

## *Local energy decay of solutions to the free Schrödinger equation in exterior domains*

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### § 1. Introduction and a theorem.

We shall investigate the local energy decay for solutions of the following free Schrödinger equation:

$$(1.1) \quad i \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u \quad \text{in } (0, \infty) \times \Omega,$$

$$(1.2) \quad u(0, x) = u_0(x),$$

$$(1.3) \quad u|_{(0, \infty) \times \partial\Omega} = 0,$$

where  $\Omega$  is the exterior domain of a compact set in  $R^n$ ,  $n \geq 3$ , and the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  is smooth. We shall make the assumption that  $\Omega$  is “non-trapping”, which will be more precisely described later.

For hyperbolic equations in exterior domains the local energy decay of solutions has been extensively studied by many mathematicians (e.g. Vainberg [11], Rauch [6], Shibata [7] and Melrose [2]). For the Schrödinger equation in exterior domains, however, the local energy decay have not been studied well enough. It follows immediately from the results of Vainberg [9, 10, 11] that the local energy of solutions for Problem (1.1)-(1.3) decays like  $t^{-3/2}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  if  $n$  ( $\geq 3$ ) is odd and decays like  $t^{-1}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  if  $n$  ( $\geq 3$ ) is even. In the present paper we shall evaluate the decay rate more precisely. Namely, we shall prove that if  $n \geq 3$  the decay rate as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  is  $O(t^{-n/2})$ . Such precise information about the decay rate will play an important role in establishing the existence of global solutions of the nonlinear Schrödinger equation in exterior domains (see [8]).

We first give some notations which will be used below. Let  $D$  be an open subset in  $R^n$ . We denote by  $L^2(D)$  the Banach space consisting of complex-valued measurable functions on  $D$  that are square-integrable.

For a positive integer  $m$  we put

$$(1.5) \quad H^m(D) = \left\{ u \in L^2(D); \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^\alpha u \in L^2(D) \quad \text{for all } |\alpha| \leq m \right\}$$

with the norm

$$(1.6) \quad \|u\|_{H^m(D)} = \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \left\| \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^\alpha u \right\|_{L^2(D)}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Let  $\dot{H}^m(D)$  be the closure in  $H^m(D)$  of the set of functions in  $H^m(D)$  with compact support in  $D$ . Let  $H_e^m(D)$  be the Banach space  $\{u; e^{-|x|^2}u(x) \in \dot{H}^m(D)\}$  with the norm

$$(1.7) \quad \|u\|_{H_e^m(D)} = \left( \sum_{|\alpha| \leq m} \left\| \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^\alpha (e^{-|x|^2}u) \right\|_{L^2(D)}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Let  $R$  be a positive constant such that  $\partial\Omega \subset \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n; |x| < R\}$ . For  $r > R$  we denote by  $H_r^m(\Omega)$ ,  $\dot{H}_r^m(\Omega)$  and  $L_r^2(\Omega)$  the closed subspaces of  $H^m(\Omega)$ ,  $\dot{H}^m(\Omega)$  and  $L^2(\Omega)$ , respectively, consisting of functions that vanish for  $|x| > r$ . For  $r > R$  we write  $\Omega_r = \{x \in \Omega; |x| < r\}$ . For two Banach spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  we denote the Banach space consisting of all bounded linear operators from  $X$  to  $Y$  and its norm by  $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$  and  $\|\cdot\|_{X, Y}$ , respectively. For any subset  $E \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  we denote by  $\bar{E}$  the closure of  $E$ .

Let  $G = G(t, x, x_0)$  be the Green function for the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - A_x \right) G &= 0 \quad \text{in } (0, \infty) \times \Omega, \\ \lim_{t \rightarrow +0} \frac{\partial^j}{\partial t^j} G(t, x, x_0) &= \begin{cases} 0, & j=0, \\ \delta(x-x_0), & j=1, \end{cases} \\ G|_{(0, \infty) \times \partial\Omega} &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where  $x_0$  is an arbitrary point in  $\Omega$  and  $A_x$  is the Laplace operator with respect to the variable  $x$ . For any  $v \in L^2(\Omega)$  we put

$$(Fv)(t, x) = \int_{\Omega} G(t, x, x_0) v(x_0) dx_0.$$

Now we formulate the non-trapping condition on the domain  $\Omega$ .

