

## ON SOME EXTENSIONS OF THE A-MODEL

Rytis Juršėnas

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**Abstract.** The A-model for finite rank singular perturbations of class  $\mathfrak{H}_{-m-2} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-m-1}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , is considered from the perspective of boundary relations. Assuming further that the Hilbert spaces  $(\mathfrak{H}_n)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  admit an orthogonal decomposition  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \oplus \mathfrak{H}_n^+$ , with the corresponding projections satisfying  $P_{n+1}^\pm \subseteq P_n^\pm$ , nontrivial extensions in the A-model are constructed for the symmetric restrictions in the subspaces.

**Keywords:** finite rank higher order singular perturbation, cascade (A) model, peak model, Hilbert space, scale of Hilbert spaces, Pontryagin space, ordinary boundary triple, Krein  $Q$ -function, Weyl function, gamma field, symmetric operator, proper extension, resolvent.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Consider a lower semibounded self-adjoint operator  $L$  in a Hilbert space  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ . Let  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+1} \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , be the scale of Hilbert spaces associated with  $L$ . Let also  $\{\varphi_\sigma\}$  be the family of linearly independent functionals of class  $\mathfrak{H}_{-m-2} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-m-1}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , where  $\sigma$  ranges over an index set  $\mathcal{S}$  of dimension  $d \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then, the symmetric restriction  $L_{\min} \subseteq L$  to the domain of  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}$  such that  $\langle \varphi_\sigma, f \rangle = 0$ , for all  $\sigma$ , is an essentially self-adjoint operator in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ . Sequentially, traditional methods, see e.g. [2, 20], for describing nontrivial extensions of  $L_{\min}$  (i.e. perturbations of  $L$ ) in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  are insufficient. The classical examples of higher order singular perturbations are the point-interactions modeled by the Dirac distribution and its derivatives.

To construct nontrivial realizations of  $L_{\min}$  in Hilbert or Pontryagin spaces, one considers instead the so-called cascade (A or B) models [15–17, 25, 27] and the peak model [24, 26]. In these models the Weyl (or Krein  $Q$ -) function is the sum of a Nevanlinna function associated with  $L_{\min}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m$  and a generalized Nevanlinna function associated with a certain multiplication operator in a reproducing kernel Pontryagin space [5, Theorem 4.10]; more on reproducing kernel spaces can be found in [3, 6, 7, 10]. Successively, singular perturbations are interpreted by means of the

compression to the reference space  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  of the resolvent of an appropriate extension in the model space.

Here we study the cascade A-model for rank- $d$  higher order singular perturbations. More precisely, for a specific choice of model parameters, we extend the main results obtained in [15] to the case of an arbitrary  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  (see Theorem 3.2). The exposition utilizes the techniques based on the notion of boundary triples [11–14]. Then, by assuming that the Hilbert space  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  is expressed as the Hilbert sum  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \oplus \mathfrak{H}_n^+$  of its subspaces  $\mathfrak{H}_n^\pm$ , we examine nontrivial realizations that account for the above described Hilbert space decomposition (Theorem 7.3). We assume that the corresponding orthogonal projections  $P_n^\pm$  from  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  onto  $\mathfrak{H}_n^\pm$  satisfy the inclusions  $P_{n+1}^\pm \subseteq P_n^\pm$ . This further implies that the subspaces  $\mathfrak{H}_n^\pm$  reduce the self-adjoint restriction to  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+2}$  of  $L$  (Theorem 5.6). As a natural consequence of our hypothesis is that the Weyl function associated with the symmetric operator  $L_{\min}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m$  is the sum of the Weyl functions associated with the symmetric restrictions to  $\mathfrak{H}_m^\pm$  of  $L_{\min}$ .

The projection of the model to the subspaces just described has a natural application in quantum mechanics when, for example, one wishes to account for the contribution to the eigenvalues of antisymmetric (resp. symmetric) eigenfunctions. For instance, if one takes  $L$  such that  $\mathfrak{H}_n = W_2^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$ , where  $W_2^n$  is the Sobolev space (Example 4.3), then the projections  $P_n^-$  and  $P_n^+$  onto the spaces of antisymmetric spin states,  $W_2^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^1$ , and onto the spaces of symmetric spin states,  $W_2^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$ , satisfy our hypothesis. However, a concrete application of the present model will be demonstrated elsewhere.

Another motivation for considering the A-model, as opposed to the peak model, arises from an attempt to elude a too restrictive condition imposed on the Gram matrix  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{G}_{\sigma_j, \sigma'_j}) \in [\mathbb{C}^{m \times m}]$  of the peak model; namely,  $\mathcal{G}$  must be diagonal in  $j \in \{1, \dots, m\}$ . Although initially contemplated as an advantageous feature [26], this restriction is not satisfied for some operators  $L$ , for  $m > 1$ , for a simple reason that the eigenvectors of the triplet adjoint of  $L_{\min}$  for the Hilbert triple  $\mathfrak{H}_m \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_0 \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_{-m}$  are not necessarily orthogonal for distinct eigenvalues (Example 3.4).

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

Let  $A$  be a densely defined, closed, symmetric operator in a Pontryagin space  $\mathfrak{H}$  (see e.g. [4, Sec. 1.9]) with an indefinite metric  $[\cdot, \cdot]_{\mathfrak{H}}$ . Let  $A^*$  be the adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}$  of  $A$ . A triple  $(\mathcal{H}, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_1)$ , where  $\mathcal{H} = (\mathcal{H}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}})$  is a Hilbert space and  $\Gamma: f \mapsto (\Gamma_0 f, \Gamma_1 f)$  is the operator from  $\text{dom } A^*$  to  $\mathcal{H}^2 (:= \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{H})$ , is called an ordinary boundary triple (OBT) for  $A^*$  if  $\Gamma$  is surjective and the Green identity holds:

$$[f, g]_{A^*} := [f, A^* g]_{\mathfrak{H}} - [A^* f, g]_{\mathfrak{H}} = \langle \Gamma_0 f, \Gamma_1 g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - \langle \Gamma_1 f, \Gamma_0 g \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$$

for all  $f, g \in \text{dom } A^*$ ; see e.g. [8, Definition 2.1]. It is shown that an OBT for  $A^*$  in a Pontryagin space (or more generally in a Krein space) exists iff  $A$  admits a self-adjoint extension in  $\mathfrak{H}$  (cf. [5, Proposition 3.4], [9, p. 192]).

If the assumption on the density of  $\text{dom } A$  is dropped off, that is, if  $A^*$  is a linear relation [18, 22], then an OBT  $(\mathcal{H}, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_1)$  for  $A^*$  is defined by considering  $\Gamma_i, i \in \{0, 1\}$ , as a mapping from  $A^*$  onto  $\mathcal{H}$ . Sequentially, the Green identity reads

$$[f, g']_{\mathfrak{H}} - [f', g]_{\mathfrak{H}} = \langle \Gamma_0 \widehat{f}, \Gamma_1 \widehat{g} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - \langle \Gamma_1 \widehat{f}, \Gamma_0 \widehat{g} \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}$$

for  $\widehat{f} = (f, f'), \widehat{g} = (g, g') \in A^*$ . The reader may also consult [9, Definition 6], as well as [21, Definition 2.3], [14, Definition 7.11] in the Hilbert space case. In what follows we frequently identify operators with their graphs. Then the present definition of an OBT reduces to the previous definition as long as  $A$  becomes densely defined.

A proper extension  $A_{\Theta}$  of  $A$ , i.e. such that  $A \subseteq A_{\Theta} \subseteq A^*$ , is uniquely determined by a linear relation  $\Theta$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  via  $\Theta = \Gamma A_{\Theta}$  with  $A_{\Theta} = \{\widehat{f} \in A^* \mid \Gamma \widehat{f} \in \Theta\}$ ; see e.g. [9, Proposition 2], [21, Proposition 2.5], [14, Proposition 7.12], [8, Proposition 2.1]. In particular, a distinguished self-adjoint extension  $A_0 := A^*|_{\ker \Gamma_0}$  corresponds to a self-adjoint linear relation  $\Theta = \{0\} \times \mathcal{H}$  (and similarly for the transversal one, corresponding to  $\Theta = \mathcal{H} \times \{0\}$ ). A self-adjoint linear relation in a Krein (or Pontryagin) space may have an empty resolvent set (see e.g. [5, Example 3.7]). However, if there exists at least one self-adjoint extension of  $A$ , say  $\widetilde{A}$ , whose resolvent set  $\text{res } \widetilde{A}$  is nonempty, then there exists an OBT for  $A^*$  such that  $\widetilde{A} = A_0$ .

Let  $A$  be a closed symmetric operator as above. Let  $\mathfrak{N}_z(A^*) := \ker(A^* - z), z \in \mathbb{C}$ , denote the eigenspace of a linear relation  $A^*$  (and similarly for other linear relations and operators). Let  $\widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_z(A^*)$  be the set of the pairs  $(f_z, z f_z)$  with  $f_z \in \mathfrak{N}_z(A^*)$ . Let also  $\pi_1$  denote the orthogonal projection in the Hilbert sum of a Hilbert space with itself onto the first factor. Assume that the resolvent set  $\text{res } A_0 \neq \emptyset$ . The  $\gamma$ -field  $\gamma$  and the Weyl function  $M$  corresponding to the OBT  $(\mathcal{H}, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_1)$  for  $A^*$  are bounded operator valued functions defined by [9, Definition 7], [21, Definition 2.6]

$$\gamma(z) := \pi_1 \widehat{\gamma}(z), \quad \widehat{\gamma}(z) := (\Gamma_0|_{\widehat{\mathfrak{N}}_z(A^*)})^{-1}, \quad M(z) := \Gamma_1 \widehat{\gamma}(z)$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0$ . Then the resolvent of a closed proper extension  $A_{\Theta}$ , i.e. such that  $\Theta$  is closed, is represented by the Krein–Naimark resolvent formula (see e.g. [9, Theorem 4], [8, Theorem 2.1])

$$(A_{\Theta} - z)^{-1} = (A_0 - z)^{-1} + \gamma(z)(\Theta - M(z))^{-1}\gamma(\bar{z})^*$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0 \cap \text{res } A_{\Theta}$ . Moreover,  $z \in \text{res } A_{\Theta}$  iff  $0 \in \text{res}(\Theta - M(z))$ .

Let  $\mathfrak{H} = (\mathfrak{H}, [\cdot, \cdot]_{\mathfrak{H}})$  be a Krein (or in particular Pontryagin) space, let  $\mathcal{H} = (\mathcal{H}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\mathcal{H}})$  be a Hilbert space. Consider a linear relation  $\Gamma \subseteq \mathfrak{H}^2 \times \mathcal{H}^2$ . Let  $\Gamma^{[+]}$  be its Krein space adjoint:

$$\Gamma^{[+]} := \{((h_o, h'_o), (g, g')) \in \mathcal{H}^2 \times \mathfrak{H}^2 \mid \forall ((f, f'), (h, h')) \in \Gamma : [f, g']_{\mathfrak{H}} - [f', g]_{\mathfrak{H}} = \langle h, h'_o \rangle_{\mathcal{H}} - \langle h', h_o \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}\}.$$

Then  $\Gamma$  is said to be an isometric (resp. unitary) linear relation if the inverse linear relation  $\Gamma^{-1} \subseteq \Gamma^{[+]}$  (resp.  $\Gamma^{-1} = \Gamma^{[+]}$ ). If  $\Gamma$  is unitary and additionally single-valued (i.e. an operator identified with its graph), then by [12, Corollary 2.4(i)]  $\overline{\text{ran}} \Gamma = \mathcal{H}^2$

(the closure of the range). If, moreover,  $\text{dom } \Gamma$  is closed, then also  $\text{ran } \Gamma$  is closed, and is given by  $\text{ran } \Gamma = \mathcal{H}^2$  ([12, Corollary 2.4(iii)]).

Throughout we use quite standard notation for the domain  $\text{dom } A$ , the range  $\text{ran } A$ , the kernel  $\ker A$ , and the multivalued part  $\text{mul } A$  of a linear relation  $A$ . The resolvent set of  $A$  is denoted by  $\text{res } A$ , the point spectrum by  $\sigma_p(A)$ .

