

# Continuous dependence of the eigenvalues of generalized Schrödinger operators

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## **Abstract**

A modified definition of a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue is introduced where  $\mu$  is a nonnegative measure in the local Kato class. Dependence of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta + \nu$ , where  $\nu$  is a positive measure on the domain  $\Omega$  and on the measure  $\mu$  are investigated. It is also proved that the smallest  $\mu$ -eigenvalue is non degenerate with positive associated  $\mu$ -eigenfunction.

# 1 Introduction

Answering a question asked by R.E.Davis [4](p.129), recently B.Fuglede in [5] could give necessary and sufficient conditions for the eigenvalues of the Dirichlet Laplacian on  $\Omega_n$  with  $\Omega_n$  a decreasing bounded subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to converge to the eigenvalues of the Dirichlet Laplacian on  $\Omega$  where  $\Omega$  is the interior of  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \Omega_n$ . For the smallest  $\nu$ -eigenvalue  $\lambda_1(\Omega)$  of  $-\Delta + \mu$  on  $\Omega$  where  $\nu$  is a positive measure in the local Kato class whose fine support is  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and  $\mu$  is in the local Kato class, W.Hansen [8] proved that if  $\Omega$  is an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  and if  $\Omega_n$  is decreasing such that the fine interior of  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \Omega_n$  is  $\Omega$  then  $\lambda_1(\Omega_n)$  converges to  $\lambda_1(\Omega)$ , in [7] the same author proved the same result under the condition stated by B.Fuglede in [5], namely  $\Omega$  is stable. Let  $\mu$  be a positive measure in the local Kato class whose fine support is  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . In this paper a modified definition of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalue is given. We first prove that the smallest  $\mu$ -eigenvalue is simple. The monotonicity of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues is studied and aspect of their continuity are investigated with respect to the measure  $\mu$  and to the domain  $\Omega$ . It is proved that the results stated in [8] (proposition 3.2, 3.4) hold true for all the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues extending thereby the recently proved results [5] about the eigenvalues of the Dirichlet Laplacian on a bounded open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . In the third section it is proved that the properties of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta$  hold true for the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta + \nu$  where  $\nu$  is a positive measure in the local Kato class. At the end of the paper it is proved that the same thing holds true even if the fine support of  $\mu$  is not the whole  $\mathbb{R}^d$  provided that  $\mu$  is non zero.

We now give some basic notations and definition. Denote  $G$  the Green function of the Laplacian on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  i.e:  $-\Delta G(., y) = \delta_y$

**Definition 1.1** : *A positive measure  $\mu$  is in the local Kato class if the function  $\int_{\Omega} G(x, y) d\mu(y)$  is real continuous on  $\Omega$ , for every open bounded subset  $\Omega$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .*

In all the paper a domain  $\Omega$  is just an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , and  $\mu$  a non negative measure in the local Kato class. The notion of quasi-continuity is related to the classical Dirichlet capacity, and  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  is the classical Sobolev space, the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is denoted  $\lambda^d$  and  $dx$  under the integral sign. We denote  $C_b(\Omega)$  the space of bounded continuous functions on  $\Omega$ , and for every linear operator  $T$ ,  $\sigma(T)$  its spectrum. For a compact self-adjoint operator with eigenvalues  $(\lambda_k)_{1 \leq k \leq r(T)}$  where  $r(T)$  is the dimension of the range of  $T$

we enumerate the eigenvalues in a decreasing way. In this enumeration every eigenvalue is repeated as many times as its algebraic multiplicity. If  $r(T)$  is finite we put  $\lambda_k = 0$  for  $k \geq r(T)$ . For every function  $f$  we denote  $\text{supp}(f)$  its support.

**Definition 1.2** : ([1])  $\lambda$  is said to be a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue of  $-\Delta$  on  $\Omega$  if there is  $f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\mu(\text{supp}(f)) > 0$  such that  $-\Delta f = \lambda f \mu$  in the sense of distribution on  $\Omega$ . Such a function  $f$  will be called a  $\mu$ -eigenfunction.

