

## SINGULAR BOUNDARY PROPERTIES OF HARMONIC FUNCTIONS AND FRACTAL ANALYSIS\*\*

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### Abstract

This paper shows an important relation between the fractal analysis and the boundary properties of harmonic functions. It is proved that the multifractal analysis of a finite measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathbf{R}^d$  determines the (non-tangential) boundary increasing properties of  $P\mu$ , the Poisson integral of  $\mu$  which is harmonic on  $\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$ . Some examples are given.

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### §1. Introduction

Consider the half-space  $\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1} = \{(x, r); x \in \mathbf{R}^d, r > 0\}$  ( $d \geq 1$ ). Its boundary is  $\partial\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1} = \{(x, 0); x \in \mathbf{R}^d\}$  which will be identified with  $\mathbf{R}^d$ . The Poisson kernel with respect to  $\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$  is

$$P_y(x, r) = \Gamma \frac{r}{(|x - y|^2 + r^2)^{\frac{d+1}{2}}},$$

where  $(x, r) \in \mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$ ,  $y \in \mathbf{R}^d = \partial\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$ , and  $\Gamma$  is a constant depending only on  $d$ .

Let  $\mu$  be a finite positive measure on  $\mathbf{R}^d$ . It is well known that the Poisson integral of  $\mu$

$$P\mu(x, r) = \int P_y(x, r) d\mu(y)$$

is a positive harmonic function on  $\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$ , and that locally (near a finite boundary point) any positive harmonic function differs from a Poisson integral by a harmonic function with local boundary values 0 (see the remark below).

Many general boundary properties of  $u = P\mu$  have been studied, especially for  $\mu = f(x)dx$  with  $f \in L^p(\mathbf{R}^d)$  (see for example [8, 9]). However, when  $\mu$  is singular with respect to the Lebesgue measure  $\mathcal{L}_d$  we know that (apply [1, Corollary 6.7] to the harmonic functions  $u$  and 1)

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} u(x, r) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } \mathcal{L}_d - a.e. x \in \mathbf{R}^d, \\ +\infty & \text{for } \mu - a.e. x \in \mathbf{R}^d. \end{cases}$$

Therefore, we must study the asymptotic behaviour of  $u$  as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . We shall first define the degree of  $u$  at a boundary point  $x \in \mathbf{R}^d$  in a natural way, and then establish the relation between the degree and the local Lipschitz exponent of  $\mu$  at  $x$ . We show that the

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multifractal analysis of  $\mu$  is exactly the decomposition of the boundary according to the degrees of  $u$ . Consequently some singular boundary properties can be deduced from the multifractal analysis.

**Remark 1.1.** Instead of the Poisson kernel, we can use the Martin kernel  $K_y(x, r)$ ,  $(x, r) \in \mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$ ,  $y \in \mathbf{R}^d \cup \{\infty\}$  :

$$K_y(x, r) = \begin{cases} (1 + |y|)^{\frac{d+1}{2}} \frac{r}{(|x-y|^2 + r^2)^{\frac{d+1}{2}}} & \text{if } y \in \mathbf{R}^d, \\ r & \text{if } y = \infty, \end{cases}$$

the Martin boundary of  $\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$  being  $\Delta = \mathbf{R}^d \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Then by the Martin representation theory or by a Riesz-Herglotz-type representation<sup>[3]</sup>, any positive harmonic function  $u$  can be uniquely represented as

$$u = K\mu_u = \int_{\Delta} K_y d\mu_u(y),$$

where  $\mu_u$  is a finite measure on  $\Delta$ .

If we study the local properties of  $u$  near a point  $(b, 0) \in \partial\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$ , we can suppose that  $\mu_u$  is supported by  $B(b, 1)$ . Then

$$u = P\mu, \quad \text{with } d\mu(y) = \Gamma^{-1} 1_{B(b,1)}(y) (1 + |y|^2)^{\frac{d+1}{2}} d\mu_u(y).$$

Note that  $1 \leq 1 + |y|^2 \leq 1 + (|b| + 1)^2$  ( $y \in B(b, 1)$ ). Hence all our results have similar statements when the Martin kernel is applied.

