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By

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CONTINUOUS TIME RANDOM WALKS AND THE CAUCHY PROBLEM FOR THE HEAT EQUATION

HUGO AIMAR, GASTÓN BELTRITTI, AND IVANA GÓMEZ

ABSTRACT. In this paper we deal with anomalous diffusions induced by Continuous Time Random Walks - CTRW in \mathbb{R}^n . A particle moves in \mathbb{R}^n in such a way that the probability density function $u(\cdot, t)$ of finding it in region Ω of \mathbb{R}^n is given by $\int_{\Omega} u(x, t) dx$. The dynamics of the diffusion is provided by a space time probability density J(x, t) compactly supported in $\{t \geq 0\}$. For tlarge enough, u must satisfy the equation $u(x, t) = [(J - \delta) * u](x, t)$ where δ is the Dirac delta in space time. We give a sense to a Cauchy type problem for a given initial density distribution f. We use Banach fixed point method to solve it, and we prove that under parabolic rescaling of J the equation tends weakly to the heat equation and that for particular kernels J the solutions tend to the corresponding temperatures when the scaling parameter approaches to zero.

1. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF THE RESULTS

We shall be concerned with a probabilistic description of the motion of a particle in the space \mathbb{R}^n . As usual we shall write \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ to denote the set $\{(x,t) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } t \geq 0\}$. Sometimes we shall also considerer the whole space time $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} = \{(x,t) : x \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ and } t \in \mathbb{R}\}$. The x variable is thought as a space variable, while t represents time.

Let u(x,t) denote, for t fixed, the probability density of the position of the particle at time t. Precisely, for a given Borel set E in \mathbb{R}^n the quantity $\mathcal{P}(t,E) = \int_E u(x,t)dx$ measures the probability of finding the particle in E at time t.

The general problem is to find u(x,t) when the dynamics of the system is known and some initial state is given.

Regarding the dynamics of the system we shall deal with anomalous diffusions. More precisely with continuous time random walks (CTRW). For a comprehensive introduction to the subject we refer to [6]. A CTRW in \mathbb{R}^n is provided by a spacetime probability density function, the kernel, J(x,t) defined in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} . In this model the particle has a probability density function u(x,t) of arrival at position $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ at time t > 0 which depends on the events of arrival at any $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$, sometimes only on the events of arrival at any y in some neighborhood of x, at any previous time s < t. Precisely, this dependence is given by the convolution in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} of J with uitself. In other words, for $t \geq 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$

$$u(x,t) = (J * u)(x,t) = \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1}} J(x-y,t-s)u(y,s)dyds.$$
(1.1)

The physical condition of the dependence of the current position of the particle only on the past (s < t) gives us the first natural condition on J,

(J1) supp $J \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+$.

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On the other hand, since J is a density in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , we must have

 $(J2) J \ge 0$, and $(J3) J \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ and $\iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1}} J(x,t) dx dt = 1.$

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Following the notation in [6], the density function defined in \mathbb{R}^n by

$$\lambda(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x, t) dt$$

is called the jump length probability function. Notice that from (J1), $\lambda(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^+} J(x,t)dt$. On the other hand, the waiting time probability function is given by

$$\tau(t) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} J(x, t) dx.$$

Regarding the initial condition, let us first assume that the particle is localized at the origin of \mathbb{R}^n for t < 0. In other words $u(x,t) = \delta_0(x)$ for t < 0. Hence, since u(x,t) for $t \ge 0$ needs to satisfy (1.1), from (J1) we must have that

$$\begin{split} u(x,0) &= \iint_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1}} J(x-y,-s)u(y,s)dyds \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{-}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} J(x-y,-s)u(y,s)dy \right) ds \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{-}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} J(x-y,-s)\delta_{0}(y)dy \right) ds \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{-}} J(x,-s)ds \\ &= \lambda(x). \end{split}$$

In other words, the deterministic situation, the particle is at the origin for t < 0 produces *immediately* at time t = 0 a random situation modeled precisely by the jump length probability function $\lambda(x)$ associated to the density J.

More generally, if the position at time t < 0 of the particle distributes as indicates the density f(x), then $u(x, 0) = (\lambda * f)(x)$. In this framework the basic initial problem we are interested in, takes the following form. Given J(x, t) and f(x), find u(x, t) for $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+$ such that

$$(P) \begin{cases} u(x,t) = (J * \overline{u})(x,t), & x \in \mathbb{R}^n, t \ge 0\\ \overline{u}(x,t) = \begin{cases} f(x), & t < 0\\ u(x,t), & t \ge 0. \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Sometimes, to emphasize the data J and f in (P), we shall write P(J, f) for the problem P and u(J, f) for its solution.

Let us observe that the expected initial condition is attained since, taking t = 0 in the first equation in (P) we get $u(x, 0) = (J * \overline{u})(x, 0) = \iint J(x - y, -s)f(y)dyds = (\lambda * f)(x).$

We shall consider wide families of kernels J, but there is one, the parabolic mean value kernels, which plays a more significant role for our subsequent analysis. We shall use \mathscr{H} (for heat) to denote these special occurrences of J. Let us introduce the most known of these kernels \mathscr{H} (see [7] or [5]). Set $\mathcal{W}(x,t)$ to denote the Weierstrass kernel for t > 0 and $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$. Precisely $\mathcal{W}(x,t) = (4\pi t)^{-n/2} e^{-|x|^2/(4t)}$. Set $E = \{(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ : \mathcal{W}(x,t) \ge 1\}$ and $\mathcal{H}(x,t) = \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{X}_E(x,t)\frac{|x|^2}{t^2}$.

