



## Research Article

## Open Access

Kamaleldin Abodayeh\* and Victor Anandam

# **$L^p$ -potentials on infinite networks**

<https://doi.org/10.1515/dema-2017-0024>

Received May 5, 2017; accepted August 21, 2017

**Abstract:** Based on the existence of discrete  $L^p$ –subharmonic functions, a classification of infinite networks is carried out.

**Keywords:** infinite networks, discrete  $L^p$ –subharmonic functions, potentials

**MSC:** 31C20, 31C05

## 1 Introduction

A network  $X$  is an infinite graph, connected and locally finite with a set of transition (between vertices) indices that need not be symmetric. A real-valued function  $u(x)$  on  $X$  is subharmonic if the Laplacian  $\Delta u(x) \geq 0$ ; it is superharmonic if  $\Delta u(x) \leq 0$ . A subharmonic function  $u(x)$  is known as an  $L^p$ –subharmonic function ( $p \geq 1$ ) if  $\sum_{x \in X} |u(x)|^p < \infty$ . Based on the existence of  $L^p$ –subharmonic functions, a classification of networks is presented in this note.

Any  $L^p$ –superharmonic function is a potential on  $X$ . However, in a network with potentials it is possible that there is no non-zero  $L^p$ –superharmonic function. Recall that it is known that in a symmetric network there exists a non-zero  $L^1$ –superharmonic function if and only if the Poisson equation  $-\Delta p(x) = 1$  has a positive solution. It is proved here that an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function can be represented as the sum of a convergent series of  $L^p$ –potentials; consequently, an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function is vertex-wise increasing limit of a sequence of  $L^p$ –potentials. Finally, it is shown also that if  $v$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function defined outside a finite set, then  $v = v_1 - v_2$ , where  $v_1, v_2$  are  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions on  $X$ , with  $v_2$  being harmonic outside a finite set.

## 2 Preliminaries

In a graph, two vertices  $x, y$  are said to be neighbours, written  $x \sim y$ , if and only if there is an edge  $[x, y]$  joining  $x, y$ . A network  $X$  is a countably infinite graph that is connected (that is, any two vertices can be connected by a path), locally finite (that is, any vertex has only a finite number of neighbours) and without self-loops (that is,  $x \sim x$  is not valid for any vertex  $x$ ); also it is provided with a set of transition indices  $\{t(x, y)\}$  such that  $t(x, y) \geq 0$  for any two vertices,  $t(x, y) > 0$  if and only if  $x \sim y$ ,  $t(x, y)$  and  $t(y, x)$  need not be the same.

If  $u(x)$  is a real-valued function on  $X$ , then the Laplacian is  $\Delta u(x) = \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y) [u(y) - u(x)] = \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y) [u(y) - u(x)]$ . The function  $u(x)$  is said to be subharmonic at a vertex  $x$  if  $\Delta u(x) \geq 0$  and superharmonic at  $x$  if  $\Delta u(x) \leq 0$ ; the function  $u(x)$  is subharmonic, superharmonic on  $X$  if it is so at every vertex in  $X$ . A non-negative superharmonic function  $s(x)$  on  $X$  is said to be a potential [1] if  $h(x)$  is a harmonic function on  $X$  such that  $0 \leq h(x) \leq s(x)$ , then  $h = 0$ . The Riesz representation theorem states that any non-negative

\*Corresponding Author: Kamaleldin Abodayeh: Prince Sultan University, P.O. Box 66833, Riyadh 11586, Saudi Arabia,

E-mail: kamal@psu.edu.sa

Victor Anandam: Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, India, E-mail: vanandam@imse.res.in

superharmonic function  $s(x)$  is the unique sum of a potential  $p(x)$  and a non-negative harmonic function  $h(x)$ .

It is, however, possible that there is no positive potential on  $X$ , in which case we say that  $X$  is a parabolic network; if there are potentials  $q > 0$  on  $X$ , then  $X$  is referred to as a hyperbolic network. In the context of a random walk  $X$  with  $t(x, y)$  representing the transition probability from the state  $x$  to the state  $y$ , the terms recurrent and transient are used instead of parabolic and hyperbolic.