We notice also that similar results still hold when  $\mathbf{R}_+^{d+1}$  is replaced by the unit ball of  $\mathbf{R}^{d+1}$ . In this case the Poisson kernel and the Martin kernel are the same.

We shall suppose without loss of generality in what follows that  $\mu$  is a probability measure, and  $u = P\mu$ .

## §2. Preliminary

With the above notations, we define the degree of  $u$  at  $x$  as follows:

$$\deg(u; x) = \inf\{s \geq 0; u(x, t) = O(t^{-s}), t \downarrow 0\},$$

which characterizes the asymptotic behaviour of  $u$  at the point  $x$  as  $r$  tends to zero.

**Remark 2.1.** It is easy to check that  $u(x, t) = O(t^{-d})$ , so that  $\deg(u; x) \in [0, d]$ . Note also that if  $u(x, t) = O(t^{-s})$  and if  $s' > s$ , then  $u(x, t) = O(t^{-s'})$ .

The local Lipschitz exponent of  $\mu$  at  $x$  is defined as

$$\text{Lip}(\mu; x) = \sup\{\alpha \geq 0; \mu(B(x, r)) = O(r^\alpha), r \downarrow 0\},$$

where  $B(x, r)$  denotes the open ball of  $\mathbf{R}^d$ , centred at  $x$  and with radius  $r$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *We have*

$$\deg(u; x) = \begin{cases} \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r}, & \text{if the right side is nonnegative;} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Lip}(\mu; x) = \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}.$$

**Proof.** Let  $s = \deg(u; x)$ . Then by definition for any  $\varepsilon > 0$

$$u(x, r) = O(r^{-s-\varepsilon}),$$

which means  $\exists C > 0$  and  $r_0 \in ]0, 1[$  such that for  $0 < r < r_0$

$$u(x, r) \leq Cr^{-s-\varepsilon}.$$

It follows that

$$\frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} \leq \frac{\log C}{-\log r} + s + \varepsilon$$

and then

$$\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} \leq s + \varepsilon$$

so that  $\limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} \leq s$  since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary.

Conversely, let  $s = \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r}$ . Suppose first  $s \geq 0$ . Then

$$\frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} < s + \varepsilon \text{ if } r \text{ is small enough,}$$

which implies  $u(x, r) \leq r^{-s-\varepsilon}$ , then  $\deg(u, x) \leq s$ .

Now if  $s < 0$ , we may take  $\varepsilon < |s|$ . We get in the same way

$$u(x, r) \leq r^{-s-\varepsilon} \leq 1,$$

which gives  $\deg(u; x) = 0$ . Thus the first assertion of the lemma is proved.

The second assertion can be proved in the same way.

**Remark 2.2.** By the Harnack Principle (see Lemma 2.4 below) the above limit for  $u$  can be replaced by the non-tangential limit.

**Remark 2.3.** Since  $\mu$  is supported by  $\mathbf{R}^d$ , the dimension of  $\mu$  (see [5] and [6])  $\dim \mu \leq d$ . Thus  $\text{Lip}(\mu; x) \leq d$  for  $\mu - a.e. x \in \mathbf{R}^d$  (see [6]).

**Lemma 2.2.**  $\forall x \in \mathbf{R}^d, r > 0$

$$u(x, r) \geq Cr^{-d}\mu(B(x, r)),$$

where  $C$  is a positive constant depending only on  $d$ . In particular, we have

$$u(x, r) = O(r^{-s}) \implies \mu(B(x, r)) = O(r^{d-s}).$$

**Proof.** Note that for  $y \in B(x, r)$ ,  $P_y(x, r) \geq Cr^{-d}$ , hence

$$u(x, r) = \int_{\mathbf{R}^d} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) \geq \int_{B(x, r)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) \geq Cr^{-d}\mu(B(x, r)).$$

It follows from Lemma 2.2 that

$$\frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} \geq \frac{C}{-\log r} + d - \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}, \quad 0 < r < 1,$$

which yields the following corollary.

