

Scattering theory of the p -form Laplacian on manifolds with generalized cusps

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Abstract. In this paper we consider scattering theory on manifolds with special cusp-like metric singularities of warped product type $g = dx^2 + x^{-2a}h$, where $a > 0$. These metrics form a natural subset in the class of metrics with warped product singularities and they can be thought of as interpolating between hyperbolic and cylindrical metrics. We prove that the resolvent of the Laplace operator acting on p -forms on such a manifold extends to a meromorphic function defined on the logarithmic cover of the complex plane with values in the bounded operators between weighted L^2 -spaces. This allows for a construction of generalized eigenforms for the Laplace operator as well as for a meromorphic continuation of the scattering matrix. We give a precise description of the asymptotic expansion of generalized eigenforms on the cusp and find that the scattering matrix satisfies a functional equation.

Mathematics Subject Classification (2010). Primary 58J50; Secondary 35P25, 33Exx.

Keywords. Scattering matrix, spectral resolution, generalized cusps, Laplacian, resolvent.

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1. Introduction

The study of spectral theory and scattering theory on non-compact manifolds with ends of various shapes has a long and fruitful tradition in both mathematics and

¹The work on this paper was supported in part by the Leverhulme Trust, grant F/00 261/Z.

physics. One important and extensively studied family consists of manifolds with hyperbolic cusps. These manifolds first appeared in mathematics in the context of number theory as quotients of the upper half plane by arithmetic lattices. It was discovered that the spectral theory on such constant negative curvature surfaces is equivalent to the theory of automorphic functions and that their scattering theory may be used to meromorphically continue Eisenstein series [19] and [12]. Later, methods of scattering theory were applied to the more general case of manifolds with hyperbolic cusps that are of negative curvature outside a compact set [12], [16], and [18]. The continuous spectrum of the Laplace operator on such manifolds is known to be $[1/4, \infty)$ and its generalized eigenfunctions are given by the meromorphically continued generalized Eisenstein functions. The multiplicity of the continuous spectrum is constant and equals the number of cusps. Another important family of examples is manifolds with cylindrical ends. The spectral theory and scattering theory of Dirac type operators on such manifolds play an important role in the Atiyah–Patodi–Singer index theorem [3] and scattering theory can be successfully applied to describe the spectral subspaces explicitly [17]. More recently manifolds with cylindrical ends have been studied from the point of view of inverse scattering in [11]. Here the fact that the scattering matrix is meromorphic (considered as a function on a certain cover of the complex plane) is essential. The continuous spectrum of the Laplace operator on functions for a manifold with cylindrical end is $[0, \infty)$; its multiplicity at $\lambda > 0$ is the number of eigenvalues of the Laplace operator on the boundary that are smaller than λ .

In this paper we are interested in orientable manifolds with cusp-like singularities that can be thought of as interpolating between these two cases. Let (N, h) be a closed oriented Riemannian manifold and endow the product $[1, \infty) \times N$ with the warped product metric

$$g = dx^2 + x^{-2a}h, \quad (1)$$

where a is a fixed positive constant. As x becomes larger the distance between the points (x, p) and (x, q) becomes smaller and thus geometrically this manifold will look like a cusp. We will refer to such manifolds as generalized cusps. If we define $a = \frac{s}{s-1}$, where $s \in (0, 1)$, the simple change of variables $x = (\frac{1}{1-s}y)^{1-s}$ ($y \in [1-s, \infty)$) transforms the metric into

$$g = (1-s)^{2s}y^{-2s}(dy^2 + h).$$

Thus $(1-s)^{-2s}g$ tends to a metric of hyperbolic type as s goes to 1 and to a metric of cylindrical type as s tends to 0.

A manifold with generalized cusp is a Riemannian manifold (M, g) that can be decomposed as

$$M = M_0 \cup_N [1, \infty) \times N,$$

where M_0 is a compact Riemannian manifold with boundary N and $[1, \infty) \times N$ is a generalized cusp over N . These manifolds are all complete, and may have either finite or infinite volume depending on a and on the dimension of M .

Over such manifolds, we consider the Laplace–Beltrami operator on differential forms. This is defined as

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{M}} = d\delta + \delta d,$$

where d is the exterior derivative on forms and δ is its formal adjoint. Functions over \mathcal{M} are of course zero-degree forms, and the restriction of this operator to functions is the standard Laplace operator. A general result of Gaffney [6] shows that when \mathcal{M} is complete, the Laplace–Beltrami operator is essentially self-adjoint, so unless otherwise indicated, we will work with its unique self-adjoint extension in this paper. For brevity, we will refer to this operator in the remainder of this paper simply as the Laplace operator.

The Laplace operators associated to manifolds with such generalized cusps have been studied by previous authors. In [1] and [2], Francesca Antoci identified the essential spectrum of the Laplace–Beltrami operator on p -forms for such manifolds by calculating directly on the cusps and using a result of Weyl that states the essential spectrum is not changed by a compact change to the manifold. In [7], Sylvain Golénia and Sergiou Moroianu refine these results to determine the multiplicity of the spectrum of the p -form Laplacian on such manifolds and show that its essential spectrum vanishes when the p and $p - 1$ cohomology groups of the boundary vanish. In this case, they obtain Weyl-type asymptotics for the eigenvalue counting function. In the cases when there is essential spectrum, they give a limiting-absorption principle. In fact, the results in [7], [8], [1], and [2] apply to metrics that generalize those in equation 1 to the situation where h may depend on x but is asymptotically constant. In this paper we focus on the more special case when h is independent of x but we derive results that are stronger than those that can be obtained through the methods of [7], [1], and [2]. In particular we construct a meromorphic continuation of the resolvent, and explicitly describe the structure of the continuous spectrum and the behavior of the generalized eigenfunctions.

Situations in which the resolvent or the scattering matrix continues analytically across the spectrum appear quite often in mathematical physics. Our analysis adds an important example to the class of such problems. Namely one for which the resolvent admits a meromorphic continuation to a logarithmic cover of the complex plane but not to a finite cover. This is known to occur in even dimensions on Euclidean spaces or on globally symmetric spaces of non-compact type and odd rank. Our example, however, is effectively one dimensional in the sense that the model operator used for dynamical scattering theory is a second order operator on a half line. The analytic continuation gives important additional control over the continuous spectrum. As in the case of hyperbolic cusps and cylindrical ends, the scattering matrix can be shown to satisfy a functional equation that allows its holomorphic continuation across the continuous spectrum. The functional equation for generalized cusps has a more complicated structure than in the hyperbolic cusp or cylindrical end setting, in that it involves more than only quadratic expressions in the scattering matrix. Thus, whereas some of our results are similar in nature to the cases of hyperbolic cusps and manifolds

with cylindrical ends, some important features of the spectral theory for generalized cusps are quite different. For instance, for generic values of a , zero is a branching point of infinite order for both the resolvent and scattering matrix. This is in contrast to the cases of hyperbolic cusps and cylinders, where only quadratic branching points appear.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we discuss in detail the spectral theory of the p -form Laplace operator $\Delta_{c,p}$ on the cusp $[1, \infty) \times N$ with Dirichlet boundary conditions imposed at the boundary, $\partial([1, \infty) \times N) = \{(1, \zeta) \mid \zeta \in N\}$. First, we prove that the distributional kernel of the resolvent $(\Delta_{c,p} - \lambda)^{-1}$ continues meromorphically as a single-valued function to the logarithmic cover of $\mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ with parameter z , where $e^z = \lambda \in [0, \infty)$ is the original spectral parameter. Then, using separation of variables we explicitly determine the continuous spectral subspace for this case, as well as the generalized eigensections. In Section 3 we use our results from Section 2 about $\Delta_{c,p}$ together with techniques from stationary scattering theory to prove the following result.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $M = M_0 \cup_N ([1, \infty) \times N)$ be an oriented n -dimensional manifold with generalized cusp, with metric on the cusp given by $dx^2 + x^{-2a}h$, $a > 0$. Then the resolvent $(\Delta_{M,p} - \lambda)^{-1}$ of the Laplace operator $\Delta_{M,p}$ acting on p -forms has a meromorphic continuation from the physical sheet to the logarithmic cover with values in $\mathcal{L}(H_+, H_-)$, where $H_{\pm} = \chi_{\pm} \cdot L^2(M, \wedge^p T^*M)$ and $\chi_{\pm} \in C(M)$ is the continuous extension by 1 of the function $e^{\mp \frac{x^2}{2}}$ defined on the cusp $[1, \infty) \times N$. Moreover, the negative coefficients of the Laurent expansion at any pole are finite rank operators.*

The existence of such a meromorphic continuation with finite rank poles implies that the spectrum of the operator consists of eigenvalues of finite multiplicities that cannot accumulate in $(0, \infty)$, together with an absolutely continuous part. In fact this theorem can be slightly strengthened in order to also describe the analytic structure of the continuation near $\lambda = 0$. Namely, using the calculus developed in [15] our proof shows that the resolvent is Hahn-meromorphic (in the sense of [15]) near zero with finite rank poles and with values in $\mathcal{L}(H_+, H_-)$. This implies in particular that eigenvalues cannot accumulate near zero. The meromorphic continuation together with the differential equation on the cusp can then be used to construct generalized eigenforms. Suppose $\mathcal{H}^p(N)$ is the space of harmonic p -forms on N . Our second main result is

Theorem 1.2. *Let $M = M_0 \cup_N ([1, \infty) \times N)$ be an oriented n -dimensional manifold with generalized cusp, with metric on the cusp given by $dx^2 + x^{-2a}h$, $a > 0$. Let $\mathcal{H}^p(N)$ be the space of square integrable harmonic p -forms on N , and $\Delta_{M,p}$ be the Laplace operator acting on smooth p -forms on M . For any $(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) \in \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N)$ and any $z \in \mathbb{C}$, there exists a p -form $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ on M , called the $u = e^z$ generalized eigenform of Δ_p , with the following properties.*

- (1) $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is smooth in $y \in M$ and meromorphic in $z \in \mathbb{C}$.
- (2) $(\Delta_{M,p} - e^z I)E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = 0$ for any $y \in M$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}$.
- (3) For $y = (x, \zeta) \in [1, \infty) \times N$ and $z \in \mathbb{C}$, there is an expansion of the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) &= x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta \\
 &\quad + dx \wedge x^{b_p-1} H_{b_p-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\theta} \\
 &\quad + x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)C_{p,z}(\theta) \\
 &\quad + dx \wedge x^{b_p-1} H_{b_p-1}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)C_{p-1,z}(\tilde{\theta}) \\
 &\quad + \Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}),
 \end{aligned}$$

where $H_{b_p}^{(1)}$ and $H_{b_p}^{(2)}$ are the Hankel functions of the first and second kind, respectively, of order

$$b_p = \frac{a(n - 2p - 1) + 1}{2}$$

and where

$$C_{p,z} \in \text{End}(\mathcal{H}^p(N))$$

is a linear endomorphism, meromorphic in $z \in \mathbb{C}$, called the **(stationary) scattering matrix** associated to $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$. The tail term in the expansion satisfies the estimate

$$\Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = O(x^{b_p-1-\frac{1}{2}}e^{(-\frac{k}{a+1}+\varepsilon)x^{\alpha+1}}), \quad \varepsilon > 0,$$

where $k > 0$ is the square root of the smallest nonzero eigenvalue of the p -form Laplacian of the boundary N . Finally, $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$, $C_{p,z}$ and $\Psi_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ are uniquely determined by the above properties.

