## MULTIPLICATIVE PERTURBATIONS OF THE LAPLACIAN AND RELATED APPROXIMATION PROBLEMS

## Francesco Altomare, Sabina Milella\*,

## Graziana Musceo

Dipartimento di Matematica, Università degli Studi di Bari "A.Moro", Via E. Orabona 4, 70125 Bari-Italia. [smilella@dm.uniba.it]

**2000 Mathematics Subject Classification.** 47D06, 41A10, 41A36, 35A35.

Keywords and phrases. Second order elliptic differential operator, positive  $C_0$ -semigroup, positive approximation process, integral operator, asymptotic formula, shape preserving approximation.

In this talk we present some recent results concerning the operator

$$\alpha \Delta u(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha(x) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_i^2}(x) \quad (x \in \mathbb{R}^n).$$

We prove that, if  $\alpha \Delta$  is defined on the maximal domain

$$D(\alpha\Delta) = \left\{ u \in C_0^w(\mathbb{R}^n) \cap C^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \mid \alpha\Delta u \in C_0^w(\mathbb{R}^n) \right\},\$$

then it is closable and its closure generates a positive quasi contractive  $C_0$ -semigroup  $(T(t))_{t\geq 0}$  which fulfils the Feller property (i.e., it leaves invariant  $C_0(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and it is a contractive semigroup on it) and which is associated with a suitable probability transition function on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and hence with a Markov process on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Here  $\alpha, w \in C_b(\mathbb{R}^n)$  are

strictly positive functions and  $C_0^w(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denotes the weighted space of function  $f \in C(\mathbb{R}^n)$  such that  $\lim_{\|x\|\to+\infty} w(x)f(x) = 0.$ 

In the case of polynomial weights, we state that the semigroup  $(T(t))_{t\geq 0}$  can be approximated by means of iterates of the integral operators

$$G_n(f)(x) := \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{N}{2}}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} f\left(\sqrt{\frac{2\alpha(x)}{n}}y + x\right) e^{-\frac{\|y\|^2}{2}} dy$$

 $(f\in C_0^w(\mathbb{R}^n),\,x\in\mathbb{R}^n,\,n\geq 1).$ 

Such an approximation formula allow us to disclose some properties of  $(T(t))_{t\geq 0}$  and of the random variables which govern the relevant Markov process.

## REFERENCES

- [1] F. Altomare, S. Milella, On a sequence of integral operators on weighted  $L^p$  spaces, Analysis Math. 34 (2008), 237-259.
- [2] F. Altomare, S. Milella, G. Musceo, Multiplicative perturbations of the Laplacian and related approximation problems, preprint 2010.