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# DIRICHLET FORMS ON SYMMETRIC SPACES

by Christian BERG

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## 0. Introduction.

Beurling and Deny have reduced the problem of determining all Dirichlet forms on a locally compact space  $X$  endowed with a positive Radon measure  $\xi$  to the question of determining contraction-semigroups of hermitian operators on  $L^2(X, \xi)$ , which moreover are submarkovian, cf. [3]. In order to obtain a complete solution of the last problem, it is certainly necessary to impose further structure, and for example in the case of a locally compact abelian group  $X$  with Haar measure  $\xi$ , the translation invariant semigroups of the above type are characterized by the so-called negative definite functions on the dual group ([3]).

In the present paper we shall extend this result to a more general setting including the symmetric spaces. The results are most satisfactory in the compact case, where we generalize results obtained for the

sphere in [1]. Furthermore there is a surprising analogy between the compact case and the symmetric spaces of noncompact type of rank one : The potentials of finite energy in invariant regular Dirichlet spaces are all square integrable with respect to Riemannian measure.

### 1. Description of the scope.

Let  $G$  be a locally compact group with left Haar measure  $dg$ ,  $L^1(G)$  the Banach algebra of complex functions integrable with respect to  $dg$ , considered as a subalgebra of  $M^1(G)$ , which consists of all bounded complex measures on  $G$ .

If  $K$  denotes a compact subgroup of  $G$ ,  $M^1(G)^{\natural}$  denotes the subalgebra of measures  $\mu \in M^1(G)$ , which are bi-invariant under  $K$ , i.e.

$$\varepsilon_k * \mu = \mu * \varepsilon_k = \mu \quad \text{for every } k \in K.$$

In general, for a subset  $A \subseteq M^1(G)$  we write  $A^{\natural}$  for the set of elements of  $A$ , which are bi-invariant under  $K$ . For functions  $f$  the bi-invariance amounts to

$$f(gk) = f(kg) = f(g) \quad \text{for } g \in G, k \in K,$$

because the modulus  $\Delta$  of  $G$  is constant 1 on  $K$ .

For any continuous function  $f$  on  $G$  we define a continuous bi-invariant function  $f^{\natural}$  on  $G$  as

$$f^{\natural}(g) = \int_K \int_K f(kgl) dk dl,$$

where  $dk, dl$  denote normalized Haar measure on  $K$ .

Notice that  $(f^{\natural})^{\vee} = (\check{f})^{\natural}$ , where  $\check{f}(g) = f(g^{-1})$ .

We now fix a compact subgroup  $K$  of  $G$  and will always assume the fundamental hypothesis :

$M^1(G)^{\natural}$  is commutative. <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) This implies that  $G$  is unimodular. In fact if  $\mathcal{K}(G)$  denotes the set of continuous functions with compact support, it suffices to verify  $\int f(g) dg = \int f(g^{-1}) dg$  for any  $f \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$ . We choose  $\varphi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$  to be 1 on the compact set  $\text{supp}(f) \cup \text{supp}(f)^{-1}$  and get

$$\int f(g) dg = f * \varphi(e) = \varphi * f(e) = \int f(g^{-1}) dg.$$

This hypothesis is fulfilled in the following three situations :

a)  $(G, K)$  is a Riemannian symmetric pair.

b)  $G$  is abelian,  $K = \{e\}$ .

c)  $G = \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U}$  where  $\mathcal{U}$  is any compact group, and  $K$  is the diagonal in  $G$ .

Let now  $X = G/K$  be the homogeneous space of left cosets,  $\pi : G \rightarrow X$  the canonical surjection. The action of  $G$  on  $X$  is denoted  $(g, x) \mapsto g \cdot x$ , where  $g \cdot x = \pi(gg_1)$  if  $x = \pi(g_1)$ . Functions on  $G/K$  are identified with right invariant functions on  $G$ . If  $F$  is a function on  $G$  and  $s \in G$ , we let  $\lambda(s)F$  denote the function  $g \mapsto F(s^{-1}g)$ , which is right invariant if  $F$  is so.

On  $X$  there is a unique  $G$ -invariant measure  $\xi$  fixed by the formula

$$\int_G F(g) dg = \int_X \left( \int_K F(gk) dk \right) d\xi(\pi(g)) . \quad (1)$$

Our main purpose is to characterize Dirichlet forms  $(Q, V)$  on  $L^2(X, \xi)$  which are  $G$ -invariant, that is

$$\forall s \in G \quad \forall F \in V \quad (\lambda(s)F \in V, Q(\lambda(s)F) = Q(F)) .$$

Here  $V$  is a dense subspace of  $L^2(X, \xi)$  and  $Q$  is a closed positive hermitian form on  $V$ , and we suppose that the normal contractions operate in  $(Q, V)$ , cf. [3].

In § 2 we give a brief summary of the harmonic analysis of the algebra  $L^1(G)$ <sup>b</sup>. Everything is more or less in the article of Godement [9]. In the next § we prove that the  $G$ -invariant semigroups involved can be viewed as convolution semigroups of bi-invariant measures. The Fourier transformation of such semigroups leads to the notion of negative definite functions defined on the set  $\Omega^+$  of positive definite spherical functions.

In the abelian case b), this reduces to Schoenberg's notion of negative definite functions on an abelian group (viz. the dual group of  $G$ ).

The  $G$ -invariant Dirichlet forms are in one to one correspondence with the real negative definite functions on  $\Omega^+$ . This main result is established in § 4.

Next we give an intrinsic characterization of the negative definite functions. The result (theorem 5.2) is not true in full generality because the function 1 can be an isolated point in  $\Omega^+$ .

Finally we consider the problem : When does a G-invariant Dirichlet form give rise to a Dirichlet space ? A complete answer is obtained in the compact case and for symmetric spaces of noncompact type of rank one.

