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**On Deny's characterization of the potential kernel
for a convolution Feller semi-group**

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ON DENY'S CHARACTERIZATION
OF THE POTENTIAL KERNEL
FOR A CONVOLUTION
FELLER SEMI-GROUP ⁽¹⁾

by J. C. TAYLOR

*Dédié à Monsieur M. Brelot à l'occasion
de son 70^e anniversaire.*

Introduction.

Let G be an abelian locally compact group and let ν be a positive Radon measure with the property that the kernel V defined by $Vf(x) = (f * \nu)(x) = \int f(xy^{-1})\nu(dx)$ satisfies the domination principle. In [1] Deny characterized those measures ν for which $V = \int_0^\infty P_t dt$ where (P_t) is a convolution semigroup such that $(x, t) \rightarrow P_t(x, \Phi)$ is continuous for all $\Phi \in C_c(G)$. In particular, if V satisfies the complete maximum principle, his result characterizes the convolution Feller semi-groups.

The purpose of this article is to extend Deny's result, when V is assumed to satisfy the complete maximum principle, to the case where G is replaced by a homogeneous space $E = G/K$ with G an arbitrary locally compact group and K a compact subgroup of G . Specifically, the following is proved (see theorem 3.10):

THEOREM. — *Assume that G is σ -compact. Let (P_t) be a Feller semigroup on E that commutes with the action of G*

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on E . Assume that for any compact set $A \subset E$,

$$V1_A = \int_0^\infty P_t 1_A dt$$

is finite. Let κ be the K -invariant measure on E defined by $\langle \kappa, \Phi \rangle = V\Phi(0)$.

Then κ satisfies the following condition:

D) There is a base \mathcal{B} for the neighbourhood filter of 0 such that for each $B \in \mathcal{B}$ there exists $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ with

$$(1) \sigma * \kappa \leq \kappa;$$

$$(2) \sigma * \kappa \neq \kappa, \sigma * \kappa = \kappa \text{ on } \bigcup B; \text{ and}$$

$$(3) \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma * \kappa^n = 0.$$

Conversely, if κ satisfies D) and the kernel $Vf = f * \kappa$ satisfies the complete maximum principle then there is a unique convolution Feller semi-group (P_t) with

$$V = \int_0^\infty P_t dt.$$

The condition of σ -compactness is not essential but for the sake of simplicity the detailed proofs are given under this assumption. The measure-theoretic complements needed to permit arguments to carry over in the general case are outlined in the appendix.

Let X be a locally compact space. Then \mathcal{X} denotes the σ -ring generated by the compact subsets of X and $f \in \mathcal{X}^+$ if $\{f > 0\} = A \in \mathcal{X}$ and $f|_A$ is measurable and non-negative relative to $\mathcal{X}|_A$. The set of non-negative Radon measures is denoted by $M^+(X)$ and $C_c^+(X)$ (resp. $C_0^+(X)$) denotes the set of non-negative continuous functions with compact support (resp. vanishing at infinity).

A kernel is viewed as an operator on functions as in [2] rather than as an operator on measures as in [1].

1. The resolvent defined by a convolution kernel.

Let G be a locally compact group whose topology is σ -compact and denote by K a compact subgroup. Let E denote the locally compact quotient space G/K of right cosets and

denote by π the projection of G onto E (let $\pi(t)$ be also denoted by $[t]$). Let $0 = [e]$, e the identity of G .

Denote by κ a positive Radon measure on E and let m be the left-invariant probability measure on K . Define the measure $\tilde{\kappa}$ on G by setting

$$\langle \tilde{\kappa}, f \rangle = \int \left[\int f(tx^{-1})m(dx) \right] \kappa(d[t]),$$

for $f \in \mathcal{G}^+$ (note that $t \rightarrow f^\#(t) = \int f(tx^{-1})m(dx)$ is constant on each right coset since a compact group is unimodular).

Define the translation kernels T_t and S_t by the formulas $(T_t f)(x) = f(t^{-1}x)$ and $(S_t f)(x) = f(xt^{-1})$, $f \in \mathcal{G}^+$. A Radon measure α on G is said to be *K-right-invariant* if

$$\langle \alpha, S_t f \rangle = \langle \alpha, f \rangle$$

for all $t \in K$ and $f \in \mathcal{G}^+$. The measure $\tilde{\kappa}$ is then the unique *K-right invariant* measure α on G whose image $\pi(\alpha) = \kappa$ and the map $\kappa \rightarrow \tilde{\kappa}$ identifies $M^+(E)$ with the set of *K-right-invariant* measures on G (note that $\langle \tilde{\kappa}, f \rangle = \langle \kappa, \bar{f} \rangle$, where $f^\# = \bar{f} \circ \pi$ and $(S_t f)^\# = \bar{f}$ if $t \in K$).

If $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$ let $\tilde{f} = f \circ \pi$. Then $g \in \mathcal{G}^+$ is of the form $g = \tilde{f}$, $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$, if and only if $S_t g = g$ for all $t \in K$. Consequently, if $g \in \mathcal{G}^+$ and $\kappa \in M^+(E)$ the function h defined by $h(x) = (g * \tilde{\kappa})(x) = \int g(xt^{-1})\tilde{\kappa}(dt)$ is of the form $h = \tilde{l}$, $l \in \mathcal{E}^+$. As a result, if $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$ there is a unique function $g \in \mathcal{E}^+$ with $\tilde{g} = \tilde{f} * \tilde{\kappa}$. Define g to be $f * \kappa$. Clearly $f \rightarrow f * \kappa$ defines a kernel N such that $NT_t = T_t N$ for all $t \in G$ and $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$ (note that $T_t f([x]) = f([t^{-1}x])$). Such a kernel will be called a *convolution kernel*.

