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Low frequency asymptotics and local energy decay for the Schrödinger equation

Abstract. We prove low frequency resolvent estimates and local energy decay for the Schrödinger equation in an asymptotically Euclidean setting. More precisely, we go beyond the optimal estimates by comparing the resolvent of the perturbed Schrödinger operator with the resolvent of the free Laplacian. This gives the leading term for the development of this resolvent when the spectral parameter is close to 0. For this, we show in particular how we can apply the usual commutators method for generalized resolvents and simultaneously for different operators. Then we deduce similar results for the large time asymptotics of the corresponding evolution problem. Even if we are interested in this paper in the standard Schrödinger equation, we provide a method which can be applied to more general non-selfadjoint (dissipative) operators.

Keywords: Schrödinger equation, local energy decay, low frequency resolvent estimates.

1. Introduction and statement of the main results

Let $d \geqslant 2$. We consider on $\mathbb{R}^d$ the Schrödinger equation

$$\begin{cases} -i\,\partial_t u + Pu = 0 & \text{on } \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u|_{t=0} = f & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d, \end{cases} \tag{1.1}$$

where $f \in L^2$ and P is a general Laplace operator. More precisely we set

$$P = -\frac{1}{w(x)} \operatorname{div} G(x)\nabla, \tag{1.2}$$

where $w(x)$ and the symmetric matrix $G(x)$ are smooth and uniformly positive functions: there exists $C \geqslant 1$ such that for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we have

$$C^{-1}|\xi|^2 \leqslant \langle G(x)\xi, \xi \rangle_{\mathbb{R}^d} \leqslant C|\xi|^2 \quad \text{and} \quad C^{-1} \leqslant w(x) \leqslant C.$$

We assume that P is associated to a long range perturbation of the flat metric. This means that $G(x)$ and $w(x)$ are long range perturbations of Id and 1, respectively, in the sense that

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for some $\rho_0 \in \,]0, 1]$ there exist constants $C_\alpha > 0$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$, such that for all $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$,

$$|\partial^\alpha (G(x) - \mathsf{Id})| + |\partial^\alpha (w(x) - 1)| \leqslant C_\alpha \langle x \rangle^{-\rho_0 - |\alpha|}. \tag{1.3}$$

Here and everywhere below we use the standard notation $\langle x \rangle = (1 + |x|^2)^{1/2}$.

This defines an operator P which is selfadjoint on $L^2_w = L^2(w(x)dx)$ with domain H^2. We also denote by Δ_G the Laplace operator in divergence form corresponding to G:

$$\Delta_G = \operatorname{div} G(x) \nabla.$$

This definition of P includes in particular the cases of the free Laplacian, a Laplacian in divergence form, or a Laplace–Beltrami operator. We recall that the Laplace–Beltrami operator associated to a metric $\mathsf{g} = (g_{j,k})_{1 \leqslant j,k \leqslant d}$ is given by

$$P_{\mathsf{g}} = -\frac{1}{|g(x)|^{1/2}} \sum_{j,k=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} |g(x)|^{1/2} g^{j,k}(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k},$$

where $|g(x)| = |\det(\mathsf{g}(x))|$ and $(g^{j,k}(x))_{1 \leqslant j,k \leqslant d} = \mathsf{g}(x)^{-1}$. Then P_{g} is of the form (1.2) with $w = |g|^{1/2}$ and $G = |g|^{1/2} \mathsf{g}^{-1}$.

After a Fourier transform with respect to time, (1.1) can be rewritten as a frequency dependent (stationary) problem. In this paper, we are mainly interested in the contribution of low frequencies. More precisely, we study the behavior of the corresponding resolvent and its powers when the spectral parameter approaches 0. Then, using the already known results for the contribution of high frequencies, we will discuss the large time behavior of the solution of (1.1).

The spectrum of P is the set $\mathbb{R}_+$ of non-negative real numbers. We are interested in the properties of the resolvent $(P - \zeta)^{-1}$ (and its powers) when ζ is close to $\mathbb{R}_+$. The limiting absorption principle (limit of the resolvent when ζ goes to some $\lambda > 0$) is an important topic in mathematical physics and is now well understood. In particular, it is known that if K is a compact subset of $\mathbb{C}^*$, then for $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\delta > n - 1/2$ the operator

$$\langle x \rangle^{-\delta} (P - \zeta)^{-n} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta}$$

is uniformly bounded in $\mathcal{L}(L^2)$ for $\zeta \in K \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$. From this result, we can deduce that the contribution of a compact interval of positive frequencies for the time dependent problem decays faster than any negative power of time in suitable weighted L^2-spaces.

The contribution of high frequencies for (1.1) depends on the properties of the operator $(P - \zeta)^{-n}$ for ζ large ($\operatorname{Re}(\zeta) \gg 1$ and $0 < \operatorname{Im}(\zeta) \ll 1$). These properties depend themselves on the geometry of the problem, and more precisely on the classical trajectories of the corresponding Hamiltonian problem.

We always have as much decay for the solution of (1.1) as we wish if we allow a loss of regularity for the initial data. This decay is in fact uniform in weighted L^2-spaces under the usual non-trapping condition. We denote by ϕ^t the geodesic flow corresponding to the metric G^{-1} on $\mathbb{R}^{2d} \simeq T^*\mathbb{R}^d$. For $(x_0, \xi_0) \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}$ and $t \in \mathbb{R}$ we set $\phi^t(x_0, \xi_0) =$

$(x(t, x_0, \xi_0), \xi(t, x_0, \xi_0))$. Then we have non-trapping if all the classical trajectories escape to infinity:

$$\forall (x_0, \xi_0) \in \mathbb{R}^d \times (\mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}), \quad |x(t, x_0, \xi_0)| \xrightarrow[t \to \pm\infty]{} +\infty. \tag{1.4}$$

We set

$$\mathbb{C}_+ = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}(\zeta) > 0\}, \quad \mathbb{D} = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C} : |\zeta| \leqslant 1\}, \quad \mathbb{D}_+ = \mathbb{D} \cap \mathbb{C}_+.$$

Under the assumption (1.4), it is known that for $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\delta > n - 1/2$ there exists $c > 0$ such that for $\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \setminus (\mathbb{R}_+ \cup \mathbb{D})$ we have

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta} (P - \zeta)^{-n} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{c}{|\zeta|^{n/2}}. \tag{1.5}$$

The proof is based on semiclassical analysis. We refer for instance to [24] for a Schrödinger operator with a potential, to [23] for second order perturbations of the free Laplacian, to [9] for a general compactly supported perturbation of the Laplacian in an exterior domain and to [4] for a long range perturbation of the flat metric.

The analysis of low frequencies is more recent. We first recall that given $R > 0$ the behavior of the localized resolvent for the free Laplacian at $\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$ is given by

$$\|\mathbb{1}_{B(R)} (P_0 - \zeta)^{-n} \mathbb{1}_{B(R)}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim \begin{cases} |\zeta|^{\min(0, d/2 - n)} & \text{if } n \neq d/2, \\ |\log(\zeta)| & \text{if } n = d/2. \end{cases} \tag{1.6}$$

Estimates of the resolvent near 0 for a long range perturbation of the free Laplacien were first proved in [5] (operator in divergence form), [2] (Laplace–Beltrami operator) and [4] (estimates for the powers of the resolvent). Earlier papers also considered the limiting absorption principle at zero energy in some particular settings (see for instance [11, 29] and references therein). For a similar result in a non-selfadjoint setting we also refer to [20], and in a more general geometrical setting we mention [14–16] and [8].

The optimal estimates for these powers have finally been proved in the recent paper [6]. More precisely, it is proved that the estimates for the resolvent of the Schrödinger operator P are the same as for the free Laplacian in (1.6).

In this paper we go beyond this optimal estimate and give the asymptotic profile of $(P - \zeta)^{-1}$ in the limit $\zeta \to 0$, in the sense that the difference between the resolvent and the profile is smaller than the resolvent or the profile themselves.

Such asymptotic expansions of the resolvent in the low frequency limit have already been studied for a Schrödinger operator with potential. We refer for instance to [18]. We also mention the more recent papers [1, 30] for complex-valued potentials. The difficulty in these cases is that one might have an eigenvalue or a resonance at the bottom of the spectrum, which gives a singularity for the resolvent. This is why these results require much stronger decay assumptions on the potential.

We already know that the size of the powers of the resolvent for the Schrödinger operator is the same as for the free Laplacian $P_0 = -\Delta$. We prove that, at the first order, they are actually given by the powers of this model operator modified by the factor w. More precisely, our main result is the following.

Theorem 1.1. *Let $\rho_1 \in [0, \rho_0[$, $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\delta > n + 1/2$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $\zeta \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$ we have*

$$\left\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \left((P - \zeta)^{-n} - (P_0 - \zeta)^{-n} w \right) \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |\zeta|^{\min(0, \frac{d + \rho_1}{2} - n)}.$$

This proves that for ζ close to 0 the difference between $(P - \zeta)^{-n}$ and $(P_0 - \zeta)^{-n} w$ is smaller than $(P_0 - \zeta)^{-n} w$ (see (1.6)). We deduce in particular that $(P - \zeta)^{-n}$ behaves in weighted spaces exactly as $(P_0 - \zeta)^{-n} w$ in the low frequency limit. As a corollary, we recover the optimal estimate for the resolvent as given in [6].

Corollary 1.2. *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\delta > n + 1/2$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $\zeta \in \mathbb{D} \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$ we have*

$$\left\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} (P - \zeta)^{-n} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C \begin{cases} |\zeta|^{\min(0, d/2 - n)} & \text{if } n \neq d/2, \\ |\log(\zeta)| & \text{if } n = d/2. \end{cases} \tag{1.7}$$

As usual for this kind of resolvent estimates, the proof will rely in particular on the Mourre commutators method. To prove our result we show that this method can be applied with much more flexibility than usual.

We have to apply the result simultaneously for P and P_0. One of the difficulties is that P is selfadjoint on the weighted space L_w^2 while P_0 is selfadjoint on the usual L^2 space. Thus, unless $w = 1$, the operators P and P_0 are not selfadjoint on the same Hilbert space.

For this reason, we do not estimate the resolvent of P in L_w^2 but in L^2. Then P is no longer selfadjoint, but we can rewrite its resolvent as

$$(P - \zeta)^{-1} = (-\Delta_G - \zeta w)^{-1} w. \tag{1.8}$$

Now the difficulty is that $(-\Delta_G - \zeta w)^{-1}$ is not a resolvent in the usual sense, and in particular its derivatives are no longer given by its powers. We will see that it is not necessary to apply the Mourre method to a resolvent. We will just see $(-\Delta_G - \zeta w)^{-1}$ as the inverse of a parameter-dependent dissipative operator.

In particular, our proof does not rely on the selfadjointness of the operator P and the method is robust with respect to non-selfadjoint (dissipative) perturbations. This means that we cannot use the tools available for selfadjoint operators, but the same method could be applied to more general problems. A motivating example is the possibly damped wave equation, for which the optimal estimates are not known yet (in odd dimension, the optimal estimates for the wave equation are not known even in the undamped case).

Finally, we do not apply the Mourre method to a power of the resolvent of some operator, but to the product of some different parameter-dependent operators. Some of the factors will be of the form $(-\Delta_G - \zeta w)^{-1}$ as discussed above, there will be resolvents of P_0, but we will also have the factor w which appears in (1.8), and factors coming from the difference $(-\Delta_G - \zeta w) - (-\Delta - \zeta)$.

The smallness at infinity of the corresponding coefficients given by (1.3) will play a crucial role in the proof of Theorem 1.1. In particular, it is usual to use decaying weights

on both sides of the resolvent, but here we will also have to use weights which appear between the resolvents.

Note that replacing $(P - \zeta)^{-1}$ by $(-\Delta_G - \zeta w)^{-1}w$ is not just a technical issue. It is really $(-\Delta_G - \zeta w)^{-1}$ that we can compare with $(-\Delta - \zeta)^{-1}$, and (1.8) explains the additional factor w in the estimates of Theorem 1.1.

Now we discuss one of the important applications of the resolvent estimates, namely the analysis of the large time behavior for the time dependent problem (1.1).

After Theorem 1.1, it is expected that for large times the solution of (1.1) should behave in weighted spaces like a solution of the free Schrödinger equation, with a different initial condition.

The model problem is

$$\begin{cases} -i\,\partial_t u_0 - \Delta u_0 = 0 & \text{on } \mathbb{R}_+ \times \mathbb{R}^d, \\ u_0|_{t=0} = f_0 & \text{on } \mathbb{R}^d, \end{cases} \tag{1.9}$$

where $f_0 \in L^2$. The L^2-norm of the solution $u_0(t)$ is constant but, given $R > 0$, there exists a constant $C > 0$ such that if f_0 is compactly supported in the ball $B(R)$ then the energy of the solution u_0 of the free Schrödinger equation satisfies

$$\forall t \geqslant 0, \quad \|\mathbb{1}_{B(R)} u_0(t)\|_{L^2} \leqslant C \langle t \rangle^{-d/2} \|f_0\|_{L^2}.$$

Moreover this estimate is optimal (see [6]). The local energy decay has been proved for various perturbations of this model case; see for instance [22, 28]. For a long range perturbation of the metric and under the non-trapping condition, local energy decay has been proved in [3, 4] with a loss of size $O(t^\varepsilon)$. The optimal decay at rate $O(t^{-d/2})$ has then been proved in [6].

Again, our purpose is to go further and to give the large time asymptotic profile for the solution u of (1.1). Since the contribution of high frequencies decays very fast under the non-trapping condition, the large time behavior of u depends on the contribution of low frequencies. Then, with Theorem 1.1 we will see that for large times the solution u looks like a solution of the free Schrödinger equation (1.9):

Theorem 1.3. *Assume that the non-trapping condition* (1.4) *holds. Let $\rho_1 \in [0, \rho_0[$ and $\delta \geqslant d/2 + 2$. There exists $C \geqslant 0$ such that for $t \geqslant 0$ we have*

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}(e^{-itP} - e^{-itP_0}w)\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C \langle t \rangle^{-d/2 - \rho_1/2}.$$

This statement says that for t large the solution u of (1.1) is close in weighted spaces to the solution of (1.9) with $f_0 = wf$. In particular, since we know that $e^{-itP_0}w$ decays like $t^{-d/2}$ in $\mathcal{L}(L^{2,\delta}, L^{2,-\delta})$, we recover the optimal local energy decay for u.

Corollary 1.4. *Assume that the non-trapping condition* (1.4) *holds. Let $\delta \geqslant d/2 + 2$. There exists $C \geqslant 0$ such that for $t \geqslant 0$ we have*

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta} e^{-itP} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C \langle t \rangle^{-d/2}.$$

Organization of the paper

After this introduction, we give in Section 2 the main arguments for the proofs of Theorem 1.1. The proofs of the intermediate results are then given in the following three sections. In particular, we improve and apply the commutators method in Section 5. Finally, we prove Theorem 1.3 in Section 6.

2. Strategy for low frequency asymptotics

In this section we explain how Theorem 1.1 is proved. We only give the main steps, and the details will be postponed to the following three sections.

2.1. Difference of resolvents

We recall that the operator P was defined on L^2 by (1.2), with domain H^2. This is a non-negative and selfadjoint operator on L^2_w, and its resolvent $(P - \zeta)^{-1}$ is well defined for any $\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$ with norm equal to $\mathrm{dist}(\zeta, \mathbb{R}_+)^{-1}$ in $\mathcal{L}(L^2_w)$.

As explained in the introduction, instead of working directly with the resolvent of P, we will consider, for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$,

$$R(z) = (P - z^2)^{-1} w^{-1} = (-\Delta_G - z^2 w)^{-1}.$$

We also set

$$R_0(z) = (-\Delta - z^2)^{-1}.$$

The resolvent identity between $R(z)$ and $R_0(z)$ reads

$$R(z) - R_0(z) = -R(z)\big(-\Delta_{G-\mathsf{Id}} - z^2(w - 1)\big) R_0(z). \tag{2.1}$$

The smallness of this difference will come in particular from the decay of the coefficients $G(x) - \mathsf{Id}$ and $w(x) - 1$ (see (1.3)). We set $P_0(z) = -\Delta - z^2$ and $P(z) = -\Delta_G - z^2 w$.

We actually have to compare the derivatives of $R(z)$ and $R_0(z)$, and it will be convenient to rescale the resolvents to have a spectral parameter of order 1. For $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we set

$$R^{[n]}(z) = |z|^{2n}(P - z^2)^{-n} w^{-1} = \left(\frac{P}{|z|^2} - \frac{z^2}{|z|^2}\right)^{-n} w^{-1}$$

$$= |z|^{2n}(R(z)w)^{n-1} R(z) \tag{2.2}$$

and

$$R_0^{[n]}(z) = |z|^{2n} R_0(z)^n = \left(-\frac{\Delta}{|z|^2} - \frac{z^2}{|z|^2}\right)^{-n}.$$

Notice that w defines a bounded operator on the weighted space $L^{2,\delta} = L^2(\langle x \rangle^{2\delta} dx)$. Thus, with this notation the estimate of Theorem 1.1 is equivalent, for a possibly different constant $C > 0$, to

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}(R^{[n]}(z) - R_0^{[n]}(z))\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |z|^{\min(d+\rho_1, 2n)}. \tag{2.3}$$

It is usual in such contexts to estimate powers (in particular products) of resolvents. The first step is to rewrite the difference $R^{[n]}(z) - R_0^{[n]}(z)$ as a sum of products of $R(z)$ and $R_0(z)$ factors. By (2.1), for any $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have (see Appendix A)

$$R^{[n]}(z) - R_0^{[n]}(z) = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} R^{[n-k]}(z)\theta_0(z)R_0^{[k]}(z)$$

$$- \sum_{k=1}^{n} R^{[n-k+1]}(z)\theta_1(z)R_0^{[k]}(z), \qquad (2.4)$$

where for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have set

$$\theta_0(z) = w - 1, \quad \theta_1(z) = \frac{P(z) - P_0(z)}{|z|^2} = \frac{-\Delta_{G-\mathsf{Id}} - z^2(w-1)}{|z|^2}. \qquad (2.5)$$

(of course $\theta_0(z)$ does not depend on z, but it will be convenient to have analogous notation for these two operators). Then we have to estimate operators of the form

$$R^{[n-k+\sigma]}(z)\theta_\sigma(z)R_0^{[k]}(z), \quad \sigma \in \{0,1\},\ 1 \leqslant k \leqslant n-1+\sigma. \qquad (2.6)$$

These operators are now products of resolvents of the form $R(z)$ or $R_0(z)$, with inserted factors w, $\theta_0(z)$ or $\theta_1(z)$. The additional smallness in (2.3) compared to the estimates of $R^{[n]}(z)$ or $R_0^{[n]}(z)$ alone will come from the smallness (in a suitable sense) of the factors $\theta_0(z)$ and $\theta_1(z)$.

