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Original
Harmonic Bergman spaces on locally finite trees / Ottazzi, A., Santagati, F.. - In: ANNALI DI MATEMATICA PURA ED APPLICATA. - ISSN 0373-3114. - (2026). [10.1007/s10231-025-01652-2]

Availability:
This version is available at: 11583/3011307 since: 2026-05-23T08:00:14Z

Publisher:
Springer Nature

Published
DOI:10.1007/s10231-025-01652-2

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10 October 2026

Annali di Matematica Pura ed Applicata (1923 -)
https://doi.org/10.1007/s10231-025-01652-2

Harmonic Bergman spaces on locally finite trees

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Received: 6 May 2025 / Accepted: 22 December 2025
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Abstract
We define the harmonic Bergman space on locally finite trees with respect to a suitable probabilistic Laplacian and a class of weighted flow measures. We characterise the corresponding Bergman projection and prove that it is bounded on L^p for every $p > 1$, and of weak type (1, 1). We also prove necessary and sufficient conditions for the L^p-boundedness of the extension of a class of Toeplitz-type operators.

Keywords Bergman projection · Locally finite trees · Nondoubling measures

Mathematics Subject Classification 05C05 · 05C21 · 31C05 · 43A99

1 Introduction

Bergman spaces, i.e., spaces of holomorphic functions in L^2, have been studied in several geometric settings by different authors, from the classical unit disk setup to domains in $\mathbb{C}^n$ with boundaries of different complexities. The study has also been extended outside the realm of complex variable functions, where authors substitute holomorphic functions with harmonic functions with respect to a suitable Laplace operator. We briefly recall some classical results.

The authors were both supported by the Australian Research Council, grant DP220100285. Santagati was partially supported by the INdAM - GNAMPA Project "L^p estimates for singular integrals in nondoubling settings" (CUP E53C23001670001).

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Published online: 16 January 2026

Let D be the unit disk in $\mathbb{C}$, and let μ_α be the absolutely continuous measure with respect to the Lebesgue measure in D with density $(1-|z|^2)^{\alpha-2}$ for $\alpha > 1$. Denote by $B^2(D,\mu_\alpha)$ the space of holomorphic functions in $L^2(D,\mu_\alpha)$. The Bergman projection $\mathcal{P}_\alpha$, i.e., the orthogonal projection from $L^2(D,\mu_\alpha)$ onto $B^2(D,\mu_\alpha)$, is defined by an integral operator, whose kernel is the reproducing kernel of $B^2(D,\mu_\alpha)$.

A classical result states that the operator $\mathcal{P}_\alpha$ is bounded on $L^p(D,\mu_\alpha)$ for every $p \in (1,\infty)$; we refer to [23, Chapter 4] and the references therein for a more detailed discussion about $\mathcal{P}_\alpha$.

The analysis on the disk can be naturally extended to the upper half-plane U, where the measure μ_α is replaced by the absolutely continuous measure with respect to the Lebesgue measure on U, whose density is $\operatorname{Im}(z)^{\alpha-2}$, provided that $\alpha > 1$.

For harmonic Bergman functions with respect to the Lebesgue measure, we refer to [1] for the definition of the Bergman projection in the cases of the ball and the half-space, to [18] for the classical L^p-boundedness property on the half-space setting and to [21, 22] where related results are extended to a wider class of measures.

More recently, building on the connection between the disk and homogeneous trees [2, 19], several works have extended the study of the Bergman projection to harmonic functions in the discrete setting; see [3, 8, 9]. In particular, in [8] and [9], the authors study the L^p-boundedness of the Bergman projection on the homogeneous tree T_{q+1}, i.e., a tree where every vertex has exactly $q+1$ neighbours, where the harmonic functions are defined with respect to the *combinatorial* Laplacian. In this context, the measures $(1-|z|^2)^{\alpha-2}\,\mathrm{d}z$ and $\operatorname{Im}(z)^{\alpha-2}\,\mathrm{d}z$ are replaced by $q^{-\alpha|\cdot|}$ on the disk realization of T_{q+1} and by $q^{\alpha\ell(\cdot)}$ on the upper half-plane realization of T_{q+1}, provided that $\alpha > 1$. Here, $|\cdot|$ denotes the graph distance from the origin, and $\ell(\cdot)$ is the *level* of a vertex (see Sect. 1.1 for a precise definition). The study of this harmonic Bergman projection was recently generalised to the case of *radial* trees in [6].

It is worth emphasising that, unlike isotropic settings where no direction is privileged, the choice of a root on a tree naturally induces an intrinsic orientation, namely from the root toward the boundary. This directionality can be exploited by defining operators that are not isotropic but instead aligned with the geometry of the tree; such an approach often leads to improved analytical behavior. For instance, it is known that the centred Hardy–Littlewood maximal operator on a tree with bounded geometry may fail to be bounded on any L^p space for $p < \infty$ [12]. However, if one restricts the averaging process to the portion of a ball lying *below* its center, the resulting non-centered maximal operator becomes bounded on every L^p space with $p > 1$, even on locally finite trees [16]. Similarly, while the combinatorial Laplacian, which is associated with an isotropic random walk, allows for the study of Carleson measures only under radial symmetry assumptions on the tree [4, 5], the use of a directional operator, such as the *forward Laplacian*, defined as the identity minus an average over the *successors* of a vertex, captures the underlying geometry and enables a characterisation of Carleson measures on arbitrary locally finite trees [17].

The forward Laplacian studied in this article can be seen, in analogy with the continuous case, as a Laplacian with drift. In fact, in the case of the $ax+b$ group, one considers the Laplacian given by the sum of squares of a basis of vector fields drifted by multiples of X_0, the vector field generating the Lie algebra of A. The operators constructed in this fashion are symmetric with respect to an appropriate measure. Similarly, on trees one considers a Laplacian analogous to the sum of squares, called the flow Laplacian and denoted $\mathcal{L}$ (see [11,

15]). In this order of ideas, the forward Laplacian can be seen, in the case of a homogeneous tree, as a flow Laplacian with drift of the form $2(\mathcal{L} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla)$, where ∇ is the natural gradient, defined by $\nabla f(\cdot) = f(\cdot) - f(p(\cdot))$, with $p(x)$ the predecessor of x. We further observe that among all operators of the form $\mathcal{L} + c\nabla$, one may retrieve the combinatorial Laplacian, much like in the continuous case where the Laplace-Beltrami operator on $ax + b$ can be seen as a sum of squares with a specific drift. Interestingly enough, the case $c = \frac{1}{2}$ studied in this paper is the only one that is not symmetric with respect to any measure. In the present work we study the harmonic Bergman projection associated to the forward Laplacian on locally finite trees, without imposing additional geometric assumptions.

To clarify the novelty of our setting, we briefly discuss how previous works on the combinatorial Laplacian relate to our approach. The harmonic Bergman projection associated with the combinatorial Laplacian on radial trees was studied in [6], where the authors obtain an operator-level representation via a decomposition into Haar-type shifts and prove L^p -boundedness using a discrete Calderón-Zygmund theory. Their method relies on a Hörmander integral condition exploiting cancellations of the kernel derivative and size estimates, and crucially depends on the radial geometry; it seems to us that it cannot be easily adapted to the study of this Bergman projection on non-radial trees. A different Calderón-Zygmund framework was developed by Hebisch and Steger [10] in the context of homogeneous trees and the $ax + b$ group. Their results depend on an abstract Calderón-Zygmund property requiring geometric regularity and, in particular, comparability of measures across sets and their envelopes. Such assumptions fail in our setting, where the measures we consider, i.e., products of flow measures with weights on $\mathbb{Z}$, need not be (locally) doubling. By contrast, the Calderón-Zygmund theory of [6] applies to general nonhomogeneous trees without any doubling assumption, since it does not require comparability between the measure of a set and that of its parent.

We briefly outline the structure of the article and the main results.