A measure μ on E is said to be *K-invariant* if

$$\langle \mu, f \rangle = \langle \mu, T_t f \rangle$$

for all $t \in K$ and $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$. This is equivalent to requiring that $\langle \tilde{\mu}, g \rangle = \langle \tilde{\mu}, S_t g \rangle = \langle \tilde{\mu}, T_t g \rangle$ for all $t \in K$ and $g \in \mathcal{G}^+$, i.e. $\tilde{\mu}$ is *K-bi-invariant*.

LEMMA 1.1. — *Let N be a convolution kernel on E . Then there exists a unique *K-invariant* measure α on E such*

that $Nf = f * \alpha$ for all $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$. In case $Nf = f * \kappa$ the measure $\alpha = \pi((\tilde{\beta})^\vee)$, where $\beta = \pi((\tilde{\kappa})^\vee)$.

Proof. — Define $\langle \beta, f \rangle = Nf(0)$. Then, if $t \in K$,

$$\langle \beta, f \rangle = Nf(0) = (T_t Nf)(0) = N(T_t f)(0) = \langle \beta, T_t f \rangle.$$

Hence, β is K -invariant.

Clearly, $N([x], f) = \int \tilde{f}(xs)\tilde{\beta} ds$ if $x \in G$ and $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$. Further, $\tilde{\beta}$ is K -biinvariant and so $\alpha = \pi((\tilde{\beta})^\vee)$ is K -invariant. Hence, $\tilde{\alpha} = (\tilde{\beta})^\vee$ and so

$$N([x], f) = (\tilde{f} * \tilde{\alpha})(x) = (f * \alpha)[x].$$

The uniqueness of α is clear as is the fact that $N = * \kappa$ implies $\beta = \pi((\tilde{\kappa})^\vee)$.

Let $\kappa \in M^+(E)$ be such that the kernel V defined by $Vf = f * \kappa$ satisfies the complete maximum principle (note that κ is not assumed to be K -invariant). Since κ is Radon, V is proper and so, as remarked in [3], it is reasonable to define $u \in \mathcal{E}^+$ as *excessive* if $u = \sup_n Vf_n$ with $(f_n) \subset \mathcal{E}^+$ and (Vf_n) increasing. Also, $u \in \mathcal{E}^+$ is said to be *supermedian* if, for all f and $g \in \mathcal{E}^+$, $u + Vf \geq Vg$ on $\{g > 0\}$ implies $u + Vf \geq Vg$.

If $\alpha, \beta \in M^+(G)$ and β is K -right invariant then an easy calculation shows that $\alpha * \beta$ is also K -right-invariant. Hence, if $\mu, \nu \in M^+(E)$ the Radon measure $\tilde{\mu} * \tilde{\nu}$ (when defined) equals $\tilde{\eta}$ where $\pi(\tilde{\mu} * \tilde{\nu}) = \eta \in M^+(E)$. The measure η is defined to be $\mu * \nu$.

Remark. — If N is a convolution kernel on E and

$$\mu \in M^+(E)$$

then $\mu N = \mu * \beta$ where $\beta = \pi((\tilde{\alpha})^\vee)$ if $Nf = f * \alpha$. In the case of a group the convolution kernels are associated with β rather than α so that the formula $\langle \mu N, f \rangle = \langle \mu, Nf \rangle$ holds.

Assume that the following condition is satisfied by κ :

(D₁) there is a compact neighbourhood B of 0 and $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ such that

$$(1) \sigma * \kappa \leq \kappa;$$

(2) $\sigma * \kappa = \kappa$ on $\int B$; and

(3) $\sigma^n * \kappa$ tends to zero weakly (where σ^n is the n -fold convolution of σ with itself).

PROPOSITION 1.2. — Let $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$, $x_0 \in E$ and $\varepsilon > 0$. Then there exists an excessive function s and a compact set $K \subset E$ with

(1) $s(x_0) < \varepsilon$; and

(2) $s \geq V\Phi$ on $\int K$.

In other words, $V\Phi$ vanishes at the natural boundary of E in the sense of [3].

Proof. — If $\psi \in C_c^+(G)$ then there exists $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$ with $\psi \leq \tilde{\Phi}$. Hence, in view of D_1) (3) it suffices to prove that, for each $n \geq 0$, for all $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$ and for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an excessive function $\nu = \nu(n, \Phi, \varepsilon)$ and a compact set $L_n = L_n(\nu, \Phi, \varepsilon)$ with (a) $\Phi * (\sigma^n * \kappa) + \nu \geq \Phi * \kappa$ on $\int L_n$ and (b) $\nu(x_0) < \varepsilon$. Let $P(n)$ denote this statement.

First, let $n = 1$. From D_1) (2) it follows that if $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$ then $\Phi * (\sigma * \kappa) = \Phi * \kappa$ on $\int D$, $D = \pi(\tilde{A}\tilde{B})$, where

$$\tilde{A} = \pi^{-1}(\text{supp } \Phi)$$

and $\tilde{B} = \pi^{-1}(B)$. Since D is compact, $P(1)$ is established with $\nu = 0$.

Assume $P(n)$. Let $\sigma = \sigma' + \tau$ where σ' has compact support and $(\Phi * (\tau * \kappa))(x_0) < \varepsilon/2$. Then,

$$\Phi * (\sigma^{n+1} * \kappa) \geq (\Phi * \sigma') * (\sigma^n * \kappa)$$

and $\Phi * \sigma' \in C_c^+(E)$. If $\omega = \nu(n, \Phi * \sigma', \varepsilon/2)$ then

$$\Phi * (\sigma^{n+1} * \kappa) + \omega \geq (\Phi * \sigma') * \kappa$$

on $\int L_n(\nu, \Phi * \sigma', \varepsilon/2) = \int L_n$. Hence, if

$$\nu = \omega + \Phi * (\tau * \kappa)$$

it follows that $\nu + \Phi * (\sigma^{n+1} * \kappa) \geq \Phi * (\sigma * \kappa)$ on $\int L_n$ and $\nu(x_0) < \varepsilon$.