The estimate (2.3) and hence Theorem 1.1 are then consequences of the following result.

Proposition 2.1. *Let $\rho_1 \in [0, \rho_0[$. Let $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $\sigma \in \{0,1\}$ and $\delta > n_1 + n_2 - \sigma + 1/2$. Then there exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have*

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta} R^{[n_1]}(z)\theta_\sigma(z)R_0^{[n_2]}(z)\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C|z|^{\min(d+\rho_1, 2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}. \qquad (2.7)$$

Remark 2.2. We have said that a term of the form (2.6) with $\sigma = 0$ should be small because $w - 1$ decays at infinity. On the other hand, we have also said that it is important to replace the (rescaled) multiple resolvent $|z|^{2n}(P - z^2)^{-n}$ by $R^{[n]}(z) = |z|^{2n}(P - z^2)^{-n}w^{-1}$. This seems contradictory since the difference also contains a factor $(1 - w^{-1}) = (w-1)w^{-1}$. However, it will be important for the estimate of (2.6) that the factor $\theta_0(z) = w - 1$ is not the first or last factor, but inserted between some resolvents. See the discussion in Remark 4.4 below.

2.2. Estimates given by the commutators method

In Section 5 we will prove that we can apply the Mourre commutators method to operators of the form (2.6).

For a Schrödinger operator, this method usually gives uniform estimates for the resolvent near a positive frequency. Near 0, the size of the weighted resolvent is as required

uniform with respect to the imaginary part of the spectral parameter, but the estimate blows up if its real part also goes to 0.

It is standard that an important role is played by the generator of dilations

$$A_0 = -\frac{x \cdot i\nabla + i\nabla \cdot x}{2} = -\frac{id}{2} - x \cdot i\nabla. \tag{2.8}$$

Here we will not apply the commutators method directly with the operator A_0 as the conjugate operator. Since $P(z)$ is a small perturbation of $P_0(z)$ only at infinity, we will use, as in [6], a version of A_0 localized at infinity. More precisely, for some χ in $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d, [0,1])$ equal to 1 on a neighborhood of 0, we consider the operator

$$A_\chi = -\frac{(1-\chi)x \cdot i\nabla + i\nabla \cdot x(1-\chi)}{2}. \tag{2.9}$$

Its domain is the set of $u \in L^2$ such that $(1 - \chi(x))(x \cdot \nabla)u \in L^2$ in the sense of distributions. This is also a selfadjoint operator on L^2 and for $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$, $u \in L^2$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we have

$$(e^{-i\theta A_\chi}u)(x) = \det(d_x\phi_\chi^\theta(x))^{1/2}u(\phi_\chi^\theta(x)). \tag{2.10}$$

where $\theta \mapsto \phi_\chi^\theta$ is the flow corresponding to the vector field $(1 - \chi(x))x$.

For $r \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we set $\chi_r(x) = \chi(rx)$. We will work with the operator $A_r = A_{\chi_r}$. For $z \in \mathbb{D}$ we set $\chi_z = \chi_{|z|}$ and

$$A_z = A_{\chi_z}. \tag{2.11}$$

With the rescaled versions of the resolvents, the estimates given by the commutators method read as follows.

Theorem 2.3. (i) *Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\delta > n - 1/2$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have*

$$\|\langle A_z\rangle^{-\delta}R^{[n]}(z)\langle A_z\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C. \tag{2.12}$$

(ii) *Let $\rho \in [0, \rho_0[$. Let $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\delta > n_1 + n_2 - 1/2$. Let $\sigma \in \{0, 1\}$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have*

$$\|\langle A_z\rangle^{-\delta}R^{[n_1]}(z)\theta_\sigma(z)R_0^{[n_2]}(z)\langle A_z\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C|z|^\rho. \tag{2.13}$$

The proof of Theorem 2.3 is postponed to Section 5.

2.3. Elliptic regularity in low frequency Sobolev spaces

Theorem 2.3 is not enough to prove Proposition 2.1. As in [4, 7, 27], we use the gain of regularity to get some smallness when z is close to 0.

For $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we set $r = |z|$ and $\hat{z} = z/|z|$. We have the resolvent identity

$$R(z) - R(ir) = (z^2 + r^2)R(ir)wR(z) = (z^2 + r^2)R(z)wR(ir). \tag{2.14}$$

The factors $R(ir)$ will give the required regularity. To have as much regularity as needed, we can proceed with iterations of (2.14) and get, by induction on the number $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ of $R(ir)$ factors (see Appendix A),

$$R^{[n]}(z) = \sum_{m=n}^{N} C_{m-1}^{n-1}(1 + \hat{z}^2)^{m-n} R^{[m]}(ir) \tag{2.15}$$

$$+ \sum_{\nu=\max(1,n-N)}^{n} C_N^{n-\nu}(1 + \hat{z}^2)^{N-n+\nu} R^{[N]}(ir) w R^{[\nu]}(z) \tag{2.16}$$

(with the usual convention that the first sum is 0 if $N < n$). The interest of this expression is that in (2.15) we only have $R(ir)$ factors instead of $R(z)$, while in (2.16) we still have $R(z)$ factors but we also have as many $R(ir)$ factors as we wish to get some regularity.

Similarly we have

$$R_0^{[n]}(z) = \sum_{m=n}^{N} C_{m-1}^{n-1}(1 + \hat{z}^2)^{m-n} R_0^{[m]}(ir) \tag{2.17}$$

$$+ \sum_{\nu=\max(1,n-N)}^{n} C_N^{n-\nu}(1 + \hat{z}^2)^{N-n+\nu} R_0^{[\nu]}(z) R_0^{[N]}(ir). \tag{2.18}$$

The following two propositions will be proved in Section 4. In Proposition 2.4 we estimate a term of the form (2.6) with $R(z)$ and $R_0(z)$ replaced by $R(ir)$ and $R_0(ir)$.

Proposition 2.4. *Let $\rho \in [0, \rho_0[$. Let $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\sigma \in \{0, 1\}$. Let $s_1, s_2 \in [0, d/2[$, $\delta_1 > s_1$ and $\delta_2 > s_2$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $r = |z|$ we have*

$$\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} R^{[n_1]}(ir) \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(ir) \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2} \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+\rho, 2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}.$$

We observe that in Proposition 2.1 we work in weighted spaces, and the weight is given by negative powers of x. But for the commutators method in Theorem 2.3 we need negative powers of the generator of dilations A_z, which also contain derivatives. Thus we also have to use the regularity of the $R(ir)$ factors to turn estimates with weights $\langle A_z \rangle^{-\delta}$ into estimates with $\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}$.

Proposition 2.5. *Let $\rho \in [0, \rho_0[$ and $\sigma \in \{0, 1\}$. Let $s \in [0, d/2[$ and $\delta > s$. Let $N, n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. There exist $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ and $C > 0$ such that if $N \geqslant N_0$ then for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $r = |z|$ we have*

$$\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} R^{[N]}(ir) w \langle A_z \rangle^{\delta} \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |z|^s, \tag{2.19}$$

$$\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} R^{[n]}(ir) \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[N]}(ir) \langle A_z \rangle^{\delta} \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |z|^{s+\rho}, \tag{2.20}$$

$$\| \langle A_z \rangle^{\delta} R_0^{[N]}(ir) \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |z|^s, \tag{2.21}$$

$$\| \langle A_z \rangle^{\delta} w R^{[N]}(ir) \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n]}(ir) \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C |z|^{s+\rho}. \tag{2.22}$$

To prove these two results, we will work in rescaled Sobolev spaces. We set $|D| = \sqrt{-\Delta}$ and, for $r \in \,]0, 1]$, we define $|D_r| = |D|/r$. For $s \in \mathbb{R}$ we denote by H_r^s and $\dot{H}_r^s$

the usual Sobolev spaces H^s and $\dot{H}^s$, endowed respectively with the norms defined by

$$\|u\|_{H^s_r} = \big\|\langle|D_r|\rangle^s u\big\|_{L^2}, \quad \|u\|_{\dot{H}^s_r} = \big\||D_r|^s u\big\|_{L^2}.$$

In particular,

$$\|u\|_{\dot{H}^s} = r^s \|u\|_{\dot{H}^s_r}, \tag{2.23}$$

and for $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ and $s \in \mathbb{R}$ the operator $D^\alpha = (-i\,\partial_x)^\alpha$ defines an operator from H^s_r to $H^{s-|\alpha|}_r$ of size $r^{|\alpha|}$. Finally, for $r > 0$ we denote by O_r the dilation defined by

$$O_r u(x) = r^{d/2} u(rx). \tag{2.24}$$

Then O_r is a unitary operator from H^s to H^s_r and from $\dot{H}^s$ to $\dot{H}^s_r$. For $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we set $H^s_z = H^s_{|z|}$ and $O_z = O_{|z|}$.

2.4. Proof of Theorem 1.1

Assuming Theorem 2.3 and Propositions 2.4 and 2.5 we can now give a proof for Proposition 2.1. We recall that Proposition 2.1 implies Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Proposition 2.1. Let $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$. We set $r = |z|$ and $\hat{z} = z/r$. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Assume that in (2.7) we replace $R^{[n_1]}(z)$ and $R_0^{[n_2]}(z)$ by terms of the form (2.15) and (2.17), respectively. Then it is enough to prove that for $m_1 \geqslant n_1$, $m_2 \geqslant n_2$ and $\delta > n_1 + n_2 - \sigma + 1/2$ we have

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[m_1]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[m_2]}(ir)\langle x\rangle^{-\delta}\| \lesssim |z|^{\min(d+\rho_1, 2(n_1+n_2-\sigma))}. \tag{2.25}$$

Given $\rho \in\,]\rho_1, \rho_0[$, this is a consequence of Proposition 2.4 applied with $\delta_1 = \delta_2 = \delta$ and

$$s_1 = s_2 = \min\left(\frac{d + \rho_1 - \rho}{2}, n_1 + n_2 - \sigma\right). \tag{2.26}$$

Now assume that in (2.7) we replace $R^{[n_1]}(z)$ and $R_0^{[n_2]}(z)$ by terms of the form (2.16) and (2.18), where N can be chosen as large as we wish. By (2.13), (2.19) and (2.21) applied with s as in (2.26) we have, for $\nu_1 \leqslant n_1$, $\nu_2 \leqslant n_2$ and $N_1, N_2 \geqslant N_0$,

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[N_1]}(ir) w R^{[\nu_1]}(z)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[\nu_2]}(z) R_0^{[N_2]}(ir)\langle x\rangle^{-\delta}\| \lesssim |z|^{\min(d+\rho_1, 2(n_1+n_2-\sigma))}.$$

Then we consider the case where $R^{[m_1]}(z)$ is replaced by a term of the form (2.16) and $R_0^{[m_2]}(z)$ is replaced by a term of the form (2.17). In this case we have to estimate an operator of the form

$$\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[N_1]}(ir) w R^{[\nu_1]}(z)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[m_2]}(ir)\langle x\rangle^{-\delta},$$

where $\nu_1 \leqslant n_1$, $m_2 \geqslant n_2$, and N_1 can be chosen arbitrarily large. If m_2 is too small, we cannot apply (2.21) on the right of $R^{[\nu_1]}(z)$ (to which we apply Theorem 2.3). Then we proceed with more resolvent identities. More precisely, we apply (2.15)–(2.16)

to $R^{[\nu_1]}(z)$, replacing $R^{[N]}(ir)wR^{[\nu]}(z)$ by $R^{[\nu]}(z)wR^{[N]}(ir)$ in (2.16). Now we have to estimate terms of the form (2.25) or

$$\langle x \rangle^{-\delta} R^{[N_1]}(ir)wR^{[\nu]}(z)wR^{[N]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z)R_0^{[m_2]}(ir)\langle x \rangle^{-\delta},$$

with N, N_1 large, $\nu \leqslant n_1$ and $m_2 \geqslant n_2$. For such a term, we apply Theorem 2.3 to the factor $R^{[\nu]}(z)$, and then (2.19) and (2.22) on each side.

Finally, if $R^{[n_1]}(z)$ is replaced by a term of the form (2.15) and $R_0^{[n_2]}(z)$ by a term of the form (2.18), we proceed as in the previous case. We omit the details. ∎

3. Preliminary results

In this section we give some preliminary results which will be used in the next two sections. We fix $\rho \in [0, \rho_0[$ and $\bar\rho \in]\rho, \rho_0[$.

3.1. Decaying coefficients

The gain $|z|^\rho$ in all the estimates involving $\theta_\sigma(z)$ (see (2.13), (2.20), (2.22) and Proposition 2.4) is due to the decay of the coefficients given by the assumption (1.3). We recall this property in this subsection.

We fix an integer d_0 greater than $d/2$. For $\kappa \geqslant 0$ we denote by $S^{-\kappa}$ the set of smooth functions ϕ such that

$$\|\phi\|_{S^{-\kappa}} = \sup_{|\alpha| \leqslant d_0} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |\langle x \rangle^{\kappa+|\alpha|} \partial^\alpha \phi(x)| < +\infty. \tag{3.1}$$

After conjugation by O_r (see (2.24)), the following statement is Proposition 7.2 in [7].

Proposition 3.1. *Let $s \in]-d/2, d/2[$ and $\kappa \geqslant 0$ be such that $s - \kappa \in]-d/2, d/2[$. Let $\eta > 0$. There exists $C \geqslant 0$ such that for $\phi \in S^{-\kappa-\eta}$, $u \in H^s$ and $r \in]0, 1]$ we have*

$$\|\phi u\|_{H_r^{s-\kappa}} \leqslant C r^\kappa \|\phi\|_{S^{-\kappa-\eta}} \|u\|_{H_r^s}.$$

Remark 3.2. In particular, if $\phi \in S^{-\eta}$ for some $\eta > 0$, then for any $s \in]-d/2, d/2[$ multiplication by $1 + \phi$ defines a bounded operator on H_r^s uniformly in $r \in]0, 1]$.

Remark 3.3. In [7], Proposition 3.1 was only given for $\kappa < d/2$, but if $\kappa \geqslant d/2$ we necessarily have $s - \kappa \leqslant 0 \leqslant s$ and in this case we simply write, by the Sobolev embeddings and the Hölder inequality,

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\phi u\|_{H_r^{s-\kappa}} &\leqslant \|\phi u\|_{\dot H_r^{s-\kappa}} = r^{\kappa-s}\|\phi u\|_{\dot H^{s-\kappa}} \lesssim r^{\kappa-s}\|\phi u\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d+2(\kappa-s)}}} \\
&\lesssim r^{\kappa-s}\|\phi\|_{L^{\frac{d}{\kappa}}}\|u\|_{L^{\frac{2d}{d-2s}}} \lesssim r^{\kappa-s}\|\phi\|_{S^{-\kappa-\eta}}\|u\|_{\dot H^s} \lesssim r^\kappa \|\phi\|_{S^{-\kappa-\eta}}\|u\|_{\dot H_r^s} \\
&\lesssim r^\kappa \|\phi\|_{S^{-\kappa-\eta}}\|u\|_{H_r^s}.
\end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

Proposition 3.1 explains how the weights which appear in the resolvent estimates can be used to convert some regularity into a power of the small spectral parameter z. As a particular case of (3.2), we record the following estimates.

Lemma 3.4. *Let $s \in [0, d/2[$ and $\delta > s$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $r \in]0, 1]$ we have*

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_r^s, L^2)} \leqslant C \, r^s \quad \text{and} \quad \|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H_r^{-s})} \leqslant C \, r^s.$$

With Proposition 3.1 we also see that the decay of the coefficients in (1.3) gives smallness for the operators $\theta_\sigma(z)$ defined in (2.5).

Proposition 3.5. *Let $\rho' \in [0, \rho]$ and $s \in]-d/2 + \rho', d/2[$. There exists $C > 0$ which only depends on s, ρ' and $\bar\rho$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have*

$$\|w - 1\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^s, H_z^{s-\rho'})} \leqslant C \|w - 1\|_{s-\bar\rho} |z|^{\rho'}$$

and

$$\|P(z) - P_0(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1-\rho'})} \leqslant C(|z|^{2+\rho'} \|G - \mathsf{Id}\|_{s-\bar\rho} + |z|^{2+\rho} \|w - 1\|_{s-\bar\rho}).$$

In particular, for any $s \in]-d/2, d/2[$ we have

$$\|P(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1})} \leqslant 1 + C|z|^2 (\|G - \mathsf{Id}\|_{s-\bar\rho} + \|w - 1\|_{s-\bar\rho}).$$

Proof. The first estimate directly follows from Proposition 3.1 applied with $\kappa = \rho'$ and $\eta = \bar\rho - \rho' > 0$. Then for $j, k \in \{1, \dots, d\}$ we have

$$\|D_j (G_{j,k} - \delta_{j,k}) D_k\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1-\rho'})} \leqslant |z|^2 \|(G_{j,k} - \delta_{j,k})\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^s, H_z^{s-\rho'})}$$
$$\lesssim |z|^{2+\rho'} \|(G_{j,k} - \delta_{j,k})\|_{s-\bar\rho},$$

which gives the estimate on $P(z) - P_0(z)$. With $\rho' = 0$ this gives the last property since $\|P_0(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1})} = 1$. ∎

In Proposition 4.2 below, we will apply Proposition 3.5 with $\rho' = 0$ because we can only pay two derivatives. Because of this, $\theta_1(z)$ is not small even for z close to 0, unless $\|G - \mathsf{Id}\|_{s-\bar\rho}$ is. Since we have not assumed that this is the case, we will write the perturbation $G - \mathsf{Id}$ as a sum of a small perturbation and a compactly supported contribution which will be handled differently.

