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**POLYNOMIAL BOUNDS ON THE NUMBER OF SCATTERING POLES FOR METRIC PERTURBATIONS OF THE LAPLACIAN IN  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , ODD**

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**1. Introduction** The purpose of this note is to obtain a polynomial bound on the number of the scattering poles associated to the operator

$$G = c(x)^{-1} \sum_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} \partial_{x_i} (g_{ij}(x) \partial_{x_j}) \quad \text{in } \mathbf{R}^n,$$

where  $n \geq 3$ , odd. We consider this operator under the following assumptions on the coefficients:

- (a)  $c(x) \in C(\mathbf{R}^n; \mathbf{R})$  and  $c(x) \geq c_0 > 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ ;
- (b)  $g_{ij}(x) \in C^1(\mathbf{R}^n)$  and the matrix  $\{g_{ij}(x)\}$  is a strictly positive hermitian one for all  $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ , i.e.
  - (b)<sub>1</sub>  $g_{ij}(x) = \overline{g_{ji}(x)}$ ,  $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $\forall x \in \mathbf{R}^n$ ;
  - (b)<sub>2</sub>  $\sum_{i \leq j, j \leq n} g_{ij}(x) \xi_i \xi_j \geq C |\xi|^2$ ,  $\forall (x, \xi) \in \mathbf{R}^n \times \mathbf{R}^n \setminus 0$ ,  $C > 0$ ;
- (c) there exists a  $\rho_0 > 0$  so that  $c(x) = 1$  and  $g_{ij}(x) = \delta_{ij}$  for  $|x| \geq \rho_0$ ,  $\delta_{ij}$  being the Kronecker's symbol.

It is well known that under the above assumptions the operator  $G$  has a self-adjoint realization, which will be again denoted by  $G$ , in the Hilbert space  $H = L^2(\mathbf{R}^n; c(x) dx)$ . Note also that it follows from the assumption (b)<sub>2</sub> that the operator  $G$  is elliptic. By  $G_0$  we shall denote the self-adjoint realization of the Laplacian  $\Delta$  in the Hilbert space  $H_0 = L^2(\mathbf{R}^n)$ .

It is well known that, under the above assumptions, the scattering matrix corresponding to the pair  $\{G, G_0\}$  admits a meromorphic continuation to the entire complex plane  $\mathbf{C}$ . Let  $\{\lambda_j\}$  be the poles of this continuation, repeating according to multiplicity, and set

$$N(r) = \#\{\lambda_j : |\lambda_j| \leq r\}.$$

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It is shown in [10] that for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a constant  $C_\varepsilon > 0$  so that

$$(1) \quad M(r) \leq C_\varepsilon r^{n+1+\varepsilon} + C_\varepsilon.$$

In fact, (1) is proved there for first order symmetric systems in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , odd, but the proof easily extends to our case. The aim of this work is to improve (1). More precisely, we have the following

**Theorem.** *There exists a constant  $C > 0$  so that the number of the scattering poles associated to the operator  $G$  satisfies the bound*

$$(2) \quad N(r) \leq C r^{n+1} + C.$$

Note that the desired result is to obtain the bound

$$(3) \quad N(r) \leq C r^n + C.$$

In [7] Melrose proved (3) for the Laplacian in exterior domains with Dirichlet or Robin boundary conditions, while in [13] Zworski proved (3) for the Schrödinger operator  $\Delta + V(x)$  with a potential  $V \in L_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$ . Note that a bound of the form (3) is important for obtaining Weyl asymptotics of the phase shift (see [8], where such an asymptotic is obtained for an arbitrary smooth obstacle). To our knowledge, the problem of obtaining a bound of the form (3) on the number of the scattering poles associated to the operator  $G$  is still open. Let us also mention Intissar's work [4] where a bound of the form (2) on the number of the scattering poles associated to the operator  $(-i\vec{\nabla} + \vec{b}(x))^2 + a(x)$  in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , odd, is obtained, where  $a(x) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n; \mathbf{R})$ ,  $\vec{b}(x) \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n; \mathbf{R})$ . In [3] and [4] he has also obtained an analogue of (2) in the case of even  $n$ ,  $n \geq 4$ .

