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# Initial value problems for diffusion equations with singular potential

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#### Abstract

Let V be a locally bounded function defined in  $Q_{\infty} := \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)$ . In this article study under what condition on V and a Radon measure  $\mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  it is possible to have a solution to the initial value problem  $\partial_t u - \Delta u + Vu = 0$  in  $Q_{\infty}$  such that  $u(.,0) = \mu$ . We prove the existence of a subcritical case for which any measure is admissible and a supercritical case where capacitary conditions are needed.

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#### 1 Introduction

In this article we study the initial value problem for the heat equation

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V(x, t)u = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_T := \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, T)$$

$$u(., 0) = \mu \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n$$

$$(1.1)$$

where  $V \in L^{\infty}_{loc}(Q_T)$  is a nonnegative function and  $\mu$  a Radon measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . By a (weak) solution (1.1) of we mean a function  $u \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$  such that  $Vu \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$ , satisfying

$$-\iint_{Q_T} (\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) \, u dx dt + \iint_{Q_T} V u \phi dx dt = \int_{\Omega} \zeta d\mu \tag{1.2}$$

for every function  $\mapsto \zeta \in C_c^{1,1;1}(\overline{Q}_T)$  which vanishes for t=T. Besides the singularity of the potential at t=0, there are two main difficulties which appear for constructing weak solutions: the growth of the measure at infinity and the concentration of the measure near some points in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

We denote by  $H(x,t)=\left(\frac{1}{4\pi t}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}}e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4t}}$  the Gaussian kernel in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and by  $\mathbb{H}[\mu]$  the corresponding heat potential of a measure  $\mu\in\mathfrak{M}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Thus

$$\mathbb{H}[\mu](x,t) = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi t}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \int e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4t}} d\mu(y), \tag{1.3}$$

whenever this expression have a meaning: for example it is straightforward that if  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfies

$$\|\mu\|_{\mathfrak{M}_T} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} d|\mu|(y) < \infty,$$
 (1.4)

then (1.3) has a meaning as long as t < T. We denote by  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$  the set of Radon measures in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  satisfying (1.4). If  $G \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , let  $Q_T^G$  be the cylinder  $G \times (0,T)$ . We also denote by  $B_R(x)$  the ball of center x and radius R and  $B_R = B_R(0)$ . We prove

**Theorem A** Let the measure  $\mu$  verifies

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_R}} \mathbb{H}[|\mu|](x,t)V(x,t)dxdt \le M_R \qquad \forall R > 0.$$
(1.5)

Then (1.1) admits a solution in  $Q_T$ .

A measure which satisfies (1.5) is called an *admissible measure* and a measure for which there exists a solution to problem (1.1) is called a *good measure*. Notice that even when V = 0, uniqueness without any restriction on u is not true, however the next uniqueness result holds:

**Theorem B** Let u be a weak solution of (1.1) with  $\mu = 0$ . If u satisfies

$$\iint_{Q_T} (1 + V(x,t)) e^{-\lambda |x|^2} |u(x,t)| dx dt < \infty$$

$$\tag{1.6}$$

for some  $\lambda > 0$  then u = 0.

We denote by  $\mathcal{E}_{\nu}(Q_T)$  the set of functions  $u \in L^1_{loc}(Q_T)$  satisfying (1.6) for some  $\lambda > 0$ . The general result we have is the following

**Theorem C** Let  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  be an admissible measure satisfying (1.4). Then there exists a unique solution  $u_{\mu} \in \mathcal{E}_{\nu}(Q_T)$  to problem (1.1). Furthermore

$$\iint_{O_T} \left( \frac{n}{2T} + V \right) |u| e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx dt \le \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} d|\mu|(y). \tag{1.7}$$

We consider first the *subcritical case*, which means that any positive measure satisfying (1.4) is a good measure and we prove that such is the case if for any R > 0 there exist  $m_R > 0$  such that

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_R}} H(x - y, t) V(x, t) dx dt \le m_R e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}}$$
(1.8)

Moreover we prove a stability result among the measures satisfying (1.4). If V verifies for all R > 0

$$\sup_{y \in \mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \to 0 \quad \text{when } |E| \to 0, E \text{ Borel subset of } Q_T^{B_R}, \tag{1.9}$$

then if  $\{\mu_k\}$  is a sequence of Radon measures bounded in  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$  which converges in the weak sense of measures to  $\mu$ , then  $\{(u_{\mu_k}, Vu_{\mu_k})\}$  converges to  $(u_{\mu}, Vu_{\mu})$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$ .

In the supercritical case, that is when not any measure in  $\mathfrak{M}_{T}(\mathbb{R}^{n})$  is a good measure, we develop a capacitary framework in order to characterize the good measures. We denote by  $\mathfrak{M}^{V}(\mathbb{R}^{n})$  the set of Radon measures such that  $V\mathbb{H}[\mu] \in L^{1}(Q_{T})$  and  $\|\mu\|_{\mathfrak{M}^{V}} := \|V\mathbb{H}[\mu]\|_{L^{1}}$  If  $E \subset Q_{T}$  is a Borel set, we set

$$C_V(E) = \sup\{\mu(E) : \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+^V(\mathbb{R}^n), \mu(E^c) = 0, \|\mu\|_{\mathfrak{M}^V} \le 1\}$$
 (1.10)

This defines a capacity. If

$$C_V^*(E) = \inf\{\|f\|_{L^\infty} : \check{H}[f](y) \ge 1 \quad \forall y \in E\},$$
 (1.11)

where

$$\check{H}[f](y) = \iint_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(x, t) f(x, t) dx dt = \int_0^T \mathbb{H}[Vf](y, t) dt \qquad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$
 (1.12)

then  $C_V^*(E) = C_V(E)$  for any compact set. Denote by  $Z_V$  the singular set of V, that is the largest set with zero  $C_V$  capacity. Then

$$Z_V = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \iint_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(y, t) dx dt = \infty \}, \tag{1.13}$$

and the following result characterizes the good measures.

**Theorem D** If  $\mu$  is an admissible measure then  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$ . If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$  satisfies  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$ , then it is a good measure. Furthermore  $\mu$  is a positive good measure if and only if there exist an increasing sequence of positive admissible measures  $\{\mu_k\}$  which converges to  $\mu$  in the weak \* topology.

Since many important applications deal with the nonlinear equation

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + |u|^{q-1} u = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_\infty := \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty)$$
 (1.14)

where q>1 and due to the fact that any solution defined in  $Q_{\infty}$  satisfies

$$|u(x,t)|^{q-1} \le \frac{1}{t(q-1)} \qquad \forall (x,t) \in Q_{\infty},$$
 (1.15)

we shall concentrate on potentials V which satisfy

$$0 \le V(x,t) \le \frac{C_1}{t} \qquad \forall (x,t) \in Q_T, \tag{1.16}$$

for some  $C_1 > 0$ . For such potentials we prove the existence of a representation theorem for positive solutions of

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V(x, t)u = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_T \tag{1.17}$$

If u is a positive solution of (1.1) in  $Q_T$  with  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , it is the increasing limit of the solutions  $u = u_R$  of

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V(x,t)u = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_T^{B_R}$$

$$u = 0 \qquad \text{in } \partial B_R \times (0,T)$$

$$u(.,0) = \chi_{B_R} \mu \qquad \text{in } B_R,$$

$$(1.18)$$

thus there exists a positive function  $H_V \in C(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times (0,T))$  such that

$$u(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} H_V(x,y,t) d\mu(y). \tag{1.19}$$

Furthermore we show how to construct  $H_V$  from V and we prove the following formula

$$H_V(x, y, t) = e^{\psi(x, t)} \Gamma(x, y, t), \tag{1.20}$$

where

$$\psi(x,t) = \int_{t}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} \left( \frac{1}{4\pi(s-t)} \right)^{\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^{2}}{4(s-t)}} V(y,s) dy ds$$
 (1.21)

and  $\Gamma$  satisfies the following estimate

$$c_1 t^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\gamma_1 \frac{|x-y|^2}{t}} \le \Gamma(x, y, t) \le c_2 t^{-\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\gamma_2 \frac{|x-y|^2}{t}}$$
(1.22)

where  $A_i$ ,  $c_i$  depends on T, d and V. Conversely, we first prove the following representation result

**Theorem E** Assume V satisfies (1.15). If u is a positive solution of (1.1) in  $Q_T$ , there exists a positive Radon measure  $\mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that (1.19) holds.

If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is positive, we can define for any k > 0 the solution  $u_k$  of

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V_k(x, t)u = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_T := \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, T)$$
$$u(., 0) = \mu \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n$$
(1.23)

where  $V_k(x,t) = \min\{k, V(x,t)\}$ , then

$$u_k(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} H_{V_k}(x,y,t) d\mu(y).$$
 (1.24)

Moreover  $\{H_{V_k}\}$  and  $\{v_k\}$  decrease respectively to  $H_V$  and  $u^*$  there holds

$$u^*(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} H_V(x,y,t) d\mu(y).$$
 (1.25)

However  $u^*$  is not a solution of (1.1), but of a relaxed problem where  $\mu$  is replaced by a smaller measure  $\mu^*$  called the reduced measure associated to  $\mu$ . If we define the zero set of V by

$$Sing_V := \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^N : H_V(x, y, t) = 0 \},$$
 (1.26)

we prove

**Theorem F** Assume V satisfies (1.15) and  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then

- (i)  $supp(\mu \mu^*) \subset Sing_V$ ,
- (ii) If  $\mu(Sing_V) = 0$ , then  $\mu^* = 0$ .
- (iii)  $Sing_V \subset Z_V$ .

The last section is devoted to the initial trace problem: to any positive solution u of (1.1) we can associate an open subset  $\mathcal{R}(u) \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  which the set of points y which possesses a neighborhood U such that

$$\iint_{Q_T^U} V(x,t)u(x,t)dxdt < \infty. \tag{1.27}$$

There exists a positive Radon measure  $\mu_u$  on  $\mathcal{R}(u)$  such that

$$\lim_{t\to 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u(x,t)\zeta(x)dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \zeta d\mu \qquad \forall \zeta \in C_c(\mathcal{R}(u)). \tag{1.28}$$

The set  $S(u) = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathcal{R}(u)$  is the set of points y such that for any open set U containing y, there holds

$$\iint_{Q_T^U} V(x,t)u(x,t)dxdt = \infty.$$
(1.29)

If V satisfies (1.17), S(u) it has the property that

$$\lim \sup_{t \to 0} \int_{U} u(x, t) dx = \infty. \tag{1.30}$$

Furthermore, if is satisfies (1.9), then  $S(u) = \emptyset$ .

An alternative construction of the initial trace based on the sweeping method is also developed.

