

BOUNDARY VALUE PROBLEMS FOR HARMONIC FUNCTIONS ON DOMAINS IN SIERPINSKI GASKETS

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ABSTRACT. We study boundary value problems for harmonic functions on certain domains in the level- l Sierpinski gaskets \mathcal{SG}_l ($l \geq 2$) whose boundaries are Cantor sets. We give explicit analogues of the Poisson integral formula to recover harmonic functions from their boundary values. Three types of domains, the left half domain of \mathcal{SG}_l and the upper and lower domains generated by horizontal cuts of \mathcal{SG}_l are considered at present. We characterize harmonic functions of finite energy and obtain their energy estimates in terms of their boundary values. This paper settles several open problems raised in previous work.

1. INTRODUCTION

A *Dirichlet problem* is the problem of finding a function which is harmonic in the interior of a given domain that takes continuous prescribed values on the boundary of the domain. The solvability of this problem depends on the geometry of the boundary. For a bounded domain D with sufficiently smooth boundary ∂D , the Dirichlet problem is always solvable, and the general solution is given by

$$u(x) = \int_{\partial D} f(s) \partial_n G(x, s) ds,$$

where $G(x, y)$ is the *Green's function* for D , $\partial_n G(x, s)$ is the normal derivative of $G(x, y)$ along the boundary and the integration is performed on the boundary. The integral kernel $\partial_n G(x, s)$ is called the *Poisson kernel* for D .

With a well developed theory of Laplacians on *post-critically finite (p.c.f.)* sets, originated by Kigami [Ki1, Ki2], it is natural to look for analogous results in the fractal context. Harmonic functions on p.c.f. self-similar sets are of finite dimension. Due to the self-similar construction of the fractal, the Dirichlet problem on the entire fractal always reduces to solving systems of linear equations and multiplying matrices. However, for the boundary value problem on bounded subsets of fractals, the knowledge remains far from clear.

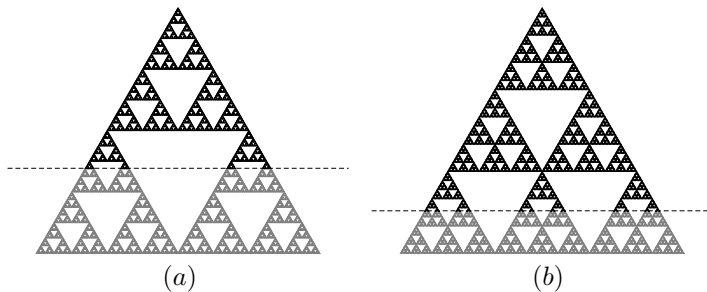


Figure 1.1. Upper and lower domains in \mathcal{SG} and \mathcal{SG}_3 .

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The study of such problem was initiated in [S1] by Strichartz, where the upper domain generated by a horizontal cut of the Sierpinski gasket \mathcal{SG} was considered. See Figure 1.1(a). Later it was continued in [OS] and [GKQS] to general case. In general, the boundary consists of a Cantor set together with the upper boundary vertex of \mathcal{SG} . An explicit harmonic extension algorithm is given for solving the Dirichlet problem on such domains and the harmonic functions of finite energy are characterized in terms of their boundary values. The main tool is the *Haar series expansion* of the boundary values on the Cantor set with respect to the normalized Hausdorff measure by symmetry consideration. Since the only *generator* of the Haar basis is antisymmetric, one can localize the harmonic extension of this generator to any small scale along the boundary to get other basis harmonic functions. This observation plays a key role in their proof. However, as pointed out in [GKQS], the results could not be extended to other fractals, even for the level-3 Sierpinski gasket \mathcal{SG}_3 on the base of their approach. See Figure 1.1(b). The reason is that for \mathcal{SG}_3 there exists a generator which is symmetric rather than antisymmetric whose harmonic extension could not be localized to small scales. On the other hand, the problem becomes much harder if we consider the domain lying below the horizontal cut instead. Except the very special case that the domains are made up of 2^m adjacent triangles of size 2^{-m} lying on the bottom line of \mathcal{SG} (in this case, the boundary is a finite set), we have little knowledge.

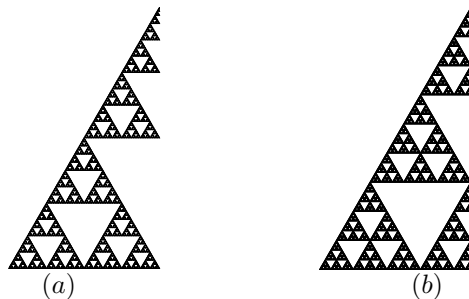


Figure 1.2. Half domains in \mathcal{SG} and \mathcal{SG}_3 .

Recently, there is another natural choice of domain, namely the left half part of \mathcal{SG} generated by a vertical cut along one of the symmetry lines of the gasket, becoming be interested. See Figure 1.2(a). It is the simplest example whose boundary is given as a level set of a harmonic function. In the \mathcal{SG} setting, the boundary of the half domain consists of a countably infinite set of points, which makes it possible to study the Dirichlet problem by solving systems of countably infinite linear equations and multiplying infinite matrices. See [LS] for a satisfactory discussion on this domain, including an explicit harmonic extension algorithm, the characterization of harmonic functions of finite energy, and an explicit Dirichlet to Neumann map for harmonic functions. However, if we consider the left half domain of level- l Sierpinski gasket \mathcal{SG}_l for $l \geq 3$ instead, the approach in [LS] is not applicable. Compared to the \mathcal{SG} case, the essential difference is that the boundary of the left half part of \mathcal{SG}_l becomes a Cantor set together with the single left boundary vertex. See Figure 1.2(b).

In the following, we will use *upper domain*, *lower domain* and *half domain* to denote the above three types of domains respectively for simplicity. They are probably the simplest domains which should be handled in \mathcal{SG} . In this paper, we will consider the analogues of them in level- l Sierpinski gasket. We will give explicit harmonic extension algorithms for all the three types of domains as well as the energy estimates for harmonic functions in terms of the boundary values (except the energy estimate for lower domains). This answers the questions raised in the above mentioned papers. We introduce some new techniques to overcome the difficulties we met before. In fact, for each interior point x in the domain Ω under consideration, we find certain measure μ_x along the boundary $\partial\Omega$ analogous to $\partial_n G(x, s)ds$ in Euclidean case, so that

$$u(x) = \int_{\partial\Omega} f(s) d\mu_x(s).$$

We observe that the measure μ_x is closely related to the normal derivatives of some special harmonic functions along the boundary of Ω , which is crucial to our approach.

Nevertheless, these three types of domains are still the simplest domains in fractals with fractal boundary. We hope our results introduce different ideas and give insight into more general techniques for solving the Dirichlet problem and even other boundary value problems on more general fractal domains.

1.1. Preliminaries and the solvability of Dirichlet problems. Let $l \geq 2$, recall that the *level- l Sierpinski gasket* \mathcal{SG}_l is the unique nonempty compact subset of \mathbb{R}^2 satisfying $\mathcal{SG}_l = \bigcup_{i=0}^{l^2+l-2} F_i \mathcal{SG}_l$ with F_i 's being contraction mappings defined as $F_i(z) = l^{-1}z + d_{l,i}$ with suitable $d_{l,i} \in \mathbb{R}^2$. The set V_0 , which consists of the three vertices q_0, q_1, q_2 of the smallest triangle containing \mathcal{SG}_l , is called the boundary. For convenience, we renumber $\{F_i\}_{i=0}^{l^2+l-2}$ so that $F_i(q_i) = q_i$ for $i = 0, 1, 2$. \mathcal{SG}_2 is the standard *Sierpinski gasket* (denoted by \mathcal{SG} for simplicity). For \mathcal{SG}_3 , in addition to F_0, F_1, F_2 , we denote by $F_3(z) = \frac{1}{3}z + \frac{1}{3}(q_1 + q_2)$, $F_4(z) = \frac{1}{3}z + \frac{1}{3}(q_0 + q_2)$ and $F_5(z) = \frac{1}{3}z + \frac{1}{3}(q_0 + q_1)$ the remaining three mappings, see Figure 1.3. These fractals have a well-developed theory of Laplacians, which allows us to perform analysis on them. In this paper, We will first describe the situation in more detail in the case of \mathcal{SG}_3 for half domains and upper domains, and \mathcal{SG} for lower domains, then extend the considerations to general \mathcal{SG}_l case.

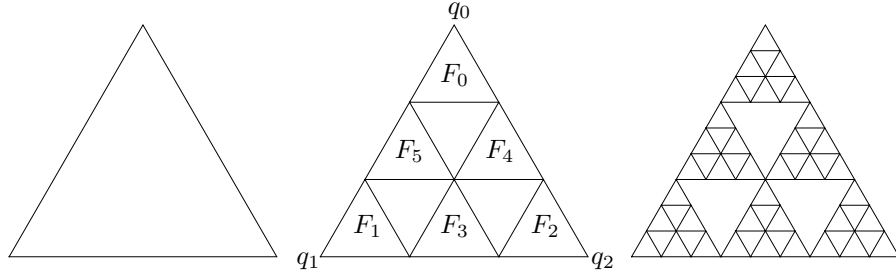


Figure 1.3. $\Gamma_1, \Gamma_2, \Gamma_3$ of \mathcal{SG}_3 .

We introduce some necessary notations. Readers can refer to textbooks [Ki3] and [S3] for precise definitions and known facts. For $m \geq 1$, let $W_m = \{0, 1, \dots, \frac{l^2+l-2}{2}\}^m$ be the collection of words with length m and $W_0 = \{\emptyset\}$. Write $W_* = \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} W_m$, and denote the length of $w \in W_*$ by $|w|$. For $w = w_1 w_2 \dots w_m \in W_m$, we define $F_w = F_{w_1} \circ F_{w_2} \circ \dots \circ F_{w_m}$ and call $F_w \mathcal{SG}_l$ a *m-cell* of \mathcal{SG}_l . Using the contraction mappings F_i , we inductively define sets of vertices V_m by $V_m = \bigcup_{i=0}^{l^2+l-2} F_i V_{m-1}$ and write $V_* = \bigcup_{m \geq 0} V_m$. Denote $x \sim_m y$ if and only if $x \neq y$ and $x, y \in V_m$ belong to a same *m-cell*. The vertices V_m , together with the edge relation \sim_m , form a graph Γ_m that approximates \mathcal{SG}_l . See Figure 1.3 for an illustration for \mathcal{SG}_3 .

For $m \geq 0$, the natural *discrete resistance form* on Γ_m is given by

$$\mathcal{E}_m(u, v) = r^{-m} \sum_{x \sim_m y} (u(x) - u(y))(v(x) - v(y))$$

for u, v being functions defined on V_m , where $r = \frac{3}{5}$ for \mathcal{SG} and $r = \frac{7}{15}$ for \mathcal{SG}_3 . For a real-valued function u defined on V_* , it is easy to check that the *graph energies* $\mathcal{E}_m(u) := \mathcal{E}_m(u, u)$ is an increasing sequence so that $\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}_m(u)$ exists if we allow the value $+\infty$. Define

$$\mathcal{E}(u) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}_m(u)$$

to be the *energy* of the function u and say that $u \in \text{dom} \mathcal{E}$ if and only if $\mathcal{E}(u) < \infty$. We regard $\text{dom} \mathcal{E} \subset C(\mathcal{SG}_l)$ since each function of finite energy admits a unique continuous extension to \mathcal{SG}_l . Moreover, $\text{dom} \mathcal{E}$ is dense in $C(\mathcal{SG}_l)$. There is a natural *resistance form* on \mathcal{SG}_l defined as

$$\mathcal{E}(u, v) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{E}_m(u, v)$$

for $u, v \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}$.

Let ν be the standard (with equal weights) *self-similar probability measure* on \mathcal{SG}_l . The *standard Laplacian* Δ could be defined using a weak formulation. Suppose $u \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}$ and f is continuous, say $u \in \text{dom}\Delta$ with $\Delta u = f$ if

$$\mathcal{E}(u, v) = - \int_{\mathcal{SG}_l} f v d\nu$$

holds for all $v \in \text{dom}_0\mathcal{E}$ where $\text{dom}_0\mathcal{E} = \{v : v \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}, v|_{V_0} = 0\}$.

A function h is *harmonic* if it minimizes the energy from each level to its next level. All the harmonic functions form a 3-dimensional space, and hence any given values on V_0 can uniquely determine a harmonic function on \mathcal{SG}_l . They are just the solutions of the equation $\Delta h = 0$. In particular, there is an explicit extension algorithm, which determines $h|_{V_1}$ in terms of $h|_{V_0}$ and inductively $h \circ F_w|_{V_1}$ in terms of $h \circ F_w|_{V_0}$ for any $w \in W_*$ in a same manner. See Figure 1.4 for the exact formula for \mathcal{SG}_3 . A harmonic function h satisfies the *mean value property*, that is, for each $m \geq 1$,

$$\sum_{y \sim_m x} (h(x) - h(y)) = 0, \forall x \in V_m \setminus V_0.$$

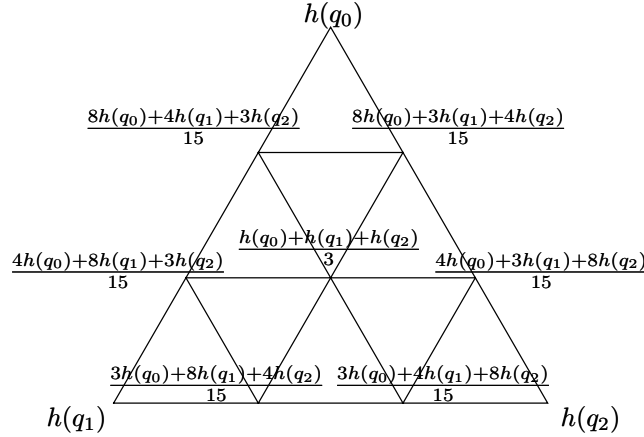


Figure 1.4. Harmonic extension algorithm of \mathcal{SG}_3 .

The *normal derivative* of a function u at a boundary point $q_i \in V_0$ is defined by

$$\partial_n(q_i) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} r^{-m} (2u(q_i) - u(F_i^m q_{i+1}) - u(F_i^m q_{i-1}))$$

(cyclic notation $q_3 = q_0$) providing the limit exists. For harmonic functions, these derivatives can be evaluated without taking limit. We could localize the definition of normal derivative to any vertex in V_* . Let $x = F_w q_i$ be a boundary point of a m -cell $F_w \mathcal{SG}_l$. Define $\partial_n^w u(x)$ the normal derivative of u at x with respect to the cell $F_w \mathcal{SG}_l$ to be $r^{-m} \partial_n(u \circ F_w)(q_i)$. In this paper, we use the notations $\partial_n^{\leftarrow}, \partial_n^{\rightarrow}, \partial_n^{\uparrow}$ to represent the normal derivatives of different directions for simplicity. In particular, $\partial_n^{\uparrow} u(q_0) = \partial_n u(q_0), \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1) = \partial_n u(q_1), \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(q_2) = \partial_n u(q_2)$. For $u \in \text{dom}\Delta$, the sum of all normal derivatives of u in different directions must vanish at each $x \in V_* \setminus V_0$. This is called the *matching condition*.