In view of $P(1)$ this establishes $P(n + 1)$.

LEMMA 1.3. — Let V and T be proper kernels on a measurable space (E, \mathcal{E}) such that $VT = TV$. If $V = \lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} V_\lambda$, where (V_λ) is a sub-Markovian resolvent of kernels V_λ , then $TV_\lambda = V_\lambda T$ for all $\lambda > 0$, providing $T1 < \infty$.

Proof. — Let $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$ be such that f, Vf, Tf and VTf are all finite. Now $V_\lambda f$ is the unique function h such that $(I + \lambda V)h = Vf$. Hence,

$$VTf = TVf = T(I + \lambda V)h = (I + \lambda V)Th$$

implies that $V_\lambda(Tf) = T(V_\lambda f)$. Since each $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$ is of the form $f = \sum_n f_n$, where each f_n satisfies the above hypotheses, the result follows.

THEOREM 1.4. — Let V be the kernel defined by $Vf = f * \kappa$, $\kappa \in M^+(E)$. Assume that V satisfies the complete maximum principle. If κ satisfies D_1) then there is a unique family (κ_λ) of K -invariant measures κ_λ such that the kernels

$$V_\lambda f = f * \kappa_\lambda$$

form a sub-Markovian resolvent (V_λ) of kernels V_λ on E with $V = \lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} V_\lambda$.

Further, if \tilde{V} is the kernel defined by $\tilde{V}g = g * \tilde{\kappa}$ (where κ also denotes the K -invariant measure for which $Vf = f * \kappa$), the kernels \tilde{V}_λ defined by $\tilde{V}_\lambda g = g * \tilde{\kappa}_\lambda$ form the unique sub-Markovian resolvent (\tilde{V}_λ) on G with $\tilde{V} = \lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} \tilde{V}_\lambda$.

Proof. — From Proposition 1.1 and Theorem 2 in [3] it follows that there is a unique sub-Markovian resolvent (V_λ) with $V = \lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} V_\lambda$. From Lemma 1.3 it follows that each V_λ is a convolution kernel. For all $\lambda \geq 0$, let κ_λ be the unique K -invariant measure on E such that $V_\lambda f = f * \kappa_\lambda$, $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$.

The resolvent equation, $0 \geq \lambda \geq \mu$,

$$\kappa_\lambda = \kappa_\mu + (\mu - \lambda)\kappa_\lambda * \kappa_\mu = \kappa_\mu + (\mu - \lambda)\kappa_\mu * \kappa_\lambda$$

holds when each measure η is replaced by $\tilde{\eta}$. Define

$$\tilde{V}_\lambda g = g * \tilde{\kappa}_\lambda, \quad g \in \mathcal{G}^+.$$

Then (\tilde{V}_λ) is a sub-Markovian resolvent and $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$ implies $\tilde{V}_\lambda \tilde{f} = V_\lambda f$. Also, $\tilde{V}g = g * \tilde{x} \geq \tilde{V}_\lambda g = g * \tilde{x}_\lambda$ for all $g \in \mathcal{G}^+$ and since $V = \lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} V_\lambda$, $\tilde{V} = \lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} \tilde{V}_\lambda$ (note that if $\psi \in C_c^+(G)$ there exists $\Phi \in C^+(E)$ with $\tilde{\Phi} \geq \psi$).

Remark. — Since κ is K -invariant it can be directly verified that \tilde{V} satisfies the complete maximum principle (note that $\tilde{V}f = \tilde{V}f^\#$, for all $f \in \mathcal{G}^+$).

2. The existence of a Feller semigroup.

The measure κ on E will be assumed to satisfy the following condition :

D_2) there is a base \mathcal{B} of compact neighbourhoods of 0 such that for each $B \in \mathcal{B}$ there exists $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ with

- (1) $\sigma * \kappa \leq \kappa$;
- (2) $\sigma * \kappa \neq \kappa$; and
- (3) $\sigma * \kappa = \kappa$ on \bar{B} .

Remark. — If, in addition, one requires in D_2) that each $\sigma^n * \kappa$ converge weakly to zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and that each σ is carried by \bar{B} then there is a family associated with κ in the sense of Deny [1].

Since the resolvent (V_λ) maps $C_0(E)$ into itself the Hille-Yosida theorem can be applied if $D = \overline{V_\lambda(C_0(E))} = C_0(E)$.

This fact is established by the following sequence of lemmas and propositions.

LEMMA 2.1. — Assume $\alpha \leq \beta$. Then $\alpha = \beta$ if

$$(\Phi * \alpha)(0) = (\Phi * \beta)(0)$$

for all $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$.

Proof. — $(\Phi * \alpha)(0) = (\Phi * \beta)(0)$ for all $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$ implies that $\tilde{\alpha}(\tilde{A}^{-1}) = \tilde{\beta}(\tilde{A}^{-1})$ for every compact set $A \subset E$.

If $B \subset G$ is compact then $B^{-1} \subset \tilde{A}$ where $A = \pi(B^{-1})$ is compact. Hence, $B \subset \tilde{A}^{-1}$. Since $\tilde{\alpha} \leq \tilde{\beta}$ it follows that

$\tilde{\alpha}(B) = \tilde{\beta}(B)$ for all compact sets $B \subset G$. Consequently, $\alpha = \beta$.

LEMMA 2.2. — *If $\sigma * \kappa \leq \kappa$ then $V(\Phi * \sigma) = \Phi * (\sigma * \kappa)$ is continuous and excessive whenever $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$.*

Proof. — Let $\varepsilon > 0$, $x_0 \in E$ and $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$. Let O be a compact neighbourhood of e such that $t \in O$ implies $\|T_t\Phi - \Phi\| < \varepsilon$. If $\pi(t_0) = x_0$ then $\pi(Ot_0)$ is a neighbourhood U of x_0 .