It is known that every element of  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  has a quasi-continuous modification we can admit that every  $f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  is quasi-continuous (This leads to pick each time the quasi-continuous representative). Moreover, it was proved [1] that if  $\mu$  is in the local Kato class then every quasi-continuous function  $f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  is in  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ . Now the fact that the fine support of  $\mu$  is  $\mathbb{R}^d$  implies that  $H_0^1(\Omega) \subset L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  (Cf [2]). Let us mention that for every  $f \in L^2(\mu)$  we have  $K_\Omega^\mu f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ . All this implies that the definition of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues is well posed. A direct computation yields that  $\lambda$  is a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue if and only if  $\lambda^{-1}$  is an eigenvalue of  $K_\Omega^\mu$

$$K_\Omega^\mu : L^2(\Omega, \mu) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega, \mu), \quad K_\Omega^\mu f(x) = \int_\Omega G(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y)$$

**Remark 1.1** If  $\lambda$  is a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue of  $-\Delta$  on  $\Omega$  then there is  $f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that  $\int_\Omega \nabla f \bar{\nabla} g dx = \lambda \int_\Omega f \bar{g} d\mu$  for every  $g \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  thus  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of the form:

$$\mathcal{E}, \quad D(\mathcal{E}) = H_0^1(\Omega), \quad \mathcal{E}(f, g) = \int_\Omega \nabla f \bar{\nabla} g dx \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathcal{E}$  is defined in  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ . In [2] it is proved that  $\mathcal{E}$  is closable provided that the fine support of  $\mu$  is  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Now denote  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$  the closure of  $\mathcal{E}$ , then every  $\mu$ -eigenvalue is an eigenvalue of  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$  but the converse is not true. Thus the characterization of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues as being the inverses of the eigenvalues of  $K_\Omega^\mu$  is more natural. Moreover if we denote  $D(\bar{\mathcal{E}})$  the domain of  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$  and  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}_1$  the norm  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}[\cdot] + \|\cdot\|_{L^2(\Omega, \mu)}^2$  then for every closed subspace  $F$  of  $(D(\bar{\mathcal{E}}), \bar{\mathcal{E}}_1^{\frac{1}{2}})$  the injection  $(F, \bar{\mathcal{E}}_1^{\frac{1}{2}}) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  is compact. For instance it is proved in [2] that the operator  $-\Delta$  associated to the form  $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$  has compact resolvent. So in the case where the fine support of  $\mu$  is  $\mathbb{R}^d$  we are in the setting described by B.Fuglede [5]. But the method we propose is different and simpler. However

if the fine support of  $\mu$  is not required to be  $\mathbb{R}^d$  then it is no more possible to define  $-\Delta$  in  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  by means of a closed form since one can not identify  $H_0^1(\Omega)$  to a subspace of  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ . In this situation the method given in [5] is no longer valid, but ours still works.

Now the operator  $K_\Omega^\mu$  is compact [1] therefore the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta$  on a bounded subset forms at most a discrete set accumulating at infinity. We enumerate them  $0 < \lambda_1(\Omega) \leq \lambda_2(\Omega) \dots \leq \lambda_k(\Omega) \leq \lambda_{k+1}(\Omega) \dots$  repeated according to their multiplicities. Now one can assert as in the case where  $\mu = \lambda^d$  (where a  $\lambda^d$ -eigenvalue is simply an eigenvalue) the Lebesgue measure on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

**Proposition 1.1** *For every bounded domain  $\Omega$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\lambda_1(\Omega)$  is simple with positive associated  $\mu$ -eigenfunction.*

**Proof:** It suffices to prove that  $K_\Omega^\mu$  is positivity preserving then conclude by theorem(XIII.43) in [10]. Obviously if  $f \geq 0$ ,  $\mu - a.e$  then  $K_\Omega^\mu f \geq 0$ ,  $\mu - a.e$ . Now if  $K_\Omega^\mu f = 0$  then  $f = 0$ ,  $\mu - a.e$  thus  $K_\Omega^\mu$  is positivity preserving.  $\square$   
One can ask what is about the dependence of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues on the measure  $\mu$  and on the domain  $\Omega$ ? For the dependence on the measure a sort of continuity can be observed:

**Proposition 1.2** *Let  $(\mu_n)$  be a sequence of measures in the local Kato class increasing to  $\mu$  then  $\lambda_{k,n}(\Omega) \rightarrow \lambda_k(\Omega)$ , where  $\lambda_{k,n}(\Omega)$  is the  $k$ 'th  $\mu_n$ -eigenvalue of  $-\Delta$  on  $\Omega$ .*

First we give a lemma that will be used along the paper. We say that an operator  $T$  defined on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  is positive if  $(Tf, f) > 0$  for  $f \neq 0$ . A sequence of operators  $(T_k)$  is said to be decreasing if  $(T_k f - T_{k+1} f, f) \geq 0$  for every  $f \in \mathcal{H}$ .