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As it is easy to check \mathcal{H} satisfies properties (J1), (J2) and (J3) stated above. Moreover, \mathcal{H} satisfies also the following two properties

(J4) has compact support in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} ;

(J5) it is radial as a function of $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ for each t.

The outstanding fact regarding \mathcal{H} is given by its role in the mean value formula for temperatures. If v(x,t) is a solution of the heat equation $\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \Delta v$ in a domain Ω in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , then, for $(x,t) \in \Omega$ and r small enough we have that $v(x,t) = \iint \mathcal{H}_r(x-y,t-s)v(y,s)dyds$, where \mathcal{H}_r denotes the parabolic r-mollifier of \mathcal{H} . Precisely

$$\mathcal{H}_r(x,t) = \frac{1}{r^{n+2}} \mathcal{H}\left(\frac{x}{r}, \frac{t}{r^2}\right) = \frac{1}{r^n} \mathcal{X}_{E(r)}(x,t) \frac{|x|^2}{t^2}$$

with $E(r) = \{(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ : \mathcal{W}(x,t) \geq r^{-n}\}$. The following figure depicts the support E(r) of \mathcal{H}_r .



FIGURE 1. Sets E(r) for n = 1 and $r = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}$.

In the sequel, for any kernel J(x,t) and r > 0 we shall write $J_r(x,t)$ to denote the parabolic approximation to the identity given by $J_r(x,t) = \frac{1}{r^{n+2}}J\left(\frac{x}{r},\frac{t}{r^2}\right)$. Moreover, the notation $v_r(x,t)$ or even $f_r(x)$ for functions depending on space time or, only on the space variable will have always the same meaning. Precisely, $v_r(x,t) = r^{-n-2}v(r^{-1}x,r^{-2}t)$ and $f_r(x) = r^{-n-2}f(r^{-1}x)$.

The results of this paper are in the spirit of those in [4] and [3]. Instead of dealing with generalization of boundary conditions, we are concerned with diffusion problems in the whole space \mathbb{R}^n and the initial condition is generalized.

Let us state the main results of this paper. The first one is the weak convergence to the heat equation.

Theorem 1. Assume that J(x,t) satisfies (J2), (J3), (J4) and (J5). Then, for each φ in the Schwartz class of \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , we have

$$\lim_{r \to 0} \frac{1}{r^2} \left(J_r - \delta \right) * \varphi = \mu \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t} + \nu \triangle \varphi,$$

uniformly on \mathbb{R}^{n+1} , where $\mu = -\iint t J(x,t) dx dt$ and $\nu = \frac{1}{2n} \iint |x|^2 J(x,t) dx dt$.

The second result concerns the existence of solutions for problem (P). For a given Lipschitz function of order $\gamma, f \in \mathcal{C}^{0,\gamma}(\mathbb{R}^n)$, we denote by $[f]_{\gamma}$ the corresponding seminorm of f. In the next statement \mathcal{C} denotes the space of continuous functions. **Theorem 2.** Assume that J(x,t) satisfies (J1), (J2), (J3) and (J4). Set $\alpha = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s \leq \beta} J(y,s) dy ds < 1\}$. Let $f \in L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be given. Then there exists one and only one solution u(x,t) of (P) in the space $(\mathcal{C} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$. If $f \in (L^1 \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u(x,t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) dx$ for every $t \geq 0$. In particular, if f is a density function, so is $u(\cdot,t)$ for every $t \geq 0$. Moreover, if f belongs to $(\mathcal{C}^{0,\gamma} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n)$ we have that

$$|u(x,t) - f(x)| \le C[f]_{\gamma} \tag{1.2}$$

for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0,\alpha]$ and some C which does not depend on f.

The next result which is interesting by itself contains a maximum principle which shall be used in the proof of Theorem 4. Precisely, the supremum of the probability density function in the future of $\alpha = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s \leq \beta} J(y, s) dy ds < 1\}$ coincides with its supremum in $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \alpha]$.

Theorem 3. Let J be a kernel satisfying (J1), (J2), (J3), and (J4). Let w(x,t) be a bounded function defined in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ such that

$$w(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)w(y,s)dyds \tag{1.3}$$

for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [\alpha, +\infty)$. Then,

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$$\sup_{(x,t)\in\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+}|w(x,t)|=\sup_{(x,t)\in\mathbb{R}^n\times[0,\alpha]}|w(x,t)|\,.$$

Let us proceed to state the fourth result of the paper.

Theorem 4. For each $H \in \mathcal{H}$ there exists C > 0 such that for every r > 0 and every $f \in (\mathcal{C}^{0,\gamma} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n)$

 $\|u(H_r, f) - u\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+)} \le C[f]_{\gamma} r^{\gamma},$

where u is the temperature in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ given by $u(x,t) = (\mathcal{W}(\cdot,t)*f)(x)$.

Let us finally remark that in [2] the authors prove the Hölder regularity for solutions of the master equation associated to CTRW's.

The paper is designed following the above statements; Theorem k is proved in Section $\S{k+1}$ for k = 1, 2, 3, 4.

