

Minimal thinness for jump processes

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References

This talk is based on joint works with

Renming Song (University of Illinois, USA) & Zoran Vondraček (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

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KSV1 K, Song & Vondraček, Minimal thinness with respect to symmetric Lévy processes. To appear in *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* 2015.

KSV2 K, Song & Vondraček: Minimal thinness with respect to subordinate killed Brownian motions. Preprint 2015. arXiv:1503.03153

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Thin sets

Let $X = (X_t, \mathbb{P}_x)$ be a Markov process in \mathbb{R}^d , $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $T_E = \inf\{t > 0 : X_t \in E\}$. We say that E is **thin** at y with respect to X if $\mathbb{P}_y(T_E = 0) = 0$; X starting at y does not hit E immediately.

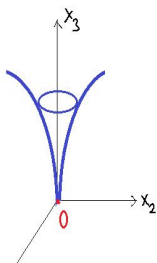
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Thinness is a concept which describes smallness of a set E at the point y with respect to the process X .

Classical example: the Lebesgue thorn set

Let $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be increasing, $f(r) > f(0)$ for all $r > 0$, $f(r)/r$ non-decreasing for r small. Let $E = \{x = (\tilde{x}, x_d) : |\tilde{x}| < f(x_d)\}$.

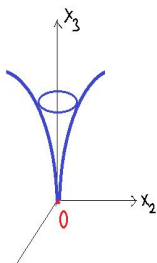


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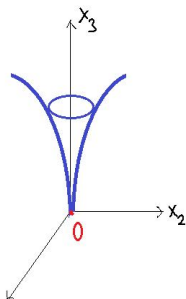
$$\int_0^1 \left(\frac{f(r)}{r} \right)^{d-3} \frac{dr}{r} < \infty, \quad d \geq 4,$$

$$\int_0^1 \left| \log \frac{f(r)}{r} \right|^{-1} \frac{dr}{r} < \infty, \quad d = 3.$$



The Lebesgue thorn for the isotropic α -stable process

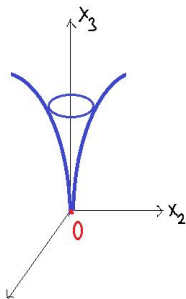
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$$\int_0^1 \left(\frac{f(r)}{r} \right)^{d-\alpha-1} \frac{dr}{r} < \infty.$$



Martin boundary

Let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be an open connected Greenian set and $G_D^W(x, y)$ its Green's function for Brownian motion W on D .

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$$M_D^W(x, y) = \frac{G_D^W(x, y)}{G_D^W(x_0, y)}, \quad x, y \in D,$$

the Martin kernel. Then D has a Martin boundary $\partial_M D$ and $M_D^W(x, \cdot)$ extends continuously to $\partial_M D$. The function $M_D^W(x, z)$, $x \in D$, $z \in \partial_M D$ is the Martin kernel.

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If D is a bounded Lipschitz domain, then the Martin and the minimal Martin boundary with respect to W are identified with ∂D .

Minimal thinness

A subset $E \subset D$ is **minimally thin** in D at $z \in \partial_m D$ with respect to killed Brownian motion W^D if

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Probabilistic interpretation: Let $(W^{D,z}, \mathbb{P}_x^z)$ be the Brownian motion conditioned to exit D at z – Doob's h -transform with the harmonic function $h = M_D^W(\cdot, z)$. The lifetime of $W^{D,z}$ is ζ and $W_{\zeta-}^{D,z} = z$. Then A is minimally thin in D at $z \in \partial_m D$ if and only if $\mathbb{P}_x^z(T_A < \zeta) < 1$ for some $x \in D$.

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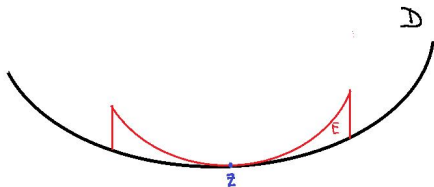
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Minimal thinness in the half-space $\mathbb{H} = \{x = (\tilde{x}, x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d : x_d > 0\}$ introduced by J. Lelong-Ferrand in 1949. Minimal thinness in a general open set developed L. Naïm in 1957. Probabilistic interpretation by J. Doob in 1957.