Finally, a subharmonic function  $u(x)$  on  $X$  is referred to as an  $L^p$ –subharmonic function if  $\sum_{x \in X} |u(x)|^p < \infty$ . Clearly, if  $u$  is an  $L^p$ –subharmonic function on  $X$ , then  $v = -u$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function.

### 3 $L^p$ –subharmonic functions

For a real-valued function  $u(x)$  on  $X$ , if  $\Delta u(x) \geq 0$  then  $u(x) \leq \sum_{y \sim x} \frac{t(x, y)}{t(x)} u(y)$  where  $t(x) = \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y)$ . Hence if  $\varphi(x)$  is an increasing convex function on  $\mathbf{R}$ , then we have  $\varphi[u(x)] \leq \sum_{y \sim x} \frac{t(x, y)}{t(x)} \varphi[u(y)]$ . In particular, if  $u(x)$  is a subharmonic function on  $X$  and  $v = u^+$ , then  $v^p(x)$  is subharmonic on  $X$  for any  $p$ ,  $1 \leq p < \infty$ ; and if  $s(x)$  is subharmonic on  $X$ , so is  $e^{s(x)}$ .

**Proposition 1.** *Let  $u \geq 0$  be subharmonic on  $X$ . Then either  $u = 0$  or  $\sum_{x \in X} u(x) = \infty$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $\sum_{x \in X} u(x) = M < \infty$ . Then for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there is a finite set  $A$  of  $X$  such that  $\sum_{x \in X \setminus A} u(x) < \varepsilon$ . Since  $u(x) \geq 0$ , we conclude that  $u(x) < \varepsilon$  if  $x \in X \setminus A$ . Then by the Maximum Principle for subharmonic functions, we have  $u(x) \leq \varepsilon$  if  $x \in A$ . Consequently,  $u(x) \leq \varepsilon$  on  $X$ , leading to the conclusion  $u = 0$  on  $X$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 2.** *If  $u \geq 0$  is a non-zero subharmonic function on  $X$  and  $p \geq 1$ , then  $\sum_{x \in X} u^p(x) = \infty$ ; similarly, if  $s(x)$  is any subharmonic function on  $X$ , then  $\sum_{x \in X} e^{s(x)} = \infty$ .*

**Proposition 3.** *If  $u(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –subharmonic function, then  $u \leq 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = 0$  (the limit in the sense that given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a finite set  $A$  such that  $|u(x)| < \varepsilon$  if  $x \notin A$ ). Consequently, if  $h$  is  $L^p$ –harmonic on  $X$ , then  $h = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $v = u^+$ . Then  $s(x) = v^p(x) \geq 0$  is a subharmonic function such that  $\sum_x s(x) = \sum_x v^p(x) \leq \sum_x |u(x)|^p < \infty$ . Hence, by the above Proposition 1,  $s = 0$  which shows that  $u^+ = 0$ ; that is  $u \leq 0$ . Moreover, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists a finite set  $A$  such that  $\sum_{x \in X \setminus A} |u(x)|^p < \varepsilon^p$ . In particular,  $|u(x)| < \varepsilon$  if  $x \in X \setminus A$ ; hence  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} u(x) = 0$ .  $\square$

Now we give an example of an  $L^1$ –subharmonic function.

#### Example

Let  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$ ;  $t(n, n+1) = \frac{3}{4}$  if  $n \geq 0$ ,  $t(n, n-1) = \frac{1}{4}$  if  $n \geq 1$ .

Consider the function  $u(n) = -3^{-n}$  if  $n \geq 0$ . We have  $\Delta u(0) = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $\Delta u(n) = 0$  if  $n \geq 1$ . Hence,  $u(n)$  is a subharmonic function on  $X$  with harmonic support at the vertex 0 (that is,  $u(n)$  is harmonic at every vertex other than the vertex 0);  $\sum_{n \geq 0} |u(n)| < \infty$ ; thus  $u(n)$  is a negative  $L^1$ –subharmonic function which tends to 0 when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Remark** In this context, the paper Rigoli, Salvatori and Vignati [2] is of interest, wherein  $G$  is an infinite connected graph with uniformly bounded vertex degree and symmetric unit transition functions. Place certain asymptotic growth conditions on the cardinality of balls in  $G$  so that  $G$  behaves like a discrete version of a complete Riemannian manifold whose geometry is controlled in terms of volume, avoiding curvature assumptions. Then they prove certain Liouville type theorems for subharmonic functions on  $G$  when they are of logarithmic or of small polynomial growth. Incidentally they prove also some properties of  $L^p$ –subharmonic functions on  $G$  when  $p \geq 2$ .

