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# SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF RANDOM WALK OPERATORS ON EUCLIDIAN SPACE

COLIN GUILLARMOU AND LAURENT MICHEL

ABSTRACT. We study the operator associated to a random walk on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  endowed with a probability measure. We give a precise description of the spectrum of the operator near 1 and use it to estimate the total variation distance between the iterated kernel and its stationary measure. Our study contains the case of Gaussian densities on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Let  $\rho \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  be a strictly positive bounded function such that  $d\mu = \rho(x)dx$  is a probability measure. Let  $h > 0$  be a small parameter and  $B_h(x)$  be the ball of radius  $h$  and center  $x$ . We consider the natural random walk associated to the density  $\rho$  with step  $h$ : if the walk is in  $x$  at time  $n$ , then the position  $y$  at time  $n + 1$  is determined by choosing  $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$  uniformly with respect to the measure

$$(1.1) \quad t_h(x, dy) = \frac{\rho(y)}{\mu(B_h(x))} \mathbb{1}_{|x-y|<h} dy$$

The associated random-walk operator is defined by

$$(1.2) \quad T_h f(x) = \frac{1}{\mu(B_h(x))} \int_{B_h(x)} f(x') d\mu(x').$$

for any continuous function  $f$ , and the kernel of  $T_h$  is  $t_h(x, dy)$ . This is clearly a Markov kernel. Introduce the measure

$$d\nu_h = \frac{\mu(B_h(x))\rho(x)}{Z_h} dx$$

where  $Z_h$  is chosen so that  $d\nu_h$  is a probability on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . Then, the operator  $T_h$  is self-adjoint on  $L^2(M, d\nu_h)$  and the measure  $d\nu_h$  is stationary for the kernel  $t_h(x, dy)$  (this means that  $T_h^t(d\nu_h) = d\nu_h$ , where  $T_h^t$  is the transpose operator of  $T_h$  acting on Borel measures).

The aim of this article is to describe the spectrum of  $T_h$  and to address the problem of convergence of the iterated operator to the stationary measure. Such problems have been investigated in compact cases in [2], [7] and [3], and the link between the spectrum of  $T_h$  and the Laplacian (with Neumann boundary condition in [2] and [3]) was established. In this paper we investigate the case of such operators on the whole Euclidian space. The main difference with the previous works comes from the lack of compactness due to the fact that  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is unbounded. We will make the following assumptions on  $\rho$ :

**Case 1: tempered density.** A density  $\rho \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  is said *tempered* if there exists a constant  $C > 0$  such that for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$

$$(1.3) \quad |d\rho(x)| \leq C\rho(x)$$

We shall say that it is *smooth tempered of exponential type* if  $\rho$  is smooth and if there are some positive numbers  $(C_\alpha)_{\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d}$ ,  $R > 0$ ,  $\kappa_0 > 0$ , such that

$$(1.4) \quad \forall |x| \geq R, |\partial_x^\alpha \rho(x)| \leq C_\alpha \rho(x)$$

and, if  $\Delta := -\sum_{i=1}^d \partial_{x_i}^2$  is the positive Laplacian,

$$(1.5) \quad \forall |x| \geq R, -\Delta\rho(x) \geq \kappa_0\rho(x).$$

Densities verifying these assumptions can be easily constructed. For instance, if  $\rho$  is a smooth non vanishing function such that there exists  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  such that for any  $|x| > R$  we have  $\rho(x) = \beta e^{-\alpha|x|}$ , then the above assumptions are satisfied with  $\kappa_0 = \alpha^2$ . For densities satisfying (1.4), (1.5), we will define

$$(1.6) \quad \kappa = \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \inf_{|x| \geq R} \frac{-\Delta\rho(x)}{\rho(x)}.$$

The second type of densities we shall consider is the following

**Case 2: Gaussian density.** We assume that  $\rho(x) = \beta e^{-\alpha|x|^2}$  for some  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  such that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \rho(x) dx = 1$ .

It can be shown that that if  $\rho$  satisfies (1.3) or is Gaussian, there exists a constant  $C > 0$  and  $h_0 > 0$  such that

$$(1.7) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \forall h \in ]0, h_0], \mu(B_h(x)) \geq Ch^d \rho(x).$$

Let us set  $m_h(x) = \mu(B_h(x))$  and define the functions

$$(1.8) \quad a_h(x) := (\alpha_d h^d \rho(x) / m_h(x))^{1/2}, \quad G_d(\xi) = \frac{1}{\alpha_d} \int_{|z| \leq 1} e^{iz\xi} dz$$

where  $\alpha_d := \text{Vol}(B_{\mathbb{R}^d}(0, 1))$ . Notice that  $G_d$  is a real valued function bounded above by 1 and below by some  $M > -1$ , then define

$$(1.9) \quad A_h := \lim_{R \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{|x| \geq R} a_h^2(x), \quad M := \min_{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n} G_d(\xi) > -1.$$

We will show that  $A_h = 1 - \frac{\kappa}{2(d+2)} h^2 + O(h^4)$  with  $\kappa$  defined in (1.6).

In order to describe the eigenvalues of  $T_h$ , let us also introduce the operator

$$(1.10) \quad L_\rho = \Delta + V(x)$$

with  $V(x) := \frac{-\Delta\rho(x)}{\rho(x)}$ . Observe that the essential spectrum of this operator is  $[\kappa, +\infty[$ . Moreover, we have the following factorisation:

$$(1.11) \quad L_\rho = \sum_{j=1}^d \ell_j^* \ell_j$$

where  $\ell_j = -\partial_{x_j} + \frac{\partial_{x_j} \rho}{\rho}$ . This shows that  $L_\rho$  is non-negative on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ . Moreover, since  $\ell_j u = 0$  iff  $u$  is proportional to  $\rho$ , then 0 is a simple eigenvalue associated to the eigenfunction  $\rho \in L^1 \cap L^\infty \subset L^2$ .

We first prove the following result in the tempered case

**Theorem 1.1.** *Suppose that  $\rho$  is tempered in the sense of (1.3), then:*

(i) *the essential spectrum of  $T_h$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, d\nu_h)$  is contained in  $[A_h M, A_h]$  where  $M$  and  $A_h$  are defined in (1.9). If in addition  $A_h = \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} a_h^2(x)$ , then  $\sigma_{\text{ess}}(T_h) = [A_h M, A_h]$ .*

(ii) *If (1.4) and (1.5) hold, then  $A_h = 1 - \frac{\kappa}{2(d+2)}h^2 + O(h^4)$  with  $\kappa$  defined in (1.6), and for all  $\alpha \in ]0, 1[$  there exist  $C > 0, h_0 > 0$  such that, if  $0 = \mu_0 < \mu_1 \leq \mu_2 \leq \dots \leq \mu_k$  denote the  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$  eigenvalues of  $L_\rho$  in  $[0, \alpha\kappa]$  counted with multiplicities, and if  $1 = \lambda_0(h) > \lambda_1(h) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k(h)$  denote the  $k$  largest eigenvalues of  $T_h$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n, d\nu_h)$  counted with multiplicities, then for all  $h \in ]0, h_0]$  and any  $j = 1, \dots, k$ ,*

$$\left| 1 - \frac{1}{2(d+2)}\mu_k h^2 - \lambda_k(h) \right| \leq Ch^4.$$

Observe that if  $\rho$  is only tempered, the statement (i) shows that the essential spectrum can be the whole interval  $[M, 1]$ : for instance, take a density  $\rho$  such that  $\rho(x) = |x|^{-m}$  in  $\{|x| > R\}$  for some  $R > 0$  and  $m > d$ , then it is easy to check that  $m_h(x)/\rho(x) \rightarrow 1$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$  and therefore  $A_h = 1$  in this case.

Notice also that there are examples of smooth densities of exponential type  $\rho$  such that the discrete spectrum of  $L_\rho$  below its continuous spectrum is non-empty. Indeed, take for instance  $\rho = e^{-\tau\alpha(x)}$  where  $\tau > 0$  and  $\alpha(x)$  is smooth, equal to  $|x|$  for  $|x| > 1$  and  $\alpha(0) = 0$ , then

$$P_\tau := \tau^{-2}L_\rho = \tau^{-2}\Delta + |\nabla\alpha|^2 + \tau^{-1}\Delta\alpha$$

is a  $\tau^{-1}$  semi-classical elliptic differential operator with semi-classical principal symbol  $p(x, \xi) = |\xi|^2 + |\nabla\alpha|^2$  (see [8, 5, 4] for the theory of semi-classical pseudodifferential operators). Since  $|\nabla\alpha| = 1$  in  $|x| > 1$  and  $\Delta\alpha = 0$  in  $|x| > 1$ , the essential spectrum of  $P_\tau$  is  $[1, \infty)$ , then we can apply Theorem 9.6 of [4] and the fact that  $\text{Vol}\{(x, \xi) \in \mathbb{R}^{2d}; p(x, \xi) \in [0, \frac{1}{2}]\} > 0$  (since  $\alpha(0) = 0$ ) to conclude that, if  $\tau > 0$  is large enough, there exist  $C\tau^d$  eigenvalues of  $P_\tau$  in  $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$  for some  $C > 0$ .

We also emphasize that the result in Theorem 1.1 is used in a fundamental way in the recent paper [1] to analyze random walks on surface with hyperbolic cusps.