#### 2 The subcritical case

In this section we assume that  $V \in L^1_{loc}(Q_T)$  is nonnegative, where  $Q_T = \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, T]$ . We consider the linear parabolic problem

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_T$$
  
 
$$u(.,0) = \mu \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}.$$
 (2.1)

**Definition 2.1** We say that  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a good measure if problem (2.1) has a weak solution u i.e. there exists a function  $u \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$ , such that  $Vu \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$  which satisfies

$$-\iint_{Q_T} u(\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \iint_{Q_T} V u \phi dx dt = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \phi(x, 0) d\mu \quad \forall \phi \in X(Q_T), \tag{2.2}$$

where

$$X(Q_T) = \{ \phi \in C_c(\overline{Q}_T), \ \partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi \in L^{\infty}_{loc}(\overline{Q}_{\infty}), \ \phi(x, T) = 0 \}$$

**Definition 2.2** Let H(x,t) be the heat kernel of heat equation in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , we say that  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is an admissible measure if (i)

$$||V\mathbb{H}[|\mu|]||_{L^1(Q_T^{B_R})} = \iint_{Q_T^{B_R}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x - y, t) d|\mu(y)| \right) V(x, t) dx dt < M_{R, T}$$

where  $M_{R,T}$  is a positive constant.

**Definition 2.3** A function u(x,t) will be said to belong to the class  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{V}}(Q_T)$  if there exists a positive  $\lambda$  such that

$$\iint_{Q_T} e^{-\lambda |x|^2} |u(x,t)| (1+V(x,t)) dx dt < \infty.$$

A measure in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  belongs to the class  $\mathfrak{M}_{\tau}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  if

$$\|\mu\|_{\mathfrak{M}_T} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4T}} d|\mu| < \infty.$$

**Lemma 2.4** There exists at most one weak solution of problem (2.1) in the class  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{V}}(Q_T)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  be two solutions in the class  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{V}}(Q_T)$  then  $w = u_1 - u_2$  is a solution with initial data 0. Choose a standard mollifier  $\rho : B(0,1) \to [0,1]$  and define

$$w_j(x) = j^n \int_{B_{\frac{1}{2}}(x)} \rho(x-y)w(y)dy \equiv \int_{B_{\frac{1}{2}}(x)} \rho_j(x-y)w(y)dy.$$

Then  $w_j(.,t)$  is  $C^{\infty}$  and from equation satisfied by w, it holds

$$\partial_t w_j - \Delta w_j + \int_{B_{\frac{1}{i}}(x)} V(y, t) \rho_j(x - y) w(y) dy = 0,$$

where  $\partial_t w_i$  is taken in the weak sense.

First we consider the case  $\lambda > 0$  and  $t \leq \min\{\frac{1}{16\lambda}, T\} = T'$ .

Set  $\phi(x,t) = \xi(x,t)\zeta(x)$ , where  $\xi(x,t) = e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(\frac{1}{8\lambda}-t)}}$  and  $\zeta \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Given  $\varepsilon > 0$  we define

$$g_j = \sqrt{w_j^2 + \varepsilon}.$$

Because  $\partial_t(g_j\phi) = \frac{\partial_t w_j}{\sqrt{w_j^2 + \varepsilon}}\phi + g_j\partial_t\phi$ , by a straightforward calculation we have

$$\begin{split} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left[ g_j \phi(.,s) \right]_{s=t}^{s=0} dx &= \int \!\! \int_{Q_t} \frac{w_j}{\sqrt{w_j^2 + \varepsilon}} \phi \Delta w_j dx ds \\ &- \int \!\! \int_{Q_t} \frac{w_j(x,s)}{\sqrt{w_j^2(x,s) + \varepsilon}} \phi(x,s) \left( \int_{B_{\frac{1}{j}}(x)} V(y,t) \rho_j(x-y) w(y) dy \right) dx ds \\ &+ \int \!\! \int_{Q_t} g_j \phi_s dx ds \\ &= I_1 + I_2 + I_3 \end{split}$$

Using integration by parts, we deduce

$$I_{1} = -\iint_{Q_{t}} \frac{|\nabla w_{j}|^{2}}{\sqrt{w_{j}^{2}(x,s) + \varepsilon}} \phi dx ds + \iint_{Q_{t}} \frac{|\nabla w_{j}|^{2} w_{j}^{2}}{(w_{j}^{2}(x,s) + \varepsilon)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \phi dx ds - \iint_{Q_{t}} \frac{w_{j}}{\sqrt{w_{j}^{2} + \varepsilon}} \nabla w_{j} \nabla \phi dx ds$$

$$\leq -\iint_{Q_{t}} \frac{w_{j}}{\sqrt{w_{j}^{2} + \varepsilon}} \nabla w_{j} \nabla \phi dx ds = -\iint_{Q_{t}} \nabla g_{j} \nabla \phi dx ds$$

$$= -\iint_{Q_{t}} \zeta \nabla g_{j} \nabla \xi dx ds - \iint_{Q_{t}} \xi \nabla g_{j} \nabla \zeta dx ds$$

$$= \iint_{Q_{t}} \zeta g_{j} \Delta \xi dx ds + \iint_{Q_{t}} g_{j} \nabla \zeta \nabla \xi dx ds.$$

By the upper bound on t, we have that  $\xi |\nabla g_j| \in L^1(Q_{T'})$ ,  $\xi g_j \in L^1(Q_{T'})$ ,  $|\Delta \xi| g_j \in L^1(Q_{T'})$ ,  $\xi_s g_j \in L^1(Q_{T'})$  and

$$\iint_{Q_t} \frac{w_j(x,s)}{\sqrt{w_j^2(x,s)+\varepsilon}} \xi \left( \int_{B_{\frac{1}{j}}(x)} V(y,t) \rho_j(x-y) w(y) dy \right) dx ds < \infty.$$

The reason for which  $\xi |\nabla g_j| \in L^1(Q_{T'})$ , is the next inequality

$$\begin{split} \iint_{Q_{T'}} |\nabla g_j| \xi dx ds &= \iint_{Q_{T'}} \frac{|\nabla w_j|}{\sqrt{\varepsilon + w_j}} \xi dx ds \\ &\leq \iint_{Q_{T'}} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(\frac{1}{8\lambda} - t)}} \left( \int_{B_{\frac{1}{j}}(x)} |\nabla \rho_j(x - y)| w(y) dy \right) dx ds. \end{split}$$

Since  $\forall y \in B_{\frac{1}{j}}(x)$ , we have  $|x|^2 \ge (|y|^2 - \frac{1}{j})^2 = |y|^2 + \frac{1}{j^2} - 2\frac{|y|}{j} \ge \frac{|y|^2}{2} - (C-1)\frac{1}{j^2}$ , for some positive constant C > 0 independent on j, y, x. Thus we have

$$\iint_{Q_{T'}} |\nabla g_j| \xi dx ds \leq C(j,\lambda) \iint_{Q_{T'}} \int_{B_{\frac{1}{j}}(x)} e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{8(\frac{1}{8\lambda}-t)}} |\nabla \rho_j(x-y)| w(y) dy dx ds < \infty,$$

since  $e^{-\lambda |y|^2} w \in L^1(Q_T)$ . Also

$$\iint_{Q_t} \frac{w_j(x,s)}{\sqrt{w_j^2(x,s)+\varepsilon}} \xi \left( \int_{B_{\frac{1}{j}}(x)} V(y,t) \rho_j(x-y) w(y) dy \right) dx ds \longrightarrow_{j\to\infty} \iint_{Q_t} \frac{w^2(x,s)}{\sqrt{w^2(x,s)+\varepsilon}} \xi V(y,t) dx ds$$

and

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \sqrt{w_j^2(x,s) + \varepsilon} (\xi_s + \Delta \xi) dx ds \longrightarrow_{j \to \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \sqrt{w^2(x,s) + \varepsilon} (\xi_s + \Delta \xi) dx ds.$$

We choose  $\zeta_R = 1$  in  $B_R$ ,  $0 \le \zeta_R \le 1$  in  $B_{R+1} \setminus B_R$  and 0 otherwise. Letting successively  $j \to \infty$ ,  $R \to \infty$  and finally  $\varepsilon \to 0$ , we derive

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |w(x,t)| \xi(x,t) dx \le \iint_{O_t} |w| (\xi_s + \Delta \xi) dx ds - \iint_{O_t} w(x,s) \xi V(y,t) dx ds.$$

Since

$$\xi_s + \Delta \xi = -\frac{n}{2(\frac{1}{8\lambda} - s)},$$

and  $V \ge 0$ , we have  $w(x,t) = 0 \ \forall \ (x,t) \in \mathbf{R}^n \times (0,T')$ . If T' = T this complete the proof for  $\lambda \ge 0$ , otherwise the proof can be completed by a finite number of interations of the same argument on  $\mathbf{R}^n \times (T',2T')$ ,  $\mathbf{R}^n \times (2T',3T')$ , etc. If  $\lambda = 0$  we set  $\xi = 1$  and the result follows by similar argument  $\square$ 

**Theorem 2.5** If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is an admissible measure, there exist a unique  $u = u_{\mu} \in \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{V}}(Q_T)$  solution of (2.1). Furthermore the following estimate holds

$$\frac{n}{2T} \iint_{Q_T} |u| e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx ds + \iint_{Q_T} |u| V e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx ds \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4T}} d|\mu|. \tag{2.3}$$

*Proof.* First we assume that  $\mu \geq 0$ . Let  $\mu_R = \chi_{B_R}\mu$ . It is well known that the heat kernel  $H^{B_R}(x,y,t)$  in  $\Omega = B_R$  is an increasing with respect to R and  $H^{B_R} \to H$ , as  $R \to \infty$  in  $L^1(Q_T)$  for any T > 0. Thus  $\mu_R$  is an admissible measure in  $B_R$ . Then by Proposition 5.4, there exists a unique weak solution  $u_R$  of problem 5.2 on  $\Omega = B_R$ . By (ii) of Proposition 5.5 we have

$$-\iint_{Q_T} |u_R|(\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \iint_{Q_T} |u_R| V \phi dx dt \le \int_{B_R} \phi(x, 0) d|\mu_R|,$$

If we set  $\phi_{\varepsilon}(x,t) = e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T+\varepsilon-t)}}$ ;  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then

$$\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi = -\frac{n}{2(T+\varepsilon-t)} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T+\varepsilon-t)}}$$

thus we have

$$\begin{split} & \iint_{Q_T} |u_R| \frac{n}{2(T+\varepsilon-t)} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T+\varepsilon-t)}} dxdt + \iint_{Q_T} |u_R| V e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T+\varepsilon-t)}} dxdt \leq \int_{B_R} e^{\frac{-|x|^2}{4T+4\varepsilon}} d\mu_R \Rightarrow \\ & \frac{n}{2T+\varepsilon} \int_0^T \int_{B_R} |u_R| e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T+\varepsilon-t)}} dxdt + \int_0^T \int_{B_R} |u_R| V e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T+\varepsilon-t)}} dxdt \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{-|x|^2}{4T+4\varepsilon}} d\mu_R. \end{split}$$

Letting  $\varepsilon \to 0$ , we have

$$\frac{n}{2T} \iint_{Q_T} |u_R| e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx dt + \iint_{Q_T} |u_R| V e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx dt \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{-|x|^2}{4T}} d\mu_R \leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{\frac{-|x|^2}{4T}} d\mu_R.$$

Now by the maximum principle  $u_R$  is an increasing with respect to R and converge to some function u. By the above inequality  $u \in \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{V}}(Q_T)$  satisfies the estimate (2.5) and u is a weak solution of problem (2.1). By Lemma 2.4 is unique. In the general case we write  $\mu = \mu^+ - \mu^-$  and the result follows by the above arguments and Lemma 2.4. In the sequel we shall denote by  $u_\mu$  this unique solution.