## 4 $L^p$ –Superharmonic functions

If a real-valued function  $v(x)$  is  $L^p$ –superharmonic on  $X$ , then  $v \geq 0$  (from Proposition 3). Consequently, if  $X$  is a parabolic network, then 0 is the only  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ . If  $v(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ , then  $v(x)$  is a non-negative superharmonic function on the parabolic network  $X$ , hence a constant  $c$ . Then necessarily  $c = 0$ . Thus, if there is a non-zero  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ , then  $X$  has to be a hyperbolic network.

In fact, if  $v(x)$  is a non-zero  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on a network  $X$ , then  $v(x)$  is a potential on  $X$ . For the superharmonic function,  $v(x)$  being non-negative is the sum of a potential and a non-negative harmonic function  $h(x)$ . Since  $h \leq v$ ,  $h$  also is an  $L^p$ –harmonic function, so that  $h = 0$  (Proposition 3). Thus  $v(x)$  is a potential on  $X$ .

**Example** of a hyperbolic network on which any  $L^p$ –superharmonic function ( $p \geq 1$ ) can only be the zero function:

**Lemma 4.** *Let  $X = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  be a network with the symmetric transition index  $\frac{1}{2}$  on each edge. Let  $h(n)$  be a non-negative bounded function that is harmonic at every vertex  $n \neq 0$ . Then  $h(n)$  is a constant,  $h(n) = h(0)$  for all  $n$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $h(0) = \lambda$  and  $h(1) = a$ . Then  $h(n) = na - (n-1)\lambda$  for all  $n \geq 0$ . Since  $h(n) \geq 0$ , then  $a \geq \frac{n-1}{n}\lambda$ . Hence allowing  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we note  $a \geq \lambda$ . Suppose  $a = \lambda + \varepsilon$  where  $\varepsilon \geq 0$ . Then  $h(n) = n(\lambda + \varepsilon) - (n-1)\lambda = \lambda + n\varepsilon$ . But  $h(n)$  is bounded, so that  $\varepsilon = 0$ . So  $h(n) = \lambda$  for all  $n$ .  $\square$

Now consider the example of the network  $X = \{\dots, -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  with transition indices  $t(n, n+1) = \frac{1}{2} = t(n+1, n)$  if  $n \leq -1$ ; and  $t(n, n+1) = \frac{3}{4}$ ,  $t(n+1, n) = \frac{1}{4}$  if  $n \geq 0$ . Take the function  $Q(n) = 1$  if  $n \leq 0$  and  $Q(n) = 3^{-n}$  if  $n \geq 1$ . Then  $Q(n)$  is harmonic at every vertex  $n \neq 0$ ; and  $\Delta Q(0) = t(0, 1)[Q(1) - Q(0)] + t(0, -1)[Q(-1) - Q(0)] = -\frac{1}{2}$ . Hence,  $Q(n)$  is a positive superharmonic function with harmonic support at the vertex  $n = 0$ .

In fact,  $Q(n)$  is a positive potential. Let  $h(n) \geq 0$  be a harmonic function such that  $h(n) \leq Q(n)$ . Let  $h(0) = \lambda$ . Then by the above Lemma 4, the bounded harmonic function  $h(n) = \lambda$  for all  $n \leq 0$ . Now  $0 = \Delta h(0) = \frac{3}{4}[h(1) - \lambda] + \frac{1}{2}[\lambda - \lambda]$ , hence  $h(1) = \lambda$ . Similar calculation at successive vertex shows that  $h(n) = \lambda$  for  $n \geq 1$ . Consequently,  $\lambda = h(n) \leq Q(n)$  for all  $n$ ; since  $Q(n) \rightarrow 0$  when  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $\lambda = 0$ , hence  $Q(n)$  is a potential with vertex harmonic support at a single vertex. Moreover for any  $p \geq 1$ ,  $\sum_n [Q(n)]^p = \infty$ . Hence by the following Proposition 5 (c) there are no  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions on  $X$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 5.** *On a hyperbolic network  $X$ , the following are equivalent:*

