

Non-local Dirichlet Forms and Symmetric Jump Processes

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Abstract

We consider the symmetric non-local Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ given by

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (f(y) - f(x))^2 J(x, y) dx dy$$

with \mathcal{F} the closure of the set of C^1 functions on \mathbb{R}^d with compact support with respect to \mathcal{E}_1 , where $\mathcal{E}_1(f, f) := \mathcal{E}(f, f) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(x)^2 dx$, and where the jump kernel J satisfies

$$\kappa_1 |y - x|^{-d-\alpha} \leq J(x, y) \leq \kappa_2 |y - x|^{-d-\beta}$$

for $0 < \alpha < \beta < 2$, $|x - y| < 1$. This assumption allows the corresponding jump process to have jump intensities whose size depends on the position of the process and the direction of the jump. We prove upper and lower estimates on the heat kernel. We construct a strong Markov process corresponding to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$. We prove a parabolic Harnack inequality for nonnegative functions that solve the heat equation with respect to \mathcal{E} . Finally we construct an example where the corresponding harmonic functions need not be continuous.

Keywords: Jump processes, symmetric processes, integro-differential operators, Harnack inequality, Dirichlet forms, heat kernel, harmonic, parabolic.

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1 Introduction

In this paper we introduce a class of symmetric Markov processes of pure jump type. Our assumptions allow the jump intensities to depend on both the position of the process and the direction of the jump. Thus our processes can be highly anisotropic. Although very little regularity is assumed, nevertheless we are able to obtain a number of results concerning these processes.

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We begin by considering symmetric non-local Dirichlet forms. Set

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (f(y) - f(x))^2 J(x, y) dx dy, \quad (1.1)$$

$$\mathcal{F} = \overline{C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\mathcal{E}_1}, \quad (1.2)$$

where the jump kernel $J(x, y)$ is a function of x and y satisfying the following conditions

- (A1) $J(x, y) = J(y, x)$ for all x and y ;
- (A2) $J(x, y) = 0$ for $|x - y| \geq 1$;
- (A3) There exist $\alpha, \beta \in (0, 2)$, $\beta > \alpha$ and positive κ_1, κ_2 such that

$$\kappa_1 |y - x|^{-d-\alpha} \leq J(x, y) \leq \kappa_2 |y - x|^{-d-\beta} \quad \text{for } |y - x| < 1.$$

Here $\mathcal{E}_1(f, f) := \mathcal{E}(f, f) + \|f\|_2^2$, $C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denotes the space of C^1 functions on \mathbb{R}^d with compact support, and \mathcal{F} is the closure of $C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with respect to the metric $\mathcal{E}_1(f, f)^{1/2}$.

We obtain the following four main results in this paper. We emphasize that we make no continuity assumptions whatsoever on the jump kernel J .

- (i) We show that there is a Hunt X process associated to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$, and X has a symmetric transition density function $p(t, x, y)$, with respect to Lebesgue measure on \mathbb{R}^d . We call this transition density function the heat kernel corresponding to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ and derive upper and lower bounds.
- (ii) We show that the strong Markov process X corresponding to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ is conservative and can be realized as a weak limit of certain more regular jump processes.
- (iii) We establish a parabolic Harnack inequality for nonnegative functions that solve the heat equation with respect to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$.
- (iv) We construct a counterexample to show that harmonic functions with respect to X need not be continuous on \mathbb{R}^d .

We now discuss each of these points in turn.

We first show there exists a Hunt process associated to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$.

Theorem 1.1 *Suppose (A1)–(A3) hold. There exists $\mathcal{N} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ having zero capacity with respect to the Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ and there is a Hunt process (X, \mathbb{P}^x) with state space $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$ such that for every $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$ and $t > 0$, $x \mapsto \mathbb{E}^x[f(X_t)]$ is a quasi-continuous version of $T_t f$, where $\{T_t, t \geq 0\}$ is the L^2 -semigroup associated with the closed form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$.*

Note that the Hunt process X can start from any point in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$ and that once it starts from $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$ the process X together with its left hand limits takes values in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$ up to and strictly before its lifetime ζ . The set \mathcal{N} is called the properly exceptional set of X (or, equivalently, of $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$) and it has zero Lebesgue measure. For simplicity, sometimes we

just say that X is a Hunt process associated with $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ starting from quasi-everywhere in \mathbb{R}^d . For more on terminology and properties of Dirichlet forms, we refer the reader to [FOT94].

Let $P(t, x, dy)$ be the transition probability for the Hunt process X associated with $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$.

Theorem 1.2 *Assume conditions (A1)–(A3) hold. There is a properly exceptional set $\mathcal{N} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ of X , a positive symmetric kernel $p(t, x, y)$ defined on $(0, \infty) \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}) \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N})$, and positive constants C_1 and C_2 (depending on the constants in (A1)–(A3)) such that $P(t, x, dy) = p(t, x, y)dy$, and*

$$p(t, x, y) \leq C_1 t^{-d/\alpha} e^{C_2 t} \quad \text{for every } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}. \quad (1.3)$$

Moreover, for every $t > 0$ and $y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$, $x \mapsto p(t, x, y)$ is quasi-continuous on \mathbb{R}^d .

We also obtain lower bounds on the heat kernel. Let $B(x, r)$ denote the open ball of radius r centered at x , and $p^B(t, x, y)$ be the transition densities for the subprocess of X killed upon exiting the ball B .

Theorem 1.3 *Assume conditions (A1)–(A3) hold. Let $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $T > 1/2$, and $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$. Let $R > 0$ and $B = B(y_0, R)$. There exists a properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} and a positive constant C that depends on $R, T, \alpha, \beta, \kappa_1, \kappa_2$, and δ , but not on y_0 such that for all $t \in [\delta, T]$*

$$p^B(t, x, y) \geq C \quad (1.4)$$

for every $(x, y) \in (B(y_0, 3R/4) \setminus \mathcal{N}) \times (B(y_0, 3R/4) \setminus \mathcal{N})$.

Remark 1.4 The jump kernel J does not have any scaling properties, and so one should not expect the results in Theorems 1.2 and 1.3 to be scale invariant. In particular, the constant C in Theorem 1.3 depends on R .

One of the difficulties in working with the process associated to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ is that we do not know that \mathcal{F} defined above is equal to

$$\mathcal{F}_\infty = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) : \mathcal{E}(f, f) < \infty\}.$$

(A similar problem arises when studying the minimal Brownian motion on a manifold.) To circumvent this and other difficulties, we will approximate J by jump kernels J_ξ which have regular behavior for $|x - y| \leq \xi$. We introduce the following condition, which we will assume from time to time. Let $\xi > 0$.

(A4)(ξ) The jump kernel J satisfies

$$J(x, y) = \kappa_2 |y - x|^{-d-\beta} \quad \text{when } |y - x| < \xi.$$

If J satisfies (A1)–(A3), define

$$J_\xi(x, y) = J(x, y) \mathbb{1}_{(|x-y|>\xi)} + \kappa_2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} \mathbb{1}_{(|x-y|\leq\xi)}. \quad (1.5)$$

Let $(\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}, \mathcal{F}^{(\xi)})$ be the regular Dirichlet form on \mathbb{R}^d defined by (1.1)–(1.2) with J_ξ in place of J . We can then prove (see Lemma 3.1 below) that

$$\mathcal{F}^{(\xi)} = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) : \mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}(f, f) < \infty\}.$$

We also have

Theorem 1.5 *As $\xi \rightarrow 0+$, $(\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}, \mathcal{F}^{(\xi)})$ converges to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in the sense of Mosco.*

Remark 1.6 See Definition 4.1 for the definition of Mosco convergence.

- (i) Mosco convergence (see [Mo94]) implies that the semigroups of the processes $X^{(\xi)}$ associated to $\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}$ converge in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$ to the semigroup of the process X . We establish Theorem 1.3 by first proving the result for $X^{(\xi)}$, with constants independent of ξ ; taking a limit then gives the result for X .
- (ii) Studying X by first assuming (A4)(ξ) and then taking limits is analogous to a common procedure in the study of elliptic operators in divergence form. There one often first assumes the coefficients are smooth and obtains estimates that do not depend on the smoothness, and then uses a limiting procedure.
- (iii) We prove Theorem 1.5 by first establishing a simple sufficient criterion for Mosco convergence to hold. This is of independent interest.
- (iv) It seems to be difficult to establish a similar result if we approximate $J(x, y)$ from below when $|x - y|$ is small.
- (v) As remarked above, we do not know in general that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_\infty$. However if the jump intensity kernel J is “translation equivalent” near the diagonal, that is, if there exist constants $c > 1$ and $\delta > 0$ such that

$$c^{-1}J(x, y) \leq J(x - z, y - z) \leq cJ(x, y)$$

for a.e. $x, y, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$ with $0 < |x - y| < \delta$, then it is not difficult to show that $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_\infty$. Since such a result will not be used in this paper, we omit its proof.

Let X be the Hunt process associated with the regular Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ on \mathbb{R}^d , which has an exceptional set \mathcal{N} . We say a function $h : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is *harmonic* on a ball $B(y, r)$ if $h(X_{t \wedge \tau_{B(y, r_1)}})$ is a \mathbb{P}^x -martingale with right continuous paths for every $r_1 \in (0, r)$ and every $x \in B(y, r_1) \setminus \mathcal{N}$. Here $\tau_{B(y, r_1)} = \inf\{t : X_t \notin B(y, r_1)\}$.

Set $V_t = V_0 - t$ and let $\mathbb{P}^{(s, x)}$ be the law of (V_t, X_t) started at (s, x) . We say a function $u : [0, \infty) \times \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is *caloric* on $Q = (a, b) \times B(x_0, r)$ with respect to \mathcal{E} if $u(V_{t \wedge \tau_Q}, X_{t \wedge \tau_{Q_1}})$ is a $\mathbb{P}^{(s, x)}$ -martingale with right continuous paths for every open subset Q_1 of Q with $\overline{Q_1} \subset Q$ and for every $(s, x) \in Q_1 \cap (\mathbb{R}_+ \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}))$. Here $\tau_{Q_1} = \inf\{t : (V_t, X_t) \notin Q_1\}$.

We prove that nonnegative functions that are caloric with respect to \mathcal{E} satisfy a parabolic Harnack inequality.

Theorem 1.7 *Suppose the Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ is given by (1.1)–(1.2) with $J(x, y)$ satisfying (A1)–(A3). Let $t_0 \geq 0, R \geq 1$, and $T > 0$. There exists a positive real $C = C(\alpha, \beta, \kappa_1, \kappa_2, d, R, T)$ such that if $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and u is nonnegative and bounded in $(t_0, t_0 + 5T) \times \mathbb{R}^d$ and is caloric on $Q = (t_0, t_0 + 5T) \times B(x_0, 4R)$ with respect to \mathcal{E} , then*

$$\text{ess sup}_{Q^-} u \leq C \text{ess inf}_{Q^+} u,$$

where $Q^- = [t_0 + T, t_0 + 2T] \times B(x_0, R)$ and $Q^+ = [t_0 + 3T, t_0 + 4T] \times B(x_0, R)$.

Remark 1.8 Concerning the hypotheses and statement of Theorem 1.7, we make the following remarks.

- (i) We assume $u(t, \cdot)$ is bounded in \mathbb{R}^d in order to ensure that the random variable $u(V_{t \wedge \tau_Q}, X_{t \wedge \tau_{Q_1}})$ is integrable. However the constant C does not depend on this bound.
- (ii) Harmonic functions are caloric, so the parabolic Harnack inequality implies that an elliptic Harnack inequality also holds.
- (iii) Assumption (A3) does not satisfy any type of scaling property. As a result, one cannot expect the parabolic Harnack inequality to be scale invariant, i.e., that the constant C can be chosen independently of R or T . Since an example in [BK05a] shows that scale invariance can fail for the elliptic Harnack inequality, it can also fail for the parabolic Harnack inequality. This phenomenon is well-known in the theory of degenerate partial differential equations, see [CW86], [GW90].
- (iv) We shall see in Theorem 1.9 below that it may not be possible to extend a harmonic function h to a continuous function on \mathbb{R}^d . Thus we have to use the essential supremum and essential infimum in Theorem 1.7.
- (v) Assumption (A2) rules out any jumps of size larger than 1. An example in [BK05a] shows that the large jumps, although in many ways less interesting, can cause the Harnack inequality to fail. For similar reasons we cannot replace the ball of radius 1 by arbitrarily small balls in Theorem 1.7.
- (vi) We allow $0 < \alpha < \beta < 2$ with no other restriction on α and β . This should be contrasted with the situation in [BK05a], which considers non-local operators that are non-symmetric, and where in addition it was required that $\beta - \alpha < 1$.

Following [FS86] many papers have used heat kernel estimates to prove Harnack inequalities. The usual procedure is to obtain an oscillation inequality, and from this one obtains a Harnack inequality. We cannot use this approach here, since our counterexample shows that the constant in the oscillation inequality can blow up as the radius r_n of the ball approaches 0. Instead, the proof of Theorem 1.7 uses a balayage argument; this approach is new and is of independent interest.

As we mentioned above, harmonic functions need not be continuous. We prove

Theorem 1.9 *There exists a Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ given by (1.1)–(1.2) with the jump kernel J satisfying (A1)–(A3), but where there also exists a bounded harmonic function that cannot be extended to be a continuous function on $B(0, 1)$.*

Remark 1.10 (i) We will also show that continuity can fail for $P_t f$, even when f is smooth.

- (ii) Our construction also gives an example of a martingale problem for which uniqueness fails. The example also shows that the existence of a properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} in Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2 is essential and cannot be dropped in general.

- (iii) The harmonic function we construct may be continuous outside a set \mathcal{N} of capacity 0.

Heat kernel estimates and Harnack inequalities have a long history in the theory of partial differential equations. After path breaking work by DeGiorgi [DG57] and Nash [Nas58] on regularity, Moser [Mos61] proved a scale invariant Harnack inequality for functions that are harmonic with respect to second order elliptic operators in divergence form. This was extended in Moser [Mos64] to solutions to the heat equation, i.e., the parabolic case; see also [Mos71]. A quite different proof of this was given in Fabes-Stroock [FS86]. The Harnack inequality for operators in nondivergence form was established by Krylov-Safonov [KS80]. However the corresponding theory of Harnack inequalities for jump processes is still largely unknown.

Non-local operators such as those considered in this paper arise in the study of models of financial markets (see [SS06] and the references therein). They also arise in the study of the Dirichlet-to-Neumann map, particularly for subelliptic operators or in rough domains.

Harnack inequalities for non-local operators have been considered in [BL02a] and [SV04] for fixed order, non-symmetric operators, [BL02b] and [CK03] for fixed order, symmetric operators. A scale dependent Harnack inequality has been established in [BK05a] for variable order, non-symmetric operators. Additionally, regularity of harmonic functions is considered for variable order, non-symmetric operators in [BK05b], [HuKa05]. For heat kernel estimates and parabolic Harnack principle for symmetric non-local Dirichlet forms on d -sets, see [CK03], [HuKu05] for fixed order and [CK06] for variable order. See [SU05] for related results for processes given in terms of pseudo-differential operators.