Our analysis implies (see end of Section 3) that the absolutely continuous subspace of the Laplace operator on p -forms coincides with the closure of the span of the set

$$\left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E_z(\cdot, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) f(z) dz : f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \theta, \tilde{\theta} \in \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N) \right\},$$

and that the forms $E_z(x, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ are indeed generalized $\lambda = e^z$ -eigenforms for the Laplacian over M in the sense that

$$\Delta_{c,p} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E_z(\cdot, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) f(z) dz = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^z E_z(\cdot, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) f(z) dz.$$

Thus this theorem gives the spectral decomposition of the restriction of Δ_p to its absolutely continuous subspace.

In Section 4 we show that the scattering matrix $C_{p,z}$ defined in the previous theorem is unitary, and satisfies a functional equation and a certain commutation relation with the Hodge star operator. These results are summarized in our third main theorem.

Theorem 1.3. *Let $C_{p,z}$ be the scattering matrix defined in the previous theorem. For any $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we have that*

$$C_{p,\bar{z}}^* \circ C_{p,z} = I \quad (\text{unitarity})$$

and

$$\bar{C}_{p,\bar{z}} \circ C_{p,z} = I.$$

If we denote

$$b_p = \frac{a(n-2p-1)+1}{2},$$

then the scattering matrix satisfies the following functional equation

$$((1 + e^{2\pi i b_p})I - C_{p,z}) \circ C_{p,z-2\pi i} = e^{2\pi i b_p} I.$$

Also, if $*_N$ is the Hodge star operator on the boundary N , the commutation relation

$$*_N C_{p,z}(\theta) = e^{2b_p \pi i} C_{n-p-1}(*_N \theta)$$

holds for all $p \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$.

If $e^{2\pi i b_p} = -1$, then this is the scattering relation for the cylinder, i.e. we have $C_{p,z} \circ C_{p,z-2\pi i} = I$. This implies that the stationary scattering matrix descends meromorphically to the double cover of the punctured plane. We get this reduction when $p = (n-1)/2$, a is an even integer, or when a is an integer and $n-1$ is even. The parity $n-1$, which can be interpreted as the dimension of the cross section, N , is known in the case of hyperbolic-type cusps (e.g. in [10]) to relate to the isolation of 0 in the L^2 spectrum of the Laplace operator.

2. Geometry and spectral theory on the generalized cusp

Suppose as before that N is a closed Riemannian manifold and $[1, \infty) \times N$ is endowed with the warped product metric

$$g = dx^2 + x^{-2a} h,$$

where $a > 0$ is fixed. The spectral decomposition of the Laplace operator on p -forms on such a manifold can be determined using separation of variables. We work with the Friedrichs extension, $\Delta_{c,p}$, of the operator Δ_p on the space of smooth

compactly supported forms on the cusp: $\Omega_0^p((1, \infty) \times N)$. By standard arguments, this corresponds to the Laplacian with Dirichlet boundary conditions at the boundary $\{1\} \times N$.

Any smooth differential form $\omega \in \Omega^p([1, \infty) \times N)$ can be written uniquely as

$$\omega = \omega_1(x) + dx \wedge \omega_2(x)$$

where ω_1 is a smooth family of p -forms on N and ω_2 is a smooth family of $(p-1)$ -forms on N . This gives a decomposition

$$\Omega_0^p([1, \infty) \times N) = (C_0^\infty([1, \infty)) \hat{\otimes} \Omega^p(N)) \oplus (C_0^\infty([1, \infty)) \hat{\otimes} \Omega^{p-1}(N)),$$

where $\hat{\otimes}$ is the injective tensor product of the nuclear topological vector spaces. On the level of Hilbert spaces we have

$$\begin{aligned} L^2 \Omega^p([1, \infty) \times N) &= (L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_p} dx) \otimes L^2 \Omega^p(N)) \\ &\oplus (L^2([0, \infty), x^{-\gamma_{p-1}} dx) \otimes L^2 \Omega^{p-1}(N)), \end{aligned}$$

where the tensor product symbol denotes the tensor product of Hilbert spaces and $\gamma_p = a(n-2p-1)$. In $L^2 \Omega^*(N)$ we have the Hodge decomposition

$$L^2 \Omega^p(N) = \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \text{Im}(d_{p-1}) \oplus \text{Im}(\delta_{p+1}).$$

Further, for each p and each eigenvalue $\mu_i > 0$ of Δ_N on $L^2 \Omega^p(N)$, we can choose μ_i -eigenforms $\varphi_p^i \in \text{Im}(d_{N,p-1})$ and $\{\psi_p^i\} \in \text{Im}(\delta_{N,p+1})$ in such a way that

$$\begin{aligned} d_{N,p-1} \psi_{p-1}^i &= \sqrt{\mu_i} \varphi_p^i, \\ \delta_{N,p} \varphi_p^i &= \sqrt{\mu_i} \psi_{p-1}^i, \end{aligned}$$

and such that the sets $\{\varphi_i\}$ and $\{\psi_i\}$ form orthonormal bases for $\text{Im}(d_{N,p-1})$ and $\text{Im}(\delta_{N,p+1})$, respectively. We can also choose orthonormal bases of harmonic forms $\{\theta_i\} \subset \mathcal{H}^p(N)$ and $\{\tilde{\theta}_i\} \subset \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N)$. We define the spaces of *fibre harmonic forms*

$$\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \sum_i \alpha_i \theta_i : \alpha_i \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_p} dx) \right\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ dx \wedge \sum_i \beta_i \tilde{\theta}_i : \beta_i \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_{p-1}} dx) \right\}.$$

Also, for each pair $\{\varphi_p^i, \psi_{p-1}^i\}$, we can define the subspace of $L^2 \Omega^p([1, \infty) \times N)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{V}_i^p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ &\alpha_i \varphi_p^i + dx \wedge \beta_i \psi_{p-1}^i : \alpha_i \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_p} dx), \\ &\beta_i \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_{p-1}} dx) \}, \end{aligned}$$

and for each pair of $\{\psi_p^i, \varphi_{p-1}^i\}$, we can define

$$\mathcal{W}_i^p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\alpha_i \psi_p^i + dx \wedge \beta_i \varphi_{p-1}^i : \alpha_i \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_p} dx), \\ \beta_i \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\gamma_{p-1}} dx)\}.$$

Then we have the decomposition:

$$L^2\Omega^p([1, \infty) \times N) = \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \left(\bigoplus_i \mathcal{V}_i^p \right) \oplus \left(\bigoplus_i \mathcal{W}_i^p \right). \quad (2)$$

It is straightforward to show that the subspaces $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p$, $\mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p$, \mathcal{V}_i^p and \mathcal{W}_i^p are invariant subspaces for $\Delta_{c,p}$ in the sense that all spectral projections of $\Delta_{c,p}$ leave these direct summands invariant. This follows immediately as the associated quadratic forms can be written as direct sums.

Recall that $\gamma_p = a(n - 2p - 1)$ and set

$$\mathcal{D}_p = \begin{pmatrix} -\partial_x^2 + \frac{\gamma_p}{x} \partial_x & 0 \\ 0 & -\partial_x^2 + \frac{\gamma_{p-1}}{x} \partial_x \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathcal{A}_p = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{\gamma_{p-1}}{x^2} \end{pmatrix},$$

and

$$\mathcal{U} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ x^{2a} & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The Laplacian takes the following forms on the subspaces above:

$$\Delta_{c,p}|_{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p} = \mathcal{D}_p + \mathcal{A}_p, \quad (3)$$

$$\Delta_{c,p}|_{\mathcal{V}_i^p} = \mathcal{D}_p + \mathcal{A}_p + \mu_i x^{2a} I + \sqrt{\mu_i} \frac{2a}{x} \mathcal{U},$$

and

$$\Delta_{c,p}|_{\mathcal{W}_i^p} = \mathcal{D}_p + \mathcal{A}_p + \mu_i x^{2a} I.$$

2.1. The spectral theorem for generalized cusps. The following is a detailed analysis of the continuous spectrum on the generalized cusp and a description of the spectral subspaces.

Theorem 2.1. *The absolutely continuous spectral subspace of $\Delta_{c,p}$ is*

$$H_{\text{ac}}^p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p.$$

In particular the spectrum of $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to $(H_{\text{ac}}^p)^\perp = (\bigoplus_i \mathcal{V}_i^p) \oplus (\bigoplus_i \mathcal{W}_i^p)$ is purely discrete. Thus, the resolvent $(\Delta_{c,p} - \lambda)^{-1}$ restricted to the discrete spectral subspace is a meromorphic family of compact operators parametrized by $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$.

