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The spectral density of the scattering matrix of the magnetic Schrödinger operator for high energies

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Abstract. The scattering matrix of the Schrödinger operator with smooth short-range electric and magnetic potentials is considered. The asymptotic density of the eigenvalues of this scattering matrix in the high energy regime is determined. An explicit formula for this density is given. This formula involves only the magnetic vector-potential.

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1. Main result and discussion

1.1. Main result. Consider the Schrödinger operator

 $H = (i\nabla + A)^2 + V \quad \text{in } L^2(\mathbb{R}^d), d \ge 2;$

here $V : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}$ is an electric potential and $A = (A_1, \ldots, A_d) : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}^d$ is a magnetic vector-potential. We assume that both V and A are infinitely differentiable and satisfy the estimates

$$|\partial^{\alpha} V(x)| \le C_{\alpha} \langle x \rangle^{-\rho - |\alpha|}, \quad |\partial^{\alpha} A(x)| \le C_{\alpha} \langle x \rangle^{-\rho - |\alpha|}, \quad \rho > 1,$$
(1.1)

for all multi-indices α ; here $\langle x \rangle = (1 + |x|^2)^{1/2}$. Let $H_0 = -\Delta$; we denote by S(k) the scattering matrix associated with the pair H, H_0 at the energy $\lambda = k^2 > 0$. We recall the precise definition of the scattering matrix in Section 2.1; here we only note that S(k) is a unitary operator in $L^2(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ and the operator S(k) - I is compact (see e.g. [21] and [20]). Thus, the spectrum of S(k) consists of eigenvalues on the unit circle \mathbb{T} ; all eigenvalues (apart from possibly 1) have finite multiplicities and can accumulate only to 1. Our aim is to describe the asymptotic behavior of these eigenvalues as $k \to \infty$.

If $A \equiv 0$, one has

$$||S(k) - I|| = O(k^{-1}), \quad k \to \infty \quad (A \equiv 0), \tag{1.2}$$

and so the eigenvalues of S(k) are located on an arc near 1 of length $O(k^{-1})$. The large energy asymptotics of S(k) in this case is given by the Born approximation, see e.g. [21], Chapter 8; this makes the analysis of S(k) rather explicit. In [6], using the Born approximation, we have determined the large energy asymptotic density of the spectrum of S(k) for $A \equiv 0$; we will say more about this in the next subsection.

When $A \neq 0$, the situation is radically different: as $k \to \infty$, the norm ||S(k) - I||does *not* tend to zero and the Born approximation is no longer valid. The high energy asymptotic expansion of the scattering amplitude (= the integral kernel of S(k) - I) for the magnetic Schrödinger operator was obtained (through a very difficult proof) in [19]. Our main result below is a spectral consequence of [19].

We need some notation. For any $\omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$, let $\Lambda_{\omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ be the hyperplane passing through the origin and orthogonal to ω :

$$\Lambda_{\omega} = \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \langle x, \omega \rangle = 0 \}.$$

We equip both \mathbb{S}^{d-1} and Λ_{ω} with the standard (d-1)-dimensional Lebesgue measure. We set

$$M(\omega,\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \langle A(t\omega+\xi), \omega \rangle \mathrm{d}t, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$
(1.3)

Our main result is as follows.

Theorem 1.1. Let V, A satisfy (1.1). Then for any function $\varphi \in C(\mathbb{T})$ that vanishes in a neighborhood of the point 1,

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} k^{-d+1} \operatorname{Tr} \varphi(S(k)) = (2\pi)^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} \varphi(e^{iM(\omega,\xi)}) \mathrm{d}\xi \mathrm{d}\omega.$$
(1.4)

Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.1, the operator $\varphi(S(k))$ has a finite rank, and so the trace in the left hand side exists; also, the integrand in the right hand side vanishes for all sufficiently large $|\xi|$, and so the integral is absolutely convergent.

The interesting feature of formula (1.4) is that its right hand side *does not depend* on the electric potential V; see the discussion at the end of Section 1.3.

1.2. Discussion

Weak convergence of measures. Theorem 1.1 can be rephrased in terms of weak convergence of the eigenvalue counting measures. Let us denote the eigenvalues of S(k) by $e^{i\theta_n(k)}$, where $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\theta_n(k) \in [-\pi, \pi)$; as usual, the eigenvalues are counted with multiplicities taken into account. Let $\iota \subset \mathbb{T} \setminus \{1\}$ be any open arc separated away from 1; we set

$$\mu_k(\iota) = \#\{n \in \mathbb{N} : e^{i\theta_n(k)} \in \iota\}, \quad k > 0,$$
(1.5)

$$\mu(\iota) = (2\pi)^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Pi_{\omega}(\iota)} d\xi d\omega, \quad \Pi_{\omega}(\iota) = \{\xi \in \Lambda_{\omega} \colon e^{iM(\omega,\xi)} \in \iota\},$$
(1.6)

where # represents the number of elements in a set. The measures μ_k , μ can be alternatively defined by requiring that

$$\operatorname{Tr} \varphi(S(k)) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d}\mu_k(z), \qquad (1.7)$$

$$(2\pi)^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} \varphi(e^{iM(\omega,\xi)}) \mathrm{d}\xi \mathrm{d}\omega = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d}\mu(z), \tag{1.8}$$

for any continuous function φ on \mathbb{T} vanishing in a neighborhood of 1. With this notation, Theorem 1.1 can be rephrased as the weak convergence

$$k^{-d+1}\mu_k \longrightarrow \mu, \quad k \to \infty.$$

The measure μ may be singular at 1, i.e. $\mu(\mathbb{T} \setminus \{1\})$ may be infinite, but

