Symmetric Markov chains on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ with unbounded range

Richard F. Bass * and Takashi Kumagai †

November 10, 2018

Abstract

We consider symmetric Markov chains on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ where we do not assume that the conductance between two points must be zero if the points are far apart. Under a uniform second moment condition on the conductances, we obtain upper bounds on the transition probabilities, estimates for exit time probabilities, and certain lower bounds on the transition probabilities. We show that a uniform Harnack inequality holds if an additional assumption is made, but that without this assumption such an inequality need not hold. We establish a central limit theorem giving conditions for a sequence of normalized symmetric Markov chains to converge to a diffusion on $\mathbb{R}^d$ corresponding to an elliptic operator in divergence form.

1 Introduction

Let $X_n$ be a symmetric Markov chain on $\mathbb{Z}^d$. We say that $X_n$ has bounded range if there exists $K > 0$ such that $\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = y \mid X_n = x) = 0$ whenever $|y - x| \geq K$. The range is unbounded if for every $K$ there exists $x$ and $y$ (depending on $K$) with $|x - y| > K$ such that $\mathbb{P}(X_{n+1} = y \mid X_n = x) > 0$. There is a great deal known about Markov chains on graphs when the chains have bounded range. The purpose of this paper is to obtain results for Markov chains on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ that have unbounded range.

Suppose $C_{xy}$ is the conductance between $x$ and $y$. We impose a condition on $C_{xy}$ (see (A3) below) which essentially says that the $C_{xy}$ satisfy a uniform second moment condition. Let $Y_t$ be the continuous time Markov chain on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ determined by the $C_{xy}$, while $X_n$ is the discrete time Markov chain determined by these conductances. The transition probabilities for the Markov chain $X$ are defined by

$$\mathbb{P}^x(X_1 = y) = \frac{C_{xy}}{\sum_z C_{xz}},$$

while the process $Y_t$ is the Markov chain that has the same jumps as $X$ but where the times between jumps are independent exponential random variables with parameter 1. When (A3)

*Research partially supported by NSF grant DMS0244737.
†Research partially supported by Ministry of Education, Japan, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research for Young Scientists (B) 16740052.
holds, together with two very mild regularity conditions, we obtain upper bounds on the transition probabilities of the form

\[ P(Y_t = y \mid Y_0 = x) \leq ct^{-d/2} \]

and some corresponding lower bounds when \( x \) and \( y \) are not too far apart. Unlike the case of bounded range, reasonable universal bounds of Gaussian type need not hold when the range is unbounded. We also obtain bounds on the exit probabilities \( P(\sup_{s \leq t} |Y_s - x| > \lambda t^{1/2}) \).

We say a uniform Harnack inequality holds for \( X \) if whenever \( h \) is nonnegative and harmonic for the Markov chain \( X \) in the ball \( B(x_0, R) \) of radius \( R > 1 \) about a point \( x_0 \), then

\[ h(x) \leq Ch(y), \quad |x - x_0|, |y - x_0| < R/2, \]

where \( C \) is independent of \( R \). Even when \( X_n \) is a random walk, i.e., the increments \( X_n - X_{n-1} \) form an independent identically distributed sequence, a uniform Harnack inequality need not hold. However, if we impose an additional strong assumption (see (A4)) on the conductances, then we can prove such a Harnack inequality.

We prove that if we have Markov chains \( X^{(n)} \) on \( \mathbb{Z}^d \) satisfying Assumption (A3) uniformly in \( n \), the sequence of processes \( X^{(n)}_t = X^{(n)}_{nt}/\sqrt{n} \) is tight in the space \( D[0, \infty) \) of right continuous, left limit functions, and all subsequential limit points are continuous processes. Under an additional condition on the conductances (A5) (different than the one needed for the Harnack inequality), we then show that the \( X^{(n)} \) converge weakly as processes to the law of the diffusion corresponding to an elliptic operator

\[ \mathcal{L} f(x) = \sum_{i,j=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left( a_{ij} y \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_j} \right)(x) \]

in divergence form. The exact statement is given by Theorem 6.1.

In the case of bounded range Markov chains on \( \mathbb{Z}^d \) some of our estimates have been obtained by \( [SZ] \), and we obviously owe a debt to that paper. Not all of their methods extend to the unbounded case, however. In particular,

1. New techniques were needed to obtain the exit probability estimates.

2. A new method was needed to obtain lower bounds for the process killed on exiting a ball. This method should apply in many other instances, and is of interest in itself.

3. Harnack inequalities in the case of unbounded range are quite a bit more subtle, and this section is all new.

4. In the proof of the central limit theorem, new methods were needed to handle the case of unbounded range. Moreover, even in the bounded range case our result covers more general situations.

There are many versions of central limit theorems that investigate the asymptotic behavior of \( \sum_{i=1}^n f(X_i) \) when \( X_n \) is a symmetric Markov chain on a graph. These are quite different
from the central limit theorem of this paper. Our formulation has much more in common
with the work of Stroock and Varadhan [SV], Chapter 11. There they consider certain non-
symmetric chains and show convergence to the law of a diffusion corresponding to an operator
in nondivergence form:

\[ Lf(x) = \sum_{i,j=1}^{d} a_{ij}(x) \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}(x) + \sum_{i=1}^{d} b_i(x) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x_i}(x). \]

Our result is the analogue for symmetric chains and operators in divergence form.

The next section sets up the notation and framework and states the assumptions we need.
Section 3 has the exit time and hitting time estimates, Section 4 has the lower bounds, and
Section 5 discusses the Harnack inequality. Our central limit theorem is proved in Section 6.

The letter \( c \) with or without subscripts and primes will denote finite positive constants
whose exact value is unimportant and which may change from line to line.

2 Framework

We let \(| \cdot |\) be the Euclidean norm and \( B(x,r) := \{ y \in \mathbb{Z}^d : |x-y| < r \} \). We sometimes write
\(|A|\) for the cardinality of a set \( A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d \).

For each \( x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \) with \( x \neq y \), let \( C_{xy} \in [0, \infty) \) be such that \( C_{xy} = C_{yx} \). We call \( C_{xy} \) the conductance between \( x \) and \( y \). We assume the following;

(A1) There exist \( c_1, c_2 > 0 \) such that

\[ c_1 \leq \nu_x := \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} C_{xy} \leq c_2 \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}^d. \]

(A2) There exist \( M_0 \geq 1, \delta > 0 \) such that the following holds: for any \( x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \) with \( |x-y| = 1 \),
there exist \( N \geq 2 \) and \( z_1, \ldots, z_N \in B(x,M_0) \) such that \( x_1 = x, x_N = y \) and \( C_{x_i, x_{i+1}} \geq \delta \) for
\( i = 1, \ldots, N - 1 \).

(A3) There exists a decreasing function \( \varphi : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{R}_+ \) with \( \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} i^{d+1} \varphi(i) < \infty \) and \( \varphi(2i) \leq c \varphi(i) \)
for all \( i \in \mathbb{N} \) such that

\[ C_{xy} \leq \varphi(|x-y|) \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d. \]

Note that (A1) and (A2) are very mild regularity conditions. (A1) prevents degeneracies,
while (A2) says, roughly speaking, that the chain is locally irreducible in a uniform way. (A3)
is the substantive assumption and says that the \( C_{xy} \) satisfy a uniform finite second moment
condition. In fact, (A3) implies the following: there exists \( C_0 > 0 \) such that

\[ \sup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} |x-y|^2 C_{xy} \leq C_0. \]
To see this,

\[
\sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} |x - y|^2 C_{xy} \leq \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} |x - y|^2 \varphi(|x - y|) \\
= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{i <|x-y| \leq i+1} |x - y|^2 \varphi(|x - y|) \\
\leq c_3 \sum_i (i+1)^2 \varphi(i)(i+1)^{d-1} < \infty
\]  

(2.2)

for all \(x \in \mathbb{Z}^d\), where (A3) is used in the last inequality.

Define a symmetric Markov chain by

\[
\mathbb{P}^x(X_1 = y) = \frac{C_{xy}}{\nu_x} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d.
\]

Define \(p_n(x, y) := \mathbb{P}^x(X_n = y)\) and \(\tilde{p}_n(x, y) = p_n(x, y)/\nu_y\). Note that \(\tilde{p}_n(x, y) = \tilde{p}_n(y, x)\). By (A1), the ratio of \(p_n(x, y)\) to \(\tilde{p}_n(x, y)\) is bounded above and below by positive constants.

Let \(\mu_x \equiv 1\) for all \(x \in \mathbb{Z}^d\) and for each \(A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d\), define \(\mu(A) = \sum_{y \in A} \mu_y = |A|\) and \(\nu(A) = \sum_{y \in A} \nu_y\). Note that \(L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu) = L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \nu)\) by (A1). Now, for each \(f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu)\), define

\[
\mathcal{E}(f, f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} (f(x) - f(y))^2 C_{xy},
\]

\[
\mathcal{F} = \{ f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu) : \mathcal{E}(f, f) < \infty \}.
\]

It is easy to check \((\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})\) is a regular Dirichlet form on \(L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu)\) and the generator is

\[
\sum_{x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} (f(y) - f(x)) C_{xy}.
\]

Let \(Y_t\) be the corresponding continuous time \(\mu\)-symmetric Markov chain on \(\mathbb{Z}^d\). Let \(\{U_i^x : i \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}\) be an independent sequence of exponential random variables, where the parameter for \(U_i^x\) is \(\nu_x\), and that is independent of \(X_n\) and define \(T_0 = 0, T_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n} U_{k}^{X_{k-1}}\). Define \(T_0 = 0, T_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n} U_k\). Set \(\tilde{Y}_t = X_n\) if \(T_n \leq t < T_{n+1}\); it is well known that the laws of \(\tilde{Y}\) and \(Y\) are the same, and hence \(\tilde{Y}\) is a realization of the continuous time Markov chain corresponding to (a time change of) \(X_n\). Note that by (A1), the mean exponential holding time at each point for \(\tilde{Y}\) can be controlled uniformly from above and below by a positive constant. Let \(p(t, x, y)\) be the transition density for \(Y_t\) with respect to \(\mu\).

We now introduce several processes related to \(Y_t\), needed in what follows. For each \(D \geq 1\), let \(S = D^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d\) and define the rescaled process as \(V_i = D^{-1}Y_{D^2t}\). Let \(\mu^D\) be a measure on \(S\) defined by \(\mu^D(A) = D^{-d} \mu(DA) = D^{-d}|A|\) for \(A \subset S\). We can easily show that the Dirichlet form corresponding to \(V\) is

\[
\mathcal{E}^D(f, f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in S} (f(x) - f(y))^2 D^{2-d} C_{Dx, Dy}.
\]
and the infinitesimal generator of $V_t$ is
\[ A^D f(x) = \sum_{y \in S} (f(y) - f(x)) C_{Dx, Dy} D^2 = \sum_{x, y \in S} (f(y) - f(x)) \frac{C_{Dx, Dy} D^{2-d}}{\mu_x}, \]
for each $f \in L^2(S, \mu^D)$, where we denote $\mu^D_x := \mu^D(\{x\}) = D^{-d}$ for each $x \in S$. The heat kernel $p^D(t, x, y)$ for $V_t$ with respect to $\mu^D$ can be expressed as
\[ p^D(t, x, y) = D^d p(D^2 t, Dx, Dy) \quad \text{for all} \quad x, y \in S, \quad t > 0. \quad (2.3) \]
For $\lambda \geq 1$, let $W^\lambda_t$ be a process on $S$ with the large jumps of $V_t$ removed. More precisely, $W^\lambda_t$ is a process whose Dirichlet form and infinitesimal generator are
\[ E^{D, \lambda}(f, f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in S : |x - y| \leq \lambda^{1/2}} (f(x) - f(y))^2 D^2 D_{Dx, Dy}, \]
\[ A^\lambda f(x) = \sum_{y \in S : |x - y| \leq \lambda^{1/2}} (f(y) - f(x)) \frac{C_{Dx, Dy} D^2}{\mu_x}, \]
for each $f \in L^2(S, \mu^D)$. We denote the heat kernel for $W^\lambda_t$ by $p^{D, \lambda}(t, x, y)$, $x, y \in S$.

3 Heat kernel estimates

3.1 Nash inequality

For $f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu)$, let
\[ E_{NN}(f, f) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d : |x - y| = 1} (f(x) - f(y))^2, \]
which is the Dirichlet form for the simple symmetric random walk in $\mathbb{Z}^d$. We will prove the following Nash inequality.

**Proposition 3.1** Assume (A2). There exists $c_1 > 0$ such that for any $f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu)$,
\[ \|f\|_2^{2(1+2/d)} \leq c_1 E(f, f) \|f\|_1^{4/d}. \quad (3.1) \]
In particular,
\[ p(t, x, y) \leq c_1 t^{-d/2} \quad \text{for all} \quad x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d, t > 0, \quad (3.2) \]
\[ p^D(t, x, y) \leq c_1 t^{-d/2} \quad \text{for all} \quad x, y \in S, t > 0. \quad (3.3) \]

**Remark 3.2** Since $p(t, x, y) = \mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y)/\mu_y$, we have $p(t, x, y) \leq 1/\mu_y$, so (3.2) is a crude estimate for small $t$. However, we will continue to use it since we are mainly interested in the large time asymptotics.
Proof. Note that the equivalence of (3.1) and (3.2) is a well-known fact (see [CKS]).

The Markov chain corresponding to $E_{NN}$ is a (continuous time) simple random walk; let $r_t$ be its transition probabilities. Since, as is well known, we have $r_t(x,x) \leq ct^{-d/2}$, then by [CKS] we have
\[
\|f\|_2^{(1+2/d)} \leq c_1 E_{NN}(f,f) \|f\|_1^{d/2} \quad \text{for all } f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu).
\]

See also [SZ]. By (A2), there exists $c_2 > 0$ such that
\[
E_{NN}(f,f) \leq c_2 E(f,f) \quad \text{for all } f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu).
\]

Using these facts and (2.3), we have the desired result. \[\square\]

3.2 Exit time probability estimates

In this subsection, we will obtain some exit time estimates. The argument presented here was first established in [BL1] and then extended and simplified in [CK], [HK].

Lemma 3.3 There exists $c_1 > 0$ such that
\[
p^{D,\lambda}(t,x,y) \leq c_1 t^{-d/2} \exp \left(-\lambda^{-1/2} |x-y| \right)
\]
for all $t \in (0,1]$, $x,y \in S$ and $\lambda \geq M_0$, where $M_0$ is given in (A2).

Proof. Since $\lambda \geq M_0$, by (A2), we have $E_{NN}(f,f) \leq cE^{D,\lambda}(f,f)$ for all $f \in L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \mu)$. So we have (3.1) where $E(f,f)$ is replaced by $E^{1,\lambda}(f,f)$, and by a scaling argument we have
\[
p^{D,\lambda}(t,x,y) \leq c_1 t^{-d/2} \quad \text{for all } x,y \in S, t > 0.
\]
Thus by Theorem (3.25) of [CKS], we have
\[
p^{D,\lambda}(t,x,y) \leq c_1 t^{-d/2} \exp (-E(2t,x,y))
\]
for all $t \leq 1$ and $x,y \in S$, where
\[
E(t,x,y) = \sup \{|\psi(y) - \psi(x)| - t \Lambda(\psi)^2 : \Lambda(\psi) < \infty\},
\]
\[
\Lambda(\psi)^2 = \|e^{-2\psi} \Gamma_\lambda [e^{\psi}]\|_\infty \vee \|e^{2\psi}\Gamma_\lambda [e^{-\psi}]\|_\infty,
\]
and $\Gamma_\lambda$ is defined by
\[
\Gamma_\lambda[v](\xi) = \sum_{\eta,\xi \in S, |\xi - \eta| \leq \lambda^{1/2}} (v(\eta) - v(\xi))^2 \frac{C_{Dn,D\xi} D^2}{\mu_{D\xi}}, \quad \xi \in S.
\]

Now let $\psi(\xi) = \lambda^{-1/2}(|\xi - x| \wedge |x-y|)$. Then, $|\psi(\eta) - \psi(\xi)| \leq \lambda^{-1/2} |\eta - \xi|$, so that
\[
(e^{\psi(\eta)} - e^{\psi(\xi)})^2 \leq |\psi(\eta) - \psi(\xi)|^2 e^{2|\psi(\eta) - \psi(\xi)|} \leq c\lambda^{-1} |\eta - \xi|^2
\]
for \(\eta, \xi \in \mathcal{S}\) with \(|\eta - \xi| \leq \lambda^{1/2}\). Hence

\[
e^{-2\psi(\xi)} \Gamma_{\lambda}[e^{\psi}] (\xi) = \sum_{\eta \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{(e^{\psi(\eta)} - \psi(\xi)) - 1)^2 C_{D\eta, D\xi} D^2}{\mu_D \xi} \leq \lambda^{-1} \sum_{\eta' \in \mathcal{S}} |\eta' - \xi|^2 \frac{C_{\eta', \xi}}{\mu_{\xi'}} \leq C'
\]

for all \(\xi \in \mathcal{S}\) where (2.1) is used in the last inequality. We have the same bound when \(\psi\) is replaced by \(-\psi\), so \(\Lambda(\psi)^2 \leq C'\). Noting that \(|\psi(y) - \psi(x)| \leq \lambda^{-\frac{1}{2}} |x - y|\), we see that (3.4) follows from (3.3).