In Sect. 2, we find an explicit expression of the harmonic Bergman kernel associated to the forward Laplacian on L^2 equipped with measures that are pointwise products of *flow measures* and weights on $\mathbb{Z}$ satisfying suitable decay properties. Notably, on the homogeneous tree T_{q+1}, the function $q^{\ell(\cdot)}$ represents the simplest example of a flow measure and is closely related to the measure $q^{\alpha\ell(\cdot)}$ considered in [8]. The exponent $\alpha > 1$ appearing in the measure $q^{\alpha\ell(\cdot)}$ can be interpreted as the product of $q^{\ell(\cdot)}$ and the weight on $\mathbb{Z}$ defined by $n \mapsto q^{n(\alpha-1)}$. The flow measure $q^{\ell(\cdot)}$ on T_{q+1} can be regarded as the discrete counterpart of the measure $\mathrm{Im}(z)^{-1}\,\mathrm{d}z$ on the upper half-plane U, as implicitly noted in [10]. This parallel suggests that a flow measure alone is not enough to define a non-trivial Bergman space and an additional decay property of the measure as a vertex approaches the boundary is required to study the harmonic Bergman projection; indeed, we show that the Bergman space associated to a flow measure is trivial (see Proposition 2.4). We emphasise that the class of measures we consider includes, for instance, the radial measures studied in [6]. Our main result, Theorem 2.11, establishes weak type (1,1) and L^p boundedness of the Bergman projection associated to these measures for every $p \in (1, \infty)$. Our proof relies on the Calderón–Zygmund theory for nondoubling metric measure spaces, which is based on a dyadic approach, originally developed in [7, 14] (see also [20]), and later extended to the discrete setting in [6].

Finally, in Sect. 3, we focus on the particular case where the flow measure is locally doubling and the weight we consider is an exponential function on $\mathbb{Z}$. In this case, we obtain

sharp pointwise estimates for the Bergman kernel, and we prove necessary and sufficient conditions for the L^p-boundedness of the extension of a class of Toeplitz-type operators inspired by the operators considered in [23]. If the tree is homogeneous and is endowed with the canonical flow measure, then the necessary and sufficient conditions coincide (Corollary 3.8).

1.1 Notation and preliminaries

Throughout the paper, C will denote a positive constant that may vary from line to line, independent of any involved variable, though it may depend on fixed parameters. If there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that the positive quantities A and B satisfy $A/C \leq B \leq CA$, we write $A \approx B$.

Let T be a tree and fix a reference vertex $o \in T$. We denote by d the standard graph distance on T. We fix a root $\omega \in \partial T$, where ∂T is the boundary of T, defined as the set of equivalence classes of infinite geodesics starting at o, where two geodesics are equivalent if they eventually coincide. We notice that the choice of a root in the boundary of T induces a level function ℓ on T, which is the analogue of the Busemann function on a Riemannian manifold, and it is defined as

$$\ell(x) := \lim_{n\to\infty} n - d(x, x_n) \quad \forall x \in T,$$

where $\{x_n\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ is an enumeration of the ray $[o, \omega)$. For every vertex $x \in T$ we set $p(x)$ as the unique neighbour of x such that $\ell(p(x)) = \ell(x) + 1$. Similarly, we denote by $s(x)$ the set of neighbours of x minus $p(x)$. Moreover, we inductively define

$$p^n(x) = p(p^{n-1}(x)) \quad \forall n \geq 1, \quad \forall x \in T$$

where we agree that $p^0(x) := x$. Similarly, we set

$$s_n(x) = \cup_{y\in s_{n-1}(x)} s(y) \quad \forall n \geq 1, \quad \forall x \in T,$$

where $s_0(x) := \{x\}$. We assume that every vertex has at least one successor, so that $s(x) \neq \emptyset$ for every $x \in T$. We say that a vertex y lies above x (or, equivalently, x lies below y), if $y = p^n(x)$ for some $n \geq 0$. For every $x \in T$ we denote by T_x the sector rooted at x, i.e., the set of vertices in T lying below x. Precisely,

$$T_x := \bigcup_{n=0}^{\infty} s_n(x).$$

Similarly, we define the sector minus its vertex as

$$\dot{T}_x := \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} s_n(x) = T_x \setminus \{x\}.$$

For every pair of vertices x and y in T we define their confluent $x \wedge y$ as the vertex of minimum level which lies above x and y. Given any measure μ on T we define $L^p(\mu)$ as the space of p-summable functions on T with respect to the measure μ and we denote by $\|\cdot\|_{L^p(\mu)}$ the associated usual p-norm. If $E \subset T$ we sometimes write $\|\cdot\|_{L^p(E,\mu)}$ to denote the p-norm on the measure space (E, m).

We define a flow measure as a positive function on T satisfying the mass-preserving condition

$$m(x) = \sum_{y \in s(x)} m(y) \quad \forall x \in T. \tag{1.1}$$

Given a flow measure m, we set $w_{xy} := m(y)/m(x)$ and $w_{xp(x)} := 0$ for every vertex $x \in T$ and $y \in s(x)$, and observe that $\sum_{y:d(x,y)=1} w_{xy} = 1$. We associate to these weights a Laplace operator Δ, which we call weighted *forward* Laplacian, defined on a function f by

$$\Delta f(x) = f(x) - \sum_{y:d(x,y)=1} f(y) w_{xy} = f(x) - \sum_{y \in s(x)} f(y) \frac{m(y)}{m(x)} \quad \forall x \in T. \tag{1.2}$$

By (1.2), it is clear that Δ is a *probabilistic* Laplacian in the sense that it is defined as the identity minus a weighted average on the set of neighbours of a vertex. As usual, a function f on T is said to be harmonic if $\Delta f = 0$ on T. In [17] it is shown that the Poisson integral associated with Δ can be used to characterise Carleson measures on locally finite trees.

2 Bergman projection

In this section, we provide an explicit formula for the harmonic Bergman kernel and then study the L^p boundedness properties of the associated Bergman projection on suitable weighted L^p spaces that we now introduce.

Given a flow measure m and a function σ on T, we denote by $m \cdot \sigma$ the pointwise product of m and σ. We will assume the following:

Assumption i): σ is a positive function on T only depending on the level of a vertex, i.e.,

$$\sigma(x) = \sigma_0(\ell(x)),$$

for some $\sigma_0 : \mathbb{Z} \to \mathbb{R}_+$. With a slight abuse of notation, we shall write σ instead of σ_0 in the sequel. We also require that for every (or equivalently for one) integer $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\sum_{n \le k} \sigma(n) < \infty.$$

Assumption ii): $\sigma(n)m(p^n(o))$ grows fast as $n \to \infty$, namely

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sigma(n)m(p^n(o))} < \infty. \tag{2.1}$$

Observe that (2.1) implies that $L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ satisfies the following vanishing property:

$$\lim_{n\to\infty} f(p^n(o)) = 0 \quad \forall f \in L^2(m\cdot\sigma). \tag{2.2}$$

Indeed, since $\sigma(n)m(p^n(o))$ diverges as $n\to\infty$, there exists $N\in\mathbb{N}$ and $c>0$ such that

$$m(p^n(o))\sigma(n) > c \quad \forall n > N. \tag{2.3}$$

Remark 2.1 Notice that

$$m\cdot\sigma(T_x) = \sum_{y\in T_x} m(y)\sigma(y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\sum_{y\in s_n(x)} m(y)\sigma(y) = m(x)\sum_{n\le \ell(x)}\sigma(n) \quad \forall x\in T.$$

This implies that $m\cdot\sigma$ is a *Carleson* measure in the sense of [17, Definition 2.6] if there exists $c>0$ such that

$$m\cdot\sigma(T_x) \le c m(x) \quad \forall x\in T$$

that is equivalent to

$$\sum_{n\le k}\sigma(n) \le c \quad \forall k\in\mathbb{Z}, \tag{2.4}$$

namely, $\sigma\in\ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$.