*Assumption [A]:* Let  $a$  and  $b$  be arbitrary positive constants such that  $a, b > R$ . Then there exists a positive constant  $T_0$  depending only on  $a, b, n$  and  $\Omega$  such that

$$(Fv)(t, x) \in C^\infty([T_0, \infty) \times \bar{\Omega}_b)$$

for any  $v \in L_a^2(\Omega)$ .

REMARK 1.1. Assumption [A] implies that singularities of the Green function of the wave equation in the exterior domain  $\Omega$  go to infinity as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Assumption [A] is satisfied, for example, if the complement of  $\Omega$  is convex (see Melrose [2] and Rauch [6]). Assumption [A] is almost the same as assumptions that Vainberg and Rauch supposed in their works (see Vainberg [11, the hypothesis D', p.11] and Rauch [6, the hypothesis (9.3), p. 476]). A condition needed in their proof is, in fact, such a condition as Assumption [A].

Our main theorem is the following:

THEOREM 1.1. *Let  $n \geq 3$  and let Assumption [A] be satisfied for  $\Omega$ . Let  $U(t)$  be the evolution operator associated with the equation (1.1)-(1.3). For two positive constants  $a$  and  $b$  with  $a, b > R$  there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that*

$$(1.8) \quad \|U(t)\|_{L_a^2(\Omega), L_b^2(\Omega_b)} \leq Ct^{-n/2}, \quad t > 1,$$

where  $C$  depends only on  $n, a, b$  and  $\Omega$ .

We may assume that  $b > a > R + 1$ . We fix  $a$  and  $b$  as above from now on.

## § 2. Lemmas.

As is well known, we have

$$(2.1) \quad U(t) = (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{-d+i\infty}^{-d-i\infty} e^{-t\tau} (i\tau + \Delta)^{-1} d\tau, \quad d > 0.$$

Therefore, we have only to investigate the resolvent  $(i\tau + \Delta)^{-1}$  in order to estimate  $U(t)$ . Such resolvents as  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  were intensively investigated by Vainberg [9, 10].

Here we shall summarize his results needed for the proof of Theorem 1.1. Let  $D(P)$  be the entire complex plane if  $n$  is odd and the Riemann surface on which the function  $\ln k$  is single-valued if  $n$  is even. Let  $D^+$  be the region  $\{k \in D(P); 0 < \arg k < \pi, k \neq 0\}$ . Since the resolvent  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  is a  $\text{Hom}(L^2(\Omega), H^2(\Omega))$ -valued analytic function with respect to  $k \in D^+$ , we can regard  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  as a  $\text{Hom}(L_a^2(\Omega), H^2(\Omega_b))$ -valued analytic

function with respect to  $k \in D^+$ . Then we have the following two lemmas (see Vainberg [9, 11]).

LEMMA 2.1. *Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then the resolvent  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  admits a meromorphic extension to  $D(P)$  as a  $\text{Hom}(L_a^2(\Omega), H_s^2(\Omega))$ -valued function, and the set of all poles of the meromorphic extension has no limit point in  $D(P)$ .*

We also denote the extension by  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$ .

LEMMA 2.2. *Let  $n \geq 3$  and let Assumption [A] be satisfied for the domain  $\Omega$ . Then there exist positive constants  $\alpha, \beta, C$  and  $T$  such that*

$$(2.2) \quad \|(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}\|_{L_a^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)} \leq C |k|^{-1} \exp(T |\text{Im } k|)$$

in the region  $V = \{k \in D(P); |\text{Im } k| < \alpha \ln |\text{Re } k| - \beta\}$  if  $n$  is odd and in the region  $V' = \left\{k \in D(P); |\text{Im } k| < \alpha \ln |\text{Re } k| - \beta, -\frac{\pi}{2} < \arg k < \frac{3}{2}\pi\right\}$  if  $n$  is even.