Theorem 2.2. *Suppose $\mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N)$ has non-zero dimension. Then the Laplacian $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to the space $H_{\text{ac}}^p = \mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p$ has domain*

$$\text{Dom}(\Delta_{c,p}) = (S \otimes \mathcal{H}^p(N)) \oplus dx \wedge (\tilde{S} \otimes \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N)),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \{\alpha(x) \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\nu p} dx) : \\ &\quad \lambda^2 \mathbb{W}_{b_p}(x^{-b_p} \alpha(x)) \in L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_{b_p}(\lambda))\}, \\ \tilde{S} &= \{\beta(x) \in L^2([1, \infty), x^{-\nu p-1} dx) : \\ &\quad \lambda^2 \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1-1}}(x^{-b_{p-1-1}} \beta(x)) \in L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_{b_{p-1-1}}(\lambda))\}, \end{aligned}$$

\mathbb{W}_b denotes the Weber transform of order b (see the [Appendix](#)), and

$$d\mu_b(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda}{J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda)} d\lambda.$$

The spectrum of $\Delta_{c,p}$ can be decomposed as

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{sign}}(\Delta_{c,p}) &= \emptyset, \\ \sigma_{\text{ac}}(\Delta_{c,p}) &= [0, \infty), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\sigma_{\text{cont}}(\Delta_{c,p}) = [0, \infty).$$

Finally, restricted to H_{ac}^p , $\Delta_{c,p}$ has the following spectral decomposition:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{c,p}(\alpha\theta + dx \wedge \beta\tilde{\theta}) &= x^{b_p} \mathbb{W}_{b_p}^{-1}(\lambda^2 \mathbb{W}_{b_p}(t^{-b_p} \alpha(t)))\theta \\ &\quad + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1-1}} \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1-1}}^{-1}(\lambda^2 \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1-1}}(t^{-b_{p-1-1}} \beta(t)))\tilde{\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof of Theorem 2.1 and Theorem 2.2. To show that the spectrum of $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to $\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p$ is absolutely continuous, we first note from equation (3) that the operator $\Delta_{c,p} - \lambda$ decouples completely on this space, since the operators D_p and \mathcal{A}_p are both diagonal. Thus it suffices to consider how $\Delta_{c,p}$ acts on a form $\alpha_i(x)\theta_i$ or a form $dx \wedge \beta_i \tilde{\theta}_i(x)$. We may transform the eigen-equation in these cases using the changes of variables

$$\alpha_i(x) = x^{b_p} f_i(x), \quad \beta_i(x) = x^{b_p-1} g_i(x),$$

where

$$b_p = \frac{\gamma_p + 1}{2} = \frac{a(n - 2p - 1) + 1}{2}.$$

Then divide the f_i equation by $-x^{b_p}$ and the g_i equation by $-x^{b_p-1}$. This turns the eigenform equations for α_i and β_i into transformed Bessel equations:

$$-f_i'' - \frac{1}{x} f_i' + \left[\frac{b_p^2}{x^2} - \lambda \right] f_i = 0$$

and

$$-g_i'' - \frac{1}{x} g_i' + \left[\frac{(b_p-1)^2}{x^2} - \lambda \right] g_i = 0.$$

Thus for any $\lambda \geq 0$ we have generalized eigenfunctions of $\Delta_{c,p}|_{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p}$ of the form

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} x^{b_p} G_{b_p}(\sqrt{\lambda}, x)\theta \\ x^{b_p-1} G_{b_p-1}(\sqrt{\lambda}, x)\tilde{\theta} \end{array} \right), \quad \theta, \tilde{\theta} \in \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N),$$

where $G_{b,\sqrt{\lambda}}(x)$ is the cylinder function of order b (see the [Appendix](#)). Using the properties of the Weber transform of order b , we can refine the description of the absolutely continuous part of the spectrum of $\Delta_{c,p}$ to the spectral Theorem 2.2. This shows that the multiplicity of the continuous spectrum of $\Delta_{c,p}|_{\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p}$ for $\lambda \geq 0$ is $\dim(\mathcal{H}^p(N)) + \dim(\mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N))$; see also [7].

Proving that the resolvent for the Laplacian on $(\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p)^\perp$ extends meromorphically to \mathbb{C} as a family of bounded operators in the Hilbert space is equivalent to showing that its spectrum on this subspace is discrete. We will do this by showing that the spectrum of $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to \mathcal{V}_i^p and \mathcal{W}_i^p is discrete and that the first eigenvalues on these subspaces tend to infinity as $i \rightarrow \infty$. Note that both operators are of the form

$$\mathcal{D}_p + \mu_i x^{2a} + V_i(x),$$

where $V_i = \mathcal{A}_p + \sqrt{\mu_i} \frac{k}{x} \mathcal{U}$, $k \geq 0$ is a constant, and \mathcal{D}_p is positive. We know that $x^{2a} \rightarrow +\infty$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$, so the operator $\mathcal{D}_p + \mu_i x^{2a}$ is the Laplacian plus a potential that grows at infinity. Reflecting through $x = 1$, we reduce to the standard theory (see, e.g. [21], vol. 4), to show the operator has compact resolvent and discrete spectrum. Further, since $V_i(x)$ is relatively form-bounded with respect to $\mathcal{D}_p + \mu_i x^{2a}$, we also have that $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to both \mathcal{V}_i^p and \mathcal{W}_i^p has compact resolvent. Thus overall,

$\Delta_{c,p}$ has discrete spectrum on $\mathcal{V}_i^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_i^p$ with no possible accumulation points except at ∞ . Since $\mu_i \rightarrow \infty$ as $i \rightarrow \infty$ the lowest eigenvalue of the matrix valued function $\mu_i x^{2a} + V_i(x)$ is easily seen to be bounded from below by $\mu_i - k' \sqrt{\mu_i}$ for some $k' > 0$ and all $x \geq 1$. Therefore, also the lowest eigenvalue of $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to $\mathcal{V}_i^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_i^p$ tends to ∞ as $i \rightarrow \infty$, so the spectrum on the infinite sum of $\mathcal{V}_i^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_i^p$ is still discrete. \square

2.2. Meromorphic extension of the resolvent. Using the spectral decomposition from Theorem 2.2 and the definition of the Weber transform, we get an explicit formula for the kernel of $(\Delta_{c,p} - u)^{-1}$ on its absolutely continuous subspace in terms of the Bessel functions Y_b and J_b . To do this, for $u \in \mathbb{C} \setminus [0, \infty)$, note that we have

$$\begin{aligned} & (\Delta_{c,p} - u)^{-1}(\alpha\theta + dx \wedge \beta\tilde{\theta}) \\ &= x^{b_p} \mathbb{W}_{b_p}^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^2 - u} \mathbb{W}_{b_p}(t^{-b_p} \alpha(t)) \right) \theta \\ & \quad + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1}-1}^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda^2 - u} \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1}-1}(t^{-b_{p-1}} \beta(t)) \right) \tilde{\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

If we let

$$m_b(\lambda, u, x, t) = \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 - u} \frac{G_b(\lambda, x)G_b(\lambda, t)}{J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda)}$$

and assume that $\alpha, \beta \in C_0^\infty([1, \infty))$, then this becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & (\Delta_{c,p} - u)^{-1}(\alpha\theta + dx \wedge \beta\tilde{\theta}) \\ &= \left(\int_0^\infty \int_1^\infty x^{b_p} t^{1-b_p} m_{b_p}(\lambda, u, x, t) \alpha(t) dt d\lambda \right) \theta \\ & \quad + dx \wedge \left(\int_0^\infty \int_1^\infty x^{b_{p-1}} t^{1-b_{p-1}} m_{b_{p-1}-1}(\lambda, u, x, t) \beta(t) dt d\lambda \right) \tilde{\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

This formula can be used to construct a meromorphic continuation of the resolvent of the operator using contour deformation similarly as in [23]. The integral over λ may however be explicitly computed, because the operator we consider is unitarily equivalent to a direct sum of two Sturm-Liouville operators on the half line. Thus, we have an explicit formula for the resolvent in terms of the fundamental system $G_b(\sqrt{u}, x)$, $H_b^{(1)}(x\sqrt{u})$. Here $G_b(\sqrt{u}, x)$ satisfies the boundary conditions at 1 and $H_b^{(1)}(t\sqrt{u})$ satisfies the L^2 condition at infinity. In this way one obtains for the integral kernel of the resolvent

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta_{c,p} - u)^{-1}(\alpha\theta + dx \wedge \beta\tilde{\theta}) &= \int_1^\infty x^{b_p} t^{-b_p} r_{b_p}(u, x, t) \alpha(t) dt \theta \\ & \quad + \int_1^\infty x^{b_p} t^{-b_p} r_{b_{p-1}}(u, x, t) \beta(t) dt dx \wedge \tilde{\theta}, \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where

$$r_b(u, x, t) = \frac{\pi \sqrt{xt}}{2H_b^{(1)}(\sqrt{u})} \begin{cases} G_b(\sqrt{u}, x)H_b^{(1)}(t\sqrt{u}), & 1 \leq x \leq t, \\ G_b(\sqrt{u}, t)H_b^{(1)}(x\sqrt{u}), & 1 \leq t \leq x. \end{cases}$$

Here $\frac{2}{\pi \sqrt{xt}} H_b^{(1)}(\sqrt{u})$ is the Wronskian of the two solutions. The above formula may be checked by direct computation applying the differential operator to the integral kernel above. The Hankel functions are not holomorphic at zero but lift to holomorphic functions on the logarithmic cover of the complex plane. We therefore make a change of variable $u = e^z$ to account for that. With the convention $\sqrt{e^z} = e^{z/2}$ the functions $r_{b_p}(e^z, x, t)$ are then meromorphic functions with poles at the zero set of $H_b^{(1)}(e^{z/2})$. Now of course the resolvent does not continue meromorphically as a family of bounded operators on the original Hilbert space but merely as a family of operators between weighted L^2 spaces. More precisely define

$$H_{\mathcal{H}, \pm}^p = e^{\mp \frac{x^2}{2}} (\mathcal{V}_{\mathcal{H}}^p \oplus \mathcal{W}_{\mathcal{H}}^p).$$

By the asymptotic behavior of Hankel functions (see [Appendix](#), Section 6.2) and their complex derivatives it is easy to see that the equation (4) defines a meromorphic continuation of

$$(\Delta_{c,p} - e^z)^{-1}$$

as a function with values in $\mathcal{B}(H_{\mathcal{H},+}^p, H_{\mathcal{H},-}^p)$ to the entire complex plane with at most simple poles at the points z where the $H_b^{(1)}(e^{z/2})$ vanishes. Because $\Delta_{c,p}$ restricted to $(H_{ac}^p)^\perp$ has discrete spectrum, its resolvent family can also be lifted trivially to the logarithmic cover. Thus, putting the two families together yields an extension of the resolvent family for the entire operator $\Delta_{c,p}$ to the logarithmic cover. Thus, if we define the weighted L^2 -spaces

$$H_{\pm}^p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} e^{\mp \frac{x^2}{2}} L^2([1, \infty) \times N, \Lambda^p[1, \infty) \times N),$$

then the holomorphic family of operators

$$(\Delta_c - e^z)^{-1}$$

defined on $\{z \mid \text{Im } z \in (0, 2\pi)\}$ extends to a meromorphic family of operators with values in $\mathcal{B}(H_+^p, H_-^p)$ on the entire complex planes with at most simple poles of finite rank at $Z_{b_p} \cup Z_{b_{p-1}}$, where

$$Z_b = \{z \mid H^{(1)}(e^{z/2}) = 0\}.$$

It was shown in [15] that the Hankel functions are Hahn-meromorphic at zero. Thus, the above also implies that the resolvent continues near zero to a Hahn-meromorphic function with values in $\mathcal{B}(H_+^p, H_-^p)$.

