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# ON THE WAVE OPERATOR FOR DISSIPATIVE POTENTIALS WITH SMALL IMAGINARY PART

#### XUE PING WANG AND LU ZHU

ABSTRACT. We determine the range of the incoming wave operator for the pair of operators  $(-\Delta, -\Delta + V_1(x) - i\epsilon V_2(x))$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  under the conditions  $n \geq 3$  and 0 is a regular point of  $-\Delta + V_1$ ,  $V_2 \geq 0$  and  $\epsilon > 0$  is small enough. This implies that the dissipative scattering operator is bijective.

#### 1. Introduction

The quantum scattering for non-selfadjoint operators appears in many physical situations such as optical model of nuclear scattering ([6]). Its Hilbert space theory is studied in [8, 9] and [3, 4, 5, 12]. See also [1, 2, 7]. In particular, one can construct the scattering operator for a pair of operators  $(H, H_0)$  where  $H_0$  is selfadjoint and H is maximally dissipative, if the perturbation is of short-range in Enss' sense. Several equivalent conditions for the asymptotic completeness of dissipative quantum scattering are discussed in [4]. However, to our knowledge, there is still no result on the asymptotic completeness itself in this framework. The purpose of this work is to give a result in this direction under some conditions.

Let  $H = -\Delta + V(x)$  be the Schrödinger operator with a dissipative potential V, which means that  $V = V_1 - iV_2$ , where  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  are real functions satisfying  $V_2(x) \ge 0$  and  $V_2(x) > 0$  on some non-trivial open set. Suppose that

$$|V_i(x)| \le C\langle x \rangle^{-\rho_0}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$
 (1.1)

for some  $\rho_0 > 1$ . Here  $\langle x \rangle = (1 + |x|^2)^{1/2}$ . Mild local singularities can be included with little additional effort. Denote  $H_0 = -\Delta$  and  $H_1 = -\Delta + V_1$ . H defined on  $D(-\Delta)$  is maximally dissipative and the

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numerical range of H is contained in  $\{z; \Re z \geq -R, -R \leq \Im z \leq 0\}$  for some R > 0. The wave operators

$$W_{-}(H, H_0) = \text{s-} \lim_{t \to \infty} e^{itH} e^{-itH_0}$$
 (1.2)

$$W_{-}(H, H_{0}) = \text{s-} \lim_{t \to -\infty} e^{itH} e^{-itH_{0}}$$
 (1.2)  
 $W_{+}(H_{0}, H) = \text{s-} \lim_{t \to +\infty} e^{itH_{0}} e^{-itH}$  (1.3)

exist on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  and on  $\mathcal{H}_{ac}$ , respectively, where  $\mathcal{H}_{ac}$  is the closure of the subspace

$$\mathcal{M}(H) = \{ f \in L^2; \exists C_f \quad s.t. \quad \int_0^\infty |\langle e^{-itH} f, g \rangle|^2 dt \le C_f ||g||^2, \forall g \in L^2 \}.$$

See [4, 12]. It is known that Ran  $W_{-}(H, H_0) \subset \mathcal{H}_{ac}$  (see Lemma 2 of [4]). The dissipative scattering operator  $S(H, H_0)$  for the pair  $(H, H_0)$ is then defined as

$$S(H, H_0) = W_+(H_0, H)W_-(H, H_0). \tag{1.4}$$

 $W_{+}(H_0, H)$  should be compared with the adjoint of the outgoing wave operator in selfadjoint cases, because for the pair of selfadjoint operators  $(H_1, H_0)$ , the scattering operator  $S(H_1, H_0)$  is defined as

$$\widetilde{S}(H_1, H_0) = W_+(H_1, H_0)^* W_-(H_1, H_0).$$

A fundamental question for quantum scattering for a pair of selfadjoint operators is to study the asymptotic completeness of wave operators which implies that the scattering operator is unitary. In dissipative quantum scattering, the scattering operator  $S(H, H_0)$  is a contraction:  $||S(H, H_0)|| \leq 1$ . The completeness of dissipative scattering can be interpreted as the bijectivity of  $S(H, H_0)$ . The equivalence of the following two conditions is due to E. B. Davies (Theorem 7, [4]):

- (1) The range of  $W_{-}(H, H_0)$  is closed;
- (2) The scattering operator  $S(H, H_0)$  is bijective on  $L^2$ .