In order to prove Theorem 1.1 by using (2.1) we have to know the behaviour of  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  near  $k=0$ . In addition to Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 we need the following lemma, which makes Vainberg's results [10, Theorems 2 and 3] more precise for  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$ .

LEMMA 2.3. *Let  $n \geq 3$ . Then there exists a positive constant  $\varepsilon_1$  such that:*

1) *If  $n$  is odd,*

$$(2.3) \quad (k^2 + \Delta)^{-1} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} B_{2j} k^{2j} + \sum_{j=(n-3)/2}^{\infty} B_{2j+1} k^{2j+1}$$

in the region  $W = \{k \in D(P); |k| < \varepsilon_1\}$ , where the operators  $B_j$  ( $j=0, 1, 2, \dots$ ) are bounded linear operators from  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  to  $H_s^2(\Omega)$  and the expansion (2.3) converges uniformly and absolutely in the operator norm;

2) *If  $n$  is even,*

$$(2.4) \quad (k^2 + \Delta)^{-1} = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} B_{mj} (k^{n-2} \ln k)^m k^{2j}$$

in the region  $W' = \left\{k \in D(P); |k| < \varepsilon_1, -\frac{\pi}{2} < \arg k < \frac{3}{2}\pi\right\}$ , where the operators  $B_{mj}$  ( $m, j=0, 1, 2, \dots$ ) are bounded linear operators from  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  to

$H_c^2(\Omega)$  and the expansion (2.4) converges uniformly and absolutely in the operator norm.

REMARK 2.1. As a consequence of Lemma 2.3, the meromorphic extension  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  has no pole and is bounded in a neighbourhood of  $k=0$ .

PROOF OF LEMMA 2.3. From [9, § 3], [10, Lemma 3] and [4, Theorems 7.2 and 7.3] we know that the main problem is to prove that a right regularizer  $G_k$  is one to one at  $k=0$ . The right regularizer  $G_k$  is a  $\text{Hom}(L_a^2(\Omega), H_c^2(\Omega))$ -valued function defined by

$$(2.5) \quad G_k g = \beta_1(x) L_{k_0}(\alpha_1(x)g) + \beta_2(x) A_k(\alpha_2(x)g)$$

for all  $g \in L_a^2(\Omega)$ . Here  $L_{k_0}$  is the operator which maps a function  $f(x) \in L_a^2(\Omega)$  into the solution  $u(x) \in H^2(\Omega_a)$  of the problem

$$(2.6) \quad (\Delta + k_0^2)u = f \quad (x \in \Omega_a),$$

$$(2.7) \quad u|_{\partial\Omega_a} = 0,$$

where  $k_0$  is a pure imaginary number and the absolute value  $|k_0|$  of  $k_0$  is sufficiently large (see [9, § 3]).  $A_k$  is the analytic extension of  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  for the case  $\Omega = \mathbf{R}^n$  and  $A_k$  maps a function  $f(x) \in L_a^2(\mathbf{R}^n)$  into the solution  $u(x) \in H_c^2(\mathbf{R}^n)$  of the problem

$$(2.8) \quad (\Delta + k^2)u = f \quad \text{in } \mathbf{R}^n,$$

(see [9, Theorem 1]).  $\alpha_1(x)$  and  $\alpha_2(x)$  are step functions such that

$$\alpha_1(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } |x| > R + \frac{1}{2}, \\ 1, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and  $\alpha_2(x) = 1 - \alpha_1(x)$ .  $\beta_1(x)$  and  $\beta_2(x)$  are real-valued  $C^\infty$ -functions such that

$$\beta_1(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } |x| < R + \frac{2}{3}, \\ 0, & \text{if } |x| > R + 1, \end{cases}$$

$$\beta_2(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } |x| < R, \\ 1, & \text{if } |x| > R + \frac{1}{3}. \end{cases}$$