3. Spectral theory for manifolds with generalized cusps

We can use the description and properties of the extension $R_z(\Delta_c)$ of the resolvent on the cusp end ($\Delta_c \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_p \Delta_{c,p}$) to prove that the resolvent operator for the Laplacian Δ_M on all of M also extends meromorphically to the logarithmic cover of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. We can then construct generalized eigenfunctions for Δ_M and study properties of the stationary scattering matrix for M . To extend the resolvent, we essentially compare the Laplacian on M with weighted L^2 boundary conditions to the Laplacian on M with the same boundary conditions at $x = \infty$, but with an additional Dirichlet boundary condition at $x = 1$. We keep denoting this last Laplacian by Δ_c .

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We use the following construction of the resolvent on M . We glue the extended resolvent family of Δ_c , $R_z(\Delta_c)$, to the extended resolvent family for Δ_{M_0} with Dirichlet conditions at $x = 1$ (lifted to the logarithmic cover), $R_z(\Delta_{M_0})$, with smooth cutoffs to make the sum act on all L^2 forms on M . Let $\chi_1(x)$ be a smooth cutoff function on \mathbb{R} that is zero for $x \geq 1/2$ and 1 for $x \leq 5/8$. Similarly, let $\chi_2(x)$ be a smooth cutoff function on \mathbb{R} that is zero for $x \geq 3/4$ and 1 for $x \leq 7/8$ and χ_5 be a smooth cutoff function on \mathbb{R} that is zero for $x \geq 1/8$ and 1 for $x \leq 1/4$. Let $\chi_3 = 1 - \chi_1$ and $\chi_4 = 1 - \chi_5$.

Define

$$\mathcal{Q}_z \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_1 R_z(\Delta_{M_0})\chi_2 + \chi_3 R_z(\Delta_c)\chi_4.$$

It is straightforward that this is now a meromorphic function on \mathbb{C} with values in $\mathcal{L}(H_+, H_-)$ with simple poles and residues that are finite rank operators. Moreover, on the physical sheet the resolvent family of Δ_M can be expressed as

$$R_z(\Delta_M) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (I + T_z)^{-1}\mathcal{Q}_z,$$

where $T_z = \mathcal{Q}_z(\Delta_M - e^z) - I$, which is meromorphic with values in $\mathcal{L}(H_-, H_-)$. By construction T_z has support off the diagonal. We can see this as follows. Note that

$$\chi_1\chi_2 + \chi_3\chi_4 = 1.$$

Also note that the distance from the support of χ_1 to the support of $\nabla(\chi_2)$ (and thus also to the support of $[\chi_2, \Delta_M]$) is greater than $1/8$, as is the distance of the support of χ_3 to the support of $\nabla(\chi_4)$ (and thus also to the support of $[\chi_4, \Delta_M]$). Now we get

$$\begin{aligned} T_z &= (\chi_1 R_z(\Delta_{M_0})\chi_2 + \chi_3 R_z(\Delta_c)\chi_4)(\Delta_M - e^z) - I \\ &= \chi_1\chi_2 + \chi_3\chi_4 + \chi_1 R_z(\Delta_{M_0})[\chi_2, \Delta_M] + \chi_3 R_z(\Delta_c)[\chi_4, \Delta_M] - I \\ &= \chi_1 R_z(\Delta_{M_0})[\chi_2, \Delta_M] + \chi_3 R_z(\Delta_c)[\chi_4, \Delta_M]. \end{aligned}$$

The integral kernel associated to T_z will thus be

$$K_{T_z}(x, y) = \chi_1(x)K_{z,M_0}(x, y)[\chi_2, \Delta_M](y) + \chi_3(x)K_{z,c}(x, y)[\chi_4, \Delta_M](y),$$

where K_{z, M_0} and $K_{z, c}(x, y)$ are the integral kernels for $R_z(\Delta_{M_0})$ and $R_z(\Delta_c)$, respectively. Since the support in x and the support in y are disjoint, the support of K_{T_z} is disjoint from the diagonal. Since T_z is a pseudodifferential operator, this implies it has smooth kernel, and is a smoothing operator. We can also note that K_{T_z} has compact support in y . Consequently, T_z is a meromorphic family of compact operators. By the meromorphic Fredholm theorem, if $I + T(z)$ is invertible at some point, then in fact $(I + T_z)^{-1}$ is a meromorphic family of bounded operators in $\mathcal{L}(H_-, H_-)$ with poles of finite rank. Then the above formula will define a meromorphic continuation, $R_z(\Delta_M)$, of the Laplacian on all of M to the same domain for which $R_z(\Delta_{M_0})$ is meromorphic, namely, the logarithmic cover of $\mathbb{C} - \{0\}$.

Thus it remains only to show that T_z has small norm as an element of $\mathcal{L}(H_-, H_-)$ for some z on the physical sheet with $\text{Im}(e^z) \gg 0$. For such z , $R_z(\Delta_{M_0})$ is bounded as an operator on $L^2(M_0)$ and $R_z(\Delta_c)$ is bounded as an operator from H_+ to H_- by $k(\text{dist}(z, \sigma(\Delta)))^{-1} \leq k(\text{Im } e^z)^{-1}$. The operators $\chi_1, \chi_3, [\chi_2, \Delta]$ and $[\chi_4, \Delta]$ are compactly supported differential operators of degree ≤ 1 . Using the usual resolvent bounds, we get that the norm of the operator $T_z: H_- \rightarrow H_-$ goes to 0 as $\text{Im } e^z \rightarrow \infty$. Thus the norm of T_z can be made as small as we like, which completes the proof. \square

For any $z \in \mathbb{C}$ and any $(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) \in \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N)$ we can use this resolvent extension to construct generalized e^z -eigenforms for Δ_M , which we will denote by $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$. Recall that on the cusp, the kernel of $(\Delta_p - u)$ on fibre-harmonic forms with no boundary conditions imposed is spanned by forms $x^{b_p} J_{b_p}(\sqrt{u}x)\theta$, $x^{b_p} Y_{b_p}(\sqrt{u}x)\theta$, $dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} J_{b_{p-1}-1}(\sqrt{u}x)\tilde{\theta}$ and $dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} Y_{b_{p-1}-1}(\sqrt{u}x)\tilde{\theta}$, where θ is any harmonic p -form on N and $\tilde{\theta}$ is any harmonic $p - 1$ -form. We can choose a new basis using Hankel functions instead. We can also express these in terms of the variable $e^z = u$.

$$\begin{aligned} &x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta, && x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta, \\ &dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} H_{b_{p-1}-1}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\theta}, && dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} H_{b_{p-1}-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that when z is in the physical sheet, the $H^{(1)}$ basis functions are in L^2 at infinity, and the $H^{(2)}$ basis functions are not, as can be observed from the Hankel asymptotics with complex argument recalled in the [Appendix](#).

Now we may define the generalized eigenforms on M . Define a cutoff function $\chi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, such that $\chi(x) = 0$ if $x < 1$ and $\chi(x) = 1$ if $x > 1 + \varepsilon$, for some $\varepsilon > 0$ sufficiently small. Set

$$\omega_\chi(y) = \begin{cases} 0, & y \in M_0, \\ \chi(x)(x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} H_{b_{p-1}-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\theta}), & y = (x, \zeta). \end{cases}$$

This form satisfies $(\Delta_{c,p} - e^z)\omega_\chi = 0$ for $x > 1 + \varepsilon$, although the form without the cutoff would not satisfy the Dirichlet boundary conditions of $\Delta_{c,p}$. Then for z in the logarithmic cover, define a p -form on M by

$$E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \omega_\chi - R_z(\Delta_M)(\Delta_M - e^z I)\omega_\chi. \quad (5)$$

Since $(\Delta_M - e^z I)\omega_\chi = 0$ for $x > 1 + \varepsilon$, we have that $(\Delta_M - e^z I)\omega_\chi$ is compactly supported, so it is in the domain of the resolvent $R_\lambda(\Delta_M)$, and $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is well defined. The p -form $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is a generalized e^z -eigenform for Δ_M because by construction, $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is smooth over M and meromorphic over \mathbb{C} . Since $R_z(\Delta_M)$ is the right inverse of $\Delta_M - e^z I$ for z in the physical sheet, we have

$$(\Delta_M - e^z I)E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = (\Delta_M - e^z I)(\omega_\chi - R_z(\Delta_M)(\Delta_M - e^z I)\omega_\chi) = 0$$

in this region, and so by the meromorphicity of $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ over z , we have that $(\Delta_M - e^z I)E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = 0$ for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

By our choice of second Hankel functions in the definition, for z in the physical sheet, i.e. $0 \leq \text{Im } z < \pi$, we have that $\omega_\chi \notin L^2(M, \wedge^p T^*M)$. The extension of the resolvent, $R_z(\Delta_M)$ is only the left inverse of $(\Delta_M - e^z I)$ for L^2 forms, so the family $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is not identically zero in this region. This completes the proof of parts (1) and (2) of Theorem 1.2.

We can notice several properties of this family $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$. First, the family $E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ does not depend on the choice of cutoff function χ in the definition. To see this, note that for difference of families constructed using two different choices of χ we get that

$$\Delta_M(E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - E_{z,\tilde{\chi}}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})) = e^z(E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - E_{z,\tilde{\chi}}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}))$$

for $e^z \notin [0, \infty)$. Further, the difference

$$(E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - E_{z,\tilde{\chi}}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})) \in L^2(M, \wedge^p T^*M).$$

These two facts together imply that for such z , the difference must be zero, so the extensions are equal. Then by the meromorphic dependence of E in z , we get that they are equal everywhere in \mathbb{C} . Thus we may simply write

$$E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E_{z,\chi}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$$

for any choice of χ .