Let $\psi \in C_c^+(G)$ be such that

$$\{\psi = 1\} \supset \bigcup_{t \in O} \{T_t\tilde{\Phi} \neq \tilde{\Phi}\}.$$

Then, if $x \in U$, where $x = [tt_0]$ with $t \in O$,

$$\begin{aligned} |V(\Phi * \sigma)(x) - V(\Phi * \sigma)(x_0)| &\leq \int |\tilde{\Phi}((t_0s^{-1}) \\ &\quad - \tilde{\Phi}(t_0s^{-1})|(\tilde{\sigma} * \tilde{\kappa})(ds) \leq \varepsilon \int \psi(t_0s^{-1})(\tilde{\sigma} * \tilde{\kappa})(ds). \end{aligned}$$

Since there exists $\theta \in C_c^+(E)$ with $\tilde{\theta}(s) \geq \psi(t_0s^{-1})$, for all $s \in G$, the last integral is finite.

PROPOSITION 2.3. — *Let U be a neighbourhood of 0 . Then there exists $\psi \in C_c^+(E)$ such that:*

- (1) $\psi = u - v$, u and v both continuous excessive functions;
- (2) $0 \neq \psi(0) = \|\psi\|$; and
- (3) $\text{supp } \psi \subset U$.

Proof. — There exists a compact neighbourhood D of 0 such that $\tilde{D}^{-1}\tilde{D} \subset \tilde{U}$. Further, there exist compact neighbourhoods A and B of 0 with $A = \text{supp } \psi$, $\psi \in C_c^+(E)$, $B \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\tilde{A}\tilde{B} \subset \tilde{D}$.

Let σ be a measure satisfying the conditions in D_2) relative to B . Then, if

$$X = \text{supp } (\kappa - \sigma * \kappa), \quad \Phi * \kappa - \Phi * (\sigma * \kappa) \in C_c^+(E)$$

(its support lies in $\pi(\tilde{A}\tilde{B})$) and attains its maximum at a point

$$x_0 \in \pi(\{\tilde{\Phi} > 0\}\tilde{X}) \subset \pi(\tilde{A}\tilde{B}) \subset D.$$

Choose $s_0 \in \{\tilde{\Phi} > 0\}\tilde{X}$ with $\pi(s_0) = x_0$ and let $\theta = T_{s_0^{-1}}\Phi$. Then $\psi = \theta * \kappa - \theta * (\sigma * \kappa)$ is a function that satisfies (1), (2) and (3) above.

COROLLARY 2.4. — *The functions $V_\lambda\Phi, \lambda > 0$ and $\Phi \in C_c^+(\mathbb{E})$ separate the points of \mathbb{E} .*

Proof. — If u is lower semicontinuous and excessive then $u = \sup \{\lambda V_\lambda\Phi | \lambda > 0 \text{ and } \Phi \in C_c^+(\mathbb{E}) \text{ with } \Phi \leq u\}$. Hence, the functions $V_\lambda\Phi$ separate 0 from any other point $x \in \mathbb{E}$. Since $V_\lambda T_s = T_s V_\lambda$, for all $s \in G$, the result follows.

Remark. — As pointed out by Faraut and Harzallah, given Corollary 2.4. the theory of Ray semigroups can be applied (in the metrisable case) to give a proof of the fact that (V_λ) is the resolvent of a Feller semigroup. For example, Corollary 2.4 implies that the hypotheses of Theorem 1.7 in [4] are verified. Hence, (V_λ) is the resolvent of a semigroup (P_t) of kernels P_t . The set D of non-branching points is non-void (corollary 2.6 in [4]) and since one can show that, for all $s \in G$ and $t > 0$, $T_s P_t = P_t T_s$, $D = \mathbb{E}$. From this it follows, since $C_0(\mathbb{E})$ is invariant under (P_t) , that (P_t) is a Feller semigroup.

A direct proof of this fact (which does not use metrizable or σ -compactness) continues with the following result.

COROLLARY 2.5. — *If U is an open Baire neighbourhood of 0 then $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \lambda V_\lambda(0, U) = 1$.*

Proof. — Let $\psi \in C_c^+(\mathbb{E})$ satisfy conditions (1), (2) and (3) of Proposition 2.3. Then, since $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \lambda V_\lambda(0, \psi) = \psi(0)$ the result follows as $\lambda V_\lambda(0, \psi) \leq \lambda V_\lambda(0, U)\psi(0)$.

COROLLARY 2.6. — *Let u and v be two lower semicontinuous excessive functions. Then $w = u \wedge v$ is also excessive.*

Proof. — If $x_0 \in \mathbb{E}$ and $\varepsilon > 0$ let $U = \{w > w(x_0) - \varepsilon\}$. Then, U is open and $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \lambda V_\lambda(x_0, U) = 1$. Hence,

$$\hat{w}(x_0) \geq w(x_0) - \varepsilon.$$

PROPOSITION 2.7. — Let $A \subset E$ be compact. Then there is a compact neighbourhood O of A and $\lambda_0 > 0$ such that, for $\varepsilon > 0$,

$$\lambda V_\lambda(x, A) < \varepsilon \quad \text{if} \quad x \notin O \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda \geq \lambda_0.$$

Proof. — Let $\varepsilon > 0$ and let U be a compact neighbourhood of O . Let $\lambda_0 > 0$ be such that

$$1 - \varepsilon < \lambda V_\lambda(0, U) = \lambda(1_U * \kappa_\lambda)(0) \quad \text{for} \quad \lambda \geq \lambda_0.$$

Let $O = \pi(\tilde{A}\tilde{U})$.

