

The strong Feller property of reflected Brownian motions on a class of planar domains

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Introduction

- A Markov operator on a topological space E is said to satisfy the **strong Feller property** if it maps all bounded measurable functions on E into bounded continuous functions.
- Under the strong Feller property, measure theoretic properties (of a process) are strengthened to topological ones.
- Absorbing Brownian motions always possess the strong Feller property.
- In this talk, we are concerned with the strong Feller property of reflected Brownian motions (RBMs) on **general** domains and continuity of the heat kernel.

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Let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a domain, and m the Leb. measure on D .
We define a Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, H^1(D))$ by

$$H^1(D) := \{f \in L^2(D, m) \mid |\nabla f| \in L^2(D, m)\},$$
$$\mathcal{E}(f, g) := \frac{1}{2} \int_D (\nabla f, \nabla g) dm, \quad f, g \in H^1(D).$$

If $(\mathcal{E}, H^1(D))$ is regular on $\bar{D}$ ($H^1(D) \cap C_c(\bar{D})$ are dense in $H^1(D)$ and $C_c(\bar{D})$), it generates an m -sym. diffusion $X = (\{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \{P_x\}_{x \in \bar{D}})$ on $\bar{D}$.

We call X a RBM on $\bar{D}$, which may not be a semimartingale.

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Under what conditions on D (or ∂D), does X have the strong Feller property?

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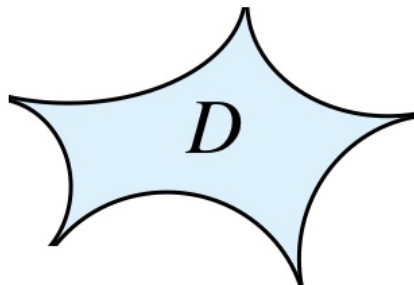
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Known results 1

- Bass and Hsu (1991) considered a RBM X on a bounded Lipschitz domain $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. The semigroup $\{P_t^X\}_{t>0}$ of X is strong Feller: $P_t^X(\mathcal{B}_b(\overline{D})) \subset C_b(\overline{D})$ for any $t > 0$.
- Fukushima and Tomisaki (1995, 1996) extended the work of Bass and Hsu. They studied a RBM on a Lipschitz domain $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ with cusps.



Known results 2

- Gyrya and Saloff-Coste (2011): RBMs on uniform domains.

(More precisely, they considered RBMs on **inner** uniform domains. $(\mathcal{E}, H^1(D'))$ on an inner uniform domain D' is **not necessarily regular on $\overline{D'}$** .)

[Definition of uniform domains (Väisälä)]

$D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is uniform domain if there exists $C > 0$ such that for any $x, y \in D$, there is a rectifiable curve γ in D connecting x and y with

$$\text{length}(\gamma) \leq C|x - y|,$$

and

$$\min\{|x - z|, |z - y|\} \leq C \text{dist}(z, \mathbb{R}^d \setminus D)$$

for any $z \in \gamma$.

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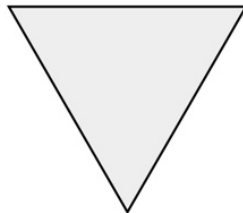
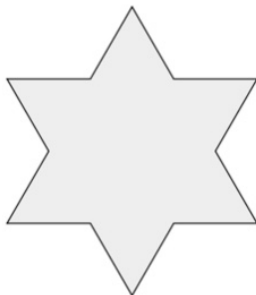
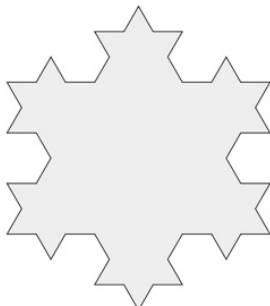
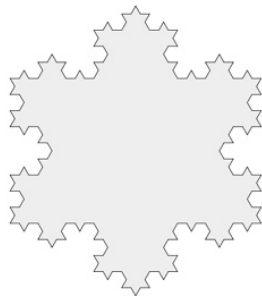
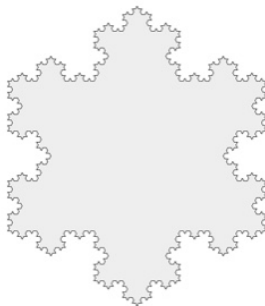
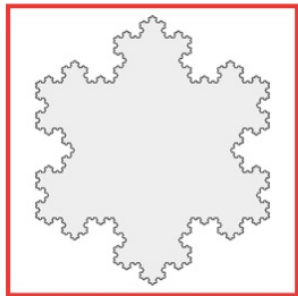
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for any $z \in \gamma$.