To prove (2) we exploit the fact that the scattering poles, with multiplicity, coincide with the poles of the meromorphic continuation of the cutoff resolvent  $R_\chi(z) = \chi R(z) \chi$  from  $\{z \in \mathbf{C}: \operatorname{Im} z > 0\}$  to the entire complex plane  $\mathbf{C}$ , where  $R(z) = (G + z^2)^{-1}$  for  $\operatorname{Im} z > 0$ , and  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$  is such that  $\chi = 1$  for  $|x| \leq \rho_0 + 1$ ,  $\chi = 0$  for  $|x| \geq \rho_0 + 2$  (see [5]). This enables us to characterize the scattering poles as the poles of a meromorphic function of the form  $(1 - K(z))^{-1}$  where  $K(z)$  is an entire family of compact operators on  $H$  such that  $K(z)^p$ ,  $p = (n+1)/2$ , is trace class. Then, following [4], [6], [7] and [13], we deduce that the scattering poles, with multiplicity, are among the zeros of the entire function  $h(z) = \det(1 - K(z)^p)$ , and hence, to prove (2) it suffices to show that the order of  $h(z)$  is less than or equal to  $n+1$ . However, in our case the operator  $K(z)$  is much more complicated and therefore it is not so easy to obtain the desired order of  $h(z)$ . To overcome the difficulties we use precise estimates of the cutoff free resolvent for  $\operatorname{Im} z \geq 0$  combined with an application of the Phragmen-Lindelof principle.

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## 2. Representation of the cutoff resolvent

First, we shall introduce some notations. Given two Hilbert spaces  $X$  and  $Y$ ,  $\mathcal{L}(X, Y)$  will denote the space of all linear bounded operators acting from  $X$  into  $Y$ . Given any  $s > 0$ ,  $H^s$  will denote the usual Sobolev space  $H^s(\mathbf{R}^n)$ . Finally, given a compact operator  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mu_j(\mathcal{A})$  will denote the characteristic values of  $\mathcal{A}$ , i.e. the eigenvalues of  $(\mathcal{A}^* \mathcal{A})^{1/2}$ , ordered, with multiplicity, to form a nonincreasing sequence.

Denote by  $R_0(z)$  the outgoing resolvent of  $\Delta$ , i.e. that one with kernel  $E(x-y, z)$  where  $E(x, z)$  is the outgoing fundamental solution of the operator  $\Delta + z^2$ . Then we have  $R_0(z) = (G_0 + z^2)^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)$  for  $\operatorname{Im} z > 0$ . Moreover, it is well known that the kernel of  $R_0(z)$  is given in terms of Hankel's functions by

$$(4) \quad R_0(z)(x, y) = -(i/4)(2\pi)^{(n-2)/2}(z/|x-y|)^{(n-2)/2} H_{(n-2)/2}^{(1)}(z|x-y|).$$

It follows easily from this representation that  $\chi R_0(z)\chi$  forms an entire family of compact pseudodifferential operators of order  $-2$  in  $\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)$ ,  $\chi$  being the function introduced in the previous section. Using this we shall build the meromorphic continuation of  $R_\chi(z)$ . Set  $Q = G_0 - G$  and fix a  $z_0 \in \mathbf{C}$ ,  $\operatorname{Im} z_0 > 0$ . Clearly, for  $\operatorname{Im} z > 0$ , we have

$$(5) \quad R(z) = R_0(z) + R(z)QR_0(z)$$

and

$$(6) \quad R(z) = R(z_0) + (z_0^2 - z^2)R(z)R(z_0).$$

Combining these identities yields

$$R(z)(1 - (z_0^2 - z^2)QR_0(z)R(z_0)) = R(z_0) + (z_0^2 - z^2)R_0(z)R(z_0)$$

for  $\operatorname{Im} z > 0$ . Multiplying the both sides of this identity by  $\chi$ , since  $Q = \chi Q$ , we get

$$(7) \quad R_\chi(z)(1 - K(z)) = R_\chi(z_0) + K_1(z) \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im} z > 0,$$

where  $K(z) = (z_0^2 - z^2)QR_0(z)R(z_0)\chi$  and  $K_1(z) = (z_0^2 - z^2)\chi R_0(z)R(z_0)\chi$ . We need now the following