Note that Vainberg defined  $G_k$  with  $\alpha_1(x)$  and  $\alpha_2(x)$  being  $C^\infty$ -functions (see Vainberg [9, (3.32)]), but that since we consider the operator  $G_k$  as a bounded operator from  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  to  $H_s^2(\Omega)$  we can define  $\alpha_1(x)$  and  $\alpha_2(x)$  as above. Put

$$(2.9) \quad S_k = (\Delta + k^2)G_k - I,$$

where  $I$  is the identity operator. From [9, §3] we already know that  $S_k$  is a compact operator of  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  to  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  for all  $k$ ,  $(I + S_k)$  has the meromorphic inverse and

$$(2.10) \quad (k^2 + \Delta)^{-1} = G_k(I + S_k)^{-1}.$$

Furthermore, the expansions of the types (2.3) and (2.4) hold also for  $A_k$  (see, e.g., [9], [10] and [4]). Therefore, we obtain the expansions of the types (2.3) and (2.4) for  $G_k$  and  $S_k$ . Since  $I + S_0 = \Delta G_0$ ,  $G_0 g \rightarrow 0$  ( $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ ), and  $u \equiv 0$  if  $u$  satisfies

$$(2.11) \quad \Delta u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

$$(2.12) \quad u|_{\partial\Omega} = 0,$$

$$(2.13) \quad u(x) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } |x| \rightarrow \infty,$$

it follows from the Fredholm theorem that the operator  $(I + S_0)$  has the bounded inverse operator if and only if  $G_0$  is one to one. We assume for the moment that  $(I + S_0)^{-1}$  exists. Then we see by the Neumann series expansion that

$$(2.14) \quad (I + S_k)^{-1} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (-1)^j \{(I + S_0)^{-1}(S_k - S_0)\}^j (I + S_0)^{-1}$$

near  $k=0$ . Combining (2.10), (2.14) and the expansions of  $G_k$  and  $S_k$ , we obtain (2.3) and (2.4). Consequently it remains only to show that  $G_0$  is one to one.

Let  $g$  be a real-valued function in  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  satisfying  $G_0 g = 0$ . We easily see by the relation  $G_0 g = 0$  and the definitions of  $\beta_1(x)$  and  $\beta_2(x)$  that  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = 0$  for  $|x| < R$  and  $A_0(\alpha_2 g) = 0$  for  $|x| > R+1$ . Hence, we have by the definitions of  $\alpha_1(x)$  and  $\alpha_2(x)$  that

$$\begin{aligned} g(x) &= \alpha_1(x)g(x) = (\Delta + k_0^2)L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = 0 & \text{for } |x| < R, \\ g(x) &= \alpha_2(x)g(x) = \Delta A_0(\alpha_2 g) = 0 & \text{for } |x| > R+1. \end{aligned}$$

From the definitions of  $L_{k_0}$ ,  $A_0$ ,  $\alpha_1(x)$  and  $\alpha_2(x)$  and the relation  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = -A_0(\alpha_2 g)$  in  $R + \frac{1}{3} < |x| < R + \frac{2}{3}$  it follows that

$$(2.15) \quad (\Delta + \gamma_1(x))L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. in } \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n; R + \frac{1}{3} < |x| < a \right\},$$

$$(2.16) \quad L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = 0 \quad \text{at } |x| = a,$$

and

$$(2.17) \quad (\Delta + \gamma_2(x))A_0(\alpha_2 g) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. in } \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}^n; |x| < R + \frac{2}{3} \right\},$$

where

$$\gamma_1(x) = \begin{cases} -|k_0|^2, & \text{if } R + \frac{1}{2} < |x| \leq a, \\ 0, & \text{if } R + \frac{1}{3} < |x| < R + \frac{1}{2}, \end{cases}$$

$$\gamma_2(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } |x| < R + \frac{1}{2}, \\ -|k_0|^2, & \text{if } R + \frac{1}{2} < |x| < R + \frac{2}{3}. \end{cases}$$