- There is a non-zero  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ , for some  $p \geq 1$ .*
- There is a superharmonic function  $s > 0$  on  $X$  such that  $\sum_x [s(x)]^p < \infty$ .*
- Any potential  $Q(x)$  with finite harmonic support on  $X$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function.*
- For any vertex  $z$ , if  $G_z(x)$  is the Green potential with harmonic support at  $z$ , then  $\sum_x G_z^p(x) < \infty$ .*

*Proof.* (a)  $\Rightarrow$  (b) : If  $s(x)$  is a non-zero  $L^p$ –superharmonic function, then  $s > 0$  (Proposition 3).

(b)  $\Rightarrow$  (c) : Let  $v(x)$  be a potential with finite harmonic support. Then for some  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $v(x) \leq \alpha s(x)$  on the harmonic support of  $v(x)$ . By the Domination Principle [3, Theorem 3.3.6],  $v(x) \leq \alpha s(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Consequently,  $\sum_x v^p(x) < \infty$ .

(c)  $\Rightarrow$  (d) : For  $G_z(x)$  is a potential with harmonic support at the vertex  $z$ .

(d)  $\Rightarrow$  (a) : Evident since  $s(x) = G_z(x)$  is a superharmonic function and  $\sum_x [s(x)]^p < \infty$  by the assumption.  $\square$

**Corollary 6.** *If there is a non-zero  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ , then every potential  $v(x)$  with finite harmonic support in  $X$  tends to 0 at infinity.*

*Proof.* By the above Theorem 5,  $v(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function. Then the corollary follows from Proposition 3.  $\square$

**Corollary 7.** (Yamasaki [4]) *In a symmetric network (that is, the transition indices are symmetric), there exists a non-zero  $L^1$ –superharmonic function if and only if the Poisson equation  $\Delta u = -1$  has a positive solution.*

*Proof.* If there is a non-zero  $L^1$ –superharmonic function, then by the above Theorem 5 (d),  $\sum_x G_z(x) < \infty$ . Hence, for a fixed  $z$ , by symmetry assumption,  $\sum_x G_x(z) < \infty$ . Written differently, if  $Q(x) = \sum_y G_y(x)$ , then  $Q(x)$  is finite at the vertex  $z$ ; hence  $Q(x)$  is a potential and  $\Delta Q(x) = -1$ .

Conversely, suppose  $u > 0$  is a solution of  $\Delta u = -1$ . Then  $u$  is a positive superharmonic function, hence the sum of a potential  $Q(x)$  and a non-negative harmonic function. That shows  $\Delta Q(x) = -1$ . Now the potential  $Q(x)$  has the representation  $Q(x) = \sum_y (-\Delta Q(y))G_y(x) = \sum_y G_y(x) = \sum_y G_x(y)$ . In particular,  $G_z(x)$  is an  $L^1$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ .  $\square$

**Remark** In a non-symmetric network  $X$ , if  $p(x) = \sum_{y \in X} G_y(x)$  is finite for one vertex, then  $p(x)$  is a potential on  $X$  and  $-\Delta p(x) = 1$  on  $X$ . The classification of non-symmetric networks on which  $-\Delta p = 1$  has a bounded or at least a positive solution has not been considered extensively, see [5]. In the symmetric case, Yamasaki [4, Example 4.3] constructs a symmetric network that has a positive, but not bounded, solution for the equation  $-\Delta p = 1$ .