Integral tests for minimal thinness

Let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ have smooth boundary, $E \subset D$ and $z \in \partial D$.

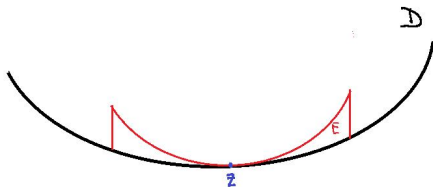


Integral tests for minimal thinness

Let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ have smooth boundary, $E \subset D$ and $z \in \partial D$. If

$$\int_{E \cap B(z,1)} |x - z|^{-d} dx = \infty,$$

then E is not minimally thin in D at z (A. Beurling 1965, $d = 2$,
B. Dahlberg 1976, $d \geq 3$).

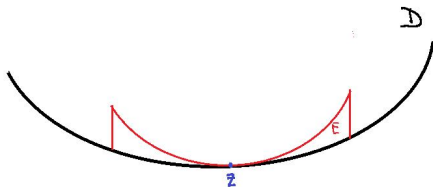


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then E is not minimally thin in D at z (A. Beurling 1965, $d = 2$, B. Dahlberg 1976, $d \geq 3$). If E is the union of a subfamily of Whitney cubes of D , the converse is also true (H. Aikawa 1993).



Whitney decomposition

A Whitney decomposition of an open set D : a family $\{Q_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ of closed cubes, with sides all parallel to the axes, satisfying the following properties:

(i) $D = \cup_j Q_j$,

(ii) $\text{int}(Q_j) \cap \text{int}(Q_k) = \emptyset, j \neq k$;

(iii) for any j , $\text{diam}(Q_j) \leq \text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D) \leq 4\text{diam}(Q_j)$,

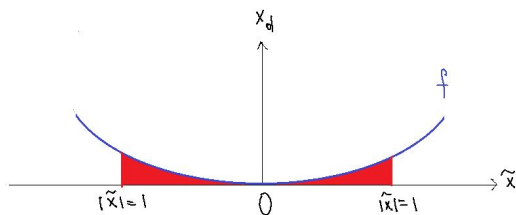
where $\text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D)$ denotes the Euclidean distance between Q_j and ∂D .

Integral tests for minimal thinness, cont.

Let $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be a Lipschitz function. Then the set $E := \{x = (\tilde{x}, x_d) \in \mathbb{H} : 0 < x_d \leq f(\tilde{x})\}$ is minimally thin in \mathbb{H} at $z = 0$ if and only if

$$\int_{\{|\tilde{x}| < 1\}} f(\tilde{x}) |\tilde{x}|^{-d} d\tilde{x} < \infty;$$

K. Burdzy 1987 (probabilistic proof), S. J. Gardiner 1991.



Wiener-type criteria for minimal thinness (H. Aikawa 1993)

Let D be a smooth bounded domain; $E \subset D$ is minimally thin in D at $z \in \partial D$ if and only if

$$\sum_{j \geq 1} \text{dist}(z, Q_j)^{-d} \text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D)^2 \text{Cap}(E \cap Q_j) < \infty.$$

Here $\{Q_j\}$ is a Whitney decomposition of D , Cap the Newtonian capacity.

Until very recently, no concrete criteria for minimal thinness with respect to jump processes (for subordinate Brownian motion in half space, see K, Song & Vondracek, 2012).

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Summary of the results in [KS1, KS2]

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Remark: In the classical case of the Laplacian, such results at infinity are direct consequences of the corresponding finite boundary point results by use of the inversion with respect to a sphere and the Kelvin transform, which is not available in our case.