We have an analogue of *Gauss-Green's formula* in the fractal setting. Suppose $u \in \text{dom}\Delta$, then $\partial_n u(q_i)$ exists for all $q_i \in V_0$ and

$$\mathcal{E}(u, v) = - \int_{\mathcal{SG}_l} (\Delta u) v d\nu + \sum_{q_i \in V_0} v(q_i) \partial_n u(q_i), \quad \forall v \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}.$$

We also have a localized version of this formula,

$$\mathcal{E}_A(u, v) = - \int_A (\Delta u) v d\nu + \sum_{\partial A} v(x) \partial_n u(x)$$

for any *simple set* A , which is defined as a finite union of cells.

Let Ω be a half, upper or lower domain in \mathcal{SG}_l . Consider the Dirichlet problem

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 \text{ in } \Omega, \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = f, f \in C(\partial\Omega). \end{cases}$$

Proposition 1.1. *The Dirichlet problem (1.1) has a unique solution.*

Proof. First, by Lemma 8.2 in [Ki5], if there exists a function $v \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}$ such that $v|_{\partial\Omega} = f$, then a solution of (1.1) exists, which minimizes the energy on Ω . For general case, notice that the set $\text{dom}\mathcal{E}|_{\partial\Omega} := \{f \in C(\partial\Omega) | \exists v \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}, v|_{\partial\Omega} = f\}$ is dense in $C(\partial\Omega)$, since $\text{dom}\mathcal{E}$ is dense in $C(\mathcal{SG}_l)$ and $\partial\Omega$ is a closed subset of \mathcal{SG}_l . Let $\{f_n\}$ be a sequence of functions in $\text{dom}\mathcal{E}|_{\partial\Omega}$ converging uniformly to f , and u_n be their corresponding solutions of (1.1). Then $\{u_n\}$ also uniformly converge to a function u with $u|_{\partial\Omega} = f$ by the maximum principle for harmonic functions. It is easy to get that u is harmonic in Ω .

The uniqueness of the solution is an immediate consequence of the maximum principle. \square

1.2. The organization of the paper. Throughout this paper, although in different situations, we always use the same symbol Ω to denote the domain and X to denote the Cantor set boundary without causing any confusion.

In Section 2, we solve the Dirichlet problem for the half domain in \mathcal{SG}_3 . An explicit harmonic extension algorithm is provided. Let f be the prescribed value on $\partial\Omega$. We only need to find the explicit formula for the values of the extended harmonic function u on $V_1 \cap \Omega$, since if we do so, then the value of u in the 1-cells contained in Ω is determined by the harmonic extension algorithm, and then the problem of finding values of u in the remaining region is essentially the same by dilation. An interesting phenomenon is that the solution could be expressed explicitly in terms of only a countable set of points which is dense in $\partial\Omega$. We also characterize the energy estimate of solutions of finite energy in terms of their boundary values.

We consider the Dirichlet problem for the upper domain in \mathcal{SG}_3 in Section 3. Basing on the same reason, we find the explicit formula for a finite number of crucial points, and then use dilation to continue. For the energy estimate, we still use the technique of Haar series expansion. But now we expand the boundary values with respect to a more natural probability measure rather than the normalized Hausdorff measure.

In Section 4, we deal with the lower domain in \mathcal{SG} . Essentially the method is the same as before, but the situation is more complicated. We still obtain the explicit harmonic extension algorithm. However, it is unclear how to work out the energy estimate in term of the boundary values.

Finally, we show that our methods on the above three types of domains are still valid for general \mathcal{SG}_l and briefly state the outcomes. We present an intriguing correspondence between the normal derivatives and the boundary values of harmonic functions along boundaries on the half domain of \mathcal{SG} , although we have no idea on how to extend it to general cases.

At the end of this section, we list some previous work on related topics. See [GKQS], [HKu], [J], [Ki4], [LRSU], [LS], [OS] and the references therein. In particular, in [LRSU], some extension problems on \mathcal{SG} , which aim at finding a function minimizing Sobolev types of norms with certain prescribed data such as values and derivatives at a finite set, are studied. It is interesting to consider analogous problems on domains considered in this paper. We leave these as open problems for future research. The energy estimates considered in this paper characterize the restriction to the Cantor set boundary X of functions of finite energy on Ω . It is also interesting to characterize the traces on X of functions in some other Sobolev spaces, such as $\text{dom}_{L^2}(\Delta^k)$ defined as $\{u \in L^2(\mathcal{SG}_l) : \Delta^j u \in L^2(\mathcal{SG}_l), \forall j \leq k\}$. One may also consider how to extend a function of finite energy defined on Ω to a function of finite

energy on the whole \mathcal{SG}_l , and analogous problems for other Sobolev spaces. Related problems are discussed in [LS], [GKQS]. The above mentioned Sobolev spaces are easily characterized in terms of expansions in eigenfunctions of the Laplacian, see [S2]. For half domains, as pointed out in [LS] in the \mathcal{SG} setting, essentially, there are no new eigenfunctions. A complete theory of the eigenspaces of the Laplacian on the upper domain in \mathcal{SG} with X equal to the bottom line segment is given in [Q].

2. DIRICHLET PROBLEM ON THE HALF DOMAIN OF \mathcal{SG}_3

In this section, we focus on solving the Dirichlet problem on the half domain of \mathcal{SG}_3 . We will first give an extension algorithm for harmonic functions with continuous prescribed boundary values, then estimate the energies of them in terms of their boundary values.

2.1. Extension Algorithm. The domain Ω can be defined by a level set of an antisymmetric harmonic function, denoted by h_a , with boundary values $h_a|_{\{q_0, q_1, q_2\}} = (0, 1, -1)$. Define

$$\Omega = \{x \in \mathcal{SG}_3 \setminus V_0 : h_a(x) > 0\},$$

and the boundary

$$\partial\Omega = \{q_1\} \cup X, \text{ with } X = \{x \in \mathcal{SG}_3 : h_a(x) = 0\}.$$

Let $\bar{\Omega}$ denote the closure of Ω . It is easy to check that

$$\bar{\Omega} = F_1\mathcal{SG}_3 \cup F_5\mathcal{SG}_3 \cup F_0\bar{\Omega} \cup F_3\bar{\Omega}.$$

As shown in Section 1, to solve the Dirichlet problem (1.1), we only need to find the explicit algorithm for the values of the harmonic function u on $V_1 \cap \Omega$. For convenience, we use $x_\emptyset, y_\emptyset, z_\emptyset$ to represent the three ‘‘crucial’’ vertices in $V_1 \cap \Omega$ with

$$x_\emptyset = F_1q_2, y_\emptyset = F_1q_0, z_\emptyset = F_0q_1.$$

We also denote $p_\emptyset = F_3q_0$.

For $m \geq 0$, write

$$\tilde{W}_m = \{0, 3\}^m \text{ and } \tilde{W}_* = \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \tilde{W}_m.$$

Obviously, $\tilde{W}_m \subset W_m$ and $\tilde{W}_* \subset W_*$. Denote

$$x_w = F_w x_\emptyset, y_w = F_w y_\emptyset, z_w = F_w z_\emptyset, p_w = F_w p_\emptyset \text{ for } w \in \tilde{W}_*.$$

Obviously, $\{x_w, y_w, z_w\}_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \subset V_* \cap \Omega$ and $\{p_w\}_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} = V_* \cap X \setminus \{q_0\}$.

Now, we proceed to show how to determine the values of the harmonic function u on $V_1 \cap \Omega$ in terms of the boundary function f . From the matching condition at each vertex in $V_1 \cap \Omega$, we have

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{7}{15}\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(x_\emptyset) + 2u(x_\emptyset) - u(y_\emptyset) - f(q_1) = 0, \\ 4u(y_\emptyset) - u(x_\emptyset) - u(z_\emptyset) - f(q_1) - f(p_\emptyset) = 0, \\ \frac{7}{15}\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(z_\emptyset) + 2u(z_\emptyset) - u(y_\emptyset) - f(p_\emptyset) = 0. \end{cases}$$

To make the equations (2.1) enough to determine the unknowns, we need to represent the normal derivatives at x_\emptyset and z_\emptyset in terms of $\{u(x_\emptyset), u(y_\emptyset), u(z_\emptyset)\}$ and the boundary data f .

We will prove that there exists a *signed measure* on the boundary $\partial\Omega$ such that the normal derivative of u at q_1 could be evaluated as the integral of f with respect to this measure. This signed measure is determined by the normal derivative of the antisymmetric harmonic function h_a along the boundary $\partial\Omega$. See Figure 2.1 for the values of h_a on $V_1 \cap \bar{\Omega}$.

Theorem 2.1. *Let u be a solution of the Dirichlet problem (1.1). Then*

$$(2.2) \quad \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1) = 3f(q_1) - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \frac{6}{7} \mu_w f(p_w),$$

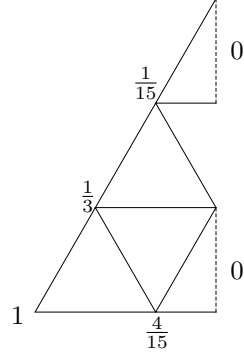


Figure 2.1. The values of h_a on $V_1 \cap \bar{\Omega}$.

where $\mu_w = \mu_{w_1}\mu_{w_2}\cdots\mu_{w_{|w|}}$ with $\mu_0 = \frac{1}{7}$ and $\mu_3 = \frac{4}{7}$. In addition, if $u \in \text{dom}\mathcal{E}_\Omega$, we have

$$\mathcal{E}_\Omega(h_a, u) = \partial_n^\leftarrow u(q_1).$$

Proof. Set $O_1 = F_1\mathcal{S}\mathcal{G}_3 \cup F_5\mathcal{S}\mathcal{G}_3$, and $O_m = \bigcup_{w \in \tilde{W}_*, |w| \leq m-1} F_w O_1$ for $m \geq 2$. Obviously, $\bar{\Omega}$ equals the closure of $\bigcup_{m \geq 1} O_m$. See Figure 2.2 for O_1 and O_2 .

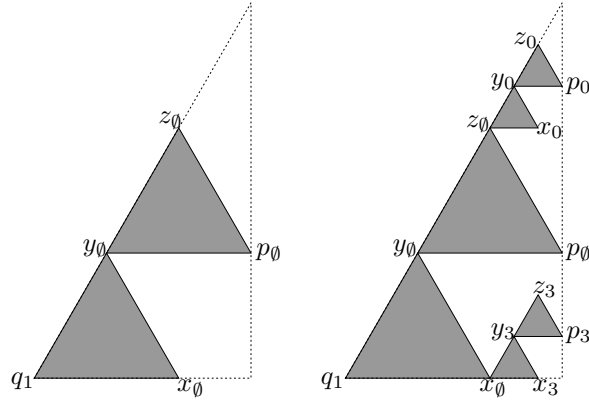


Figure 2.2. Simple sets O_1, O_2 .

Applying the local Gauss-Green's formula on O_m , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{O_m}(h_a, u) &= \partial_n^\leftarrow h_a(q_1)f(q_1) + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*, |w| \leq m-1} \partial_n^\rightarrow h_a(p_w)f(p_w) \\ &\quad + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_{m-1}} (\partial_n^\rightarrow h_a(x_w)u(x_w) + \partial_n^\uparrow h_a(z_w)u(z_w)). \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to calculate the normal derivatives of h_a at p_w, x_w, z_w ,

$$\partial_n^\rightarrow h_a(p_w) = -\frac{6}{7}\mu_w, \quad \partial_n^\rightarrow h_a(x_w) = -\frac{12}{7}\mu_w, \quad \partial_n^\uparrow h_a(z_w) = -\frac{3}{7}\mu_w.$$

So we have the estimate that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \mathcal{E}_{O_m}(h_a, u) - \left(3f(q_1) - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \frac{6}{7} \mu_w f(p_w) \right) \right| \\ & \leq \left| \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_{m-1}} (\partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_a(x_w) + \partial_n^{\uparrow} h_a(z_w)) + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*, |w| \geq m} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_a(p_w) \right| \cdot \|f\|_{\infty} \\ & = \frac{30}{7} \left(\frac{5}{7} \right)^{m-1} \|f\|_{\infty}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus if $u \in \text{dom} \mathcal{E}_{\Omega}$, by taking the limit we have $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega}(h_a, u) = 3f(q_1) - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \frac{6}{7} \mu_w f(p_w)$.

For the rest part of the theorem, we introduce a sequence of harmonic functions $\{u_n\}_{n \geq 0}$ which are piecewise constant on X , defined as $u_n|_{F_{\tau} X} = f(p_{\tau})$, $\forall \tau \in \tilde{W}_n$. The existence of such functions is ensured by Proposition 1.1. Moreover, it is easy to check that u_n uniformly converges to u by the maximum principle for harmonic functions. Applying Gauss-Green's formula, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{O_m}(h_a, u_n) &= \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u_n(q_1) h_a(q_1) + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*, |w| \leq m-1} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u_n(p_w) h_a(p_w) \\ & \quad + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_{m-1}} (\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u_n(x_w) h_a(x_w) + \partial_n^{\uparrow} u_n(z_w) h_a(z_w)) \\ &= \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u_n(q_1) + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_{m-1}} (\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u_n(x_w) h_a(x_w) + \partial_n^{\uparrow} u_n(z_w) h_a(z_w)). \end{aligned}$$

For fixed n and $\tau \in \tilde{W}_n$, we have that $\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u_n(x_{\tau w})$, $\partial_n^{\uparrow} u_n(z_{\tau w})$ take the same sign, and $\sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*, |w|=m} (\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u_n(x_{\tau w}) + \partial_n^{\uparrow} u_n(z_{\tau w}))$ are uniformly bounded, as $u_n \circ F_{\tau} = c_1 + c_2 h_a$ for some constants c_1, c_2 . In addition, $h_a(x_w)$ and $h_a(z_w)$ converge uniformly to 0 as $|w| \rightarrow \infty$. Thus, letting $m \rightarrow \infty$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{\Omega}(h_a, u_n) &= \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u_n(q_1) + \sum_{\tau \in \tilde{W}_n} \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m} (\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u_n(x_{\tau w}) h_a(x_{\tau w}) + \partial_n^{\uparrow} u_n(z_{\tau w}) h_a(z_{\tau w})) \right) \\ &= \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u_n(q_1). \end{aligned}$$

Combining this equality with the first part of the proof, we then have

$$\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u_n(q_1) = 3u_n(q_1) - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \frac{6}{7} \mu_w u_n(p_w),$$

Taking $n \rightarrow \infty$, we get (2.2). □

Remark. One can regard the signed measure $3\delta_{q_1} - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \frac{6}{7} \mu_w \delta_{p_w}$ as the normal derivative of h_a on $\partial\Omega$. In this opinion, Theorem 2.1 is just a result of the extended ‘‘Gauss-Green's formula’’ acting on h_a and u .