**Definition 2.6** A potential V is called subcritical in  $Q_T$  if for any R > 0 there exists  $m_R > 0$  such that

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_R}} H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \le m_R e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \qquad \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$
 (2.4)

It is called strongly subcritical if moreover

$$e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \to 0 \quad when \ |E| \to 0, E \ Borel \ subset \ of \ Q_T^{B_R},$$
 (2.5)

uniformly with respect to  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ 

**Theorem 2.7** Assume V is subcritical. Then any measure in  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is admissible. Furthermore, if V is strongly subcritical and  $\{\mu_k\}$  is a sequence of measures uniformly bounded in  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^N)$  which converges weakly to  $\mu$ , then the corresponding solutions  $\{(u_{\mu_k}\}\ converge to u_{\mu} \ in \ L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T), \ and \{Vu_{\mu_k}\}\ converges to Vu_{\mu} \ in \ L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T).$ 

*Proof.* For the first statement we can assume  $\mu \geq 0$  and there holds

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_R}} H(x-y,t)d\mu(y)V(x,t)dxdt = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \iint_{Q_T^{B_R}} H(t,x-y)V(x,t)dxdt \right) d\mu(y) 
\leq m_R \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} d\mu(y) 
\leq m_R \|\mu\|_{\mathfrak{M}_T}.$$

Thus  $\mu$  is admissible. For the second statement, we assume first that  $\mu_k \geq 0$ . By lower semi-continuity  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $\|V\mathbb{H}[\mu]\|_{L^1(Q_T^{B_R})} \leq M_{R,T}$  for any k. Since  $0 \leq u_{\mu_k} \leq \mathbb{H}[\mu_k]$  and  $\mathbb{H}[\mu_k] \to \mathbb{H}[\mu]$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$ , the sequence  $\{u_{\mu_k}\}$  is uniformly integrable and thus relatively compact in  $L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$ . Furthermore  $0 \leq Vu_{\mu_k} \leq V\mathbb{H}[\mu_k]$ . Let  $E \subset Q_T^{B_R}$  be a Borel subset, then

$$\iint_{E} V \mathbb{H}[\mu_{k}] dx dt = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} \left( \iint_{E} V H(x - y, t) dx dt \right) d\mu_{k}(y) 
= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} \left( e^{\frac{|y|^{2}}{4T}} \iint_{E} V(x) H(x - y, t) dx dt \right) e^{-\frac{|y|^{2}}{4T}} d\mu_{k}(y) 
\leq \epsilon(|E|) \|\mu_{k}\|_{\mathfrak{M}_{T}}.$$

Thus  $\{(u_{\mu_k}, Vu_{\mu_k})\}$  is locally compact in  $L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$  and, using a diagonal sequence, there exists  $u \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$  with  $Vu \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$  and a subsequence  $\{k_j\}$  such that  $\{(u_{\mu_{k_j}}, Vu_{\mu_{k_j}})\}$  converges to  $(u_\mu, Vu_\mu)$  a.e. and in  $L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$ . From the integral expression (2.2) satisfied by the  $u_{\mu_k}$ , u is a weak solution of problem (2.1). Since the  $u_{\mu_k}$  satisfy (2.3), the property holds for u. So u is the unique solution of (2.1). Thus  $u = u_\mu$ , which ends the proof.

As a variant of the above result which will be useful later on we have

#### Proposition 2.8 Assume V satisfies

$$e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t+\tau)dxdt \to 0 \quad when \ |E| \to 0 \ , \ E \ Borel \ subset \ of \ Q_T^{B_R}, \qquad (2.6)$$

uniformly with respect to  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\tau \in [0, \tau_0]$ . Let  $\tau_k > 0$  with  $\tau_k \to 0$  and  $\{\mu_k\}$  be a sequence uniformly bounded in  $\mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^N)$  which converges weakly to  $\mu$ . Then the solutions  $\{u_{\tau_k,\mu_k}\}$  of

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0 \qquad on \quad \mathbb{R}^n \times (\tau_k, T)$$
  

$$u(., \tau_k) = \mu_k \qquad on \quad \mathbb{R}^n \times \{\tau_k\}$$
(2.7)

(extended by 0 on  $(0, \tau_k)$ ) converge to  $u_\mu$  in  $L^1_{loc}(Q_T)$ , and  $\{Vu_{\mu_k}\}$  converges to  $Vu_\mu$  in  $L^1_{loc}(Q_T)$ .

Condition (2.5) may be very difficult to verify and we give below a sufficient condition for it to hold.

#### **Proposition 2.9** Assume V satisfies

$$\lim_{\lambda \to 0} e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \lambda^{-n} \int_0^{\lambda} \int_{B_{2,2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt = 0$$
 (2.8)

uniformly with respect to  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then V is strongly subcritical.

*Proof.* Let  $E \subset Q_T^{B_R}$  be a Borel set. For  $\delta > 0$ , we define the weighted heat ball of amplitude  $\delta e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}}$  by

$$P_{\delta} = P_{\delta}(y,T) = \left\{ (x,t) \in Q_T : H(x-y,t) \ge \delta e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \right\}.$$

By an straightforward computation, one sees that

$$P_{\delta}(y,T) \subset B_{a_n \delta^{-\frac{1}{n}} e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4nT}}}(y) \times [0, b_n \delta^{-\frac{2}{n}} e^{\frac{|y|^2}{2nT}}] := R_{\delta}(y,T),$$

for some  $a_n, b_n > 0$ . We write

$$\iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt = \iint_{E\cap P_\delta} H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt + \iint_{E\cap P_\delta^c} H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt.$$

Then

$$\iint_{E \cap P_x^c} H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \le \delta e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_E V(x,t)dxdt,$$

and

$$\begin{split} \int\!\!\int_{E\cap P_{\delta}} &H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \leq \int_{0}^{\delta} \int_{\{(x,t)\in Q_{T}^{BR}: H(x-y,t)=\tau e^{-\frac{|y|^{2}}{4T}}\}} V(x,t)dS_{\tau}(x,t)\tau d\tau \\ &\leq \left[\tau \int_{0}^{\tau} \int_{\{(x,t)\in Q_{T}^{BR}: H(x-y,t)=\sigma e^{-\frac{|y|^{2}}{4T}}\}} V(x,t)dS_{\sigma}(x,t)d\sigma\right]_{\tau=0}^{\tau=\delta} \\ &- \int_{0}^{\delta} \int_{0}^{\tau} \int_{\{(x,t)\in Q_{T}^{BR}: H(x-y,t)=\sigma e^{-\frac{|y|^{2}}{4T}}\}} V(x,t)dS_{\sigma}(x,t)d\sigma d\tau \\ &\leq \delta \int_{0}^{\delta} \int_{\{(x,t)\in Q_{T}^{BR}: H(x-y,t)=\sigma e^{-\frac{|y|^{2}}{4T}}\}} V(x,t)dS_{\sigma}(x,t)d\sigma \end{split}$$

The first integration by parts is justified since  $V \in L^1(Q_T^{B_R})$ . Notice that

$$\delta \int_0^\delta \int_{\{(x,t)\in Q_T^{B_R}: H(x-y,t)=\sigma e^{-\frac{|y|^2}{4T}}\}} V(x,t) dS_\sigma(x,t) d\sigma = \delta \int \int_{Q_T^{B_R}\cap P_\delta} V(x,t) dx dt$$

and

$$\delta \iint_{Q_T^{B_R} \cap P_\delta} V(x,t) dx dt \le \delta \iint_{Q_T^{B_R} \cap R_\delta(y,T)} V(x,t) dx dt$$
$$\le \beta r^{-n} \int_0^{\alpha r} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt,$$

for some  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  and if we have set  $r = \delta^{-\frac{1}{n}}$ . Notice also that  $B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y) = \emptyset$  if  $|y| \ge R + (\alpha r)^2$ , or, equivalently, if  $|y| \ge R + \alpha^2 \delta^{-\frac{2}{n}}$ .

(i) If  $|y| \ge R + \alpha^2$ , we fix  $\delta$  such that  $1 < \delta$ , then

$$e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \le \delta \iint_E V(x,t)dxdt$$

which can be made smaller than  $\epsilon$  provided |E| is small enough.

(ii) If  $|y| < R + \alpha^2$ , then

$$e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_{E \cap P_{\delta}^c} H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \le e^{\frac{R^2 + \alpha^4}{2T}} \iint_{E \cap P_{\delta}^c} H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt$$
$$\le \delta e^{\frac{R^2 + \alpha^4}{2T}} \iint_{E} V(x,t)dxdt$$

Given  $\epsilon > 0$ , we fix  $\delta = r^{-n}$  such that

$$e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \iint_{E\cap P_\delta} H(x-y,t) V(x,t) dx dt \leq \beta e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} r^{-n} \int_0^{\alpha r} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap B_{(\alpha r)^2}(y)} V(x,t) dx dt \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} e^{\frac{R^2+\alpha^4}{2T}} \int_{B_R \cap$$

and then  $\eta > 0$  such that  $|E| \leq \eta$  implies

$$e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_{E \cap P_{\delta}^c} H(x-y,t) V(x,t) dx dt \le \delta e^{\frac{R^2 + \alpha^4}{2T}} \iint_{E} V(x,t) dx dt \le \frac{\epsilon}{2}.$$

Therefore

$$e^{\frac{|y|^2}{4T}} \iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t)dxdt \le \epsilon,$$

which is (2.5).

Remark In Theorem 2.7 and Proposition 2.9, the assumption of uniformity with respect to  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$  in (2.5), (2.6) and (2.8) can be replaced by uniformity with respect to  $y \in B_{R_0}$  if all the measures  $\mu_k$  have their support in  $B_{R_0}$ . A extension of these assumptions, valid when the convergent measures  $\mu_k$  have their support in a fixed compact set is to assume that V is **locally strongly subcritical**, which means that (2.5) holds uniformly with respect to y in a compact set. Similar extension holds for (2.8).

# 3 The supercritical case

#### 3.1 Capacities

All the proofs in this subsection are similar to the ones of [12] and inspired by [6]; we omit them. We assume also that there exist a positive measure  $\mu_0$  such that  $\mathbb{H}[\mu_0]V \in L^1(Q_T)$ .

**Definition 3.1** If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and f is a nonnegative measurable function defined in  $\Omega$  such that

$$(t, x, y) \mapsto \mathbb{H}[\mu](y, t)V(x, t)f(x, t) \in L^1(Q_T \times \mathbb{R}^n; dxdt \otimes d\mu),$$

we set

$$\mathcal{E}(f,\mu) = \int_{Q_T} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x-y,t) d\mu(y) \right) V(x,t) f(x,t) dx dt.$$

If we put

$$\check{\mathbb{H}}[f](y) = \int_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(x, t) f(x, t) dx dt,$$

then by Fubini's Theorem,  $\check{\mathbb{H}}[f](y) < \infty$ ,  $\mu$ -almost everywhere in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and

$$\mathcal{E}(f,\mu) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \left( \int_{Q_T} H(x-y,t) V(x,t) f(x,t) dx dt \right) d\mu(y).$$

**Proposition 3.2** Let f be fixed. Then

- (a)  $y \mapsto \check{\mathbb{H}}[f](y)$  is lower semicontinuous in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .
- (b)  $\mu \mapsto \mathcal{E}(f,\mu)$  is lower semicontinuous in  $\mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$  in the weak\* topology.

