Abstract

The composition $\varphi \circ u$ of a subharmonic function u with a convex increasing function $\varphi(t)$ is subharmonic. If both u and φ are smooth we have the simple identity.

$$\Delta(\varphi \circ u) = (\varphi' \circ u)\Delta u + (\varphi'' \circ u)\|\nabla u\|^2 \tag{1}$$

Without smoothness of u and φ the generalized Laplacians Δu and $\Delta(\varphi \circ u)$ still have an interpretation as measures, and $||\nabla u||^2$ is still a function. We intend to establish (1) as an identity between measures in case $\varphi(t) = e^t$, for arbitrary subharmonic functions u.