### 3. THE A-MODEL FOR FINITE RANK PERTURBATIONS

Let  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+1} \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , be the scale of Hilbert spaces associated with a lower semibounded self-adjoint operator  $L$  defined in the reference Hilbert space  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  with domain  $\text{dom } L = \mathfrak{H}_2$ . The scalar product in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  is defined via the scalar product  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_0$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  by scaling according to

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_n := \langle b_n(L)^{1/2} \cdot, b_n(L)^{1/2} \cdot \rangle_0, \quad b_n(L) := (L - z_1)^n.$$

The number  $z_1 \in \text{res } L \cap \mathbb{R}$  is fixed and referred to as the model parameter. Let us mention that the above definition of the  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ -scalar product allows us to avoid extra technicalities arising when, for example, one chooses  $b_n(L)$  as the product of  $(L - z_j)$  for  $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  for not necessarily identical model parameters  $z_j$ , as is done in [15] (where  $z_j = -a_j$ ), or when, on top of that, one assumes  $L$  not necessarily semibounded, in which case one should put  $|L|$  in  $b_n(L)$  instead of  $L$ . On the other hand, our definition of the scalar product predefines the inner structure of the model space (to be defined later); namely, it is shown in [15, Theorem 3.2(iii)] for  $d = 1$  that the present choice of the model parameters (i.e.  $a_j = -z_1$  for all  $j$ ) leads to an indefinite inner product space, as the model space. Let us moreover advertise that the current definition of the unitary operator  $b_n(L)^{1/2}$  (from  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  to  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ ) is not allowed in the peak model [26], which is a purely Hilbert space model (cf. [15, Theorem 3.2(ii)]).

To  $L = L_0$  one associates an operator  $L_n := L|_{\mathfrak{H}_{n+2}}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ . Then  $L_n$  is self-adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ , and moreover  $L_{n+1} \subset L_n$  and  $\text{res } L_n = \text{res } L$  (cf. Section 5). For notational simplicity we drop-off the subscript when no confusion can arise.

Let us fix  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $L_{\max}$  denote the triplet adjoint of  $L_{\min}$  for the Hilbert triple  $\mathfrak{H}_m \subset \mathfrak{H}_0 \subset \mathfrak{H}_{-m}$ ; see also [15, Theorem 2.1], [26, Definition 3.1], [24, Proposition 4.2]. The operator  $L_{\max}$  extends  $L_{-m+2}$  to (the direct sum)

$$\text{dom}(L_{\max}) = \mathfrak{H}_{-m+2} \dot{+} \mathfrak{N}_z(L_{\max}), \quad z \in \text{res } L.$$

$\mathfrak{N}_z(L_{\max})$  is the linear span of the singular elements  $\{g_\sigma(z) \in \mathfrak{H}_{-m} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-m+1}\}$ , each being defined so that  $b_m(L)^{-1}g_\sigma(z) \in \mathfrak{H}_m \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{m+1}$  is a deficiency element of the adjoint  $L_{\min}^*$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m$  of a densely defined, closed, symmetric operator  $L_{\min}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m$  with defect numbers  $(d, d)$ . Let us recall that the domain of  $L_{\min}$  is parametrized via the family of linearly independent functionals  $\{\varphi_\sigma \in \mathfrak{H}_{-m-2} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-m-1}\}$  according to  $\langle \varphi_\sigma, f \rangle = 0$  for  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}$ ; the duality pairing  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  between  $\mathfrak{H}_{-m-2}$  and  $\mathfrak{H}_{m+2}$  is defined via the  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ -scalar product in a usual way (cf. [2, Eq. (1.17)]). In the sequel we also use the vector notation  $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle = (\langle \varphi_\sigma, \cdot \rangle): \mathfrak{H}_{m+2} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^d$ , and similarly for other duality pairings. In terms of the functionals  $\{\varphi_\sigma\}$  the eigenvectors of  $L_{\max}$  are then given (in the generalized sense) by  $g_\sigma(z) := (L - z)^{-1}\varphi_\sigma$ .

As the space  $\mathfrak{H}_{-m}$  in which  $L_{\max}$  acts is too large, following the lines of [15] one further considers  $L_{\max}$  in a finite-dimensional extension of  $\mathfrak{H}_m$ , referred to as an intermediate (or model) space. We now discuss the construction of the space in more detail.

Consider an  $md$ -dimensional linear space

$$\mathfrak{K}_A := \text{span}\{h_\alpha \mid \alpha = (\sigma, j) \in \mathcal{S} \times J\}, \quad J := \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$$

( $\mathcal{S}$  is an index set of dimension  $d$ ) spanned by the elements

$$h_{\sigma j} := (L - z_1)^{-j} \varphi_\sigma \in \mathfrak{H}_{-m-2+2j} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-m-1+2j}.$$

Note that  $h_{\sigma 1} = g_\sigma(z_1) \in \mathfrak{N}_{z_1}(L_{\max})$ . An element  $k \in \mathfrak{K}_A \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_{-m}$  is thus of the form

$$k = \sum_{\alpha} d_{\alpha}(k) h_{\alpha}, \quad d_{\alpha}(k) \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Since the system  $\{h_{\alpha}\}$  is linearly independent, the Gram matrix

$$\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A = ([\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A]_{\alpha\alpha'}) \in [\mathbb{C}^{md}], \quad [\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A]_{\alpha\alpha'} := \langle h_{\alpha}, h_{\alpha'} \rangle_{-m}$$

is positive definite, and one establishes a bijective correspondence

$$\mathfrak{K}_A \ni k \leftrightarrow d(k) = (d_{\alpha}(k)) \in \mathbb{C}^{md}.$$

Observe that  $\mathfrak{K}_A \cap \mathfrak{H}_{m-1} = \{0\}$ .

Define a linear space

$$\mathcal{H}_A := (\mathfrak{H}_m \dot{+} \mathfrak{K}_A, [\cdot, \cdot]_A)$$

with an indefinite metric

$$[f + k, f' + k']_A := \langle f, f' \rangle_m + \langle d(k), \mathcal{G}_A d(k') \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}$$

for  $f, f' \in \mathfrak{H}_m; k, k' \in \mathfrak{K}_A$ . An Hermitian matrix  $\mathcal{G}_A = ([\mathcal{G}_A]_{\alpha\alpha'}) \in [\mathbb{C}^{md}]$  is referred to as the Gram matrix of the A-model. The model space  $\mathcal{H}_A$  is a Hilbert space if  $\mathcal{G}_A \geq 0$  and a Pontryagin space otherwise. Let also

$$\mathcal{H}'_A := (\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}, [\cdot, \cdot]'_A)$$

with an indefinite metric

$$[(f, \xi), (f', \xi')]'_A := \langle f, f' \rangle_m + \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A \xi' \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}$$

for  $(f, \xi), (f', \xi') \in \mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ . The isometric isomorphism (unitary operator) from  $\mathcal{H}_A$  onto  $\mathcal{H}'_A$ , realized via the above established bijective correspondence  $\mathfrak{K}_A \leftrightarrow \mathbb{C}^{md}$ , is denoted by  $U_A$ .

The construction of nontrivial extensions to  $\mathcal{H}_A$  of  $L_{\min}$  relies upon the following lemma; cf. [15, Eq. (2.3)].

**Lemma 3.1.** *The restriction to  $\mathcal{H}_A$  of  $L_{\max}$  is the operator  $A_{\max}$  given by*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dom } A_{\max} &= \left\{ f^\# + h_{m+1}(c) + k \mid f^\# \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}, k \in \mathfrak{K}_A, h_{m+1}(c) := \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} h_{\sigma, m+1}, \right. \\ &\quad \left. c = (c_{\sigma}) \in \mathbb{C}^d, h_{\sigma, m+1} := b_{m+1}(L)^{-1} \varphi_{\sigma} \in \mathfrak{H}_m \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{m+1} \right\}, \\ A_{\max}(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c) + k) &= Lf^\# + z_1 h_{m+1}(c) + \tilde{k}, \quad \tilde{k} \in \mathfrak{K}_A, \\ d(\tilde{k}) &:= \mathfrak{M}_d d(k) + \eta(c), \quad \eta(c) := (\delta_{jm} c_{\sigma}) \in \mathbb{C}^{md}, \end{aligned}$$

where the matrix  $\mathfrak{M}_d := \mathfrak{M} \oplus \dots \oplus \mathfrak{M}$  ( $d$  times) is the matrix direct sum of  $d$  matrices  $\mathfrak{M} = (\mathfrak{M}_{jj'}) \in [\mathbb{C}^m]$  defined by

$$\mathfrak{M}_{jj'} := \delta_{jj'} z_1 + \delta_{j+1, j'}, \quad j \in J \setminus \{m\}, j' \in J$$

and  $\mathfrak{M}_{mj'} := \delta_{j'm} z_1, j' \in J$ . For  $m = 1$ , one puts  $\mathfrak{M} := z_1$ .

*Proof.* By definition, the action of  $L_{\max}$  on  $f + k \in \mathfrak{H}_m \dot{+} \mathfrak{K}_A$  is given (in the generalized sense) by

$$\begin{aligned} L_{\max}(f + k) &= Lf + \sum_{\sigma} z_1 d_{\sigma 1}(k) h_{\sigma 1} + \sum_{\sigma} \sum_{j=2}^m d_{\sigma j}(k) L(L - z_1)^{-j} \varphi_{\sigma} \\ &= Lf + z_1 k + \sum_{\sigma} \sum_{j=1}^{m-1} d_{\sigma, j+1}(k) h_{\sigma j}. \end{aligned}$$

Now  $Lf \in \mathfrak{H}_{m-2}$ , thus the range restriction  $L_{\max}(f + k) \in \mathfrak{H}_m \dot{+} \mathfrak{K}_A$  implies that  $f$  is of the form  $f^\# + g$  for some  $f^\# \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}$  and  $g \in \mathfrak{H}_m$  such that  $Lg \in \mathcal{H}_A$ . By noting that  $Lh_{m+1}(c) = z_1 h_{m+1}(c) + h_m(c)$  ( $h_m(c) \in \mathfrak{K}_A$  is defined similar to  $h_{m+1}(c)$ ) for an arbitrary  $c \in \mathbb{C}^d$ , one concludes that  $g = h_{m+1}(c)$ , and the required result follows.  $\square$

Now we state the main realization theorem in the A-model.

**Theorem 3.2.** *Assume that an invertible Hermitian matrix  $\mathcal{G}_A$  satisfies the commutation relation*

$$\mathcal{G}_A \mathfrak{M}_d = \mathfrak{M}_d^* \mathcal{G}_A. \tag{3.1}$$

Then the triple  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^A, \Gamma_1^A)$ , where  $\Gamma^A : f \mapsto (\Gamma_0^A f, \Gamma_1^A f)$  from  $\text{dom } A_{\max}$  to  $\mathbb{C}^d \times \mathbb{C}^d$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_0^A(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c) + k) &:= c, \\ \Gamma_1^A(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c) + k) &:= \langle \varphi, f^\# \rangle - [\mathcal{G}_A d(k)]_m \end{aligned}$$

with

$$[\mathcal{G}_A d(k)]_m := ([\mathcal{G}_A d(k)]_{\sigma m}) \in \mathbb{C}^d$$

and  $f^\# \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}, k \in \mathfrak{K}_A, c \in \mathbb{C}^d$ , is an OBT for the adjoint  $A_{\min}^* = A_{\max}$  of a densely defined, closed, symmetric operator  $A_{\min} = A_{\max} \upharpoonright_{\ker \Gamma^A}$  in  $\mathcal{H}_A$ .