2. Some space time nonlocal parabolic operators and their weak limit. Proof of Theorem 1

For 0 < r < 1, since $\iint J(y, s) dy ds = 1$, applying Taylor's formula we get

$$\iint J_r(x-y,t-s)\varphi(y,s)dyds - \varphi(x,t)$$

=
$$\iint J_r(x-y,t-s)(\varphi(y,s) - \varphi(x,t))dyds$$

=
$$\iint J_r(x-y,t-s) \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_i}(x,t)(y_i-x_i) + \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t}(x,t)(s-t) + \frac{1}{2}(y-x,s-t)D^2\varphi(x,t)(y-x,s-t)^t + R(y-x,s-t)\right]dyds$$

where D^2 denotes the Hessian matrix of the second derivatives of φ with respect to x and t and $|R(x,t)| = O(|x|^2 + t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}$.

The last integral in the above identities can be written as the sums of the following seven terms,

$$\begin{split} I &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial x_{i}}(x,t) \left(\iint (y_{i} - x_{i})J_{r}(x - y, t - s)dyds \right), \\ II &= \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t}(x,t) \left(\iint (s - t)J_{r}(x - y, t - s)dyds \right), \\ III &= \sum_{ij=1, i \neq j}^{n} \frac{\partial^{2} \varphi}{\partial x_{i} \partial x_{j}}(x,t) \left(\frac{1}{2} \iint (y_{i} - x_{i})(y_{j} - x_{j})J_{r}(x - y, t - s)dyds \right) \\ IV &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial^{2} \varphi}{\partial x_{i}^{2}}(x,t) \left(\frac{1}{2} \iint (y_{i} - x_{i})^{2}J_{r}(x - y, t - s)dyds \right), \\ V &= \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\partial^{2} \varphi}{\partial x_{i} \partial t}(x,t) \left(\frac{1}{2} \iint (y_{i} - x_{i})(s - t)J_{r}(x - y, t - s)dyds \right), \\ VI &= \frac{\partial^{2} \varphi}{\partial t^{2}}(x,t) \left(\frac{1}{2} \iint (s - t)^{2}J_{r}(x - y, t - s)dyds \right), \end{split}$$

and

$$VII = \iint J_r(x-y,t-s)R(y-x,s-t)dyds.$$

Since for t fixed J is radial as a function of x, then I, III and V vanish. For the other four integrals we perform the parabolic change of variables $(z, \zeta) = (\frac{x-y}{r}, \frac{t-s}{r^2})$ to obtain

$$\begin{split} II &= \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t}(x,t)r^2 \left(-\iint \zeta J(z,\zeta)dzd\zeta\right)\\ IV &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial x_i^2}(x,t)r^2 \left(\frac{1}{2}\iint z_i^2 J(z,\zeta)dzd\zeta\right)\\ VI &= \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial t^2}(x,t)r^4 \left(\frac{1}{2}\iint \zeta^2 J(z,\zeta)dzd\zeta\right)\\ VII &= \iint J(z,\zeta)R(rz,r^2\zeta)dzd\zeta. \end{split}$$

Finally, since, as a function of r close to zero, VI and VII are of order at least r^3 , we see that

$$\lim_{r \to 0} \frac{1}{r^2} \left[(J_r - \delta) * \varphi \right](x, t) = \lim_{r \to 0} \left(\frac{II}{r^2} + \frac{IV}{r^2} \right) = \mu \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial t}(x, t) + \nu \triangle \varphi(x, t),$$

where μ and ν are defined as in the statement of Theorem 1. That thus convergence is uniform in \mathbb{R}^{n+1} follows from the fact that φ is a Schwartz function and so VIand VII converge to zero uniformly.

Lemma 5. For $J = \mathcal{H}$ we have that $\mu = -\nu$ and the limit equation in Theorem 1 is the heat equation multiplied by a constant.

Proof. All we need to show is that

$$\iint \mathcal{H}(y,s)s \, dyds = \frac{1}{2n} \iint \mathcal{H}(y,s)|y|^2 \, dyds.$$
(2.1)

Let us compute both of them in terms of the Euler gamma function and the area surface of the unit ball of \mathbb{R}^n , S^{n-1} . On one hand we have that

$$\begin{split} \iint \mathcal{H}(y,s)s \ dyds &= \frac{1}{4} \iint \mathcal{X}_{E(1)}(-y,-s) \frac{|y|^2}{s^2} s \ dyds \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \iint_{E(1)} \frac{|y|^2}{s} dyds \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_{-\frac{1}{4\pi}}^0 \int_{B\left(0,(2ns\ln(4\pi(-s)))^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)} \frac{|y|^2}{-s} dyds \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_{-\frac{1}{4\pi}}^0 \frac{1}{-s} \int_0^{(2ns\ln(4\pi(-s)))^{\frac{1}{2}}} \rho^{n+1} \int_{S^{n-1}} d\sigma d\rho ds \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})}{4(n+2)} \int_{-\frac{1}{4\pi}}^0 \frac{1}{-s} \left(2ns\ln(4\pi(-s))\right)^{\frac{n+2}{2}} ds \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})}{4(n+2)} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{t} \left(\frac{n}{2\pi}t(-\ln(t))\right)^{\frac{n+2}{2}} dt \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})n^{\frac{n+2}{2}}}{4(n+2)2^{\frac{n+2}{2}}\pi^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\theta\left(\frac{n+2}{2}\right)} \theta^{\frac{n+2}{2}} d\theta \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})n^{\frac{n+2}{2}}}{4(n+2)2^{\frac{n+2}{2}}\pi^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n+4}{2}\right). \end{split}$$