## 2. Harmonic analysis on symmetric spaces.

We shall now summarize, how the Gelfand theory applies to the commutative Banach algebra  $L^1(G)^h$ , which has an involution  $*$ ,  $f^*(g) = \overline{f(g^{-1})}$ , cf. [9], [11].

A (zonal) spherical function is any non-zero continuous solution  $\omega : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  to the equation

$$\int_K \omega(g_1 k g_2) dk = \omega(g_1) \omega(g_2), \quad g_1, g_2 \in G. \quad (2)$$

A spherical function  $\omega$  is bi-invariant and  $\omega(e) = 1$ . The maximal ideal space of  $L^1(G)^h$  can be identified with the set  $\Omega$  of bounded spherical functions, and the Gelfand transform of  $f \in L^1(G)^h$  takes the form

$$\mathcal{F}f(\omega) = \int_G f(g) \overline{\omega(g)} dg, \quad \omega \in \Omega.$$

We also introduce the co-transform  $\overline{\mathcal{F}}f$  defined as

$$\overline{\mathcal{F}}f(\omega) = \int_G f(g) \omega(g) dg.$$

Now let  $\Omega^+$  be the set of positive definite spherical functions. Then  $\Omega^+$  is a closed subset of  $\Omega$ , and the topology on  $\Omega^+$  can be described as the topology of compact convergence over  $G$ , [4, th. 13.5.2]. This implies that  $(g, \omega) \rightarrow \omega(g)$  is a continuous mapping from  $G \times \Omega^+$  into  $\mathbb{C}$ .

The main result in the whole theory is the *Godement-Plancherel theorem* :

For every positive definite measure  $\mu$  on  $G$  there is a uniquely determined positive measure  $\hat{\mu}$  on  $\Omega^+$  such that  $\mathfrak{T}\varphi \in \mathcal{L}^2(\Omega^+, \hat{\mu})$  for all  $\varphi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$ , and such that for all  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$ .

$$\mu(\varphi * \psi^*) = \int_{\Omega^+} \overline{\mathfrak{T}\varphi(\omega)} \mathfrak{T}\psi(\omega) d\hat{\mu}(\omega). \quad (3)$$

(Note that  $\overline{\mathfrak{T}\varphi(\omega)} = \mathfrak{T}\check{\varphi}(\omega)$  for  $\omega \in \Omega^+$ ).

In particular if  $\varphi$  is a continuous bi-invariant positive definite function, we obtain the *Bochner theorem* :

$$\varphi(g) = \int_{\Omega^+} \omega(g) d\sigma(\omega) \quad (4)$$

where  $\sigma = (\varphi dg)$  is a uniquely determined positive bounded measure on  $\Omega^+$ .

Furthermore, for  $\mu = \varepsilon_e$  the measure  $\hat{\mu}$  is called *the Plancherel measure* and is denoted  $d\omega$ . Much trouble is caused by the fact, that the support  $\Omega_0^+$  of  $d\omega$  can be a proper subset of  $\Omega^+$ . The formula (3) is specialized to

$$\int_G \varphi(g) \overline{\psi(g)} dg = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\mathfrak{T}\varphi(\omega)} \mathfrak{T}\psi(\omega) d\omega, \quad \varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}, \quad (5)$$

and  $\mathfrak{T}$  can be extended in a unique way to an isometry of  $L^2(G)^{\natural}$  onto  $L^2(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$ .

For  $\mu \in M^1(G)^{\natural}$  we define the transform  $\mathfrak{T}\mu : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  as the function

$$\mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) = \int \overline{\omega(g)} d\mu(g).$$

This extends  $\mathfrak{T}$  from  $L^1(G)^{\natural}$  to a homomorphism of the algebra  $M^1(G)^{\natural}$  into the algebra of bounded continuous functions on  $\Omega^+$ .

**2.1. LEMMA.** — Let  $\mu \in M^1(G)^{\natural}$ . If  $\mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) = 0$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$ , then  $\mu = 0$ .

*Proof.* — If  $\mu \in L^2(G)^{\natural}$  this is an immediate consequence of (5), and the general case is reduced to this situation by convolution with an approximative identity  $(\varphi_{\check{\nu}}^{\natural})$  in  $L^1(G)^{\natural}$ , which is obtained in the

following way. For any neighbourhood  $V$  of the origin in  $G$  we choose a positive function  $\varphi_V \in \mathcal{K}(G)$  with support in  $V$  and with integral 1. We next form the bi-invariant function  $\varphi_V^{\natural}$ .  $\parallel$

In particular it follows that  $L^1(G)^{\natural}$  and  $M^1(G)^{\natural}$  are semi-simple algebras.

**2.2. The inversion THEOREM.** — *Let  $\mu \in M^1(G)^{\natural}$  and suppose that  $\mathfrak{F}\mu \in \mathcal{L}^1(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$ . Then  $\mu$  has a continuous density  $\varphi$  with respect to  $dg$  and*

$$\varphi(g) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \omega(g) \mathfrak{F}\mu(\omega) d\omega.$$

*Proof.* — Suppose first that  $f \in L^1(G)^{\natural}$  is continuous and bounded, and that  $\mathfrak{F}f \in \mathcal{L}^1(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$ . The function

$$\varphi(g) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \omega(g) \mathfrak{F}f(\omega) d\omega$$

is continuous, bi-invariant and bounded. Since also  $f \in L^2(G)^{\natural}$  (5) gives

$$\int_G \psi(g) \overline{\varphi(g)} dg = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \mathfrak{F}\psi(\omega) \overline{\mathfrak{F}f(\omega)} d\omega = \int_G \psi(g) \overline{f(g)} dg$$

for all  $\psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$ , and we get  $\varphi = f$ .

