

## SEMI-DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS ON CONES OF MEASURES

BY

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**1. Abstract.** The purpose of this short communication is to present a few results about semi-groups acting on measures. As such, this is a particular case of the notion of semi-dynamical system on algebraic structure (see:

E. Popa, Semi-dynamical systems on algebraic structures, An. șt. Univ. Iași t. XLIV, s.Ia, Matematica, (1998), Supliment, pg. 585-596)

namely an ordered convex cone  $X$  and a map  $\Phi : (0, \infty) \times X \rightarrow X$  satisfying the semi-group property  $\Phi(s+t, x) = \Phi(s, \Phi(t, x))$  and some other compatibility conditions. Each map  $x \rightarrow \Phi(t, x)$  is a "kernel" on  $X$ : this notion of kernel, together with the corresponding notion of a resolvent, was first considered by:

A. Cornea, G. Licea: **Order and Potential. Resolvent Families of Kernels**, Lecture Notes in Math. vol. 494, Springer-Verlag 1975.

We are concerned now only with case  $X =$  the/an ordered convex cone of positive measures on a measurable space. Let us recall that each true kernel (i.e. on functions) defines a kernel on measures, but the converse is not true. Characterization for this situation is provided, as well as for the important case of absolutely continuous kernels.

The main result presents a sufficient condition for a resolvent to have an associated semi-group of kernels on measures (a Hiile-Yosida type result). Such a result was already proved in

E. Popa: Resolvents associated with semi-dynamical systems in duality, to appear in An. șt. Univ. Iași

but in a duality setting. Hence, instead of the unsatisfactory duality between functions and measures, we rather use the fact that the cone of (positive) measures is a dual. The Ray type condition is considered here in its classical form: as a separation (of the compact base space) by some excessive like functions, which are specific to the case of kernels on measures.

The results from this paper were announced in [6].

**2. Subcones and quotient cones of measures.** Let  $(A, \mathcal{A}, \mu)$  be a space with positive measure. We present some subcones and quotient

cones of measures which will be used in what follows.  $\mathcal{F}$  resp.  $\mathcal{M}$  stand for the ordered convex cones of positive, measurable functions; resp. positive measures on  $(A, \mathcal{A})$ .

We denote:

$$\mathcal{M}_\mu := \{\nu \in \mathcal{M} \mid \nu = \bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n\mu)\}$$

$\mathcal{M}_\mu$  is a solid convex subcone in  $\mathcal{M}$ , since:

$$(\nu + \nu') \wedge 2n\mu \geq \nu \wedge n\mu + \nu' \wedge n\mu$$

and:

$$\bigvee_n \nu \wedge \mu_n = \nu \wedge \bigvee_n \mu_n$$

(for any increasing sequence  $(\mu_n)$  from  $\mathcal{M}_\mu$ ).

More generally, let  $\mathcal{N} \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  a family of “negligible” subsets, i.e.:

$$\emptyset \in \mathcal{N}$$

$$N_1 \subseteq N_2 \in \mathcal{N} \implies N_1 \in \mathcal{N}$$

$$(N_n) \text{ arbitrary sequence from } \mathcal{N} \implies \bigcup_n N_n \in \mathcal{N}$$

We associate:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{N}} := \{\nu \in \mathcal{M} \mid \nu(A) = 0, \forall A \in \mathcal{N}\}$$

For a  $\sigma$ -finite measure  $\mu$ , we have  $\mathcal{M}_\mu = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{N}}$ , if  $\mathcal{N}$  denotes the family of  $\mu$ -negligible sets.

In general, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \{\nu \in \mathcal{M} \mid \exists f \in \mathcal{F} \text{ such that } \nu = f \cdot \mu\} &\subseteq \{\nu \in \mathcal{M} \mid \nu = \bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n\mu)\} \subseteq \\ &\subseteq \{\nu \in \mathcal{M} \mid \mu(A) = 0 \implies \nu(A) = 0\} \end{aligned}$$

From Radon–Nicodym’s theorem, we get the equality for the case of a  $\sigma$ -finite measure  $\mu$ ; if  $\mu$  is only archimedean ([1]), then the  $\sigma$ -finite measures from the three sets are the same.

For  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$  (especially for  $\nu \leq \mu$ ) there is a canonical embedding  $\mathcal{M}_\nu \hookrightarrow \mathcal{M}_\mu$ . Indeed, let  $\nu' \in \mathcal{M}_\nu$ , hence  $\nu' = \bigvee_n \nu' \wedge n\nu$ . Then:

$$\bigvee_n \nu' \wedge n\mu = \bigvee_n \left[ \bigvee_m \nu' \wedge m\nu \right] \wedge n\mu = \bigvee_{n,m} \nu' \wedge m\nu \wedge n\mu = \bigvee_{m,k} \nu' \wedge m(\nu \wedge k\mu) =$$

$$= \bigvee_m \nu' \wedge m\nu = \nu'$$

Since  $\mathcal{M} = \bigcup_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} \mathcal{M}_\mu$ , we obtain that  $\mathcal{M} = \text{limind}_\mu \mathcal{M}_\mu$ .

