

A. V. ANTONIOUK¹, A. N. KOCHUBEI²*

NON-ARCHIMEDEAN KELVIN TRANSFORMATION

A. V. Antoniouk¹, A. N. Kochubei². *Non-Archimedean Kelvin transformation*, Mat. Stud. **65** (2026), 10–14.

We introduce and study an analog of the Kelvin transformation connected with the Vladimirov-Taibleson operator acting on real- or complex-valued functions on a space K^n over a non-Archimedean local field K .

1. Introduction. The classical Kelvin transform is an important tool of mathematical analysis. In the framework of α -fractional potential theory ([13, 15]), the Kelvin transform of a function u on \mathbb{R}^n , $n \geq 2$ is

$$(\mathcal{K}u)(y) = |y|^{\alpha-n}u(Ty), \quad (1)$$

where $0 < \alpha \leq 2$, T is the inversion with respect to the unit sphere defined as

$$Tx = \frac{x}{|x|^2}. \quad (2)$$

The case where $\alpha = 2$ is related to the theory of harmonic functions (see, for example, [3]). If Ω is an open subset of $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}$ and $\Omega^* = \{Tx : x \in \Omega\}$, then a function u is harmonic on Ω if and only if $\mathcal{K}u$ is harmonic on Ω^* . This property has a number of applications. It is extended to α -harmonic functions related to the fractional Laplacians and other operators. There is a deep theory devoted to probabilistic interpretation of the Kelvin transform ([1, 6]).

In this note we introduce a kind of Kelvin transformation connected to the Vladimirov-Taibleson operator acting on real- or complex-valued functions on a space K^n over a non-Archimedean local field K :

$$(D^{\alpha,n}u)(x) = c_{n,\alpha} \int_{K^n} \frac{u(x) - u(y)}{\|x - y\|_{K^n}^{n+\alpha}} dy, \quad x \in \Omega \subset K^n, \quad (3)$$

where $n \geq 2$, $\|z\|_{K^n} = \max_{1 \leq j \leq n} |z_j|_K$ for $z = (z_1, \dots, z_n) \in K^n$, $|\cdot|_K$ is the normalized absolute value, dy is the Haar measure,

$$c_{n,\alpha} = \frac{q-1}{1-q^{-\alpha-n}}, \quad \alpha > 0,$$

q is the residue cardinality of K , and the precise meaning of the integral in (3) depends on smoothness assumptions regarding the function u . A model example of the field K is the field \mathbb{Q}_p of p -adic numbers.

The operator (3) and equations containing it have been investigated by many authors. Its theory is to some extent parallel to that of fractional Laplacians of real analysis, though

2020 *Mathematics Subject Classification*: 11S80, 35J70, 35H20, 35A22.

Keywords: p -adic fields; potential theory; sub-elliptic equations; Kelvin transform.

doi:10.30970/ms.65.1.10-14

This work is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 

*Corresponding author: A.N. Kochubei

the details are often very different; see the books [21, 10, 19, 2, 9, 22, 23] and many recent papers, such as [7, 4, 5, 12] and others.

The formulas (1) and (2) cannot be reproduced in the non-Archimedean situation, since an element $x \in K^n$ cannot be divided in a straightforward way by a real number $|x|_K^2$. An interpretation of the latter as a p -adic number does not help: p -adic geometry is quite different from the real one.

Fortunately, the non-Archimedean space K^n possesses the property absent in \mathbb{R}^n . On the set K^n , there exist various field structures, in particular the structure of an unramified field extension (see Section 2). This makes it possible to define an analogue of the Kelvin transformation, connected with the notion of α -harmonic functions, solutions for the equation $(D^{\alpha, n}u)(x) = 0$ on subsets of K^n .

2. Local fields. A (non-Archimedean) local field is non-discrete totally disconnected locally compact topological field. Such a field K is isomorphic to a finite algebraic extension of the field \mathbb{Q}_p of p -adic numbers, if K has characteristic 0, or to the field of formal Laurent series with coefficients from a finite field, if K has a positive characteristic. See [19, 16, 20, 10, 8] for the basic notions and results regarding the local fields.

