

## RELATIVE EVANS POTENTIALS

Dedicated to Professor Yūsaku Komatu on his 60th birthday

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Consider a 2-form  $P=P(z)dxdy$  on an open Riemann surface  $R$  such that coefficients  $P(z)$  are nonnegative Hölder continuous functions of local parameters  $z=x+iy$  on  $R$ . Let  $\Omega$  be the complement of the closure of a regular subregion of  $R$  and  $U$  be a positive solution of the equation  $\Delta u=Pu$  on  $\Omega$  continuous on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . A function  $E$  on  $\Omega$  will be referred to as an *Evans potential relative to*  $(P, U)$  on  $\Omega$  if  $E$  is a solution of  $\Delta u=Pu$  on  $\Omega$  with boundary values zero on  $\partial\Omega$  such that

$$(1) \quad \lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} E(z)/U(z) = +\infty$$

where  $\infty$  is the point at infinity of  $R$ . We are interested in finding the condition on  $U$  assuring the existence of such an  $E$ . For this purpose we consider a linear operator  $L_{\Omega}^P$  from  $C(\partial\Omega)$  into the class of solutions of  $\Delta u=Pu$  on  $\Omega$  given as follows. Let  $\{S\}$  be a directed net of regular subregions of  $R$  such that  $S \supset R - \Omega$ , and let  $L_{\Omega \cap S}^P \varphi$  be the solution of  $\Delta u=Pu$  on  $\Omega \cap S$  with boundary values zero on  $\partial S$  and  $\varphi \in C(\partial\Omega)$  on  $\partial\Omega$ . Then the limit

$$L_{\Omega}^P \varphi = \lim_{S \rightarrow R} L_{\Omega \cap S}^P \varphi$$

is a bounded solution of  $\Delta u=Pu$  on  $\Omega$  with boundary values  $\varphi$  on  $\partial\Omega$ . We say that  $U$  has the *ideal boundary values zero* if  $L_{\Omega}^P U=U$ . The main purpose of this paper is to prove the following

**THEOREM.** *An Evans potential  $E$  relative to  $(P, U)$  exists for any  $P$  on  $\Omega$  if and only if  $U$  has the ideal boundary values zero.*

Suppose the existence of  $E$  and set  $V=U-L_{\Omega}^P U$  which is a nonnegative solution of  $\Delta u=Pu$  on  $\Omega$  with boundary values zero on  $\partial\Omega$ . In view of  $\varepsilon E-V=(\varepsilon E/U-V/U) \cdot U$  and  $V/U \leq 1$ , (1) implies that the inferior limit of  $\varepsilon E-V$  as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow \infty$  or  $\partial\Omega$  is nonnegative for any positive number  $\varepsilon$  and therefore  $\varepsilon E-V \geq 0$  on  $\Omega$  which in turn implies  $V=0$ , i. e.  $L_{\Omega}^P U=U$ . Thus the essential part of our proof is to show the existence of  $E$  under the assumption  $L_{\Omega}^P U=U$ . The proof will be given in nos. 1-6. Before doing this we mention several direct con-

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sequences of our theorem, most of which are earlier published :

a) An *Evans-Selberg potential*  $q(z, z_0)$  on  $R$  is a harmonic function on  $R - \{z_0\}$  such that  $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} q(z, z_0) = +\infty$  and  $q(z, z_0) - \log|z - z_0| = O(1)$  as  $z \rightarrow z_0$ . Kuramochi [2, cf. also 3] proved that such  $q(z, z_0)$  exists on  $R$  if and only if  $R$  is parabolic (cf. [5]). Let  $z_0 \in R - \bar{\Omega}$  and  $D$  be a parametric disk about  $z_0$  with  $\bar{D} \subset R - \bar{\Omega}$ . Observe that  $L_{\Omega}^0 1 = 1$  if and only if  $R$  is parabolic. Therefore by our theorem an Evans potential  $E$  relative to  $(0, 1)$  exists on  $\Omega$  if and only if  $R$  is parabolic. If  $q(z, z_0)$  exists, then  $q(\cdot, z_0) - L_{\Omega}^0 q(\cdot, z_0)$  is an  $E$ . Conversely suppose  $E$  exists. Set  $\Omega_0 = \Omega \cup (D - \{z_0\})$  and let  $s(z)$  be  $2\pi \left( \int_{\partial \Omega_0} *dE \right)^{-1} E(z)$  on  $\Omega$  and  $\log|z - z_0|$  on  $D$ . By the Sario theorem [12], the equation  $L_{\Omega_0}^0 (q - s) = q - s$  has a harmonic solution  $q$  on  $R - \{z_0\}$  if and only if  $\int_{\partial \Omega_0} *ds = 0$ , which is actually the case for the present  $s$ , and the solution  $q$  is a required  $q(z, z_0)$ .