Denote by β any one of the measures $\lambda\kappa_\lambda$, $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$. Then, if $x = \pi(t)$

$$\begin{aligned} (1_A * \beta)(x) &= \int 1_{\tilde{A}}(ts^{-1})\tilde{\beta}(ds) \\ &= \int 1_{\tilde{A}}(ts^{-1})1_{\tilde{U}}(s)\tilde{\beta}(ds) + \int 1_{\tilde{A}}(ts^{-1})1_{\tilde{U}^c}(s)\tilde{\beta}(ds) \\ &\leq \int 1_{\tilde{U}}(s)\tilde{\beta}(ds) < \varepsilon, \quad \text{if} \quad t \notin \tilde{A}\tilde{U}. \end{aligned}$$

COROLLARY 2.8. — Let u, ν , be two continuous excessive functions on E with $u - \nu \in C_c^+(E)$. Then,

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \|\lambda V_\lambda(u - \nu) - (u - \nu)\| = 0.$$

Proof. — Let $A = \text{supp}(u - \nu)$ and let $\varepsilon > 0$. Denote by O a compact neighbourhood of A such that

$$\lambda V_\lambda(x, A) < \varepsilon \quad \text{if} \quad x \notin O \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda \geq \lambda_0.$$

Then $|\lambda V_\lambda(x, u - \nu)| \leq \varepsilon \|u - \nu\|$ if $x \notin O$. Since $\lambda V_\lambda u$ and $\lambda V_\lambda \nu$ are lower semicontinuous, $\lambda V_\lambda(u - \nu)$ converges uniformly to $u - \nu$ on O . The result follows.

The above results imply that $\overline{V_\lambda(C_0(E))} = C_0(E)$ and hence the following result.

THEOREM 2.9. — Let G be a locally compact group (that is σ -compact) and let $K \subset G$ be a compact subgroup. Let $V = * \kappa$ be a convolution kernel on the homogeneous space $E = G/K$, $\kappa \in M^+(E)$. Assume that V satisfies the complete maximum principle.

If κ satisfies D_1) and D_2) then there is a unique Feller semigroup (P_t) on E with $V = \int_0^{+\infty} P_t dt$.

Proof. — Let u_i, v_i for $i = 1, 2$ be continuous excessive functions such that $\psi_i = u_i - v_i \in C_c^+(\mathbb{E})$. Then

$$\psi_1 \wedge \psi_2 = (u_1 + v_2) \wedge (u_2 + v_1) - (v_1 + v_2)$$

is of the same form. Hence, the vector space generated by functions $\psi \in C_c^+(\mathbb{E})$, which are differences of continuous excessive functions, is dense in $C_0(\mathbb{E})$.

Corollary 2.8 implies that $D = \overline{V_\lambda(C_0(\mathbb{E}))} = C_0(\mathbb{E})$. The result then follows from the Hille-Yosida theorem (c.f. [2]).

As an immediate corollary one has the following restricted version of a result of Deny [1].

COROLLARY 2.10. — *Let G be a locally compact abelian group (that is σ -compact) and let $V = *x$ be a convolution kernel on G that satisfies the complete maximum principle.*

Then, V is the potential kernel of a Feller semigroup if the following condition is verified:

D) *for a base \mathcal{B} of compact neighbourhoods of the identity e of G there is, for each $B \in \mathcal{B}$, a measure $\sigma \in M^+(\mathbb{E})$ with*

- (1) $\sigma * x \leq x$ and $\sigma * x \neq x$;
- (2) $\sigma * x = x$ on $\int B$; and
- (3) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\sigma^n) * x = 0$ (weakly).

Remarks. — Deny's result is more general. He not only did not require G to be σ -compact (a hypothesis that can be removed from all the above results as indicated in the appendix) but also did not assume that the kernel $*x$ satisfied the complete maximum principle. Further, while in the commutative case it is immaterial whether one writes $\sigma * x$, or $x * \sigma$ it seems to be necessary in general to have $\sigma * x \leq x$ if the kernel V commutes with the left action of G on \mathbb{E} .

3. The characterization of convolution Feller semi-groups.

Let (P_t) be a Feller semigroup on \mathbb{E} that commutes with the action of G on \mathbb{E} , i.e., if $s \in G$ and $t > 0$ then

$$T_s P_t = P_t T_s.$$

Further, assume that if $A \subset E$ is compact,

$$V1_A = \int_0^\infty P_t 1_A dt$$

is finite.

Denote by $\check{\kappa}$ the unique K -invariant measure on E defined by $\langle \check{\kappa}, \Phi \rangle = V\Phi(0)$. Then $Vf = f * \kappa$ and $\mu V = \mu * \check{\kappa}$ (note that $(\check{\kappa})^\sim$ is K -biinvariant and so $((\check{\kappa})^\sim)^\vee$, being K -right invariant, is of the form $\check{\kappa}$ for a unique $\kappa \in M^+(E)$). It will be shown first that $\check{\kappa}$ satisfies conditions $D_1)$ and $D_2)$.

Note that $\mu \rightarrow \mu P_t, \mu \in M_c^+(E)$, defines a continuous Hunt semigroup in the terminology of Deny [1]. Hence, all the results of paragraphs 3 and 4 in [1] hold.

To begin with it is proved that 1 is an excessive function.

LEMMA 3.1. — $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} P_t 1 = 1$.

Proof. — Obviously, it suffices to show that $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} P_t(0, 1) = 1$. Choose $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$ with $\Phi(0) = 1$ and $\Phi \leq 1$. Then $1 = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} P_t(0, \Phi) \leq \limsup_{t \rightarrow 0} P_t(0, 1) \leq 1$.

COROLLARY 3.2. — Let $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ be such that $\sigma * \check{\kappa} \leq \check{\kappa}$. Then $\langle \sigma, 1 \rangle \leq 1$.