From (2.15), (2.17) and [1, Theorem 8.24] we see that  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)$  is Hölder continuous for  $R + \frac{1}{3} < |x| \leq a$  and that  $A_0(\alpha_2 g)$  is Hölder continuous for  $|x| < R + \frac{2}{3}$ . Therefore, it follows by the relation  $\beta_1 L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = -\beta_2 A_0(\alpha_2 g)$

that  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)$  and  $A_0(\alpha_2 g)$  are Hölder continuous in  $\bar{Q}_a$ . Applying the strong maximum principle for a weak solution (see [1, Theorems 8.1 and 8.19]) to  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)$  in  $R + \frac{1}{3} < |x| \leq a$  and to  $A_0(\alpha_2 g)$  in  $|x| < R + \frac{2}{3}$ , we have

$$\max \left\{ |L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)|; |x| = R + \frac{1}{3} \right\} \geq \max \left\{ |L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)|; |x| = R + \frac{2}{3} \right\},$$

$$\max \left\{ |A_0(\alpha_2 g)|; |x| = R + \frac{2}{3} \right\} \geq \max \left\{ |A_0(\alpha_2 g)|; |x| = R + \frac{1}{3} \right\}.$$

Since  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = -A_0(\alpha_2 g)$  in  $R + \frac{1}{3} \leq |x| \leq R + \frac{2}{3}$ , it follows that

$$\max \left\{ |L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)|; |x|=R+\frac{1}{3} \right\} = \max \left\{ |L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)|; |x|=R+\frac{2}{3} \right\}. \quad \text{Applying}$$

the strong maximum principle to  $L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g)$  in  $R+\frac{1}{3} < |x| < a$  again, we have by (2.16)

$$(2.18) \quad L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = \text{constant} = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad R+\frac{1}{3} \leq |x| \leq a.$$

Therefore, we have by the relation  $G_0 g = 0$  and (2.17)

$$(2.19) \quad A_0(\alpha_2 g) = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad R^n,$$

and consequently

$$(2.20) \quad L_{k_0}(\alpha_1 g) = 0 \quad \text{in} \quad \Omega_a.$$

We conclude by (2.19) and (2.20) that  $g$  vanishes identically, that is,  $G_0$  is one to one. This completes the proof of Lemma 2.3. (Q.E.D.)

REMARK 2.1. Recently Shibata [7] investigated the behaviour of the resolvent  $(k^2 - ik + \Delta)^{-1}$  near  $k=0$ , but he did not give its expansion near  $k=0$ .

We shall next translate the results on  $(k^2 + \Delta)^{-1}$  into those on  $(i\tau + \Delta)^{-1}$ , because  $(i\tau + \Delta)^{-1}$  actually appears in the integral representation (2.1). For  $0 < \varepsilon_0 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\varepsilon_1$ , we consider the region  $D_k$  on the  $k$ -plane, which is hatched in Figure 1. From Lemmas 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 we can choose  $\varepsilon_0$  so

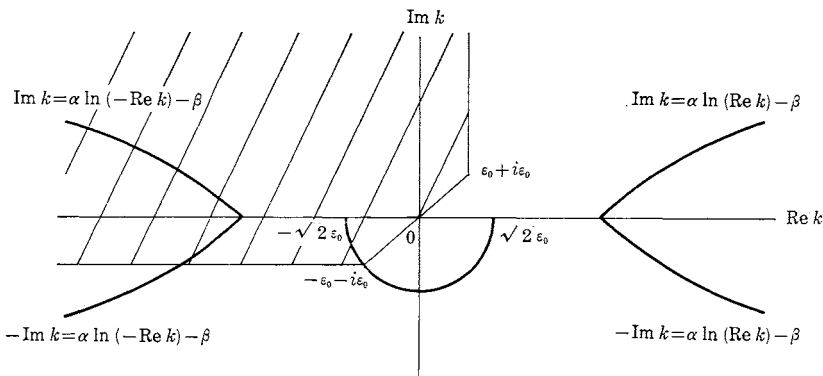


Fig. 1. The region  $D_k$  on the  $k$ -plane.