**Example** of the homogeneous tree on which there is no  $L^1$ –potential but  $L^p$ –potentials exist for  $p > 1$  : Let  $T$  be a homogeneous tree of order  $(q+1)$ ,  $q \geq 2$ . Fix a vertex  $e$  in  $T$  and measuring distances from  $e$ , let  $|x|$  denote the distance of the vertex  $x$  from  $e$ . Then the Green function on  $T$  with singularity at  $e$  is  $G_e(s) = \frac{q}{q-1} \times \frac{1}{q^n}$  if  $|s| = n$  (Cartier [6]). Now there are  $q^{n-1}(q+1)$  vertices at a distance  $n$  from  $e$ . Hence  $\sum_{s \in X} [G_e(s)]^p = \left(\frac{q}{q-1}\right)^p \left[1 + \sum_1^\infty \frac{q^{n-1}(q+1)}{q^{np}}\right]$  is finite if  $p > 1$  and infinite if  $p = 1$ . Consequently, by Theorem 5 there is no  $L^1$ –superharmonic function on  $T$ , whereas  $G_e(s)$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function for any  $p > 1$ .

**Lemma 8.** *Let  $s > 0$  be superharmonic on  $X$ , and  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . Then  $s^\alpha(x)$  is also superharmonic.*

*Proof.* Take  $f(\mu) = \mu^\alpha - \alpha\mu - 1 + \alpha$ , for  $\mu \geq 0$ . Then  $f'(\mu) = \alpha\mu^{\alpha-1} - \alpha$ .

Hence in  $(0, 1)$ ,  $f(\mu)$  increases from  $-1 + \alpha$  to  $f(1) = 0$ ; and in  $(1, \infty)$  decreases. Hence  $f(\mu) \leq 0$ .

That is  $\mu^\alpha - 1 \leq \alpha\mu - \alpha$ .

For any vertex  $x$  and  $y \sim x$ , take now  $\mu = \frac{s(y)}{s(x)}$ . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y) \left[ \frac{s^\alpha(y)}{s^\alpha(x)} - 1 \right] &\leq \alpha \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y) \left[ \frac{s(y)}{s(x)} - 1 \right] \\ \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y) [s^\alpha(y) - s^\alpha(x)] &\leq \alpha [s(x)]^{\alpha-1} \sum_{y \sim x} t(x, y) [s(y) - s(x)] \\ \Delta s^\alpha(x) &\leq \alpha [s(x)]^{\alpha-1} \Delta s(x). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\Delta s(x) \leq 0$ , we conclude that  $s^\alpha(x)$  is superharmonic on  $X$ .  $\square$

**Proposition 9.** *Let  $v$  be an  $L^1$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ . Then, for  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ,  $v^\alpha(x)$  is a potential on  $X$ .*

*Proof.* By the above Lemma 8,  $v^\alpha(x)$  is a non-negative superharmonic function. Let  $h(x)$  be a harmonic function such that  $0 \leq h(x) \leq v^\alpha(x)$ . Take  $p = \frac{1}{\alpha}$ . Then  $h^p(x) \leq v(x)$  so that  $\sum_x h^p(x) < \infty$ . Since  $h$  is an  $L^p$ –harmonic function,  $h = 0$  (Proposition 3). Hence  $v^\alpha(x)$  is a potential on  $X$ .  $\square$

## 5 Representation of $L^p$ -superharmonic functions

On a hyperbolic network  $X$ , write  $G_z(x)$  as the Green potential with vertex harmonic support  $z$ . If  $v(x)$  is an  $L^p$ -superharmonic function on  $X$ , then we have seen (Theorem 5(d)) that  $G_z(x)$  also is an  $L^p$ -superharmonic function. In this section, we obtain a unique representation of  $v(x)$  by means of certain variants of  $G_z(x)$ ; that will show that an  $L^p$ -superharmonic function  $v(x)$  is the sum of a convergent series of  $L^p$ -potentials, hence  $v(x)$  is the vertex-wise increasing limit of a sequence of  $L^p$ -potentials.

**Lemma 10.** *A real-valued function  $v(x)$  on  $X$  is a potential if and only if  $v(x)$  is of the form  $v(x) = \sum_z \alpha(z) G_z(x)$  where  $\alpha(z) \geq 0$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $v(x) = \sum_z \alpha(z) G_z(x)$ ,  $\alpha(z) \geq 0$ . Since the real-valued function  $v(x)$  is the sum of a convergent series of potentials, it is a potential.

