtrsim \frac{\mu(B_t(x_0))}{|B_t(x_0)|}.$$

By (ii), the left-hand side goes to 0 as  $t \rightarrow 0$ , hence so does the right hand side. Since  $\mu = |\nu - \ell dx|$ , this implies that  $x_0$  is a Lebesgue point of  $\nu$  (and therefore, also that  $\ell = D\nu(x_0)$ ).

**2.2. Proof of (i)  $\implies$  (iii).** We shall use the following upper bound for  $\mathbb{P}_t(x, y)$ , which can be found in [8, Lemma 4.2].

**Lemma 2.2.** *There exists a constant  $\gamma \geq 2$  and a continuous function  $C(x)$  such that*

$$\mathbb{P}_t(x, y) \leq C(x) \left[ p_t(x - y) \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leq \gamma \max\{|x|, 1\}} + t \Phi(y) \right],$$

for all  $t > 0$  and  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

We also quote the following elementary lemma.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $\alpha > 0$ . Then, there exists  $C_\alpha > 0$  such that*

$$\frac{1}{C_\alpha} (|x_0 - y| + t) \leq |x - y| + t \leq C_\alpha (|x_0 - y| + t), \quad (2.3)$$

whenever  $|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t$  and  $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

*Proof.* The proof is elementary using the condition  $|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t$  and the triangle inequality. Indeed, on the one hand

$$|x - y| + t \leq |x - x_0| + |x_0 - y| + t \leq |x_0 - y| + (\alpha + 1)t,$$

which implies the upper bound in (2.3) with  $C_\alpha = \alpha + 1$ . The lower bound follows from the upper one after interchanging the roles of  $x$  and  $x_0$ .  $\square$

We turn to the proof of (iii) in Theorem 1.1. Since we are interested in non-tangential limits at  $x_0$ , we fix  $\alpha > 0$  and consider only points  $(t, x)$  such that  $|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t \leq 1$ . For such points, Lemmas 2.2 and 2.3 imply that

$$\mathbb{P}_t(x, y) \lesssim C_{x_0} \left[ p_t(x_0 - y) \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leq \gamma(|x_0|+2)} + t \Phi(y) \right], \quad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

for some constant  $C_{x_0} > 0$  (which we could take  $\max_{|x| \leq |x_0|+1} C(x)$ ). For simplicity, we write

$$K = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^d : |y| \leq \gamma(|x_0| + 2)\},$$

and as before we denote  $\mu = |\nu - \ell dx|$ . The previous inequalities then imply

$$\mathbb{P}_t \mu(x) \lesssim C_{x_0} \left[ \int_K p_t(x_0 - y) d\mu(y) + t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \Phi(y) d\mu(y) \right]. \quad (2.4)$$

The assumption that  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\Phi)$  implies that the last summand is  $O(t)$  as  $t \rightarrow 0$ , so we must only estimate the first term

$$\int_K p_t(x_0 - y) d\mu(y).$$

Here one could use the known results about the standard Poisson kernel to conclude that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_K p_t(x_0 - y) d\mu(y) = 0, \quad (2.5)$$

under the assumption  $x_0 \in \mathcal{L}_\nu$ . We briefly sketch the argument for completeness. Given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we choose  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\frac{\mu(B_r(x_0))}{r^d} < \varepsilon, \quad r \in (0, 2\delta]. \quad (2.6)$$

When  $|y - x_0| \geq \delta$  we have  $p_t(x_0 - y) \leq t/\delta^{d+1}$ , and hence

$$\int_{y \in K \setminus B_\delta(x_0)} p_t(x_0 - y) d\mu(y) \leq \frac{t \mu(K)}{\delta^{d+1}} < \varepsilon, \quad (2.7)$$

if  $t < t_0 := \min\{\varepsilon \delta^{d+1}/\mu(K), \delta\}$ . On the other hand, given any such  $t$ , we can find an integer  $J \in \mathbb{N}$  such that

$$\delta < 2^J t \leq 2\delta.$$

So letting  $S_j := B_{2^j t}(x_0) \setminus B_{2^{j-1} t}(x_0)$  and using that  $p_t(x_0 - y) \lesssim t^{-d} 2^{-j(d+1)}$  in  $S_j$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B_\delta(x_0)} p_t(x_0 - y) d\mu(y) &\lesssim \int_{B_t(x_0)} t^{-d} d\mu(y) + \sum_{j=1}^J \int_{S_j} (2^j t)^{-d} 2^{-j} d\mu(y) \\ &\leq \frac{\mu(B_t(x_0))}{t^d} + \sum_{j=1}^J 2^{-j} \frac{\mu(B_{2^j t}(x_0))}{(2^j t)^d} \\ &\leq 2\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

using (2.6) in the last step. This shows (2.5).