Moreover, for a (closed) linear relation  $\Theta$  in  $\mathbb{C}^d$ , a proper extension  $A_\Theta$  of  $A_{\min}$  is the restriction of  $A_{\max}$  to the set of  $f \in \text{dom } A_{\max}$  such that  $\Gamma^A f \in \Theta$ . The Krein–Naimark resolvent formula reads

$$(A_\Theta - z)^{-1} = (A_0 - z)^{-1} + \gamma_A(z)(\Theta - M_A(z))^{-1}\gamma_A(\bar{z})^*$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0 \cap \text{res } A_\Theta$ . The resolvent of a distinguished self-adjoint extension  $A_0 := A_{\{0\} \times \mathbb{C}^d}$  is given by

$$(A_0 - z)^{-1} = U_A^*[(L - z)^{-1} \oplus (\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}]U_A$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0 = \text{res } L \setminus \{z_1\}$ . The  $\gamma$ -field  $\gamma_A$  and the Weyl function  $M_A$  corresponding to  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^A, \Gamma_1^A)$  are given by

$$\gamma_A(z)\mathbb{C}^d = \mathfrak{N}_z(A_{\max}) = \left\{ \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} F_{\sigma}(z) \mid c_{\sigma} \in \mathbb{C} \right\}, \quad F_{\sigma}(z) := \frac{g_{\sigma}(z)}{(z - z_1)^m}$$

and

$$M_A(z) = q(z) + r(z) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{C}^d$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0$ . The Krein  $Q$ -function  $q$  of  $L_{\min}$  is defined by

$$q(z) = ([q(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'}) \in [\mathbb{C}^d], \quad [q(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'} := (z - z_1) \langle \varphi_{\sigma}, (L - z)^{-1} h_{\sigma', m+1} \rangle$$

for  $z \in \text{res } L$ , and the generalized Nevanlinna function  $r$  is defined by

$$r(z) = ([r(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'}) \in [\mathbb{C}^d], \quad [r(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'} := - \sum_j \frac{[\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma m, \sigma' j}}{(z - z_1)^{m-j+1}}$$

for  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{z_1\}$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 3.1, the boundary form of  $A_{\max}$  is given by

$$[f, g]_{A_{\max}} = \langle d(k), (\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}} - \mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}}^*)d(k') \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} + \langle \Gamma_0^A f, \Gamma_1^A g \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d} - \langle \Gamma_1^A f, \Gamma_0^A g \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}$$

with  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}} := \mathcal{G}_A \mathfrak{M}_d$ , where  $f = f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c) + k \in \text{dom } A_{\max}$ ,  $g = g^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c') + k' \in \text{dom } A_{\max}$ ,  $f^{\#}, g^{\#} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}$ ,  $c, c' \in \mathbb{C}^d$ ,  $k, k' \in \mathfrak{K}_A$ . Assuming that

$$\ker \mathcal{G}_A = \{0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{M}_d^* \mathcal{G}_A \mathbb{C}^{md} \subseteq \text{ran } \mathcal{G}_A$$

the adjoint  $A_{\min} := A_{\max}^*$  in  $\mathcal{H}_A$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dom } A_{\min} &= \ker \Gamma^A, \\ A_{\min}(f^{\#} + k) &= Lf^{\#} + \sum_{\alpha} [\mathcal{G}_A^{-1} \mathfrak{M}_d^* \mathcal{G}_A d(k)]_{\alpha} h_{\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

and hence the boundary form of  $A_{\min}$  reads

$$[f, g]_{A_{\min}} = \langle d(k), (\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}}^* - \mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}})d(k') \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}$$

with  $f = f^\# + k \in \text{dom } A_{\min}$  and  $g = g^\# + k' \in \text{dom } A_{\min}$  as above. One verifies that the adjoint  $A_{\min}^* = A_{\max}$ , and hence  $A_{\max}$  is closed in  $\mathcal{H}_A$ .

If (3.1) holds, the boundary form of  $A_{\min}^*$  satisfies an abstract Green identity. Thus, since  $\Gamma^A$  is single-valued and surjective, the triple  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^A, \Gamma_1^A)$  is an OBT for  $A_{\min}^*$ .

The eigenvalue equation for  $A_{\max}$  yields

$$f^\# = (z - z_1)(L - z)^{-1}h_{m+1}(c), \quad d(k) = -(\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}\eta(c) \tag{3.2}$$

for  $f^\# + h_{m+1}(c) + k \in \text{dom } A_{\max}$  as above. Now

$$[(\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}\eta(c)]_{\sigma j} = \sum_{\sigma'} [(\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}]_{\sigma j, \sigma' m} c_{\sigma'}$$

with  $c = (c_\sigma) \in \mathbb{C}^d$  and with

$$[(\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}]_{\sigma j, \sigma' m} = \delta_{\sigma\sigma'} [(\mathfrak{M} - z)^{-1}]_{jm}, \quad [(\mathfrak{M} - z)^{-1}]_{jm} = \frac{-1}{(z - z_1)^{m-j+1}}.$$

Thus, by noting that

$$(L - z)^{-1}(L - z_1)^{-m} + \sum_j (L - z_1)^{-j}(z - z_1)^{-m+j-1} = (L - z)^{-1}(z - z_1)^{-m}$$

one concludes that the eigenvector  $f^\# + h_{m+1}(c) + k \in \mathfrak{N}_z(A_{\max})$  is given as stated in the theorem.

Finally, the Weyl function

$$M_A(z)c = \langle \varphi, f^\# \rangle - [\mathcal{G}_A d(k)]_m$$

for  $f^\#$  and  $k$  as in (3.2). The first term on the right-hand side defines  $q(z)c$  and the second term defines  $r(z)c$ . □

Let us mention that the  $Q$ -function  $q$  is actually the Weyl function associated with a certain boundary triple for the adjoint  $L_{\min}^*$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m$ ; see Corollary 7.4 below. While  $q$  is a Nevanlinna function,  $r$  is a generalized Nevanlinna function, and the Nevanlinna class [3, 7] depends on the particular choice of the Gram matrix  $\mathcal{G}_A$ .

The matrix  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}} := \mathcal{G}_A \mathfrak{M}_d$  is Hermitian iff

$$[\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma j, \sigma' j'} = 0, \quad [\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma j, \sigma' m} = \overline{[\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma' m, \sigma j}} = [\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma, j+1; \sigma', m-1} \tag{3.3}$$

for  $j \in J \setminus \{m\}$ ,  $j' \in \{1, \dots, m - j\}$  and  $m \geq 2$ . For  $m = 1$ , however, the matrix  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathfrak{M}} = z_1 \mathcal{G}_A$  is automatically Hermitian.

Due to (3.3), several remarks are in order. First one verifies that  $r$  is symmetric with respect to the real axis, that is,  $r(z)^* = r(\bar{z})$ , because  $[\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma m, \sigma' j} = [\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma j, \sigma' m}$  ( $j \in J$ ) by (3.3). Note that  $q(z)^* = q(\bar{z})$  is clear from the definition. Next, one observes that the Gram matrix  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A$  does not satisfy (3.1) for  $m \geq 2$ , because  $[\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A]_{\sigma_1, \sigma_1} > 0$ . This shows that, in order use Theorem 3.2 for  $m \geq 2$ , one cannot define the Gram matrix of the A-model in a way that is done in the peak model.

**Remark 3.3.** Let us recall that in the peak model the parameters  $\{a_j\}$  are all necessarily distinct. However, putting  $a_j = -z_1 + \delta_{j-1}$  for  $\delta_j \neq 0$  and  $j \in J \setminus \{1\}$  and  $m \geq 2$ , and formally taking the limits  $\delta_j \rightarrow \delta_{j-1}$ , as well as  $\delta_1 \rightarrow 0$ , one can show by induction that the  $Q$ -function associated with the Gram matrix  $\mathcal{G}$  of the peak model approaches  $r$ , up to  $O(\delta_1)$ , with  $[\mathcal{G}_A]_{\sigma m, \sigma' j} = [\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A]_{\sigma m, \sigma' j}$ . Notice that  $[\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A]_{\sigma m, \sigma' j}$ , with  $m \geq 2$ , satisfies the second relation in (3.3). On the other hand, taking the above described limits, the matrix element  $\mathcal{G}_{\sigma 1, \sigma' 2} = [\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A]_{\sigma 1, \sigma' 1} + O(\delta_1)$ , so the requirement that  $\mathcal{G}$  must be diagonal in  $j$  – which is essential in applying the extension theory of symmetric operators in the peak model – fails for  $m \geq 2$ . For  $m = 1$ , both models produce the same Nevanlinna function  $r(z) = \mathcal{G}_A / (z_1 - z)$ , provided that  $\mathcal{G}_A = \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A (\in [\mathbb{C}^d])$ .

**Example 3.4.** We briefly demonstrate by a concrete example the case when the eigenvectors  $\{g_\sigma(z)\}$  of  $L_{\max}$  are not orthogonal for distinct  $z$ , that is, the example when the peak model cannot be applied. We consider the two-particle Rashba spin-orbit-coupled operator  $L$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_0 = L^2(\mathbb{R}^6) \otimes \mathbb{C}^4$  with point-interaction between the two cold atoms [23]. The operator is nonseparable in the center-of-mass coordinate system  $(x, X) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$  ( $x$  is the distance between the two atoms,  $X$  is the center-of-mass coordinate) for a nonzero spin-orbit-coupling strength  $\varepsilon$ . The interaction is modeled by the Dirac distribution  $\varphi_\sigma \in \mathfrak{H}_{-4} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-3}$  concentrated at  $x = 0$ :  $\langle \varphi_\sigma, f \rangle = N_\sigma f_\sigma(0, X)$ ,  $f = \sum_\sigma f_\sigma \otimes |\sigma\rangle \in \mathfrak{H}_4$ ,  $N_\sigma > 0$  is the normalization constant,  $\{|\sigma\rangle\}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $\mathbb{C}^4$ . Thus we have  $m = 2$  and  $d = 4$ . For simplicity, we assume that  $\varepsilon$  is negligibly small. In this regime  $L$  approximates, up to  $O(\varepsilon)$ , the operator  $(-2\Delta_x - \frac{1}{2}\Delta_X) \otimes I_{\mathbb{C}^4}$  (cf. [1, Eq. (8)]), where  $\Delta_x$  (resp.  $\Delta_X$ ) is the Laplacian in  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$  (resp.  $X \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ). Then the distribution  $g_\sigma(z) \in \mathfrak{H}_{-2} \setminus \mathfrak{H}_{-1}$  admits a relatively simple form

$$g_\sigma(z) = -\frac{N_\sigma}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{zK_2(|\cdot - W_0|\sqrt{-z})}{|\cdot - W_0|^2} \otimes |\sigma\rangle, \quad W_0 = (0, X), \quad z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus [0, \infty)$$

where  $K_2$  is the Macdonald function of second order. Because  $m = 2$ , it suffices to have in the (peak) model two distinct model parameters  $z_1, z_2 < 0$  (or else  $a_1, a_2 > 0$ ). Because now  $b_2(L) = (L - z_1)(L - z_2)$ , the Gram matrix element  $\mathcal{G}_{\sigma 1, \sigma 2}$  reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{\sigma 1, \sigma 2} &:= \langle g_\sigma(z_1), g_\sigma(z_2) \rangle_{-2} = \langle g_\sigma(z_1), b_2(L)^{-1} g_\sigma(z_2) \rangle_0 \\ &= \left\langle \varphi_\sigma, [(L - z_1)(L - z_2)]^{-2} \varphi_\sigma \right\rangle = \left\langle \varphi_\sigma, \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u \partial v} [(L - u)(L - v)]^{-1} \varphi_\sigma \Big|_{\substack{u=z_1 \\ v=z_2}} \right\rangle \\ &= \left\langle \varphi_\sigma, \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u \partial v} \frac{g_\sigma(u) - g_\sigma(v)}{u - v} \Big|_{\substack{u=z_1 \\ v=z_2}} \right\rangle \\ &= -\frac{N_\sigma^2}{(2\pi)^3} \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial u \partial v} \frac{uK_2(r\sqrt{-u}) - vK_2(r\sqrt{-v})}{u - v} \Big|_{\substack{u=-a_1 \\ v=-a_2}} \\ &= \frac{N_\sigma^2}{(2\pi)^3 2^4} \frac{2a_1 a_2 \log(a_1/a_2) - a_1^2 + a_2^2}{(a_2 - a_1)^3} \end{aligned}$$

up to  $O(\varepsilon^2)$  (a more accurate computation of  $\mathcal{G}_{\sigma 1, \sigma 2}$  shows that the term  $O(\varepsilon)$  vanishes).

4. PROJECTIONS

In the remaining part of the present paper we develop the A-model in the subspaces

$$\mathcal{H}'_A{}^- := (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}, [\cdot, \cdot]'_A), \quad \mathcal{H}'_A{}^+ := (\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}, [\cdot, \cdot]'_A)$$

of  $\mathcal{H}'_A$ , by assuming that the Hilbert space  $\mathfrak{H}_m = \mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathfrak{H}_m^+$  is the Hilbert (orthogonal) sum of its subspaces  $\mathfrak{H}_m^\pm$ . The analogue of Theorem 3.2, in the case when  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+1}^\pm \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^\pm$  ( $\forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) densely, is stated in Theorem 7.3. First we discuss the properties of the projections that we use later on, then we consider the restrictions to  $\mathfrak{H}_n^\pm$  of  $L_n$ , and then finally we describe the min-max operators defined in  $\mathcal{H}'_A{}^\pm$ . The principal difference between the case of the minimal operator  $A_{\min}$  considered in  $\mathcal{H}_A$  and its analogue  $A_{\min}^-$  (resp.  $A_{\min}^+$ ) considered in  $\mathcal{H}'_A{}^-$  (resp.  $\mathcal{H}'_A{}^+$ ) is that  $A_{\min}^-$  (resp.  $A_{\min}^+$ ) becomes nondensely defined in general, that is, the corresponding maximal operator  $A_{\max}^-$  (resp.  $A_{\max}^+$ ) is a linear relation.