We have to consider also some subcones/quotient cones of the cone of positive, measurable functions. We define an equivalence relation  $f \sim g$  iff  $\mu\{[f \neq g]\} = 0$ . Let us denote  $\mathcal{F}|_\mu$  the set of equivalence classes and by  $\pi_\mu : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_\mu$  the canonical projection.  $\mathcal{F}|_\mu$  is naturally organized as a convex ordered cone of positive elements and also a lattice, in which the supremum for every increasing sequence exists; obviously, the canonical projection commutes with these operations.

More generally, we may associate with every part of “negligible” sets  $\mathcal{N}$  an equivalence relation, hence a quotient cone  $\mathcal{F}_\mathcal{N}$ . In this way, we include also the case of a family of measures.

For each  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$ , there exists a canonical, surjective application  $\pi_{\mu\nu} : \mathcal{F}|_\mu \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_\nu$  (since  $\mu(A) = 0 \Rightarrow \nu(A) = 0$ ). Thus, we get a projective system  $(\mathcal{F}|_\mu)$  and  $\mathcal{F} = \text{limproj}_\mu \mathcal{F}|_\mu$  (even for a family of measures  $\mu$ , for which:  $\mu(|f - g|) = 0, \forall \mu \Rightarrow f = g$ , for example when all the atomic measure belong to the family).

**Example.** Let  $\mu := \sum_{n \in I} \alpha_n \varepsilon_{x_n}$  (with  $\alpha_n > 0, \forall n \in I$ ), then  $\mathcal{F}|_\mu \equiv [0, +\infty]^I$ . In this case,  $\mathcal{M}_\mu$  contains exactly the measures of the form:  $\nu = \sum_{n \in I} \beta_n \varepsilon_{x_n}$ , for  $\beta_n \in [0, +\infty)$ . Hence  $\mathcal{M}_\mu \equiv [0, +\infty)^I$ .

If  $f \sim g$ , then clearly  $f \cdot \mu = g \cdot \mu$ , hence the correspondence  $\mathcal{F}|_\mu \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\mu$ , given by  $\hat{f} \mapsto f \cdot \mu$  is well defined. Let us suppose that  $\mu$  is  $\sigma$ -finite. The Radon–Nicodym’s theorem shows that this correspondence is surjective. It is in fact an order preserving bijection. Indeed, let  $f \cdot \mu \leq g \cdot \mu$ . If we denote  $A_n := [f \geq g + \frac{1}{n}]$ , then  $A := \bigcup_n A_n = [f > g]$ . We get thus  $\int_{A_n} f d\mu \geq \int_{A_n} g d\mu + \frac{1}{n} \mu(A_n)$ . If  $\int_{A_n} g d\mu < +\infty$ , we get the conclusion  $\hat{f} \leq \hat{g}$ .

The dual of the cone  $\mathcal{F}|_\mu$  is naturally identified with  $\mathcal{M}_\mu$ , in the case  $\mu$   $\sigma$ -finite. Indeed, for  $\varphi \in (\mathcal{F}|_\mu)^*$ , we define  $\hat{\varphi}$  on  $\mathcal{F}$  as:  $\hat{\varphi}(f) := \varphi(\hat{f})$ . Clearly one obtains a measure  $\hat{\varphi}$ , with the property  $\mu(A) = 0 \implies \hat{\varphi}(A) = 0$  (since  $\hat{\chi}_A = 0$ ). Hence  $\hat{\varphi} \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$ .

We have repeatedly used the following known result:

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $(\mu_i)$  an increasing family of positive measures. Then:*

$$\left( \bigvee_i \mu_i \right) \wedge \nu = \bigvee_i (\mu_i \wedge \nu)$$

**Proof.** Let  $A \in \mathcal{A}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . Let us denote  $\mu := \bigvee_i \mu_i$ . There exists  $i$  such that  $\mu(A) \leq \mu_i(A) + \varepsilon$ . The same relation extends to each  $B \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $B \subseteq A$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(B) + \mu(A \setminus B) &\leq \mu_i(B) + \mu_i(A \setminus B) + \varepsilon \\ \mu(B) - \mu_i(B) &\leq [\mu_i(A \setminus B) - \mu(A \setminus B)] + \varepsilon\end{aligned}$$

(the case  $\mu(A) = +\infty$  is to be treated separately). Using the formula [1] [t.1.2.9., pg. 52]:

$$\begin{aligned}(\mu \wedge \nu)(A) &\leq \mu(A \cap A_i'') + \nu(A \cap A_i') \leq \mu_i(A \cap A_i'') + \varepsilon + \nu(A \cap A_i') = \\ &= (\mu_i \wedge \nu)(A) + \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon + \sup_i (\mu_i \wedge \nu)(A)\end{aligned}$$