On any local field there exists an absolute value $|\cdot|_K$, such that: 1) $|x|_K = 0$ if and only if $x = 0$; 2) $|xy|_K = |x|_K|y|_K$; 3) $|x + y|_K \leq \max\{|x|_K, |y|_K\}$. This last inequality, called ultrametric, implies that $|x + y|_K = |x|_K$, if $|y|_K < |x|_K$.

The ring $O = \{x \in K : |x|_K \leq 1\}$ is called the ring of integers of K . The ideal $P = \{x \in K : |x|_K < 1\}$ contains such an element β that $P = \beta O$. The quotient ring $\bar{K} = O/P$ is actually a finite field called the residue field. The absolute value is called normalized, if $|\beta|_K = q^{-1}$ where q is the cardinality of O/P .

If a local field K is a subfield of a local field L , then L is called an extension of K , which is denoted L_K . The extension L can be considered as a vector space over K . If L is finite-dimensional over K , then L_K is called the finite extension of degree n , where $n = \dim L$ over K . Any basis of L over K is called a basis of the extension. Note that the residue field \bar{L} is an extension of \bar{K} .

An operator S_ξ of multiplication in L by an element ξ can be considered as a linear operator on a K -vector space. If the linear function $\xi \mapsto \text{Tr}(S_\xi)$ does not vanish identically, then the extension is called separable. Here Tr is the trace of a linear operator in a finite-dimensional vector space. All finite extensions of the field of characteristic zero are separable. On the other hand, the notion of separability makes sense also for the finite fields \bar{K}, \bar{L} .

There exists a detailed theory of extension of local fields; see [8, 20]. Here we will need only the unramified extensions.

A finite extension L of a local field K is called unramified, if \bar{L}/\bar{K} is a separable extension of the same degree, as L_K . Any local field K has a unique (up to the isomorphism) unramified extension of each given degree $n \geq 2$. The cardinality of the residue field \bar{L} in this extension equals q^n where q is the residue cardinality $\text{card}(O/P)$ in K . Each unramified extension is separable.

The unramified extension of degree n has, as a K -vector space, a canonical basis consisting of representatives of a basis in \bar{L} over \bar{K} . Let $x \in L$ have the coefficients $x_1, \dots, x_n \in K$ of its expansion with respect to the canonical basis. Then the normalized absolute value $|x|_L$ has the representation ([18]):

$$|x|_L = \left(\max\{|x_j|_K : 1 \leq j \leq n\} \right)^n. \quad (4)$$

Another absolute value on L , $\|x\|_L = |x|_K^{1/n} \equiv \max\{|x_j|_K : 1 \leq j \leq n\}$, extends the absolute

value from K . Comparing the expression for $\|x\|_L$ and $\|x\|_{K^n}$, we see that the above canonical basis is an orthogonal basis (in the non-Archimedean sense [17]) in L considered as Banach space with the norm $\|\cdot\|_L$. Therefore (see also [11]) the canonical basis defines an isometric linear isomorphism between L and K^n , $U: K^n \rightarrow L$, $U^{-1}x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

In particular, this isomorphism defines an invariant measure on the additive group K^n , and the measure of the unit ball in K^n equals 1. By the uniqueness of the Haar measure, $dx = dx_1 \dots dx_n$. Moreover, this isomorphism identifies the operator $D^{\alpha,n}$ defined in (3) with the operator

$$(D_L^\gamma u)(x) = \frac{1 - q^{n\gamma}}{1 - q^{-n(\gamma+1)}} \int_L \frac{u(z) - u(x)}{|z - x|_L^{\gamma+1}} dz, \quad \gamma = \frac{\alpha}{n}. \quad (5)$$

Thus a multi-dimensional operator over K is equivalent to a one-dimensional operator over a bigger field. Of course, this is a purely non-Archimedean phenomenon.