**Definition 3.3** We denote by  $\mathfrak{M}^V(\mathbb{R}^n)$  the set of all measures  $\mu$  on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that  $V\mathbb{H}[|\mu|] \in L^1(Q_T)$ . If  $\mu$  is such a measure, we set

$$||\mu||_{\mathfrak{M}^{V}} = \int_{Q_{T}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} H(x-y,t) d|\mu|(y) \right) V(x,t) dx dt = ||V\mathbb{H}[|\mu|]||_{L^{1}(Q_{T})}.$$

If  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a Borel set, we put

$$\mathfrak{M}_{+}(E) = \{ \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{+}(\mathbb{R}^n) : \mu(E^c) = 0 \} \text{ and } \mathfrak{M}_{+}^{V}(E) = \mathfrak{M}^{V}(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap \mathfrak{M}_{+}(E).$$

**Definition 3.4** If  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is any borel subset we define the set function  $C_V$  by

$$C_V(E) := \sup \{ \mu(E) : \ \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+^V(E), \ ||\mu||_{\mathfrak{M}^V} \le 1 \};$$

this is equivalent to,

$$C_V(E) := \sup \left\{ \frac{\mu(E)}{||\mu||_{\mathfrak{M}^V}} : \ \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+^V(E) \right\}.$$

**Proposition 3.5** The set function  $C_V$  satisfies

$$C_V(E) \le \sup_{y \in E} \left( \int_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(x, t) dx dt \right)^{-1} \quad \forall \ E \subset \mathbb{R}^n, \ E \text{ Borel.}$$

Furthermore equality holds if E is compact. Finally,

$$C_V(E_1 \cup E_2) = \sup\{C_V(E_1), C_V(E_2)\} \quad \forall E_i \subset \mathbb{R}^n, E_i \text{ Borel.}$$

**Definition 3.6** For any Borel  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , we set

$$C_V^*(E) := \inf\{||f||_{L^\infty} : \ \check{\mathbb{H}}[f](y) \ge 1 \ \forall y \in E\}.$$

**Proposition 3.7** For any compact set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$C_V^*(E) = C_V(E).$$

#### 3.2 The singular set of V

In this section we assume that V satisfies (1.16), although much weaker assumption could have been possible. We define the singular set of V,  $Z_V$  by

$$Z_V = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \iint_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(y, t) dy dt = \infty \right\}.$$
 (3.1)

We note that, since  $H^{\Omega}(t,x,y) \leq H(x-y,t)$  for any bounded  $\Omega$  with smooth boundary, it holds  $Z_V^{\Omega} \subset Z_V$ . Since the function  $x \mapsto f(x) = \int\!\!\int_{Q_T} H(x-y,t)V(y,t)dydt$  is lower semicontinuous, it is a Borel function and  $Z_V$  is a Borel set.

**Lemma 3.8** If  $x \in Z_V$  then for any r > 0,

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_r(x)}} H(x-y,t)V(y,t)dydt = \infty.$$

*Proof.* We will prove it by contradiction, assuming that there exists r > 0, such that

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_r(x)}} H(x-y,t)V(y,t)dy \le M.$$

Replacing H by its value, we derive

$$\iint_{Q_T} H(x-y,t)V(y,t)dydt = \iint_{Q_T^{B_r(x)}} H(x-y,t)V(y,t)dydt + \iint_{Q_T^{B_r^c(x)}} H(x-y,t)V(y,t)dydt \\
\leq M + C(n) \int_0^T t^{-\frac{n+2}{2}} e^{-\frac{r^2}{4t}}dt < \infty.$$

Which is clearly a contradiction.

**Lemma 3.9** If  $\mu$  is an admissible positive measure then  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $K \subset Z_V$  be a compact set. In view of the above lemma there exists a R > 0 such that  $K \subset B_R$  and for each  $x \in K$ , we have

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_{2R}}} H(x-y,t)V(y)dy = \infty$$
(3.2)

and

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_{2R}^c}} H(x-y,t)V(y)dy < \infty. \tag{3.3}$$

Now,  $\mu_K = \chi_K \mu$  is an admissible measure and by Fubini theorem we have

$$\iint_{Q_T} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x - y, t) d\mu_K(y) \right) V(x, t) dx dt = \int_K \iint_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(x, t) dx dt d\mu(y) 
= \int_K \iint_{Q_T^{B_{2R}}} H(x - y, t) V(x) dx dt d\mu(y) 
+ \int_K \iint_{Q_T^{B_{2R}}} H(x - y, t) V(x) dx dt d\mu y.$$

By (3.3) the second integral above is finite and by (3.2)

$$\iint_{O_{-2R}^{B_{2R}}} H(x-y,t)V(x)dxdt = \infty \qquad \forall y \in K.$$

It follows that  $\mu(K) = 0$ . This implies  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$  by regularity.

**Theorem 3.10** If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$ ,  $\mu \geq 0$  such that  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$ , then  $\mu$  is a good measure.

*Proof.* We set  $\mu_R = \chi_{B_R} \mu$ . By Proposition 5.8, since  $Z_V^{B_R} \subset Z_V$ ,  $\mu_R$  is a good measure in  $B_R$  with corresponding solution  $u_\mu^R$ . In view of Lemma 2.5,  $u_\mu^R$  satisfies

$$\int_0^T \int_{B_R} |u_\mu^R| \frac{n}{4(T-t)} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx dt + \int_0^T \int_{B_R} |u_\mu^R| V e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4(T-t)}} dx dt \le \int_{B_R} e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4T}} d\mu.$$

Also  $\{u_{\mu}^{R}\}$  is an increasing function, thus converges to  $u_{\mu}$ . By the above estimate we have that  $u_{\mu}$  belong to class  $\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{V}}(Q_{T})$  and is a weak solution of (2.1).

**Proposition 3.11** Let  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$  if and only if there exists an increasing sequence of positive admissible measures which converges to  $\mu$  in the weak\* topology.

*Proof.* The proof is similar as the one of [12, Th 3.11] and we present it for the sake of completeness. First, we assume that  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$ . Then we define the set

$$K_N = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n : \int_{Q_T} H(x - y, t) V(y) dy dt \le N \right\}.$$

We note that  $Z_V \cap K_N = \emptyset$ . We set  $\mu_n = \chi_{K_N} \mu$  then we have

$$\int_{O_T} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x - y, t) d\mu_n(y) \right) V(x, t) dx dt \le \mu(K_N).$$

Thus  $\mu_n$  is admissible, increasing with respect n. By the monotone theorem we have that  $\mu_n \to \chi_{Z_v^c} \mu$ . Since  $\mu(Z_V) = 0$  the result follows in this direction.

For the other direction. Let  $\{\mu_n\}$  be an increasing sequence of positive admissible measure. Then by Lemma 3.9 we have that  $\mu_n(Z_V) = 0$ ,  $\forall n \geq 1$ . Since  $\mu_n \leq \mu$ , there exist an increasing functions  $h_n \mu$ -integrable such that  $\mu_n = h_n \mu$ . Since  $0 = \mu_n(Z_V) \to \mu(Z_V)$  the result follows.

#### 3.3 Properties of positive solutions and representation formula

We first recall the construction of the kernel function for the operator  $w \mapsto \partial_t w - \Delta w + V w$  in  $Q_T$ , always assuming that V satisfies (1.16). For  $\delta > 0$  and  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_T$ , we denote by  $w_{\delta}$  the solution of

$$\partial_t w - \Delta w + V_\delta w = 0, \qquad \text{in } Q_T$$

$$w(.,0) = \mu \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n.$$
(3.4)

where  $V_{\delta} = V \chi_{Q_{\delta,T}}$  and  $Q_{\delta,T} = (\delta,T) \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . Then

$$w_{\delta}(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_{V_{\delta}}(x,y,t) d\mu(y)$$
(3.5)

**Lemma 3.12** The mapping  $\delta \mapsto H_{V_{\delta}}(x, y, t)$  is increasing and converges to  $H_{V} \in C(\mathbb{R}^{n} \times \mathbb{R}^{n} \times (0, T])$  when  $\delta \to 0$ . Furthermore There exists a function  $H_{V} \in C(\mathbb{R}^{n} \times \mathbb{R}^{n} \times (0, T])$  such that for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{T}(\mathbb{R}^{n})$ 

$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} w_{\delta}(x,t) = w(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(x,y,t) d\mu(y). \tag{3.6}$$

*Proof.* Without loss of generality we can assume  $\mu \geq 0$ . By the maximum principle  $\delta \mapsto H_{V_{\delta}}(x, y, t)$  is increasing and the result follows by the monotone convergence theorem.

If  $\mathbb{R}^n$  is replaced by a smooth bounded domain  $\Omega$ , we can consider the problem

$$\begin{array}{lll} \partial_t w - \Delta w + V_\delta w = 0 & \text{in } Q_T^\Omega \\ w = 0 & \text{in } \partial_l Q_T^\Omega := \partial \Omega \times (0, T] \\ w(., 0) = \mu & \text{in } \Omega. \end{array} \tag{3.7}$$

where  $V'_{\delta} = V \chi_{Q^{\Omega}_{\delta,T}}$  and  $Q^{\Omega}_{\delta,T} = (\delta,T) \times \Omega$ . Then

$$w_{\delta}(x,t) = \int_{\Omega} H_{V_{\delta}}^{\Omega}(x,y,t)d\mu(y)$$
(3.8)

The proof of the next result is straightforward.

**Lemma 3.13** The mapping  $\delta \mapsto H_{V_{\delta}}^{\Omega}(x, y, t)$  increases and converges to  $H_{V}^{\Omega} \in C(\Omega \times \Omega \times (0, T])$  when  $\delta \to 0$ . Furthermore There exists a function  $H_{V}^{\Omega} \in C(\Omega \times \Omega \times (0, T])$  such that for any  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{b}(\Omega)$ 

$$\lim_{\delta \to 0} w_{\delta}(x,t) = w(x,t) = \int_{\Omega} H_V^{\Omega}(x,y,t) d\mu(y). \tag{3.9}$$

Furthermore  $H_V^{\Omega} \leq H_V^{\Omega'} \leq H_V$  if  $\Omega \subset \Omega'$ .

It is important to notice that the above results do not imply that w is a weak solution of problem (1.1). This question will be considered later on with the notion of reduced measure.