**Lemma 1.** *The operator-valued functions  $K(z)$  and  $K_1(z)$  have analytic continuations from  $\{z \in \mathbf{C} : \operatorname{Im} z > 0\}$  to the entire  $\mathbf{C}$  with values in the compact operators in  $\mathcal{L}(H, H)$ . Moreover, there exists a constant  $C > 0$  so that*

$$(8) \quad \mu_j(K(z)) \leq C \exp(C|z|), \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C}, \forall j;$$

$$(9) \quad \mu_j(K(z)) \leq C(1 + |z|)^3(1 + |\operatorname{Im} z|)^{-1}j^{-2/n}, \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C}, \text{ if } j \geq C(1 + |z|)^n.$$

Assuming that the conclusions of Lemma 1 are fulfilled, we shall complete the proof of (2). Obviously,  $1-K(z)$  is invertable in  $\mathcal{L}(H, H)$  at  $z=z_0$ , and since  $K(z)$  is an entire family of compact operators,  $(1-K(z))^{-1}$  is a meromorphic  $\mathcal{L}(H, H)$ -valued function on  $\mathbf{C}$ . By (7) we deduce that so is true for  $R_x(z)$  and the poles of  $R_x(z)$ , with multiplicity, are among the poles of  $(1-(K(z))^{-1})$ , and hence among the poles of  $(1-K(z)^p)^{-1}$  where  $p=(n+1)/2$ . On the other hand, it follows from (9) and the well known inequality

$$(10) \quad \mu_{pj}(K(z)^p) \leq \mu_j(K(z))^p \quad \forall j,$$

that  $K(z)^p$  is trace class for all  $z \in \mathbf{C}$ . Hence we can introduce the entire function

$$h(z) = \det(1-K(z)^p)$$

and conclude that the poles of  $R_x(z)$ , with multiplicity, are among the zeros of  $h(z)$ . Hence, (2) will be proved if we show that

$$(11) \quad |h(z)| \leq C \exp(C|z|^{n+1}) \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C}.$$

By (8), (9) and (10) we obtain with some constant  $C' > 0$ :

$$\mu_j(K(z)^p) \leq C' \exp(C'|z|) \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C}, \forall j,$$

and

$$\mu_j(K(z)^p) \leq C'(1+|z|)^{3p}(1+|\operatorname{Im} z|)^{-p} j^{-(n+1)/n} \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C},$$

if  $j \geq C'(1+|z|)^n$ . Now by Weyl's convexity estimate we get

$$\begin{aligned} |h(z)| &\leq \prod_{j=1}^{\infty} (1+\mu_j(K(z)^p)) \\ &\leq \left( \prod_{j \leq C'(1+|z|)^n} C' \exp(C'|z|) \right) \exp\left( \sum_{j \geq C'(1+|z|)^n} \mu_j(K(z)^p) \right) \\ &\leq \exp(C''(1+|z|)^{n+1}) \exp(C'(1+|z|)^{3p}(1+|\operatorname{Im} z|)^{-p} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j^{-(n+1)/n}). \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have obtained the estimate

$$(12) \quad |h(z)| \leq C \exp(C(1+|z|)^{3p}(1+|\operatorname{Im} z|)^{-p}) \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C},$$

with some constant  $C > 0$ . We shall show that this estimate implies (11). Clearly, by (12) we have

$$(13) \quad |h(z)| \leq C \exp(C|z|^{3p}) \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C},$$

with possibly a greater constant  $C > 0$ . Introduce the sets  $S^{\pm} = \{z \in \mathbf{C} : |\operatorname{Im} z| < \pm \gamma \operatorname{Re} z\}$ , where  $\gamma = \operatorname{tg}(\pi/8p)$ , and set  $S = S^+ \cup S^-$ . It is easy to see that

$$(14) \quad (1+|z|)(1+|\operatorname{Im} z|)^{-1} \leq 1 + \gamma^{-1} \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C} \setminus S.$$

Thus, by (12) and (14), we obtain

$$(15) \quad |h(z)| \leq C \exp(C|z|^{n+1}) \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus S.$$

Now we are going to show that such an estimate holds on  $S$ . To this end we need the following fundamental lemma (for the proof, see [9]).

**Lemma 2.** *Let  $\Lambda = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \theta_1 < \arg z < \theta_2\}$  and let  $\alpha < 1/2$  be such that  $\theta_2 - \theta_1 = \pi/\alpha$ . Let the function  $f(z)$  be holomorphic in a neighbourhood of  $\Lambda$  and satisfy the conditions :*

$$(i) \quad |f(z)| \leq M \quad \text{for } \arg z = \theta_k, \quad k = 1, 2;$$

$$(ii) \quad |f(z)| \leq M' \exp(M' |z|^\beta) \quad z,$$

with a  $\beta$  such that  $0 < \beta < \alpha$ .