3. Fourier analysis and Sobolev-type spaces. The additive group of a local field K is self-dual, so that the Fourier analysis on K is similar to the classical one. The details may be found in particular in [9, 10, 21, 23].

Let χ be a fixed non-constant additive character. We assume that χ has rank zero, so that $\chi(x) \equiv 1$ on O , and $\chi(x_0) \neq 1$ for some $x_0 \in K$ with $|x_0|_K = q$.

The Fourier transform of a complex-valued function $f \in L^1(K)$ is defined as

$$(\mathcal{F}_{x \rightarrow \xi} f)(\xi) = \widehat{f}(\xi) = \int_K \chi(x\xi) f(x) dx, \quad \xi \in K.$$

If $\widehat{f} \in L^1(K)$, then we have an inversion rule

$$f(x) = \int_K \chi(-x\xi) \widehat{f}(\xi) d\xi.$$

The Fourier transform preserves the Bruhat-Schwartz space $\mathcal{D}(K)$ of test functions, consisting of locally constant functions with compact supports. The local constancy of a function $f: K \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ means the existence of such an integer k that for any $x \in K$

$$f(x + x') = f(x), \quad \text{whenever } |x'|_K \leq q^{-k}.$$

The above notion extend naturally to functions $K^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. In this case

$$(\mathcal{F}_{x \rightarrow \xi} f)(\xi) = \widehat{f}(\xi) = \int_{K^n} \chi(x \cdot \xi) f(x) dx, \quad f \in L^1(K^n).$$

For $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(K^n)$,

$$(D^{\alpha,n} \varphi)(x) = \mathcal{F}_{\xi \rightarrow x}^{-1} (\|\xi\|_{K^n}^\alpha \mathcal{F}_{x \rightarrow \xi} \varphi)(x).$$

We will use a construction of Sobolev-type spaces of complex-valued functions suggested by Zunigo-Galindo (for the details see [9, 23]).

Let $C_0(K^n)$ be the space of all continuous functions on K^n tending to zero at infinity by the filter of complements to compact subsets. For $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{D}(K^n)$, define the scalar product

$$\langle \varphi, \psi \rangle_\ell = \int_{K^n} \|\xi\|_{K^n}^\ell \widehat{\varphi}(\xi) \overline{\widehat{\psi}(\xi)} d\xi, \quad \ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad (6)$$

where $\|\xi\|_{K^n} = \max(1, \|\xi\|_{K^n})$. Let $\mathcal{H}_\ell = \mathcal{H}_\ell(K^n)$ be the completion of $\mathcal{D}(K^n)$ with respect to the scalar product (6). We have continuous embedding $\mathcal{H}_m \hookrightarrow \mathcal{H}_\ell$ for $\ell \leq m$. Next, we set

$$\mathcal{H}_\infty = \mathcal{H}_\infty(K^n) = \bigcap_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{H}_\ell.$$

We have $\mathcal{H}_0 = L^2(K^n)$, $\mathcal{H}_\infty \subset L^2(K^n)$.

The scalar products (6) define a system of seminorms on $\mathcal{D}(K^n)$, so that $\mathcal{D}(K)$ becomes a metric space. Its completion coincides with $\mathcal{H}_\infty(K^n)$. Thus $\mathcal{H}_\infty(K^n)$ can be considered

as a locally convex vector space continuously imbedded in $C_0(K^n)$. The mapping $D^{\alpha,n}$ is a bicontinuous automorphism of $\mathcal{H}_\infty(K^n)$.

4. Kelvin transformation. Denote by $\mathcal{U}: K^n \rightarrow L$ the above isometric isomorphism. An inversion in K^n is defined as

$$\mathcal{J} = \mathcal{U}^{-1} \Delta \mathcal{U}, \quad (7)$$

where $\Delta(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, $x \in L \setminus \{0\}$. Note that the classical inversion (2) is a conformal mapping, see [3]. In p -adic mathematical physics the conformal group is defined as the one generated by Δ and isometries ([14]); in this sense our inversion (7) is a conformal mapping.