Let  $P_n^-$  be an orthogonal projection in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  onto a subspace  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n$  and let  $P_n^+ := I_{\mathfrak{H}_n} - P_n^-$ , an orthogonal projection in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  onto  $\mathfrak{H}_n^+ := (\mathfrak{H}_n^-)^\perp$ . Here and elsewhere the subscript in  $\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}$  indicates with respect to which Hilbert space one takes the orthogonal complement.

**Lemma 4.1.**  *$P_n^-$  is an orthogonal projection in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  onto a subspace  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  iff*

$$P_0^-(n) := b_n(L)^{1/2} P_n^- b_n(L)^{-1/2}$$

is an orthogonal projection in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  onto a subspace

$$\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) := P_0^-(n) \mathfrak{H}_0 = b_n(L)^{1/2} \mathfrak{H}_n^-.$$

If this is the case, then

$$P_0^+(n) := I_{\mathfrak{H}_0} - P_0^-(n) = b_n(L)^{1/2} P_n^+ b_n(L)^{-1/2}$$

is an orthogonal projection in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  onto a subspace

$$\mathfrak{H}_0^+(n) := \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_0}} = P_0^+(n) \mathfrak{H}_0 = b_n(L)^{1/2} \mathfrak{H}_n^+.$$

*Proof.* Because

$$P_0^-(n)^2 = b_n(L)^{1/2} (P_n^-)^2 b_n(L)^{-1/2}$$

$P_0^-(n)$  is a projection iff so is  $P_n^-$ .

We show that the adjoint  $P_0^-(n)^*$  of  $P_0^-(n)$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  is given by

$$P_0^-(n)^* = b_n(L)^{1/2} P_n^{-*} b_n(L)^{-1/2} \tag{4.1}$$

on  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ , where  $P_n^{-*}$  is the adjoint of  $P_n^-$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ ; then it follows that  $P_0^-(n)$  is self-adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  iff so is  $P_n^-$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ : The graph of the adjoint  $P_0^-(n)^*$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  consists of  $(y, x) \in \mathfrak{H}_0^2$  such that  $(\forall u \in \mathfrak{H}_0)$

$$\langle u, x \rangle_0 = \langle P_0^-(n)u, y \rangle_0.$$

Every  $u$  is of the form  $u = b_n(L)^{1/2}f$  with some  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_n$ . Then

$$\langle u, x \rangle_0 = \langle f, b_n(L)^{-1/2}x \rangle_n$$

and

$$\langle P_0^-(n)u, y \rangle_0 = \langle P_n^- f, b_n(L)^{-1/2}y \rangle_n = \langle f, P_n^- * b_n(L)^{-1/2}y \rangle_n$$

from which the claim follows. The remaining statements are verified straightforwardly.  $\square$

The present lemma allows us to freely transfer between the  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ -space representation and the  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ -space representation. In particular  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(0) = \mathfrak{H}_0^-$ , but in general  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) \neq \mathfrak{H}_0^-$  for  $n \neq 0$ . The equality holds for all  $n$  iff

$$P_n^- = b_n(L)^{-1/2}P_0^-b_n(L)^{1/2} \tag{4.2}$$

on  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ ; in this case one would have  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^- = b_l(L)^{-1/2}\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  for  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$  (cf. Example 4.5). Moreover,  $P_0^\pm(n)P_0^\mp(n+l) \neq 0$  in general. However, the product of projections vanishes for  $l \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ , provided that  $P_{n+1}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ ; see Lemma 4.4 below.

Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$  as above and let

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- := P_n^- \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}.$$

Throughout we assume that

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}.$$

Then

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = \mathfrak{H}_n^- \cap \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}.$$

The latter equality follows from the following observations. The set  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \cap \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$  consists of  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_n^-$  such that  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$ . Then  $P_n^- f = f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-$ , and therefore  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \cap \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$  is the set of  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-$  such that  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$ . By the above assumption this yields  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \cap \mathfrak{H}_{n+l} = \mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-$ .

Using the definition of the projection  $P_0^-(n)$  it follows that

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = b_n(L)^{-1/2}\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n), \quad \mathfrak{H}_l^-(n) := P_0^-(n)\mathfrak{H}_l = \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) \cap \mathfrak{H}_l$$

and hence  $\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)$  is a subset of  $\mathfrak{H}_l$ . Similarly, one defines  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^+ := P_n^+ \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$  and  $\mathfrak{H}_l^+(n) := P_0^+(n)\mathfrak{H}_l$ , with the assumption  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^+ \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$ . We note that

$$P_0^s(n)P_0^{s'}(n') = P_0^{s'}(n')P_0^s(n), \quad s, s' \in \{-, +\}, \quad n, n' \in \mathbb{Z}$$

and that

$$\mathfrak{H}_l^s(n) \cap \mathfrak{H}_l^{s'}(n') = \mathfrak{H}_l^s(n) \cap \mathfrak{H}_l^{s'}(n')$$

for  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .

In general  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- \neq \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$ , but the following holds.

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ .  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)$ ) is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$ ). Moreover  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  iff  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$ , or equivalently, iff  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$  (in fact, if  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^-$  densely, then  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+ \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^+$  densely and  $P_{n+l}^\pm \subseteq P_n^\pm$ ; conversely, if  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ , then  $P_{n+l}^+ \subseteq P_n^+$  and  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^\pm \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^\pm$  densely); if this is the case then*

$$P_0^-(n+l) \subseteq b_l(L)^{1/2} P_0^-(n) b_l(L)^{-1/2}$$

and hence  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n+l) = b_l(L)^{1/2} \mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)$  (and similarly for  $P_0^+(n+l)$  and  $\mathfrak{H}_0^+(n+l)$ ).

*Proof.* The orthogonal complement  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  of  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-$  consists of all  $g \in \mathfrak{H}_n$  such that  $(\forall f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l})$

$$0 = \langle P_n^- f, g \rangle_n = \langle f, P_n^- g \rangle_n.$$

Because  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$ , this implies  $P_n^- g = 0$ ; hence  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}} = \mathfrak{H}_n^+$ . This shows that  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^-$  densely in  $\|\cdot\|_n$ -norm. Similarly, the orthogonal complement  $\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_0}}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$  of  $\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)$  consists of all  $v \in \mathfrak{H}_0$  such that  $(\forall u^- \in \mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)) 0 = \langle u^-, v \rangle_0$ . Now  $u^-$  is of the form  $u^- = b_n(L)^{1/2} P_n^- f$  with some  $f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$ , so

$$\langle u, v \rangle_0 = \langle b_n(L)^{1/2} P_n^- f, v \rangle_0 = \langle P_n^- f, b_n(L)^{-1/2} v \rangle_n = \langle f, P_n^- b_n(L)^{-1/2} v \rangle_n.$$

This implies  $P_n^- b_n(L)^{-1/2} v = 0$ , and hence

$$\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_0}} = b_n(L)^{1/2} \mathfrak{H}_n^+ = \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n).$$

One concludes that  $\mathfrak{H}_l^-(n) \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$  densely in  $\|\cdot\|_0$ -norm.

Next one shows that  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^-$  densely iff  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ . The orthogonal complement  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  of  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  is the set of all  $g \in \mathfrak{H}_n$  such that  $(\forall f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}) 0 = \langle P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n$ . If  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ , then one arrives at the previously considered case, namely,  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}} = (\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}}$ ; hence  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^-$  densely. Moreover,  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$  implies that also  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+ \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^+$  densely:  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}}$  is the set of all  $g \in \mathfrak{H}_n$  such that  $(\forall f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l})$

$$0 = \langle P_{n+l}^+ f, g \rangle_n = \langle f, g \rangle_n - \langle P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n,$$

but

$$\langle P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n = \langle P_n^- f, g \rangle_n = \langle f, P_n^- g \rangle_n,$$

so

$$0 = \langle P_{n+l}^+ f, g \rangle_n = \langle f, P_n^+ g \rangle_n.$$

This shows  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}} = \mathfrak{H}_n^-$ . Conversely,  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}} = \mathfrak{H}_n^+$  implies that  $(\forall f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}) (\forall g \in \mathfrak{H}_n)$

$$0 = \langle P_{n+l}^- f, P_n^+ g \rangle_n = \langle P_n^+ P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n$$

hence  $P_n^+ P_{n+l}^- = 0$ . On the other hand,  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}} = \mathfrak{H}_n^+$  also implies that  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}} = \mathfrak{H}_n^-$ :  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+)^{\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_n}}$  is the set of all  $g \in \mathfrak{H}_n$  such that  $(\forall f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l})$

$$0 = \langle P_{n+l}^+ f, g \rangle_n = \langle f, g \rangle_n - \langle P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n.$$

Now

$$\langle P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n = \langle P_{n+l}^- f, P_n^- g \rangle_n + \langle P_{n+l}^- f, P_n^+ g \rangle_n$$

and

$$\langle P_{n+l}^- f, P_n^+ g \rangle_n = \langle P_n^+ P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n = 0,$$

so

$$0 = \langle P_{n+l}^+ f, g \rangle_n = \langle f, g \rangle_n - \langle P_{n+l}^- f, P_n^- g \rangle_n = \langle P_{n+l}^- f, g \rangle_n - \langle P_{n+l}^- f, P_n^- g \rangle_n.$$

As a result  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+)^{\perp \mathfrak{H}_n}$  is the set of all  $g \in \mathfrak{H}_n$  such that  $(\forall f^- \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-) 0 = \langle f^-, P_n^+ g \rangle_n$ . Because by hypothesis  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$ , this shows  $(\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+)^{\perp \mathfrak{H}_n} = \mathfrak{H}_n^-$ , as claimed. Sequentially,  $(\forall f \in \mathfrak{H}_{n+l} \forall g \in \mathfrak{H}_n)$

$$0 = \langle P_{n+l}^+ f, P_n^- g \rangle_n = \langle P_n^- P_{n+l}^+ f, g \rangle_n$$

and hence  $P_n^- P_{n+l}^+ = 0$ . This together with  $P_n^+ P_{n+l}^- = 0$  implies that  $P_{n+l}^\pm \subseteq P_n^\pm$ .

If  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$  then  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  by definition. Assuming the converse, again by definition one gets that  $P_n^- \mathfrak{H}_{n+l} = P_{n+l}^- \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}$ , i.e.  $P_n^- |_{\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}} = P_{n+l}^-$ . This shows that  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  iff  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$ , or equivalently, iff  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ .

Using  $P_{n+l}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ , for  $u \in \mathfrak{H}_0$

$$\begin{aligned} P_0^-(n+l)u &= b_{n+l}(L)^{1/2} P_{n+l}^- b_{n+l}(L)^{-1/2} u \\ &= b_{n+l}(L)^{1/2} P_n^- b_{n+l}(L)^{-1/2} u \\ &= b_l(L)^{1/2} P_0^-(n) b_l(L)^{-1/2} u \end{aligned}$$

and this completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

**Example 4.3.** Let  $H^n = W_2^n(\mathbb{R}^\nu)$ ,  $\nu \in \mathbb{N}$ , be the Sobolev space. Then we have  $L^2 = L^2(\mathbb{R}^\nu) = H^0$ . Let  $L$  be such that

$$\mathfrak{H}_n = b_n(L)^{-1/2} (L^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^4) = H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^4, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

and

$$P_n^-(H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^4) = H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^1 = \mathfrak{H}_n^-, \quad P_n^+(H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^4) = H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^3 = \mathfrak{H}_n^+.$$

Then  $P_{n+1}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ , and similarly for  $P_n^+$ . The subspaces

$$\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) = b_n(L)^{1/2} (H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^1), \quad \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n) = b_n(L)^{1/2} (H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^3).$$

For  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ , the subset

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = (H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^1) \cap (H^{n+l} \otimes \mathbb{C}^4) = H^{n+l} \otimes \mathbb{C}^1 = \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$$

is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$ ; and similarly for  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^+ = \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^+ \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n^+$ . Likewise, the subset

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{H}_l^-(n) &= [b_n(L)^{1/2} (H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^1)] \cap (H^l \otimes \mathbb{C}^4) \\ &= b_n(L)^{1/2} [(H^n \otimes \mathbb{C}^1) \cap (H^{n+l} \otimes \mathbb{C}^4)] \\ &= b_n(L)^{1/2} (H^{n+l} \otimes \mathbb{C}^1) = b_l(L)^{-1/2} \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n+l) \end{aligned}$$

is dense in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$ , and similarly for  $\mathfrak{H}_l^+(n) \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n)$ .