We now prove the following exit time estimate for the process. For \(A \subset \mathbb{Z}^d\) and a process \(Z_t\) on \(\mathbb{Z}^d\), let

\[
\tau = \tau_A(Z) := \inf \{ t \geq 0 : Z_t \notin A \}, \quad T_A = T_A(Z) := \inf \{ t \geq 0 : Z_t \in A \}.
\]

**Proposition 3.4** For \(A > 0\) and \(0 < B < 1\), there exists \(\gamma_i = \gamma_i(A, B) \in (0, 1), i = 1, 2\), such that for every \(D > 0\) and \(x \in \mathbb{Z}^d\),

\[
\mathbb{P}^x (\tau_{B(x, AD)}(Y) < \gamma_1 D^2) \leq B, \quad \mathbb{P}^x (\tau_{B(x, AD)}(X) < \gamma_2 D^2) \leq B. \tag{3.7}
\]

**PROOF.** It follows from Lemma 3.3 that for \(t \in [1/4, 1]\) and \(r > 0\),

\[
\mathbb{P}^x (|W_t^\lambda - x| \geq r) = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{S} : |y - x| > r} p^{D, \lambda}(t, x, y) \mu_y^D \leq c_1 I_{r, \lambda}, \tag{3.9}
\]

where \(I_{r, \lambda} := e^{-\frac{r}{2} \lambda^{-\frac{1}{2}}}\). Define \(\mathcal{\sigma}_r := \inf \{ t \geq 0 : |W_t^\lambda - W_0^\lambda| \geq r \}\). Then by (3.9) and the strong Markov property of \(W^\lambda\) at time \(\mathcal{\sigma}_r\),

\[
\mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1/2) \leq \mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1/2 \text{ and } |W_1^\lambda - x| \leq r/2) + \mathbb{P}^x (|W_1^\lambda - x| > r/2) \leq \mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1/2 \text{ and } |W_1^\lambda - W_{\mathcal{\sigma}_r}^\lambda| > r/2) + c_1 I_{r/2, \lambda}
\]

\[
= \mathbb{P}^x \left(1_{\{\mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1/2\}} \mathbb{P}^{W_{\mathcal{\sigma}_r}^\lambda} (|W_{1-\mathcal{\sigma}_r}^\lambda - W_0^\lambda| > r/2)\right) + c_1 I_{r/2, \lambda}
\]

\[
\leq \sup_{y \in B(x, r)} \mathbb{P}^y (|W_{1-s}^\lambda - y| > r/2) + c_1 I_{r/2, \lambda}
\]

Here in the second and the last inequalities, we used (3.9). By the strong Markov property of \(W^\lambda\), for every \(r > 0\),

\[
\mathbb{P}^x \left(\sup_{s \leq 1} |W_s^\lambda - W_0^\lambda| > r\right) \leq \mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1/2) + \mathbb{P}^x (1/2 < \mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1)
\]

\[
\leq c_2 I_{r/2, \lambda} + \mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_{r/2} \leq 1/2) + \mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_{r/2} > 1/2, \mathcal{\sigma}_r \leq 1)
\]

\[
\leq c_2 I_{r/2, \lambda} + \mathbb{P}^x (\mathcal{\sigma}_{r/2} \leq 1/2) + \mathbb{E}^x \left[\mathbb{P}^{W_{1/2}^\lambda} (\mathcal{\sigma}_{r/2} \leq 1/2)\right]
\]

\[
\leq c_3 I_{r/4, \lambda}. \tag{3.10}
\]
The constants $c_1, c_2, c_3 > 0$ above are independent of $D \geq 1$, $x \in \mathcal{S}$ and $\lambda \geq M_0$.

Now, define $B^\lambda$ to be the infinitesimal generator of $V_t$ with small jumps removed:

$$
B^\lambda v(\xi) = \sum_{\eta \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{(f(\eta) - f(\xi)) C_{D\eta,D\xi} D^2}{\mu D\xi},
$$

(3.11)

Recall that $A^\lambda$ is the generator of $W^\lambda$. We see that $A^\lambda + B^\lambda$ is the generator for $V_t$. Hence, if $Q^V_t$ and $Q^W_t$ are the semigroups associated with $V_t$ and $W^\lambda_t$ respectively, we have that

$$
Q^V_t v = Q^W_t v + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} S^\lambda_k(t) v, \quad v \in L^\infty(\mathcal{S}, \mu^D),
$$

(3.12)

where

$$
S^\lambda_k(t) v = \int_0^t Q^W_{t-s} B^\lambda S^\lambda_{k-1}(s) v ds, \quad k \geq 1
$$

(3.13)

with $S^\lambda_0(t) := Q^W_t$ (see, for example, Theorem 2.2 in [Le]). Note that the series in (3.12) defines a bounded linear operator on $L^\infty(\mathcal{S}, \mu^D)$ for each $t > 0$; this can be seen as follows. First, by [22] and a simple calculation, we have

$$
\sum_{\eta \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{C_{D\eta,D\xi} D^2}{\mu D\xi} \leq c_4 \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} |y|^2 \leq \frac{c_5}{\lambda} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} |y|^2 \varphi(|y| \lambda D^2) \leq \frac{c_6}{\lambda}.
$$

(3.14)

Using this, we see that there exists $c_7 > 0$ independent of $\lambda$ such that

$$
\|B^\lambda v\|_{\infty} \leq \frac{c_7}{\lambda} \|v\|_{\infty}.
$$

(3.15)

Noting that $\|Q^W_t v\|_{\infty} \leq \|v\|_{\infty}$, by induction we have from (3.13) that

$$
\|S^\lambda_k(t) v\|_{\infty} \leq \left(\frac{c_8 \lambda^{-1} t}{k!}\right) \|v\|_{\infty}, \quad t > 0, \quad k \geq 1,
$$

(3.16)

and so the series above is bounded from $L^\infty(\mathcal{S}, \mu^D)$ to $L^\infty(\mathcal{S}, \mu^D)$ for each $t > 0$.

We will apply the above with $\lambda = M_0$. By (3.15), for any bounded function $f$ on $\mathcal{S}$, we have

$$
\|Q^V_t f - Q^W_t f\|_{\infty} \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(c_8 \lambda^{-1} t)^k}{k!} \|f\|_{\infty} \leq c_9 t e^{c_9 t} \|f\|_{\infty}.
$$

Applying this with $f$ equal to the indicator of $(B(\xi, r))^c$, it follows that there is a constant $c_{10} > 0$ that is independent of $D \geq 1$ such that for every $\xi \in \mathcal{S}$ and every $t \leq 1$,

$$
P^\xi (|V_t - \xi| > r) \leq P^\xi (|W^M_t - \xi| > r) + c_{10} t.
$$

(3.17)

Applying the same argument we used in deriving (3.10), we conclude there are positive constants $c_{11}, c_{12}$ such that for $\xi \in \mathcal{S}$,

$$
P^\xi \left( \sup_{s \leq t} |V_s - \xi| > r \right) \leq c_{11} e^{-c_{12} r} + c_{11} t \quad \text{for every } r > 0 \text{ and } t \leq 1.
$$

(3.17)
This implies that for every \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^d \), \( D' \geq 1 \) and \( r > 0 \),
\[
\mathbb{P}^x \left( \sup_{s \leq D'^2 t} |Y_s - x| > r D' \right) \leq c_{11} e^{-c_{12} r} + c_{11} t \quad \text{for every } r > 0 \text{ and } t \leq 1. \tag{3.18}
\]

For \( A > 0 \) and \( B \in (0, 1) \), we choose \( r_0 \) and \( t_0 \) so that \( c_{11} e^{-c_{12} r_0} + c_{11} t_0 < B \) and take \( D = r_0 D'/A \). Then, by (3.18),
\[
\mathbb{P}^x \left( \sup_{s \leq \gamma_1 D^2} |Y_s - x| \geq A D \right) \leq B \quad \text{for every } D \geq r_0/A,
\]
where \( \gamma_1 = (A/r_0)^2 t_0 \). For \( D < r_0/A \), we have
\[
\mathbb{P}(U_1 > \gamma_1 r_0^2/A^2) \leq \mathbb{P}(U_1 > \gamma_1 D^2) \leq \mathbb{P}^x \left( \sup_{s \leq \gamma_1 D^2} |Y_s - x| < A D \right), \tag{3.19}
\]
where \( U_1 \) is an exponential random variable with parameter 1. By (A1), the left hand side of (3.19) is greater than \( 1 - B \) if \( \gamma_1 \) is taken to be small. Thus, (3.7) is proved.

Now (3.8) can be proved in the same way as Theorem 2.8 in [BL1]. \( \square \)

4 Lower bounds and regularity for the heat kernel

We now introduce the space-time process \( Z_s := (U_s, V_s) \), where \( U_s = U_0 + s \). The filtration generated by \( Z \) satisfying the usual conditions will be denoted by \( \{ \mathcal{F}_s; s \geq 0 \} \). The law of the space-time process \( s \mapsto Z_s \) starting from \((t, x)\) will be denoted as \( \mathbb{P}^{(t,x)} \). We say that a non-negative Borel measurable function \( q(t, x) \) on \([0, \infty) \times \mathcal{S}\) is parabolic in a relatively open subset \( B \) of \([0, \infty) \times \mathcal{S}\) if for every relatively compact open subset \( B_1 \) of \( B \), \( q(t, x) = \mathbb{E}^{(t,x)} [q(Z_{\tau_{B_1}})] \) for every \((t, x) \in B_1 \), where \( \tau_{B_1} = \inf \{ s > 0 : Z_s \notin B_1 \} \).

We denote \( \gamma := \gamma(1/2, 1/2) < 1 \) the constant in (3.7) corresponding to \( A = B = 1/2 \). For \( t \geq 0 \) and \( r > 0 \), we define
\[
Q^D(t, x, r) := [t, t + \gamma r^2] \times (B(x, r) \cap \mathcal{S}),
\]
where \( B(x, r) = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^d : |x - y| \leq r \} \).

It is easy to see the following (see, for example, Lemma 4.5 in [CK] for the proof).

**Lemma 4.1** For each \( t_0 > 0 \) and \( x_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^d \), \( q^D(t, x) := p^D(t_0 - t, x, x_0) \) is parabolic on \([0, t_0) \times \mathcal{S}\).

The next proposition provides a lower bound for the heat kernel and is the key step for the proof of the Hölder continuity of \( p^D(t, x, y) \).

**Proposition 4.2** There exists \( c_1 > 0 \) and \( \theta \in (0, 1) \) such that if \( |x - y| \leq t^{1/2}, x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d \) and \( r > t^{1/2}/\theta \), then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, \tau_{B(x, r)} > t) \geq c_1 t^{-d/2}.
\]
To prove this we first need some preliminary propositions. A version of the following weighted Poincaré inequality can be found in Lemma 1.19 of [SZ]; we give an alternate proof.

**Lemma 4.3** For $D \geq 1$ and $l \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, let

$$g_D(l) = c_0 D^d \prod_{i=1}^d e^{-|l_i|/D},$$

where $c_0$ is determined by the equation $\sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} g_D(l) = 1$. Then there exists $c_1 > 0$ such that

$$c_1 \langle (f - \langle f \rangle_{g_D})^2 \rangle_{g_D} \leq D^{2-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} g_D(l) \sum_{i=1}^d (f(l + e^i) - f(l))^2, \quad f \in L^2(S),$$

where

$$\langle f \rangle_{g_D} = D^{-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} f(D^{-1}l)g_D(l)$$

and $e^i$ is the element of $\mathbb{Z}^d$ whose $j$-th component is 1 if $j = i$ and 0 otherwise.

**Proof.** A scaling argument shows that it suffices to consider only the $D = 1$ case. Because of the product structure, it is enough to consider the case when $d = 1$.

The weighted Poincaré inequality restricted to integers in $[-10, 10]$, i.e., where the sums are restricted to being over $\{-10, \ldots, 10\}$, follows easily from the usual Poincaré inequality. We will prove our weighted Poincaré inequality for positive $k$ and the same argument works for negative $k$. These facts together with the weighted Poincaré inequality on $[-10, 10]$ and standard techniques as in [Je] give us the weighted Poincaré inequality for all of $\mathbb{Z}$. So we restrict attention to nonnegative $k$. Therefore all our sums below are over nonnegative integers.

Let

$$I = \sum_{k, \ell} (f(k) - f(\ell))^2 e^{-k}e^{-\ell},$$

$$J_k = \sum_{\ell > k} \sum_{m=k}^{\ell-1} \sum_{n=k}^{\ell-1} [f(m+1) - f(m)] [f(n+1) - f(n)] e^{-\ell},$$

$$K = \sum_{n} [f(n+1) - f(n)]^2 e^{-n}.$$

Note

$$I = \sum_k (f(k) - \langle f \rangle_{g_D})^2 e^{-k},$$

so we need to show $I \leq c_2 K$. We have, since $f(k) - f(\ell) = 0$ when $k = \ell$,

$$I = 2 \sum_k \sum_{\ell > k} (f(k) - f(\ell))^2 e^{-k}e^{-\ell}$$

$$= 2 \sum_k \sum_{\ell > k} \left( \sum_{m=k}^{\ell-1} [f(m+1) - f(m)] \right) \left( \sum_{n=k}^{\ell-1} [f(n+1) - f(n)] \right) e^{-k}e^{-\ell}$$

$$= 2 \sum_k J_k e^{-k}.$$
We see that
\[
J_k = \sum_{m \geq k} \sum_{n \geq k} \sum_{\ell > m \land n} e^{-\ell} [f(m+1) - f(m)] [f(n+1) - f(n)] 
\]
\[
\leq \sum_{m \geq k} \sum_{n \geq k} e^{-mn} [f(m+1) - f(m)] [f(n+1) - f(n)] 
\]
\[
= 2 \sum_{m \geq k} \sum_{n \geq m} e^{-n} [f(m+1) - f(m)] [f(n+1) - f(n)] 
\]
\[
= 2 \sum_{n \geq k} e^{-n} [f(m+1) - f(m)] [f(n+1) - f(n)] 
+ 2 \sum_{n \geq k} e^{-n} [f(n+1) - f(n)]^2 
\]
\[
\leq 2 \sum_{n \geq k} e^{-n} [f(n+1) - f(n)] (f(n) - f(k)) + 2K. 
\]

Hence
\[
I \leq c_3 \sum_{k \geq n \geq k} e^{-n} [f(n+1) - f(n)] (f(n) - f(k)) e^{-k} + \sum_{k} 2e^{-k}K 
\]
\[
\leq c_4 \left( \sum_{k \geq n \geq k} e^{-n} e^{-k} [f(n+1) - f(n)]^2 \right)^{1/2} \left( \sum_{k \geq n \geq k} e^{-n} [f(n) - f(k)]^2 e^{-k} \right)^{1/2} 
+ c_4 K 
\]
\[
\leq c_4 K^{1/2} I^{1/2} + c_4 K. 
\]

This implies
\[
I \leq c_5 K 
\]
as required.

The proof of the following lemma is similar to that of (1.16) in [SZ], but since we need some modifications, we will give the proof.

**Lemma 4.4** There is an \( \varepsilon > 0 \) such that
\[
p_t(\tau D^{-1} k, \tau D^{-1} m) \geq \varepsilon t^{-d/2}, \tag{4.1}
\]
for all \( D \geq 1, \ (t, k, m) \in (D^{-1}, \infty) \times S \times S \) with \(|D^{-1}k - D^{-1}m| \leq 2t^{1/2} \).