This result applies to  $\mu * \varphi_V^{\natural}$ , where as before  $(\varphi_V^{\natural})$  is an approximative identity, and we get

$$\mu * \varphi_V^{\natural}(g) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \omega(g) \mathfrak{F}\mu(\omega) \mathfrak{F}\varphi_V^{\natural}(\omega) d\omega.$$

This implies the desired result, because  $\mathfrak{F}\varphi_V^{\natural} \rightarrow 1$  uniformly over compact subsets of  $\Omega^+$  as  $V$  shrinks to  $e$ .  $\parallel$

**2.3. COROLLARY.** — *Suppose that  $\mu \in M^1(G)^{\natural}$ . Then  $\mu$  is positive definite if and only if  $\mathfrak{F}\mu$  is positive on  $\Omega_0^+$ .*

*If this is the case, the measure  $\hat{\mu}$  in the Godement-Plancherel theorem has  $\mathfrak{F}\mu$  as density with respect to the Plancherel measure  $d\omega$ , i.e.  $\hat{\mu} = \mathfrak{F}\mu(\omega) d\omega$ .*

*Proof.* — Suppose first that  $\mu$  is positive definite. We will show that the measure  $\mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) d\omega$  satisfies (3).

For  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\mathfrak{h}}$ ,  $h = \varphi * \psi^*$ , the inversion theorem gives

$$h(g) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\omega(g)} \mathfrak{T}h(\omega) d\omega,$$

and then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\mathfrak{T}h(\omega)} \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) d\omega &= \int_{\Omega_0^+} \left( \mathfrak{T}h(\omega) \int_G \overline{\omega(g)} d\mu(g) \right) d\omega = \\ &= \int_G h(g) d\mu(g), \end{aligned}$$

which shows that  $\hat{\mu} = \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) d\omega$ . Since  $\hat{\mu}$  is a positive measure, it follows that  $\mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) \geq 0$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$ .

Suppose next that  $\mathfrak{T}\mu$  is positive on  $\Omega_0^+$ . If  $\mathfrak{T}\mu$  is integrable with respect to the Plancherel measure, the inversion theorem implies that

$$\mu(f * f^*) = \int_G \left( f * f^*(g) \int_{\Omega_0^+} \omega(g) \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) d\omega \right) dg \geq 0,$$

for all  $f \in \mathcal{K}(G)$ , i.e.  $\mu$  is positive definite.

If as before  $(\varphi_V^{\mathfrak{h}})$  denotes an approximative identity, we find that  $\mu * \varphi_V^{\mathfrak{h}} * (\varphi_V^{\mathfrak{h}})^*$  is positive definite, because  $\mathfrak{T}\mu |\mathfrak{T}\varphi_V^{\mathfrak{h}}|^2$  is integrable and positive on  $\Omega_0^+$ . If we let  $V$  shrink to  $e$ , we get the desired result.  $\parallel$

For each  $\omega \in \Omega^+$  we have a canonically defined Hilbert space  $H_\omega$  with a unit vector  $e_\omega$ , and a continuous irreducible representation  $\pi_\omega$  of  $G$  in  $H_\omega$  such that  $e_\omega$  is a cyclic vector. Moreover

$$\omega(g) = (e_\omega, \pi_\omega(g) e_\omega),$$

and  $\pi_\omega(k) e_\omega = e_\omega$  for all  $k \in K$ , i.e.  $\pi_\omega$  is of class one.

The representation  $\pi_\omega$  can in the usual way be extended to a representation of  $M^1(G)$ .

**2.4. LEMMA.** — For  $\mu \in M^1(G)^{\mathfrak{h}}$  the operator  $\pi_\omega(\mu)$  is given by

$$\pi_\omega(\mu) a = \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) (a, e_\omega) e_\omega, \quad a \in H_\omega, \quad \omega \in \Omega^+.$$

In particular  $\pi_\omega(\mu)$  is in the trace class and  $\text{tr } \pi_\omega(\mu) = \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega)$ .



*Proof.* — Let  $g_1, g_2 \in G$ ,  $a = \pi_\omega(g_1)e_\omega$ ;  $b = \pi_\omega(g_2^{-1})e_\omega$ . It suffices to show

$$(\pi_\omega(\mu)a, b) = \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega)(a, e_\omega)(e_\omega, b) = \mathfrak{T}\mu(\omega) \overline{\omega(g_1)} \overline{\omega(g_2)}.$$

We have

$$(\pi_\omega(\mu)a, b) = \int_G (\pi_\omega(g)a, b) d\mu(g) = \int_G \overline{\omega(g_2 g g_1)} d\mu(g),$$

but since  $\mu$  is bi-invariant, we also have

$$\int_G \overline{\omega(g_2 g g_1)} d\mu(g) = \int_G \overline{\omega(g_2 k g l g_1)} d\mu(g)$$

for all  $k, l \in K$ . Thus, integrating over  $K$  with respect to  $k$  and  $l$ , we obtain

$$(\pi_\omega(\mu)a, b) = \overline{\omega(g_1)} \overline{\omega(g_2)} \int_G \overline{\omega(g)} d\mu(g) \cdot \mathbb{I}$$

**2.5. THEOREM.** — *For any function  $F \in L^1 \cap L^2(X, \xi)$  and any  $\omega \in \Omega^+$ ,  $\pi_\omega(F)$  is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator in  $H_\omega$ . The function  $\omega \rightarrow \|\pi_\omega(F)\|_{H.S.}$  is continuous and square integrable with respect to the Plancherel measure, and satisfies*

$$\int_G |F(g)|^2 dg = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \|\pi_\omega(F)\|_{H.S.}^2 d\omega. \quad (6)$$

*The mapping  $F \rightarrow (\pi_\omega(F))_\omega$  can be extended uniquely to an isometry of  $L^2(X, \xi)$  into the Hilbert space of square integrable vector fields of Hilbert-Schmidt operators.*

*Proof.* — The function  $h = F^* * F$  is bi-invariant and positive definite. The measure  $\mathfrak{T}h(\omega) d\omega$  in the Godement-Plancherel theorem is bounded, so  $\mathfrak{T}h$  is integrable. By the inversion theorem we then have

$$\int_G |F(g)|^2 dg = h(e) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \mathfrak{T}h(\omega) d\omega,$$

but since  $\pi_\omega(h) = \pi_\omega(F)^* \pi_\omega(F)$  is in the trace class,  $\pi_\omega(F)$  is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator and

$$\mathfrak{H}h(\omega) = \text{tr } \pi_\omega(h) = \|\pi_\omega(F)\|_{\text{H.S.}}^2.$$

The extension to  $L^2(X, \xi)$  is classical, cf. [8].  $\square$

### 3. Characterization of G-invariant semigroups.

We shall now deal with the question of determining the strongly continuous contraction-semigroups of submarkovian operators in  $L^2(X, \xi)$ , which commute with the action of G in X.