In fact, E.B. Davies proves more general results in an abstract setting which can be applied to our case under the assumption (1.1) with  $\rho_0 > 1$ .

In this work, we study the dissipative quantum scattering under the assumption that the imaginary part of the potential is small. Let  $H(\epsilon) = -\Delta + V_1(x) - i\epsilon V_2(x)$ , where  $\epsilon > 0$  is a small parameter and  $V_i$  satisfies the condition (1.1) with  $V_2 \geq 0$  and  $V_2 \neq 0$ . Denote

$$W_{-}(\epsilon) = W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0)$$
 and  $S(\epsilon) = S(H(\epsilon), H_0)$ 

the wave and scattering operators defined as above with  $H = H(\epsilon)$ .

**Theorem 1.1.** Assume the condition (1.1) with  $\rho_0 > 2$  and  $n \geq 3$ . Suppose that 0 is neither an eigenvalue nor a resonance of  $H_1$ . Then one for some  $\epsilon_0 > 0$ 

Ran 
$$W_{-}(\epsilon) = \text{Ran } \Pi'(\epsilon), \quad 0 < \epsilon \le \epsilon_0,$$
 (1.5)

where  $\Pi'(\epsilon) = 1 - \Pi(\epsilon)$  and  $\Pi(\epsilon)$  is the Riesz projection associated with discrete spectrum of  $H(\epsilon)$ .

Theorem 1.1 can be compared with the asymptotic completeness of wave operators in the selfadjoint case which says that

Ran 
$$W_{\pm}(H_1, H_0) = \text{Ran } \Pi_{ac}$$
,

where  $\Pi_{ac}$  is the projection onto the absolutely continuous spectra subspace of  $H_1$ . Under the condition  $\rho_0 > 2$ ,  $\Pi(\epsilon)$  is of finite rank and Ran  $\Pi'(\epsilon) = \text{Ker } \Pi(\epsilon)$  is closed. As consequence of Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 7 of [4], the scattering operator  $S(\epsilon)$  is bijective for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough. Consequently, the dynamics of the semigroup of contractions can be described explicitly as follows. For any  $f \in L^2$ , one can decompose it as  $f = f_1 + f_2$  with  $f_1 \in \text{Ran } \Pi(\epsilon)$  and  $f_2 \in \text{Ran } \Pi'(\epsilon)$ . Since  $H(\epsilon)$  has a finite number of eigenvalues, all with negative imaginary part,  $e^{-itH(\epsilon)}f_1$  decreases exponentially as  $t \to +\infty$ . The existence of the scattering operator  $S(\epsilon)$  implies that there exists  $f_\infty \in L^2$  such that

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} \|e^{-itH(\epsilon)} f_2 - e^{-itH_0} f_\infty\| = 0 \tag{1.6}$$

and the asymptotic completeness of the wave operator  $W_{-}(\epsilon)$  ensures that  $f_{\infty} \neq 0$  if  $f_{2} \neq 0$ . For any  $f \in L^{2}$ ,  $t \to \|e^{-itH(\epsilon)}f\|$  is decreasing in t > 0. Theorem 1.1 shows that either  $\|e^{-itH(\epsilon)}f\|$  decreases exponentially (when  $f \in \text{Ran } \Pi(\epsilon)$ ) or it tends to some non-zero limit as t goes to the infinity (when  $f \notin \text{Ran } \Pi(\epsilon)$ ).