Conversely, suppose  $v(x)$  is a potential. Let  $\{E_m\}$  be a collection of increasing finite sets such that  $X = \cup E_m$ . Then  $h_m(x) = v(x) - \sum_{z \in E_m} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$  is harmonic at every vertex in  $E_m$ , and  $h_m$  is decreasing in  $m$ ; moreover, since  $-\Delta v(x) \leq 0$  at every vertex in  $X$ ,  $h_m(x)$  is a superharmonic function on  $X$  such that  $-h_m(x) \leq \sum_{z \in E_m} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$  on  $X$  so that the subharmonic function  $-h_m \leq 0$  on  $X$ . Consequently,  $h(x) = \lim_m h_m(x) = \lim_m [v(x) - \sum_{z \in E_m} \{-\Delta v(z)\} G_z(x)] \leq v(x)$ . Since  $v(x)$  is a potential and  $h(x) \geq 0$  is harmonic we conclude from  $h(x) \leq v(x)$  that  $h(x) = 0$ . Thus,  $v(x) = \lim_m \sum_{z \in E_m} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x) = \sum_{z \in X} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$ .  $\square$

Let  $C_p$  represent the cone of positive  $L^p$ -superharmonic functions on  $X$ .

For  $u \in C_p$ , write  $\left[ \|u\|_p \right]^p = \sum_{x \in X} u^p(x)$ .

Write  $B = \{u \in C_p : \|u\|_p = 1\}$ . When  $C_p \neq \emptyset$ ,  $G_z \in C_p$  as remarked above.

Write  $G'_{z,p}(x) = \frac{G_z(x)}{\|G_z\|_p}$ . Then  $G'_{z,p} \in B$ .

Write  $\mathcal{E}_p = \{G'_{z,p} : z \in X\}$ .

**Theorem 11.** *If  $v(x)$  is an  $L^p$ -superharmonic function on  $X$ , then there exists a unique measure  $\mu$  supported by  $\mathcal{E}_p$  such that  $v(x) = \sum_{z \in X} \mu(G'_{z,p}) G'_{z,p}(x)$ , for  $x \in X$ .*

*Proof.* If  $v \in C_p$ , and if  $h$  is a harmonic function on  $X$  such that  $0 \leq h \leq v$ , then  $h$  is an  $L^p$ -harmonic function, hence  $h = 0$  (Proposition 3). That is  $v(x)$  is a potential on  $X$ . Hence (Lemma 10) it has a representation  $v(x) = \sum_{z \in X} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$ . Write  $\mu(G'_{z,p}) = [-\Delta v(z)] \|G_z\|_p$ . Then  $v(x) = \sum_z \mu(G'_{z,p}) G'_{z,p}(x)$  where  $\mu(G'_{z,p})$  can be considered as a measure supported by  $\mathcal{E}_p$ .  $\square$

## 6 $L^p$ -Superharmonic functions near infinity

Let  $A$  be a subset of the network  $X$ . A vertex  $x$  is said to be an interior vertex of  $A$  if  $x$  and all its neighbours are in  $A$ . Denote by  $\overset{o}{A}$  the set of all interior vertices of  $A$ , and  $\partial A = A \setminus \overset{o}{A}$ . When  $A$  is a finite set, if  $f(z)$  is a real-valued function on  $\partial A$ , then there exists a unique function  $h$  on  $A$  [7] such that  $\Delta h(x) = 0$  if  $x \in \overset{o}{A}$  and  $h(z) = f(z)$  if  $z \in \partial A$ ; write  $h(x) = H_f^A(x)$  on  $A$ . A real-valued function  $u(x)$  defined outside a finite set  $E \subset \overset{o}{A}$  in  $X$ , where  $A$  also is a finite set, is said to be an  $L^p$ -superharmonic function near infinity if  $-\Delta u(x) \geq 0$  for every  $x \in X \setminus E$  and  $\sum_{x \in X \setminus E} |u(x)|^p < \infty$ .

**Theorem 12.** *Let  $X$  be network with  $L^p$ -superharmonic functions. Let  $u(x)$  be an  $L^p$ -superharmonic function near infinity. Then  $u = s_1 - s_2$  outside a finite set where  $s_1, s_2$  are two  $L^p$ -superharmonic functions on  $X$  and  $s_2$  has finite harmonic support.*

*Proof.* Suppose that  $u(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X \setminus E$ , where  $E$  is a finite set in  $X$ . Let  $A$  be a finite set,  $\overset{\circ}{A} \supset E$ . Let  $v(x)$  be the function on  $X$ , such that  $v = u$  on  $X \setminus \overset{\circ}{A}$  and  $v = H_u^A$  on  $A$ .