- The Koch snowflake domain is a uniform domain.



Known results 2

$\overline{D}$ is a metric space under the shortest path metric $\rho(x, y)$.

Gyrya and Saloff-Coste proved **(VD)** and **(PI)** for the Dirichlet sp. $(\overline{D}, \rho, m, \mathcal{E}, H^1(D))$.

As a result, X has a jointly conti. heat kernel $p_t^X(x, y)$.

$\exists c_1, c_2 \in (0, \infty)$ s.t. $\forall t > 0, \forall x, y \in \overline{D}$

$$p_t^X(x, y) \asymp c_1 m(B_\rho(x, \sqrt{t}))^{-1} \exp(-c_2 \rho(x, y)^2/t).$$

$\exists \alpha \in (0, 1]$ s.t. the map

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Summary of main results

- We prove the semigroup strong Feller property for RBMs on a class of planar domains.

(1) The class consists of Jordan domains which are images of the unit disk $\mathbb{D}$ under Hölder continuous conformal maps.

The class is studied in the potential theory

The class $\ni$ a non-inner uniform domain

The class $\supset \{\text{bdd simply connected planar uniform domains}\}$
 $\ni$ the Koch snowflake domain.

(2) On the bdd simply cnctd planar uniform domains,
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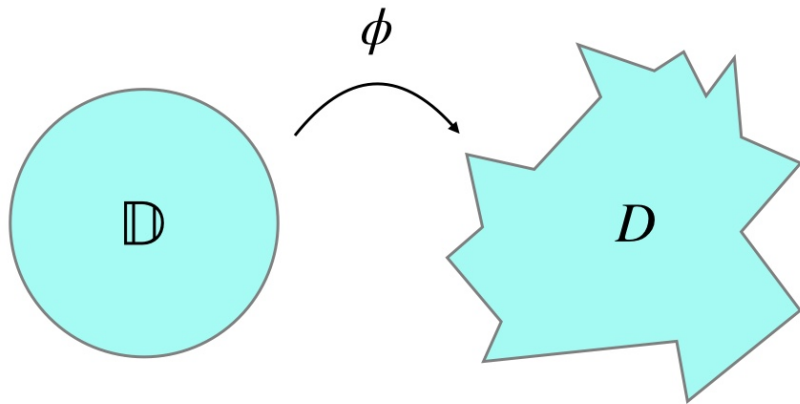
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Conformal invariance of planar RBM



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In what follows, $D \subset \mathbb{C}$ is a Jordan domain.

Fix a conformal map $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow D$, which is extended to a homeo. $\bar{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow \bar{D}$ ($\mathbb{D}$: the unit disk).

Let $Y = (\{Y_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \{P_y^Y\}_{y \in \bar{\mathbb{D}}})$ be the RBM on $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$.

Define $X = (\{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \{P_x^X\}_{x \in \bar{D}})$ as

$$\begin{aligned} P_x^X &:= P_{\phi^{-1}(x)}^Y, \quad x \in \bar{D}, \\ X_t &:= \phi(Y_{A_t^{-1}}), \quad t \in [0, \infty), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$A_t := \int_0^t |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 1_{\mathbb{D}}(Y_s) ds \nearrow \infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow \infty.$$

Then, the Dirichlet form of X is identified with $(\mathcal{E}, H^1(D))$ and is regular on $\bar{D}$.