**2.3. Last assertion in Theorem 1.1.** It remains to prove that, under the assumption (iii), it also holds

$$\lim_{|x-x_0|<\alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) = \ell.$$

This will be a consequence of the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\Phi)$  and  $\ell \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then the function*

$$E(t, x) := (\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell) - \mathbb{P}_t(\nu - \ell dy)(x)$$

*satisfies*

$$\lim_{(t,x) \rightarrow (0,x_0)} E(t, x) = 0, \quad \forall x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Indeed, assuming the lemma and using (iii) we have

$$|\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell| \leq \mathbb{P}_t |\nu - \ell dy|(x) + |E(t, x)| \longrightarrow 0,$$

when  $|x - x_0| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0$ .

We now prove Lemma 2.4. We remark that this is not completely straightforward since for the Hermite operator we do not have  $\mathbb{P}_t(\mathbb{1}) = \mathbb{1}$  (since  $\lambda = 0$  is not an eigenvalue of  $L$ ). We shall use instead an argument, borrowed from [3, §3.2] (see also [7, §6]), which can be adapted to more general positive self-adjoint operators  $L$ . The only tool is the existence of a *regular positive eigenvector* of  $L$ , that is  $\psi \in \text{Dom}(L)$  such that

- (a)  $\psi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$
- (b)  $\psi(x) > 0, \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d$
- (c)  $L(\psi) = \lambda \psi$ , for some  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

When  $L = -\Delta + |x|^2$ , it is elementary to check that

$$\psi(x) = e^{-|x|^2/2} \tag{2.8}$$

satisfies these properties with  $\lambda = d$ .

**PROOF of Lemma 2.4:** Let  $\psi(x)$  be as in (2.8). Since  $\mathbb{P}_t = e^{-t\sqrt{L}}$ , we also have

$$\mathbb{P}_t \psi = e^{-t\sqrt{\lambda}} \psi.$$

Then

$$\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell = (\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell e^{-t\sqrt{\lambda}}) + (e^{-t\sqrt{\lambda}} - 1) \ell. \tag{2.9}$$

The last summand goes to 0 as  $t \rightarrow 0$ , so we look at the first summand. Since  $\psi(x_0) > 0$ , we may as well consider

$$A(t, x) := \psi(x_0) (\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell e^{-t\sqrt{\lambda}}),$$

which using that  $\mathbb{P}_t \psi = e^{-t\sqrt{\lambda}} \psi$  we can write as

$$\begin{aligned} A(t, x) &= [\psi(x_0) \mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell \mathbb{P}_t \psi(x)] + \ell [\mathbb{P}_t \psi(x) - \mathbb{P}_t \psi(x_0)] \\ &= A_1(t, x) + A_2(t, x). \end{aligned}$$

Now,

$$|A_2(t, x)| = |\ell| e^{-t\sqrt{\lambda}} |\psi(x) - \psi(x_0)| \longrightarrow 0, \quad \text{if } |x - x_0| \rightarrow 0,$$



by the continuity of  $\psi$ . Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} A_1(t, x) &= \psi(x_0) \mathbb{P}_t(\nu - \ell dy)(x) - \ell \mathbb{P}_t(\psi - \psi(x_0))(x) \\ &= A_{1,1}(t, x) + A_{1,2}(t, x). \end{aligned}$$