b) An *Evans solution*  $v$  of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  is a solution on  $R$  such that  $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} v(z) = +\infty$ . Let  $\omega = L_{\Omega}^P 1$ . Since  $L_{\Omega}^P \omega = \omega$ , there exists an Evans potential  $E$  relative to  $(P, \omega)$ . The equation  $L_{\Omega}^P (v - E) = v - E$  has a solution  $v$  which is a solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  provided  $P \neq 0$  on  $R$  (Sario-Nakai [13]). Since  $|v - E| \leq (\sup_{\partial \Omega} |v - E|) \cdot \omega$  on  $\Omega$ ,  $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} v(z) / \omega(z) = +\infty$ . Therefore an Evans solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  ( $P \neq 0$ ) exists on  $R$  if  $\inf_{\Omega} \omega > 0$  (Nakai [6]).

c) We denote by  $O_B$  the class of pairs  $(R, P)$  ( $P \neq 0$  on  $R$ ) such that the only bounded solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  is zero. It has been conjectured that  $(R, P) \in O_B$  is characterized by the existence of an Evans solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  (cf. [6; p. 92]). Recently the author ([9]) proved the existence of a *singular*  $P$  on any  $R$ , i.e. a  $P$  such that any nonnegative solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  has zero infimum, which completely negates the conjecture. However the conjecture sounds so natural that we still feel that it must be 'almost true'. The  $P$ -unit  $e_{\Omega}^P$  on  $\Omega$  is given by  $\sup u(z)$  where  $u$  runs over the class of solutions of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $\Omega$  with  $u \leq 1$ . Then the conjecture is true if it is modified as follows :

*The pair  $(R, P)$  belongs to  $O_B$  if and only if there exists a solution  $v$  of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  such that  $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} v(z) / e_{\Omega}^P(z) = +\infty$  for one and hence for every admissible  $\Omega$ .*

An Evans potential  $E$  relative to  $(P, e_{\Omega}^P)$  exists on  $\Omega$  if and only if  $L_{\Omega}^P e_{\Omega}^P = e_{\Omega}^P$ , which is, by Ozawa [10]-Royden [11], equivalent to  $(R, P) \in O_B$ . From this  $E$  we can construct a required  $v$  by the entirely same method as in **b**.

d) Let  $R$  be a hyperbolic Riemann surface and  $G^0(z, \zeta)$  be the harmonic Green's function on  $R$ . An *Evans harmonic function*  $h$  on  $R$  is a positive harmonic function on  $R$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} h(z_n) = +\infty$  for every sequence  $\{z_n\}$  of points in  $R$  converging to the point at infinity of  $R$  with  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} G^0(z_n, \zeta) > 0$  for one and hence for every  $\zeta \in R$ . The existence of such an  $h$  was shown in Nakai [7]. This is also a direct consequence of our theorem. Let  $\zeta \in R - \bar{\Omega}$ .

Since  $L_{\mathfrak{D}}^0 G^0(\cdot, \zeta) = G^0(\cdot, \zeta)$ , an Evans potential  $E$  relative to  $(0, G^0(\cdot, \zeta))$  exists on  $\Omega$ . The hyperbolicity of  $R$  assures the existence of a harmonic solution  $h$  of  $L_{\mathfrak{D}}^0(h-E) = h-E$  on  $R$  (cf. [8]), which is the required  $h$ .

e) Assume that  $P \neq 0$  on  $R$ . Then the Green's function  $G(z, \zeta)$  of the equation  $\Delta u = Pu$  always exists on  $R$  (Myrberg [4]). As a counter part of the result in **d**, Kawai [1] proved that there exists a positive solution  $u$  of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $R$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} u(z_n) = +\infty$  for every sequence  $\{z_n\}$  converging to the point at infinity of  $R$  with  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow +\infty} G(z_n, \zeta) > 0$  for one and hence for every  $\zeta \in R$ . By the entirely same observation as in **d** we can derive this result from our theorem.