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Main results

Denote by $\{R_\alpha^X\}_{\alpha>0}$ the resolvent of X .

Theorem 1. (M.)

Suppose that $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow D$ is κ -Hölder conti.

Then, $\forall \alpha > 0, \forall \varepsilon \in (0, \kappa), \exists C = C_{\alpha, \varepsilon, \kappa} > 0$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} & |R_\alpha^X f(x) - R_\alpha^X f(y)| \\ & \leq C \|f\|_\infty |\phi^{-1}(x) - \phi^{-1}(y)|^{(\kappa - \varepsilon)} \end{aligned}$$

for $\forall x, y \in \overline{D}$ and $\forall f \in \mathcal{B}_b(\overline{D})$.

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- If $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is uniform domain, it is known that

$$\phi : \bar{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow \bar{D} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi^{-1} : \bar{D} \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{D}}$$

are Hölder continuous. This means that $\{R_\alpha^X\}_{\alpha>0}$ is also Hölder continuous.

- If $D \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ is uniform domain, $\{P_t^X\}_{t>0}$ is ultracontractive.
- By a result of Bass–Kassmann–Kumagai (2010), we know

$$P_t^X f = R_\alpha^X h$$

for some $\alpha > 0$ and $h \in L^\infty(D, m)$.

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Let D be a bdd simply connctd planar uniform domain.
Assume that

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and

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Then, $\forall \varepsilon \in (0, \kappa)$, $\forall x \in \bar{D}$ and $\forall t > 0$,

$$\bar{D} \ni y \longmapsto p_t^X(x, y)$$

is $\lambda \times (\kappa - \varepsilon)$ -Hölder continuous.

Näkki–Palka (1980) showed

$$\kappa \geq \frac{2 \arcsin^2 k(\partial D)}{\pi(\pi - \arcsin k(\partial D))}, \quad \lambda \geq \frac{\pi}{2(\pi - \arcsin k(\partial D))} (> 1/2).$$

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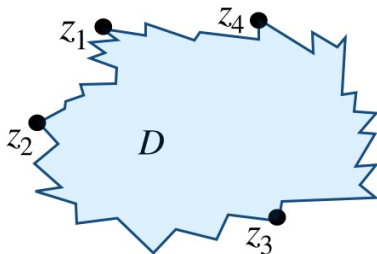
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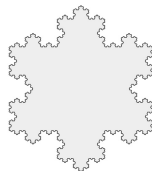
Estimates for κ and λ

$$k(\partial D) = \inf \frac{|z_1 - z_3||z_2 - z_4|}{|z_1 - z_2||z_3 - z_4| + |z_1 - z_4||z_2 - z_3|} \in (0, 1],$$

where the infimum is extended over the quadruples z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4 of finite points of Jordan arc ∂D with the property that z_1 and z_3 separate z_2 and z_4 .



For the Koch snowflake,



the optimal value of $k(\partial D)$ is ...?

Outline of proof (mirror couplings of RBMs)

- Atar and Burdzy (2004) constructed **mirror couplings** of RBMs on a class of Euclidean domains.
- Let ν be the inward unit normal vector on $\partial\mathbb{D}$. The mirror coupling of RBMs (Y, Z) on $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$ is described as

$$\begin{aligned}Y_t &= y + B_t + \int_0^t \nu(Y_s) dL_s^Y, \\Z_t &= z + W_t + \int_0^t \nu(Z_s) dL_s^Z, \\W_t &= B_t - 2 \int_0^t \frac{Y_t - Z_t}{|Y_t - Z_t|^2} (Y_s - Z_s, dB_s). \\t &< T_{\text{cpl}} := \inf\{t > 0 \mid X_t = Y_t\},\end{aligned}$$