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} |z-1|^{\ell} \mathrm{d}\mu(z) < +\infty, \quad \ell > (d-1)/(\rho-1).$$
(1.9)

Relation (1.9) follows from the elementary estimate on $M(\omega, \xi)$ which is a direct consequence of (1.1):

$$|M(\omega,\xi)| \le C(A)(1+|\xi|)^{1-\rho}, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}, \xi \in \Lambda_{\omega}.$$
(1.10)

The case $A \equiv 0$. In this case, the limiting measure μ vanishes, and in order to obtain non-trivial asymptotics of μ_k , the problem requires an appropriate rescaling. By (1.2), the spectrum of S(k) consists of eigenvalues which lie on an arc of length $O(k^{-1})$ around 1. This suggests the following rescaled version of the problem: for an interval $\delta \subset \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$ separated away from zero, set

$$\tilde{\mu}_k(\delta) = \#\{n \in \mathbb{N} : k\theta_n(k) \in \delta\}.$$

Then it turns out (see [6]) that

$$k^{-d+1}\tilde{\mu}_k \longrightarrow \tilde{\mu} \quad \text{weakly as } k \to \infty,$$
 (1.11)

where the measure $\tilde{\mu}$ is defined as follows. Let

$$X(\omega,\xi) = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} V(t\omega + \xi) dt, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}, \xi \in \Lambda_{\omega};$$
(1.12)

then

$$\tilde{\mu}(\delta) = (2\pi)^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\tilde{\Pi}_{\omega}(\iota)} d\xi d\omega, \quad \tilde{\Pi}_{\omega}(\iota) = \{\xi \in \Lambda_{\omega} \colon X(\omega, \xi) \in \delta\},\$$

where $\delta \subset \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.

Two and three dimensional cases. Let us discuss assumptions (1.1) in dimensions d = 2, 3. In dimension d = 3, a magnetic vector-potential A satisfying (1.1) can be constructed for any smooth magnetic field $B : \mathbb{R}^3 \to \mathbb{R}^3$ (B = curl A) such that div B = 0 and

$$|\partial^{\alpha} B(x)| \le C_{\alpha} \langle x \rangle^{-\rho - 1 - |\alpha|}, \quad \rho > 1.$$
(1.13)

In dimension d = 2, the magnetic field $B \colon \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$, in addition to (1.13), must satisfy the zero flux condition

$$\Phi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} B(x) dx = 0, \quad B(x) = \frac{\partial A_2}{\partial x_1} - \frac{\partial A_1}{\partial x_2}.$$
 (1.14)

See e.g. [20], Section 5.1, for the details of this construction both for d = 2 and d = 3.

The zero flux condition is unavoidable in the following sense. Let $B : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ be such that it satisfies the estimates (1.13) but the flux $\Phi \neq 0$. Then any magnetic vectorpotential A(x) for this field will necessarily fail to be short-range (i.e. (1.1) fails) but one can construct A(x) (the "transversal gauge") with the behavior $|A(x)| \sim |x|^{-1}$ as $|x| \to \infty$. In this case the scattering theory for H_0 , H can still be constructed, but the difference S(k) - I will *not* be compact, see [20] for a detailed discussion and a description of the essential spectrum of S(k). A particularly well known example of this is the Aharonov–Bohm effect [2]. Thus, in this case the measure μ_k cannot even be defined and the question of the spectral asymptotics of the scattering matrix cannot be approached in the same way as in Theorem 1.1.

Gauge invariance. The scattering matrix is gauge invariant in the class of short-range magnetic vector-potentials. More precisely, if

$$\widetilde{A}(x) = A(x) + \nabla \varphi(x), \text{ where } \varphi(x) \longrightarrow 0 \text{ as } |x| \to \infty,$$
 (1.15)

then the scattering matrix $\tilde{S}(k)$ associated with the pair $\tilde{H} = (i\nabla + \tilde{A})^2 + V$, $H_0 = -\Delta$, coincides with S(k). See [13] and [20] for further details and for an interesting discussion of examples when S(k) is not gauge invariant (when $\varphi(x)$ is homogeneous in |x| of order zero). An inspection shows that $M(\omega, \xi)$ is gauge invariant under the gauge transformations of the class (1.15).

Related work. Although the study of various aspects of asymptotic distribution of eigenvalues of differential operators has become a well-developed industry, very little attention in mathematical literature has been devoted to analogous questions for the scattering matrix. There has been, of course, much work on the "average" characteristics of the scattering matrix S(k): on the scattering phase arg det S(k) and on the total scattering cross section; but the study of the distribution of individual eigenvalues of S(k) has been less popular. We are only aware of mathematical works [11], [4], [5], [22], and [7] on this subject. In [11], the asymptotic behavior

of the phases $\theta_n(k)$ was determined for a fixed k and $n \to \infty$ for potentials V with compact support and $A \equiv 0$. In [4], the same problem was considered in the case of potentials V with a power asymptotics at infinity. In [5], this question was studied in the presence of a periodic background potential. In [22], the spacing between the phases $\theta_n(k)$ was studied in a rather special model of scattering on manifolds.

In [7], a semiclassical asymptotics of phase shifts is considered for the Schrödinger operator with a spherical symmetric potential and equidistribution of these phase shifts is proven.

In the physics community, the question of asymptotic distribution of eigenvalues of the scattering matrix has been addressed; see e.g. the works by U. Smilansky and his collaborators [9] on the eigenvalue statistics of S(k) for obstacle scattering.

The limiting measure μ arises via integration over straight lines, i.e. over the trajectories of the free dynamics, see (1.3). Similar asymptotic formulas are known in other problems, involving the discrete spectrum of differential and pseudodifferential operators; see [18], [16], [17], and [12].