On the other,

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{2n} \iint \mathcal{H}(y,s)|y|^2 \, dyds &= \frac{1}{8n} \iint \mathcal{X}_{E(1)}(-y,-s) \frac{|y|^2}{s^2} |y|^2 \, dyds \\ &= \frac{1}{8n} \iint_{E(1)} \frac{|y|^4}{s^2} dyds \\ &= \frac{1}{8n} \int_{-\frac{1}{4\pi}}^0 \int_{B\left(0,(2ns\ln(4\pi(-s)))^{\frac{1}{2}}\right)} \frac{|y|^4}{s^2} dyds \\ &= \frac{1}{8n} \int_{-\frac{1}{4\pi}}^0 \frac{1}{s^2} \int_0^{(2ns\ln(4\pi(-s)))^{\frac{1}{2}}} \rho^{n+3} \int_{S^{n-1}} d\sigma d\rho ds \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})}{8n(n+4)} \int_{-\frac{1}{4\pi}}^0 \frac{1}{s^2} (2ns\ln(4\pi(-s)))^{\frac{n+4}{2}} ds \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})}{8(n+4)} \frac{n^{\frac{n+4}{2}} 4\pi}{2^{\frac{n+4}{2}} \pi^{\frac{n+4}{2}}} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{t^2} (t(-\ln(t)))^{\frac{n+2}{2}} dt \\ &= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})n^{\frac{n+2}{2}} 4\pi}{8(n+4)2^{\frac{n+4}{2}} \pi^{\frac{n+4}{2}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\theta(\frac{n+2}{2})} \theta^{\frac{n+4}{2}} d\theta \end{split}$$

$$= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})n^{\frac{n+2}{2}}4\pi}{8(n+4)2^{\frac{n+4}{2}}\pi^{\frac{n+4}{2}}} \frac{2}{(n+2)} \frac{2^{\frac{n+4}{2}}}{(n+2)^{\frac{n+4}{2}}} \int_0^\infty e^{-\zeta} \zeta^{\frac{n+4}{2}} d\zeta$$
$$= \frac{\sigma(S^{n-1})n^{\frac{n+2}{2}}}{(n+4)(n+2)^{\frac{n+6}{2}}\pi^{\frac{n+2}{2}}} \Gamma\left(\frac{n+6}{2}\right).$$

Now, since $\Gamma(z+1) = z\Gamma(z)$, we have that $\frac{1}{n+4}\Gamma\left(\frac{n+6}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\Gamma\left(\frac{n+4}{2}\right)$ and the proof is complete.

3. Existence of solutions for (P) for bounded f. Proof of Theorem 2

Let J(x,t) be a kernel defined in space time \mathbb{R}^{n+1} satisfying (J1), (J2), (J3) and (J4). Let $f \in L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ be given. Following the ideas in [4], [3] and [1] we shall solve (P) by iterated application of the Banach fixed point theorem. From (J3) and (J4), $\alpha = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s < \beta} J(x, s) dx ds < 1\}$ is positive and finite. For the first step in the use of the fixed point theorem in the Banach space $\mathscr{B}_1 = (\mathcal{C} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}])$ with the L^{∞} norm.

As in the statement of (P) set

$$\overline{v}(x,t) = \begin{cases} f(x), & t < 0\\ v(x,t), & t \in [0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]; \end{cases}$$

where $v \in \mathscr{B}_1$. Since \overline{v} is bounded on $\mathbb{R}^n \times (-\infty, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$ and $J \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$, the integral

$$g(x,t) := \iint_{\mathbb{R}^n \times (-\infty,\frac{\alpha}{2}]} J(x-y,t-s)\overline{v}(y,s) dy ds$$

is absolutely convergent for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]$. Let us prove that, as a function of $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]$ the function g belongs to \mathscr{B}_1 . In fact, from the definition of g we see that

$$|g(x,t)| \le \left(\iint Jdyds\right) \|\overline{v}\|_{\infty}$$
$$\le \sup\{\|f\|_{\infty}, \|v\|_{\infty}\}.$$

Let us check the continuity of g. For $h \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $k \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $(x+h,t+k) \in (-\infty,\frac{\alpha}{2}]$, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} |g(x+h,t+k) - g(x,t)| &\leq \iint |J(x+h-y,t+k-s) - J(x-y,t-s)| \left| \overline{v}(y,s) \right| dy ds \\ &\leq \omega_1(\sqrt{\left|h\right|^2 + k^2}) \left\| \overline{v} \right\|_{\infty}, \end{aligned}$$

where ω_1 is the modulus of continuity in L^1 of J. Hence for $v \in \mathscr{B}_1$ we also have that $g \in \mathscr{B}_1$ when restricted to the strip $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$.

Define $T_1: \mathscr{B}_1 \to \mathscr{B}_1$ by $T_1v = g$.