**Proof.** First, note that it is enough to prove the following: there is an \( \varepsilon > 0 \) such that
\[
D^{-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \log \left( p_t^{D^{-1}} \left( \frac{1}{2}, D^{-1}k, D^{-1}(l + m) \right) \right) g_D(l) \geq \frac{1}{2} \log \varepsilon, \tag{4.2}
\]
for all $D \geq 1$ and $k, m \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ with $|D^{-1}(k - m)| \leq 2$. Indeed, by the Chapman-Kolmogorov equation, symmetry, and the fact $g_D(j) \leq 1$ for all $j \in \mathbb{Z}^d$,

$$p^D(1, D^{-1}k, D^{-1}m) \geq D^{-d} \sum_j p^D(\frac{1}{2}, D^{-1}k, D^{-1}(j + k)) p^D(\frac{1}{2}, D^{-1}m, D^{-1}(j + k)) g_D(j).$$

Thus, by Jensen’s inequality, (1.2) gives

$$p^D(1, D^{-1}k, D^{-1}l) \geq \varepsilon \quad D \geq 1, |D^{-1}k - D^{-1}l| \leq 2.$$

By a simple scaling argument, this gives (1.1).

So we will prove (1.2). Set $u_t(l) = p^D(t, D^{-1}k, D^{-1}(l + m))$ and let

$$G(t) = D^{-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \log(u_t(l)) g_D(l).$$

By Jensen’s inequality, we see that $G(t) \leq 0$. Further,

$$G'(t) = D^{-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}(l) \frac{g_D(l)}{u_t(l)} = -\mathcal{E}^D(u_t(D \cdot), \frac{g_D(D \cdot)}{u_t(D \cdot)}).$$

Next, note that the following elementary inequality holds (see (1.23) of [SZ] for the proof).

$$\left(\frac{d}{b} - \frac{c}{a}\right) (b - a) \leq -\frac{c \land d}{2} \log b - \log a + \frac{(d - c)^2}{2(c \land d)}, \quad a, b, c, d > 0.$$

Hence

$$G'(t) = -\frac{D^{2-d}}{2} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{e \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left( \frac{g_D(l + e)}{u_t(l) + e} - \frac{g_D(l)}{u_t(l)} \right) \left( u_t(l + e) - u_t(l) \right) C_{l+l^e}$$

$$\leq \frac{D^{2-d}}{2} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{e \in \mathbb{Z}^d} (\log u_t(l) + e) - \log u_t(l) \right) C_{l+l^e}$$

$$-\frac{D^{2-d}}{2} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{e \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{|g_D(l + e) - g_D(l)|^2}{2(g_D(l + e) \land g_D(l))} C_{l+l^e}$$

$$\geq c D^{2-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{j=1}^d (\log u_t(l + e^j) - \log u_t(l)) C_{l+l^e}$$

$$\geq c D^{2-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{e \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{|g_D(l + e) - g_D(l)|^2}{4(g_D(l + e) \land g_D(l))} C_{l+l^e},$$

where the last inequality is due to (A2) and the definition of $g_D$ (here recall that $e^j$ is in the element of $\mathbb{Z}^d$ whose $j$-th component is 1 if $j = i$ and 0 otherwise). Note $|g_D(l + e) - g_D(l)| \leq c_1 D^{-1}e |(g_D(l + e) \land g_D(l))|$. Thus

$$D^{2-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{e \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{|g_D(l + e) - g_D(l)|^2}{4(g_D(l + e) \land g_D(l))} C_{l+l^e} \leq c_2 D^{2-d} \sum_l \sum_e C_{l+l^e} |e|^2 (g_D(l + e) \land g_D(l))$$

$$\leq c_3 \left( \sup_l \sum_e C_{l+l^e} |e|^2 \right) \cdot D^{-d} \sum_l g_D(l) = c_3 \left( \sup_l \sum_e C_{l+l^e} |e|^2 \right) < c_4.$$
where we used \((A3)\) in the last inequality. Note also \(\min_{1 \leq i \leq d} g_D(l + e^i) \geq c_5 g_D(l)\). Combining these, we have

\[
G'(t) \geq c_6 D^{2-d} \sum_{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{j=1}^d \left( \log u_t(l + e^j) - \log u_t(l) \right)^2 g_D(l) - c_4
\]

\[
\geq c_7 D^{-d} \sum_l \left( \log u_t(l) - G(t) \right)^2 g_D(l) - c_4,
\]

where we used Lemma \[1.3\] in the last inequality.

Next, for \(\sigma > 0\), set \(A_t(\sigma) = \{l \in \mathbb{Z}^d : u_t(l) \geq e^{-\sigma}\}\). Then, writing \(f^+\) and \(f^-\) for the positive and negative parts of \(f\), we have for each \(\sigma > 0\),

\[
D^{-d} \sum_l \left( \log u_t(l) - G(t) \right)^2 g_D(l) \geq D^{-d} \sum_l \left( -\log u_t(l) - G(t) \right)^2 g_D(l)
\]

\[
\geq \frac{G(t)^2}{2D^d} \sum_{l \in A_t(\sigma)} g_D(l) - \sigma^2,
\]

where we used the elementary inequality \((A + B)^2 \geq (A^2/2) - B^2, A, B \in \mathbb{R}\), in the last inequality. Thus, we have

\[
G'(t) \geq c_8 I_{t,\sigma} G(t)^2 - (c_4 + \sigma^2),
\]

where we let \(I_{t,\sigma} = D^{-d} \sum_{l \in A_t(\sigma)} g_D(l)\). On the other hand, by \[3.7\] and scaling, we can find \(r_0 > 2\) such that

\[
D^{-d} \sum_{|D^{-1}| \leq r_0} \left. p^D(t, D^{-1}k, D^{-1}(l + m)) \right| \geq 1/2, \quad D \geq 1, t \leq 1, \text{ and } |D^{-1}(k - m)| \leq 2.
\]

In particular, if \(\beta\) is the smallest value of \(e^{-2U}\) on \([-r_0, r_0]\), then for each \(t \in [1/4, 1]\),

\[
1/2 \leq D^{-d} \sum_{|D^{-1}| \leq r_0} u_t(l) \leq e^{-\sigma r_0^d} + \left( \sup_k |u_t(D^{-d}k)| \right) \cdot \frac{I_{t,\sigma}}{\beta^d}.
\]

Thus by taking \(\sigma = (4r_0^d)\) and using \[3.3\], we obtain \(I_{t,\sigma} \geq c_\beta^d\). Combining this with \[1.3\], there exists \(0 < \delta < 1\) such that

\[
G'(t) \geq \delta G(t)^2 - \delta^{-1}, \quad D \geq 1, t \in [1/4, 1], \text{ and } |D^{-1}(k - m)| \leq 2.
\]

Now, by \[1.4\] and the mean value theorem,

\[
G(1/2) - G(t) \geq -(4\delta)^{-1}, \quad t \in [1/4, 1].
\]

We may assume \(G(1/2) \leq -5/(2\delta)\), since otherwise \[4.2\] is clear. Then, by \[4.5\] we have \(G(t) \leq -2\delta^{-1}\). So \(\delta G(t)^2/2 - \delta^{-1} \geq \delta^{-1} > 0\). So, by \[1.4\] again,

\[
G'(t) \geq \delta G(t)^2/2, \quad t \in [1/4, 1].
\]
But this means that
\[
G(\frac{1}{2})^{-1} \leq G(\frac{1}{4})^{-1} - G(\frac{1}{4})^{-1} = - \int_{1/4}^{1/2} \frac{G''(s)}{G^2(s)} ds \leq -\frac{\delta}{8},
\]
and therefore \(G(1/2) \geq -8\delta^{-1}\). Thus \((4.2)\) holds with \(\varepsilon \sqrt{t} = \frac{1}{2} \exp(-8\delta^{-1})\).

\[\square\]

**Lemma 4.5** Given \(\delta > 0\) there exists \(\kappa\) such that if \(x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^d\) and \(C \subset \mathbb{Z}^d\) with \(\text{dist}(x, C)\) and \(\text{dist}(y, C)\) both larger than \(\kappa t^{1/2}\), then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, T_C \leq t) \leq \delta t^{-d/2}.
\]

**Proof.** By the strong Markov property we have
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, T_C \leq t/2) = \mathbb{P}^x(1 \{T_C \leq t/2\}) \mathbb{P}^{Y_{T_C}}(Y_{t-T_C} = y)) \leq c_1(t/2)^{-d/2} \mathbb{P}^x(T_C \leq t/2).
\]

In Proposition 3.4 let us choose \(A = 1\) and \(B = \delta/(4c_12^{d/2})\). If we take \(\kappa > (2\gamma_t)^{-1/2}\), then Proposition 3.4 tells us that
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(T_C \leq t/2) \leq \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x,\kappa t^{1/2})} \leq t/2) \leq B,
\]
and then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, T_C \leq t/2) \leq \frac{\delta}{2} t^{-d/2}.
\]

(4.6)

We now consider \(\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, t/2 \leq T_C \leq t)\). If the first hitting time of \(C\) occurs between time \(t/2\) and time \(t\), then the last hitting time of \(C\) before time \(t\) happens after time \(t/2\). So if \(S_C = \sup\{s \leq t : Y_s \in C\}\), then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, t/2 \leq T_C \leq t) \leq \mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, t/2 \leq S_C \leq t).
\]

We claim that by time reversal,
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, t/2 \leq S_C \leq t) = \mathbb{P}^y(Y_t = x, T_C \leq t/2).
\]

(4.7)

To see this, observe by the symmetry of the heat kernel \(p\), we have that if \(t_i = (t/2) + it/(2n)\), then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_{t_k} = z_k, \ldots, Y_{t_{n-1}} = z_{n-1}, Y_{t_n} = y)
= p(t_k, x, z_k)p(t/(2n), z_k, z_{k+1}) \cdots p(t/(2n), z_{n-1}, y)
= \mathbb{P}^y(Y_{t_k}/(2n) = z_{n-1}, \ldots, Y_{t-t_k} = z_k, Y_t = x).
\]

If we sum over \(z_k \in C\) and \(z_{k+1}, \ldots, z_{n-1} \notin C\), we have
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_{t_k} \in C, Y_{t_{k+1}} \notin C, \ldots, Y_{t_{n-1}} \notin C, Y_t = y)
= \mathbb{P}^y(Y_{t_k}/(2n) \notin C, \ldots, Y_{t-t_k} \notin C, Y_t \in C, Y_t = x).
\]
If we sum over $k$, this yields

$$P^x(t/2 \leq S'_n \leq t, Y_t = y) = P^y(0 \leq T'_n \leq t/2, Y_t = x),$$

where $S'_n = \sup \{t_k : Y_{t_k} \in C\}$ and $T'_n = \inf \{t_k : Y_{t_k} \in C\}$. Letting $n \to \infty$ proves (4.7).

Arguing as in the first part of the proof,

$$P^y(Y_t = x, T_C \leq t/2) \leq \frac{\delta}{2} t^{-d/2}.$$

Therefore

$$P^x(Y_t = y, t/2 \leq T_C \leq t) \leq \frac{\delta}{2} t^{-d/2},$$

and combining with (4.6) proves the proposition.

**Proof of Proposition 4.2.** We have from Lemma 4.4 that there exists $\epsilon$ such that

$$p(t, x, y) \geq \epsilon t^{-d/2}$$

if $|x - y| \leq 2t^{1/2}$. If we take $\delta = \epsilon / 2$ in Lemma 4.3, then provided $r > \kappa t^{1/2}$, we have

$$P^x(Y_t = y, \tau_{B(x, r)} \leq t) \leq \frac{\epsilon}{2} t^{-d/2}.$$

Subtracting,

$$P^x(Y_t = y, \tau_{B(x, r)} > t) \geq \frac{\epsilon}{2} t^{-d/2}$$

if $|x - y| \leq 2t^{1/2}$, which is equivalent to what we want.

As a corollary of Proposition 4.2 we have

**Corollary 4.6** For each $0 < \epsilon < 1$, there exists $\theta = \theta(\epsilon) > 0$ with the following property: if $D \geq 1$, $x, y \in S$ with $|x - y| < t^{1/2}$, $r > 0$, $t \in [0, (\theta r)^2)$, and $\Gamma \subset B(y, t^{1/2}) \cap S$ satisfies $\mu^D(\Gamma) t^{-d/2} \geq \epsilon$, then

$$P^x(V_t \in \Gamma \text{ and } \tau_{B(x, r)} > t) \geq c_1 \epsilon. \tag{4.8}$$

**Lemma 4.7** For each $0 < \delta < 1$, there exists $\gamma = \gamma_\delta \in (0, 1)$ such that for $t > 0$, $r > 0$ and $x \in S$, if $A \subset Q^D_\gamma(t, x, r) := [t, t + \gamma^2 r^2] \times (B(x, r) \cap S)$ satisfies $m \otimes \mu^D(A)/m \otimes \mu^D(Q^D_\gamma(t, x, r)) \geq \delta$, then

$$P^{(t,x)}(T_A(Z) < \tau_{Q^D(t,x,r)}(Z)) \geq c_1 \delta.$$

**Proof.** For each $\delta > 0$, take $\gamma = \theta(\delta/4)^2$. Note that there exists $s = s_\epsilon \in [t + \delta \gamma r^2/4, t + \gamma r^2]$ such that

$$\mu^D(A_s) \geq \delta r^d/4 \geq \delta \left(\frac{s - t}{\gamma}\right)^{d/2} \geq \frac{\delta}{4} (s - t)^{d/2}, \tag{4.9}$$

where $A_s = \{(s, z) \in [0, \infty) \times S : (s, z) \in A\}$. Indeed, if not then

$$m \otimes \mu^D(A) \leq \delta \gamma r^{2+d}/4 + (\gamma - \delta/4) \cdot (\delta/4) \cdot r^{2+d} \leq \delta r^{2+d}/2,$$
which contradicts $m \otimes \mu^D(A) \geq \delta m \otimes \mu^D(Q^D_\gamma(t, x, r)) = \delta r^{2+d}$. Now, using this fact and Corollary 4.6 (with $\varepsilon = \delta/4$), we have

$$\mathbb{P}^{(t, x)}(T_A(Z) < \tau_{Q^D_\gamma(t, x, r)}(Z)) \geq \mathbb{P}^{(t, x)}(V_{s-t} \circ \theta_t \in A_s \text{ and } \tau_{B(x, r)} \circ \theta_t > s-t) \geq c_1 \delta/4,$$

which completes the proof.

We will also use the following Lévy system formula for $Y$ (cf. Lemma 4.7 in [CK]).

**Lemma 4.8** Let $f$ be a non-negative measurable function on $\mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{S}$, vanishing on the diagonal. Then for every $t \geq 0$, $x \in \mathcal{S}$ and a stopping time $T$ of $\{F_t\}_{t \geq 0}$,

$$\mathbb{E}^x \left[ \sum_{s \leq T} f((s, V_{s-}, V_s)) \right] = \mathbb{E}^x \left[ \int_0^T \sum_{y \in \mathcal{S}} f((s, V_s, y)) \frac{D^2 C_{U\mathcal{S}, Du}}{\mu_{U\mathcal{S}}} \, ds \right]$$

Now we prove that the heat kernel $p^D(t, x, y)$ is Hölder continuous in $(t, x, y)$, uniformly over $D$. For $(t, x) \in [0, \infty) \times \mathcal{S}$ and $r > 0$ let $Q^D(t, x, r) := \{t, t + \gamma(2) \times (B(x, R) \cap \mathcal{S})\}$, where $\gamma := \gamma(1/2, 1/2) \wedge \gamma_{1,1} < 1$. Here $\gamma(1/2, 1/2)$ is the constant in (3.7) corresponding to $A = B = 1/2$ and $\gamma_{1,1}$ is the constant in Lemma 4.7 corresponding to $\delta = 1/3$.

The following theorem can be proved similarly to Theorem 4.1 in [BL2] and Theorem 4.14 in [CK]. We will write down the proof for completeness.

**Theorem 4.9** There are constants $c > 0$ and $\beta > 0$ (independent of $R, D$) such that for every $0 < R$, every $D \geq 1$, and every bounded parabolic function $q$ in $Q^D(0, x_0, 4R)$,

$$|q(s, x) - q(t, y)| \leq c \|q\|_{\infty, R} \, R^{-\beta} \left( |t - s|^{1/2} + |x - y| \right)^\beta \quad (4.10)$$

holds for $(s, x), (t, y) \in Q^D(0, x_0, R)$, where $\|q\|_{\infty, R} := \sup_{(t, y) \in [0, \gamma(4R)^2] \times \mathcal{S}} |q(t, y)|$. In particular, for the transition density function $p^D(t, x, y)$ of $V$,

$$|p^D(t, x_1, y_1) - p^D(t, x_2, y_2)| \leq c t_0^{-(d+\beta)/2} \left( |t - s|^{1/2} + |x_1 - x_2| + |y_1 - y_2| \right)^\beta, \quad (4.11)$$

for any $0 < t_0 < 1$, $t, s \in [t_0, \infty)$ and $(x_i, y_i) \in \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{S}$ with $i = 1, 2$.