We call the transformation

$$(\mathcal{K}u)(x) = \|x\|_{K^n}^{\alpha-n} u(\mathcal{J}(x)), \quad 0 \neq x \in K^n$$

the *non-Archimedean Kelvin transformation*.

Let us consider the operator $D^\gamma = D_L^\gamma$ ($\gamma \neq 1$) of the form (5) corresponding to the field L . Let us denote $x^* = \frac{1}{x}$ for $x \in L$ and $f^*(x) = f(x^*)$. We calculate the action of an operator $(D^\gamma f^*)(x^*)$ on the function f^* , which is sufficiently regular, so that the calculations make sense. For example, we may assume $f \in \mathcal{H}_\infty(L)$. The nonlinear change of variables in an integral is substantiated in [17, Appendix A7].

First we consider the operator

$$(D^{-\gamma} f^*)(x^*) = d_{n,\gamma} \int_L |x^* - y|_L^{\gamma-1} f\left(\frac{1}{y}\right) dy, \quad x \neq 0,$$

where $d_{n,\gamma} = \frac{1-q^{-n\gamma}}{1-q^n(\gamma-1)}$. The operator $D^{-\gamma}$ is an inverse operator to D^γ ([21]). We have

$$\begin{aligned} (D^{-\gamma} f^*)(x^*) &= d_{n,\gamma} \int_L \left| x^* - \frac{1}{z} \right|_L^{\gamma-1} \left| \frac{1}{z^2} \right|_L f(z) dz = d_{n,\gamma} \int_L |z|_L^{-\gamma-1} |x^* z - 1|_L^{\gamma-1} f(z) dz = \\ &= d_{n,\gamma} |x^*|_L^{\gamma-1} \int_L |z|_L^{-\gamma-1} |z - x|_L^{\gamma-1} f(z) dz = |x^*|_L^{\gamma-1} D^{-\gamma} \left(|\cdot|_L^{-\gamma-1} f(\cdot) \right)(x). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

If $f = D^\gamma u$, then $u(\frac{1}{x}) = |x|_L^{1-\gamma} D^{-\gamma} (|\cdot|_L^{-\gamma-1} D^\gamma u(\cdot))(x)$, so that $D^\gamma (|x|_L^{\gamma-1} u(x^*))(x) = |x|_L^{-\gamma-1} D^\gamma u(x)$, or, equivalently,

$$(D^\gamma u)(x) = |x|_L^{\gamma+1} D^\gamma (|x|_L^{\gamma-1} u(x^*))(x). \quad (9)$$

The identity (9) can be interpreted for functions on K^n , if we set $\gamma = \frac{\alpha}{n}$ and identify L with K^n using the expansion with respect to a canonical basis. Thus, we have proved the following result.

Theorem 1. For any $u \in \mathcal{H}_\infty(K^n)$, $(D^{\alpha,n} u)(x) = \|x\|_{K^n}^{\alpha+n} D^{\alpha,n} (\mathcal{K}u)(x)$.

As usual, we call a function $u \in \mathcal{H}_\infty(K^n)$ α -harmonic on a subset $G \subset K^n$, if

$$(D^{\alpha,n} u)(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x \in G.$$

Note that an α -harmonic function (on a subset) must be defined on the whole space K^n . For explicit example of such function see the eigenfunctions of $D^{\alpha,n}$ ([21, 10, 9, 7]).

Corollary 1. Let u be α -harmonic function on G , $G \ni 0$. Then the function $\mathcal{K}u$ is α -harmonic on the set $\{\mathcal{J}(x): x \in G\}$.

Acknowledgements. The first author acknowledges the funding support in the framework of the project ‘‘Spectral Optimization: From Mathematics to Physics and Advanced Technology’’ (SOMPATY) received from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 873071. The second author acknowledges the financial support by the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (Project number 2023.03/0002).