If instead  $\rho$  is Gaussian, then  $L_\rho = \Delta + 4\alpha^2|x|^2 - 2d\alpha$  and its spectrum is discrete  $\sigma(L_\rho) = 4\alpha\mathbb{N}$  and the eigenfunctions associated to  $4\alpha k$  have the form  $H_k(x)e^{-2\alpha|x|^2}$  for some explicit polynomial  $H_k$ . We then have

**Theorem 1.2.** *Suppose that  $\rho$  is Gaussian, then the operator  $T_h$  is compact and if  $0 = \mu_0 < \mu_1 \leq \mu_2 \leq \dots \leq \mu_k \dots$  denote the  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$  eigenvalues of  $L_\rho$  and  $1 = \lambda_0(h) > \lambda_1(h) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k(h) \geq \dots$  those of  $T_h$ , then for  $K \geq 0$  fixed, there exists  $C > 0$  and  $h_0 > 0$  such that for all  $h \in ]0, h_0]$  and any  $k = 1, \dots, K$ ,*

$$(1.12) \quad \left| 1 - \frac{1}{2(d+2)}\mu_k h^2 - \lambda_k(h) \right| \leq Ch^4.$$

Moreover, there exists  $\delta_0 > 0$  such that for any  $\lambda \in [0, \delta_0]$ , the number  $N(\lambda, h)$  of eigenvalues of  $T_h$  in  $[1 - \lambda, 1]$  satisfies

$$(1.13) \quad N(\lambda, h) \leq C(1 + \lambda h^{-2})^d.$$

In the last section of this paper, we also give some consequences on the convergence of the kernel of  $T_h^n$  to the stationary measure  $d\nu_h$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . In particular we show that, contrary to the compact setting [7], the convergence in  $L^\infty$  norm

fails, essentially due to the non-compactness of the space.

These theorems, will be proved by using microlocal analysis. We refer to the books, [4], [5] and [8] for standard results in this theory. The organisation of the paper is the following. In the next section we study the essential spectrum of  $T_h$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, d\nu_h)$ . In section 3, we collect some a priori estimates (regularity and decay) on the eigenfunctions of  $T_h$ . Following the strategy of [7], we use these estimates in section 4 to prove the above theorems. In last section, we adress the problem of total variation estimates: we show that the convergence to stationarity can not be uniform with respect to the starting point. Considering the case where the starting point  $x$  belongs to a ball of radius  $\tau$  we prove total variation bounds in term of the spectral gap and  $\tau$ .

## 2. ESSENTIAL SPECTRUM

We start by studying the essential spectrum of  $T_h$  in the tempered and Gaussian cases. From the definition of  $d\nu_h$ , it is easy to see that there exists some constant  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  such that  $c_1 h^d \leq Z_h \leq c_2 h^d$ . Let us define the operator  $\Omega : L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, d\nu_h)$  by

$$(2.1) \quad \Omega f(x) = \sqrt{\frac{Z_h}{m_h(x)\rho(x)}} f(x).$$

which is unitary, and let  $\tilde{T}_h$  defined by  $\tilde{T}_h = \Omega^* T_h \Omega$  so that

$$\tilde{T}_h f(x) = a_h(x) \bar{T}_h(a_h f)$$

with  $a_h$  defined in (1.8) and (with  $\alpha_d = \text{Vol}(B_{\mathbb{R}^d}(0, 1))$ )

$$(2.2) \quad \bar{T}_h g(x) := \frac{1}{\alpha_d h^d} \int_{|x-y|<h} f(y) dy.$$

Using the semiclassical Fourier transform it is easy to see that

$$\bar{T}_h = G_d(hD_x), \text{ with } G_d(\xi) = \frac{1}{\alpha_d} \int_{|z|\leq 1} e^{iz\xi} dz.$$

This function depends only on  $|\xi|$ , it is clearly real valued and  $-1 < M \leq G_d(\xi) \leq 1$  for all  $\xi$  if  $M$  is defined in (1.9). Moreover,  $G_d$  tends to zero at infinity and  $G_d(\xi) = 1$  if and if only  $\xi = 0$ .

Let us first prove (1.7) assuming (1.3): we have by assumption on  $\rho$  that for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^d$  with  $|x - y| \leq h$

$$-Ch \sup_{z \in B_h(x)} \rho(z) \leq \rho(x) - \rho(y) \leq Ch \sup_{z \in B_h(x)} \rho(z)$$

and therefore if  $Ch < 1$

$$(1 - Ch) \sup_{z \in B_h(x)} \rho(z) \leq \rho(x) \leq \sup_{z \in B_h(x)} \rho(z)$$

which implies

$$\rho(x) \left(1 - \frac{Ch}{1 - Ch}\right) \leq \rho(y) \leq \rho(x) \left(1 + \frac{Ch}{1 - Ch}\right).$$

and thus (1.7).

The function  $a_h$  is then bounded and  $A_h$  of (1.9) is well defined. We first prove

**Proposition 2.1.** *Suppose that  $\rho$  is tempered in the sense of (1.3), then  $\sigma_{\text{ess}}(T_h) \subset [MA_h, A_h]$ . If moreover  $A_h = \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} a_h^2(x)$ , then the inclusion above is an equality.*

*Proof.* Let  $R > 0$ , then the operator  $\tilde{T}_h$  can be written under the form

$$\tilde{T}_h = \mathbb{1}_{|x| > R} \tilde{T}_h \mathbb{1}_{|x| > R} + \mathbb{1}_{R < |x| < R+h} \tilde{T}_h \mathbb{1}_{|x| < R} + \mathbb{1}_{|x| < R} \tilde{T}_h \mathbb{1}_{R < |x| < R+h}$$

since  $\tilde{T}_h$  increases support by a set of diameter at most  $h$ . The kernels of the last two operators in the right hand side is in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d, dx \otimes dx)$ , and thus these operators are compact. We thus deduce that the essential spectrum of  $\tilde{T}_h$  is given by that of  $S_h^R = \mathbb{1}_{|x| > R} \tilde{T}_h \mathbb{1}_{|x| > R}$ . Since  $S_h^R = b_h^R \bar{T}_h b_h^R$  with  $b_h^R = \mathbb{1}_{|x| > R} a_h(x)$  and since  $\bar{T}_h$  is a bounded self-adjoint operator satisfying

$$M \|f\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \langle \bar{T}_h f, f \rangle_{L^2}, \quad \|\bar{T}_h f\|_{L^2} \leq \|f\|_{L^2}$$

and  $a_h(x) > 0$  we deduce easily that  $\sigma_{\text{ess}}(S_h^R) \subset [-MA_h^R, A_h^R]$  where  $A_h^R := \sup_{|x| \geq R} a_h(x)^2$ . It then suffices to take the limit as  $R \rightarrow \infty$ . Now if in addition  $a_h^2(x)$  has a limit  $A_h$  when  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , we can write

$$(2.3) \quad \tilde{T}_h = A_h \bar{T}_h + \epsilon_h(x) \bar{T}_h a_h(x) + A_h^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{T}_h \epsilon_h(x)$$

with  $\epsilon_h(x) := a_h(x) - A_h^{\frac{1}{2}}$  converging to 0 as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ . In particular, using that  $|G_d(\xi)| \rightarrow 0$  when  $|\xi| \rightarrow \infty$ , we deduce that the last two operators in (2.3) are compact on  $L^2$ . Since,  $\bar{T}_h$  is a function of the Euclidean Laplacian (or radial Fourier multiplier) the spectrum of  $\bar{T}_h$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$  is absolutely continuous and consists of  $[M, 1]$ , which is the range of  $G_d(\xi)$ . This achieves the proof since the essential spectrum of  $\tilde{T}_h$  is that of  $A_h \bar{T}_h$  by (2.3).  $\square$

We also describe the asymptotic behaviour of  $A_h$ :

**Lemma 2.2.** *If  $\rho$  satisfies (1.4) and (1.5), then the following asymptotic holds as  $h \rightarrow 0$*

$$A_h = 1 - \frac{\kappa}{2(d+2)} h^2 + O(h^4)$$

where  $\kappa = \liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\Delta \rho(x)}{\rho(x)}$ .

*Proof.* If  $\rho$  is tempered, we expand  $m_h(x) = \mu(B_h(x))$  with respect to  $h$  and use assumption (1.4):

$$\begin{aligned} m_h(x) &= h^d \int_{|z| < 1} \rho(x + hz) dz \\ &= \alpha_d h^d \rho(x) + \frac{1}{2} h^{d+2} \sum_{i,j} \partial_{x_i} \partial_{x_j} \rho(x) \int_{|z| \leq 1} z_i z_j dz + O(h^{d+4} \rho_4) \\ &= \alpha_d h^d \rho(x) - \frac{\beta_d}{2d} h^{d+2} \Delta \rho(x) + O(h^{d+4} \rho_4) \end{aligned}$$

with  $|\rho_4(x)| \leq \rho(x)$  and  $\beta_d := \int_{|z| < 1} |z|^2 dz$ . Using the definition of  $a_h$ , it follows from Lemma 3.2 below that

$$(2.4) \quad a_h^2(x) = 1 + h^2 \gamma_d \frac{\Delta \rho(x)}{\rho(x)} + O(h^4)$$

with  $\gamma_d = \frac{\beta_d}{2d\alpha_d} = \frac{1}{2(d+2)}$  and the  $O(h^4)$  is uniform in  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Hence, it follows from (1.6) that

$$A = \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} a_h^2(x) = 1 + \gamma_d h^2 \liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\Delta \rho(x)}{\rho(x)} + O(h^4)$$

and the proof is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 2.3.** *In the tempered case, the operator  $\gamma_d L_\rho = \frac{1}{2(d+2)}(\Delta + \frac{-\Delta \rho}{\rho})$  has essential spectrum contained in  $[\frac{\kappa}{2(d+2)}, \infty)$ . If in addition  $\kappa = \lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{-\Delta \rho}{\rho}$ , then the essential spectrum is exactly  $\sigma_{\text{ess}}(L_\rho) = [\frac{\kappa}{2(d+2)}, \infty)$  by Theorem 13.9 of [6].*

Now for the Gaussian case

**Proposition 2.4.** *If  $\rho$  is Gaussian, then  $T_h$  is a compact operator.*

*Proof.* The symbol  $G_d(\xi)$  of  $\overline{T}_h$  is decaying to 0 as  $|\xi| \rightarrow 0$ , a standard argument shows that if  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} a_h(x) \rightarrow 0$ , then  $\overline{T}_h a_h$  is compact on  $L^2$ . We write

$$(2.5) \quad \frac{m_h(x)}{h^d \rho(x)} = \int_{|z| \leq 1} e^{-2hx \cdot z - h^2 |z|^2} dz$$

and by bounding below this integral by a  $dz$  integral on a conic region  $-z \cdot x > |z| \cdot |x|/2$ , we see that it converges to  $\infty$  when  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , which proves the claim.  $\square$

**Remark 2.5.** *In the Gaussian case, the operator  $L_\rho = \Delta + 4\alpha^2 |x|^2 - 2d\alpha$  has compact resolvent and discrete spectrum.*

**Notational convention:** For the following sections, all the tempered densities we shall consider will be smooth tempered densities of exponential type (ie. satisfying (1.4) and (1.5)), and therefore we will abuse notation and just call them tempered.

