

**Sobolev-Orlicz inequalities for  
Dirichlet forms & their applications  
to spectral theory**

by

*Ali Ben Amor* at Gafsa

$(X, \delta, m)$  a loc. comp. separable metric-measure space,  $\mathcal{E}$  a Dirichlet form on  $L^2(X, m)$ ,  $\mu$  a positive Radon smooth measure on  $X$ ,  $\Phi$  an N-function,  $L^\Phi(X, \mu)$  the Orlicz space rel. to  $\Phi$  and

$$(\text{SOI}) := \|f^2\|_{L^\Phi(X, \mu)} \leq C\mathcal{E}(f, f), \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}).$$

### Goals:

- 1) Give NSC for the validity of (SOI).
- 2) Use (SOI) to get Nash-type inequality and Ultracontractivity of  $e^{-tH}$ ,  $t > 0$  (for  $\mu = m$ ).
- 3) Use (SOI) to get informations on the spectrum of the trace of  $\mathcal{E}$  on the support of  $\mu$ .
- 4) Applications: Traces of  $(-\Delta)^s$  and DF on Besov spaces (UC and spectra).

Two main objects: *Orlicz spaces* and *Dirichlet forms*.

$\Phi : [0, \infty) \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  is a *Young's function* if it is convex,  $\Phi(0) = 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(x) = \infty$ .

If  $\Phi(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \Phi(x)/x = 0$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \Phi(x)/x = \infty$ , then  $\Phi$  is an N-function.

To  $\Phi \leftrightarrow \Psi$ :

$$\Psi(x) = \sup \{yx - \Phi(y) : y \geq 0\}, \quad x \geq 0.$$

$\Psi$  *complementary* func. of  $\Phi$ .  $\Phi$  N-func. then  $\Psi$  also is.

Orlicz space  $L^\Phi(\mu) := L^\Phi(X, \mu)$ : the space of  $\mu$ -meas. (eq. classes) of functions  $f$  s.t.

$$\|f\|_{L^\Phi(\mu)} := \sup \left\{ \left| \int_X fg \, d\mu \right| : \int_X \Psi(|g|) \, d\mu \leq 1 \right\} < \infty$$

$(L^\Phi(\mu), \|\cdot\|_{L^\Phi(\mu)})$  is a Banach space.

Set

$$\|f\|_{(\Phi)} := \inf \left\{ \lambda > 0 : \int_X \Phi(|f|/\lambda) d\mu \leq 1 \right\}.$$

Then

$$\|f\|_{(\Phi)} \leq \|f\|_{L^\Phi(\mu)} \leq 2\|f\|_{(\Phi)}, \quad \forall f \in L^\Phi(\mu).$$

**Example:**  $1 < p < \infty$ ,  $q$  s.t.  $p^{-1} + q^{-1} = 1$ .

$$\Phi(t) = \frac{t^p}{p}, \quad t \geq 0, \text{ then } \Psi(t) = \frac{t^q}{q}, \quad t \geq 0$$

and  $\|f\|_{L^\Phi(\mu)} = q^{1/q} \|f\|_p$ .

**Dirichlet forms:** A DF is a densely defined positive quad. form on  $D(\mathcal{E}) \subset L^2(X, m)$  s.t.:

$$\forall 0 \leq a \leq b$$

$$f \in D(\mathcal{E}) \Rightarrow f_{a,b} := (\min(f, b) - a)_+ \in D(\mathcal{E})$$

and

$$\mathcal{E}[f_{a,b}] \leq \mathcal{E}[f] := \mathcal{E}(f, f).$$

*Regularity:*  $D(\mathcal{E}) \cap C_c(X)$  is dense both in  $D(\mathcal{E})$  and in  $C_c(X)$  w.r.t. the relative norms.