Second, for z in the physical sheet, $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ differs from ω_χ on the cusp by an L^2 form. This is because

$$E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - \omega_\chi = -R_z(\Delta_M)(\Delta_M - e^z I)\omega_\chi,$$

and, on the physical sheet, $R_z(\Delta_M)$ is a bounded map on L^2 forms, and finally $(\Delta_M - e^z I)\omega_\chi$ is smooth and compactly supported. Since for such z the basis elements involving Hankel functions $H_b^{(1)}(w)$ form a fundamental system for the Laplacian on the cusp acting on L^2 fibre harmonic forms, we obtain an expansion on the cusp for $E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ for $x > 1 + \varepsilon$ of the form

$$\begin{aligned} E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) &= x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2} x) \theta \\ &\quad + dx \wedge x^{b_p-1} H_{b_p-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2} x) \tilde{\theta} \\ &\quad + x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2} x) \eta_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) \\ &\quad + dx \wedge x^{b_p-1} H_{b_p-1}^{(1)}(e^{z/2} x) \tilde{\eta}_{p-1,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) \\ &\quad + \Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}), \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) &\in L_{d,\delta}^2([1, \infty) \times N, \wedge^p T^*[1, \infty) \times N) \\ &\quad \oplus L_{\delta,d}^2([1, \infty) \times N, \wedge^p T^*[1, \infty) \times N), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$L_{d,\delta}^2([1, \infty) \times N, \wedge^p T^*[1, \infty) \times N) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left(\bigoplus_i \mathcal{V}_i^p \right)$$

and

$$L_{\delta,d}^2([1, \infty) \times N, \wedge^p T^*[1, \infty) \times N) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left(\bigoplus_i \mathcal{W}_i^p \right),$$

and where $\eta_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta})$ and $\tilde{\eta}_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta})$ are in $\mathcal{H}^p(N)$ and depend linearly on $(\theta, \tilde{\theta})$. According to the above decomposition, we write

$$\Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \Psi_{z,d,\delta}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) + \Psi_{z,\delta,d}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}).$$

Any generalized eigenfunction $E'_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ that depends meromorphically on z and has an expansion of the above type with tail term in L^2 is automatically equal to $E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta})$. This follows from self-adjointness of the Laplace operator. Indeed, $E'_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is an L^2 -form on M for any complex z and it is in the eigenspace of the Laplace operator with eigenvalue e^z . For all z with e^z non-real it follows that

$$E'_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = 0.$$

Since the dependence on z is meromorphic the difference vanishes everywhere. Note that this also proves the uniqueness statement of Theorem 1.2.

Lemma 3.1. *The generalized eigenfunction satisfies the relation*

$$dE_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = E_z(y, 0, e^{z/2}\theta)$$

and

$$\delta E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = E_z(y, e^{z/2}\theta, 0)$$

and, moreover, the functions $\eta_{p,z}$ and $\tilde{\eta}_{p,z}$ appearing in equation 6 satisfy

$$\eta_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \tilde{\eta}_{p,z}(0, \theta) = \eta_{p,z}(\theta, 0)$$

and

$$\tilde{\eta}_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \eta_{p,z}(\tilde{\theta}, 0) = \tilde{\eta}_{p,z}(0, \tilde{\theta}).$$

Proof. Since Δ_M commutes with d , $dE_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is an e^z -generalized eigenform of the Laplacian. If the tail term $\Psi_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is decomposed by

$$\Psi_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \Psi_{1,z}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) + dx \wedge \Psi_{2,z}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}),$$

then on the cusp we have

$$\begin{aligned} dE_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) &= d_N \Psi_{1,z}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \\ &\quad + dx \wedge (\partial_x (x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta + x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)\eta_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta})) \\ &\quad \quad + \partial_x \Psi_{1,z}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) - d_N \Psi_{2,z}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta})) \\ &= dx \wedge (e^{z/2} x^{b_p} H_{b_p-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta + e^{z/2} x^{b_p} H_{b_p-1}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)\eta_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta})) \\ &\quad + d_N \Psi_{1,z}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) + dx \wedge (\partial_x \Psi_{1,z}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \\ &\quad \quad - d_N \Psi_{2,z}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta})), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the relations for the Hankel functions

$$\frac{d}{dz}(z^b H_b^{(1)}(z)) = z^b H_{b-1}^{(1)}(z)$$

and

$$\frac{d}{dz}(z^b H_b^{(2)}(z)) = z^b H_{b-1}^{(2)}(z).$$

Here the branch cut of z^b is chosen to coincide with the branch cut of the Hankel functions. By uniqueness and part 1) of Theorem 1.2 applied with p replaced by $p + 1$ the generalized eigenfunction $E_z((x, \zeta), 0, e^{z/2}\tilde{\theta})$ has the expansion

$$\begin{aligned} E_z((x, \zeta), 0, e^{z/2}\tilde{\theta}) &= dx \wedge (e^{z/2} x^{b_p} H_{b_p-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta \\ &\quad + e^{z/2} x^{b_p} H_{b_p-1}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\eta}_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta})) \\ &\quad + \Psi_z((x, \zeta), 0, e^{z/2}\tilde{\theta}), \end{aligned}$$

and by uniqueness in Theorem 1.2 we end up with the equation

$$dE_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = E_z(y, 0, e^{z/2}\theta). \quad (7)$$

Comparing coefficients in the expansion we get $\eta_{p,z}(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \tilde{\eta}_{p,z}(0, \theta)$. Exactly the same argument applied to $\delta E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ completes the proof. \square

This allows us to define the stationary scattering operator for Δ_M at z by

$$C_{p,z}(\theta) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \eta_{p,z}(\theta, 0). \quad (8)$$

The scattering matrix $C_{p,z}$ is uniquely determined by the choice of the solution $H_b^{(2)}(z)$ to define ω_χ in equation (5). Note that since the ε in the definition of the cutoff function χ used in this equation can be chosen arbitrarily small, and since $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is independent of χ , the expansion (6) holds for $x > 1$. By construction, $C_{p,z}$ is meromorphic in z with values in $\text{End}(\mathcal{H}^p(N))$. This completes the proof that there is an expansion of the form as claimed in Theorem 1.2.

All that remains to show of (3) in Theorem 1.2 is that that the tail term $\Psi_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ in the expansion of $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is not merely in L^2 , but in fact decays exponentially in x on the cusp for any $z \in \mathbb{C}$. Since

$$\Psi_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \Psi_{z,d,\delta}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \oplus \Psi_{z,\delta,d}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}),$$

it suffices to show that $\Psi_{z,d,\delta}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ and $\Psi_{z,\delta,d}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ both decay exponentially in x on the cusp. We prove this for the term $\Psi_{z,d,\delta}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$, since the proof for the second term is similar, but in fact easier as the equations for this term decouple.

The form $\Psi_{z,d,\delta}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ satisfies the eigenvalue equation for $\Delta|_{[1,\infty) \times N}$, so by the decomposition in Section 2, if we set

$$\Psi_{z,d,\delta}((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = \sum_i \alpha_i \varphi^i + dx \wedge \beta_i \tilde{\psi}^i,$$

and apply the transformation

$$\alpha_i(x) = x^{\gamma_p/2} w_i(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_i(x) = x^{\gamma_p-1/2} v_i(x),$$

we get that w_i and v_i satisfy the system

$$-w_i''(x) + \mathcal{P}_i(x)w_i(x) + q_i(x)v_i(x) = 0, \quad (9a)$$

$$-v_i''(x) + \mathcal{R}_i(x)v_i(x) + q_i(x)w_i(x) = 0, \quad (9b)$$

where

$$\mathcal{P}_i(x) = x^{2a} \mu_i^2 + \frac{\gamma_p(\gamma_p + 2)}{4x^2} - e^z,$$

$$\mathcal{R}_i(x) = x^{2a} \mu_i^2 + \frac{\gamma_{p-1}(\gamma_{p-1} - 2)}{4x^2} - e^z,$$

and

$$q_i(x) = 2a\mu_i^2 x^{a-1}.$$

Let $\mathcal{Y}_i = (w_i(x), v_i(x), w'_i(x), v'_i(x))$. Then we get the equivalent first order system

$$\mathcal{Y}'_i = \mathcal{F}_i \mathcal{Y}_i, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{F}_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \mathcal{T}_i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \mathcal{T}_i = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{P}_i & q_i \\ q_i & \mathcal{R}_i \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

The eigenvalues of \mathcal{F}_i , indexed by j , and their corresponding eigenvectors are given by

$$(\lambda_i)_j = (-1)^j \sqrt{\frac{\mathcal{P}_i + \mathcal{R}_i \pm \sqrt{(\mathcal{P}_i - \mathcal{R}_i)^2 + 4q_i^2}}{2}}$$

and

$$s_{i,j} = \left(1, \frac{\mathcal{P}_i - \lambda_j^2}{q_i}, \lambda_j, \lambda_j \frac{\mathcal{P}_i - \lambda_j^2}{q_i}\right)^T$$

respectively. The matrix $S_i = (s_{i,1}, s_{i,2}, s_{i,3}, s_{i,4})$, then diagonalizes \mathcal{F}_i . The diagonal matrix $S_i^{-1} \mathcal{F}_i S_i$ can be written in the form $(B_i + \mathcal{E}_i)x^a$, where B_i has diagonal elements $\mu_i, \mu_i, -\mu_i$ and $-\mu_i$, with $\mu_i > 0$, and the Hilbert–Schmidt norm of \mathcal{E}_i goes to zero when $x \rightarrow \infty$.

Now apply the transformation

$$\mathcal{Y}_i = S_i Q_i$$

to the system (10) to obtain the equation

$$Q'_i = (S_i^{-1} \mathcal{F}_i S_i - S_i^{-1} S'_i) Q_i. \quad (11)$$

If we explicitly calculate the Hilbert–Schmidt norm of the matrix $S_i^{-1} S'_i$, we can see that it is, like \mathcal{E}_i , of order $o(x^a)$. Hence, if we apply the transformation

$$t = \frac{x^{a+1}}{a+1}$$

to (11), we obtain

$$\frac{dQ_i}{dt} = (B_i + \mathcal{E}_i) Q_i,$$

where the Hilbert–Schmidt norm of \mathcal{E}_i goes to zero when $t \rightarrow \infty$. We can now use the following theorem from [20].

Theorem 3.2 (Perron). *Consider the first order n -dimensional system*

$$\frac{d\mathcal{Q}(t)}{dt} = (B + \mathcal{E}(t))\mathcal{Q}(t),$$

where $\mathcal{Q}(t)$ is a column vector and $B, \mathcal{E}(t)$ are (possible complex valued) matrices such that B is independent of t , and the Hilbert–Schmidt norm of $\mathcal{E}(t)$ goes to zero when $t \rightarrow \infty$ (almost diagonal system). Then, the system has n independent solutions $\mathcal{Q}_i, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ such that if $|\mathcal{Q}_i|$ is the length of the vector \mathcal{Q}_i , then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} t^{-1} \log |\mathcal{Q}_i| = \rho_i,$$

where $\rho_i = \text{Re } \lambda_i$, and λ_i are the n eigenvalues of B .