Definition 2.2 We define the Bergman space $B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ as the space of $L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ harmonic functions equipped with the $L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ inner product.

We recall the following property of harmonic functions; see [17, Eq. (2.1)] for a complete proof of this fact.

Lemma 2.3 *Let f be a harmonic function. Then,*

$$\sum_{y\in s_n(x)} f(y)m(y) = f(x)m(x) \quad \forall n\in\mathbb{N}, \quad \forall x\in T.$$

We note that the above lemma implies that there are no nontrivial harmonic functions in $L^p(m)$. In fact more is true.

Proposition 2.4 *Assume that $\sum_{n\le 0}\tilde\sigma(n) = \infty$ for some positive weight $\tilde\sigma$ on $\mathbb{Z}$. Let f be harmonic on T and suppose that $f\in L^p(m\cdot\tilde\sigma)$ for some $p\in[1,\infty)$. Then, $f=0$ on T.*

Proof Let f be harmonic and suppose that $f\in L^p(m\cdot\tilde\sigma)$. By contradiction, assume that $f(x)\neq 0$ for some $x\in T$. Then, by Lemma 2.3

$$|f(x)|^p = \left| \sum_{y\in s_n(x)} f(y)\frac{m(y)}{m(x)} \right|^p \le \frac{1}{m(x)} \sum_{y\in s_n(x)} |f(y)|^p m(y) \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N},$$

where we have used that m is a flow measure so $\sum_{y\in s_n(x)} m(y) = m(x)$ and Jensen's inequality in the last step. It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\|f\|^p_{L^p(T_x, m\cdot\tilde{\sigma})} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{y\in s_n(x)} |f(y)|^p m(y)\tilde{\sigma}(\ell(y)) \\
&= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\sigma}(\ell(x)-n) \sum_{y\in s_n(x)} |f(y)|^p m(y) \\
&\ge |f(x)|^p m(x) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\sigma}(\ell(x)-n) \\
&= \infty,
\end{aligned}$$

which is a contradiction because $f \in L^p(m\cdot\tilde{\sigma})$. □

For every $x \in T$ and $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ we set

$$S_{n,x}(\sigma) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sigma(\ell(x)+n-k). \tag{2.5}$$

We shall write $S_x(\sigma)$ in place of $S_{0,x}(\sigma)$. Notice also that $S_{n,x}(\sigma) = S_{p^n(x)}(\sigma)$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \in T$.

The following function will be useful for obtaining an explicit expression of the Bergman kernel. We define $\Psi : T\times T\times T \to \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\Psi(v,z,x) := \begin{cases} 0 & \{x,z\} \not\subset \dot{T}_v, \\ \frac{1}{m(y)} - \frac{1}{m(v)} & \{x,z\} \subset T_y, \quad y \in s(v), \\ -\frac{1}{m(v)} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{2.6}$$

We point out that the support of $\Psi(p^{n+1}(x), p^n(x), \cdot)$ is exactly $\dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(x)}$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \in T$.

To simplify the notation, we introduce the gradient $\nabla f(x) := f(x) - f(p(x))$, which appears in the statement of the next lemma.

Lemma 2.5 *The following holds*

$$\langle f, \Psi(p(x), x, \cdot)\rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} = S_x(\sigma)\nabla f(x) \quad \forall f \in B^2(m\cdot\sigma), \quad \forall x \in T. \tag{2.7}$$

Proof Fix $x \in T$. Then,

$$\begin{aligned}\langle f, \Psi(p(x), x, \cdot)\rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} &= \sum_{y\in T} f(y)\Psi(p(x), x, y)m(y)\sigma(y)\\ &= \sum_{y\in T_{p(x)}} f(y)\Psi(p(x), x, y)m(y)\sigma(y)\\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\sigma(\ell(p(x)) - n - 1)\sum_{u\in s(p(x))}\sum_{y\in s_n(u)} f(y)\Psi(p(x), x, y)m(y).\end{aligned}$$

By (2.6) and Lemma 2.3, we get that the inner sums above are equal to

$$\begin{aligned}&\sum_{u\in s(p(x))\setminus\{x\}}\sum_{y\in s_n(u)}\frac{-f(y)}{m(p(x))}m(y) + \sum_{y\in s_n(x)} f(y)\left(\frac{1}{m(x)} - \frac{1}{m(p(x))}\right)m(y)\\ &\quad= \sum_{u\in s(p(x))\setminus\{x\}} -f(u)\frac{m(u)}{m(p(x))} + f(x)\left(1 - \frac{m(x)}{m(p(x))}\right)\\ &\quad= f(x) - \sum_{y\in s(p(x))} f(y)\frac{m(y)}{m(p(x))}\\ &\quad= f(x) - f(p(x))\\ &\quad= \nabla f(x).\end{aligned}$$

The result follows by noticing that

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\sigma(\ell(p(x)) - n - 1) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\sigma(\ell(x) - n) = S_x(\sigma).$$

□

Proposition 2.6 *$B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ is a Hilbert space.*

Proof It suffices to prove that $B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ is closed in $L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$. Let $\{f_n\}_{n\in\mathbb{N}}\subset B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ be a convergent sequence in $L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ and denote its limit by f. Then, there exists a subsequence $\{f_{n_k}\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ that converges *pointwise* to f (this follows because there are no non-trivial subsets of T of measure 0). It follows that for every $x\in T$

$$0 = \Delta f_{n_k}(x) = f_{n_k}(x) - \sum_{y\in s(x)} f_{n_k}(y)\frac{m(y)}{m(x)} \xrightarrow[\text{as } k\to\infty]{} f(x) - \sum_{y\in s(x)} f(y)\frac{m(y)}{m(x)} = \Delta f(x),$$

because $s(x)$ contains a finite number of vertices. □

We now introduce the function $K : T\times T\to\mathbb{C}$ defined by

$$K(x, y) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{\Psi(p^{n+1}(x), p^n(x), y)}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)}. \tag{2.8}$$

We shall prove that $K(\cdot,\cdot)$ is the reproducing kernel of $B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$.

Remark 2.7 Notice that K satisfies the following symmetry property:

$$K(x,y)=K(y,x)\quad \forall n\in\mathbb{N},\quad \forall x,y\in T.$$

Indeed, recall that $\Psi(p^{n+1}(x),p^n(x),y)$ is not zero if and only if $y\in \dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(x)}$. We distinguish two cases: if x, y are not one above the other, then, $y\in \dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(x)}$ implies $x\wedge y\in T_{p^{n+1}(x)}$, thus by (2.6)

$$\begin{aligned}K(x,y)&=\sum_{n:x\wedge y\in T_{p^{n+1}(x)}}\frac{\Psi(p^{n+1}(x),p^n(x),y)}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)}\\&=\sum_{n\geq 0}\frac{1}{S_{n,x\wedge y}(\sigma)}\left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x\wedge y))}-\frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x\wedge y))}\right)\\&\quad-\frac{1}{S_{p^{n_0}(x)}(\sigma)m(x\wedge y)},\end{aligned}\tag{2.9}$$

where n_0 is such that $p^{n_0+1}(x)=x\wedge y$. Observe that

$$S_{p^{n_0}(x)}(\sigma)=\sum_{k\geq 0}\sigma(\ell(x\wedge y)-1-k),$$

so that the above expression of K is symmetric in x and y because $x\wedge y=y\wedge x$.

If x and y are one above the other, then $x\wedge y\in\{x,y\}$. In this case, we have that

$$K(x,y)=\sum_{n\geq 0}\frac{1}{S_{n,x\wedge y}(\sigma)}\left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x\wedge y))}-\frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x\wedge y))}\right),$$

which is again symmetric in the two variables.

The next lemma will be instrumental to prove that K is the reproducing kernel of $B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$.

