

Estimates of the Green Function for the Fractional Laplacian Perturbed by Gradient

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Abstract The Green function of the fractional Laplacian of the differential order bigger than one and the Green function of its gradient perturbations are comparable for bounded smooth multidimensional open sets if the drift function is in an appropriate Kato class.

Keywords Fractional Laplacian · Gradient perturbation · Green function · Smooth domain · Kato condition

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1 Introduction

Perturbations of the Laplace operator Δ by the first order or gradient operators $b(x) \cdot \nabla$ were studied by Cranston and Zhao in [23]. They proved for Lipschitz domains that the Green function and the harmonic measure of $\Delta + b(x) \cdot \nabla$ are comparable with those of Δ under an appropriate Kato condition on the drift function b . Zhang then showed in [46] and [47] that the transition density of $\Delta + b \cdot \nabla$ has Gaussian bounds. The results were extended to more general second order elliptic operators by Liskevich and Zhang [40], and to drift measures satisfying the Kato condition by Kim and Song [36].

The fractional Laplacian $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$, $0 < \alpha < 2$, is a primary example of a non-local generator of a Markovian semigroup. Perturbations of $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ received much attention

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recently. In particular Schrödinger perturbations of $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ were studied by Chen and Song [19, 21], Bogdan and Byczkowski [7, 8], Bogdan et al. [6, 11]. Non-local Schrödinger-type perturbations were considered by Kim and Lee in [35], following earlier papers of Song [44, 45]. Gradient perturbations of $\Delta^{1/2}$ were studied by Caffarelli and Vasseur [16] and Kiselev et al. [37]. Gradient perturbations of $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ for $\alpha > 1$ were considered by Bogdan and Jakubowski [12] and Jakubowski and Szczypkowski [34], with focus on sharp estimates of the corresponding transition densities on the whole of \mathbb{R}^d . In the present paper we estimate the Green function for smooth bounded subsets of \mathbb{R}^d .

Following [12] we let $\alpha \in (1, 2)$. We will consider dimensions $d \in \{2, 3, \dots\}$, a nonempty bounded open $C^{1,1}$ set $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, its Green function G_D for $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$, and the Green function \tilde{G}_D of the operator

$$L = \Delta^{\alpha/2} + b(x) \cdot \nabla,$$

where b is a function in Kato class $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ (for details see Section 2). Our interest in L is motivated by the development of the classical theory of the Laplacian, non-symmetry of L (we have $L^* = \Delta^{\alpha/2} - b(x) \cdot \nabla - \operatorname{div} b$), the fact that the drift is quite a problematic addition to a jump type process, and by a handful of techniques which already exist for $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$.

The following estimate, aforementioned in the Abstract, is an extension to $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ of the results of Cranston and Zhao [23].

Theorem 1 *Let $d \geq 2$, $1 < \alpha < 2$, $b \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$, and let $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be bounded and $C^{1,1}$. There exists a constant $C = C(\alpha, b, D)$ such that for $x, y \in D$,*

$$C^{-1} G_D(x, y) \leq \tilde{G}_D(x, y) \leq C G_D(x, y). \tag{1}$$

Sharp explicit estimates of G_D , hence of \tilde{G}_D , exist, see Eq. 24, and sharp explicit estimates of the corresponding Poisson kernel are given in Eq. 72 below. Theorem 1 is based on the perturbation formula for the Green operators,

$$\tilde{G}_D = G_D + \tilde{G}_D b \nabla G_D,$$

where $b \nabla \varphi(x) = b(x) \cdot \nabla \varphi(x)$. Iterating yields formal perturbation series,

$$\tilde{G}_D = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} G_D (b \nabla G_D)^n.$$

The structure of the proof of Theorem 1 is now as follows. Section 2 provides details on the $C^{1,1}$ condition and on transition densities, Green kernels and harmonic functions of the underlying Markov processes. In Section 3 we prove the perturbation formula and in Section 4 we prove that the perturbation series indeed converges and yields Eq. 1 for small sets D with bounded distortion. In the proofs we use estimates for G_D [20, 30, 38] and for the gradient of G_D [14], the boundary Harnack inequality for $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ [5, 13] and the Kato condition (30) for the drift function b . As a result in Section 4 we obtain the Harnack and boundary Harnack inequalities for nonnegative harmonic functions of L in large open sets. These are then used in Section 5 along with the perturbation formula and a rough upper bound for \tilde{G}_D given in Lemma 7, to

prove Theorem 1 for arbitrary bounded $C^{1,1}$ open sets. A number of other auxiliary results are proved in the [Appendix](#).

Concerning the statement of Theorem 1, we note that if the diameter of D is smaller than r and the distortion of D is smaller than λ , then the constant C in Eq. 1 depends only on d, α, r, λ and the suprema in the definition of the Kato class \mathcal{K}_d^α (see below).

We observe that an approach similar to ours was recently used for gradient perturbations of elliptic operators on small sets in [28] (see also [46]). In a wider perspective, Theorem 1 is an analogue of the Conditional Gauge Theorem (CGT) in the theory of Schrödinger perturbations, see [7, 8, 19, 21, 22] and [26]. We should remark here that the distributions of the Markov processes generated by $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ and L are *not* mutually absolutely continuous locally in time even for (nonzero) constant drift b , and any $\alpha \in (0, 2)$, see [42, Theorem 33.1]. Therefore techniques based on the Girsanov theorem [23] seem unavailable, and we need to proceed via analytic estimates of kernel functions. Apparently an adaptation of our arguments could be used to give a short analytic proof of CGT (compare [7, 19, 22]), in fact a proof much simpler than that of Theorem 1. Noteworthy, Green function estimates for Schrödinger perturbations hold *conditionally* under global assumptions of finiteness, e.g. gaugeability, existence of (finite) superharmonic functions bounded from below or smallness of the spectral radius. Lemma 7, a consequence of the estimates of the transition densities in [12], overrides such assumptions here. Heuristically, adding drift $b(X_t)dt$ to a stochastic process will not increase its mass on \mathbb{R}^d . This contrasts with a possibly exponential growth of the mass of Feynman–Kac semigroups generated by Schrödinger operators. The drift may, however, change the mass of the process killed off D by trying to push it away from the fatal D^c . This is why Eq. 1 is nontrivial phenomenologically. Also the symmetry of the semigroup and Green function are lost in the presence of the drift, causing certain technical problems. In this connection we note that $\tilde{G}_D(y, x)$ may be considered the Green function of L^* , and this operator has non-zero Schrödinger part, namely $-\operatorname{div} b$. Our results apply in particular to the Ornstein–Uhlenbeck operator $\Delta^{\alpha/2} + kx \cdot \nabla$ (for dimensions $d \geq 2$ and $1 < \alpha < 2$). Here k is a constant. We refer to [31] and [32] for estimates of superharmonic functions of this important operator. We note that for $k < 0$ the drift function $b(x) = kx$ will generally increase the occupation time density (i.e. the Green function) for sets D containing the origin.

The proof of Eq. 1 turned out to be quite difficult to handle, in terms of both the preliminaries and the auxiliary estimates of the Green function. Therefore we focused our attention on the more explicit $C^{1,1}$ open sets rather than Lipschitz open sets. We hope that our approach may now be adapted in the Lipschitz case. Here the sensitive elements are Lemma 9 and Eq. 47.

A few additional comments on possible extensions of the results are due. If $d = 1 < \alpha$, then the right hand side of Eq. 29 below will no longer be integrable. This explains our restriction to $d \geq 2$. We however conjecture that Theorem 1 does extend to $d = 1$. This case is interesting even for the sake of the one-dimensional Ornstein–Uhlenbeck process. One may wonder if Eq. 1 holds for $\alpha = 1$, but we certainly know that Eq. 1 fails for $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. Indeed, if $0 < \alpha < 1$ then the expected exit times from balls, to wit, $\int_{B(x_0, r)} G_{B(x_0, r)}(x, y)dy$, are generally incomparable for $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ and the Ornstein–Uhlenbeck operator $\Delta^{\alpha/2} + kx \cdot \nabla$ (see [31]), so the Green functions are not comparable either. Heuristically, a (first-order) gradient perturbation is

infinitesimally small with respect to $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ only if $\alpha > 1$. This explains the restriction $1 < \alpha < 2$ in [12, 34] and the present paper. We remark that the existence of ratios and Martin representation of nonnegative harmonic functions of L may likely be obtained with the results and toolbox presented in this paper and [13]. We also note that a similar approach should apply to additive perturbations of $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ by non-local Lévy-type operators (compare [24]), provided Eq. 29 can be generalized. It also seems possible and interesting to study drift perturbations of more general semigroups subordinated to the Gaussian semigroup [43].

2 Preliminaries

In what follows, \mathbb{R}^d denotes the Euclidean space of dimension $d \geq 2$, dy stands for the Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^d , and we let

$$1 < \alpha < 2.$$

Without further mention we will only consider Borelian sets, measures and functions in \mathbb{R}^d . By $x \cdot y$ we denote the Euclidean scalar product of $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$. We let $B(x, r) = \{y \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x - y| < r\}$. For $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ we denote

$$\delta_D(x) = \text{dist}(x, D^c),$$

the distance to the complement of D .

Definition 1 Nonempty open $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ is of class $C^{1,1}$ at scale $r > 0$ if for every $Q \in \partial D$ there are balls $B(x', r) \subset D$ and $B(x'', r) \subset D^c$ tangent at Q .