In the following, we denote μ the probability measure $\sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \frac{2}{7} \mu_w \delta_{p_w}$ on X . Thus we could write

$$(2.3) \quad \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1) = 3f(q_1) - 3 \int_X f d\mu.$$

Now, we have enough information to calculate the values $u(x_{\emptyset}), u(y_{\emptyset}), u(z_{\emptyset})$.

Theorem 2.2.(Extension Algorithm) *There exists a unique solution of the Dirichlet problem (1.1). In addition, we have*

$$(2.4) \quad u(x_{\emptyset}) = \frac{4}{15} f(q_1) + \frac{1}{15} f(p_{\emptyset}) + \frac{1}{30} \int_X f \circ F_0 d\mu + \frac{19}{30} \int_X f \circ F_3 d\mu,$$

$$(2.5) \quad u(y_{\emptyset}) = \frac{1}{3} f(q_1) + \frac{1}{3} f(p_{\emptyset}) + \frac{1}{6} \int_X f \circ F_0 d\mu + \frac{1}{6} \int_X f \circ F_3 d\mu,$$

$$(2.6) \quad u(z_{\emptyset}) = \frac{1}{15} f(q_1) + \frac{4}{15} f(p_{\emptyset}) + \frac{19}{30} \int_X f \circ F_0 d\mu + \frac{1}{30} \int_X f \circ F_3 d\mu.$$

Proof. The existence and uniqueness of a solution of (1.1) has been shown in Proposition 1.1. Taking $\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(x_\emptyset) = \frac{15}{7} \partial_n^{\leftarrow} (u \circ F_3)(q_1) = \frac{15}{7} (3u(x_\emptyset) - 3 \int_X f \circ F_3 d\mu)$ and $\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(z_\emptyset) = \frac{15}{7} \partial_n^{\leftarrow} (u \circ F_0)(q_1) = \frac{15}{7} (3u(z_\emptyset) - 3 \int_X f \circ F_0 d\mu)$ into (2.1), and solving the system of linear equations, we get (2.4), (2.5) and (2.6). \square

2.2. Energy Estimate. In Theorem 2.2, we have shown that the harmonic function u could be explicitly determined by its values at only countably infinite vertices $\{q_1\} \cup \{p_w\}_{w \in \tilde{W}_*}$. It is natural to hope that the energy estimate of u also depends on the same values as well.

Theorem 2.3. *Let $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$, and write*

$$Q(f) = (f(q_1) - f(p_\emptyset))^2 + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{|w|} \left((f(p_w) - f(p_{w0}))^2 + (f(p_w) - f(p_{w3}))^2 \right).$$

Then we have the energy estimate that

$$C_1 Q(f) \leq \mathcal{E}(u) \leq C_2 Q(f),$$

where C_1, C_2 are two positive constants independent of f .

Proof. Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{O_1}(u) &= \frac{15}{7} \left((f(q_1) - u(x_\emptyset))^2 + (f(q_1) - u(y_\emptyset))^2 + (u(x_\emptyset) - u(y_\emptyset))^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (f(p_\emptyset) - u(y_\emptyset))^2 + (f(p_\emptyset) - u(z_\emptyset))^2 + (u(y_\emptyset) - u(z_\emptyset))^2 \right) \\ &\geq \frac{45}{28} (f(q_1) - f(p_\emptyset))^2, \end{aligned}$$

where the equality holds when $u(x_\emptyset) = \frac{3}{4}f(q_1) + \frac{1}{4}f(p_\emptyset)$, $u(y_\emptyset) = \frac{1}{2}f(q_1) + \frac{1}{2}f(p_\emptyset)$ and $u(z_\emptyset) = \frac{1}{4}f(q_1) + \frac{3}{4}f(p_\emptyset)$. Similarly, for any $w \in \tilde{W}_*$, we also have

$$\mathcal{E}_{F_w O_1}(u) + \mathcal{E}_{F_{w0} O_1}(u) \geq c_1 \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{|w|} (f(p_w) - f(p_{w0}))^2,$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}_{F_w O_1}(u) + \mathcal{E}_{F_{w3} O_1}(u) \geq c_2 \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{|w|} (f(p_w) - f(p_{w3}))^2,$$

where c_1, c_2 are suitable positive constants. Thus, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_\Omega(u) &= \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} \mathcal{E}_{F_w O_1}(u) = \mathcal{E}_{O_1}(u) + \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} (\mathcal{E}_{F_{w0} O_1}(u) + \mathcal{E}_{F_{w3} O_1}(u)) \\ &= \frac{1}{3} \mathcal{E}_{O_1}(u) + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_*} (2\mathcal{E}_{F_w O_1}(u) + \mathcal{E}_{F_{w0} O_1}(u) + \mathcal{E}_{F_{w3} O_1}(u)) \\ &\geq \frac{1}{3} \min\{c_1, c_2, \frac{45}{28}\} \cdot Q(f). \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, we assume without loss of generality that $Q(f) < \infty$, otherwise there is nothing to prove. Consider a piecewise harmonic function v defined on $\tilde{\Omega}$, which is harmonic in $F_w O_1, \forall w \in \tilde{W}_*$ with values $v|_{\partial\Omega} = f$ and $v(x_w) = v(z_w) = f(p_w), \forall w \in \tilde{W}_*$. See Figure 2.3 for the value of this function.

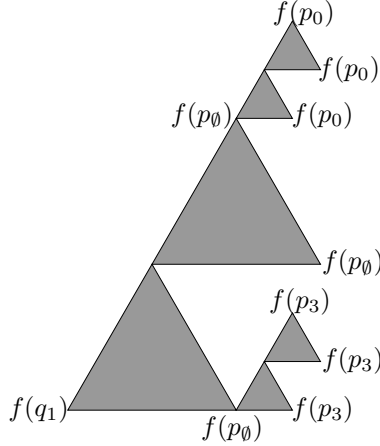


Figure 2.3. The values of v on O_2 .

It is easy to calculate the energy of v ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{E}_\Omega(v) &= \sum_{w \in \bar{W}_*} \mathcal{E}_{F_w O_1}(v) \\
 &= \frac{15}{4} (f(q_1) - f(p_0))^2 \\
 &\quad + \sum_{w \in \bar{W}_*} \frac{7}{4} \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{|w|+2} \left((f(p_w) - f(p_{w0}))^2 + (f(p_w) - f(p_{w3}))^2 \right) \\
 &\leq \frac{225}{28} Q(f).
 \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, $\mathcal{E}_\Omega(v) \geq \mathcal{E}_\Omega(u)$, as harmonic functions minimize the energy. \square

3. DIRICHLET PROBLEM ON UPPER DOMAINS OF $\mathcal{S}\mathcal{G}_3$

In this section, we deal with the Dirichlet problem on upper domains of $\mathcal{S}\mathcal{G}_3$. Prescribe that the boundary vertices $q_0, q_1, q_2 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ take the following coordinates,

$$q_0 = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, 1\right), \quad q_1 = (0, 0), \quad q_2 = \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}, 0\right).$$

Then for each $0 < \lambda \leq 1$, define the upper domain

$$\Omega_\lambda = \{(x, y) \in \mathcal{S}\mathcal{G}_3 \setminus V_0 \mid y > 1 - \lambda\},$$

together with the boundary

$$\partial\Omega_\lambda = \{q_0\} \cup X_\lambda, \quad \text{with } X_\lambda = \{(x, y) \in \mathcal{S}\mathcal{G}_3 \mid y = 1 - \lambda\}.$$

See Figure 3.1 for an illustration. Denote $\bar{\Omega}_\lambda = \Omega_\lambda \cup \partial\Omega_\lambda$ the closure of Ω_λ . In the following context, we write X instead of X_λ when there is no confusion.

For $0 < \lambda \leq 1$, there is a unique representation

$$(3.1) \quad \lambda = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \iota_k 3^{-m_k},$$

with an integer sequence $0 < m_1 < m_2 < \dots$, and $\iota_k = 1$ or 2 . Denote

$$R\lambda = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \iota_k 3^{-(m_k - m_1)}.$$

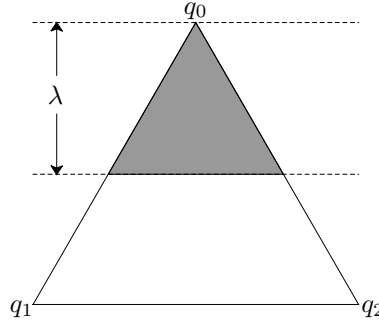


Figure 3.1. The upper domain.

Inductively, write

$$\lambda_n = R^n \lambda = \sum_{k=n+1}^{\infty} \iota_k 3^{-(m_k - m_n)}.$$

Set $\lambda_0 = \lambda$ and $m_0 = 0$.

It is easy to check the following relationship between Ω_{λ_n} and $\Omega_{\lambda_{n+1}}$,

$$(3.2) \quad \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_n} = \begin{cases} F_0^{m_{n+1}-m_n-1} (F_0 \mathcal{S} \mathcal{G}_3 \cup F_4 \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_{n+1}} \cup F_5 \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_{n+1}}) & \text{if } \iota_{n+1} = 1, \\ F_0^{m_{n+1}-m_n-1} (F_0 \mathcal{S} \mathcal{G}_3 \cup F_4 \mathcal{S} \mathcal{G}_3 \cup F_5 \mathcal{S} \mathcal{G}_3 \\ \cup F_1 \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_{n+1}} \cup F_2 \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_{n+1}} \cup F_3 \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_{n+1}}) & \text{if } \iota_{n+1} = 2. \end{cases}$$

For $1 \leq i \leq 5$, write $p_i^\lambda = F_0^{m_1-1} F_i q_0$. We omit the superscript λ when there is no confusion caused. See Figure 3.2 for an illustration.

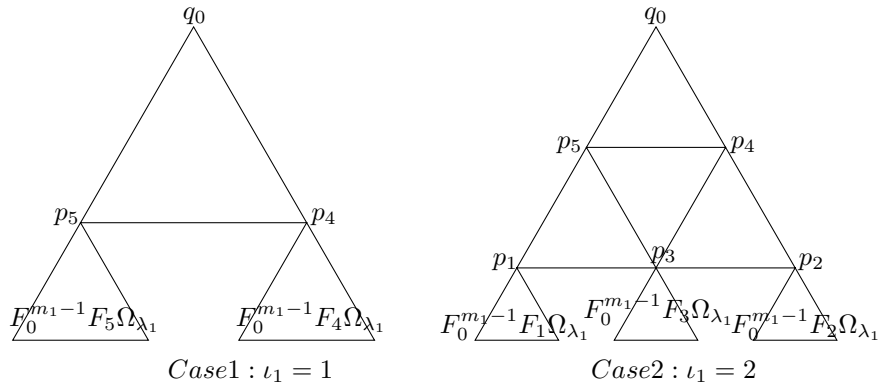


Figure 3.2. The relationship between Ω_{λ_0} and Ω_{λ_1} .

For convenience, let

$$W_n^\lambda = \prod_{k=1}^n S_{\iota_k}, \text{ and } W_*^\lambda = \bigcup_{n \geq 0} W_n^\lambda, \text{ with } S_1 = \{4, 5\} \text{ and } S_2 = \{1, 2, 3\},$$

and write

$$F_w^\lambda = F_0^{m_1-1} F_{w_1} \cdots F_0^{m_n - m_{n-1} - 1} F_{w_n}, \text{ for } w \in W_n^\lambda.$$

Then $\forall n \geq 0$,

$$X = \bigcup_{w \in W_n^\lambda} X_w$$

where $X_w = F_w^\lambda \mathcal{S}G_3 \cap X$. It is easy to see that for λ not a triadic rational, X is homeomorphic to the space $\Sigma^\lambda = \prod_{k=1}^\infty S_{\iota_k}$ equipped with the product topology. Otherwise, X is a union of finite segments.

Here we give an example to help readers to get familiar with the notations.

Example. We plot the area Ω_λ for $\lambda = 0.39 = 3^{-1} + 3^{-2} + 2 \cdot 3^{-3} + \dots$. See Figure 3.3. In this case, $\iota_1 = 1, \iota_2 = 1, \iota_3 = 2$ and

$$W_1^\lambda = \{4, 5\}, W_2^\lambda = \{4, 5\}^2 = \{44, 45, 54, 55\}, W_3^\lambda = \{4, 5\}^2 \times \{1, 2, 3\}.$$

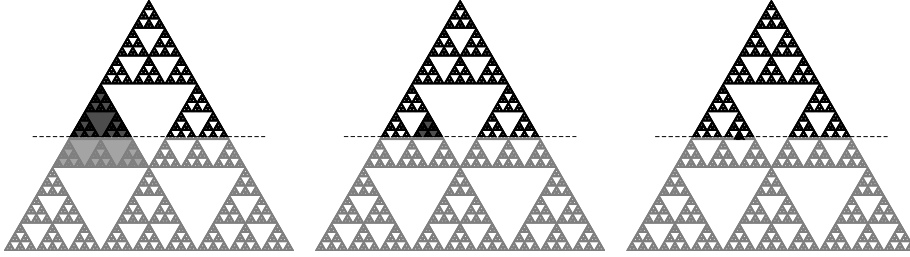


Figure 3.3. The upper domain $\Omega_{0.39}$. The shaded regions are $F_5^\lambda \Omega_{\lambda_1}, F_{54}^\lambda \Omega_{\lambda_2}, F_{543}^\lambda \Omega_{\lambda_3}$.

3.1. Extension Algorithm. We still use f to denote the boundary data on $\partial\Omega_\lambda$ and u the harmonic solution of the Dirichlet problem (1.1). We only need to find an explicit algorithm for the values of u at p_i 's since if we do so, the problem of finding values of u in the remaining region is essentially the same after dilation.

From the matching condition at each vertex p_i , we have the following system of equations.

Case 1 ($\iota_1 = 1$):

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_n^\dagger u(p_5) + (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} (2u(p_5) - u(p_4) - f(q_0)) = 0, \\ \partial_n^\dagger u(p_4) + (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} (2u(p_4) - u(p_5) - f(q_0)) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Case 2 ($\iota_1 = 2$):

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{cases} 4u(p_5) - u(p_1) - u(p_3) - u(p_4) - f(q_0) = 0, \\ 4u(p_4) - u(p_2) - u(p_3) - u(p_5) - f(q_0) = 0, \\ \partial_n^\dagger u(p_1) + (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} (2u(p_1) - u(p_3) - u(p_5)) = 0, \\ \partial_n^\dagger u(p_2) + (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} (2u(p_2) - u(p_3) - u(p_4)) = 0, \\ \partial_n^\dagger u(p_3) + (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} (4u(p_3) - u(p_1) - u(p_2) - u(p_4) - u(p_5)) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Due to the same consideration in Section 2, we need to express the normal derivatives $\partial_n^\dagger u(p_i)$'s in the above equations in terms of $u(p_i)$'s and the boundary data f . Thus we turn to find the explicit representation of $\partial_n^\dagger u(q_0)$ in terms of the boundary values.