The proof of Theorem 1.1 is based on a uniform global limiting absorption principle for the resolvent of  $H(\epsilon)$  on the range of  $\Pi'(\epsilon)$  which is proved in Section 2. By the technique of selfadjoint dilation for dissipative operators, this gives a uniform Kato smoothness estimate for the semigroup  $e^{-itH(\epsilon)}$ . The condition that 0 is neither an eigenvalue nor a resonance of  $H_1$  is necessary for such uniform estimates. In Section 3, we identify the range of  $W_{-}(\epsilon)$  for  $\epsilon > 0$  small, making use of the asymptotic completeness of the wave operators for the selfadjoint pair  $(H_1, H_0)$ .

#### 2. Some resolvent estimates

Let  $R(z,\epsilon) = (H(\epsilon) - z)^{-1}$ ,  $z \notin \sigma(H(\epsilon))$  and  $R_j(z) = (H_j - z)^{-1}$ , j = 0, 1. Denote  $L^{2,s} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n; \langle x \rangle^s dx)$  the weighted  $L^2$ -space and  $||f||_s = ||f||_{L^{2,s}}$ . If no confusion is possible in the context, we denote  $||\cdot||$  both the norm of functions in  $L^2$  and the operator norm for bounded operators on  $L^2$ .

It is well known that for  $V_1$  satisfying (1.1) with  $\rho_0 > 2$ ,  $H_1 = -\Delta + V_1(x)$  has only a finite number of eigenvalues. Assume in addition that  $n \geq 3$  and 0 is neither an eigenvalue and nor a resonance of  $H_1$ , one can show that the number of eigenvalues (counted according to their algebraic multiplicities) of  $H(\epsilon)$  is equal to that of  $H_1$  when  $\epsilon > 0$  is small enough. More precisely, let  $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \cdots < \lambda_l < 0$  be the distinct eigenvalues of  $H_1$ ,  $\lambda_j$  being of multiplicity  $n_j$ . Let  $N_1 = \sum_{j=1}^l n_j$  be the number of eigenvalues of H. Then the number of eigenvalues of  $H(\epsilon)$  is equal to  $N_1$  and are located inside

$$\mathcal{F} = \cup_{j=1}^{l} \mathcal{F}_{j}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}_j = \{z; |z - \lambda_j| < C\epsilon, -C\epsilon \leq \Im z \leq -c\epsilon\}$  for some C, c > 0 ([15]). Denote by  $\Pi_j$  the spectral projection of  $H_1$  associated with  $\lambda_j$  and  $\Pi_j(\epsilon)$  the Riesz projection of  $H(\epsilon)$  associated with eigenvalues near  $\lambda_j$ :

$$\Pi_j(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|z-\lambda_j|=\delta} (z - H(\epsilon))^{-1} dz,$$

where  $\delta > 0$  is small enough and is fixed.

Recall that for each fixed  $\epsilon > 0$ , there are no real eigenvalues of  $H(\epsilon)$  and 0 is not a resonance if  $n \geq 3$  ([15]). The limit

$$R(\lambda + i0, \epsilon) = \lim_{\delta \to 0_{+}} (H(\epsilon) - (\lambda + i\delta))^{-1}$$

is well defined for any  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  as operators from  $L^{2,s}$  to  $L^{2,-s}$  with s > 1. See [11] for  $\lambda > 0$  and [15] for  $\lambda$  near 0. The purpose of this Section is to prove the following

**Theorem 2.1.** Under the assumptions of Theorem 1.1, one has the unform global resolvent estimate

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \Pi'(\epsilon) R(\lambda + i0, \epsilon) \Pi'(\epsilon) \langle x \rangle^{-s} \| \le C_s \langle \lambda \rangle^{-1/2}, \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$
 (2.7)

uniformly in  $\epsilon$ . Here  $\Pi'(\epsilon) = 1 - \Pi(\epsilon)$ ,  $\Pi(\epsilon) = \sum_j \Pi_j(\epsilon)$  being the Riesz projection of  $H(\epsilon)$  associated to  $\sigma_{\text{disc}}(H(\epsilon))$ .