**Proof.** Recall that $Z_s = (U_s, V_s)$ is the space-time process of $V$, where $U_s = U_0 + s$. In the following, we suppress the superscript $D$ from $Q^D(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot)$. Without loss of generality, assume that $0 \leq q(z) \leq \|q\|_{\infty, R} = 1$ for $z \in [0, \gamma(4R)^2] \times \mathcal{S}$. By Lemma 4.7, there is a constant $c_1 > 0$ such that if $x \in \mathcal{S}$, $0 < r < 1$ and $A \subset Q(t, x, r/2)$ with $m \otimes \mu^D(A) \geq m \otimes \mu^D(Q(t, x, r/2)) \geq 1/3$, then

$$\mathbb{P}^{(t, x)}(T_A(Z) < \tau_r(Z)) \geq c_1, \quad (4.12)$$

where $\tau_r := \tau_{Q(t, x, r)}$. By Lemma 4.3 with $f(s, y, z) = 1_{B(x, r)}(y) 1_{S \setminus B(x, s)}(z)$ and $T = \tau_r$, there is a constant $c_2 > 0$ such that if $s \geq 2r$,

$$\mathbb{P}^{(t, x)}(V_{\tau_r} \notin B(x, s)) = \mathbb{E}^{(t, x)} \left[ \int_0^{\tau_r} \sum_{y \in \mathcal{S} \setminus B(x, s)} \frac{D^2 C_{U\mathcal{S}, Du}}{\mu_{U\mathcal{S}}} \, dv \right] \leq \frac{c_2}{s^2} \mathbb{E}^{(t, x)}[\tau_r] \leq \frac{c_2 r^2}{s^2}. \quad (4.13)$$
The first inequality of (4.13) is due to the following computation.

\[
\sup_{z \in B(x,r) \cap S} D^2 \sum_{y \in S \setminus B(x,s)} C_{Dz, Dy} \leq \sup_{z' \in B(Dx, Dr)} D^2 \sum_{|z' - y'| \geq Ds/2} C_{z'y'} \leq D^2 \sum_{i > Ds/2} \varphi(i)i^{d-1} \leq \frac{4}{s^2} \sum_{i} \varphi(i)i^{d+1} \leq \frac{c}{s^2},
\]

where (A3) is used in the last inequality. The last inequality of (4.13) is due to the fact \(E(t,x)\left[\tau_r\right] \leq r^2\); this is clearly true since the time interval for \(Q(t, x, r)\) is \(\gamma r^2\), which is less than \(r^2\). \(E(x, \tau B(x_0, r) \leq c_1 r^2\) is also true – see Lemma 5.3 (a).) Let

\[
\eta = 1 - \frac{c_1}{4} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho = \frac{1}{2} \wedge \left(\frac{\eta}{2}\right)^{1/2} \wedge \left(\frac{c_1 \eta}{8 c_2}\right)^{1/2}.
\]

Note that for every \((t, x) \in Q(0, x_0, R)\), \(q\) is parabolic in \(Q(t, x, R) \subset Q(0, x_0, 2R)\). We will show that

\[
\sup_{Q(t, x, \rho^k R)} \q - \inf_{Q(t, x, \rho^k R)} \q \leq \eta^k \quad \text{for all } k.
\]

(4.14)

For notational convenience, we write \(Q_i\) for \(Q(t, x, \rho^k R)\) and \(\tau_i\) for \(\tau_{Q(t, x, \rho^k R)}\). Define

\[
a_i = \inf_{Q_i} \q \quad \text{and} \quad b_i = \sup_{Q_i} \q.
\]

Clearly \(b_i - a_i \leq 1 \leq \eta^i\) for all \(i \leq 0\). Now suppose that \(b_i - a_i \leq \eta^i\) for all \(i \leq k\) and we are going to show that \(b_{k+1} - a_{k+1} \leq \eta^{k+1}\). Observe that \(Q_{k+1} \subset Q_k\) and so \(a_k \leq q \leq b_k\) on \(Q_{k+1}\). Define

\[
A' := \{ z \in Q_{k+1} : q(z) \leq (a_k + b_k)/2 \}.
\]

We may suppose \(m \otimes \mu^D(Q_{k+1}) > 1/2\), for if not we use \(1 - q\) instead of \(q\). Let \(A\) be a compact subset of \(A'\) such that \(m \otimes \mu^D(A) > 1/3\). For any given \(\varepsilon > 0\), pick \(z_1, z_2 \in Q_{k+1}\) so that
\[ q(z_1) \geq b_{k+1} - \varepsilon \text{ and } q(z_2) \leq a_{k+1} + \varepsilon. \text{ Then by } \text{(11.12)-(11.14)}, \]

\[
\begin{align*}
b_{k+1} - a_{k+1} - 2\varepsilon & \leq q(z_1) - q(z_2) \\
& = \mathbb{E}^{z_1}[q(Z_{T_{A_{\land \tau_{k+1}}}}) - q(z_2)] \\
& = \mathbb{E}^{z_1}[q(Z_{T_A}) - q(z_2); T_A < \tau_{k+1}] \\
& \quad + \mathbb{E}^{z_1}[q(Z_{\tau_{k+1}}) - q(z_2); T_A > \tau_{k+1}, Z_{\tau_{k+1}} \in Q_k] \\
& \quad + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}^{z_1}[q(Z_{\tau_{k+1}}) - q(z_2); T_A > \tau_{k+1}, Z_{\tau_{k+1}} \in Q_{k+1-i}] \\
& \leq \left( \frac{a_k + b_k}{2} - a_k \right) \mathbb{P}^{z_1}(T_A < \tau_{k+1}) \\
& \quad + (b_k - a_k) \mathbb{P}^{z_1}(T_A > \tau_{k+1}) \\
& \quad + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (b_{k-i} - a_{k-i}) \mathbb{P}^{z_1}(Z_{\tau_{k+1}} \notin Q_{k+1-i}) \\
& \leq (b_k - a_k) \left(1 - \frac{\mathbb{P}^{z_1}(T_A < \tau_{k+1})}{2}\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_2 \eta^k (\rho^2/\eta)^i \\
& \leq (1 - \frac{c_1}{2}) \eta^k + 2c_2\eta^{k-1}\rho^2 \\
& \leq (1 - \frac{c_1}{2}) \eta^k + \frac{c_1}{4} \eta^k \\
& = \eta^{k+1}.
\end{align*}
\]

Since \( \varepsilon \) is arbitrary, we have \( b_{k+1} - a_{k+1} \leq \eta^{k+1} \) and this proves (4.14).

For \( z = (s, x) \) and \( w = (t, y) \) in \( Q(0, x_0, R) \) with \( s \leq t \), let \( k \) be the largest integer such that \( |z - w| := (\gamma^{-1}|t - s|)^{1/2} + |x - y| \leq \rho^k R \). Then \( \log(|z - w|/R) \geq (k + 1) \log \rho \), \( w \in Q(s, x, \rho^k R) \) and

\[
|q(z) - q(w)| \leq \eta^k = e^{k \log \eta} \leq c_3 \left( \frac{|z - w|}{R} \right)^{\log \eta/\log \rho}. \]

This proves (4.10) with \( \beta = \log \eta/\log \rho \).

By (3.2) and Lemma 4.1, for every \( 0 < t_0 < 1, T_0 \geq 2 \) and \( y \in \mathcal{S} \), \( q(t, x) := p^D(T_0 - t, x, y) \) is a parabolic function on \([0, T_0 - \frac{3n}{2}] \times \mathcal{S}\) bounded above by \( c_4 t_0^{d/2} \).

For each fixed \( t_0 \in (0, 1) \) and \( T_0 \geq 2 \), take \( R \) such that \( \gamma R^2 = t_0/2 \). Let \( s, t \in [t_0, T_0] \) with \( s > t \) and \( x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{S} \). Assume first that

\[
|s - t|^{1/2} + |x_1 - x_2| < \gamma^{1/2} R = (t_0/2)^{1/2}
\]

and so \( (T_0 - t, x_2) \in Q(T_0 - s, x_1, R) \subset [0, T_0 - \frac{3n}{2}] \times \mathcal{S} \). Applying (4.10) to the parabolic function \( q(t, x) \) with \( (T_0 - s, x_1), (T_0 - t, x_2) \) and \( Q(T_0 - s, x_1, R) \) in place of \( (s, x), (t, y) \) and \( Q(0, x_0, R) \) respectively, we have

\[
|p^D(s, x_1, y) - p^D(t, x_2, y)| \leq c t_0^{(d+\beta)/2} \rho^{d/2} (|t - s|^{1/2} + |x_1 - x_2|)^{\beta}. \]

(4.16)
By (3.3), the inequality (4.16) is true when (4.15) does not hold. So (4.16) holds for every $t, s \in [t_0, T_0]$ and $x_1, x_2 \in S$ for all $T_0 \geq 2$. Inequality (4.11) now follows from (4.16) by the symmetry of $p(t, x, y)$ in $x$ and $y$.

5 Harnack inequality

A function $h$ defined on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ is harmonic on a subset $A$ of $\mathbb{Z}^d$ with respect to the Markov chain $X$ if

$$\sum_z h(z)P^x(X_1 = z) = h(x), \quad x \in A.$$ 

Because the Markov chain may not have bounded range, $h$ must be defined on all of $\mathbb{Z}^d$. In order to avoid $h$ possibly being infinite in $A$, we will assume that $h$ is bounded on $\mathbb{Z}^d$, but in what follows, the constants do not depend at all on the $L^\infty$ bound on $h$. We say $h$ is harmonic with respect to $Y$ if $h(Y_{t\wedge \tau_A})$ is a $\mathbb{P}^x$-martingale for each $x \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, where $\tau_A = \inf \{t : Y_t \notin A\}$. It is not hard to see that a function is harmonic for $X$ if and only if it is harmonic for $Y$, since the hitting probabilities of $X$ and $Y$ are the same. Also, because the state space is discrete, it is routine to see that a function is harmonic in a domain $A$ if and only if $\mathcal{E}(h, f) = 0$ for all bounded $f$ supported in $A$; we will not use this latter fact.

In this section we first give an example of a symmetric random walk, i.e., where $\{X_{n+1} - X_n\}$ are symmetric i.i.d. random variables, for which a uniform Harnack inequality fails. Note that the Harnack inequality does hold for each ball of radius $n$, but not with a constant independent of $n$. Let $e^j$ be the unit vector in the $x_j$ direction, $j = 1, \ldots, d$.

Let $b_n = n^{\alpha n}$ (or any other quickly growing sequence), let $a_n$ be a sequence of positive numbers tending to 0, subject only to $\sum a_n \leq 1/32$ and $\sum a_nb^2_n < \infty$. Let $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2} \sum a_n$. Let $\xi_i$ be an i.i.d. sequence of random vectors on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ with $\mathbb{P}^0(\xi_1 = \pm e^j) = (1 - \varepsilon)/(2d)$. Let $\mathbb{P}^0(\xi_1 = \pm b_ne^j) = a_n$. Let $X_n = \sum_{i=1}^n \xi_i$.

Now let $\delta \in (0, 1)$, $r_n = (1 - \delta)b_n$, $z_n = (b_n, 0)$, $B_n = B(0, r_n)$, $\tau_n = \min \{k : X_k \notin B_n\}$, and $T_0 = \min \{k : X_k = 0\}$. Define

$$h_n(x) = P^x(X_{\tau_n} = z_n).$$

Each $h_n$ is a harmonic function in $B_n$. If a uniform Harnack inequality were to hold, there would exist $C$ not depending on $n$ such that

$$h_n(0)/h_n(y) \leq C, \quad y \in B(0, r_n/2).$$

Since $\delta b_n \gg b_{n-1}$ for $n$ large, the only way $X_{\tau_n}$ can equal $z_n$ is if the random walk jumps from 0 to $z_n$. So for $y_n \in B_n$, $y_n \neq 0$,

$$h_n(y_n) = P^{y_n}(T_0 < \tau_n)h(0).$$

But we claim that if $y_n \sim r_n/4$, then $P^{y_n}(T_0 < \tau_n)$ will tend to 0 when $n \to \infty$, and then $h_n(0)/h_n(y_n) \to \infty$. So no uniform Harnack inequality exists.
The claim is true for all dimensions greater than or equal to 2, but is easier to prove when $d \geq 3$, so we concentrate on this case. We have
\[
\mathbb{P}^{y_n}(T_0 < \tau_n) \leq \mathbb{P}^{y_n}(T_0 < \infty) = \mathbb{P}^{y_n}(T_0 < r_n^{1/4}) + \mathbb{P}^{y_n}(T_0 \geq r_n^{1/4})
\]
\[
\leq \mathbb{P}^{y_n}(\max_{i \leq r_n^{1/4}} |X_i - X_0| \geq |y_n|) + \sum_{i = [r_n^{1/4}]}^{\infty} \mathbb{P}^{y_n}(X_i = 0).
\]

The first term on the last line goes to 0 by Doob’s inequality (applied to each $(X_i, e^j)$, $j = 1, \ldots, d$). By Spitzer [Sp], p. 75, the sum above is bounded by
\[
c \sum_{i = [r_n^{1/4}]}^{\infty} \frac{1}{i^{d/2}} \leq c'(r_n^{1/4})^{1-(d/2)},
\]
which goes to 0 as $n \to \infty$.

Note that by taking $a_n$ tending to 0 fast enough, $\xi_1$ can be made to be sub-Gaussian, or have even better tails.

Lawler [Law] proved that the Harnack inequality holds for a class of symmetric random walks with bounded range and also for a class of Markov chains with bounded range which are in general not reversible. The content of the next proposition is that this continues to be true for symmetric Markov chains with bounded range.

**Theorem 5.1** Suppose the Markov chain has range bounded by $K$. Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^d$. There exist constants $c_1$ and $\theta$ not depending on $x_0$ such that if $r \geq 4K(\theta^{-1} + 1)$ and $h$ is nonnegative and bounded on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ and harmonic on $B(x_0, r)$, then
\[
h(x) \leq c_1 h(y), \quad x, y \in B(x_0, \theta r).
\]

**Proof.** First let us suppose that $d \geq 3$; we will remove this restriction at the end of the proof. Let
\[
G_B(x, y) = \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^{\tau_B} 1_{\{Y_s\in B(x_0, r)\}} ds,
\]
where $\tau_B = \inf\{t : Y_t \notin B(x_0, r)\}$. $G_B$ is the Green function for the process $Y$ killed on exiting $B(x_0, r)$. Since we are assuming $d \geq 3$ and $p(t, x, y)$ is always bounded by some constant, then by (3.2) we see that $G_B$ is bounded, say by $c_2$.

It follows by Proposition 4.2 that there exists $\kappa$ such that $\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, \tau_B > t)$ is bounded below by $c_3 t^{-d/2}$ provided $|x - x_0|, |y - x_0| \leq t^{1/2}$ and $r > \kappa t^{1/2}$. Set $\theta = 1/(4\kappa)$. So integrating over $t \in [4\theta^2 r^2, 8\theta^2 r^2]$, we see $G_B(x, y) \geq c_5$ for $x, y \in B(x_0, 2\theta r)$.

Define $\overline{h}(x) = \mathbb{E}^x[h(Y_T); T < \tau_B]$, where $T = \inf\{t : Y_t \in B(x_0, 2\theta r)\}$. It is routine that $\overline{h}$ is equal to $h$ on $B' = B(x_0, \theta r)$, is 0 outside of $B(x_0, r)$, and is excessive with respect to the process $Y_t$ killed on exiting $B(x_0, r)$. The fact that $X$ has bounded range and $r > 4K(\theta^{-1} + 1)$ is what allows us to assert that $\overline{h}$ is equal to $h$ in $B(x_0, \theta r)$. See [FOT], p. 319, for the definition of excessive. By [FOT], Theorem 2.2.1, there exists a measure $\pi$ supported on $B(x_0, r)$ such that
\[
\overline{\mathcal{E}}(\overline{h}, v) = \int v(x) \pi(dx)
\]

20
for all continuous $v$ with support contained in $B(x_0, r)$, where $\tilde{E}$ is the Dirichlet form for $Y_t$ killed on exiting $B(x_0, r)$. An easy approximation argument shows that we also have

$$\tilde{E}(G_B \pi, v) = \int v(x) \pi(dx)$$

for such $v$, and we conclude $\tilde{h} = G_B \pi$. Since $\tilde{h}$ is harmonic in $B(x_0, \theta r)$ and in $B(x_0, r) \setminus B(x_0, 2\theta r)$, it is not hard to see that $\pi$ in fact is supported in $\overline{B(x_0, 2\theta r)} \setminus B(x_0, \theta r)$. So for $x, y \in B(x_0, \theta r)$, the upper and lower bounds on $G_B(x, y)$ imply

$$h(x) = \sum_z G_B(x, z) \pi(\{z\}) \leq c_2 \pi(\mathbb{Z}^d)$$

$$= \frac{c_2}{c_5} \pi(\mathbb{Z}^d) \leq \frac{c_2}{c_5} \sum_z G_B(y, z) \pi(\{z\})$$

$$= \frac{c_2}{c_5} h(y).$$

This proves the theorem when $d \geq 3$.