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Description of the processes

Let $X = (X_t, \mathbb{P}_x)$ be an isotropic unimodal Lévy process in \mathbb{R}^d : for each $t > 0$ there is a decreasing function $p_t : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}_0(X_t \in A) = \int_A p_t(|x|) dx, \quad A \subset \mathbb{R}^d \text{ Borel.}$$

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Ψ is a radial function; use interchangeably $\Psi(x)$ and $\Psi(|x|)$

Description of the processes, cont.

Scaling conditions:

(H1): There exist constants $0 < \delta_1 \leq \delta_2 < 1$ and $a_1, a_2 > 0$ such that

$$a_1 \lambda^{2\delta_1} \Psi(t) \leq \Psi(\lambda t) \leq a_2 \lambda^{2\delta_2} \Psi(t), \quad \lambda \geq 1, t \geq 1.$$

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M. Zähle, P. Kim, R. Song, Z. Vondracek, T. Grzywny, K. Bogdan,
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- (b) Independent sum of two isotropic stable processes;
 $\Psi(x) = |x|^\alpha + |x|^\beta$, $\alpha, \beta \in (0, 2)$;
- (c) Subordinate Brownian motion via subordinator whose Laplace exponent ϕ satisfies scaling conditions similar to **(H1)** and **(H2)**. For example, ϕ is comparable to a regularly varying function at zero and at infinity with (not necessarily same) indices from $(0, 1)$:
 $\Psi(x) = \phi(|x|^2)$ where $\phi(x) \asymp |x|^\beta \ell_1(x)$, $|x| \rightarrow 0$, $\phi(x) \asymp |x|^\gamma \ell_2(x)$, $|x| \rightarrow \infty$;

Preliminary results

We assume that the process X is transient. Then it has the (radial) Green function (occupation density) $G(x) = G(|x|) = \int_0^\infty p_t(x) dt$.

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Estimates for G : There exists $C > 1$ such that (KSV 2014, T. Grzywny 2014)

$$C^{-1} \frac{1}{|x|^d \Psi(|x|^{-1})} \leq G(x) \leq C \frac{1}{|x|^d \Psi(|x|^{-1})}, \quad |x| \leq 1, \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}).$$

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The Lévy measure of X has the density $j(x) = j(|x|)$ satisfying

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Fix $x_0 \in D$ and define $M_D(x, y) = \frac{G_D(x, y)}{G_D(x_0, y)}$, $x, y \in D$ – **the Martin kernel**. Then D has a Martin boundary $\partial_M D$ and $M_D(x, \cdot)$ extends continuously to $\partial_M D$. The function $M_D(x, z)$, $x \in D$, $z \in \partial_M D$ is the Martin kernel. A point $z \in \partial_M D$ is called **a minimal Martin boundary point** if $M_D(\cdot, z)$ is a minimal harmonic function for the process X^D . The minimal Martin boundary is denoted by $\partial_m D$.

Minimal thinness revisited, cont.

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- (1) D a $C^{1,1}$ open set: Then the finite part of $\partial_m D$ can be identified with the Euclidean ∂D ;
- (2) D a half-space-like $C^{1,1}$ open set, $\mathbb{H}_1 \subset D \subset \mathbb{H}$: Then the infinite part of $\partial_m D$ consists of a single point, ∞ ;

Wiener-Aikawa-type criteria for minimal thinness

(1) Let D be a $C^{1,1}$ open set, $\{Q_j\}$ a Whitney decomposition for D and $E \subset D$. Then E is minimally thin at $z \in \partial D$ if and only if

$$\sum_{j: Q_j \subset B(z, 1)} \text{dist}(z, Q_j)^{-d} \Psi(\text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D)^{-1})^{-1} \text{Cap}(E \cap Q_j) < \infty$$

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(2) Let D be a half-space-like $C^{1,1}$ open set, $\mathbb{H}_1 \subset D \subset \mathbb{H}$, $\{Q_j\}$ a Whitney decomposition for D and $E \subset D$. Then E is minimally thin at infinity in D if and only if

$$\sum_{j: Q_j \subset B(0, 1)^c} \text{dist}(0, Q_j)^{-d} \Psi(\text{dist}(0, Q_j)^{-1})^{-1} \text{Cap}(E \cap Q_j) < \infty$$