Let  $s(x) = v(x) - \sum_{z \in \partial A} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$ .

Then  $[-\Delta s(x)] = 0$  if  $x \in A$ , and  $[-s(x)] \geq 0$  if  $x \in X \setminus A$ . Hence  $s(x)$  is superharmonic on  $X$ . Moreover, since  $G_z(x)$  is  $L^p$ –superharmonic on  $X$  (Theorem 5 (d)) and  $v(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –function on  $X \setminus A$ , we conclude  $\sum_{x \in X \setminus A} |s(x)|^p < \infty$ . Consequently, since  $A$  is a finite set,  $\sum_{x \in X} |s(x)|^p < \infty$ .

Write  $\partial A = A_1 \cup A_2$ , where  $[-\Delta v(z)] \geq 0$  on  $A_1$  and  $[-\Delta v(z)] < 0$  on  $A_2$ . Write

$s_1(x) = s(x) + \sum_{z \in A_1} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$ , and

$$s_2(x) = \sum_{z \in A_2} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x).$$

Then  $v(x) = s_1(x) - s_2(x)$ , where  $s_1(x), s_2(x)$  are  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions on  $X$  and  $s_2(x)$  is harmonic outside the finite set  $A$ . Consequently, near infinity,  $u(x) = s_1(x) - s_2(x)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 13.** *On a network with  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions, if  $u(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function near infinity, then  $u(x)$  tends to 0 at infinity.*

*Proof.* Write  $u = s_1 - s_2$  outside a finite set. Since  $s_1, s_2$  are  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions, they are non-negative and tend to 0 at infinity (Proposition 3). Hence  $u(x)$  tends to 0 at infinity.  $\square$

**Corollary 14.** *On a network with  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions, let  $u(x)$  be a harmonic function defined outside a finite set and tending to 0 at infinity. Then  $u(x)$  is the difference of two  $L^p$ –potentials with finite harmonic support on  $X$ , hence  $u(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –harmonic function near infinity.*

*Proof.* Defining the function  $v(x)$  as in Theorem 12 above, let us write  $s(x) = v(x) - \sum_{z \in \partial A} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$ . Now remark that  $-\Delta s(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in X$ . That is,  $s(x)$  is harmonic on  $X$ , and moreover  $s(x)$  tends to 0 at infinity. Hence  $s = 0$ . Consequently, outside the finite set  $A$ ,  $u(x) = v(x) = \sum_{z \in \partial A} [-\Delta v(z)] G_z(x)$ . Hence  $u(x)$  is the difference of two  $L^p$ –superharmonic functions on  $X$  with finite harmonic support. Now  $G_z(x)$  is an  $L^p$ –superharmonic function on  $X$ , so that  $\sum_{x \in X \setminus A} |u(x)|^p < \infty$ .  $\square$

## References

- [1] Abodayeh K., Anandam V., Potential-theoretic study of functions on an infinite network, *Hokkaido Math. J.*, 2008, 37, 63-77
- [2] Rigoli M., Salvatori M., Vignati M., Subharmonic functions on graphs, *Israel J. Math.*, 1997, 99, 1-27
- [3] Anandam V., Harmonic functions and potentials on finite or infinite networks, *UMI Lecture Notes*, Springer, 2011, 12
- [4] Yamasaki M., Quasi-harmonic classification of infinite networks, *Discrete Appl. Math.*, 1980, 2, 339-344
- [5] Abodayeh K., Anandam V., Quasi-bounded supersolutions of discrete Schrödinger equations, *Int. J. Appl. Math. Sci.*, 2016, 10(34), 1693-1704
- [6] Cartier P., Functions harmoniques sur un arbre, *Sympos. Math.*, 1972, 9, 203-270
- [7] Abodayeh K., Anandam V., Dirichlet problem and Green's formulas on trees, *Hiroshima Math. J.*, 2005, 35, 413-424