*Transience:*  $\exists g \in L^1, g > 0$ -a.e. such that

$$\left| \int_X fg \, dm \right| \leq C \sqrt{\mathcal{E}[f]}, \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}).$$

$$\mathcal{E} \leftrightarrow H \leftrightarrow T_t := e^{-tH}, \quad t > 0.$$

**Examples:** 1)  $\mathbb{R}^n$  the  $n$ -dim. Euc. space with Lebesgue meas.  $dx$ ,  $W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  the first order Sob. space on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\mathcal{E}[f] := \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\nabla f|^2 \, dx, \quad f \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$$

is a regular DF in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n, dx)$ .

2) Define

$$\Gamma(f)(x) := \limsup_{\delta(x,y) \rightarrow 0} \frac{|f(x) - f(y)|}{\delta(x,y)}, \quad f \in \text{Lip}(X),$$

$$\mathcal{E}[f] := \int_X \Gamma^2(f)(x) \, dm, \quad f \in \text{Lip}(X).$$

$\mathcal{E}$  is a regular pre-DF in  $L^2(X, m)$ .

From now on  $\mathcal{E}$  is transient.

The *Capacity*:  $\forall \Omega \subset X$ , open,

$\text{Cap}(\Omega) := \inf\{\mathcal{E}[f] : f \in D(\mathcal{E}), f \geq 1 \text{ a.e. on } \Omega\}$ ,

In the sequel, we assume that all measures do not charge sets having zero capacity.

*Observation*:  $\|f^2\|_{L^\Phi} \sim \|f\|_{L^{\Phi_2}}^2$ , where  $\Phi_2(t) = \Phi(t^2)$ .

(SOI)  $:= \|f^2\|_{L^\Phi(X, \mu)} \leq C\mathcal{E}[f], \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E})$ .

$\Leftrightarrow$  boundedness

$I_\mu : D(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow L^{\Phi_2}(X, \mu), f \mapsto f$ .

Hereafter,  $\Psi_2$  is the complementary function of  $\Phi_2$ .

## Popular formulations of SOI

$$(\text{SOI}) := \|f^2\|_{L^\Phi(X,\mu)} \leq C\mathcal{E}[f], \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}).$$

a)  $\Phi(t) = t^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha > 1$ , (SOI) is:

$$(\text{SI}) := \left( \int_X f^{2\alpha} d\mu \right)^{1/\alpha} \leq C\mathcal{E}[f], \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}).$$

b)  $\Phi(t) = t \log(1+t)$ ,  $t \geq 0$  and  $\mu = m$ , (SOI)  $\Rightarrow$  the log.Sob.I.:  $\forall f \in D(\mathcal{E})$ ,

$$(\text{LSI}) := \int_X f^2 \log \left( \frac{f^2}{\int_X f^2 dm} \right) dm \leq C\mathcal{E}[f],$$

## SOI: Necessary and sufficient conditions

**Theorem 1.**  $\Phi$  an  $N$ -function. Then the following assertions are equivalent:

i)  $\exists C_1$  s.t.

$$\|f^2\|_{L^\Phi(\mu)} \leq C_1 \mathcal{E}[f], \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}). \quad (1)$$

ii)  $\exists C_2$  s. t.  $\forall K \subset X$ , compact

$$(CI) := \mu(K) \Psi^{-1}(1/\mu(K)) \leq C_2 \text{Cap}(K).$$

iii)  $\forall f \in L^{\Psi^2}(\mu)$ ,  $f\mu$  has finite energy integral and

$$K^\mu := L^{\Psi^2}(\mu) \rightarrow L^{\Phi^2}(\mu), \quad f \mapsto U(f\mu),$$

is bounded.

Furthermore,  $C_2 \leq C_1 = 4\|K^\mu\| \leq 4C_2$ .