**3.1. LEMMA.** — *In order that a bounded operator T in  $L^2(X, \xi)$  satisfies*

$$\text{i) } T(\lambda(s) F) = \lambda(s) T(F) \text{ for all } s \in G, F \in L^2(X, \xi).$$

*ii) If  $0 \leq F \leq 1$   $\xi$ -a.e., then  $0 \leq TF \leq 1$   $\xi$ -a.e. (T is submarkovian) it is necessary and sufficient that there is a positive bi-invariant measure  $\mu$  on G with  $\|\mu\| \leq 1$ , such that  $TF = F * \mu$  for all  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$ .*

*The measure  $\mu$  is uniquely determined.*

*Proof.* — It is immediate to verify that  $TF = F * \mu$  defines a bounded operator with the properties i) and ii).

For the converse we proceed as follows :

a) We first assume that TF is continuous for every  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$ . It is easy to see that i) implies that  $T(F)^h = T(F^h)$  for all  $F \in \mathcal{K}(X)$ . The mapping  $F \mapsto T((F^h)^v)(e)$  is a positive linear form on  $\mathcal{K}(G)$ , so it defines a positive Radon measure  $\mu$  on G, which is clearly bi-invariant and of total mass  $\leq 1$ .

For  $F \in \mathcal{K}(X)$  we have

$$F * \mu(e) = \int \check{F} d\mu = T(F^h)(e) = T(F)^h(e) = T(F)(e),$$

and finally for any  $g \in G$

$$\begin{aligned} F * \mu(g^{-1}) &= [\lambda(g) F] * \mu(e) = T(\lambda(g) F)(e) = \lambda(g) T(F)(e) = \\ &= T(F)(g^{-1}). \end{aligned}$$

By the density of  $\mathcal{H}(X)$  in  $L^2(X, \xi)$  it follows that  $TF = F * \mu$  for all  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$ .

b) In the general case we consider the operators

$$T_V F = TF * \varphi_V^h, \quad F \in L^2(X, \xi),$$

where  $(\varphi_V^h)$  is an approximative identity. Now  $T_V$  satisfy i) and ii) and the condition of case a), so there is a positive bi-invariant measure  $\mu_V$  with  $\|\mu_V\| \leq 1$  such that  $T_V F = F * \mu_V$ . If  $\mu$  is a vague accumulation point for the net  $(\mu_V)$ , it is easy to see that  $TF = F * \mu$  (in  $L^2(X, \xi)$ ) for all  $F \in \mathcal{H}(X)$ , and then for all  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$ .  $\parallel$

If in the above correspondence  $\mu$  is associated with  $T$ , the adjoint operator  $T^*$  is associated with  $\check{\mu}$ , and if  $S$  is another operator of the same type associated with  $\nu$ , then  $ST$  is associated with  $\mu * \nu$ . This proves in particular that two bounded operators in  $L^2(X, \xi)$  commute, if they satisfy the conditions of the lemma. The identity operator is associated with the normalized Haar measure  $\omega_K$  of  $K$  (considered as a measure on  $G$ ).

DEFINITION. — A vaguely continuous convolution semigroup on  $G$  is a family  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  of positive bi-invariant measures on  $G$  satisfying

- i)  $\mu_s * \mu_t = \mu_{s+t}$ ,  $s, t \geq 0$ ,  $\mu_0 = \omega_K$ .
- ii)  $\|\mu_t\| \leq 1$ .
- iii)  $\mu_t \rightarrow \omega_K$  vaguely as  $t \rightarrow 0$ .

Under these conditions we even have  $\mu_t(f) \rightarrow \omega_K(f)$  for  $t \rightarrow 0$  for all continuous bounded functions  $f$ . It is then easy to obtain the following result :

3.2. THEOREM. — There is a one to one correspondence between strongly continuous contraction-semigroups  $(T_t)_{t \geq 0}$  of operators in  $L^2(X, \xi)$  satisfying i) and ii) of lemma 3.1, and vaguely continuous convolution semigroups  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  on  $G$ . The correspondence is given by

$$T_t F = F * \mu_t, \quad t \geq 0, \quad F \in L^2(X, \xi).$$

DEFINITION. — A continuous function  $p : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called positive definite, if  $p = \mathfrak{T}\mu$  for some (necessarily unique) positive measure  $\mu \in M^1(G)^h$ .

Notice that  $|p(\omega)| \leq p(1) = \|\mu\|$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega^+$ .

A continuous function  $q : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called *negative definite*, if  $q(1) \geq 0$  and if  $\exp(-tq)$  is positive definite for all  $t > 0$ .

Notice that

$$|e^{-tq(\omega)}| \leq e^{-tq(1)} \leq 1, \quad \omega \in \Omega^+,$$

for all  $t \geq 0$ . This implies that  $\operatorname{Re} q \geq q(1) \geq 0$ .

The sets  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$  of positive and negative definite functions are convex cones containing the positive constant functions. The cone  $\mathcal{P}$  is even stable under multiplication.

In § 5 we are concerned with an intrinsic characterization of these cones.