Thus, $B(x', r)$ and $B(x'', r)$ are the *inner* and *outer* balls tangent at Q , respectively. If D is $C^{1,1}$ at some unspecified scale (hence also at all smaller scales), then we simply say D is $C^{1,1}$. The *localization radius*,

$$r_0 = r_0(D) = \sup\{r : D \text{ is } C^{1,1} \text{ at scale } r\},$$

refers to the local geometry of D , while the *diameter*,

$$\text{diam}(D) = \sup\{|x - y| : x, y \in D\},$$

refers to the global geometry of D . The ratio $\text{diam}(D)/r_0(D) \geq 2$ will be called the *distortion* of D . We can localize each $C^{1,1}$ open set as follows.

Lemma 1 *There exists $\kappa > 0$ such that if D is $C^{1,1}$ at scale r and $Q \in \partial D$, then there is a $C^{1,1}$ domain $F \subset D$ with $r_0(F) > \kappa r$, $\text{diam}(F) < 2r$ and*

$$D \cap B(Q, r/4) = F \cap B(Q, r/4). \tag{2}$$

We will write $F = F(z, r)$, and we note that the distortion of F is at most $2/\kappa$, an absolute constant. The proof of Lemma 1 is given in the [Appendix](#).

In what follows D will be a nonempty bounded $C^{1,1}$ open set in \mathbb{R}^d .

We note that such D may be disconnected but then it may only have a finite number of connected components, at a positive distance from each other.

We will now give a brief review of the potential theory of the fractional Laplacian, and of the fractional Laplacian perturbed by gradient operators. The former case is well known [2, 7, 9, 13, 39]. The latter case is similar but we feel it calls for more details, and they are given in the [Appendix](#).

Let $\mathcal{A}_{d,\gamma} = \Gamma((d - \gamma)/2)/(2^\gamma \pi^{d/2} |\Gamma(\gamma/2)|)$ and

$$v(y) = \mathcal{A}_{d,-\alpha} |y|^{-d-\alpha}, \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

The coefficient $\mathcal{A}_{d,-\alpha}$ is so chosen that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} [1 - \cos(\xi \cdot y)] v(y) dy = |\xi|^\alpha, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{3}$$

For (smooth compactly supported) $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, the fractional Laplacian is

$$\Delta^{\alpha/2} \phi(x) = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \int_{|y| > \varepsilon} [\phi(x + y) - \phi(x)] v(y) dy, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d \tag{4}$$

(see [7, 9] for a broader setup). If $x \notin \text{supp } \phi$ then

$$\Delta^{\alpha/2} \phi(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(y) v(y - x) dy. \tag{5}$$

If $r > 0$ and $\phi_r(x) = \phi(rx)$ then

$$\Delta^{\alpha/2} \phi_r(x) = r^\alpha \Delta^{\alpha/2} \phi(rx), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{6}$$

In this respect, $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ behaves like differentiation of order α . We let p_t be the smooth real-valued function on \mathbb{R}^d with Fourier transform

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p_t(x) e^{ix \cdot \xi} dx = e^{-t|\xi|^\alpha}, \quad t > 0, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{7}$$

According to Eq. 3 and the Lévy–Khinchine formula, $\{p_t\}$ is a probabilistic convolution semigroup with Lévy measure $v(y)dy$, see [42], [15] or [9]. Let

$$p(t, x, y) = p_t(y - x).$$

Using Eq. 7 one proves that p is the heat kernel of the fractional Laplacian:

$$\int_s^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p(u - s, x, z) [\partial_u \phi(u, z) + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} \phi(u, z)] dz du = -\phi(s, x), \tag{8}$$

where $s \in \mathbb{R}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^d)$.

We consider the time-homogeneous transition probability

$$(t, x, A) \mapsto \int_A p(t, x, y) dy, \quad t > 0, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad A \subset \mathbb{R}^d.$$

By Kolmogorov’s and Dinkin-Kinney’s theorems the transition probability defines in the usual way Markov probability measures $\{\mathbb{P}^x, x \in \mathbb{R}^d\}$ on the space Ω of the right-continuous and left-limited functions $\omega : [0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$. We let \mathbb{E}^x be the corresponding integrations. We will denote by $X = \{X_t\}_{t \geq 0}$ the canonical process on Ω , $X_t(\omega) = \omega(t)$. In particular, according to Eq. 7,

$$\mathbb{E}^0 e^{iX_t \cdot \xi} = e^{-t|\xi|^\alpha}, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad t \geq 0. \tag{9}$$

In fact, (X, \mathbb{P}^0) is a Lévy process in \mathbb{R}^d with zero Gaussian part and drift, and with $\nu(y)dy$ as the Lévy measure [42]. It follows from Eq. 7 that

$$p_t(x) = t^{-d/\alpha} p_1(t^{-1/\alpha}x), \quad t > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{10}$$

It is well-known that $p_1(x) \stackrel{C}{\approx} 1 \wedge |x|^{-d-\alpha}$, hence

$$p_t(x) \stackrel{C}{\approx} t^{-d/\alpha} \wedge \frac{t}{|x|^{d+\alpha}}, \quad t > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{11}$$

Symbol $\stackrel{C}{\approx}$ means that either ratio of the sides is bounded by $C \in (0, \infty)$, and C does not depend on the variables shown, here t and x . We will write mere \approx if C is unimportant or understood. Constants will usually be denoted with generic C (in statements) or c (in proofs), and we will occasionally enumerate them for convenience of referencing. As usual, $a \wedge b = \min(a, b)$ and $a \vee b = \max(a, b)$. In what follows we will often use the identity

$$ab = (a \wedge b)(a \vee b). \tag{12}$$

In view of Eq. 10 and the fact that each p_t is a radial function, X is called the isotropic α -stable Lévy process (see [15, 42] for a discussion of general stable Lévy processes). We introduce the Riesz potential kernel (for $d > \alpha$),

$$\mathcal{A}_{d,\alpha}|x|^{\alpha-d} = \int_0^\infty p_t(x)dt, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{13}$$

This is infinite if $x = 0$, see Eq. 11.

To study $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ with Dirichlet conditions we will consider the *time of the first exit* of the (canonical) process from D ,

$$\tau_D = \inf\{t > 0 : X_t \notin D\}.$$

We let $\omega_D^x(B) = \mathbb{P}^x(X_{\tau_D} \in B)$, the α -harmonic measure of D [2, 4, 39]. The joint distribution of (τ_D, X_{τ_D}) defines the transition density of the process *killed* when leaving D [3, 22, 27]:

$$p_D(t, x, y) = p(t, x, y) - \mathbb{E}^x[\tau_D < t; p(t - \tau_D, X_{\tau_D}, y)], \quad t > 0, x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

By Blumenthal’s 0–1 law, radial symmetry of p_t and $C^{1,1}$ geometry of the boundary of ∂D , we have $\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_D = 0) = 1$ for every $x \in D^c$. In particular, $p_D(t, x, y) = 0$ if $x \in D^c$ or $y \in D^c$. By the strong Markov property,

$$\mathbb{E}^x[t < \tau_D; f(X_t)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(y)p_D(t, x, y)dy, \quad t > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

for functions $f \geq 0$. The Chapman–Kolmogorov equations hold for p_D ,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p_D(s, x, z)p_D(t, z, y)dz = p_D(s + t, x, y), \quad s, t > 0, x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Also, p_D is jointly continuous when $t \neq 0$, and we have

$$0 \leq p_D(t, x, y) = p_D(t, y, x) \leq p(t, x, y). \tag{14}$$

In particular,

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p_D(t, x, y) dy \leq 1. \tag{15}$$

For $s \in \mathbb{R}$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, and $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R} \times D)$, we have (compare Eq. 8)

$$\int_s^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p_D(u - s, x, z) [\partial_u \phi(u, z) + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} \phi(u, z)] dz du = -\phi(s, x), \tag{16}$$

which justifies calling p_D the heat kernel of the (Dirichlet) fractional Laplacian on D . We define

$$G_D(x, y) = \int_0^\infty p_D(t, x, y) dt, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{17}$$

It follows that $G_D(x, y)$ is symmetric and lower semi-continuous, and

$$G_D(x, y) + \int_{D^c} \mathcal{A}_{d,\alpha} |y - z|^{\alpha-d} \omega_D^x(dz) = \mathcal{A}_{d,\alpha} |x - y|^{\alpha-d}. \tag{18}$$

The Green operator of $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$ for D is

$$G_D f(x) = \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^{\tau_D} f(X_t) dt = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} G_D(x, y) f(y) dy, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

and we have

$$G_D(\Delta^{\alpha/2} \phi)(x) = -\phi(x), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad \phi \in C_c^\infty(D). \tag{19}$$

A result of Ikeda and Watanabe [29] asserts that for $x \in D$ the \mathbb{P}^x -distribution of $(\tau_D, X_{\tau_D-}, X_{\tau_D})$ restricted to $X_{\tau_D-} \neq X_{\tau_D}$ is given by the density function

$$(s, u, z) \mapsto p_D(s, x, u) v(z - u). \tag{20}$$

The $C^{1,1}$ geometry of D implies that $\mathbb{P}^x(X_{\tau_D-} \neq X_{\tau_D}) = 1$ for $x \in D$ [5]. By Eqs. 17, 20 and Tonelli’s theorem the \mathbb{P}^x -distribution of X_{τ_D} has a density function, called the Poisson kernel and defined as

$$P_D(x, z) = \int_D G_D(x, y) v(z - y) dy. \tag{21}$$

The Green function and Poisson kernel of the ball are known explicitly:

$$G_{B(x_0,r)}(x, v) = \mathcal{B}_{d,\alpha} |x - v|^{\alpha-d} \int_0^w \frac{s^{\alpha/2-1}}{(s+1)^{d/2}} ds, \tag{22}$$

$$P_{B(x_0,r)}(x, y) = \mathcal{C}_{d,\alpha} \left[\frac{r^2 - |x - x_0|^2}{|y - x_0|^2 - r^2} \right]^{\alpha/2} |x - y|^{-d}, \tag{23}$$

where $\mathcal{B}_{d,\alpha} = \Gamma(d/2)/(2^\alpha \pi^{d/2} [\Gamma(\alpha/2)]^2)$, $\mathcal{C}_{d,\alpha} = \Gamma(d/2) \pi^{-1-d/2} \sin(\pi \alpha/2)$,

$$w = (r^2 - |x - x_0|^2)(r^2 - |v - x_0|^2)/|x - v|^2,$$

$|x - x_0| < r$, $|v - x_0| < r$, and $|y - x_0| \geq r$; see [4], [41] or [39].