Since the function  $g = \psi - \psi(x_0)$  is continuous everywhere (and vanishes at  $x_0$ ), using Lemma 2.2 and standard results on approximations of the identity one can show that

$$|A_{1,2}(t, x)| \leq |\ell| \mathbb{P}_t |g|(x) \lesssim (p_t * |g|)(x) + t \int |g| \Phi \longrightarrow 0,$$

as  $|x - x_0| + t \rightarrow 0$ . Thus,

$$A(t, x) = A_{1,1}(t, x) + O(1).$$

Dividing this expression by  $\psi(x_0)$ , and going back to (2.9), one obtains

$$\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) - \ell = \mathbb{P}_t(\nu - \ell dy)(x) + O(1).$$

This proves Lemma 2.4, and hence it concludes the proof of Theorem 1.1.  $\square$

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.2

It will suffice to consider the case when  $\ell = 0$ ; otherwise, one would apply the reasoning to the measure  $\mu = \nu - \ell dy$  together with Lemma 2.4. We fix  $\alpha > 0$  and must show that

$$\lim_{|x-x_0| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) = 0. \quad (3.1)$$

By the condition  $x_0 \in \mathfrak{S}_\nu$  (with  $\ell = 0$ ), for any fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\delta \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$|\nu(B_r(x))| \leq \varepsilon (|x - x_0| + r)^d, \quad \text{whenever } |x - x_0| + r < 2\delta. \quad (3.2)$$

If the dimension  $d \geq 4$ , we also assume that  $\delta$  is chosen such that

$$|\nu|(B_r(x_0)) < \varepsilon r^{d-3}, \quad \text{when } r < 2\delta, \quad (3.3)$$

in view of the hypothesis in (1.11).

The first part of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 1.1: we consider only points  $(t, x)$  such that  $|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t \leq 1$ ; in particular  $|x| \leq |x_0| + 1$ . By Lemma 2.2 we have

$$\mathbb{P}_t(x, y) \lesssim C_{x_0} \left[ p_t(x - y) \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leq \gamma(|x_0|+2)} + t \Phi(y) \right], \quad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

for some constant  $C_{x_0} > 0$ . In the region  $|x - y| \geq \delta$ , we have  $p_t(x - y) \lesssim t/\delta^{d+1}$ , so the above bound gives

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|x-y| \geq \delta} \mathbb{P}_t(x, y) d|\nu|(y) &\lesssim C'_{x_0} (\delta^{-d-1} + \int \Phi d|\nu|) \cdot t \\ &= c(x_0, \delta) \cdot t < \varepsilon, \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

provided we assume  $t < t_0 := \min\{\varepsilon/c(x_0, \delta), \delta\}$ . So, in the remainder of the proof we shall aim to show

$$\left| \int_{|x-y|<\delta} \mathbb{P}_t(x, y) d\nu(y) \right| = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

when  $|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t$  and  $t$  is sufficiently small. Since  $|x| \leq |x_0| + 1$  we have

$$B_\delta(x) \subset \{y \in \mathbb{R}^d : |y| \leq |x_0| + 2\} =: K,$$

so in the sequel we may assume  $\nu$  to be supported in the compact set  $K$ .

We next remove another inessential term: we define the “local” part of the Poisson kernel by

$$\mathbb{P}_t^0(x, y) := c_d t \int_0^{1/2} \frac{e^{-\frac{t^2}{\ell(s)}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{|x-y|^2}{s} + s|x+y|^2\right)}}{s^{\frac{d}{2}} (\ell(s))^{3/2}} ds. \quad (3.5)$$

Then we have

$$\mathbb{P}_t^1(x, y) := \mathbb{P}_t(x, y) - \mathbb{P}_t^0(x, y) \leq C t \int_{1/2}^1 (1-s^2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} ds = C' t,$$

for some  $C' > 0$  (depending only on  $d$ ), and therefore

$$\int_K \mathbb{P}_t^1(x, y) d|\nu|(y) \leq C' |\nu|(K) \cdot t = C'' t < \varepsilon, \quad (3.6)$$

if  $t < t_1 = \min\{t_0, \varepsilon/C''\}$ . So it suffices to show that

$$A(t, x) := \int_{|x-y|<\delta} \mathbb{P}_t^0(x, y) d\nu(y) = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$$

when  $|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t$  and  $t$  is sufficiently small. We fix  $x$  in what follows, and changing variables  $y = x + h$ , we rewrite the above expression as

$$A(t, x) = \int_{|h|<\delta} \mathbb{P}_{t,x}^0(h) d\nu_x(h),$$

where for simplicity we denote

$$\mathbb{P}_{t,x}^0(h) := \mathbb{P}_t^0(x, x+h) \quad \text{and} \quad \nu_x(E) := \nu(x+E), \quad E \subset \mathbb{R}^d.$$