For this purpose, we need to look at the normal derivative along the boundary of a special harmonic function on Ω_λ , denoted by h_0^λ , assuming value 1 at q_0 and 0 along X . We will write $h_0 = h_0^\lambda$ for simplicity if there is no confusion.

Lemma 3.1. Denote $\alpha(\lambda) = h_0(p_4) (= h_0(p_5)$ by symmetry) and $\eta(\lambda) = \partial_n^\dagger h_0(q_0) = 2(\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} (1 - \alpha(\lambda))$. Then

$$(3.5) \quad \alpha(\lambda) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+\eta(R\lambda)} & \text{if } \iota_1 = 1, \\ \frac{6+6\eta(R\lambda)+\eta(R\lambda)^2}{6+15\eta(R\lambda)+3\eta(R\lambda)^2} & \text{if } \iota_1 = 2. \end{cases}$$

Denote

$$T^\lambda(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{1+2(\frac{15}{7})^{m_2-m_1}(1-x)} & \text{if } \iota_1 = 1, \\ \frac{3+6(\frac{15}{7})^{m_2-m_1}(1-x)+2\left((\frac{15}{7})^{m_2-m_1}(1-x)\right)^2}{3+15(\frac{15}{7})^{m_2-m_1}(1-x)+6\left((\frac{15}{7})^{m_2-m_1}(1-x)\right)^2} & \text{if } \iota_1 = 2, \end{cases}$$

then $\alpha(\lambda) = T^\lambda(\alpha(R\lambda))$. In addition,

$$\alpha(\lambda) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^\lambda \circ T^{\lambda_1} \circ \dots \circ T^{\lambda_n}(0).$$

Proof. By (3.2) and the definition of h_0 , we have $h_0 \circ F_i^\lambda = h_0(p_i)h_0^{R\lambda}$, $\forall i \in W_1^\lambda$. Taking $u = h_0$ and $\partial_n^\dagger h_0(p_i) = (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} h_0(p_i) \eta(R\lambda)$ into (3.3) or (3.4), noticing that h_0 is symmetric in Ω_λ , we have,

$$\eta(R\lambda)\alpha(\lambda) + (2\alpha(\lambda) - \alpha(\lambda) - 1) = 0, \text{ if } \iota_1 = 1,$$

or

$$\begin{cases} 4\alpha(\lambda) - \alpha(\lambda) - 1 - h_0(p_1) - h_0(p_3) = 0, \\ \eta(R\lambda)h_0(p_1) + (2h_0(p_1) - \alpha(\lambda) - h_0(p_3)) = 0, \\ \eta(R\lambda)h_0(p_3) + (4u(p_3) - 2\alpha(\lambda) - 2h_0(p_1)) = 0, \end{cases} \quad \text{if } \iota_1 = 2.$$

Solving the above equations, we get (3.5) and

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{cases} h_0(p_1) = h_0(p_2) = \frac{6+\eta(R\lambda)}{6+15\eta(R\lambda)+3\eta(R\lambda)^2}, \\ h_0(p_3) = \frac{6+2\eta(R\lambda)}{6+15\eta(R\lambda)+3\eta(R\lambda)^2}, \end{cases} \quad \text{in case of } \iota_1 = 2.$$

Moreover, substituting $\eta(R\lambda) = 2(\frac{15}{7})^{m_2-m_1}(1 - \alpha(R\lambda))$ into (3.5), we have $\alpha(\lambda) = T^\lambda(\alpha(R\lambda))$. Inductively,

$$\alpha(\lambda) = T^\lambda \circ T^{\lambda_1} \circ \dots \circ T^{\lambda_{n-1}}(\alpha(\lambda_n)).$$

For the rest part of the theorem, we introduce a sequence of functions u_n^λ which assume values $u_n^\lambda(F_w^\lambda p_4^{\lambda_n}) = u_n^\lambda(F_w^\lambda p_5^{\lambda_n}) = 0, \forall w \in W_n^\lambda$ and $u_n^\lambda|_{\partial\Omega_\lambda} = h_0|_{\partial\Omega_\lambda}$, and take harmonic extension in the remaining region. A similar discussion yields that

$$u_n^\lambda(p_4) = T^\lambda \circ T^{\lambda_1} \circ \dots \circ T^{\lambda_{n-1}}(0).$$

In fact, $\forall i \in W_1^\lambda$, we have $u_n^\lambda \circ F_i^\lambda = u_n^\lambda(p_i)u_{n-1}^{R\lambda}$. Taking $u = u_n^\lambda$ and $\partial_n^\dagger u_n^\lambda(p_i) = (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} u_n^\lambda(p_i) \partial_n^\dagger u_{n-1}^{R\lambda}(q_0)$ into (3.3) or (3.4), after a similar calculation we have $u_n^\lambda(p_4) = T^\lambda(u_{n-1}^{\lambda_1}(p_4^{\lambda_1}))$.

Looking at the region bounded by $\{q_0\} \cup \{F_w^\lambda p_4^{\lambda_n}, F_w^\lambda p_5^{\lambda_n}\}_{w \in W_n^\lambda}$, applying the maximum principle for harmonic functions, we get

$$0 \leq (h_0 - u_n^\lambda)(p_4) \leq \max_{w \in W_n^\lambda, i=4,5} (h_0 - u_n^\lambda)(F_w^\lambda p_i^{\lambda_n}).$$

Since for $i = 4, 5$, $u_n^\lambda(F_w^\lambda p_i^{\lambda_n}) = 0, \forall w \in W_n^\lambda$, and $h_0(F_w^\lambda p_i^{\lambda_n})$ converges uniformly to 0 as $|w| \rightarrow \infty$, we then have $u_n^\lambda(p_4) \rightarrow h_0(p_4)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. \square

Remark. In fact, we have

$$\alpha(\lambda) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} T^\lambda \circ T^{\lambda_1} \circ \dots \circ T^{\lambda_n}(c),$$

for any fixed constant $-\infty < c < 1$. We only need small changes in the proof, and readers may refer to Theorem 4.7 for a similar discussion.

α is an increasing function of λ on $(\frac{1}{3}, 1]$, because $h_0^{\lambda_b}|_{\bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_a}} \geq h_0^{\lambda_a}$ if $\lambda_b \geq \lambda_a$. For $0 < \lambda \leq \frac{1}{3}$, we have $\alpha(\lambda) = \alpha(3^{m_1-1}\lambda)$ by dilation. Thus

$$(3.7) \quad 0 < \alpha(\lambda) \leq \alpha(1) = \frac{75 - \sqrt{2353}}{60} \approx 0.441538,$$

where $\alpha(1)$ is the root of $x = \frac{3+6 \cdot \frac{15}{7}(1-x)+2 \cdot (\frac{15}{7})^2(1-x)^2}{3+15 \cdot \frac{15}{7}(1-x)+6 \cdot (\frac{15}{7})^2(1-x)^2}$.

Definition 3.2. Let $0 < \lambda \leq 1$, denote

$$\mu_i^\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \text{ for } i = 4, 5, \text{ if } \iota_1 = 1,$$

or

$$\mu_i^\lambda = \begin{cases} \frac{6+\eta(R\lambda)}{18+4\eta(R\lambda)} \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \\ \frac{3+\eta(R\lambda)}{9+2\eta(R\lambda)} \text{ for } i = 3, \end{cases} \text{ if } \iota_1 = 2.$$

Define a probability measure μ^λ on X by

$$(3.8) \quad \mu^\lambda(X_w) = \prod_{k=1}^{|w|} \mu_{w_k}^{\lambda_{k-1}}, \forall w \in W_*^\lambda.$$

We can easily verify that

$$(3.9) \quad \mu^\lambda \circ F_w^\lambda = \left(\prod_{k=1}^n \mu_{w_k}^{\lambda_{k-1}} \right) \mu^{\lambda_n}, \forall w \in W_n^\lambda,$$

and

$$\frac{1}{4} < \mu_1^\lambda = \mu_2^\lambda < \frac{1}{3}, \quad \frac{1}{3} < \mu_3^\lambda < \frac{1}{2}, \text{ if } \iota_1(\lambda) = 2,$$

since $\eta(R\lambda) > 0$.

Lemma 3.3. $\forall w \in W_*^\lambda$, $\partial_n^\dagger h_0(F_w^\lambda q_0) = \mu^\lambda(X_w) \eta(\lambda)$.

Proof. By the local Gauss-Green's formula, we have $\partial_n^\dagger h_0(q_0) = \sum_{w \in W_1^\lambda} \partial_n^\dagger h_0(F_w^\lambda q_0)$.

If $\iota_1 = 1$, then $\partial_n^\dagger h_0(p_i) = \frac{1}{2} \eta(\lambda) = \mu_i^\lambda \eta(\lambda)$ by symmetry consideration. If $\iota_1 = 2$, then $\partial_n^\dagger h_0(p_1) : \partial_n^\dagger h_0(p_2) : \partial_n^\dagger h_0(p_3) = h_0(p_1) : h_0(p_2) : h_0(p_3)$, which still leads to $\partial_n^\dagger h_0(p_i) = \mu_i^\lambda \eta(\lambda)$ by (3.6). Applying the above discussion iteratively, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_n^\dagger h_0(F_w^\lambda q_0) &= (\mu_{w_1}^{\lambda_{|w|-1}}) \partial_n^\dagger h_0(F_{w_1 w_2 \dots w_{|w|-1}}^\lambda q_0) = \dots \\ &= \eta(\lambda) \left(\prod_{k=1}^{|w|} \mu_{w_k}^{\lambda_{k-1}} \right) = \mu^\lambda(X_w) \eta(\lambda), \forall w \in W_*^\lambda. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3.4. Let u be a solution of the Dirichlet problem (1.1). Then

$$(3.10) \quad \partial_n^\dagger u(q_0) = \eta(\lambda) \left(f(q_0) - \int_X f d\mu^\lambda \right).$$

In addition, if $u \in \text{dom} \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}$, we have

$$\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_0, u) = \partial_n^\dagger u(q_0) = \eta(\lambda) \left(f(q_0) - \int_X f d\mu^\lambda \right).$$

Proof. For $n \geq 1$, let $O_{\lambda, n}$ be the simple set whose boundary vertices are $\{q_0\} \cup \{F_w^\lambda q_0\}_{w \in W_n^\lambda}$. Noticing that $\{O_{\lambda, n}\}_{n \geq 1}$ is expanding with $\bigcup_{n \geq 1} O_{\lambda, n} = \Omega_\lambda$, using a similar proof as that of Theorem 2.1, the theorem follows. \square

Corollary 3.5. $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_0) = \eta(\lambda)$.

Proof. We only need to show that $h_0 \in \text{dom} \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}$. This is obvious since for any $n \geq 1$, by Gauss-Green's formula, we always have

$$\mathcal{E}_{O_{\lambda, n}}(h_0) = \partial_n^\dagger h_0(q_0) - \sum_{w \in W_n^\lambda} \partial_n^\dagger h_0(F_w^\lambda q_0) h_0(F_w^\lambda q_0) \leq \partial_n^\dagger h_0(q_0). \quad \square$$

By (3.7) and the fact that $\eta(\lambda) = 2\left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_1} (1 - \alpha(\lambda))$, the energy of h_0 is estimated by

$$2(1 - \alpha(1)) \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_1} \approx 1.116924 \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_1} \leq \eta(\lambda) = \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_0) < 2\left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_1}.$$

This result will be helpful in the energy estimate for general functions.

Combining Theorem 3.4 with equations (3.3) and (3.4), we could calculate the values of the solution u at the ‘‘crucial’’ points p_i 's for $i \in W_1^\lambda$, which are sufficient to recover u by induction.

Theorem 3.6.(Extension Algorithm) *There exists a unique solution of the Dirichlet problem (1.1). In addition, we have the following formulas for $u(p_i)$, $i \in W_1^\lambda$.*

Case 1 ($\iota_1 = 1$):

$$\begin{aligned} u(p_4) &= \frac{1}{1 + \eta(R\lambda)} f(q_0) + \frac{2\eta(R\lambda) + \eta(R\lambda)^2}{3 + 4\eta(R\lambda) + \eta(R\lambda)^2} \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_4^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \\ &\quad + \frac{\eta(R\lambda)}{3 + 4\eta(R\lambda) + \eta(R\lambda)^2} \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_5^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

Case 2 ($\iota_1 = 2$):

$$\begin{aligned} u(p_1) &= \frac{1}{54 + 165\eta(R\lambda) + 102\eta(R\lambda)^2 + 15\eta(R\lambda)^3} \left((54 + 39\eta(R\lambda) + 5\eta(R\lambda)^2) f(q_0) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (60\eta(R\lambda) + 76\eta(R\lambda)^2 + 15\eta(R\lambda)^3) \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_1^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. (30\eta(R\lambda) + \eta(R\lambda)^2) \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_2^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} + (36\eta(R\lambda) + 20\eta(R\lambda)^2) \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_3^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u(p_3) &= \frac{6 + 2\eta(R\lambda)}{6 + 15\eta(R\lambda) + 3\eta(R\lambda)^2} f(q_0) + \frac{5\eta(R\lambda) + 3\eta(R\lambda)^2}{6 + 15\eta(R\lambda) + 3\eta(R\lambda)^2} \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_3^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \\ &\quad + \frac{4\eta(R\lambda)}{6 + 15\eta(R\lambda) + 3\eta(R\lambda)^2} \left(\int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_1^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} + \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_2^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \right), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u(p_4) &= \frac{1}{54 + 165\eta(R\lambda) + 102\eta(R\lambda)^2 + 15\eta(R\lambda)^3} \left((54 + 84\eta(R\lambda) + 39\eta(R\lambda)^2 + 5\eta(R\lambda)^3) f(q_0) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (24\eta(R\lambda) + 12\eta(R\lambda)^2 + \eta(R\lambda)^3) \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_1^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (30\eta(R\lambda) + 27\eta(R\lambda)^2 + 4\eta(R\lambda)^3) \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_2^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (27\eta(R\lambda) + 24\eta(R\lambda)^2 + 5\eta(R\lambda)^3) \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_3^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The formulas for $u(p_2)$, $u(p_5)$ can be obtained symmetrically.