**Lemma 3.14** Assume  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a good measure and let u be a positive weak solution of problem (2.1). If  $\Omega$  is a smooth bounded domain, then there exists a unique positive weak solution v of problem

$$\begin{array}{lll} \partial_t v - \Delta v + V v = 0, & \text{in } Q_T^{\Omega}, \\ v = 0 & \text{on } \partial_l Q_T^{\Omega} \\ v(.,0) = \chi_{\Omega} \mu & \text{in } \Omega. \end{array} \tag{3.10}$$

Furthermore

$$v(x,t) = \int_{\Omega} H_V^{\Omega}(x,y,t) d\mu(y). \tag{3.11}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\{t_j\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$  be a sequence decreasing to 0, such that  $t_j < T, \ \forall \ j \in \mathbb{N}$ . We consider the following problem

$$\begin{array}{lll} \partial_t v - \Delta v + V v = 0, & \text{in} & \Omega \times (t_j, T], \\ v = 0 & \text{on} & \partial \Omega \times (t_j, T] \\ v(., t_j) = u(., t_j) & \text{in} & \Omega \times \{t_j\}. \end{array} \tag{3.12}$$

Since  $u, Vu \in L^1(Q_T^{B_R})$  for any  $R>0, t\mapsto u(.,t)$  is continuous with value in  $L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , therefore  $u(.,t_j)\in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and there exists a unique solution  $v_j$  to (3.12) (notice also that  $V\in L^\infty(Q_T^{B_R})$ ). By the maximum principle  $0\leq v_j\leq u$  and by standard parabolic estimates, we may assume that the sequence  $v_j$  converges locally uniformly in  $\Omega\times(0,T]$  to a function  $v\leq u$ . Also for any  $\phi\in C^{1,1;1}(\overline{Q_T^\Omega})$  which vanishes on  $\partial_lQ_T^\Omega$  and satisfies  $\phi(x,T)=0, v_j$  satisfies

$$-\int_{t_j}^T \int_{\Omega} v_j (\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \int_{t_j}^T \int_{\Omega} V v_j \phi dx dt + \int_{\Omega} \phi(x, T - t_j) v_j(x, T - t_j) dx = \int_{\Omega} \phi(x, 0) u(x, t_j) dx,$$

where in the above equality we have taken  $\phi(., -t_j)$  as test function. Since  $\phi(., T-t_j) \to 0$  uniformly and  $u(., t_j) \to \mu$  in the weak sense of measures, it follows by the dominated convergence theorem that

$$-\iint_{Q_T^{\Omega}} v(\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \iint_{Q_T^{\Omega}} V v \phi dx dt = \int_{\Omega} \phi(y, 0) d\mu(y),$$

thus v is a weak solution of problem (3.10). Uniqueness follows as in Lemma 2.4. Finally, for  $\delta > 0$ , we consider the solution  $w_{\delta}$  of (3.7). Then it is expressed by (3.5). Furthermore

$$-\int \int_{Q_T^{\Omega}} w_{\delta}(\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \int \int_{Q_T^{\Omega}} V_{\delta} w_{\delta} \phi dx dt = \int_{\Omega} \phi(x, 0) d\mu(x),$$

The sequence  $w_{\delta}$  is decreasing, with limit w. Since  $w_{\delta} \geq v$ ,  $w \geq v$ . If we assume  $\phi \geq 0$ , it follows from dominated convergence and Fatou's lemma that

$$-\int \int_{Q_T^{\Omega}} w(\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \int \int_{Q_T^{\Omega}} Vw \phi dx dt \le \int_{\Omega} \phi(x, 0) d\mu(x),$$

Thus w is a subsolution for problem (3.10) for which we have comparison when existence. Then w = v and (3.11) holds.

**Lemma 3.15** Assume  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{+}(\mathbb{R}^{n})$  is a good measure and let u be a positive weak solution of problem (2.1). Then for any  $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n} \times (0,T]$ , we have

$$\lim_{R\to\infty}u_R=u_1$$

where  $\{u_R\}$  is the increasing sequence of the weak solutions of the problem (3.10) with  $\Omega = B_R$ . Moreover, the convergence is uniform in any compact subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n \times (0,T]$  and we have the representation formula

$$u(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(x,y,t) d\mu(y).$$

*Proof.* By the maximum principle, we have  $u_R \leq u_{R'} \leq u$  for any  $0 < R \leq R'$ . Thus  $u_R \to w \leq u$ . Also by standard parabolic estimates, this convergence is locally uniformly. Now by dominated convergence theorem, we have that w is a weak solution of problem (2.1) with initial data  $\mu$ . Now we set  $\widetilde{w} = u - w \geq 0$ . Then  $\widetilde{w}$  satisfies in the weak sense

$$\widetilde{w}_t - \Delta \widetilde{w} + V \widetilde{w} = 0$$
 in  $Q_T$   
 $\widetilde{w}(x,t) \ge 0$  in  $Q_T$   
 $\widetilde{w}(x,0) = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

But then  $\widetilde{w}$  satisfies in the weak sense

$$\widetilde{w}_t - \Delta \widetilde{w} \le 0$$
 in  $Q_T$   
 $\widetilde{w}(x,t) \ge 0$  in  $Q_T$   
 $\widetilde{w}(x,0) = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

which implies  $\widetilde{w} = 0$ . Now for any function  $w_R$  we have the representation formula

$$u^{R}(x,t) = \int_{B_R} H_V^{B_R}(x,y,t) d\mu(y).$$

Since  $\{H_V^{B_R}\}$  is an increasing sequence, and  $\lim_{R\to\infty} H_V^{B_R} = H_V$ , we have using again Fatou's lemma as in the proof of Lemma 3.15

$$u(x,t) = \lim_{R \to \infty} u^R(x,t) = \lim_{R \to \infty} \int_{B_R} H_V^{B_R}(x,y,t) d\mu(y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(x,y,t) d\mu(y)$$

**Lemma 3.16** Harnack inequality Let  $C_1 > 0$  and V(x,t) be a potential satisfying (1.16) If u is a positive solution of (1.17), then the Harnack inequality is valid:

$$u(y,s) \le u(x,t) \exp\left(C(n,C_1)\left(\frac{|x-y|^2}{t-s} + \frac{t}{s} + 1\right)\right), \quad \forall (y,s), (x,t) \in Q_T, \ s < t.$$

*Proof.* We extend V for  $t \geq T$  by the value  $C_1 t^{-1}$ . We consider the linear parabolic problem

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0, \quad \text{in} \quad \mathbb{R}^n \times [1, \infty),$$
 (3.13)

It is well known that, under the assumption (1.16), every positive solution u(x,t) of (3.13) satisfies the Harnack inequality

$$u(y,s) \le u(x,t) \exp\left(C(n,C_1)\left(\frac{|x-y|^2}{t-s} + \frac{t}{s} + 1\right)\right), \quad \forall (x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [1,\infty).$$

Set  $\tilde{u}(x,t) = u(\frac{t}{\lambda^2} \frac{x}{\lambda})$ . Then  $\tilde{u}$  satisfies

$$\mathbf{u}_t - \Delta \mathbf{u} + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} V(\frac{t}{\lambda^2} \frac{x}{\lambda}) \tilde{u} = 0, \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (0, \infty).$$

We note here that  $\frac{1}{\lambda^2}V(\frac{t}{\lambda^2}\frac{x}{\lambda}) \leq C_1, \ \forall t \geq \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$ , thus  $\tilde{u}$  satisfies the Harnack inequality

$$\widetilde{u}(y,s) \le \widetilde{u}(x,t) \exp\left(C(n,C_1)\left(\frac{|x-y|^2}{t-s} + \frac{t}{s} + 1\right)\right), \quad \forall (x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \left[\frac{1}{\lambda^2}, \infty\right).$$

By the last inequality and the definition of  $\tilde{u}$  we have the desired result.

Next, we set

$$Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n) := \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^n : H_V(x, y, t) = 0 \}$$

$$(3.14)$$

If  $H_V(x, y, t) = 0$  for some  $(x, t) \in Q_T$ , then  $H_V(x', y, t') = 0$  for any  $(x', t') \in Q_T$ , t' < t by Harnack inequality principle. We prove the **Representation formula**.

**Theorem 3.17** Let u be a positive solution of (1.17). Then there exists a measure  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$  such that

$$u(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(x,y,t) d\mu(y).$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.15 we have

$$u(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{D}_n} H_V(x,y,t-s)u(y,s)dy$$
 for any  $s < t \le T$ .

We assume that  $s \leq \frac{T}{2}$ . By Harnack inequality on  $x \mapsto H_V(x, y, \frac{T}{2})$ 

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2}) u(y, s) dy \le c(n) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(0, y, T - s, u(y, s)) dy = c(n) u(0, T).$$

For any Borel set E, we define the measure  $\rho_s$  by

$$\rho_s(E) := \int_E H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2}) u(y, s) dy \le \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2}) u(y, s) dy \le c(n) u(T, 0).$$

Thus there exists a decreasing sequence  $\{s_j\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$  which converges to origin, such that the measure  $\rho_{s_j}$  converges in the weak\* topology to a positive Radon measure  $\rho$ . Also we have the estimate  $\rho(\mathbb{R}^n) \leq C(n)u(0,T)$ . Now choose  $(x,t) \in Q_T$  and  $j_0$  large enough such that  $t > s_{j_0}$ . Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ , we set for any  $j \geq j_0$ ,

$$W_j(y) = \frac{H_V(x, y, t - s_j)}{H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon}.$$

For any R > 0 and |y| > R we have

$$W_j(y) \le \frac{1}{\varepsilon} H_V(x, y, t - s_j) \le \frac{1}{\varepsilon} H(x - y, t - s_j) < \frac{1}{\varepsilon} C(x, R, t - s_j),$$

where  $\lim_{R\to\infty} C(x, R, t - s_j) = 0$ . We have also

$$\int_{|y|>R} W_j(y)d\rho_j \le \frac{1}{\varepsilon}C(x,R,t-s_j)c(n)u(T,0).$$

For any |y| < R, we have by standard parabolic estimates that  $W_j(y) \to \frac{H_V(x,y,t)}{H_V(\frac{T}{2},0,y)+\varepsilon}$  when  $j \to \infty$ , uniformly with respect to y. Thus by the above estimates it follows

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} W_j(y) d\rho_j \to \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x, y, t)}{H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon} d\rho.$$

For sufficiently large j we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x,y,t-s_j)}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2})+\varepsilon} d\rho_{s_j} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x,y,t-s_j)}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2})+\varepsilon} \left(H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2})+\varepsilon-\varepsilon\right) u(y,s_j) dy \\
= u(x,t)-\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x,y,t-s_j)}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2})+\varepsilon} u(y,s_j) dy.$$

Note that we have used the identity

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(x, y, t - s_j) u(y, s_j) dy = u(x, t).$$

Thus as before, we define  $d\tilde{\rho}_j = H_V(x, y, t - s_j)u(y, s_j)dy$  and thus there exists a subsequence, say  $\{\tilde{\rho}_j\}$  converges in the weak\* topology to a positive Radon measure  $\tilde{\rho}$ . Thus we have

$$\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x,y,t-s_j)}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon} u(y,s_j) dy = \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \chi_{(\mathcal{S}ing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c} \frac{H_V(x,y,t-s_j)}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon} u(s_j,y) dy$$

$$\to \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \chi_{(\mathcal{S}ing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c} \frac{1}{H_V(\frac{T}{2},0,y) + \varepsilon} d\widetilde{\rho}.$$

Combining all above, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x,y,t)}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon} d\rho = u(x,t) - \varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \chi_{(Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c} \frac{1}{H_V(0,y,\frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon} d\widetilde{\rho}.$$
(3.15)

Now, we have

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \chi_{(\mathcal{S}ing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c} \frac{\varepsilon}{H_V(\frac{T}{2},0,y) + \varepsilon} = 0,$$

and by Harnack inequality on the function  $x \mapsto H_V(x, y, t)$ 

$$\frac{H_V(x, y, t)}{H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2}) + \varepsilon} \le C(t, T),$$

thus by dominated convergence theorem, we can let  $\varepsilon$  tend to 0 in (3.15) and obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \frac{H_V(x, y, t)}{H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2})} d\rho = u(x, t).$$

And the result follows if we set

$$d\mu = \chi_{(Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c} \frac{1}{H_V(0, y, \frac{T}{2})} d\rho.$$

In the next result we give a construction of  $H_V$ , with some estimates and a different proof of the existence of an initial measure for positive solutions of (1.16).