**Lemma 1.1** *Let  $(T_k)$  be a decreasing sequence of compact self-adjoint operators on a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  converging to  $T$  where  $T$  is positive. Let  $(\beta_{k,n})$  be such that  $\beta_{k,n}$  is the  $n$ -th eigenvalue of  $T_k$  for every  $k$ . Then  $(\beta_{k,n})$  converges to  $\beta_n$  the  $n$ -th eigenvalue of  $T$ .*

Although the proof of this lemma can be derived from the proof of theorem(4.2) (p.18) in [6] we will give here an independent proof.

**Proof:** Remark first that the convergence of  $(\beta_{k,n})$  is a consequence of the

monotonicity of  $(T_k)$ . Now fix  $n > 1$  suppose that for every  $j$ ,  $\beta_j$  has algebraic multiplicity  $r(j)$ . Then we have

$$\beta_1 = \dots = \beta_{r(1)} > \beta_{r(1)+1} = \dots = \beta_{r(1)+r(2)} > \dots > \beta_n = \beta_{r(s-1)+1} = \dots \beta_{r(s-1)+r(n)}$$

For some integer  $s > 1$ . It is known that for large  $k$  there is at  $r(1)$  eigenvalues of  $T_k$  near  $\beta_1$ , say  $\beta_{k,1}, \dots, \beta_{k,r(1)}$ . Since the sequence  $(T_k)$  is decreasing then for large  $k$  we have  $\beta_{k,j} \geq \beta_1$  for  $1 \leq j \leq r(1)$ . Now using theorem(4.10) (p.291) in [9] we get that  $\beta_{k,j}$  tends to an element of the spectrum of  $T$  for every  $1 \leq j \leq r(1)$  thereby it tends to  $\beta_1$ . Now we can retrieve the same arguments for  $\lambda_{r(2)}$  using the fact that there is  $\delta < \beta_1$  with  $\beta_{r(2)} \leq \beta_{k,j} < \delta$  for  $r(1) + 1 \leq j \leq r(2)$ . Now by recursion we get the result for  $\beta_n$ .  $\square$

**Remark 1.2** : *Clearly lemma(1.1) holds true if  $(T_k)$  is monotone. We also mention that the hypothesis that  $T_k, T$  are monotone self-adjoint can be dropped provided that the eigenvalues of the operators under consideration are all real monotone.*

**Proof:** (of theorem(1.2)) Since  $\mu_n$  increases to  $\mu$  then  $L^2(\Omega, \mu) \subset L^2(\Omega, \mu_n)$  and the ordered eigenvalues are real monotone . Now using the spectral invariance [3] one can prove that the eigenvalues of  $K_\Omega^{\mu_n}$  are the eigenvalues of the operator  $K_n := : L^2(\Omega, \mu) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega, \mu), K_n f = \int_\Omega G(\cdot, y) f(y) d\mu_n(y)$ , hence according to lemma(1.1) and the remark that follows it, it suffices to prove that  $\|K_n - K_\Omega^\mu\| \rightarrow 0$ . A direct computation shows that if we put  $\nu_n = \mu - \mu_n$  then  $\|K_n - K\| \leq \|G_\Omega^{\nu_n}\|_\infty^{\frac{1}{2}} \|G_\Omega^\mu\|_\infty^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Clearly  $\|G_\Omega^{\nu_n}\|_\infty^{\frac{1}{2}} \rightarrow 0$  and the proof is complete.  $\square$

## 2 Dependence on the domain

The main tool to use to prove monotonicity and continuity of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues relatively to the domain is the mini-max principle.