### 3. SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF $T_h$

We recall here some notations. Let  $a = a(x, \xi; h)$  be an  $h$ -dependent family of  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{2d})$  function and  $m(x, \xi)$  be an order function as in [4]. We say that  $a$  belongs to the symbol class  $S(m)$  if there exists some  $h_0 > 0$  and constants  $C_{\alpha, \beta}$  such that for any  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{N}^d$ , any  $0 < h \leq h_0$

$$|\partial_x^\alpha \partial_\xi^\beta a(x, \xi; h)| \leq C_{\alpha, \beta} m(x, \xi)$$

For any  $a \in S(m)$ , we define  $\text{Op}_h(a)$  by

$$\text{Op}_h(a)f(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi h)^d} \int e^{\frac{i(x-y) \cdot \xi}{h}} a(x, \xi; h) f(y) dy d\xi$$

The standard theory of such operators is developed in [4], [5], [8].

**3.1. Preliminary estimates.** Let us start by some estimates on the symbols of the operator  $\tilde{T}_h$ , which will be useful to study its eigenfunctions.

**Lemma 3.1.** *The function  $G_d(\xi)$  belongs to  $S(\langle \xi \rangle^{-\max(1, \frac{d-1}{2})})$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose first that  $d \geq 2$ . It is clear that the function  $G_d$  is smooth. When  $|\xi| \geq 1$ , one has

$$\partial_\xi^\beta G_d(\xi) = \frac{1}{\alpha_d} \int_{|z| \leq 1} (iz)^\beta e^{iz \cdot \xi} dz.$$

Let  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(B_{\mathbb{R}^d}(0,1))$  be a radial cut-off equal to 1 on  $B_{\mathbb{R}^d}(0, \frac{1}{2})$ . Then the non-stationary phase theorem shows that

$$\int_{|z| \leq 1} \chi(z) z^\beta e^{iz\xi} dz = O(|\xi|^{-\infty})$$

On the other hand,

$$I_\chi := \int_{|z| \leq 1} (1 - \chi(z)) z^\beta e^{iz\xi} dz = \int_{\frac{1}{2}}^1 (1 - \chi)(r) r^{d-1+|\beta|} \left( \int_{S^{d-1}} e^{ir\omega\xi} \omega^\beta d\omega \right) dr$$

For any  $r \geq \frac{1}{2}$  the phase  $\omega \mapsto \omega\xi$  has only two stationary points: these points are non-degenerate so that the stationary phase theorem implies  $I_\chi = O(|\xi|^{-\frac{d-1}{2}})$ . In the case  $d = 1$ , the computation is simpler since  $G_d(\xi) = \frac{\sin(\xi)}{\xi}$ . We leave it to the reader.  $\square$

We will also need the following result on the function  $a_h$ .

**Lemma 3.2.** *The function  $a_h$  is smooth and the following hold true:*

- if  $\rho$  is tempered, then

$$(3.1) \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d, \exists C_\alpha > 0, \forall h \in ]0, 1], |\partial_x^\alpha a_h(x)| \leq C_\alpha h^2$$

and there exists  $C > 0$  such that

$$(3.2) \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, \left| \frac{1}{a_h^2(x)} - 1 - \frac{h^2}{2(d+2)} \frac{-\Delta\rho}{\rho} \right| \leq Ch^4$$

- if  $\rho$  is Gaussian, then

$$(3.3) \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d, \exists C_\alpha > 0, \forall h \in ]0, 1], |\partial_x^\alpha a_h(x)| \leq C_\alpha h^{|\alpha|}.$$

and

$$(3.4) \quad \forall M > 0, \exists C_M > 0, \forall |x| < Mh^{-1}, \left| \frac{1}{a_h^2(x)} - 1 - \frac{(4\alpha^2|x|^2 - 2d\alpha)}{2(d+2)} h^2 \right| \leq C_M |x|^4 h^4,$$

$$(3.5) \quad \exists C, R > 0, \forall |x| \geq R, \frac{1}{a_h^2(x)} \geq \max(1 + Ch^2|x|^2, Ce^{h|x|})$$

*Proof.* It follows from (1.8) that  $a_h(x) = F \circ g_h(x)$  with  $F(z) = z^{-1/2}$  and  $g_h(x) = \frac{m_h(x)}{\alpha_d h^d \rho(x)}$ . Following the arguments of the proof of Lemma 2.2, we have when  $\rho$  is tempered (using  $\int_{|z| < 1} z_i dz = \int_{|z| < 1} z_i z_j z_k dz = 0$ )

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{aligned} g_h(x) &= 1 - \frac{h^2}{2(d+2)} \frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} + \frac{h^4}{\alpha_d \rho(x)} \int_{|z| < 1} \rho_4(x, z) dz \\ &= 1 - \frac{h^2}{2(d+2)} \frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} + h^4 r_4(x) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\rho_4(x, z)$  is a function which satisfies for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ :

$$|\partial_x^\alpha \rho_4(x, z)| \leq C_\alpha \rho(x)$$

uniformly with respect to  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d, |z| \leq 1$  and  $r_4(x)$  has all its derivatives uniformly bounded on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . In particular, for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $\partial_x^\alpha g_h(x) = O(h^2)$ . Hence, for



$h > 0$  small enough, Faà di Bruno formula combined with (3.6) shows that  $a_h$  is a smooth bounded function such that

$$(3.7) \quad \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d \setminus \{0\}, \partial_x^\alpha a_h(x) = O(h^2).$$

This shows that  $a_h$  enjoys estimate (3.1) while (3.2) is a direct consequence of (3.6).

Suppose now that  $\rho(x)$  is Gaussian. It follows from (2.5) that

$$g_h(x) = \frac{1}{\alpha_d} \int_{|z| \leq 1} e^{-2hx \cdot z - h^2|z|^2} dz$$

Hence, there exists  $c_0 > 0$  such that for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $h \in ]0, 1]$ ,  $g_h(x) \geq c_0$ . Moreover, for all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$  we have

$$\partial_x^\alpha g_h(x) = \frac{1}{\alpha_d} \int_{|z| < 1} (-2hz)^\alpha e^{-2hz \cdot x - h^2|z|^2} dz$$

so that there exists  $C_\alpha > 0$  such that

$$(3.8) \quad \forall h \in ]0, 1], \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^d, |\partial_x^\alpha g_h(x)| \leq C_\alpha h^{|\alpha|} |g_h(x)|$$

Using again Faà di Bruno formula, we get easily that  $a_h$  is a smooth function such that for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^d$ ,

$$(3.9) \quad \partial_x^\alpha a_h(x) = \sum_{\pi \in \Pi_{|\alpha|}} C_{|\pi|} |g_h(x)|^{-\frac{1}{2}(2|\pi|+1)} \prod_{B \in \pi} \frac{\partial^{|B|} g_h(x)}{\prod_{j \in B} \partial x_j}$$

where  $\Pi_{|\alpha|}$  denotes the set of all partitions of  $\{1, \dots, |\alpha|\}$ ,  $|\pi|$  denotes the number of blocks in the partition  $\pi$  and  $|B|$  denotes the cardinal of  $B$ , and  $C_{|\pi|}$  is an explicit constant depending on  $|\pi|$ . Combining this formula with estimate (3.8), we get

$$(3.10) \quad |\partial_x^\alpha a_h(x)| \leq \sum_{\pi \in \Pi_{|\alpha|}} C_{|\pi|} |g_h(x)|^{-\frac{1}{2}(2|\pi|+1)} \prod_{B \in \pi} |hg_h(x)|^{|B|} \leq C |a_h(x)| h^{|\alpha|}$$

which proves (3.3).