Then

$$|f(z)| \leq M \quad \forall z \in \Lambda.$$

Clearly,  $S^+ = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : -\pi/8p < \arg z < \pi/8p\}$ . Introduce the function  $f(z) = h(z) \exp(q z^{2p})$  where  $q \in \mathbb{R}$  is a parameter to be chosen later on. In view of (13) we have

$$(16) \quad |f(z)| \leq C' \exp(C' |z|^{2p}) \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Writing  $z = r e^{i\varphi}$ ,  $r = |z|$ ,  $\varphi = \arg z$ , for  $\varphi = \pm\pi/8p$ , in view of (15), we have

$$\begin{aligned} |f(z)| &\leq C \exp(Cr^{2p}) |\exp(qr^{2p} e^{i2p\varphi})| \\ &= C \exp(Cr^{2p}) \exp(qr^{2p} \cos(\pi/4)), \end{aligned}$$

and taking  $q = -C/\cos(\pi/4)$ , we deduce

$$(17) \quad |f(z)| \leq C \quad \text{for } \arg z = \pm\pi/8p.$$

Now, in view of (16) and (17), we can apply Lemma 2 with  $\Lambda = S^+$ ,  $\alpha = 4p$ ,  $\beta = 3p$ , to conclude that

$$|f(z)| \leq C \quad \forall z \in S^+,$$

which in turn yields

$$|h(z)| \leq C |\exp(-q z^{2p})| \leq C \exp(C' |z|^{2p}) \quad \forall z \in S^+.$$

Similarly, so is true for all  $z \in S^-$ , and hence for all  $z \in S$ . This together with (15) imply (11) since  $2p = n + 1$ .

### 3. Proof of Lemma 1

Since  $R(z_0) = R_0(z_0) + R_0(z_0)QR(z_0)$ , we have

$$(18) \quad K(z) = (z_0^2 - z^2) QR_0(z) R_0(z_0) \chi K_2 \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im} z > 0,$$

where  $K_2 = 1 + QR(z_0)\chi$ . Since  $G$  is an elliptic second order differential operator, we have  $R(z_0) \in \mathcal{L}(H, H^2)$ , and hence  $K_2 \in \mathcal{L}(H, H)$ . Choose functions  $\chi_1, \chi_2 \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$  such that  $\chi_1 = 1$  on  $\operatorname{supp} Q$ ,  $\chi_2 = 1$  on  $\operatorname{supp} \chi_1$  and  $\chi = 1$  on  $\operatorname{supp} \chi_2$ . Now, using (5) with  $R_0(z)$ , after an easy computation, we obtain from (18):

$$(19) \quad K_3(z) = (K + (z_0^2 - z^2) K_4) \chi R_0(z) \chi K_2 + K_5 \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im} z > 0,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} K_3 &= QR_0(z_0)[G_0, \chi_1]R_0(z_0)[G_0, \chi_2], \\ K_4 &= QR_0(z_0)\chi_1 + QR_0(z_0)[G_0, \chi_1]R_0(z_0)\chi_2, \\ K_5 &= -K_3 R_0(z_0) \chi K_2. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $[\cdot, \cdot]$  stands for the commutator. Clearly,  $K_3, K_4 \in \mathcal{L}(H, H)$  and  $K_5 \in \mathcal{L}(H, H^2)$ . Hence  $K_5$  is a compact operator in  $\mathcal{L}(H, H)$ . Furthermore, as mentioned above,  $\chi R_0(z) \chi$  is an entire family of compact operators in  $\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)$ , and hence, by (19),  $K(z)$  can be continued analytically to the entire  $\mathbf{C}$  with values in the compact operators in  $\mathcal{L}(H, H)$ . Clearly, so is true for  $K_1(z)$ . To prove (8) and (9) we need the following

**Lemma 3.** *There exists a constant  $C > 0$  so that*

$$(20) \quad \|\chi R_0(z) \chi\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)} \leq C \exp(C|z|) \quad \forall z \in \mathbf{C};$$

$$(21) \quad \|\chi R_0(z) \chi\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)} \leq C(1+|z|)^{-1}(1+\operatorname{Im} z)^{-1} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im} z \geq 0;$$

$$(22) \quad \|\chi R_0(z) \chi\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H^2)} \leq C(1+|z|)(1+\operatorname{Im} z)^{-1} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im} z \geq 0.$$