REFERENCES

1. L. Alili, L. Chaumont, P. Graczyk, T. Żak, *Space and time inversion of stochastic processes and Kelvin transform*, Math. Nachr., **292** (2) (2019), 252–272. doi:10.1002/mana.201700152
2. S. Albeverio, A.Yu. Khrennikov, V.M. Shelkovich, *Theory of p -adic distributions. Linear and nonlinear models*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
3. S. Axler, P. Bourdon, W. Ramey, *Harmonic function theory*, Springer, New York, 2001.
4. A.V. Antoniouk, A.N. Kochubei, O.L. Nikitchenko, *Existence and uniqueness for p -adic counterpart of the porous medium equation*, J. Pseudo-Differ. Oper. Appl., **15** (2024), 79. doi:10.1007/s11868-024-00647-6
5. A.V. Antoniouk, A.N. Kochubei, M.V. Serdiuk, *Pseudo-differential equations with weak degeneration for radial functions of p -adic argument*, Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications, **523** (2) (2023), 127026. doi:10.1016/j.jmaa.2023.127026
6. K. Bogdan, T. Żak, *On Kelvin transformation*, J. Theor. Probab., **19** (1) (2006), 80–120. doi:10.1007/s10959-006-0003-8
7. A.D. Bendikov, A.A. Grigor’yan, Ch. Pittet, W. Woess, *Isotropic Markov semigroups on ultra-metric spaces*, Russian Math. Surveys, **69** (2014), 589–680. doi:10.1070/RM2014v069n04ABEH004907
8. I.B. Fesenko, S.V. Vostokov, *Local fields and their extensions*, AMS, Providence, 2002.
9. A. Khrennikov, S. Kozyrev, W.A. Zúñiga-Galindo, *Ultrametric pseudodifferential equations and applications*, Cambridge University Press, 2018.
10. A.N. Kochubei, *Pseudo-differential equations and stochastics over non-archimedean fields*, Marcel Dekker, New York, 2001.
11. A.N. Kochubei, *L^p -properties of non-Archimedean fractional differential operators*, J. Pseudodiff. Operators Appl., **12** (4) (2021), Article 56, 14p. doi:10.1007/s11868-021-00428-5
12. A.N. Kochubei, *The Vladimirov-Taibleson operator: inequalities, Dirichlet problem, boundary Hölder regularity*, J. Pseudodiff. Oper. Appl., **14** (2) (2023), 31, 27p. doi:10.1007/s11868-023-00525-7
13. N.S. Landkof, *Foundations of modern potential theory*, Springer, Berlin, 1972.
14. E.Y. Lerner, *The hierarchical Dyson’s model and p -adic conformal invariance*, Theor. Math. Phys., **97** (1993), 1259–1266.
15. X. Ros-Oton, J. Serra, *The Dirichlet problem for the fractional Laplacian: regularity up to the boundary*, J. Math. Pures Appl., **101** (3) (2014), 273–302. doi:10.1016/j.matpur.2013.06.003
16. J.-P. Serre, *Local fields*, Springer, New York, 1979.
17. W. Schikhof, *Ultrametric calculus*, Cambridge University Press, 1984.
18. M.H. Taibleson, *The existence of natural field structures for finite dimensional vector spaces over local fields*, Pacif. J. Math., **63** (1976), 545–551.
19. M.H. Taibleson, *Fourier analysis on local fields*, Princeton University Press, 1975.
20. A. Weil, *Basic number theory*, Springer, Berlin, 1967.
21. V.S. Vladimirov, I.V. Volovich, E.I. Zelenov, *p -adic analysis and mathematical physics*, World Scientific Publishing Co., Inc., River Edge, NJ, 1994, xx+319 pp.
22. W.A. Zúñiga-Galindo, *Pseudodifferential equations over non-Archimedean spaces*, Lect. Notes Math., V.2174, 2016, XVI+175p.
23. W.A. Zúñiga-Galindo, *p -adic analysis*, De Gruyter, Berlin, 2025.

¹Institute of Mathematics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
Kyiv, Ukraine
American University Kyiv
Kyiv, Ukraine
antoniouk.a@gmail.com

²Institute of Mathematics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
Kyiv, Ukraine
kochubei@imath.kiev.ua

Received 14.11.2025

Revised 31.01.2026