Let us now prove that T_1 is a contractive mapping in \mathscr{B}_1 . Let v and w be two functions in \mathscr{B}_1 . Let $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$. Then, with

$$\overline{w}(x,t) = \begin{cases} f(x), & t < 0\\ w(x,t), & t \in [0,\frac{\alpha}{2}], \end{cases}$$

we have that

$$T_1v(x,t) - T_1w(x,t) = \iint_{s \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(x-y,t-s)(\overline{v}(y,s) - \overline{w}(y,s)) dy ds$$

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$$= \iint_{0 < s \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(x - y, t - s)(v(y, s) - w(y, s)) dy ds$$

Hence

$$\left\|T_{1}v - T_{1}w\right\|_{\infty} \leq \left(\sup_{(x,t)\in\mathbb{R}^{n}\times[0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]}\iint_{0$$

Now, from the definition of α , and (J1)

$$\begin{split} \iint_{0 < s \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(x - y, t - s) dy ds &= \iint_{t - \frac{\alpha}{2} < \sigma \le t} J(z, \sigma) dz d\sigma \\ &= \iint_{0 < \sigma \le t} J(z, \sigma) dz d\sigma \\ &\le \iint_{0 < \sigma \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(z, \sigma) dz d\sigma =: \tau < 1 \end{split}$$

So that $||T_1v - T_1w||_{\infty} \leq \tau ||v - w||_{\infty}$. Hence T_1 is a contractive mapping in \mathscr{B}_1 . So that there exists a fixed point $u_1 \in \mathscr{B}_1$ for T_1 ; $T_1u_1 = u_1$. In other words

$$u_1(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{u_1}(y,s)dyds$$
(3.1)

for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $0 \le t \le \frac{\alpha}{2}$. Let us check that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u_1(x,t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) dx$$

for every $0 \leq t \leq \frac{\alpha}{2}$, when $f \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Since u_1 can be realized as the limit of the sequence of iterations of T_1 applied to any function $v \in \mathscr{B}_1$, we may take v(x,t) = f(x) as the starting point. In doing so we see that the integral in variable x of $T_1^m f(x, t)$ equals $\int f dx$. In fact, from (J3), we see that

$$\int T_1 f(x,t) dx = \int \left(\iint J(x-y,t-s)f(y) dy ds \right) dx$$
$$= \int f(y) \left(\iint J(x-y,t-s) dx ds \right) dy$$
$$= \int f dy.$$

Hence, inductively, assuming $\int T_1^m f(x,t) dx = \int f dx$ we see that

$$\int T_1^{m+1} f(x,t) dx = \int T_1(T_1^m f)(x,t) dx$$

= $\int \left(\iint J(x-y,t-s) \overline{T_1^m f}(y,s) dy ds \right) dx$
= $\int \left(\iint J(y,t-s) \overline{T_1^m f}(x-y,s) dy ds \right) dx$
= $\int \left(\iint_{s<0} J(y,t-s) f(x-y) dy ds \right) dx +$

$$\begin{split} &+ \int \left(\iint_{s>0} J(y,t-s) T_1^m f(x-y,s) dy ds \right) dx \\ &= \iint_{s<0} J(y,t-s) \left(\int f(x-y) dx \right) dy ds + \\ &+ \iint_{s>0} J(y,t-s) \left(\int T_1^m f(x-y,s) dx \right) dy ds \\ &= \int f dx. \end{split}$$

The result follows since, being $f \in L^1 \cap L^\infty$, we have that $T_1^m f$ tends to u_1 also in the $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}])$ sense. In fact, if we prove that

$$\left\|T_{1}^{m+1}f - T_{1}^{m}f\right\|_{L^{1}\left(\mathbb{R}^{n}\times[0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]\right)} \leq \tau^{m} \left\|T_{1}^{1}f - f\right\|_{L^{1}\left(\mathbb{R}^{n}\times[0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]\right)}$$
(3.2)

then $T_1^m f$ is also a Cauchy sequence in $L^1(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}])$ since $T_1^m f$ converges uniformly to u_1 we get the desired preservation of the integral. Let us prove (3.2),

$$\begin{split} \|T_1^{m+1}f - T_1^m f\|_{L^1\left(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]\right)} \\ &= \iint_{0 \le t \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} \left| \iint_{0 \le s \le t} J(x - y, t - s) \left(T_1^m f(y, s) - T_1^{m-1} f(y, s) dy ds \right) \right| dx dt \\ &\le \iint_{0 \le s \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} \left(\iint_{s \le t \le \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(x - y, t - s) dx dt \right) \left| T_1^m f(y, s) - T_1^{m-1} f(y, s) \right| dy ds \\ &\le \tau \left\| T_1^m f - T_1^{m-1} f \right\|_{L^1\left(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]\right)}. \end{split}$$

By iteration we obtain (3.2).

Let us observe that since $u_1(x,t)$ can be obtained as the iteration of T_1 starting at any function v in \mathscr{B}_1 , we can in particular take v as the constant function $\frac{s(f)-i(f)}{2}$, where $s(f) = \sup f$ and $i(f) = \inf f$. Then $\overline{v} = v\mathcal{X}_{\{0 \leq t \leq \frac{\alpha}{2}\}} + f\mathcal{X}_{\{t < 0\}}$, so that $i(f) \leq \overline{v} \leq s(f)$ everywhere. From (J2) and (J3) we also have $i(f) \leq T_1 v \leq s(f)$ on $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$. The same argument shows that for every iteration $T_1^k v$ of $T_1 v$ we have $i(f) \leq T_1^k v \leq s(f)$. Since u_1 is the uniform limit of $T_1^k v$ we get

$$i(f) \le u_1(x,t) \le s(f)$$

on the strip $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$. So far we have existence and mass preservation for $t \in [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$.