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section we obtain some upper bounds for the fundamental solution of the operator corresponding to \mathcal{E} and in Section 3 we consider lower bounds. The Mosco convergence is proved in Section 4. The parabolic Harnack inequality is established in Section 5. The counterexample is constructed in Section 6. We use c_i, c or C to denote finite positive constants that depend only on α, β, κ_i or d and whose exact value is not important and may change from line to line. Further dependencies are mentioned explicitly. We denote the Lebesgue measure of a Borel set A by $|A|$. If A is a Borel set and Y a right continuous process, we use the notation

$$T_A^Y = T_A = \inf\{t > 0 : Y_t \in A\}, \quad \tau_A^Y = \tau_A = \inf\{t > 0 : Y_t \notin A\}. \quad (1.6)$$

For processes Y with paths that are right continuous with left limits, we let Y_{t-} be the left hand limit at time t and $\Delta Y_t := Y_t - Y_{t-}$ the jump at time t .

2 Upper bounds for the heat kernel

Throughout this section we will assume that the jump intensity kernel J satisfies (A1)–(A3). We begin with the proof of Theorem 1.1, which is easy.

Proof of Theorem 1.1: Let $C_\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ denote the space of continuous functions on \mathbb{R}^d that vanish at infinity and let $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ denote the supremum norm in $C_\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$. It is easy to check by using Fatou's lemma that the bilinear form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ is a closed form (cf. [FOT94, Example 1.2.4]). As $C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is dense both in $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{E}_1)$ and in $(C_\infty^\infty, \|\cdot\|_\infty)$, $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ is a regular Dirichlet form on \mathbb{R}^d . Our result now follows from [FOT94, Chapter 7]. \square

It is well known that Nash's inequality implies the operator norm estimate for the transition semigroup P_t from $L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to $L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$. However this only implies for every $t > 0$ the existence of $p(t, x, y)$ almost everywhere on $\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d$ such that for every $f \geq 0$ on \mathbb{R}^d ,

$$P_t f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} p(t, x, y) f(y) dy \quad \text{for a.e. } x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

We need something stronger.

Since the following result has independent interest, we state and prove it in a more general context. For the next theorem only, let E be a locally compact separable metric space and m a Radon measure on E whose support is all of E . A symmetric Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in $L^2(E, m)$ is said to be regular if $C_c(E) \cap \mathcal{F}$ is dense both in $(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{E}_1)$ and in $(C_c(E), \|\cdot\|_\infty)$. It is well known (cf. [FOT94]) that a regular symmetric Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ has associated with it a symmetric Hunt process X that can start from every point outside a properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} (cf. Theorem 1.1). For $x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$, we use $\{P(t, x, dy), t \geq 0\}$ to denote the transition probability of X . The transition semigroup $\{P_t, t \geq 0\}$ of X is defined for $x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$ by

$$P_t f(x) := \mathbb{E}^x [f(X_t)] \quad \text{for } f \geq 0 \text{ on } E \text{ and } t > 0.$$

Theorem 2.1 *Let E , m , and P_t be as above. Assume that there is a positive left continuous function $M(t)$ on $(0, \infty)$ such that*

$$\|P_t f\|_\infty \leq M(t) \|f\|_1 \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(E, m) \text{ and } t > 0. \quad (2.1)$$

Then there is a properly exceptional set $\mathcal{N} \subset E$ of X and a positive symmetric kernel $p(t, x, y)$ defined on $(0, \infty) \times (E \setminus \mathcal{N}) \times (E \setminus \mathcal{N})$ such that $P(t, x, dy) = p(t, x, y) m(dy)$,

$$p(t+s, x, y) = \int p(t, x, z) p(s, z, y) dz \quad \text{for every } x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N} \text{ and } t, s > 0,$$

and

$$p(t, x, y) \leq M(t) \quad \text{for every } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}. \quad (2.2)$$

Moreover, for every $t > 0$ and $y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$, $x \mapsto p(t, x, y)$ is quasi-continuous on E .

Proof. Let \mathcal{N} be a properly exceptional set of X . Recall that the transition semigroup $\{P_t, t \geq 0\}$ of X is defined for $x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$ by

$$P_t f(x) := \mathbb{E}^x [f(X_t)] \quad \text{for } f \geq 0 \text{ on } E \text{ and } t > 0.$$

Let $\{f_k, k \geq 1\} \subset C_c(E) \cap \mathcal{F}$ be dense in both $L^2(E, m)$ and $L^1(E, m)$. For each fixed $t > 0$ and $k \geq 0$, $P_t f_k$ is quasi-continuous on E . Thus for each $t > 0$, there is a \mathcal{E} -nest $\{F_n^{(t)}, n \geq 1\}$ consisting of an increasing sequence of compact sets such that $P_t f_k$ is continuous on each $F_n^{(t)}$ for every $k \geq 1$ (cf. [FOT94, Theorem 2.1.2]). Let $\mathcal{N}_t := E \setminus \bigcup_{n=1}^\infty F_n^{(t)}$, which is \mathcal{E} -polar and in particular has zero m -measure.

Inequality (2.1) yields that for every $n \geq 1$,

$$\sup_{x \in F_n^{(t)}} |P_t f_j(x) - P_t f_k(x)| \leq M(t) \|f_j - f_k\|_1.$$

Since $\{f_k, k \geq 1\} \subset C_c(E) \cap \mathcal{F}$ is dense in $L^1(E, m)$, it follows that $P_t f$ is continuous on each $F_n^{(t)}$ and

$$\sup_{x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}_t} |P_t f(x)| \leq M(t) \|f\|_1$$

for every $f \in L^1(E, m)$. Therefore for every $t > 0$ and $x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}_t$, there is an integrable kernel $y \mapsto p_0(t, x, y)$ defined m -a.e. on E such that

$$\mathbb{E}^x [f(X_t)] = P_t f(x) = \int_E p_0(t, x, y) f(y) dy \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(E, m) \quad (2.3)$$

and

$$p_0(t, x, y) \leq M(t) \quad \text{for } m\text{-a.e. } y \in E \quad (2.4)$$

From the semigroup property $P_{t+s} = P_t P_s$, we have for every $t, s > 0$ and $x \in E \setminus (\mathcal{N}_{t+s} \cup \mathcal{N}_t)$,

$$p_0(t+s, x, y) = \int_E p_0(t, x, z) p_0(s, z, y) m(dy) \quad \text{for } m\text{-a.e. } y \in E. \quad (2.5)$$

Note that since P_t is symmetric, we have for each fixed $t > 0$,

$$p_0(t, x, y) = p_0(t, y, x) \quad \text{for } m\text{-a.e. } (x, y) \in E \times E.$$

By enlarging the properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} if necessary, we may and do assume that $\mathcal{N} \supset \cup_{t \in \mathbb{Q}_+} \mathcal{N}_t$. For every $t > 0$ and $x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$, let $s \in \mathbb{Q}_+$ be less than $t/3$ and define

$$p(t, x, y) := \int_E p_0(s, x, w) \left(\int_E p_0(t-2s, w, z) p_0(s, z, y) m(dz) \right) m(dw). \quad (2.6)$$

By (2.5) the above definition is independent of the choice of $s \in \mathbb{Q}_+ \cap (0, t/3)$. Clearly, $p(t, x, y) = p(t, y, x)$ for every $x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$. By the semigroup property and (2.3), we have for $\varphi \geq 0$ on E and $x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}^x [\varphi(X_t)] \\ &= \int_E \left(\int_E p_0(s, x, w) \left(\int_E p_0(t-2s, w, z) p_0(s, z, y) m(dz) \right) m(dw) \right) \varphi(y) m(dy) \\ &= \int_E \left(\int_E p_0(s, x, w) \left(\int_E p_0(t-2s, w, z) p_0(s, y, z) m(dz) \right) m(dw) \right) \varphi(y) m(dy) \\ &= \int_E p(t, x, y) \varphi(y) m(dy). \end{aligned}$$

Thus $p(t, x, y)$ coincides with $p_0(t, x, y)$ m -a.e. on $E \times E$. Note that it follows from (2.4) and (2.6) that for every $t > 0$ and $x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$,

$$p(t, x, y) \leq M(t-2s) \quad \text{for every } s \in \mathbb{Q}_+ \text{ and } s < t/3.$$

Taking $s \downarrow 0$ yields

$$p(t, x, y) \leq M(t) \quad \text{for every } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}.$$

For $t, s > 0$ and $x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$, take $s_0 \in \mathbb{Q}_+ \cap (0, (t \wedge s)/3)$, and we have by (2.5)-(2.6)

$$\begin{aligned}
& p(t+s, x, y) \\
&= \int_E p_0(s_0, x, w) \left(\int_E p_0(t+s-2s_0, w, z) p_0(s_0, y, z) m(dz) \right) m(dw) \\
&= \int_{E^5} p_0(s_0, x, w) p_0(t-2s_0, w, u_1) p_0(s_0, u_1, u_2) p_0(s_0, u_2, v) p_0(s-2s_0, v, z) \\
&\quad p_0(s_0, y, z) m(dw) m(du_1) m(du_2) m(dz) m(dv) \\
&= \int_E p(t, x, v) p(s, v, y) m(dv).
\end{aligned}$$

We may assume that there is an \mathcal{E} -nest $\{F_n, n \geq 1\}$ such that $\mathcal{N} = E \setminus (\cup_{n=1}^\infty F_n)$ and $P_t f_k$ is continuous on F_n for each $k \geq 1$, each t rational, and each n . It follows from inequality (2.1),

$$\sup_{x \in F_n} |P_t f_j(x) - P_t f_k(x)| \leq M(t) \|f_j - f_k\|_1$$

for every $t \in \mathbb{Q}_+$ and $n, k \geq 1$. Since $\{f_j, j \geq 1\}$ is dense in $L^1(E, m)$, we conclude that $P_t f$ is continuous on each F_n whenever $f \in L^1(E, m)$. By (2.4), the function $w \mapsto \int_E p_0(t-2s, w, z) p_0(s, y, z) dz$ is L^1 -integrable on E , and so as a function of x , $p(t, x, y)$ is continuous on each F_n for every real $t > 0$ and $y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$. This proves the theorem. \square

In order to get off-diagonal estimates for $p(t, x, y)$ from the on-diagonal estimate (2.2), we need the following.

Theorem 2.2 *Let the heat kernel $p(t, x, y)$ and the properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} be as in Theorem 2.1. Suppose that $\psi \in C_c(E)$ and that there is a positive left continuous function $M_\psi(t)$ on $(0, \infty)$ such that*

$$\|P_t^\psi f\|_\infty \leq M_\psi(t) \|f\|_1 \quad \text{for every } f \in L^1(E, m) \text{ and } t > 0, \quad (2.7)$$

where $\{P_t^\psi, t \geq 0\}$ is the semigroup defined by $P^\psi f(x) := e^{\psi(x)} P_t(e^{-\psi} f)(x)$. Then

$$p(t, x, y) \leq e^{-\psi(x) + \psi(y)} M_\psi(t) \quad \text{for every } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}.$$

Proof. Clearly by Theorem 2.1, $\{P_t^\psi, t \geq 0\}$ admits a heat kernel

$$p^\psi(t, x, y) := e^{\psi(x)} p(t, x, y) e^{-\psi(y)} \quad \text{for } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}.$$

Since $\psi \in C_c(E)$, for every $x \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$ and $s > 0$, $y \mapsto p^\psi(t, x, y)$ is L^1 -integrable. Thus by (2.7), for every $s \in (0, t)$ and $x, y \in E \setminus \mathcal{N}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
p^\psi(t, x, y) &= \int_E p^\psi(t-s, x, z) p^\psi(s, z, y) m(dz) \\
&\leq M_\psi(t-s) \int_E p^\psi(s, z, y) dz \\
&= M_\psi(t-s) e^{\psi(x)} \mathbb{E}_x \left[e^{-\psi(X_s)} \right].
\end{aligned}$$

Since $M(t)$ is left continuous and $\psi \in C_c(E)$, letting $s \downarrow 0$, we have by the bounded convergence theorem that

$$p^\psi(t, x) \leq M_\psi(t) e^{\psi(x)} e^{-\psi(x)} = M_\psi(t),$$

and the conclusion of the theorem follows. \square

We are now ready to prove Theorem 1.2. For $0 < s < 1$, we use $\mathbb{H}^s(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to denote the usual Sobolev space of fractional order:

$$\mathbb{H}^s(\mathbb{R}^d) := \left\{ v \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|v(x) - v(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{d+2s}} dy dx < \infty \right\}. \quad (2.8)$$

Proof of Theorem 1.2: We begin with the following inequality of Nash form: for all functions $u \in \mathbb{H}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d) \cap L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$

$$\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u^2 dx \right)^{1 + \frac{\alpha}{d}} \leq c_1 \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{d+\alpha}} dy dx \right) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |u(x)| dx \right)^{\frac{2\alpha}{d}}, \quad (2.9)$$

where c_1 is a positive constant depending only on the space dimension d . This may be proved using the continuous Sobolev embedding $\mathbb{H}^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^d) \hookrightarrow L^{2d/(d-\frac{\alpha}{2})}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and interpolation in $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ spaces. An alternative way of proving this is to recall that the transition densities for a symmetric stable process of order α are bounded by $ct^{-d/\alpha}$ and then to apply Theorem 3.25 of [CKS87].

We then deduce from (A3)

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_2^{2+(2\alpha/d)} &\leq c_1 \left(\int_{|x-y|<1} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{d+\alpha}} dy dx + c_2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} u(x)^2 dx \right) \|u\|_1^{2\alpha/d} \\ &\leq c_1 (\kappa_1^{-1} \mathcal{E}(u, u) + c_2 \|u\|_2^2) \|u\|_1^{2\alpha/d}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

Let $\{P_t, t \geq 0\}$ denote the transition semigroup of X ; that is,

$$P_t f(x) := \mathbb{E}^x [f(X_t)] \quad \text{for } f \geq 0 \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^d \text{ and } t > 0.$$

It follows from Theorem 2.1 of [CKS87] that

$$e^{-c_2 \kappa_1 t} \|P_t f\|_\infty \leq c_3 t^{-d/\alpha} \|f\|_1. \quad (2.11)$$

Noting that $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ is a regular Dirichlet form on \mathbb{R}^d , the conclusion of this theorem now follows immediately from Theorem 2.1. \square

Let $B \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be a ball. Denote by X^B be the subprocess of X killed upon leaving B . Let $\{P^B(t, x, dy), t > 0\}$ be the transition probability of X^B . We will need the existence and regularity of the transition density of X^B .

Theorem 2.3 Assume conditions (A1)–(A3) hold. Let \mathcal{N} be the properly exceptional set of X in Theorem 1.2. There exist a positive symmetric kernel $p^B(t, x, y)$ defined on $(0, \infty) \times (B \setminus \mathcal{N}) \times (B \setminus \mathcal{N})$ such that $P^B(t, x, dy) = p^B(t, x, y)dy$, and

$$p^B(t, x, y) \leq C_1 t^{-d/\alpha} \quad \text{for every } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in B \setminus \mathcal{N}, \quad (2.12)$$

where the constant C_1 depends on $\alpha, \beta, \kappa_1, d$. Moreover, for every $t > 0$ and $y \in B \setminus \mathcal{N}$, $x \mapsto p^B(t, x, y)$ is quasi-continuous on B .

Proof. Let \mathcal{N} and $p(t, x, y)$ be the properly exceptional set and the transition density function, resp., in Theorem 1.2. Define $\tau_B = \inf\{t > 0 : X_t \notin B\}$. Then

$$p^B(t, x, y) := p(t, x, y) - \mathbb{E}^x[p(t - \tau_B, X_{\tau_B}, y); \tau_B < t], \quad x, y \in B \setminus \mathcal{N},$$

is the transition density function for X^B . It is easy to see that $p^B(t, x, y)$ is symmetric and $y \mapsto p(t, x, y)$ is quasi-continuous.