1.3. Key steps of the proof of Theorem 1.1. Our proof is heavily based on the results of [19]. In [19], D. Yafaev suggested a high energy asymptotic expansion for the integral kernel of the scattering matrix S(k). This expansion is constructed via approximate scattering solutions to the stationary Schrödinger equation

$$Hu = k^2 u.$$

We recall this construction in Section 2. Using Yafaev's expansion, it is easy to represent the scattering matrix S(k) (modulo a negligible error) as a semiclassical pseudodifferential operator (Ψ DO) on the sphere with the semiclassical parameter $h = k^{-1}$ and the principal symbol $e^{iM(\omega,\xi)}$. This representation is already present, in a somewhat different form, in [19]; we re-derive it in Section 2 in the form convenient for our purposes (see Lemma 2.5). After this, using the standard pseudodifferential techniques, we prove (see Lemma 3.1) the asymptotic formula

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} k^{-d+1} \operatorname{Tr}(S(k) - I)^{\ell_1} (S(k)^* - I)^{\ell_2} = (2\pi)^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Lambda_\omega} (e^{iM(\omega,\xi)} - I)^{\ell_1} (e^{-iM(\omega,\xi)} - I)^{\ell_2} d\xi d\omega$$
(1.16)

for any integers $\ell_1 \ge 0$, $\ell_2 \ge 0$ such that the sum $\ell_1 + \ell_2$ is sufficiently large. From here it is easy to derive the main result by an application of the Weierstrass approximation theorem; this is done in Section 3.

The difference between the case $A \equiv 0$ and the general case can be understood as follows. As mentioned above, the scattering matrix can be approximated by a Ψ DO on the sphere with a symbol which depends on k. The leading term of the asymptotic expansion of this symbol in powers of k^{-1} is $e^{iM(\omega,\xi)}$ (if $A \neq 0$); this term involves only the magnetic vector potential A. The electric potential turns up only in the next

term of the expansion, which (if $A \equiv 0$) has the form $ik^{-1}X(\omega, \xi)$, see (1.12). Of course, this is related to the fact that the magnetic potential is a coefficient of the differential operator of the order 1, whereas the electric potential is a perturbation of the order 0.

2. The scattering matrix as a Ψ DO on the sphere.

2.1. The scattering matrix. Let us briefly recall the definition of the scattering matrix; for the details, we refer to any textbook on scattering theory, e.g. [21]. It is one of the fundamental facts of scattering theory that under the conditions (1.1), the wave operators

$$W_{\pm} = \operatorname{s-lim}_{t \to \pm \infty} e^{itH} e^{-itH_0}$$

exist and are complete. The scattering operator $\mathbf{S} = W_+^* W_-$ is unitary in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and commutes with H_0 . Let $F : L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \to L^2((0,\infty); L^2(\mathbb{S}^{d-1}))$ be the unitary operator

$$(Fu)(k,\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} k^{(d-2)/2} \hat{u}(k\omega), \quad k > 0, \ \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1},$$

where \hat{u} is the usual (unitary) Fourier transform of u. The operator F diagonalises H_0 , i.e.

$$(FH_0u)(k,\omega) = k^2(Fu)(k,\omega), \quad u \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

The commutation relation $SH_0 = H_0S$ implies that F also diagonalises S, i.e.

$$(F\mathbf{S}u)(k,\cdot) = S(k)(Fu)(k,\cdot),$$

where $S(k): L^2(\mathbb{S}^{d-1}) \to L^2(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ is the unitary operator known as the (on-shell) scattering matrix.

2.2. Pseudodifferential operators on the sphere. For every $\omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$, we identify the cotangent space $T_{\omega}^* \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$ with the plane $\Lambda_{\omega} = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d : \langle x, \omega \rangle = 0\}$ in a standard way. For a symbol $\sigma \in C_0^{\infty}(T^* \mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ and a semiclassical parameter $h \in (0, 1)$, the semiclassical Ψ DO Op_h[σ] in $L^2(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ is defined via its integral kernel

$$Op_{h}[\sigma](\omega, \omega') = (2\pi h)^{-d+1} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} e^{-i\langle \omega - \omega', \xi \rangle / h} \sigma(\omega, \xi) d\xi, \qquad (2.1)$$

where $\omega, \omega' \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$. This definition can be extended in a standard way to symbols σ satisfying

$$|\partial_{\xi}^{\alpha}\partial_{\omega}^{\beta}\sigma(\omega,\xi)| \le C_{\alpha\beta}\langle\xi\rangle^{-m-|\alpha|}, \quad \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}, \xi \in \Lambda_{\omega},$$
(2.2)

for some $m \in \mathbb{R}$ and all multi-indices α, β . We will only be interested in the case m > 0; then by the Calderon–Villancourt theorem (see e.g. [15]) combined with a scaling argument, $Op_h[\sigma]$ is bounded and

$$\sup_{0 < h < 1} \|\operatorname{Op}_{h}[\sigma]\| \le C(\sigma).$$
(2.3)

Next, if σ satisfies (2.2) with m > d - 1, then (see e.g. [14] and [8]) $Op_h[\sigma]$ is trace class and its trace can be computed by integrating the kernel (2.1) over the diagonal:

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\operatorname{Op}_{h}[\sigma]) = (2\pi h)^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} \sigma(\omega, \xi) \mathrm{d}\xi \mathrm{d}\omega.$$
(2.4)

We will also be interested in symbols that depend on h. For m > 0, let S^m be the class of C^{∞} -smooth symbols $\sigma = \sigma(\omega, \xi, h), h \in (0, 1)$, satisfying the estimate (2.2) uniformly in $h \in (0, 1)$ for all multi-indices α, β . We will need a standard statement about the leading term spectral asymptotics of a semiclassical Ψ DO:

Proposition 2.1. Let m > 0 and let $\sigma \in S^m$ be a symbol that admits the representation

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + h\sigma_1 \tag{2.5}$$

with $\sigma_0, \sigma_1 \in S^m$ and σ_0 independent of h. Then for any non-negative integers ℓ_1 , ℓ_2 such that $\ell_1 + \ell_2 > \frac{d-1}{m}$, the operator $(\operatorname{Op}_h[\sigma])^{\ell_1}((\operatorname{Op}_h[\sigma])^*)^{\ell_2}$ belongs to the trace class and

$$\lim_{h \to +0} (2\pi h)^{d-1} \operatorname{Tr}((\operatorname{Op}_{h}[\sigma])^{\ell_{1}}((\operatorname{Op}_{h}[\sigma])^{*})^{\ell_{2}})$$
$$= \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} \sigma_{0}(\omega,\xi)^{\ell_{1}} \overline{\sigma_{0}(\omega,\xi)^{\ell_{2}}} \mathrm{d}\xi \mathrm{d}\omega.$$
(2.6)

Sketch of proof. First suppose that m > d - 1 and $\ell_1 = 1$, $\ell_2 = 0$. Then $Op_h[\sigma]$ is trace class and the asymptotics (2.6) follow by substituting the representation (2.5) into (2.4). In the general case, using local coordinates on the sphere, iterating a standard composition formula for ΨDO in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$, and using the formula for the symbol of the adjoint operator, we obtain that for any N > 0,

$$(\operatorname{Op}_{h}[\sigma])^{\ell_{1}}((\operatorname{Op}_{h}[\sigma])^{*})^{\ell_{2}} = \operatorname{Op}_{h}[\varkappa] + R_{N}(h),$$

where

(i) the symbol $x \in S^{m\ell_1 + m\ell_2}$ can be represented as

$$\varkappa = \varkappa_0 + h \varkappa_1^{(N)}$$

with $\varkappa_0, \varkappa_1^{(N)} \in S^{m\ell_1 + m\ell_2}, \varkappa_0$ is independent of h and

$$\varkappa_0(\omega,\xi) = \sigma_0(\omega,\xi)^{\ell_1} \sigma_0(\omega,\xi)^{\ell_2};$$

(ii) $R_N(h)$ is an operator with the integral kernel in $C^N(\mathbb{S}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ and the C^N -norm of $R_N(h)$ is $O(h^N)$ as $h \to 0$.

This reduces the problem to the case $\ell_1 = 1, \ell_2 = 0$.

Remark. In the situation we are interested in, the representation (2.5) arises as a corollary of the asymptotic expansion

$$\sigma \sim \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} h^j \sigma_j, \quad \sigma_j \in \mathcal{S}^m,$$

but we are only interested in the first term of this expansion.

In our construction, the Ψ DO will be defined in terms of their amplitudes rather than their symbols. Thus, we need a statement which is standard in the Ψ DO theory (see e.g. [14]).

Proposition 2.2. Let m > 0, and let $b = b(\omega, \omega', \xi, h)$ be a smooth function of the variables $(\omega, \xi) \in T^* S^{d-1}$, $\omega' \in S^{d-1}$ and $h \in (0, 1)$. Assume that b satisfies the estimates

$$|\partial_{\xi}^{\alpha}\partial_{\omega}^{\beta}\partial_{\omega'}^{\gamma}b(\omega,\omega',\xi,h)| \le C_{\alpha\beta\gamma}\langle\xi\rangle^{-m-|\alpha|}$$
(2.7)

for all multi-indices α, β, γ uniformly in $h \in (0, 1)$. Then for any N > 0, the operator with the integral kernel

$$(2\pi h)^{-d+1} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} e^{-i\langle \omega - \omega', \xi \rangle / h} b(\omega, \omega', \xi, h) \mathrm{d}\xi$$
(2.8)

can be represented as $Op_h[\sigma] + R_N(h)$, where the following conditions are met:

(i) the symbol σ can be written as $\sigma = \sigma_0 + h\sigma_1$ with $\sigma_0, \sigma_1 \in S^m$ and

$$\sigma_0(\omega,\xi,h) = b(\omega,\omega,\xi,h).$$

(ii) the operator $R_N(h)$ has the integral kernel in $C^N(\mathbb{S}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ with C^N -norm satisfying $O(h^N)$ as $h \to 0$.

2.3. Approximate solutions to the Schrödinger equation. Here we recall the construction of approximate solutions to the Schrödinger equation $Hu = k^2 u$ from [19]. The solutions u are sought as functions

$$u = u(x, p), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d, p \in \mathbb{R}^d, |p| = k.$$

We denote $\hat{p} = p |p|^{-1} \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$. Substituting the ansatz

$$u(x, p) = e^{i\Theta(x,p)}v(x, p)$$

into the Schrödinger equation $Hu = k^2 u$, by a standard procedure (see e.g. [10], Section 7) we obtain the eikonal equation

$$|\nabla\Theta(x) - A(x)|^2 + V(x) = k^2$$

for the phase function Θ and the transport equation

$$-2i\langle \nabla\Theta, \nabla v \rangle + 2i\langle A, \nabla v \rangle - \Delta v + (-i\Delta\Theta + i \operatorname{div} A)v = 0$$

for the amplitude function v. The approximate solution to the eikonal equation is constructed as

$$\Theta_{\pm}(x, p) = \langle x, p \rangle + \varphi_{\pm}(x, \hat{p}), \qquad (2.9)$$

$$\varphi_{\pm}(x,\hat{p}) = \mp \int_0^\infty \langle A(x\pm t\,\hat{p}),\hat{p}\rangle \mathrm{d}t.$$
(2.10)