When $d = 2$, define a Markov chain $X'$ on $\mathbb{Z}^2$ by setting $C'_{(x_1, x_2, y_1, y_2)}$ to be equal to $C_{(x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2)}$ if $x_3 = y_3$; equal to 1 if $x_1 = y_1, x_2 = y_2,$ and $x_3 = y_3 \pm 1$; and equal to 0 otherwise. Suppose $h$ is harmonic with respect to $X$ on $A \subset \mathbb{Z}^2$. If we define $h'(x_1, x_2, x_3) = h(x_1, x_2)$, it is routine to check that $h'$ is harmonic with respect to $X'$ on $A \times \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}^3$. The Harnack inequality we just proved above applies to $h'$, and a Harnack inequality for $h$ then follows immediately. □

As the example at the beginning of this section shows, a uniform Harnack inequality need not hold when the range is unbounded, so an additional assumption is needed to handle this case. The assumption is modeled after [BK] and the proof is similar to the one in [BL2]. We assume

(A4) There exists a constant $c_1$ such that $C_{xy} \leq c_1 C_{xy'}$ whenever $|y - y'| \leq |x - y|/3$.

**Theorem 5.2** Suppose (A1)–(A3) hold and in addition (A4) holds. Suppose $x_0 \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ and $R > M_0$, where $M_0$ is defined in (A2). There exists a constant $c_1$ such that if $h$ is nonnegative and bounded on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ and harmonic on $B(x_0, 2R)$, then

$$h(x) \leq c_1 h(y), \quad x, y \in B(x_0, R). \quad (5.1)$$

Before proving Theorem 5.2 we prove a lemma. Note that (A4) is not needed for this lemma.

**Lemma 5.3** (a) $\mathbb{E}_x^x \tau_{B(x_0, r)} \leq c_1 r^2$.

(b) There exist $\theta \in (0, 1)$ and $c_1, c_2 > 0$ such that if $r > M_0/\theta$, then $\mathbb{P}_x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} \geq r^2) \geq c_2$ and $\mathbb{E}_x^x \tau_{B(x_0, r)} \geq c_3 r^2$ if $x \in B(x_0, \theta r)$.

**Proof.** If $p(t, x, y)$ denotes the transition densities for $Y_t$, we know

$$p(t, x, y) \leq c_4 t^{-d/2}.$$
So if we take $t = c_5 r^2$ for large enough $c_5$, then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t \in B(x_0, r)) = \sum_{z \in B(x_0, r)} p(t, x, z) \leq c_6 t^{-d/2} |B(x_0, r)| \leq \frac{1}{16}.
\]
This implies
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > t) \leq \frac{1}{16}.
\]
By the Markov property, for $m$ a positive integer
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > (m + 1)t) \leq \mathbb{E}^x[\mathbb{P}^{Y_m}(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > t); \tau_{B(x_0, r)} > mt] \leq \frac{1}{16} \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > mt).
\]
By induction,
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > mt) \leq 2^{-m},
\]
and the first part of (a) follows.

We also know by Proposition 4.2 that there exists $\kappa > 1$ such that
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(y, \tau_{B(x_0, r)} > t) \geq c_6 t^{-d/2}
\]
if $|x - x_0|, |y - x_0| \leq t^{1/2}$ and $r > \kappa t^{1/2}$. Therefore taking $t = r^2/\kappa^2$,
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > t) \geq \mathbb{P}^x(y, \tau_{B(x_0, r)} > t) \geq c_6 t^{-d/2} |B(x_0, t^{1/2})| \geq c_7
\]
if $x \in B(x_0, r/\kappa)$. Let $\theta = 1/\kappa$. So $\mathbb{E}^x \tau_{B(x_0, r)} \geq t \mathbb{P}^x(\tau_{B(x_0, r)} > t) \geq c_7 r^2$, which proves (b). □

**Proof of Theorem 5.2.** Let $\kappa$ and $\theta$ be as in Lemma 5.3. That a Harnack inequality inequality holds for each finite $R$ is easy, provided $R \leq 16M_0/\theta$, so it suffices to assume $R > 16M_0/\theta$.

First of all, if $z_1 \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ and $w \notin B(z_1, 2r)$, by the Lévy system formula,
\[
\mathbb{E}^x \sum_{s \leq \tau_{B(z_1, r)} \wedge t} 1_{(Y_s - x) \in B(z_1, r), Y_s = w} = \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^{\tau_{B(z_1, r)} \wedge t} C_{Y_s, w} ds.
\]
Letting $t \to \infty$, we have
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_{\tau_{B(z_1, r)}} = w) = \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^{\tau_{B(z_1, r)}} C_{Y_s, w} ds.
\]
By (A4) the right hand side is bounded above by the quantity $c_2 C_{z_1 w} \mathbb{E}^x \tau_{B(z_1, r)}$ and below by the quantity $c_3 C_{z_1 w} \mathbb{E}^x \tau_{B(z_1, r)}$. By Lemma 5.3 if $x, y \in B(z_1, \theta r)$, then $\mathbb{E}^x \tau_{B(z_1, r)} \leq c_4 \mathbb{E}^y \tau_{B(z_1, r)}$. We conclude
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_{\tau_{B(z_1, r)}} = w) \leq c_5 \mathbb{P}^y(Y_{\tau_{B(z_1, r)}} = w).
\]
Taking linear combinations, if $H$ is a bounded function supported in $B(z_1, 2r)^c$, then
\[
\mathbb{E}^x H(Y_{\tau_{B(z_1, r)}}) \leq c_5 \mathbb{E}^y H(Y_{\tau_{B(z_1, r)}}), \quad x, y \in B(z_1, \theta r).
\] (5.2)
Choose $r_0 = 8M_0/\theta$. If $r \geq r_0$, then setting $t = r^2/\kappa^2$,
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(Y_t = y, \tau_{B(z_1, r)} > t) \geq c_6 t^{-d/2}, \quad x, y \in B(z_1, \theta r).
\]
Summing over $A \subset B(z_1, \theta r)$, we see that
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(T_A < \tau_{B(z_1, r)}) \geq \mathbb{P}^x(Y_t \in A, \tau_{B(z_1, r)} > t) \geq c_6 |A| t^{-d/2} = c_6 |A| r^{-d}, \quad x \in B(z_1, \theta r). \tag{5.3}
\]
In particular, note that if $C \subset B(z_1, r)$ and $|C|/|B(z_1, r)| \geq 1/3$, then
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(T_C < \tau_{B(z_1, r)}) \geq c_7, \quad x \in B(z_1, \theta r). \tag{5.4}
\]
Next suppose $x, y \in B(z_1, \theta r_0)$. In view of (A2)
\[
\mathbb{P}^x(T_{\{y\}} < \tau_{B(z_1, r_0)}) \geq c_8.
\]
By optional stopping,
\[
1 \geq h(z_0) \geq \mathbb{E}^x[h(Y_{T_{\{y\}}^x}); T_{\{y\}} < \tau_{B(z_1, r_0)}] \\
= h(y) \mathbb{P}^x(T_{\{y\}} < \tau_{B(z_1, r_0)}) \\
\geq c_8 h(y).
\]
By looking at a constant multiple of $h$, we may assume $\inf_{B(x_0, R)} h = 1$. Choose $z_0 \in B(x_0, R)$ such that $h(z_0) = 1$. We want to show that $h$ is bounded above in $B(x_0, R)$ by a constant not depending on $h$.

Let
\[
\eta = \frac{c_7}{3}, \quad \zeta = \frac{1}{3} \wedge (c_5^{-1} \eta) \wedge c_8. \tag{5.5}
\]
Now suppose there exists $x \in B(x_0, R)$ with $h(x) = K$ for some $K$ large. Let $r$ be chosen so that
\[
2R^d/(c_6 \zeta K) \leq |B(x_0, \theta r)| \leq 4R^d/(c_6 \zeta K). \tag{5.6}
\]
Note this implies
\[
r \leq c_9 K^{-1/d} R. \tag{5.7}
\]
Without loss of generality we may assume $K$ is large enough that $r \leq \theta R/4$. Let
\[
A = \{w \in B(x, \theta r) : h(w) \geq \zeta K\}. \tag{5.8}
\]
By (5.3) and optional stopping,
\[
1 \geq h(z_0) \geq \mathbb{E}^{z_0}[h(Y_{T_A^x \wedge \tau_{B(x_0, 2R)}}); T_A < \tau_{B(x_0, 2R)}] \\
\geq \zeta K \mathbb{P}^{z_0}(T_A < \tau_{B(x_0, 2R)}) \\
\geq c_6 \zeta K |A| R^{-d},
\]
hence
\[
\frac{|A|}{|B(x, \theta r)|} \leq \frac{R^d}{c_6 \zeta K |B(x, \theta r)|} \leq \frac{1}{2}. \quad (5.9)
\]

Let \( C \) be a set contained in \( B(x, \theta r) \setminus A \) such that
\[
\frac{|C|}{|B(x, \theta r)|} \geq \frac{1}{3}. \quad (5.10)
\]

Let \( H = h_1 B(x, 2r) - \). We claim
\[
\mathbb{E}^x [h(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}); Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}} \notin B(x, 2r)] \leq \eta K.
\]

If not
\[
\mathbb{E}^x H(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}) > \eta K,
\]
and by (5.2), for all \( y \in B(x, \theta r) \),
\[
h(y) \geq \mathbb{E}^y h(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}) \geq \mathbb{E}^y [h(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}); Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}} \notin B(x, 2r)]
\]
\[
\geq c_5^{-1} \mathbb{E}^x H(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}) \geq c_5^{-1} \eta K
\]
\[
\geq \zeta K,
\]
contradicting (5.10) and the definition of \( A \).

Let \( N = \sup_{B(x, 2r)} h(z) \). We then have
\[
K = h(x) = \mathbb{E}^x [h(Y_{T_C}); T_C < \tau_{B(x,r)}] + \mathbb{E}^x [h(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}); \tau_{B(x,r)} < T_C, Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}} \in B(x, 2r)]
\]
\[
+ \mathbb{E}^x [h(Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}}); \tau_{B(x,r)} < T_C, Y_{\tau_{B(x,r)}} \notin B(x, 2r)]
\]
\[
\leq \zeta K \mathbb{P}^x (T_C < \tau_{B(x,r)}) + N \mathbb{P}^x (\tau_{B(x,r)} < T_C) + \eta K
\]
\[
= \zeta K \mathbb{P}^x (T_C < \tau_{B(x,r)}) + N (1 - \mathbb{P}^x (T_C < \tau_{B(x,r)})) + \eta K,
\]
or
\[
\frac{N}{K} \geq \frac{1 - \eta - \zeta \mathbb{P}^x (T_C < \tau_{B(x,r)})}{1 - \mathbb{P}^x (T_C < \tau_{B(x,r)})}.
\]

Using (5.4) there exists \( \beta > 0 \) such that \( N \geq K(1 + \beta) \). Therefore there exists \( x' \in B(x, 2r) \) with \( h(x') \geq K(1 + \beta) \).

Now suppose there exists \( x_1 \in B(x_0, R) \) with \( h(x_1) = K_1 \). Define \( r_1 \) and \( A_1 \) in terms of \( K_1 \) analogously to (5.6) and (5.8). Using the above argument (with \( x_1 \) replacing \( x \) and \( x_2 \) replacing \( x' \), there exists \( x_2 \in B(x_1, 2r_1) \) with \( h(x_2) = K_2 \geq (1 + \beta)K_1 \). We continue and obtain \( r_2 \) and \( A_2 \) and then \( x_3, K_3, r_3, A_3 \), etc. Note \( x_{i+1} \in B(x_i, 2r_i) \) and \( K_i \geq (1 + \beta)^{i-1} K_1 \). In view of (5.7), \( \sum_i |x_{i+1} - x_i| \leq c_{10} K_1^{-1/d} R \). If \( K_1 \) is big enough, we have a sequence \( x_1, x_2, \ldots \) contained in \( B(x_0, 3R/2) \). Since \( K_i \geq (1 + \beta)^{i-1} K_1 \) and \( r_i \leq c_{11} K_i^{-1/d} R \), there will be a first integer \( i \) for which \( r_i < 2r_0 \). But for all \( y \in B(x_i, \theta r) \) we have \( h(y) \geq c_5 h(x_i) \), so then \( A_i = B(x_i, \theta r_i) \), a contradiction to (5.9). \( \square \)
Corollary 5.4 Let $\xi_i$ be an i.i.d. sequence of symmetric random vectors taking values in $\mathbb{Z}^d$ with finite second moments. Let $X_n = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \xi_i$ and suppose $X_n$ is aperiodic. Suppose there exists $c_1$ such that
\[ P(\xi_1 = y) \leq c_1 P(\xi_1 = y') \]
whenever $|y - y'| \leq |y|/3$. Then there exists $c_2$ and $R_0$ such that for all $R$ larger than $R_0$ and any $w \not\in B(x_0, R)$,
\[ P_x(x_{\tau_{B(x_0, R)}} = w) \leq c_2 P_y(x_{\tau_{B(x_0, R)}} = w), \quad x, y \in B(x_0, R/2). \]

Proof. We let $C_{xy} = P(\xi_1 = y - x)$. Since the $\xi_i$ are symmetric, then the $X_n$ form a symmetric Markov chain, and it is easy to see that (A1)–(A4) are satisfied. We then apply Theorem 5.2 to $h(x) = P_x(x_{\tau_{B(x_0, R)}} = w)$. \[ \square \]

6 Central limit theorem

Suppose we have a sequence $C_{xy}^n$ of conductances satisfying (A1), (A2), and (A3) with constants and $\varphi$ independent of $n$. Let $Y^{(n)}_t$ be the corresponding continuous time Markov chains on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ and set
\[ Z^{(n)}_t = Y^{(n)}_{nt}/\sqrt{n}. \]

As noted previously, the Dirichlet form corresponding to the process $Z^{(n)}$ is
\[ \mathcal{E}_n(f, f) = n^{2-d} \sum_{x, y \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d} (f(y) - f(x))^2 C_{nx, ny}^n. \] (6.1)

We will also need to discuss the form
\[ \mathcal{E}_n^R(f, f) = n^{2-d} \sum_{x, y \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d} (f(y) - f(x))^2 C_{nx, ny}^{n,R}, \] (6.2)

where $C_{k,l}^{n,R}, k, l \in \mathbb{Z}^d$ is equal to $C_{k,l}^n$ if $|k - l| \leq nR$ and 0 otherwise.