Due to the dense inclusion  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+1} \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n$  one also has the following result.

**Lemma 4.4.** *Assume that  $P_{n+1}^- \subseteq P_n^-$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then*

$$\mathfrak{H}_0^- = \mathfrak{H}_0^-(2n), \quad \mathfrak{H}_0^-(1) = \mathfrak{H}_0^-(2n + 1).$$

*Proof.* We show that  $\mathfrak{H}_0^+(n) = \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n - 2l)$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ; by relabeling  $n - 2l$  by  $n$ , the result extends to all  $l \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Taking the orthogonal complements one deduces an analogous result for  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$ .

We use two facts: that  $\mathfrak{H}_0^+(n) = \ker P_0^-(n)$  and that  $\mathfrak{H}_l \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_0$  densely for  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ . The kernel of  $P_0^-(n)$  consists of  $u \in \mathfrak{H}_0$  such that  $P_0^-(n)u = 0$ ; this is equivalent to saying that  $(\forall v \in \mathfrak{H}_0) \langle v, P_0^-(n)u \rangle_0 = 0$ . By Lemma 4.2,

$$P_0^-(n)u = b_l(L)^{1/2}P_0^-(n - l)b_l(L)^{-1/2}u \Rightarrow P_0^-(n - l)b_l(L)^{-1/2}u = 0.$$

Thus for all  $v \in \mathfrak{H}_0$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle v, P_0^-(n)u \rangle_0 = \langle v, P_0^-(n - l)b_l(L)^{-1/2}u \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle b_l(L)^{-1/2}P_0^-(n - l)v, u \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle P_0^-(n - 2l)b_l(L)^{-1/2}v, u \rangle_0 \quad (\text{by Lemma 4.2}). \end{aligned}$$

Since every  $v$  is of the form  $v = b_l(L)^{1/2}w$  with some  $w \in \mathfrak{H}_l$ , it follows that  $(\forall w \in \mathfrak{H}_l)$

$$0 = \langle P_0^-(n - 2l)w, u \rangle_0 = \langle w, P_0^-(n - 2l)u \rangle_0.$$

Since  $\mathfrak{H}_l \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_0$  densely, the latter implies that  $P_0^-(n - 2l)u = 0$ ; hence

$$\mathfrak{H}_0^+(n) = \ker P_0^-(n) = \ker P_0^-(n - 2l) = \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n - 2l)$$

as claimed. □

Thus, if the hypothesis of Lemma 4.4 holds, then the projections  $P_0^-(n)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , are in fact characterized by only two projections:  $P_0^- = P_0^-(2n)$  and  $P_0^-(1) = P_0^-(2n + 1)$ ; in this case  $P_n^-$  is as in (4.2) for  $n \in 2\mathbb{Z}$ , and

$$P_n^- = b_n(L)^{-1/2}P_0^-(1)b_n(L)^{1/2}$$

for  $n \in 2\mathbb{Z} + 1$ . But the converse is not necessarily true in general.

**Example 4.5.** Let  $P_n^-$  be as in (4.2). Then  $P_0^-(n) = P_0^-$  for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Let  $l \in \mathbb{N}_0$ ; then

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- := P_n^- \mathfrak{H}_{n+l} = b_n(L)^{-1/2}P_0^- b_n(L)^{1/2} \mathfrak{H}_{n+l} = b_n(L)^{-1/2} \mathfrak{H}_{0,l}^-$$

while

$$\mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^- := P_{n+l}^- \mathfrak{H}_{n+l} = b_n(L)^{-1/2} \mathfrak{H}_l^-.$$

Thus  $\mathfrak{H}_{n,l}^- = \mathfrak{H}_{n+l}^-$  iff

$$\mathfrak{H}_{0,l}^- (= P_0^- \mathfrak{H}_l) = \mathfrak{H}_l^- (= P_l^- \mathfrak{H}_l)$$

or what is the same, iff  $P_0^- \supseteq P_l^-$ .

5. PROJECTED OPERATORS

Let  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ . By scaling every self-adjoint operator  $L_n$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  admits the form

$$L_n = b_n(L)^{-1/2} L b_n(L)^{1/2}, \quad L = L_0 \tag{5.1}$$

on  $\text{dom } L_n = \mathfrak{H}_{n+2}$ . To every  $L_n$  one associates densely defined (Lemma 4.2) projected operators

$$L_n^- := P_n^- L_n |_{\mathfrak{H}_{n,2}^-}, \quad L_n^+ := P_n^+ L_n |_{\mathfrak{H}_{n,2}^+}$$

in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  and  $\mathfrak{H}_n^+$ , respectively. In analogy to (5.1), every operator  $L_n^-$  admits the form

$$L_n^- = b_n(L)^{-1/2} L_0^-(n) b_n(L)^{1/2}, \quad L_0^-(n) := P_0^-(n) L |_{\mathfrak{H}_2^-(n)}$$

and similarly for  $L_n^+$ . The operators  $L_0^\pm(n)$  are considered in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^\pm(n)$ , and hence they are densely defined.

Using  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) := P_0^-(n) \mathfrak{H}_0$  and  $\mathfrak{H}_0 = (L - z_1) \mathfrak{H}_2$ ,  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$  is the sum of sets

$$\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) = \text{ran}(L_0^-(n) - z_1) + P_0^-(n) L \mathfrak{H}_2^+(n). \tag{5.2}$$

Thus in general the operator  $L_0^-(n) - z_1$  is not surjective (unlike  $L - z_1$ ). But the following holds.

**Theorem 5.1.** *Under hypothesis of Lemma 4.4 the operator  $L_0^-(n) - z_1$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , is surjective.*

*Proof.* By Lemma 4.2,

$$\text{ran}(L_0^-(n) - z_1) = P_0^-(n) b_1(L) \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n) = P_0^-(n) \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n+2).$$

Now apply Lemma 4.4. □

The statement of the theorem is therefore equivalent to the statement

$$P_0^-(n) L \mathfrak{H}_2^+(n) = \{0\}. \tag{5.3}$$

Indeed, by Lemmas 4.2 and 4.4,

$$P_0^-(n) L \mathfrak{H}_2^+(n) = P_0^-(n) b_1(L) \mathfrak{H}_2^+(n) = P_0^-(n) \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n+2) = P_0^-(n) \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n) = \{0\},$$

so the sum in (5.2) implies that the operator  $L_0^-(n) - z_1$  is surjective, and vice versa. In this case the operators  $L_0^-(n)$  satisfy  $L_0^-(n) = L_0^-(2n)$  and  $L_0^-(1) = L_0^-(2n+1)$ . Analogous results hold for  $L_0^+(n)$  and  $L_n^\pm$ .

If  $L_n^{-*}$  is the adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  of  $L_n^-$  and if  $L_0^-(n)^*$  is the adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$  of  $L_0^-(n)$ , then the following result holds.

**Lemma 5.2.**  $L_n^{-*} = b_n(L)^{-1/2} L_0^-(n)^* b_n(L)^{1/2}$ .

*Proof.* The basic arguments are as in the proof of (4.1). □

**Theorem 5.3.** *Under hypothesis of Lemma 4.4 the operator  $L_0^-(n)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , is self-adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$ .*

*Proof.* Consider the adjoint  $L_0^-(n)^*$  as a linear relation in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$ . Then  $L_0^-(n)^*$  consists of  $(y^-, x^-) \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)^2$  such that  $(\forall w^- \in \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n))$

$$\langle w^-, x^- \rangle_0 = \langle L_0^-(n)w^-, y^- \rangle_0.$$

Every  $w^- \in \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n)$  is of the form  $w^- = P_0^-(n)b_1(L)^{-1}v$  with some  $v \in \mathfrak{H}_0$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle L_0^-(n)w^-, y^- \rangle_0 &= \langle LP_0^-(n)b_1(L)^{-1}v, y^- \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle b_1(L)P_0^-(n)b_1(L)^{-1}v, y^- \rangle_0 + \langle P_0^-(n)b_1(L)^{-1}v, z_1y^- \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle b_1(L)P_0^-(n)b_1(L)^{-1}v, y^- \rangle_0 + \langle v, b_1(L)^{-1}z_1y^- \rangle_0. \end{aligned}$$

By applying Lemma 4.2

$$\langle b_1(L)P_0^-(n)b_1(L)^{-1}v, y^- \rangle_0 = \langle P_0^-(n+2)v, y^- \rangle_0 = \langle v, P_0^-(n+2)y^- \rangle_0.$$

On the other hand,

$$\langle w^-, x^- \rangle_0 = \langle b_1(L)^{-1}v, x^- \rangle_0 = \langle v, b_1(L)^{-1}x^- \rangle_0.$$

Therefore  $(y^-, x^-) \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)^2$  such that

$$b_1(L)^{-1}x^- = P_0^-(n+2)y^- + b_1(L)^{-1}z_1y^-.$$

Because  $y^- = u^- + u^+$  is the sum of disjoint elements  $u^\pm \in P_0^\pm(n+2)\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$ , it follows from the above that

$$b_1(L)^{-1}x^- = u^- + b_1(L)^{-1}z_1(u^- + u^+).$$

Because  $b_1(L)^{-1}\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) = \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n-2)$  by Lemma 4.2, from here one concludes that

$$u^- \in \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n-2) \cap P_0^-(n+2)\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n) = \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n-2) \cap \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n) \cap \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n+2).$$

Sequentially

$$x^- = b_1(L)u^- + z_1(u^- + u^+) = P_0^-(n)b_1(L)u^- + z_1(u^- + u^+) = L_0^-(n)u^- + z_1u^+.$$

Finally, by applying Lemma 4.4 one gets that  $u^- \in \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n)$  and  $u^+ = 0$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 5.4.**  $z_1 \in \text{res } L_0^-(n)$ .

*Proof.* This follows from Theorems 5.1 and 5.3.  $\square$

Under hypothesis of Lemma 4.4 and applying Lemma 5.2, the operator  $L_n^-$  is therefore self-adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$ . Moreover,  $z_1 \in \text{res } L_n^- = \text{res } L_0^-(n)$  or, what is equivalent,  $P_n^-L_n\mathfrak{H}_{n+2}^+ = \{0\}$ . Similar conclusions apply to operators  $L_0^+(n)$  and  $L_n^+$ .

**Lemma 5.5.** *Under hypothesis of Lemma 4.4 the resolvent*

$$(L_0^-(n) - z)^{-1} = P_0^-(n)(L - z)^{-1}P_0^-(n) \quad \text{on } \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$$

for  $z \in \text{res } L \subseteq \text{res } L_0^-(n)$  (and similarly for  $L_0^+(n)$ ).

*Proof.* First we derive the resolvent formula for  $z \in \text{res } L \cap \text{res } L_0^-(n)$  and then we show that  $\text{res } L \subseteq \text{res } L_0^-(n)$ . Consider an arbitrary  $v \in \mathfrak{H}_0$ . Then, for  $z \in \text{res } L$ ,  $(\exists u \in \mathfrak{H}_2) v = (L - z)u$ . Projecting the latter onto  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-(n)$  and applying (5.3) yields

$$P_0^-(n)v = (L_0^-(n) - z)P_0^-(n)u$$

and the resolvent formula follows for  $z \in \text{res } L \cap \text{res } L_0^-(n)$ .