Lemma 2.8 *The following hold:*

(a) *for every* $x,y\in T$

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\left|\frac{\Psi(p^{n+1}(x),p^n(x),y)}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)}\right|<\infty;\tag{2.10}$$

(b) *for every* $v\in T$ *the family* $\{\Psi(p^{k+1}(v),p^k(v),\cdot)\}_{k\in\mathbb{N}}$ *forms an orthogonal system in* $B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$.

Proof We first prove (a). Indeed, define

$$C_{x,y} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \text{ and } y\text{are one above the other,} \\ \frac{1}{S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)m(x\wedge y)} & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where in the second case n_0 is the unique integer such that $p^{n_0+1}(x) = x \wedge y$. By arguing as in Remark 2.7

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left| \frac{\Psi(p^{n+1}(x), p^n(x), y)}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)} \right| &\leq C_{x,y} + \sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{1}{m(p^n(x\wedge y))S_{n,x\wedge y}(\sigma)} \\ &\leq C_{x,y} + \sum_{n\geq 0} \frac{1}{m(p^n(x\wedge y))\sigma(p^n(x\wedge y))} \\ &< \infty, \end{aligned}$$

by Assumption ii).

We next prove (b). Assume without loss of generality that $j > k$. We have that

$$\begin{aligned} &\left\langle \Psi(p^{k+1}(v), p^k(v), \cdot), \Psi(p^{j+1}(v), p^j(v), \cdot) \right\rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} \\ &\quad = \sum_{y\in \dot{T}_{p^{j+1}(v)} \cap \dot{T}_{p^{k+1}(v)}} \Psi(p^{k+1}(v), p^k(v), y)\Psi(p^{j+1}(v), p^j(v), y)m(y)\sigma(y) \\ &\quad = \sum_{y\in \dot{T}_{p^{k+1}(v)}} \Psi(p^{k+1}(v), p^k(v), y)\Psi(p^{j+1}(v), p^j(v), y)m(y)\sigma(y). \end{aligned} \tag{2.11}$$

Observe that $\Psi(p^{j+1}(v), p^j(v), \cdot)$ is constant on $\dot{T}_{p^{k+1}(v)}$, so (2.11) is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} &M_{j,v}\left[\sum_{y\in \dot{T}_{p^{k+1}(v)} \setminus T_{p^k(v)}} -\frac{m(y)\sigma(y)}{m(p^{k+1}(v))} + \sum_{y\in T_{p^k(v)}} \left(\frac{1}{m(p^k(v))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{k+1}(v))} \right) m(y)\sigma(y) \right] \\ &= M_{j,v}S_{k,v}(\sigma)\left[\frac{m(p^k(v)) - m(p^{k+1}(v))}{m(p^{k+1}(v))} + \left(\frac{1}{m(p^k(v))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{k+1}(v))} \right) m(p^k(v)) \right] \\ &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $M_{j,v} := \left(\frac{1}{m(p^j(v))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{j+1}(v))} \right)$. □

Proposition 2.9 *For every $v \in T$, $K(v, \cdot) \in B^2(m \cdot \sigma)$.*

Proof We first show that $K(v, \cdot)$ is harmonic for every $v \in T$. Notice that

$$\sum_{z\in s(y)} \Psi(p^{n+1}(x), p^n(x), z)m(z) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if} \quad y \notin \dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(x)}, \\ \left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x))} \right) m(y) & \text{if} \quad y \in T_{p^n(x)}, \\ -\frac{m(y)}{m(p^{n+1}(x))} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{2.12}$$

Set $K_v(\cdot) = K(v, \cdot)$ and observe that by (2.10)

$$\sum_{z\in s(y)} K_v(z)\frac{m(z)}{m(y)} = \sum_{n\geq 0}\sum_{z\in s(y)} \frac{\Psi(p^{n+1}(v),p^n(v),z)}{S_{n,v}(\sigma)}\frac{m(z)}{m(y)} =: I_0.$$

Now we have two possibilities: either v and y are not one below the other, or they are. In the first case, set n_0 as the integer such that $p^{n_0+1}(v) = v\wedge y$ as above and observe that an application of (2.12) and (2.9) yields

$$\begin{aligned} I_0 &= \sum_{n\geq n_0+1} \frac{1}{S_{n,v}(\sigma)}\left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(v))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(v))}\right) - \frac{1}{S_{n_0,v}(\sigma)m(p^{n_0+1}(v))} \\ &= K_v(y), \end{aligned}$$

that is equivalent to say that $\Delta K_v(y) = 0$. The case when x and y are one below the other is similar and easier; we omit the details.

It remains to prove that $K_v \in L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ for every $v\in T$. We show that

$$\left\| K(v,\cdot) - \sum_{j=0}^{N} \frac{\Psi(p^{j+1}(v),p^j(v),\cdot)}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)}\right\|_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} \xrightarrow[\text{as } N\to\infty]{} 0.$$

Observe that by Lemma 2.8(b), for every couple of integers $N\leq M$,

$$\left\| \sum_{j=N}^{M} \frac{\Psi(p^{j+1}(v),p^j(v),\cdot)}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)}\right\|^2_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} \leq \sum_{j=N}^{\infty} \left\| \frac{\Psi(p^{j+1}(v),p^j(v),\cdot)}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)}\right\|^2_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)}. \tag{2.13}$$

We next estimate each summand of the above sum. Observe that

$$\left\| \frac{\Psi(p^{j+1}(v),p^j(v),\cdot)}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)}\right\|^2_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} = \sum_{x\in T_{p^{j+1}(v)}} \frac{\Psi(p^{j+1}(v),p^j(v),x)^2}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)^2} m(x)\sigma(x)$$

that by (2.6) is in turn equal to

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)^2}\left[\left(\frac{1}{m(p^j(v))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{j+1}(v))}\right)^2 \sum_{x\in T_{p^j(v)}} m(x)\sigma(x)\right. \\ &\qquad \left. + \frac{1}{m(p^{j+1}(v))^2} \sum_{y\in s(p^{j+1}(v))\setminus\{p^j(v)\}} \sum_{x\in T_y} m(x)\sigma(x)\right] \\ &=: I + II. \end{aligned}$$

By a direct computation

$$I = \frac{m(p^j(v))}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)} \left(\frac{1}{m(p^j(v))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{j+1}(v))} \right)^2$$
$$II = \frac{1}{S_{j,v}(\sigma) m(p^{j+1}(v))^2} \big(m(p^{j+1}(v)) - m(p^j(v)) \big),$$

so that

$$I + II \leq \frac{C}{S_{j,v}(\sigma) m(p^j(v))}.$$

It follows by (2.13) that

$$\left\| \sum_{j=N}^{M} \frac{\Psi(p^{j+1}(v), p^j(v), \cdot)}{S_{j,v}(\sigma)} \right\|^2_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} \leq C \sum_{j=N}^{\infty} \frac{1}{S_{j,v}(\sigma) m(p^j(v))},$$

and right-hand side tends to zero when $N \to \infty$ by Assumption ii) because $p^j(v) \in [o, \omega)$ for every $j \geq N_0$ with N_0 sufficiently large. □

Proposition 2.10 *$K(v, \cdot)$ is the reproducing kernel of $B^2(m \cdot \sigma)$.*

Proof By (2.7) applied to $x = p^n(v)$,

$$\langle f, \Psi(p^{n+1}(v), p^n(v), \cdot) \rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} = S_{n,v}(\sigma) \nabla f(p^n(v)).$$

We conclude that

$$\langle f, K(v, \cdot) \rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f(p^n(v)) - f(p^{n+1}(v)) = f(v), \tag{2.14}$$

where in the last equality we have used Proposition 2.9 and (2.2). □

We define the Bergman projection $\mathcal{P}$ as the operator acting on $L^2(m \cdot \sigma)$ functions by

$$\mathcal{P} f(x) = \sum_{y \in T} K(x, y) f(y) m(y) \sigma(y) \quad \forall x \in T.$$