Remark that this uniform estimate is not true if 0 is an eigenvalue or a resonance of  $H_1$ , because then  $H(\epsilon)$  will have complex eigenvalues

near 0 with imaginary part of the order  $O(\epsilon)$ . The resolvent  $R(z, \epsilon)$  still blows up even if one projects out the range of the associated Riesz projection. The proof of Theorem 2.1 is divided into several steps.

**Lemma 2.2.** For  $s, s' \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $s + s' \leq \rho_0$ , one has

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{s} (\Pi_{j}(\epsilon) - \Pi_{j}) \langle x \rangle^{s'} \| \le C\epsilon, 0 < \epsilon \le \epsilon_{0}$$
 (2.8)

**Proof.** On the circle  $|z - \lambda_j| = \delta$  with  $\delta > 0$  small enough, one has  $||R_1(z)|| \leq \delta^{-1}$ . From the equation  $R(z, \epsilon) = R_1(z)(1 - i\epsilon V_2 R_1(z))^{-1}$ , one deduces that

$$||R(z,\epsilon)|| < C\delta^{-1}$$

uniformly for  $|z - \lambda_j| = \delta$  and  $0 < \epsilon \le \epsilon_0$ . By a successive commutator technique, one deduces that for any  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\|\langle x \rangle^s R(z, \epsilon) \langle x \rangle^{-s} \| \le C_{s,\delta} \tag{2.9}$$

uniformly for  $|z - \lambda_j| = \delta$  and  $0 < \epsilon \le \epsilon_0$ . (2.8) follows from the relation

$$\Pi_j(\epsilon) - \Pi_j = -\frac{\epsilon}{2\pi} \int_{|z-\lambda_j|=\delta} R(z,\epsilon) V_2 R_1(z) dz$$
 (2.10)

and the decay assumption on  $V_2$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** Let  $0 < c_0 < -\lambda_l$ . Under the assumption of Theorem 1.1, one has for any s > 1

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-s} R(\lambda + i0, \epsilon) \langle x \rangle^{-s} \| \le C_s \langle \lambda \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \lambda > -c_0,$$
 (2.11)

uniformly in  $\epsilon \in ]0, \epsilon_0]$ . Here

$$R(\lambda + i0, \epsilon) = \lim_{\delta \to 0_+} (H(\epsilon) - (\lambda + i\delta))^{-1}$$

**Proof.** Since 0 is a regular point of  $H_1$ , it is well known that

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-s} R_1(\lambda + i0) \langle x \rangle^{-s} \| \le C \langle \lambda \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \lambda > -c_0, \tag{2.12}$$

for any s > 1, where

$$R_1(\lambda + i0) = \lim_{\delta \to 0_+} (H_1 - (\lambda + i\delta))^{-1}$$

Since  $\rho_0 > 2$ ,  $V_2 R_1(\lambda + i0)$  is uniformly bounded on  $L^{2,s}$  if  $1 < s < \rho_0/2$ . (2.11) follows from the equation

$$R(\lambda + i0, \epsilon) = R_1(\lambda + i0)(1 - i\epsilon V_2 R_1(\lambda + i0, \epsilon))^{-1}$$

for  $\epsilon_0 > 0$  small enough.

Lemma 2.4. One has

$$||R(\lambda, \epsilon)|| \le C\epsilon^{-1} \langle \lambda \rangle^{-1}$$
 (2.13)

for  $\lambda \leq -c_0$  and  $\epsilon \in ]0, \epsilon_0]$ .