The eigenspace

$$\mathfrak{N}_z(L_0^-(n)) = \{u^- \in \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n) \mid P_0^-(n)(L - z)u^- = 0\}$$

is nontrivial for some  $z \in \mathbb{R}$  (cf. Theorem 5.3). From here and (5.3) one gets that

$$(L - z)u^- = P_0^+(n)(L - z)u^- = 0;$$

hence

$$\mathfrak{N}_z(L_0^-(n)) = \mathfrak{H}_2^-(n) \cap \mathfrak{N}_z(L).$$

If  $z \notin \sigma_p(L)$  then also  $z \notin \sigma_p(L_0^-(n))$ , but the converse  $z \notin \sigma_p(L_0^-(n))$  implies only that  $\mathfrak{N}_z(L) = \mathfrak{H}_2^+(n) \cap \mathfrak{N}_z(L)$  in this case. Therefore  $\sigma_p(L_0^-(n)) \subseteq \sigma_p(L)$ .

Now let  $z \in \text{res } L$ , that is,  $z \notin \sigma_p(L)$  and  $\text{ran}(L - z) = \mathfrak{H}_0$ . Because by (5.3)

$$\text{ran}(L - z) = \text{ran}(L_0^-(n) - z) \dot{+} \text{ran}(L_0^+(n) - z)$$

it follows that

$$\text{ran}(L_0^-(n) - z) = \mathfrak{H}_0^-(n), \quad \text{ran}(L_0^+(n) - z) = \mathfrak{H}_0^+(n)$$

so  $z \in \text{res } L_0^-(n)$ . □

Under the same hypothesis the resolvent of  $L_n^-$  is given by

$$(L_n^- - z)^{-1} = P_n^-(L_n - z)^{-1}P_n^- \quad \text{on } \mathfrak{H}_n^-$$

for  $z \in \text{res } L_n = \text{res } L$  (and similarly for  $L_n^+$ ).

We summarize the main results obtained so far in the following theorem.

**Theorem 5.6.** *Let  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+1} \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n$  be the scale of Hilbert spaces associated with a self-adjoint operator  $L$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ . For each  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , let  $P_n^-$  be an orthogonal projection in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  onto a subspace  $\mathfrak{H}_n^- \subseteq \mathfrak{H}_n$ ;  $\mathfrak{H}_n^+$  is the orthogonal complement in  $\mathfrak{H}_n$  of  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$ . Assume that  $P_{n+1}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ . Then the projections  $(P_n^-)_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$  are characterized, by scaling, by any two adjacent projections, say  $P_0^-$  and  $P_1^-$ , according to*

$$P_{2n}^- = b_n(L)^{-1}P_0^-b_n(L), \quad P_{2n+1}^- = b_n(L)^{-1}P_1^-b_n(L).$$

For each  $n$ , the subspace  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_n^+$ ) is therefore a reducing subspace for the restriction  $L_n$  to  $\mathfrak{H}_{n+2}$  of  $L$ . The part of  $L_n$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_n^-$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_n^+$ ) is a self-adjoint operator.

*Proof.* This follows from Lemmas 4.4, 5.2, and Theorem 5.3. □

6. MIN-MAX OPERATORS IN A SUBSPACE

In the present and subsequent paragraphs  $\mathfrak{M}_d^* \mathcal{G}_A = \mathcal{G}_A \mathfrak{M}_d$ , as in (3.1), for an invertible Hermitian  $\mathcal{G}_A$ , and  $P_{n+1}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , as in Theorem 5.6. Let

$$A'_{\min} := U_A A_{\min} U_A^{-1} = \{((f^\#, \xi), (L f^\#, \mathfrak{M}_d \xi)) \mid f^\# \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}, \xi \in \mathbb{C}^{md}, \langle \varphi, f^\# \rangle = [\mathcal{G}_A \xi]_m\}.$$

Then  $A'_{\min}$  is a closed, densely defined, symmetric operator in  $\mathcal{H}'_A$ , whose adjoint  $A'^*_{\min}$  is given by

$$A'_{\max} := A'^*_{\min} = U_A A_{\max} U_A^{-1} = \{((f^\# + h_{m+1}(c), \xi), (L f^\# + z_1 h_{m+1}(c), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c))) \mid f^\# \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}, c \in \mathbb{C}^d, \xi \in \mathbb{C}^{md}\}.$$

If  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^A, \Gamma_1^A)$  is an OBT for  $A_{\max}$  then the triple  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0'^A, \Gamma_1'^A)$ , with  $\Gamma_i'^A := \Gamma_i^A U_A^{-1}$ ,  $i \in \{0, 1\}$ , is an OBT for  $A'_{\max}$ .

Let

$$\Pi^\pm := P_m^\pm \oplus I_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} \quad \text{in } \mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}.$$

Then  $\Pi^-$  (resp.  $\Pi^+$ ) is an orthogonal (with respect to the  $\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ -metric) projection onto a subspace  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ ). Note that

$$\Pi^- \Pi^+ \neq 0, \quad \Pi^+ \Pi^- \neq 0, \quad \Pi^- + \Pi^+ \neq I_{\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}}.$$

However, given  $\Pi^-$ , the above inequalities become the equalities with  $\Pi^+$  replaced by the orthogonal projection  $\Pi'^+ := I_{\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}} - \Pi^-$  onto

$$(\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md})^\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}} = \mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \{0\}.$$

Likewise, given  $\Pi^+$ , the above inequalities become the equalities with  $\Pi^-$  replaced by the orthogonal projection  $\Pi'^- := I_{\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}} - \Pi^+$  onto

$$(\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md})^\perp_{\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}} = \mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \{0\}.$$

By Theorem 5.6,  $A'_{\min}$  maps

$$\text{dom } A'_{\min} \cap (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}) = \Pi^- \text{dom } A'_{\min}$$

into  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ ; therefore  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$  is an invariant ([28, Definition 1.7]) subspace for  $A'_{\min}$ . Let  $A^-_{\min}$  denote the part of  $A'_{\min}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ , that is

$$A^-_{\min} := A'_{\min} \upharpoonright_{\Pi^- \text{dom } A'_{\min}} = \Pi^- A'_{\min} \upharpoonright_{\Pi^- \text{dom } A'_{\min}} = \{((f^{\#-}, \xi), (L_m^- f^{\#-}, \mathfrak{M}_d \xi)) \mid f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-, \xi \in \mathbb{C}^{md}, \langle \varphi, f^{\#-} \rangle = [\mathcal{G}_A \xi]_m\}.$$

Similarly one defines the part  $A^+_{\min}$  of  $A'_{\min}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ . Because  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \{0\}$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \{0\}$ ) is also an invariant subspace for  $A'_{\min}$ , the operator  $A'_{\min}$  is represented

by the orthogonal sum of its part  $A_{\min}^-$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$  (resp.  $A_{\min}^+$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ ) and its part  $L_{\min}^+ \oplus 0$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \{0\}$  (resp.  $L_{\min}^- \oplus 0$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \{0\}$ ), where the operator

$$L_{\min}^+ := L_m^+ |_{\{f^+ \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^+ \mid \langle \varphi, f^+ \rangle = 0\}} \quad (\text{resp. } L_{\min}^- := L_m^- |_{\{f^- \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^- \mid \langle \varphi, f^- \rangle = 0\}});$$

symbolically ( $[\oplus]$  indicates both  $\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ -orthogonal and  $\mathcal{H}'_A$ -orthogonal sum)

$$A'_{\min} = A_{\min}^- [\oplus] (L_{\min}^+ \oplus 0) = (L_{\min}^- \oplus 0) [\oplus] A_{\min}^+. \quad (6.1)$$

Let  $\varphi^-$  (resp.  $\varphi^+$ ) denote the vector valued functional whose components  $\varphi_{\sigma}^-$  (resp.  $\varphi_{\sigma}^+$ ) are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_{\sigma}^- &:= b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} P_0^-(m) b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma} \in b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} (\mathfrak{H}_0^- \setminus \mathfrak{H}_1^-) \\ (\text{resp. } \varphi_{\sigma}^+ &:= b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} P_0^+(m) b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma} \in b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} (\mathfrak{H}_0^+ \setminus \mathfrak{H}_1^+)). \end{aligned}$$

The duality pairing  $\langle \varphi_{\sigma}^-, \cdot \rangle$  (resp.  $\langle \varphi_{\sigma}^+, \cdot \rangle$ ) is defined via the  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ -scalar product in a usual way.  $\langle \varphi^-, \cdot \rangle = (\langle \varphi_{\sigma}^-, \cdot \rangle): \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^- \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^d$  denotes the action of the vector valued functional  $\varphi^-$ , and similarly for  $\varphi^+$ .

**Lemma 6.1.** For  $f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-$

$$\langle \varphi, f^{\#-} \rangle = \langle \varphi^-, f^{\#-} \rangle = \langle h_{\sigma, m+1}^-, (L_m^- - z_1) f^{\#-} \rangle_m$$

and similarly for the action of  $\varphi$  on  $\mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^+$ .

*Proof.* By the definition of the duality pairing and that of  $\varphi_{\sigma}^-$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \varphi_{\sigma}^-, f^{\#-} \rangle &= \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}^-, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle P_0^-(m) b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}, P_0^-(m) b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0. \end{aligned}$$

But

$$b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \in b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^- = b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} P_{m+2}^- \mathfrak{H}_{m+2} = \mathfrak{H}_0^-(m+2)$$

and hence by Lemma 4.4  $b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(m)$ ; therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}, P_0^-(m) b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 &= \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle \varphi_{\sigma}, f^{\#-} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

This proves the first equality. Using that  $b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(m)$ , the second equality is due to

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h_{\sigma, m+1}^-, (L_m^- - z_1) f^{\#-} \rangle_m &= \langle h_{\sigma, m+1}^-, b_1(L) f^{\#-} \rangle_m \\ &= \langle b_m(L)^{1/2} P_m^- h_{\sigma, m+1}, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle P_0^-(m) b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi_{\sigma}, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 = \langle \varphi_{\sigma}, f^{\#-} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

The proof of  $\langle \varphi, \cdot \rangle$  on  $\mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^+$  is analogous. □

By the lemma the boundary conditions defining the operators  $L_{\min}^{\pm}$  are therefore reduced to  $\langle \varphi^{\pm}, f^{\pm} \rangle = 0, f^{\pm} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}$ , where  $\varphi^{-} + \varphi^{+} = \varphi$ . Explicitly

$$L_{\min}^{-} := L_m^{-} |_{\{f^{-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^{-} | \langle \varphi^{-}, f^{-} \rangle = 0\}}, \quad L_{\min}^{+} := L_m^{+} |_{\{f^{+} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^{+} | \langle \varphi^{+}, f^{+} \rangle = 0\}}.$$

Just like the functionals  $\varphi_{\sigma}$  define the elements  $h_{\sigma j} := b_j(L)^{-1} \varphi_{\sigma}, j \in J$ , that generate the linear space  $\mathfrak{K}_A$ , the functionals  $\varphi_{\sigma}^{\pm}$  define the elements

$$h_{\sigma j}^{\pm} := b_j(L)^{-1} \varphi_{\sigma}^{\pm} = P_{-m-2+2j}^{\pm} h_{\sigma j} \tag{6.2}$$

that generate (span) the linear subspaces  $\mathfrak{K}_A^{\pm}$  of  $\mathfrak{K}_A$ ; that is,  $\mathfrak{K}_A = \mathfrak{K}_A^{-} \dot{+} \mathfrak{K}_A^{+}$ . The proof of the second equality in (6.2) uses the definition of  $P_0^{\pm}(\cdot)$  and then Lemma 4.4, in the same spirit as in the proof of Lemma 6.1.