The kernel now takes the form

$$\mathbb{P}_{t,x}^0(h) = c_d t \int_0^{1/2} \frac{e^{-\frac{t^2}{\ell(s)}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1}}{s^{\frac{d}{2}} (\ell(s))^{3/2}} e^{-\frac{|h|^2}{4s}} e^{-\frac{s|2x+h|^2}{4}} ds.$$

This is not a radial function in  $h$ , so we shall split it into a radial part and a remainder. To do so, we write

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\frac{s|2x+h|^2}{4}} &= e^{-s|x|^2} e^{-\frac{s|h|^2}{4}} e^{-s x \cdot h} \\ &= e^{-s|x|^2} e^{-\frac{s|h|^2}{4}} (1 + R(s x \cdot h)), \end{aligned}$$

where letting  $u = s x \cdot h$ , we have

$$|R(u)| = |e^{-u} - 1| = \left| \int_0^u e^{-v} dv \right| \leq |u| e^{|u|} \leq c_{x_0} s |x| |h|, \quad (3.7)$$

since  $s \in (0, 1/2)$ ,  $|h| \leq 1$  and  $|x| \leq |x_0| + 1$ . We now split

$$\mathbb{P}_{t,x}^0(h) = \mathcal{K}_{t,x}(h) + \mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h), \quad (3.8)$$

with the ‘‘radial part’’ of  $\mathbb{P}_{t,x}^0$  (in the variable  $h$ ) given by

$$\mathcal{K}_{t,x}(h) = c_d t \int_0^{1/2} \frac{e^{-\frac{t^2}{\ell(s)}} (1-s^2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1}}{s^{\frac{d}{2}} (\ell(s))^{3/2}} e^{-\frac{|h|^2}{4}(s+\frac{1}{s})} e^{-s|x|^2} ds. \quad (3.9)$$

The kernel  $\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)$  has a similar expression with an additional (non-radial) factor  $R(sx \cdot h)$  inside the integral. Disregarding inessential terms, we can estimate it by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h) &\lesssim t \int_0^{1/2} \frac{e^{-\frac{ct^2}{4s}} e^{-\frac{|h|^2}{4s}} s|x||h|}{s^{\frac{d+3}{2}}} ds \\ &= \frac{t|x||h|}{(ct^2 + |h|^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}}} \int_{\frac{ct^2+|h|^2}{2}}^{\infty} e^{-v} v^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \frac{dv}{v}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

where in the last step we have changed variables  $v = (ct^2 + |h|^2)/(4s)$ . At this point we distinguish two cases, if  $d > 1$ , the above integral is bounded by a finite constant, so we have

$$|\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)| \lesssim \frac{t|x||h|}{(ct^2 + |h|^2)^{\frac{d-1}{2}}}. \quad (3.11)$$

If  $d = 1$ , using that  $t, |h| \ll 1$  we have

$$|\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)| \lesssim t|x||h| \log \frac{1}{ct^2+|h|^2}. \quad (3.12)$$

Note that in both cases the involved constants depend only on  $x_0$  (and the dimension  $d$ ), but not on  $x$  or  $\delta$ . Note further that

$$|x| \leq |x - x_0| + |x_0| \leq \alpha t + |x_0| \leq 1 + |x_0|,$$

so below we shall absorb the factor  $|x|$  in (3.11) and (3.12) into the constants; however, in the special case that  $x_0 = 0$  this factor is  $\mathcal{O}(t)$  and will lead to a slightly better result; see Remark 3.2 below.

We will now show that

$$A_1(t, x) := \int_{|h|<\delta} \mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h) d\nu_x(h) = \mathcal{O}(1), \quad \text{as } |x - x_0| < \alpha t \searrow 0. \quad (3.13)$$

The argument is different depending on the dimension.