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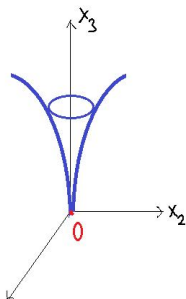
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Remark: the criteria in the theorem and corollary do **not** depend on the process X (or Ψ). They are the same as in the classical potential theory (Brownian motion case). Somewhat surprising! An explanation hinges on sharp two-sided estimates for $G_D(x, y)$ which imply that the singularity of the Martin kernel $M_D(x, z)$ near $z \in \partial D$ is of the order $|x - z|^{-d}$ for all such processes.

The Lebesgue thorn revisited

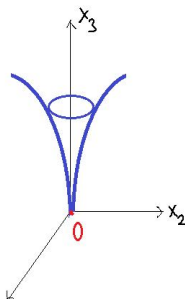
Let $f : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ be increasing, $f(r) > f(0)$ for all $r > 0$, $f(r)/r$ non-decreasing for r small. Let $E = \{x = (\tilde{x}, x_d) : |\tilde{x}| < f(x_d)\}$, $d \geq 3$.



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$$\int_0^1 \left(\frac{f(r)}{r} \right)^{d-\alpha-1} \frac{dr}{r} < \infty.$$



- 1 Minimal thinness in classical potential theory
- 2 Minimal thinness for Lévy processes [KSV1]
- 3 Minimal thinness for some other jump processes [KSV2]**
- 4 Examples

Description of processes and D

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The semigroup of Y^D subordinate to the semigroup of X^D in the sense that for $f : D \rightarrow [0, \infty)$, $\mathbb{E}_x[f(Y_t^D)] \leq \mathbb{E}_x[f(X_t^D)]$ – Y^D is a “smaller” process.

Scaling conditions for ϕ

Scaling conditions for ϕ :

(A1): There exist constants $0 < \delta_1 \leq \delta_2 < 1$ and $a_1, a_2 > 0$ such that

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Scaling conditions on ϕ can be weakened to include subordinators which scale with order zero: $\phi(\lambda) = \log(1 + \lambda^{\alpha/2})$ ($0 < \alpha \leq 2$) – geometric stable subordinators and Γ -subordinators.

More on Laplace exponent ϕ

The Laplace exponent ϕ is a Bernstein function:

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Important consequence: Let V^* be the potential operator of the subordinate killed Brownian motion $W^D(S_t^*)$ where S^* is the independent subordinator with Laplace exponent ϕ^* :

If $U_D(x, y)$ is the Green function of Y^D and $G_D^W(x, y)$ the Green function of W^D , then

$$U_D(x, y) = V^*(G_D^W(\cdot, y))(x)$$

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But the boundary Harnack principle **does not hold** for SKBM, partially because the jumping kernel J^D of Y^D has the estimates

$$J^D(x, y) \asymp \left(\frac{\delta_D(x)\delta_D(y)}{|x-y|^2} \wedge 1 \right) \frac{\phi(|x-y|^{-2})}{|x-y|^d}, \quad |x-y| \leq M.$$

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For $|x-z| \leq 1$,

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Poisson kernel estimates for SKBM

For any open subset B of D , let $U^{D,B}(x,y)$ be the Green function of Y^D killed upon exiting B . We define the Poisson kernel

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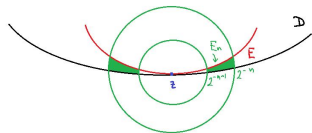
$$K^{D,B(x_0,r)}(x, y) \leq c \delta_D(y) \frac{\phi((|y - x_0| - r)^{-2})}{(|y - x_0| - r)^{d+1}} \phi(r^{-2})^{-1}.$$

The first criterion for minimal thinness

$$S_A = \inf\{t \geq 0 : Y_t^D \in A\}, \quad R_u^A(x) = \mathbb{E}_x[u(Y_{S_A}^D)], \quad \widehat{R}_u^A(x) = \mathbb{E}_x[u(Y_{T_A}^D)].$$