### 3. Kernels on measures, examples.

**Definition.** By a kernel on  $\mathcal{M}$  we mean an application  $V : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  with the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned}V(\mu + \nu) &= V\mu + V\nu \\ \mu \leq \nu &\implies V\mu \leq V\nu \\ \mu_n \nearrow \mu &\implies V\mu_n \nearrow V\mu\end{aligned}$$

This last property is obviously equivalent in this case with the next one:

$$V\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mu_n\right) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} V\mu_n$$

and if  $\mathcal{A}$  is countably generated, also with this one:

$$\mu_i \nearrow \mu \implies V\mu_i \nearrow V\mu$$

As a specific property, we shall consider:

$$(M) \quad x \mapsto V(\varepsilon_x)(A') \text{ is measurable } \forall A' \in \mathcal{A}$$

(see [3]).

This is exactly the measurability assumption for the kernel  $V$ , with respect to the dual pair  $[\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{M}]$  (see [5]).

$\mathcal{M}$  may stand also for another ordered convex subcone of measures (for example:  $\sigma$ -finite measures or positive, Radon measures on a compact space).

It will be however assumed that  $\mathcal{M}$  is

specifically solid:  $\mu, \nu \in \mathcal{M}, \mu \leq \nu \implies \nu - \mu \in \mathcal{M}$ ;

and a  $\sigma$  sup-lattice: for any increasing sequence  $(\mu_n)$  from  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $\bigvee_n \mu_n \in \mathcal{M}$  (we use the notation  $\mu_n \nearrow \mu$ , where  $\mu := \bigvee_n \mu_n$ ).

With each true kernel  $V : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  (on functions) one associates classically a kernel on measures  $\tilde{V} : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  through

$$\tilde{V}(\mu)(f) := \mu(Vf)$$

$\tilde{V}$  has the properties of a kernel, including (M).

Conversely, let  $V : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  be a kernel on measures with the property (M); then one defines  $\hat{V} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  as:  $\hat{V}f(x) := V(\varepsilon_x)(f)$ . This definition is correct and the measurability of the function  $\hat{V}(f)$  follows from (M).

Hence, starting with a kernel  $V : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  on functions, we may construct the kernel  $\tilde{V}$  on measures; since it has the property (M), we further construct the kernel  $\hat{\tilde{V}}$  on functions and we recover  $V$ ; indeed:

$$\hat{\tilde{V}}f(x) = \tilde{V}(\varepsilon_x)(f) = \varepsilon_x(Vf) = Vf(x)$$

( $\forall f \in \mathcal{F}, x \in A$ ).

However, starting with a kernel  $V : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  on measures, possessing (M), we consider the kernel on functions  $\hat{V}$ , but the equality  $\hat{V}(\mu) = V\mu$  holds only for atomic measures  $\mu$  (and does not extend necessarily for other measures).

This shows that we cannot expect to recover a good adjoint only from the measurability assumption.

By  $\mu_i \rightarrow \mu$  we understand that  $\mu_i(f) \rightarrow \mu(f)$ , for all  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  bounded.

**Proposition 2.** (i) Let  $V$  be a sub-markovian kernel on functions. Then  $\mu_i \rightarrow \mu \implies \tilde{V}\mu_i \rightarrow \tilde{V}\mu$ .

(ii) Let  $V$  be a kernel on measures, with the property (M) and such that:

$$\mu_i \rightarrow \mu \implies V\mu_i \rightarrow V\mu$$

Then  $\hat{\tilde{V}}\mu = V\mu$  for any  $\sigma$ -finite measure  $\mu$ .

**Proof.** (i) For each bounded function  $f$  we have:

$$\tilde{V}\mu_i(f) = \mu_i(Vf) \rightarrow \mu(Vf) = \tilde{V}\mu(f)$$

since  $Vf$  is also bounded.

(ii) We have already remarked that the equality  $\tilde{V}(\mu) = V(\mu)$  holds for all atomic measures  $\mu$ . For each finite measure  $\mu$ , there exists a net of atomic measures  $\mu_i$  such that  $\mu_i \rightarrow \mu$ .

Let us define the ordered set  $I$  as follows:  $i \in I$  is given by: a natural number  $N$ ; a finite partition  $(A_n)_{1 \leq n \leq N}$  of  $A$  with elements from  $\mathcal{A}$ , together with a choice of points  $x_n \in A_n$ ,  $\forall 1 \leq n \leq N$ ; if we define  $i \leq j$  if every part from  $i$  is partitioned with elements from  $j$ ,  $I$  becomes increasing: given  $i, j \in I$ , we define  $k$  as the partition with the sets  $A_n \cap B_m$ .