Note that the Dirichlet form for X^B is $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$, where

$$\mathcal{F}^B = \{u \in \mathcal{F} : u = 0 \text{ } \mathcal{E}\text{-q.e. on } B^c\}. \quad (2.13)$$

So for $u \in \mathcal{F}^B$,

$$\mathcal{E}(u, u) = \int_{B \times B} (u(x) - u(y))^2 J(x, y) dx dy + \int_B u(x)^2 \kappa_B(x) dx, \quad (2.14)$$

where

$$\kappa_B(x) = 2 \int_{B^c} J(x, y) dy. \quad (2.15)$$

It follows from (A3) that there exists a constant $c_1 > 0$ such that

$$c_1 \text{dist}(x, \partial B)^{-\alpha} \leq \kappa_B(x) \leq c_1^{-1} \text{dist}(x, \partial B)^{-\beta} \quad \text{for } x \in B.$$

Thus we have from (2.10) that there is a constant $c_2 > 0$ such that for $u \in \mathcal{F}^B$,

$$\|u\|_2^{2+(2\alpha/d)} \leq c_2 \mathcal{E}(u, u) \|u\|_1^{2\alpha/d}.$$

It follows from Theorem 2.1 of [CKS87] that the transition semigroup $\{P_t^B, t > 0\}$ of X^B satisfies

$$\|P_t^B f\|_\infty \leq c_3 t^{-d/\alpha} \|f\|_1 \quad \text{for } f \in L^1(B, dx) \text{ and } t > 0.$$

This implies that

$$p^B(t, x, y) \leq c_3 t^{-d/\alpha} \quad \text{for } t > 0 \text{ and } x, y \in B \setminus \mathcal{N}.$$

□

Remark 2.4 We will use several times the following construction of Meyer [Mey75] for jump processes. Suppose we have a jump intensity kernel $J(x, y)$ and another jump intensity kernel $J_0(x, y) \leq J(x, y)$ such that

$$\mathcal{J}(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (J(x, y) - J_0(x, y)) dy \leq c_1 \quad \text{for all } x. \quad (2.16)$$

Let

$$q(x, y) = \frac{J(x, y) - J_0(x, y)}{\mathcal{J}(x)}. \quad (2.17)$$

Let $Z^{(0)} = \{Z_t^{(0)}, t \geq 0\}$ be the process corresponding to the jump kernel J_0 . Then we can construct a process Z corresponding to the jump kernel J as follows. Let S_1 be an exponential random variable of parameter 1 independent of $Z^{(0)}$, let $C_t = \int_0^t \mathcal{J}(Z_s^{(0)}) ds$, and let U_1 be the first time that C_t exceeds S_1 . We let $Z_s = Z_s^{(0)}$ for $0 \leq s \leq U_1$.

At time U_1 we introduce a jump from Z_{U_1-} to Y_1 , where Y_1 is chosen at random according to the distribution $q(Z_{U_1-}, y) dy$. We set $Z_{U_1} = Y_1$, and repeat, using an independent exponential S_2 , etc. Since $\mathcal{J}(x)$ is bounded, only finitely many new jumps are introduced in any bounded time interval. In [Mey75] it is proved that the resulting process corresponds to the kernel J . See also [INW66].

Note that if \mathcal{N}_0 is the null set corresponding to $Z^{(0)}$ then this construction yields that $\mathcal{N} \subset \mathcal{N}_0$.

Remark 2.5 Conversely, we can also remove a finite number of jumps from a process Z to obtain a new process $Z^{(0)}$. Suppose $J(x, y) = J_0(x, y) + J_1(x, y)$, where we have $\int J_1(x, y) dy \leq c_1$ for all x and for simplicity we also assume that $J_0(x, y)J_1(x, y) = 0$. One starts with the process Z (associated with J), runs it until the stopping time $S_1 = \inf\{t : J_1(Z_{t-}, Z_t) > 0\}$, and at that time restarts Z at the point Z_{S_1-} . One then repeats this procedure. Meyer [Mey75] proves that the resulting process $Z^{(0)}$ will correspond to the jump kernel J_0 . In this case we have $\mathcal{N}_0 \subset \mathcal{N}$.

We will need the following bound, which arises easily from Remark 2.4.

Lemma 2.6 *Let $Z^{(0)}$, Z be as in Remark 2.4, and $F \in \sigma(Z_t^{(0)}, 0 \leq t < \infty)$. Then*

$$\mathbb{P}^x(\{Z_s = Z_s^{(0)} \text{ for all } 0 \leq s \leq t\} \cap F) \geq e^{-t\|\mathcal{J}\|_\infty} \mathbb{P}^x(F).$$

In particular, if $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and $A \subset D$,

$$\mathbb{P}^x(Z_t \in A, \tau_D^Z > t) \geq e^{-t\|\mathcal{J}\|_\infty} \mathbb{P}^x(Z_t^{(0)} \in A, \tau_D^{Z^{(0)}} > t). \quad (2.18)$$

Proof. We have, writing $c_1 = \|\mathcal{J}\|_\infty$ and $G = \{Z_s = Z_s^{(0)}, 0 \leq s \leq t\}$,

$$\mathbb{P}^x(G \cap F) = \mathbb{P}^x(U_1 > t, F) = \mathbb{P}^x(C_t < S_1, F) \geq \mathbb{P}^x(S_1 > c_1 t, F) = \mathbb{P}^x(F) e^{-c_1 t}.$$

The last equality holds because S_1 is independent of the process $Z^{(0)}$.

For the second assertion, let $F = \{Z_t^{(0)} \in A, \tau_D^{Z^{(0)}} > t\}$, and $G = \{Z_s = Z_s^{(0)} \text{ for all } 0 \leq s \leq t\}$. Then,

$$\mathbb{P}^x(Z_t \in A, \tau_D^Z > t) \geq \mathbb{P}^x(Z_t \in A, \tau_D^Z > t, G) = \mathbb{P}^x(F \cap G) \geq e^{-t\|\mathcal{J}\|_\infty} \mathbb{P}^x(F).$$

□

Let $J(x, y) = J_0(x, y) + J_1(x, y)$, and let \mathcal{J} , q be defined by (2.16), (2.17). Write $p^{(0)}(t, x, y)$ for the transition density of the process $Z^{(0)}$ associated with J_0 . Let

$$r(t, x, y) = \int q(x, z)p(t, z, y)dz. \quad (2.19)$$

The following lemma, which follows quite easily from Meyer's construction, is proved in [BGK].

Lemma 2.7 (a) *For any Borel set B*

$$\mathbb{P}^x(Z_t \in B) = \mathbb{P}^x(Z_t^{(0)} \in B, S_1 > t) + \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^t \int_B r(t-s, Z_s^{(0)}, z) \mathcal{J}(Z_s^{(0)}) dz ds. \quad (2.20)$$

(b) *If $\|J_1\|_\infty < \infty$ then*

$$p(t, x, y) \leq p^{(0)}(t, x, y) + t\|J_1\|_\infty. \quad (2.21)$$

We need the following standard result.

Lemma 2.8 *Suppose that there exist positive constants r , t and p such that*

$$\mathbb{P}^x(|X_s - x| > r) \leq p \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N} \text{ and } 0 \leq s \leq t. \quad (2.22)$$

Then

$$\mathbb{P}^x\left(\sup_{0 \leq s \leq t} |X_s - X_0| > 2r\right) \leq 2p \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}.$$

Proof. Let $S = \inf\{t : |X_t - X_0| > 2r\}$. Then using the strong Markov property of X and (2.22)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^x\left(\sup_{s \leq t} |X_s - x| > 2r\right) &= \mathbb{P}^x(S \leq t) \\ &\leq \mathbb{P}^x(|X_t - x| > r) + \mathbb{P}^x(S \leq t \text{ and } X_t \in B(x, r)) \\ &\leq p + \mathbb{P}^x(S \leq t \text{ and } |X_t - X_S| > r) \\ &= p + \mathbb{E}^x\left(\mathbb{1}_{\{S \leq t\}} \mathbb{P}^{X_S}(|X_{t-S} - X_0| > r)\right) \\ &\leq 2p. \end{aligned}$$

□

We now use Lemma 2.7 to obtain off-diagonal upper bounds on $p(t, x, y)$; this technique was introduced in [BGK].

Proposition 2.9 *Let \mathcal{N} be the properly exceptional set of X in Theorem 1.2. There exist constants $t_0 > 0$, $c_1, c_2, c_3 > 0$ such that for every $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$,*

(a) $p(t, x, y) \leq c_1$ if $|x - y| \geq 1$ and $t \leq 2$.

(b) $\mathbb{P}^x\left(\sup_{s \leq t} |X_s - x| > r\right) < c_2 t e^{-c_3 r}$ for every $r \geq 1/8$, $t \leq t_0$.

(c) *There exists $t_1 > 0$ such that*

$$\mathbb{P}^x \left(\sup_{s \leq t_1} |X_s - x| > 1/4 \right) < 1/4. \quad (2.23)$$

Proof. (a) For $\delta > 0$ let $J^{(\delta)}(x, y) = J(x, y) \mathbb{1}_{(|x-y| < \delta)}$, and let $\mathcal{E}^{(\delta)}$ be defined by (1.1) with $J^{(\delta)}$ in place of J . (Of course, if $\delta > 1$ then $\mathcal{E}^{(\delta)}$ is just \mathcal{E} .) Clearly $(\mathcal{E}^{(\delta)}, \mathcal{F})$ is a regular Dirichlet form on \mathbb{R}^d . Thus there is a Hunt process $X^{(\delta)}$ associated with $(\mathcal{E}^{(\delta)}, \mathcal{F})$ and a properly exceptional set $\mathcal{N}(\delta)$ so that X starts from every point in $\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}(\delta)$. Since using Meyer's procedure we can construct $X^{(\delta)}$ from X and vice versa, we can take $\mathcal{N}(\delta) = \mathcal{N}$. Let $p^{(\delta)}(t, x, y)$ be the transition density of $X^{(\delta)}$.

By (A1)–(A3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(x, \delta)^c} J(x, y) dy &= \int (J(x, y) - J^{(\delta)}(x, y)) dy \leq c_4 \delta^{-\beta}, \\ \int_{B(x, \delta)} |x - y|^2 J(x, y) dy &= \int |x - y|^2 J^{(\delta)}(x, y) dy \leq c_5 \delta^{2-\beta}, \\ \|J - J^{(\delta)}\|_\infty &= \sup_{|x-y| \geq \delta} J(x, y) \leq c_6 \delta^{-d-\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

Starting from (2.9) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_2^{2+(2\alpha/d)} &\leq c_7 \left(\int \int_{|x-y| < \delta} \frac{|u(x) - u(y)|^2}{|x - y|^{d+\alpha}} dy dx + \delta^{-\alpha} \|u\|_2^2 \right) \|u\|_1^{2\alpha/d} \\ &\leq c_8 (\kappa_1^{-1} \mathcal{E}^{(\delta)}(u, u) + \delta^{-\alpha} \|u\|_2^2) \|u\|_1^{2\alpha/d}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 2.2 in Section 2 and Theorem 3.25 of [CKS87] now give

$$p^{(\delta)}(t, x, y) \leq c_9 t^{-d/\alpha} e^{c_{10} t \delta^{-\alpha}} e^{-E_\delta(2t, x, y)} \quad \text{for } x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}(\delta), \quad (2.24)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_\delta(f, f)(x) &= \int (f(x) - f(y))^2 J^{(\delta)}(x, y) dy, \\ \Lambda_\delta(\psi)^2 &= \|e^{-2\psi} \Gamma_\delta(e^\psi, e^\psi)\|_\infty \vee \|e^{2\psi} \Gamma_\delta(e^{-\psi}, e^{-\psi})\|_\infty, \\ E_\delta(t, x, y) &= \sup \left\{ |\psi(x) - \psi(y)| - t \Lambda_\delta(\psi)^2 : \psi \in \mathcal{F} \cap C_b(\mathbb{R}^d) \text{ with } \Lambda_\delta(\psi) < \infty \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $t > 0$ and $x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$; write $R = |x_0 - y_0|$. Note that the set \mathcal{C} of compactly supported Lipschitz continuous functions is a core for $\mathcal{E}^{(\delta)}$. Let $\lambda > 0$ and

$$\psi(x) = \lambda(R - |x_0 - x|)^+.$$

So $|\psi(x) - \psi(y)| \leq \lambda|x - y|$. Noting that $|e^t - 1|^2 \leq t^2 e^{2|t|}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_\delta(e^\psi)^2(x) &= \int (e^{\psi(x) - \psi(y)} - 1)^2 J^{(\delta)}(x, y) dy \\ &\leq e^{2\lambda\delta} \lambda^2 \int |x - y|^2 J^{(\delta)}(x, y) dy \\ &\leq c_{11} (\lambda\delta)^2 e^{2\lambda\delta} \delta^{-\beta} \leq c_{12} e^{3\lambda\delta} \delta^{-\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the same bound holds for $\Lambda_\delta(e^{-\psi})^2(x)$ we have

$$-E_\delta(2t, x_0, y_0) \leq -\lambda R + c_{12}t\delta^{-\beta}e^{3\lambda\delta}. \quad (2.25)$$

In what follows we will always choose δ so that $\delta \leq e$, and t such that $t < \delta^\beta$. Hence $t \leq \delta^\beta \leq c_{13}\delta^\alpha$, so that the term $e^{c_{10}t\delta^{-\alpha}}$ in (2.24) is bounded by c_{14} . We take

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{3\delta} \log \left(\frac{\delta^\beta}{t} \right) > 0. \quad (2.26)$$

So

$$-E_\delta(2t, x_0, y_0) \leq -\frac{R}{3\delta} \log \left(\frac{\delta^\beta}{t} \right) + c_{15}t\delta^{-\beta} \left(\frac{\delta^\beta}{t} \right) = \frac{R}{3\delta} \log \left(\frac{t}{\delta^\beta} \right) + c_{16}. \quad (2.27)$$

Hence by (2.24),

$$p^{(\delta)}(t, x_0, y_0) \leq c_{17}t^{-d/\alpha} \left(\frac{t}{\delta^\beta} \right)^{R/(3\delta)}. \quad (2.28)$$

We need to consider two cases. Set $R_0 = 3e(1 + d/\alpha)$. First, suppose $R \geq R_0$ and $t \leq 1$. Set $\delta = e$. Then since there are no jumps larger than 1, we have $p(t, x_0, y_0) = p^{(\delta)}(t, x_0, y_0)$, and by (2.28)

$$p(t, x_0, y_0) \leq c_{17}t^{-d/\alpha} \left(\frac{t}{\delta^\beta} \right)^{R/(3\delta)} \leq c_{18}te^{-\beta R/3e}. \quad (2.29)$$

Next, suppose $0 < R \leq R_0$, and set $\delta = R\alpha/(3(\alpha + d))$. We assume that $t < \delta^\beta = c_{19}R^\beta$. Then since $R/(3\delta) = 1 + d/\alpha$, (2.21) and (2.28) give

$$p(t, x_0, y_0) \leq c_{20} \frac{t}{\delta^{\beta+\beta d/\alpha}} + c_{21} \frac{t}{\delta^{\beta+d}} \leq c_{22} \frac{t}{R^{\beta+\beta d/\alpha}} + c_{23} \frac{t}{R^{\beta+d}} \quad (2.30)$$

Combining (2.29) and (2.30), we deduce there exists $t_1 > 0$ such that if $|x_0 - y_0| = R$ and $R \geq 1/16$, and $t \leq t_1$, then

$$p(t, x_0, y_0) \leq c_{24}te^{-c_{25}R} \quad \text{for } t \in (0, t_1]. \quad (2.31)$$

(a) now follows on combining (2.31) and (1.3).