From the above theorem, we obtain a system of solutions

$$(w_i^{+,1}(x), v_i^{+,1}(x))^T, (w_i^{+,2}(x), v_i^{+,2}(x))^T, \tag{12}$$

$$(w_i^{-,1}(x), v_i^{-,1}(x))^T, (w_i^{-,2}(x), v_i^{-,2}(x))^T, \tag{13}$$

of (9) satisfying

$$\sqrt{|w_i^{+,k}(x)|^2 + |v_i^{+,k}(x)|^2 + |(w_i^{+,k})'(x)|^2 + |(v_i^{+,k})'(x)|^2} \geq c_\delta e^{(\frac{\mu_i}{a+1} - \varepsilon)x^{a+1}}$$

and

$$\sqrt{|w_i^{-,k}(x)|^2 + |v_i^{-,k}(x)|^2 + |(w_i^{-,k})'(x)|^2 + |(v_i^{-,k})'(x)|^2} \leq c_\delta e^{(-\frac{\mu_i}{a+1} + \varepsilon)x^{a+1}},$$

for $k = 1, 2$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$ with some constant c_δ depending on δ . The system (9) can also be written as

$$L \begin{pmatrix} w_i \\ v_i \end{pmatrix} - e^z \begin{pmatrix} w_i \\ v_i \end{pmatrix} = 0,$$

where

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^{2a} \mu_i^2 + \frac{\gamma_p(\gamma_p + 2)}{4x^2} & q_i(x) \\ q_i(x) & -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + x^{2a} \mu_i^2 + \frac{\gamma_{p-1}(\gamma_{p-1} - 2)}{4x^2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The differential operator L can be made self-adjoint by imposing Dirichlet boundary conditions at $x = 1$. It then becomes an operator with compact resolvent. Thus, if $f \in C_0^\infty([1, \infty)) \otimes \mathbb{C}^2$ is compactly supported, $(L - e^z)^{-1} f$ will, for large x , be a solution to (9) that is square integrable and depends meromorphically on z . This solution can be chosen to construct a fundamental system satisfying the above

estimates that depends meromorphically on z . By meromorphicity of $E_z(\theta, \tilde{\theta})$, w_i and v_i depend meromorphically on z . When z is in the physical sheet,

$$\Psi_{z,d,\delta}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \in L^2_{\delta,d}([1, \infty) \times N, \wedge^p T^*[1, \infty) \times N),$$

which implies w_i and v_i are both in $L^2([1, \infty), dx)$. If we then expand (v_i, w_i) in terms of the fundamental system of solutions, the coefficients depend meromorphically on z . The coefficients in front of the exponentially increasing terms vanish for z in the physical sheet. They therefore have to vanish everywhere. Thus $v_i(x), w_i(x)$ must be $O(e^{(-\frac{\mu_i}{a+1} + \varepsilon)x^{a+1}})$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$, which gives

$$\alpha_i(x) = O(x^{\gamma_p/2} e^{(-\frac{\mu_i}{a+1} + \varepsilon)x^{a+1}})$$

and

$$\beta_i(x) = O(x^{\gamma_{p-1}/2} e^{(-\frac{\mu_i}{a+1} + \varepsilon)x^{a+1}})$$

for all z . Using a similar argument for the term $\Psi_{z,\delta,d}(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$, we get the following bound on the tail term on the cusp

$$\Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) = O(x^{\gamma_{p-1}/2} e^{(-\frac{\mu_0}{a+1} + \varepsilon)x^{a+1}}), \quad z \in \mathbb{C}.$$

It is worth noting here that $C_{p,z}$ is not the scattering matrix obtained by comparing Δ with Δ_0 so the notation “scattering matrix” for $C_{p,z}$ is a mild abuse of terminology. The dynamical scattering matrix

$$S_{p,z} \in \text{End}(\mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N))$$

can be obtained from $C_{p,z}$ by

$$S_{p,z} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2})}{H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2})} C_{p,z} & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{H_{b_{p-1}}^{(1)}(e^{z/2})}{H_{b_{p-1}}^{(2)}(e^{z/2})} C_{p-1,z} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The paper [22] contains more details about the relationship of stationary to dynamical scattering theory. In particular existence and completeness of the wave operators in dynamical scattering theory follow from the fact that the difference $(\Delta_c + 1)^{-n} - (\Delta_M + 1)^{-n}$ is a trace class operator. Using an analysis completely analogous to the one by Guillopé [9], one can also obtain the generalized eigensections of Theorem 1.2 by applying the wave operators to the generalized eigenfunctions that span the continuous spectrum of Δ_c . As mentioned in the introduction, this implies that the continuous spectral subspace is the closure of the span of

$$\left\{ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} E_z(\cdot, \theta, \tilde{\theta}) f(z) dz : f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}), \theta, \tilde{\theta} \in \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N) \right\}.$$

In order to be self-contained we give here a short argument that proves this without relying on time-dependent scattering theory. Let $\psi \in C_0^\infty(M, \wedge^p T^*M)$ be a compactly supported smooth section. Since the resolvent has a meromorphic continuation, Stone's formula implies that the spectral measure $\langle \psi, dE_\lambda \psi \rangle$ is given by

$$\langle \psi, dE_\lambda \psi \rangle = \langle \psi, F_\lambda(\psi) \rangle d\lambda,$$

where

$$F_\lambda(\psi) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} (F_\lambda^+(\psi) - F_\lambda^-(\psi)),$$

is given by

$$F_\lambda^\pm(\psi) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\pi i} ((\Delta_{M,p} - \lambda \mp i\varepsilon)^{-1})\psi.$$

Since this is a distribution of order 0, the only contribution of poles to the spectral measure are Dirac measures. These Dirac measures will give rise to eigenvalues of finite multiplicities that cannot accumulate in $(0, \infty)$ because poles do not accumulate there. The continuous spectral subspace is therefore the closure of the span of elements of the form

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} F_\lambda(\psi) f(\lambda) d\lambda,$$

where $f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^+)$ is supported away from the poles of the resolvents and $\psi \in C_0^\infty(M, \wedge^p T^*M)$. The statement about the continuous spectrum follows if we are able to show that away from poles, each $F_{e^z}(\psi)$ equals some generalized eigensection $E_z(\theta(\psi), \tilde{\theta}(\psi))$.

To show this, let z_0 be a point on the real axis that is not a pole. Then each $F_{e^z}(\psi)$ is holomorphic near z_0 and satisfies the equation $(\Delta - e^z)F_{e^z}(\psi) = 0$ there. By uniqueness of generalized eigensections it is now enough to show that

$$F_{e^z}^+(\psi) = (x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} H_{b_{p-1}-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\theta}) + \Phi_{e^z}^+(\psi),$$

where $\Phi_{e^z}^+(\psi)$ is square integrable for z near z_0 .

Let $\chi \in C^\infty(M)$ be a function with support in $[1, \infty) \times N$ depending only on x such that the support of χ has positive distance from the support of ψ and such that $1 - \chi \in C_0^\infty(M)$. Since $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, there are values of z near z_0 for which e^z is in the physical sheet (i.e., z is in the resolvent set). For these z , the section $\chi(F_{e^z}^+(\psi))$ is in the domain of both Δ_M and Δ_c and therefore

$$\chi(F_{e^z}^+(\psi)) = (\Delta_c - e^z)^{-1}(\Delta_M - e^z)(\chi(F_{e^z}^+(\psi))).$$

However, this relation is holomorphic and is therefore also valid at z_0 .

By the properties of the resolvent on the cusp shown earlier, this proves that the restriction of $F_{e^z}^+(\psi)$ to the cusp can be written as a sum of two terms, one of the form

$$(x^{b_p} H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} H_{b_{p-1}-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)\tilde{\theta}),$$

and another one meromorphic with values in L^2 . Since $F_{e^z}^+(\psi)$ is holomorphic this function is necessarily regular near z_0 . Thus, indeed $F_{e^z}(\psi) = E_z(\theta(\psi), \tilde{\theta}(\psi))$, where $(\theta(\psi), \tilde{\theta}(\psi))$ can be read off from the asymptotic behavior of $F_{e^z}^+(\psi)$ on the cusp as $x \rightarrow \infty$.

4. Additional properties of the stationary scattering matrix

The stationary scattering matrix $C_{p,z}$ of Theorem 1.2 has properties similar to the scattering matrices in the cusp case, but with some interesting differences. In this section, we use the rest of Theorem 1.2 in order to explore these properties. In particular, we prove that $C_{p,z}$ is a unitary endomorphism and find its functional equation. The main idea for the proof of the unitarity is the well known behavior of $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ at infinity along the cusp of M . For the functional equation, the proof is based on the uniqueness from Theorem 1.2. Finally, we can use this uniqueness to find the commutation relation between $C_{p,z}$ and the Hodge star operator. The results of this section are recorded in the introduction as Theorem 1.3.

We begin with the unitarity claim in Theorem 1.3. Consider the manifold

$$M_t = M_0 \cup ([1, t) \times N),$$

for some $t > 1$, together with the inner product $(\cdot, \cdot)_{M_t}$ induced by the metric g when it is restricted to M_t , namely

$$(v, w)_{M_t} = \int_{M_t} \bar{v} \wedge *w, \quad v, w \in \Omega^p(M_t).$$

Since $E_z(y, \theta, 0)$ is in the kernel of $\Delta_M - e^z I$, we have the equality

$$\begin{aligned} & ((\Delta_M - e^{\bar{z}} I)E_{\bar{z}}(y, \theta, 0), E_z(y, \theta, 0))_{M_t} \\ &= (E_{\bar{z}}(y, \theta, 0), (\Delta_M - e^z I)E_z(y, \theta, 0))_{M_t}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$(\Delta_M E_{\bar{z}}(y, \theta, 0), E_z(y, \theta, 0))_{M_t} - (E_{\bar{z}}(y, \theta, 0), \Delta_M E_z(y, \theta, 0))_{M_t} = 0.$$

For any $v, w \in \Omega^p(M_t)$ we have the following Green's formula (see [5])

$$\begin{aligned} & (\Delta_M u, w)_{M_t} - (u, \Delta_M w)_{M_t} \\ &= \int_{\partial M_t} \bar{u} \wedge *dw - w \wedge *d\bar{u} + \delta\bar{u} \wedge *w - \delta w \wedge *\bar{u}. \end{aligned}$$