**Corollary 2.1.**

$$\begin{aligned} \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} &\geq d - \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}, \\ \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} &\geq d - \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}. \end{aligned}$$

Now we show that the converse of Lemma 2.2 also holds.

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $0 \leq s \leq d, x \in \mathbf{R}^d$ . Then

$$\mu(B(x, r)) = O(r^s) \implies u(x, r) = O(r^{s-d}).$$

**Proof.** By hypothesis, there exist  $C > 0$  and  $r_0 > 0$  such that

$$\mu(B(x, r)) \leq Cr^s, \quad 0 < r \leq 2r_0. \quad (2.1)$$

Note that

$$u(x, r) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \setminus B(x, r_0)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) + \int_{B(x, r_0)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y)$$

and that the first integral tends to 0 as  $r \rightarrow 0$ . It is sufficient to show

$$\int_{B(x, r_0)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) = O(r^{s-d}). \quad (2.2)$$

Let  $0 < r < r_0$ , and let  $n$  be the integer such that

$$2^{n-1}r < r_0 \leq 2^n r.$$

Denote  $I_0 = B(x, r)$  and

$$I_j = B(x, 2^j r) \setminus B(x, 2^{j-1} r) \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq n.$$

Then we have

$$\int_{B(x, r_0)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) \leq \int_{B(x, 2^n r)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) = \sum_{j=0}^n \int_{I_j} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y). \quad (2.3)$$

If  $y \in I_j (j \geq 1)$ , then  $|x - y| \geq 2^{j-1}r$  and  $P_y(x, r) \leq C_j r^{-d}$ , where  $C_j = \frac{\Gamma}{(2^{d+1})^{j-1}}$ .

If  $y \in I_0$ , then  $P_y(x, r) \leq C_0 r^{-d}$ , with  $C_0 = \Gamma$ . Hence by (2.1) and (2.3) we have successively

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(x, r_0)} P_y(x, r) d\mu(y) &\leq \sum_{j=0}^n C_j r^{-d} \mu(I_j) \leq \sum_{j=0}^n C_j r^{-d} \mu(B(x, 2^j r)) \\ &\leq \sum_{j=0}^n C C_j r^{-d} 2^{js} r^s = r^{s-d} \sum_{j=0}^n C C_j 2^{js} \leq \widehat{C} r^{s-d}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\widehat{C} = C\Gamma + C\Gamma 2^{d+1} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2^{d+1-s})^j}$  is a finite positive constant depending only on  $C$ ,  $s$  and  $d$ . This establishes (2.2) which proves the lemma.

**Remark 2.4.** Similar result as Lemma 2.3 holds for more general case<sup>[10]</sup>.

The following Harnack Principle (or Harnack Inequality) will be useful (see [10, p.16]).

**Lemma 2.4.** Let  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{d+1}$  and  $r > 0$ . Suppose that  $u$  is a positive harmonic function defined on  $B(x_0, r)$ . Then  $\forall x, y \in B(x_0, r/2)$ ,  $u(x)/u(y) \leq 3^{d+1}$ .

### §3. Main Results

We can now prove the following

**Theorem 3.1.** Let  $u = P\mu$  be a positive harmonic function on  $\mathbb{R}_+^{d+1}$ , and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Then we have

$$\deg(u; x) = \begin{cases} d - \text{Lip}(\mu; x), & \text{if } \text{Lip}(\mu; x) \leq d; \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

**Proof.** We have first by Lemma 2.1 and Corollary 2.1 that

$$\deg(u; x) \geq d - \text{Lip}(\mu; x).$$

Let us prove the opposite inequality:

$$\text{deg}(u; x) \leq d - \text{Lip}(\mu; x).$$

Let  $s = \text{Lip}(\mu; x)$ . If  $s = 0$ , this inequality is trivial by Remark 2.1. If  $s > 0$ , then it follows that

$$\mu(B(x, r)) = O(r^d) \quad (r \downarrow 0),$$

which implies by Lemma 2.3  $u(x, r) = O(1)$ , hence  $\text{deg}(u; x) = 0$ .