**Theorem 3.18** Assume V satisfies (1.16), then

$$H_V(x, y, t) = e^{\psi(x, t)} \Gamma(x, y, t, 0)$$
 (3.16)

where

$$\psi(x,t) = \int_{t}^{T} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} \frac{e^{-\frac{|x-y|^{2}}{4(s-t)}}}{4\pi(t-s)} V(y,s) dy ds$$
 (3.17)

and

$$c_1 \frac{e^{-\gamma_1 \frac{|x-y|^2}{s-t}}}{(t-s)^{\frac{n}{2}}} \le \Gamma(x,y,t,s) \le c_2 \frac{e^{-\gamma_2 \frac{|x-y|^2}{s-t}}}{(t-s)^{\frac{n}{2}}}$$
(3.18)

for some positive constants  $c_i$  and  $\gamma_i$ , i = 1, 2.

*Proof.* Assuming that u is a positive solution of (1.17), we set  $u(x,t) = e^{\psi(x,t)}v(x,t)$ . Then

$$\partial_t v - \Delta v - 2\nabla \psi \cdot \nabla v - |\nabla \psi|^2 v + (\partial_t \psi - \Delta \psi + V)v = 0. \tag{3.19}$$

We choose  $\psi$  solution of problem

$$-\partial_t \psi - \Delta \psi + V \psi = 0 \quad \text{in } Q_T$$
  
$$\psi(\cdot, T) = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n.$$
 (3.20)

Then  $\psi$  is expressed by (3.17). Furthermore, by standard computations,

(i) 
$$0 \le \psi(x,t) \le c \ln \frac{T}{t}$$
(ii) 
$$|\nabla \psi(x,t)| \le c_1(T) + c_2(T) \ln \frac{T}{t}$$
(3.21)

The function v satisfies

$$\partial_t v - \Delta v - 2\nabla \psi \cdot \nabla v - |\nabla \psi|^2 v = 0. \tag{3.22}$$

Then, by (3.21),

(i) 
$$0 \le \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \sup\{|\psi(x,s)|^q : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\} ds \le M_1$$
(ii) 
$$0 \le \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \sup\{|\nabla \psi(x,s)|^q : x \in \mathbb{R}^n\} ds \le M_2$$
(3.23)

for any  $1 \leq q < \infty$  for some  $M_i \in \mathbb{R}_+$ . This is the condition H in [2] with  $R_0 = \infty$  and  $p = \infty$ . Therefore there exists a kernel function  $\Gamma \in C(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^n \times (0,T) \times (0,T))$  which satisfies (3.18) and there exists a positive Radon measure  $\mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  such that

$$v(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Gamma(x,y,t,0) d\mu(y). \tag{3.24}$$

Finally u verifies

$$u(x,t) = e^{\psi(x,t)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Gamma(x,y,t,0) d\mu(y). \tag{3.25}$$

#### 3.4 Reduced measures

In this section we assume that V is nonnegative, but not necessarily satisfies (1.16), therefore we can construct  $H_V[\mu]$  for  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Furthermore, if  $\mu$  is nonnegative we can consider the solution  $u_k$  of the problem

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V^k u = 0, \quad \text{in } Q_T$$

$$u(.,0) = \mu \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n,$$
(3.26)

where  $V^k = \min\{V, k\}$ . Then there holds

$$u_k(x,t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_{V^k}(t,x,y) d\mu(y) = \mathbb{H}_{V^k}[\mu](x,t),$$

and

$$u_k + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s, x, y) V^k u_k dy ds = \mathbb{H}[\mu].$$

Since  $k \mapsto H_{V^k}$  is decreasing and converges to  $H_V$ , we derive

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} u_k = u = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(t, x, y) d\mu(y).$$

By Fatou's lemma

$$\int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V u dy ds \le \liminf_{k \to \infty} \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V^k u_k dy ds.$$

It follows

$$u(x,t) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V u dy ds \le \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H_V(t,x,y) d\mu(y), \quad \forall (x,t) \in Q_T.$$

Now since  $Vu \in L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_T)$  and

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0,$$
 in  $Q_T$ ,

the function

$$u(x,t) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V u dy ds$$

is nonnegative and satisfies the heat equation in  $Q_T$ . Therefore it admits an initial trace  $\mu^* \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and actually  $\mu^* \in \mathfrak{M}_T(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Furthermore, we have

$$u(x,t) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V u dy ds = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x-y,t) d\mu^*(y), \ \forall (x,t) \in Q_T.,$$

or equivalently, u is a positive weak solution of the problem

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0$$
 in  $Q_T$   
 $u(.,0) = \mu^*$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Note that  $\mu^* \leq \mu$  and the mapping  $\mu \mapsto \mu^*$  is nondecreasing.

**Definition 3.19** The measure  $\mu^*$  is the reduced measure associated to  $\mu$ 

The proofs of the next results are similar to the ones of [12, Section 5].

**Proposition 3.20** There holds  $\mathbb{H}_V[\mu] = \mathbb{H}_V[\mu^*]$ . Furthermore the reduced measure  $\mu^*$  is the largest measure for which the following problem

$$\partial_t v - \Delta v + V v = 0 \qquad \text{in } Q_T$$

$$\lambda \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n), \ \lambda \le \mu \qquad \qquad (3.27)$$

$$v(.,0) = \lambda \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n,$$

admits a solution.

**Proposition 3.21** Let  $W_k$  be an increasing sequence of nonnegative bounded measurable functions converging to V a.e. in  $Q_T$ . Then the solution  $u_k$  of

$$\partial_t v - \Delta v + W_k v = 0$$
 in  $Q_T$   
 $v(.,0) = \mu$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,

converges to  $u_{\mu^*}$ .

We recall that  $Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n) := \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^n : H_V(x, y, t) = 0 \}.$ 

**Proposition 3.22** Let  $\mu$  be a nonnegative measure in  $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{T}}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Then

- (i)  $(\mu \mu^*) ((Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c) = 0$
- (ii) If  $\mu((Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n))^c) = 0$ , then  $\mu^* = 0$ .
- (iii) There always holds  $Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n) \subset Z_V$ .

#### 4 Initial trace

#### 4.1 The direct method

The initial trace that we developed in this section is an adaptation to the parabolic case of the notion of boundary trace for elliptic equations (see [9], [10], [12]).

**Proposition 4.1** Let  $u \in C^{2,1}(Q_T)$  be a positive solution (1.17) Assume that, for some  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , there exists an open bounded neighborhood U of x such that

$$\iint_{Q_T^U} u(y,t)V(y,t)dxdt < \infty \tag{4.28}$$

Then  $u \in L^1(U \times (0,T))$  and there exists a unique positive Radon measure  $\mu$  in U such that

$$\lim_{t \to 0} \int_{U} u(y, t) \phi(x) dx = \int_{U} \phi(x) d\mu, \quad \forall \phi \in C_0^{\infty}(U).$$

*Proof.* Since  $Vu \in L^1(U \times (0,T))$  the following problem has a weak solution v (see [9]).

$$\partial_t v - \Delta v = V u$$
, in  $U \times (0, T]$ ,  
 $v(x, t) = 0$  on  $\partial U \times (0, T]$   
 $v(x, 0) = 0$  in  $U$ .

Thus the function w=u+v satisfies the heat equation. Thus there exists a unique Radon measure  $\mu$  such that

$$\lim_{t\to 0} \int_{U} w(y,t)\phi(x)dx = \int_{U} \phi(x)d\mu, \quad \forall \phi \in C_0^{\infty}(U).$$

And the result follows since the initial data of v is zero.

We set

$$\mathcal{R}(u) = \left\{ y \in \mathbb{R}^n : \exists \text{ bounded neighborhood } U \text{ of } y, \iint_{Q_T^U} u(y, t) V(y, t) dx dt < \infty \right\}. \tag{4.29}$$

Then  $\mathcal{R}(u)$  is open and there exists a unique positive Radon measure  $\mu$  on  $\mathcal{R}(u)$  such that

$$\lim_{t \to 0} \int_{\mathcal{R}} u(y, t) \phi(x) dx = \int_{\mathcal{R}} \phi(x) d\mu, \quad \forall \phi \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathcal{R}).$$
 (4.30)

**Proposition 4.2** Let  $u \in C^{2,1}(\mathbb{R}^n \times (0,T])$  be a positive solution of (1.17). Assume that, for some  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , there holds

$$\iint_{Q_T^U} u(y,t)V(y,t)dydt = \infty$$
(4.31)

for any bounded open neighborhood U of x. Then

$$\limsup_{t \to 0} \int_{U} u(y, t) dy = \infty. \tag{4.32}$$

*Proof.* We will prove it by contradiction. We assume that there exists an open neighborhood of x such that

$$\int_{U} u(y,t)dy \le M < \infty \qquad \forall t \in (0,T).$$

Then  $||u||_{L^1(Q_T^U)} \leq MT$ . Let  $B_r(x) \subset\subset U$  for some r>0, and  $\zeta\in C_0^\infty(B_r(x))$ , such that  $\zeta=1$  in  $B_{\frac{r}{2}}(x)$ ,  $\zeta=0$  in  $B_r^c(x)$  and  $0\leq \zeta\leq 1$ . Then since u is a positive solution we have

$$\int_{U} \partial_{t} u \zeta dx - \int_{U} u \Delta \zeta dx + \int_{U} V u \zeta dx = 0 \Rightarrow \int_{B_{\frac{r}{2}}} V u dx \le \int_{U} \partial_{t} u \zeta dx - \int_{U} u \Delta \zeta dx \Rightarrow$$

$$\int_{U} \partial_{t} u \zeta dx - \int_{U} u \Delta \zeta dx + \int_{U} V u \zeta dx = 0 \Rightarrow \int_{B_{\frac{\tau}{2}}} V u dx \leq - \int_{U} \partial_{t} u dx + M \left\| \Delta \zeta \right\|_{L^{\infty}}.$$

Integrating the above inequality form on (s, T), we get

$$\int_{s}^{T} \int_{B_{\frac{T}{2}}} Vu dx dr \le -\int_{U} u(x, T) dx + \int_{U} u(x, s) dx + \|u\|_{L^{1}(Q_{T}^{U})} \|\Delta\zeta\|_{L^{\infty}}. \tag{4.33}$$

Letting  $s \to 0$ , we reach to a contradiction.