**Case  $d = 1$ .** In this case we simply have

$$\begin{aligned} |A_1(t, x)| &\leq \int_{|h|<\delta} |\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)| d|\nu_x|(h) \\ &\lesssim t \log(1/t) \int_{|h|<\delta} |h| d|\nu_x|(h) \\ &\leq t \log(1/t) |\nu|(K), \end{aligned}$$

which vanishes as  $t \searrow 0$ .

For higher dimensions  $d > 1$ , the bound in (3.11) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
|A_1(t, x)| &\leq \int_{|h| < \delta} |\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)| d|\nu_x|(h) \\
&\lesssim t \int_{|h| < \delta} \frac{|h|}{(t + |h|)^{d-1}} d|\nu_x|(h) \\
&\leq t \int_{|h| < \delta} \frac{d|\nu_x|(h)}{(t + |h|)^{d-2}}. \tag{3.14}
\end{aligned}$$

We again distinguish cases.

**Case  $d = 2$ .** In this case, (3.14) clearly becomes  $\mathcal{O}(t)$  as  $t \searrow 0$  (with a bound independent of  $x$  since  $|\nu|(K) < \infty$ ).

**Case  $d = 3$ .** We now have

$$\begin{aligned}
|A_1(t, x)| &\lesssim \int_{|h| < \delta} \frac{t}{t + |h|} d|\nu_x|(h) = \int_{B_\delta(x)} \frac{t}{t + |y - x|} d|\nu|(y) \\
&\stackrel{\text{(by Lemma 2.3)}}{\lesssim} \int_K \frac{t}{t + |y - x_0|} d|\nu|(y)
\end{aligned}$$

and the right hand side vanishes as  $t \searrow 0$  by the dominated convergence theorem (independently of  $x$ ).

**Case  $d \geq 4$ .** In this case, rather than (3.13), we show that

$$\limsup_{|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t \rightarrow 0^+} |A_1(t, x)| \leq C \varepsilon.$$

To do so, we shall need the additional hypothesis in (1.11), in the form (3.3). We break the integral in (3.14) into pieces. Assuming  $t \ll \delta/2$ , we can find  $J \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $2^J t < \delta \leq 2^{J+1} t$ . We then write

$$\int_{|h| < \delta} \frac{t d|\nu_x|(h)}{(t + |h|)^{d-2}} dh \leq \int_{|h| < t} \cdots + \sum_{j=0}^J \int_{2^j t \leq |h| < 2^{j+1} t} \cdots =: I_0 + I_1.$$

Then, using (3.3) one finds that

$$I_0 \leq \frac{1}{t^{d-3}} \int_{|h| < t} d|\nu_x| = \frac{|\nu|(B_t(x))}{t^{d-3}} < \varepsilon,$$

and

$$I_1 \leq \sum_{j=0}^J \int_{|h| < 2^{j+1} t} \frac{t d|\nu_x|}{(2^j t)^{d-2}} = \sum_{j=0}^J \frac{2^{-j}}{(2^j t)^{d-3}} |\nu|(B_{2^{j+1} t}(x)) \leq C \varepsilon,$$

with  $C = 2^{d-2}$ . Combining these estimates with (3.14) we obtain

$$\limsup_{|x - x_0| \leq \alpha t \rightarrow 0} |A_1(t, x)| \leq c_{x_0} \varepsilon. \tag{3.15}$$

This finishes the estimate involving the remainder part  $\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)$  of the kernel  $\mathbb{P}_{t,x}^0(h)$ ; see (3.8). We remark that the hypothesis (1.10) has not been used in this part.

We now turn to estimate the piece involving the radially decreasing part  $\mathcal{K}_{t,x}(h)$ , which makes a crucial use of this hypothesis (in the form (3.2)). We shall need a lemma from measure theory, whose proof is similar to [6, Proposition 6.23], but that we sketch for completeness. This gives a formula of polar coordinates (3.18) for a general measure  $\mu$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Given a (locally finite) complex measure  $\mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , let*

$$\varrho(r) := \mu(\overline{B}_r(0)) = \mu(\{|x| \leq r\}), \quad r \geq 0, \quad (3.16)$$

and denote by  $m_\varrho$  the associated Lebesgue-Stieltjes measure in  $[0, \infty)$ , that is

$$m_\varrho((a, b]) = \varrho(b) - \varrho(a), \quad \text{and} \quad m_\varrho(\{0\}) = \varrho(0). \quad (3.17)$$