The next estimate was proved by Kulczycki [38] and Chen and Song [20],

$$G_D(x, y) \stackrel{C}{\approx} |x - y|^{\alpha-d} \left(\frac{\delta_D(x)^{\alpha/2} \delta_D(y)^{\alpha/2}}{|x - y|^\alpha} \wedge 1 \right) \tag{24}$$

$$\approx |x - y|^{\alpha-d} \frac{\delta_D(x)^{\alpha/2} \delta_D(y)^{\alpha/2}}{[\delta_D(x) \vee |x - y| \vee \delta_D(y)]^\alpha}, \quad x, y \in D. \tag{25}$$

The reader may check equivalence of Eqs. 24 and 25 by first considering the case $\delta_D(x) \stackrel{3}{\approx} \delta_D(y)$. We like to remark that Eq. 25 may be also regarded a direct consequence of the approximate factorization of the Green function of Lipschitz open sets, see [30, Theorem 21]. It is well known that $C = C(d, \alpha, \lambda)$ in Eqs. 24 and 25, if $\text{diam}(D)/r_0(D) \leq \lambda$, i.e. C may be so selected to depend only on d, α and (an upper bound for) the distortion of D . This follows from the proofs of [38] and [20] and is explicitly stated in [30].

We will consider a nonnegative function u on \mathbb{R}^d , and an open set $U \subset \mathbb{R}^d$. u is called α -harmonic on U if for each open bounded $V \subset \bar{V} \subset U$,

$$u(x) = \mathbb{E}^x u(X_{\tau_V}), \quad x \in V.$$

We say that u is regular α -harmonic on U if also

$$u(x) = \mathbb{E}^x u(X_{\tau_U}), \quad x \in U.$$

Here we assume absolute integrability of the expectations, and $\mathbb{E}^x u(X_{\tau_U})$ is understood as $\mathbb{E}^x[\tau_U < \infty; u(X_{\tau_U})]$. For instance $x \mapsto G_D(x, y)$ is α -harmonic in $D \setminus \{y\}$. In fact, by the strong Markov property, $G_D(x, y) = G_V(x, y) + \mathbb{E}^x G_D(X_{\tau_V}, y)$ for every open $V \subset U$, and $G_V(x, y) = 0$ if $\text{dist}(y, V) > 0$ (see, e.g., [13]).

The following two results can be found in [5], see also [13].

Lemma 2 (Harnack Inequality) *Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d, s > 0$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfy $|x - y| \leq 2^k s$. Let function u be nonnegative in \mathbb{R}^d and α -harmonic in $B(x, s) \cup B(y, s)$. There is $C = C(d, \alpha)$ such that*

$$C^{-1} 2^{-k(d+\alpha)} u(x) \leq u(y) \leq C 2^{k(d+\alpha)} u(x). \tag{26}$$

Lemma 3 *Let $Z \in \partial D$ and $r \in (0, r_0], 0 < p < 1$. Assume that functions u, v are nonnegative in \mathbb{R}^d and regular α -harmonic and non-zero in $D \cap B(x_0, r)$. If u and v vanish on $D^c \cap B(x_0, r)$ then*

$$C^{-1} \frac{u(x)}{v(x)} \leq \frac{u(y)}{v(y)} \leq C \frac{u(x)}{v(x)}, \tag{27}$$

for $x, y \in D \cap B(x_0, pr)$. Here $C = C(d, \alpha, p)$.

We like to remark that the boundary Harnack inequality (Lemma 3) in fact holds for general open sets and is equivalent to an approximate factorization of the Poisson kernel of general open sets, see [13]. We encourage the reader to factorize $P_{B(0,1)}(x, y)$ when x, y are not too close to each other. In passing we also note that an approximate factorization of $p_D(t, x, y)$ for Lipschitz domains is given in [10]. Concluding this part of our preliminary discussion we refer the reader to [9, 13] for more details and references.

We note that α -harmonic functions are smooth where α -harmonic; use Eq. 23 or see [7]. The following gradient estimate is given in [14, Lemma 3.2].

Lemma 4 *Let U be an arbitrary open set in \mathbb{R}^d . For every nonnegative function u on \mathbb{R}^d which is α -harmonic in U we have*

$$|\nabla u(x)| \leq d \frac{u(x)}{\delta_U(x)}, \quad x \in U. \tag{28}$$

Since $G_U(\cdot, y)$ is α -harmonic in $U \setminus \{y\}$, for every $y \in U$ we obtain

$$|\nabla_x G_U(x, y)| \leq d \frac{G_U(x, y)}{\delta_U(x) \wedge |x - y|}, \quad x, y \in U, \quad x \neq y. \tag{29}$$

We note in passing that a reverse inequality holds locally at the boundary of Lipschitz domains, with constant depending on the Lipschitz character of D [14, Lemma 4.5]. In this sense Eqs. 28 and 29 are sharp. Also, $\nabla_x G_U(x, y)$ is jointly continuous for $x \neq y \in U$, see [14, (10)].

Recall that $1 < \alpha < 2$. We say that vector field $b : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ belongs to the Kato class $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ if

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{|x-z| < \varepsilon} |b(z)| |x - z|^{\alpha-1-d} dz = 0. \tag{30}$$

For instance, if b is bounded or if $|b(z)| \leq |z|^{1-\alpha+\varepsilon}$ and $0 < \varepsilon < \alpha - 1$, then $b \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$. Without much mention elements of $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ will either be vector fields $\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ or real-valued test functions $\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, i.e. $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ is more a condition than a class. Since $|x - z|^{\alpha-1-d}$ is locally bounded from below, $|b(z)|dz$ is a locally finite measure, and Eq. 30 is a local uniform integrability condition. If $b \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ and f is bounded, then $fb \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$, in particular, fb is locally integrable. We note that $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1} \subset \mathcal{K}_d^\alpha$, where \mathcal{K}_d^α is defined by

$$\limsup_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{|x-z| < \varepsilon} |b(z)| |x - z|^{\alpha-d} dz = 0. \tag{31}$$

Following [12] and [34] we recursively define, for $t > 0$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$p_0(t, x, y) = p(t, x, y),$$

$$p_n(t, x, y) = \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p_{n-1}(t - s, x, z) b(z) \cdot \nabla_z p(s, z, y) dz ds, \quad n \geq 1,$$

and we let

$$\tilde{p} = \sum_{n=0}^\infty p_n. \tag{32}$$

The series converges absolutely, \tilde{p} is a continuous probability transition density function, and

$$c_T^{-1} p(t, x, y) \leq \tilde{p}(t, x, y) \leq c_T p(t, x, y), \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d, \quad 0 < t < T, \tag{33}$$

where $c_T \rightarrow 1$ if $T \rightarrow 0$, see [12, Theorem 2]. From a general perspective the approach of [12, 34] consist of using the semigroup as test functions, setting the

assumptions on the perturbation so that p_1 is dominated by p in short time, and recursively estimating multiple integrals defining p_n , so that the comparability with p is preserved. Auxiliary estimates of $\nabla_z p(s, z, y)$ are obtained in [12, 34] by subordination to the Gaussian kernel, but the scope of the method is wider. For instance applications to Schrödinger perturbations of general transition densities are given in [11, 33].

We let $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}, \tilde{\mathbb{E}}$ be the Markov distributions and expectations defined by transition density \tilde{p} on the canonical path space. We define the heat kernel of L on D by the usual G. Hunt’s formula,

$$\tilde{p}_D(t, x, y) = \tilde{p}(t, x, y) - \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x [\tau_D < t; \tilde{p}(t - \tau_D, X_{\tau_D}, y)] . \tag{34}$$

We denote by $\tilde{G}_D(x, y)$ and \tilde{G}_D the Green function and operator of L on D ,

$$\tilde{G}_D(x, y) = \int_0^\infty \tilde{p}_D(t, x, y) dt , \tag{35}$$

$$\tilde{G}_D \phi(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{G}_D(x, y) \phi(y) dy .$$

By Blumenthal’s 0–1 law, $\tilde{p}_D(t, x, y) = 0$ and $\tilde{G}_D(x, y) = 0$ if $x \in D^c$ or $y \in D^c$, see Eq. 33. The next lemmas rely on the definition of \tilde{p} and generalize results stated above for $\Delta^{\alpha/2}$. The proofs of Lemmas 5, 6 and 8 are moved to the [Appendix](#).

Lemma 5 For $s > 0, x \in D$ and $\phi \in C_c^\infty((0, \infty) \times D)$ we have

$$\int_s^\infty \int_D \tilde{p}_D(u - s, x, z) (\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z) dz du = -\phi(s, x) . \tag{36}$$

By Eq. 33 we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tilde{p}(t, x, y)}{t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{p(t, x, y)}{t} = v(y - x) .$$

Thus the intensity of jumps of the canonical process X under $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x$ is the same as under \mathbb{P}^x . Accordingly, we obtain the following description.