Let us now prove the estimates on  $a_h^{-2} = g_h$ . The same computation as in the tempered case remains valid if we assume that  $|hx \cdot z|$  is bounded, which holds true if  $h|x|$  is bounded. This shows (3.4). In order to prove (3.5), we observe that there exist constants  $c, C > 0$  such that for all  $0 < h < 1$

$$\begin{aligned} a_h(x)^{-2} &= \alpha_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} \int_{0 < r \leq 1} e^{-2hrx \cdot \theta - h^2 r^2} r^{d-1} dr d\theta \\ &= \alpha_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} \int_{0 < r \leq 1} \left(1 + 4r^2 h^2 (x \cdot \theta)^2 \int_0^1 e^{-2thr \cdot \theta} \frac{(1-t)}{2} dt\right) e^{-h^2 r^2} r^{d-1} dr d\theta \\ &\geq 1 + 4h^2 \alpha_d^{-1} \int_{S^{d-1}} \int_{0 < r \leq 1} r^2 (x \cdot \theta)^2 \left(\int_0^1 e^{-2thr \cdot \theta} \frac{(1-t)}{2} dt\right) e^{-h^2 r^2} r^{d-1} dr d\theta \\ &\quad - ch^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$a_h(x)^{-2} \geq 1 + Ch^2 |x|^2 - ch^2$$

for  $|x| > R$  with  $R > 0$  large, the last inequality being proved by the same argument as for Proposition 2.4. Enlarging  $R$  and modifying  $C > 0$  if necessary, this shows the quadratic bound in (3.5). The exponential bound in (3.5) follows easily from the inequality above, by bounding below the integral by an integral on a region

$\{\theta.x/|x| < -(1 - \epsilon), r \geq 1 - \epsilon\}$  for some small  $\epsilon > 0$ .  $\square$

**3.2. Regularity and decay of eigenfunctions.** We are now in position to prove the first estimates on the eigenfunctions of  $\tilde{T}_h$ .

Observe that for any  $1/2 > \delta > 0$  small, there exists  $s_\delta > 0$  such that  $|G_d(\xi)| \leq 1 - 2\delta$  when  $|\xi|^2 \geq s_\delta$ .

**Lemma 3.3.** *Let  $C > 0$  and  $\lambda_h \in [1 - Ch^2, 1]$  be an eigenvalue of  $T_h$  (which can belong to the essential spectrum) in the tempered case, and  $\lambda_h \in [1 - \delta, 1]$ ,  $\delta > 0$  in the Gaussian case. Let  $e_h \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$  satisfy  $\tilde{T}_h e_h = \lambda_h e_h$ ,  $\|e_h\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} = 1$ . Then  $e_h$  belongs to all Sobolev spaces and for all  $s \in \mathbb{R}$*

$$(3.11) \quad \|e_h\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^d)} = O\left(\left(1 + \frac{1 - \lambda_h}{h^2}\right)^{\frac{s}{2}}\right).$$

Moreover,

$$(3.12) \quad \|(1 - \chi)(h^2\Delta)e_h\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^d)} = O(h^\infty)$$

where  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  is equal to 1 near 0 in the tempered case and  $\chi = 1$  on  $[-s_\delta, s_\delta]$  in the Gaussian case.

*Proof.* We use the some arguments similar to those used in [7], the difference is that now we are working in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  instead of a compact manifold: let us write  $\lambda_h = 1 - h^2 z_h$  with  $0 < z_h < \kappa\gamma_d$  in the tempered case and  $0 < z_h < \delta h^{-2}$  in the gaussian case; and start from  $(\tilde{T}_h - \lambda_h e_h) = 0$ . Since  $\tilde{T}_h = a_h \overline{T}_h a_h$  it follows from Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2 that  $\tilde{T}_h$  is a semiclassical pseudodifferential operator on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  of order  $m \leq -1$ . In particular, it maps  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  into  $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and  $\|\tilde{T}_h\|_{L^2 \rightarrow H^1} = O(h^{-1})$ . Since  $e_h = \frac{1}{\lambda_h} \tilde{T}_h e_h$  and  $\lambda_h$  is bounded from below, we deduce  $\|e_h\|_{H^1} = O(h^{-1})$ . Iterating this argument, we finally get

$$(3.13) \quad \|e_h\|_{H^s} = O(h^{-s})$$

for any  $s > 0$  (using interpolation for non integral  $s$ ). Let us denote  $p_h(x, \xi)$  the symbol of  $\tilde{T}_h$ . It follows from usual symbolic calculus and Lemma 3.2 that

$$(3.14) \quad p_h(x, \xi) = a_h^2(x)G_d(\xi) + h^m r_h(x, \xi)$$

for some symbol  $r_h \in S(\langle \xi \rangle^{-\max(1, \frac{d-1}{2})})$  and with  $m = 3$  if  $\rho$  is tempered and  $m = 2$  if  $\rho$  is gaussian.

Suppose that  $\rho$  is smooth tempered and let  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  be equal to 1 near 0. Since  $|G_d(\xi)| \leq 1$  with  $G_d(\xi) \rightarrow 0$  as  $|\xi| \rightarrow \infty$  and  $G_d(\xi) = 1 \iff \xi = 0$ , we deduce that for any cut-off function  $\tilde{\chi}$  equal to 1 near 0, we have

$$(1 - \tilde{\chi}(\xi))G_d(\xi) \leq (1 - \epsilon)(1 - \tilde{\chi}(\xi))$$

for some  $\epsilon > 0$  depending on  $\tilde{\chi}$ . Since  $\lambda_h = 1 + O(h^2)$  and  $a_h = 1 + O(h^2)$ , the symbol

$$q_h(x, \xi) = (1 - \tilde{\chi}(\xi))(\lambda_h - p_h(x, \xi))$$

is bounded from below by  $\frac{\epsilon}{2}(1 - \tilde{\chi}(\xi))$  for  $h > 0$  small enough. Moreover it is, up to a lower order symbol, equal to the symbol of  $(1 - \tilde{\chi}(h^2\Delta))(\lambda_h - \tilde{T}_h)$  and thus by taking  $(1 - \tilde{\chi}) = 1$  on the support of  $(1 - \chi)$ , we can construct a parametrix  $L_h$  with symbol  $\ell_h(x, \xi) \in S(1)$  such that

$$L_h(1 - \tilde{\chi}(h^2\Delta))(\lambda_h - \tilde{T}_h) = (1 - \chi(h^2\Delta)) + h^\infty \text{Op}_h(w_h)$$

for some symbol  $w_h \in S(1)$ . This clearly shows that

$$(3.15) \quad \|(1 - \chi(h^2\Delta))e_h\|_{L^2} = O(h^\infty)$$

and by interpolation with (3.13) we get

$$(3.16) \quad \|(1 - \chi(h^2\Delta))e_h\|_{H^s} = O(h^\infty).$$

It remains to show that  $\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h$  is bounded in  $H^s$ . We have

$$(\text{Op}_h(p_h) - 1 + h^2z_h)e_h = 0.$$

Let  $b_h(x, \xi) = p_h(x, \xi) - 1 + h^2z_h$ , then since  $z_h$  is bounded, we know from (3.14) that

$$(3.17) \quad b_h(x, \xi) = a_h^2(x)G_d(\xi) - 1 + h^2r_h(x, \xi)$$

for some  $r_h \in S^0(1)$ . By Taylor expansion of  $G_d(\xi)$  at  $\xi = 0$ , we see that there exists a smooth function  $F$  on  $\mathbb{R}^+$ , strictly positive and such that  $1 - G_d(\xi) = |\xi|^2F(|\xi|^2)$ . Since  $a_h^2(x) = 1 + O(h^2)$ , we get

$$b_h(x, \xi) = -|\xi|^2F(|\xi|^2) + h^2\tilde{r}_h(x, \xi)$$

with  $\tilde{r}_h \in S^0(1)$ . Combined with (3.15), this shows that for any  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$

$$h^2\Delta F(h^2\Delta)\chi(h^2\Delta_g)e_h = O_{L^2}(h^2).$$

Since  $F$  is strictly positive on the support of  $\chi$ , we can construct a parametrix like above and obtain that

$$\|\chi(h^2\Delta_g)e_h\|_{H^2} = O(1)$$

Iterating this process, it follows that the above bounds hold in all Sobolev spaces.

Consider now the case of a Gaussian density and let us prove (3.12). For  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  equal to 1 on  $[-s_\delta, s_\delta]$  (and  $0 \leq \chi \leq 1$ ) we get

$$(1 - \chi)(|\xi|^2)G_d(\xi) \leq (1 - 2\delta)(1 - \chi)(|\xi|^2).$$

Since we have  $a_h \leq 1 + O(h^2)$  and  $\lambda_h \geq 1 - \delta$  for small  $h > 0$ , this shows that  $(1 - \chi(|\xi|^2))(\lambda_h - p_h(x, \xi)) \geq \frac{\delta}{2}(1 - \chi)(|\xi|^2)$  for  $h$  small and (3.15), (3.16) are still valid. Let us prove (3.11). By definition, we have  $\text{Op}_h(b_h)e_h = 0$  with  $b_h(x, \xi) = a_h^2(x)G_d(\xi) - \lambda_h + h^2r_h(x, \xi)$  for some  $r_h \in S(1)$ . Thanks to (3.10), we have  $|\partial_x^\alpha r_h(x, \xi)| \leq C_\alpha |a_h^2(x)|$  for any  $\alpha$  and  $|\partial_x^\alpha (a_h^{-2}r_h(x, \xi))| \leq C_\alpha$ . Using again the structure of  $G_d$  and dividing by  $a_h^2$ , it follows that

$$(3.18) \quad h^2\Delta F(h^2\Delta)e_h = (1 - \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x) + h^2\text{Op}_h(\tilde{r}_h))e_h$$

for some symbol  $\tilde{r} \in S(1)$ . Taking the scalar product with  $\chi(h^2\Delta)^2e_h$  and using the fact that  $\text{Op}_h(\tilde{r}_h)$  is bounded on  $L^2$ , we get

$$(3.19) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle h^2\Delta F(h^2\Delta)\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h, \chi(h^2\Delta)e_h \rangle &= \langle (1 - \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x))\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h, \chi(h^2\Delta)e_h \rangle + O(h^2) \\ &= I_R(h) + J_R(h) + O(h^2) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} I_R(h) &:= \langle \psi_R(x)(1 - \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x))\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h, \chi(h^2\Delta)e_h \rangle \\ J_R(h) &:= \langle (1 - \psi_R(x))(1 - \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x))\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h, \chi(h^2\Delta)e_h \rangle \end{aligned}$$

with  $\psi_R(x) := \mathbb{1}_{|x| \leq R}$ . Hence, it follows from (3.4) that  $I_R(h) = O(h^2R^2 + 1 - \lambda_h)$ . On the other hand, setting  $R = (1 - \lambda_h)/(h^2\epsilon)$  with  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough but

independent of  $h$ , (3.5) gives that  $1 - \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x) \leq -\lambda_h C h^2 |x|^2 + (1 - \lambda_h) < 0$  if  $|x| \geq R$ , and hence  $J_R(h) \leq 0$ . Combined with the estimate on  $I_R$ , this shows that

$$\langle h^2 \Delta F(h^2 \Delta) \chi(h^2 \Delta) e_h, \chi(h^2 \Delta) e_h \rangle = O(1 - \lambda_h).$$