Then, for every radial  $f(x) = f_0(|x|) \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^d; |\mu|)$ , it holds

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) d\mu(x) = \int_{[0, \infty)} f_0(r) dm_\varrho(r). \quad (3.18)$$

*Proof.* We may assume that the measure  $\mu$  is positive. Consider the new measure  $\mu_0$  defined on Borel sets  $A \subset [0, \infty)$  by

$$\mu_0(A) := \mu(\{x : |x| \in A\}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathbb{1}_A(|x|) d\mu(x).$$

When  $A$  is an interval  $(a, b] \subset (0, \infty)$  (or  $A = \{0\}$ ), it is clear by definition that

$$\mu_0(A) = m_\varrho(A).$$

Since these elementary sets generate the  $\sigma$ -algebra of all Borel sets in  $[0, \infty)$ , by uniqueness, the two measures  $\mu_0$  and  $m_\varrho$  will coincide over all such sets; see e.g. [6, Theorem 1.14]. Thus, for every function of the form  $f(x) = \mathbb{1}_A(|x|)$  with  $A$  a Borel set, it will hold

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x) d\mu(x) = \int_{[0, \infty)} f_0(r) d\mu_0(r) = \int_{[0, \infty)} f_0(r) dm_\varrho(r).$$

By linearity, this identity extends to all simple functions, and by monotone convergence to all non-negative  $f(x) = f_0(|x|)$ . A further extension by linearity to complex functions in  $L^1(d|\mu|)$  establishes the result.  $\square$

We shall apply the previous lemma to the measure  $\mu = \nu_x$ , so that

$$A_2(t, x) := \int_{|h| < \delta} \mathcal{K}_{t,x}(h) d\nu_x(h) = \int_{[0, \delta)} \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(r) dm_{\varrho_x}(r),$$

with  $\mathcal{K}_{t,x}(h) = \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(|h|)$  and

$$\varrho_x(r) := \nu_x(\overline{B}_r(0)) = \nu(\overline{B}_r(x)). \quad (3.19)$$

Notice that condition (3.2) implies

$$|\varrho_x(r)| \leq \varepsilon (|x - x_0| + r)^d, \quad \text{if } |x - x_0| + r < 2\delta. \quad (3.20)$$

Then, integrating by parts (see e.g. [6, Theorem 3.36]) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
A_2(t, x) &= \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(0) \varrho_x(0) + \int_{(0,\delta)} \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(r) dm_{\varrho_x}(r) \\
&= \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(0) \varrho_x(0) + \left[ \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(r) \varrho_x(r) \right]_{r=0}^{r=\delta^-} - \int_0^\delta \varrho_x(r) \frac{d\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0}{dr}(r) dr \\
&= \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(\delta) \varrho_x(\delta^-) + \int_0^\delta \varrho_x(r) \left| \frac{d\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0}{dr}(r) \right| dr, \tag{3.21}
\end{aligned}$$

using in the last line that (for each fixed  $t$  and  $x$ ) the function

$$r \mapsto \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(r)$$

is decreasing in  $[0, \infty)$ ; see (3.9). Note also that

$$\mathcal{K}_{t,x}(h) \lesssim \frac{t}{(t+|h|)^{d+1}}, \tag{3.22}$$

which can be proved with a similar argument as we did in (3.10) for the kernel  $\mathcal{R}_{t,x}(h)$  (removing the factor  $s|x||h|$  that appears in that kernel due to (3.7)). So, using this and (3.20), the boundary term in (3.21) satisfies

$$\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(\delta) |\varrho_x(\delta^-)| = \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(\delta) |\nu(B_\delta(x))| \lesssim \frac{t}{\delta^{d+1}} (|x-x_0| + \delta)^d \cdot \varepsilon \lesssim \varepsilon,$$

since  $|x-x_0| \leq \alpha t < \delta$  (and also  $t < \delta$ ). To estimate the integral in (3.21) we split it as  $\int_0^t + \int_t^\delta$ . In the first range we use that