Notice that $\mathcal{P} f(x) = \langle f, K(x, \cdot) \rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)}$ for every $x \in T$. It is easy to see that $\mathcal{P}$ is an orthogonal projection on $L^2(m \cdot \sigma)$. Indeed, by Remark 2.7, $\mathcal{P}$ is self-adjoint on $L^2(m \cdot \sigma)$ and for every $f \in L^2(m \cdot \sigma)$

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\mathcal{P}f(x) &= \mathcal{P}f(x) - \sum_{z\in s(x)} \mathcal{P}f(z)\frac{m(z)}{m(x)} \\ &= \sum_{y\in T} K(x,y)f(y)m(y)\sigma(y) - \sum_{z\in s(x)}\sum_{y\in T} K(z,y)f(y)m(y)\frac{m(z)}{m(x)}\sigma(y) \\ &= \sum_{y\in T} \Delta K(\cdot,y)(x)f(y)m(y)\sigma(y) \\ &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

because K is symmetric and K_y is harmonic. If $f \in B^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ then

$$\mathcal{P}f(x) = \langle f, K(x,\cdot)\rangle_{L^2(m\cdot\sigma)} = f(x) \quad \forall x \in T,$$

so $\mathcal{P}$ is an orthogonal projection. We now discuss the $L^p(m\cdot\sigma)$ boundedness of $\mathcal{P}$ for $p \in [1,\infty)$.

Theorem 2.11 *$\mathcal{P}$ is bounded on $L^p(m\cdot\sigma)$ for every $p \in (1,\infty)$ and it is bounded from $L^1(m\cdot\sigma)$ to $L^{1,\infty}(m\cdot\sigma)$.*

Proof It suffices to prove the weak type (1, 1) boundedness of $\mathcal{P}$, then the result follows by interpolation with the trivial $L^2(m\cdot\sigma)$ boundedness of $\mathcal{P}$ and by duality.

In order to prove that $\mathcal{P} : L^1(m\cdot\sigma) \to L^{1,\infty}(m\cdot\sigma)$ we shall make use of [6, Theorem C]. We first show that $K(\cdot,\cdot)$ satisfies a suitable Hörmander integral condition. We shall prove that

$$\sup_{u\in T}\sup_{x,y\in T_u}\sum_{z\in T\setminus T_u} |K(z,x) - K(z,y)|\,\sigma(z)m(z) < \infty. \tag{2.15}$$

Indeed, it suffices to notice that if $x \in T_u$ for some $u \in T$, then for every $z \in T\setminus T_u$

$$\Psi(p^{n+1}(z), p^n(z), x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{m(p^n(z))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(z))} & \text{if } x \in T_{p^n(z)}, \\ -\frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(z))} & x \in \dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(z)} \setminus T_{p^n(z)}, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.}\end{cases}$$

Now we make the following observation: if $x, y \in T_u$ and $z \in T\setminus T_u$, then

$$\begin{aligned} x \in T_{p^n(z)} &\iff y \in T_{p^n(z)}, \\ x \in \dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(z)} \setminus T_{p^n(z)} &\iff y \in \dot{T}_{p^{n+1}(z)} \setminus T_{p^n(z)}.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore it follows that for such a choice of x, y and z

$$\Psi(p^{n+1}(z), p^n(z), x) = \Psi(p^{n+1}(z), p^n(z), y)$$

and hence $K(z,x) = K(z,y)$. This implies that Hörmander's condition is trivially satisfied.

Next, we shall show that the following *size* condition holds

$$\sup_{u\in T}\sup_{x\in T_u}\sum_{z\in T_{p(u)}\setminus T_u}|K(x,z)|\,m(z)\sigma(z)<\infty. \tag{2.16}$$

Fix $u\in T$ and $x\in T_u$. Then, define n_0 as the integer such that $p^{n_0+1}(x)=p(u)$ and notice that for every $z\in \dot{T}_{p(u)}\setminus T_u$ we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
|K(x,z)| &\le \sum_{n=0}\frac{|\Psi(p^{n+1}(x),p^n(x),z)|}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)}\\
&\le \sum_{n\ge n_0+1}\frac{1}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)}\left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x))}-\frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x))}\right)+\frac{1}{S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)m(p(u))}\\
&\le \sum_{n\ge n_0+1}\left(\frac{1}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)m(p^n(x))}-\frac{1}{S_{n+1,x}(\sigma)m(p^{n+1}(x))}\right)+\frac{1}{S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)m(p(u))}\\
&\le \frac{2}{S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)}\frac{1}{m(p(u))},
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used that $\frac{1}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)m(p^n(x))}\xrightarrow[\text{as } n\to\infty]{}0$ and that

$$S_{n,x}(\sigma)\le S_{n+1,x}(\sigma)\quad \forall x\in T,\quad \forall n\in\mathbb{Z}.$$

Similarly, it is not hard to see that

$$|K(x,p(u))|\le\frac{1}{S_{p(u)}(\sigma)m(p(u))}.$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{z\in T_{p(u)}\setminus T_u}|K(x,z)|\,m(z)\sigma(z) &\le 1+\sum_{z\in\dot{T}_{p(u)}}\frac{2}{S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)}\frac{m(z)\sigma(z)}{m(p(u))}\\
&= 1+\sum_{\ell\le\ell(u)}\frac{2}{S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)}\frac{m(p(u))\sigma(\ell)}{m(p(u))}\\
&\le 3,
\end{aligned}$$

because $S_{n_0,x}(\sigma)=\sum_{\ell\le\ell(u)}\sigma(\ell)$. This proves (2.16) holds and the result now follows by invoking [6, Theorem C]. □

Remark 2.12 Theorem 2.11 shows that $\mathcal{P}:H^1(T)\to L^1(T)$ and $\mathcal{P}:L^\infty(T)\to BMO(T)$, where $H^1(T)$ and $BMO(T)$ are the martingale Hardy and BMO adapted to the natural filtration induced by the Gromov metric, see [6, Section 1].

Remark 2.13 (Rooted trees) In this paper, we consider trees with the root at infinity, whereas in the literature, *rooted* trees (i.e., trees with a vertex as the root) are often studied. We briefly explain how our results can be easily adapted to this different case. Assume that T_o is a rooted tree, m is a flow measure on T_o and $\sigma \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N})$. A key difference between rooted trees and trees with root at infinity is that in the former case, the space $B^2(m \cdot \sigma)$ contains constant functions as $m \cdot \sigma$ is finite on T_o; this implies that the structure of the Bergman projection is slightly different. It is straightforward to verify that the function $K_o : T_o \times T_o \to \mathbb{C}$ defined by

$$K_o(x, y) = \mathfrak{K}_o + \sum_{n=0}^{|x|-1} \frac{\Psi(p^{n+1}(x), p^n(x), y)}{S_{n,x}(\sigma)}$$

is the kernel of the Bergman projection in this setting; here $\mathfrak{K}_o = \frac{1}{m \cdot \sigma(T_o)}$, $|x| = d(x, o)$, Ψ is defined as in (2.6), and $S_{n,x}(\sigma)$ as in (2.5), and where the sum above is zero when $x = o$. Also, note that in contrast to what happens in the case of trees with root at infinity, no additional assumptions on m are required. Notice that when T_o is a radial rooted tree such that $x \in T_o$ has $q(|x|) + 1$ neighbours for some $q : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ with $q \geq 2$, then the function $m_c(x) := \prod_{\ell=0}^{|x|-1} q(\ell)^{-1}$ is a flow measure, indeed

$$\sum_{y \in s(x)} m_c(y) = q(|x|) \prod_{\ell=0}^{|x|} q(\ell)^{-1} = m_c(x) \quad \forall x \in T_o.$$

We call such m_c *canonical* flow measure. Thus if for some $\alpha > 1$ we define

$$\sigma_\alpha(n) := \prod_{\ell=0}^{n-1} q(\ell)^{-\alpha} \left(\prod_{\ell=0}^{n-1} q(\ell)^{-1} \right)^{-1} = \prod_{\ell=0}^{n-1} q^{1-\alpha}(\ell) \leq 2^{n(1-\alpha)},$$

then $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sigma_\alpha(n) < \infty$. With a slight abuse of notation, we denote by σ_α the function on T defined by $\sigma_\alpha(x) = \sigma_\alpha(|x|)$. The measure $\mu_\alpha = m_c \cdot \sigma_\alpha$ is the one considered in [6].