Integrating (2.31) and (2.29) over $B(x, R)^c$, we obtain, for $x \notin \mathcal{N}$,

$$\mathbb{P}^x(X_t \notin B(x, R)) \leq c_{26}te^{-c_{27}R} \quad \text{if } R \geq 1/16 \text{ and } t \in (0, t_1],$$

and (b) follows by Lemma 2.8. (c) is immediate from (b). \square

Theorem 2.10 *The process X is conservative.*

Proof: From the probabilistic interpretation of the Beurling-Deny decomposition for $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ (cf. [FOT94]), X admits no killing inside \mathbb{R}^d . On the other hand, by Proposition 2.9 the process X cannot escape to infinity in the time interval $[0, 1]$. Since the lifetime ζ of X satisfies $\mathbb{P}^x(\zeta \geq 1) = 1$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \mathcal{N}$, we have $\mathbb{P}^x(\zeta = \infty) = 1$, hence X is conservative. \square

3 Lower bounds on the heat kernel

Throughout this section we will assume that the jump kernel J satisfies (A1)–(A3) and also (A4)(ξ) for some $\xi \in (0, 1)$, unless otherwise specified.

Lemma 3.1 *Let $J(x, y)$ satisfy (A1)–(A3), and (A4)(ξ) for some $\xi \in (0, 1)$. Then*

$$\mathcal{F} = \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) : \mathcal{E}(f, f) < \infty\} = \mathbb{H}^{\beta/2}(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

The corresponding Hunt process X is a conservative strong Markov process which can start from any point in \mathbb{R}^d .

Proof. For two bilinear forms \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{C} having a common core $C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, let us write $\mathcal{E}(f, f) \approx \mathcal{C}(f, f)$ if there is a finite constant $c_1 > 0$ such that $c_1^{-1}\mathcal{E}(f, f) \leq \mathcal{C}(f, f) \leq c_1\mathcal{E}(f, f)$ for every $f \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$. As $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ satisfies (A1)–(A3) and (A4)(ξ), we have for $f \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_1(f, f) &\approx \int_{|x-y| \leq \xi} \frac{(f(x) - f(y))^2}{|x - y|^{d+\beta}} dx dy + \|f\|_2^2 \\ &\approx \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{(f(x) - f(y))^2}{|x - y|^{d+\beta}} dx dy + \|f\|_2^2 \\ &:= \mathcal{C}_1(f, f). \end{aligned}$$

So $\mathcal{F} = \overline{C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\mathcal{E}_1} = \overline{C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)}^{\mathcal{C}_1} = \mathbb{H}^{\beta/2}(\mathbb{R}^d) = \{f : \mathcal{C}_1(f, f) < \infty\}$, which is the same as $\{f : \mathcal{E}_1(f, f) < \infty\}$.

Note that the process X can be constructed from the Lévy process Z on \mathbb{R}^d whose Lévy measure is

$$J_0(h) dh = |h|^{-d-\beta} \mathbb{1}_{(|h| \leq \xi)} dh$$

using Remark 2.4. As Z is conservative and can start from every point in \mathbb{R}^d , the same is true of X . \square

In view of the above we can take the properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} to be the empty set throughout this section.

Let B be a ball of radius R centered at 0 for $R \in [1, 4]$. Let $p^B(t, x, y)$ be the transition density function of the subprocess X^B of X killed upon exiting the ball B .

Lemma 3.2 *There exists a positive constant c_1 depending on ξ such that*

$$p^B(t, x, y) \leq c_1 t^{-d/\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad \left| \frac{\partial p^B(t, x, y)}{\partial t} \right| \leq c_1 t^{-1-\frac{d}{\alpha}}$$

for every $x, y \in B$ and $t > 0$.

Proof. The assertion for p^B follows immediately from (1.3). As

$$\int_{B \times B} p^B(t, x, y)^2 dx dy = \int_B p^B(2t, x, x) dx < \infty,$$

the symmetric semigroup P_t^B of X^B is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator on $L^2(B, dx)$ and so it is compact and has discrete spectrum $\{e^{-\lambda_i t}, i \geq 1\}$, with repetitions according to multiplicity. Let $\{\psi_i, i \geq 1\}$ be the corresponding eigenfunctions normalized to have unit L^2 -norm on B and to be orthogonal to each other. Then it is well known (see, e.g., [Bas97], Section VII.6) that

$$p^B(t, x, y) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{-\lambda_i t} \psi_i(x) \psi_i(y).$$

Hence

$$\frac{\partial p^B(t, x, y)}{\partial t}(t, x) = - \sum \lambda_i e^{-\lambda_i t} \psi_i(x) \psi_i(y), \quad (3.1)$$

where the convergence is in the L^2 -sense. Note that for any given $\delta > 0$, by Cauchy-Schwarz and the Chapman-Kolmogorov equations,

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_i(x) &= e^{\lambda_i \delta} \int_B p^B(\delta, x, y) \psi_i(y) dy \\ &\leq e^{\lambda_i \delta} \left(\int_B p^B(\delta, x, y)^2 dy \right)^{1/2} \left(\int_B (\psi_i(y))^2 dy \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq e^{\lambda_i \delta} p(2\delta, x, x)^{1/2} \leq c_2 \delta^{-d/\alpha} e^{(c_3 + \lambda_i) \delta} \end{aligned}$$

for every $x \in B$ by (1.3). It follows that the series on the right hand side of (3.1) converges uniformly on $(2\delta, \delta^{-1}) \times B \times B$. The function $x \rightarrow x e^{-x/2}$ is bounded over nonnegative x by c_4/t , so for $x, y \in B$, the right hand side of (3.1) is bounded in absolute value by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c_4}{t} \sum_i e^{-\lambda_i t/2} |\psi_i(x)| |\psi_i(y)| &\leq \frac{c_4}{t} \left(\sum_i e^{-\lambda_i t/2} \psi_i(x)^2 \right)^{1/2} \left(\sum_i e^{-\lambda_i t/2} \psi_i(y)^2 \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \frac{c_3}{t} p^B(t/2, x, x)^{1/2} p^B(t/2, y, y)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Our upper bound (2.12) on $p^B(t, \cdot, \cdot)$ yields the desired bound on $|\partial p^B(t, x, y)/\partial t|$. \square

Lemma 3.3 *Let Y be a pure jump symmetric process on \mathbb{R}^d with jump kernel $J_Y(x, y)$ satisfying*

$$c_1 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} \leq J_Y(x, y) \leq c_2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta}, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d. \quad (3.2)$$

Let $D = B(0, \frac{1}{2})$ and $p_Y^D(t, x, y)$ be the transition density of the subprocess of Y killed upon exiting D . Then there exist constants c_3, c_4 (depending on c_1, c_2) such that

$$p_Y^D(t, x, y) \geq c_3 e^{-c_4 t} \quad \text{for } t \geq \frac{3}{4} \text{ and } x, y \in B(0, \frac{1}{4}).$$

Proof. It is known from [CK03] that such a process Y is a Feller process that can start from every point in \mathbb{R}^d and has a Hölder continuous transition density function $p(t, x, y)$. This implies in particular that the transition density function $p_Y^D(t, x, y)$ for the subprocess of Y killed upon leaving D exists and is continuous on $(0, \infty) \times D \times D$. For each fixed $x \in D$, $(t, y) \mapsto p_Y^D(t, x, y)$ is a caloric function of Y in $(0, \infty) \times D$.

Let $B' = B(0, \frac{1}{4})$. Then $\mathbb{P}^0(\tau_{B'}^Y \geq \frac{1}{2}) \geq c_5 > 0$. By [CK03] a parabolic Harnack inequality holds for Y . Therefore for every $x \in D$, $\frac{1}{4} \leq t_1 \leq \frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4} \leq t_2 \leq 1$,

$$p_Y^D(t_1, x, y) \leq c_6 p_Y^D(t_2, x, y') \quad \text{for } y, y' \in B'.$$

So if $x_1, y_1 \in B'$,

$$\begin{aligned} c_5 &\leq \int_{B'} p_Y^{B'}(t_1, x_1, y) dy \\ &\leq \int_{B'} p_Y^D(t_1, x_1, y) dy \\ &\leq c_6 \int_{B'} p_Y^D(t_2, x_1, y_1) dy = c_6 |B'| p_Y^D(t_2, x_1, y_1). \end{aligned}$$

This proves the result for $t \in [\frac{3}{4}, 1]$. An easy iteration argument now gives the result for $t > 1$. \square

Proposition 3.4 *Let $B = B(0, R)$ with $R \in [1, 4]$ and $0 < t_0 < t_1 < \infty$. There is a constant $c_1 = c_1(\xi, t_0, t_1) > 0$ such that*

$$p^B(t, x, y) \geq c_1(R - |x|)^\beta(R - |y|)^\beta \quad \text{for every } t \in [t_0, t_1] \text{ and } x, y \in B.$$

Proof. Recall we are working under (A4)(ξ); the constants c_i in this proof will depend on ξ . We can assume without loss of generality that $\xi \leq \frac{1}{8}$. By considering the process $X'_t = X_{2t/t_0}$, which satisfies (A1)–(A3) and (A4)(ξ) (but with different constants κ_i), we can assume that $t_0 \geq 2$.

Let V be a Lévy process with jump kernel

$$J_0(x, y) = \begin{cases} \kappa_2 |y - x|^{-d-\beta} & \text{if } |y - x| \leq \xi, \\ \kappa_1 |y - x|^{-d-\alpha} & \text{if } \xi < |y - x| \leq 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } |y - x| > 1. \end{cases}$$

We can construct X from V by using the construction of Remark 2.4. Since $\mathcal{J}(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} (J(x, y) - J_0(x, y)) dy$ is bounded, by Lemma 2.6 there is a positive constant $c_2 = c_2(t_1) > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}^x(X_t \in A \text{ and } \tau_B^X > t) \geq c_2 \mathbb{P}^x(V_t \in A \text{ and } \tau_B^V > t)$$

for every $t \in (0, t_1]$ and $A \subset B$. It thus suffices to get a lower bound on $v^B(t, x, y)$, the transition density of the subprocess of V killed upon exiting B .

By the Chapman-Kolmogorov equations,

$$v^B(t, x, y) \geq \int_{B(0, 1/4)} v^B(t/2, x, z) v^B(t/2, z, y) dz.$$

Therefore it is enough to prove that

$$v^B(t, y, z) \geq c_3(R - |y|)^\beta \quad \text{for } y \in B, z \in B(0, 1/4), t \in [1, t_1]. \quad (3.3)$$

Let $y \in B$, $\varepsilon = R - |y|$, and $\eta = (\varepsilon \wedge \xi)/2$. Let $y_0 \in B(0, R - \frac{1}{2})$ with $|y_0 - y| \leq \frac{3}{4}$. Our first estimate is to prove that there exist $c_4, c_5 > 0$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}^y(V_{t\eta^\beta} \in B(y_0, 1/4) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > t\eta^\beta) \geq c_5 t\eta^\beta \quad \text{for } t \leq c_4. \quad (3.4)$$

To prove this, define

$$V_t^\eta = V_0 + \sum_{0 < s \leq t} \Delta V_s \mathbb{1}_{(|\Delta V_s| \leq \eta)}.$$

Note that V^η is a Lévy process with jump kernel $\kappa_2|x-w|^{-d-\beta}\mathbb{1}_{(|x-w| \leq \eta)}$ and that the processes V^η and $V - V^\eta$ are independent. We write $J_1(x, w)$ for the jump kernel of $V - V^\eta$.

Each coordinate of V^η is a square integrable martingale. Applying Doob's maximal inequality to each coordinate of V^η separately yields

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{s \leq t\eta^\beta} |V_s^\eta - V_0^\eta| \geq \eta\right) &\leq 4d(\eta/d)^{-2} \mathbb{E}\left[|V_{t\eta^\beta}^\eta - V_0^\eta|^2\right] \\ &= 4d^3 t\eta^\beta \eta^{-2} \int_{|h| \leq \eta} \kappa_2 |h|^{2-d-\beta} dh \\ &\leq c_6 t. \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

Let $c_4 = \min\left\{\frac{1}{4c_6}, \frac{1}{24}\right\}$.

There are constants $c_8 > c_7 > 0$ such that the total Lévy measure of $V - V^\eta$ is bounded by

$$c_7 \eta^{-\beta} \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} J_1(0, x) dx \leq c_8 \eta^{-\beta}.$$

Since $|y_0 - y| \leq \frac{3}{4}$,

$$\int_{B(y_0 - y, 1/8)} J_1(0, w) dw \geq c_9.$$

Let $t \leq c_4$ and $F(t)$ be the complement of the event on the left side of (3.5). Then $\mathbb{P}(F(t)) \geq 3/4$. Let $G(t)$ be the event that $V - V^\eta$ makes exactly one jump in the time interval $[0, t\eta^\beta]$, and that the size falls within the ball $B(y_0 - y, 1/8)$. Then

$$\mathbb{P}^y(G(t)) \geq (c_7 \eta^{-\beta})(t\eta^\beta) e^{-(c_8 \eta^{-\beta})(t\eta^\beta)} \frac{c_9}{c_8 \eta^{-\beta}} \geq c_{10} t\eta^\beta.$$

Note that $\eta \leq \xi/2 \leq 1/16$. If both $F(t)$ and $G(t)$ occur, then $V_{t\eta^\beta} \in B(y_0, 1/4)$ and $\tau_B^V > t\eta^\beta$. As V^η and $V - V^\eta$ are independent, we obtain (3.4). In particular, we have for every $y \in B$, with $s_1 := c_4 2^{-\beta} ((R - |y|) \wedge \xi)^\beta$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^y(V_{s_1} \in B(0, R - \tfrac{1}{4}) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_1) &\geq \mathbb{P}^y(V_{s_1} \in B(y_0, 1/4) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_1) \\ &\geq c_5 s_1. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for every $z \in B(0, R - \frac{1}{4})$, let $z_0 \in B(0, R - \frac{3}{4})$ with $|z - z_0| < 3/4$. Note that in this case $R - |z| \geq 1/4$ and $\xi \leq 1/8$ and so $\eta := \frac{(R - |z|) \wedge \xi}{2} = \frac{\xi}{2}$. The same argument as above shows that, with $s_2 := c_4 2^{-\beta} \xi^\beta$,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}^z(V_{s_2} \in B(0, R - \tfrac{1}{2}) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_2) &\geq \mathbb{P}^z(V_{s_2} \in B(z_0, 1/4) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_2) \\ &\geq c_5 s_2. \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Markov property of V at time s_1 , we have for $y \in B$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbb{P}^y(V_{s_1+s_2} \in B(0, R - \tfrac{1}{2}) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_1 + s_2) \\
& \geq \mathbb{P}^y(\mathbb{P}^{V_{s_1}}(V_{s_2} \in B(0, R - \tfrac{1}{2}) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_2); V_{s_1} \in B(0, R - \tfrac{1}{4}) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_1) \\
& \geq c_5 s_2 \mathbb{P}^y(V_{s_1} \in B(0, R - \tfrac{1}{4}) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_1) \\
& \geq c_5^2 s_2 s_1.
\end{aligned}$$