For each finite measure  $\mu$  and any choice of the points  $x_n \in A_n$ , we define the net of atomic measures:

$$\mu_i := \sum_{n=1}^N \mu(A_n) \cdot \varepsilon_{x_n}$$

This net converges to  $\mu$ : let  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  be bounded and let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We find a partition  $i \in I$  for which  $\forall n, x, y \in A_n \implies |f(x) - f(y)| < \varepsilon$ . For any finer partition  $j$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} |\mu_j(f) - \mu(f)| &= \left| \sum_{m=1}^M \mu(B_m) f(y_m) - \sum_{m=1}^M \int_{B_m} f \cdot d\mu \right| \leq \\ &\leq \sum_{m=1}^M \int_{B_m} |f(y_m) - f(x)| \cdot \mu(dx) < \varepsilon \cdot \mu(1) \end{aligned}$$

(see [3] [ch. XI, 8, pg.275]).

Hence  $\tilde{V}\mu_i = V\mu_i$  implies, by hypothesis, the asserted equality for finite measures. The extension to  $\sigma$ -finite measures is immediate.

**Remark.** We may consider functions  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , which are finite, except for a countable set; in this case, we have to consider countable partitions.

The sub-markovian condition may also be weakened to:  $f$  finite  $\implies V\varepsilon_x(f) < +\infty$  (except for a countable set).

In order to study the absolutely continuous kernels, we make the following remarks.

Let  $V : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  be a kernel. For each measure  $\mu$ , it naturally defines a kernel  $\mathcal{F}|_{V\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_{\mu}$ : if  $f = g$   $V\mu$ -a.e., then  $V\mu(f-g) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mu(Vf-Vg) = 0 \Leftrightarrow Vf = Vg$ ,  $\mu$ -a.e.

It also defines a kernel on measures:  $\mathcal{M}_{V\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mu}$ . Indeed, let  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}_{V\mu}$ , hence  $\nu = f.(V\mu)$ , where  $f \in \mathcal{F}|_{V\mu}$ . Then  $(Vf).\mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\mu}$ .

On the other hand, each kernel on measures  $V : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  acts (by restriction) as  $\mathcal{M}_{\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{V\mu}$ . Indeed, for  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}_{\mu}$ , from  $\nu = \bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n\mu)$  we get:

$$V\nu \geq V\nu \wedge n.V\mu \geq \bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n\mu)$$

hence

$$V\nu \geq \bigvee_n (V\nu \wedge n.V\mu) \geq \bigvee_n V(\nu \wedge n\mu) = V\left(\bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n\mu)\right) = V\nu$$

proving thus that  $V\nu \in \mathcal{M}_{V\mu}$ .

We have thus the following commuting diagrams:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M} & \xrightarrow{V} & \mathcal{M} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{M}_{\mu} & \xrightarrow{V} & \mathcal{M}_{V\mu} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{M}_{\nu} & \xrightarrow{V} & \mathcal{M}_{V\nu} \end{array}$$

(where  $\nu \leq \mu$ ). However,  $\mathcal{M}$  is **not** necessarily the inductive limit of the cones  $\mathcal{M}_{V\mu}$ .

If  $\mu$  is  $V$ -excessive (i.e.  $V\mu \leq \mu$ ), then composing with the canonical inclusion  $\mathcal{M}_{V\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mu}$ , we obtain a kernel  $\mathcal{M}_{\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\mu}$  (and correspondingly, a “pseudo-kernel”  $\mathcal{F}|_{\mu} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_{\mu}$ ).

We obtain again commuting diagrams:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M} & \xrightarrow{V} & \mathcal{M} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{M}_{\mu} & \xrightarrow{V} & \mathcal{M}_{\mu} \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \mathcal{M}_{\nu} & \xrightarrow{V} & \mathcal{M}_{\nu} \end{array}$$

This time again,  $\mathcal{M}$  is **not** necessarily the inductive limit of the cones  $\mathcal{M}_\mu$ , as  $\mu$  goes only through the  $V$ -excessive measures.

Let  $V : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$  be a kernel. We call  $V$  absolutely continuous with respect to the (positive) measure  $\mu$  if:  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $\mu(f) = 0 \Rightarrow Vf \equiv 0$ .

**Proposition 3.** *The following properties are equivalent:*

(i)  $V$  is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu$ ;

(ii)  $V(\mathcal{M}) \subseteq \mathcal{M}_\mu$ .

*The following properties are equivalent:*

a)  $V$  is absolutely continuous;

b)  $V(\mathcal{M})$  has a weak unit.

**Proof.** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii). Let  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  be such that  $\mu(f) = 0$ ; for any  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}$ , we have  $(V\nu)(f) = \nu(Vf) = 0$ , hence  $V\nu \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$ .

(ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) If  $\mu(f) = 0$ , we have  $\nu(f) = 0$ , for any  $\nu \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$ . In particular, for each  $x \in A$  we have  $V\varepsilon_x \in \mathcal{M}_\mu$ , hence  $V(f)(x) = 0$ .

a)  $\Rightarrow$  b). Let  $V$  be absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu$ . Let us denote  $\mu_0 := \bigvee \nu$ , for  $\nu \in V(\mathcal{M})$  and  $\nu \leq \mu$ . If  $\mathcal{A}$  is separable, then  $\mu_0 \in V(\mathcal{M})$  and  $\mu_0$  is a weak unit.

b)  $\Rightarrow$  a) Clearly, if  $\mu_0$  is a weak unit in  $V(\mathcal{M})$ , then  $V$  is absolutely continuous with respect to  $\mu_0$ .