Proof. — Since by Lemma 3.1 1 is excessive there exists $(f_n) \subset E$ with $(f_n * \kappa)$ increasing to 1. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sigma, 1 \rangle &= \lim_n \langle \sigma, f_n * \kappa \rangle = \lim_n \langle \sigma * \check{\kappa}, f_n \rangle \\ &\leq \lim_n \langle \check{\kappa}, f_n \rangle = \lim_n f_n * \kappa(0) = 1. \end{aligned}$$

LEMMA 3.3. — Let (α_i) and $(\beta_j) \subset M^+(E)$ be two nets that converge weakly to α and β respectively. Assume

$$\langle \alpha_i, 1 \rangle \leq 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \beta_j, 1 \rangle \leq 1$$

for all i and j . In addition assume that each β_j is K -invariant. Then,

$$\alpha * \beta = \lim_i \lim_j \alpha_i * \beta_j = \lim_j \lim_i \alpha_i * \beta_j.$$

Proof. — Let $\Phi \in C_c^+(E)$. Then $\langle \alpha_i * \beta_j, \Phi \rangle = \langle \alpha_i, \Phi * \check{\beta}_j \rangle$ implies $\lim_i \alpha_i * \beta_j = \alpha * \beta_j$. Further, since $(\check{\alpha}_i)^\vee * \check{\Phi} = \check{\Psi}$,

with $\psi \in C_0(E)$, it follows from $\langle \alpha_i * \beta_j, \Phi \rangle = \langle \tilde{\beta}_j, \tilde{\Psi} \rangle$ that $\lim_j \alpha_i * \beta_j = \alpha_i * \beta$. Applying both these arguments to $\alpha_i * \beta$ and $\alpha * \beta_j$ respectively gives the result.

COROLLARY 3.4. — *If β is K-invariant and $\langle \beta, 1 \rangle \leq 1$ then $\lim_i \alpha_i * \beta = \alpha * \beta$. If $\langle \beta, 1 \rangle \leq 1$ and each α_i is K-invariant then $\lim_i \beta * \alpha_i = \beta * \alpha$.*

Proof. — Let $\beta_j = \beta$ for all j .

COROLLARY 3.5. — *Let μ be a weak accumulation point of $\{\sigma^n | n \in \mathbf{N}\}$, where $\sigma * \check{x} \leq \check{x}$ and σ is K-invariant. Then $\mu * \sigma = \sigma * \mu$.*

Proof. — Let $\sigma^{n_i} = \alpha_i$ be a net converging to μ . Then

$$\mu * \sigma = \lim_i \alpha_i * \sigma = \lim_i \sigma * \alpha_i = \sigma * \mu.$$

A Radon measure ξ is said to be *excessive* if it is ≥ 0 and $\xi * \lambda x_\lambda \leq \xi$ for all $\lambda > 0$. It is said to be a *potential* if $\xi = \gamma * \check{x}$ for some $\gamma \in M^+(E)$.

PROPOSITION 3.6. — *Let (ξ_i) be a net of potentials*

$$\xi_i = \gamma_i * \check{x}$$

*each dominated by a potential $\beta * \check{x}$ with $\langle \beta, 1 \rangle < \infty$. Assume that ξ is the weak limit of (ξ_i) .*

*Then ξ is a potential $\gamma * \check{x}$ and $\gamma = \lim_i \gamma_i$ if $\langle \gamma_i, 1 \rangle \leq 1$ for all n .*

Proof (cf. the proofs of Theorem 6.1 and Lemma 7.1 in [1]). — The measure ξ is excessive and since $\xi \leq \beta * \check{x}$ its invariant part is zero (see [1]). Let $\mu_\lambda = \lambda \xi * (\delta - \lambda \check{x}_\lambda)$.

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mu_\lambda, 1 \rangle &\leq \lambda \langle \beta * \check{x} * (\delta - \lambda \check{x}_\lambda), 1 \rangle \\ &= \langle \beta * \lambda \check{x}_\lambda, 1 \rangle \leq \langle \beta, 1 \rangle < \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, by Lemma 3.3, if γ is a weak accumulation point

of $\{\mu_n | n > 0\}$ and equals $\lim_j \mu_{n_j}$, where $j \rightarrow \mu_{n_j}$ is a net, then $\lim_j \mu_{n_j} * \check{x}_\lambda = \gamma * \check{x}_\lambda$.

Deny's argument in [1] is now used to show $\xi = \gamma * \check{x}$ (see proof of his Theorem 6.1). Specifically, since for any $\lambda > 0 \lim_j \mu_\lambda * \check{x}_{n_j} = 0$ (the net $j \rightarrow n_j$ is unbounded) it follows that

$$\mu_\lambda * \check{x} = \lim_j \mu_\lambda * (\check{x} - \check{x}_{n_j}) = \lim_j \mu_{n_j} * (\check{x} - \check{x}_\lambda) = \xi - \gamma * \check{x}_\lambda,$$

since $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(\xi * \check{x}_\lambda) = \xi$ follows from the fact that for all $\Phi \in C_c(\mathbb{E}) \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} \lambda(\Phi * \kappa_\lambda) = \Phi$.

Following Deny, let $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ in this identity. Since

$$\mu_\lambda * \check{x} = \xi * \lambda \check{x}_\lambda$$

implies $\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \mu_\lambda * \check{x} = 0$ (the invariant part of ξ is zero) it follows that $\xi = \gamma * \check{x}$.