Since the state space of $Z^{(n)}$ is $n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$ while the limit process will have $\mathbb{R}^d$ as its state space, we need to exercise some care with the domains of the functions we deal with. First, if $g$ is defined on $\mathbb{R}^d$, we define $R_n(g)$ to be the restriction of $g$ to $n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$:
\[ R_n(g)(x) = g(x), \quad x \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d. \]

If $g$ is defined on $n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, we next define an extension of $g$ to $\mathbb{R}^d$. The one we use is defined as follows. For $k \in \mathbb{Z}^d$, let
\[ Q_n(k) = \prod_{j=1}^{d} [n^{-1}k_j, n^{-1}(k_j + 1)]. \]

When $d = 1$, we define the extension, $E_n(g)$, to be linear in each $Q_n(k)$ and to agree with $g$ on the endpoints of each interval $Q_n(k)$. For $d > 1$ we define $E_n(g)$ inductively. We use the
definition in the \((d-1)\)-dimensional case to define \(E_n(g)\) on each face of each \(Q_n(k)\). We define \(E_n(g)\) in the interior of a \(Q_n(k)\) so that if \(L\) is any line segment contained in the \(Q_n(k)\) that is parallel to one of the coordinate axes, then \(E_n(g)\) is linear on \(L\). For example, when \(d = 2\), \(n = 1\), and \(k = (0,0)\), then

\[
E_n(g)(s,t) = g(0,0)(1-s)(1-t) + g(0,1)(1-s)t + g(1,0)s(1-t) + g(1,1)st, \quad 0 \leq s, t \leq 1.
\]

Recall \(e^j\) is the unit vector in the \(x_j\) direction and let \((x,y)\) denote the inner product in \(\mathbb{R}^d\). If \(k = (k_1, \ldots, k_d) \in \mathbb{Z}^d\), let \(\mathcal{P}(k)\) be the union of the line segment from 0 to \((k_1,0,\ldots,0)\), the line segment from \((k_1,0,\ldots,0)\) to \((k_1,k_2,0,\ldots,0)\), ..., and the line segment from \((k_1,\ldots,k_{d-1},0)\) to \(k\). For \(z \in \mathbb{Z}^d\) and \(1 \leq i \leq d\), let

\[
L_z^i = \{(y,k) \in (n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d)^2 : y + n^{-1}\mathcal{P}(nk) \text{ contains the line segment from } z \text{ to } z + n^{-1}e^i\}.
\]

We note that \((x,k) \in L_z^i\) for \(z \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d\) if and only if \((x+k)_l = z_l\) for \(l = 1, \ldots, i-1\), \(x_l = z_l\) for \(l = i+1, \ldots, d\) and \(z_l \in [x_l \wedge (x+k)_l, x_l \vee (x+k)_l]\). So, for each \(k\), the number of \(x\) that satisfies \((x,k) \in L_z^i\) is at most \(n|k_i|\).

Recall \(\text{sgn} r\) is equal to 1 if \(r > 0\), equal to 0 if \(r = 0\), and equal to \(-1\) if \(r < 0\). We define a map \(a^n\) from \(\mathbb{R}^d\) into \(\mathcal{M}\), the collection of \(d \times d\) matrices as follows: Fix \(R\). If \(x \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d\), let the \((i,j)\)-th element of \(a^n\) be given by

\[
(a^n(x))_{ij} = \sum_{(y,k) \in L_z^i} C_{ny,n(y+k)}^{n,R} nk_j \text{sgn} k_i.
\]

For general \(x = (x_i)_{i=1}^d \in \mathbb{R}^d\), we define \(a^n(x) := a^n([x]_n)\), where we set \([x]_n = (n^{-1}[nx_i])_{i=1}^d\). \(a^n(x)\) is not symmetric in general, but under (A5), we see that \((a^n(x))_{ij}\) is bounded for all \(i,j\) (which can be proved similarly to (6.21) below) and when \(n\) is large, we can use Cauchy-Schwarz, etc., as in the symmetric case. Note that if \(C_{xy}^n = 0\) for \(|x - y| > 1\) (i.e., the nearest neighbor case), then the expression in (6.3) is equal to \(2C_{nx,nx+e}^n\) if \(i = j\) and equal to 0 if \(i \neq j\). (In particular, \(a^n(x)\) is symmetric in this case.)

We make the following assumption.

(A5) There exist \(R > 0\) and a Borel measurable \(a : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathcal{M}\) such that \(a\) is symmetric and uniformly elliptic, the map \(x \to a(x)\) is continuous, and \(a^n\) converges to \(a\) uniformly on compacts sets.

We will see from the proofs below that if (A5) holds for one \(R\), then it holds for every \(R > 1\) and the limit \(a\) is independent of \(R\).

Since \(a\) is uniformly elliptic, if we define

\[
\mathcal{E}_a(f,f) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\nabla f(x), a(x) \nabla f(x)) dx,
\]

then \((\mathcal{E}_a,H^1(\mathbb{R}^d))\) is a regular Dirichlet form on \(L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)\) where \(H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)\) is the Sobolev space of square integrable functions with one square integrable derivative. Further, it is well-known that the corresponding heat kernel \(p^a(t,x,y)\) satisfies the following estimate,

\[
c_1 t^{-d/2} \exp \left( -c_2 \frac{|x-y|^2}{t} \right) \leq p^a(t,x,y) \leq c_3 t^{-d/2} \exp \left( -c_4 \frac{|x-y|^2}{t} \right),
\]

(6.4)
for all $t > 0$ and all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$. As a consequence, the corresponding diffusion (which we denote by $\{Z_t\}$) can be defined without ambiguity from any starting point.

In this section we prove the following central limit theorem. Let $C([0, t_0]; \mathbb{R}^d)$ be the collection of continuous paths from $[0, t_0]$ to $\mathbb{R}^d$.

**Theorem 6.1** Suppose (A1)-(A3) and (A5) hold.

(a) Then for each $x$ and each $t_0$ the $\mathbb{P}[x]_n$-law of $\{Z_t^{(n)}; 0 \leq t \leq t_0\}$ converges weakly with respect to the topology of the space $D([0, t_0], \mathbb{R}^d)$. The limit probability gives full measure to $C([0, t_0], \mathbb{R}^d)$.

(b) If $Z_t$ is the canonical process on $C([0, \infty), \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\mathbb{P}_x$ is the weak limit of the $\mathbb{P}[x]_n$-laws of $Z^{(n)}$, then the process $\{Z_t, \mathbb{P}_x\}$ has continuous paths and is the symmetric process corresponding to the Dirichlet form $\mathcal{E}_a$.

Before giving the proof, we discuss three examples. First, suppose each $X^{(n)}$ is the sum of i.i.d. random vectors. Then the $C_{xy}^n$ will depend only on $y - x$, and so the $a^n(x)$ will be constant in the variable $x$. Therefore, if convergence holds, the limit $a(x)$ will be constant in $x$. This means that the limit is a linear transformation of $d$-dimensional Brownian motion, as one would expect.

For another example, suppose the $X^{(n)}$ are nearest neighbor Markov chains, i.e., $C_{xy}^n = 0$ if $|x - y| \neq 1$. Then in this case the result of [SZ] is included in our Corollary 6.7.

Third, suppose $C_{xy}^n = C_{xy}$ does not depend on $n$. Unless $C_{xy}$ is a function only of $y - x$, then (2.6) of [SZ] (which is (6.2) below) will not be satisfied, and this situation is covered by Theorem 6.1 but not by the results of [SZ]. To be fair, the goal of [SZ] was not to obtain a general central limit theorem, but instead to come up with a way of approximating diffusions by Markov chains. Condition (A5) is restrictive. For this $C_{xy}^n = C_{xy}$ case, if we further assume that $C_{xy} = 0$ for $|x - y| > 1$, then $a(x)$ is always a constant matrix. Indeed, in this case the expression in (6.3) is equal to $2C_{nx, nx+e}^n\delta_{ij}$, which converges to $(a(x))_{ij}$ uniformly on compacts as $n \to \infty$ by (A5). So, for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$, the limit of $a^{n}(x/m)$ is equal to $a(x)$, i.e., $a(x/m) = a(x)$. Since $a$ is continuous, we conclude $a(x) = a(0)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Before we prove Theorem 6.1 we prove a proposition showing tightness of the laws of $Z^{(n)}$.

**Proposition 6.2** Suppose $\{n_j\}$ is a subsequence. Then there exists a further subsequence $\{n_{j_k}\}$ such that

(a) For each $f$ that is $C^\infty$ on $\mathbb{R}^d$ with compact support, $E_{2_{jk}}(P_t^{n_{jk}} R_{n_{jk}}(f))$ converges uniformly on compact subsets; if we denote the limit by $P_t f$, then the operator $P_t$ is linear and extends to all continuous functions on $\mathbb{R}^d$ with compact support and is the semigroup of a symmetric strong Markov process on $\mathbb{R}^d$ with continuous paths.

(b) For each $x$ and each $t_0$ the $\mathbb{P}[x]_{n_{jk}}$ law of $\{Z_t^{(n_{jk})}; 0 \leq t \leq t_0\}$ converges weakly to a probability $\mathbb{P}_x$ giving full measure to $C([0, t_0]; \mathbb{R}^d)$.

**Proof.** Let $t_0 > 0$ and $\eta > 0$. Let $\tau_n$ be stopping times bounded by $t_0$ and let $\delta_n \to 0$. Then by Proposition 3.4 and the strong Markov property,

$$\limsup_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}(|Z_{\tau_n + \delta_n}^{(n)} - Z_{\tau_n}^{(n)}| > \eta) = 0.$$
This, Proposition \textbf{3.4} and \textbf{A} imply that the laws of the \(\{Z^{(n)}\}\) are tight in \(D[0, t_0]\) for each \(t_0\).

Fix \(t_0\) and \(\eta > 0\). \(Z^{(n)}\) will have a jump of size larger than \(\eta\) before time \(t_0\) only if \(|Y^{(n)}_{t_0} - Y^{(n)}_{t_0^-}| \geq \eta \sqrt{n}\) for some \(t \leq t_0\). By the Lévy system formula, the probability of this is bounded by

\[
\mathbb{E}^x \sum_{s \leq nt_0} 1_{\{|Y^{(n)}_s - Y^{(n)}_{s-}| \geq \eta \sqrt{n}\}} = \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^{nt_0} \sum_{|x - Y^{(n)}_s| \geq \eta \sqrt{n}} C_{Y^{(n)}_s}^{m} \, ds
\]

\[
\leq c_1(nt_0) \sum_{i \geq \eta \sqrt{n}} \varphi(i)^{d-1}
\]

\[
\leq c_1 t_0 \eta^{-2} \sum_{i \geq \eta \sqrt{n}} \varphi(i)^{d+1},
\]

which tends to 0 by dominated convergence as \(n \to \infty\). Since this is true for each \(t_0\) and \(\eta > 0\) we conclude that any subsequential limit point of the sequence \(Z^{(n)}\) will have continuous paths.

From this point on the argument is fairly standard. We give a sketch, leaving the details to the reader. Take a countable dense subset \(\{t_i\}\) of \([0, \infty)\) and a countable dense subset \(\{f_m\}\) of the \(C^\infty\) functions on \(\mathbb{R}^d\) with compact support. Let \(P^n_t\) be the semigroup for \(Z^{(n)}\). In view of Theorem \textbf{1.4}, \(E_{n_j}(P^n_{t_j}(R_{n_j}(f_m)))\) will be equicontinuous. By a diagonalization argument, we can find a subsequence \(\{n_{j_k}\}\) of \(\{n_j\}\) such that for each \(i\) and \(m\), as \(n_{j_k} \to \infty\), these functions converge uniformly on compact sets. Call the limit \(P_t f_m\). Using the equicontinuity, we can define \(P_t f_m\) by continuity for all \(t\), and because the norm of each \(P_t\) is bounded by 1, we can also define \(P_t f\) by continuity for \(f\) continuous with compact support. Using the equicontinuity yet again, it is easy to see that the \(P_t\) satisfy the semigroup property and that \(P_t\) maps continuous functions with compact support into continuous functions. One can thus construct a strong Markov process that has \(P_t\) as its semigroup. The symmetry of \(P^n_t\) leads to the symmetry of \(P_t\).

For each \(x\), the \(P[x]^{n_j}\) laws of \(\{Z^{(n_j)}_t; 0 \leq t \leq t_0\}\) are tight. Fix \(x\), let \(\{n'\}\) be any subsequence of \(\{n_{j_k}\}\) along which the \(P[x]^{n'}\) converge weakly, and let \(P\) be the weak limit of the subsequence \(P[x]^{n'}\). Suppose \(F\) is a continuous functional on \(C([0, t_0]; \mathbb{R}^d)\) of the form \(F(\omega) = \prod_{i=1}^L g_i(\omega(s_i))\), where the \(g_i\) are continuous with compact support and \(0 \leq s_1 < \cdots < s_L \leq t_0\). When \(L = 1\), then

\[
\mathbb{E} g_1(Z_{s_1}) = \lim \mathbb{E}^{[x]^{n'}} R_{n'} g_1(Z_{s_1}^{(n')})
= \lim P^{n'}_{s_1} R_{n'} g_1([x]^{n'})
= P_{s_1} g_1(x).
\]

Thus the one-dimensional distributions of a subsequential limit point of the \(\mathbb{P}[x]^{n_{j_k}}\) do not depend on the subsequence \(\{n'\}\). Using the Markov property of \(Z^{(n)}\) and the equicontinuity, a similar argument shows that the same is true of the \(L\)-dimensional distributions. Therefore there must be weak convergence along the subsequence \(\{n_{j_k}\}\). As proved above, the weak limit is concentrated on the set of continuous paths. \hfill \Box

\textbf{Proof of Theorem \textbf{6.1}} We denote the Dirichlet form for the process \(Z^{(n)}\) by \(\mathcal{E}_n\). Suppose
\( f, g \) are \( C^\infty \) on \( \mathbb{R}^d \) with compact support. Let \( U^n_\lambda \) be the \( \lambda \)-resolvent for \( Z^{(n)} \); this means that

\[
U^n_\lambda h(x) = \mathbb{E}^x \int_0^\infty e^{-\lambda t} h(Z^{(n)}_t) \, dt
\]

for \( x \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d \) and \( h \) having domain \( n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d \). We write \( P^n_t \) for the semigroup for \( Z^{(n)} \).

Using Proposition 6.2, we need to show that if we have a subsequential limit point of the \( P^n_t \) in the sense of that proposition, then the limiting process corresponds to the Dirichlet form \( \mathcal{E}_\alpha \). Let \( \{n'\} \) be a subsequence of \( \{n\} \) for which the subsequence converges in the sense of Proposition 6.2 and let \( U_\lambda \) be the \( \lambda \)-resolvent of the limiting process.

Let \( F_{n'} = U^n_\lambda (R_{n'}(f)) \). Then

\[
\mathcal{E}_{n'}(F_{n'}, R_{n'}(g)) = (R_{n'}(f), R_{n'}(g)) - \lambda(F_{n'}, R_{n'}(g)), \tag{6.5}
\]

where we let \((h_1, h_2) = \sum_{x\in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d} h_1(x)h_2(x)\mu^D_x\) for functions defined on \( n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d \). (Recall that our base measure is \( \mu^D \).) Let \( H_n = E_n(F_n) \) and \( H = U_\lambda f \). The equicontinuity result of Theorem 4.4 and Proposition 6.2 shows that the \( H_{n'} \) converges uniformly on compacts to \( H \). If we can show

\[
\mathcal{E}_{\alpha}(H, g) = (f, g) - \lambda(H, g), \tag{6.6}
\]

this will show that the \( \lambda \)-resolvent for the limiting process is the same as the \( \lambda \)-resolvent for the process corresponding to \( \mathcal{E}_\alpha \), and the proof will be complete; we also use \((h_1, h_2)\) to denote \( \int h_1(x)h_2(x) \, dx \) when \( h_1, h_2 \) are functions defined on \( \mathbb{R}^d \).

Next, since \( f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \) and \( f \) is \( C^\infty \), then \( R_n(f) \in L^2(d\mu_n) \). Standard Dirichlet form theory shows that

\[
\|U^n_\lambda (R_n(f))\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \|R_n(f)\|_2,
\]

that is, the \( L^2 \) norm of \( F_n \) is bounded in \( n \). We see that

\[
\int |\nabla H_n(x)|^2 \, dx \leq c_1 \mathcal{E}_n(F_n, F_n) = c_1((R_n(f), F_n) - \lambda(F_n, F_n)) \tag{6.7}
\]

is bounded in \( n \). By the compact imbedding of \( W^{1,2} \) into \( L^2 \), we conclude that \( \{H_n\} \) is a compact sequence in \( L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \); here \( W^{1,2} \) is the space of functions whose gradient is square integrable. Since \( H_{n'} \) converges on compacts to \( H \), it follows that \( H_{n'} \) converges in \( L^2 \) to \( H \).

We note also that by (6.5)

\[
\mathcal{E}_n(F_n, F_n) = (R_n(f), F_n) - \lambda(F_n, F_n), \tag{6.8}
\]

is uniformly bounded in \( n \).

We need to know that

\[
|\mathcal{E}_n^R(F_n, R_n(g)) - \mathcal{E}_{\alpha n}(H_n, g)| \to 0 \tag{6.9}
\]

as \( n \to \infty \). The proof of this is a bit lengthy and we defer it to Lemma 6.3 below.