**3.3. THEOREM.** — *There is a one to one correspondence between negative definite functions  $q$  on  $\Omega^+$  and vaguely continuous convolution semigroups  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  on  $G$ . The correspondence is given by*

$$\mathfrak{F}\mu_t(\omega) = e^{-tq(\omega)}, \quad t \geq 0, \quad \omega \in \Omega^+. \quad (7)$$

*Proof.* — If  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  is given, and  $\omega \in \Omega^+$  is fixed, there is a uniquely determined complex number  $q(\omega)$  such that (7) is fulfilled for all  $t \geq 0$ . Since all the functions  $\exp(-tq)$ ,  $t \geq 0$  are continuous on the locally compact space  $\Omega^+$ , the next lemma shows that  $q$  is continuous. Since  $\exp(-tq(1)) = \|\mu_t\| \leq 1$  for all  $t \geq 0$ , we have  $q(1) \geq 0$ .

Conversely, if  $q$  is negative definite, we have by definition a family  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  of positive bi-invariant measures satisfying (7). Consequently we have

$$\mathfrak{F}(\mu_s * \mu_t) = \mathfrak{F}(\mu_s) \mathfrak{F}(\mu_t) = e^{-(s+t)q} = \mathfrak{F}(\mu_{s+t}),$$

which shows the semigroup property. The formula

$$\mu_t(\varphi * \psi^*) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\mathfrak{F}\varphi(\omega)} \overline{\mathfrak{F}\psi(\omega)} e^{-tq(\omega)} d\omega, \quad \varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural},$$

implies that  $\mu_t(\varphi * \psi^*) \rightarrow \omega_K(\varphi * \psi^*)$  for  $t \rightarrow 0$ , because

$$|e^{-tq(\omega)}| = |\mathfrak{F}\mu_t(\omega)| \leq \|\mu_t\| = e^{-tq(1)} \leq 1.$$

This is sufficient to ensure the continuity property of the semi-group.  $\square$

**3.4. LEMMA.** — *Let  $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a real function on a compact Hausdorff space  $Y$ . If  $f_t : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  given as*

$$f_t(y) = \exp(itf(y))$$

*is continuous for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , then  $f$  is continuous.*

*Proof.* — Let  $T$  be the group of complex numbers with absolute value 1 and define

$$\beta : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow T^{\mathbb{R}} \quad \text{as} \quad \beta(x)(t) = \exp(itx) .$$

By definition  $\beta \circ f$  is continuous, so  $\beta(f(Y))$  is compact. A theorem of Glicksberg [7] then shows, that  $f(Y)$  is compact in  $\mathbb{R}$ , and now it is easy to prove that  $f$  is continuous.  $\square$

*Remarks.* — The lemma extends to  $k$ -spaces, in particular to locally compact spaces. On the other hand, if we put  $Y = \beta(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $f = \beta^{-1}$  we get an example which shows, that the lemma is false for topological spaces in general.

Note that a positive definite function  $p = \mathfrak{F}\mu$  on  $\Omega^+$  is real if and only if  $\mu$  is symmetric ( $\mu = \check{\mu}$ ), and consequently a negative definite function  $q$  on  $\Omega^+$  is real (and then positive) if and only if the corresponding convolution semigroup  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  consists of symmetric measures. It follows from corollary 2.3, that the measures  $\mu_t$  are positive definite in this case.

#### 4. Characterization of G-invariant Dirichlet forms.

**4.1. THEOREM.** — *There is a one to one correspondence between G-invariant Dirichlet forms  $(Q, V)$  on  $L^2(X, \xi)$  and real negative definite functions  $q$  on  $\Omega^+$ . The correspondence is given by*

$$Q(F) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \|\pi_{\omega}(F)\|_{\text{H.S.}}^2 q(\omega) d\omega \quad \text{for} \quad F \in V, \quad (8)$$

and  $V$  is the set of functions  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$  for which the integral in (8) is finite.

*Proof.* — By the general theorem of Beurling and Deny (cf. [3]), there is a one to one correspondence between the Dirichlet forms  $(Q, V)$  on  $L^2(X, \xi)$  and the strongly continuous contraction-semigroups  $(T_t)_{t \geq 0}$  of hermitian and submarkovian operators in  $L^2(X, \xi)$ . The correspondence is given by

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{t} (F - T_t F), F \right) = \begin{cases} Q(F) & \text{for } F \in V \\ \infty & \text{for } F \in L^2(X, \xi) \setminus V. \end{cases}$$

The Dirichlet form  $(Q, V)$  is  $G$ -invariant if and only if each of the operators  $T_t$  satisfy i) of lemma 3.1. (For the “only if” part one considers the semigroup  $T_t^{(s)} F = \lambda(s^{-1}) T_t(\lambda(s) F)$ ,  $s \in G$ ).

The correspondence is now proved by theorem 3.2 and 3.3. In order to prove (8), we use the expressions

$$T_t F = F * \mu_t, \quad \mathcal{H}\mu_t(\omega) = e^{-tq(\omega)} \quad (9)$$

For  $F \in L^1 \cap L^2(X, \xi)$  we get by theorem 2.5 and lemma 2.4

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{1}{t} (F - T_t F), F \right) &= \left( F * \frac{1}{t} (\omega_K - \mu_t), F \right) = \\ &= \int_{\Omega_0^+} tr \left( \pi_\omega(F)^* \pi_\omega \left( F * \frac{1}{t} (\omega_K - \mu_t) \right) \right) d\omega \\ &= \int_{\Omega_0^+} tr \pi_\omega \left( (F^* * F) * \frac{1}{t} (\omega_K - \mu_t) \right) d\omega = \\ &= \int_{\Omega_0^+} \frac{1}{t} (1 - e^{-tq(\omega)}) \|\pi_\omega(F)\|_{H.S.}^2 d\omega. \end{aligned}$$

By continuity, this formula holds for all  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$ . When  $t$  decreases to zero,  $t^{-1}(1 - \exp(-tq(\omega)))$  increases to  $q(\omega)$ , and the proof is finished.  $\square$