3 Exponential measures and integral operators

Let T denote a tree with root at infinity. In analogy with the analysis performed in [23, Chapter 3.4] and in [9, Section 3], we shall study the weighted L^p-boundedness of integral operators whose kernel is given by the product of a weight and the Bergman kernel.

We define the two classes of operators

$$\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c} f(x) = m(x)\sigma_a(x) \sum_{y \in T} K_c(x, y) f(y) m(y) \sigma_b(y),$$
$$\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c} f(x) = m(x)\sigma_a(x) \sum_{y \in T} |K_c(x, y)| f(y) m(y) \sigma_b(y),$$

where σ_a, σ_b, and σ_c are weights on $\mathbb{Z}$ and K_c denotes the kernel of the Bergman projection on $L^2(m \cdot \sigma_c)$. We assume that m and σ_c satisfy Assumptions i) and ii), ensuring that the theory developed in the previous section applies to K_c. We are interested in the study of the $L^p(m \cdot \sigma_d)$ boundedness of such operators in terms of a weight σ_d on $\mathbb{Z}$.

For this purpose, we need precise estimates of K_c that we obtain under some additional assumptions. From now on, we require that every vertex in T has at least two successors and that m satisfies the following condition

$$\sup_{x \in T} \frac{m(p(x))}{m(x)} =: C_m < \infty. \tag{3.1}$$

Notice that this assumption is equivalent to the fact that the metric measure space (T, d, m) is locally doubling [13, Proposition 2.2] and implies that the number of neighbours of a vertex is bounded on T; here d is the usual graph distance on T. It is known [13, Proposition 2.2] that (3.1) implies that

$$\sup_{x \in T} \frac{m(x)}{m(p(x))} =: D_m < 1. \tag{3.2}$$

Lemma 3.1 *Assume that $k > (D_m)^{p-1}$ for some $p \geq 1$. Then,*

$$\sum_{x \in T_y} k^{\ell(x)} m(x)^p \approx k^{\ell(y)} m(y)^p.$$

Proof The inequality $\geq$ is trivial. For the reverse one, observe that

$$m(x)^{p-1} \leq D_m^{(\ell(y)-\ell(x))(p-1)} m(y)^{p-1} \quad \forall x \in T_y.$$

Then,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x \in T_y} k^{\ell(x)} m(x)^p &\leq m(y)^{p-1} D_m^{\ell(y)(p-1)} \sum_{x \in T_y} \left(\frac{k}{D_m^{p-1}} \right)^{\ell(x)} m(x) \\
&= m(y)^p D_m^{\ell(y)(p-1)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{k}{D_m^{p-1}} \right)^{(\ell(y)-n)} \\
&\leq C m(y)^p k^{\ell(y)}.
\end{aligned}$$

□

Remark 3.2 Notice that when $p = 1$ in Lemma 3.1, the locally doubling assumption is not necessary. Similarly, if $k > 1$, one can repeat the proof without any assumption on the flow measure m.

We now show that when σ_c is an exponential function, it is possible to obtain a sharp estimate of the kernel of the Bergman projection. We point out that Assumption ii) is fulfilled by $m \cdot \sigma_c$ when m is locally doubling and σ_c is an exponential function with base greater than 1.

Proposition 3.3 *Assume that there exists a constant $k_c > 1$ such that*

$$\sigma_c(n) = k_c^n, \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Then, the Bergman kernel K_c in $L^2(m \cdot \sigma_c)$ satisfies

$$|K_c(x,z)| \approx \frac{1}{\sigma_c(x \wedge z) m(x \wedge z)}, \quad \forall x, z \in T. \tag{3.3}$$

Proof Recall that $S_{n,x}(\sigma_c) = \sum_{k \le \ell(x)+n} \sigma_c(k)$ for every $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and observe that $S_{n,x}(\sigma_c) \approx \sigma_c(\ell(x)+n)$. By arguing much as in Remark 2.7 and using that $\sigma_c(n) \approx \sigma_c(n-1)$, we have the estimate

$$|K_c(x,z)| \le C \frac{1}{\sigma_c(x \wedge z) m(x \wedge z)}.$$

For the reverse inequality notice that if x and z are one above the other then

$$\begin{aligned} |K_c(x,z)| &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{S_{n,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} \left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x \wedge z))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x \wedge z))} \right) \\ &\ge \frac{1}{S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} \left(\frac{1}{m(x \wedge z))} - \frac{1}{m(p(x \wedge z))} \right) \\ &\ge \frac{1 - D_m}{S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c) m(x \wedge z)}. \end{aligned}$$

Otherwise, if x and z are not one above the other, recall that, since m is locally doubling, $m(p^n(x)) \to \infty$ as $n \to \infty$ for every $x \in T$. Thus, we can estimate $|K_c(x,z)|$ from below by

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{S_{-1,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c) m(x \wedge z)} - \sum_{n \ge 0} \frac{1}{S_{n,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} \left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x \wedge z))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x \wedge z))} \right) \\ &\quad \ge \frac{1}{S_{-1,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c) m(x \wedge z)} - \frac{1}{S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} \sum_{n \ge 0} \left(\frac{1}{m(p^n(x \wedge z))} - \frac{1}{m(p^{n+1}(x \wedge z))} \right) \\ &\quad = \frac{1}{S_{-1,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c) m(x \wedge z)} - \frac{1}{S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c) m(x \wedge z)}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\frac{1}{S_{-1,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} - \frac{1}{S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} = \frac{\sigma_c(x\wedge z)}{S_{-1,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} \approx \frac{1}{S_{-1,x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)} \geq \frac{1}{S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c)}.$$

Since $S_{x\wedge z}(\sigma_c) \approx \sigma_c(x\wedge z)$, (3.3) follows. □

From now on we assume that $\sigma_i(n) = k_i^n$ for $i = a, b, c, d$, and that $k_c > 1$ so that sharp estimates of the Bergman kernel $K_c(\cdot,\cdot)$ are available. We shall prove necessary and sufficient conditions for the $L^p(m\cdot\sigma_d)$ boundedness of $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ and $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$ and show that these conditions coincide in the particular case of a homogeneous tree.

We begin by proving necessary conditions for the boundedness of $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ (and therefore for $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$).

Proposition 3.4 *Assume $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m\cdot\sigma_d)$ for some $p\in[1,\infty)$. Then, the following hold:*

(i) $m(x) \leq C\left(\frac{k_c}{k_b k_a}\right)^{\ell(x)}$;

(ii) $\frac{1}{k_a C_m} < k_d^{1/p} < k_b$.