Unlike the case of  $A'_{\min}$ , the operator  $A'_{\max}$  does not commute with the projection  $\Pi^{-}$  (resp.  $\Pi^{+}$ ). The reason is that now the projection of  $h_{m+1}(c)$  onto  $\mathfrak{H}_m^{-}$  affects the value of the extra term  $\eta(c) \in \mathbb{C}^{md}$ . This seems to be better seen in the representation of the operator  $A'_{\max}$  in the space  $\mathfrak{H}_m \dot{+} \mathfrak{K}_A$ , i.e. in analyzing the operator  $A_{\max}$ . Thus we have by Lemma 3.1 (here  $k \in \mathfrak{K}_A$ )

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\max}(f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c) + k) &= L_{m-2}(f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c)) + k', \\ k' \in \mathfrak{K}_A, \quad d(k') &= \mathfrak{M}_d d(k) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$L_{m-2} h_{m+1}(c) = z_1 h_{m+1}(c) + h_m(c),$$

where

$$h_m(c) = b_1(L) h_{m+1}(c) = \sum_{\alpha} [\eta(c)]_{\alpha} h_{\alpha} = \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} h_{\sigma m} \in \mathfrak{K}_A.$$

Now projecting  $f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c) + k$  onto  $\mathfrak{H}_m^{-} \dot{+} \mathfrak{K}_A$  one gets that

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\max} U_A^{-1} \Pi^{-} U_A (f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c) + k) &= L_{m-2}^{-} (f^{\# -} + h_{m+1}^{-}(c)) + k' \\ &= L_m^{-} f^{\# -} + z_1 h_{m+1}^{-}(c) + k' + h_m^{-}(c) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$h_m^{-}(c) := b_1(L) h_{m+1}^{-}(c) = \sum_{\alpha} [\eta(c)]_{\alpha} h_{\alpha}^{-} = \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} h_{\sigma m}^{-} \in \mathfrak{K}_A^{-}$$

(it is precisely for this reason why  $\eta(c)$  changes to  $\eta^{-}(c) \neq \eta(c)$ ; see below), while

$$\begin{aligned} U_A^{-1} \Pi^{-} U_A A_{\max} (f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c) + k) &= L_m^{-} f^{\# -} + z_1 h_{m+1}^{-}(c) + k' + h_m(c) \\ &= A_{\max} U_A^{-1} \Pi^{-} U_A (f^{\#} + h_{m+1}(c) + k) + h_m^{+}(c) \end{aligned}$$

with  $h_m^{+}(c) \in \mathfrak{K}_A^{+}$  defined similarly as  $h_m^{-}(c)$ . Because  $h_m^{\pm}(c) \in \mathfrak{K}_A^{\pm}$  and  $\mathfrak{K}_A^{\pm} \subseteq \mathfrak{K}_A$ , it follows that

$$h_m^{\pm}(c) = \sum_{\alpha} [\eta(c)]_{\alpha} h_{\alpha}^{\pm} = \sum_{\alpha} [\eta^{\pm}(c)]_{\alpha} h_{\alpha}$$

for  $\eta^\pm(c) \in \mathbb{C}^{md}$  given by

$$\eta^\pm(c) := \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A^{-1} \langle h, h_m^\pm(c) \rangle_{-m} = \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A^{-1} \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A^\pm \eta(c)$$

with the matrix

$$\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A^\pm = ([\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A^\pm]_{\alpha\alpha'}), \quad [\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_A^\pm]_{\alpha\alpha'} := \langle h_\alpha, h_{\alpha'}^\pm \rangle_{-m}.$$

With this notation, and going back to the representation of  $A_{\max}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ , one gets that

$$A'_{\max} \Pi^-(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c), \xi) = (L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta^-(c))$$

while

$$\Pi^- A'_{\max}(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c), \xi) = (L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c)).$$

Similarly, projecting  $(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c), \xi)$  onto  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \{0\}$  gives

$$A'_{\max} \Pi^+(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c), \xi) = (L_m^+ f^{\#+} + z_1 h_{m+1}^+(c), \eta^+(c))$$

while

$$\Pi^+ A'_{\max}(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c), \xi) = (L_m^+ f^{\#+} + z_1 h_{m+1}^+(c), 0).$$

From these formulas one observes that one still is able to represent the extension of the operator  $A'_{\max}$  (but not the operator  $A'_{\max}$  itself) as the orthogonal sum of its parts in subspaces  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ ) and  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \{0\}$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \{0\}$ ), similarly as in (6.1), by moving an element  $(0, \eta^+(c))$  from  $A'_{\max} \Pi^+$  to  $A'_{\max} \Pi^-$ .

To make this precise, one therefore introduces the linear relation

$$A_{\max}^- := \{((f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), \xi), (L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c))) \mid f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-, c \in \mathbb{C}^d, \xi \in \mathbb{C}^{md}\}$$

in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$  with the multivalued part

$$\text{mul } A_{\max}^- = \{0\} \times \eta^+(\Sigma^-), \quad \Sigma^- := \left\{ c \in \mathbb{C}^d \mid \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} \varphi_{\sigma}^- = 0 \right\}$$

(the multivalued part is exactly the orthogonal complement in  $\mathcal{H}'_A^-$  of  $\text{dom } A_{\min}^-$ ) and the operator

$$L_{\max}^- \oplus 0 = \Pi'^- A'_{\max} \mid_{\Pi'^- \text{ dom } A'_{\max}}$$

in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \{0\}$  with

$$L_{\max}^- := \{(f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c)) \mid f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-, c \in \mathbb{C}^d\}.$$

Analogously one defines the linear relation  $A_{\max}^+$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+ \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ , with the multivalued part  $\{0\} \times \eta^-(\Sigma^+)$ , and the operator  $L_{\max}^+$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^+$ . Note that the domain of the operator  $L_{\max}^-$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^-$  can be also written thus

$$\text{dom } L_{\max}^- = \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^- \dot{+} \mathfrak{N}_z(L_{\max}^-), \quad z \in \text{res } L_m^-$$

with the eigenspace

$$\mathfrak{N}_z(L_{\max}^-) = (L_m^- - z_1)(L_m^- - z)^{-1}h_{m+1}^-(\mathbb{C}^d)$$

and similarly for  $L_{\max}^+$ . (The operators  $L_{\max}^\pm$  should not be confused with the triplet adjoint  $L_{\max}$ ; as we show below,  $L_{\max}^-$  is the adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^-$  of  $L_{\min}^-$ , and similarly for  $L_{\max}^+$ .)

It follows from the above constructions that the orthogonal (both in  $\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$ -metric and in  $\mathcal{H}'_A$ -metric) componentwise sum of linear relations (cf. [18, 19, 22] for the notation)

$$A_{\max}^-[\widehat{\oplus}](L_{\max}^+ \oplus 0) = (L_{\max}^- \oplus 0)[\widehat{\oplus}]A_{\max}^+ \tag{6.3}$$

is an extension in  $\mathfrak{H}_m \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md}$  of the operator  $A'_{\max}$ . By comparing (6.1) with (6.3) one concludes that  $A_{\min}^- \subseteq A_{\max}^-$  and  $L_{\min}^- \subseteq L_{\max}^-$ , and similarly for  $A_{\min}^+$  and  $L_{\min}^+$ . In fact, one can say more.

**Theorem 6.2.** *The linear relation  $A_{\max}^- = A_{\min}^{-*}$  is the adjoint in  $\mathcal{H}'_A$  of a nondensely defined (in general), closed, symmetric operator  $A_{\min}^-$ .*

*Proof.* The main arguments are as in the proof of the self-adjointness of  $L_m^-$  (Theorem 5.3) by using in addition that the boundary condition for  $(f^{\#-}, \xi) \in \text{dom } A_{\min}^-$  implies that  $(\forall c \in \mathbb{C}^d)$

$$\langle w, b_m(L)^{1/2}h_{m+1}^-(c) \rangle_0 = \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A \eta(c) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}, \quad f^{\#-} = b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2}P_0^-(m)w, \tag{6.4}$$

$w \in \mathfrak{H}_0$ ; note that

$$b_m(L)^{1/2}h_{m+1}^-(c) = b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \sum_{\sigma} c_{\sigma} \varphi_{\sigma}^-$$

and the representation of  $f^{\#-}$  is shown in the proof of Lemma 6.1. The duality pairing then reads

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \varphi^-, f^{\#-} \rangle &= \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi^-, b_{m+2}(L)^{1/2} f^{\#-} \rangle_0 \\ &= \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi^-, P_0^-(m)w \rangle_0, \end{aligned}$$

but  $b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi^- \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(m)$ , so the boundary condition reads

$$\langle \varphi^-, f^{\#-} \rangle = \langle b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2} \varphi^-, w \rangle_0 = [\mathcal{G}_A \xi]_m$$

from which (6.4) follows.

Now one computes  $A_{\min}^{-*}$ ; as a linear relation, it is the set of  $((y^-, \xi_y), (x^-, \xi_x)) \in (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md})^2$  such that  $(\forall (f^{\#-}, \xi) \in \text{dom } A_{\min}^-)$

$$\langle f^{\#-}, x^- \rangle_m + \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A \xi_x \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} = \langle L_m^- f^{\#-}, y^- \rangle_m + \langle \mathfrak{M}_d \xi, \mathcal{G}_A \xi_y \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}. \tag{6.5}$$

Applying the representation

$$\begin{aligned} x^- &= b_m(L)^{-1/2}u^-, \quad u^- \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(m), \\ y^- &= b_m(L)^{-1/2}v^-, \quad v^- \in \mathfrak{H}_0^-(m) \end{aligned}$$

and using that  $b_1(L)^{-1}\mathfrak{H}_0^-(m) = \mathfrak{H}_2^-(m)$  one gets that

$$\langle f^{\#-}, x^- \rangle_m = \langle w, b_1(L)^{-1}u^- \rangle_0$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \langle L_m^- f^{\#-}, y^- \rangle_m &= \langle b_1(L)f^{\#-}, y^- \rangle_m + \langle f^{\#-}, z_1 y^- \rangle_m \\ &= \langle w, v^- \rangle_0 + \langle w, b_1(L)^{-1}z_1 v^- \rangle_0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore (6.5) reads

$$\langle w, v^- - b_1(L)^{-1}(u^- - z_1 v^-) \rangle_0 = \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A(\xi_x - \mathfrak{M}_d \xi_y) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}.$$

Comparing the latter with (6.4) yields

$$\begin{aligned} v^- - b_1(L)^{-1}(u^- - z_1 v^-) &= b_m(L)^{1/2} h_{m+1}^-(c), \\ \xi_x &= \mathfrak{M}_d \xi_y + \eta(c). \end{aligned}$$

The first equation above implies that

$$v^- - b_m(L)^{1/2} h_{m+1}^-(c) \in b_1(L)^{-1}\mathfrak{H}_0^-(m) = \mathfrak{H}_2^-(m),$$

that is,

$$y^- = f^- + h_{m+1}^-(c), \quad f^- \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-.$$

Then

$$x^- = z_1 y^- + b_1(L)f^- = L_m^- f^- + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c).$$

This proves  $A_{\min}^- = A_{\max}^-$ . It remains to verify that  $A_{\min}^-$  is closed. The adjoint  $A_{\max}^{-*}$  consists of  $((y^-, \xi_y), (x^-, \xi_x)) \in (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md})^2$  such that  $(\forall f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^- \forall c \in \mathbb{C}^d \forall \xi \in \mathbb{C}^{md})$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), x^- \rangle_m + \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A \xi_x \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} &= \langle L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), y^- \rangle_m \\ &\quad + \langle \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c), \mathcal{G}_A \xi_y \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}. \end{aligned}$$

Using the representation of  $f^{\#-}, x^-, y^-$  as above, and noting that

$$\langle h_{m+1}^-(c), x^- \rangle_m = \langle c, \langle h_{m+1}^-, x^- \rangle_m \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}, \quad \langle \eta(c), \mathcal{G}_A \xi_y \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} = \langle c, [\mathcal{G}_A \xi_y]_m \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}$$

one gets that

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle w, v^- - b_1(L)^{-1}(u^- - z_1 v^-) \rangle_0 + \langle c, \langle h_{m+1}^-, z_1 y^- - x^- \rangle_m + [\mathcal{G}_A \xi_y]_m \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d} \\ &\quad + \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A(\mathfrak{M}_d \xi_y - \xi_x) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} \end{aligned}$$

and from which one concludes that

$$v^- = b_1(L)^{-1}(u^- - z_1 v^-) \in \mathfrak{H}_2^-(m) \Rightarrow x^- = L_m^- y^-, \quad y^- \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-$$

and

$$\langle h_{m+1}^-, x^- - z_1 y^- \rangle_m = \langle h_{m+1}^-, (L_m^- - z_1)y^- \rangle_m = \langle \varphi, y^- \rangle = [\mathcal{G}_A \xi_y]_m$$

(cf. Lemma 6.1) and  $\xi_x = \mathfrak{M}_d \xi_y$ . Thus  $A_{\min}^-$  is closed, and this completes the proof.  $\square$

The above proof also shows that:

**Corollary 6.3.** *The operator  $L_{\max}^- = L_{\min}^{-*}$  is the adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^-$  of a densely defined, closed, symmetric operator  $L_{\min}^-$ .*

From here one concludes that  $L_{\min}^-$  (resp.  $L_{\min}^+$ ) is an essentially self-adjoint operator in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-$  (resp.  $\mathfrak{H}_0^+$ ). Since  $A_{\min}^-$  extends  $L_{\min}^-$  to  $\mathcal{H}'_A^-$  just like  $A_{\min}$  extends  $L_{\min}$  to  $\mathcal{H}_A$  it is therefore a subject of interest to formulate a similar realization theorem in the A-model for the symmetric operator  $L_{\min}^-$ . This is done in the next (the last) paragraph.