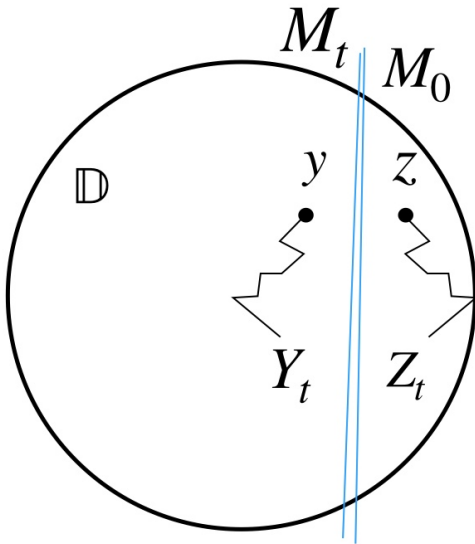
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Mirror M_t moves up to $T_{\text{cpl}} \wedge \inf\{t > 0 \mid |X_t| = |Y_t|\}$.

- Recall that $X = (\{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \{P_x^X\}_{x \in \bar{D}})$ is described as

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where Y is a RBM on $\bar{\mathbb{D}}$, and $A_t = \int_0^t |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{D}}(Y_s) ds$.

- Using the mirror coupling of RBMs (Y, Z) , we have

$$\begin{aligned} & |R_\alpha^X f(\phi(y)) - R_\alpha^X f(\phi(z))| \\ & \leq 2E_{yz} \left[\left(\int_0^{T_{\text{cpl}}} |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{D}}(Y_s) ds \right) \wedge \frac{1}{\alpha} \right] \\ & \quad + 2E_{yz} \left[\left(\int_0^{T_{\text{cpl}}} |\phi'(Z_s)|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{D}}(Z_s) ds \right) \wedge \frac{1}{\alpha} \right], \quad y, z \in \bar{\mathbb{D}} \end{aligned}$$

E_{yz} is the expectation under P_{yz} .

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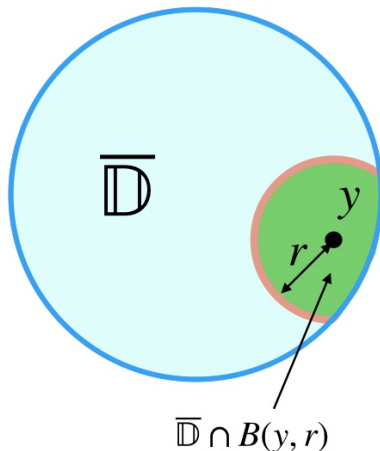
Outline of proof

$\phi : \bar{\mathbb{D}} \rightarrow \bar{D}$ is κ -Höl. continuous.

$$\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y = \inf\{t \mid Y_t \notin \bar{\mathbb{D}} \cap B(y,r)\}.$$

It can be shown that

- $E_y^Y \left[\int_0^{\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 ds \right] \lesssim -r^{2\kappa} \log r, \quad r \in (0, 1/32] \leq (1/\varepsilon) \times r^{2\kappa-\varepsilon}, \quad \varepsilon \in (0, 2\kappa).$
- $P_{y,z}(T_{\text{cpl}} > t) \lesssim |y - z|/t^{1/2}, \quad y, z \in \bar{\mathbb{D}}$
- $P_y^Y(\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y \leq t) \lesssim \exp(-r^2/128t), \quad r \geq 0, t > 0,$



Outline of proof

- Setting $r = |y - z|^{1/2}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{yz} &:= E_{yz} \left[\left(\int_0^{T_{\text{cpl}}} |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{D}}(Y_s) ds \right) \wedge \frac{1}{\alpha} \right] \\
 &\leq E_y \left[\int_0^{\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{D}}(Y_s) ds \right] + \frac{1}{\alpha} \times P_{yz}(T_{\text{cpl}} > \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y) \\
 &\lesssim |y - z|^{(\kappa-\varepsilon)} + |y - z|^{1/2} \lesssim |y - z|^{(\kappa-\varepsilon) \wedge (1/2)}.
 \end{aligned}$$