Assume for a moment that the conclusions of Lemma 3 are fulfilled. Now (8) immediately follows from (19), (20) and the well known inequality  $\mu_j(\mathcal{A}) \leq \|\mathcal{A}\|, \forall j$ . Turn to the proof of (9). Set  $B = \{x \in \mathbf{R}^n : |x| \leq \rho_0 + 3\}$  and denote by  $\Delta_B$  the self-adjoint realization of the Laplacian  $\Delta$  with domain  $D(\Delta) = C_0^\infty(B)$  in the Hilbert space  $L^2(B)$ . It is well known that

$$(23) \quad \mu_j((1 - \Delta_B)^{-m}) \leq C_B^m \cdot j^{-2m/n}, \quad \forall j, \quad \forall \text{integer } m \geq 1.$$

First, we shall prove (9) for  $\operatorname{Im} z \geq 0$ . Using the well known inequalities

$$(24) \quad \mu_{2j+1}(\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}) \leq \mu_j(\mathcal{A}) + \mu_j(\mathcal{B}) \quad \forall j,$$

and

$$(25) \quad \mu_j(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}) \leq \begin{cases} \|\mathcal{A}\| \mu_j(\mathcal{B}), & \forall j, \\ \|\mathcal{B}\| \mu_j(\mathcal{A}), & \forall j, \end{cases}$$

by (19), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_{2j+1}((K(z)) &\leq \mu_j(K_5) + \|K_3 + (z_0^2 - z^2)K_4\| \mu_j(\chi R_0(z)\chi) \|K_2\| \\ &\leq C \mu_j(\chi R_0(z_0)\chi) + C(1 + |z|^2)(\mu_j(\chi R_0(z)\chi)), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\|\cdot\|$  is the norm in  $\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)$ . On the other hand, by (22), (23) and (25) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(\chi R_0(z)\chi) &\leq \mu_j((1 - \Delta_B)^{-1}) \|(1 - \Delta)\chi R_0(z)\chi\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)} \\ &\leq C j^{-2/n} (1 + |z|)(1 + \operatorname{Im} z)^{-1} \quad \text{for } \operatorname{Im} z \geq 0, \forall j. \end{aligned}$$

Now, in this case, (9) follows from the above estimates at once.

Turn to the proof of (9) for  $\operatorname{Im} z \leq 0$ . By (24) we have

$$(26) \quad \mu_{2j+1}(K(z)) \leq \mu_j(K(-z)) + \mu_j(\tilde{K}(z)),$$

where  $\tilde{K}(z) = K(z) - K(-z)$ . We have already seen above that, when  $\operatorname{Im} z \leq 0$ ,  $\mu_j(K(-z))$  has the desired bound. To estimate the other term we shall proceed as in [13]. Set  $\tilde{R}_0(z) = R_0(z) - R_0(-z)$ . It follows from (4) that the kernel of  $\tilde{R}_0(z)$  is given by

$$\tilde{R}_0(z)(x, y) = (i/2)(2\pi)^{-n+1} z^{n-2} \int_{S^{n-1}} e^{iz\langle x-y, w \rangle} dw,$$

where  $S^{n-1}$  denotes the unit sphere in  $\mathbf{R}^n$ . Now it is easy to see that for any multiindex  $\alpha$  we have

$$(27) \quad \sup_{\substack{|x| \leq \rho_0 + 3 \\ |\alpha| \leq \rho_0 + 3}} |\partial_x^\alpha \tilde{R}_0(z)(x, y)| \leq C^{|\alpha|+1} |z|^{|\alpha|} e^{C|x|}$$