We also need to show that

\[
|\mathcal{E}_n(F_n, R_n(g)) - \mathcal{E}_n^R(F_n, R_n(g))| \to 0 \tag{6.10}
\]
as $n \to \infty$. This follows because by Cauchy-Schwarz, we have
\[
\begin{align*}
\left| \sum_{x,y\in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left( F_n(y) - F_n(x) \right) n^{2-d} C^m_{n,x,y} (R_n(g)(y) - R_n(g)(x)) \right. \\
\left. - \sum_{x,y\in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left( F_n(y) - F_n(x) \right) n^{2-d} C^m_{n,x,y} (R_n(g)(y) - R_n(g)(x)) \right| \\
\leq c \mathcal{E}_n(F_n, F_n)^{1/2} \left[ \sum_{x,y\in \mathbb{Z}^d} n^{2-d} (C^m_{n,x,y} - C^m_{n,x,y}) (R_n(g)(y) - R_n(g)(x))^2 \right]^{1/2}.
\end{align*}
\]

The term within the brackets on the last line is bounded by
\[
c\|\nabla g\|_2^2 \sup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d, |x-y|>nR} |x-y|^2 C_{xy}^m \leq c' \sum_{i>nR} i^{d-1} i^2 \varphi(i),
\]
which will be less than $\varepsilon^2$ if $n$ is large.

Using (6.5), (6.6), (6.9), and (6.10), we see that it suffices to show
\[
\mathcal{E}_{a,n'}(H_{n'}, g) \to \mathcal{E}_a(H, g).
\] (6.11)

Now
\[
|\mathcal{E}_{a,n'}(H_{n'}, g) - \mathcal{E}_a(H_{n'}, g)| = \left| \int \nabla H_{n'} \cdot (a'' - a) \nabla g \right|.
\] (6.12)

Since $\nabla g$ is bounded with compact support and $|\nabla H_{n'}|$ is bounded in $L^2$, then (A5) and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality tell us that the right hand side of (6.12) tends to 0 as $n \to \infty$. Therefore we need to show
\[
\mathcal{E}_a(H_{n'}, g) \to \mathcal{E}_a(H, g).
\] (6.13)

But if $\nabla h$ is bounded with compact support, then
\[
\int (\nabla H_{n'}) h = - \int H_{n'} \nabla h \to - \int H \nabla h = \int (\nabla H) h.
\] (6.14)

If we take the supremum over such $h$ that also have $L^2$ norm bounded by 1, then Fatou’s lemma and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality show that $\nabla H$ is in $L^2$. If $h$ is bounded with compact support, let $\varepsilon > 0$ and approximate $h$ by a $C^1$ function $\tilde{h}$ with compact support such that $\|h - \tilde{h}\|_2 \leq \varepsilon$. Since $|\nabla H_n|$ is bounded in $L^2$, then $\int \nabla H_{n'}(h - \tilde{h}) \leq c_1 \varepsilon$ and $|\int \nabla H(h - \tilde{h})| \leq c_1 \varepsilon$. So by (6.14)
\[
\limsup_{n' \to \infty} \left| \int \nabla H_{n'} h - \int \nabla H h \right| \leq 2 c_1 \varepsilon.
\]

Because $\varepsilon$ is arbitrary, we have
\[
\int \nabla H_{n'} h \to \int \nabla H h.
\] (6.15)

If we apply (6.15) with $h = a \nabla g$, we obtain (6.13). \qed

To complete the proof we have
Lemma 6.3 With the notation of the above proof,
\[ |\mathcal{E}_n^R(F_n, R_n(g)) - \mathcal{E}_n(H_n, g)| \to 0 \]
as \(n \to \infty\).

Proof. Step 1. Let \(\varepsilon, \eta_1, \eta_2, \delta > 0\) and let \(\{S_m\}\) be a collection of cubes with disjoint interiors whose union contains the support of \(g\) and such that the oscillation of \(a\) on each \(S_m\) is less than \(\eta_1\) and the oscillation of \(\nabla g\) on each \(S_m\) is less than \(\eta_2\). One way to construct such a collection is to take a cube large enough to contain the support of \(g\), divide it into \(2^d\) equal subcubes, and then divide each of the subcubes and so on until the oscillation restrictions are satisfied.

Step 2. Let \(S_m'\) be the cube with the same center as \(S_m\) but side length \((1 - 2\delta)\) times as long. Let \(A = \bigcup_m (S_m - S_m')\). We claim it suffices to show that
\[
\left| \int_A \nabla H_n(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx \right. \\
\left. - \sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} (F_n(y) - F_n(x))n^{2-d}C_{n_x,n_y}^{m,R}(R_n(y) - R_n(g)(x)) \right| \\
\to 0 \quad (6.16)
\]
as \(n \to \infty\). To see this, note first that by Cauchy-Schwarz and (6.7)
\[
\int_A \nabla H_n(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx \leq \mathcal{E}_n(H_n, H_n)^{1/2} \left( \int_A \nabla g(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx \right)^{1/2} \leq c\mathcal{E}_n(H_n, H_n)^{1/2}\|\nabla g\|_{\infty}\lambda^1/2
\]
will be less than \(\varepsilon\) if \(\delta\) is taken sufficiently small. Next note that for any \(x \in n^{-1}Z^d\),
\[
\sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} n^{2-d}C_{n_x,n_y}^{m,R}(R_n(y) - R_n(g)(x))^2 \leq n^{-d}\|\nabla g\|_{\infty}^2 \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} C_{n_x,n_y}^{m,R} |ny - nx|^2 \leq cn^{-d}.
\]
So by Cauchy-Schwarz and (6.8)
\[
\sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} (F_n(y) - F_n(x))n^{2-d}C_{n_x,n_y}^{m,R}(R_n(y) - R_n(g)(x)) \leq \mathcal{E}_n(F_n, F_n)^{1/2} \left( \sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} n^{2-d}C_{n_x,n_y}^{m,R}(R_n(y) - R_n(g)(x))^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq c\mathcal{E}_n(F_n, F_n)^{1/2}\left( n^{-d}\text{card}\{(A \cap n^{-1}Z^d)\} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (6.17)
\]
which will be less than \(\varepsilon\) if \(\delta\) is taken small enough and \(n\) is large.
Step 3. Let $x_m$ be the center of $S_m$. Define $\overline{g}$ by requiring $\overline{g}$ to be linear on each $S_m$ and satisfying $\overline{g}(x_m) = g(x_m)$, $\nabla \overline{g}(x_m) = \nabla g(x_m)$. We claim it suffices to show that
\[
\left| \int_{A^c} \nabla H_n(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx - \sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} (F_n(y) - F_n(x)) n^{2-d} C_{nx,ny}^{m,R} (R_n(\overline{g})(y) - R_n(\overline{g})(x)) \right| \to 0
\]  
(6.18)
To see this, note that
\[
\left| \int_{A^c} \nabla H_n(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx - \int_{A^c} \nabla H_n(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx \right|
\leq E_a^n(H_n, H_n)^{1/2} \left( \int_{A^c} \nabla (\overline{g} - g)(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla (\overline{g} - g)(x) \, dx \right)^{1/2}
\leq c E_a^n(H_n, H_n)^{1/2} \eta_2,
\]
which will be less than $\varepsilon$ if $\eta_2$ is chosen small enough. A similar argument shows that the difference between the second term in (6.18) and the corresponding term with $\overline{g}$ replaced by $g$ is small; cf. Step 2.

Step 4. Let $C_{xy}^{n,\delta/2} = C_{xy}^{n,\delta/2}$ and define $\overline{\sigma}^n(x)$ by $(\overline{\sigma}^n(x))_{ij} = \sum_{(y, k) \in L_z} C_{ny,n(y + k)}^{n,k} n k_j \text{sgn} k_i$. We claim it suffices to show that
\[
\left| \int_{A^c} \nabla H_n(x) \cdot \overline{\sigma}^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx - \sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} (F_n(y) - F_n(x)) n^{2-d} C_{nx,ny}^{n}(R_n(\overline{g})(y) - R_n(\overline{g})(x)) \right| \to 0
\]  
(6.19)
To prove this, we first note that the following can be proved in the same way as (6.10).
\[
\left| \sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} (F_n(y) - F_n(x)) n^{2-d} C_{nx,ny}^{n}(R_n(\overline{g})(y) - R_n(\overline{g})(x)) \right|
- \sum_{x \notin A, x \in n^{-1}Z^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1}Z^d} (F_n(y) - F_n(x)) n^{2-d} C_{nx,ny}^{n,R}(R_n(\overline{g})(y) - R_n(\overline{g})(x)) \right| \to 0,
\]
as $n \to \infty$. Next,
\[
\left| \int_{A^c} \nabla H_n(x) \cdot \overline{\sigma}^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx - \int_{A^c} \nabla H_n(x) \cdot a^n(x) \nabla g(x) \, dx \right|
\leq c \left( \int_{A^c} (\nabla H_n(x))^2 \, dx \right)^{1/2} \left( \int_{A^c} (\overline{\sigma}^n(x) - a^n(x))(\nabla g(x))^2 \right)^{1/2}.
\]  
(6.20)
We can estimate
\[
\left| (\tau^n(x) - a^n(x))_{ij} \right| \leq \sum_{(y,k) \in L^i} |C^n_{ny,n(y+k)} - C^n_{ny,n(y+k)}| nk_j
\]
\[
\leq c_1 \sup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d, |x-y| > n\delta/2} |x-y|^2 C^n_{xy} \leq c_2 \sum_{i > n\delta/2} \delta^{d-1-i^2} \varphi(i),
\]
(6.21)

where in the second inequality, we used the fact that for each \( k \), the number of \( y \) that satisfies \((y,k) \in L^i_z\) is at most \( n|k_i| \) (as mentioned when we defined \( L^i_z \)). So the right hand side of (6.20) will be less than \( \varepsilon \) if \( n \) is large.

**Step 5.** We have chosen the \( S_m \) so that the oscillation of \( a \) on each \( S_m \) is at most \( \eta_1 \). Since we have that the \( a^n \) converge to the \( a \) uniformly on compacts and there are only finitely many \( S_m \)'s, then for \( n \) large the oscillation of \( a^n \) on any \( S_m \) will be at most \( 2\eta_1 \).

**Step 6.** We will now prove (6.19). By Step 3, \( \overline{g} \) is linear on each \( S_m \), so it is enough to discuss the case where \( \overline{g}(x) = x_{j_0} \) on \( S'_m \) for some \( j_0 \) and then use a linearity argument. Noting that \( H_n = F_n \) on \( n^{-1} \mathbb{Z}^d \), define
\[
E_{n}^{S'_m}(H_n, \overline{g}) := \sum_{x \in S_m \cap n^{-1} \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{y \in n^{-1} \mathbb{Z}^d} (H_n(y) - H_n(x))n^{-2-i} C^n_{nx,ny}(R_n(\overline{g})(y) - R_n(\overline{g})(x)).
\]

Since there is no term involving different \( S_m \)'s, we will consider each \( S_m \) separately. We will fix an \( x_0 \in S'_m \) and look at the terms involving \( H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(x_0) \). First, by an elementary computation using the definition of the linear extension map \( E_n \), we have
\[
\int_{Q_n(x_0)} \frac{\partial H_n}{\partial x_i} dx = \frac{1}{2^{d-i}n^{d-1}} \sum_{z \in V_i(x_0)} (H_n(z + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(z)),
\]
(6.22)

where \( V_i(x_0) \) is the collection of vertices of the face of \( Q_n(x_0) \) perpendicular to \( e_i \) and with the smaller \( e_i \) component. (E.g., for a square, \( V_1(x_0) \) is the two leftmost corners, \( V_2(x_0) \) is the two lower corners.) So
\[
\int_{Q_n(x_0)} (\nabla H_n, \tau^n \nabla \overline{g}) dx = \sum_{i,j=1}^d \int_{Q_n(x_0)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} H_n a^n_{ij} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \overline{g} dx = \sum_i \overline{a}^n_{ij_0}(x_0) \int_{Q_n(x_0)} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} H_n dx
\]
\[
= \sum_i \overline{a}^n_{ij_0}(x_0) \frac{1}{2^{d-i}n^{d-1}} \sum_{z \in V_i(x_0)} (H_n(z + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(z)).
\]

Summing over all cubes that contains \( H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(x_0) \), the coefficient in front of \( H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(x_0) \) will be
\[
\frac{n^{1-d}}{2^{d-1}} \sum_{z \in V_i(x_0 + n^{-1}e_{i-e_\ast})} \overline{a}^n_{ij_0}(z),
\]
(6.23)

where \( e_\ast = (1/n, ..., 1/n) \).
We next look at $\mathcal{E}_n^{S_m'}(H_n, \overline{\eta})$. Since $\overline{\eta}(x + k) - \overline{\eta}(x) = k_j$, where $k = (k_1, \ldots, k_d)$, we have

$$\mathcal{E}_n^{S_m'}(H_n, \overline{\eta}) = n^{2-d} \sum_{x \in S_m' \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d, k \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d} (H_n(x + k) - H_n(x)) \overline{c}_{nx,n(x+k)}^{-1} k_j.$$ 

Let us fix $x$ and $k$ and replace $(H_n(x + k) - H_n(x))$ by the sum $\sum_{m=1}^{[k]} (H_n(z_{m+1}) - H_n(z_m))$ (here $[k] := [k_1] + \ldots + [k_d]$ and $|z_{m+1} - z_m| = 1/n$) so that the union of the line segments belongs to $x + n^{-1}P(k)$. We will get a term of the form $H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(x_0)$ if $z_m = x_0$ and $z_{m+1} = x_0 + n^{-1}e_i$ (we get $H_n(x_0) - H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i)$ if $z_{m+1} = x_0$ and $z_m = x_0 + n^{-1}e_i$), so the contribution will be

$$n^{2-d} \overline{c}_{nx,n(x+k)}^{-1} k_j (\text{sgn } k_i).$$

Summing over $x \in S_m' \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, $k \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, we have that the coefficient in front of $H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(x_0)$ for $\mathcal{E}_n^{S_m'}(H_n, \overline{\eta})$ is

$$n^{2-d} \sum_{x \in S_m' \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d, (x,k) \in L_{x_0}^i} \overline{c}_{nx,n(x+k)}^{-1} k_j (\text{sgn } k_i).$$

(6.24)

On the other hand, by the definition of $\overline{\eta}$, we have

$$n^{2-d} \sum_{(x,k) \in L_{x_0}^i} \overline{c}_{nx,n(x+k)}^{-1} k_j (\text{sgn } k_i) = n^{1-d} a_{x_0}^{-1}(x_0).$$

(6.25)

Let $S_m''$ be the cube with the same center as $S_m'$ but side length $(1 - 2\delta)$ times as long. If $x_0 \in S_m'' \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, then the expressions in (6.24) and (6.25) are equal, because $\overline{c}_{nx,n(x+k)} = 0$ for $x \notin S_m'' \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, $(x,k) \in L_{x_0}^i$. Since the oscillation of $\overline{\eta}$ on each $S_m'$ is less that $2\eta_1$ as in Step 5, by (6.21) the oscillation of $\overline{\eta}$ on each $S_m'$ is less that $3\eta_1$. Thus, when $x_0 \in S_m'' \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, we see that the absolute value of the difference between (6.23) and (6.24) is bounded by $3\eta_1 n^{-1-d}$. (Note that card $V_i(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i - e_i) = 2^{d-1}$ is used here.) Now, if $x_0 \in (S_m' - S_m'') \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$, then the difference between (6.23) and (6.24) is bounded by $c_x n^{-1-d}$, because similarly to (6.21) we have

$$\sum_{(x,k) \in L_{x_0}^i} \overline{c}_{nx,n(x+k)}^{-1} n k_j (\text{sgn } k_i) \leq c_x \sup_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sum_{y \in \mathbb{Z}^d} |x - y|^2 C_{xy}^m \leq c_x \sum |i|^{d^{-1}} n^{i^2} \phi(i) =: c_x.$$ 

Denote $H_{x_0,i} := H_n(x_0 + n^{-1}e_i) - H_n(x_0)$, $A' := (\cup_m (S_m' - S_m'')) \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$ and $B := (\cup_m S_m'') \cap n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d$. Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\left| \int_{\cup_m S_m'} (\nabla H_n, \overline{\eta} \nabla \overline{\eta}) dx - \sum_m \mathcal{E}_n^{S_m'}(H_n, \overline{\eta}) \right| \leq \eta n^{-1-d} \sum_{x_0 \in B, i = 1, \ldots, d} |H_{x_0,i}| + c_x n^{-1-d} \sum_{x_0 \in A', i = 1, \ldots, d} |H_{x_0,i}|$$

$$\leq c_1 \eta \left( n^{-d} \text{card } B \right)^{1/2} \left( n^{2-d} \sum_{x_0 \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d,i} (H_{x_0,i})^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

(6.27)

$$+ c_x \left( n^{-d} \text{card } A' \right)^{1/2} \left( n^{2-d} \sum_{x_0 \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d,i} (H_{x_0,i})^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq c_2 (\eta + \varepsilon) \left( n^{2-d} \sum_{x_0 \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d,i} (H_{x_0,i})^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq c_3 (\eta + \varepsilon),$$

34
if $\delta$ is taken small enough and $n$ is large. We thus complete the proof of (6.19).  