We shall proceed inductively by covering \mathbb{R}^+ with intervals of the type $[(i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2}, i\frac{\alpha}{2}]$. The first step, i = 1 is precisely the one described above. Assume that $u_i \in \mathscr{B}_i = (\mathcal{C} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n \times [(i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2}, i\frac{\alpha}{2}])$ for $i = 1, \ldots, j$ have been built in such a way that

$$u_i(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{u_i}(y,s)dyds,$$

with

$$\overline{u_i}(x,t) = \begin{cases} \overline{u_{i-1}}(x,t); & t < (i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2} \\ u_i(x,t); & (i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2} \le t \le i\frac{\alpha}{2}. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u_i(x,t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} f(x) dx$ for $(i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2} \le t \le i\frac{\alpha}{2},$

$$i(f) \le u_i(x,t) \le s(f) \tag{3.3}$$

for every $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [(i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2}, i\frac{\alpha}{2}]$, and $u_i(x, (i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2}) = u_{i-1}(x, (i-1)\frac{\alpha}{2})$ for every x.

Define \mathscr{B}_{j+1} as the space $(\mathcal{C} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n \times [j\frac{\alpha}{2}, (j+1)\frac{\alpha}{2}])$ with the complete metric induced by the L^{∞} norm. For $v \in \mathscr{B}_{j+1}$, define

$$T_{j+1}v(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{v}(y,s)dyds$$

with

$$\overline{v}(x,t) = \begin{cases} & \overline{u_j}(x,t); & t < j\frac{\alpha}{2} \\ & v(x,t); & j\frac{\alpha}{2} \le t \le (j+1)\frac{\alpha}{2}. \end{cases}$$

As in the case of i = 1, it easy to check that with $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [j\frac{\alpha}{2}, (j+1)\frac{\alpha}{2}]$, $T_{j+1}v \in \mathscr{B}_{j+1}$. Hence $T_{j+1} : \mathscr{B}_{j+1} \to \mathscr{B}_{j+1}$. It is also easy to prove that T_{j+1} is contractive on \mathscr{B}_{j+1} with the same rate of contraction τ obtained when i = 1.

Also, with the same argument as in the case i = 1, with $\int \overline{u_j}(x,t)dx = \int f(x)dx$ when $t \leq j\frac{\alpha}{2}$ we have that for $t \in [j\frac{\alpha}{2}, (j+1)\frac{\alpha}{2}]$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} u_{j+1}(x,t) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(x) dx.$$

In order to check that $u_{j+1}(x, j\frac{\alpha}{2}) = u_j(x, j\frac{\alpha}{2})$ we have to observe that for $j\frac{\alpha}{2} \leq t \leq (j+1)\frac{\alpha}{2}$, the fixed point equation is given by

$$u_{j+1}(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{u_{j+1}}(y,s)dyds.$$

For $t = j\frac{\alpha}{2}$, property (J1) shows that the above integral only involves values of s which are bounded above by $j\frac{\alpha}{2}$. Then, for those values of s, $\overline{u_{j+1}}(y,s) = \overline{u_j}(y,s)$. So that

$$u_{j+1}(x,j\frac{\alpha}{2}) = \iint J(x-y,j\frac{\alpha}{2}-s)\overline{u_j}(y,s)dyds = u_j(x,j\frac{\alpha}{2}),$$

as desired.

Property (3.3) for i = j + 1 can be proved following the same argument used in the case i = 1. Let us notice that the function u(x,t) defined in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ by $u(x,t) = u_{j(t)}(x,t)$ with j(t) the only positive integer for which $(j(t)-1)\frac{\alpha}{2} \leq t < j(t)\frac{\alpha}{2}$ is continuous and bounded. Moreover, $i(f) \leq u(x,t) \leq s(f)$ for every $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+$.

The above remarks prove that $u \in \mathscr{B} = (\mathcal{C} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+)$ and solves (P).

In order to prove the uniqueness of the solution u let us argue as follows. Assume that u and \tilde{u} are two solutions. Then their restrictions on the strip $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$ coincide. Since the fixed point of T_1 is unique and being a solution of (P) in $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$ is equivalent to be a fixed point for T_1 , we see that $u \equiv \tilde{u}$ on $\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$. For the next time interval $[\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$ the restriction of both, u and \tilde{u} to this interval are fixed points of the same operator T_2 . Again the uniqueness for the Banach fixed point guarantees $u \equiv \tilde{u}$ on $\mathbb{R}^n \times [\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$. Proceeding inductively we get that $u \equiv \tilde{u}$ everywhere.