**Proposition 2.1** . *Let  $\Omega_1, \Omega_2$  be two bounded domains in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\Omega_1 \subset \Omega_2$ . Then  $\lambda_k(\Omega_1) \geq \lambda_k(\Omega_2)$ .*

**Proof:** It is equivalent to the facts that the  $\beta_k(\Omega)$ 's are increasing with respect to  $\Omega$  where  $\beta_k(\Omega)$  are the eigenvalues of  $K_\Omega^\mu$  ordered in a decreasing way. By the mini-max principle we have

$$\beta_k(\Omega_1) = \min_{\dim L \leq k-1} \max\{(K_{\Omega_1}^\mu f, f)_{L^2(\Omega_1, \mu)}, f \in L^\perp, \|f\| = 1, L \subset L^2(\Omega_1, \mu)\}$$

Choose  $f \in L^2(\Omega_1, \mu)$  since  $\Omega_1 \subset \Omega_2$  the extension  $\tilde{f}$  of  $f$  to  $\Omega_1$  by 0 in  $\Omega_2 \setminus \Omega_1$  is in  $L^2(\Omega_2, \mu)$ . Furthermore

$$K_{\Omega_1}^\mu f(x) = \int_{\Omega_1} G(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y) = \int_{\Omega_2} G(x, y) \tilde{f}(y) d\mu(y) = K_{\Omega_2}^\mu f(x) \quad (2)$$

Now  $(K_{\Omega_1}^\mu f, f)_{L^2(\Omega_1, \mu)} = (K_{\Omega_2}^\mu \tilde{f}, \tilde{f})_{L^2(\Omega_2, \mu)}$ , it follows that

$$\max\{(K_{\Omega_1}^\mu f, f)_{L^2(\Omega_1, \mu)}, f \in L^\perp, \|f\| = 1, L \subset L^2(\Omega_1, \mu)\} \quad (3)$$

$$\leq \max\{(K_{\Omega_2}^\mu f, f)_{L^2(\Omega_2, \mu)}, f \in L^\perp, \|f\| = 1, L \subset L^2(\Omega_2, \mu)\} \quad (4)$$

and thereby  $\beta_k(\Omega_1) \leq \beta_k(\Omega_2)$ .  $\square$

In the sequel we denote  $K_{\Omega_n}^\mu$  by  $K_n$  and  $K_\Omega^\mu$  by  $K$ , also  $\lambda_k(\Omega_n)$  is denoted  $\lambda_{k,n}$  and  $\lambda_k(\Omega)$  is denoted  $\lambda_k$ .

**Theorem 2.1** *Let  $(\Omega_n)$  be an increasing sequence of domains of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\cup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \Omega_n = \Omega$ , then  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_{k,n} = \lambda_k$ .*

**Proof:** We will prove the convergence for the  $\beta_k(\Omega_n)$ 's. Denote  $\beta_{k,n} = \beta_k(\Omega_n)$ , given  $\epsilon > 0$  there is  $L \subset L^2(\Omega_n, \mu)$ ,  $\dim L \leq k-1$ , such that for every  $f \in L^\perp$ ,  $\beta_{k,n} \leq (K_{\Omega_n}^\mu f, f)_{L^2(\Omega_n, \mu)} + \epsilon \leq (K_{\Omega_n}^\mu \tilde{f}, \tilde{f})_{L^2(\Omega, \mu)} \leq \beta_k + \epsilon$ , where  $\tilde{f}$  is the extension of  $f$  by 0 in  $\Omega \setminus \Omega_n$ . The reversed inequality is due to proposition(2.1).  $\square$

For a sequence of decreasing domains the convergence of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues to the previous limit is less obvious.

**Theorem 2.2** *Let  $(\Omega_n)$  be a decreasing sequence of bounded subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $\cap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \Omega_n = \Omega_\infty$ . Put  $\Omega$  the interior with respect to the usual topology on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  of  $\Omega_\infty$  which we suppose to be non void. Put  $\text{int}_f(\Omega_\infty)$  the interior with respect to the fine topology of  $\Omega_\infty$ . Suppose that  $\text{int}_f(\Omega_\infty) \setminus \Omega$  is polar then  $\lambda_{k,n} \rightarrow \lambda_k(\Omega)$ .*

**Remark 2.1** *It was first proved in [7] that if  $\text{int}_f(\Omega_\infty)$  and  $\Omega$  differ by a polar set (this is  $\Omega$  is stable) then the smallest  $\mu$ -eigenvalue tend to the previous one. Later on B.Fuglede proved [5] that for the  $\lambda^d$ -eigenvalues,  $\lambda_{k,n} \rightarrow \lambda_k$  if and only if  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} H_0^1(\Omega_n) = H_0^1(\Omega)$  which in turns equivalent to the fact that  $\Omega$  is stable.*