Repeating this at most $[4R]$ number of times, for any $y \in B$, there exists $s_0 \leq \frac{1}{4}$ such that

$$\mathbb{P}^y(V_{s_0} \in B(0, 1/4) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > s_0) \geq c_{11}(R - |y|)^\beta. \quad (3.6)$$

Now let

$$J_2(x, y) = J_0(x, y) + \kappa_2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} \mathbb{1}_{(|x-y|>1)},$$

and Y be the associated Lévy process; note that J_2 satisfies (3.2). We can use Remark 2.4 to construct Y from V . Let T be the time of the first added jump, so that $V_s = Y_s$, $0 \leq s < T$ and $|\Delta Y_T| > 1$. Let $B' = B(0, \frac{1}{2})$. If $x \in B'$ and $A \subset B'$ then $T \geq \tau_{B'}^Y \geq \tau_{B'}^V$. Therefore

$$\mathbb{P}^x(V_t \in A \text{ and } \tau_{B'}^V > t) \geq \mathbb{P}^x(Y_t \in A \text{ and } \tau_{B'}^Y > t),$$

from which it follows that

$$v^B(t, x, y) \geq v^{B'}(t, x, y) \geq p_Y^{B'}(t, x, y),$$

for $x, y \in B'$. So, using Lemma 3.3

$$v^B(t, x, y) \geq c_{12} \quad \text{for } x, y \in B(0, \tfrac{1}{4}) \text{ and } \tfrac{3}{4} \leq t \leq t_1. \quad (3.7)$$

Hence for $t \in [t_0, t_1]$, $y \in B$ and $z \in B(0, \frac{1}{4})$, with s_0 the time corresponding to y in (3.6), we have from (3.7)

$$\begin{aligned}
v^B(t, y, z) & \geq \int_{B(0, 1/4)} v^B(s_0, y, w) v^B(t - s_0, w, z) dw \\
& \geq c_{12} \int_{B(0, 1/4)} v^B(s_0, y, w) dw \\
& = c_{12} \mathbb{P}^y(V_{s_0} \in B(0, 1/4) \text{ and } \tau_B^V > \tfrac{1}{4}) \\
& \geq c_{12} c_{11} (R - |y|)^\beta,
\end{aligned}$$

which proves (3.3). \square

Define

$$\varphi(x) = \left((R^2 - |x|^2)^+ \right)^{12/(2-\beta)}. \quad (3.8)$$

The following corollary follows immediately from Proposition 3.4.

Corollary 3.5 *For every $y \in B$, $\delta \in (0, 1)$ and $\gamma \in \left(\frac{2-\beta}{6}, 1\right]$, there is a constant $C = C(y, \beta, \delta, \xi) > 0$ such that*

$$\varphi(x)^\gamma / p^B(t, x, y) \leq C, \quad \text{for every } t \in [\delta, 4] \text{ and } x \in B.$$

Recall the definition of \mathcal{F}^B from Section 2.

Lemma 3.6 *For every $t > 0$ and $y \in B$, $p^B(t, x, y)$ as a function of $x \in B$ is in \mathcal{F}^B .*

Proof. Fix $y \in B$. By Lemma 3.2, if $t > 0$, $f(x) := p^B(t/2, x, y) \in L^2(B, dx)$ and so (see [FOT94, Lemma 1.3.3]), $p^B(t, x, y) = P_{t/2}^B f(x)$ as a function of $x \in B$ is in \mathcal{F}^B . \square

Lemma 3.7 *For each $t > 0$ and $y_0 \in B$, the function $\varphi(\cdot)/p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)$ is in \mathcal{F}^B .*

Proof. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $t < 4$. By Corollary 3.5, $\varphi(\cdot)^{1/2}/p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)$ is bounded on B . By extending the function $x \mapsto \varphi(\cdot)/p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)$ to be zero on B^c , we see that $x \mapsto u(x) := \varphi(\cdot)/p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)$ vanishes continuously on B^c . Recall the killing function κ_B from (2.15). It is clear that $\int_B u(x)^2(dx) < \infty$. So by (2.13)–(2.14) and Lemma 3.1, it suffices to show

$$\int_{B \times B} \left(\frac{\varphi(x)}{p^B(t, x, y_0)} - \frac{\varphi(y)}{p^B(t, y, y_0)} \right)^2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} dx dy < \infty. \quad (3.9)$$

We look at

$$\int \int_{x, y \in B, \varphi(y) \geq \varphi(x)} \left(\frac{\varphi(y)}{p^B(t, y, y_0)} - \frac{\varphi(x)}{p^B(t, x, y_0)} \right)^2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} dx dy;$$

if we show this is finite, we will have finiteness of the the integral over $\varphi(x) > \varphi(y)$ by the same argument, and combining the two estimates shows (3.9). We need to bound

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \int_{x, y \in B, \varphi(y) \geq \varphi(x)} \left(\frac{\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)}{p^B(t, y, y_0)} \right)^2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} dx dy \\ & + \int \int_{x, y \in B, \varphi(y) \geq \varphi(x)} \left(\varphi(x) \frac{p^B(t, y, y_0) - p^B(t, x, y_0)}{p^B(t, x, y_0)p^B(t, y, y_0)} \right)^2 |x - y|^{-d-\beta} dx dy \\ & = I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

On the set $\{(x, y) \in B \times B : \varphi(y) > \varphi(x)\}$, since $\varphi(x) \leq \varphi(x)^{1/2}\varphi(y)^{1/2}$ and $\varphi(x)^{1/2}/p^B(t, x, y_0)$ is bounded in x by Corollary 3.5, the finiteness of I_2 follows from Lemma 3.6. To handle I_1 , let $\gamma = (2 - \beta)/3$. Note that $|\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)|^{2\gamma} \leq |\varphi(y)|^{2\gamma}$, and that $\varphi(x)^{2\gamma}/p^B(t, x, y_0)^2$ is bounded in x by Lemma 3.4. Since φ has a bounded derivative, $|\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)|^{2-2\gamma} \leq c_1|y - x|^{2-2\gamma}$. As $|y - x|^{2-2\gamma-d-\beta}$ is integrable over $B \times B$ since $2\gamma < 2 - \beta$, the finiteness of I_1 follows. \square

Lemma 3.8 *Fix $y_0 \in B$ and let $G(t) = \int_B \varphi(x) \log p^B(t, x, y_0) dx$. Then for every $t > 0$,*

$$G'(t) = -\mathcal{E} \left(p^B(t, \cdot, y_0), \frac{\varphi(\cdot)}{p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)} \right).$$

Proof. Write (f, g) for $\int_B f(x)g(x) dx$. Using Lemmas 3.6 and 3.7, we know by [FOT94, Lemma 1.3.4] that

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{E} \left(p^B(t, \cdot, y_0), \frac{\varphi(\cdot)}{p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)} \right) &= \lim_{h \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left(P_h^B p^B(t, \cdot, y_0) - p^B(t, \cdot, y_0), \frac{\varphi(\cdot)}{p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{h \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left(p^B(t+h, \cdot, y_0), -p^B(t, \cdot, y_0), \frac{\varphi(\cdot)}{p^B(t, \cdot, y_0)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{h \downarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \int_B \varphi(x) \left(\frac{p^B(t+h, x, y_0)}{p^B(t, x, y_0)} - 1 \right) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Also

$$G'(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \int_B (\log p^B(t+h, x, y_0) - \log p^B(t, x, y_0)) \varphi(x) dx.$$

Let

$$F(h) = \left[\log p^B(t+h, x, y_0) - \log p^B(t, x, y_0) - \left(\frac{p^B(t+h, x, y_0)}{p^B(t, x, y_0)} - 1 \right) \right] \varphi(x).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} F'(h) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} p^B(t+h, x, y_0) \left(\frac{1}{p^B(t+h, x, y_0)} - \frac{1}{p^B(t, x, y_0)} \right) \varphi(x) \\ &= \frac{\partial}{\partial t} p^B(t+h, x, y_0) (p^B(t+h, x, y_0) - p^B(t, x, y_0)) \frac{\varphi(x)}{p^B(t+h, x, y_0) p^B(t, x, y_0)}. \end{aligned}$$

By the mean value theorem, $F(h)/h = F'(h^*)$ for some $h^* = h^*(x, y_0, h) \in (0, h)$. Hence by Lemma 3.2 and Corollary 3.5, $F(h)/h$ tends to 0 uniformly in $x \in B$ as $h \rightarrow 0$. The lemma now follows from the dominated convergence theorem. \square

We need a weighted Poincaré inequality, which we derive along the lines of the appendix to [SCS91].

Proposition 3.9 *Let $R \in [1, 4]$, $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $B = B(y_0, R)$,*

$$\varphi_R(x) = c_1 (R^2 - |x - y_0|^2)^{12/(2-\beta)} \mathbb{1}_B(x) \quad (3.10)$$

with normalizing constant $c_1 > 0$ chosen so that $\int_B \varphi_R(x) dx = 1$, and set

$$\bar{f} = \int_B f(x) \varphi_R(x) dx.$$

There exists a constant c_2 depending on R but not f or y_0 such that

$$\int_B |f(x) - \bar{f}|^2 \varphi_R(x) dx \leq c_2 \int_B \int_B (f(x) - f(y))^2 \varphi_R(x) \wedge \varphi_R(y) J(x, y) dx dy.$$

Proof. If B is any ball, let

$$\mathcal{E}_B(f, f) = \int_B \int_B (f(y) - f(x))^2 J(x, y) dx dy.$$

Set $f_B = |B|^{-1} \int_B f(x) dx$. If B is any ball of radius $r \leq 1$, using (A3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_B |f(x) - f_B|^2 dx &= \int_B (f(x)^2 - (f_B)^2) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2} |B|^{-1} \int_B \int_B (f(x) - f(y))^2 dx dy \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} |B|^{-1} (\kappa_1 r^{-d-\alpha})^{-1} \int_B \int_B (f(x) - f(y))^2 J(x, y) dx dy \\ &= c_1 r^\alpha \mathcal{E}_B(f, f). \end{aligned}$$

We now follow the proof in the appendix of [SCS91] closely, with the principal changes being to use $\mathcal{E}_B(f, f)$ in place of $\int_B |\nabla f(x)|^2 dx$, $\int_B \int_B (f(x) - f(y))^2 (\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y)) J(x, y) dx dy$ in place of $\int_B |\nabla f(x)|^2 \varphi(x) dx$, and r^α in place of r^2 . \square

Proposition 3.10 *Let J satisfy the conditions (A1)–(A3). Let $\xi \in (0, 1)$, J_ξ be defined by (1.5), and $X^{(\xi)}$ be the Hunt process associated with $(\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}, \mathcal{F}^{(\xi)})$. Let $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$. Let $R \in [1, 4]$, $B = B(y_0, R)$, and $p_\xi^B(t, x, y)$ be the transition density of $X^{(\xi)}$ killed on exiting B . Then there exists a positive constant C that depends on $\alpha, \beta, \kappa_1, \kappa_2$, and δ , but not on ξ or y_0 such that for all $t \in [\delta, 2]$*

$$p_\xi^B(t, x, y) \geq C \quad (3.11)$$

for every $(x, y) \in B(y_0, 3R/4) \times B(y_0, 3R/4)$.

Proof. By a change of coordinate systems, without loss of generality we may assume that $y_0 = 0$ and so $B = B(0, R)$. Fix an arbitrary $x_0 \in B(0, 3R/4)$ and write $u(t, x) = p_\xi^B(t, x_0, x)$. Let $\varphi : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ be equal to φ_R as defined in (3.10). Set for $t \in (0, \infty)$

$$\begin{aligned} r(t, x) &= u(t, x) / \varphi(x)^{1/2}, \\ H(t) &= \int_B \varphi(y) \log u(t, y) dy, \\ G(t) &= \int_B \varphi(y) \log r(t, y) dy = \int_B \varphi(y) \log u(t, y) dy - c_1 = H(t) - c_1. \end{aligned}$$

Then by Lemma 3.8

$$G'(t) = -\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}\left(u(t, \cdot), \frac{\varphi}{u(t, \cdot)}\right). \quad (3.12)$$

The reason we work with $\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}$ rather than \mathcal{E} is so that we can use Lemma 3.8 to obtain (3.12). The remainder of the argument does not use the condition (A4)(ξ), and in particular the constants can be taken to be independent of ξ .

By (2.14),

$$\begin{aligned} G'(t) &= - \int_B \int_B \frac{[u(t, y) - u(t, x)]}{u(t, x)u(t, y)} [u(t, x)\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)u(t, y)] J^{(\xi)}(x, y) dy dx \\ &\quad - \int_B \varphi(x) \kappa_B(x) dx. \end{aligned}$$

The main step is to show that for all t in $(0,1]$ one has

$$G'(t) \geq c_2 \int_B \int_B [\log u(t, y) - \log u(t, x)]^2 (\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y)) J^{(\xi)}(x, y) dx dy - c_3 \quad (3.13)$$

for positive constants c_2, c_3 .

Setting $a = u(t, y)/u(t, x)$ and $b = \varphi(y)/\varphi(x)$, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{[u(t, y) - u(t, x)]}{u(t, x)u(t, y)} [u(t, x)\varphi(y) - \varphi(x)u(t, y)] \\ &= \varphi(x) \left(b - \frac{b}{a} - a + 1 \right) \\ &= \varphi(x) \left[\left((1 - b^{1/2})^2 - b^{1/2} \left(\frac{a}{b^{1/2}} + \frac{b^{1/2}}{a} - 2 \right) \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

Using the inequality

$$A + \frac{1}{A} - 2 \geq (\log A)^2, \quad A > 0,$$

with $A = a/\sqrt{b}$, the right hand side of (3.14) is bounded above by

$$(\varphi(x)^{1/2} - \varphi(y)^{1/2})^2 - (\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y)) (\log r(t, y) - \log r(t, x))^2.$$

Substituting in the formula for $G'(t)$ and using Proposition 3.9 and (2.15),

$$\begin{aligned} H'(t) = G'(t) &\geq -c_4 + \int_B \int_B (\log r(t, y) - \log r(t, x))^2 (\varphi(x) \wedge \varphi(y)) J^{(\xi)}(x, y) dx dy \\ &\geq -c_4 + c_5 \int_B (\log r(t, y) - G(t))^2 \varphi(y) dy \\ &\geq -c_6 + c_7 \int_B (\log u(t, y) - H(t))^2 \varphi(y) dy. \end{aligned}$$

In the first inequality we used the fact

$$\int_B \int_B (\varphi(x)^{1/2} - \varphi(y)^{1/2})^2 J^{(\xi)}(x, y) dx dy \leq c_8,$$

which follows from (A3). Recall the constant t_0 from Proposition 2.9. We may assume that $\delta \leq t_0$. By Proposition 2.9, for every $t \leq t_0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(x_0, 1/4)} u(t, x) dx &\geq \mathbb{P}^{x_0} \left(\sup_{s \in [0, t_0]} |X_s - X_0| < 1/4 \right) \\ &\geq 1 - \mathbb{P}^{x_0} \left(\sup_{s \in [0, t_0]} |X_s - x_0| \geq 1/4 \right) \geq \frac{3}{4}. \end{aligned}$$

Choose K such that $|B(x_0, 1/4)|e^{-K} = \frac{1}{4}$ and define

$$D_t = \{x \in B(x_0, 1/4) : u(t, x) \geq e^{-K}\}.$$

By Theorem 1.2, if $t \leq t_0$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{3}{4} &\leq \int_{B(x_0, 1/4)} u(t, x) dx = \int_{D_t} u(t, x) dx + \int_{B(x_0, 1/4) \setminus D_t} u(t, x) dx \\ &\leq c_9 |D_t| t^{-d/\alpha} + |B(x_0, 1/4)| e^{-K}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$|D_t| \geq \frac{t^{d/\alpha}}{2c_9} \geq c_{10} > 0$$

if $t \in [\delta/4, t_0]$. Note that the positive constant c_{10} can be chosen to be independent of the ξ in condition (A4)(ξ).