Lemma 3.6. *Let $\gamma > 0$. We can write $G = G_0 + G_\infty$ where $G_0 \in C_0^\infty$ and $\|G_\infty - \mathsf{Id}\|_{s-\bar\rho} \leqslant \gamma$.*

Proof. Let $\phi \in C_0^\infty$ be equal to 1 on a neighborhood of 0. For $\varepsilon > 0$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ we set $\phi_\varepsilon(x) = \phi(\varepsilon x)$. Then $(G - \mathsf{Id})\phi_\varepsilon$ is always compactly supported, and on the other hand, $\|(G - \mathsf{Id})(1 - \phi_\varepsilon)\|_{s-\bar\rho} \lesssim \varepsilon^{\rho_0 - \bar\rho}$. We conclude by choosing ε small enough and by setting $G_0 = (G - \mathsf{Id})\phi_\varepsilon$ and $G_\infty = \mathsf{Id} + (G - \mathsf{Id})(1 - \phi_\varepsilon)$. ∎

3.2. Commutators with x and A_z

All along the proofs of the following two sections we are going to use commutators of different operators involving the operators of multiplication by the variables x_j and the generator of dilations localized at infinity, A_z.

Let T be a linear map on the Schwartz space $\mathcal{S}$. For $r \in]0, 1]$ and $j \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$ we set $\mathrm{ad}_{rx_j}(T) = Trx_j - rx_j T : \mathcal{S} \to \mathcal{S}$. For $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we set $\mathrm{ad}_{j,z} = \mathrm{ad}_{|z|x_j}$. Then for $\mu = (\mu_1, \ldots, \mu_d) \in \mathbb{N}^d$ we set (notice that ad_{rx_j} and ad_{rx_k} commute for $j, k \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$)

$$\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu} = \mathrm{ad}_{rx_1}^{\mu_1} \circ \cdots \circ \mathrm{ad}_{rx_d}^{\mu_d}.$$

We fix $\chi \in C_0^{\infty}$ equal to 1 on a neighborhood of 0 and we define A_{χ} by (2.9) and then A_z by (2.11).

We set $\mathrm{ad}_{0,z}(T) = \mathrm{ad}_{A_z}(T) = TA_z - A_z T : \mathcal{S} \to \mathcal{S}$. Finally, for $N \in \mathbb{N}$ we set $\mathcal{I}_N = \bigcup_{k=0}^{N} \{0, \ldots, d\}^k$, and for $J = (j_1, \ldots, j_k) \in \mathcal{I}_N$ (with $k \in \{0, \ldots, N\}$ and $j_1, \ldots, j_k \in \{0, \ldots, d\}$) we set

$$\mathrm{ad}_z^J(T) = (\mathrm{ad}_{j_1,z} \circ \cdots \circ \mathrm{ad}_{j_k,z})(T).$$

And if for some $s_1, s_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ the operator $\mathrm{ad}_z^J(T)$ defines a bounded operator from $H_z^{s_1}$ to $H_z^{s_2}$ for all $J \in \mathcal{I}_N$, then we set

$$\|T\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s_1}, H_z^{s_2})} = \sum_{J \in \mathcal{I}_N} \|\mathrm{ad}_z^J(T)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s_1}, H_z^{s_2})}.$$

We write $\|T\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s)}$ for $\|T\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s, H_z^s)}$. Notice that for $T_1, T_2 : \mathcal{S} \to \mathcal{S}$ we have

$$\|T_2 T_1\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s_1}, H_z^{s_3})} \leqslant \|T_1\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s_1}, H_z^{s_2})} \|T_2\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s_2}, H_z^{s_3})}. \tag{3.3}$$

We can rewrite A_{χ} as

$$A_{\chi} = (1 - \chi)A_0 + \frac{ix \cdot \nabla \chi}{2} = -\frac{id}{2}(1 - \chi) - (1 - \chi)x \cdot i\nabla + \frac{ix \cdot \nabla \chi}{2}. \tag{3.4}$$

Then the commutators of A_{χ} with multiplication operators and derivatives are given by

$$[V, A_{\chi}] = i(1 - \chi)x \cdot \nabla V, \tag{3.5}$$

and

$$[\partial_j, A_{\chi}] = -i(1 - \chi)\partial_j + i(\partial_j \chi)(x \cdot \nabla) + \frac{id}{2}(\partial_j \chi) + \frac{i}{2}(\partial_j(x \cdot \nabla \chi)). \tag{3.6}$$

By induction on $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we get in particular

$$A_{\chi}^k x_j = x_j(A_{\chi} - i(1 - \chi))^k. \tag{3.7}$$

Lemma 3.7. *Let $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Let $\rho' \in [0, \rho]$. There exists $C > 0$ such that the following assertions hold for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$:*

(i) *If $s \in]-d/2, d/2[$ then $\|G\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s)} \leqslant C$ and $\|w\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s)} \leqslant C$.*

(ii) *If $s \in]-d/2 + \rho', d/2[$ then*

$$\|G - \mathrm{Id}\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s, H_z^{s-\rho'})} \leqslant C|z|^{\rho'} \quad \text{and} \quad \|w - 1\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s, H_z^{s-\rho'})} \leqslant C|z|^{\rho'}.$$

(iii) *For $j \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$ we have $\|\partial_j\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s, H_z^{s-1})} \leqslant C|z|$ and $\|\partial_j\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^s)} \leqslant C|z|$.*

Proof. For $G - \mathrm{Id}$ we observe that, by (3.5) and Proposition 3.1,

$$\|G - \mathrm{Id}\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^s, H_z^{s-\rho'})} \lesssim \sum_{m=0}^{N} \|((1 - \chi_z)(x \cdot \nabla))^m (G - \mathrm{Id})\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^s, H_z^{s-\rho'})}$$

$$\lesssim |z|^{\rho'} \sum_{m=0}^{N} \|(x \cdot \nabla)^m (G - \mathrm{Id})\|_{s-\bar{\rho}}.$$

This gives the estimate on $G - \mathrm{Id}$. The estimates on $w - 1$, G and w are similar.

By (3.6) applied with χ_z (and (3.5)) we can check by induction on $m \in \mathbb{N}$ that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we have

$$\mathrm{ad}_{iA_z}^m(\partial_j) = (1 - \chi_z)^m \partial_j + b_{j,m}(|z|x) \cdot \nabla + |z|c_{j,m}(|z|x), \tag{3.8}$$

where $b_{j,m} : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{C}^d$ and $c_{j,m} : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{C}$ are smooth and compactly supported. Then multiplications by $(1 - \chi_z)^m$, $b_{j,m}(|z|x)$ and $c_{j,m}(|z|x)$ define bounded operators on H_z^s uniformly in $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ for any $s \in \mathbb{R}$. This is clear for $s \in \mathbb{N}$, and the general case follows by interpolation and duality. This gives the last statement. ∎

With Lemma 3.7 and (3.3) we deduce the following result.

Proposition 3.8. *Let* $s \in]-d/2, d/2[$, $N \in \mathbb{N}$ *and* $\rho' \in [0, \rho]$. *There exists* $C > 0$ *such that for* $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ *we have*

$$\|P(z)\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1})} \leqslant C|z|^2.$$

Moreover, if $s \in]-d/2 + \rho', d/2[$ *then for* $\sigma \in \{0, 1\}$ *we also have*

$$\|\theta_\sigma(z)\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1-\rho'})} \leqslant C|z|^{\rho'}.$$

Finally, it is known that the commutators method that we will use to prove Theorem 2.3 is based on the positivity of the commutator between the real part of the operator under study and the conjugate operator (see Definition 5.1 (H5) below). In Section 5 we will use the following result. For $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ we set

$$P_{\mathsf{R}}(z) = -\Delta_G - w\mathsf{Re}(z^2) \tag{3.9}$$

and

$$K(z) = [P_{\mathsf{R}}(z), iA_z] - 2(1 - \chi_z)(P_{\mathsf{R}}(z) + \mathsf{Re}(z^2)). \tag{3.10}$$

Proposition 3.9. (i) *There exists* $C > 0$ *such that the commutator* $[P_{\mathsf{R}}(z), A_z]$ *extends to a bounded operator from* H_z^1 *to* H_z^{-1} *and* $\|[P_{\mathsf{R}}(z), A_z]\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})} \leqslant C|z|^2$.

(ii) *There exists* $C > 0$ *such that for* $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ *we have*

$$\|\langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} K(z) \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})} \leqslant C|z|^2.$$

Proof. The first statement follows from Lemma 3.7, like Proposition 3.8. We prove the second property. We have

$$K(z) = [-\Delta_G, iA_z] + 2(1 - \chi_z)\Delta_G - \mathsf{Re}(z^2)[w, iA_z] + 2(1 - \chi_z)\mathsf{Re}(z^2)(w - 1).$$

The contributions of the last two terms are estimated in $\mathcal{L}(L^2)$ with (3.5) and the decay of $w - 1$ and $x \cdot \nabla w$. For the terms involving Δ_G we write

$$
\begin{aligned}
[\Delta_G, iA_z] - 2(1 - \chi_z)\Delta_G &= \sum_{1 \leqslant j,k \leqslant d} \big([\partial_j, iA_z] - (1 - \chi_z)\partial_j\big) G_{j,k}\partial_k \\
&+ \sum_{1 \leqslant j,k \leqslant d} \partial_j [G_{j,k}, iA_z]\partial_k \\
&+ \sum_{1 \leqslant j,k \leqslant d} \partial_j G_{j,k}\big([\partial_k, iA_z] - (1 - \chi_z)\partial_k\big) \\
&- \sum_{1 \leqslant j,k \leqslant d} (\partial_j \chi_z) G_{j,k}\partial_k.
\end{aligned}
\tag{3.11}
$$

For $j, k \in \{1, \ldots, d\}$ we have

$$
\|\langle zx \rangle^{-\rho/2} \partial_k \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, L^2)} = |z| \, \|\langle x \rangle^{-\rho/2} \partial_k \langle x \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(H^1, L^2)} \lesssim |z|,
$$

so (using (3.8))

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\|\langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} (b_{j,1}(|z|x) \cdot \nabla + |z|c_{j,1}(|z|x)) G_{j,k} \partial_k \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})} \\
&\qquad \lesssim |z| \, \|\langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} (b_{j,1}(|z|x) \cdot \nabla + |z|c_{j,1}(|z|x)) \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H_z^{-1})} \lesssim |z|^2.
\end{aligned}
$$

This gives the estimate for the contribution of the first term on the right-hand side of (3.11). The third term is estimated similarly. For the second term we write

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|\langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} \partial_j [G_{j,k}, iA_z]\partial_k \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})} &\lesssim |z|^2 \|\langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} [G_{j,k}, iA_z]\langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \\
&\lesssim |z|^2,
\end{aligned}
$$

and finally we observe that $\|\partial_j \chi_z\|_\infty \lesssim |z|$ to prove that the last term in (3.11) is also of size $O(|z|^2)$ in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})$. The proof is complete. ∎

3.3. Additional commutator properties in an abstract setting

We finish this section with general considerations about commutators in an abstract setting. This will be used for the abstract commutators method.

Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a Hilbert space. We identify $\mathcal{H}$ with its dual. Let $\mathcal{K}$ be a Hilbert space, densely and continuously embedded in $\mathcal{H}$.

We denote by $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ the space of semilinear maps from $\mathcal{K}$ to its dual $\mathcal{K}^*$. We similarly define $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$. In particular, $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H}^*)$ is identified with $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$.

We consider a selfadjoint operator A on $\mathcal{H}$ with domain $\mathcal{D}_\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{H}$ (endowed with the graph norm). Then A can also be seen as an operator $A_\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}_\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{H})$. Moreover, for $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}$ we have $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_\mathcal{H}$ if and only if $A_\mathcal{H}^* \varphi \in \mathcal{H}$ and in this case $A\varphi = A_\mathcal{H}^* \varphi$. We set

$$
\mathcal{D}_\mathcal{K} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{K} \cap \mathcal{D}_\mathcal{H} : A\varphi \in \mathcal{K}\}.
\tag{3.12}
$$

By restriction, A defines an operator $A_{\mathcal{K}}$ on $\mathcal{K}$ with domain $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$. Then $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$ is endowed with the graph norm of $A_{\mathcal{K}}$. We can see $A_{\mathcal{K}}$ as an operator in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}, \mathcal{K})$, and $A_{\mathcal{K}}^*$ maps $\mathcal{K}^*$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}^*$. We set

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{K}^* : A_{\mathcal{K}}^*\varphi \in \mathcal{K}^*\}, \quad \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*}}^2 = \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{K}^*}^2 + \|A_{\mathcal{K}}^*\varphi\|_{\mathcal{K}^*}^2,$$

and for $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*}$ we set $A_{\mathcal{K}^*}\varphi = A_{\mathcal{K}}^*\varphi$. We have $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}} \subset \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{H}} \subset \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*}$. Moreover, for $\mathcal{K}_0 \in \{\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K}^*\}$ we have

$$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_0} = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{K}_0 : A_{\mathcal{K}_0^*}^*\varphi \in \mathcal{K}_0\},$$

and for $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_0}$ we have $A_{\mathcal{K}_0^*}^*\varphi = A_{\mathcal{K}_0}\varphi$.

Let $\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2 \in \{\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K}^*\}$. We set $\mathcal{C}_A^0(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2) = \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ and for $S \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ we set $\mathsf{ad}_A^0(S) = S$. Then, by induction, we say that $S \in \mathcal{C}_A^n(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ if $S \in \mathcal{C}_A^{n-1}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ and the commutator $\mathsf{ad}_A^{n-1}(S)A_{\mathcal{K}_1} - A_{\mathcal{K}_2^*}^*\mathsf{ad}_A^{n-1}(S) \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_1}, \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_2^*}^*)$ extends to an operator $\mathsf{ad}_A^n(S)$ in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$. Then we set

$$\|S\|_{\mathcal{C}_A^n(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)} = \sum_{k=0}^n \|\mathsf{ad}_A^k(S)\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)}.$$

We write $\mathcal{C}^n(\mathcal{K}_1)$ for $\mathcal{C}^n(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_1)$. We also write $\bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^n(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ instead of $\mathcal{C}_A^n(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ for semilinear operators.

The general properties which will be used are the following.

Proposition 3.10. *Let $\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2, \mathcal{K}_3 \in \{\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K}^*\}$.*

(i) *For $S \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ we have $S^* \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_2^*, \mathcal{K}_1^*)$ and $\mathsf{ad}_A(S^*) = -\mathsf{ad}_A(S)^*$.*

(ii) *Let $S \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$. Then S maps $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_1}$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_2}$ and on $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_1}$ we have*

$$A_{\mathcal{K}_2}S = SA_{\mathcal{K}_1} - \mathsf{ad}_A(S). \tag{3.13}$$

(iii) *For $S_1 \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2)$ and $S_2 \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_2, \mathcal{K}_3)$ we have $S_2 S_1 \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_3)$ and*

$$\mathsf{ad}_A(S_2 S_1) = S_2\mathsf{ad}_A(S_1) + \mathsf{ad}_A(S_2)S_1. \tag{3.14}$$

Proof. The first statement is clear. Let $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_1}$. We have $S\varphi \in \mathcal{K}_2$ and

$$A_{\mathcal{K}_2^*}^*S\varphi = SA_{\mathcal{K}_1}\varphi - \mathsf{ad}_A(S)\varphi \in \mathcal{K}_2,$$

so $S\varphi$ belongs to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_2}$ and (3.13) follows. Then, applying S_2 to (3.13) gives

$$S_2 S_1 A_{\mathcal{K}_1}\varphi - S_2 A_{\mathcal{K}_2}S_1\varphi = S_2\mathsf{ad}_A(S_1)\varphi.$$

Since $S_1\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_2}$ we similarly have $S_2 S_1\varphi \in \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}_3}$ and

$$S_2 A_{\mathcal{K}_2}S_1\varphi - A_{\mathcal{K}_3}S_2 S_1\varphi = \mathsf{ad}_A(S_2)S_1\varphi.$$

This proves that $S_2 S_1 \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_3)$ with $\mathsf{ad}_A(S_2 S_1)$ given by (3.14). ∎

We finally recall from [7] the following result.

Proposition 3.11. *Let $N \in \mathbb{N}$.*

(i) *Let $\delta \in [-N, N]$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $S \in \mathcal{C}_A^N(\mathcal{H})$ we have*

$$\|\langle A \rangle^\delta S \langle A \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C \|S\|_{\mathcal{C}_A^N(\mathcal{H})}.$$

(ii) *Let $\delta_-, \delta_+ \geqslant 0$ be such that $\delta_- + \delta_+ < N$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $S \in \mathcal{C}_A^N(\mathcal{H})$ we have*

$$\|\langle A \rangle^{\delta_-} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) S \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A) \langle A \rangle^{\delta_+}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C \|S\|_{\mathcal{C}_A^N(\mathcal{H})}.$$

Proof. The first statement is [7, Proposition 5.12] and the second follows easily from [7, Proposition 5.13]. ∎

4. Elliptic regularity

In this section we prove Propositions 2.4 and 2.5. The parameter $\rho \in [0, \rho_0[$ is fixed by these statements. We also fix $\bar{\rho} \in]\rho, \rho_0[$.

Proposition 2.4 will be given by (4.4) while Proposition 2.5 will follow from Propositions 4.3 (ii) and 4.5.

Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$. For $r \in]0, 1]$ the resolvent $R_0(ir) = r^{-2}(|D_r|^2 + 1)^{-1}$ defines a bounded operator from H_r^{s-1} to H_r^{s+1} with norm r^{-2}. More generally, if we set

$$\mathbb{D}_\mathsf{I} = \{z \in \mathbb{D}_+ : \arg(z) \in [\pi/6, 5\pi/6]\},$$

then there exists $c_0 > 0$ such that for $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{I}$ we have

$$\|R_0(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s-1}, H_z^{s+1})} \leqslant \frac{c_0}{|z|^2}. \tag{4.1}$$

Then, for $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $s, s' \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $s' - s \leqslant 2k$ we have

$$\|R_0^{[k]}(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^s, H_z^{s'})} = |z|^{2k} \|R_0(z)^k\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^s, H_z^{s'})} \leqslant c_0^k. \tag{4.2}$$

Our first purpose is to prove a similar property for $R(z)$. By the usual elliptic regularity this holds for any fixed $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$; the difficulty is to get uniform estimates for z close to 0.

We cannot extend (4.1) to $R(z)$ in full generality. We begin with the case $s = 0$.

Proposition 4.1. *There exists $c > 0$ such that for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{I}$ we have*

$$\|R(z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-1}, H_z^1)} \leqslant \frac{c}{|z|^2}.$$

More generally, for $N \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $c_N > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{I}$ we have

$$\|R(z)\|_{\mathcal{C}_z^N(H_z^{-1}, H_z^1)} \leqslant \frac{c_N}{|z|^2}.$$

Proof. Let $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$ and $\vartheta_z \in [-\pi/3, \pi/3]$ be such that $\arg(z) = \pi/2 + \vartheta_z$. The operator $e^{-i\vartheta_z} P(z)$ defines an operator in $\mathscr{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})$ uniformly in $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$. Moreover, for $u \in H_z^1$ we have

$$\mathsf{Re} \, \langle e^{-i\vartheta_z} P(z)u, u \rangle_{H_z^{-1}, H_z^1} = \cos(\vartheta_z)(\langle G(x)\nabla u, \nabla u \rangle_{L^2} + |z|^2 \langle wu, u \rangle_{L^2}) \gtrsim |z|^2 \|u\|_{H_z^1}^2.$$

The Lax–Milgram Theorem gives the first estimate.

Now let $N \in \mathbb{N}$. For $J \in \mathscr{I}_N$, we can write $\mathsf{ad}_z^J(R(z))$ as a sum of terms of the form

$$R(z)\mathsf{ad}_z^{J_1}(P(z))R(z) \ldots \mathsf{ad}_z^{J_k}(P(z))R(z),$$

where $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $J_1, \ldots, J_k \in \mathscr{I}_N$. The general statement follows from (3.3) and Proposition 3.8. ∎

On the other hand, we have a result similar to (4.1) if G is a small perturbation of the flat metric and s is not too large:

Proposition 4.2. *Let $s \in]-d/2, d/2[$. There exist $\gamma, c > 0$ such that if $\|G - \mathsf{Id}\|_{s-\bar{\rho}} \leqslant \gamma$ then for $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$ we have*

$$\|R(z)\|_{\mathscr{L}(H_z^{s-1}, H_z^{s+1})} \leqslant \frac{c}{|z|^2}.$$

More generally, for $N \in \mathbb{N}$ there exists $c_N > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$ we have

$$\|R(z)\|_{\mathscr{C}_z^N(H_z^{s-1}, H_z^{s+1})} \leqslant \frac{c_N}{|z|^2}.$$

Proof. Let $c_0 > 0$ be given by (4.1). If $\|G - \mathsf{Id}\|_{s-\bar{\rho}}$ is small enough, then by Proposition 3.5 applied with $\rho' = 0$ there exists $r_0 \in]0, 1]$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$ with $|z| \leqslant r_0$ we have

$$\|P(z) - P_0(z)\|_{\mathscr{L}(H_z^{s+1}, H_z^{s-1})} \leqslant \frac{|z|^2}{2c_0}.$$

Then

$$\|R(z)\|_{\mathscr{L}(H_z^{s-1}, H_z^{s+1})} = \left\|\left(1 + R_0(z)(P(z) - P_0(z))\right)^{-1} R_0(z)\right\|_{\mathscr{L}(H_z^{s-1}, H_z^{s+1})} \leqslant \frac{2c_0}{|z|^2}.$$

For $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$ with $|z| \geqslant r_0$ we use the standard elliptic estimates, and the first estimate is proved. The second estimate follows as in the proof of Proposition 4.1. ∎

The first part of the following result with $z' = i|z|$ gives Proposition 2.4. With $z = z'$ and $s_1 = s_2 = 0$ it also gives Theorem 2.3 for $z \in \mathbb{D}_l$ (without any weight). The second part of the result gives Proposition 2.5 with $\langle zx \rangle^\delta$ instead of $\langle A \rangle^\delta$.

Proposition 4.3. *Let $s_1, s_2, s \in [0, d/2[$, $\delta_1 > s_1$, $\delta_2 > s_2$ and $\delta > s$. Let $\sigma \in \{0, 1\}$. Let $n_1, n_2, n \in \mathbb{N}^*$.*

(i) *There exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $z' \in \mathbb{D}_l$ with $|z| = |z'|$ we have*

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} R^{[n]}(z') \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2}\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C|z|^{\min(s_1+s_2, 2n)} \tag{4.3}$$

and

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta_1} R^{[n_1]}(z')\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(z')\langle x\rangle^{-\delta_2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C|z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+\rho, 2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}. \tag{4.4}$$

(ii) *There exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $r = |z|$ we have*

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[n]}(ir)w\langle rx\rangle^{\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C r^{\min(s,2n)}, \tag{4.5}$$

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[n_1]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^{\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C r^{\min(s+\rho, 2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}, \tag{4.6}$$

$$\|\langle rx\rangle^{\delta} R_0^{[n]}(z)\langle x\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C r^{\min(s,2n)}, \tag{4.7}$$

$$\|\langle rx\rangle^{\delta} w R^{[n_1]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(ir)\langle x\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C r^{\min(s+\rho, 2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}. \tag{4.8}$$

Remark 4.4. Before proceeding with the proof of Proposition 4.3, we make a few preliminary comments.

We recall that decaying coefficients give smallness if we can ensure some regularity, in the sense of Proposition 3.1, and that we will use the resolvents $R(ir)$ to get this regularity. However, because of the restriction in the Sobolev indices in Proposition 3.1, we cannot gain a lot of regularity and then get a lot of powers of $r = |z|$ with a strongly decaying coefficient. This explains why the local energy decay is not improved if we choose stronger (for instance compactly supported) weights in Corollary 1.2.

Thus, the order of the factors is important in the analysis. Roughly, an alternation of gains and losses of regularity is better than a lot of regularizing factors followed by a lot of derivatives (or decaying coefficients).

Notice also that we cannot simply commute the factors involved in the proofs. Compared to what happens for high frequencies in semiclassical analysis, the commutator of two operators is usually no better than their composition. This is the main reason why we had preliminary discussions about commutators above.

A typical example of this problem is the discussion around (4.11) below. With $n_1 = 1$ and $\sigma = 1$ we have an operator $\theta_1(z)$ of order $2 + \rho$ only followed by one resolvent, so we cannot end up in $H^{s_1+|\alpha|}$ if s_1 is close to $d/2$ and $|\alpha| = 1$.

Similarly, the factor $\theta_0(z) = w - 1$ does not give extra smallness if it is the first or last factor. This is why we need the extra factor w in Theorem 1.1 (see Remark 2.2 above).

Proof of Proposition 4.3. ● Let $\gamma > 0$ to be chosen small enough. Let G_0 and G_∞ be given by Lemma 3.6. Let $R_\infty(z')$ and $R_\infty^{[n]}(z')$ be defined like $R(z')$ and $R^{[n]}(z')$ with G replaced by G_∞. Then Proposition 4.2 applies to $R_\infty(z')$.

● Let $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{N}^d$ with $|\alpha_1|, |\alpha_2| \leqslant 1$. We prove

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta_1} D^{\alpha_1} R^{[n]}(z') D^{\alpha_2}\langle x\rangle^{-\delta_2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C|z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+|\alpha_1|+|\alpha_2|, 2n)}. \tag{4.9}$$

With $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$ this will give (4.3). Since we can choose s_1 and s_2 smaller, it is enough to consider the case $s_1 + s_2 \leqslant 2n - |\alpha_1| - |\alpha_2|$. We first prove (4.9) with $R^{[n]}(z')$ replaced by $R_\infty^{[n]}(z')$. By Remark 3.2, multiplication by w defines a bounded operator on H_z^s uniformly in z for any $s \in {]}{-}d/2, d/2[$. With Proposition 4.2, we find that the operator

$R_\infty^{[n]}(z')$ is uniformly bounded in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-s_2-|\alpha_2|}, H_z^{s_1+|\alpha_1|})$ if $\gamma > 0$ was chosen small enough, and then $D^{\alpha_1} R_\infty^{[n]}(z') D^{\alpha_2}$ is of size $O(|z|^{|\alpha_1|+|\alpha_2|})$ in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-s_2}, H_z^{s_1})$. Then (4.9) for $R_\infty^{[n]}(z')$ follows from Lemma 3.4.

• Similarly, we prove (4.4) for $R_\infty^{[n_1]}(z')$ with an additional derivative. Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ with $|\alpha| \leqslant 1$. We consider the case $s_1 + s_2 \leqslant 2n_1 + 2n_2 - 2\sigma - |\alpha| - \rho$. Assume that $\alpha = 0$ or $\sigma = 0$ or $n_1 > 1$ or $s_1 < d/2 - \rho$. Then there exists $s \in]-d/2 + \rho, d/2[$ such that

$$s_1 + |\alpha| - 2n_1 + \sigma + \rho \leqslant s \leqslant -s_2 + 2n_2 - \sigma. \qquad (4.10)$$

Then $R_0^{[n_2]}(z')$ is uniformly bounded in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-s_2}, H_z^{s+\sigma})$, by Proposition 3.5 applied with $\rho' = \rho$ the operator $\theta_\sigma(z)$ is of size $O(|z|^\rho)$ in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s+\sigma}, H_z^{s-\sigma-\rho})$ and finally $D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n_1]}(z')$ is of size $O(|z|^{|\alpha|})$ in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^{s-\sigma-\rho}, H_z^{s_1})$ if $\gamma > 0$ is small enough. With Lemma 3.4 this gives

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n_1]}(z') \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(z') \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2}\| \lesssim |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+\rho+|\alpha|,2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}. \qquad (4.11)$$

Notice that this does not apply if $|\alpha| = 1$, $\sigma = 1$, $n_1 = 1$ and $s_1 \geqslant d/2 - \rho$, since then no s smaller than $d/2$ satisfies (4.10).

• Now we finish the proof of (4.9). Using the resolvent identity

$$R(z') = R_\infty(z') + R_\infty(z') \Delta_{G_0} R_\infty(z') + R_\infty(z') \Delta_{G_0} R(z') \Delta_{G_0} R_\infty(z'),$$

we check by induction on $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ that we can write $R^{[n]}(z')$ as a sum of terms of the form

$$T(z') = R_\infty^{[n_0]}(z') B_1(z') R_\infty^{[n_1]}(z') B_2(z') \ldots R_\infty^{[n_{k-1}]}(z') B_k(z') R_\infty^{[n_k]}(z'),$$

where $k \in \mathbb{N}$, $n_0, \ldots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ are such that $n_0 + \cdots + n_k = n + k$, and for $j \in \{1, \ldots, k\}$ the operator $B_j(z')$ is equal to $|z'|^{-2} \Delta_{G_0}$ or $|z'|^{-2} \Delta_{G_0} R(z') \Delta_{G_0}$. By Proposition 4.1, an operator of the form $D_{\ell_1} R(z') D_{\ell_2}$, $1 \leqslant \ell_1, \ell_2 \leqslant d$, extends to a bounded operator on L^2 uniformly in $z' \in \mathbb{D}_1$. Using (4.9) proved for R_∞, the compactness of the support of G_0 and the derivatives given by the operator Δ_{G_0}, we obtain

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} D^{\alpha_1} T(z') D^{\alpha_2} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim \sum_{\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_{2k}=1}^d \mathcal{N}_{\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_{2k}},$$

where

$$\mathcal{N}_{\ell_1, \ldots, \ell_{2k}}$$
$$\lesssim \frac{1}{|z|^{2k}} \|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} D^{\alpha_1} R_\infty^{[n_0]}(z') D_{\ell_1} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2}\|$$
$$\times \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} \|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} D_{\ell_{2j}} R_\infty^{[n_j]}(z') D_{\ell_{2j+1}} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2}\| \|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} D_{\ell_{2k}} R_\infty^{[n_k]}(z') D^{\alpha_2} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2}\|$$
$$\lesssim |z|^{-2k} |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+|\alpha_1|+1,2n_0)} \prod_{j=1}^{k-1} |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+2,2n_j)} |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+1+|\alpha_2|,2n_k)}.$$

We can check that this gives (4.9) if one of the minima is equal to the first argument. Otherwise the sum of the powers of $|z|$ is equal to $-2k + \sum_{j=0}^{k} 2n_j = 2n$. Then we also have (4.9) and hence (4.3).

• For (4.4) we replace $R^{[n_1]}(z')$ by the following expression, also given by the resolvent identity:

$$R^{[n_1]}(z') = R_\infty^{[n_1]}(z') + \frac{1}{|z|^2} \sum_{k=1}^{n_1} R^{[k]}(z') \Delta_{G_0} R_\infty^{[n_1-k+1]}(z'). \qquad (4.12)$$

The contribution of the term $R_\infty^{[n_1]}(z')$ in (4.4) is already estimated by (4.11) applied with $\alpha = 0$. We set $s_1' = \max(s_1 - 1, 0) < d/2 - \rho$ and consider $\delta_1' > s_1'$. Let $k \in \{1, \dots, n_1\}$. By (4.9) and (4.11) we have

$$\frac{1}{|z|^2} \| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} R^{[k]}(z') \Delta_{G_0} R_\infty^{[n_1-k+1]}(z') \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(z') \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2} \|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)}$$

$$\lesssim \frac{1}{|z|^2} \sum_{\ell_1, \ell_2 = 1}^{d} \| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1} R^{[k]}(z') D_{\ell_1} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2} \|$$

$$\times \| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_1'} D_{\ell_2} R_\infty^{[n_1-k+1]}(z') \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(z') \langle x \rangle^{-\delta_2} \|$$

$$\lesssim |z|^{-2} |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+1, 2k)} |z|^{\min(s_1'+s_2+1+\rho, 2(n_1-k+1)+2n_2-2\sigma)}$$

$$\lesssim |z|^{\min(s_1+s_2+\rho, 2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}.$$

This concludes the proof of (4.4).

• We turn to the proofs of (4.5)–(4.8). We can forget the factor w in (4.5) and (4.8) since it commutes with $\langle rx \rangle^\delta$ and defines a bounded operator on L^2. As above, for (4.5), (4.6) and (4.8) we first give a proof for $R_\infty(ir)$ with an additional derivative, and then we deduce the general case with (4.12) and (4.9). We begin with (4.5). Let $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{N}^d$ with $|\beta| \leq 2k$. Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ with $|\alpha| \leq 1$. We can write $\langle rx \rangle^{-2k} D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n]}(ir)(rx)^\beta$ as a sum of terms of the form

$$\langle rx \rangle^{-2k} (rx)^{\beta_1} \mathsf{ad}_{rx}^{\beta_2}(D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n]}(ir)),$$

where $\beta_1 + \beta_2 = \beta$. Assume that $s \leq 2n - |\alpha|$. By Lemma 3.7, Proposition 4.2 and (3.3), the operator $\mathsf{ad}_{rx}^{\beta_2}(D^\alpha R^{[n]}(ir))$ is of size $O(r^{|\alpha|})$ in $\mathscr{L}(L^2, H_r^s)$. Since $\langle rx \rangle^{-2k}(rx)^{\beta_1}$ is uniformly bounded in $\mathscr{L}(H_r^s)$, this proves that $\langle rx \rangle^{-2k} D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n]}(ir) \langle rx \rangle^{2k}$ is of size $O(r^{|\alpha|})$ in $\mathscr{L}(L^2, H_r^s)$ for any $k \in \mathbb{N}$. By interpolation we get

$$\| \langle rx \rangle^{-\delta} D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n]}(ir) \langle rx \rangle^\delta \|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2, H_r^s)} \lesssim r^{|\alpha|}.$$

On the other hand, by Lemma 3.4,

$$\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \langle rx \rangle^\delta \|_{\mathscr{L}(H_r^s, L^2)} \lesssim \| (1 + |rx|^\delta) \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \|_{\mathscr{L}(H_r^s, L^2)}$$

$$\lesssim \| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \|_{\mathscr{L}(H_r^s, L^2)} + r^\delta \| |x|^\delta \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)}$$

$$\lesssim r^s.$$

These estimates together prove

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim r^{\min(s+|\alpha|,2n)}. \tag{4.13}$$

If $n_1 \neq 1$ or $\alpha = 0$ or $s < d/2 - \rho$ or $\sigma = 0$, we similarly prove

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D^\alpha R_\infty^{[n_1]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim r^{\min(s+\rho+|\alpha|,2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}. \tag{4.14}$$

Finally, we also have (4.8) with $R^{[n_1]}(ir)$ replaced by $R_\infty^{[n_1]}(ir)$.