If we apply this to the previous equation we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{N, x=t} & (\bar{E}_{\bar{z}}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \wedge *dE_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \\ & - E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \wedge *d\bar{E}_{\bar{z}}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \\ & + \delta\bar{E}_{\bar{z}}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \wedge *E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \\ & - \delta E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \wedge *\bar{E}_{\bar{z}}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0)) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Let us use the notation

$$f_{1,z}(x) = x^{b_p} \mathbf{H}_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x),$$

$$f_{2,z}(x) = x^{b_p} \mathbf{H}_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x).$$

Then,

$$E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) = f_{2,z}\theta + f_{1,z}C_{p,z}(\theta) + \Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0),$$

for $x > 1$. By the expression of g on the cusp and Theorem 1.2, we have

$$dE_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \sim dx \wedge (\partial_x f_{2,z}\theta + \partial_x f_{1,z}C_{p,z}(\theta)), \quad (15a)$$

$$*dE_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \sim x^{-\gamma_p} *_N (\partial_x f_{2,z}\theta + \partial_x f_{1,z}C_{p,z}(\theta)), \quad (15b)$$

$$*E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, \tilde{\theta}) \sim (-1)^p x^{-\gamma_p} dx \wedge *_N (f_{2,z}\theta + f_{1,z}C_{p,z}(\theta)), \quad (15c)$$

and

$$\delta E_z(\theta, 0) \sim 0,$$

where γ_p and b_p are defined in Section 2. Hence, equation (14) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_{N, x=t} & (\bar{f}_{2,\bar{z}}\bar{\theta} + \bar{f}_{1,\bar{z}}\bar{C}_{p,\bar{z}}(\theta)) \wedge x^{-\gamma_p} *_N (\partial_x f_{2,z}\theta + \partial_x f_{1,z}C_{p,z}(\theta)) \\ & (f_{2,z}\theta + f_{1,z}C_{p,z}(\theta)) \wedge x^{-\gamma_p} *_N (\partial_x \bar{f}_{2,\bar{z}}\bar{\theta} + \partial_x \bar{f}_{1,\bar{z}}\bar{C}_{p,\bar{z}}(\theta)) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Since the scattering matrix is holomorphic and unitarity is a holomorphic condition, it is enough to prove unitarity in a nonempty open set. We therefore restrict the proof to the physical sheet, where equations (21) and (22) of the Appendix hold. We obtain the following asymptotic behaviors

$$f_{1,z}(t) \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} t^{\gamma_p/2} e^{ie^{z/2}t} e^{-z/4} (1 + O(e^{-z/2}t^{-1})),$$

$$f_{2,z}(t) \sim \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} t^{\gamma_p/2} e^{-ie^{z/2}t} e^{-z/4} (1 + O(e^{-z/2}t^{-1})),$$

$$\partial_t f_{1,z}(t) \sim i\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} e^{z/4} t^{\gamma_p/2} e^{ie^{z/2}t} (1 + O(e^{-z/2}t^{-1})),$$

and

$$\partial_t f_{2,z}(t) \sim -i\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}}e^{z/4}t^{\nu_p/2}e^{-ie^{z/2}}(1 + O(e^{-z/2}t^{-1})).$$

If we take the limit of equation (16) as t goes to infinity and use the previous asymptotic expansions, we find that all the terms in equation (16) that contain exactly one occurrence of a scattering matrix cancel out. The non mixed terms remain and are constant in t , and thus give the relation

$$+\frac{4i}{\pi}((\theta, \theta)_N - (C_{p,\bar{z}}(\theta), C_{p,z}(\theta))_N) = 0,$$

which proves the unitarity of $C_{p,z}$.

We may note in addition the following. Since

$$\bar{H}_b^{(1)}(\lambda x) = H_b^{(2)}(\bar{\lambda}x) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{H}_b^{(2)}(\lambda x) = H_b^{(1)}(\bar{\lambda}x),$$

by Theorem 1.2, on the cusp we get

$$\overline{E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0)} = x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{\bar{z}/2}x)\bar{\theta} + x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{\bar{z}/2}x)\overline{C_{p,z}(\theta)} + \overline{\Psi_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0)},$$

and

$$E_{\bar{z}}((x, \zeta), \overline{C_{p,z}(\theta)}, 0) = x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{\bar{z}/2}x)\overline{C_{p,z}(\theta)} + x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{\bar{z}/2}x)C_{p,\bar{z}} \circ \overline{C_{p,z}(\theta)} + \Psi_{e^{\bar{z}}}((x, \zeta), \overline{C_{p,z}(\theta)}, 0).$$

Comparing the above equations, by using uniqueness from Theorem 1.2, we get that $C_{p,\bar{z}} \circ \overline{C_{p,z}(\theta)} = \bar{\theta}$.

Next we use the uniqueness of $E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ in Theorem 1.2 to derive the functional equation for $C_{p,z}$ that forms the second part of Theorem 1.3. By Theorem 1.2, we find on the cusp

$$E_{z-2\pi i}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) = x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2-\pi i}x)\theta + x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2-\pi i}x)C_{p,z-2\pi i}(\theta) + \Psi_{z-2\pi i}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0).$$

Using equation (23) of the Appendix this gives on the cusp

$$\begin{aligned} &E_{z-2\pi i}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \\ &= -e^{i\pi b_p}x^{b_p}H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x)\theta \\ &\quad + x^{b_p}(2 \cos(\pi b_p)H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x) + e^{-i\pi b_p}H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x))C_{p,z-2\pi i}(\theta) \\ &\quad + \Psi_{z-2\pi i}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0). \end{aligned}$$

Both $E_{z-2\pi i}(y, \theta_1, 0)$ and $E_z(y, \theta_2, 0)$ are e^z eigenforms for any p -forms θ_1 and θ_2 . Setting $\theta_1 = \theta$ and $\theta_2 = e^{-i\pi b_p} C_{p,z-2\pi i}(\theta)$, the terms in the expansion containing $H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x)$ coincide. By uniqueness of the expansion, we get

$$E_{z-2\pi i}(y, \theta, 0) = E_z(y, e^{-i\pi b_p} C_{p,z-2\pi i}(\theta), 0).$$

Comparing coefficients in the two expansions gives

$$e^{-i\pi b_p} C_{p,z} \circ C_{p,z-2\pi i} = 2 \cos(\pi b_p) C_{p,z-2\pi i} - e^{i\pi b_p},$$

which can be further simplified to the functional equation

$$((1 + e^{2\pi i b_p}) \text{id} - C_{p,z}) \circ C_{p,z-2\pi i} = e^{2\pi i b_p} \text{id}.$$

Finally, we again use the uniqueness from Theorem 1.2 to prove a commutation relation between the scattering matrix and the Hodge star operator on N that is the third part of Theorem 1.3. Apply Theorem 1.2 to the case of $n - p$ forms, i.e. $(\theta, \tilde{\theta}) \in \mathcal{H}^{n-p}(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{n-p-1}(N)$. Since the Hodge star operator commutes with the Laplacian, $*E_z(y, \theta, \tilde{\theta})$ is an e^z -eigenform of Δ acting on p -forms. We assume here that $p \leq \frac{n-1}{2}$ so that $b_p > 0$. By equation 15, if θ is a p -form on N then

$$\begin{aligned} & *_M E_z((x, \zeta), \theta, 0) \\ &= (-1)^p x^{-\gamma_p + b_p} dx \wedge [H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x) *_N \theta + H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x) *_N C_{p,z}(\theta)] \\ & \quad + *_M \Psi_{b_p}((x, \zeta), \theta, 0). \end{aligned}$$

The form $*_N \theta$ is an $n - p - 1$ -form, so by Theorem 1.2,

$$\begin{aligned} & E_z((x, \zeta), 0, (-1)^p e^{b_p \pi i} *_N \theta) \\ &= dx \wedge x^{b_{n-p-1}} [H_{b_{n-p-1}-1}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x) (-1)^p e^{b_p \pi i} *_N \theta \\ & \quad + H_{b_{n-p-1}-1}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x) C_{n-p-1,z}((-1)^p e^{b_p \pi i} *_N \theta)] \\ & \quad + \Psi_{b_{n-p-1}}((x, \zeta), 0, (-1)^p e^{b_p \pi i} *_N \theta) \\ &= (-1)^p x^{-\gamma_p + b_p} dx \wedge [H_{b_p}^{(2)}(e^{z/2}x) *_N \theta \\ & \quad + e^{2b_p \pi i} H_{b_p}^{(1)}(e^{z/2}x) C_{n-p-1,z}(*_N \theta)] \\ & \quad + \Psi_{b_{n-p-1}}((x, \zeta), 0, (-1)^p e^{b_p \pi i} *_N \theta). \end{aligned}$$

We have used that $b_p - \gamma_p = 1 - b_p$ and $1 - b_{n-p-1} = b_p$. Comparing these expansions, we get the relation

$$*_N C_{p,z}(\theta) = e^{2b_p \pi i} C_{n-p-1}(*_N \theta).$$

5. Outlook

Both the resolvent as well as the scattering matrix for zero energy were shown in this paper to have meromorphic continuations to a logarithmic cover of the complex plane. The type of singularity appearing near zero inspired the second author and J. Müller in [15] to develop a framework to deal with resolvents near such logarithmic branching points. This framework of Hahn-holomorphic functions fits very well with the results of this paper and is expected to also apply to manifolds that look like cones at infinity or even to asymptotically Euclidian manifolds.

In recent work, the first author and D. Grieser have developed a pseudodifferential operator framework that permits the construction of parametrices for the Laplacian on the manifolds considered in this paper in the special case when $a \in \mathbb{N}$. Whereas the functional equation clearly simplifies in the case when a is an integer the general formulas show even an analytic dependence on a . It is thus natural to ask if a more general pseudodifferential operator calculus would be suitable for tackling spectral problems in settings such as the generalized cusp and which would reflect the analytic properties of the Hankel functions near zero. Our analysis would be an important test case for such a calculus.

6. Appendix

6.1. The Weber transform. The Weber transform decomposes functions in an appropriate domain of functions on the half-line $[1, \infty)$ in terms of cylinder functions for $\lambda \in [0, \infty)$:

$$G_b(\lambda, x) = Y_b(\lambda)J_b(\lambda x) - J_b(\lambda)Y_b(\lambda x),$$

where as usual, J_b and Y_b are the Bessel functions of order b of the first and second kinds, respectively. The cylinder function $G_b(\lambda, x)$ is a generalized λ^2 eigenfunction for the operator

$$B_b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\partial_x^2 - \frac{\partial_x}{x} + \frac{b^2}{x^2}$$

on the interval $[1, \infty)$ with Dirichlet boundary conditions at $x = 1$. Formally, therefore, if a function f on $[1, \infty)$ satisfying Dirichlet conditions at $x = 1$ is written in terms of B_b generalized eigenfunctions as

$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty g(\lambda)G_b(\lambda, x) d\mu_b(\lambda)$$

for some spectral measure $d\mu_b(\lambda)$, then when we apply B_b to both sides we will get

$$(B_b f)(x) = \int_0^\infty \lambda^2 g(\lambda)G_b(\lambda, x) d\mu_b(\lambda). \tag{17}$$

That is, the transformation of f into its spectral coefficient function g should turn the operator B_b into the multiplication operator by λ^2 . This can be made rigorous, and gives us the Weber transform. In this Appendix, we will briefly recall the definition and properties of the Weber transform and its inverse. The material in this Appendix is treated in greater detail in [25] and [22].