Jensen's inequality tells us that if $t \leq t_0$

$$H(t) = \int_B (\log u(t, x)) \varphi(x) dx \leq \log \int_B u(t, x) \varphi(x) dx \leq \log \|\varphi\|_\infty := \bar{H}.$$

On D_t , $\log u(t, x) \geq -K$ so there are only four possible cases:

(a) If $\log u(t, x) > 0$ and $H(t) \leq 0$, then $(\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \geq H(t)^2$.

(b) If $\log u(t, x) > 0$ and $0 < H(t) \leq \bar{H}$, then

$$(\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \geq 0 \geq H(t)^2 - \bar{H}^2.$$

(c) If $-K \leq \log u(t, x) \leq 0$ and $|H(t)| \geq 2K$, then $(\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \geq \frac{1}{4}H(t)^2$.

(d) If $-K \leq \log u(t, x) \leq 0$ and $|H(t)| < 2K$, then

$$(\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \geq 0 \geq \frac{1}{4}H(t)^2 - K^2.$$

Thus we conclude

$$(\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \geq \frac{1}{4}H(t)^2 - (\bar{H} \vee K)^2 \quad \text{on } D_t.$$

Since φ is bounded below by $c_{11} > 0$ on $B(x_0, 1/4)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} c_7 \int_B (\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \varphi(x) dx - c_6 &\geq c_7 \int_{D_t} (\log u(t, x) - H(t))^2 \varphi(x) dx - c_6 \\ &\geq c_{12} |D_t| \left(\frac{1}{4}H(t)^2 - (\bar{H} \vee K)^2 \right) - c_6. \end{aligned}$$

We therefore have

$$H'(t) \geq FH(t)^2 - E, \quad t \in [\delta/4, t_0]$$

for some positive constants E and F that are independent of ξ .

Now we do some calculus. Let $t_2 \in [\delta/2, t_0 \wedge 2]$. Let $Q := \max(16E, (16E/F)^{1/2})$. Suppose $H(t_2) \leq -Q$. Since $H'(t) \geq -E$,

$$H(t_2) - H(t) \geq -2E \quad \text{for } t \in [\delta/4, t_2], \quad (3.15)$$

This implies $H(t) \leq -Q/2$. Since $FQ^2/4 \geq 4E$, $E < \frac{F}{2}H(t)^2$ and hence

$$H'(t) \geq \frac{F}{2}H(t)^2.$$

Integrating $H'/H^2 \geq F/2$ over $[\frac{\delta}{4}, t_2]$ yields

$$\frac{1}{H(t_2)} - \frac{1}{H(\delta/4)} \leq -\frac{F}{2}(t_2 - \delta/4) \leq -\frac{F\delta}{8}.$$

Since $H(\delta/4) \leq -Q/2 < 0$, we have $1/H(t_2) \leq -F\delta/16$, that is,

$$H(t_2) \geq -\frac{16}{F\delta}.$$

This proves that either $H(t_2) \geq -Q$ or $H(t_2) \geq -16/(F\delta)$. Thus in either case, $H(t_2) \geq -U$, where $U = U(\delta) := \max\{Q, 16/(F\delta)\} > 0$, and so $G(t_2) \geq -U + c_1$.

Now for every $x_0, x_1 \in B(0, 3R/4)$, applying the above first with x_0 and then with x_0 replaced by x_1 , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \log p_\xi^B(2t_2, x_0, x_1) &= \log \int p_\xi^B(t_2, x_0, z) p_\xi^B(t_2, x_1, z) dz \\ &\geq \log \int_B p_\xi^B(t_2, x_0, z) p_\xi^B(t_2, x_1, z) \varphi(z) dz - \log \|\varphi\|_\infty \\ &\geq \int_B \log \left(p_\xi^B(t_2, x_0, z) p_\xi^B(t_2, x_1, z) \right) \varphi(z) dz - \log \|\varphi\|_\infty \\ &= \int_B \log p_\xi^B(t_2, x_0, z) \varphi(z) dz + \int_B \log p_\xi^B(t_2, x_1, z) \varphi(z) dz \\ &\quad - \log \|\varphi\|_\infty \\ &\geq -2(U + c_{12}), \end{aligned}$$

that is, $p_\xi^B(2t_2, x_0, x_1) \geq e^{-2(U+c_{12})}$. A repeated use of the semigroup property (but at most $2/t_2$ more times) then shows $p_\xi^B(t, x_0, x_1) \geq c_{13}(\delta)$ for every $t \in [\delta/2, 2]$. \square

Theorem 3.11 *Let J satisfy the conditions (A1)–(A3). Let $\xi \in (0, 1)$, J_ξ be defined by (1.5), and $X^{(\xi)}$ be the Hunt process associated with $(\mathcal{E}^{(\xi)}, \mathcal{F}^{(\xi)})$. Let $y_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$. Let $R > 0, T > 1/2$, $B = B(y_0, R)$, and $p_\xi^B(t, x, y)$ be the transition density of $X^{(\xi)}$ killed on exiting B . Then there exists a positive constant $C = C(R)$ that depends on $\alpha, \beta, \kappa_1, \kappa_2, R$ and δ , but not on ξ or y_0 such that for all $t \in [\delta, T]$*

$$p_\xi^B(t, x, y) \geq C \tag{3.16}$$

for every $(x, y) \in (B(y_0, 3R/4) \times (B(y_0, 3R/4))$.

Proof. By a change of coordinate system, we assume without loss of generality that $y_0 = 0$. Suppose first that $T \geq 2$ and $R \in [1, 4]$. Let $r = 3R/4, n = [T]$, and $\delta = 1/n$. So

if $t \in [1, T]$, then $t/n \in [\delta, 2]$. By the semigroup property, if $x, y \in B(0, 3R/4) \setminus \mathcal{N}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} p^B(t, x, y) &\geq \int_{B(0, r)} \cdots \int_{B(0, r)} p^B(t/n, x, z_1) p^B(t/n, z_1, z_2) \cdots \\ &\quad p^B(t/n, z_{n-2}, z_{n-1}) p^B(t/n, z_{n-1}, y) dz_1 \cdots dz_{n-1} \\ &\geq c_1 |B(0, r)|^{n-1} \geq c_2 \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

by Proposition 3.10. We therefore have the conclusion of the theorem for all $T \geq 2$.

Next suppose $R > 4$. Suppose $x, y \in B(0, 3R/4) \setminus \mathcal{N}$, $t \in [\delta, T]$, $n = 2\lfloor |x - y| \rfloor + 1$, and let $z_0 = x, z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}, z_n = y$ be equally spaced points on the line segment joining x and y . Then $|z_{i+1} - z_i| \leq 1/2 \leq R/8$. Set $r = 1$. Using (3.17) and Proposition 3.10 with δ replaced by δ/n , we again obtain our conclusion.

Finally, suppose $R < 1$. Fix δ and T . Consider the process $Z = R^{-1}X^{(\xi)}$ with corresponding jump kernel J_Z . By a change of variables, we see that it suffices to obtain a lower bound on $p_Z^B(t, x, y)$ for $x, y \in B(0, 3/4)$, and p_Z^B is the transition density for Z killed on exiting $B(0, 1)$. The jump kernel corresponding to Z is $J_Z(x, y) = R^{-d}J(Rx, Ry)$. Let $J_{Z(0)}(x, y) = J_Z(x, y) \mathbb{1}_{(|x-y| < 1)}$. It is easy to see that $J_{Z(0)}$ satisfies (A1)–(A3) and (A4)(ξ) (but with different constants κ_1, κ_2, ξ). Let $Z^{(0)}$ be the process corresponding to $J_{Z(0)}$ and construct Z from $Z^{(0)}$ using Remark 2.4. Then if $A \subset B(0, 3/4)$, $\tau_B = \inf\{t : Z_t \notin B\}$, and $\tau_B^0 = \inf\{t : Z_t^{(0)} \notin B\}$, by independence, and using Lemma 2.6,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_A p_Z^B(t, x, y) dy &= \mathbb{P}^x(Z_t \in A, \tau_B > t) \\ &\geq e^{-(\sup \mathcal{J})T} \int_A p_{Z^{(0)}}^B(t, x, y) dy \geq c_3 |A|, \end{aligned}$$

which proves the theorem in this case as well. \square

4 Mosco convergence

In this section we first prove some general results on Mosco convergence. We will then use these to prove Theorems 1.3 and 1.5.

Let us first recall the definition of Mosco convergence and its properties. Let E be a locally compact separable metric space and m a Radon measure on E with full support. Given a densely defined quadratic form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in $L^2(E; m)$, we can extend its domain of definition to $L^2(E; m)$ by setting $\mathcal{E}(u, u) = \infty$ for $u \in L^2(E; m) \setminus \mathcal{F}$. Throughout this section we will use this extension and, unless otherwise specified, all the quadratic forms encountered will be assumed to be densely defined in $L^2(E; m)$. Recall that given $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ we set $\mathcal{E}_1(f, f) = \mathcal{E}(f, f) + \|f\|_2^2$.

Definition 4.1 *A sequence of closed quadratic forms $\{(\mathcal{E}^n, \mathcal{F}^n)\}$ on $L^2(E; m)$ is said to be convergent to a closed quadratic form $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ on $L^2(E; m)$ in the sense of Mosco (cf. [Mo94]) if*

- (a) *For every sequence $\{u_n, n \geq 1\}$ in $L^2(E; m)$ that converges weakly to u in $L^2(E; m)$,*

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^n(u_n, u_n) \geq \mathcal{E}(u, u),$$

- (b) For every $u \in L^2(E; m)$, there is a sequence $\{u_n, n \geq 1\}$ in $L^2(E; m)$ converging strongly to u in $L^2(E; m)$ such that

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^n(u_n, u_n) \leq \mathcal{E}(u, u).$$

Let $\{P_t, t \geq 0\}$ and $\{P_t^n, t \geq 0\}$ be the semigroups of $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ and $(\mathcal{E}^n, \mathcal{F}^n)$, respectively, and $\{G_\alpha, \alpha > 0\}$ and $\{G_\alpha^n, \alpha > 0\}$ their corresponding resolvents, respectively. The following result is known (see Theorem 2.4.1 and Corollary 2.6.1 of [Mo94]).

Proposition 4.2 *Let $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ and $\{(\mathcal{E}^n, \mathcal{F}^n), n \geq 1\}$ be closed quadratic forms on $L^2(E; m)$. The following are equivalent:*

- (a) $(\mathcal{E}^n, \mathcal{F}^n)$ converges to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in the sense of Mosco;
- (b) For every $\alpha > 0$ and $f \in L^2(E; m)$, $G_\alpha^n f$ converges to $G_\alpha f$ in $L^2(E; m)$;
- (c) For every $t > 0$ and $f \in L^2(E; m)$, $P_t^n f$ converges to $P_t f$ in $L^2(E; m)$.

Here is a criterion for Mosco convergence to hold.

Theorem 4.3 *Suppose*

- (i) $\mathcal{F}^n \subset \mathcal{F}$ for every $n \geq 1$ and $\mathcal{E}^n(u, u) \geq \mathcal{E}(u, u)$ for every $u \in \mathcal{F}^n$.
- (ii) There is a common core \mathcal{C} for the Dirichlet forms $(\mathcal{E}^n, \mathcal{F}^n)$ and $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ such that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^n(u, u) = \mathcal{E}(u, u) \quad \text{for every } u \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Then $(\mathcal{E}^n, \mathcal{F}^n)$ converges to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in the sense of Mosco.

Proof. Let $\{u_k, k \geq 1\}$ be a sequence in $L^2(E; m)$ that converges weakly to u in $L^2(E; m)$. Without loss of generality, we may assume that $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(u_k, u_k)$ exists and is finite. This in particular implies that $u_k \in \mathcal{F}^k \subset \mathcal{F}$ for every $k \geq 1$ and $\sup_{k \geq 1} \mathcal{E}(u_k, u_k) < \infty$. Since $\{u_k, k \geq 1\}$ is bounded in $L^2(E; m)$, taking a subsequence if necessary, we may assume that the Cesaro mean of $\{u_k, k \geq 1\}$ converges in $(\mathcal{E}_1, \mathcal{F})$ to some function v (see page 14 of [Si74]). As u_k converges weakly to u , we must have $u = v \in \mathcal{F}$. Therefore,

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(u_k, u_k) \geq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}(u_k, u_k) \geq \limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E} \left(\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k u_j, \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k u_j \right) \geq \mathcal{E}(u, u).$$

The second inequality follows since the triangle inequality tells us that

$$\mathcal{E} \left(\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k u_j, \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k u_j \right)^{1/2} \leq \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \mathcal{E}(u_j, u_j)^{1/2}.$$

This shows that the condition (a) of Definition 4.1 is satisfied.

For any $u \in \mathcal{F}$, there exists a sequence $\{v_j\} \subset \mathcal{C}$ converging strongly to u in $L^2(E; m)$ such that

$$\lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}(v_j, v_j) = \mathcal{E}(u, u).$$

Since for each $j \geq 1$,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^n(v_j, v_j) = \mathcal{E}(v_j, v_j),$$

using induction we can find an increasing subsequence $\{n_j\}$ such that

$$|\mathcal{E}^{n_j}(v_j, v_j) - \mathcal{E}(v_j, v_j)| \leq 2^{-j} \quad \text{for } n \geq n_j.$$

Put $u_1 = \dots = u_{n_1-1} = 0$ and $u_{n_j} = \dots = u_{n_{j+1}-1} = v_j$ for $j \geq 1$. It is easy to see that $\{u_k, k \geq 1\}$ is a sequence in \mathcal{C} converging strongly to u in $L^2(E; m)$ such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(u_k, u_k) = \mathcal{E}(u, u).$$

For $u \in L^2(E, m) \setminus \mathcal{F}$, since $\mathcal{E}(u, u) = \infty$, it trivially holds that

$$\limsup_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(u_k, u_k) \leq \mathcal{E}(u, u).$$

This shows that the condition (b) in Definition 4.1 is satisfied. Hence we have shown that $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ is Mosco-convergent to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$. \square

Let X^k be the Hunt process associated with $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ and $X^{k,B}$ be the subprocess of X^k killed upon exiting an open set B . It is known (see [FOT94]) that the Dirichlet form $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k,B})$ of X^k is given by

$$\mathcal{F}^{k,B} = \left\{ u \in \mathcal{F}^k : u = 0 \text{ } \mathcal{E}^k\text{-q.e. on } B^c \right\}.$$

Theorem 4.4 *Suppose B is an open set and the following hold.*

- (i) $\mathcal{F}^k \subset \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{E}^k(u, u) \geq \mathcal{E}(u, u)$ for every $u \in \mathcal{F}^k$ and every $k \geq 1$.
- (ii) *There is a common core \mathcal{C} for the Dirichlet forms $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ and $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ such that*

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(u, u) = \mathcal{E}(u, u) \quad \text{for every } u \in \mathcal{C}.$$

Furthermore, there is a common core $\mathcal{C}_B \subset \mathcal{C}$ for the Dirichlet forms $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k,B})$ and $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$.