Proof. See Proposition 1.1 for the existence and uniqueness of the solution. Substituting $\partial_n^\dagger u(p_i) = (\frac{15}{7})^{m_1} \eta(R\lambda) (u(p_i) - \int_{X_{R\lambda}} f \circ F_i^\lambda d\mu^{R\lambda})$ for $i \in W_1^\lambda$ into (3.3) or (3.4), after solving linear equations, we get the result. \square

3.2. Haar series expansion and energy estimate. Now we consider the energy estimate for the harmonic solutions in terms of their boundary values. For a harmonic function u with boundary value $u|_X = f$ in $L^2(X, \mu^\lambda)$, we will give an estimation of $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(u)$ in terms of the Fourier coefficients of f with respect to a Haar basis.

Definition 3.7. (1) Assume $0 < \lambda \leq 1$. Define $\psi^{(1),\lambda}$ and $\psi^{(2),\lambda}$ to be piecewise constant functions on X_λ such that,

$$(3.11) \quad \psi^{(1),\lambda}|_{X_5} = 1, \psi^{(1),\lambda}|_{X_4} = -1, \text{ if } \iota_1 = 1,$$

$$(3.12) \quad \begin{cases} \psi^{(1),\lambda}|_{X_1} = 1, \psi^{(1),\lambda}|_{X_2} = -1, \psi^{(1),\lambda}|_{X_3} = 0, \\ \psi^{(2),\lambda}|_{X_1} = \psi^{(2),\lambda}|_{X_2} = \mu_3^\lambda, \psi^{(2),\lambda}|_{X_3} = -2\mu_1^\lambda, \end{cases} \quad \text{if } \iota_1 = 2,$$

and there is no $\psi^{(2),\lambda}$ for $\iota_1 = 1$. In addition, for $w \in W_n^\lambda$, define $\psi_w^{(j),\lambda}$ supported in X_w by

$$\psi_w^{(1),\lambda} = \psi^{(1),\lambda_n} \circ (F_w^\lambda)^{-1},$$

and similarly

$$\psi_w^{(2),\lambda} = \psi^{(2),\lambda_n} \circ (F_w^\lambda)^{-1}, \quad \text{if } \iota_{n+1} = 2.$$

(2) For $w \in W_*^\lambda$ and $j \leq \iota_{|w|+1}$, define a series of harmonic functions on Ω_λ by

$$h_w^{(j),\lambda}(q_0) = 0, \quad \text{and } h_w^{(j),\lambda}|_X = \psi_w^{(j),\lambda}.$$

We will write $\psi_w^{(j)}$ and $h_w^{(j)}$ instead of $\psi_w^{(j),\lambda}$ and $h_w^{(j),\lambda}$ when it causes no confusion. Set $\psi_\emptyset^{(j),\lambda} = \psi^{(j),\lambda}$, and $h_\emptyset^{(j),\lambda} = h^{(j),\lambda}$.

It is easy to check that for $w \in W_n^\lambda$ and $j \leq \iota_{n+1}$, $h_w^{(j)}$ is supported in $F_w^\lambda \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_n}$ with $h_w^{(j)} = h_\emptyset^{(j),\lambda_n} \circ (F_w^\lambda)^{-1}$, noticing that $\partial_n^\dagger h_\emptyset^{(j)}(q_0) = 0$ by Theorem 3.4. Moreover, $\{\psi_w^{(j)}\}_{w \in W_*^\lambda, j \leq \iota_{|w|+1}} \cup \{1\}$ form an orthogonal basis of $L^2(X, \mu^\lambda)$. See Figure 3.4 for an illustration of $h^{(1)}$ and $h^{(2)}$.

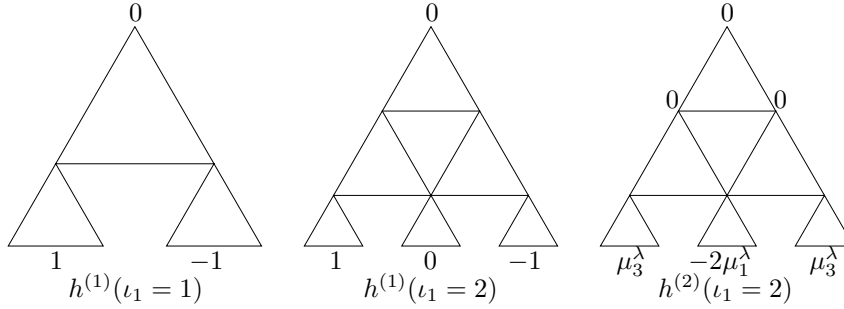


Figure 3.4. Boundary values of $h^{(1)}$, $h^{(2)}$.

Before performing the energy estimate, we list two basic lemmas.

Lemma 3.8. *There exist two positive constants C_1 and C_2 , such that*

$$C_1 \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_{|w|+1}} \leq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_w^{(j)}) \leq C_2 \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_{|w|+1}},$$

for all $0 < \lambda \leq 1$ and $w \in W_*^\lambda, j \leq \iota_{|w|+1}$.

Proof. We only need to prove that $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h^{(j)})$ is bounded above and below by multiples of $(\frac{15}{7})^{m_1}$, as $h_w^{(j),\lambda} = h_\emptyset^{(j),\lambda_n} \circ (F_w^\lambda)^{-1}$. In particular, we will restrict our consideration to $\frac{1}{3} < \lambda \leq 1$, since for general $0 < \lambda \leq 1$, $h^{(j),\lambda}$ is supported in $F_0^{m_1-1}(\mathcal{SG}_3)$ with $h^{(j),\lambda} = h^{(j),3^{m_1-1}\lambda} \circ F_0^{-m_1+1}$. So it is sufficient to assume $m_1 = 1$ and prove that $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h^{(j)})$ is bounded above and below by two positive constants.

First, we consider $\frac{2}{3} < \lambda \leq 1$. In this case, $\iota_1 = 2$. Let c_1, c_2, c_3 be some selected constants independent of λ . For each $\frac{2}{3} < \lambda \leq 1$, write v^λ the harmonic function on $\bar{\Omega}_\lambda$ which assumes 0 at q_0 and takes constant c_i along X_i for $i = 1, 2, 3$. We claim that

$$\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{\lambda_a}}(v^{\lambda_a}) \geq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{\lambda_b}}(v^{\lambda_b}), \quad \text{if } \lambda_a \leq \lambda_b.$$

To prove the claim, we construct another function \tilde{v} on $\bar{\Omega}_{\lambda_b}$ such that $\tilde{v}|_{\partial\Omega_{\lambda_b}} = v^{\lambda_b}|_{\partial\Omega_{\lambda_b}}, \tilde{v}(p_i) = v^{\lambda_a}(p_i)$ for each $1 \leq i \leq 5$ and \tilde{v} is harmonic in remaining region. So $\tilde{v}|_A = v^{\lambda_a}|_A$, for $A = F_0\mathcal{SG}_3 \cup F_4\mathcal{SG}_3 \cup F_5\mathcal{SG}_3$, which says that

$$\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{\lambda_b}}(\bar{v}) \leq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{\lambda_a}}(v^{\lambda_a}),$$

by using Corollary 3.5 and the fact that $\eta(R\lambda)$ is decreasing on $\frac{2}{3} < \lambda \leq 1$. In addition, we have $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{\lambda_b}}(\bar{v}) \geq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{\lambda_b}}(v^{\lambda_b})$, since harmonic functions minimize the energy. Combining the two inequalities, we obtain the claim.

Thus, $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(v^\lambda) \geq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_1}(v^1)$ (more precisely, $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(v^\lambda) \geq \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_{1-\epsilon}}(v^{1-\epsilon})$) which provides a lower bound of $\{\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(v^\lambda)\}$. On the other hand, to find an upper bound of $\{\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(v^\lambda)\}$, consider the function $\bar{v} \in C(A)$ which is harmonic in A and assumes 0 at q_0 , c_i at p_i for $i = 1, 2, 3$. It is easy to find that $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(v^\lambda) \leq \mathcal{E}_A(\bar{v})$ by extending \bar{v} to Ω_λ with $\bar{v}|_{F_i^\lambda \Omega_{R\lambda}} = c_i$.

The energy estimate of $h^{(1)}$ is a special case in the above discussion. To estimate the energy of $h^{(2)}$, observe that the boundary values $(h^{(2)}|_{X_1}, h^{(2)}|_{X_2}, h^{(2)}|_{X_3})$ vary within a compact set, denoted by C , since we always have $\frac{1}{4} < \mu_1^\lambda = \mu_2^\lambda < \frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{3} < \mu_3^\lambda < \frac{1}{2}$. We then have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 < \inf\{\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_1}(v^1) : (v^1|_{X_{1,1}}, v^1|_{X_{1,2}}, v^1|_{X_{1,3}}) \in C\} \\ \leq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h^{(2)}) \leq \sup\{\mathcal{E}_A(\bar{v}) : (\bar{v}(p_1), \bar{v}(p_2), \bar{v}(p_3)) \in C\} < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have proved that $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h^{(j)})$ is bounded above and below by two positive constants, when $\frac{2}{3} < \lambda \leq 1$.

A similar discussion is valid for $\frac{1}{3} < \lambda \leq \frac{2}{3}$. \square

The next lemma shows that all the basis functions $\{h_w^{(j)}\}$ are pairwise orthogonal in energy.

Lemma 3.9. *Assume $0 < \lambda \leq 1$ and $w, w' \in W_*^\lambda$. Then $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_w^{(j)}, h_{w'}^{(j')}) \neq 0$ if and only if $w = w'$ and $j = j'$.*

Proof. We discuss in different cases.

If $X_w \cap X_{w'} = \emptyset$, then obviously $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_w^{(j)}, h_{w'}^{(j')}) = 0$, as $h_w^{(j)}$ and $h_{w'}^{(j')}$ support in disjoint regions.

If $X_w \subsetneq X_{w'}$, then

$$\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_w^{(j)}, h_{w'}^{(j')}) = \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_{|w|}} (\partial_n^\dagger(h_w^{(j)} \circ F_w^\lambda)(q_0)) (h_{w'}^{(j')}(F_w^\lambda q_0) - h_{w'}^{(j')}|_{X_w}) = 0,$$

by Theorem 3.4 and the fact that $\partial_n^\dagger(h_w^{(j)} \circ F_w^\lambda)(q_0) = 0$.

If $w = w'$ and $j \neq j'$, then $h_w^{(j)}$ and $h_w^{(j')}$ assume different symmetries. So we also have $\mathcal{E}(h_w^{(j)}, h_w^{(j')}) = 0$. \square

Remark. The proof of Lemma 3.9 also implies that $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_w^{(j)}, h_0) = 0$ for each $w \in W_*^\lambda$, $j \leq \iota_{|w|+1}$.

Now for the harmonic solution u of the Dirichlet problem (1.1), we have the following estimate in energy in terms of its boundary data f .

Theorem 3.10. *Let u be the harmonic function in Ω_λ with boundary values $u(q_0) = a$ and $u|_{X_\lambda} = f$, where*

$$f = b + \sum_{w \in W_*^\lambda} \sum_{j \leq \iota_{|w|+1}} c_w^{(j)} \psi_w^{(j)}$$

with

$$c_w^{(j)} = \left(\int_{X_\lambda} (\psi_w^{(j)})^2 d\mu^\lambda \right)^{-1} \int_{X_\lambda} f \psi_w^{(j)} d\mu^\lambda.$$

Then $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(u)$ is bounded above and below by multiples of

$$(3.13) \quad \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_1} (a - b)^2 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{w \in W_n^\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^{\iota_{n+1}} \left(\frac{15}{7}\right)^{m_{n+1}} |c_w^{(j)}|^2.$$

In particular, u has finite energy if and only if (3.14) is finite.

Proof. We have

$$u = b + (a - b)h_0 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{w \in W_n^\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^{\iota_{n+1}} c_w^{(j)} h_w^{(j)}.$$

Since we have shown in Lemma 3.9 that the functions $h_0 \cup \{h_w^{(j)}\}$ are orthogonal in energy,

$$\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(u) = (a - b)^2 \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_0) + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{w \in W_n^\lambda} \sum_{j=1}^{\iota_{n+1}} |c_w^{(j)}|^2 \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda}(h_w^{(j)}).$$

Then (3.14) follows from Lemma 3.8 and Corollary 3.5. \square

4. DIRICHLET PROBLEMS ON LOWER DOMAINS OF \mathcal{SG}

In this section, we consider the Dirichlet problem on lower domains of \mathcal{SG} . Similar to the last section, we assume \mathcal{SG} is contained in \mathbb{R}^2 with boundary vertices $q_0 = (\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, 1)$, $q_1 = (0, 0)$, $q_2 = (\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}, 0)$. Let $0 \leq \lambda < 1$, the lower domain of \mathcal{SG} , denoted by Ω_λ^- , is defined as

$$\Omega_\lambda^- = \{(x, y) \in \mathcal{SG} \setminus V_0 \mid y < 1 - \lambda\}.$$

The boundary of Ω_λ^- is

$$\partial\Omega_\lambda^- = X_\lambda^- \cup \{q_1, q_2\},$$

with

$$X_\lambda^- = \begin{cases} V_{d(\lambda)} \cap X_\lambda, & \text{if } \lambda \text{ is a dyadic rational,} \\ X_\lambda, & \text{if } \lambda \text{ is not a dyadic rational,} \end{cases}$$

where $d(\lambda)$ is the smallest integer such that λ is a multiple of $2^{-d(\lambda)}$ and $X_\lambda = \{(x, y) \in \mathcal{SG} \mid y = 1 - \lambda\}$. We still abbreviate X_λ^- to X throughout this section for convenience. Write $\bar{\Omega}_\lambda^- = \Omega_\lambda^- \cup \partial\Omega_\lambda^-$ the closure of Ω_λ^- . See Figure 4.1 for two typical domains.

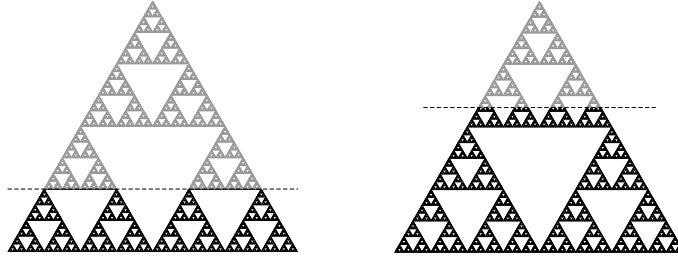


Figure 4.1. Two typical domain Ω_λ^- 's. λ is (or not) a dyadic rational.