Next, for a given $N \in \mathbb{N}$, the approximate solution $v_{\pm}^{(N)}$ to the transport equation is constructed as

$$v_{\pm}^{(N)}(x,p) = \sum_{n=0}^{N} (2ik)^{-n} v_{n}^{(\pm)}(x,\hat{p}), \qquad (2.11)$$

where $v_0^{(\pm)}(x, \hat{p}) \equiv 1$ and the coefficients $v_n^{(\pm)}$ are determined via an explicit iterative procedure:

$$v_{n+1}^{(\pm)}(x,\,\hat{p}) = \mp \int_0^\infty f_n^{(\pm)}(x\pm t\,\hat{p},\,\hat{p})\mathrm{d}t,$$

where

$$f_n^{(\pm)} = 2i\langle A - \nabla\varphi_{\pm}, \nabla v_n^{(\pm)} \rangle - \Delta v_n^{(\pm)} + (|\nabla\varphi_{\pm}|^2 - 2\langle A, \nabla\varphi_{\pm} \rangle + V_1 - i\Delta\varphi_{\pm})v_n^{(\pm)},$$

and

 $V_1 = V + |A|^2 + i \operatorname{div} A.$

The functions φ_{\pm} and $v_{\pm}^{(N)}$ solve the eikonal and transport equations up to error terms that can be explicitly controlled; we do not need the precise statement here, see [19] for the details. Here we need φ_{\pm} and $v_{\pm}^{(N)}$ simply as "building blocks" for the approximation to the scattering amplitude, which is given in the next subsection.

When considering the functions φ_{\pm} and $v_n^{(\pm)}$, we will always exclude a conical neighborhood of the direction $\hat{x} = -\hat{p}$ (for the sign "+") or $\hat{x} = \hat{p}$ (for the sign "-"). Outside these neighborhoods, the functions φ_{\pm} and $v_n^{(\pm)}$, $n \ge 1$, decay at infinity in the *x*-variable. More precisely, the following statement is proven in [19].

Proposition 2.3. [19] Let assumption (1.1) hold and let $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$ be such that $\pm \langle \hat{x}, \omega \rangle \ge -1 + \varepsilon$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$. Then the functions φ_{\pm} and $v_n^{(\pm)}$, $n \ge 1$,

satisfy the estimates

$$|\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} \varphi_{\pm}(x, \omega)| \le C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{1-\rho-|\alpha|}, \qquad (2.12)$$

$$\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} v_n^{(\pm)}(x, \omega) | \le C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{-n - |\alpha|}, \qquad (2.13)$$

for all multi-indices α , β .

We will write

$$u_{\pm}^{(N)}(x,p) = u_{\pm}(x,p) = e^{i\Theta_{\pm}(x,p)}v_{\pm}^{(N)}(x,p).$$
(2.14)

2.4. Approximation for the scattering amplitude. Here we recall the approximation to the scattering amplitude obtained in [19]. It is known (see e.g. [1]) that off the diagonal $\omega = \omega'$, the integral kernel $s(\omega, \omega'; k)$ of the scattering matrix S(k) is a C^{∞} -smooth function of $\omega, \omega' \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$ and it tends to zero faster than any power of k^{-1} as $k \to \infty$. Thus, it suffices to describe the structure of $s(\omega, \omega'; k)$ in a neighborhood of the diagonal $\omega = \omega'$. Fix some $\delta \in (0, 1)$; for an arbitrary point $\omega_0 \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$, let $\Omega(\omega_0) \subset \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$ be the conical neighborhood of ω_0 given by

$$\Omega(\omega_0) = \{ \omega \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1} \colon \langle \omega, \omega_0 \rangle > \delta \}.$$
(2.15)

Let u_{\pm} be as in (2.14). We set

$$\partial_{\omega_0} u = \langle \nabla u, \omega_0 \rangle,$$

where the gradient of u = u(x, p) is taken in the x variable. For $\omega, \omega' \in \Omega(\omega_0)$, define

$$s_{0}^{(N)}(\omega,\omega';k) = -i\pi k^{d-2}(2\pi)^{-d} \\ \times \left(\int_{\Lambda_{\omega_{0}}} \overline{[u_{+}^{(N)}(x,k\omega)}(\partial_{\omega_{0}}u_{-}^{(N)})(x,k\omega')} - \overline{(\partial_{\omega_{0}}u_{+}^{(N)})(x,k\omega)}u_{-}^{(N)}(x,k\omega')]dx - \right. \\ \left. - 2i\int_{\Lambda_{\omega_{0}}} \langle A(x),\omega_{0}\rangle \overline{u_{+}^{(N)}(x,k\omega)}u_{-}^{(N)}(x,k\omega')dx \right).$$
(2.16)

The integrals in (2.16) do not converge absolutely and should be understood as oscillatory integrals. In other words, (2.16) should be understood as a distribution on $\Omega(\omega_0) \times \Omega(\omega_0)$.

Proposition 2.4. [19] For any $q \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $N = N(q) \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $\omega_0 \in \mathbb{S}^{d-1}$, the kernel

$$\tilde{s}^{(N)}(\omega,\omega';k) = s(\omega,\omega';k) - s_0^{(N)}(\omega,\omega';k)$$

belongs to the class $C^q(\Omega(\omega_0) \times \Omega(\omega_0))$, and its C^q -norm is $O(k^{-q})$ as $k \to \infty$.