Lemma 6 The $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x$ -distribution of (τ_D, X_{τ_D}) on $(0, \infty) \times (\bar{D})^c$ has density

$$\int_D \tilde{p}_D(u, x, y) v(z - y) dy , \quad u > 0, \delta_D(z) > 0 . \tag{37}$$

We define the Poisson kernel of D for L ,

$$\tilde{P}_D(x, y) = \int_D \tilde{G}_D(x, z) v(y - z) dz , \quad x \in D, y \in D^c . \tag{38}$$

By Eqs. 35, 38 and 37 we have

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_D} \in A) = \int_A \int_D \tilde{G}_D(x, z) v(y - z) dz dy = \int_A \tilde{P}_D(x, y) dy , \tag{39}$$

if $A \subset (\bar{D})^c$. For the case of $A \subset \partial D$, we refer the reader to Lemma 14.

The following rough estimate of \tilde{G}_D results from the estimates of \tilde{p} and the fact that X jumps out of D at least with intensity $\int_{|y|>\text{diam}(D)} \nu(y)dy > 0$.

Lemma 7 $\tilde{G}_D(x, y)$ is continuous for $x \neq y$, $\tilde{G}_D(x, x) = \infty$ for $x \in D$, and

$$\tilde{G}_D(x, y) \leq C_0|x - y|^{\alpha-d}, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

where $C_0 = C_0(d, \alpha, \text{diam}(D))$.

Proof We claim that there are constants c and C such that

$$\tilde{p}_D(t, x, y) \leq Ce^{-ct}, \quad t > 1, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{40}$$

Indeed, let $\kappa_D(y) = \int_{D^c} \nu(z - y)dz$, so that $\kappa_D(y) \geq c > 0$ for $y \in D$. Let $x \in D, t \geq 0$, and $F(t) = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(\tau_D > t) = \int_D \tilde{p}_D(t, x, y)dy$. By Lemma 6,

$$-F'(t) = \int_D \tilde{p}_D(t, x, y)\kappa_D(y)dy \geq cF(t),$$

hence $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(\tau_D > t) \leq e^{-ct}$. By the semigroup property and Eq. 33, for $t > 1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{p}_D(t, x, y) &\leq \int_D \tilde{p}_D(t - 1, x, z)\tilde{p}(1, z, y) dz \\ &\leq c_1 \int_D \tilde{p}_D(t - 1, x, z)p(1, z, y) dz \\ &\leq c_1 p(1, 0, 0) \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(\tau_D > t - 1) \leq Ce^{-ct}. \end{aligned}$$

By Eqs. 35, 33 and 40 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}_D(x, y) &\leq \int_0^1 c_1 p(t, x, y) dt + \int_1^\infty Ce^{-ct} dt \\ &\leq \mathcal{A}_{d,\alpha}|x - y|^{\alpha-d} + C/c \leq (\mathcal{A}_{d,\alpha} + C \text{diam}(D)^{d-\alpha}/c) |x - y|^{\alpha-d}. \end{aligned}$$

By Eq. 35 and dominated convergence theorem $\tilde{G}_D(x, y)$ is continuous if $x \neq y$, see Eqs. 33 and 11.

The next lemma results from integrating Eq. 36 against time.

Lemma 8 For all $\varphi \in C^\infty(D)$ and $x \in D$ we have

$$\int_D \tilde{G}_D(x, z) (\Delta^{\alpha/2}\varphi(z) + b(z) \cdot \nabla\varphi(z)) dz = -\varphi(x). \tag{41}$$

The definition of L -harmonicity is analogous to that of α -harmonicity.

Definition 2 u is L -harmonic on U if for each open bounded $V \subset \bar{V} \subset U$,

$$u(x) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x u(X_{\tau_V}), \quad x \in V.$$

We say that u is regular L -harmonic on U if also

$$u(x) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x u(X_{\tau_U}), \quad x \in U.$$

Here $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x u(X_{\tau_U}) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x[\tau_U < \infty; u(X_{\tau_U})]$ and we always assume absolute integrability. In particular, $x \mapsto \tilde{G}_D(x, y)$ is L -harmonic in $D \setminus \{y\}$, in fact $\tilde{G}_D(x, y) = \tilde{G}_U(x, y) + \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x \tilde{G}_V(X(\tau_U), y)$ for every open $U \subset D$. We should note that in general $\tilde{G}_D(x, y) \neq \tilde{G}_D(y, x)$ (non-symmetry), and $y \mapsto \tilde{G}_D(x, y)$ is *not* L -harmonic. This accounts in part for the difficulties in estimating \tilde{G}_D .

3 Perturbation Formula

As before, D is a bounded $C^{1,1}$ open set in \mathbb{R}^d , $b \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ and $1 < \alpha < 2 \leq d$. Let

$$G = G_D, \tilde{G} = \tilde{G}_D \text{ and } \delta = \delta_D.$$

In view of Eq. 29 the next lemma yields uniform integrability of $b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(y, z)$. In particular, the singularity $\delta(z)^{\alpha/2-1}$ of $\nabla_z G$ at ∂D integrates against $|b|$.

Lemma 9 $G(y, z)/[\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|]$ is uniformly in y integrable against $|b(z)|dz$.

Proof In view of Eq. 25 it is enough to prove the uniform integrability of

$$H(y, z) = |y - z|^{\alpha-d} \frac{\delta(y)^{\alpha/2} \delta(z)^{\alpha/2}}{[\delta(z) \vee |y - z| \vee \delta(y)]^\alpha} \frac{1}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|}.$$

Let $A_R(y) = \{z \in D : H(y, z) > R\}$ for $R > 0$. We will verify that

$$\lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in D} \int_{A_R(y)} H(y, z) |b(z)| dz = 0.$$

For $r > 0$ we denote

$$K_r = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{B(x,r)} |b(y)| |x - y|^{\alpha-1-d} dy.$$

By Eq. 30 we have that $K_r < \infty$ and $K_r \downarrow 0$ as $r \downarrow 0$. For all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $r > 0$,

$$\int_{B(x,r)} |b(z)| dz \leq r^{d+1-\alpha} \int_{B(x,r)} |x - z|^{\alpha-1-d} |b(z)| dz \leq K_r r^{d+1-\alpha}.$$

For $r > 0$ we let $D(r) = \{z \in D : \delta(z) > r\}$. If $m > 0$, $y \in D$ and $z \in D(\delta(y)/m)$, that is $\delta(z) > \delta(y)/m$, then we have

$$|H(y, z)| \leq m^{1-\alpha/2} |y - z|^{\alpha-1-d}.$$

Indeed, by Eq. 12,

$$\begin{aligned} H(y, z) &= |y - z|^{\alpha-d} \frac{\delta(y)^{\alpha/2} \delta(z)^{\alpha/2}}{[\delta(z) \vee |y - z| \vee \delta(y)]^\alpha} \frac{\delta(z) \vee |y - z|}{\delta(z) |y - z|} \\ &\leq |y - z|^{\alpha-1-d} \delta(z)^{\alpha/2-1} \delta(y)^{\alpha/2} [\delta(z) \vee |y - z| \vee \delta(y)]^{1-\alpha} \\ &\leq |y - z|^{\alpha-1-d} \delta(z)^{\alpha/2-1} \delta(y)^{1-\alpha/2} \leq m^{1-\alpha/2} |y - z|^{\alpha-1-d}. \end{aligned}$$

If $R \rightarrow \infty$, then uniformly in y we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{D(\delta(y)/m) \cap A_R(y)} H(y, z) |b(z)| dz \\ & \leq m^{1-\alpha/2} \int_{\{z \in D: |y-z|^{\alpha-1-d} > Rm^{\alpha/2-1}\}} |y-z|^{\alpha-1-d} |b(z)| dz \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

For $y \in D, k, n \geq 0$ and $m \geq 2$ we consider

$$W_{n,k}^m(y) = \left\{ z \in D: \frac{\delta(y)}{m2^{n+1}} < \delta(z) \leq \frac{\delta(y)}{m2^n}, k\delta(y) < |y-z| \leq (k+1)\delta(y) \right\}.$$

$W_{n,k}^m(y)$ may be covered by $c_1(k+1)^{d-2}m^{d-1}2^{n(d-1)}$ balls of radii $\frac{\delta(y)}{m2^n}$, thus

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{W_{n,k}^m(y)} |b(z)| dz & \leq c_1(k+1)^{d-2}m^{d-1}2^{n(d-1)} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} \int_{B(x, \delta(y)/m2^n)} |b(z)| dz \\ & \leq c_1 K_{\delta(y)/m2^n} (k+1)^{d-2}m^{d-1}2^{n(d-1)} \left(\frac{\delta(y)}{m2^n}\right)^{d+1-\alpha} \\ & = c_1 K_{\delta(y)/m2^n} (k+1)^{d-2}m^{\alpha-2}2^{n(\alpha-2)}\delta(y)^{d+1-\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

For $z \in W_{n,k}^m(y)$ we have $\delta(y) \geq 2\delta(z)$, hence $|y-z| \geq \delta(y)/2$ and $|y-z| \geq \delta(z)$. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{A_R(y) \setminus D(\delta(y)/m)} H(y, z) |b(z)| dz \\ & \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_{W_{n,k}^m(y)} \frac{\delta(y)^{\alpha/2}}{|y-z|^d \delta(z)^{1-\alpha/2}} |b(z)| dz \\ & \leq \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \int_{W_{n,k}^m(y)} \frac{\delta(y)^{\alpha/2}}{((k+1)\delta(y)/2)^d [\delta(y)/(m2^{n+1})]^{1-\alpha/2}} |b(z)| dz \\ & \leq c_2 K_{\delta(y)/m} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (k+1)^{d-2}m^{\alpha-2}2^{n(\alpha-2)}2^d (k+1)^{-d}2^{n(1-\alpha/2)}m^{1-\alpha/2} \\ & \leq c_3 m^{\alpha/2-1} K_{\delta(y)/m}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. We chose m and R so large that $c_3 m^{\alpha/2-1} K_{\text{diam}(D)/m} < \varepsilon/2$ and

$$\sup_{y \in D} \int_{D(\delta(y)/m) \cap A_R(y)} H(y, z) |b(z)| dz < \varepsilon/2.$$

This completes the proof. □

We consider the operator $b \nabla$:

$$(b \nabla \phi)(x) = b(x) \cdot \nabla \phi(x) = \sum_{i=1}^d b_i(x) \frac{\partial \phi(x)}{\partial x_i}.$$

We will study the perturbation series $\sum_{n=0}^\infty (Gb \nabla)^n G$ of integral operators on $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$. Namely we will apply $Gb \nabla G$ to real-valued $f \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$:

$$Gb \nabla Gf(x) = \int_D G(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z \int_D G(z, y)f(y) dy dz. \tag{43}$$

We will need to interchange the integration and differentiation in Eq. 43.