• Let $k \in \{1,\dots,n\}$. By (4.9) and (4.13) we have

$$\frac{1}{r^2}\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D^\alpha R^{[k]}(ir)\Delta_{G_0} R_\infty^{[n-k+1]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|$$

$$\lesssim \frac{1}{r^2}\sum_{\ell_1,\ell_2=1}^d \|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D^\alpha R^{[k]}(ir)D_{\ell_1}\| \, \|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D_{\ell_2} R_\infty^{[n-k+1]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|$$

$$\lesssim r^{-2} r^{\min(s+|\alpha|+1,2k)} r^{\min(s+1,2(n-k+1))} \lesssim r^{\min(s+|\alpha|,2n)}.$$

With (4.12) and (4.13) this proves

$$\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D^\alpha R^{[n]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim r^{\min(s+|\alpha|,2n)}. \tag{4.15}$$

This gives (4.5). Similarly,

$$\|\langle rx\rangle^\delta R^{[n]}(ir) D^\alpha \langle x\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim r^{\min(s+|\alpha|,2n)}. \tag{4.16}$$

This gives (4.7) as a particular case.

• We finish the proof of (4.6) as we did for (4.4). We set $s' = \max(s - \rho, 0)$ and for $k \in \{1,\dots,n_1\}$ we use (4.9) and (4.14) to write

$$\frac{1}{r^2}\|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[k]}(ir)\Delta_{G_0} R_\infty^{[n_1-k+1]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|$$

$$\lesssim \frac{1}{r^2}\sum_{\ell_1,\ell_2=1}^d \|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[k]}(ir)D_{\ell_1}\langle x\rangle^{-\rho_0}\|$$

$$\times \|\langle x\rangle^{-\delta} D_{\ell_2} R_\infty^{[n_1-k+1]}(ir)\theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^\delta\|$$

$$\lesssim r^{-2} r^{\min(s+\rho+1,2k)} r^{\min(s'+1+\rho,2(n_1-k+1)+2n_2-2\sigma)}$$

$$\lesssim r^{\min(s+\rho,2n_1+2n_2-2\sigma)}.$$

Finally, the proof of (4.8) similarly follows from (4.12), the fact that it is already proved for R_∞ and, for $k \in \{1,\dots,n_1\}$, (4.16) and (4.11) applied with $s_1 = 0$ and $s_2 = s$. ∎

To finish the proof of Proposition 2.5 we have to replace $\langle rx\rangle^\delta$ by $\langle A_z\rangle^\delta$ in (4.5)–(4.8). For this we use again elliptic regularity to compensate for the derivatives which appear in $\langle A_z\rangle^\delta$.

Proposition 4.5. *Let $\delta \geqslant 0$ and let $n \geq \delta$ be an even integer. Then there exists $C > 0$ such that all $r \in \;]0, 1]$ we have*

$$\|\langle rx\rangle^{-\delta} R^{[n]}(ir)w\langle A_r\rangle^{\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C, \quad \|\langle A_r\rangle^{\delta} w R^{[n]}(ir)\langle rx\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant C.$$

Moreover, the same estimates hold with $R^{[n]}(ir)$ and w replaced by $R_0^{[n]}(ir)$ and 1.

Proof. We prove the first estimate; the second is similar. We start by proving by induction on $k \in \mathbb{N}$ that for $n \geqslant k$ and $\mu \in \mathbb{N}^d$ we have

$$\|\langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu}(R^{[n]}(ir)w)A_r^k\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \lesssim 1. \tag{4.17}$$

The case $k = 0$ is given by Proposition 4.1 (we use the convention that $R^{[0]}(ir)w = \mathsf{Id}$). Let $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $n \geqslant k$ and $\mu \in \mathbb{N}^d$. We can write $\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu}(R^{[n]}(ir)w)$ as a sum of terms of the form $\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir)w)\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_2}(R(ir)w)$ where $\mu_1 + \mu_2 = \mu$. For such a term we have

$$\langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir)w)\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_2}(R(ir)w)A_r^k$$
$$= \sum_{j=0}^{k} \langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir)w)A_r^j \mathrm{ad}_{A_r}^{k-j}\big(\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_2}(R(ir)w)\big).$$

For the contribution of $j \in \{0, \dots, k-1\}$ we apply the induction assumption, Proposition 4.1 and (3.5) to get a uniform bound in $\mathcal{L}(L^2)$. Now we consider the term corresponding to $j = k$. By (3.4) we have

$$A_r^k = A_r^{k-1}\frac{ix \cdot \nabla\chi_r - id(1-\chi_r)}{2} + A_r^{k-1}(1-\chi_r)\sum_{\ell=1}^{d} rx_\ell \cdot r^{-1}D_\ell.$$

The contribution of the first term is estimated as before (note that $x \cdot \nabla\chi_r$ is uniformly bounded). Now let $\ell \in \{1, \dots, d\}$. By Proposition 4.1 again, $r^{-1}D_\ell \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_2}(R(ir)w)$ is a uniformly bounded operator in $\mathcal{L}(L^2)$. On the other hand, by (3.7) we have

$$\langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir)w)A_r^{k-1} rx_\ell$$
$$= \langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir)w) rx_\ell(A_r - i(1-\chi_r))^{k-1}$$
$$= rx_\ell\langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir)w)(A_r - i(1-\chi_r))^{k-1}$$
$$+ \langle rx\rangle^{-k} \mathrm{ad}_{rx_\ell}\big(\mathrm{ad}_{rx}^{\mu_1}(R^{[n-1]}(ir))\big)(A_r - i(1-\chi_r))^{k-1}.$$

Both terms are estimated with the induction assumption, and (4.17) is proved. With $\mu = 0$ this gives the first estimate of the proposition when δ is an even integer. The general case follows by interpolation. ∎

5. The commutators method

In this section we prove Theorem 2.3. The proof relies on the abstract positive commutators method. Compared to the already known versions, we show that we can apply the result to operators like $R(z)$ even though they are not exactly resolvents, and that the

estimates for the powers of the resolvent can in fact be applied to a product of different operators. Notice that we will not use the selfadjointness of the original operator P. The method can be naturally adapted to dissipative operators.

5.1. Abstract uniform estimates

Let $\mathcal{H}$ and $\mathcal{K}$ be as at the beginning of Section 3.3.

For $Q \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ we have $Q^* \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$. We set $\mathsf{Re}(Q) = (Q + Q^*)/2$ and $\mathsf{Im}(Q) = (Q - Q^*)/2i$. We define the real and imaginary parts of $R \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ similarly. We say that $Q \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ is *non-negative* if $\langle Q\varphi, \varphi \rangle_{\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}} \geqslant 0$ for all $\varphi \in \mathcal{K}$, and that $R \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ is *non-negative* if $\langle \psi, R\psi \rangle_{\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}} \geqslant 0$ for all $\psi \in \mathcal{K}^*$. Finally, we say that Q is *dissipative* if $\mathsf{Im}(Q) \leqslant 0$.

We consider $Q \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ with negative imaginary part: there exists $c_0 > 0$ such that

$$Q_+ := -\mathsf{Im}(Q) \geqslant c_0 \mathcal{I},$$

where $\mathcal{I} \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ is the natural embedding. By the Lax–Milgram Theorem, Q has an inverse in $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$.

Let A be a selfadjoint operator on $\mathcal{H}$. We use the notation of Section 3.2.

Definition 5.1. Let $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\Upsilon \geqslant 1$. We say that A is Υ-*conjugate to Q up to order N* if the following conditions are satisfied:

(H1) For $\varphi \in \mathcal{K}$ we have $\|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leqslant \Upsilon \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{K}}$.

(H2) For all $\theta \in [-1, 1]$ the propagator $e^{-i\theta A} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ defines by restriction a bounded operator on $\mathcal{K}$.

(H3) Q belongs to $\bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^{N+1}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ with $\|Q\|_{\bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^{N+1}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)} \leqslant \Upsilon$ and $Q_+ \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^1(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ with $\|Q_+\|_{\bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^1(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)} \leqslant \Upsilon$.

(H4) There exist $Q_\perp \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ dissipative, $Q_\perp^+ \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ non-negative and $\Pi \in \mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})$ such that, with $\Pi_\perp = \mathsf{Id}_{\mathcal{K}} - \Pi \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})$,

(a) $Q = Q_\perp - iQ_\perp^+$,

(b) $\|Q_\perp^+\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)} \leqslant \Upsilon$, $\|\Pi\|_{\mathcal{C}_A^1(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})} \leqslant \Upsilon$, and $\|\Pi\varphi\|_{\mathcal{K}} \leqslant \Upsilon \|\Pi\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}$ for $\varphi \in \mathcal{H}$,

(c) $Q_\perp$ has an inverse $R_\perp \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ which satisfies $\|\Pi_\perp R_\perp\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})} \leqslant \Upsilon$ and $\|R_\perp \Pi_\perp^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})} \leqslant \Upsilon$.

(H5) There exists $\beta \in [0, \Upsilon]$ such that if we set

$$M = i\,\mathsf{ad}_A(Q) + \beta Q_+ \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*),$$

then in the sense of quadratic forms on $\mathcal{H}$ we have

$$\Pi^* \mathsf{Re}(M) \Pi \geqslant \Upsilon^{-1} \Pi^* \mathcal{I} \Pi.$$

The main assumption in this definition is (H5). The uniform estimates given by the commutators method are the following. We give a proof adapted to this setting in Section 5.4.

Theorem 5.2. *Let $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ and $\Upsilon \geqslant 1$. Assume that A is Υ-conjugate to Q up to order N.*

(i) *Let $\delta > 1/2$. There exists $C > 0$ which only depends on Υ and δ such that*

$$\|\langle A \rangle^{-\delta} Q^{-1} \langle A \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C. \tag{5.1}$$

(ii) *Assume that $N \geqslant 2$ and let $\delta_1, \delta_2 \geqslant 0$ be such that $\delta_1 + \delta_2 < N - 1$. There exists $C > 0$ which only depends on N, Υ, δ_1 and δ_2 such that*

$$\|\langle A \rangle^{\delta_1} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) Q^{-1} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A) \langle A \rangle^{\delta_2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C. \tag{5.2}$$

(iii) *Assume that $N \geqslant 2$ and let $\delta \in \,]1/2, N[$. There exists $C > 0$ which only depends on N, Υ and δ such that*

$$\|\langle A \rangle^{-\delta} Q^{-1} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A) \langle A \rangle^{\delta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C, \tag{5.3}$$

$$\|\langle A \rangle^{\delta-1} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) Q^{-1} \langle A \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C. \tag{5.4}$$

We explain the notation of Definition 5.1 on the model case of the free Laplacian with the generator of dilations (2.8) as the commutator. To get estimates on $\mathcal{H} = L^2$ for the resolvent $(-\Delta - \zeta)^{-1}$ with $\mathsf{Im}(\zeta) > 0$ and $\mathsf{Re}(\zeta)$ close to some $E > 0$, we choose $Q = -\Delta - \zeta$ (seen as a bounded operator from $\mathcal{K} = H^1$ to $H^{-1} \simeq \mathcal{K}^*$, this last identification being semilinear) and in particular we have $Q_+ = \mathsf{Im}(\zeta)$. Then we set $\Pi = \mathbb{1}_{[E/2,3E/2]}(-\Delta) = \mathbb{1}_{[-E/2,E/2]}(-\Delta - E)$, $Q_\perp = Q$, $Q_\perp^+ = 0$ and $\beta = 0$. Since

$$\Pi[-\Delta, iA]\Pi = -2\Delta \mathbb{1}_{[-E/2,E/2]}(-\Delta - E) \geqslant -E\Delta,$$

the commutators method gives in particular a uniform bound in L^2 for

$$\langle A \rangle^{-\delta}(-\Delta - \zeta)^{-1}\langle A \rangle^{-\delta},$$

from which we can deduce an estimate for the resolvent in $\mathcal{L}(L^{2,\delta}, L^{2,-\delta})$. Our proof in the next subsection is a perturbation of this model case with $\zeta = z^2$ and E of order $|z|^2$.

5.2. Application to the Schrödinger operator

In this subsection we apply the abstract commutators method to prove uniform estimates for $R(z)$. For $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{I}$, Theorem 2.3 follows from Proposition 4.3 applied with $z' = z$ and $s_1 = s_2 = 0$. Thus, it is enough to prove Theorem 2.3 for z in

$$\mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R} = \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+ \cup \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^-, \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^\pm = \{z \in \mathbb{D}_+ : \pm 2\mathsf{Re}(z^2) \geqslant |z|^2\}.$$

We prove all the intermediate estimates for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$ and, in the end, we will deduce Theorem 2.3 for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^-$ by a duality argument. We begin with estimates for a single resolvent.

Proposition 5.3. *Let $\delta > 1/2$ and $\delta_1, \delta_2 \in \mathbb{R}$. There exists $C > 0$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$ we have*

$$\|\langle A_z \rangle^{-\delta} R(z) \langle A_z \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{c}{|z|^2}, \tag{5.5}$$

$$\|\langle A_z \rangle^{\delta_1} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A_z) R(z) \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A_z) \langle A_z \rangle^{\delta_2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{c}{|z|^2}, \tag{5.6}$$

$$\|\langle A_z\rangle^{-\delta} R(z)\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A_z)\langle A_z\rangle^{\delta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{c}{|z|^2}, \tag{5.7}$$

$$\|\langle A_z\rangle^{\delta-1}\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A_z)R(z)\langle A_z\rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{c}{|z|^2}. \tag{5.8}$$

To prove Proposition 5.3, we apply Theorem 5.2 to $|z|^{-2}P(z)$ (seen as an operator in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})$ uniformly in $z \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathsf{R}}^+$) and for any $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Then Proposition 5.3 is a consequence of Theorem 5.2 and Proposition 5.4 below.

In the proof of Proposition 5.4 we will use the Helffer–Sjöstrand formula. Let A be a selfadjoint operator on a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$, $m \geqslant 2$ and let $\phi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be such that $|\phi^{(k)}(\tau)| \lesssim_k \langle\tau\rangle^{-k-\kappa}$ for some $\kappa > 0$ and for all $k \in \{0, \ldots, m+1\}$. Then we have

$$\phi(A) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{\partial\tilde{\phi}}{\partial\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta)(A-\zeta)^{-1}\, d\lambda(\zeta), \tag{5.9}$$

where λ is the Lebesgue measure on $\mathbb{C}$ and for some $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}, [0,1])$ supported on $[-2, 2]$ and equal to 1 on $[-1, 1]$ we define the almost analytic extension $\tilde{\phi}$ of ϕ by

$$\tilde{\phi}(\tau + i\mu) = \psi\left(\frac{\mu}{\langle\tau\rangle}\right) \sum_{k=0}^{m} \phi^{(k)}(\tau)\frac{(i\mu)^k}{k!}.$$

In particular,

$$\left|\frac{\partial\tilde{\phi}}{\partial\bar{\zeta}}(\tau + i\mu)\right| \lesssim \mathbb{1}_{\langle\tau\rangle\leqslant|\mu|\leqslant2\langle\tau\rangle}\langle\tau\rangle^{-1-\kappa} + \mathbb{1}_{|\mu|\leqslant2\langle\tau\rangle}|\mu|^m\langle\tau\rangle^{-1-\kappa-m}.$$

See for instance [12, Section 8] or [10].

Proposition 5.4. *Let $N \in \mathbb{N}$. There exist $\chi \in C_0^\infty$ and $\Upsilon \geqslant 1$ such that for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathsf{R}}^+$ the operator A_z defined by* (2.11) *is Υ-conjugate to $|z|^{-2}P(z) \in \mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})$ up to order N.*

Proof. • Assumption (H1) is clear in our setting and (H2) follows from (2.10). For any $\chi \in C_0^\infty$, the fact that $|z|^2 P(z)$ is uniformly in $\mathcal{C}_{A_z}^{N+1}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})$ is given by Proposition 3.8. Finally, $Q_+ = -\mathsf{Im}(P(z)) = \mathsf{Im}(z^2)w$, so Q_+ belongs to $\mathcal{C}_{A_z}^1(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})$ uniformly in z by Lemma 3.7. This gives (H3).