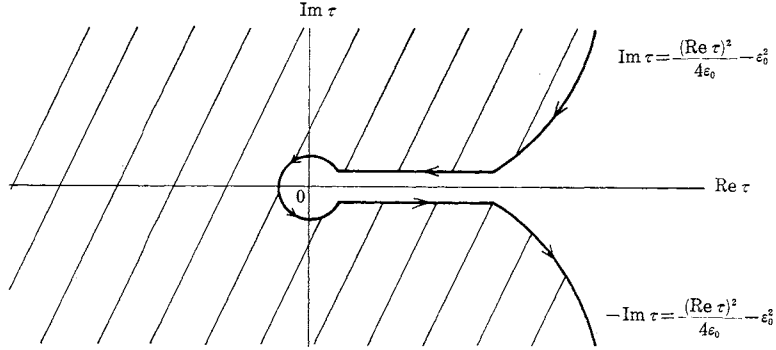


Fig. 2. The region  $D_\epsilon$  on the  $\tau$ -plane.

small that  $(k^2 + \mathcal{A})^{-1}$  has no pole in the region  $D_k$ . Under the mapping  $i\tau = k^2$ , the region  $D_k$  is taken one to one onto the region  $D_\epsilon$  on the  $\tau$ -plane, which is hatched in Figure 2.

We intend to shift the contour of the integral in (2.1) into the half plane  $\text{Re } \tau > 0$ . But only the estimate (2.2) does not suffice for this purpose. It is well known that the Laplace operator  $\mathcal{A}$  with the domain  $\dot{H}^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$  is a generator of holomorphic semi-group and that there exist three positive constants  $\xi, \eta$  and  $M$  such that

$$(2.21) \quad \|(\lambda - \mathcal{A})^{-1}\|_{L^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega)} \leq \frac{M}{|\lambda|}$$

for all  $\lambda \in \left\{ \lambda; \left| \arg(\lambda - \xi) \right| < \frac{\pi}{2} + \eta \right\}$ . Combining (2.21) and (2.2), we obtain

$$(2.22) \quad \|(i\tau + \mathcal{A})^{-1}\|_{L^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)} \leq C |\tau|^{-1/2}$$

for all  $\tau \in \left\{ \tau \in D(P); \left| \text{Im } \tau \right| \geq \frac{(\text{Re } \tau)^2}{4\epsilon_0} - \epsilon_0^2, |\tau| > K \right\}$ , where  $C$  and  $K$  are positive constants independent of  $\tau$ .

**§ 3. Proof of Theorem 1.1.**

Now we shall give a proof of Theorem 1.1. The line of our proof is the same as that of [11], [5] and [6].

We shall first verify that the following integral converges:

$$(3.1) \quad U(t) + iI = (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{-d+i\infty}^{-d-i\infty} e^{-\tau t} \left\{ (i\tau + A)^{-1} + \frac{i}{\tau} I \right\} d\tau, \quad d > 0.$$

Since we have

$$(3.2) \quad (i\tau + A)^{-1} + \frac{i}{\tau} I = \frac{i}{\tau} (i\tau + A)^{-1} A,$$

we obtain from (2.22)

$$(3.3) \quad \begin{aligned} & \left\| (i\tau + A)^{-1} + \frac{i}{\tau} I \right\|_{H_a^2(\Omega) \cap \dot{H}^1(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)} \\ & \leq \frac{1}{|\tau|} \left\| (i\tau + A)^{-1} \right\|_{L_a^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)} \|A\|_{H_a^2(\Omega) \cap \dot{H}^1(\Omega), L_a^2(\Omega)} \\ & \leq C |\tau|^{-3/2} \end{aligned}$$

for all  $\tau \in \left\{ \tau \in D(P); |\operatorname{Im} \tau| \geq \frac{(\operatorname{Re} \tau)^2}{4\varepsilon_0} - \varepsilon_0^2, |\tau| > K \right\}$ . Therefore, the inte-

gral in (3.1) converges absolutely in  $\operatorname{Hom}(H_a^2(\Omega) \cap \dot{H}^1(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b))$ .