Let us finally prove the estimate (1.2). First we shall show that (1.2) holds true when $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$. This can be accomplished because the function uin the first time interval $[0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]$ coincides with u_1 which is provided by the Banach fixed point theorem and the rate of convergence can be estimated by the contraction constant τ . We already know that $\tau = \iint_{s \leq \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(y, s) dy ds < 1$. Set u_1^m to denote the *m*-th iteration of T_1 applied to the initial guess $u_1^0 = f$, then since $\|u_1^{m+1} - u_1^m\|_{\infty} \leq$

 $\tau^m \left\| u_1^1 - u_1^0 \right\|_{\infty}$, we see that

$$\|u_1^m - f\|_{\infty} \le \left(\sum_{j=0}^m \tau^j\right) \|u_1^1 - f\|_{\infty} \le \frac{1}{1-\tau} \|u_1^1 - f\|_{\infty}$$

for every m = 1, 2, ...

Let us now show that for $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]$ there exists a constant \widetilde{C} depending only on J such that $\|u_1^1 - f\|_{\infty} \leq \widetilde{C}[f]_{\gamma}$. In fact,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| u_1^1(x,t) - f(x) \right| &= \left| (T_1 f)(x,t) - f(x) \right| \\ &= \left| \iint J(x-y,t-s)(f(y) - f(x)) dy ds \right| \\ &\leq [f]_\gamma \left(\iint J(x-y,t-s) \left| x - y \right|^\gamma dy ds \right) \end{aligned}$$

Hence for every $m = 1, 2, \ldots$ we have

$$\|u_1^m - f\|_{L^{\infty}\left(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]\right)} \le C[f]_{\gamma}$$

where C depends only on J. The same is true for the uniform limit u_1 of the sequence u_1^m , in other words

$$\|u_1 - f\|_{L^{\infty}\left(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]\right)} \le C[f]_{\gamma}.$$
(3.4)

Let us now check how to get the same type of estimate for the time interval $[\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$. From the construction of u we have that on $\mathbb{R}^n \times [\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$, $u = u_2$ with

$$u_2(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{u_2}(y,s)dyds$$
$$\overline{u_2}(x,t) = \begin{cases} f(x) & t < 0\\ u_1(x,t) & t \in [0,\frac{\alpha}{2}]\\ u_2(x,t) & t \in [\frac{\alpha}{2},\alpha]. \end{cases}$$

On $\mathbb{R}^n \times [\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$ the solution u_2 is the only fixed point for the operator T_2 and, since the limit u_2 of iterations u_2^m of $T_2 u_2^0 = u_2^1$ is independent of the starting point u_2^0 , let us take again $u_2^0 = f$. Hence $||u_2 - f||_{\infty} \leq \frac{1}{1-\tau} ||u_2^1 - f||_{\infty}$. Notice that if we write $\overline{f}(y, s) = f(y) \mathcal{X}_{s<0}(s) + u_1(y, s) \mathcal{X}_{[0, \frac{\alpha}{2}]}(s) + f(y) \mathcal{X}_{[\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]}(s)$

$$u_2^1(x,t) = \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{f}(y,s)dyds.$$

Let us finally check that the desire estimate holds for $||u_2^1 - f||_{\infty}$ in $\mathbb{R}^n \times [\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$. Take $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [\frac{\alpha}{2}, \alpha]$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \left| u_{2}^{1}(x,t) - f(x) \right| &= \left| (T_{2}f)(x,t) - f(x) \right| \\ &= \left| \iint J(x-y,t-s)\overline{f}(y,s)dyds - f(x) \right| \\ &\leq \iint_{s \leq 0} J(x-y,t-s) \left| f(y) - f(x) \right| dyds \\ &+ \iint_{0 < s < \frac{\alpha}{2}} J(x-y,t-s) \left| u_{1}(y,s) - f(y) \right| dyds \end{aligned}$$

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$$+ \iint_{s \le \alpha} J(x - y, t - s) \left| f(y) - f(x) \right| dy ds$$

The first and the third terms in the right hand side of the above inequality are bounded by the product of the $\text{Lip}\gamma$ seminorm of f and a constant depending only on J. For the second term we use (3.4) and we are done.

4. MAXIMUM PRINCIPLE: PROOF OF THEOREM 3

Recall that $\alpha = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s \leq \beta} J(y, s) dy ds < 1\}$. Since the function $I(\beta) = \iint_{s \leq \beta} J dy ds$ is increasing and continuous as a function of β , α is also the infimum of those values of β for which $I(\beta) = 1$. Moreover, from definition of α , $0 < I(\frac{\alpha}{2}) < 1$. Let $t_k = \alpha + (k-1)\frac{\alpha}{2}, B_k = \mathbb{R}^n \times [0, t_k], S_k = \sup_{B_k} |w|$ for $k = 1, 2, \ldots$ Let us see that $S_k = S_{k-1}$. Let $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times [t_{k-1}, t_k]$, hence



Hence

$$\left(\iint_{t-\alpha\leq s\leq t_{k-1}} J(x-y,t-s)dyds\right)\left(S_k-S_{k-1}\right)\leq S_k-\left|w(x,t)\right|,$$

since

$$\iint_{t-\alpha \le s \le t_{k-1}} J(x-y,t-s) dy ds = \iint_{t-t_{k-1} \le s_1 \le \alpha} J(x-y,s_1) dy ds_1$$
$$\ge \iint_{\frac{\alpha}{2} \le s_1 \le \alpha} J(x-y,s_1) dy ds_1 = 1 - I(\frac{\alpha}{2})$$

Then

$$(1 - I(\frac{\alpha}{2}))(S_k - S_{k-1}) \le S_k - \sup_{B_k \setminus B_{k-1}} |w|$$
(4.1)

Of course $S_k \ge S_{k-1}$, if $S_k > S_{k-1}$, then $S_k = \sup_{B_k \setminus B_{k-1}} |w|$ and the right hand of (4.1) equals zero. Since $1 - I(\frac{\alpha}{2})$ is positive we have that $S_k \le S_{k-1}$, a contradiction.