Now let  $0 < s \leq d$ . Then for any  $\varepsilon > 0, \varepsilon < s$ ,

$$\mu(B(x, r)) = O(r^{s-\varepsilon}).$$

Then Lemma 2.3 gives

$$u(x, r) = O(r^{-(d-s+\varepsilon)})$$

so that

$$\text{deg}(u; x) \leq d - s + \varepsilon$$

and then by the arbitrary of  $\varepsilon$ ,  $\text{deg}(u; x) \leq d - s$ . The theorem is thus proved.

**Corollary 3.1.** *If the limit  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}$  exists and  $\leq d$ , then the limit  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r}$  exists and*

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} = d - \lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}.$$

**Proof.** By Corollary 2.1 and Theorem 3.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} d - \lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r} &\leq \liminf_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} \leq \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} \\ &= d - \lim_{r \rightarrow 0+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mu$  be a probability measure on  $\mathbf{R}^d$ . Consider its multifractal decomposition (see [4] and [2]):

$$E_\alpha^\mu = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^d; \text{Lip}(\mu; x) = \alpha\} \quad (0 \leq \alpha \leq d), \quad \text{with } \dim E_\alpha^\mu = f(\alpha).$$

If we write  $D_s^u = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^d; \text{deg}(u; x) = s\}$  ( $0 \leq s \leq d$ ), then we have immediately

**Theorem 3.2.** *With the above notations, we have*

$$D_s^\mu = E_{d-s}^\mu, \text{ and then } \dim D_s^u = f(d - s).$$

*In particular if  $\mu$  is unidimensional (see [5] or [6]) with  $\dim \mu = \alpha, 0 \leq \alpha \leq d$ , then the corresponding harmonic function  $u$  satisfies*

$$\text{deg}(u, x) = d - \alpha \text{ for } \mu - a.e. x \in \mathbf{R}^d.$$

**Proof.** In fact, by [6]  $\mu$  is unidimensional if and only if  $\text{Lip}(\mu; \cdot) = \alpha \mu - a.e.$

**Remark 3.1.** For the multifractal analysis, see [7] and [4]. In many “self-similar” cases the function  $f(\alpha) = \dim E_\alpha^\mu$  can be calculated by means of the Legendre transform (see for example [2]). Then  $\dim\{\text{deg}(u; \cdot) = s\}$  is determined by Theorem 3.2. As an application of Theorem 3.2, we give the following example.

**Example 3.1.** By Remark 2.1 we know that  $0 \leq \text{deg}(u; x) \leq d$ . It is not difficult to show that for any  $s \in [0, d]$  there exists harmonic function  $u$  such that  $\text{deg}(u; x) = s$  for

some  $x \in \mathbf{R}^d$ . Futhermore one can pose the following question: Is there a harmonic function  $u$  such that the set  $\{s; \deg(u; x) = s \text{ for some } x \in \mathbf{R}^d\}$  is the whole interval  $[0, d]$ ? Using the multifractal analysis and Theorem 3.2, we can give a positive answer.

From the Moran fractals<sup>[2]</sup> we can construct without difficulty a series of measures  $\mu_n \in M^1([2n, 2n + 1]^d)$  ( $n > 0$ ) (we omit the details of the construction) such that

$$\dim E_\alpha^{\mu_n} > 0, \forall \alpha \in \left[\frac{1}{n}, d - \frac{1}{n}\right].$$

Let  $u = P_0 + \sum_{n=1}^\infty 2^{-n} P\mu_n$ . It is obvious that  $u$  is a harmonic function. We claim that the set  $\{s; \deg(u; x) = s \text{ for some } x \in \mathbf{R}^d\}$  is the whole interval  $[0, d]$ . Moreover  $\dim\{\deg(u, \cdot) = s\} > 0$  for any  $s \in [0, d]$ . In fact, we observe that  $\deg(u; 0) = d$  and that for  $x \in [2n, 2n + 1]^d$ ,  $\deg(u; x) = \deg(P\mu_n; x)$ . It suffices then to apply Theorem 3.1.