If  $G$  is compact,  $H_\omega$  is of finite dimension  $N_\omega$  and can be taken to be the subspace of  $L^2(X, \xi)$  spanned by the functions  $\lambda(s)\omega$ ,  $s \in G$ . Furthermore  $L^2(X, \xi)$  is the Hilbert sum of the spaces  $H_\omega$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega^+$ , so  $F \in L^2(X, \xi)$  has a  $L^2$ -expansion

$$F = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega^+} P_{\omega} F ,$$

where  $P_{\omega}$  is the orthogonal projection on  $H_{\omega}$ . It turns out that

$$P_{\omega} F = N_{\omega} F * \omega , \quad \|P_{\omega} F\|^2 = N_{\omega} \|\pi_{\omega}(F)\|_{\text{H.S.}}^2 .$$

Formula (8) is now reduced to

$$Q(F) = \sum_{\omega \in \Omega^+} \|P_{\omega} F\|^2 q(\omega) , \quad (10)$$

because  $\Omega^+$  is discrete, and the Plancherel measure has the mass  $N_{\omega}$  in  $\omega$ . (Note that  $\Omega = \Omega^+ = \Omega_0^+$ ). This generalizes results for the sphere [1].

In the case  $G = \mathcal{U} \times \mathcal{U}$  where  $\mathcal{U}$  is a compact group and  $K$  is the diagonal in  $G$ , we obtain a characterization of the Dirichlet forms on the compact group  $\mathcal{U}$ , which are invariant under the inner automorphisms of  $\mathcal{U}$ .

Finally, in the case where  $G$  is abelian,  $K = \{e\}$ , theorem 4.1 reduces to the theorem of Beurling and Deny [3 p. 190].

### 5. Positive and negative definite functions on $\Omega^+$ .

We now introduce intrinsic definitions of positive and negative definite functions.

DEFINITION. — A continuous function  $p : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called a PD-function, if the following property holds :

$$\forall a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \omega_1, \dots, \omega_n \in \Omega^+$$

$$\left( \operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) \geq 0 \text{ on } G \Rightarrow \operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i p(\omega_i) \right) \geq 0 \right) .$$

A continuous function  $q : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is called a ND-function if  $q(1) \geq 0$ , and if the following property holds :

$$\forall a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{C}, \forall \omega_1, \dots, \omega_n \in \Omega^+$$

$$\left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i = 0, \operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) \geq 0 \text{ on } G \Rightarrow \operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i q(\omega_i) \right) \leq 0 \right).$$

5.1. THEOREM. — *Every positive (resp. negative) definite function on  $\Omega^+$  is a PD- (resp. ND-) function.*

*Proof.* — If  $p = \mathfrak{F}\mu$  for  $\mu \in M_+^1(G)^{\natural}$ , and if

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) \geq 0 \quad \text{on } G,$$

we have

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i p(\omega_i) \right) = \int \operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i(g) \right) d\check{\mu}(g) \geq 0.$$

Suppose next that  $q$  is negative definite and that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) \geq 0 \quad \text{on } G \quad \text{with} \quad \sum_{i=1}^n a_i = 0.$$

This implies that for all  $t > 0$

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \frac{1}{t} \left( 1 - e^{-tq(\omega_i)} \right) \right) \leq 0,$$

and for  $t \rightarrow 0$  we get  $\operatorname{Re} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i q(\omega_i) \right) \leq 0$ .  $\parallel$

The converse to theorem 5.1 is not true in general, because there are symmetric spaces of rank one, for which 1 is an isolated point in  $\Omega^+$ , [12]<sup>(1)</sup>. On the other hand it is simple to check that PD- and ND-functions are usual continuous positive and negative definite functions on  $\Omega^+$  in the case of  $G$  abelian,  $K = \{e\}$ , in the case of which  $\Omega^+$  is the character group of  $G$ .

We shall now prove that the converse of theorem 5.1 is true, whenever  $G$  is compact.

<sup>(1)</sup> In these cases the function  $p(\omega) = 0$  for  $\omega \neq 1$ ,  $p(1) = 1$  is a PD-function, but not a positive definite function.



**5.2. THEOREM.** — <sup>(1)</sup> *If  $G$  is compact, then every PD- (resp. ND-) function is a positive (resp. negative) definite function.*

*Proof.* — a) The subspace  $E$  of  $\mathcal{H}(G)^{\natural}$  spanned by the spherical functions  $\omega \in \Omega^+$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}(G)^{\natural}$  under the uniform norm (lemma 2.1). If  $p$  is given to be a PD-function, we can in a unique way extend  $p$  to a linear form  $L_p : E \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , namely

$$L_p \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i p(\omega_i) .$$

The definition of a PD-function implies that  $L_p$  is real and positive, and consequently continuous. This shows that there is a uniquely determined positive bi-invariant measure  $\mu$  on  $G$  such that

$$L_p(f) = \int f d\mu \quad \text{for all } f \in E ,$$

in particular  $\mathfrak{T}\check{\mu}(\omega) = p(\omega)$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega^+$ .

b) Let  $q : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be a ND-function. We define the operator  $A$  in  $E$  by

$$A \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) = - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i q(\omega_i) \omega_i$$

and shall prove that  $A$  satisfies *the maximum principle* :

If  $f = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i$  satisfies  $\operatorname{Re} f(g_0) = \sup_G \operatorname{Re} f \geq 0$  for some  $g_0 \in G$ , then  $\operatorname{Re} Af(g_0) \leq 0$ .

To see this put  $h = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i(g_0) \omega_i$ , so that

$$\sup \operatorname{Re} h \geq \operatorname{Re} h(e) = \operatorname{Re} f(g_0) \geq 0 .$$

Next, note that  $p_g(\omega) = \omega(g_0) \omega(g)$  is a positive definite function on  $\Omega^+$  for fixed  $g$ , so since

<sup>(1)</sup> A mild modification of the proof gives that the theorem is valid in the non-compact case if all the functions  $\omega \in \Omega^+ \setminus \{1\}$  tend to 0 at infinity, and if 1 is not an isolated point in  $\Omega^+$ . These conditions are satisfied for instance for the symmetric spaces of euclidean type and the real and complex hyperbolic spaces.