Dividing by  $h^2$  and using again the fact that  $F > 0$  we obtain  $\|\Delta \chi(h^2 \Delta) e_h\|_{L^2} = O(1 + \frac{1-\lambda_h}{h^2})$ . Iterating this argument and using interpolation, we obtain the desired estimates for any  $H^s$ .  $\square$

In order to control the multiplicity of the eigenvalues as in [7], we need some compactness of the family  $(e_h)_h$ . Since  $\mathbb{R}^d$  is not bounded, the regularity of the eigenfunctions is not sufficient, we need some decay property of the eigenfunctions near infinity. For  $R > 0$ , let  $\chi_R$  be a smooth function equal to 1 for  $|x| \geq R + 1$  and zero for  $|x| \leq R$ .

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let us assume that  $\rho$  is tempered and let  $\alpha \in ]0, 1[$ . Suppose that  $\lambda_h \in [1 - \alpha h^2 \frac{\kappa}{2(d+2)}, 1]$  and that  $e_h \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$  satisfies  $\tilde{T}_h e_h = \lambda_h e_h$  and  $\|e_h\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} = 1$ . Let  $\phi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ , then there exists  $R > 0$  such that*

$$\|\chi_R(x) \phi(h^2 \Delta) e_h\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} = O(h^2)$$

As a by-product, for any  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\chi_R e_h$  goes to 0 in  $H^s(\mathbb{R}^d)$  when  $h$  goes to 0, for any  $s \geq 0$ .

*Proof.* From the preceding Lemma, we know that

$$(\Delta F(h^2 \Delta) + \text{Op}_h(\tilde{r}_h)) \phi(h^2 \Delta) e_h = O(h^\infty).$$

for some  $\tilde{r}_h \in S(1)$ . On the other hand, this term can be made more precise : it follows from Lemma 3.2 and equation (3.14) that

$$\begin{aligned} O(h) &= \left( -\Delta F(h^2 \Delta) - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_d (V(x) \text{Op}_h(G_d(\xi)) + \text{Op}_h(G_d(\xi)) V(x)) + z_h \right) \phi(h^2 \Delta) e_h \\ &= -(\Delta F(h^2 \Delta) + \gamma_d V(x) - z_h) e_h + O(h^2 \|e_h\|_{H^2}) \end{aligned}$$

with  $\lambda_h = 1 - h^2 z_h$  and using (3.11), we obtain

$$(\Delta \tilde{F}(h^2 \Delta) + V(x) - \tilde{z}_h) \tilde{f}_h = O(h)$$

with  $\tilde{f}_h := \phi(h^2 \Delta) e_h$ ,  $\tilde{z}_h := z_h / \gamma_d$  and  $\tilde{F} = F / \gamma_d$ . Let  $q_h(x, \xi) := |\xi|^2 \tilde{F}(h\xi) + V(x) - \tilde{z}_h$ . Since  $F \geq 0$ , it follows from assumption (1.5) that there exists  $R > 0$  such that for any  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$  and any  $|x| \geq R$ , we have  $q_h(x, \xi) \geq (1 - \alpha) \kappa / 2$  if  $1 - \lambda_h \leq \alpha \kappa h^2 / 2(d+2)$ . Hence we can build a parametrix for  $q_h$  on the support of  $\chi_R$  and this shows that  $\|\chi_R \tilde{f}_h\|_{L^2} = O(h)$ . Using interpolation and the fact that  $(e_h)$  is bounded in  $H^s$ , we obtain directly the same bounds in  $H^s$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5.** *Suppose that  $\rho$  is Gaussian. Let  $\delta > 0$  and  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  be equal to 1 on  $[-s_\delta, s_\delta]$ , then there exists  $h_0$  such that, for any  $k, s \in \mathbb{N}$  there exists  $C_{k,s} > 0$  such that for all  $h \leq h_0$  and any eigenfunction  $e_h \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  of  $\tilde{T}_h$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda_h \in [1 - \delta, 1]$ , we have*

$$(3.20) \quad \|\langle x \rangle^k \chi(h^2 \Delta) e_h\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C_{k,s} \|\chi(h^2 \Delta) e_h\|_{H^{s+k}(\mathbb{R}^d)}$$

*Proof.* It follows from (3.18) and (3.12) that

$$(3.21) \quad (1 - \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x))\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h = h^2 \text{Op}_h(r_h)\chi(h^2\Delta)\Delta e_h$$

for some  $r_h \in S(1)$ . Let  $R > 0$  be sufficiently large so that  $a_h^{-2}(x) \geq 1 + Ch^2|x|^2$  for  $|x| \geq R$ . Then, if  $\lambda_h = 1 - h^2 z_h$ , one has for  $|x| > R$

$$(3.22) \quad -1 + \lambda_h a_h^{-2}(x) \geq h^2(C|x|^2 - z_h) \geq C'h^2(1 + |x|^2)$$

for some  $C' > 0$  independent of  $h$ . We take  $\psi_R \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$  be equal to 1 for  $|x| \geq R + 1$  and 0 for  $|x| \leq R$ , then by (3.22) and (3.3), we deduce easily that  $\langle x \rangle^2 h^{-2}(-1 + \lambda_h a_h^{-2})^{-1} \psi_R \in S(1)$  and therefore

$$\langle x \rangle^2 \psi_R(x)\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h = \text{Op}_h(\tilde{r}_h)\chi(h^2\Delta)\Delta e_h$$

for some  $\tilde{r}_h \in S(1)$ . Therefore, for any  $s \geq 0$ , we have

$$\|\langle x \rangle^2 \chi(h^2\Delta)e_h\|_{H^s(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C\|\chi(h^2\Delta)e_h\|_{H^{s+2}(\mathbb{R}^d)}$$

Iterating this argument  $k/2$  times and using (3.11), we get (3.20).  $\square$

#### 4. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.1 AND 1.2

**4.1. Spectrum localisation.** We work as in [7] and we only give a sketch of the proof since it is rather similar. The main difference with the situation in [7] is that we work on unbounded domains, so that Sobolev embedding do not provide directly compactness. In both tempered and Gaussian case, we will use the following observation: suppose that  $\varphi$  is a smooth function, then it follows from Lemma 3.2 and the expansion  $G_d(\xi) = 1 - \gamma_d|\xi|^2 + O(|\xi|^4)$  as  $|\xi| \rightarrow 0$  that

$$(4.1) \quad \frac{1 - \tilde{T}_h}{h^2}\varphi = \gamma_d L_\rho \varphi + h^2 \psi$$

where  $\|\psi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)} = O(\|\varphi\|_{H^4(\mathbb{R}^d)})$  in the tempered case and  $\|\psi\|_{L^2(B(0, Mh^{-1}))} = O(\|x\|^4 \|\varphi\|_{H^4(B(0, Mh^{-1}+1))})$  for any  $h$ -independent  $M > 0$  in the Gaussian case.

We start with the case of a tempered density and follow the strategy of [7]. Since  $T_h$  and  $\tilde{T}_h$  are unitarily conjugated by  $\Omega : L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, d\nu_h)$ , the eigenvalues of  $T_h$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, d\nu_h)$  (and their multiplicities) are exactly those of  $\tilde{T}_h$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$ .

First, assume that  $(L_\rho - \mu)e = 0$  for some  $\mu \in [0, \kappa)$  and  $e \in H^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ ,  $\|e\|_{L^2(dx)} = 1$ . Then,  $e$  is in fact in  $C^\infty$  and using (4.1) with  $\varphi = e$ , we get easily

$$\frac{1 - \tilde{T}_h}{h^2}e = \gamma_d \mu e + O_{L^2}(h^2).$$

Since  $\tilde{T}_h$  is self-adjoint, this shows that  $\text{dist}(\gamma_d \mu, \sigma(\Delta_h)) = O(h^2)$  with

$$\Delta_h := \frac{1 - \tilde{T}_h}{h^2},$$

and that there exist  $C_0 > 0, C_1 > 0, h_0 > 0$  such that for all  $0 < h \leq h_0$  and  $\mu \in \sigma(L_\rho) \cap [0, \kappa - C_1 h^2)$ , the number of eigenvalues of  $\Delta_h$  in  $[\gamma_d \mu - C_0 h^2, \gamma_d \mu + C_0 h^2]$  is bounded below by the multiplicity of  $\mu$ .