For $0 \leq \lambda < 1$, we write λ in its binary expansion,

$$\lambda = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e_k(\lambda) 2^{-k}, \quad e_k(\lambda) = 0, 1 \text{ for } k \geq 1.$$

We forbid infinitely consecutive 1's to make the expansion unique. Denote

$$S\lambda = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e_{k+1}(\lambda) 2^{-k}.$$

It is easy to check the relationship between Ω_λ^- and $\Omega_{S\lambda}^-$ as following,

$$(4.1) \quad \bar{\Omega}_\lambda^- = \begin{cases} F_0\bar{\Omega}_{S\lambda}^- \cup F_1S\mathcal{G} \cup F_2S\mathcal{G}, & \text{if } e_1(\lambda) = 0, \\ F_1\bar{\Omega}_{S\lambda}^- \cup F_2\bar{\Omega}_{S\lambda}^-, & \text{if } e_1(\lambda) = 1. \end{cases}$$

See Figure 4.2 for an illustration.

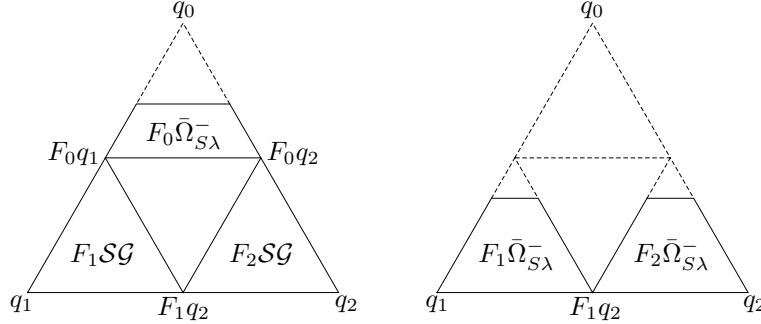


Figure 4.2. The relationship between Ω_λ^- and $\Omega_{S\lambda}^-$. $e_1(\lambda) = 0$ in the left one and $e_1(\lambda) = 1$ in the right one.

It is natural to introduce the following sets of words

$$\tilde{W}_m^\lambda = \{w \in W_m \mid w_k = 0 \text{ if } e_k(\lambda) = 0, \text{ and } w_k = 1 \text{ or } 2 \text{ if } e_k(\lambda) = 1, \forall 1 \leq k \leq m\},$$

so that

$$X = \bigcup_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} X_w, \forall m \geq 0,$$

where $X_w = F_w S\mathcal{G} \cap X$. Write $\tilde{W}_*^\lambda = \bigcup_{m \geq 0} \tilde{W}_m^\lambda$. In addition, denote $A_{\lambda, m}$ to be the closure of $\Omega_\lambda^- \setminus \bigcup_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} F_w \bar{\Omega}_{S^m \lambda}^-$, which is the union of all m -cells contained in Ω_λ^- . For example, $A_{\lambda, 1} = F_1 S\mathcal{G} \cup F_2 S\mathcal{G}$ if $e_1(\lambda) = 0$, and $A_{\lambda, 1} = \emptyset$ if $e_1(\lambda) = 1$.

4.1. Extension Algorithm. The Dirichlet problem on Ω_λ^- is stated as

$$(4.2) \quad \begin{cases} \Delta u = 0 \text{ in } \Omega_\lambda^-, \\ u|_{\partial\Omega_\lambda^-} = f, f \in C(\partial\Omega_\lambda^-). \end{cases}$$

Analogous to the previous two sections, we only need to find an explicit algorithm for $u|_{\Omega_\lambda^- \cap V_1}$ in terms of the boundary data f , since then the problem of finding values of u elsewhere in Ω_λ^- is essentially the same after dilation.

From the matching condition at each vertex in $V_1 \cup \Omega_\lambda^-$, there exist the equations,

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{cases} 4u(F_1 q_2) - f(q_1) - f(q_2) - u(F_0 q_1) - u(F_0 q_2) = 0, \\ \frac{3}{5} \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(F_0 q_1) + (2u(F_0 q_1) - u(F_1 q_2) - f(q_1)) = 0, \\ \frac{3}{5} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(F_0 q_2) + (2u(F_0 q_2) - u(F_1 q_2) - f(q_2)) = 0, \end{cases} \quad \text{if } e_1(\lambda) = 0,$$

and

$$(4.4) \quad \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(F_1 q_2) + \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(F_1 q_2) = 0, \quad \text{if } e_1(\lambda) = 1.$$

We need to express the involved normal derivatives in terms of $u(F_0 q_1)$, $u(F_0 q_2)$, $u(F_1 q_2)$ and the boundary data f . For this purpose, we introduce two important coefficients

$$(4.5) \quad \eta_1(\lambda) = \partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1^\lambda(q_1), \eta_2(\lambda) = -\partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1^\lambda(q_2),$$

where h_1^λ is the harmonic function with values $h_1^\lambda(q_1) = 1, h_1^\lambda(q_2) = 0$ and $h_1^\lambda|_X = 0$. Symmetrically, we have

$$\eta_2(\lambda) = -\partial_n^\leftarrow h_2^\lambda(q_1), \eta_1(\lambda) = \partial_n^\rightarrow h_2^\lambda(q_2),$$

where h_2^λ is the harmonic function with values $h_2^\lambda(q_1) = 0, h_2^\lambda(q_2) = 1$ and $h_2^\lambda|_X = 0$. We omit the superscript λ of h_i^λ when there is no confusion caused. We will discuss on how to calculate these coefficients in the second part of this section. Here we only mention the following property.

Lemma 4.1. *For $0 \leq \lambda < 1$, we have $\eta_1(\lambda) \geq 2, 0 \leq \eta_2(\lambda) \leq 1$.*

Proof. By using the maximum principle for harmonic functions, it is easy to see that η_1 is an increasing function of λ , and η_2 is a decreasing function of λ . Thus we have

$$\eta_1(\lambda) \geq \eta_1(0) = 2, \quad \eta_2(\lambda) \leq \eta_2(0) = 1.$$

Obviously, $\eta_2(\lambda) = -\partial_n^\rightarrow h_1(q_2)$ is nonnegative. \square

Remark. More precisely, we have $\eta_1(\lambda) + \eta_2(\lambda) \geq 3$. In fact, we just need to consider the antisymmetric harmonic function $h_1 - h_2$ whose normal derivative at q_1 is $\eta_1(\lambda) + \eta_2(\lambda)$. Using the maximum principle on the left half part of Ω_λ^- , one can check that $\eta_1 + \eta_2$ is an increasing function of λ .

Using the coefficients $\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)$, we have the following two lemmas.

Lemma 4.2. *Assume $h = h(q_1)h_1 + h(q_2)h_2$. If $e_1(\lambda) = 0$, then*

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(F_0q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(F_0q_2) \end{pmatrix} = M_0^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(q_2) \end{pmatrix}.$$

If $e_1(\lambda) = 1$, then

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(F_1q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(F_1q_2) \end{pmatrix} = M_1^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(q_2) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(F_2q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(F_2q_2) \end{pmatrix} = M_2^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(q_2) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here the matrices M_i^λ are

$$(4.6) \quad M_0^\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3+3\eta_1(S\lambda)+3\eta_2(S\lambda)}{6+4\eta_1(S\lambda)+4\eta_2(S\lambda)} & \frac{3+\eta_1(S\lambda)+\eta_2(S\lambda)}{6+4\eta_1(S\lambda)+4\eta_2(S\lambda)} \\ \frac{3+\eta_1(S\lambda)+\eta_2(S\lambda)}{6+4\eta_1(S\lambda)+4\eta_2(S\lambda)} & \frac{3+3\eta_1(S\lambda)+3\eta_2(S\lambda)}{6+4\eta_1(S\lambda)+4\eta_2(S\lambda)} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$M_1^\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -\frac{\eta_2(S\lambda)}{2\eta_1(S\lambda)} & \frac{\eta_2(S\lambda)}{2\eta_1(S\lambda)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad M_2^\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\eta_2(S\lambda)}{2\eta_1(S\lambda)} & -\frac{\eta_2(S\lambda)}{2\eta_1(S\lambda)} \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proof. It follows by direct computation. We omit it. \square

By iteratively using the above matrices, we have

$$(4.7) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(F_wq_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(F_wq_2) \end{pmatrix} = M_w^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} \partial_n^\leftarrow h(q_1) \\ \partial_n^\rightarrow h(q_2) \end{pmatrix},$$

for $w \in \tilde{W}_*^\lambda$ with $M_w^\lambda = M_{w_1}^{S^{|w|-1}\lambda} \dots M_{w_2}^{S^\lambda} M_{w_1}^\lambda$. Moreover,

Lemma 4.3. *Assume $h = h(q_1)h_1 + h(q_2)h_2$. Then $\forall m \geq 0$,*

$$(4.8) \quad \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} (\partial_n^\leftarrow h(F_wq_1) + \partial_n^\rightarrow h(F_wq_2)) = \partial_n^\leftarrow h(q_1) + \partial_n^\rightarrow h(q_2),$$

and $\forall w \in \tilde{W}_*^\lambda$,

$$(4.9) \quad \partial_n^\leftarrow h(F_wq_1) + \partial_n^\rightarrow h(F_wq_2) \geq 0, \quad \text{if } h(q_1) \geq 0 \text{ and } h(q_2) \geq 0.$$

Proof. By using the local Gauss-Green's formula on $A_{\lambda,m}$ we get (4.8) holds for each $m \geq 0$. Notice that for $w \in \tilde{W}_*^\lambda$,

$$\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h(F_w q_2) = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^{|w|} (h(F_w q_1) + h(F_w q_2)) (\eta_1(S^{|w|}\lambda) - \eta_2(S^{|w|}\lambda)).$$

By using Lemma 4.1 and the maximum principle for harmonic functions, we have both $\eta_1(S^{|w|}\lambda) - \eta_2(S^{|w|}\lambda) \geq 0$ and $h(F_w q_1) + h(F_w q_2) \geq 0$, in case of $h(q_1) \geq 0$ and $h(q_2) \geq 0$, which gives (4.9). \square

According to Lemma 4.2 and 4.3, we introduce two measures on X .

Definition 4.4. Define μ_1^λ to be the unique probability measure on X satisfying

$$\mu_1^\lambda(X_w) = \frac{1}{\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)} (1, 1) M_w^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1(\lambda) \\ -\eta_2(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, \forall w \in \tilde{W}_*^\lambda.$$

Symmetrically, define μ_2^λ by

$$\mu_2^\lambda(X_w) = \frac{1}{\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)} (1, 1) M_w^\lambda \begin{pmatrix} -\eta_2(\lambda) \\ \eta_1(\lambda) \end{pmatrix}, \forall w \in \tilde{W}_*^\lambda.$$

Note that for $i = 1, 2$, we have $\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_i(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_i(F_w q_2) = (\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)) \mu_i^\lambda(X_w)$.

Theorem 4.5. Let u be a solution of the Dirichlet problem (4.2). Then

$$(4.10) \quad \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1) = \eta_1(\lambda) f(q_1) - \eta_2(\lambda) f(q_2) - (\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)) \int_X f d\mu_1^\lambda,$$

$$(4.11) \quad \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(q_2) = \eta_1(\lambda) f(q_2) - \eta_2(\lambda) f(q_1) - (\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)) \int_X f d\mu_2^\lambda.$$

In addition, if $\mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda^-}(u) < \infty$, then

$$(4.12) \quad \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda^-}(h_1, u) = \partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1), \quad \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda^-}(h_2, u) = \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(q_2).$$

Proof. Using the local Gauss-Green's formula on $A_{\lambda,m}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{A_{\lambda,m}}(h_1, u) &= \partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(q_1) f(q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(q_2) f(q_2) \\ &\quad - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} (\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) u(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2) u(F_w q_2)) \\ &= \eta_1(\lambda) f(q_1) - \eta_2(\lambda) f(q_2) \\ &\quad - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} \frac{u(F_w q_1) + u(F_w q_2)}{2} \cdot (\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2)) \\ &\quad - \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} \frac{u(F_w q_1) - u(F_w q_2)}{2} \cdot (\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) - \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2)). \end{aligned}$$

Analogous to the proof of Theorem 2.1, it is easy to see that

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} \frac{u(F_w q_1) + u(F_w q_2)}{2} \cdot (\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2)) = (\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)) \int_X f d\mu_1^\lambda.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 4.1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) - \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2)| &= \left| \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m (h_1(F_w q_1) - h_1(F_w q_2)) (\eta_1(S^m \lambda) + \eta_2(S^m \lambda)) \right| \\ &\leq 3 \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m (h_1(F_w q_1) + h_1(F_w q_2)) (\eta_1(S^m \lambda) - \eta_2(S^m \lambda)) \\ &= 3(\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2)). \end{aligned}$$

So by Lemma 4.3, $\sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} |\partial_n^\leftarrow h_1(F_w q_1) - \partial_n^\rightarrow h_1(F_w q_2)| \leq 3(\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda))$. Noticing that u is uniformly continuous on $\tilde{\Omega}_\lambda^-$, we have

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} \frac{u(F_w q_1) - u(F_w q_2)}{2} \cdot (\partial_n^\leftarrow h_1(F_w q_1) - \partial_n^\rightarrow h_1(F_w q_2)) = 0.$$

Combining the above facts, we get

$$(4.13) \quad \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda^-}(h_1, u) = \eta_1(\lambda)f(q_1) - \eta_2(\lambda)f(q_2) - (\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)) \int_X f d\mu_1^\lambda.$$

Similarly,

$$(4.14) \quad \mathcal{E}_{\Omega_\lambda^-}(h_2, u) = \eta_1(\lambda)f(q_2) - \eta_2(\lambda)f(q_1) - (\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)) \int_X f d\mu_2^\lambda.$$

The rest part of the proof is similar to that of Theorem 2.1. \square

Combining Theorem 4.5 with (4.3) and (4.4), after an easy calculation, we finally get the following extension algorithm.

Theorem 4.6.(Extension Algorithm) *There exists a unique solution of the Dirichlet problem (4.2). In addition, we have the following formulas for $u|_{V_1 \cap \Omega_\lambda^-}$.*

If $e_1(\lambda) = 0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} u(F_0 q_1) &= \frac{9 + 5\eta_1(S\lambda) + \eta_2(S\lambda)}{4\eta_1(S\lambda)^2 + 14\eta_1(S\lambda) - 2\eta_2(S\lambda) - 4\eta_2(S\lambda)^2 + 12} f(q_1) \\ &+ \frac{3 + \eta_1(S\lambda) + 5\eta_2(S\lambda)}{4\eta_1(S\lambda)^2 + 14\eta_1(S\lambda) - 2\eta_2(S\lambda) - 4\eta_2(S\lambda)^2 + 12} f(q_2) \\ &+ \frac{(7 + 4\eta_1(S\lambda))(\eta_1(S\lambda) - \eta_2(S\lambda))}{4\eta_1(S\lambda)^2 + 14\eta_1(S\lambda) - 2\eta_2(S\lambda) - 4\eta_2(S\lambda)^2 + 12} \int_{X_{S\lambda}^-} f \circ F_0 d\mu_1^{S\lambda} \\ &+ \frac{(1 + 4\eta_2(S\lambda))(\eta_1(S\lambda) - \eta_2(S\lambda))}{4\eta_1(S\lambda)^2 + 14\eta_1(S\lambda) - 2\eta_2(S\lambda) - 4\eta_2(S\lambda)^2 + 12} \int_{X_{S\lambda}^-} f \circ F_0 d\mu_2^{S\lambda}, \end{aligned}$$

and $u(F_1 q_2) = \frac{1}{4}(u(F_0 q_1) + u(F_0 q_2) + f(q_1) + f(q_2))$. The formula of $u(F_0 q_2)$ is symmetrical to that of $u(F_0 q_1)$.