1. We proceed to the existence proof of an Evans potential  $E$  relative to  $(P, U)$  on  $\Omega$  under the assumption  $L_{\mathfrak{D}}^p U = U$  on  $\Omega$ . Throughout our proof we fix a regular exhaustion  $\{R_n\}$  ( $n=1, 2, \dots$ ) of  $R$  such that  $R_1 \supset \bar{\Omega}_0$  with  $\Omega_0 = R - \bar{\Omega}$  and set  $\Omega_n = R_n \cap \Omega$ . Then  $\{\Omega_n\}$  ( $n=1, 2, \dots$ ) is an 'exhaustion' of  $\Omega$ . We also set  $\beta_0 = \partial\Omega = \partial\Omega_0$  and  $\beta_n = \partial R_n$ , i. e.  $\partial\Omega_n = \beta_0 \cup \beta_n$ . Let  $R^*$  be the Čech compactification of  $R$ ,  $\beta = R^* - R$  the Čech ideal boundary of  $R$ , and  $\Omega^* = R^* - (R - \bar{\Omega}) = R^* - \Omega_0$ , i. e.  $\Omega^* = \beta_0 \cup \Omega \cup \beta$ . Then any  $[-\infty, +\infty]$ -valued continuous function on  $\beta_0 \cup \Omega$  can be uniquely extended to a  $[-\infty, +\infty]$ -valued continuous function on  $\Omega^*$ . We denote by  $U_{n,m}$  ( $n < m$ ) the solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $\Omega_m - \bar{\Omega}_n$  with boundary values  $U$  on  $\beta_n$  and zero on  $\beta_m$ . Since  $L_{\mathfrak{D}}^p U = U$ ,  $\lim_m U_{0,m} = U$ . In view of  $U_{0,m} \leq U_{n,m} \leq U$ , we also have

$$(2) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow +\infty} U_{n,m} = U \quad (n=0, 1, \dots).$$

For our purpose it is convenient to consider the elliptic equation

$$(3) \quad \Delta v(z) + 2\nabla \log U(z) \cdot \nabla v(z) = 0$$

instead of  $\Delta u = Pu$ , where  $\nabla \varphi$  is the gradient vector field  $(\partial \varphi / \partial x, \partial \varphi / \partial y)$ . It is easily verified that the operator  $v \rightarrow Tv = U \cdot v$  is a bijective correspondence between the class of solutions of (3) and that of  $\Delta u = Pu$ . The merit of considering (3) is the validity of the following

**Minimum principle.** *Let  $v$  be a  $[0, +\infty]$ -valued continuous function on  $\Omega - \Omega_n$  such that  $v$  is a solution of (3) on  $\Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n$ . Then  $v$  takes its minimum on  $\beta_n$ .*

Set  $c = \min \{v(z); z \in \beta_n\}$ . Since  $Tv - cU_{n,m}$  is a solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $\Omega_m - \bar{\Omega}_n$  with boundary values  $U \cdot v - cU_{n,m} = (v-c) \cdot U \geq 0$  on  $\beta_n$  and  $U \cdot v - cU_{n,m} = U \cdot v \geq 0$  on  $\beta_m$ , we see that  $Tv \geq cU_{n,m}$  on  $\Omega_m - \bar{\Omega}_n$ . By (2) we deduce that  $Tv \geq cU$ , i. e.  $v \geq c$  on  $\Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n$ .