Conversely, consider an eigenfunction  $e_h$  of  $\Delta_h$  corresponding to an eigenvalue  $z_h \in [0, \gamma_d \kappa)$ , then using Lemma (3.3), we get

$$z_h e_h = \Delta_h e_h = \gamma_d L_\rho e_h + O_{L^2}(h^2).$$

This shows that all the eigenvalues of  $\Delta_h$  are at distance at most  $Ch^2$  of the spectrum of  $\gamma_d L_\rho$ . Let us now consider an orthonormal set of eigenfunctions  $e_h^j$  of  $\Delta_h$  associated to the eigenvalues  $z_h^j$  contained in  $[\gamma_d \mu - C_0 h^2, \gamma_d \mu + C_0 h^2]$  for some  $\mu \in \sigma(L_\rho) \cap [0, \alpha\kappa]$ , where with  $C_0, C_1$  are the constants given above. Let  $R > 0$  be fixed as in Lemma 3.4. From Lemmas 3.4 and 3.3, each eigenfunction can be decomposed as

$$e_h^j = u_h^j + v_h^j$$

with  $u_h^j$  bounded in any  $H^s$  and supported in  $B(0, R)$  and  $v_h^j$  converging to 0 in  $H^s$  when  $h$  goes to 0. Since  $H^s(B(0, R))$  is compactly embedded in  $H^2$  for  $s$  larger than 2, we can assume (extracting a subsequence if necessary) that the  $e_h^j$  converge to some  $f^j$  in  $H^2(\mathbb{R}^d, dx)$  and  $z_h^j$  converges to  $\mu/\gamma_d$ . Hence, the  $(f^j)_j$  provide an orthonormal family of eigenfunctions of  $L_\rho$  associated to the eigenvalue  $\mu$ . This shows that the number of eigenvalues of  $\Delta_h$  in  $[\gamma_d \mu - C_0 h^2, \gamma_d \mu + C_0 h^2]$  is exactly the multiplicity of  $\mu$  as an eigenvalue of  $L_\rho$ , and achieves the proof of Theorem 1.1.

Notice in particular that our proof does not rule out the possibility of an infinite sequence of eigenvalues  $z_h^j$  for  $\Delta_h$  converging to the bottom of the essential spectrum  $\kappa$ .

Assume now that  $\rho$  is Gaussian and start with  $(L_\rho - \mu)e = 0$  with  $\|e\|_{L^2} = 1$ . It follows from (4.1) that

$$\Delta_h e = \mathbb{1}_{|x| < h^{-1}} \gamma_d L_\rho e + \mathbb{1}_{|x| \geq h^{-1}} \Delta_h e + h^2 \psi$$

with  $\psi$  supported in  $B(0, Mh^{-1})$  and  $\|\psi\|_{L^2} = O(\|\langle x \rangle^4 e\|_{H^4(B(0, Mh^{-1}+1))})$ . Since  $e = p(x)e^{-\alpha|x|^2}$  for some polynomial  $p$ , then  $\|\psi\|_{L^2}$  is bounded uniformly with respect to  $h$ . The same argument and  $\mathbb{1}_{|x| \geq h^{-1}} \Delta_h = \mathbb{1}_{|x| \geq h^{-1}} \Delta_h \mathbb{1}_{|x| \geq h^{-1}-h}$  shows that  $\|\mathbb{1}_{|x| \geq h^{-1}} \Delta_h e\|_{L^2} = O(h^{-2}e^{-ch^{-2}})$ . This implies that

$$\Delta_h e = \gamma_d \mu e + O_{L^2}(h^2)$$

Like in the tempered case, it follows that  $\text{dist}(\gamma_d \mu, \sigma(\Delta_h)) = O(h^2)$  and that for any given  $L > 0$  there exists  $C_0 > 0, h_0 > 0$  such that for all  $0 < h \leq h_0$  and all  $\mu \in \sigma(L_\rho)$  with  $\mu \leq L$ , the number of eigenvalues of  $\Delta_h$  in  $[\gamma_d \mu - C_0 h^2, \gamma_d \mu + C_0 h^2]$  is bounded by the multiplicity of  $\mu$ .

Conversely, suppose now that  $\tilde{T}_h e_h = (1 - h^2 \gamma_d z_h) e_h$  for some  $e_h \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  such that  $\|e_h\|_{L^2} = 1$  and  $z_h \in [0, L]$ ,  $L > 0$  being fixed. From Lemmas 3.3 and 3.5, we know that

$$z_h e_h = \Delta_h e_h = L_\rho e_h + O_{L^2}(h^2),$$

this shows that the distance of the eigenvalues of  $\Delta_h$  (less than  $L$ ) to  $\sigma(L_\rho)$  is of order  $O(h^2)$ .

To get the equality between the multiplicities, we work as in the tempered case and consider an orthonormal family of eigenfunctions  $e_h^j$  of  $\Delta_h$  associated to the eigenvalues  $z_h^j$  contained in  $[\gamma_d \mu - C_0 h^2, \gamma_d \mu + C_0 h^2]$ . It follows from Lemmas 3.4 and 3.5 that

$$e_h^j = u_h^j + O(h^\infty)$$

with  $u_h^j := \chi(h^2 \Delta) e_h^j$  bounded uniformly with respect to  $h$  in  $\langle x \rangle^{-k} H^s(\mathbb{R}^d)$  for any  $k, s \geq 0$ . Then the family  $(u_h^j)_{h>0}$  is compact in  $H^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  and extracting a subsequence if necessary, we can then assume that both  $u_h^j$  and  $e_h^j$  converge to some  $f^j$  in  $H^2$  and  $z_h$  converges to  $z \in [0, L]$ . We split  $u_h^j$  into  $\psi_h(x) u_h^j + (1 - \psi_h(x)) u_h^j$

where  $\psi_h$  is smooth, supported in  $|x| \leq 1/h$  and equal to 1 in  $|x| \leq 1/2h$ . In particular we have that  $\|(1 - \psi_h)u_h^j\|_{H^4} = O(h^\infty)$ . On the other hand, it follows from (4.1) that

$$\begin{aligned} z_h^j e_h^j &= \Delta_h e_h^j = \Delta_h(\psi_h u_h^j) + O(h^\infty) \\ &= \gamma_d L_\rho(\psi_h u_h^j) + O(h^2 \|\langle x \rangle^4 \psi_h u_h^j\|_{H^4}) + O(h^\infty) \\ &= \gamma_d L_\rho(e_h^j) + O(h^2 \|\langle x \rangle^4 e_h^j\|_{L^2}) + O(h^\infty) \\ z_h^j e_h^j &= \gamma_d L_\rho(e_h^j) + O(h^2 \|e_h^j\|_{L^2}) + O(h^\infty) \end{aligned}$$

where we used Lemma 3.5 in the last line. Making  $h \rightarrow 0$ , we show that  $(f^j)_j$  is an orthonormal family of eigenfunctions of  $L_\rho$  associated to the eigenvalue  $z = \mu/\gamma_d$ . This achieves the proof of (1.12).

**4.2. The weyl estimate.** It remains to prove the Weyl estimate on the number of eigenvalues in the Gaussian density case. Fix  $\delta > 0$  small, then for  $\tau > 0$ , let us define the operator on  $\mathbb{R}^d$

$$P_\tau = \tau(\chi^2(\sqrt{\Delta/\tau}) + \chi^2(\sqrt{|x|^2/\tau}))$$

where  $\chi \in C^\infty((0, \infty))$  is a positive increasing function which satisfies  $\chi(x) = x$  for  $x < 1 - \delta$  and  $\chi(x) = 1$  for  $x > 1$ . Clearly  $P_\tau$  is a self-adjoint bounded operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$  with norm less or equal to  $2\tau$  and since for any function  $f \in L^2$  such that  $f$  is supported in  $|x| > \tau$  or  $\hat{f}$  is supported in  $|\xi| > \tau$ , one has  $\langle P_\tau f, f \rangle \geq \tau \|f\|_{L^2}^2$ , the essential spectrum is contained in the interval  $[\tau, 2\tau]$ . Let  $\Pi_{\tau/2} = \mathbb{1}_{[0, \tau/2]}(P_\tau)$  be the orthogonal spectral projector, it is then finite rank by what we just said. For  $f$  in the range of  $1 - \Pi_{\tau/2}$ , we shall prove that there is  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $C > 0$  independent of  $\tau, h$  such that for  $\tau \leq \epsilon h^{-2}$

$$(4.2) \quad \langle T_h f, f \rangle \leq (1 - C\tau h^2) \|f\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Notice that if  $(1 - \Pi_{\tau/2})f = f$ , we have  $\langle P_\tau f, f \rangle \geq \frac{1}{2}\tau \|f\|_{L^2}^2$  and thus

$$(4.3) \quad \|\chi(\sqrt{\Delta/\tau})f\|^2 + \|\chi(\sqrt{|x|^2/\tau})f\|^2 \geq \frac{1}{2}\|f\|^2.$$

We first assume that  $\|\chi(\sqrt{|x|^2/\tau})f\|^2 \geq \frac{1}{4}\|f\|^2$ , then using that  $\bar{T}_h$  has  $L^2 \rightarrow L^2$  norm bounded by 1 we deduce

$$\langle a_h \bar{T}_h a_h f, f \rangle = \langle \bar{T}_h a_h f, a_h f \rangle \leq \|a_h f\|_{L^2}^2.$$

But from (3.4) and (3.5), we also have that there is  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $C > 0$  independent of  $\tau, h$  such that if  $\tau \leq \epsilon h^{-2}$ ,

$$a_h^2(x) \leq 1 - Ch^2 \tau \chi(\sqrt{|x|^2/\tau})^2.$$

Thus we obtain by combining with (4.3)

$$(4.4) \quad \langle a_h \bar{T}_h a_h f, f \rangle \leq (1 - Ch^2 \tau/4) \|f\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Assume now that (4.3) is not true, then since  $(1 - \Pi_{\tau/2})f = f$  this implies that

$$(4.5) \quad \|\chi(\sqrt{\Delta/\tau})f\|^2 \geq \frac{1}{4}\|f\|^2$$

and we shall prove that (4.4) holds as well in that case. Using  $a_h^2 \leq 1 + Ch^2$  for some  $C > 0$ , let us write for  $f \in L^2$