We first define the Weber transform for smooth compactly supported functions in the “space” variable $x \in [1, \infty)$ using the geometrically given measure $x \, dx$.

Definition 6.1 (Weber transform). Let $f \in C_0^\infty(1, \infty)$. For any real b , define the transform $\mathbb{W}_b(f)$ of f to be the function

$$\mathbb{W}_b(f)(\lambda) = \int_1^\infty f(x) G_b(\lambda, x) x \, dx.$$

We want to determine the correct measure for the inverse transform. For this we use the Weber integral formula, see Section 14.52 in [25]).

Theorem 6.1 (Weber). Let $h \in C_0^\infty(0, \infty)$. Then

$$h(u) = \frac{1}{J_b^2(u) + Y_b^2(u)} \int_1^\infty \left(\int_0^\infty h(\lambda) G_b(\lambda, x) \lambda \, d\lambda \right) G_b(u, x) x \, dx. \quad (18)$$

If we set

$$k(u) = (J_b^2(u) + Y_b^2(u))h(u),$$

then $k \in C_0^\infty(0, \infty)$ if and only if h is, and we can rewrite (18) as

$$k(u) = \int_1^\infty \left(\int_0^\infty k(\lambda) G_b(\lambda, x) \frac{\lambda}{J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda)} \, d\lambda \right) G_b(u, x) x \, dx. \quad (19)$$

Thus we define the inverse transform for $k \in C_0^\infty(0, \infty)$ by:

$$(\mathbb{W}_b^{-1}k)(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \int_0^\infty k(\lambda) G_b(\lambda, x) \, d\mu_b(\lambda), \quad (20)$$

where

$$d\mu_b(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda}{J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda)} \, d\lambda.$$

We can rewrite (19) as

$$\mathbb{W}_b(\mathbb{W}_b^{-1}k) = k, \quad k \in C_0^\infty(0, \infty).$$

In [24], Titchmarsh proved the opposite composition gives the following identity.

Theorem 6.2. Let $f \in C_0^\infty(1, \infty)$. Then $\mathbb{W}_b^{-1}\mathbb{W}_b f = f$.

We can extend these theorems to L^2 spaces to obtain the following result.

Proposition 6.3. *The inverse transform extends to a bijective isometry*

$$\mathbb{W}_b^{-1} : L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_b(\lambda)) \longrightarrow L^2([1, \infty), x dx)$$

with inverse \mathbb{W}_b .

Proof. To show that the inverse transform extends to an isometry onto a subspace of $L^2([1, \infty), x dx)$, it suffices to check that it is an isometry for $g, k \in C_0^\infty(0, \infty)$. This is seen as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mathbb{W}_b^{-1}g, \mathbb{W}_b^{-1}k)_{L^2([1, \infty), x dx)} \\ &= \int_1^\infty \left(\int_0^\infty g(\lambda) G_b(\lambda, x) d\mu_b(\lambda) \right) \left(\int_0^\infty k(u) G_b(u, x) d\mu_b(u) \right) x dx \\ &= \int_0^\infty g(\lambda) \left(\int_1^\infty \left(\int_0^\infty k(u) G_b(u, x) d\mu_b(u) \right) G_b(\lambda, x) x dx \right) d\mu_b(\lambda) \end{aligned}$$

by Fubini's theorem. Now let $h(u) = k(u)/(J_b^2(u) + Y_b^2(u))$. This is still in $C_0^\infty(0, \infty)$, so using (18) we get

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbb{W}_b^{-1}g, \mathbb{W}_b^{-1}k)_{L^2([1, \infty), x dx)} &= \int_0^\infty g(\lambda)(J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda))h(\lambda) \lambda d\lambda \\ &= (g, k)_{L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_b(\lambda))}. \end{aligned}$$

The map \mathbb{W}_b^{-1} is surjective because it is an isometry and by Theorem 6.2, its image contains the dense subset $C_0^\infty(1, \infty) \subset L^2([1, \infty), x dx)$. □

We also have the following additional properties describing how the Weber transform interacts with operators of relevance to this paper:

Lemma 6.4. (1) *The domain of B_b in $L^2([1, \infty), x dx)$ consists of f such that $\lambda^2 \mathbb{W}_b f \in L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_b(\lambda))$. For such f , $\mathbb{W}_b(B_b f)(\lambda) = \lambda^2(\mathbb{W}_b f)(\lambda)$.*

(2) *Let $\theta, \tilde{\theta} \in \mathcal{H}^p(N) \oplus \mathcal{H}^{p-1}(N)$ and $\alpha(x), \beta(x) \in L^2([1, \infty), x dx)$ such that $\alpha = \mathbb{W}_{b_p} \tilde{\alpha}$ and $\beta = \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1}} \tilde{\beta}$ for some $\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}$ such that $\lambda^2 \tilde{\alpha} \in L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_{b_p}(\lambda))$ and $\lambda^2 \tilde{\beta} \in L^2([0, \infty), d\mu_{b_{p-1}}(\lambda))$. Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \Delta(x^{b_p} \alpha \theta + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} \beta \tilde{\theta}) \\ &= x^{b_p} \mathbb{W}_{b_p}(\lambda^2 \tilde{\alpha}) \theta + dx \wedge x^{b_{p-1}} \mathbb{W}_{b_{p-1}}(\lambda^2 \tilde{\beta}) \tilde{\theta} \\ &\in L^2_{\mathcal{H}}([1, \infty) \times N, \wedge^p T^*[1, \infty) \times N). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. These follow from the local coordinate form of Δ and from equation (17), which holds for $g \in C_0^\infty(0, \infty)$ by bringing B_b inside the integral, and extends to the domain of B_b by continuity. □

6.2. Asymptotics of Bessel functions. In this section, we recall identities and asymptotics of the Bessel functions J_b and Y_b , as well as the Hankel functions $H_b^{(1)}$ and $H_b^{(2)}$, and their extensions to the logarithmic cover of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ (see, e.g. [4]). We have the following asymptotic estimates. First, for $|z| \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$J_b(z) \longrightarrow \sqrt{\frac{2}{z\pi}} \cos\left(z - \frac{b\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \quad \text{as } z \rightarrow \infty \text{ for } |pv(z)| \leq \pi - \delta$$

and

$$Y_b(z) \longrightarrow \sqrt{\frac{2}{z\pi}} \sin\left(z - \frac{b\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \quad \text{as } z \rightarrow \infty \text{ for } |pv(z)| \leq \pi - \delta,$$

where pv denotes principal value. In addition, for any path to infinity along which $pv(z) \in [-\pi + \delta, 2\pi - \delta]$ we have the estimates

$$H_b^{(1)}(z) \sim \left(\frac{2}{\pi z}\right)^{1/2} e^{i(z - \frac{b\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4})} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} i^k \frac{a_k(b)}{z^k} \quad (21)$$

and

$$H_b^{(2)}(z) \sim \left(\frac{2}{\pi z}\right)^{1/2} e^{-i(z - \frac{b\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{4})} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-i)^k \frac{a_k(b)}{z^k}. \quad (22)$$

These imply in particular that for real $\lambda > \varepsilon$,

$$\left| \frac{G_b(\lambda, x)G_b(\lambda, t)}{J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda)} \lambda \right| \leq c(\varepsilon)(xt)^{-1/2}.$$

We also recall that $\bar{H}_b^{(1)}(\bar{z}) = H_b^{(2)}(z)$.

For $|\lambda| \rightarrow 0$, we have for real $\lambda < K$

$$J_b(\lambda) \longrightarrow \frac{1}{\Gamma(b+1)} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\right)^b (1 + O(\lambda^{2+b})) \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow 0$$

and

$$Y_b(\lambda) \longrightarrow \frac{-\Gamma(b)}{2} \left(\frac{2}{\lambda}\right)^b (1 + O(\lambda^{2-b})) \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow 0.$$

Thus

$$\left| \frac{G_b(\lambda, x)G_b(\lambda, t)}{J_b^2(\lambda) + Y_b^2(\lambda)} \lambda \right| \leq \begin{cases} c_b \left| (xt)^b - \left(\frac{x}{t}\right)^b - \left(\frac{t}{x}\right)^b + (xt)^{-b} \right| & \text{if } b > 0, \\ c_b |\ln x| |\ln t| & \text{if } b = 0, \\ c_b & \text{if } b < 0, \end{cases}$$

for an appropriate constant $c_b > 0$, $x, t \geq 1$ and $\lambda \in [0, \varepsilon]$.

The Bessel functions J_b and Y_b have meromorphic extensions \tilde{J}_b and \tilde{Y}_b to the logarithmic cover, \mathbb{C} , of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. If $e^s = \lambda$, then for $\text{Im}(s) \in [2\pi k, 2\pi(k+1))$,

$$\tilde{J}_b(\lambda) = e^{2k\pi ib} J_b(s)$$

and

$$\tilde{Y}_b(\lambda) = e^{-2k\pi ib} Y_b(s) + 2i \sin(2k\pi b) \frac{\cos(\pi b)}{\sin(\pi b)} J_b(s).$$

Also, if $-1 = e^{-i\pi}$, then

$$H_b^{(1)}(-z) = 2 \cos \pi b \cdot H_b^{(1)}(z) + e^{-i\pi b} H_b^{(2)}(z) \quad (23a)$$

and

$$H_b^{(2)}(-z) = -e^{i\pi b} H_b^{(1)}(z), \quad (23b)$$

which hold for any $b \in \mathbb{C}$ (by taking the limit when b is an integer) and any z in the logarithmic cover (i.e. replace z with e^s , $s \in \mathbb{C}$). Finally, we have in case $b > 0$:

$$H_{-b}^{(1)}(z) = e^{bi\pi} H_b^{(1)}(z) \quad \text{and} \quad H_{-b}^{(2)}(z) = e^{-bi\pi} H_b^{(2)}(z).$$

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Received August 16, 2012; revised April 12, 2013

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