2. Modifying the Green's function  $G(z, \zeta)$  ( $G_n(z, \zeta)$ , resp.) of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $\Omega$  ( $\Omega_n$ , resp.) we consider a new kernel  $K(z, \zeta)$  on  $\Omega$  defined by

$$(4) \quad K(z, \zeta) = U(z)^{-1} G(z, \zeta) U(\zeta)^{-1}$$

which is also a positive symmetric kernel on  $\Omega$  and  $TK(\cdot, \zeta) = G(\cdot, \zeta)U(\zeta)^{-1}$ . Needless to say  $K(z, \zeta)$  is *not* the Green's function of (3) unless  $P \equiv 0$  and  $U \equiv 1$ . First we give an *analytic* proof of the existence of the  $K$ -capacitary measure  $\mu_n$  on  $\beta_n$  characterized by the identity

$$(5) \quad \int_{\beta_n} K(z, \zeta) d\mu_n(\zeta) = 1$$

for every  $z \in \beta_n$ . Fix a point  $z \in \Omega_n$ . Apply the Green formula to functions  $G(z, \cdot)$  and  $U - U_{0,n}$  for the region  $\Omega_n$  less the small  $\delta$ -disk about  $z$ . Then on letting  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  we obtain

$$(6) \quad 2\pi(U(z) - U_{0,n}(z)) = - \int_{\beta_n} G(z, \zeta) * d_\zeta(U(\zeta) - U_{0,n}(\zeta)) + \int_{\beta_n} U(\zeta) * d_\zeta G(z, \zeta).$$

Still fixing the same point  $z \in \Omega_n$  we again apply the Green formula to functions  $G_m(z, \cdot)$  and  $U_{n,m}$  for the region  $\Omega_m - \Omega_n$  to obtain

$$0 = - \int_{\beta_n} G_m(z, \zeta) * d_\zeta U_{n,m}(\zeta) + \int_{\beta_n} U(\zeta) * d_\zeta G_m(z, \zeta).$$

In view of the limit property (2), on letting  $m \rightarrow +\infty$ , we conclude that

$$0 = - \int_{\beta_n} G(z, \zeta) * d_\zeta U(\zeta) + \int_{\beta_n} U(\zeta) * d_\zeta G(z, \zeta).$$

Subtraction of the above identity from (6) implies

$$(7) \quad U(z) - U_{0,n}(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\beta_n} G(z, \zeta) * d_\zeta U_{0,n}(\zeta).$$

It is not hard to see that both sides of the above are continuous functions of  $z$  on  $\Omega_n \cup \beta_n$ . Therefore the validity of (7) on  $\Omega_n$  implies that on  $\Omega_n \cup \beta_n$ . For  $z \in \Omega_n \cup \beta_n$ , (7) takes on the form

$$1 - U_{0,n}(z)/U(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\beta_n} U(z)^{-1} G(z, \zeta) U(\zeta)^{-1} U(\zeta) * d_\zeta U_{0,n}(\zeta).$$

Observe that

$$d\mu_n(\zeta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} U(\zeta) * d_\zeta U_{0,n}(\zeta)$$

is a nonnegative Borel measure on  $\beta_n$  and we have

$$(8) \quad 1 - U_{0,n}(z)/U(z) = \int_{\beta_n} K(z, \zeta) d\mu_n(\zeta)$$

for  $z \in \Omega_n \cup \beta_n$  and in particular (5) is valid for  $z \in \beta_n$ .

3. The kernel  $K(z, \zeta)$  on  $\Omega$  has a natural extension to  $\Omega^*$ :

$$(9) \quad K(z^*, \zeta^*) = \lim_{z \in \Omega, z \rightarrow z^*} (\lim_{\zeta \in \Omega, \zeta \rightarrow \zeta^*} K(z, \zeta))$$

for  $(z^*, \zeta^*) \in \Omega^* \times \Omega^*$ . Since  $K(z, \zeta^*) = \lim_{\zeta \in \Omega, \zeta \rightarrow \zeta^*} K(z, \zeta)$  is a positive solution of (3) on  $\Omega - \{\zeta^*\}$  with boundary values zero on  $\beta_0$ , we could define  $K(z^*, \zeta^*) =$