It remains to show that $\gamma = \lim_i \gamma_i$. Since

$$\xi_i * \lambda \check{x}_\lambda = \xi_i - \gamma_i * \check{x}_\lambda,$$

by lemma 3.3, $\lim_i \gamma_i * \check{x}_\lambda$ exists and equals

$$\xi - \xi * \lambda \check{x}_\lambda = \gamma * \check{x}_\lambda.$$

Let $j \rightarrow \gamma_{n_j}$ be a net converging to α . Then

$$\alpha * \check{x}_\lambda = \lim_j \gamma_{n_j} * \check{x}_\lambda = \gamma * \check{x}_\lambda.$$

Hence, as $\overline{V_\lambda(C_c(\mathbb{E}))} = C_0(\mathbb{E})$, $\alpha = \gamma$ and so (γ_i) converges weakly to γ .

COROLLARY 3.7. — *If $U \subset \mathbb{E}$ is open and $\beta \in M_b^+(\mathbb{E})$ there exists a measure $\beta' \in M^+(\mathbb{E})$ with (1) $\beta' * \check{x} \leq \beta * \check{x}$; (2) β' carried by \overline{U} and (3) $\beta' * \check{x} = \beta * \check{x}$ on U .*

Proof. — The argument used by Deny to prove Lemma 7.2 in [1] applies without change once it is noted that

$$\mu * \check{x} \leq \beta * \check{x} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \beta, 1 \rangle = b$$

implies $\langle \mu, 1 \rangle \leq b$ (see the proof of Corollary 3.2).

COROLLARY 3.8. — Assume $\sigma * \check{\nu} \leq \check{\nu}$. The excessive measure $\xi = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^n * \check{\nu}$ is a potential $\mu * \check{\nu}$ and $\mu = \lim_n \sigma^n$.

Proof. — Let $\xi_n = \sigma^n * \check{\nu}$.

From these results one can quickly deduce the following key fact.

PROPOSITION 3.9. — Let $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ be such that $\sigma * \check{\nu} \leq \check{\nu}$ and $\sigma * \check{\nu} \neq \check{\nu}$. Then, $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^n * \check{\nu} = 0$.

Proof (cf. the proof of Theorem 7.1 in [1]). — Let

$$\xi = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^n * \check{\nu}.$$

Then $\sigma * \xi = \xi$ and $\xi = \mu * \check{\nu}$ where $\mu = \lim_n \sigma^n$ (see Proposition 3.6). Hence,

$$\mu * \xi = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu * \sigma^n * \check{\nu} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^n * \mu * \check{\nu} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sigma^n * \xi = \xi$$

(note that the first equality holds by monotonicity).

Since $\sigma * \check{\nu} \neq \check{\nu}$ the positive measure $\check{\nu} - \xi$ is not zero. Hence, $\mu * (\check{\nu} - \xi) = 0$ implies $\mu = 0$ and so $\xi = 0$.

Deny's Proposition 3.3 in [1] states that if $\mu, \nu \in M^+(E)$ are such that $\mu * \check{\nu}, \nu * \check{\nu} \in M^+(E)$ and $\mu * \check{\nu} = \nu * \check{\nu}$ then $\mu = \nu$. Hence, Corollary 3.7 (applied to $\beta = \delta$) and Proposition 3.9 imply that $\eta = \check{\nu}$ satisfies the following condition :

D) for a base \mathcal{B} of compact neighbourhoods B of 0 there is, for each $B \in \mathcal{B}$, a measure $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ with

- (1) $\sigma * \eta \leq \eta$ and $\sigma * \eta \neq \eta$;
- (2) $\sigma * \eta = \eta$ on $\int B$;
- (3) $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (\sigma^n) * \eta = 0$ (weakly).

One can now state and prove the following characterization of Feller semigroups on E whose potential kernel is proper and which commute with the action of G on E .

THEOREM 3.10. — Let G be a locally compact group (that is σ -compact) and let E be the homogeneous space G/K

of right cosets of K , a compact subgroup of G . Denote by κ a positive K -invariant Radon measure on E .

The following conditions are equivalent:

(1) there is a family $(\alpha_t)_{t > 0}$ of K -invariant Radon measures α_t on E such that $\kappa = \int_0^\infty \alpha_t dt$ and $(*\alpha_t)_{t > 0}$ is a Feller semigroup;

(2) the kernel $*\kappa$ satisfies the complete maximum principle and κ satisfies D);

(2 \checkmark) the kernel $*\check{\kappa}$ satisfies the complete maximum principle and $\check{\kappa}$ satisfies D).

Further, if D' denotes the condition obtained from D) by reversing all the convolutions then (1) implies:

(3) the kernel $*\kappa$ satisfies the complete maximum principle and κ satisfies D'); and

(3 \checkmark) the analogue of (2 \checkmark) with D) replaced by D').

Proof. — Theorem 2.9 states that (2) \implies (1).

(1) \implies (2). As noted above the measure $\check{\kappa}$ satisfies D). Further, if $\kappa_\lambda = \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda t} \alpha_t dt$, the family $(*\check{\kappa}_\lambda)$ of convolution kernels is a sub-Markovian resolvent family. Lemma 3.11 shows that $*\check{\kappa} = \lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} *\check{\kappa}_\lambda$ and so $*\check{\kappa}$ satisfies the complete maximum principle. Hence, from Theorem 2.9 and the above remark $\kappa = (\check{\kappa})^\vee$ satisfies D).

The statement (1) is equivalent to the statement obtained by replacing each measure η by $\check{\eta}$. Hence, (1) \iff (2 \checkmark).

LEMMA 3.11. — Assume $(*\kappa_\lambda)$ is a sub-Markovian resolvent family of convolution kernels $V_\lambda = *\kappa_\lambda$ with each κ_λ a K -invariant measure on E and $\lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} V_\lambda = *\kappa$. Then,

$$*\kappa = \lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} *\kappa_\lambda \iff \kappa = \lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} \kappa_\lambda.$$

Proof. — Since $\langle \beta, g \rangle = \langle \check{\beta}, \check{g} \rangle$, it suffices to show that $*\kappa = \lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} *\kappa_\lambda$ if for all $g \in \mathcal{G}^+$, $\lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} \langle \check{\kappa}_\lambda, g \rangle = \langle \check{\kappa}, g \rangle$.