If $e_2(\lambda) = 1$, then

$$u(F_1 q_2) = \frac{\eta_2(S\lambda)}{2\eta_1(S\lambda)} (f(q_1) + f(q_2)) + \frac{\eta_1(S\lambda) - \eta_2(S\lambda)}{2\eta_1(S\lambda)} \left(\int_{X_{S\lambda}^-} f \circ F_1 d\mu_2^{S\lambda} + \int_{X_{S\lambda}^-} f \circ F_2 d\mu_1^{S\lambda} \right).$$

4.2. The calculation of η . In this section, we focus on the calculation of $\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)$. In particular, we will prove the following theorem.

Theorem 4.7. (a) $\eta_1(\lambda)$ is increasing in $[0, 1)$, $\eta_2(\lambda)$ is decreasing in $[0, 1)$.

(b) For $0 \leq \lambda < 1$, $(\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)) = T_{e_1(\lambda)}(\eta_1(S\lambda), \eta_2(S\lambda))$ with

$$(4.15) \quad T_0(x, y) = \left(\frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{3 + 2x + 2y}{2 + x + y} + \frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{x - y}{3 + 2x - 2y}, \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{3 + 2x + 2y}{2 + x + y} - \frac{5}{2} \cdot \frac{x - y}{3 + 2x - 2y} \right),$$

and

$$(4.16) \quad T_1(x, y) = \left(\frac{5}{3} \left(x - \frac{y^2}{2x} \right), \frac{5y^2}{6x} \right).$$

In addition, for any fixed positive numbers $c_1 > c_2$, we have

$$(4.17) \quad (\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)) = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} T_{e_1(\lambda)} \circ T_{e_2(\lambda)} \circ \cdots \circ T_{e_m(\lambda)}(c_1, c_2).$$

Proof. By using maximum principle for harmonic functions, (a) follows easily. So we only need to prove (b).

Looking at the functions $h_1 + h_2$ and $h_1 - h_2$ pictured in Figure 4.3, by computing their normal

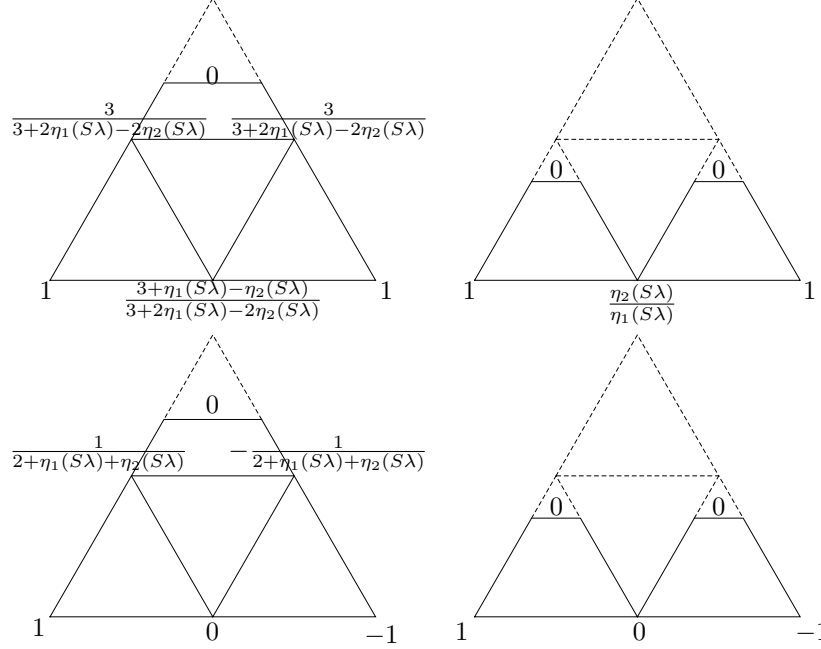


Figure 4.3. $h_1 + h_2$ and $h_1 - h_2$ in two cases.

derivatives at q_1 , we get

$$\begin{cases} \eta_1(\lambda) + \eta_2(\lambda) = \frac{5}{3} \cdot \frac{3+2\eta_1(S\lambda)+2\eta_2(S\lambda)}{2+\eta_1(S\lambda)+\eta_2(S\lambda)}, \\ \eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda) = \frac{5}{3} \cdot \frac{3\eta_1(S\lambda)-3\eta_2(S\lambda)}{3+2\eta_1(S\lambda)-2\eta_2(S\lambda)}, \end{cases} \quad \text{if } e_1(\lambda) = 0,$$

$$\begin{cases} \eta_1(\lambda) + \eta_2(\lambda) = \frac{5}{3}\eta_1(S\lambda), \\ \eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda) = \frac{5}{3}\left(\eta_1(S\lambda) - \frac{\eta_2(S\lambda)^2}{\eta_1(S\lambda)}\right), \end{cases} \quad \text{if } e_1(\lambda) = 1.$$

The above equations lead to

$$(4.18) \quad (\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)) = T_{e_1(\lambda)}(\eta_1(S\lambda), \eta_2(S\lambda)).$$

For the rest proof of Theorem 4.7(b), we need some claims and notations.

Claim 1. For $0 \leq \lambda < 1$, we have

$$h_1(F_w q_i) \leq \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{|w|} \frac{\eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda)}{\eta_1(S^{|w|}\lambda) - \eta_2(S^{|w|}\lambda)}, \forall w \in \tilde{W}_*^\lambda, \forall i = 1, 2.$$

Proof of Claim 1. Let $m = |w|$. Noticing that $h_1(F_w q_i) \geq 0$ by the maximum principle for harmonic functions, by Lemma 4.1, we have

$$\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2) = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m (\eta_1(S^m \lambda) - \eta_2(S^m \lambda)) (h_1(F_w q_1) + h_1(F_w q_2)) \geq 0.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 4.3,

$$\partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(F_w q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(F_w q_2) \leq \partial_n^{\leftarrow} h_1(q_1) + \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_1(q_2) = \eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda).$$

Combining the above two inequalities, we get the desired result. \square

Notations. (a) For $0 \leq \lambda < 1$ and fixed positive numbers $c_1 > c_2$, define a sequence of resistance forms $\mathcal{E}_m^{(c_1, c_2)}(\cdot, \cdot)$ on $V_m^\lambda = (V_m \cap \bar{\Omega}_\lambda^-) \cup \{F_w q_0\}_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda}$ with the conductances

$$c_{x,y}^{\lambda, m}(c_1, c_2) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \approx_m y, \\ \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m (c_1 - c_2), & \text{if } \{x, y\} = \{F_w q_0, F_w q_1\} \text{ or } \{x, y\} = \{F_w q_0, F_w q_2\} \\ & \text{for some } w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda, \\ \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m c_2, & \text{if } \{x, y\} = \{F_w q_1, F_w q_2\} \text{ for some } w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda, \\ \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m, & \text{Otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

(b) Let $h_{1,m}^{\lambda, (c_1, c_2)}$ be a sequence of functions on V_m^λ harmonic with respect to $\mathcal{E}_m^{(c_1, c_2)}(\cdot, \cdot)$, assuming boundary values

$$h_{1,m}^{\lambda, (c_1, c_2)}(q_1) = 1, h_{1,m}^{\lambda, (c_1, c_2)}(q_2) = 0, h_{1,m}^{\lambda, (c_1, c_2)}(F_w q_0) = 0, \forall w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda.$$

Still denote by $h_{1,m}^{\lambda, (c_1, c_2)}$ the piecewise harmonic function which assumes the same value on V_m^λ and takes harmonic extension elsewhere in $\Omega_\lambda^- \cup \{F_w S\mathcal{G}\}_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda}$.

In Figure 4.4, we give an example of V_m^λ together with some conductances. We abbreviate $h_{1,m}^{\lambda, (c_1, c_2)}$ to $h_{1,m}$ when there is no confusion caused. By Theorem 4.5, one can easily check that $h_{1,m}|_{V_m \cap \bar{\Omega}_\lambda^-} = h_1|_{V_m \cap \bar{\Omega}_\lambda^-}$, when $(c_1, c_2) = (\eta_1(S^m \lambda), \eta_2(S^m \lambda))$.

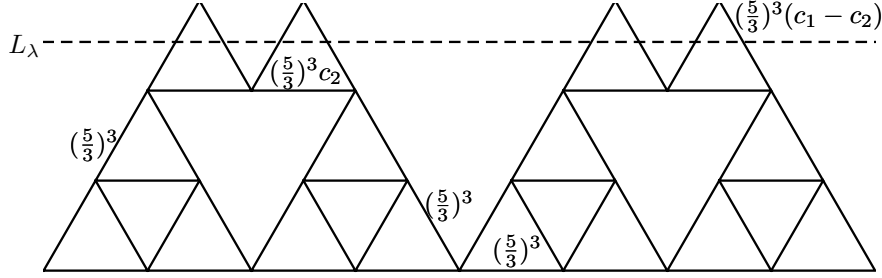


Figure 4.4. V_m^λ and some conductances. $(\frac{5}{8} < \lambda < \frac{3}{4}, m = 3)$

Without loss of generality, we assume that $1 - \lambda > 2^{-j}$ for some integer j .

Claim 2. For $c_1 > c_2 > 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^j (2 - h_{1,m}(F_1^j q_0) - h_{1,m}(F_1^j q_2)), \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^j (h_{1,m}(F_2^j q_0) + h_{1,m}(F_2^j q_1)) \right) \\ & = T_{e_1(\lambda)} \circ T_{e_2(\lambda)} \circ \cdots \circ T_{e_m(\lambda)}(c_1, c_2). \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Claim 2. It is easy to see the claim holds by inductively using (4.18) when $(c_1, c_2) = (\eta_1(S^m \lambda), \eta_2(S^m \lambda))$, since then $h_{1,m}|_{V_m \cap \bar{\Omega}_\lambda^-} = h_1|_{V_m \cap \bar{\Omega}_\lambda^-}$. For general c_1, c_2 , the claim still holds in a completely similar way. \square

Claim 3. Write $(c_{1,m}, c_{2,m}) = T_{e_1(\lambda)} \circ T_{e_2(\lambda)} \circ \cdots \circ T_{e_m(\lambda)}(c_1, c_2)$ for short. Then

$$h_{1,m}(F_w q_i) \leq \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^m \frac{c_{1,m} - c_{2,m}}{c_1 - c_2} \leq 4 \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{m-j} \frac{1}{c_1 - c_2}, \forall w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda, \forall i = 1, 2.$$

Proof of Claim 3. The first inequality is obtained analogously to the proof of Claim 1. The second inequality follows from Claim 2 and the fact $\|h_{1,m}\|_\infty \leq 1$. \square

Notice that $h_{1,m}^{\lambda,(c_1,c_2)}$ and $h_{1,m}^{\lambda,(\eta_1(S^m\lambda),\eta_2(S^m\lambda))}$ satisfy the same mean value equations on $V_m^\lambda \setminus (\bigcup_{w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda} F_w V_0)$. By Claim 3, we have the following estimate due to the maximum principle for harmonic functions,

$$|(h_{1,m}^{\lambda,(c_1,c_2)} - h_{1,m}^{\lambda,(\eta_1(S^m\lambda),\eta_2(S^m\lambda))})(F_i^j q_{i'})| \leq 4\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{m-j} \left(\frac{1}{c_1 - c_2} + 1\right),$$

for $(i, i') \in \{(1, 0), (1, 2), (2, 0), (2, 1)\}$, where we use the fact that $\eta_1(S^m\lambda) - \eta_2(S^m\lambda) \geq 1$.

Thus, by Claim 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| T_{e_1(\lambda)} \circ T_{e_2(\lambda)} \circ \cdots \circ T_{e_m(\lambda)}(c_1, c_2) - (\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)) \right\| \\ &= \left\| T_{e_1(\lambda)} \circ T_{e_2(\lambda)} \circ \cdots \circ T_{e_m(\lambda)}(c_1, c_2) - T_{e_1(\lambda)} \circ T_{e_2(\lambda)} \circ \cdots \circ T_{e_m(\lambda)}(\eta_1(S^m\lambda), \eta_2(S^m\lambda)) \right\| \\ &\leq 8\left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{m-2j} \left(\frac{1}{c_1 - c_2} + 1\right) \end{aligned}$$

with $\|(a, b)\| = \max\{|a|, |b|\}$, which yields (4.17) as $m \rightarrow \infty$ for $0 \leq \lambda < 1 - 2^{-j}$. Noticing that j is arbitrary, we complete the proof of Theorem 4.7(b). \square

4.3. Some calculations on M_w^λ . In this subsection, we consider two special cases, $e_1(\lambda) = e_2(\lambda) = \cdots = e_m(\lambda) = 0$ or $e_1(\lambda) = e_2(\lambda) = \cdots = e_m(\lambda) = 1$ for some m . It would be convenient to get a direct expression for $M_w^\lambda, w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda$ and $\underbrace{T_0 \circ T_0 \cdots \circ T_0}_{m\text{'s}}$ or $\underbrace{T_1 \circ T_1 \cdots \circ T_1}_{m\text{'s}}$.

Proposition 4.8. *Assume $e_1(\lambda) = e_2(\lambda) = \cdots = e_m(\lambda) = 0$. Then we have*

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \quad \eta_1(\lambda) + \eta_2(\lambda) &= 3 + \frac{14(\eta_1(S^m\lambda) + \eta_2(S^m\lambda) - 3)}{3(15^m - 1)(\eta_1(S^m\lambda) + \eta_2(S^m\lambda) - 3) + 14 \cdot 15^m}, \\ \eta_1(\lambda) - \eta_2(\lambda) &= \frac{\eta_1(S^m\lambda) - \eta_2(S^m\lambda)}{(1 - (\frac{3}{5})^m)(\eta_1(S^m\lambda) - \eta_2(S^m\lambda)) + (\frac{3}{5})^m}, \\ (b) \quad M_{0^m}^\lambda &= \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix} \text{ with } a + b = 1 \text{ and} \end{aligned}$$

$$a - b = \frac{14 \cdot 5^m (\eta_1(S^m\lambda) + \eta_2(S^m\lambda))}{(9 \cdot 15^m + 5)(\eta_1(S^m\lambda) + \eta_2(S^m\lambda)) + 15(15^m - 1)},$$

where we use the notation 0^m to represent the word $00 \cdots 0$ of length m .