Lemma 10 *Let $1 < \alpha < 2$. If $f \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ or at least $G(z, y)/|y - z|$ is locally in $z \in D$ uniformly integrable against $|f(y)|dy$, then*

$$\nabla_z \int_D G(z, y)f(y) dy = \int_D \nabla_z G(z, y)f(y) dy, \quad z \in D. \tag{44}$$

Proof The result is proved for $f \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ in [14, Lemma 5.2]. For the more general f we note that $G(z, y)$ and $\nabla_z G(z, y)$ are continuous on $D \times D$ except at $z = y$, see the remark following Eq. 29. They are also uniformly integrable against $|f(y)|dy$ for z in compact subsets of D . In consequence $g(z) = Gf(z)$ and $k(z) = \int_D \nabla_z G(z, y)f(y) dy$ are continuous on D . We consider $f_n = f \wedge n \vee (-n) \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$, $g_n = Gf_n$. We have $g_n \rightarrow g$ and $\nabla g_n \rightarrow k$. It follows that $\nabla g = k$. \square

For $x, y \in D$ we let

$$\kappa(x, y) = \int_D |b(z)| \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{G(x, y)(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)} dz, \tag{45}$$

$$\hat{\kappa}(x, y) = \int_D |b(z)| \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)(\delta(x) \wedge |x - y|)}{G(x, y)(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)(\delta(x) \wedge |x - z|)} dz. \tag{46}$$

In what follows κ and $\hat{\kappa}$ will serve as majorants for the perturbation series.

Lemma 11 *Let $\lambda, r < \infty$. There is $C_1 = C_1(d, \alpha, b, \lambda, r)$ such that if D is $C^{1,1}$, $\text{diam}(D)/r_0(D) \leq \lambda$ and $\text{diam}(D) \leq r$, then $\kappa(x, y) \leq C_1$, $\hat{\kappa}(x, y) \leq 2C_1$ for $x, y \in D$, and $C_1(d, \alpha, b, \lambda, r) \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow 0$.*

Proof Denote $g(x) = \delta(x)^{\alpha/2}$. Let $x, z \in D$. By Eq. 25 we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g(z)}{g(x)} G(x, z) &\approx \frac{g^2(z)}{(\delta(x) \vee |x - z| \vee \delta(z))^\alpha} |x - z|^{\alpha-d} \\ &\leq \left(\frac{\delta(z)}{\delta(z) \vee |x - z|} \right)^\alpha |x - z|^{\alpha-d} \leq \frac{\delta(z)}{\delta(z) \vee |x - z|} |x - z|^{\alpha-d} \end{aligned} \tag{47}$$

$$= (\delta(z) \wedge |x - z|) |x - z|^{\alpha-1-d}. \tag{48}$$

Let $\mathcal{G}(x, y) = G(x, y)/[g(x)g(y)]$. The so-called 3G Theorem holds for \mathcal{G} :

$$\mathcal{G}(x, z) \wedge \mathcal{G}(z, y) \leq c\mathcal{G}(x, y), \quad x, y, z \in D,$$

where c depends only on d, α and the distortion of D [25]. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{G(x, y)} &= g^2(z) \frac{\mathcal{G}(x, z)\mathcal{G}(z, y)}{\mathcal{G}(x, y)} \leq c \left(\frac{g(z)}{g(x)} G(x, z) \vee \frac{g(z)}{g(y)} G(z, y) \right) \\ &\leq c \left(\frac{\delta(z) \wedge |x - z|}{|x - z|^{d+1-\alpha}} \vee \frac{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|}{|y - z|^{d+1-\alpha}} \right) \\ &= c(\delta(z) \wedge |x - z| \wedge |y - z|) \left(\frac{1}{|x - z|^{d+1-\alpha}} \vee \frac{1}{|y - z|^{d+1-\alpha}} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

We have

$$\frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{G(x, y)(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z| \wedge |x - z|)} \leq c(|x - z|^{\alpha-1-d} + |y - z|^{\alpha-1-d}),$$

so we actually have uniform integrability against $|b(z)|dz$. The statement about κ follows from (30).

To estimate $\hat{\kappa}$ we consider two cases. If $2|x - z| > \delta(x) \wedge |x - y|$, then

$$\frac{\delta(z) \wedge |x - z| \wedge |y - z|}{(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)(\delta(x) \wedge |x - z|)} \leq \frac{1}{\delta(x) \wedge |x - z|} \leq \frac{2}{\delta(x) \wedge |x - y|}.$$

If $2|x - z| \leq \delta(x) \wedge |x - y|$, then $\delta(z) \geq \delta(x)/2, |y - z| \geq |x - y|/2$, and so

$$\frac{\delta(z) \wedge |x - z| \wedge |y - z|}{(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)(\delta(x) \wedge |x - z|)} \leq \frac{\delta(z) \wedge |x - z| \wedge |y - z|}{(\delta(x)/2 \wedge |x - y|/2)|x - z|} \leq \frac{2}{\delta(x) \wedge |x - y|}.$$

By Eqs. 49 and 30 we obtain $\hat{\kappa}(x, y) \leq 2C_1$. In fact we observe the uniform integrability against $|b(z)|dz$. The above estimates of the factors in Eqs. 45 and 46 depend on D only through d and $\text{diam}(D)/r_0(D)$ [30]. Therefore the integrals in Eqs. 45 and 46 are arbitrarily small if $\text{diam}(D)$ is small enough, and the distortion of D is bounded by a constant. This follows from Eq. 30. If $\text{diam}(D)$ is not small but finite then we only have the boundedness of κ and $\hat{\kappa}$, which also follows from Eq. 30. \square

For $x \neq y$ we let

$$G_1(x, y) = \int_D G(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y) dz. \tag{50}$$

By Eqs. 29 and 45, and Lemma 11 the integral is absolutely convergent,

$$|G_1(x, y)| \leq d G(x, y) \int_D \frac{|b(z)|G(x, z)G(z, y)}{G(x, y)(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)} dz \leq dC_1 G(x, y). \tag{51}$$

For $f \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1} \subset \mathcal{K}_d^\alpha$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_D G(x, y) \int_D |b(z)| \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{G(x, y)(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)} dz |f(y)| dy \\ &\leq C_1 \int_D G(x, y) |f(y)| dy < \infty, \end{aligned}$$

hence by Lemma 10, Eq. 29 and Fubini’s theorem,

$$\begin{aligned}
 Gb \nabla Gf(x) &= \int_D G(x, z) \int_D b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y) f(y) dy dz \\
 &= \int_D G_1(x, y) f(y) dy .
 \end{aligned}$$

We like to note that the linear map $f \mapsto b \nabla Gf$ preserves $\mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ because ∇Gf is a bounded function, see Lemma 9 and the remarks following Eq. 30.

We will now prove the pointwise perturbation formula.

Lemma 12 *Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d, x \neq y$. We have*

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) = G(x, y) + \int_D \tilde{G}(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y)dz . \tag{52}$$

Proof Let $x \in D$. For $\phi \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ we consider

$$\Lambda(\phi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left[\tilde{G}(x, y) - G(x, y) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{G}(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y)dz \right] \phi(y)dy .$$

By Lemmas 9 and 7, the iterated integral converges absolutely. If $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(D)$ and $\phi = \Delta^{\alpha/2}\varphi$, then using Eqs. 41 and 19, and Lemma 10 we obtain

$$\Lambda(\phi) = -\varphi(x) - \tilde{G}(b \nabla \varphi)(x) + \varphi(x) - \tilde{G}(b \nabla(-\varphi))(x) = 0 .$$

By [7, Theorem 3.12], $\Lambda(\phi) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(y)\lambda(y)dy$, where λ is α -harmonic on D . Since our λ is bounded near ∂D and vanishes on D^c , we have that $\lambda \equiv 0$, see [7, Lemma 17]. By uniform integrability and the remark following Eq. 29 and by Lemma 7 we see that both sides of Eq. 52 are continuous in $y \in D \setminus \{x\}$, hence we have pointwise equality in Eq. 52. □

In addition to G_1 we inductively define

$$G_n(x, y) = \int G_{n-1}(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y) dz , \quad x \neq y \in D , \quad n = 2, 3, \dots .$$

We also let $G_0(x, y) = G(x, y)$. By Eqs. 29, 51 and 45, and Lemma 11 and induction,

$$\begin{aligned}
 |G_n(x, y)| &\leq \int_D |G_{n-1}(x, z)||b(z)||\nabla_z G(z, y)| dz \\
 &\leq (C_1d)^{n-1} \int_D |b(z)|G(x, z)|\nabla_z G(z, y)| dz \leq (C_1d)^n G(x, y) , \tag{53}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ and $x \neq y$. By Eq. 53 and induction we prove that

$$\int_D G_n(x, z) \int_D b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y) f(y) dydz = \int_D G_{n+1}(x, y) f(y) dy ,$$

hence G_n is the integral kernel of $G(b \nabla G)^n$,

$$G(b \nabla G)^n f(x) = \int_D G_n(x, y) f(y) dy , \quad f \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1} , \quad x \in D .$$

We can also handle the gradient of G_n . Namely, for $x, y \in D, x \neq y$, and $n = 1, 2, \dots$, we have:

$$|\nabla_x G_{n-1}(x, y)| \leq (2C_1)^{n-1} d^n \frac{G(x, y)}{\delta(x) \wedge |x - y|}, \tag{54}$$

$$G_n(x, y) = \int G(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G_{n-1}(z, y) dz, \tag{55}$$

and

$$\nabla_x G_n(x, y) = \int \nabla_x G_{n-1}(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y) dz. \tag{56}$$

The inequality and the equalities are proved consecutively by induction. In the process we use Lemma 10, Eq. 46, estimates following Eq. 49 in the proof of Lemma 11, and Fubini’s theorem.