Proof Let δ_z denote the Dirac delta centered at $z\in T$. Observe that

$$|\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}\delta_z(x)| = m(x)\sigma_a(x)|K_c(x,z)|m(z)\sigma_b(z). \tag{3.4}$$

Combining (3.3) and (3.4), we conclude that

$$|\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}\delta_z(x)| \approx k_a^{\ell(x)}\frac{m(x)m(z)k_c^{-\ell(x\wedge z)}k_b^{\ell(z)}}{m(x\wedge z)}.$$

If $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m\cdot\sigma_d)$, then

$$\sum_{x\in T}\left(k_a^{\ell(x)}\frac{m(x)m(z)k_c^{-\ell(x\wedge z)}k_b^{\ell(z)}}{m(x\wedge z)}\right)^p m(x)k_d^{\ell(x)} \leq Cm(z)k_d^{\ell(z)}. \tag{3.5}$$

By setting $T_{p^{-1}(z)} := \emptyset$, we observe that the left-hand side in (3.5) is equal to

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\sum_{x\in T_{p^n(z)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(z)}}\left(k_a^{\ell(x)}\frac{m(x)m(z)k_c^{-(\ell(z)+n)}k_b^{\ell(z)}}{m(p^n(z))}\right)^p m(x)k_d^{\ell(x)} =: I. \tag{3.6}$$

Since for every $x\in T_{p^n(z)}$

$$m(x)^p \geq \left(\frac{m(p^n(z))}{C_m^{n+\ell(z)-\ell(x)}}\right)^p,$$

we see that

$$\sum_{x\in T_{p^n(z)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(z)}} (k_a^p k_d)^{\ell(x)} m(x)^{p+1} \geq \left(\frac{m(p^n(z))}{C_m^{n+\ell(z)}}\right)^p \sum_{x\in T_{p^n(z)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(z)}} (k_a^p k_d C_m^p)^{\ell(x)} m(x). \tag{3.7}$$

Let $s_{-1}(p^{n-1}(z)) := \emptyset$ and for every nonnegative integer k set

$$E_{k,n} := \begin{cases} s_k(p^n(z)) \setminus s_{k-1}(p^{n-1}(z)) & \text{if} \quad n \geq 1, \\ s_k(p^n(z)) & \text{if} \quad n = 0. \end{cases}$$

Then,

$$\sum_{x\in T_{p^n(z)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(z)}} (k_a^p k_d)^{\ell(x)} C_m^{\ell(x)p} m(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{x\in E_{k,n}} \left(C_m^p k_a^p k_d\right)^{\ell(z)+n-k} m(x) \tag{3.8}$$

and the right-hand side is equal to

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(C_m^p k_a^p k_d\right)^{\ell(z)+n} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(C_m^p k_a^p k_d\right)^{-k} \times \begin{cases} m(p^n(z)) - m(p^{n-1}(z)) & \text{if} \quad n \geq 1, \\ m(z) & \text{if} \quad n = 0. \end{cases} \\ &\approx \left(C_m^p k_a^p k_d\right)^{\ell(z)+n} m(p^n(z)) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left(C_m^p k_a^p k_d\right)^{-k}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

The last series is not convergent unless

$$k_d^{1/p} > 1/(C_m k_a),$$

which is the left inequality in ii). Furthermore, putting together (3.6), (3.7), and (3.9), we get

$$\begin{aligned} I &\geq m(z)^p k_d^{\ell(z)} \left(\frac{k_b k_a}{k_c}\right)^{p\ell(z)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{k_c^{-np} k_a^{np} k_d^n}{m(p^n(z))^p} m(p^n(z))^{p+1} \\ &= m(z)^p k_d^{\ell(z)} \left(\frac{k_b k_a}{k_c}\right)^{p\ell(z)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} k_c^{-np} k_a^{np} k_d^n m(p^n(z)) \\ &=: II \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that

$$II \geq m(z)^{p+1} k_d^{\ell(z)} \left(\frac{k_b k_a}{k_c}\right)^{p\ell(z)}.$$

It follows by (3.5) that

$$m(z)^{p+1} k_d^{\ell(z)} \left(\frac{k_b k_a}{k_c}\right)^{p\ell(z)} \leq C m(z) k_d^{\ell(z)},$$

which is equivalent to i).

It remains to prove the second inequality in ii). It is easy to see that the adjoint operator of $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ on $L^2(m \cdot \sigma_d)$ is defined by

$$\mathcal{U}^*_{a,b,c} f(x) = \left(\frac{k_b}{k_d}\right)^{\ell(x)} \sum_{y \in T} K_c(x,y)(k_a k_d)^{\ell(y)} f(y) m^2(y) \quad \forall f \in L^2(m \cdot \sigma_d).$$

It follows that for every $p \in [1, \infty)$ the operator $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m \cdot \sigma_d)$ only if $\mathcal{U}^*_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^{p'}(m \cdot \sigma_d)$ where $1/p + 1/p' = 1$.

By testing $\mathcal{U}^*_{a,b,c}$ on δ_z, we get that $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m \cdot \sigma_d)$ for $p \in [1, \infty)$ only if there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that

$$\left[\sum_{x \in T} \left(\left(k_b/k_d\right)^{\ell(x)} |K_c(x,z)| (k_a k_d)^{\ell(z)} m^2(z) \right)^{p'} m(x) k_d^{\ell(x)} \right]^{1/p'} \leq C \left(m(z) k_d^{\ell(z)}\right)^{1/p'} \tag{3.10}$$

with the obvious modification when $p = 1$. Assume $p \in (1, \infty)$. Notice that the left-hand side in (3.10) is comparable to

$$\left(k_a k_d / k_c\right)^{\ell(z)} m^2(z) \left[\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k_c^{np'}} \sum_{x \in T_{p^n}(z) \setminus T_{p^{n-1}(z)}} \left(k_b/k_d\right)^{p' \ell(x)} k_d^{\ell(x)} m(x) \right]^{1/p'}.$$

By repeating the computations performed in (3.8), it is easy to see that the inner sum above is not convergent unless $(k_b/k_d)^{p'} k_d > 1$, that is equivalent to

$$k_b > k_d^{1/p},$$

providing the desired inequality. The case $p = 1$ can be obtained by a similar and easier argument, so we omit the details.

□

In the next proposition we collect sufficient conditions for the boundedness of $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$ (and hence for $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$).

Proposition 3.5 *Let $p \in (1, \infty)$ and assume that*

(1) $m(x) \leq c\left(\frac{k_c}{k_b k_a}\right)^{\ell(x)}$ *for every* $x \in T$;

(2) $\frac{C_m D_m^{2-1/p'} k_b^{1/p'}}{k_a^{1/p} k_c^{1/p'}} < k_d^{1/p} < \frac{k_b^{1/p'} k_c^{1/p}}{C_m^{2-1/p'} D_m k_a^{1/p}}$.

Then, $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m \cdot \sigma_d)$.

Proof We shall apply Schur's Theorem. Fix $h(x) = k_\gamma^{\ell(x)} m(x)$ for some k_γ satisfying

$$\frac{D_m^{p'}}{k_b} < k_\gamma^{p'} < \frac{k_c}{k_b C_m^{p'}}, \tag{3.11}$$

$$\frac{D_m^{p+1}}{k_a k_d} < k_\gamma^{p} < \frac{k_c}{k_a k_d C_m^{p+1}}. \tag{3.12}$$

It is not hard to see that a k_γ satisfying the above inequalities exists assuming (2) (see also Remark 3.7). Set

$$H(x,y) := m(x) k_a^{\ell(x)} |K_c(x,y)| k_b^{\ell(y)} k_d^{-\ell(y)},$$

so that $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c} f(x) = \sum_{y\in T} H(x,y) f(y) m(y) k_d^{\ell(y)}$. We have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{y\in T} H(x,y) h(y)^{p'} m(y) k_d^{\ell(y)} &= \sum_{y\in T} k_a^{\ell(x)} m(x) |K_c(x,y)| k_b^{\ell(y)} k_\gamma^{p'\ell(y)} m(y)^{p'+1} \\
&\approx m(x) k_a^{\ell(x)} \sum_{y\in T} \frac{k_b^{\ell(y)} k_\gamma^{p'\ell(y)}}{m(x\wedge y) k_c^{\ell(x\wedge y)}} m(y)^{p'+1} \\
&= m(x) k_a^{\ell(x)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{y\in T_{p^n(x)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(x)}} \frac{k_b^{\ell(y)} k_\gamma^{p'\ell(y)} m(y)^{p'+1}}{m(p^n(x)) k_c^{\ell(x)+n}} \\
&\le m(x) \left(\frac{k_a}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(x)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{y\in T_{p^n(x)}} \frac{(k_b k_\gamma^{p'})^{\ell(y)}}{m(p^n(x)) k_c^n} m(y)^{p'+1} \\
&\le C m(x) \left(\frac{k_a k_b k_\gamma^{p'}}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(x)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{k_b^n k_\gamma^{np'} m(p^n(x))^{p'}}{k_c^n} \\
&\le C \left(\frac{k_a k_b k_\gamma^{p'}}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(x)} m(x)^{p'+1} \\
&\le C k_\gamma^{p'\ell(x)} m(x)^{p'} \\
&= C h(x)^{p'},
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used Lemma 3.1 and (3.11) in the third-to-last inequality, and again (3.11) and