Before giving the proof we give some observations. Denote  $L^2(\mu)$  the space  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, \mu)$ . For every open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  we identify  $L^2(U, \mu)$  to the subspace of  $L^2(\mu)$  defined by  $\{f \in L^2(\mu), f = 0, \text{ on } U^c\}$ , where  $U^c = \mathbb{R}^d \setminus U$ . The space  $H_0^1(U)$  with  $\{f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d), f = 0, \text{ on } U^c\}$ . The extension of  $K_U^\mu$  on  $L^2(\mu)$  will be defined as follows for every  $f \in L^2(\mu)$ :

$$\widetilde{K}_U^\mu f(x) = \begin{cases} K_U^\mu f(x) & ; x \in U, \mu - a.e \\ 0 & ; x \in U^c \end{cases}$$

Clearly for every  $f \in L^2(U, \mu)$ ,  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu f = K_U^\mu f$ , moreover  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu : L^2(\mu) \rightarrow L^2(\mu)$  continuously. Indeed  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\widetilde{K}_U^\mu f(x)|^2 d\mu(x) = \int_U |K_U^\mu f(x)|^2 d\mu(x) \leq \|G_U^\mu\|_\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^2 d\mu(x)$ . Remark that  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu$  maps also  $L^2(\mu)$  into  $L^2(\lambda^d)$  continuously. Now by [1] we have for every  $f \in L^2(\mu)$ ,  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu f|_U \in H_0^1(U)$  and  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ .

**Lemma 2.1** *Under the hypothesis of theorem(2.2) we have*

$$\|\widetilde{K}_n - \widetilde{K}\| \longrightarrow 0$$

**Proof:** Let  $f \in L^2(\mu)$  then:

$$\widetilde{K}_n f(x) - \widetilde{K} f(x) = \begin{cases} K_n f(x) - K f(x) & ; x \in \Omega, \mu - a.e \\ K_n f(x) & ; x \in \Omega_n \setminus \Omega, \mu - a.e \\ 0 & ; x \in \Omega_n^c, \mu - a.e \end{cases}$$

We thereby get:

$$\|\widetilde{K}_n f - \widetilde{K} f\|^2 = \int_\Omega |K_n f(x) - K f(x)|^2 d\mu(x) + \int_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} |K_n f(x)|^2 d\mu(x) \leq \int_\Omega |\int_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} G(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y)|^2 d\mu(x) + \int_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} |\int_{\Omega_n} G(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y)|^2 d\mu(x).$$

Hence  $|\int_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} G(x, y) f(y) d\mu(y)|^2 \leq \|G_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega}\|_\infty \int_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} G(x, y) |f|^2 d\mu(y)$  making the same observation for the other term we get

$$\|K_n - K\|^2 \leq \|G_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega}\|_\infty (\|G_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega}\|_\infty + \|G_{\Omega_1}^\mu\|). \quad (5)$$

Now

$$G_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} = \int_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} G(\cdot, y) d\mu(y) \leq \int_{\Omega_n} G(\cdot, y) 1_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} d\mu(y) = K_n 1_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} \quad (6)$$

Since  $\text{int}_f \Omega_\infty \setminus \Omega$  is polar we get  $K_n 1_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega} = K_n 1_{\Omega_n \setminus \text{int}_f \Omega_\infty}$ . Using lemma(3.3) in [8] we get  $\|G_{\Omega_n \setminus \Omega}^\mu\|_\infty \rightarrow 0$ . And the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Lemma 2.2** *For every bounded open subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu$  is compact.*

**Proof:** Let  $(f_n)$  be a sequence in  $L^2(\mu)$  with  $\|f_n\| \leq 1$ . Put  $g_n = f_n|_U$ , clearly  $(g_n)$  is bounded in  $L^2(U, \mu)$ . Now the compactness of  $K_U^\mu$  on  $L^2(U, \mu)$  implies the existence a a subsequence  $g_{n_k}$  such that  $K_U^\mu g_{n_k} \rightarrow \varphi$  in  $L^2(U, \mu)$  but  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu(f_{n_k}|_U) = \widetilde{K}_U^\mu f_{n_k}$  which yields  $\widetilde{K}_U^\mu f_{n_k} \rightarrow \varphi$  in  $L^2(\mu)$ .  $\square$

As a consequence we get that  $\widetilde{K}$  is compact. This observation yields the following

$$\sigma(\widetilde{K}) = \sigma(K)$$

One can consider only non zero elements of the both spectra, those are eigenvalues. By the identification of  $L^2(U, \mu)$  one easily get  $\sigma(K) \subseteq \sigma(\widetilde{K})$ . Now given  $\lambda \in \sigma(\widetilde{K})$  there is  $f \in L^2(\mu)$  such that  $Kf = \lambda f = \widetilde{K}(f|_U)$ . Hence  $f \in L^2(U, \mu)$  and  $Kf = \lambda f$  thereby  $\lambda \in \sigma(K)$ .