Iterating Eq. 52, by Eq. 55 we obtain for $n = 0, 1, \dots$, and $x \neq y$,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}(x, y) &= G(x, y) + \int \tilde{G}(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G(z, y) dz \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^n G_k(x, y) + \int \tilde{G}(x, z)b(z) \cdot \nabla_z G_n(z, y) dz. \end{aligned} \tag{57}$$

The details are left to the reader.

4 Local Results

We will prove and use the comparability of G_S and \tilde{G}_S for small smooth sets, S , of class $C^{1,1}$ (this part of our development is similar to [28]). The following is a variant of Khasminski’s lemma [22].

Lemma 13 *Let $d \geq 2, 1 < \alpha < 2, b \in \mathcal{K}_d^{\alpha-1}$ and $\lambda > 0$. There is $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(d, \alpha, b, \lambda) > 0$ such that if $\text{diam}(S)/r_0(S) \leq \lambda$ and $\text{diam}(S) \leq \varepsilon$, then*

$$\frac{2}{3} G_S(x, y) \leq \tilde{G}_S(x, y) \leq \frac{4}{3} G_S(x, y), \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d. \tag{58}$$

Proof Let $D = S$. By Lemma 11 and Eq. 53 there is $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(d, \alpha, b, \lambda) > 0$ and

$$|G_n(x, y)| \leq 4^{-n} G(x, y), \quad x \neq y, n = 0, 1, \dots,$$

provided $\text{diam}(D)/r_0(D) \leq \lambda$ and $r_0(D) \leq \varepsilon$. For $x \neq y$ we have $\tilde{G}(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty G_n(x, y)$. Indeed, the remainder in Eq. 57 is bounded by

$$c \int_D |x - z|^{\alpha-d} |b(z)| (2C_1)^{n-1} d^n \frac{G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} dz \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Here $2C_1 d \leq 1/2$ and the integral is finite because of Lemma 9 and Eq. 31. Thus,

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty G_n(x, y) \leq \sum_{n=0}^\infty 4^{-n} G(x, y) = \frac{4}{3} G(x, y),$$

and

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \geq G(x, y) - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 4^{-n} G(x, y) = \frac{2}{3} G(x, y).$$

□

We like to note that the comparison constants in the above proof will improve to 1 if $\text{diam}(S) \rightarrow 0$ and the distortion of S is bounded. By Eq. 39,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_S} \in A) \approx \mathbb{P}^x(X_{\tau_S} \in A), \quad x \in S, \quad A \subset (\bar{S})^c. \tag{59}$$

We are in a position to prove that the boundary of our general $C^{1,1}$ open set D is not hit at the first exit (recall that $1 < \alpha < 2$).

Lemma 14 *For every $x \in D$ we have that $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_D} \in \partial D) = 0$.*

Proof Let $u(x) = \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_D} \in \partial D), x \in \mathbb{R}^d$. We claim that there exists $c = c(d, \alpha, D, b) > 0$ such that $u(x) < 1 - c$ for $x \in D$. Indeed, we consider small $\varepsilon > 0, x \in D, r = \varepsilon \text{dist}(x, D^c)$, the ball $B = B(x, r/2) \subset D$, and a ball $B' \subset (\bar{D})^c$ with radius and distance to B comparable with r . By Eqs. 59 and 23,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_D} \notin \partial D) \geq \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_{B(x,r/2)}} \in B') \approx \mathbb{P}^x(X_{\tau_{B(x,r/2)}} \in B') \geq c.$$

Furthermore, let $D_n = \{y \in D : \text{dist}(y, D^c) > 1/n\}, n = 1, 2, \dots$. We consider n such that $B(x, r/2) \subset D_n$. We have $\mathbb{P}^x(X_{\tau_{D_n}} \in \bar{D}) \leq 1 - \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_B} \in B') \leq 1 - c$, as before. Let $C = \sup\{u(y) : y \in D\}$. We have $u(x) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x\{u(X_{\tau_{D_n}}); X_{\tau_{D_n}} \in \bar{D}\} \leq C(1 - c)$, hence $C \leq C(1 - c)$ and so $C = 0$. □

In the context of Lemma 13, the $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x$ distribution of X_{τ_S} is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure, and has density function

$$\tilde{P}_S(x, y) \approx P_S(x, y), \quad y \in S^c, \tag{60}$$

provided $x \in S$. This follows from Eq. 39 and Lemma 14. For clarity,

$$\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^x(X_{\tau_S} \in A) \approx \mathbb{P}^x(X_{\tau_S} \in A), \quad x \in S, \quad A \subset S^c. \tag{61}$$

Lemma 15 (Harnack Inequality for L) *Let $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d, 0 < s < 1$ and $k \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfy $|x - y| \leq 2^k s$. Let \tilde{u} be nonnegative in \mathbb{R}^d and L -harmonic in $B(x, s) \cup B(y, s)$. There is $C = C(d, \alpha, b)$ such that*

$$C^{-1} 2^{-k(d+\alpha)} \tilde{u}(x) \leq \tilde{u}(y) \leq C 2^{k(d+\alpha)} \tilde{u}(x). \tag{62}$$

Proof We may assume that $s \leq 1 \wedge \varepsilon/2$, with ε of Lemma 13. Let $u(z) = \tilde{u}(z)$ for $z \in B(y, 2s/3)^c$ and $u(z) = \int_{B(y, 2s/3)^c} \tilde{u}(v) P_{B(y, 2s/3)}(z, v) dv$ for $z \in B(y, 2s/3)$, so that u is nonnegative in \mathbb{R}^d and (regular) α -harmonic in $B(y, 2s/3)$. Let $z \in B(y, s/2)$. By Eq. 61,

$$\tilde{u}(z) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^z \tilde{u}(X(\tau_{B(y, 2s/3)})) = \int_{B(y, 2s/3)^c} \tilde{u}(v) \tilde{P}_{B(y, 2s/3)}(z, v) dv \approx u(z).$$

By Lemma 2 we get $\tilde{u}(z) \approx \tilde{u}(y)$ with a constant depending only on d, α and b . To compare $\tilde{u}(x)$ and $\tilde{u}(y)$ we will assume that $|x - y| \geq 3s/2$, because otherwise we may take smaller s . For $z \in B(y, s/2)$ we have $|x - z| \leq |x - y| + |y - z| \leq 2^k s + s/2 \leq 2^{k+1}s$, and we get

$$\begin{aligned} P_{B(x,s/2)}(x, z) &= C_{d,\alpha} \left(\frac{(s/2)^2}{|x - z|^2 - (s/2)^2} \right)^{\alpha/2} \frac{1}{|x - z|^d} \\ &\geq C_{d,\alpha} 2^{-\alpha} s^\alpha |x - z|^{-d-\alpha} \\ &\geq C_{d,\alpha} 2^{-(d+2\alpha)} 2^{-k(d+\alpha)} s^{-d}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\tilde{P}_{B(x,s/2)} \approx P_{B(x,s/2)}$, by the first part of the proof we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u}(x) &= \int_{B(x,s/2)^c} \tilde{P}_{B(x,s/2)}(x, z) \tilde{u}(z) dz \geq \int_{B(y,s/2)} \tilde{P}_{B(x,s/2)}(x, z) \tilde{u}(z) dz \\ &\approx \int_{B(y,s/2)} P_{B(x,s/2)}(x, z) \tilde{u}(z) dz \\ &\geq |B(y, s/2)| C_{d,\alpha} 2^{-(d+2\alpha)} 2^{-k(d+\alpha)} s^{-d} \tilde{u}(y) = c 2^{-k(d+\alpha)} \tilde{u}(y). \end{aligned}$$

By symmetry, $\tilde{u}(x) \approx \tilde{u}(y)$. □

We obtain a boundary Harnack principle for L and general $C^{1,1}$ sets D .

Lemma 16 (BHP) *Let $z \in \partial D$, $0 < r \leq r_0(D)$, and $0 < p < 1$. If \tilde{u}, \tilde{v} are nonnegative in \mathbb{R}^d , regular L -harmonic in $D \cap B(z, r)$, vanish on $D^c \cap B(z, r)$ and satisfy $\tilde{u}(x_0) = \tilde{v}(x_0)$ for some $x_0 \in D \cap B(z, pr)$ then*

$$C^{-1} \tilde{v}(x) \leq \tilde{u}(x) \leq C \tilde{v}(x), \quad x \in D \cap B(z, pr), \tag{63}$$

with $C = C(d, \alpha, b, p, r_0(D))$.