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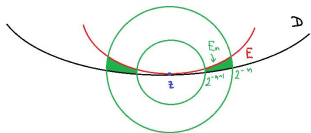
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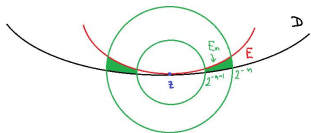
(1) In case D is a $C^{1,1}$ open set, E is minimally thin at D at $z \in \partial D$ iff

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(2) If D is a half-space-like $C^{1,1}$ open set, E is minimally thin at D at ∞ iff $\sum_{n \geq 1} R_{M_D(\cdot, \infty)}^{E^n}(x_0) < \infty$, where $E^n = E \cap \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : 2^n \leq |x| < 2^{n+1}\}$.

Let $g(x) = U_D(x, x_0) \wedge 1$. Then $M_D(x, z) \asymp \frac{g(x)}{|x-z|^{d+2} \phi(|x-z|^{-2})}$ which gives that $\sum_{n \geq 1} R_{M_D(\cdot, z)}^{E_n}(x_0) < \infty$ iff $\sum_{n=1} \frac{2^{n(d+2)}}{\phi(2^{2n})} R_g^{E_n}(E_n) < \infty$.

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For every $A \subset Q_j$, we have $R_g^A(x_0) \asymp g(x_j)^2 \text{Cap}_D(A)$,

where

$$\text{Cap}_D(A) := \inf\{\mu(D) : U_D\mu \geq 1 \text{ on } A\}.$$

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Quasi-additivity of capacity

Capacity is always subadditive: $\text{Cap}_D(\cup_{j=1}^{\infty} A_j) \leq \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Cap}_D(A_j)$

Capacity is (locally) **quasi-additive** (at z) with respect to $\{Q_j\}$: $\exists C > 0$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \text{Cap}_D(A \cap Q_j) \leq C \text{Cap}_D(A), \quad A \subset D \cap B(z, r) \quad (A \subset D)$$

Comparable measure and Hardy's inequality

The proof of quasi-additivity of capacity relies on the existence of a **comparable measure**: the measure σ is comparable to the capacity Cap_D if

$$\sigma(Q_j) \asymp \text{Cap}_D(Q_j) \text{ and } \sigma(A) \leq c \text{Cap}_D(A), \text{ all } A \subset D.$$

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The Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ of Y^D satisfies a local **Hardy's inequality** at $z \in \partial D$ if there exist $c > 0$ and (the localization radius) $R_0 > 0$ such that

$$\mathcal{E}(v, v) \geq c \int_{D \cap B(z, r_0)} v^2(x) \phi(\delta_D(x)^{-2}) dx, \quad v \in \mathcal{F}.$$

Wiener-Aikawa-type criterion for minimal thinness for SKBM

Let $\{Q_j\}$ be a Whitney decomposition of D , $E \subset D$ and $z \in \partial D$. Then E is minimally thin in D at z with respect to Y^D if and only if

$$\sum_{j: Q_j \subset B(z, 1)} \frac{\text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D)^2}{\text{dist}(z, Q_j)^{d+2} \phi(\text{dist}(z, Q_j)^{-2})} \text{Cap}(E \cap Q_j) < \infty$$

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Compare with the criterion for minimal thinness with respect to X^D :

$$\sum_{j: Q_j \subset B(z, 1)} \frac{1}{\text{dist}(z, Q_j)^d \phi(\text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D)^{-2})} \text{Cap}(E \cap Q_j) < \infty$$

Integral criterion for minimal thinness

Theorem: [KSV2] Let D be either a bounded $C^{1,1}$ domain, or a $C^{1,1}$ domain with compact complement, or a domain above the graph of a bounded $C^{1,1}$ function, let $E \subset D$ and $z \in \partial D$. If E is minimally thin in D at z with respect to Y^D , then

$$\int_{E \cap B(z,1)} \frac{\delta_D(x)^2 \phi(\delta_D(x)^{-2})}{|x-z|^{d+2} \phi(|x-z|^{-2})} dx < \infty.$$

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Conversely, if E is the union of a subfamily of Whitney cubes for D , then the converse also holds true.