$\lim_{z \in \Omega, z \rightarrow z^*} K(z, \zeta^*)$  in (9). For a compact set  $X$  in  $\Omega^*$  we consider three quantities  $\varepsilon(X)$ ,  $\delta(X)$ , and  $\tau(X)$  as follows. First let  $M(X)$  be the class of unit Borel measures on  $X$  and set

$$(10) \quad \varepsilon(X) = \inf_{\mu \in M(X)} [\mu, \mu]$$

where  $[\mu, \nu] = \int K(z, \zeta) d\mu(z) d\nu(\zeta)$  for two Borel measures  $\mu$  and  $\nu$ . The quantity  $1/\varepsilon(X)$  is referred to as the *K-capacity* of  $X$ . Next let

$$\binom{k}{2} \delta_k(X) = \inf_{z_1^*, \dots, z_k^* \in X} \sum_{i < j}^{1, \dots, k} K(z_i^*, z_j^*).$$

Then we know (cf. e.g. [6, 7, 13]) the existence of the limit

$$(11) \quad \delta(X) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \delta_k(X) \in [0, +\infty]$$

which is referred to as the *K-transfinite diameter* of  $X$ . Finally let

$$k\tau_k(X) = \sup_{z_1^*, \dots, z_k^* \in X} \left( \inf_{z^* \in X} \sum_{i=1}^k K(z^*, z_i^*) \right).$$

Then we know (cf. e.g. [6, 7, 13]) the existence of the limit

$$(12) \quad \tau(X) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \tau_k(X) \in [0, +\infty]$$

which is referred to as the *K-Chebycheff constant* of  $X$ . We have (cf. e.g. [6, 7, 13]) the following inequality:

$$(13) \quad \delta(X) \leq \tau(X),$$

which is the half of the Fékete identity. We do not know to what extent the following is true for general  $X$  in  $\Omega^*$  but at least for  $X$  in  $\Omega$  and in particular for  $\beta_n$  we have (cf. e.g. [7, 13])

$$(14) \quad \varepsilon(\beta_n) = \delta(\beta_n) = \tau(\beta_n).$$

4. Based on the minimum principle in no. 1 we prove

$$(15) \quad \delta(\beta_n) \leq \delta(\beta).$$

Fix an arbitrary system  $z_1^*, \dots, z_k^*$  of  $k$  points in  $\beta$ . We set

$$v(\zeta_1^*, \dots, \zeta_k^*) = \sum_{i < j}^{1, \dots, k} K(\zeta_i^*, \zeta_j^*).$$

First observe the function  $z \rightarrow v(z, z_1^*, \dots, z_k^*)$  is a positive solution of (3) on  $\Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n$  continuous on  $(\Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n) \cup \beta_n$ . Thus the function takes its minimum on  $\beta_n$ , say at  $z_1 \in \beta_n$ , and in particular we have

$$v(z_1, z_2^*, \dots, z_k^*) \leq v(z_1^*, z_2^*, \dots, z_k^*).$$

Assume that  $l$  points  $z_1, \dots, z_l \in \beta_n$  ( $1 \leq l < k$ ) are chosen so as to satisfy

$$v(z_1, \dots, z_l, z_{l+1}^*, \dots, z_k^*) \leq v(z_1, \dots, z_{l-1}, z_l^*, \dots, z_k^*).$$

Then since  $z \rightarrow v(z_1, \dots, z_l, z, z_{l+2}^*, \dots, z_k^*)$  is a positive solution of (3) on  $\Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n$  which is  $(0, +\infty]$ -valued continuous on  $(\Omega - \bar{\Omega}_n) \cup \beta_n$ , the function takes its minimum on  $\beta_n$ , say at  $z_{l+1} \in \beta_n$ . Therefore

$$v(z_1, \dots, z_{l+1}, z_{l+2}^*, \dots, z_k^*) \leq v(z_1, \dots, z_l, z_{l+1}^*, \dots, z_k^*).$$

We can thus find  $k$  points  $z_1, \dots, z_k$  in  $\beta_n$  such that

$$v(z_1, \dots, z_k) \leq v(z_1^*, \dots, z_k^*).$$

By the definition of  $\delta_k(\beta_n)$ , the left hand side of the above dominates  $\binom{k}{2} \delta_k(\beta_n)$ , and since  $z_1^*, \dots, z_k^*$  are arbitrarily chosen in  $\beta$ , we conclude that  $\delta_k(\beta_n) \leq \delta_k(\beta)$ . On making  $k \rightarrow +\infty$  we obtain (15).