• Now we construct the operator Π_z which appears in (H4) and (H5). For $z \in \mathbb{D}_{\mathsf{R}}^+$ we have already set $P_{\mathsf{R}}(z) = -\Delta_G - w\mathsf{Re}(z^2)$. We similarly define $P_{\mathsf{R}}^0(z) = -\Delta - \mathsf{Re}(z^2)$. These two operators can be seen as selfadjoint operators on L^2 with domain H^2 or as bounded operators from H_z^1 to H_z^{-1}. Let $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}, [0,1])$ be equal to 1 on $[-1, 1]$ and supported in $]-2, 2[$. For $\eta \in]0, 1]$ we set

$$\Pi_{\eta,z} = \phi\left(\frac{P_{\mathsf{R}}(z)}{\eta^2|z|^2}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad \Pi_{\eta,z}^0 = \phi\left(\frac{P_{\mathsf{R}}^0(z)}{\eta^2|z|^2}\right).$$

By the Helffer–Sjöstrand formula (5.9) (applied with $m \geqslant 3$) and the resolvent identity, the difference $\Pi_{\eta,z} - \Pi_{\eta,z}^0$ can be rewritten as

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \frac{\partial\tilde{\phi}}{\partial\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta)\left(\frac{P_{\mathsf{R}}(z)}{\eta^2|z|^2} - \zeta\right)^{-1} \frac{P_{\mathsf{R}}(z) - P_{\mathsf{R}}^0(z)}{\eta^2|z|^2}\left(\frac{P_{\mathsf{R}}^0(z)}{\eta^2|z|^2} - \zeta\right)^{-1} d\lambda(\zeta).$$

We can check that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $\zeta \in 5\mathbb{D} \setminus \mathbb{R}_+$ we have

$$\left\| \left(\frac{P_\mathsf{R}(z)}{\eta^2 |z|^2} - \zeta \right)^{-1} \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-1}, H_z^1)} + \left\| \left(\frac{P_\mathsf{R}^0(z)}{\eta^2 |z|^2} - \zeta \right)^{-1} \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H_z^2)} \lesssim \frac{1}{|\mathsf{Im}(\zeta)|}. \quad (5.10)$$

On the other hand, as in the proof of Proposition 3.5 we can check that

$$\left\| \frac{P_\mathsf{R}(z) - P_\mathsf{R}^0(z)}{\eta^2 |z|^2} \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{1+\rho}, H_z^{-1})} \lesssim \frac{|z|^\rho}{\eta^2}.$$

This proves

$$\left\| \left(\frac{P_\mathsf{R}(z)}{\eta^2 |z|^2} - \zeta \right)^{-1} \frac{P_\mathsf{R}(z) - P_\mathsf{R}^0(z)}{\eta^2 |z|^2} \left(\frac{P_\mathsf{R}^0(z)}{\eta^2 |z|^2} - \zeta \right)^{-1} \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H_z^1)} \lesssim \frac{|z|^\rho}{\eta^2 |\mathsf{Im}(\zeta)|^2}.$$

Since $\partial_{\bar\zeta} \tilde\phi$ is supported in $5\mathbb{D}$ and decays faster than $|\mathsf{Im}(\zeta)|^2$ near the real axis, we deduce

$$\| \Pi_{\eta,z} - \Pi_{\eta,z}^0 \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H_z^1)} \lesssim \frac{|z|^\rho}{\eta^2}. \quad (5.11)$$

There also exists $C > 0$ such that for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $\eta \in {]0, 1]}$ we have

$$\| \Pi_{\eta,z} \|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-1}, H_z^1)} \leqslant C. \quad (5.12)$$

• Let $\tilde\chi \in C_0^\infty$ be equal to 1 on a neighborhood of 0. For $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ we set $\tilde\chi_n(x) = \tilde\chi(nx)$. Since $\tilde\chi$ defines a compact operator from H^1 to L^2 and $\tilde\chi_n$ goes strongly to 0 in L^2 as $n \to \infty$, $\tilde\chi \tilde\chi_n$ goes to 0 in $\mathcal{L}(H^1, L^2)$ as $n \to \infty$. For some n large enough we set $\chi = \tilde\chi \tilde\chi_n$ and we have

$$\| \chi_z \|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, L^2)} = \| \chi \|_{\mathcal{L}(H^1, L^2)} \leqslant \frac{1}{16 C^2},$$

where $C > 0$ is as in (5.12). Then for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_+$ and $\eta \in {]0, 1]}$ we have

$$\| \Pi_{\eta,z} \chi_z \Pi_{\eta,z} \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{1}{16}. \quad (5.13)$$

• We have defined $K(z)$ in (3.10). By (5.12) and Proposition 3.9 there exists $C_1 > 0$ such that

$$\| \Pi_{1,z} K(z) \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} \|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, L^2)} \lesssim \| K(z) \langle zx \rangle^{\rho/2} \|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1})} \leqslant C_1 |z|^2. \quad (5.14)$$

Let $\tau_0 \in [1/\sqrt{2}, 1]$. Since $\langle x \rangle^{-\rho/2} \phi(-\Delta - \tau_0^2)$ is compact as an operator from L^2 to H^1 and $\phi(\frac{-\Delta - \tau_0^2}{16\eta_0^2})$ goes weakly to 0 as η_0 goes to 0, there exists $\eta_0 \in {]0, 1/8]}$ such that

$$\left\| \langle zx \rangle^{-\rho/2} \phi\left(\frac{-\Delta - \tau_0^2 |z|^2}{|z|^2} \right) \phi\left(\frac{-\Delta - \tau_0^2 |z|^2}{16\eta_0^2 |z|^2} \right) \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H_z^1)}$$
$$= \left\| \langle x \rangle^{-\rho/2} \phi(-\Delta - \tau_0^2) \phi\left(\frac{-\Delta - \tau_0^2}{16\eta_0^2} \right) \right\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2, H^1)} \leqslant \frac{1}{8 C_1}. \quad (5.15)$$

If $|\frac{\text{Re}(z^2)}{|z|^2} - \tau_0^2| \leqslant 8\eta_0^2$ we have

$$\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}^0 = \phi\left(\frac{-\Delta - \tau_0^2|z|^2}{|z|^2}\right)\phi\left(\frac{-\Delta - \tau_0^2|z|^2}{16\eta_0^2|z|^2}\right)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}^0.$$

We also have $\Pi_{2\eta_0,z} = \Pi_{2\eta_0,z}\Pi_{1,z}$, so (5.14) and (5.15) give

$$\|\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}K(z)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}^0\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{|z|^2}{8}. \tag{5.16}$$

Since $[1/\sqrt{2}, 1]$ is compact, we can choose η_0 so small that (5.16) holds for any $z \in \mathbb{D}_R^+$. By (5.16), (5.11) and (5.14) there exists $r_0 \in \,]0, 1]$ such that for $z \in \mathbb{D}_R$ with $|z| \leqslant r_0$ we have

$$\|\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}K(z)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{|z|^2}{4}. \tag{5.17}$$

We set

$$\mathbb{D}_R^* = \{z \in \mathbb{D}_R^+ : |z| \geqslant r_0\}.$$

Let $z_0 \in \mathbb{D}_R^*$. The operator $\Pi_{1,z_0}K(z_0)\Pi_{1,z_0}$ is compact on L^2. Since 0 is not an eigenvalue of $P_R(z_0)$, the operator Π_{η,z_0} goes weakly to 0 as η goes to 0, so there exists $\eta_{z_0} \in \,]0, 1]$ such that

$$\|\Pi_{2\eta_{z_0},z_0}K(z_0)\Pi_{2\eta_{z_0},z_0}\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{|z_0|^2}{8}.$$

By continuity with respect to z and compactness of $\mathbb{D}_R^*$, there exists $\eta_0 \in \,]0, 1]$ such that (5.17) holds for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_R^*$, and hence for all $z \in \mathbb{D}_R$. We can also assume that η_0 is so small that

$$2\|P_R(z)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{|z|^2}{8}. \tag{5.18}$$

• Now that η_0 is fixed, we prove that (H4) and (H5) are satisfied. We begin with (H5). We choose $\beta = 0$. Let $z \in \mathbb{D}_R^+$. By definition of $K(z)$ we have

$$\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}[P_R(z), iA_z]\Pi_{2\eta_0,z} = 2\text{Re}(z^2)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}^2 + S(z),$$

where

$$S(z) = -2\text{Re}(z^2)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}\chi_z\Pi_{2\eta_0,z} + 2\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}(1-\chi_z)P_R(z)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}$$
$$+ \Pi_{2\eta_0,z}K(z)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}.$$

By (5.13), (5.18) and (5.17) have

$$\|S(z)\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{|z|^2}{2},$$

and hence

$$\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}[P_R(z), iA_z]\Pi_{2\eta_0,z} \geqslant 2\text{Re}(z^2)\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}^2 - \frac{|z|^2}{2}.$$

Since $2\mathsf{Re}(z^2) \geqslant |z|^2$, after composition with $\Pi_{\eta_0,z}$ on both sides we get

$$\Pi_{\eta_0,z}[P_\mathsf{R}(z), iA_z]\Pi_{\eta_0,z} \geqslant \frac{|z|^2}{2}\Pi_{\eta_0,z}^2.$$

This gives (H5) with $\Pi_z = \Pi_{\eta_0,z}$.

• By the Helffer–Sjöstrand formula as above and Proposition 3.9 we have

$$\|[\Pi_z, iA_z]\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-1},H_z^1)} \lesssim \int_{\mathbb{C}} \left|\frac{\partial\tilde{\phi}}{\partial\bar{\zeta}}(\zeta)\right| \left\|\left[\left(\frac{P_\mathsf{R}(z)}{\eta_0^2|z|^2} - \zeta\right)^{-1}, iA_z\right]\right\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-1},H_z^1)} d\lambda(\zeta)$$

$$\lesssim |z|^{-2}\|[P_\mathsf{R}(z), iA_z]\|_{\mathcal{L}(H_z^1,H_z^{-1})}$$

$$\lesssim 1.$$

We set

$$Q_\perp(z) = \frac{P_\mathsf{R}(z) - i\,\mathsf{Im}(z^2)w_{\min}}{|z|^2} \in \mathcal{L}(H_z^1, H_z^{-1}),$$

where $w_{\min} = \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} w(x) > 0$. Then

$$Q_\perp^+(z) = i(P(z) - Q_\perp(z)) = \mathsf{Im}(z^2)(w - w_{\min})$$

is non-negative, $Q_\perp(z)$ is invertible and by the functional calculus we have

$$\|(1 - \Pi_z)Q_\perp(z)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} = \|Q_\perp(z)^{-1}(1 - \Pi_z)\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2)} \leqslant \frac{1}{\eta_0^2}.$$

As in the case of (5.10), we obtain similar estimates in $\mathcal{L}(H_z^{-1}, H_z^1)$. Finally, since $\Pi_z = \Pi_{2\eta_0,z}\Pi_z$ we have $\|\Pi_z u\|_{H_z^1} \leqslant \|\Pi_{2\eta_0,z}\|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2,H_z^1)}\|\Pi_z u\|_{L^2}$ for all $u \in L^2$. With (5.12) this gives (H4) and the proof is complete. ∎

5.3. Multiple resolvent estimates

In this subsection we generalize the uniform estimates for powers of a resolvent. Compared to the usual setting, we also consider a product of different resolvents. In fact, we can consider the product of any finite sequence of operators having a suitable behavior with respect to the conjugate operator. Everything is based on the following abstract lemma.

Lemma 5.5. *Let $\mathcal{H}$ be a Hilbert space. Let $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, $T_1, \ldots, T_n \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ and $T = T_1 \ldots T_n$. Let $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$.*

For $j \in \{0, \ldots, n\}$ we consider on $\mathcal{H}$ a (possibly unbounded) selfadjoint operator $\Theta_j \geqslant 1$, and $\Pi_j^-, \Pi_j^+ \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ such that $\Pi_j^- + \Pi_j^+ = \mathsf{Id}_{\mathcal{H}}$. For $j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ we assume that there exist $\nu_j \geqslant 0$, $\sigma_j \in [0, \nu_j]$ and a collection $\mathcal{C}_j = \{C_j; (C_{j,\delta_1,\delta_2}); (C_{j,\delta})\}$ of constants such that for $\delta_1, \delta_2 \geqslant 0$ with $\delta_1 + \delta_2 < N - \nu_j$ and $\delta \in [\sigma_j, N]$ we have

$$\|\Theta_{j-1}^{-\sigma_j} T_j \Theta_j^{-\sigma_j}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C_j, \tag{5.19}$$

$$\|\Theta_{j-1}^{\delta_1} \Pi_{j-1}^- T_j \Pi_j^+ \Theta_j^{\delta_2}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant C_{j,\delta_1,\delta_2}, \tag{5.20}$$

$$\|\Theta_{j-1}^{\delta-\nu_j}\,\Pi_{j-1}^-\,T_j\,\Theta_j^{-\delta}\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{H})} \leqslant C_{j,\delta}, \tag{5.21}$$

$$\|\Theta_{j-1}^{-\delta}\,T_j\,\Pi_j^+\,\Theta_j^{\delta-\nu_j}\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{H})} \leqslant C_{j,\delta}. \tag{5.22}$$

Let

$$\nu = \sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j, \quad \sigma_+ = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \nu_j + \sigma_n, \quad \sigma_- = \sigma_1 + \sum_{j=2}^n \nu_j.$$

Assume that $N > \nu$. Set $\Pi_- = \Pi_0^-$ and $\Pi_+ = \Pi_n^+$. There exists a collection $\mathscr{C} = \{C; (C_{\delta_-,\delta_+}); (C_\delta^-); (C_\delta^+)\}$ of constants which only depend on the constants $\mathscr{C}_j$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$, and are such that

$$\|\Theta_0^{-\sigma_+}\,T\,\Theta_n^{-\sigma_-}\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{H})} \leqslant C; \tag{5.23}$$

for $\delta_-, \delta_+ \geqslant 0$ such that $\delta_- + \delta_+ < N - \nu$ we have

$$\|\Theta_0^{\delta_-}\,\Pi_-\,T\,\Pi_+\,\Theta_n^{\delta_+}\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{H})} \leqslant C_{\delta_-,\delta_+}; \tag{5.24}$$

for $\delta \in [\sigma_-, N[$ we have

$$\|\Theta_0^{\delta-\nu}\Pi_-\,T\,\Theta_n^{-\delta}\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{H})} \leqslant C_\delta^-; \tag{5.25}$$

and finally, for $\delta \in [\sigma_+, N[$ we have

$$\|\Theta_0^{-\delta}\,T\,\Pi_+\,\Theta_n^{\delta-\nu}\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathscr{H})} \leqslant C_\delta^+. \tag{5.26}$$

Proof. The result is proved by induction on $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, the case $n = 1$ being the assumption. For $n \geqslant 2$ we set $T' = T_1 \ldots T_{n-1}$, $\Pi'_\pm = \Pi_{n-1}^\pm$, $\Theta = \Theta_{n-1}$, $\nu' = \nu_1 + \cdots + \nu_{n-1}$, $\sigma'_+ = \nu_1 + \cdots + \nu_{n-2} + \sigma_{n-1}$ and $\sigma'_- = \sigma_1 + \nu_2 + \cdots + \nu_{n-1}$. To prove (5.23)–(5.26) we insert the sum $\Pi'_- + \Pi'_+$ between T' and T_n, and for each term we insert a factor $\Theta^\gamma \Theta^{-\gamma}$ for a suitable $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ (on the left of Π'_- and on the right of Π'_+). More precisely, for (5.23) we write

$$\|\Theta_0^{-\sigma_+}\,T\,\Theta_n^{-\sigma_-}\| \leqslant \|\Theta_0^{-\sigma_+}\,T'\,\Theta^{-\sigma'_-}\|\,\|\Theta^{\sigma'_-}\Pi'_-\,T_n\,\Theta_n^{-\sigma_-}\|$$
$$+ \|\Theta_0^{-\sigma_+}\,T'\,\Pi'_+\,\Theta^{\sigma_n}\|\,\|\Theta^{-\sigma_n}\,T_n\,\Theta_n^{-\sigma_-}\|.$$

Then we apply (5.21) and (5.19) for T_n, and (5.23) and (5.26) for T'. Similarly, for (5.24) we write

$$\|\Theta_0^{\delta_-}\,\Pi_-\,T\,\Pi_+\,\Theta_n^{\delta_+}\| \leqslant \|\Theta_0^{\delta_-}\,\Pi_-\,T'\,\Theta^{-(\delta_-+\nu')}\|\,\|\Theta^{\delta_-+\nu'}\Pi'_-\,T_n\,\Pi_+\,\Theta_n^{\delta_+}\|$$
$$+ \|\Theta_0^{\delta_-}\,\Pi_-\,T'\,\Pi'_+\,\Theta^{\delta_++\nu_n}\|\,\|\Theta^{-(\delta_++\nu_n)}\,T_n\,\Pi_+\,\Theta_n^{\delta_+}\|,$$

and we apply (5.20) and (5.22) for T_n and (5.25) and (5.24) for T'. Finally, for $\delta \in [\sigma_-, N]$ we have

$$\|\Theta_0^{\delta-\nu}\,\Pi_-\,T\,\Theta_n^{-\delta}\| \leqslant \|\Theta_0^{\delta-\nu}\,\Pi_-\,T'\,\Theta^{-(\delta-\nu_n)}\|\,\|\Theta^{\delta-\nu_n}\Pi'_-\,T_n\,\Theta_n^{-\delta}\|$$
$$+ \|\Theta_0^{\delta-\nu}\,\Pi_-\,T'\,\Pi'_+\,\Theta^{\sigma_n}\|\,\|\Theta^{-\sigma_n}\,T_n\,\Theta_n^{-\delta}\|$$

and, for $\delta \in [\sigma_+, N]$,

$$\|\Theta_0^{-\delta} T \Pi_+ \Theta_n^{\delta-\nu}\| \leqslant \|\Theta_0^{-\delta} T' \Theta^{-\sigma'}\| \, \|\Theta^{\sigma'} \Pi'_- T_n \Pi_+ \Theta_n^{\delta-\nu}\|$$
$$+ \|\Theta_0^{-\delta} T' \Pi'_+ \Theta^{\delta-\nu'}\| \, \|\Theta^{-(\delta-\nu')} T_n \Pi_+ \Theta_n^{\delta-\nu}\|.$$

We deduce (5.25) and (5.26), and the result follows by induction. ∎

It is important that the constants in the conclusion of the lemma only depend on the constants in the assumptions. Thus if for some operators $T_j(z)$, $1 \leqslant j \leqslant n$, the estimates (5.19)–(5.21) are independent of the parameter z, then so are the estimates (5.23)–(5.26).

We will usually apply Lemma 5.5 with $\Theta_j = \langle A \rangle$, $\Pi_j^- = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}^*}(A)$ and $\Pi_j^+ = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A)$, where A is the conjugate operator.

With Proposition 5.3 and Lemma 5.5 we can prove Theorem 2.3. Notice that we have used all the assumptions of Definition 5.1 to prove Proposition 5.3, but for the rest of the proof we no longer need a conjugate operator and only use the estimates of Proposition 5.3.

Proof of Theorem 2.3. For $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$ we apply Lemma 5.5 with factors T_j of the form w or $|z|^2 R(z)$ and constants independent of z. For factors $T_j = w$ we take $\nu_j = \sigma_j = 0$ by Lemma 3.7 and Proposition 3.11, while for factors $T_j = |z|^2 R(z)$ we can choose $\nu_j = 1$ and any $\sigma_j \in \,]1/2, 1]$ by Proposition 5.3. Then the assumptions of Lemma 5.5 hold uniformly in $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$. In particular, (5.23) gives (2.12) for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$.