2.5. The scattering matrix as a \PsiDO on the sphere. Below we represent the scattering matrix S(k) as a semiclassical Ψ DO on the sphere. The semiclassical parameter is $h = k^{-1}$. The idea to represent the scattering matrix as a Ψ DO on the sphere goes back to [4]. The statements almost identical to Lemma 2.5 can be found in [19], Propositions 6.1 and 6.4, and [21], Section 8.4, but for technical reasons these statements are not sufficient for our purposes. A related work (but written from a very different viewpoint) is [3], where the scattering matrix is represented as a Fourier integral operator corresponding to the classical scattering relation.

Lemma 2.5. Let assumptions (1.1) hold, and let $m = \min\{1, \rho - 1\}$. For any $q \in \mathbb{N}$, the scattering matrix can be written as

$$S(k) = I + Op_{k^{-1}}[\sigma] + R_q(k),$$
 (2.17)

where

(i) the symbol σ can be represented as

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + k^{-1} \sigma_1, \qquad (2.18)$$

with $\sigma_0, \sigma_1 \in S^m$ and

$$\sigma_0(\omega,\xi) = \exp(iM(\omega,\xi)) - 1; \qquad (2.19)$$

(ii) the operator $R_q(k)$ has an integral kernel in the class $C^q(\mathbb{S}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ and its C^q -norm is $O(k^{-q})$ as $k \to \infty$.

Proof. 1) Let $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ be functions with disjoint supports. Then $\psi_1 S(k)\psi_2$ has a C^{∞} -smooth integral kernel which decays faster than any power of k^{-1} as $k \to \infty$, see e.g. [1]. The same comment applies to $\psi_1 \operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[a]\psi_2$ with $a \in S^m$. This shows that using a sufficiently fine partition of unity on the sphere, one easily reduces the problem to approximating the integral kernel of S(k) locally in any conical neighborhood $\Omega(\omega_0)$, see (2.15). Thus, we can use Proposition 2.4.

2) Let us rearrange the integrand in (2.16). Denote

$$w_{\pm}(x,p) = e^{i\varphi_{\pm}(x,\hat{p})} v_{\pm}^{(N)}(x,p), \qquad (2.20)$$

$$\tilde{w}_{\pm}(x,p) = k e^{i\varphi_{\pm}(x,\hat{p})} (v_{\pm}^{(N)}(x,p) - 1), \qquad (2.21)$$

so that from (2.14),

$$u_{\pm}(x,k\omega) = e^{ik\langle x,\omega\rangle} w_{\pm}(x,k\omega)$$

= $e^{ik\langle x,\omega\rangle} (e^{i\varphi_{\pm}(x,\omega)} + k^{-1}\tilde{w}_{\pm}(x,k\omega)),$
 $(\partial_{\omega_0}u_{\pm})(x,k\omega) = e^{ik\langle x,\omega\rangle} [ik\langle \omega_0,\omega\rangle e^{i\varphi_{\pm}(x,\omega)}$
 $+ i\langle \omega_0,\omega\rangle \tilde{w}_{\pm}(x,k\omega) + (\partial_{\omega_0}w_{\pm})(x,k\omega)].$

Now some elementary algebra shows that formula (2.16) can be rewritten as

$$s_0^{(N)}(\omega,\omega';k) = \left(\frac{k}{2\pi}\right)^{d-1} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega_0}} e^{-ik\langle\omega-\omega',x\rangle} a(\omega,\omega',x) \mathrm{d}x, \qquad (2.22)$$

where

$$a(\omega, \omega', x) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \omega_0, \omega + \omega' \rangle \exp(i\varphi_-(x, \omega') - i\varphi_+(x, \omega)) + k^{-1} a_1(\omega, \omega', x),$$
(2.23)

and

$$2a_{1}(\omega, \omega', x) = \langle \omega, \omega_{0} \rangle (e^{-i\varphi_{+}(x,\omega)} \tilde{w}_{-}(x, k\omega') + \overline{\tilde{w}_{+}(x, k\omega)} w_{-}(x, k\omega')) + \langle \omega', \omega_{0} \rangle (e^{i\varphi_{-}(x,\omega')} \overline{\tilde{w}_{+}(x, k\omega)} + \overline{w_{+}(x, k\omega)} \tilde{w}_{-}(x, k\omega')) + i \overline{(\partial_{\omega_{0}} w_{+})(x, k\omega)} w_{-}(x, k\omega') - i \overline{w_{+}(x, k\omega)} (\partial_{\omega_{0}} w_{-})(x, k\omega') - 2 \langle A(x), \omega_{0} \rangle \overline{w_{+}(x, k\omega)} w_{-}(x, k\omega').$$

$$(2.24)$$

Note that the choice $a(\omega, \omega', x) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \omega + \omega', \omega_0 \rangle$ in (2.22) yields a δ -function on the sphere. Thus, we can write

$$s_0^{(N)}(\omega,\omega';k) - \delta(\omega-\omega')$$

$$= \left(\frac{k}{2\pi}\right)^{d-1} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega_0}} e^{-ik\langle\omega-\omega',x\rangle} (a_0 + k^{-1}a_1)(\omega,\omega',x) \mathrm{d}x,$$
(2.25)

where

$$a_0(\omega, \omega', x) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \omega_0, \omega + \omega' \rangle (\exp(i\varphi_-(x, \omega') - i\varphi_+(x, \omega)) - 1).$$
(2.26)

3) Let us change variables in the integral (2.25). Instead of integrating over $x \in \Lambda_{\omega_0}$, we shall integrate over $\xi \in \Lambda_{\omega}$, where

$$x = \xi - \frac{\langle \xi, \omega_0 \rangle}{\langle \omega + \omega', \omega_0 \rangle} (\omega + \omega').$$
(2.27)