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle a_h \bar{T}_h a_h f, f \rangle &= \langle a_h^2 \bar{T}_h f, f \rangle + \langle a_h [\bar{T}_h, a_h] f, f \rangle \\ &\leq (1 + Ch^2) \|\bar{T}_h f\|_{L^2} \|f\|_{L^2} + \langle a_h [\bar{T}_h, a_h] f, f \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that  $\bar{T}_h = G_d(hD_x)$  is a semiclassical pseudo-differential operator with symbol  $G_d \in S(1)$  defined in (1.8) and the estimates  $|\partial_x^\alpha a_h| = O(h)$  if  $|\alpha| > 0$  of Lemma 3.2, we deduce from the composition law of semiclassical pseudo-differential operators that  $[\bar{T}_h, a_h] = h^2 \text{Op}_h(c_h)$  where  $c_h \in S(1)$  is a uniformly bounded symbol in  $h$ . Therefore by Calderón-Vaillancourt theorem,  $\|a_h [\bar{T}_h, a_h]\|_{L^2 \rightarrow L^2} = O(h^2)$  and thus

$$(4.7) \quad \langle a_h [\bar{T}_h, a_h] f, f \rangle \leq Ch^2 \|f\|_{L^2}^2$$

for some  $C > 0$  uniform in  $h$  and independent of  $\tau$ . Now using Plancherel,  $\langle \bar{T}_h^2 f, f \rangle = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} G_d^2(h\xi) |\hat{f}(\xi)|^2 d\xi$  where  $G_d$  is defined in (1.8). Now since  $G_d(\xi) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\xi \rightarrow \infty$  and  $G_d^2(\xi) \leq 1 - C|\xi|^2$  for some  $C$  when  $\xi$  is small, we directly obtain that there is  $\epsilon > 0$  independent of  $\tau, h$  such that if  $\tau \leq \epsilon h^{-2}$ , the bound  $G_d^2(h\xi) \leq 1 - Ch^2 \tau \chi(\sqrt{|\xi|^2/\tau})^2$ . Combined with (4.5), this implies that  $\|\bar{T}_h f\|_{L^2} \leq (1 - Ch^2 \tau) \|f\|_{L^2}$  and thus, by combining this with (4.6) and (4.7), (4.4) holds if  $\tau > \tau_0$  for some  $\tau_0 > 0$  independent of  $h$  and we have proved (4.2).

By the mini-max principle, one deduces from (4.2) that the number of eigenvalues of  $T_h$  in  $[1 - Ch^2 \tau, 1]$  counted with multiplicities is bounded by the rank of  $\Pi_{\tau/2}$ . Now, to prove the Weyl estimate (1.13), it remains to show that  $\text{Rank}(\Pi_{\tau/2}) = O(\tau^d)$ . This is a rather standard result (see for instance [4, page 115] for a comparable estimate), but we write some details

Let us consider  $\hbar := 1/\sqrt{\tau}$  as a semiclassical parameter. The operator  $P(\hbar) := \hbar^2 P_{\hbar^{-2}}$  is a  $\hbar$  semi-classical operator with a symbol in the class  $S(1)$  given by  $p_\hbar(x, \xi) = \chi^2(|\xi|) + \chi(\hbar|x|)$ , more precisely  $P(\hbar)$  is the Weyl quantization of the symbol  $p_\hbar(x, \xi)$ . Let  $f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$  be such that  $f(s) = 1$  for  $|s| \leq 1$ ,  $f(s) = 0$  for  $|s| \geq 2$  and  $0 \leq f \leq 1$ . Consider the harmonic oscillator on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ ,  $H = \Delta + |x|^2$  and define the operator

$$(4.8) \quad \Pi_\hbar^H = f(\hbar^2 H).$$

Then  $\Pi_\hbar^H$  is a non-negative self-adjoint operator, it is bounded by 1, it has finite rank and  $\text{rank}(\Pi_\hbar^H) = O(\hbar^{-d})$ . From the min-max principle, to prove a Weyl estimate for  $P(\hbar)$ , it suffices to show that for all  $u \in L^2$

$$(4.9) \quad \langle P(\hbar)u, u \rangle + \langle \Pi_\hbar^H u, u \rangle \geq c$$

for some  $c > 0$ . First, we claim that the operator  $\Pi_\hbar^H$  can be written under the form

$$(4.10) \quad \Pi_\hbar^H = \text{Op}_\hbar(f(\hbar^2|x|^2 + |\xi|^2)) + R_\hbar, \quad \text{where } \|R_\hbar\|_{L^2 \rightarrow L^2} = O(\hbar).$$

Let  $\Omega$  be a fixed compact subset of  $\mathbb{C}$  whose intersection with  $\mathbb{R}$  contains  $\text{supp}(f)$ . Then, it is easy to check that for all  $s \in \Omega \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R})$

$$(\hbar^2 H - s) \text{Op}_\hbar\left(\frac{1}{\hbar^2|x|^2 + |\xi|^2 - s}\right) = 1 + \hbar \text{Op}_\hbar(q_\hbar(x, \xi; s))$$

for some symbol  $q_\hbar(x, \xi; s) \in S(1)$ , satisfying for any  $\alpha, \beta$

$$|\partial_x^\alpha \partial_\xi^\beta q_\hbar(x, \xi)| \leq C_{\alpha, \beta} |\text{Im}(s)|^{-3-|\alpha|-|\beta|}$$



for some  $C_{\alpha,\beta}$  uniform in  $h, s$ . Then this implies

$$(\hbar^2 H - s)^{-1} = \text{Op}_{\hbar} \left( \frac{\lambda}{\hbar^2 |x|^2 + |\xi|^2 - s} \right) - \hbar (\hbar^2 H - s)^{-1} \text{Op}_{\hbar}(q_{\hbar}(x, \xi; s))$$

but by the Calderon-Vaillancourt theorem and the spectral theorem for  $H$ , we deduce that

$$(4.11) \quad (\hbar^2 H - s)^{-1} = \text{Op}_{\hbar} \left( \frac{1}{\hbar^2 |x|^2 + |\xi|^2 - s} \right) + \hbar W_{\hbar}$$

for some bounded operator  $W_{\hbar}$  on  $L^2$  with norm  $O(\hbar |\text{Im}(s)|^{-N})$  for some  $N$  depending only on the dimension  $d$ . It remains to apply Helffer-Sjöstrand formula [4, Th 8.1] with  $\tilde{f} \in C_0^\infty(\Omega)$  an almost analytic extension of  $f$

$$f(\hbar^2 H) = \frac{1}{2i\pi} \int_{\mathbb{C}} \bar{\partial} \tilde{f}(s) (\hbar^2 H - s)^{-1} ds \wedge d\bar{s}$$

and we deduce directly (4.10) from (4.11). Observe that the symbol of  $P(\hbar) + \Pi_{\hbar}^H$  satisfies that there exists  $C > 0$  such that

$$\chi^2(|\xi|) + \chi^2(\hbar|x|) + f(\hbar^2|x|^2 + |\xi|^2) \geq C$$

for all  $0 < \hbar \leq \hbar_0$ . Therefore, by Gårding inequality, (4.9) is satisfied for some  $c > 0$ , and using the min-max principle, this implies easily that the number of eigenvalues of  $P(\hbar)$  less or equal to  $C/2$  is bounded above by  $\text{rank}(\Pi_{\hbar}^H) = O(\hbar^{-d})$ , and this concludes the proof of the Weyl estimate for  $T_{\hbar}$ .

## 5. CONVERGENCE TO STATIONARITY

In this section, we study the convergence of the iterated kernel  $T_{\hbar}^n(x, dy)$  towards its stationary measure  $d\nu_{\hbar}$  when  $n$  goes to infinity. The measure  $d\nu_{\hbar}$  is associated to the orthogonal projection  $\Pi_{0,\hbar}$  onto constant functions in  $L^2(d\nu_{\hbar})$ :

$$(5.1) \quad \Pi_{0,\hbar}(f) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f(y) d\nu_{\hbar}(y)$$

The following proposition gives a convergence result in  $L^2$  norm.

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $\alpha > 0$  be fixed. There exists  $C > 0$  and  $h_0 > 0$  such that for all  $h \in ]0, h_0]$  and all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , we have*

$$(5.2) \quad \|T_{\hbar}^n - \Pi_{0,\hbar}\|_{L^2(d\nu_{\hbar}) \rightarrow L^2(d\nu_{\hbar})} \leq C e^{-nh^2 \min(\mu_1, (1-\alpha)\kappa)}.$$

*Proof.* This is a direct consequence of the spectral theorem and Theorems 1.1, 1.2.  $\square$

Let us now introduce the total variation distance, which is much stronger than the  $L^2$  norm. If  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are two probability measures on a set  $E$ , their total variation distance is defined by

$$\|\mu - \nu\|_{TV} = \sup_A |\mu(A) - \nu(A)|$$

where the sup is taken over all measurable sets. Then, a standard computation shows that

$$\|\mu - \nu\|_{TV} = \frac{1}{2} \sup_{\|f\|_{L^\infty=1}} |\mu(f) - \nu(f)|$$

The following theorem shows that the convergence in total variation distance can not be uniform with respect to the starting point  $x$ . This has to be compared with the results in the case of compact state space [2], [3] and [7] where the convergence is uniform in  $x$ .