For  $\Phi(t) = t^\alpha$ ,  $\alpha > 1$ , the (CI) reads

$$(\mu(K))^{1/\alpha} \leq C \text{Cap}(K).$$

For the gradient DF in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n, dx)$ ,  $n > 2$ , Mazy'a (70'):

$$(CI) \Leftrightarrow \sup_{x, 0 < r \leq 1} \frac{(\mu(B_r(x)))^{1/\alpha}}{r^{n-2}} < \infty.$$

**Consequences:** a) *Nash-type ineq.:* Set

$$\Lambda(s) := \frac{1}{s\Phi^{-1}(1/s)}, \quad s > 0.$$

**Theorem 2.** *If (SOI) holds true with best constant  $\kappa$ . Then  $\forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}), \epsilon \in (0, 1)$*

$$(NI) := \mathcal{E}[f] \geq \kappa^{-1}(1 - \epsilon) \left( \int_X f^2 d\mu \right) \Lambda \left( \frac{2\|f\|_{L^1(\mu)}^2}{\epsilon \int_X f^2 d\mu} \right).$$

$\Phi(t) = t^{n/n-2}, n > 2, \Lambda(s) = cs^{-2/n}$ . If  $\mu = m$ , then (SOI) is (SI) and (NI) reads:

$$\left( \int_X f^2 dm \right)^{(1+2/n)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^1}^{4/n} \mathcal{E}[f], \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}).$$

b) *Ultracontractivity:* An N-function  $\Phi$  is said to be *admissible* if

$$\int_0^\alpha \left( s\Lambda(s) \right)^{-1} ds < \infty \text{ for some } \alpha > 0.$$

For such a function, set

$$t := 8\kappa \int_0^{\gamma(t)} \frac{1}{s\Lambda(s)} ds,$$

and for every  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$

$$\beta_\epsilon(t) := \frac{2}{\epsilon\gamma(2(1-\epsilon)t)}, \quad t > 0.$$

**Theorem 3.** *Assume (SOI) with an admissible  $N$ -function  $\Phi$  and  $\mu = m$ . Then for every  $t > 0$ ,  $T_t$  is ultracontractive and*

$$\|T_t\|_{L^1, L^\infty} \leq \beta_\epsilon(t/2), \quad \forall \epsilon \in (0, 1). \quad (2)$$

$\Rightarrow \forall t > 0$ ,  $T_t$  is an integral operator, with kernel  $p_t(x, y)$  s.t.

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{x, y \in X} p_t(x, y) \leq \beta_\epsilon(t/2), \quad \forall t > 0. \quad (3)$$

**Application:** Lower bounds for eigenvalues of traces of DF

$\mathcal{F}_e$  the extended domain of  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\mu$  a measure with support  $F$ .

The *trace* of  $\mathcal{E}$  on  $L^2(F, \mu)$  is

$$D(\check{\mathcal{E}}) := \{f \in L^2(F, \mu) : f = u - \mu \text{ a.e. on } F \\ \text{for some } u \in \mathcal{F}_e\},$$

$$\check{\mathcal{E}}[f] = \inf\{\mathcal{E}[u] : u \in \mathcal{F}_e, u = f - \mu \text{ a.e. on } F\}.$$

It is a transient DF in  $L^2(F, \mu)$ . Set  $\check{H} \leftrightarrow \check{\mathcal{E}}$ .

If (SOI) holds true for  $D(\mathcal{E})$  with an admissible  $N$ -function

$\Rightarrow$  it holds also true for  $D(\check{\mathcal{E}})$ . If  $\mu$  is finite, by Theorem 3,  $\check{H}$  has discrete spectrum and the first eigenvalue satisfies the Faber-Krahn-type inequality

$$\check{\lambda}_1 \geq C(\mu(F)\Phi^{-1}(1/\mu(F)))^{-1} = C\Lambda(\mu(F)). \quad (4)$$

$(\check{\lambda}_k)_{k \geq 1}$  the eigenvalues of  $\check{H}$ , ordered in an  $\uparrow$  way.