5. Convergence of solutions. Proof of Theorem 4

Along this section we shall assume that J in problem (P) is a fixed parabolic rescaling of a mean value kernel $H \in \mathscr{H}$. More precisely for r > 0 we consider the CTRW, with past density distribution f(x), generated by the space time probability density $H_r(x,t) = \frac{1}{r^{n+2}}H(\frac{x}{r},\frac{t}{r^2})$, with H(x,t) satisfying (J1) to (J5) and the mean value formula. The space probability density function for the localization of the moving particle at time t is the solution $u(H_r, f)(\cdot, t)$ of $P(H_r, f)$.

The result contained in Theorem 4 will be a consequence of the two following lemmas and the maximum principle contained in Theorem 3.

Lemma 6. Let J be a kernel satisfying (J1), (J2), (J3) and (J4). Set $\alpha = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s \leq \beta} J(y, s) dy ds < 1\}$. Let $f \in (\mathcal{C}^{0, \gamma} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n)$, $0 < \gamma \leq 1$. Then there exists a constant C > 0 such that for every r > 0

$$\|u(J_r, f) - f\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \alpha r^2])} \le C[f]_{\gamma} r^{\gamma}.$$

The next lemma contains a well known result on the rate of convergence of temperatures to the initial condition when it belongs to a Lipschitz class.

Lemma 7. Let $f \in (\mathcal{C}^{0,\gamma} \cap L^{\infty})(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and $u(x,t) = (4\pi t)^{-\frac{n}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4t}} f(y) dy$ the solution of

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u, & \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ \\
u(x,0) = f(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}
\end{array}$$

Then there exists a constant C > 0 such that

$$|u(x,t) - f(x)| \le C[f]_{\gamma} t^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

for every $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+$.

Proof of Theorem 4. From Lemma 6 and Lemma 7 we have that

$$\sup_{(x,t)\in\mathbb{R}^n\times[0,\alpha r^2]} |u(H_r,f)(x,t) - u(x,t)| \le C[f]_{\gamma} r^{\gamma}.$$

Now, since $\alpha = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s \leq \beta} H(y, s) dy ds < 1\}$ we also have that $\alpha r^2 = \sup\{\beta : \iint_{s \leq \beta} H_r(y, s) dy ds < 1\}$. Hence for $(x, t) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times (\alpha r^2, +\infty)$ we have that the support of $H_r(x - y, t - s)$ as a function of (y, s) is contained in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ . So that for a temperature u defined on \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ and $t > \alpha r^2$, since $H \in \mathscr{H}$, the mean value formula holds and

$$u(x,t) = \iint H_r(x-y,t-s)u(y,s)dyds$$

for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t > \alpha r^2$.

On the other hand, we also have that $u(H_r, f) = H_r * u(H_r, f)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $t > \alpha r^2$, because $u(H_r, f)$ solves $P(H_r, f)$. Hence, applying Theorem 3 with H_r instead of J, αr^2 instead of α , $u(H_r, f) - u$ instead of w, we get

$$\sup_{\mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+} |u(H_r, f)(x, t) - u(x, t)| \le \sup_{\mathbb{R}^n \times [0, \alpha r^2]} |u(H_r, f)(x, t) - u(x, t)| \le C[f]_{\gamma} r^{\gamma},$$

as desired.

Proof of Lemma 6. The result follows from (1.2) in Theorem 2 after parabolic rescaling. In fact, set u(J,g) to denote the solution in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+ of P(J,g). With this notation we have that

$$u(J_r, f) = \left[u\left(J, f_{\frac{1}{r}}\right)\right]_r$$

for each r > 0. Hence, for $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $0 \le \frac{t}{r^2} \le \alpha$, from (1.2) with $f(r \cdot)$ instead f, we have

$$|u(J_r, f)(x, t) - f(x)| = \left| \left| \left| u\left(J, f_{\frac{1}{r}}\right) \right|_r (x, t) - f(x) \right| \\= \left| u(J, f(r \cdot)) \left(\frac{x}{r}, \frac{t}{r^2}\right) - f\left(r\left(\frac{x}{r}\right)\right) \right| \\\leq C[f(r \cdot)]_{\gamma} = Cr^{\gamma}[f]_{\gamma}.$$

Proof of Lemma 7. For $(x,t) \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}_+$, since the Weierstrass kernel has integral equal to one, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |u(x,t) - f(x)| &= \left| \frac{1}{(4\pi t)^{n/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4t}} f(y) dy - f(x) \right| \\ &\leq \frac{1}{(4\pi t)^{n/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4t}} |f(y) - f(x)| \, dy \\ &\leq \frac{[f]_{\gamma}}{(4\pi t)^{n/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-\frac{|x-y|^2}{4t}} |y - x|^{\gamma} \, dy \\ &= \frac{[f]_{\gamma}}{\pi^{n/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-|z|} |z|^{\gamma} \, dz \, t^{\frac{\gamma}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

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