**Theorem 5.2.** *There exists  $C > 0$  such that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $h \in ]0, 1]$ ,  $\tau > 0$  and  $|x| \geq \tau + (n + 1)h$ , we have*

$$(5.3) \quad \|T_h^n(x, dy) - d\nu_h\|_{TV} \geq 1 - Cp(\tau)$$

where  $p(\tau) = e^{-2\alpha\tau(\tau-h)}$  if  $\rho = \beta e^{-\alpha|x|^2}$  is Gaussian and  $p(\tau) = \int_{|y| \geq \tau} \rho(y)^2 dy$  if  $\rho$  is tempered.

*Proof.* Let  $\tau > 0$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Consider the function

$$(5.4) \quad \begin{aligned} f_\tau(x) &= \mathbb{1}_{[\tau, +\infty[}(|x|) - \mathbb{1}_{[0, \tau[}(|x|) \\ &= -1 + 2 \mathbb{1}_{[\tau, +\infty[}(|x|). \end{aligned}$$

For  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  such that  $|x| \geq \tau + (n + 1)h$ , thanks to finite speed propagation we have

$$(5.5) \quad T_h^n f_\tau(x) = 1.$$

On the other hand, we also have

$$(5.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \Pi_{0,h} f_\tau &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_\tau(y) d\nu_h(y) = -1 + 2 \int_{|y| \geq \tau} d\nu_h(y) \\ &= -1 + \frac{2}{Z_h} \int_{|y| \geq \tau} m_h(y) \rho(y) dy \end{aligned}$$

If  $\rho$  is tempered, then  $m_h(y) \leq Ch^d \rho(y)$  for some constant  $C > 0$ . Hence,  $\Pi_{0,h} f_\tau \leq -1 + Cp(\tau)$  with  $p(\tau) = \int_{|y| \geq \tau} \rho(y)^2 dy$ . Combined with (5.5), this shows the announced result in the tempered case.

Suppose now that  $\rho(x) = \beta e^{-\alpha|x|^2}$  is Gaussian for some  $\alpha, \beta > 0$ . Then  $m_h(y) \leq Ch^d e^{-\alpha|y|^2 + 2h\alpha|y|}$  for any  $h \in ]0, 1]$ . Hence,

$$(5.7) \quad \Pi_{0,h} f_\tau \leq -1 + C \int_{|y| \geq \tau} e^{-2\alpha(|y|^2 - h|y|)} dy \leq -1 + Cp(\tau)$$

with  $p(\tau) = e^{-2\alpha\tau(\tau-h)}$ . Using again (5.5), this shows the announced result in the Gaussian case.  $\square$

In the following theorem,  $g(h) = 1 - \lambda_1(h)$  denotes the spectral gap of  $T_h$ , whose asymptotics is given in Theorems 1.1 and 1.2.

**Theorem 5.3.** *There exists  $C > 0$  and  $h_0 > 0$  such that for any  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $h \in ]0, h_0]$ ,  $\tau > 0$ ,*

$$(5.8) \quad \sup_{|x| < \tau} \|T_h^n(x, dy) - d\nu_h\|_{TV} \leq Cq(\tau, h)e^{-ng(h)}$$

where  $q(\tau, h) = e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)}$  if  $\rho = \beta e^{-\alpha|x|^2}$  is Gaussian and  $q(\tau, h) = h^{-\frac{d}{2}} \sup_{|x| < \tau} \frac{1}{\rho(x)}$  if  $\rho$  is tempered.

*Proof.* Assume that  $h_0 > 0$  is such that the results of the previous section hold true for  $h \in ]0, h_0]$ . Observe that

$$(5.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \sup_{|x| \leq \tau} \|T_h^n(x, dy) - d\nu_h\|_{TV} &= \frac{1}{2} \sup_{|x| \leq \tau} \sup_{\|f\|_{L^\infty} = 1} |T_h^n f(x) - \Pi_{0,h} f| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \|T_h^n - \Pi_{0,h}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(|x| \leq \tau)} \end{aligned}$$

Suppose first that  $\rho$  is tempered and denote  $B_\tau$  the ball of radius  $\tau$  centred in 0 and  $I_n(\tau, h) = \|T_h^n - \Pi_{0,h}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)}$ . Then, denoting  $L^2(d\nu_h)$  for  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^d, d\nu_h)$ ,

$$(5.10) \quad \begin{aligned} I_n(\tau, h) &\leq \|T_h\|_{L^2(d\nu_h) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \|T_h^{n-2} - \Pi_{0,h}\|_{L^2(d\nu_h) \rightarrow L^2(d\nu_h)} \|T_h\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^2(d\nu_h)} \\ &\leq \|T_h\|_{L^2(d\nu_h) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} e^{-(n-2)g(h)} \end{aligned}$$

where we have used Proposition 5.1 and the fact that  $\|T_h\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^2(d\nu_h)} = 1$ . To estimate  $T_h$  from  $L^2(d\nu_h)$  into  $L^\infty(B_\tau)$  we consider  $f \in L^2(d\nu_h)$  such that  $\|f\|_{L^2(d\nu_h)} = 1$ . Then,

$$(5.11) \quad \begin{aligned} |T_h f(x)| &\leq \frac{1}{m_h(x)} \left( \int_{|x-y| < h} \frac{Z_h^2}{m_h(y)^2} d\nu_h \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq \frac{Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}}{m_h(x)} \left( \int_{|x-y| < h} \frac{\rho(y)}{m_h(y)} dy \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\rho$  is tempered we have  $m_h(z) \geq Ch^d \rho(z)$  for some  $C > 0$  and we deduce from the above estimate that  $|T_h f(x)| \leq C/(h^{\frac{d}{2}} \rho(x))$ . Taking the supremum over  $x \in B_\tau$  we obtain the announced result in the tempered case.

Suppose now that  $\rho = \beta e^{-\alpha|x|^2}$  is Gaussian. Since  $T_h$  is Markov and  $g(h)$  is of order  $h^2$ , we can assume  $n > h^{-2}$ . For  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $\sigma_k(h) = \frac{1 - \lambda_k(h)}{h^2}$ , where  $1 = \lambda_0(h) > \lambda_1(h) \geq \lambda_2(h) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_k(h)$  denote the eigenvalues of  $T_h$ . Denote also  $e_{k,h}$  the eigenvector associated to  $\lambda_k(h)$  normalized in  $L^2(d\nu_h)$  and  $\Pi_{k,h} = \langle \cdot, e_{k,h} \rangle_{L^2(d\nu_h)} e_{k,h}$  the associated projector. We write the eigenvalues under the form  $\lambda_k(h) = 1 - h^2 \sigma_k(h)$ , then the spectral gap  $g(h) = h^2 \sigma_1(h)$ . Let  $\delta > 0$  and decompose  $T_h = T_{h,1} + T_{h,2}$  with

$$(5.12) \quad T_{h,1} = \sum_{\sigma_1(h) \leq \sigma_k(h) < (1-\delta)h^{-2}} (1 - h^2 \sigma_k(h)) \Pi_{k,h}$$

From the spectral theorem, we deduce that  $\|T_{h,2}^{n-1}\|_{L^2 \rightarrow L^2} \leq C(1-\delta)^n$ . On the other hand, for  $\rho$  gaussian, we have  $m_h(z) \geq Ch^d \rho(z) e^{-2h\alpha|z|}$ . Combining this estimate with (5.11), we get

$$(5.13) \quad \|T_h\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \leq Ch^{-\frac{d}{2}} e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)}$$

Since  $T_{h,2}^n = T_h T_{h,2}^{n-2} T_h$ , we can combine this with the  $L^2$  estimate, to get

$$(5.14) \quad \|T_{h,2}^n\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \leq Ch^{-\frac{d}{2}} e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)} (1-\delta)^n \leq q(\tau, h) e^{-ng(h)}$$

since  $h^{-\frac{d}{2}}(1-\delta)^n \ll e^{-ng(h)}$ . Hence, it remains to study  $T_{h,1}^n$ .

Since  $d\nu_h$  is a probability, then

$$(5.15) \quad \|\Pi_{k,h}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \leq \|e_{k,h}\|_{L^\infty(B_\tau)} \|e_{k,h}\|_{L^1(d\nu_h)} \leq \|e_{k,h}\|_{L^\infty(B_\tau)}$$

From Lemma 3.3 and Sobolev embedding, we know that  $\|\Omega^* e_{k,h}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C\sigma_{k,h}^{\frac{d}{2}}$ . Hence,

$$(5.16) \quad \|\Pi_{k,h}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \leq \sup_{B_\tau} \left( \frac{Z_h}{m_h(x)\rho(x)} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|\Omega^* e_{k,h}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)} \leq C\sigma_{k,h}^{\frac{d}{2}} e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)}$$

Using this estimate we get immediately

$$(5.17) \quad \|T_{h,1}^n\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \leq C e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)} \sum_{\sigma_1(h) \leq \sigma_k(h) < (1-\delta)h^{-2}} (1 - h^2\sigma_k(h))^n \sigma_{k,h}^{\frac{d}{2}}$$

Using the Weyl estimate (1.13) and the same argument as in [7], we get

$$(5.18) \quad \|T_{h,1}^n\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow L^\infty(B_\tau)} \leq C e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)} \int_{\sigma_{1,h}}^{\infty} (1+x)^N e^{-nh^2x} dx \leq C e^{\alpha\tau(\tau+3h)} e^{-nh^2\sigma_{1,h}}$$

for some  $N > 0$ . This completes the proof in the Gaussian case.  $\square$

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