

### 2.1. Laplace equation on $C_0^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$

Let<sup>1</sup>  $f \in C_0^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Define  $u = K * f$ . Prove that  $u \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and that  $\Delta u = f$ .

**Hint:** We already know this result for  $f \in C_0^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , so you can try to approximate  $f \in C_0^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  by a sequence of  $C_0^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  functions.

**2.2. Uniqueness of solution** Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be a bounded, open set. Assume for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  that  $a_i, c \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})$  with  $c(x) < 0$  for all  $x \in \Omega$ . Prove that there is at most one solution  $u \in C^2(\Omega) \cap C^0(\overline{\Omega})$  to

$$\begin{cases} \Delta u + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \partial_i u + cu = 0 \\ u|_{\partial\Omega} = f \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

with  $f \in C^0(\partial\Omega)$ .

**Hint:** Prove that the problem (1) with  $f \equiv 0$  has the unique solution  $v \equiv 0$  by showing that  $\max v \leq 0$  and  $\min v \geq 0$  in this case.

### 2.3. Subharmonic functions

Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  be an open subset. Prove that the following statements for  $u \in C^2(\Omega)$  are equivalent

- (i)  $\Delta u \geq 0$
- (ii) For all  $\xi \in \Omega$  and  $r > 0$  such that  $\overline{B_r(\xi)} \subset \Omega$ , we have

$$u(\xi) \leq \frac{1}{\omega_n r^{n-1}} \int_{\partial B_r(\xi)} u \, dS.$$

- (iii) For all  $\xi \in \Omega$  and  $r > 0$  such that  $\overline{B_r(\xi)} \subset \Omega$ , we have

$$u(\xi) \leq \frac{n}{\omega_n r^n} \int_{B_r(\xi)} u \, dx.$$

**Hint:** (i)  $\Rightarrow$  (ii) follows directly from a result seen in the course. For (ii)  $\Rightarrow$  (iii) integrate with respect to  $r$  and for (iii)  $\Rightarrow$  (i) argue by contraposition.

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<sup>1</sup> $C_0^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is the space of functions with continuous first derivative and compact support.

**2.4. Symmetries continued.** Let  $n > 2$  and  $u \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be harmonic and define  $v$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$  by

$$v(x) = \frac{1}{|x|^{n-2}} u\left(\frac{x}{|x|^2}\right).$$

Prove that  $v$  is harmonic. What do you get for  $u$  a constant function?

**2.5. Maximum principle on unbounded domains.** Consider the domain  $\Omega = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| > 1\}$  and a harmonic function  $u \in C^2(\overline{\Omega})$  which has the property  $\lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{\partial B_r(0) \cap \Omega} u = 0$ .

Prove that  $|u|$  attains its maximum and  $\max_{\Omega} |u| = \max_{\partial\Omega} |u|$ .

**Please hand in your solutions for this sheet by Monday 07/03/2016.**