$$|\varrho_x(r)| \leq (|x-x_0| + r)^d \varepsilon \lesssim \varepsilon t^d,$$

since  $|x-x_0| \leq \alpha t$  and  $r \leq t$ . So,

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^t |\varrho_x(r)| \left| \frac{d\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0}{dr}(r) \right| dr &\lesssim \varepsilon t^d \int_0^t \left| \frac{d\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0}{dr}(r) \right| dr \\
&= \varepsilon t^d \left[ \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(0) - \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(t) \right] \\
&\leq \varepsilon t^d \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(0) \lesssim \varepsilon,
\end{aligned}$$

with the last bound due to (3.22). Finally, if  $r \in (t, \delta)$  we have

$$|\varrho_x(r)| \leq (|x-x_0| + r)^d \varepsilon \leq (\alpha t + r)^d \varepsilon \lesssim \varepsilon r^d.$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_t^\delta |\varrho_x(r)| \left| \frac{d\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0}{dr}(r) \right| dr &\lesssim \varepsilon \int_0^\delta \left| \frac{d\mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0}{dr}(r) \right| r^d dr \\
\text{(parts)} &= \varepsilon \left( - \left[ r^d \mathcal{K}_{t,x}^0(r) \right]_0^\delta + d \int_0^\delta \mathcal{K}_{t,x}(r) r^{d-1} dr \right) \\
\text{(by (3.22))} &\lesssim \varepsilon \int_0^\infty \frac{t r^{d-1} dr}{(t+r)^{d+1}} = c\varepsilon.
\end{aligned}$$

This shows that, if  $|x-x_0| \leq \alpha t$  and  $t < t_2 = \min\{\delta, \delta/\alpha\}$  then

$$|A_2(t, x)| \leq C\varepsilon.$$

Combining this with the previous estimates (3.4), (3.6) and (3.15), we conclude that, given  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\tau_0 = \tau_0(\varepsilon) > 0$  such that, if  $|x - x_0| < \alpha t$  and  $t \in (0, \tau_0)$  then

$$|\mathbb{P}_t \nu(x)| < \varepsilon.$$

Thus, (3.1) holds and we have completed the proof of Theorem 1.2.  $\square$

**Remark 3.2.** As observed above, in the special case that  $x_0 = 0$ , the estimate of the remainder term  $\mathcal{R}_{t,x}$  can be slightly improved, due to the factor  $|x| = \mathcal{O}(t)$  appearing in (3.11). Indeed, this will give a better factor  $t^2$  in the estimate (3.14), which in turn implies that

$$A_1(t, x) = \mathcal{O}(1), \quad \text{as } t \searrow 0$$

for all dimensions  $d \leq 4$ . Moreover, in order to have, for dimensions  $d \geq 5$ , the estimate

$$\limsup_{|x-x_0| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0} |A_1(t, x)| \leq C \varepsilon,$$

one only needs the assumption

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{|\nu - \ell dy|(B_r(0))}{r^{d-4}} = 0, \quad (3.23)$$

which at the point  $x_0 = 0$  is weaker than (1.11). So, overall, we can formulate this special case as a separate theorem.

**Theorem 3.3.** *Let  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}(\Phi)$  and assume that 0 is a  $\sigma$ -point of  $\nu$  with value  $\ell$ .*

(i) *If  $d \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  then*

$$\lim_{|x| < \alpha t \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{P}_t \nu(x) = \ell, \quad \forall \alpha > 0. \quad (3.24)$$

(ii) *If  $d \geq 5$  then (3.24) holds under the additional assumption (3.23).*

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G. FLORES, CIEM-CONICET & FAMAF, UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DE CÓRDOBA, AV. MEDINA ALLENDE S/N, CIUDAD UNIVERSITARIA, CP:X5000HUA CÓRDOBA, ARGENTINA

*Email address:* guilleflores@unc.edu.ar

G. GARRIGÓS, DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICAS, UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA, 30100, ESPINARDO, MURCIA, SPAIN

*Email address:* gustavo.garrigos@um.es

BEATRIZ VIVIANI, IMAL (UNL-CONICET) Y FIQ (UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL DEL LITORAL), COLECTORA RUTA NAC. N 168, PARAJE EL POZO - 3000 SANTA FE - ARGENTINA

*Email address:* viviani@santafe-conicet.gov.ar