By (3.3) and the Cauchy theorem we can shift the contour of the integral in (3.1) into the right half plane as in Figure 2. By  $\Gamma$  we denote the whole contour in Figure 2. By  $\Gamma_1^+$  and  $\Gamma_1^-$  we denote the parabolic parts of  $\Gamma$  which are situated on the upper half plane and on the lower half plane, respectively. By  $\Gamma_2^+$  and  $\Gamma_2^-$  we denote the straight line parts of  $\Gamma$  which are situated on the upper half plane and on the lower half plane, respectively. By  $\Gamma_3$  we denote the circular part of  $\Gamma$ .

All constants which will appear in the course of calculations below will be simply denoted by  $C$ .

Since

$$(3.4) \quad (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{\Gamma} e^{-\tau t} \left( \frac{i}{\tau} I \right) d\tau = iI,$$

we have

$$(3.5) \quad U(t) = (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{\Gamma} e^{-\tau t} (i\tau + A)^{-1} d\tau.$$

For the integral on  $\Gamma_3$  we can shrink the circular part  $\Gamma_3$  to the origin by the Cauchy theorem and Lemma 2.3.

Since  $\left\| (i\tau + A)^{-1} \right\|_{L_a^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)}$  is bounded on  $\Gamma_1^+$  or  $\Gamma_1^-$  and  $\operatorname{Re} \tau \leq C(1 + |\operatorname{Im} \tau|^{1/2})$  on  $\Gamma_1^+$  or  $\Gamma_1^-$ , we obtain

$$(3.6) \quad \left\| (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{\Gamma_1^+ \cup \Gamma_1^-} e^{-\tau t} (i\tau + A)^{-1} d\tau \right\|_{L_a^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)} \leq C e^{-ct}, \quad t \geq 1.$$

It remains only to evaluate the integral on  $\Gamma_2^+$  and  $\Gamma_2^-$ . If  $n$  is odd, we have by Lemma 2.3

$$(3.7) \quad (i\tau + \Delta)^{-1} = B_1(\tau) + (i\tau)^{(n-3)/2} B_2(\tau)$$

for all  $\tau \in \{\tau \in D(P); |\tau| < 2\varepsilon_0^2\}$ , where  $B_1(\tau)$  and  $B_2(\tau)$  are  $\text{Hom}(L_a^2(\Omega), H^2(\Omega_b))$ -valued holomorphic functions on  $\{\tau \in D(P); |\tau| < 2\varepsilon_0^2\}$ . If  $n$  is even, we have by Lemma 2.3

$$(3.8) \quad (i\tau + \Delta)^{-1} = B_3(\tau) + B_4 \tau^{(n-2)/2} \ln \sqrt{i\tau} + \tau^{(n-2)/2} B_5(\tau)$$

for all  $\tau \in \{\tau \in D(P); |\tau| < 2\varepsilon_0^2, -\pi < \arg \tau < 3\pi\}$ , where  $B_3(\tau)$  is a  $\text{Hom}(L_a^2(\Omega), H^2(\Omega_b))$ -valued holomorphic function on  $\{\tau; |\tau| < 2\varepsilon_0^2\}$ ,  $B_4$  is a bounded operator from  $L_a^2(\Omega)$  to  $H^2(\Omega_b)$ , and  $B_5(\tau)$  is a  $\text{Hom}(L_a^2(\Omega), H^2(\Omega_b))$ -valued bounded continuous function on  $\{\tau \in D(P); |\tau| < 2\varepsilon_0^2, -\pi < \arg \tau < 3\pi\}$ . Therefore, the routine calculation (see, e.g., Rauch [5]) gives

$$(3.9) \quad \left\| \int_{\Gamma_2^+ \cup \Gamma_2^-} e^{-\tau t} (i\tau + \Delta)^{-1} d\tau \right\|_{L_a^2(\Omega), L^2(\Omega_b)} \leq C t^{-n/2}, \quad t \geq 1.$$

Combining (3.6) and (3.9), we obtain (1.8). This completes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

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