**Proof.** To prove (2.13), it suffices to prove the estimate for  $\lambda$  near some eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$  of  $H_1$ . Let  $\Pi_j$  denote the spectral projection of  $H_1$  associated with the eigenvalue  $\lambda_j$ .  $(1-\Pi_j)R_1(z)(1-\Pi_j)$  is holomorphic in the region  $|\Re z - \lambda_j| \leq \delta$  for  $\delta > 0$  small enough. The resolvent equation shows that

$$E(z,\epsilon) = (1 - \Pi_i)R(z,\epsilon)(1 - \Pi_i)$$
(2.14)

defined for  $\Im z \geq 0$  and  $\Re z \leq -c_0$  has a holomorphic extension into the region  $|\Re z - \lambda_j| \leq \delta$  and  $\Im z > -1$  and is uniformly bounded in z and  $0 < \epsilon \leq \epsilon_0$ . One can check the following Feshbach-Grushin identity:

$$R(z,\epsilon) = E(z,\epsilon) - (1 + i\epsilon E(z,\epsilon)V_2)\Pi_j(E_{-+}(z,\epsilon))^{-1}\Pi_j(1 + i\epsilon V_2 E(z,\epsilon))$$
(2.15)

for  $z \notin \sigma(H(\epsilon))$ , where

$$E_{-+}(z,\epsilon) = \Pi_j(z - \lambda_j + i\epsilon V_2 - \epsilon^2 V_2 E(z,\epsilon) V_2) \Pi_j$$
 (2.16)

Since  $V_2 \geq 0$  and  $V_2(x) > 0$  in a nontrivial open set,  $\Pi_j V_2 \Pi_j$  is positively definite on Ran  $\Pi_j$ . Let  $\mu_1$  denote the smallest eigenvalue of  $\Pi_j V_2 \Pi_j$  on Ran  $\Pi_j$ . One has  $\mu_1 > 0$ . From the estimate

$$\Im E_{-+}(z,\epsilon) = \Pi_j (\Im z + \epsilon V_2 + O(\epsilon^2)) \Pi_j, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R},$$

one deduces that for any  $c_1 < \mu_1$ , one has for some c > 0

$$\Im \langle E_{-+}(z,\epsilon)f, f \rangle \ge c\epsilon ||f||^2, \quad f \in \text{Ran } \Pi_j,$$

uniformly in  $\Im z \geq -c_1\epsilon$ ,  $|\Re z - \lambda_j| \leq \delta$  and  $\epsilon \in ]0, \epsilon_0]$ . It follows that for z in this region,

$$\|(E_{-+}(z,\epsilon))^{-1}\Pi_j\| \le C\epsilon^{-1}$$
 (2.17)

Estimate (2.13) follows from (2.15) when  $\lambda$  is near some  $\lambda_j$ . When  $\lambda < -c_0$  and  $|\lambda - \lambda_j| \ge \delta > 0$  for all  $1 \le j \le l$ , estimate (2.13) comes from the trivial resolvent estimate for  $H_1$ 

$$||R_1(\lambda)|| \le C\langle\lambda\rangle^{-1}$$

in this region and an argument of perturbation.

#### Proof of Theorem 2.1. Denote

$$\Pi_i(\epsilon) - \Pi_i = \epsilon S_i(\epsilon) \tag{2.18}$$

Then Lemma 2.2 says that for any  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $S_j(\epsilon) : L^{2,s} \to L^{2,s+\rho_0}$  is uniformly bounded. Let  $\Pi_{ac}$  denote the spectral projection of  $H_1$  onto its absolutely continuous subspace and  $\Pi_d = \sum_{j=1}^l \Pi_j$ . Since the

singular continuous spectrum of  $H_1$  is absent, one has  $\Pi_{ac} = 1 - \Pi_d$ . In addition,

$$\Pi'(\epsilon) - \Pi_{ac} = -\epsilon S(\epsilon), \quad \text{where } S(\epsilon) = \sum_{j=1}^{l} S_j(\epsilon).$$
 (2.19)

With these notations, one has

$$R(\lambda, \epsilon)\Pi'(\epsilon) = -\epsilon R(\lambda, \epsilon)S(\epsilon) + (R_1(\lambda) + i\epsilon R(\lambda, \epsilon)V_2R_1(\lambda))\Pi_{ac}.$$
 (2.20)

The Spectral Theorem for the selfadjoint operator  $H_1$  gives

$$\|\Pi_{ac}R_1(\lambda)\| \le C\langle\lambda\rangle^{-1}, \quad \lambda \le -c_0.$$