Remark. It is not clear wether there holds

$$\liminf_{t \to 0} \int_{U} u(y, t) dy = \infty.$$
(4.34)

However, it follows from (4.33) that if  $u \in L^1(Q_T^U)$ , the above equality holds.

**Definition 4.3** If u is a positive solution of (1.17), we set  $S(u) = \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \mathcal{R}(u)$ . The couple  $(S(u), \mu)$  is called the initial trace of u, denoted by  $tr_{\mathbb{R}^n}(u)$ . The sets  $\mathcal{R}(u)$  and S(u) are respectively the regular and the singular sets of  $tr_{\mathbb{R}^n}(u)$  and  $\mu$  is its regular part.

**Example** Take  $V(x,t) = ct^{-1}$ , c > 0. If u satisfies

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + \frac{c}{t} u = 0 \tag{4.35}$$

then  $v(x,t) = t^c u(x,t)$  satisfies the heat equation. Thus, if  $u \ge 0$ , there exists  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_+(\mathbb{R}^n)$  such that

$$u(x,t) = t^{-c} \mathbb{H}[\mu](x,t).$$
 (4.36)

This is a representation formula. Notice that  $Vu(x,t) = ct^{-c-1}\mathbb{H}[\mu](x,t)$  therefore the regular set of  $tr_{\mathbb{R}^n}(u)$  may be empty.

**Proposition 4.4** Assume V satisfies (1.16) and let  $u \in C^{2,1}(Q_T)$  be a positive solution of (1.17) with initial trace  $(S(u), \mu_u)$ . Then  $u \ge u_{\mu_u}$ .

*Proof.* We assume  $S(u) \neq \mathbb{R}^n$  otherwise the result is proved. Let G and E be open bounded domains such that  $G \subset\subset E \subset\subset \mathcal{R}(u)$ . Let  $0 < \delta = \inf\{|x-y| : x \in G, y \in E^c\}$ . Choose R > 0 such that  $E \subset\subset B_R$ . Let  $\{t_j\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$  be a decreasing sequence converging to 0. We denote by  $u_j$  the weak solution of the problem

$$\begin{array}{lll} \partial_t v - \Delta v + V v = 0 & \text{in } B_R \times (t_j, T] \\ v(x,t) = 0 & \text{on } \partial B_R \times (t_j, T] \\ v(.,t_j) = \chi_G u(.,t_j) & \text{in } B_R \times \{t_j\}, \end{array}$$

where  $\chi$  is the characteristic function on G. Let  $v_i^R$ , be the solution

$$\begin{array}{ll} \partial_t v - \Delta v = 0 & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (t_j, \infty] \\ v(., t_j) = \chi_G u(., t_j) & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times \{t_j\}. \end{array}$$

Then by maximum principle we have  $u_j^R \leq u$  and  $u_j^R \leq v_j$  for any  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  in  $B_R \times (t_j, T]$ . By standard parabolic estimates, we may assume that the sequence  $u_j^R$  converges locally uniformly in  $Q_T^{B_R}$  to a function  $u^R \leq u$ . Moreover, since  $\chi_G \mu_u(., t_j) \rightharpoonup \chi_G \mu_u$  in the weak\* topology, we derive from the representation formula that  $v_j \to \mathbb{H}[\chi_G \mu_u]$ . Furthermore  $u^R \leq v$ , which implies  $\chi_{(t_j,T)} u_j^R \to u^R$  in  $L^1(Q_T^{B_R})$ . There also holds

$$\int_{t_i}^T \int_{B_R} u_j^R V dx dt = \int_{t_i}^T \int_E u_j^R V dx dt + \int_{t_i}^T \int_{B_R \setminus E} u_j^R V dx dt,$$

and, by the choice of E and dominated convergence theorem,

$$\int_{t_j}^T \int_E u_j^R V dx dt \le \int_0^T \int_E u V dx dt < \infty \Rightarrow \lim_{j \to \infty} \int_{t_j}^T \int_E u_j^R V dx dt = \int_0^T \int_E u^R V dx dt.$$

Furthermore, for any  $x \in B_R \setminus E$ ,

$$v_j(x,t) = \left(\frac{1}{4\pi(t-t_j)}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \int_{R^n} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4(t-t_j)}} \chi_G u(y,t_j) dy \le \left(\frac{1}{4\pi(t-t_j)}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} e^{-\frac{\delta^2}{4(t-t_j)}} \int_G u(y,t_j) dy.$$

Next, since  $V(x,t) \leq Ct^{-1}$  and  $u_j^R \leq v_j$ , we obtain

$$\lim_{j \to \infty} \int_{t_j}^T \int_{B_R \setminus E} u_j^R V dx dt = \int_0^T \int_{B_R \setminus E} u^R V dx dt, \tag{4.37}$$

by using the previous estimate and the fact that  $\chi_G \mu_u(x,t_j) \rightharpoonup \chi_G \mu_u$  in the weak\* topology. It follows  $\chi_{(t_j,T)} V u_j^R \to V u^R$  in  $L^1(Q_T^{B_R})$ . There holds also  $u_G^R \leq u$ ; by the maximum principle, the mapping  $R \mapsto u_G^R$  is increasing and bounded from above by u. In view of Lemma 3.15,

$$\lim_{R \to \infty} u_G^R = u_G \le u,$$

and  $u_G$  is a positive weak solution of

$$\begin{array}{ll} \partial_t v - \Delta v + V v = 0 & \text{in } Q_T \\ v(.,0) = \chi_G \mu_u & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^n. \end{array}$$

Consider an increasing sequence  $\{G_i\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  of bounded open subsets,  $G_i \subset \mathcal{R}(u)$ , with the property that  $\bigcup_{i=1}^{\infty} G_i = \mathcal{R}(u)$ . In view of Lemma 3.15 the sequence  $\{u_i = u_{G_i}\}_{i=1}^{\infty}$  is increasing and converges to  $\widetilde{u} \leq u$ . Also we have

$$u_i(x,t) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V u_i dy ds = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x-y,t) d\mu_i, \ \forall (x,t) \in Q_T,$$

where  $\mu_i = \chi_{G_i} \mu$ . Now since  $\mu_i \rightharpoonup \mu_u$ , by the monotone convergence theorem we have

$$\tilde{u}(x,t) + \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y) V \tilde{u} dy ds = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(x-y,t) d\mu_u, \ \forall (x,t) \in Q_T,$$

and  $\tilde{u} \leq u$ , this implies  $\tilde{u} = u_{\mu_u}$ , which ends the proof.

**Remark.** Assumption (1.17) is much too strong and has only been used in (4.37). It could have been replaced by the following much weaker one: for any R > 0 there exists a positive increasing function  $\epsilon_R$  such that  $\lim_{t\to 0} \epsilon(t) = 0$  satisfying

$$V(x,t) \le e^{t^{-1}\epsilon_R(t)} \qquad \forall (x,t) \in Q_T^{B_R}. \tag{4.38}$$

We end this section with a result which shows that the stability of the initial value problem with respect to convergence the initial data in the weak\* topology implies that the initial of positive solution has no singular part.

**Theorem 4.5** Assume V satisfies, for some  $\tau_0 > 0$ ,

$$\lim_{|E|\to 0} \iint_E H(x-y,t)V(x,t+\tau)dxdt = 0, \qquad E \text{ Borel subset of } Q_T^{B_R}$$
 (4.39)

for any R > 0, uniformly with respect to y is a compact set and  $\tau \in [0, \tau_0]$ . If u is a positive solution of (1.17), then  $\mathcal{R}(u) = \mathbb{R}^n$ 

*Proof.* We assume that  $S(u) \neq \emptyset$  and if  $z \in S(u)$  there holds

$$\iint_{Q_T^{B_r(z)}} Vu dx dt = \infty \qquad \forall r > 0.$$

In view of Proposition 4.1, there exist two sequences  $\{r_k\}$  and  $\{t_i\}$  decreasing to 0 such that

$$\lim_{j \to \infty} \int_{B_{r_k}(z)} u(x, t_j) dx = \infty \qquad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}.$$

For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  and m > 0 fixed, there exists j(k) such that

$$\int_{B_{r,\,}(z)} u(x,t_j) dx \ge m \qquad \forall j \ge j(k) \in \mathbb{N},$$

and there exists  $\ell_k > 0$  such that

$$\int_{B_{r_k}(z)} \min\{u(x, t_{j(k)}), \ell_k\} dx = m$$

Furthermore  $j(k) \to \infty$  when  $k \to \infty$ . Let  $R > \max\{r_j : j = 1, 2, ...\}$  and  $u_k$  be the solution of

$$\begin{split} \partial_t v - \Delta v + V v &= 0 \\ v(.,t_j) &= \chi_{B_{r_k}(z)} \min\{u(.,t_{j(k)}),\ell_k\} \end{split} \qquad &\text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times (t_{j(k)},T] \\ &\text{in } \mathbb{R}^n \times \{t_{j(k)}\}, \end{split}$$

Then  $\chi_{B_{r_k}(z)} \min\{u(.,t_{j(k)}),\ell_k\} \to m\delta_z$  in the weak sense of measures. By Proposition 5.5 we obtain that  $u \geq u_k$  on  $B_R(z) \times (t_{j(k)},T]$ . Applying Proposition 2.8, and the remark here after, we conclude that  $u_k(.+t_{j(k)}\to um\delta_z=mu_{\delta_z}$  in  $L^1_{loc}(\overline{Q}_R^T)$  This implies  $u\geq mu_{\delta_z}$ , and as m is arbitrary,  $u=\infty$ , contradiction.

#### 4.2 The sweeping method

In this subsection we adapt the sweeping method developed in [12] for constructing the boundary trace of solutions of stationnary Shrödinger equations to solutions of (1.17). If  $A \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a Borel set, we denote by

$$\mathfrak{M}_{T+}(A) = \{ \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{+}(\mathbb{R}^n) : \ \mu(A^c) = 0, \ \int_A e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{4T}} d\mu < \infty \}.$$

We recall that  $\mu^*$  denotes the reduced measure associated to  $\mu$ .

**Proposition 4.6** Let  $u \in C^{2,1}(Q_T)$  be a positive solution of (1.17) with singular set  $S(u) \subsetneq \mathbb{R}^n$ . If  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{T+}(S(u))$ , set  $v_{\mu} = \inf\{u, u_{\mu^*}\}$ . Then

$$\partial_t v_\mu - \Delta v_\mu + V v_\mu \ge 0$$
 in  $Q_T$ ,

and  $v_{\mu}$  admits a boundary trace  $\gamma_u(\mu) \in \tilde{\mathfrak{M}}_+(\mathcal{S}(u))$ . The mapping  $\mu \mapsto \gamma_u(\mu)$  is nondecreasing and  $\gamma_u(\mu) \leq \mu$ .