with some constant  $C > 0$ . By Theorem 1.4.2 of [2], for any integer  $m \geq 1$  there exists a function  $\chi_m \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$  such that  $\chi_m = 1$  on  $\operatorname{supp} \chi$ ,  $\chi_m = 0$  for  $|x| \geq \rho_0 + 3$  and  $|\partial_x^\alpha \chi_m| \leq C^{|\alpha|+1} |\alpha|!$  for  $|\alpha| \leq 2m$  with some constant  $C > 0$ . Using this together with (19), (23), (25) and (27), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_j(\tilde{K}(z)) &\leq \|(K_3 + (z_0^2 - z^2)K_4)\chi\| \mu_j(\chi_m \tilde{R}_0(z)\chi) \|K_2\| \\ &\leq C'(1 + |z|^2) \mu_j((1 - \Delta_B)^{-m}) \|(1 - \Delta)^m \chi_m \tilde{R}_0(z)\chi\| \\ &\leq C''(1 + |z|^2) \mu_j((1 - \Delta_B)^{-m}) \sup_{x, y} |(1 - \Delta_x)^m (\chi_m(x) \tilde{R}_0(z)(x, y) \chi(y))| \\ &\leq C^{2m+1} (|z|^{2m} + (2m)^{2m}) e^{C|x|} j^{-2m/n}, \forall z \in \mathbf{C}, \forall j, \forall m \geq 1, \end{aligned}$$

with some constant  $C > 0$ . Here  $\|\cdot\|$  again denotes the norm in  $\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)$ . Now, taking  $2m = |z|$  we can easily arrange for  $j \geq q|z|^q$ ,  $|z| \gg 1$ , with large  $q$  depending only on  $C$ , that

$$\mu_j(\tilde{K}(z)) \leq C j^{-2/n}$$

with possibly another constant  $C > 0$ . Now, in this case, (9) follows from this

estimate, (26) and the estimate of  $\mu_j(K(-z))$  obtained above.

#### 4. Proof of Lemma 3

First, we shall derive (22) from (21). Choose functions  $\chi_1, \chi_2 \in C_0^\infty(\mathbf{R}^n)$  such that  $\chi_1=1$  on  $\text{supp } \chi$ ,  $\chi_2=1$  on  $\text{supp } \chi_1$ . As above, we have

$$(28) \quad \chi R_0(z)\chi = R_0(z_0)A(\cdot)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A(z) = & ((z_0^2 - z^2)(\chi + [G_0, \chi]R_0(z_0)\chi_1) + \\ & + [G_0, \chi]R_0(z_0)[G_0, \chi_1]\chi_2R_0(z)\chi + [G_0, \chi]R_0(z_0)\chi_1 + \chi^2). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $R_0(z_0) \in \mathcal{L}(H_0, H^2)$ , clearly  $A(z) \in \mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)$  and by (28) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\chi R_0(z)\chi\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H^2)} & \leq C \|A(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)} \\ & \leq C'(1 + |z|^2) \|\chi_2 R_0(z)\chi_1\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)} + C' \\ & \leq C''(1 + |z|)(1 + \text{Im } z)^{-1} \quad \text{for } \text{Im } z \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

provided (21) is fulfilled with  $\chi$  replaced by  $\chi_2$ .

To prove (20) and (21) we shall exploit the following resolvent formula

$$(29) \quad R_0(z)f = \int_0^\infty e^{itz} U_0(t)f dt \quad \text{for } \text{Im } z > 0, f \in H_0,$$

where  $U_0(t)$  is the propagator of the Cauchy problem

$$\begin{cases} (\partial_t^2 - \Delta)U_0(t)f(x) = 0 & \text{in } \mathbf{R}_t \times \mathbf{R}_x^n, \\ U_0(0)f(x) = 0, \quad \partial_t U_0(0)f(x) = f(x). \end{cases}$$

It is easy to see that

$$(30) \quad \|\partial_t U_0(t)f\|_{H_0} \leq \|f\|_{H_0} \quad \forall f \in H_0, \quad \forall t.$$

Now, integrating by parts in (29) and using that by Huygens' principle there exists a  $T > 0$  so that  $\chi U_0(t)\chi = 0$  for  $t \geq T$ , we get

$$(31) \quad z\chi R_0(z)\chi f = i \int_0^T e^{itz}\chi \partial_t U_0(t)\chi f dt \quad \text{for } \text{Im } z > 0, \quad f \in H_0,$$

which clearly extends analytically to the entire complex plane  $\mathbf{C}$ . By (30) and (31) we have

$$\|\chi R_0(z)\chi\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_0, H_0)} \leq C \int_0^T e^{-t \text{Im } z} dt \leq \begin{cases} C T e^{T|z|}, & \forall z \in \mathbf{C}, \\ C T & \text{for } \text{Im } z \geq 0, \\ C(\text{Im } z)^{-1} & \text{for } \text{Im } z \geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Now (20) and (21) follow from these estimates at once.

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