When $d = 1$, Lemma 6.3 can be proved under much milder conditions.

(A6) There exists $R > 0$ and a Borel measurable $a : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathcal{M}$ such that for each $r > 0$

$$
\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{|x| \leq r} |a^n(x) - a(x)|dx = 0. \tag{6.28}
$$

**Corollary 6.4** Let $d = 1$ and suppose (A1)-(A3) and (A6) hold. Then the conclusions of Theorem 6.1 hold.

**Proof:** The proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 6.1. Let us point out the places where we need modifications. First, we can prove that there exist $c_1, c_2 > 0$ such that $c_1 \leq a^n(x) \leq c_2$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Indeed, by (A2) the lower bound is guaranteed and the upper bound can be proved similarly to (6.21). So, we know $\mathcal{E}_{a^n}(f, f)$ is bounded whenever $f \in L^2$. For the proof that the right hand side of (6.12) goes to 0 as $n \to \infty$, we use (6.28). (To be more precise, the convergence of $a^n$ to $a$ locally in $L^2$ is used there, which is guaranteed by (6.28) and the fact that the $a^n$ are uniformly bounded.) Noting these facts, the proofs of Theorem 6.1 and Proposition 6.2 go the same way as above. For the proof of Lemma 6.3 in Step 1, we do not need to control the oscillation of $a$ on each $S_m$. Step 5 is not needed. We have that the expression (6.23) is equal to $|a_n(x_0)|$, and this is equal to the expression in (6.25). (This is a key point; because of this we do not have to worry about the oscillation of $a$ and $a^n$.) Finally, in the computation of (6.26), the difference on the set $B$ is 0 due to the fact just mentioned, and we can prove that (6.26) is small directly.  

We now give an extension of the result in [SZ] to the case of unbounded range. Assume

(A7) There exists $R > 0$ such that for each $r > 1$

$$
\lim_{n \to \infty} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sup_{|y| \leq nr} \sup_{|x-y| \leq nR} \left| C^{n,R}_{x,x+k} - C^{n,R}_{y,y+k} \right| = 0. \tag{6.29}
$$

Let the $(i, j)$-th element of $b^n$ be given by

$$
(b^n(x))_{ij} = \sum_{k \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d} C^{n,R}_{nx,n(x+k)}n^2k_ik_j, \quad x \in n^{-1}\mathbb{Z}^d. \tag{6.30}
$$

For general $x = (x_i)_{i=1}^d \in \mathbb{R}^d$, define $b^n(x) := b^n([x]_n)$. Assume the $b^n$ version of (A6);

(A8) There exists $R > 0$ and a Borel measurable $a : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathcal{M}$ such that for each $r > 0$

$$
\lim_{n \to \infty} \int_{|x| \leq r} |b^n(x) - a(x)|dx = 0. \tag{6.31}
$$

We can recover and generalize the convergence theorem given in [SZ] as follows.
Corollary 6.5 Suppose that (A1)-(A3), (A7), and (A8) hold. Then the conclusions of Theorem [6.7] hold.

Proof: For each \( \varepsilon > 0 \), let \( R' = R'(\varepsilon) > 0 \) be an integer that satisfies \( \sum_{s \geq R'} \varphi(s)s^2 < \varepsilon \). Note that \( C_{x,y}^m = C_{x,y}^{m,R'/n} + 1_{\{|x-y|>R\}}C_{x,y}^{m,R} \). Then, for any \( r \geq 1 \), any \( x \in \mathbb{Z}^d \) such that \( |x| \leq r \), and any \( n \geq R'/R \), we have

\[
\left| (a^n(x))_{ij} - (b^n(x))_{ij} \right| \leq \sum_{k' \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left| \sum_{y:(y,k') \in L_{x}^{k'}} C_{ny,ny+k'}^{m,R} k' \right| k' \leq R'^2 \left( \sum_{k' \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sup_{k' \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sup_{|y| \leq nR} |x'_{y,k'} - C_{x,y}^{m,R}| \right) + 2 \sum_{s \geq R'} \varphi(s)s^2 \leq R'^2 \left( \sum_{k' \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \sup_{|y| \leq nR} |x'_{y,k'} - C_{x,y}^{m,R}| \right) + 2 \varepsilon ,
\]

where \( L_{x}^{k'} = \{(y,k') \in (\mathbb{Z}^d) \times \mathbb{Z}^d : y + n^{-1}P(k') \) contains the line segment from \( z \) to \( z + n^{-1}e^i \}. \) In the second inequality, we used the fact that \( (y,k') \in L_{x}^{k'} \) and \( x' = nx, y' = ny \), then \( |x' - y'| = n|x - y| \leq n|k'|/n = k' \leq n \cdot R'/n = R' \). Using (6.29) in (A7), the right hand side converges to 0 as \( n \to \infty \). In other words,

\[
| (a^n(x))_{ij} - (b^n(x))_{ij} | \to 0 \quad \text{uniformly on compacts as} \quad n \to \infty . \tag{6.32}
\]

Similarly, for any \( r \geq 1 \), we can prove

\[
| (b^n(x))_{ij} - (b^n(y))_{ij} | \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad n \to \infty , \quad |x - y| \leq n^{-1}R , \quad |x| \leq r . \tag{6.33}
\]

Now the proof of this corollary goes similarly to the proofs above. As before we point out places where we need modifications. First, as in Corollary 6.4 we can prove that there exist \( c_1, c_2 > 0 \) such that \( c_1 I \leq b^n(x) \leq c_2 I \) for all \( x \in \mathbb{R}^d \) and \( n \in \mathbb{N} \). So we know \( E_{b^n}(f, f) \) is bounded whenever \( f \in L^2 \). As in Corollary 6.4, we use (6.31) to show that the right hand side of (6.12) goes to 0 as \( n \to \infty \). Noting these facts, the proofs of Theorem 6.1 and Proposition 6.2 go in the same way as before. For the proof of Lemma 6.3 in Step 1, we do not need to control the oscillation of \( a \) on each \( S_{m} \). Step 4 with respect to \( b^n \) works due to (6.32). Step 5 is not needed. Thanks to (6.32) and (6.33), the difference between the expression in (6.23) (with \( a \) replaced by \( b \)) and the expression in (6.25) is small. (This is again the key point; because of this we do not have to worry about the oscillation of \( a \) and \( b^n \).) Finally, in the computation of (6.26), the difference on the set \( B \) is small due to the fact just mentioned. \( \square \)

Remark 6.6 If (A7) does not hold, \( b^n \) need not be the right approximation in general. Indeed, here is an example where \( a^n \) converges to \( a \), but \( b^n \) does not as \( n \to \infty \). Suppose \( d = 1 \) and let \( C_{k,k+i}^{m} \) equal \( r_i \) if \( k \) is odd, \( s_i \) if \( k \) is even, \( i = 1, 2 \). Then, we have

\[
b^n(k/n) = \begin{cases} r_1 + s_1 + 8r_2, & \text{if } k \text{ is odd,} \\ r_1 + s_1 + 8s_2, & \text{if } k \text{ is even.} \end{cases}
\]

\[
a^n(k/n) = \begin{cases} 2r_1 + 4(r_2 + s_2), & \text{if } k \text{ is odd,} \\ 2s_1 + 4(r_2 + s_2), & \text{if } k \text{ is even.} \end{cases}
\]
Suppose $r_1 = s_1$ and $r_2 \neq s_2$. Then, the value of $b^n(k/n)$ depends on whether $k$ is odd or even, so $b^n$ does not converge locally in $L^2$ as $n \to \infty$, whereas $a^n(k/n) = 2r_1 + 4(r_2 + s_2)$ is constant. In this case, the assumption of Theorem 6.1 (and Corollary 6.4) holds and $a(x) = 2r_1 + 4(r_2 + s_2)$.

Theorem 6.1 gives a central limit theorem for the processes $Y^{(n)}$. Note that the base measure for $Y^{(n)}$ is the uniform measure, which converges with respect to Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}^d$. We finally discuss the convergence of the discrete time Markov chains $X^{(n)}$. Let $Y^{(n)}$ be the continuous time $\nu$-symmetric Markov chain on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ which corresponds to $(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F})$. It is a time change of $Y_\nu$ and it can be defined from $X_n$ as follows. Let $\{U_i : i \in \mathbb{N}, x \in \mathbb{Z}^d\}$ be an independent collection of exponential random variables with parameter 1 that are independent of $X_n$. Define $T_0 = 0, T_n = \sum_{k=1}^{n} U_k$. Set $Y^{(n)} = X_n$ if $T_n \leq t < T_{n+1}$; then the laws of $Y^{(n)}$ and $Y^{\nu}$ are the same. Let $\nu^D$ be a measure on $\mathcal{S}$ defined by $\nu^D(A) = D^{-d} \nu(DA)$ for $A \subset \mathcal{S}$. Since $\mathcal{S} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, we will regard $\nu^D$ as a measure on $\mathbb{R}^d$ from time to time. By (A1), we see that $c_1 \mu^D(A) \leq \nu^D(A) \leq c_2 \mu^D(A)$ for all $A \subset \mathcal{S}$ and all $d$. So $\{\nu^D\}_D$ is tight and there is a convergent subsequence. We assume the following.

(A9) There exists a Borel measure $\tilde{\nu}$ on $\mathbb{R}^d$ such that $\nu^D$ converges weakly to $\tilde{\nu}$ as $D \to \infty$.

Let $Z_t^{\rho}$ be the diffusion process corresponding to the Dirichlet form $\mathcal{E}_\rho$ considered on $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \tilde{\nu})$. It is a time changed process of $Z_t$ in Theorem 6.1. Note that by (A1), $\tilde{\nu}$ is mutually absolutely continuous with respect to Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{R}^d$ so it charges no set of zero capacity. Further, the heat kernel for $Z_t^{\rho}$ still enjoys the estimates (6.4).

Now we have a corresponding theorem for the discrete time Markov chains $X^{(n)}$. Define

$$W^{(n)}_t = X^{(n)}_{nt}/\sqrt{n}. \tag{6.7}$$

**Corollary 6.7** Suppose (A1)-(A3), (A5), and (A9) hold.

(a) Then for each $x$ and each $t_0$ the $\mathbb{P}^x$-law of $\{W^{(n)}_t; 0 \leq t \leq t_0\}$ converges weakly with respect to the topology of the space $D([0,t_0], \mathbb{R}^d)$. The limit probability gives full measure to $C([0,t_0], \mathbb{R}^d)$.

(b) If $Z_t^{\rho}$ is the canonical process on $[0, \infty), \mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\mathbb{P}^x$ is the weak limit of the $\mathbb{P}^x$-laws of $W^{(n)}$, then the process $\{Z_t^{\rho}, \mathbb{P}^x\}$ has continuous paths and is the symmetric process corresponding to the Dirichlet form $\mathcal{E}_\rho$ considered on $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \tilde{\nu})$.

**Proof:** Let $Y^{(n), \nu}$ be the continuous time Markov chains on $\mathbb{Z}^d$ corresponding to $\mathcal{E}_\rho$ considered on $L^2(\mathbb{Z}^d, \nu)$, and set $Z^{(n), \nu}_t = Y^{(n), \nu}_{nt}/\sqrt{n}$. Then, by changing the measure $\mu^D$ to $\nu^D$ in the proof, we have the results corresponding to Theorem 6.1 for $Z^{(n), \nu}_t$ and $Z_t^{\rho}$. So it suffices to show that there is a metric for $D([0,t_0], \mathbb{R}^d)$ with respect to which the distance between $W^{(n)}$ and $Z^{(n), \nu}$ goes to 0 in probability, where in the definition of $Z^{(n), \nu}$ we use the realization of $Y^{(n), \nu}$ given in terms of the $X^{(n)}$ by means of independent exponential random variables of parameter 1.

We use the $J_t$ topology of Skorokhod; see [34]. The paths of $Y^{(n), \nu}$ agree with those of $X^{(n)}$ except that the times of the jumps do not agree. Note that $X^{(n)}$ jumps at times $k/n$, while $Y^{(n), \nu}$ jumps at times $T_k/n$. So it suffices to show that if $T_k$ is the sum of i.i.d. exponentials with parameter 1, then for each $\eta > 0$ and each $t_0$

$$\mathbb{P}(\sup_{k \leq [nt_0]} |T_k - k| \geq n\eta) \to 0$$

37
as \( n \to \infty \). But by Doob’s inequality, the above probability is bounded by

\[
\frac{4 \text{Var} \ T_{[nt_0]}}{n^2 \eta^2} = \frac{4[n t_0]}{n^2 \eta^2} \to 0
\]
as desired. \( \square \)

**Remark 6.8** We remark that the definition of \( a^n \), and hence the statement of (A5), depends on the definition of \( \mathcal{P}(k) \) and of the extension operator \( E_n \). It would be nice to have a central limit theorem with a more robust statement.

**Remark 6.9** We make a few comments comparing the central limit theorem in our paper and the convergence theorem in [SZ] in the case of bounded range. The result in [SZ] requires a smoothness condition on the conductances \( C_{xy}^m \), while we require smoothness instead on the \( a^n \). Thus our theorem has weaker hypotheses, and as Remark 6.6 shows, there are examples where one set of hypotheses holds and the other set does not. On the other hand, if (A1)-(A3) hold, then the \( \{b^n\} \) will automatically be symmetric, equi-bounded and equi-uniformly elliptic; if in addition \( b^n \to a \), then \( a \) will be bounded and uniformly elliptic and this does not need to be assumed.

**References**

[A] D. Aldous. Stopping times and tightness, Ann. Probab., 6 (1978), 335–340.

[BBG] M.T. Barlow, R.F. Bass and C. Gui, The Liouville property and conjecture of De Giorgi, Comm. Pure Appl. Math., 53 (2000), 1007–1038.

[BK] R.F. Bass and M. Kassmann, Harnack inequalities for non-local operators of variable order, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 357, (2005) 837–850.

[BL1] R.F. Bass and D.A. Levin, Transition probabilities for symmetric jump processes, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. 354, no. 7 (2002), 2933–2953.

[BL2] R.F. Bass and D.A. Levin, Harnack inequalities for jump processes, Potential Anal. 17 (2002), 375–388.

[Bi] P. Billingsley, Convergence of Probability Measures, 2nd ed., John Wiley, New York, 1999.

[CKS] E.A. Carlen and S. Kusuoka and D.W. Stroock, Upper bounds for symmetric Markov transition functions, Ann. Inst. Henri Poincaré-Probab. Statist. 23 (1987), 245-287.

[CK] Z.Q. Chen and T. Kumagai, Heat kernel estimates for stable-like processes on \( d \)-sets, Stochastic Process Appl. 108 (2003), 27-62.
[FOT] M. Fukushima, Y. Oshima, and M. Takeda, Dirichlet Forms and Symmetric Markov Processes, deGruyter, Berlin, 1994.

[HK] J. Hu and T. Kumagai, Nash-type inequalities and heat kernels for non-local Dirichlet forms, Kyushu J. Math., to appear.

[Je] D. Jerison, The weighted Poincaré inequality for vector fields satisfying Hörmander’s condition. Duke Math. J. 53 (1986), 503–523.

[Law] G.F. Lawler, Estimates for differences and Harnack inequality for difference operators coming from random walks with symmetric, spatially inhomogeneous, increments, Proc. London Math. Soc. 63 (1992), 552–568.

[Le] T. Leviatan, Perturbations of Markov processes, J. Funct. Anal. 10 (1972), 309–325.

[Me] P.-A. Meyer, Renaissance, recollements, mélanges, ralentissement de processus de Markov, Ann. Inst. Fourier 25 (1975), 464–497.

[Sp] F. Spitzer, Principles of Random Walk, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1976.

[SV] D.W. Stroock and S.R.S. Varadhan, Multidimensional Diffusion Processes, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1979.

[SZ] D.W. Stroock and W. Zheng, Markov chain approximations to symmetric diffusions, Ann. Inst. Henri. Poincaré-Probab. Statist. 33 (1997), 619-649.

Richard F. Bass
Department of Mathematics
University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06269, U.S.A.
E-mail: bass@math.uconn.edu

Takashi Kumagai
Research Institute for Mathematical Sciences
Kyoto University
Kyoto 606-8502, Japan
E-mail: kumagai@kurims.kyoto-u.ac.jp