*Proof.* It is classical that  $v_{\mu} := \inf\{u, u_{\mu^*}\}$  is a supersolution of (1.17) and  $v_{\mu} \in \mathcal{E}_{\nu}(Q_T)$  as it holds with  $u_{\mu^*}$ . The function

$$(x,t) \mapsto w(x,t) = \int_0^t \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} H(t-s,x,y)V(y,s)v_{\mu}(y,s)dyds$$

satisfies

$$\partial_t w - \Delta w - Vw = 0$$
 in  $Q_T$   
 $w(.,0) = 0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ .

Thus  $v_{\mu} + w$  is a nonnegative supersolution of the heat equation in  $Q_T$ . It admits an initial trace in  $\mathfrak{M}_{T+}(\mathcal{S}(u))$  that we denote by  $\gamma_u(\mu)$ . Clearly  $\gamma_u(\mu) \leq \mu^* \leq \mu$  since  $v_{\mu} \leq u_{\mu^*}$  and  $\gamma_u(\mu)$  is nondecreasing with respect to  $\mu$  as it is the case with  $\mu \mapsto u_{\mu^*}$  is. Finally, since  $v_{\mu}$  is a positive supersolution, it is larger that the solution of 2.1 where the initial data  $\mu$  is replaced by  $\gamma_u(\mu)$ , that is  $u_{\gamma_u(\mu)} \leq v_{\mu}$ .

The proofs of the next four propositions are mere adaptations to the parabolic case of similar results dealing with elliptic equations and proved in [12] and we omit them.

#### Proposition 4.7 Let

$$\nu_S(u) := \sup \{ \gamma_u(\mu) : \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{T+}(\mathcal{S}(u)) \}.$$

Then  $\nu_S(u)$  is a Borel measure on S(u).

**Definition 4.8** The Borel measure  $\nu(u)$  defined by

$$\nu(u)(A) := \nu_S(u)(A \cap \mathcal{S}(u)) + \mu_u(A \cap \mathcal{R}(u)), \quad \forall A \subset \mathbb{R}^n, A \text{ Borel},$$

is called the extended boundary trace of u, denoted by  $Tr^{e}(u)$ .

**Proposition 4.9** *If*  $A \subset \mathcal{S}(u)$  *is a Borel set, then* 

$$\nu_S(A) := \sup \{ \gamma_u(\mu)(A) : \ \mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{T+}(A) \}.$$

**Proposition 4.10** There always holds  $\nu(Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n)) = 0$ , where  $Sing_V(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is defined in (3.14).

**Proposition 4.11** Assume V satisfies condition (4.39). If u is a positive solution of (1.17), then  $tr_{\mathbb{R}^n}(u) = \mu_u \in \mathfrak{M}_{T+}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

# 5 Appendix: the case of a bounded domain

#### 5.1 The subcritical case

Let  $\Omega$  be a bounded domain with a  $C^2$  boundary. We denote by  $\mathfrak{M}(\Omega)$  the space of Radon measures in  $\Omega$ , by  $\mathfrak{M}_+(\Omega)$  its positive cone and by  $\mathfrak{M}_{\varrho}(\Omega)$  the space of Radon measures in  $\Omega$  which satisfy

$$\int_{\Omega} \rho d|\mu| < \infty, \tag{5.1}$$

for some weight function  $\rho: \Omega \to \mathbb{R}_+$ . As an important particular case  $\rho(x) = d^{\alpha}(x)$ , where  $d(x) = \operatorname{dist}(x, \partial \Omega)$  and  $\alpha \geq 0$ . We consider the linear parabolic problem

$$\begin{array}{ll} \partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0, & \text{in } Q_T^\Omega = \Omega \times (0, T] \\ u = 0 & \text{on } \partial_l Q_T^\Omega = \partial \Omega \times (0, T] \\ u(., 0) = \mu & \text{in } \Omega. \end{array} \tag{5.2}$$

**Definition 5.1** We say that  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_d(\Omega)$  is a good measure if the above problem has a weak solution u, i.e. there exists a function  $u \in L^1(Q_T^{\Omega})$ , such that  $Vu \in L^1_d(Q_T^{\Omega})$  which satisfies

$$-\int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega} u(\partial_{t}\phi + \Delta\phi) dx dt + \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega} Vu\phi dx dt = \int_{\Omega} \phi(x,0) d\mu, \tag{5.3}$$

 $\forall \phi \in C^{1,1;1}(\overline{Q^{\Omega}_T}) \ \ which \ \ vanishes \ \ on \ \partial_l Q^{\Omega}_T \ \ and \ \ satisfies \ \phi(x,T) = 0.$ 

**Definition 5.2** Let  $H^{\Omega}(x, y, t)$  be the heat kernel in  $\Omega$ . Then we say that  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_d(\Omega)$  is a admissible measure if

$$||\mathbb{H}^{\Omega}[|\mu|]||_{L^{1}(Q_{T}^{\Omega})} = \int_{Q_{T}^{\Omega}} \left( \int_{\Omega} H^{\Omega}(x-y,t) d|\mu(y)| \right) V(x,t) \psi(x) dx dt < \infty.$$

The next a proposition is direct consequence of [9, Lemma 2.4].

**Proposition 5.3** Assume  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_d(\Omega)$  and let u be a weak solution of problem (??), then the following inequalities are valid (i)

$$||u||_{L^1(Q_T^{\Omega})} + ||Vu||_{L^1_{\psi}(Q_T^{\Omega})} \le C(n,\Omega) \int_{\Omega} dd|\mu|,$$

(ii) 
$$-\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |u|(\partial_t \phi + \Delta \phi) dx dt + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |u| V \phi dx dt \le \int_{\Omega} \phi(x, 0) d|\mu|,$$

 $\forall \phi \in C^{1,1;1}(\overline{Q_T^{\Omega}}), \ \phi \geq 0.$ 

$$\lambda_{\Omega} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega} (x) u^{+} dx dt + \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega} V u^{+} \psi dx dt \leq \int_{\Omega} \psi(x) d\mu^{+}.,$$

where  $\psi$  is the solution of

$$\begin{aligned}
-\Delta \psi &= 1, & \text{in } \Omega \\
\psi &= 0 & \text{on } \partial \Omega.
\end{aligned} (5.4)$$

Proof. For (ii), in Lemma 2.4 page 1456 above from the relation (2.39), we can take  $\tilde{\zeta} = \gamma(u)\zeta$  for some  $0 \leq \zeta \in C^{1,1;1}(\overline{Q_T^{\Omega}})$ , since u = 0 on  $\partial_l Q_T^{\Omega}$ . For (iii) we consider (as in [9, Remark 2.5])  $\phi(x,t) = t\psi(x)$ . The inequality holds by the same type of calculations as in [12].

**Proposition 5.4** The problem (5.2) admits at most one solution. Furthermore, if  $\mu$  is admissible, then there exists a unique solution; we denote it  $u_{\mu}$ .

Similarly as Theorem 2.7 and Proposition 2.7, we have the following stability results

**Proposition 5.5** (i) Assume that V satisfies the stability condition

$$\lim_{|E|\to 0} \iint_E H^{\Omega}(x,y,t)V(y,t)d(x)dydt = 0, \quad \forall E\subset Q_T^{\Omega}, E \text{ Borel}. \tag{5.5}$$

uniformly with respect to  $y \in \Omega$ . If  $\{\mu_k\}$  is a bounded sequence in  $\mathfrak{M}_d(\Omega)$  converging to  $\mu$  in the dual sense of  $\mathfrak{M}_d(\Omega)$ , then  $(u_{\mu_k}, Vu_{\mu_k})$  converges to  $(u_{\mu}, Vu_{\mu})$  in  $L^1(Q_T^{\Omega}) \times L^1_d(Q_T^{\Omega})$ . (ii) Furthermore if

$$\lim_{|E|\to 0} \iint_E H^{\Omega}(x, y, t + \tau_n) V(y, t) d(x) dy dt = 0, \quad \forall E \subset Q_T^{\Omega}, E \text{ Borel.}$$
 (5.6)

uniformly with respect to  $y \in \Omega$  and  $\tau_k \in [0, \tau_0]$  converges to 0 and  $\{\mu_k\}$  is in (i), then the solutions  $u_{\tau_k, \mu_k}$  of the shifted problem

$$\partial_t u - \Delta u + V u = 0 \quad on \quad \Omega \times (\tau_k, T) 
 u = 0 \quad on \quad \partial\Omega \times (\tau_k, T) 
 u(., \tau_k) = \mu_k \quad on \quad \Omega \times \{\tau_k\}$$
(5.7)

(extended by 0 on  $(0, \tau_k)$ ) converge to  $u_\mu$  in  $L^1_d(Q^\Omega_T)$ , and  $\{Vu_{\mu_k}\}$  converges to  $Vu_\mu$  in  $L^1_d(Q^\Omega_T)$ .

*Proof.* We can easily see that the measure  $\mu_n$  is admissible and uniqueness holds; furthermore any admissible measure is a good measure as in Theorem 2.5, and

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} u_{\mu_n} dx ds + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} u_{\mu_n} V \psi dx ds \le C \int_{\Omega} d\mu_n < C.$$

The remaining of the proof is similar to the one of Theorem 2.7.

#### 5.2 The Supercritical case

**Lemma 5.6** Let  $\{\mu_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$  be an increasing sequence of good measures converging to some measure  $\mu$  in the weak\* topology, then  $\mu$  is good.

Proof. Let  $u_{\mu_n}$  be the weak solution of (5.2) with initial data  $\mu_n$ . Then by Proposition 5.5 -(iii),  $\{u_{\mu_n}\}$  is an increasing sequence. By 5.5 -(i) the sequence  $\{u_{\mu_n}\}$  is bounded in  $L^1(Q_T^{\Omega})$ . Thus  $u_{\mu_n} \to u \in L^1(Q_T^{\Omega})$ . Also by (iii) of Proposition 5.5, we have that  $Vu_{\mu_n} \to Vu$  in  $L^1_{\psi}(Q_T^{\Omega})$ . Thus we can easily prove that u is a weak solution of (5.2) with  $\mu$  as initial data.

Let

$$Z_V^{\Omega} = \{ x \in \Omega : \int_{O_x^{\Omega}} H^{\Omega}(t, x, y) V(y) \psi(y) dy = \infty \}$$

By the same arguments as in Veron-Yarur we can prove the following results

**Proposition 5.7** Let  $\mu$  be an admissible positive measure. Then  $\mu(Z_V^{\Omega}) = 0$ 

**Proposition 5.8** Let  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{d+}(\Omega)$  such that  $\mu(Z_V^{\Omega}) = 0$ , then  $\mu$  is good.

**Proposition 5.9** Let  $\mu \in \mathfrak{M}_{d+}(\Omega)$  be a good measure. Then the following assertions are equivalent:

- (i)  $\mu(Z_V^{\Omega}) = 0$ .
- (ii) There exists an increasing sequence of admissible measures  $\{\mu_n\}$  which converges to  $\mu$  in the weak\*-topology

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