One implication is obvious. Now assume that, for all $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$, $\lim_{\lambda \searrow 0} f * \kappa_\lambda = f * \kappa$. Let $g_1 \in \mathcal{G}^+$ be bounded and vanish

outside a compact set. Then there exists $\Phi \in C^+(E)$ with $(\tilde{\Phi})^\vee \geq \tilde{g}_1$. Since $\Phi * \kappa_\lambda(0) = \langle \tilde{\kappa}_\lambda, (\tilde{\Phi})^\vee \rangle$ and $\tilde{\kappa}_\lambda \leq \tilde{\kappa}$, for all $\lambda > 0$ it follows that $\lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} \langle \tilde{\kappa}_\lambda, g_1 \rangle = \langle \tilde{\kappa}, g_1 \rangle$. Since $\tilde{\kappa}$ is a Radon measure this implies that $\lim_{\lambda \downarrow 0} \langle \tilde{\kappa}_\lambda, g \rangle = \langle \tilde{\kappa}, g \rangle$ for all $g \in \mathcal{G}^+$.

LEMMA 3.12. — Let $\sigma \in M^+(E)$ and set

$$\langle \nu, f \rangle = \int \langle \sigma, T_s f \rangle m(ds).$$

Then $\nu \in M^+(E)$ is a K -invariant measure. Further, if

$$\alpha \in M^+(E)$$

and $\alpha * \sigma \in M^+(E)$ so too is $\alpha * \nu$ and $\alpha * \nu = \alpha * \sigma$. If, in addition, α is K -invariant then $\nu * \alpha = \sigma * \alpha$ when $\sigma * \alpha \in M^+(E)$.

Proof. — Clearly ν is K -invariant. Let $f \in \mathcal{E}^+$. Then $\langle \nu, f \rangle = \langle \tilde{\nu}, \tilde{f} \rangle = \iint \tilde{f}(s^{-1}z) \tilde{\sigma}(dz) m(ds)$. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \alpha * \nu, f \rangle &= \langle \tilde{\alpha} * \tilde{\nu}, \tilde{f} \rangle \\ &= \int \left[\int \tilde{f}(xy) \tilde{\nu}(dy) \right] \tilde{\alpha}(dx) = \int \left[\iint \tilde{f}(xs^{-1}z) \tilde{\sigma}(dz) m(ds) \right] \tilde{\alpha}(dx) \\ &\text{(because the function } y \rightarrow \tilde{f}(xy) = \tilde{g}(y), g \in \mathcal{E}^+) \\ &= \iint \left[\int \tilde{f}(xs^{-1}z) \tilde{\alpha}(dx) \right] \tilde{\sigma}(dz) m(ds) \\ &= \iint \left[\int \tilde{f}(xz) \tilde{\alpha}(dx) \right] \tilde{\sigma}(dz) m(ds) \\ &\text{(because } s \in K \text{ and } \tilde{\alpha} \text{ is } K\text{-right invariant)} \\ &= \langle \tilde{\alpha} * \tilde{\sigma}, \tilde{f} \rangle = \langle \alpha * \sigma, f \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The calculation that proves $\nu * \alpha = \sigma * \alpha$ when α is K -invariant is entirely similar.

COROLLARY 3.13. — Let $\kappa * \sigma \leq \kappa$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \kappa * \sigma^n = 0$ where $\kappa, \sigma \in M^+(E)$ and κ is K -invariant. Then the K -invariant measure ν of Lemma 3.12 is such that $\kappa * \nu \leq \kappa$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \kappa * \nu^n = 0$. Further, if $\kappa * \sigma = \kappa$ on A then $\kappa * \nu = \kappa$ on A .

The corresponding results hold if the convolutions are done in the reverse order.

Proof. — For the first statement it suffices to note that

$$\chi * \sigma^n = (\chi * \sigma^{n-1}) * \sigma = (\chi * \sigma^{n-1}) * \nu$$

and so $\chi * \sigma^n = \chi * \nu^n$. For the second one note that if

$$\nu^{n-1} * \chi = \sigma^{n-1} * \chi = \alpha$$

then α is K -invariant and so $\nu^n * \chi = \sigma * \alpha = \sigma^n * \chi$.

The proof of the theorem is now completed by the above lemmas and corollary.

Remarks. — The conditions (3) and (3[∨]) do not appear to imply condition (1). By considering the situation on the space F of left cosets one could show (3) \implies (1) providing that the kernel $\chi *$ on F satisfies the complete maximum principle. However one only knows that $\check{\chi} *$ has this property.

To prove the last statement it suffices to show that χ satisfies D' whenever χ satisfies D .

First of all if \mathcal{B} is a neighbourhood base for 0 satisfying D the measures σ can, by corollary 3.13 below, be assumed to be K -invariant. Now $(\sigma * \chi)^\vee = \check{\chi} * \check{\sigma}$ and so since the sets of the form $\pi((\tilde{A})^\vee)$, $B \in \mathcal{B}$, also form a base for the neighbourhoods of 0 it follows that $\check{\chi}$ satisfies D' .

Appendix.

In the non σ -compact case the complications arise because theorem 2 of [4] no longer applies and has to be replaced by theorem 3 of [5]. In the terminology of [5] if $V = * \chi$ then every Baire set is σ -bounded. This condition replaces the hypothesis that V is a proper kernel in the σ -compact case.

In proposition 1.2 « excessive » should be replaced by « supermedian » as defined in [5]. Now, as V is sub-Markovian, 1 is supermedian and so, in view of theorem 3 in [5], theorem 1.4 holds. Note that in lemma 1.3 « proper » should be replaced by « every Baire set is σ -bounded ».

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