$f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ Lipschitz, $E = \{x = (\tilde{x}, x_d \in \mathbb{H} : 0 < x_d \leq f(\tilde{x})\}$.

Corollary: E is minimally thin in \mathbb{H} at 0 if and only if

$$\int_{\{|\tilde{x}| < 1\}} \frac{f(\tilde{x})^3 \phi(f(\tilde{x})^{-2})}{|\tilde{x}|^{d+2} \phi(|\tilde{x}|^{-2})} d\tilde{x} < \infty.$$

Censored stable process

Let D be either a bounded $C^{1,1}$ domain or a half-space. Let X be an isotropic α -stable process in \mathbb{R}^d , $\Psi(x) = |x|^\alpha$ ($0 < \alpha < 2$).

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Whenever X makes a jump outside D , this jump is suppressed and the process starts afresh at the position X_{τ_D-} (Ikeda-Nagasawa-Watanabe piecing together procedure). This new process Z^D is called a censored α -stable process in D (Bogdan, Burdzy & Chen, 2003). It is a stable process not allowed to jump outside D .

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Alternatively, let

$$\mathcal{E}(u, u) = \int_D \int_D (u(x) - u(y))^2 |x - y|^{-d-\alpha} dx dy \quad u \in C_c^\infty(D).$$

Then \mathcal{E} extends to a regular Dirichlet form on $L^2(D, dx)$ and Z^D is the corresponding Markov (Hunt) process.

Wiener-Aikawa-type criterion

For $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, Z^D is conservative and never approaches ∂D . For $1 < \alpha < 2$, Z^D has finite lifetime ζ and $Z_{\zeta-}^D \in \partial D$.

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Let $\alpha \in (1, 2)$, D be a bounded $C^{1,1}$ domain in \mathbb{R}^d or a half-space ($d \geq 2$), $z \in \partial D$ and $E \subset D$. Then E is minimally thin at z with respect to the censored α -stable process if and only if

$$\sum_{j: Q_j \cap B(z, 1) \neq \emptyset} \frac{\text{dist}(Q_j, \partial D)^{2(\alpha-1)}}{\text{dist}(z, Q_j)^{d+\alpha-2}} \text{Cap}_D(E \cap Q_j) < \infty,$$

(Mimica & Vondracek 2014)

- 1 Minimal thinness in classical potential theory
- 2 Minimal thinness for Lévy processes [KSV1]
- 3 Minimal thinness for some other jump processes [KSV2]
- 4 **Examples**

Processes related to the stable process

D a bounded $C^{1,1}$ domain or a half-space.

- (a) X^D - α -stable process killed upon exiting D ;
- (b) Y^D - subordinate killed Brownian motion in D via $\alpha/2$ -stable subordinator;
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Criteria for minimal thinness of $E \subset D$ at $z \in \partial D$:

- (a) For X^D : $\int_{E \cap B(z,1)} \frac{1}{|x-z|^d} dx < \infty$;
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Minimal thinness for $Y^D \implies$ minimal thinness for $X^D \implies$ minimal thinness for Z^D .

Minimal thinness under the graph of a function

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- (a) for X^D iff $\int_{\{|\tilde{x}| < 1\}} \frac{f(\tilde{x})}{|\tilde{x}|^d} d\tilde{x} < \infty$;
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Example: If $f(\tilde{x}) = |\tilde{x}|^\gamma$, $\gamma \geq 1$, all three integrals are finite iff $\gamma > 1$.

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Let $f(\tilde{x}) = |\tilde{x}|(\log(1/|\tilde{x}|))^{-\beta}$, $\beta \geq 0$. Then E is minimally thin at $z = 0$

- (a) for X^D iff $\beta > 1$;
- (b) for Y^D iff $\beta > 1/(3 - \alpha)$;
- (c) for Z^D iff $\beta > 1/(\alpha - 1)$.

Thank you !