5. Fix a point  $z_0 \in \Omega_1$ . Observe that the function  $\zeta \rightarrow K(z_0, \zeta)$  is a positive solution on  $\Omega - \Omega_1$ . Let  $a = \min \{K(z_0, \zeta) ; \zeta \in \beta_1\} > 0$ . Once more we use the minimum principle in no. 1 to conclude

$$(16) \quad K(z_0, \zeta) \geq a$$

for every  $\zeta \in \Omega - \Omega_1$ . From (8) and (16) it follows that

$$1 - U_{0,n}(z_0) / U(z_0) \geq \int_{\beta_n} a d\mu_n(\zeta) = a\mu_n(\beta_n).$$

We conclude by (2) that

$$(17) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \mu_n(\beta_n) = 0.$$

Set  $(\mu, \nu) = \int G(z, \zeta) d\mu(z) d\nu(\zeta)$ . Then  $[\mu, \nu] = (U^{-1} \cdot \mu, U^{-1} \cdot \nu)$ . We know that the Schwarz inequality  $(\mu, \nu)^2 \leq (\mu, \mu) \cdot (\nu, \nu)$  is valid (cf. e.g. [6]). Therefore the same is true of  $[\mu, \nu] : [\mu, \nu]^2 \leq [\mu, \mu] \cdot [\nu, \nu]$ . Let  $\mu \in M(\beta_n)$ . By (5),  $[\mu, \mu_n] = 1$ . Hence  $1 \leq [\mu, \mu][\mu_n, \mu_n]$ , and again by (5),  $[\mu_n, \mu_n] = \mu_n(\beta_n)$ . A fortiori  $[\mu, \mu] \geq 1/\mu_n(\beta_n)$  for every  $\mu \in M(\beta_n)$ . By the definition (10) we conclude that

$$(18) \quad \varepsilon(\beta_n) \geq 1/\mu_n(\beta_n).$$

Using (13), (15), (14), (18) and (17) successively in this order we deduce

$$(19) \quad \tau(\beta) = +\infty.$$

6. In view of (19) and  $\tau(\beta) = \lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \tau_k(\beta)$  we can find a subsequence  $\{k_m\}$  ( $m=1, 2, \dots$ ) of positive integers such that  $\tau_{k_m}(\beta) > 2^m$ . By the definition of  $\tau_{k_m}$  there exists  $k_m$  points  $z_{m,i}^*$  ( $i=1, \dots, k_m$ ) in  $\beta$  such that

$$\inf_{z^* \in \beta} \sum_{i=1}^{k_m} K(z^*, z_{m,i}^*) > 2^m k_m.$$

Denoting by  $\varepsilon_p$  the point measure at  $p \in \Omega^*$ , set

$$\nu_m = (2^m k_m)^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{k_m} \varepsilon_{z_{m,i}^*}$$

and

$$\nu = \sum_{m=1}^{+\infty} \nu_m.$$

Then  $\int K(z^*, \zeta^*) d\nu_m(\zeta^*) > 1$  for  $z^* \in \beta$  and a fortiori  $\int K(z^*, \zeta^*) d\nu(\zeta^*) = +\infty$  for  $z^* \in \beta$ . Since  $\nu(\beta) = 1$ ,  $F(z^*) = \int K(z^*, \zeta^*) d\nu(\zeta^*)$  is  $[0, +\infty]$ -valued continuous on  $\Omega^*$  and  $F(z)$  is a solution of (3) on  $\Omega$  such that  $F = 0$  on  $\beta_0$  and  $F = +\infty$  on  $\beta$ . Set  $E = TF = U \cdot F$ . Then  $E$  is a solution of  $\Delta u = Pu$  on  $\Omega$  with boundary values zero on  $\beta_0$  and  $E/U = +\infty$  on  $\beta$ . Therefore  $E$  satisfies (1) and  $E$  is an Evans potential relative to  $(P, U)$  on  $\Omega$ .

The proof is herewith complete.

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