**Proof**(of 2.2 ): By lemma (1.1) and (2.1) the (enumerated) eigenvalues of  $\widetilde{K}_n$  converge to those of  $\widetilde{K}$  and the last remark gives the result.  $\square$

Using theorem(2.2) in [5] one get the following interesting result

**Corollary 2.1** *Under the assumptions of theorem(2.2), denote  $\Lambda_{k,n}$  the ordered eigenvalues of  $-\Delta$  on  $\Omega_n$  with Dirichlet boundary condition and  $\Lambda_k$  the ordered eigenvalues of the corresponding operator on  $\Omega$ . Then if  $\Lambda_{k,n} \rightarrow \Lambda$  we get  $\lambda_{k,n} \rightarrow \lambda_k$  for every positive measure in the local Kato class whose fine support is  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .*



**Remark 2.2** *If  $\Omega$  is as in theorem(2.2) then  $H_0^1(\Omega) = \bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} H_0^1(\Omega_n)$ . Indeed if  $\tilde{P}_{k,n}$  are the eigenprojections associated to  $\beta_{k,n}$ , then clearly  $\tilde{P}_{k,n} \rightarrow \tilde{P}_k$  where  $\tilde{P}_k$  are the eigenprojections associated to  $\beta_k$  ( this is simply by lemma(2.1)). Clearly the eigenprojections  $\tilde{P}_{k,n}$  are the natural extension of  $P_{k,n}$ . Moreover since  $\tilde{K}_n, \tilde{K}$  are compact self-adjoint then they have the following development*

$$\tilde{K}_n = \sum_{k \geq 1} \beta_{k,n} \tilde{P}_{k,n} \quad (7)$$

and

$$\tilde{K} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \beta_k \tilde{P}_k \quad (8)$$

*Thus if  $f$  is in the range of  $\tilde{P}_{k,n}$  then for  $j \neq k$  we have  $\|\tilde{P}_{j,n}f - \tilde{P}_j f\| = \|\tilde{P}_j f\| \rightarrow 0$  hence the corresponding eigenspace of  $\beta_{k,n}$  is included in that associated to  $\beta_k$  thereby  $H_0^1(\Omega_n) \subset H_0^1(\Omega)$  for every  $n$  and then  $\bigcap_{n \in \mathbb{N}} H_0^1(\Omega) \subset H_0^1(\Omega)$ . The reversed inclusion is obvious.*

### 3 Perturbations

The above proved properties of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta$  on a bounded open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  still hold true after perturbation of  $-\Delta$  by a positive measure in the local Kato class. Indeed let  $\nu$  be a positive measure in the local Kato class. We say that  $\lambda$  is a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue of  $-\Delta + \nu$  if there is  $f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ ,  $\mu(\text{supp}(f)) > 0$  such that  $-\Delta f + f\nu = \lambda f\mu$  in the sense of distribution on  $\Omega$ . Or equivalently  $\lambda^{-1}$  is an eigenvalue of

$$K = (I + K_\Omega^\nu)^{-1} K_\Omega^\mu$$

Since for every  $f \in L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ ,  $K_\Omega^\mu f \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  then the operator  $K$  is well defined on  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ . It is known [8] that  $K$  is a kernel operator on  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ , more precisely there is a real symmetric kernel  $G_\Omega^\nu$  such that for every  $f \in L^2(\Omega, \mu)$

$$Kf = \int_\Omega G_\Omega^\nu(\cdot, y) f(y) d\mu(y) \quad (9)$$

Moreover there is a constant  $c > 0$  such that  $G_\Omega^\nu(x, y) \leq cG(x, y)$  for  $x \neq y$ . This yields that  $\mu$  is in the local Kato class with respect to  $G_\Omega^\nu$  and thereby [2]  $K$  is compact on  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  with a nonnegative smallest  $\mu$ -eigenvalue. Now fix an open bounded subset  $U$  of  $\mathbb{R}^d$  denote  $\mathcal{U}$  the set of all open subsets included in  $U$ . Clearly for every  $\Omega \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $G_\Omega^\nu = G_U^\nu$ . Changing  $G$  by  $G_U^\nu$  and taking  $\Omega_n \in \mathcal{U}$ ,  $\Omega \in \mathcal{U}$ , one get