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( f(g_0) \cdot 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) \geq 0 \quad \text{on } G ,$$

we get

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( f(g_0) - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i p_g(\omega_i) \right) \geq 0 ,$$

that is  $\operatorname{Re} h \leq \operatorname{Re} f(g_0)$ .

This shows that  $\sup \operatorname{Re} h = \operatorname{Re} h(e) \geq 0$ , so we have

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( h(e) \cdot 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i(g_0) \omega_i \right) \geq 0 \quad \text{on } G ,$$

which implies that

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( h(e) q(1) - \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i(g_0) q(\omega_i) \right) \leq 0 ,$$

i.e.  $\operatorname{Re} A f(g_0) \leq -q(1) \operatorname{Re} h(e) \leq 0$ .

c) We next show that  $(\lambda I - A) E = E$  for  $\lambda > 0$ , where  $I$  is the identity operator on  $E$ .

For any  $\omega \in \Omega^+$  we have  $\operatorname{Re}(1 - \omega) \geq 0$  on  $G$ , which implies that  $\operatorname{Re} q(\omega) \geq \operatorname{Re} q(1) = q(1) \geq 0$ . Since

$$(\lambda I - A) \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n (\lambda + q(\omega_i)) a_i \omega_i ,$$

it is clear that  $(\lambda I - A) E = E$  for  $\lambda > 0$  and that

$$(\lambda I - A)^{-1} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{\lambda + q(\omega_i)} \omega_i .$$

In particular  $(\lambda I - A) E$  is dense in  $\mathcal{H}(G)^{\natural}$  for  $\lambda > 0$ , and then one knows (cf. [2] or [13]), that the closure of  $A$  is the infinitesimal generator of a Feller semigroup  $(P_t)_{t \geq 0}$  on  $\mathcal{H}(G)^{\natural}$ . (One should think of  $\mathcal{H}(G)^{\natural}$  as the space of continuous functions on the double coset space  $K \backslash G / K$ ).

The resolvent  $(V_\lambda)_{\lambda > 0}$  of the semigroup is given as  $V_\lambda = (\lambda I - A)^{-1}$  on  $E$ . We therefore obtain

$$\exp(t\lambda(V_\lambda - I)) \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \exp\left(-\frac{t\lambda q(\omega_i)}{\lambda + q(\omega_i)}\right) a_i \omega_i .$$

For  $\lambda$  tending to  $\infty$  we get

$$P_t \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \omega_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^n \exp(-tq(\omega_i)) a_i \omega_i ,$$

which shows that  $\exp(-tq)$  is a PD-function for all  $t > 0$ .  $\parallel$

In the important case where  $G$  is a noncompact connected semi-simple Lie group with finite center, and  $K$  a maximal compact subgroup of  $G$ , the negative definite functions on  $\Omega^+$  can be expressed by a Levi-Khinchine formula due to Gangolli [6].

In this case we have

**5.3. LEMMA.** — *Let  $q : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a real negative definite function. If  $q$  is not identical zero, then  $q(\omega) > 0$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$ .*

*Proof.* — For  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$  it is well known that  $\omega(x) \rightarrow 0$  for  $x \rightarrow \infty$  in  $G$  (Theorem 2 p. 585 in [10]). Consequently  $\{x \in G \mid \omega(x) = 1\}$  is a compact set, but just by the fact that  $\omega$  is positive definite, it follows that  $\{x \in G \mid \omega(x) = 1\}$  is a subgroup. Thus, by the maximality of  $K$ , we conclude that  $\{x \in G \mid \omega(x) = 1\} = K$ .

If we suppose that  $q(\omega) = 0$  for some  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$ , we have by (7) that

$$1 = \Re \mu_t(\omega) = \int_G \operatorname{Re} \omega(x) d\mu_t(x) \quad \text{for all } t > 0 ,$$

which implies that  $\operatorname{supp} \mu_t \subseteq K$ ,  $\|\mu_t\| = 1$  for all  $t > 0$ . Since  $\mu_t$  is bi-invariant, we must have  $\mu_t = \omega_K$  for all  $t > 0$  i.e.  $q \equiv 0$ .  $\parallel$

If we furthermore suppose that  $X$  is of rank 1 the following holds :

*For  $x \in G \setminus K$ , the function  $\omega \mapsto \omega(x)$  tends to zero at infinity on the locally compact space  $\Omega_0^+$ .*

For a proof, see f. ex. [5, th. 2]. It seems to be unknown whether the same property holds for higher rank.

This has the following consequence :

**5.4. COROLLARY.** — *Suppose that  $X$  is a symmetric space of non-compact type and of rank 1, and that  $q : \Omega^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a real negative*

definite function not identical zero. Then there is a constant  $a > 0$  such that  $q(\omega) \geq a$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$ .

*Proof.* — Put  $a = \inf\{q(\omega) \mid \omega \in \Omega_0^+\}$  and suppose that  $a = 0$ . We then have a sequence  $\omega_n \in \Omega_0^+$  such that  $\lim q(\omega_n) = 0$ . Suppose that some subsequence  $\omega_{n_p}$  is contained in a compact subset of  $\Omega_0^+$ . For a cluster point  $\omega_0$  of  $\omega_{n_p}$  we would then have  $q(\omega_0) = 0$ , and then  $q$  is identical zero. Thus  $\omega_n \rightarrow \infty$  in  $\Omega_0^+$ . By (7) we have

$$\int_G \omega_n(x) d\mu_t(x) = e^{-tq(\omega_n)} \quad \text{for all } t > 0.$$

The above property of the spherical functions implies that the integral tends to  $\mu_t(K)$ , so we get  $\mu_t(K) = 1$  for all  $t > 0$ . Consequently we have  $\mu_t = \omega_K$  for all  $t > 0$  and thus  $q \equiv 0$ , which is a contradiction.  $\parallel$

## 6. Characterization of G-invariant Dirichlet spaces.

Let  $(Q, V)$  be a G-invariant Dirichlet form on  $L^2(X, \xi)$ . It is known (cf. [3]) that  $Q$  is positive definite and that the completion  $\hat{V}$  of  $V$  under the norm  $Q^{1/2}$  is a Dirichlet space if and only if

$$\int_0^\infty (T_t F, F) dt < \infty \quad \text{for all } F \in \mathcal{K}_+(X), \quad (11)$$

$(T_t)_{t \geq 0}$  being the corresponding semigroup.