Then $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k,B})$ converges to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$ in the sense of Mosco.

Proof. To emphasize the domain of definition, for this proof only, we write \mathcal{E}^B and $\mathcal{E}^{k,B}$ for $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k,B})$ and $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$, respectively. With this notation, $\mathcal{E}^B(u, u) = \infty$ when $u \notin \mathcal{F}^B$ and $\mathcal{E}^{k,B}(u, u) = \infty$ when $u \notin \mathcal{F}^{k,B}$.

First note that, since $\mathcal{E}_1^k(u, u) \geq \mathcal{E}_1(u, u)$,

$$\mathcal{F}^k \subset \mathcal{F} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{F}^{k,B} \subset \mathcal{F}^B.$$

For any v_k that converges weakly to v in $L^2(B; dx)$, we claim that

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^{k,B}(v_k, v_k) \geq \mathcal{E}(v, v). \quad (4.1)$$

Suppose that the left hand side of (4.1) is finite. Then there is a subsequence $\{n_k\}$ such that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^{n_k, B}(v_{n_k}, v_{n_k}) = \liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^{k, B}(v_k, v_k) \quad \text{and} \quad \sup_{k \geq 1} \mathcal{E}^{n_k, B}(v_{n_k}, v_{n_k}) < \infty.$$

In particular, this implies that $v_{n_k} \in \mathcal{F}^{n_k, B}$ and

$$\sup_{k \geq 1} \mathcal{E}_1^B(v_{n_k}, v_{n_k}) \leq \sup_{k \geq 1} \mathcal{E}_1^{n_k, B}(v_{n_k}, v_{n_k}) < \infty.$$

By taking a subsequence if necessary, the Cesaro mean of $\{v_{n_k}, k \geq 1\}$ converges in \mathcal{F}^B with respect to the Hilbert norm $\sqrt{\mathcal{E}_1^B}$ to a function w , which has to be v . This implies that $v \in \mathcal{F}^B$. By extending v_{n_k} and v to take the value zero off B , we have $v_{n_k} \in \mathcal{F}^{n_k}$ and $v \in \mathcal{F}$. By Theorem 4.3, $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ converges to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in the sense of Mosco, and we have in particular that

$$\liminf_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(v_k, v_k) \geq \mathcal{E}(v, v).$$

As $\mathcal{E}^{k, B}$ and \mathcal{E}^B agrees with \mathcal{E}^k and \mathcal{E} on $\mathcal{F}^{k, B}$ and \mathcal{F}^B , respectively, this proves (4.1).

Noting that \mathcal{C}_B is a common core for $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$ and $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k, B})$, it can be shown that the second condition (b) in Definition 4.1 holds for $(\mathcal{E}^{k, B}, \mathcal{F}^{k, B})$ and $(\mathcal{E}^B, \mathcal{F}^B)$ in much the same way as that in the proof of Theorem 4.3. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.5: Let δ_k be a sequence of positive numbers decreasing to 0. Set

$$J_k(x, y) = \begin{cases} J(x, y) & \text{for } |x - y| \geq \delta_k; \\ \kappa_2 |y - x|^{-d-\beta} & \text{for } |x - y| < \delta_k, \end{cases} \quad (4.2)$$

and define $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ in the same way as we defined $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$ in (1.1)–(1.2). Note that \mathcal{E}^k satisfies A4(δ_k). Take $\mathcal{E}^k(f, f) = +\infty$ if $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) \setminus \mathcal{F}^k$.

It is clear that $J_k(x, y)$ decreases to $J(x, y)$ as $k \uparrow \infty$, and so $\mathcal{F}^k \subset \mathcal{F}$ and $\mathcal{E}^k(u, u) \geq \mathcal{E}(u, u)$ on \mathcal{F}^k for every $k \geq 1$. By Lemma 3.1,

$$\mathcal{F}^k = \mathbb{H}^{\beta/2}(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

and thus in particular \mathcal{F}^k is independent of k . Note that $C_1^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is the common core of $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ for $k \geq 1$ and for $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$, and that

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}^k(u, u) = \mathcal{E}(u, u) \quad \text{for every } u \in C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

Theorem 1.5 now follows from Theorem 4.3. \square

Corollary 4.5 *Let B be a ball and define $\mathcal{F}^{k, B}$ by (2.13), where $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ is as in the proof of Theorem 1.5. Then $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k, B})$ converges in the sense of Mosco to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$.*

Proof. Note that $C_c^1(B) \subset C_c^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is a common core for $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}^B)$ and $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^{k, B})$. The conclusion of the corollary follows directly from Theorem 4.4 and the proof of Theorem 1.5. \square

Proof of Theorem 1.3: Let δ_k be a sequence of positive numbers decreasing to 0. Define $J_k(x, y)$ by (4.2) and define $(\mathcal{E}^k, \mathcal{F}^k)$ as in the proof of Theorem 1.5. Clearly J_k satisfies the conditions (A1)–(A3) as well as (A4)(δ_k) with the same κ_1 and κ_2 as J .

Let $p^{k,B}(t, x, y)$ and $p^B(t, x, y)$ denote the transition density functions of $X^{k,B}$ and X^B respectively. It follows from Theorem 3.11 and Proposition 4.2 that for any given $\delta \in (0, 1)$, there is a constant $c = c(\delta) > 0$ such that for any bounded non-negative functions f and g on B and $t \in [\delta, 2]$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{B(y_0, 3R/4) \times B(y_0, 3R/4)} p^B(t, x, y) f(x) g(y) dx dy \\ = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{B(y_0, 3R/4) \times B(y_0, 3R/4)} p^{k,B}(t, x, y) f(x) g(y) dx dy \\ \geq c \int_{B(y_0, 3R/4) \times B(y_0, 3R/4)} f(x) g(y) dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that $p(t, x, y) \geq c$ for almost every $x, y \in B(y_0, 3R/4)$. On the other hand, it follows from the proof of Theorem 1.2 that there is a properly exceptional set \mathcal{N} so that $p(t, x, y)$ is well-defined on $(B \setminus \mathcal{N}) \times (B \setminus \mathcal{N})$ and that for each fixed $y \in B \setminus \mathcal{N}$, $x \mapsto p^B(t, x, y)$ is X^B -quasi-continuous (and hence X -quasi-continuous). It follows that $p(t, x, y) \geq c$ for every $t \in [\delta, 2]$ and every $x, y \in B(y_0, 3R/4) \setminus \mathcal{N}$. \square

5 Parabolic Harnack inequality

In this section we prove Theorem 1.7 in the case $R \geq 1$. The argument uses balayage; see [BG68], Chapter VI, for details.

Proof of Theorem 1.7: Without loss of generality we may assume the following: by a change of coordinate system, we may assume $x_0 = 0$; by the Markov property we may assume $t_0 = 0$; by looking at the process $X'_t = X_{t/T}$, we see that the jump kernel corresponding to X' satisfies (A1)–(A3) (but with different κ_1, κ_2), so we may assume $T = 1$. With these assumptions $Q = (0, 5) \times B(0, 4R)$. Recall the notation for hitting and exit times given in (1.6). Let $E = (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{9}{2}) \times B(0, 3R)$, $D = (\frac{3}{4}, \frac{17}{4}) \times B(0, 2R)$, and write $A = \overline{B(0, 3R)} \setminus B(0, 2R)$ and $B = B(0, 4R)$. By the martingale property,

$$P_{t-s}^B u(s, x) \leq u(t, x), \quad \text{for } s < t \text{ with } (s, x), (t, x) \in Q. \quad (5.1)$$

This says that the function u is excessive with respect to the space-time subprocess (V^Q, X^Q) of (V, X) killed upon exiting Q , where $V_t = V_0 - t$. We can define u_E , the réduite of u with respect to E , by

$$u_E(s, x) = \mathbb{E}^{(s, x)}[u(V_{T_E}, X_{T_E}); T_E < \tau_Q].$$

The function u_E is again excessive with respect to the killed process (V^Q, X^Q) , is 0 on Q^c , and agrees with u on E ; see [BG68]. Note that the process (t, X_t) is in duality with the process (V_t, X_t) in the sense of [BG68, Chapter VI]. By the Riesz decomposition theorem (cf. [BG68, Theorem VI.2.11]), u_E is the potential of a measure ν_E supported on \overline{E} . This means that if $(t, x) \in Q$ then

$$u_E(t, x) = \int_E p^B(t - r, x, z) \nu_E(dr, dz). \quad (5.2)$$

Here we have $p^B(s, x, y) = 0$ if $s < 0$.

Since the jumps of the process X are bounded by 1, u_E is caloric on $(1/2, 9/2) \times B(0, 2R)$. It follows that the support of ν_E is contained in $\overline{E} \setminus ((1/2, 9/2) \times B(0, 2R))$. For $t \in (1/2, 5)$, let

$$\begin{aligned} F_1(t) &= [1/2, t] \times (A \setminus \mathcal{N}), \\ F_2(t) &= \{\tfrac{1}{2}\} \times (\overline{B(0, 2R)} \setminus \mathcal{N}), \\ F(t) &= F_1(t) \cup F_2(t). \end{aligned}$$

Thus if $(t, x) \in D$ then we can write (5.2) as

$$u(t, x) = u_E(t, x) = \int_{F(t)} p^B(t - r, x, z) \nu_E(dr, dz). \quad (5.3)$$

Since ν_E is an equilibrium measure (i.e., a capacitary measure), it does not charge polar sets; in particular, it does not charge $[0, 5] \times \mathcal{N}$.

Consider (5.3) when $(t_1, x_1) \in Q_- = (1, 2) \times (B(0, R) \setminus \mathcal{N})$. If $(r, z) \in F_1(t)$ then $|x_1 - z| \geq R$, and thus by Proposition 2.9(a),

$$p^B(t_1 - r, x_1, z) \leq p(t_1 - r, x_1, z) \leq c_1. \quad (5.4)$$

If $(r, z) \in F_2(t)$, then $t_1 - r \geq \frac{1}{2}$ and by Theorem 1.2 again (5.4) holds.

Now let $(t_2, x_2) \in Q_+ = (3, 4) \times (B(0, R) \setminus \mathcal{N})$. If $(r, z) \in F(t_1)$ then $t_2 - r \geq t_2 - t_1 \geq 1$, and $|x_2 - z| \leq 4$, so by Theorem 1.3

$$p^B(t_2 - r, x_2, z) \geq c_2. \quad (5.5)$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} u(t_2, x_2) &= \int_{F(t_2)} p^B(t_2 - r, x_2, z) \nu_E(dr, dz) \\ &\geq \int_{F(t_1)} p^B(t_2 - r, x_2, z) \nu_E(dr, dz) \\ &\geq c_2 \nu_E(F(t_1)) \\ &\geq (c_2/c_1) \int_{F(t_1)} p^B(t_1 - r, x, z) \nu_E(dr, dz) \\ &= (c_2/c_1) u(t_1, x_1), \end{aligned}$$

giving the parabolic Harnack inequality with constant $C = c_1/c_2$. \square

6 Harmonic functions need not be continuous

One of the applications of scale invariant Harnack inequalities is that they imply regularity, e.g., Hölder continuity of harmonic and caloric functions, and resolvents. This can be used in order to remove properly exceptional sets. It is therefore interesting to see that such regularity can fail, even when a Harnack inequality holds. We say a function h is harmonic

in a domain $D \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ if $h(X_{t \wedge \tau_{D_1}})$ is a right continuous martingale for every subdomain D_1 with $\overline{D_1} \subset D$, where $\tau_{D_1} = \inf\{t > 0 : X_t \notin D_1\}$.

In this section we construct a class of symmetric jump processes satisfying our hypotheses where there exist bounded harmonic functions that are not continuous. An interesting side result related to this example is that the martingale problem for variable order jump processes is not always well posed. See Remark 6.8(d) and the results in [HuKa05] for other examples which are similar but lead to continuous harmonic functions and Feller semigroups.

Using the integral conditions given in Theorems 11.2 and 11.5 of [Fr74] we obtain:

Lemma 6.1 *Let X_t be a one-dimensional stable process of index $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Then*

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{|X_t|}{t^{(1/\alpha)+\varepsilon}} = \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{|X_t|}{t^{(1/\alpha)-\varepsilon}} = 0, \quad \mathbb{P}^0\text{-a.s.}$$

Before constructing the main counterexample on \mathbb{R}^2 , we need to look at an auxiliary process Y . Let $0 < a < b < 2$ and set for $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $z_1 \neq z_2$:

$$m(z_1, z_2) = \begin{cases} \min(|z_1|^{-a-2}, |z_2|^{-b-2}) & \text{if } |z_1| \vee |z_2| \leq 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } |z_1| \vee |z_2| > 1. \end{cases} \quad (6.1)$$

Assume $|z_1| \vee |z_2| \leq 1$. Note that

$$\frac{1}{|z_1|^{a+2} + |z_2|^{b+2}} \leq \min\left(\frac{1}{|z_1|^{a+2}}, \frac{1}{|z_2|^{b+2}}\right) \leq \frac{2}{|z_1|^{a+2} + |z_2|^{b+2}}.$$

This implies

$$c_0 |z|^{-a-2} \leq \min(|z_1|^{-a-2}, |z_2|^{-b-2}) \leq c_1 |z|^{-b-2}, \quad (6.2)$$

where c_0, c_1 are independent of z . Now for $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $x \neq y$ let

$$J_0(x, y) = \begin{cases} m(|x_1 - y_1|, |x_2 - y_2|) & \text{if } x - y \in [-1, 1]^2, \\ 0 & \text{if } x - y \notin [-1, 1]^2. \end{cases}$$

Furthermore, set

$$\alpha = \frac{(a+1)(b+1)-1}{b+2}, \quad \beta = \frac{(a+1)(b+1)-1}{a+2}. \quad (6.3)$$

The following facts are now obvious.

Lemma 6.2 (a) $J_0(x, y)$ is symmetric in (x, y) and

$$c_1 |x - y|^{-a-2} \leq J_0(x, y) \leq c_2 |x - y|^{-b-2} \quad \text{for } |x_1 - y_1| \vee |x_2 - y_2| \leq 1. \quad (6.4)$$

(b) $\alpha < \beta$.

(c) $a < (2-b)/b$ if and only if $\beta < 1$.

Now choose a, b with $0 < a < b < 2$ and $a < (2 - b)/b$, so that $0 < \alpha < \beta < 1$. Let $Y_t = (Y_t^1, Y_t^2) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ be the pure jump symmetric Lévy process with jump intensity kernel J_0 . The following lemma explains the behavior of the marginals Y_t^1, Y_t^2 .