We turn to (2.13). If $n_1, n_2 \geqslant 2$ we use the resolvent identity (see (2.14) for $R^{[n_1]}(z)$) to write

$$R^{[n_1]}(z) \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[n_2]}(z)$$
$$= \big(R^{[n_1-1]}(z) + (1 + \hat{z}^2) R^{[n_1]}(z)\big) \tilde{\theta}_\sigma(z) \big(R_0^{[n_2-1]}(z) + (1 + \hat{z}^2) R_0^{[n_2]}(z)\big)$$

with $\tilde{\theta}_\sigma(z) = w R^{[1]}(ir) \theta_\sigma(z) R_0^{[1]}(ir)$ $(r = |z|)$. Since $|z|^{-\rho} \tilde{\theta}_\sigma(z)$ belongs to $\mathcal{C}_{A_z}^N(L^2)$ with a norm uniform in $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}$, we deduce (2.13) for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$. The proof is similar if $n_1 = 1$ or $n_2 = 1$.

We similarly prove, for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^+$,

$$\|\langle A_z \rangle^{-\delta} R_0^{[n_2]}(z) \theta_\sigma(z) R^{[n_1]}(z) \langle A_z \rangle^{-\delta}\|_{\mathscr{L}(L^2)} \lesssim |z|^\rho. \tag{5.27}$$

Taking the adjoint in (2.12) and (5.27), we get (2.12) and (2.13) for $z \in \mathbb{D}_\mathsf{R}^-$, and the proof of Theorem 2.3 is complete. ∎

5.4. *Proof of the abstract resolvent estimates*

In this subsection we prove Theorem 5.2. The strategy is inspired by the original papers [17, 19, 21] and the earlier dissipative versions [7, 25, 26], but we need a proof adapted to our setting. For the reader's convenience we provide a self-contained proof. We use the notation introduced in Section 5.1.

For $\varepsilon \in [0,1]$ we set

$$Q_\varepsilon = Q - i\varepsilon \Pi^* M \Pi \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*).$$

By (H5), Q_ε has a negative imaginary part. We set $R_\varepsilon = Q_\varepsilon^{-1} \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$. We prove estimates on R_ε for $\varepsilon \in\,]0,1]$. In the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$ this will give estimates for $R = Q^{-1}$. Note that by assumptions (H3)–(H4) and Proposition 3.10 we have $Q_\varepsilon \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^1(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$. In the following proposition, we check that R_ε also has a nice behavior with respect to A.

Proposition 5.6.   (i) $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$ is dense in $\mathcal{K}$.

(ii) *For $\varepsilon \in\,]0,1]$ we have $R_\varepsilon \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^1(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ with $\mathrm{ad}_A(R_\varepsilon) = -R_\varepsilon \mathrm{ad}_A(Q_\varepsilon) R_\varepsilon$.*

(iii) *R_ε maps $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{H}}$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$ and $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}^*$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{H}}^*$ for all $\varepsilon \in\,]0,1]$.*

Proof. • Assumption (H2) holds for any $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ and the restriction of $e^{-i\theta A}$ defines a one-parameter group $(T_{\mathcal{K}}(\theta))_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}}$ on $\mathcal{K}$. Taking the adjoint also gives a one-parameter group $(T_{\mathcal{K}}^*(\theta))_{\theta \in \mathbb{R}}$ on $\mathcal{K}^*$, and for all $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ the restriction of $T_{\mathcal{K}}^*(\theta)$ to $\mathcal{H}$ is e^{itA}. Since $\mathcal{H}$ is dense in $\mathcal{K}^*$, we can check that $(T_{\mathcal{K}}^*(\theta))$ is strongly continuous on $\mathcal{K}^*$. Then $(T_{\mathcal{K}}(\theta))$ is weakly continuous, and hence strongly continuous (see [13, Theorem I.5.8]). Finally, we check that the generator of $(T_{\mathcal{K}}(\theta))$ is $A_{\mathcal{K}}$, defined on the domain $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$. This gives in particular the first statement by [13, Theorem II.1.4].

• There exist $C \geqslant 1$ and $\omega \geqslant 0$ such that $\|T_{\mathcal{K}}(\theta)\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})} \leqslant Ce^{\omega|\theta|}$ for all $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$ (see [13, Proposition I.5.5]). Then (by [13, Theorem II.1.10]) for $|\mathsf{Im}(\lambda)| > \omega$ we have $\lambda \in \rho(A_{\mathcal{K}})$ and

$$\|(A_{\mathcal{K}} - \lambda)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})} \leqslant \frac{C}{|\mathsf{Im}(\lambda)| - \omega}.$$

In particular, $A_{\mathcal{K}}(A_{\mathcal{K}} - i\mu)^{-1}$ and $-i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}} - i\mu)^{-1}$ go strongly to 0 and $\mathsf{Id}_{\mathcal{K}}$, respectively, as $\mu \to \pm\infty$.

• For $\mu > \omega$ we set $A_{\mathcal{K}}(\mu) = -i\mu A_{\mathcal{K}}(A_{\mathcal{K}} - i\mu)^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})$. In $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ we have

$$R_\varepsilon A_{\mathcal{K}}(-\mu)^* - A_{\mathcal{K}}(\mu) R_\varepsilon = R_\varepsilon \big(A_{\mathcal{K}}(-\mu)^* Q_\varepsilon - Q_\varepsilon A_{\mathcal{K}}(\mu) \big) R_\varepsilon, \tag{5.28}$$

and in $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
A_{\mathcal{K}}(-\mu)^* Q_\varepsilon - Q_\varepsilon A_{\mathcal{K}}(\mu) = {} & i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}}^* - i\mu)^{-1}(A_{\mathcal{K}}^* Q_\varepsilon - Q_\varepsilon A_{\mathcal{K}}) i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}} - i\mu)^{-1} \\
& - i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}}^* - i\mu)^{-1} A_{\mathcal{K}}^* Q_\varepsilon \big(i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}} - i\mu)^{-1} + 1 \big) \\
& + \big(i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}}^* - i\mu)^{-1} + 1 \big) Q_\varepsilon A_{\mathcal{K}} i\mu(A_{\mathcal{K}} - i\mu)^{-1}.
\end{aligned}
$$

This goes strongly to $-\mathrm{ad}_A(Q_\varepsilon)$ as $\mu \to +\infty$. Then, taking the strong limit in (5.28) gives, in $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*}, \mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*}^*)$,

$$R_\varepsilon A_{\mathcal{K}}^* - A_{\mathcal{K}}^* R_\varepsilon = -R_\varepsilon \mathrm{ad}_A(Q_\varepsilon) R_\varepsilon \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}).$$

This proves the second statement. By Proposition 3.10, R_ε maps $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}^*}$ (and in particular $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{H}}$) to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$. We similarly prove that R_ε^* maps $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{H}}$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}$, so R_ε also maps $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{K}}^*$ to $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{H}}^*$. ∎

The Mourre method relies on the so-called quadratic estimates. Here we will use the following version.

Proposition 5.7. *Let $\tilde{Q} \in \bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ be dissipative. Assume that $\tilde{Q}$ has an inverse $\tilde{R}$ in $\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$. Let $\tilde{Q}_+ \in \bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ be such that $0 \leqslant \tilde{Q}_+ \leqslant -\mathsf{Im}(\tilde{Q})$. Then*

$$\tilde{R}^* \tilde{Q}_+ \tilde{R} \leqslant \mathsf{Im}(\tilde{R}) \quad and \quad \tilde{R}\tilde{Q}_+ \tilde{R}^* \leqslant \mathsf{Im}(\tilde{R}).$$

Proof. We simply observe that

$$\tilde{R}^* \tilde{Q}_+ \tilde{R} \leqslant \frac{\tilde{R}^*(\tilde{Q}^* - \tilde{Q})\tilde{R}}{2i} = \frac{\tilde{R} - \tilde{R}^*}{2i} = \mathsf{Im}(\tilde{R}).$$

The second estimate is similar. ∎

Remark 5.8. Given two Hilbert spaces $\mathcal{K}_1$ and $\mathcal{K}_2$, $T_1 \in \mathscr{L}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K})$ and $T_2 \in \mathscr{L}(\mathcal{K}_2, \mathcal{K})$, by the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality applied to the quadratic form $\varphi \mapsto \langle Q_+\varphi, \varphi \rangle_{\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}}$ we have

$$\|T_1^* Q_+ T_2\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_2, \mathcal{K}_1^*)} \leqslant \|T_1^* Q_+ T_1\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_1^*)}^{1/2} \|T_2^* Q_+ T_2\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_2, \mathcal{K}_2^*)}^{1/2}.$$

With assumption (H5) we can apply the quadratic estimates to R_ε. This gives the following properties.

Proposition 5.9. *Let $\mathcal{K}_0 \in \{\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K}^*\}$. Let $\Theta \in \mathscr{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}_0)$. There exists $C > 0$ which only depends on Υ and such that for all $\varepsilon \in]0, 1]$ we have*

$$\|\Pi R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} + \|\Theta R_\varepsilon \Pi^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}_0)} \leqslant \frac{C}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \|\Theta R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}_0)}^{1/2}, \tag{5.29}$$

$$\|\Pi_\perp R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} + \|\Theta R_\varepsilon \Pi_\perp^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}_0)} \leqslant C(\|\Theta\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}_0)} + \|\Theta R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}_0)}^{1/2}), \tag{5.30}$$

$$\|R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} + \|\Theta R_\varepsilon\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K}_0)} \leqslant C\left(\|\Theta\|_{\mathscr{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}_0)} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} \|\Theta R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}_0)}^{1/2}\right). \tag{5.31}$$

Proof. • By (H5) we have $\varepsilon \Pi^* \Pi \leqslant \varepsilon \Upsilon \mathsf{Re}(\Pi^* M \Pi) \leqslant -\Upsilon \mathsf{Im}(Q_\varepsilon)$, so we can apply Proposition 5.7 with $\tilde{Q} = \Upsilon Q_\varepsilon$ and $\tilde{Q}_+ = \varepsilon \Pi^* \Pi$. This gives

$$\varepsilon \Theta R_\varepsilon^* \Pi^* \Pi R_\varepsilon \Theta^* \lesssim \Theta \mathsf{Im}(R_\varepsilon)\Theta^*.$$

With (H4) we obtain, for $\varphi \in \mathcal{K}_0^*$,

$$\|\Pi R_\varepsilon \Theta^* \varphi\|_{\mathcal{K}}^2 \lesssim \|\Pi R_\varepsilon \Theta^* \varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 = \langle \Theta R_\varepsilon^* \Pi^* \Pi R_\varepsilon \Theta^* \varphi, \varphi \rangle_{\mathcal{K}_0, \mathcal{K}_0^*}$$

$$\lesssim \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \mathsf{Im}\langle \Theta R_\varepsilon \Theta^* \varphi, \varphi \rangle_{\mathcal{K}_0, \mathcal{K}_0^*}.$$

This gives the first part of (5.29). Similarly,

$$\|\Pi R_\varepsilon^* \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{-1/2} \|\Theta R_\varepsilon \Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathscr{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}^0)}^{1/2}.$$

Taking the adjoint concludes the proof of (5.29).

• We have $Q_\varepsilon = Q_\perp - iQ_\perp^+ - i\varepsilon\Pi^*M\Pi$. With the resolvent identity we have, in $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})$,

$$\Pi_\perp R_\varepsilon\Theta^* = \Pi_\perp R_\perp\Theta^* + i\Pi_\perp R_\perp Q_\perp^+ R_\varepsilon\Theta^* + i\varepsilon\Pi_\perp R_\perp\Pi^*M\Pi R_\varepsilon\Theta^*. \quad (5.32)$$

By Remark 5.8, (H4) and Proposition 5.7 applied with $\tilde{Q}_+ = Q_\perp^+ \leqslant -\mathsf{Im}(Q_\varepsilon)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\Pi_\perp R_\perp Q_\perp^+ R_\varepsilon\Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} & \\
&\leqslant \|\Pi_\perp R_\perp Q_\perp^+ (\Pi_\perp R_\perp)^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})}^{1/2} \|\Theta R_\varepsilon^* Q_\perp^+ R_\varepsilon\Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}_0)}^{1/2} \\
&\lesssim \|\Theta R_\varepsilon\Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}_0)}^{1/2}.
\end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, by (H4), (H3) and (5.29),

$$\varepsilon\|\Pi_\perp R_\perp\Pi^*M\Pi R_\varepsilon\Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} \lesssim \varepsilon\|\Pi R_\varepsilon\Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K})} \lesssim \sqrt{\varepsilon}\|\Theta R_\varepsilon\Theta^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}_0^*, \mathcal{K}_0)}^{1/2}.$$

The first term in (5.32) is estimated by (H4), and the first part of (5.30) follows. As above, we prove the same estimate for R_ε^* and get the second part by taking the adjoint. Finally, (5.30) and (5.29) give (5.31). ∎

Now we can prove the first part of Theorem 5.2:

Proof of estimate (5.1). Without loss of generality, we can assume that $\delta \in\,]1/2, 1]$.

• For $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ we set $\Theta_\varepsilon = \langle A\rangle^{-\delta}\langle\varepsilon A\rangle^{\delta-1}$. This defines a bounded selfadjoint operator on $\mathcal{H}$ and by the functional calculus we have

$$\|\Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant 1, \quad \|A\Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} + \|\Theta_\varepsilon A\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{\delta-1}, \quad \|\Theta_\varepsilon'\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{\delta-1}, \quad (5.33)$$

where the prime denotes the derivative with respect to ε. We set $F_\varepsilon = \Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon$. By (5.33) and Proposition 5.9 applied with $\Theta = \Theta_\varepsilon$ we get, for $\varepsilon \in\,]0, 1]$,

$$\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant \|R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})} \lesssim 1 + \frac{\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}},$$

and hence

$$\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \frac{1}{\varepsilon}. \quad (5.34)$$

The derivative of F is given by

$$F_\varepsilon' = \Theta_\varepsilon' R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon + \Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon' + i\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon\Pi^*M\Pi R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon.$$

By (5.31) and (5.33) we have

$$\|\Theta_\varepsilon' R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon + \Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon\Theta_\varepsilon'\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{\delta-1}(1 + \varepsilon^{-1/2}\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2}). \quad (5.35)$$

For the last term we write, in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$,

$$\Pi^*M\Pi = M - \Pi^*M\Pi_\perp - \Pi_\perp^*M.$$

By Proposition 5.9 and (H3)–(H4) for M we have

$$\|\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \Pi^* M \Pi_\perp R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} + \|\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \Pi_\perp^* M R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}$$
$$\lesssim 1 + \frac{\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}} + \frac{\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}.$$

It remains to estimate $\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon M R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon$. By Proposition 5.6 we can write

$$\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \mathrm{ad}_A(Q) R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon = \Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon (Q A_\mathcal{K} - A_\mathcal{K}^* Q) R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon$$
$$= \Theta_\varepsilon A R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon - \Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon A \Theta_\varepsilon + i\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \mathrm{ad}_A(\Pi^* M \Pi) R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon.$$

With (5.33) and Proposition 5.9 we get

$$\|\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \mathrm{ad}_A(Q) R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{\delta-1} + \varepsilon^{\delta-3/2}\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2} + \|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}.$$

On the other hand, by Remark 5.8 and Proposition 5.7,

$$\|\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon Q_+ R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant \|\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon Q_+ R_\varepsilon^* \Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2} \|\Theta_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon^* Q_+ R_\varepsilon \Theta_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2} \leqslant \|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}.$$

All these estimates together give

$$\|F_\varepsilon'\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{\delta-1} + \varepsilon^{-1/2}\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} + \varepsilon^{\delta-3/2}\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2}.$$

It is classical (see for instance [19, Lemma 3.3]) that this implies

$$\|F_\varepsilon\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim 1. \tag{5.36}$$

Taking the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$ gives (5.1). ∎

We continue with the proofs of estimates (5.2) to (5.4). For $\varepsilon \in [0,1]$ and $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ we set

$$Q_{N,\varepsilon} = \sum_{j=0}^{N} \frac{\varepsilon^j}{j!} \mathrm{ad}_A^j(Q) \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*).$$

Proposition 5.10. *Let $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$. There exist $\varepsilon_N \in {]}0,1]$ and $c > 0$ which only depend on N and Υ such that for all $\varepsilon \in {]}0, \varepsilon_N]$ the operator $Q_{N,\varepsilon}$ has an inverse $R_{N,\varepsilon} \in \bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ and*

$$\|R_{N,\varepsilon}\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*,\mathcal{K})} \leqslant \frac{c}{\varepsilon}, \quad \|R_{N,\varepsilon}\langle A\rangle^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H},\mathcal{K})} \leqslant \frac{c}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}. \tag{5.37}$$

Moreover, the function $\varepsilon \mapsto R_{N,\varepsilon}$ is differentiable in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{D}_\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{D}_\mathcal{H}^*)$ and

$$R_{N,\varepsilon}' = R_{N,\varepsilon} A_\mathcal{H} - A_\mathcal{H}^* R_{N,\varepsilon} + \frac{\varepsilon^N}{N!} R_{N,\varepsilon} \mathrm{ad}_A^{N+1}(Q) R_{N,\varepsilon}.$$

Proof. • By Proposition 5.9 applied with $\mathcal{K}_0 = \mathcal{K}$ and $\Theta = \mathrm{Id}_\mathcal{K}$ we have

$$\|R_\varepsilon\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*,\mathcal{K})} \lesssim \frac{1}{\varepsilon}, \quad \|\Pi_\perp R_\varepsilon\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*,\mathcal{K})} + \|R_\varepsilon \Pi_\perp^*\|_{\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}^*,\mathcal{K})} \lesssim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}. \tag{5.38}$$

With (5.36) and Proposition 5.9 applied with $\mathcal{K}_0 = \mathcal{H}$ and $\Theta = \langle A \rangle^{-1}$ we also get

$$\| R_\varepsilon \langle A \rangle^{-1} \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{K})} \lesssim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}. \tag{5.39}$$

- We have $Q_{N,\varepsilon} = Q_\varepsilon + P_\varepsilon + \tilde{P}_\varepsilon$ where

$$\tilde{P}_\varepsilon = i \varepsilon \beta \Pi^* Q_+ \Pi + \varepsilon \Pi^* \mathrm{ad}_A(Q) \Pi_\perp + \sum_{j=2}^{N} \frac{\varepsilon^j}{j!} \mathrm{ad}_A^j(Q), \quad P_\varepsilon = \varepsilon \Pi_\perp^* \mathrm{ad}_A(Q).$$

We have $\| \tilde{P}_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)} \lesssim \varepsilon$ and, by (5.38),

$$\| \tilde{P}_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*)} \lesssim \varepsilon \| Q_+ \Pi R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*)} + \varepsilon \| \Pi_\perp R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})} + \varepsilon^2 \| R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})}$$
$$\lesssim \varepsilon \| Q_+ R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*)} + \varepsilon \| Q_+ \Pi_\perp R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*)} + \sqrt{\varepsilon}.$$

By Remark 5.8 and Proposition 5.7 for the first term, and (5.38) for the second, we get

$$\| \tilde{P}_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*)} \lesssim \sqrt{\varepsilon}.$$

In particular, the operator $\mathrm{Id}_{\mathcal{K}^*} + \tilde{P}_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon$ is invertible in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*)$ for ε small enough. Then the operator $\tilde{Q}_\varepsilon = Q_\varepsilon + \tilde{P}_\varepsilon$ is invertible and its inverse $\tilde{R}_\varepsilon$ is given by

$$\tilde{R}_\varepsilon = R_\varepsilon - R_\varepsilon (\mathrm{Id}_{\mathcal{K}^*} + \tilde{P}_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon)^{-1} \tilde{P}_\varepsilon R_\varepsilon.$$

With this expression we can check that $\tilde{R}_\varepsilon$ satisfies the same estimates (5.38)–(5.39) as R_ε. Similarly, we have $\| P_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)} \lesssim \varepsilon$ and

$$\| \tilde{R}_\varepsilon P_\varepsilon \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K})} \lesssim \varepsilon \| \tilde{R}_\varepsilon \Pi_\perp^* \|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})} \lesssim \sqrt{\varepsilon}.$$

Thus for ε small enough the operator $Q_{N,\varepsilon} = \tilde{Q}_\varepsilon + P_\varepsilon$ is invertible and its inverse $R_{N,\varepsilon}$ is given by

$$R_{N,\varepsilon} = \tilde{R}_\varepsilon - \tilde{R}_\varepsilon P_\varepsilon (\mathrm{Id}_{\mathcal{K}} + \tilde{R}_\varepsilon P_\varepsilon)^{-1} \tilde{R}_\varepsilon.$$

We deduce (5.37).