**Theorem 4.** *Under the above assumptions,*

$$\check{\lambda}_k \geq \frac{1 - \epsilon}{16\kappa_\mu} \Lambda\left(\gamma(2\gamma^{-1}\left(\frac{2\mu(F)}{k\epsilon}\right))\right), \quad \forall 0 < \epsilon < 1. \quad (5)$$

**Examples:** a)  $s$ -stable processes

Let  $0 < s \leq 1$  and  $\mathcal{E}^{(s)}$ :

$$D(\mathcal{E}^{(s)}) = \left\{ f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |\hat{f}(x)|^2 |x|^{2s} dx < \infty \right\},$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{(s)}(f, g) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \hat{f}(x) \overline{\hat{g}(x)} |x|^{2s} dx.$$

$\mathcal{E}^{(s)}$  is a reg. DF,  $D(\mathcal{E}^{(s)}) = L^{s,2}(\mathbb{R}^n)$ .

$\mu$  a semi  $d$ -measure:

$\exists 0 < d \leq n$ ,  $C_1 \geq 0$ ,  $0 < C_2 < 1$  and  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.

$$\mu(B_x(r)) \leq C_1 r^d |\log(C_2 r)|^b, \quad \forall r \in (0, 1], x \in F.$$

For  $n > 2s$ ,  $n - 2s < d \leq n$  and  $2 < p < \frac{2d}{n-2s}$

( $p \leq \frac{2d}{n-2s}$  if  $b = 0$ ), then

$$\left( \int_X |f|^p d\mu \right)^{2/p} \leq C \mathcal{E}^{(s)}[f], \quad \forall f \in D(\mathcal{E}^{(s)}).$$

$\Rightarrow$  if  $(\mathcal{E}^{\check{s}})$  is the trace of  $\mathcal{E}^{(s)}$  on  $L^2(F, \mu)$ , then

$$\check{p}_t \leq C \frac{1}{t^{p/p-2}} \mu \times \mu \text{ a.e.}, \quad \forall t > 0,$$

If further  $\mu$  is finite, then  $(\mathcal{E}^{\check{s}})$  has discrete spectrum and

$$\check{\lambda}_k \geq C k^{\frac{p-2}{p}}, \quad \forall k \geq 1.$$

b) A DF on a Besov space:

$\mu$  a  $d$ -measure:

$$\mu(B_x(r)) \sim r^d, \quad \forall r \in (0, 1], x \in F,$$

$$n = 2s, \quad \alpha := s + \frac{d}{2} = \frac{n+d}{2}, \quad \text{and } \Phi(t) := e^t - 1.$$

$\Lambda$  is then given by

$$\Lambda(s) = \frac{1}{s \log(1/s + 1)}.$$

$\mathcal{B}$  defined by

$$\mathcal{B}[f] := \int_{F \times F \setminus \Delta} \frac{(f(x) - f(y))^2}{|x - y|^{d+2\alpha}} d\mu(x) d\mu(y),$$

$$D(\mathcal{B}) := \{f \in L^2(F, \mu) : \mathcal{B}[f] < \infty\}.$$

Fukushima (03):  $\mathcal{B}$  is a reg. DF of *jump type* on  $L^2(F, \mu)$  and  $D(\mathcal{B})$  is the Besov space  $B_\alpha^{2,2}(F)$ .

**Proposition 1.** *i )*

$$\|f^2\|_{L^\Phi(\mu)} \leq C\mathcal{B}_1[f], \quad \forall f \in B_\alpha^{2,2}(F),$$

$\Rightarrow$  the semigroup of the operator related to  $\mathcal{B}$  has an a.c. (w.r.t. to  $\mu$ ) kernel  $p_t^\mu$ .

*ii ) If  $\mu$  is finite, then  $\mathcal{B}$  has discrete spectrum and  $\forall k \geq 1$*

$$\lambda_k \geq C \frac{(1 - \epsilon)}{2\mu(F)} \frac{k\epsilon}{\log\left(\frac{k\epsilon}{2\mu(F)} + 1\right)}, \quad \forall 0 < \epsilon < 1.$$