**Example** (see [2]). Let  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}$  and define:

$$B_\mu(\nu) := \bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n \cdot \mu)$$

( $B_\mu\nu$  is the  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous part  $\nu$ ).

**Proposition 4.**  $B_\mu$  is a kernel on measures.

**Proof.** The following description for  $B_\mu$  holds:

$$B_\mu(\nu) = \bigvee \{ \mu' \mid \mu' \leq \nu, \mu' \text{ absolutely continuous with respect to } \mu \}$$

Indeed, let us denote by  $m$  the measure in the second member. Clearly  $B_\mu(\nu) \leq m$ . On the other hand:

$$\mu' = \bigvee_n (\mu' \wedge n \cdot \mu) \leq \bigvee_n (\nu \wedge n \cdot \mu) = B_\mu(\nu)$$



hence  $m \leq B_\mu(\nu)$ .

Now we have:

$$B_\mu(\nu + \nu') = B_\mu(\nu) + B_\mu(\nu').$$

Indeed, for  $\mu' \leq \nu$ ,  $\mu'' \leq \nu'$  such that  $\mu'$  and  $\mu''$  are  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous, we have  $\mu' + \nu' \leq \mu + \nu$  and  $\mu' + \nu'$  is  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous. Hence  $B_\mu(\mu + \nu) \geq B_\mu\mu + B_\mu\nu$ .

Conversely, let  $\omega' \leq \mu + \nu$ ,  $\omega'$   $\mu$ -absolutely continuous. Hence  $\omega' = \mu' + \nu'$  with  $\mu' \leq \mu$ ,  $\nu' \leq \nu$ . It follows that  $\mu', \nu'$  are  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous.

Clearly

$$\nu \leq \nu' \implies B_\mu(\nu) \leq B_\mu\nu';$$

Hence, if  $\nu_i \nearrow \nu$ , then  $B_\mu(\nu_i)$  is increasing and  $\bigvee_i B_\mu(\nu_i) \leq B_\mu(\bigvee_i \nu_i)$ . Conversely, let  $\nu' \leq \nu$  be such that  $\nu'$  is  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous. For each  $i$ :  $\nu' \wedge \nu_i \leq \nu_i$  and  $\nu' \wedge \nu_i$  is  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous. Hence  $\nu' \wedge \nu_i \leq B_\mu(\nu_i)$ ,  $\forall i$ . But:

$$\nu' = \nu' \wedge \nu = \nu' \wedge \left( \bigvee_i \nu_i \right) = \bigvee_i (\nu' \wedge \nu_i) \leq \bigvee_i B_\mu(\nu_i)$$

hence  $B_\mu(\nu) \leq \bigvee_i B_\mu(\nu_i)$ .

Moreover,  $B_\mu$  has the property (M), at least for  $\sigma$ -finite  $\mu$ : in this case, the set  $\{x | \mu(\{x\}) > 0\}$  is at most countable.

**Properties.** (i)  $B_\mu$  comes from a kernel on functions iff  $\mu$  is atomic.

(ii)  $B_\mu\nu = \nu \iff \nu$  is  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous.

(iii)  $B_\mu \leq I$

(iv)  $B_\mu^2 = B_\mu$

(v)  $B_\mu(\nu \wedge \nu') = \nu \wedge B_\mu(\nu') = B_\mu(\nu) \wedge \nu'$

(vi)  $B_\mu + B_{\mu'} = B_{\mu+\mu'} + B_{\mu \wedge \mu'}$  (particularly, if  $\mu \wedge \mu' = 0$  then  $B_{\mu+\mu'} = B_\mu + B_{\mu'}$ ).

(vii)  $\mu \leq \nu \implies B_\mu \leq B_\nu$

(viii)  $\mu_n \nearrow \mu \implies B_{\mu_n} \nearrow B_\mu$

(ix)  $B_\mu \circ B_\nu = B_{\mu \wedge \nu}$

(x) The kernels  $V$  on functions, which are  $\mu$ -absolutely continuous, are characterized as:  $B_\mu \circ V = V$ .

**Proof.** (v) Indeed:

$$\tilde{B}_\mu(f)(x) = B_\mu(\varepsilon_x)(f) = \mu(\{x\})f(x)$$

hence, if we denote by  $\nu$  the atomic part of  $\mu$ , we have:  $\hat{B}_\mu = B_\nu$ .