Using the expressions (9) this condition amounts to the requirement that

$$\int_{\Omega_0^+} \|\pi_\omega(F)\|_{\text{H.S.}}^2 \frac{1}{q(\omega)} d\omega < \infty \quad (12)$$

for all  $F \in \mathcal{K}_+(X)$ . ( $\|\pi_\omega(F)\|_{\text{H.S.}}^2$  is a function in  $C_0(\Omega_0^+) \cap \mathcal{L}^1(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$ ).

For any  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$  there is  $\varphi \in \mathcal{K}_+(G)^{\mathbb{H}}$  such that  $|\mathcal{F}\varphi(\omega)|^2 > 0$ , and (12) then implies that  $1/q$  is integrable over some neighbourhood of  $\omega$  with respect to the Plancherel measure. We have thus proved :

**6.1. LEMMA.** — *Let  $(Q, V)$  be a G-invariant Dirichlet form and suppose that  $Q$  is positive definite and that the completion  $\hat{V}$  of  $V$  under  $Q^{1/2}$  is a Dirichlet space. Then  $1/q \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^1(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$ .*

We do not know whether the converse of lemma 6.1 is valid in general, i.e. if  $1/q \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^1(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$ , is it then true that  $Q$  is positive definite and that  $\hat{V}$  is a (necessarily  $G$ -invariant) Dirichlet space ?

This is known however in the abelian case (see [3]), and we shall now prove it in the compact case and when  $X$  is a symmetric space of noncompact type of rank 1.

**6.2. THEOREM.** — *Suppose that  $G$  is compact and let  $(Q, V)$  be a  $G$ -invariant Dirichlet form on  $L^2(X, \xi)$  with associated negative definite function  $q$ . Then  $1/q \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{loc}}^1(\Omega_0^+, d\omega)$  if and only if  $q(1) > 0$ , and in this case  $Q$  is positive definite. Moreover,  $V$  is a regular,  $G$ -invariant Dirichlet space under the norm  $Q^{1/2}$ .*

*Proof.* — Recall that  $\Omega^+$  is discrete and that  $q(\omega) \geq q(1)$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega^+$ , which by (10) implies that

$$Q(F) \geq q(1) \|F\|^2 \quad \text{for all } F \in V.$$

This shows that  $Q$  is positive definite, and since  $V$  is complete under the norm  $(\|F\|^2 + Q(F))^{1/2}$ ,  $V$  is also complete under  $Q^{1/2}$ , and this proves that  $V$  is a Dirichlet space. It is obvious that  $V$  is regular, because all the functions  $\lambda(s)\omega$ ,  $s \in G$ ,  $\omega \in \Omega^+$  are contained in  $V$ .  $\square$

**6.3. THEOREM.** — *Suppose that  $X = G/K$  is a symmetric space of noncompact type of rank 1, and let  $(Q, V)$  be a  $G$ -invariant Dirichlet form on  $L^2(X, \xi)$  with associated negative definite function  $q$  not identical zero.*

*Then  $Q$  is positive definite and  $V$  is a regular  $G$ -invariant Dirichlet space under the norm  $Q^{1/2}$ .*

*Proof.* — By corollary 5.4 there is some constant  $a > 0$  such that  $q(\omega) \geq a$  for all  $\omega \in \Omega_0^+$ , and from (8) we then get the inequality

$$Q(F) \geq a \|F\|^2 \quad \text{for all } F \in V.$$

This proves as above that  $Q$  is positive definite and that  $V$  is a Dirichlet space under  $Q^{1/2}$ . The regularity of  $V$  is proved like in [3].  $\square$

Let  $(\mu_t)_{t \geq 0}$  be the vaguely continuous convolution semigroup corresponding to  $q$  satisfying the conditions in one of the two theorems. We have

$$\mu_t(\varphi * \psi^*) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\mathfrak{F}}\varphi(\omega) \overline{\mathfrak{F}}\psi(\omega) e^{-tq(\omega)} d\omega$$

for all  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$ , and since  $1/q$  is bounded over  $\Omega_0^+$ , we get

$$\int_0^\infty \mu_t(\varphi * \psi^*) dt = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\mathfrak{F}}\varphi(\omega) \overline{\mathfrak{F}}\psi(\omega) \frac{1}{q(\omega)} d\omega$$

for all  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}$ .

Now, since any function  $f \in \mathcal{K}_+(G)$  can be dominated by a function of the form  $\varphi * \psi^*$ , where  $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}_+(G)^{\natural}$ , the formula

$$\nu = \int_0^\infty \mu_t dt$$

defines a positive definite, positive and bi-invariant measure  $\nu$  on  $G$  satisfying

$$\nu(\varphi * \psi^*) = \int_{\Omega_0^+} \overline{\mathfrak{F}}\varphi(\omega) \overline{\mathfrak{F}}\psi(\omega) \frac{1}{q(\omega)} d\omega, \quad \varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{K}(G)^{\natural}.$$

The measure  $\nu$  is the potential kernel of the Dirichlet space  $V$ : The potential generated by  $F \in \mathcal{K}(X)$  is (represented by) the function  $F * \nu$ .

Since  $V \subseteq L^2(X, \xi)$ , we have proved that the potentials of finite energy are square integrable with respect to  $\xi$  under the hypothesis of theorem 6.2 or 6.3. This in turn implies, that any function in  $L^2(X, \xi)$  is a measure of finite energy.

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