Recall that $\omega, \omega' \in \Omega(\omega_0)$, and so the denominator in (2.27) does not vanish. An inspection shows that

$$\langle x, \omega - \omega' \rangle = \langle \xi, \omega - \omega' \rangle.$$

Thus, we obtain

$$s_{0}^{(N)}(\omega,\omega';k) - \delta(\omega-\omega') = \left(\frac{k}{2\pi}\right)^{d-1} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} e^{-ik\langle\omega-\omega',\xi\rangle} b(\omega,\omega',\xi) d\xi,$$
(2.28)

where $b = b_0 + k^{-1}b_1$ with

$$b_j(\omega, \omega', \xi) = J(\omega, \omega')a_j(\omega, \omega', x(\xi))$$
(2.29)

and $J(\omega, \omega')$ denotes the Jacobian of the linear map (2.27) considered as a map from Λ_{ω} to Λ_{ω_0} . It is easy to see that $J(\omega, \omega')$ is a smooth function of $\omega, \omega' \in \Omega(\omega_0)$ and

$$J(\omega, \omega) = \langle \omega, \omega_0 \rangle^{-1}.$$
 (2.30)

4) The right hand side of (2.28) is a semiclassical Ψ DO with the amplitude *b* and a semiclassical parameter $h = k^{-1}$, see (2.8). In order to complete the proof, by Proposition 2.2 if suffices to check the estimates

$$|\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} \partial_{\omega'}^{\gamma} b_j(\omega, \omega', \xi)| \le C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \langle \xi \rangle^{-m-|\alpha|}, \qquad (2.31)$$

for j = 0, 1 and all multi-indices α, β, γ uniformly over $k \ge 1$, and to check the identity

$$b_0(\omega, \omega, \xi) = \exp(iM(\omega, \xi)) - 1. \tag{2.32}$$

Let us first check (2.32). Recalling the definition (1.3) of M and the definition (2.10) of φ_{\pm} , we get

$$M(\omega,\xi) = \varphi_{-}(\xi,\omega) - \varphi_{+}(\xi,\omega).$$

From this and (2.26), (2.29) and (2.30), we obtain

$$b_0(\omega, \omega, \xi) = J(\omega, \omega)a_0(\omega, \omega, x(\xi)) = \exp(iM(\omega, x(\xi))) - 1,$$

where $x(\xi)$ is the linear map (2.27). Next, by the definition of the map $x(\xi)$, for $\omega = \omega'$ it takes the form $x(\xi) = \xi + c\omega$, and by the definition of the function *M* we have

$$M(\omega, \xi + c\omega) = M(\omega, \xi).$$

Thus, we obtain (2.32).

5) It remains to check that the estimates (2.31) are satisfied. This is essentially a consequence of Proposition 2.3; let us check this. Recalling that $m = \min\{1, \rho - 1\}$ and using the estimates (2.12) and (2.13), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} \varphi_{\pm}(x,\omega)| &\leq C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{-m-|\alpha|}, \\ |\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} \tilde{w}_{\pm}(x,k\omega)| &\leq C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{-m-|\alpha|}, \\ |\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} (\partial_{\omega_0} w_{\pm})(x,k\omega)| &\leq C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{-m-|\alpha|}, \\ |\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} w_{\pm}(x,k\omega)| &\leq C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{-|\alpha|}, \end{aligned}$$

where all the estimates are uniform in $k \ge 1$. It follows that a_0 and a_1 , defined by (2.26) and (2.24), respectively, satisfy

$$|\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\omega}^{\beta} \partial_{\omega'}^{\gamma} a_j(\omega, \omega', x)| \le C_{\alpha\beta} \langle x \rangle^{-m - |\alpha|}$$
(2.33)

uniformly in $k \ge 1$. Now from (2.27), (2.29), and (2.33) by an elementary calculation we obtain (2.31).

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3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

3.1. The case of a monomial φ

Lemma 3.1. Assume the hypothesis of Theorem 1.1. Then for any integers $\ell_1 \ge 0$, $\ell_2 \ge 0$ such that $\ell_1 + \ell_2 > (d-1)/m$, $m = \min\{1, \rho-1\}$, asymptotic formula (1.16) holds true.

Proof. By Lemma 2.5, we have

$$(S(k) - I)^{\ell_1} (S(k)^* - I)^{\ell_2} = (\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma] + R_q(k))^{\ell_1} ((\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma])^* + R_q(k)^*)^{\ell_2},$$
(3.1)

where σ , $R_q(k)$ are as described in Lemma 2.5. Expanding the brackets in (3.1), we obtain

$$(S(k) - I)^{\ell_1} (S(k)^* - I)^{\ell_2} = (\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma])^{\ell_1} ((\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma])^*)^{\ell_2} + Q_q(k), \quad (3.2)$$

where $Q_q(k)$ is the sum of the products of operators, to be estimated below. For the first term in the right hand side in (3.2), by Proposition 2.1, we have

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \left(\frac{k}{2\pi}\right)^{-d+1} \operatorname{Tr}((\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma])^{\ell_1}((\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma])^*)^{\ell_2}) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{d-1}} \int_{\Lambda_{\omega}} (e^{iM(\omega,\xi)} - 1)^{\ell_1} (e^{-iM(\omega,\xi)} - 1)^{\ell_2} d\xi d\omega$$