**Theorem 3.1** *The  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta + \nu$  on subsets of  $\mathcal{U}$  are increasing and satisfy proposition(1.1), (1.2) and theorem(2.1), (2.2).*

**Proof:** For the dependence on the measure  $\mu$  one has just to observe that  $(I + K_\Omega^\nu)^{-1}K_\Omega^{\mu_n}f = \int_\Omega G_\Omega^\nu(\cdot, y)f(y)d\mu_n(y)$ . For the other assertions the proof is substantially like those of proposition(1.1), (1.2) and theorem(2.1), (2.2).  $\square$

## 4 For measures $\mu$ whose fine support is not $\mathbb{R}^d$

In this section we no longer suppose that the fine support of the measure  $\mu$  is  $\mathbb{R}^d$  but we suppose that the support of  $\mu$  is  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . It then follows that it is no more possible to define  $-\Delta$  as an operator acting in  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ . The assumption,  $\text{supp}(\mu) = \mathbb{R}^d$  is crucial for the Hilbert space  $L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  to be a non trivial Hilbert space for every domain  $\Omega$ . We adopt the same definition of a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue of  $-\Delta$  on  $\Omega$ , we denote  $\nu$  the measure  $\mu + \lambda^d$ . This yields the following characterization of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues (Cf. [1]):  $\lambda$  is a  $\mu$ -eigenvalue of  $-\Delta$  if and only if  $\lambda^{-1}$  is an eigenvalue of the operator  $K_\Omega$ :

$$K_\Omega : L^2(\Omega, \nu) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega, \nu), \quad K_\Omega f = \int_\Omega G(\cdot, y)f(y)d\mu(y)$$

Now the operator  $K_\Omega$  is no longer self-adjoint and the arguments used before are no more valid. So one need an other characterization of the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues. Put  $K_\Omega^\mu : L^2(\Omega, \mu) \longrightarrow L^2(\Omega, \mu)$ ,  $K_\Omega^\mu f = \int_\Omega G(\cdot, y)f(y)d\mu(y)$  then we have:

**Lemma 4.1**  *$\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $K_\Omega$  if and only if it is an eigenvalue of  $K_\Omega^\mu$  having the same multiplicity.*

**Proof:** Since  $\mu \leq \nu$  then  $L^2(\Omega, \nu) \subset L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  and  $K_{\Omega}^{\mu}|_{L^2(\Omega, \nu)} = K_{\Omega}$  which implies that if  $f$  is an eigenfunction associated to  $\lambda$  then  $f \in L^2(\Omega, \mu)$  and  $K_{\Omega}^{\mu}f = \lambda f$  to get that  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $K_{\Omega}^{\mu}$  it suffices to prove that the measure with respect to  $\mu$  of the support of  $f$  is non zero. Suppose that  $\mu(\text{supp}f) = 0$  then  $K_{\Omega}f = 0$  every where hence  $\lambda f = 0$  every where since  $\lambda \neq 0$  this implies that  $f = 0$  which contradicts the fact  $f$  is an eigenfunction. On the other hand by the spectral invariance we get  $\sigma(K_{\Omega}^{\mu}) = \sigma(K^{\mu})$  where

$$K^{\mu} := C_b(\Omega) \longrightarrow C_b(\Omega), K^{\mu}f = \int_{\Omega} G(\cdot, y)f(y)d\mu(y) \quad (10)$$

with the same multiplicity for the eigenvalues. The inclusion  $C_b(\Omega) \subset L^2(\Omega, \nu)$  gives the reversed part.  $\square$

Now since the operator  $K_{\Omega}^{\mu}$  is compact self-adjoint we can retrieve our arguments. We immediately conclude

**Theorem 4.1** *Let  $\mu$  be a positive measure in the local Kato class whose support is  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Then the  $\mu$ -eigenvalues of  $-\Delta$  satisfy proposition(1.1), (1.2) and theorem(2.1), (2.2).*

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