- By the strong Markov property, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{yz} &= E_{yz} \left[\left(\int_0^{T_{\text{cpl}} \wedge \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} |\phi'(Y_s)|^2 \mathbf{1}_{\mathbb{D}}(Y_s) ds \right) \wedge \frac{1}{\alpha} \right] (\lesssim r^{2\kappa-\varepsilon}) \\
 &\quad + E_{yz} \left[I_{Y_{\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y}, Z_{\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y}} : T_{\text{cpl}} > \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y \right] \quad (\star\star\star) \\
 &\lesssim |y - z|^{(\kappa-\varepsilon)} + E_{yz} \left[|Y_{\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} - Z_{\tau_{B(y,r)}^Y}|^{(\kappa-\varepsilon) \wedge (1/2)} : T_{\text{cpl}} > \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y \right]
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 \end{aligned}$$

- By the Chebyshev's inequality,

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{yz} &\lesssim |y - z|^{(\kappa - \varepsilon)} \\
 &\quad + P_{yz} \left(T_{\text{cpl}} > \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y \right)^{1/q} \\
 &\quad \times E_{yz} \left[\left| Y_{T_{\text{cpl}} \wedge \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} - Z_{T_{\text{cpl}} \wedge \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} \right|^{p\{(\kappa - \varepsilon) \wedge (1/2)\}} \right]^{1/p} \\
 &\quad \left(\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1, \quad p, q \in (1, \infty) \right).
 \end{aligned}$$

- By Itô's formula and some geometric considerations,

$$E_{yz} \left[\left| Y_{T_{\text{cpl}} \wedge \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} - Z_{T_{\text{cpl}} \wedge \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y} \right|^\theta \right] \leq |y - z|^\theta, \quad \theta \in (0, 1].$$

- Setting $p = q = 2$, $\theta = p\{(\kappa - \varepsilon) \wedge (1/2)\} \leq 1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{yz} &\lesssim |y - z|^{(\kappa - \varepsilon)} + P_{yz} \left(T_{\text{cpl}} > \tau_{B(y,r)}^Y \right)^{1/2} \times |y - z|^{(\kappa - \varepsilon) \wedge (1/2)} \\
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 &\lesssim |y - z|^{(\kappa - \varepsilon) \wedge (3/4)} \quad (\text{Go back to } (\star\star\star)!).
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark

Theorem 1. (M.)

Suppose that $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow D$ is κ -Hölder continuous.
Then, $\forall \alpha > 0$, $\forall \varepsilon \in (0, \kappa)$, $\exists C = C_{\alpha, \varepsilon, \kappa} > 0$ s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} & |R_{\alpha}^X f(x) - R_{\alpha}^X f(y)| \\ & \leq C \|f\|_{\infty} |\phi^{-1}(x) - \phi^{-1}(y)|^{(\kappa - \varepsilon)} \end{aligned}$$

for $\forall x, y \in \bar{D}$ and $\forall f \in \mathcal{B}_b(\bar{D})$.

- The semigroup P_t^X of X is strong Feller?
- If P_t^X is ultracontractive, there is no problem.
- There exists a **non-inner uniform** Jordan domain with the condition in Thm 1. It is not an extension domain.
 $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is said to be an extension domain if

$$H^1(E) \subset L^p(E, m) \text{ for some } p > 2.$$

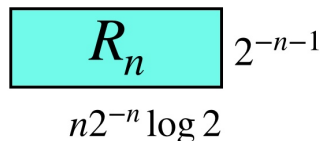
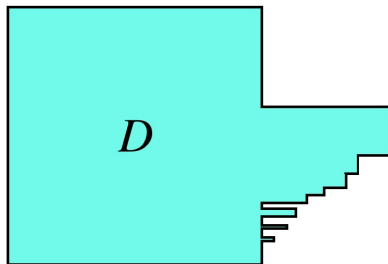
Example by Becker and Pommerenke (1982)