Here  $c_0 > 0$  is fixed as in Lemma 2.3. Lemma 2.4 and Equation (2.20) show that

$$||R(\lambda, \epsilon)\Pi'(\epsilon)|| \le C\langle\lambda\rangle^{-1}, \quad \lambda \le -c_0,$$
 (2.21)

uniformly in  $\epsilon > 0$ . By the exponential decay of the eigenfunctions of  $H_1$  associated with the eigenvalues  $\lambda_j < -c_0$ ,  $\Pi_d$  is continuous from  $L^{2,-s}$  to  $L^{2,s}$  for any  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Lemma 2.2 shows that for any  $s, s' \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $s + s' \leq \rho_0$  one has

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{s'} \Pi(\epsilon) \langle x \rangle^{s} \| \le C_{s,s'} \tag{2.22}$$

Using Lemma 2.3, one obtains for  $1 < s \le \rho_0/2$ 

$$\|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \Pi'(\epsilon) R(\lambda + i0, \epsilon) \Pi'(\epsilon) \langle x \rangle^{-s} \| \le C_s \langle \lambda \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \lambda > -c_0, \quad (2.23)$$

uniformly in  $\epsilon \in ]0, \epsilon_0]$ . Estimate (2.7) follows from (2.21) and (2.23).

The following Kato smoothness estimate for the semigroup of contractions is the main ingredient to prove Theorem 1.1.

**Corollary 2.5.** Under the conditions of Theorem 2.1, one has, for s > 1,

$$\int_0^\infty \|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \Pi'(\epsilon) e^{-itH(\epsilon)} f\|^2 dt \le C \|f\|^2, \quad \forall f \in L^2, \tag{2.24}$$

uniformly in  $\epsilon \in ]0, \epsilon_0]$ .

(2.24) follows from (2.7) and Proposition 2.2 of [16]. See also [11] for some special case. In fact, using the high energy estimate in (2.7) and Proposition 2.2 of [16], one can obtain a slightly better smoothness estimate:  $\forall s > 1, \exists C_s$  such that

$$\int_0^\infty \|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \langle D_x \rangle^{1/2} \Pi'(\epsilon) e^{-itH(\epsilon)} f\|^2 dt \le C_s \|f\|^2, \quad \forall f \in L^2, \quad (2.25)$$

uniformly in  $0 < \epsilon \le \epsilon_0$ . Since 0 is a regular point of  $H_1$ , an estimate similar to (2.24) also holds for  $H_1$ :

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \Pi_{ac} e^{-itH_1} f \|^2 dt \le C_s \|f\|^2, \quad \forall f \in L^2, s > 1.$$
 (2.26)

### 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** To prove Theorem 1.1, one remarks firstly that since the eigenvalues of  $H(\epsilon)$  are all of negative imaginary part, one has

s-
$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} \Pi(\epsilon) e^{-itH(\epsilon)} = 0,$$

which implies that  $\Pi(\epsilon)W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0) = 0$ . Therefore one has

$$\Pi'(\epsilon)W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0) = W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0)$$

Decompose  $W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0)$  as

$$W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0) = \Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))W_{-}(H_1, H_0),$$

where

$$K(\epsilon) = \int_0^\infty e^{-itH(\epsilon)} \Pi'(\epsilon) V_2 e^{itH_1} \Pi_{ac} dt.$$

By the asymptotic completeness of  $W_{-}(H_1, H_0)$ , one has

Ran 
$$W_{-}(H_1, H_0) = \text{Ran } \Pi_{ac}.$$
 (3.27)