**Example 3.2.** Recall that the classical Cantor's set  $K \subset \mathbf{R}^1$  is defined as follows:  $K = \bigcap_{j=0}^\infty E_j$ , where  $E_0 = [0, 1], \dots, E_{j+1} = \frac{1}{3}E_j \cup \left(\frac{1}{3}E_j + \frac{2}{3}\right)$  ( $j \geq 0$ ). It is clear that  $E_{j+1} \subset E_j$  and that  $E_j$  consists of  $2^j$  intervals  $I_j(k) = [a_j(k), b_j(k)]$  ( $k = 0, \dots, 2^j - 1$ ) of length  $3^{-j}$ , with

$$a_j(0) = 0, \dots, a_j(k + 1) > 3^{-j} + a_j(k). \tag{3.1}$$

For each  $j \geq 0$ , define the probability measure  $\mu_j$  on  $[0, 1]$  as the uniform distribution on  $E_j$ . Then in  $M^1[0, 1]$  (the spaces of probability measures on  $[0, 1]$  endowed with the weak topology),  $\{\mu_j\}$  has an adherent measure  $\mu \in M^1[0, 1]$ . It follows easily from the construction that  $\mu$  is supported by  $K$  and  $\mu(I_j(k)) = 2^{-j}$ ,  $j \geq 0, k = 0, \dots, 2^j - 1$ .

Consider the corresponding harmonic function  $u = P\mu$ . By Theorem 3.1 the boundary properties of  $u$  can be deduced from the fractal properties of  $\mu$ . We can also get information about  $\mu$  by the boundary behaviour of  $u$ .

Let  $s = \frac{\log 2}{\log 3}$ . We claim that  $u(x, r) \sim r^{s-1}$ ,  $x \in K, r < \frac{1}{3}$ . That is, there exist two absolute constants  $C_1, C_2 > 0$  such that

$$C_1 r^{s-1} \leq u(x, r) \leq C_2 r^{s-1}, x \in K, r < \frac{1}{3}. \tag{3.2}$$

The first of the above inequalities is easy to prove. Let us prove the second.

Let  $x \in K$  and let  $N$  be the integer such that

$$3^{-N-1} < r \leq 3^{-N}. \tag{3.3}$$

Then  $x \in I_N(K)$  for an integer  $K \in \{0, \dots, 2^N - 1\}$ . Since  $|x - a_N(K)| \leq 3r$ , we deduce from the Harnack's inequality (Lemma 2.4) that

$$u(x, r) \sim u(a_N(K), r).$$

For convenience, we suppose  $K = 0$ , that is,  $a_N(K) = 0$ , the demonstration for  $K \in \{1, \dots, 2^N - 1\}$  is similar. Therefore, we have only to establish (3.2) for  $x = 0$ .

In fact, using the fact that  $a_N(k) \geq k3^{-N} \geq kr$  (which follows from (3.1) and (3.3)) and that

$$\sup_{y \in I_N(k)} P_y(0, r) \leq \Gamma \frac{r}{r^2 + (a_N(k))^2},$$

we have successively

$$u(0, r) = \sum_{k=0}^{2^N-1} \int_{I_N(k)} P_y(0, r) d\mu(y) \leq \Gamma 2^{-N} r \sum_{k=0}^{2^N-1} \frac{1}{r^2(1+k^2)} \leq \frac{2^{-N}}{r} \widehat{C}, \tag{3.4}$$

where  $\widehat{C} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma}{1+k^2}$ .

Finally noting that  $3^s = 2$ , we have then by (3.3)  $2^{-N} \leq 3^s r^s$ . This combined with (3.4) gives  $u(0, r) \leq C' r^{s-1}$ ,  $C' = 3^s \widehat{C}$ , which proves our assertion.

An immediate consequence is the following

$$\deg(u; x) = 1 - s, \text{ then } \text{Lip}(\mu; x) = s \ (\forall x \in K).$$

**Remark 3.2.** Using Corollary 4.1 below, we can also get  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r} = s, x \in K$ .