Proposition 4.9. *Assume $e_1(\lambda) = e_2(\lambda) = \cdots = e_m(\lambda) = 1$. Denote $0 < x < 1$ the solution of $\frac{\eta_1(S^m\lambda)}{\eta_2(S^m\lambda)} = \frac{x+x^{-1}}{2}$. Then we have*

$$(a) \quad \eta_1(\lambda) = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m \frac{x - x^{-1}}{x + x^{-1}} \cdot \frac{x^{2^m} + x^{-2^m}}{x^{2^m} - x^{-2^m}} \eta_1(S^m\lambda) \text{ and } \eta_2(\lambda) = \left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^m \frac{x - x^{-1}}{x^{2^m} - x^{-2^m}} \eta_2(S^m\lambda).$$

(b) For $w \in \tilde{W}_m^\lambda$, the matrix M_w^λ is given by

$$M_w^\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} x^j & -x^{2^m-j} \\ -x^{j+1} & x^{2^m-j-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -x^{2^m} \\ -x^{2^m} & 1 \end{pmatrix}^{-1},$$

with j being the integer such that $0 \leq j \leq 2^m - 1$ satisfying

$$(4.19) \quad j = \sum_{k=1}^m (w_k - 1) \cdot 2^{m-k}.$$

The proofs of Proposition 4.8 and 4.9 directly follow from elementary computations. We omit them. Proposition 4.9 is motivated by Theorem 5.4 of [S1], which solves the special case that $\lambda = 1 - 2^{-m}$.

5. EXTENSION TO \mathcal{SG}_l

In this section, we will briefly discuss how to extend previous results to level- l Sierpinski gasket \mathcal{SG}_l .

5.1. Half domains. We still use Ω to denote the half domain and X its Cantor set boundary. As shown in Section 2, to solve the Dirichlet problem on the half domain of \mathcal{SG}_l , it suffices to obtain the extension algorithm for $u|_{V_1 \cap \Omega}$ in terms of the boundary data f . We summarize it into following two steps.

Step 1. Find a formula for $\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1)$, in the form of

$$\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1) = 3f(q_1) - 3 \int_X f d\mu.$$

Here the measure μ , as shown in Theorem 2.1 for \mathcal{SG}_3 , is a multiple of the normal derivative of the antisymmetric harmonic function h_a on X . To work out μ , we introduce some notations.

Let $\{p_{j,\emptyset}\}_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor} = \{p \in V_1 \cap X : p = F_i q_2 \text{ for some } 0 \leq i \leq \frac{l^2+l-2}{2}\}$, and prescribe that $p_{j,\emptyset}$ locates above $p_{j+1,\emptyset}$ for each $1 \leq j \leq \lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor - 1$. Write

$$\tilde{W}_m = \{i : \#(F_i \mathcal{SG}_l \cap X) = \infty\}^m, \text{ and } \tilde{W}_* = \bigcup_{m=0}^{\infty} \tilde{W}_m.$$

For $w \in \tilde{W}_*$, $1 \leq j \leq \lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor$, denote $p_{j,w} = F_w p_{j,\emptyset}$. Obviously, $\{p_{j,w}\}_{1 \leq j \leq \lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor, w \in \tilde{W}_*} = V_* \cap X \setminus \{q_0\}$ is dense in X . See the following example for an illustration.

Example 5.1. In Figure 5.1 (a), we label the contraction mappings of \mathcal{SG}_4 . So we have $\tilde{W}_m = \{0, 6\}^m$. The vertices $\{p_{j,\emptyset}\}_{j=1}^2$ are plotted in Figure 5.1 (b).

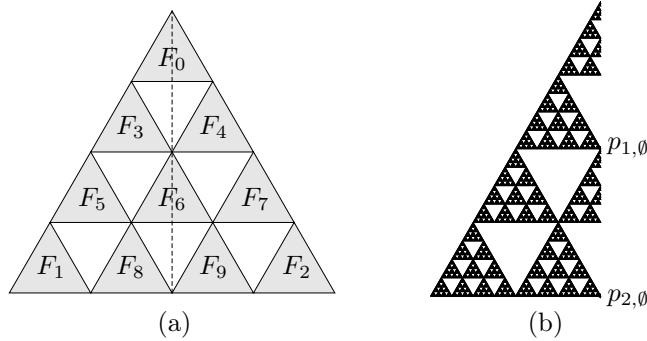


Figure 5.1. The half domain of \mathcal{SG}_4 .

With the above notations, introduce the pure atomic probability measure μ on X satisfying

$$(5.1) \quad \mu(\{p_{j,w}\}) = -\frac{1}{3} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_a(p_{j,w}), \text{ for } w \in \tilde{W}_* \text{ and } 1 \leq j \leq \lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor.$$

For $i \in \tilde{W}_1$, denote $\mu_i = r^{-1} h_a(F_i q_1)$ and write $\mu_w = \mu_{w_1} \mu_{w_2} \cdots \mu_{w_{|w|}}$, where r is the renormalization factor of the energy on \mathcal{SG}_l . It is easy to check that $\partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_a(p_{j,w}) = \mu_w \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_a(p_{j,\emptyset})$, so that

$$\mu(\{p_{j,w}\}) = -\frac{\mu_w}{3} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} h_a(p_{j,\emptyset}).$$

Step 2. Solve linear equations determined by the matching conditions of normal derivatives on $V_1 \cap \Omega$.

That is

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{cases} r\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(F_i q_1) + \sum_{y \sim_1 F_i q_1, y \notin F_i V_0} (u(F_i q_1) - u(y)) = 0, & i \in \tilde{W}_1, \\ \sum_{y \sim_1 x} (u(x) - u(y)) = 0, & \text{for other } x \in V_1 \cap \Omega. \end{cases}$$

Taking $\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(F_i q_1) = 3r^{-1}(u(F_i q_1) - \int_X f \circ F_i d\mu)$ into (5.2), the remaining problem is solving the linear equations. However, even for the values of h_a , the calculation becomes much more complicated, so we could not provide a general solution of (5.2).

Let's look at the simplest case.

Example 5.2. Consider the half domain of \mathcal{SG} . In this case, $\tilde{W}_* = \{\emptyset, 0, 00, \dots\}$ and $p_{1,\emptyset} = F_1 q_2$. For convenience, we write $p_k = F_0^k p_{1,\emptyset}$. See Figure 5.2 below for the notations.

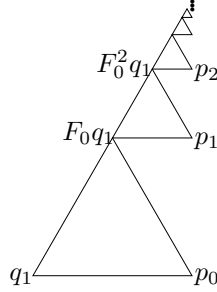


Figure 5.2. The vertices on a half \mathcal{SG} .

The measure μ is given by

$$\mu(\{p_k\}) = 2 \cdot 3^{-k-1}.$$

There is only one equation in (5.2),

$$2u(F_0 q_1) - f(q_1) - f(p_0) + 3 \cdot (u(F_0 q_1) - \int_X f \circ F_0 d\mu) = 0.$$

So

$$(5.3) \quad u(F_0 q_1) = \frac{1}{5}f(q_1) + \frac{1}{5}f(p_0) + \frac{3}{5} \int_X f \circ F_0 d\mu,$$

and thus $u(F_0 q_1) = \frac{1}{5}f(q_1) + \frac{1}{5}f(p_0) + \frac{6}{5} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} 3^{-k} f(p_k)$, which is Corollary 2.5 in [LS].

We mention that the Dirichlet to Neumann map was studied in [LS], and it was shown that $\|(\frac{3}{5})^{k+1} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(p_k)\|_{\infty} < \infty$ if $\{f(p_k)\}_{k=0}^{\infty} \in l^{\infty}$. Here, we present another interesting observation, which describes where $\{\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(p_k)\}_{k \geq 0}$ live in when $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$.

Theorem 5.3. *Let u be the solution of the Dirichlet problem (1.1) on the half domain of \mathcal{SG} , then the series $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\frac{3}{5})^{k+1} \partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(p_k)$ converges.*

Conversely, given a convergence series $\{\eta_k\}_{k=-1}^{\infty}$, there exists a unique $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$ such that $f(q_1) = 0$, $\partial_n^{\leftarrow} u(q_1) = \eta_{-1}$ and $\partial_n^{\rightarrow} u(p_k) = (\frac{5}{3})^{k+1} \eta_k$ for $k \geq 0$, where u is the harmonic function with boundary data f .

Proof. By using (5.3) and the fact that $\int_X f \circ F_0^k d\mu = \frac{2}{3}f(p_k) + \frac{1}{3}\int_X f \circ F_0^{k+1}d\mu$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{k+1}\partial_n^{\rightarrow}u(p_k) &= 2f(p_k) - u(F_0^k q_1) - u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) \\ &= 2f(p_k) - u(F_0^k q_1) - u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) + \frac{5}{2}(u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) - \frac{1}{5}u(F_0^k q_1) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{5}u(p_k) - \frac{3}{5}\int_X f \circ F_0^{k+1}d\mu) \\ &= \frac{3}{2}(u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) - u(F_0^k q_1)) + \frac{3}{2}f(p_k) - \frac{3}{2}\int_X f \circ F_0^{k+1}d\mu \\ &= \frac{3}{2}(u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) - u(F_0^k q_1)) + \frac{9}{4}\left(\int_X f \circ F_0^k d\mu - \int_X f \circ F_0^{k+1}d\mu\right). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{k+1}\partial_n^{\rightarrow}u(p_k)$ converges to $\frac{9}{4}\int_X f d\mu - \frac{3}{4}f(q_0) - \frac{3}{2}f(q_1)$.

Conversely, suppose there exists such a $f \in C(\partial\Omega)$, it must satisfies

$$\begin{cases} 2f(p_k) - u(F_0^k q_1) - u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) = \eta_k, \\ f(p_k) + u(F_0^k q_1) - 2u(F_0^{k+1} q_1) = \sum_{i=-1}^k \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{k-i}\eta_i, \end{cases} \quad \forall k \geq 0,$$

which arise from the definition of normal derivatives at p_k and $F_0^{k+1}q_1$, using the fact that $-\partial_n^{\uparrow}u(F_0^{k+1}q_1) = \partial_n^{\leftarrow}u(q_1) + \sum_{i=0}^k \partial_n^{\rightarrow}u(p_i)$. The solution of the above equations is

$$\begin{cases} u(F_0^{k+1}q_1) = -\eta_{-1} - \frac{4}{3}\sum_{i=0}^k \eta_i + \sum_{i=-1}^k \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{k-i}\eta_i, \\ f(p_k) = -\eta_{-1} - \frac{4}{3}\sum_{i=0}^k \eta_i + \frac{4}{3}\sum_{i=-1}^k \left(\frac{3}{5}\right)^{k-i}\eta_i + \frac{1}{3}\eta_k, \end{cases} \quad \forall k \geq 0,$$

where $f(p_k)$ and $u(F_0^k q_1)$ converge to $f(q_0) = -\eta_{-1} - \frac{4}{3}\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \eta_i$. Thus we find a unique function f which satisfies the prescribed conditions. \square

However, it is not clear where $\{\partial_n^{\rightarrow}u(p_{j,w})\}_{w \in \bar{W}_*, 1 \leq j \leq \lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor}$ live in for general cases, even for \mathcal{SG}_3 .

For the energy estimate part, for \mathcal{SG}_l , we have

$$(5.4) \quad C_1 Q(f) \leq \mathcal{E}_{\Omega}(u) \leq C_2 Q(f)$$

for some positive constants C_1, C_2 , with

$$(5.5) \quad Q(f) = \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor \frac{l}{2} \rfloor} (f(q_1) - f(p_{j,\emptyset}))^2 + \sum_{w \in \bar{W}_*} \sum_{i \in \bar{W}_1} \sum_{j,j'} r^{-|w|} (f(p_{j,w}) - f(p_{j',wi}))^2.$$

The method is essentially the same as that for \mathcal{SG}_3 case.

5.2. Upper or lower domains. The Dirichlet problem on the upper and lower domains in general \mathcal{SG}_l are much more complicated.

For the upper domains, we use the infinite expansion

$$\lambda = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \iota_k \cdot l^{-m_k}$$

to characterize Ω_{λ} , where $\{m_k\}_{k \geq 1}$ is an increasing sequence of positive integers and ι_k take values from $\{1, 2, \dots, l-1\}$. The number ι_k decides the relationship between $\Omega_{R^{k-1}\lambda}$ and $\Omega_{R^k\lambda}$, where $R\lambda = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} \iota_k \cdot l^{-(m_k - m_1)}$, and there are $l-1$ choices in the \mathcal{SG}_l setting.

As for the lower domains, we refer to a different expansion

$$\lambda = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e_k(\lambda) l^{-k},$$

with $e_k(\lambda)$ taking values from $\{0, 1, \dots, l-1\}$. We forbid infinitely consecutive $(l-1)$'s to make the expansion unique. Similarly, different $e_k(\lambda)$ determines different type of relationships between $\Omega_{S^{k-1}\lambda}^-$ and $\Omega_{S^k\lambda}^-$, where $S\lambda = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e_{k+1}(\lambda)l^{-k}$.

The approaches in Section 3 and Section 4 to solve the Dirichlet problem on upper or lower domains still work, although the calculations involved turn to be rather complicated. We list the main steps.

Step 1. Denote $\eta(\lambda) = \partial_n^\uparrow h_0(q_0)$ (or $\eta_1(\lambda) = \partial_n^\leftarrow h_1(q_1), \eta_2(\lambda) = -\partial_n^\rightarrow h_1(q_2)$). Represent $\eta(\lambda)$ in terms of $\eta(R\lambda)$ with the relationship between Ω_λ and $\Omega_{R\lambda}$ (or represent $\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)$ in terms of $\eta_1(S\lambda)$ and $\eta_2(S\lambda)$). Use the above representations iteratively to approximate $\eta(\lambda)$ (or $\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)$), and the proof is essentially the same as Lemma 3.1 (or Theorem 4.7).

Step 2. Calculate the normal derivatives of h_0 (or h_1, h_2) along the Cantor set X , using the crucial coefficients $\eta(\lambda)$ (or $\eta_1(\lambda), \eta_2(\lambda)$). The normal derivatives of h_0 (or h_1, h_2) hold the key to the representation of $\partial_n^\uparrow u(q_0)$ (or $\partial_n^\leftarrow u(q_1), \partial_n^\rightarrow u(q_2)$) in terms of the boundary data f .

Step 3. Solve the linear equations determined by the matching conditions of normal derivatives on the crucial points.

Lastly, the Haar series expansion used in the energy estimate still works in general \mathcal{SG}_l cases. The key observation is that we can still use the analogue of Theorem 3.4 to show that we can decompose the harmonic solution associated with a square integrable boundary value data (with respect to a suitable choice of measure), into a summation of countably infinite, pairwise orthogonal in energy, locally supported harmonic functions with suitable piecewise constant boundary values.

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