(vi) Let us denote:

$$\mu_n := \nu \wedge n.\mu + \nu \wedge n.\mu' = 2\nu \wedge (\nu + n.\mu') \wedge (\nu + n.\mu) \wedge n.(\mu + \mu')$$

and:

$$\mu'_n = \nu \wedge n.(\mu + \mu') + \nu \wedge n.\mu \wedge n.\mu' = 2\nu \wedge (\nu + n.\mu) \wedge (\nu + n.\mu') \wedge (2n.\mu + n.\mu') \wedge (n.\mu + 2n.\mu')$$

We have  $\mu_n \leq \mu'_n$  and  $\mu'_n \leq \mu_{2n}$ , hence the conclusion.

We shall consider next the weak integrals of functions with values in a cone of (positive) measures. The drawback of the weak integral is that the bi-dual is not identified with an explicit cone.

For kernels on functions, the commutation with the weak integral holds:

$$\begin{aligned} \left[ \int_A (V \circ \varphi)(a) d\mu(a) \right] (f) &= \int_A (V \circ \varphi)(a)(f) d\mu(a) = \int_A \varphi(a)[V(f)] d\mu(a) = \\ &= \left[ \int_A \varphi(a) d\mu(a) \right] (Vf) = V \left[ \int_A \varphi(a) d\mu(a) \right] (f) \end{aligned}$$

Let us formulate a sufficient condition for commutation in the case of kernels on measures. We define two maps:

$R : \mathcal{M}^{**} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  as  $(R\alpha)(f) := \alpha(\hat{f})$ , where  $\alpha \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  and  $\hat{f} \in \mathcal{M}^*$  being given by  $\hat{f}(\nu) := \nu(f)$ ,  $\forall \nu \in \mathcal{M}$ ;

$I : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}^{**}$  as  $I(\mu)(\alpha) := \alpha(\mu)$ ,  $\forall \alpha \in \mathcal{M}^*$ .

We have  $R \circ I = 1_{\mathcal{M}}$ , but  $I \circ R \neq 1_{\mathcal{M}^{**}}$ . Also, for any kernel  $V : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  we have  $R \circ V^{**} \circ I = V$ . However,  $R \circ V^{**} = V \circ R$  seems to be an additional assumption on  $V$  and implies the commutation with the integral. The kernels on functions do satisfy this relation:

$$R \circ V^{**}(\alpha)(f) = V^{**}(\alpha)(\hat{f}) = \alpha(V^* \hat{f}) = (V \circ R)(\alpha)(f), \forall \alpha \in \mathcal{M}^{**}, f \in \mathcal{F}$$

As a conclusion, the condition to commute with the integral may be replaced in the following situations:

a) with the sufficient condition  $R \circ V^{**} = V \circ R$ . In particular, one may consider the semi-group/resolvent on the bidual  $\mathcal{M}^{**}$ ;

let us remark that such a condition may be considered not only for  $\mathcal{M}$ , but for any dual.

b) one may restrict the semi-group/resolvent to the cone  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{P}} / \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{Y}}$ , which provides directly with measures and the commutation holds.

**4. Excessive functions and measures with respect to a resolvent or a semi-group on measures.** With a semi-group  $\mathcal{P} = (P_t)_{t>0}$  of kernels on measures, we associate the following cones of (positive, numerical, measurable) functions:

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^1$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $t \mapsto P_t\mu(f)$  is decreasing,  $\forall\mu$ ;

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^2$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $t \mapsto P_t\varepsilon_x(f)$  is decreasing,  $\forall x$ ;

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^3$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $P_t\mu(f) \leq \mu(f)$ ,  $\forall\mu, \forall t > 0$ ;

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^4$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $P_t\varepsilon_x(f) \leq f(x)$ ,  $\forall x, \forall t > 0$ .

As usual, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we define a new semi-group  $\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon$  as:  $P_t^\varepsilon = e^{-\varepsilon t}P_t$ .

The following relations hold:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^1 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon>0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^1$ . Indeed, for  $t < s$  we have:

$$P_t\mu(f) \geq P_s\mu(f) \implies e^{-\varepsilon t}P_t\mu(f) \geq e^{-\varepsilon t}P_s\mu(f) \geq e^{-\varepsilon s}P_s\mu(f)$$

Conversely, from  $e^{-\varepsilon t}P_t\mu(f) \geq e^{-\varepsilon s}P_s\mu(f)$  we get the conclusion by making  $\varepsilon \searrow 0$ . As a special case, we obtain:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^2 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon>0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^2$ .

Also  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^1 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^1$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^1 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^2$ , with equality when we have true kernels (on functions). In the same way:

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^3 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon>0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^3$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^4 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon>0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^4$$

Also  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^3$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^4$ , with equality when we have true kernels (on functions).

Clearly, if  $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon'$  then:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^i \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^{\varepsilon'}}^i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 4$ .

Finally,  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^1$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^1$ .

Indeed, if  $t < s$  and  $P_\tau\mu(f) \leq \mu(f)$ ,  $\forall\tau > 0, \mu$ , let us denote:  $s = t + h$ . Then:  $P_s\mu(f) = P_h[P_t\mu](f) \leq P_t\mu(f)$ .