Proof In view of Lemma 15 we may assume that r is small. Let $F = F(z, r/2) \subset B(z, r)$ be the $C^{1,1}$ domain of Lemma 1, localizing D at z . For $x \in F$ we have $\tilde{u}(x) = \int \tilde{P}_F(x, z) \tilde{u}(z) dz \approx u(x)$, where $u(x) = \int P_F(x, z) \tilde{u}(z) dz$. Similarly $\tilde{v}(x) \approx v(x) = \int P_F(x, z) \tilde{v}(z) dz$. Since $\tilde{u}(x_0) = \tilde{v}(x_0)$, we have $u(x_0) \approx v(x_0)$. By Lemma 3, $u(x) \approx v(x)$, provided $x \in D \cap B(z, r/8)$. We use Lemma 15 for the full range $x \in D \cap B(z, pr)$. □

5 Proof of Theorem 1

By Eqs. 52 and 29 we have the estimate

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \leq G(x, y) + d \int_D \frac{\tilde{G}(x, z) G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} |b(z)| dz, \quad x, y \in D. \tag{64}$$

We consider $\eta < 1$, say $\eta = 1/2$. By Lemma 9 and the uniform integrability in Lemma 11 (see Eq. 49) there is a constant $r > 0$ so small that

$$\int_{D^r} \frac{G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} |b(z)| dz < \frac{\eta}{d}, \quad y \in D, \tag{65}$$

and

$$\int_{D^r} \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{G(x, y)(\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|)} |b(z)| dz < \frac{\eta}{d}, \quad y \in D. \tag{66}$$

Here $D^r = \{z \in D : \delta(z) \leq r\}$. We denote

$$\rho = [\varepsilon \wedge r_0(D) \wedge r]/16,$$

with $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(d, \alpha, b, 2/\kappa)$ of Lemma 13, see also Lemma 1.

To prove Eq. 1 we will consider x, y in a partition of $D \times D$. We will also consider $Q, R \in \partial D$ such that $\delta(x) = |x - Q|, \delta(y) = |y - R|$.

I. First we suppose that $\delta(y) \geq \rho/4$. We denote

- $D_1 = \{x \in D : |y - x| \leq \rho/8\}$,
- $D_2 = \{x \in D : \delta(x) \geq \rho/8\}$,
- $D_3 = \{x \in D : \delta(x) < \rho/8\}$.

(a) Let $x \in D_1$. Denote $B = B(y, \rho/4)$. By Eq. 24 we have $G_B(x, y) \approx |x - y|^{\alpha-d} \approx G(x, y)$. Lemma 13 yields the lower bound in Eq. 1:

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \geq \tilde{G}_B(x, y) \approx G_B(x, y) \approx G(x, y).$$

By Lemma 7 we get the upper bound in Eq. 1.

(b) Let $x \in D_2 \setminus D_1$. Let $x_0 \in D$ be such that $|x_0 - y| = \rho/8$. $\tilde{G}(\cdot, y)$ is L -harmonic in $B(x, \rho/8) \cup B(x_0, \rho/8)$. By Lemma 15, (a) and Lemma 2 we get $\tilde{G}(x, y) \approx \tilde{G}(x_0, y) \approx G(x_0, y) \approx G(x, y)$.

(c) Let $x \in D_3$. Let $x_0, y_0 \in D$ be collinear with x, Q and such that $\delta(x_0) = |x_0 - Q| = 5\rho/32$ and $\delta(y_0) = |y_0 - Q| = 7\rho/32$ (consider an inner ball tangent at Q to see the situation). Let $F = F(Q, \rho)$ be the approximating domain of Lemma 1. The functions $\tilde{G}(\cdot, y_0), \tilde{G}_F(\cdot, y_0)$ and $\tilde{G}(\cdot, y)$ are regular L -harmonic in $B(Q, 6\rho/32)$. By Lemmas 16, 13 and 3,

$$\frac{\tilde{G}(x, y)}{\tilde{G}(x_0, y)} \approx \frac{\tilde{G}_F(x, y_0)}{\tilde{G}_F(x_0, y_0)} \approx \frac{G_F(x, y_0)}{G_F(x_0, y_0)} \approx \frac{G(x, y)}{G(x_0, y)}.$$

By (a) and (b), $\tilde{G}(x_0, y) \approx G(x_0, y)$ and we obtain Eq. 1 in the considered case I, that is for $\delta(y) \geq \rho/4$ and all $x \in D$.

Before we proceed to the next case we recall that \tilde{G} is non-symmetric.

II. Suppose that $\delta(y) \leq \rho/4$. The proof of Eq. 1 follows in three steps.

Step 1. We will first prove that $\tilde{G}(x, y) \geq cG(x, y), x \in D$.

To this end we denote

- $F_1 = \{x \in D : |x - R| \leq \rho\}$,
- $F_2 = \{x \in D : \delta(x) \geq \rho/4\}$,
- $F_3 = \{x \in D : \delta(x) < \rho/4\}$.

(d) Let $x \in F_1$. Consider $F = F(R, 8\rho)$. Then $\delta(x) = \delta_F(x)$ and $\delta(y) = \delta_F(y)$. Consequently, $G(x, y) \approx G_F(x, y)$, see Eq. 24. As before we have

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \geq \tilde{G}_F(x, y) \approx G_F(x, y) \approx G(x, y).$$

- (e) Let $x \in F_2 \setminus F_1$. Let $x_0 \in D$ be collinear with y , R and such that $\delta(x_0) = |x_0 - R| = \rho/2$. We note that $|x - y| \geq 3\rho/4$ and $|x_0 - y| \geq \rho/4$. By Harnack inequalities and (d), $\tilde{G}(x, y) \approx \tilde{G}(x_0, y) \geq cG(x_0, y) \approx G(x, y)$.
- (f) Let $x \in F_3 \setminus F_1$. Let $z_0 \in D$ be such that $\delta(z_0) = |z_0 - R| = \rho/3$ and let $x_0 \in D$ be such that $\delta(x_0) = |x_0 - Q| = \rho/4$. We have $|x_0 - y| > \rho/2$ and $|z_0 - y| \geq \rho/12$. By Harnack inequalities and (d),

$$\tilde{G}(x_0, y) \approx \tilde{G}(z_0, y) \geq cG(z_0, y) \approx G(x_0, y). \tag{67}$$

$\tilde{G}(\cdot, z_0)$ and $\tilde{G}(\cdot, y)$ are regular L -harmonic in $D \cap B(Q, \rho/3)$ because $|z_0 - Q| > 5\rho/12$ and $|y - Q| > \rho/2$. By Lemmas 16, part I and 3,

$$\frac{\tilde{G}(x, y)}{\tilde{G}(x_0, y)} \approx \frac{\tilde{G}(x, z_0)}{\tilde{G}(x_0, z_0)} \approx \frac{G(x, z_0)}{G(x_0, z_0)} \approx \frac{G(x, y)}{G(x_0, y)}.$$

By this and Eq. 67, $\tilde{G}(x, y) \geq cG(x, y)$.

Step 2. We next prove the upper bound in Eq. 1 for $\delta(x) \geq \rho/4$. By part I,

$$c_1^{-1}G(x, z) \leq \tilde{G}(x, z) \leq c_1G(x, z), \quad z \in D \setminus D^r.$$

The constant c_1 and other constants in what follows will only depend on d, α , (the suprema in the Kato condition for) $b, r_0(D)$ and $\text{diam}(D)$. By Eq. 45 and Lemma 11,

$$\int_D \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} |b(z)| dz \leq C_1G(x, y).$$

Therefore by Eq. 64,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}(x, y) &\leq G(x, y) + c_1d \int_{D \setminus D^r} \frac{G(x, z)G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} |b(z)| dz \\ &\quad + d \int_{D^r} \frac{\tilde{G}(x, z)G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} |b(z)| dz \\ &\leq AG(x, y) + d \int_{D^r} \frac{\tilde{G}(x, z)G(z, y)}{|y - z| \wedge \delta(z)} |b(z)| dz, \end{aligned} \tag{68}$$

where $A = 1 + c_1dC_1$. By Lemma 7 and Eq. 65 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{G}(x, y) &\leq AG(x, y) + C_0d \int_{D^r} \frac{|x - z|^{\alpha-d}G(z, y)}{\delta(z) \wedge |y - z|} |b(z)| dz \\ &\leq AG(x, y) + B(x), \end{aligned} \tag{69}$$

where $B(x) = \eta C_0 \delta_{D^r}(x)^{\alpha-d}$. We claim that for $n = 0, 1, \dots$,

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \leq A(1 + \eta + \dots + \eta^n)G(x, y) + \eta^n B(x). \tag{70}$$

This is proved by induction: we plug Eq. 70 into Eq. 68, and use Eqs. 65 and 66. In consequence,

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \leq \frac{A}{1 - \eta}G(x, y). \tag{71}$$

Step 3. We will now prove the upper bound in Eq. 1 when $\delta(x) < \rho/4$. We will consider F_1, F_3 and F from Step 1. If $x \in F_3 \setminus F_1$ then we use the same argument as in (f), but this time all the terms in Eq. 67 are comparable because of Eq. 71, and we obtain Eq. 1. Finally, for $x \in F_1 \subset F$ we have

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) = \tilde{G}_F(x, y) + \int_{D \setminus F} \tilde{P}_F(x, z) \tilde{G}(z, y) dz.$$

By Lemma 13 , $\tilde{G}_F(x, y) \approx G_F(x, y)$. We already know that for $z \in D \setminus F_1, \tilde{G}(z, y) \approx G(z, y)$, and $\tilde{P}_F(x, z) \approx P_F(x, z)$ by Eq. 60. Thus,

$$\tilde{G}(x, y) \approx G_F(x, y) + \int_{D \setminus F} P_F(x, z) G(z, y) dz = G(x, y).$$