Let us check that by a suitable choice of q one can ensure that the error term Tr $Q_q(k)$ remains bounded as $k \to \infty$; this will certainly yield the desired asymptotics (1.16). Recall that by Lemma 2.5, the operator $R_q(k)$ has an integral kernel in the class $C^q(\mathbb{S}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{S}^{d-1})$ and its C^q -norm is $O(k^{-q})$ as $k \to \infty$. Thus, by choosing q sufficiently large, we can make sure that the estimate ($\|\cdot\|_1$ is the trace norm)

$$||R_q(k)||_1 = O(1), \quad k \to \infty,$$
 (3.3)

holds true. Next, using the estimates

$$|\text{Tr}(AB)| \le ||A|| ||B||_1$$
 and $||C|| \le ||C||_1$

and recalling that $Q_q(k)$ arose as a remainder term in the expansion of the brackets in the left hand side of (3.1), we obtain

$$|\operatorname{Tr}(Q_q(k))| \le C(\ell_1, \ell_2) \max_{1 \le j \le \ell_1 + \ell_2} \{ \|R_q(k)\|_1^j, \|\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma]\|^{\ell_1 + \ell_2 - j} \}.$$
(3.4)

By (2.3), we have

$$\|\operatorname{Op}_{k^{-1}}[\sigma]\| = O(1), \quad k \to \infty.$$

Combining the last inequality with (3.3), we obtain that $\text{Tr}(Q_q(k))$ is bounded as $k \to \infty$, as required.

3.2. Application of the Weierstrass approximation theorem

Lemma 3.2. Let ℓ_0 be an even natural number and let v, v_k $(k \ge 1)$ be σ -finite measures on $\mathbb{T} \setminus \{1\}$ such that

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} |z-1|^{\ell_0} \mathrm{d}\nu(z) < \infty, \quad \int_{\mathbb{T}} |z-1|^{\ell_0} \mathrm{d}\nu_k(z) < \infty, \tag{3.5}$$

for all k. Suppose that for all integers $\ell_1 \ge 0$, $\ell_2 \ge 0$ such that $\ell_1 + \ell_2 \ge \ell_0$, the relation

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \int_{\mathbb{T}} (z-1)^{\ell_1} (\bar{z}-1)^{\ell_2} d\nu_k(z) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} (z-1)^{\ell_1} (\bar{z}-1)^{\ell_2} d\nu(z)$$
(3.6)

holds true. Then for any $\varphi \in C(\mathbb{T})$ such that $\varphi(z)|z-1|^{-\ell_0}$ is continuous on \mathbb{T} , the relation

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d}\nu_k(z) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d}\nu(z).$$
(3.7)

holds true.

Proof. Applying the Weierstrass approximation theorem to $\varphi(z)|z-1|^{-\ell_0}$, for any $\varepsilon > 0$ we obtain a polynomial $\varphi_0(z)$ in z, \overline{z} such that

$$|\varphi(z)|z-1|^{-\ell_0}-\varphi_0(z)| \le \varepsilon, \quad z \in \mathbb{T}.$$

Let us define $\varphi_{\pm}(z) = (\operatorname{Re} \varphi_0(z) \pm \varepsilon)|z - 1|^{\ell_0}$, then it follows from the above that

$$\varphi_{-}(z) \le \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \le \varphi_{+}(z), \quad z \in \mathbb{T},$$
(3.8)

$$\varphi_{+}(z) - \varphi_{-}(z) = 2\varepsilon |z - 1|^{\ell_0}.$$
(3.9)

By the construction of φ_{\pm} , it can be represented as a polynomial in w = z - 1, $\bar{w} = \bar{z} - 1$ involving only products $w^{\ell_1} \bar{w}^{\ell_2}$ with $\ell_1 + \ell_2 \ge \ell_0$. Thus, by (3.8) and (3.9) we can write

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_{-}(z) \mathrm{d}\nu(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d}\nu(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_{+}(z) \mathrm{d}\nu(z), \quad (3.10)$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_{-}(z) \mathrm{d}\nu_{k}(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d}\nu_{k}(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_{+}(z) \mathrm{d}\nu_{k}(z), \qquad (3.11)$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_+(z) \mathrm{d}\nu(z) - \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_-(z) \mathrm{d}\nu(z) = 2\varepsilon \int_{\mathbb{T}} |z-1|^{\ell_0} d\nu(z), \qquad (3.12)$$

where all integrals are absolutely convergent by (3.5). Now we can use (3.6) to pass to the limit in (3.11). Using (3.10) and (3.12) and denoting by *C* the value of the

integral in the right hand side of (3.12), we obtain

$$\begin{split} &\limsup_{k \to \infty} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d} \nu_k(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_+(z) \mathrm{d} \nu(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d} \nu(z) + 2\varepsilon C, \\ &\lim_{k \to \infty} \inf \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d} \nu_k(z) \geq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \varphi_-(z) \mathrm{d} \nu(z) \geq \int_{\mathbb{T}} \operatorname{Re} \varphi(z) \mathrm{d} \nu(z) - 2\varepsilon C. \end{split}$$

Since $\varepsilon > 0$ may be taken arbitrary small, this yields

$$\lim_{k\to\infty}\int_{\mathbb{T}}\operatorname{Re}\varphi(z)\mathrm{d}\nu_k(z)=\int_{\mathbb{T}}\operatorname{Re}\varphi(z)\mathrm{d}\nu(z).$$

Since the same argument can be applied to the imaginary part of φ , we obtain the required statement.

3.3. Proof of Theorem 1.1. Recall that the measures μ_k and μ are defined in (1.5) and (1.6). By (1.7), (1.8), the conclusion of Lemma 3.1 can be written as

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} k^{-d+1} \int_{\mathbb{T}} (z-1)^{\ell_1} (\bar{z}-1)^{\ell_2} d\mu_k(z) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} (z-1)^{\ell_1} (\bar{z}-1)^{\ell_2} d\mu(z).$$

Now it remains to apply Lemma 3.2 with $v_k = k^{-d+1}\mu_k$ and $v = \mu$.

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