$$m(p^n(x))^{p'} \le C_m^{np'} m(x)^{p'}$$

in the penultimate inequality. Finally, the last inequality follows from 1). Moreover,

$$
\begin{aligned}
\sum_{x\in T} H(x,y)h(x)^p k_d^{\ell(x)} m(x) &\le \sum_{x\in T} k_a^{\ell(x)} |K_c(x,y)| \left(\frac{k_b}{k_d}\right)^{\ell(y)} k_\gamma^{p\ell(x)} k_d^{\ell(x)} m(x)^{p+2} \\
&= \left(\frac{k_b}{k_d}\right)^{\ell(y)} \sum_{x\in T} \frac{k_a^{\ell(x)}}{k_c^{\ell(x\wedge y)} m(x\wedge y)} k_\gamma^{p\ell(x)} k_d^{\ell(x)} m(x)^{p+2} \\
&= \left(\frac{k_b}{k_d}\right)^{\ell(y)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{x\in T_{p^n(y)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(y)}} \frac{k_a^{\ell(x)} k_\gamma^{p\ell(x)} k_d^{\ell(x)}}{k_c^{\ell(y)+n} m(p^n(y))} m(x)^{p+2} \\
&\le \left(\frac{k_b}{k_d k_c}\right)^{\ell(y)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k_c^n m(p^n(y))} \sum_{x\in T_{p^n(y)}} (k_a k_\gamma^p k_d)^{\ell(x)} m(x)^{p+2} \\
&\le C \left(\frac{k_a k_b k_\gamma^p}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(y)} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k_c^n} k_a^n k_\gamma^{pn} k_d^n m(p^n(y))^{p+1} \\
&\le C \left(\frac{k_a k_b k_\gamma^p}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(y)} m(y)^{p+1},
\end{aligned}
$$

where the second to last inequality follows by using Lemma 3.1 and that $k_a k_\gamma^p k_d > D_m^{p+1}$ and the last inequality follows by

$$k_a k_\gamma^p k_d C_m^{p+1} < k_c.$$

We conclude by observing that 1) implies that for every $y \in T$

$$m(y) \left(\frac{k_a k_b}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(y)} \le C,$$

so that

$$\sum_{x\in T} H(x,y)h(x)^p k_d^{\ell(x)} m(x) \le C h(y)^p.$$

□

The case $p = 1$ can be obtained by a similar and easier analysis.

Proposition 3.6 *Assume that* $m(x) \le C\big(k_c/(k_a k_b)\big)^{\ell(x)}$ *for every* $x \in T$ *and that* $D_m < k_a k_d < k_c/C_m$. *Then,* $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$ *is bounded on* $L^1(m\cdot\sigma_d)$.

Proof It is clear that

$$\|\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}\|_{L^1(m\cdot\sigma_d);L^1(m\cdot\sigma_d)} \le \sup_{z\in T} \left(\frac{k_b}{k_d}\right)^{\ell(z)} \sum_{x\in T} m(x) k_a^{\ell(x)} |K_c(x,z)| m(x)\sigma_d(x) =: I.$$

By (3.3)

$$
\begin{aligned}
I &\approx \sup_{z\in T}\left(\frac{k_b}{k_d}\right)^{\ell(z)}\sum_{x\in T}\frac{m^2(x)(k_ak_d)^{\ell(x)}}{k_c^{\ell(x\wedge z)}m(x\wedge z)}\\
&= \sup_{z\in T}\left(\frac{k_b}{k_dk_c}\right)^{\ell(z)}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{1}{k_c^n m(p^n(z))}\sum_{x\in T_{p^n(z)}\setminus T_{p^{n-1}(z)}} m(x)^2(k_ak_d)^{\ell(x)}.
\end{aligned}
$$

An application of Lemma 3.1 now yields

$$
\begin{aligned}
I &\le C\sup_{z\in T}\left(\frac{k_bk_a}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(z)}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\frac{1}{k_c^n}m(p^n(z))(k_ak_d)^n\\
&\le C\sup_{z\in T}m(z)\left(\frac{k_bk_a}{k_c}\right)^{\ell(z)}\sum_{n=0}^{\infty}\left(C_m\frac{k_ak_d}{k_c}\right)^n\\
&\le C.
\end{aligned}
$$

□

Remark 3.7 It is important to verify that the two inequalities (3.11) and (3.12) in Proposition 3.5 can be satisfied. We can rewrite them as

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{D_m}{k_b^{1/p}} &< k_\gamma < \left(\frac{k_c}{k_b}\right)^{1/p}\frac{1}{C_m},\\
\frac{D_m^{1+1/p'}}{(k_ak_d)^{1/p'}} &< k_\gamma < \left(\frac{k_c}{k_ak_d}\right)^{1/p'}\frac{1}{C_m^{1+1/p'}}.
\end{aligned}
$$

Such k_γ exists if the two intervals defined by the two pairs of conditions above intersect, namely if

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{D_m^{2-1/p'}}{(k_ak_d)^{1/p}} &< \left(\frac{k_c}{k_b}\right)^{1/p'}\frac{1}{C_m}\\
\frac{D_m}{k_b^{1/p'}} &< \left(\frac{k_c}{k_ak_d}\right)^{1/p}\frac{1}{C_m^{2-1/p'}},
\end{aligned}
$$

where we substituted $1/p' = 1 - 1/p$. By solving the inequalities for k_d we obtain

$$
k_d^{1/p} > \frac{C_m D_m^{2-1/p'}k_b^{1/p'}}{k_a^{1/p}k_c^{1/p'}} \tag{3.13}
$$

$$k_d^{1/p} < \frac{k_b^{1/p'} k_c^{1/p}}{C_m^{2-1/p'} D_m k_a^{1/p}}, \tag{3.14}$$

which is exactly (2). It is then straightforward to conclude that k_d exists if and only if

$$k_c > (C_m D_m)^{3-1/p'}. \tag{3.15}$$

Finally, we prove that for homogeneous trees equipped with the canonical flow measure, necessary and sufficient conditions for the L^p boundedness of $\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ and $\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$ coincide.

Corollary 3.8 *Let T_{q+1} be the homogeneous tree of order $q+1$ and let $m(\cdot) = q^{\ell(\cdot)}$ be the canonical flow measure on T_{q+1}. Set $\sigma_j(\cdot) = k_j^{\ell(\cdot)} = q^{(j-1)\ell(\cdot)}$ for $j \in \{a, b, c, d\}$, with $c > 1$ and let $p \in [1, \infty)$. The following are equivalent:*

(i') *$\mathcal{U}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m \cdot \sigma_d)$;*
(ii') *$\mathcal{V}_{a,b,c}$ is bounded on $L^p(m \cdot \sigma_d)$;*
(iii') *$-a < \frac{d-1}{p} < b - 1$ and $c + 1 = a + b$.*

Proof The inequality $m(\cdot) \le C \left(\frac{k_c}{k_a k_b} \right)^{\ell(\cdot)}$ on T_{q+1} holds if and only if $\frac{k_c}{k_a k_b} = q$, that is the equality in (iii'). Since in this case $C_m = q = 1/D_m$, it is not hard to see that (ii) and (2) (and the corresponding inequality when $p = 1$ in Proposition 3.6) are equivalent to the inequalities in (iii'). □

Funding Open Access funding enabled and organized by CAUL and its Member Institutions

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