Lemma 6.3 *We have*

$$\begin{aligned} n_1(z_1) &:= \int_{-1}^1 m(z_1, z_2) dz_2 = \frac{2}{b+1} + \frac{2b}{b+1} |z_1|^{-\alpha-1} \quad \text{for } z_1 \in [-1, 1], \\ n_2(z_2) &:= \int_{-1}^1 m(z_1, z_2) dz_1 = \frac{2}{a+1} + \frac{2a}{a+1} |z_2|^{-\beta-1} \quad \text{for } z_2 \in [-1, 1]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 m(z_1, z_2) dz_2 &= \int_0^{|z_1|^{\frac{a+2}{b+2}}} |z_1|^{-a-2} dz_2 + \int_{|z_1|^{\frac{a+2}{b+2}}}^1 |z_2|^{-b-2} dz_2 \\ &= |z_1|^{-\frac{(a+2)(b+1)}{b+2}} + \frac{1}{b+1} - \frac{1}{b+1} |z_1|^{-\frac{(a+2)(b+1)}{b+2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that $\frac{(a+2)(b+1)}{b+2} = \alpha + 1$. The first assertion of the lemma follows. The second one is proved analogously. \square

The coordinate processes Y^i are one-dimensional Lévy processes with jump measure n_i ; note however that Y^1 and Y^2 are not independent.

Let

$$V(\lambda) = \{(x_1, x_2) : |x_1| < \lambda |x_2|\}, \quad \tau_{V(\lambda)} = \inf\{t > 0 : Y_t \notin V(\lambda)\}.$$

and write $V = V(1)$.

Lemma 6.4 *Let $\lambda > 0$; then $\mathbb{P}^0(\tau_{V(\lambda)} > 0) = 1$.*

Proof. By Lemma 6.3, n_1 differs from the jump measure of a stable process of index α by a finite measure. Therefore Y^1 has the same local behavior at time 0 as a stable process of index α ; similarly Y^2 has the same local behavior at time 0 as a stable process of index β . (Note that points are polar for these two processes.) Choose ε such that $\varepsilon + \frac{1}{\beta} < \frac{1}{\alpha} - \varepsilon$. By Lemma 6.1 for all sufficiently small $t > 0$,

$$0 < |Y_t^1| \leq t^{(1/\alpha)-\varepsilon} \leq \frac{1}{2} \lambda t^{(1/\beta)+\varepsilon} \leq \frac{1}{2} \lambda |Y_t^2|.$$

\square

Remark 6.5 By Lemma 6.4 we can find $t_0 > 0$ such that $\mathbb{P}^0(\tau_{V(1/3)} \leq t_0) < 1/20$. Let $D = D(r) = (-r, r)^2$, and choose r small enough so that $\mathbb{P}^0(Y_{t_0} \in D(r)) < 1/20$. Let

$$\tau_D = \inf\{t > 0 : Y_t \notin D\} \quad \text{and} \quad F(\lambda) = \{Y_{\tau_D} \in V(\lambda)\}.$$

Note that if $Y_{\tau_D} \notin V(\lambda)$ and $\tau_{V(\lambda)} > t_0$ then we have $\tau_D \geq \tau_{V(\lambda)} > t_0$. So,

$$\mathbb{P}^0(F(\frac{1}{3})^c) \leq \mathbb{P}^0(\tau_{V(\frac{1}{3})} \leq t_0) + \mathbb{P}^0(Y_{t_0} \in D) \leq 1/10.$$

Note also that the events $F(\lambda)$ are increasing in λ .

Lemma 6.6 *There exists sequence $x_n \rightarrow 0$ and $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ such that $\bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B(x_n, \delta_n) \subset V(\frac{1}{2})$ and*

$$\mathbb{P}^y(F(\frac{1}{2})) \geq 7/10 \quad \text{for } y \in \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} B(x_n, \delta_n).$$

Proof. Let $h_Y(x) = \mathbb{P}^x(F(\frac{1}{2}))$. Then $h_Y(0) > 9/10$ and $h_Y(Y_{t \wedge \tau_D})$ is a right-continuous martingale. Using the right-continuity of $h_Y(Y)$ and Y , and the fact that $Y_t \in V(1/4)$ for all small times t , we deduce that there exist $x_n \in V(1/4)$ with $x_n \rightarrow 0$ such that $h_Y(x_n) \geq 8/10$ for all n .

Note that, since the coordinate processes Y^i are symmetric stable processes, each point $x \in \partial D$ is regular for D^c . Therefore, if the event $F(\frac{1}{3})$ occurs for the process $Y(\omega)$ (with $Y_0 = x_n$) then $F(\frac{1}{2})$ occurs, a.s., for the process $u + Y$ for all sufficiently small u . It follows that, for each n ,

$$\liminf_{y \rightarrow x_n} \mathbb{P}^y(F(\frac{1}{2})) \geq 8/10.$$

We now take $\delta_n > 0$ small enough so that $B(x_n, \delta_n) \subset V(\frac{1}{2})$ and $\mathbb{P}^y(F(\frac{1}{2})) \geq 7/10$ on $B(x_n, \delta_n)$. \square

We now define a second jump kernel J_1 follows. Write $B = B(0, 1)$. If $x, y \in V$ we set

$$J_1(x, y) = m(|x_1 - y_1|, |x_2 - y_2|) \mathbb{1}_{(x-y) \in B}.$$

If $x, y \in V^c$ we set

$$J_1(x, y) = m(|x_2 - y_2|, |x_1 - y_1|) \mathbb{1}_{(x-y) \in B}.$$

If $x \in V$ and $y \in V^c$ or vice versa and $|x - y| \leq 1$, we define

$$J_1(x, y) = (|x_1 - y_1|^{-2-a} \wedge |x_2 - y_2|^{-2-a}) \mathbb{1}_{(x-y) \in B}.$$

It is easy to see that J_1 satisfies (A1)–(A3).

Proof of Theorem 1.9: Let $X = \{X_t, t \geq 0\}$ be the symmetric jump process associated with the Dirichlet form given by (1.1)–(1.2) with J_1 as above in place of J . Note that if $x \in V$, then $J_1(x, y) = J_0(x, y)$ for $y \in V$, while $J_1(x, y) \leq J_0(x, y)$ for $y \in V^c$. Thus X makes as many jumps within V as Y does, but makes fewer jumps from V to V^c . This can be made more precise by using Remark 2.4 to construct Y from X . Although when X enters V^c , the positive continuous additive functional $C = \{C_t, t \geq 0\}$ defined in Remark 2.4 becomes infinite immediately, we will only be looking at time intervals $[0, \tau_V(X)]$, so this will not be an issue for us. In particular, all that we need is that $X_s = Y_s$ for $0 \leq s < \tau_V(Y)$.

Let $\sigma = \inf\{t > 0 : X_t \notin D\}$, and set

$$h(x) = \mathbb{P}^x(X_\sigma \in V(\frac{1}{2})).$$

Then as $X = Y$ on $[0, \tau_V(Y))$, by a similar argument as that for Lemma 6.6, there exists $E := \cup_{n \geq 1} B(x_n, \delta_n) \subset V(\frac{1}{2})$, where $x_n \rightarrow 0$ and $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$, such that

$$h(x) = \mathbb{P}^x(X_\sigma \in V(\frac{1}{2})) \geq 7/10 \quad \text{for } x \in E.$$

Let $\Theta : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ be defined by

$$\Theta((x_1, x_2)) = (x_2, x_1). \quad (6.5)$$

Then the reflection symmetry of the law of X gives

$$\mathbb{P}^x(X_\sigma \in \Theta(V(\frac{1}{2}))) \geq 7/10, \quad x \in \Theta(E).$$

Hence we have

$$h(x) \leq 3/10, \quad x \in \Theta(E).$$

Since E and $\Theta(E)$ are open sets and 0 is an accumulation point of both sets, we deduce that h is not continuous at 0. \square

Corollary 6.7 *There exist a bounded continuous function H and $t_0 > 0$ such that $x \mapsto \mathbb{E}^x [H(X_{t_0})]$ is not continuous at 0.*

Proof. Recall that Y is the Lévy process with jump intensity kernel J_0 . By Remark 6.5 there exist $t_0 > 0$ and r such that

$$\mathbb{P}^0(Y_{t_0} \in V(1/3) \setminus D(r)) \geq \frac{9}{10}.$$

Let H be a continuous function bounded by -1 and 1 such that H is 1 on $V(\frac{1}{3}) \setminus D(r)$, $H \geq 0$ on $V(1)$, and $H(x_2, x_1) = -H(x_1, x_2)$. Since H is bounded below by -1 , then $\mathbb{E}^0[H(Y_{t_0})] \geq \frac{9}{10} - \frac{1}{10} = \frac{8}{10}$. Since Y is a Lévy process, it has the Feller property, and so $x \mapsto \mathbb{E}^x[H(Y_{t_0})]$ is continuous. Therefore $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \mathbb{E}^x[H(Y_{t_0})] \geq \frac{8}{10}$.

As in the proof of Theorem 1.9, there exist sequences $x_n \rightarrow 0$, $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ such that $E := \cup_n B(x_n, \delta_n) \subset V(1)$ and $\mathbb{E}^x[H(X_{t_0})] \geq \frac{7}{10}$ for $x \in E$. By the antisymmetry of H , $\mathbb{E}^x[H(X_{t_0})] \leq -\frac{7}{10}$ for $x \in \Theta(E)$, where Θ is defined by (6.5). We conclude $x \mapsto \mathbb{E}^x[H(X_{t_0})]$ is not continuous at 0. \square

Remark 6.8 (i) If we wish we can replace the double cone $V(\lambda)$ by the half-space $H_- = \{x_1 \leq 0\}$. Use polar coordinates in \mathbb{R}^2 and let $\theta_0 \in (0, \pi/2)$ satisfy $\tan \theta_0 = 1/\lambda$. Let $\psi : [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow [0, 2\pi]$ be strictly increasing and piecewise linear with $\psi(0) = 0$, $\psi(\theta_0) = \pi/2$, $\psi(2\pi - \theta_0) = 3\pi/2$ and $\psi(2\pi) = 2\pi$. Let $\Psi(r, \theta) = (r, \psi(\theta))$; note that $\Psi(V(\lambda)) \subset H_-$.

Let $Z = \Psi(X)$. Then Z is a symmetric jump process associated with a Dirichlet form \mathcal{E}' and jump measure n' which satisfies (A1)–(A3). By the construction of Z and using Remark 6.5 we see that there exist points $x_n \rightarrow 0$ with $x_n \in H_-$, and $t_0 > 0$ such that, for all n ,

$$\mathbb{P}^{x_n}(\tau_{H_-}^Z \geq t_0) \geq 9/10. \quad (6.6)$$

If we time change Z so that the associated Dirichlet form is on $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$, the new process \tilde{Z} still satisfies (6.6) with a different value of t_0 .

In particular we see that for the processes considered in this paper, if H is a half space, points on ∂H need not be regular for H .

- (ii) In this example we needed $\alpha < \beta < 1$ because points are not polar for the symmetric stable process with $\alpha > 1$. If we look at similar constructions in higher dimensions such as $\mathbb{R}^4 = \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ then it seems likely that we could construct a similar example for any $0 < \alpha < \beta < 2$.
- (iii) Note that (6.1) allows for the choice of $b = a + \varepsilon$ for any value of $\varepsilon > 0$. Define

$$\tilde{m}(z_1, z_2) = \begin{cases} \min \left\{ |z_1|^{-a-2}, \log\left(\frac{3}{|z_2|}\right) |z_2|^{-a-2} \right\} & \text{if } |z_1| \vee |z_2| \leq 1, \\ 0 & \text{if } |z_1| \vee |z_2| > 1. \end{cases} \quad (6.7)$$

Then \tilde{m} is very similar to m in (6.1). Now, proceed as in the example above but this time construct J_1 with the help of \tilde{m} instead of m . Then it is shown as a corollary in [HuKa05] that the Dirichlet form corresponds to a Feller semigroup and that harmonic functions are continuous satisfying certain *a priori* estimates. Therefore when trying to construct discontinuous harmonic functions, one cannot modify our class of examples much.

Proposition 6.9 *With J as above, the martingale problem for the operator*

$$\mathcal{L}f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} (f(x+h) - f(x)) J_1(x, x+h) dh$$

acting on C_c^2 functions is not well-posed.

Proof. The function $\mathcal{L}f$ is bounded by the C^2 -norm of f when $f \in C_c^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$ by (A1)–(A3). Section 3 of [Bas88] (trivially modified to handle the case of dimensions larger than one) shows that $\{\mathbb{P}^x : x \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$ is tight.

We claim that any subsequential weak limit point of \mathbb{P}^x as $x \rightarrow 0$ is a solution to the martingale problem for \mathcal{L} started at 0. If \mathbb{P} is such a limit point, it is easy to see that $\mathbb{P}(X_0 = 0) = 1$. If $f \in C_c^2$ and $r_1 \leq \dots \leq r_n \leq s \leq t$ and g_1, \dots, g_n are continuous functions with compact support, then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}^{x_n} \left[\left\{ f(X_t) - f(X_0) - \int_0^t \mathcal{L}f(X_u) du \right\} Y \right] \\ = \mathbb{E}^{x_n} \left[\left\{ f(X_s) - f(X_0) - \int_0^s \mathcal{L}f(X_u) du \right\} Y \right], \end{aligned} \quad (6.8)$$

where $Y = \prod_{i=1}^n g_i(X_{r_i})$. Since X has no jumps larger than 1, we see that if $f \in C_c^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$, then $\mathcal{L}f$ will be zero at points that are a distance more than one from the support of f . Therefore $\mathcal{L}f$ also has compact support. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ and let I be a continuous function that equals $\mathcal{L}f$ except on a set A of Lebesgue measure at most ε . Since $f(X_t)Y$, $f(Y_s)Y$, $f(X_0)Y$, $Y \int_0^t I(X_u) du$, and $Y \int_0^s I(X_u) du$ are continuous functionals of the path, their

expectation under \mathbb{P}^{x_n} converges to the corresponding expectation under \mathbb{P} . We have the estimate

$$\mathbb{E}^{X_n} \int_0^t |\mathcal{L}f(X_u) - I(X_u)| du \leq c_1 t_1 + c_1 \mathbb{E}^{x_n} \left[\int_{t_1}^t \mathbb{1}_A(X_u) du \right] \leq c_1 t_1 + c_2 t_1^{-d/\alpha} |A|$$

using Theorem 1.2. If we set $t_1 = |A|^{\alpha/(\alpha+d)}$, we obtain the upper bound $c_3 |A|^{\alpha/(\alpha+d)}$. A limit argument yields the same bound for the expectation with respect to \mathbb{P} . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} & \left| \mathbb{E} \left[\left\{ f(X_t) - f(X_0) - \int_0^t \mathcal{L}f(X_u) du \right\} Y \right] \right. \\ & \left. - \mathbb{E} \left[\left\{ f(X_s) - f(X_0) - \int_0^s \mathcal{L}f(X_u) du \right\} Y \right] \right| \\ & \leq c_4 \varepsilon^{\alpha/(\alpha+d)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since ε is arbitrary, we have (6.8) with \mathbb{E}^{x_n} replaced by \mathbb{E} . This shows that \mathbb{P} is a solution to the martingale problem started at 0.

Suppose now that we had uniqueness to the martingale problem for \mathcal{L} started at 0. We conclude $\mathbb{P}^x \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^0$ as $x \rightarrow 0$. In particular, if H is a bounded continuous function, $\mathbb{E}^x [H(X_t)] \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^0 [H(X_t)]$ as $x \rightarrow 0$ for all $t > 0$. But this contradicts Corollary 6.7. \square

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