In the same way, with a resolvent  $\mathcal{V} = (V_\alpha)_{\alpha>0}$  of kernels on measures, we associate the following cones of (positive, numerical, measurable) functions:

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^1$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha V_\alpha\mu(f)$  is increasing,  $\forall\mu$ ;

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^2$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha V_\alpha\varepsilon_x(f)$  is increasing,  $\forall x$ ;

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^3$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $\alpha V_\alpha\mu(f) \leq \mu(f)$ ,  $\forall\mu, \forall\alpha > 0$ ;

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^4$ : all the functions  $f$ , for which  $\alpha V_\alpha\varepsilon_x(f) \leq f(x)$ ,  $\forall x, \forall\alpha > 0$ .

As usual, for each  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we define a new resolvent  $\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon$  as:  $V_\alpha^\varepsilon = V_{\alpha+\varepsilon}$ .

The following relations hold:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^1 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^1$ . Indeed, we have:

$$(\alpha + \varepsilon)V_{\alpha+\varepsilon}\mu(f) \leq (\beta + \varepsilon)V_{\beta+\varepsilon}\mu(f)$$

$$\alpha V_{\alpha+\varepsilon}\mu(f) + \varepsilon [V_{\alpha+\varepsilon}\mu(f) - V_{\beta+\varepsilon}\mu(f)] \leq \beta V_{\beta+\varepsilon}\mu(f)$$

(the case  $V_{\beta+\varepsilon}\mu(f) = +\infty$  being obvious).

Next, let us suppose that  $\alpha V_{\alpha+\varepsilon}\mu(f) \leq \beta V_{\beta+\varepsilon}\mu(f)$  for  $0 < \alpha < \beta$ . For any  $0 < \varepsilon < \alpha$  we have:

$$(\alpha - \varepsilon)V_{\alpha}\mu(f) \leq \beta V_{\beta+\varepsilon}\mu(f) \leq \beta V_{\beta}\mu(f)$$

(again the case  $V_{\beta}\mu(f) = +\infty$  is obvious). The conclusion now follows letting  $\varepsilon \searrow 0$ .

As a special case, we obtain:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^2 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^2$ . Also  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^1 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^2$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^1 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^2$ , with equality when we have true kernels (on functions).

In the same way:

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^3 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^3$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^4 = \bigcap_{\varepsilon > 0} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^4$$

Also  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^4$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^4$ , with equality when we have true kernels (on functions).

Clearly, if  $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon'$  then:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^i \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^{\varepsilon'}}^i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 4$ .

Finally,  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^1$  and  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^3 \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^1$ .

Indeed, let  $\alpha < \beta$ . We have:

$$\alpha V_{\alpha}\mu(f) = \beta V_{\beta}\mu(f) + (\beta - \alpha) [\alpha V_{\alpha}(V_{\beta}\mu)(f) - V_{\beta}\mu(f)] \leq V_{\beta}\mu(f)$$

The following inclusions hold:  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^i \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^i$ ;  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}^\varepsilon}^i \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}^\varepsilon}^i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, 4$ .

Let  $\alpha < \beta$ , hence  $\beta = c\alpha$ , with  $c > 1$ . We have then:

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha V_{\alpha}\mu(f) &= \alpha \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha t} P_t \mu(f) dt = \alpha \int_0^\infty e^{-\beta s} P_{cs} \mu(f) cds = \\ &= \beta \int_0^\infty e^{-\beta s} P_{cs} \mu(f) ds \leq \beta \int_0^\infty e^{-\beta s} P_s \mu(f) ds = \beta V_{\beta}\mu(f) \end{aligned}$$

With each resolvent  $\mathcal{V}$ , one can associate:

the  $\mathcal{V}$ -excessive measures:  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{V}}$  if  $\alpha V_{\alpha}\mu \leq \mu, \forall \alpha > 0$ ;

and also:

the  $\mathcal{V}$ -supmedian functions:  $f \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{V}}$  if  $\alpha V_{\alpha}\mu(f) \leq \mu(f), \forall \alpha > 0, \forall \mu \in \mathcal{M}$ .

Clearly, if  $V_{\alpha}$  are kernels on functions, these are the usual definitions.

**Proposition 6.** *If  $\mathcal{R}$  denotes the set of  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  such that  $t \mapsto P_t\mu(f)$  is right continuous on  $(0, +\infty)$ , for each  $\mu$ , then  $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^1 \cap \mathcal{R} \subseteq \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{P}}^1$ .*

**Proof.** We have to prove that, if  $t \mapsto P_t\mu(f)$  is right continuous on  $(0, +\infty)$ , and  $\alpha \mapsto \alpha V_{\alpha}\mu(f)$  is increasing for each  $\mu$ , then  $t \mapsto P_t\mu(f)$  is decreasing on  $(0, +\infty)$ , for each  $\mu$ .