According to (2.24) and (2.26), one has for  $s = \rho_0/2 > 1$ 

 $|\langle K(\epsilon)f,g\rangle|$ 

$$\leq C \left\{ \int_0^\infty \|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \Pi'(\epsilon) e^{-itH(\epsilon)} g \|^2 dt \right\}^{1/2} \left\{ \int_0^\infty \|\langle x \rangle^{-s} \Pi_{ac} e^{-itH_1} f \|^2 dt \right\}^{1/2}$$
  
$$\leq C' \|f\| \|g\|$$

uniformly in  $\epsilon > 0$  small. This proves that  $K(\epsilon)$  is uniformly bounded on  $L^2$ . Recall that  $\Pi'(\epsilon) - \Pi_{ac} = -\epsilon S(\epsilon)$ . Since

$$\Pi'(\epsilon)\Pi_{ac} = \Pi'(\epsilon)(1 + \Pi_{ac} - \Pi'(\epsilon)) = (1 + \Pi'(\epsilon) - \Pi_{ac})\Pi_{ac}$$

one has

$$\Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac}$$

$$= \Pi'(\epsilon)(1 + \epsilon S(\epsilon) - \epsilon K(\epsilon)\Pi_{ac})$$

$$= (1 - \epsilon S(\epsilon) - \epsilon \Pi'(\epsilon)K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac}.$$

 $1 + \epsilon S(\epsilon) - \epsilon K(\epsilon) \Pi_{ac}$  and  $1 - \epsilon S(\epsilon) - \epsilon \Pi'(\epsilon) K(\epsilon)$  are invertible on  $L^2$  with bounded inverse for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough. We claim that

$$\Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac} : \text{Ran } \Pi_{ac} \to \text{Ran } \Pi'(\epsilon)$$
 (3.28)

is bijective for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough. In fact, if  $g \in \text{Ran } \Pi_{ac}$  such that  $\Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac}g = 0$ , then  $(1 - \epsilon S(\epsilon) - \epsilon \Pi'(\epsilon)K(\epsilon))g = 0$ , therefore g = 0. This proves  $\Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac}$  is injective for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough. For  $f \in \text{Ran } \Pi'(\epsilon)$ , take

$$g = (1 + \epsilon S(\epsilon) - \epsilon K(\epsilon) \Pi_{ac})^{-1} f.$$

Then

$$\Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac}g = \Pi'(\epsilon)f = f.$$

This proves that

$$\Pi'(\epsilon)(1 - \epsilon K(\epsilon))\Pi_{ac} : \text{Ran } \Pi_{ac} \to \text{Ran } \Pi'(\epsilon)$$

is surjective, hence bijective for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough. Since

Ran 
$$W_{-}(H_1, H_0) = \operatorname{Ran} \Pi_{ac}$$

it follows that Ran  $W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_0) = \text{Ran } \Pi'(\epsilon) \text{ for } \epsilon > 0 \text{ small enough.}$ 

According to [4],  $S(\epsilon)$  is bijective if and only if Ran  $W_{-}(H(\epsilon), H_{0})$  is closed. In our case,  $\Pi'(\epsilon) = 1 - \Pi(\epsilon)$  and  $\Pi(\epsilon)$  is a projection of finite rank. So Ran  $\Pi'(\epsilon) = \text{Ker } \Pi(\epsilon)$  is closed. Consequently, under the conditions of Theorem 1.1, the dissipative scattering operator  $S(\epsilon)$  is invertible on  $L^{2}$  for  $\epsilon > 0$  small enough.

**Remark.** Since  $S(\epsilon)$  is bijective,  $W_{-}(\epsilon)$  is bijective from  $L^2$  onto Ran  $\Pi'(\epsilon)$ , therefore invertible with bounded inverse. The intertwining relation  $W_{-}(\epsilon)H_0 = H(\epsilon)W_{-}(\epsilon)$  gives a relation between the characteristic functions of  $H_0$  and  $H(\epsilon)$  ([14]). Since the spectrum of  $H_0$  is purely absolutely continuous, one may guess that under the conditions of Theorem 1.1, the range of  $\Pi'(\epsilon)$  coincides with the absolute continuous spectral subspace as defined in [14]. This would mean that the singular continuous spectrum of  $H(\epsilon)$  is absent. See [13] for a result in one dimensional case without the smallness condition on the imaginary part of the potential, but under the assumption of absence of spectral singularities.

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