### §4. Further Discussions

It follows from the Harnack's inequality that

$$u(x, r) \sim u(x, r'), \ \forall x \in \mathbf{R}^d, \ r > 0, \ r \leq r' \leq 2r.$$

From this fact we deduce that the increasing properties of  $u(x, r)$  as  $r \downarrow 0$  is characterized by the sequence  $\{u(x, 2^{-n})\}_{n \geq 1}$ .

In particular we have

**Proposition 4.1.** *The limit  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r}$  exists if and only if the limit  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log u(x, 2^{-n})}{-\log 2^{-n}}$  exists.*

Note that in general there is no such property for  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}$  unless  $\mu$  satisfies some "homogeneous" properties. Then we can show the following further result.

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $x \in \mathbf{R}^d$ . Suppose that for some positive constant  $C < 2^{d+1}$  and  $r_0 > 0$ ,*

$$\mu(B(x, 2r)) \leq C \mu(B(x, r)), \ \forall r \leq r_0. \tag{4.1}$$

Then we have

$$u(x, r) \sim r^{-d} \mu(B(x, r)) \ (r \downarrow 0).$$

**Proof.** We have to show  $u(x, r) \leq \text{Const} \cdot r^{-d} \mu(B(x, r))$  for  $r$  near 0. In fact, we can suppose that  $\mu$  is supported by  $B(x, r_0/2)$ . Then for  $r$  near 0 and  $2^n r \leq r_0, \mu(B(x, 2^n r)) \leq C^n \mu(B(x, r))$ . We can then proceed as in the proof of Lemma 2.3, where we notice that  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{C}{2^{d+1}}\right)^n$  is convergent.

An immediate consequence of Proposition 4.2 is the following supplement of Corollary 3.1.

**Corollary 4.1.** *If  $\mu$  satisfies (4.1), then*

$$\liminf_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} = d - \limsup_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}.$$

*In particular, if  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log u(x, r)}{-\log r} = \alpha$  exists, then  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\log \mu(B(x, r))}{\log r}$  exists and is equal to  $d - \alpha$ .*

**Remark 4.1.** If  $\mu$  has positive finite density  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mu(B(x, r))}{r^s} \ (0 \leq s \leq d)$ , then the condition (4.1) is satisfied with  $C = 2^{s+\varepsilon}$ .

Now let us estimate  $u(x, 2^{-n})$  in terms of  $\mu$ . For simplifying notations we consider the case where  $d = 1$ ,  $x = 0$  and suppose that  $\mu$  is supported by the interval  $[0, 1]$ .

For  $j \geq 0$ , let  $B_j = B(0, 2^{-j})$ , and  $I_j = B_j \setminus B_{j+1}$ ,  $\mu_j = \mu(I_j)$ ,  $v_j = \mu(B_j)$ . Obviously

$$v_n = \sum_{j \geq n} \mu_j + \mu(\{0\}).$$

Then we have

**Proposition 4.3.** With the above notations, we have

$$2^{-n}u(0, 2^{-n}) \sim v_n + 4^{-n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} 4^j \mu_j$$

as  $n$  tends to  $+\infty$ .

**Proof.** For  $y \in I_j$ ,  $j < n$ , we have by a simple calculation that

$$2^{-n}P_y(0, 2^{-n}) \sim 4^{j-n},$$

which gives

$$\begin{aligned} 2^{-n}u(0, 2^{-n}) &= \int_{B_n} 2^{-n}P_y(0, 2^{-n})d\mu(y) + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \int_{I_j} 2^{-n}P_y(0, 2^{-n})d\mu(y) \\ &\sim v_n + 4^{-n} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} 4^j \mu_j. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can obtain the following proposition, where  $\mu \in M^1(\mathbf{R}^d)$ ,  $u = P\mu$ , and  $B_j = B(x, 2^j r)$ ,  $J_j = B_{j+1} \setminus B_j$  ( $j \geq 0$ ).

**Proposition 4.4.**  $\forall x \in \mathbf{R}^d$ ,  $r > 0$ ,

$$r^d u(x, r) \sim \mu(B(x, r)) + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (2^{-d-1})^j \mu(J_j).$$

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