Let  $c > 1$  be fixed. Since we have  $\alpha V_{\alpha}\mu(f) \leq \beta V_{\beta}\mu(f)$  (where  $\beta := c\alpha$ ), we obtain:  $\int_0^{\infty} e^{-\alpha s} [P_{s/c}\mu(f) - P_s\mu(f)] ds \geq 0$ .

Now, the function  $\alpha \mapsto cV_{c\alpha}\mu(f) - V_{\alpha}\mu(f)$  is completely monotone, as its  $n$ -th order derivative equals  $(-1)^n [c^{n+1}V_{c\alpha}^{n+1}\mu(f) - V_{\alpha}^{n+1}\mu(f)]$ ; a simple induction shows that:

$$\begin{aligned} (\beta V_{\beta})^{n+1}\mu(f) &= (\beta V_{\beta})^n [\beta V_{\beta}\mu](f) \geq (\alpha V_{\alpha})^n [\beta V_{\beta}\mu](f) = \\ &= \beta V_{\beta} [(\alpha V_{\alpha})^n \mu](f) \geq (\alpha V_{\alpha}) [(\alpha V_{\alpha})^n \mu](f) = (\alpha V_{\alpha}^{n+1}\mu)(f) \end{aligned}$$

hence  $c^{n+1}V_{c\alpha}^{n+1}\mu(f) \geq V_{\alpha}^{n+1}\mu(f)$ .

From Bernstein's theorem, we obtain that  $P_{s/c}\mu(f) \geq P_s\mu(f)$ , a.e. in  $s$ . From the right continuity, the conclusion follows.

**5. The associated semi-dynamical system.** In this part, the general measurable space  $(A, \mathcal{A})$  is replaced by  $(K, \mathcal{B})$ , where  $K$  is a compact space and  $\mathcal{B}$  is the Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra.

**Theorem 7.** *Let  $\mathcal{V}$  be a resolvent of kernels on (positive, Radon) measures on  $(K, \mathcal{B})$ , such that:*

$1 \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^3$  (equivalent with:  $\alpha V_{\alpha}\mu(1) \leq \mu(1), \forall \alpha > 0$ );

$\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{V}}^{3c}$  separates  $K$ ;

for each  $\alpha > 0$  the condition  $R \circ V_{\alpha}^{**} = V_{\alpha} \circ R$  holds.

Then there exists a semi-group of kernels on (positive, Radon) measures on  $(K, \mathcal{B})$ , such that:

$$V_{\alpha}\mu = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-\alpha t} \Phi(t, \mu) dt$$

**Proof.** We give only the different arguments with respect to the proof form [5]. There exists a unique, positive Radon measure  $m_{\mu,f}$  on  $[0, +\infty]$ , such that:

$$V_\alpha \mu(f) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha t} dm_{\mu,f}(t)$$

Since the function  $\alpha \mapsto \mu(f) - \alpha V_\alpha \mu(f)$  is completely monotone for  $f \in \mathcal{S}_\mathcal{V}^3$ , from Bernstein's theorem, there exists a unique positive measure  $n_{\mu,f}$  on  $[0, +\infty]$  such that

$$\mu(f) - \alpha V_\alpha \mu(f) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha t} dn_{\mu,f}(t)$$

For each  $t > 0$ ,  $\mu \in X$  and  $f \in \mathcal{S}_\mathcal{V}^3$  we define:

$$\Phi(t, \mu)(f) := n_{\mu,f}((t, +\infty))$$

The function  $t \mapsto \Phi(t, \mu)(f)$  is right continuous on  $[0, +\infty)$ . Using the hypothesis,  $\Phi(t, \mu)$  is in fact a (positive, Radon) measure: indeed,  $\Phi(t, \mu)$  extends by linearity to  $\mathcal{S}_\mathcal{V}^{3c} - \mathcal{S}_\mathcal{V}^{3c}$  as a positive linear functional; the density in  $\mathcal{C}(K)$  gives the measure. The right continuity is preserved under linear and uniform extensions, hence  $t \mapsto \Phi(t, \mu)(f)$  is right continuous on  $(0, +\infty)$ , for all  $f \in \mathcal{C}(K)$  and all positive Radon measures  $\mu$ .

Also, the relation:

$$V_\alpha \mu(f) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\alpha t} \Phi(t, \mu)(f) dt$$

holds  $\forall \mu, \forall f \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ .  $\Phi(t, \cdot)$  is in fact a kernel on (positive, Radon) measures.

The rest of the proof is the same.

**Remark.** Using the fact that the function  $\alpha \mapsto \mu(f) - \alpha V_\alpha \mu(f)$  is also completely monotone for  $\mu \in \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{V}$ , we may replace the hypothesis:

" $\mathcal{S}_\mathcal{V}^{3c}$  separates  $K$ "

by a density of  $\mathcal{M}_\mathcal{V} - \mathcal{M}_\mathcal{V}$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ ; but this conditions does not seems reasonable.

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