The proof of Theorem 1 is complete. In passing we only note that Eqs. 38 and 1, and [20] or [30, Theorem 22] yield sharp estimates of the Poisson kernel:

$$\tilde{P}_D(x, y) \approx P_D(x, y) \approx \delta_D(x)^{\alpha/2} \delta_{D^c}(y)^{-\alpha/2} [1 \vee \delta_{D^c}(y)]^{-\alpha/2} |y - x|^{-d}. \tag{72}$$

Appendix

Let function ϕ be of class $C^{1,1}$, i.e. satisfy

$$|\nabla\phi(\tilde{x}) - \nabla\phi(\tilde{y})| \leq \eta|\tilde{x} - \tilde{y}|, \quad \tilde{x}, \tilde{y} \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}, \tag{73}$$

for some $\eta < \infty$. Let $f(t) = \phi((1 - t)\tilde{y} + t\tilde{x}), t \in [0, 1]$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi(\tilde{x}) - \phi(\tilde{y}) - \nabla\phi(\tilde{y}) \cdot (\tilde{x} - \tilde{y})| &= \left| \int_0^1 (f'(t) - f'(0)) dt \right| \\ &= \left| \int_0^1 (\tilde{x} - \tilde{y}) \cdot (\nabla\phi((1 - t)\tilde{y} + t\tilde{x}) - \nabla\phi(\tilde{y})) dt \right| \\ &\leq \eta|\tilde{x} - \tilde{y}|^2/2. \end{aligned} \tag{74}$$

We will consider nonlinear transformations of \mathbb{R}^d defined as follows,

$$Tx = (\tilde{x}, x_d + \phi(\tilde{x})), \quad T^{-1}x = (\tilde{x}, x_d - \phi(\tilde{x})). \tag{75}$$

Proof of Lemma 1 For $x = (x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}, x_d) \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we let $\tilde{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{d-1})$, so that $x = (\tilde{x}, x_d)$. The halfspace $H = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : x_d > 0\}$ is a $C^{1,1}$ domain at each scale $r > 0$, and we can localize it at 0 by

$$K = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : 0 < x_d < r/2, |\tilde{x}| < r/4 + \sqrt{(r/4)^2 - (x_d - r/4)^2}\}.$$

Put differently, K is defined by the conditions: $|\tilde{x}| < r/2$ and

$$r/4 - \sqrt{(r/4)^2 - (|\tilde{x}| - r/4)_+^2} < x_d < r/4 + \sqrt{(r/4)^2 - (|\tilde{x}| - r/4)_+^2},$$

where $a_+ = \max(a, 0)$. We see that K is $C^{1,1}$ at scale $r/4$. We consider the inner and outer balls of radius $r/4$ for K , tangent at $Q \in \partial K$. Let

$$B = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : 2(n, x - Q) > |x - Q|^2\}$$

be either one of them. Here $n \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $|n| = r/4$.

Let D be $C^{1,1}$ at a scale $r > 0$. It is well known that up to isometry D locally coincides with the image of the halfspace H by a transformation T of the form (75), see [1, Section 2]. Namely, by possibly changing coordinates, we may assume that $0 \in \partial D$, ϕ satisfies Eq. 73, $\phi(0) = 0$, $\nabla\phi(0) = 0$,

$$|\phi(\tilde{x})| \leq \frac{|\tilde{x}|^2}{r} < \frac{r}{4}, \quad \text{provided } |\tilde{x}| < r/2,$$

and

$$\{x \in D : |\tilde{x}| < r/2, |x_d| < r\} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : |\tilde{x}| < r/2, \phi(\tilde{x}) < x_d < r\}.$$

We also have $\eta \leq c/r$ in Eq. 73, where $c \geq 1$ is an absolute constant.

We define $F = TK \subset D$. We see that F locally coincides with D , and $F \subset \{x : |\tilde{x}| < r/2, -r/4 < x_d < 3r/4\}$, hence $\text{diam}(F) < 2r$. We claim that F is $C^{1,1}$. The claim will follow from considering the image of B by T . Let $\xi = \nabla\phi(Q)$. We note that $|\xi| \leq \eta|\tilde{Q}| \leq \eta r/2 \leq c/2$. We define

$$x \mapsto Sx = T(Q + x) - TQ = (\tilde{x}, x_d + [\phi(\tilde{Q} + \tilde{x}) - \phi(\tilde{Q})]),$$

$S^{-1}x = (\tilde{x}, x_d - [\phi(\tilde{Q} + \tilde{x}) - \phi(\tilde{Q})])$, $Lx = (\tilde{x}, x_d + \xi \cdot \tilde{x})$, $L^{-1}x = (\tilde{x}, x_d - \xi \cdot \tilde{x})$. We will use L^{-1} as a linear approximation of S^{-1} at $x = 0$. Let L^{-1*} be the transpose of L^{-1} . We have $|Lx| \leq |x| + |\xi||x| \leq |x|(2 + c)/2$. The same is true of L^{-1} and L^{-1*} . We note that

$$TB - TQ = S(B - Q) = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : 2(n, S^{-1}x) > |S^{-1}x|^2\},$$

and $x = 0$ is on the boundary of the set. Consider the ball $B' = \{x : 2\kappa(L^{-1*}n, x) > |x|^2\}$. Note that $TQ \in \partial(B' + TQ)$. We will verify our claim on F by proving that if $2\kappa = c^{-1} \wedge (1 + 3c/4)^{-2}$, then $B' \subset S(B - Q)$, or $B' + TQ \subset TB$. To this end we note that

$$2\kappa(L^{-1*}n, x) > |x|^2 \tag{76}$$

implies that $|x| < 2\kappa|L^{-1*}n| \leq r/2$. For such (small) x , by Eq. 74, we obtain

$$|S^{-1}x| \leq |x| + |\xi||x| + \eta|x|^2/2 \leq |x|(1 + 3c/4). \tag{77}$$

Similarly,

$$|S^{-1}x - L^{-1}x| = |\phi(\tilde{Q} + \tilde{x}) - \phi(\tilde{x}) - \xi \cdot \tilde{x}| \leq \eta|\tilde{x}|^2/2.$$

Now, Eq. 76 yields $2(n, L^{-1}x) > |x|^2/\kappa$, hence

$$\begin{aligned} 2(n, S^{-1}x) &> 2(n, S^{-1}x) - 2(n, L^{-1}x) + \frac{1}{\kappa}|x|^2 \geq \frac{1}{\kappa}|x|^2 - 2|n|\eta|\tilde{x}|^2/2 \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2\kappa}|x|^2 \geq (2\kappa)^{-1}(1 + 3c/4)^{-2}|S^{-1}x|^2 \geq |S^{-1}x|^2. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is complete. □

Proof of Lemma 5 By [34] for $s > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\phi \in C_c^\infty((0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\int_s^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{p}(u - s, x, z) (\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z) dz du = -\phi(s, x). \tag{78}$$

We note that the above integral is absolutely convergent. Indeed,

$$|(\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z)| \leq c(1 + |b(z)|),$$

and if $\phi(u, z) = 0$ for $u > M$, then by Eq. 33 and the remark following Eq. 30,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_s^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{p}(u - s, x, z) |(\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z)| dz du \\ & \leq c_1 \int_s^M \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p(u - s, x, z) (1 + |b(z)|) dz du \\ & \leq c_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (|x - z|^{\alpha-d} \wedge |x - z|^{-\alpha-d}) (1 + |b(z)|) dz < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, for $x \in \mathbb{R}^d, s \in \mathbb{R}$ by Eqs. 34 and 78 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_s^\infty \int_D \tilde{p}_D(u - s, x, z) (\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z) dz du \\ & = \int_s^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{p}(u - s, x, z) (\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z) dz du \\ & \quad - \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x \int_{s+\tau_D}^\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \tilde{p}(u - s - \tau_D, X_{\tau_D}, z) (\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi(u, z) dz du \\ & = -\phi(s, x) + \tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x \phi(s + \tau_D, X_{\tau_D}) \\ & = -\phi(s, x). \end{aligned} \tag{79}$$

□

Proof of Lemma 6 Let $s = 0, x \in D, \phi \in C_c^\infty((0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d)$ and assume that $\text{supp } \phi \in (0, \infty) \times (D)^c$. By Eqs. 79 and 5 we obtain

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}^x \phi(\tau_D, X_{\tau_D}) = \int_0^\infty \int_D \int_{D^c} \tilde{p}_D(u, x, y) \phi(u, z) \nu(z - y) dz dy du.$$

□

Proof of Lemma 8 Let $\varphi \in C_c^\infty(D)$ and let $\chi(u) \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be such that $\chi(u) = 1$ for $u \in (-1, 1)$. For $n = 1, 2, \dots$ we define $\phi_n(u, z) = \varphi(x) \chi(u/n)$, and we have

$$|(\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi_n(u, z)| \leq c(1 + |b(z)|)$$

with c independent of n . By Eq. 36, Lemma 7 and dominated convergence,

$$\begin{aligned} -\varphi(x) &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} -\phi_n(0, x) \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^\infty \int_D \tilde{p}_D(u, x, z) (\partial_u + \Delta_z^{\alpha/2} + b(z) \cdot \nabla_z) \phi_n(u, z) dz du \\ &= \int_s^\infty \int_D \tilde{p}_D(u, x, z) (\Delta^{\alpha/2} \varphi(z) + b(z) \cdot \nabla \varphi(z)) dz du \\ &= \int_D \tilde{G}_D(x, z) (\Delta^{\alpha/2} \varphi(z) + b(z) \cdot \nabla \varphi(z)) dz. \end{aligned}$$

□

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Added in Proof The above mentioned results are available on arXiv [17].

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