- For the last statement we observe that in $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$ we have

$$Q_{N,\varepsilon}' = \mathrm{ad}_A(Q_{N,\varepsilon}) - \frac{\varepsilon^N}{N!} \mathrm{ad}_A^{N+1}(Q).$$

As in Proposition 5.6 we can check that $R_{N,\varepsilon} \in \bar{\mathcal{C}}_A^1(\mathcal{K}^*, \mathcal{K})$ with

$$\mathrm{ad}_A(R_{N,\varepsilon}) = -R_{N,\varepsilon} \mathrm{ad}_A(Q_{N,\varepsilon}) R_{N,\varepsilon}.$$

We deduce that, in $\bar{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{K}^*)$,

$$R_{N,\varepsilon}' = -R_{N,\varepsilon} Q_{N,\varepsilon}' R_{N,\varepsilon} = \mathrm{ad}_A(R_{N,\varepsilon}) + \frac{\varepsilon^N}{N!} R_{N,\varepsilon} \mathrm{ad}_A^{N+1}(Q) R_{N,\varepsilon}. \qquad \blacksquare$$

Now we can finish the proof of Theorem 5.2.

Proof of estimate (5.2). Let ε_N be given by Proposition 5.10. For $\varepsilon \in \,]0, \varepsilon_N]$ we set, in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$,

$$F_{N,\varepsilon} = \langle A \rangle^{\delta_1} e^{\varepsilon A} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) R_{N,\varepsilon} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A) e^{-\varepsilon A} \langle A \rangle^{\delta_2}.$$

Then in the strong sense we have

$$F'_{N,\varepsilon} = \frac{\varepsilon^N}{N!} \langle A \rangle^{\delta_1} e^{\varepsilon A} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) R_{N,\varepsilon} \operatorname{ad}_A^{N+1}(Q) R_{N,\varepsilon} \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A) e^{-\varepsilon A} \langle A \rangle^{\delta_2}.$$

By Proposition 5.10 and the functional calculus we deduce

$$\|F'_{N,\varepsilon}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{N-\delta_1-2-\delta_2}.$$

Since $N - \delta_1 - \delta_2 - 2 > -1$, this proves that $F_{N,\varepsilon}$ is bounded in $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ uniformly in $\varepsilon \in \,]0, \varepsilon_N]$. ∎

Proof of estimates (5.3) *and* (5.4). ● Let $\eta > 1$. Let $\varepsilon_1 \in \,]0, 1]$ be given by Proposition 5.10. For $\varepsilon \in \,]0, \varepsilon_1]$ we set

$$F_{1,\varepsilon} = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) e^{\varepsilon A} R_{1,\varepsilon} \langle A \rangle^{-\eta}.$$

By Proposition 5.10 we have $\|F_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{-1/2}$. On the other hand

$$F'_{1,\varepsilon} = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) e^{\varepsilon A} R_{1,\varepsilon} A \langle A \rangle^{-\eta} + \varepsilon \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) e^{\varepsilon A} R_{1,\varepsilon} \operatorname{ad}_A^2(Q) R_{1,\varepsilon} \langle A \rangle^{-\eta}. \qquad (5.40)$$

By interpolation we have

$$\|\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) e^{\varepsilon A} R_{1,\varepsilon} \langle A \rangle^{1-\eta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \leqslant \|\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) e^{\varepsilon A} R_{1,\varepsilon}\|^{1/\eta} \|\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) e^{\varepsilon A} R_{1,\varepsilon} \langle A \rangle^{-\eta}\|^{1-1/\eta}$$
$$\lesssim \varepsilon^{-1/\eta} \|F_{1,\varepsilon}\|^{1-1/\eta}.$$

For the second term in (5.40) we use (H3) and Proposition 5.10. Finally,

$$\|F'_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim \varepsilon^{-1/2} + \varepsilon^{-1/\eta} \|F_{1,\varepsilon}\|^{1-1/\eta},$$

so $F_{1,\varepsilon}$ is bounded. In the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$ we get

$$\|\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_-}(A) R \langle A \rangle^{-\eta}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim 1. \qquad (5.41)$$

We similarly get a uniform bound for $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A) R^* \langle A \rangle^{-\eta}$. Taking the adjoint gives

$$\|\langle A \rangle^{-\eta} R \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R}_+}(A)\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim 1. \qquad (5.42)$$

● For $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ we write A_I for $\mathbb{1}_I(A)$. We prove that, uniformly in $n, m \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$\|A_{[n,n+1[} R A_{[m,m+1[}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim 1. \qquad (5.43)$$

We observe that for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ the operator $A - \lambda$ is also Υ-conjugate to Q up to order N, so the estimates (5.1) and (5.2) hold with A replaced by $A - \lambda$ uniformly in λ. In particular, with (5.1) applied to $A - n$ we get (5.43) when $n = m$. This also holds with R

replaced by R^*. For the general case we write

$$A_{[n,n+1[}RA_{[m,m+1[} = A_{[n,n+1[}A_{]-\infty,m]}RA_{[m,m+1[} + A_{[n,n+1[}A_{]m,+\infty[}R^*A_{[m,m+1[}$$
$$+ A_{[n,n+1[}A_{]m,+\infty[}(R-R^*)A_{[m,m+1[}.$$

The first two terms are estimated by (5.41) and (5.42) applied with $A - m$ instead of A. For the third term we observe that $R - R^* = 2R^*Q_+R$ is non-negative, so by Remark 5.8 we have

$$\|A_{[n,n+1[}(R-R^*)A_{[m,m+1[}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}$$
$$\leqslant \|A_{[n,n+1[}(R-R^*)A_{[n,n+1[}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2}\|A_{[m,m+1[}(R-R^*)A_{[m,m+1[}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})}^{1/2}.$$

We can apply (5.43) already proved when $n = m$ to R and R^*, which concludes the proof of (5.43) when $n \neq m$.

• From (5.43) we deduce

$$\|A_{[n,n+1[}RA_{[0,n+1[}\langle A\rangle^{\delta-1}\psi\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim \sum_{m=0}^{n} \langle m+1\rangle^{\delta-1}\|A_{[m,m+1[}\psi\|_{\mathcal{H}},$$

uniformly in $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\psi \in \mathcal{H}$. Then, for $\varphi, \psi \in \mathcal{H}$,

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \left|\langle\langle A\rangle^{-\delta}A_{[n,n+1[}RA_{[0,n+1[}\langle A\rangle^{\delta-1}\psi, \varphi\rangle_{\mathcal{H}}\right|$$

$$\lesssim \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \langle n\rangle^{-\delta}\|A_{[n,n+1[}\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}\sum_{m=0}^{n}\langle m+1\rangle^{\delta-1}\|A_{[m,m+1[}\psi\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}\|\psi\|_{\mathcal{H}}. \quad (5.44)$$

For the last step we have used the Cauchy–Schwarz inequality, Lemma 3.4 of [17] and the fact that the families $(A_{[n,n+1[}\varphi)_{n\in\mathbb{N}}$ and $(A_{[m,m+1[}\psi)_{0\leqslant m\leqslant n}$ are orthogonal in $\mathcal{H}$.

• Now we prove

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \left|\langle\langle A\rangle^{-\delta}A_{[n,n+1[}RA_{[n+1,+\infty[}\langle A\rangle^{\delta-1}\psi, \varphi\rangle_{\mathcal{H}}\right| \lesssim \|\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}\|\psi\|_{\mathcal{H}}. \quad (5.45)$$

If $\delta \leqslant 1$ this is a consequence of (5.2) applied to $A - (n+1)$. If $1 < \delta < N$ we observe that $\|\langle A - (n+1)\rangle^{1-\delta}\langle A\rangle^{\delta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim n^{\delta-1}$, so again by (5.2) applied to $A - (n+1)$,

$$\sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} \left|\langle\langle A\rangle^{-\delta}A_{[n,n+1[}RA_{[n+1,+\infty[}\langle A\rangle^{\delta-1}\psi, \varphi\rangle_{\mathcal{H}}\right| \lesssim \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} n^{-\delta}\|A_{[n,n+1[}\varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}n^{\delta-1}\|\psi\|_{\mathcal{H}},$$

and (5.45) follows. With (5.44) we obtain

$$\|\langle A\rangle^{-\delta}A_{[0,+\infty[}RA_{[0,+\infty[}\langle A\rangle^{\delta-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})} \lesssim 1.$$

With (5.2) we finally get (5.3). The proof of (5.4) is similar. ∎

6. Local energy decay

In this section we show how the local energy decay of Theorem 1.3 can be deduced from the resolvent estimates given by Theorem 1.1.

Proof of Theorem 1.3. • Let $f \in \mathcal{S}$ and $\mu \in {]0, 1]}$. All along the proof we use the notation ζ for $\tau + i\mu$, where τ is a variable in $\mathbb{R}$. For $t > 0$ we have

$$e^{-itP} f = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-it\zeta} (P - \zeta)^{-1} f \, d\tau.$$

We consider $\chi_+ \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}, [0, 1])$ equal to 0 on $]-\infty, 1]$ and equal to 1 on $[2, +\infty[$. For $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ we set $\chi_-(\tau) = \chi_+(-\tau)$ and $\chi_{\text{low}} = 1 - \chi_-(\tau) - \chi_+(\tau)$. Then for $* \in \{-, \text{low}, +\}$ we set

$$u_{*,\mu}(t) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \chi_*(\tau) e^{-it\zeta} (P - \zeta)^{-1} f \, d\tau.$$

We similarly define $u^0_{*,\mu}$ with P replaced by P_0 and f replaced by $f_0 = wf$.
  • Let $m \geqslant 2$ be such that

$$\frac{d + \rho_1}{2} < m < \frac{d + \rho_1}{2} + 1.$$

We have $\delta > m + 1/2$. After integrations by parts and using the uniform estimates for the resolvent of P far from its spectrum, we see that

$$\|(it)^m u_{-,\mu}(t)\|_{L^2} \leqslant \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{-1} \left\| e^{-it\zeta} \partial_\tau^m \left(\chi_-(\tau)(P - \zeta)^{-1} \right) f \right\| d\tau \lesssim e^{t\mu} \|f\|_{L^2},$$

where the constant in $\lesssim$ is independent of μ. Similarly, using (1.5) to estimate the derivatives of $(P - \zeta)^{-1}$ near the positive real axis, we obtain

$$\|(it)^m \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} u_{+,\mu}(t)\|_{L^2} \lesssim e^{t\mu} \|\langle x \rangle^\delta f\|_{L^2}.$$

We have similar estimates for $u^0_{-,\mu}(t)$ and $u^0_{+,\mu}(t)$.
  • By integrations by parts we have

$$(it)^{m-1} (u_{\text{low}}(t) - u_{0,\text{low}}(t)) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-it\zeta} \theta_\mu^{(m-1)}(\tau) \, d\tau,$$

where we have set

$$\theta_\mu(\tau) = \chi_{\text{low}}(\tau) \left((P - \zeta)^{-1} - (P_0 - \zeta)^{-1} w \right) f.$$

By Theorem 1.1 we have, uniformly in $\mu > 0$,

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \theta_\mu^{(m-1)}(\tau)\|_{L^2} \lesssim |\tau|^{\frac{d+\rho_1}{2} - m} \|\langle x \rangle^\delta f\|_{L^2}.$$

For $t \geqslant 1$ we have, on the one hand,

$$\left\| \int_{-t^{-1}}^{t^{-1}} e^{-it\zeta} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \theta_\mu^{(m-1)}(\tau) \, d\tau \right\|_{L^2}$$

$$\lesssim \int_{-t^{-1}}^{t^{-1}} e^{t\mu} |\tau|^{\frac{d+\rho_1}{2} - m} \|\langle x \rangle^\delta f\|_{L^2} \, d\tau \lesssim t^{m-1-\frac{d+\rho_1}{2}} e^{t\mu} \|f\|_{L^{2,\delta}}.$$

On the other hand, with another integration by parts,

$$t \left\| \int_{|\tau| \geqslant t^{-1}} e^{-it\xi} \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \theta_\mu^{(m-1)}(\tau) \, d\tau \right\|_{L^2}$$

$$\leqslant e^{t\mu} \left\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \left(\theta_\mu^{(m-1)}(-t^{-1}) - \theta_\mu^{(m-1)}(t^{-1}) \right) \right\| + e^{t\mu} \int_{t^{-1} \leqslant |\tau| \leqslant 2} \left\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} \theta_\mu^{(m)}(\tau) \right\| d\tau$$

$$\lesssim t^{m - \frac{d+\rho_1}{2}} e^{t\mu} \| \langle x \rangle^\delta f \|_{L^2}.$$

Finally,

$$\| \langle x \rangle^{-\delta} (u_{\text{low}}(t) - u_{0,\text{low}}(t)) \|_{L^2} \lesssim e^{t\mu} \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{d+\rho_1}{2}} \| \langle x \rangle^\delta f \|_{L^2}.$$

All the estimates being uniform in $\mu > 0$, we can let μ go to 0 to conclude. ∎

Appendix A. Additional proofs

Equalities (2.4) and (2.15)–(2.16) are proved by iterating resolvent identities. We provide some details in this appendix.

Proof of (2.4). The resolvent identity (2.1) gives the case $n = 1$. Then

$$R(z)w - R_0(z) = R(z)(w - 1) - R(z)(P(z) - P_0(z))R_0(z).$$

Since for $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ we have

$$R^{[n+1]}(z) - R_0^{[n+1]}(z) = |z|^2 R(z)w(R^{[n]}(z) - R_0^{[n]}(z))$$
$$+ |z|^2 (R(z)w - R_0(z))R_0^{[n]}(z),$$

(2.4) follows by induction. ∎

Proof of (2.15)–(2.16). With notation (2.2), the resolvent identity (2.14) can be rewritten as

$$R^{[1]}(z) = R^{[1]}(ir) + (1 + \hat{z}^2)R^{[1]}(ir)wR^{[1]}(z). \tag{A.1}$$

After composition with $R^{[N]}(ir)w$ on the left we get, for $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$,

$$R^{[N]}(ir)wR^{[1]}(z) = R^{[N+1]}(ir) + (1 + \hat{z}^2)R^{[N+1]}(ir)wR^{[1]}(z). \tag{A.2}$$

For $\nu \geqslant 2$ we compose these two equalities with $wR^{[\nu-1]}(z)$ on the right. This gives

$$R^{[\nu]}(z) = R^{[1]}(ir)wR^{[\nu-1]}(z) + (1 + \hat{z}^2)R^{[1]}(ir)wR^{[\nu]}(z) \tag{A.3}$$

and

$$R^{[N]}(ir)wR^{[\nu]}(z) = R^{[N+1]}(ir)wR^{[\nu-1]}(z) + (1 + \hat{z}^2)R^{[N+1]}(ir)wR^{[\nu]}(z). \tag{A.4}$$

Now we can prove (2.15)–(2.16) by induction on N. The case $N = 1$ is given by (A.1) if $n = 1$ and by (A.3) applied with $\nu = n$ if $n \geqslant 2$. Now assume that (2.15)–(2.16) hold for some $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$.

If $N \leqslant n - 2$ then (2.15) vanishes and we can apply (A.4) to each term of (2.16). Reordering the resulting sum gives (2.16) for $N + 1$ instead of N.

Now assume that $N \geqslant n - 1$. For the terms corresponding to $\nu \geqslant 2$ we apply (A.4) as before. For the term corresponding to $\nu = 1$ we apply (A.2). The term without any factor $R(z)$ goes into the sum (2.15). All the other terms give (2.16) for $N + 1$.   ∎

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