Define a Jordan domain D (which is not inner uniform) by

$$D = \{(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid |u| < 1, |v| < 1\} \cup \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} R_n,$$

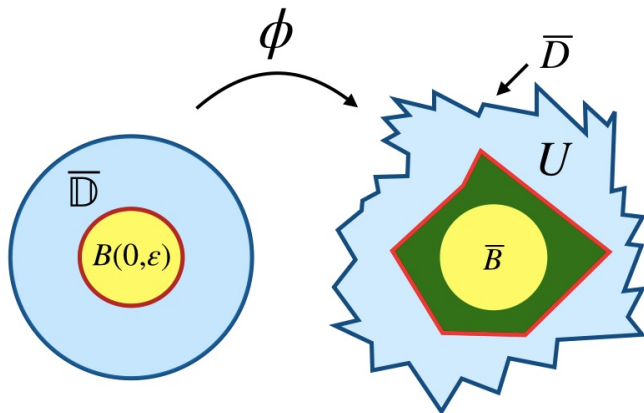
$$R_n = \{(u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid 0 \leq u - 1 \leq \frac{n \log 2}{2^n}, |v - (1/n)| \leq 2^{-n}\}.$$

For $n \geq 5$, $R_n \cap R_{n+1} = \emptyset$.



A Refinement of Theorem 1.

- D is a domain with the condition in Theorem 1.
- Let U be an open subset of $\bar{D}$ such that $U \subset \bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}$, where $\bar{B} \subset D$ is a closed disk such that $\phi(B(0, \varepsilon)) \subset \bar{B}$
 $\mathcal{L}_U$: the Laplacian on U with the Dirichlet bdy. cond. on **red line** and the Neumann bdy. cond. on **blue line**.



A Refinement of Theorem 1.

- $G_{\bar{D} \setminus \phi^{-1}(\bar{B})}(x, y) \leq 2 \log(1 + \varepsilon^{-1}) - 2 \log |x - y|$.
- $\mathcal{L}_U$ has discrete spectrum, and $\exists C_1, C_2 \in (0, \infty)$ s.t.

$$(\text{the first eigenvalue of } -\mathcal{L}_U) \geq \frac{C_1 \{2 \log(1 + \varepsilon^{-1}) + C_2\}^{-1}}{m(U) \log(2 + m(U)^{-1})}$$

for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and any closed disk $\bar{B} \subset D$ such that $\varphi(B(\varepsilon)) \subset B$, and any open subset U of $\bar{D}$ such that $U \subset \bar{D} \setminus B$

Lemma.

The semigroup of the part process $X^{\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}}$ of X on $\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}$ has a ultracontractivity.

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Lemma.

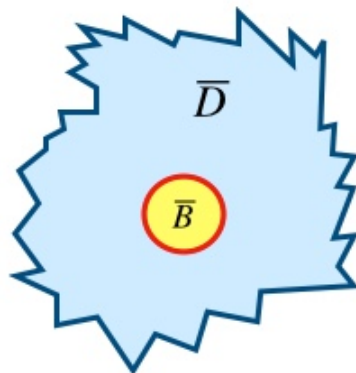
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A Refinement of Theorem 1.

Denote by $\{P_t^{\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}}\}_{t>0}$ the semigroup of the part process $X^{\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}}$ of X on $\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}$.

- $X^{\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}}$ is smgrp strong Feller.
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow z \in \partial B} P_t^{\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B}} f(x) = 0$ for any $t > 0$ and any $f \in \mathcal{B}_b(\bar{D} \setminus \bar{B})$.

By shrinking the radius of $\bar{B}$, we have



Theorem 2. (M.)

Suppose that $\phi : \mathbb{D} \rightarrow D$ is Hölder continuous.

Then, the semigroup $\{P_t^X\}_{t>0}$ of X is strong Feller:
 $P_t^X(\mathcal{B}_b(\bar{D})) \subset C_b(\bar{D})$.