## 7. REALIZATION THEOREM IN A SUBSPACE

By a straightforward computation and applying Lemma 6.1, the boundary form of the linear relation  $A_{\max}^-$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} & [(f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), \xi), (L_m^- g^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c'), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi' + \eta(c'))]'_A \\ & - [(L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c)), (g^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c'), \xi')]'_A \\ & = \langle c, \langle \varphi^-, g^{\#-} \rangle - [\mathcal{G}_A \xi']_m \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d} - \langle \langle \varphi^-, f^{\#-} \rangle - [\mathcal{G}_A \xi]_m, c' \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d} \end{aligned}$$

for  $f^{\#-}, g^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-$ ;  $c, c' \in \mathbb{C}^d$ ;  $\xi, \xi' \in \mathbb{C}^{md}$ . By introducing the mappings from  $A_{\max}^-$  to  $\mathbb{C}^d$  by

$$\Gamma_0^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{f}^- := c, \quad \Gamma_1^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{f}^- := \langle \varphi^-, f^{\#-} \rangle - [\mathcal{G}_A \xi]_m, \quad (7.1)$$

$$\hat{f}^- = ((f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), \xi), (L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c))) \in A_{\max}^-$$

the above boundary form simplifies thus

$$\begin{aligned} [f^-, g'^-]'_A - [f'^-, g^-]'_A &= \langle \Gamma_0^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{f}^-, \Gamma_1^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{g}^- \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d} - \langle \Gamma_1^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{f}^-, \Gamma_0^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{g}^- \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}, \\ \hat{f}^- &= (f^-, f'^-) \in A_{\max}^-, \quad \hat{g}^- = (g^-, g'^-) \in A_{\max}^- \end{aligned}$$

and it therefore represents the Green identity. Consider  $\Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-} : \hat{f}^- \mapsto (\Gamma_0^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{f}^-, \Gamma_1^{\mathbb{A}-} \hat{f}^-)$  from  $A_{\max}^-$  to  $\mathbb{C}^d \times \mathbb{C}^d$  as an (isometric) linear relation from  $(\mathcal{H}'_A^-)^2$  to  $\mathbb{C}^d \times \mathbb{C}^d$ . Thus by definition  $\text{dom } \Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-} = A_{\max}^-$  and  $\text{ker } \Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-} = A_{\min}^-$ . Moreover, the multivalued part  $\text{mul } \Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-}$  consists of  $(c, 0)$  such that  $c \in \Sigma^- \cap \Sigma^+ = \{0\}$ ; hence  $\Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-}$  is an operator. Below we show that  $\Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-}$  is a unitary relation from  $(\mathcal{H}'_A^-)^2$  to  $\mathbb{C}^d \times \mathbb{C}^d$  (by the above, it would actually suffice to show that  $\text{dom}(\Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-})^{[+]} = \text{ran } \Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-}$ ). By [12, Corollary 2.4(iii)] this would imply that  $\Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-}$  is surjective, and that therefore the triple  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^{\mathbb{A}-}, \Gamma_1^{\mathbb{A}-})$  is an OBT for  $A_{\max}^-$ .

**Lemma 7.1.**  *$(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^{\mathbb{A}-}, \Gamma_1^{\mathbb{A}-})$  is an OBT for  $A_{\max}^-$ .*

*Proof.* By definition, the Krein space adjoint  $(\Gamma^{\mathbb{A}-})^{[+]}$  is a linear relation consisting of

$$((\chi, \chi'), ((y^-, \xi_y), (x^-, \xi_x))) \in \mathbb{C}^{2d} \times (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^{md})^2$$

such that  $(\forall f^{\#-} \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^- \forall c \in \mathbb{C}^d \forall \xi \in \mathbb{C}^{md})$

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), x^- \rangle_m + \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A \xi_x \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} \\ & - \langle L_m^- f^{\#-} + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(c), y^- \rangle_m - \langle \mathfrak{M}_d \xi + \eta(c), \mathcal{G}_A \xi_y \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}} \\ & = \langle c, \chi' \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d} - \langle \langle h_{m+1}^-, (L_m^- - z_1) f^{\#-} \rangle_m - [\mathcal{G}_A \xi]_m, \chi \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}. \end{aligned}$$

The above equation splits into three equations

$$\begin{aligned} (\forall f^{\#-}) \quad & \langle f^{\#-}, x^- - z_1 h_{m+1}^-(\chi) \rangle_m = \langle L_m^- f^{\#-}, y^- - h_{m+1}^-(\chi) \rangle_m, \\ (\forall c) \quad & 0 = \langle c, \langle h_{m+1}^-, x^- - z_1 y^- \rangle_m - [\mathcal{G}_A \xi_y]_m - \chi' \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^d}, \\ (\forall \xi) \quad & 0 = \langle \xi, \mathcal{G}_A (\xi_x - \mathfrak{M}_d \xi_y - \eta(\chi)) \rangle_{\mathbb{C}^{md}}. \end{aligned}$$

Because  $L_m^-$  is self-adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^-$ , the first equation gives

$$y^- = f^- + h_{m+1}^-(\chi), \quad f^- \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}^-, \quad x^- = L_m^- f^- + z_1 h_{m+1}^-(\chi).$$

Then the second equation yields

$$\chi' = \langle \varphi^-, f^- \rangle - [\mathcal{G}_A \xi_y]_m \quad (\text{Lemma 6.1}).$$

Finally, by the third equation

$$\xi_x = \mathfrak{M}_d \xi_y + \eta(\chi).$$

As a result  $(\Gamma^{A-})^{[+]} = (\Gamma^{A-})^{-1}$ . □

Let

$$\Gamma_0^-(f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c)) := c, \quad \Gamma_1^-(f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c)) := \langle \varphi^-, f^{\#-} \rangle \quad (7.2)$$

for  $f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c) \in \text{dom } L_{\max}^-$ . The above proof also shows that:

**Corollary 7.2.**  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^-, \Gamma_1^-)$  is an OBT for  $L_{\max}^-$ .

We are now ready to state the main realization theorem in the A-model for the symmetric operator  $L_{\min}^-$ , by assuming (3.1) and  $P_{n+1}^- \subseteq P_n^-$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

**Theorem 7.3.** *The extensions to  $\mathcal{H}'_A^-$  of a densely defined, closed, symmetric operator  $L_{\min}^- = L_{\min} \cap (\mathfrak{H}_m^-)^2$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^-$ , which has defect numbers  $(d, d)$  and which is essentially self-adjoint in  $\mathfrak{H}_0^-$ , are described by the proper extensions in  $\mathcal{H}'_A^-$  of a nondensely defined (in general), closed, symmetric operator  $A_{\min}^- = A'_{\min} \cap (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \mathbb{C}^d)^2$ . A proper extension  $A_{\Theta}^-$  is characterized by restricting the adjoint linear relation  $A_{\max}^- = A_{\min}^{-*}$  in  $\mathcal{H}'_A^-$  to the set of  $\hat{f}^- \in A_{\max}^-$  such that the pair  $(\Gamma_0^A \hat{f}^-, \Gamma_1^A \hat{f}^-)$  is an element of a linear relation  $\Theta$  in  $\mathbb{C}^d$ ; an OBT  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^A, \Gamma_1^A)$  for  $A_{\max}^-$  is as in (7.1). The Krein–Naimark resolvent formula for a (closed) proper extension  $A_{\Theta}^-$  reads*

$$(A_{\Theta}^- - z)^{-1} = (A_0^- - z)^{-1} + \gamma_A^-(z)(\Theta - M_A^-(z))^{-1} \gamma_A^-(\bar{z})^*$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0^- \cap \text{res } A_\Theta^-$ . A distinguished self-adjoint extension  $A_0^-$  of  $A_{\min}^-$  is a self-adjoint operator  $A_0^- := A_{\{0\} \times \mathbb{C}^d}^-$  whose resolvent is given by

$$(A_0^- - z)^{-1} = (L_m^- - z)^{-1} \oplus (\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0^- = \text{res } L_m^- \setminus \{z_1\}$ . The  $\gamma$ -field  $\gamma_A^-$  and the Weyl function  $M_A^-$  corresponding to  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^{A^-}, \Gamma_1^{A^-})$  are described by

$$\gamma_A^-(z) = ((L_m^- - z_1)(L_m^- - z)^{-1}h_{m+1}^-(\cdot), -(\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}\eta(\cdot)) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{C}^d,$$

$$M_A^-(z) = q^-(z) + r(z) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{C}^d$$

for  $z \in \text{res } A_0^-$ . The matrix valued function  $q^-$  given by

$$q^-(z) = ([q^-(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'}) \in [\mathbb{C}^d], \quad z \in \text{res } L_m^-, \\ [q^-(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'} := (z - z_1) \langle \varphi_\sigma^-, (L_m^- - z)^{-1}h_{\sigma', m+1}^- \rangle$$

is the Weyl function which corresponds to the OBT  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0^-, \Gamma_1^-)$ , (7.2), for the adjoint operator  $L_{\max}^- = L_{\min}^{*-}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m^-$ .

*Proof.* In view of what has been achieved so far, it remains to compute the  $\gamma$ -field and the Weyl function. But these functions follow straightforwardly from their definitions as long as one notices that the eigenspace of  $A_{\max}^-$  for the eigenvalue  $z \in \text{res } L_m^- \setminus \{z_1\}$  consists of  $(f^{\#-} + h_{m+1}^-(c), \xi) \in \text{dom } A_{\max}^-$  such that

$$f^{\#-} = (z - z_1)(L_m^- - z)^{-1}h_{m+1}^-(c), \quad \xi = -(\mathfrak{M}_d - z)^{-1}\eta(c).$$

Because  $L_{\max}^- = A_{\max}^- \cap (\mathfrak{H}_m^- \oplus \{0\})^2$ , the results for  $L_{\max}^-$  are derived analogously.  $\square$

In particular, putting  $P_n^- = I_{\mathfrak{H}_n}$  (hence  $P_n^+ = 0$ ),  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the part of the theorem concerning the Weyl function  $q^-$  yields the following:

**Corollary 7.4.** *The Krein  $Q$ -function  $q$  is the Weyl function associated with the OBT  $(\mathbb{C}^d, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_1)$ ,*

$$\Gamma_0(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c)) := c, \quad \Gamma_1(f^\# + h_{m+1}(c)) := \langle \varphi, f^\# \rangle$$

$(f^\# \in \mathfrak{H}_{m+2}, c \in \mathbb{C}^d)$ , for the adjoint  $L_{\min}^*$  of  $L_{\min}$  in  $\mathfrak{H}_m$ . The domain  $\text{dom } L_{\min}^* = \mathfrak{H}_{m+2} \dot{+} \mathfrak{N}_z(L_{\min}^*)$ , where the eigenspace  $\mathfrak{N}_z(L_{\min}^*) = (L - z)^{-1}h_m(\mathbb{C}^d)$ ,  $z \in \text{res } L$ .  $\square$

An analogous theorem can be formulated for  $L_{\min}^+$  as well, where the corresponding Weyl function  $M_A^+ = q^+ + r$  is the sum of the Weyl function  $q^+$  of  $L_{\min}^+$  and the generalized Nevanlinna function  $r$ .

Let

$$\widehat{h}_\sigma := b_{m+2}(L)^{-1/2}\varphi_\sigma \in \mathfrak{H}_0 \setminus \mathfrak{H}_1.$$

Using this definition and the operator identity

$$(L - z_1)(L - z)^{-1} = I_{\mathfrak{H}_0} + (z - z_1)(L - z)^{-1}$$

the Weyl function  $q$  is rewritten in terms of the initial operator  $L$  and the reference  $\mathfrak{H}_0$ -scalar product according to

$$[q(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'} = (z - z_1) \langle \widehat{h}_\sigma, \widehat{h}_{\sigma'} \rangle_0 + (z - z_1)^2 \langle \widehat{h}_\sigma, (L - z)^{-1} \widehat{h}_{\sigma'} \rangle_0,$$

$z \in \text{res } L$ . Using in addition (5.3) and applying [28, Proposition 5.26] and Lemma 5.5, the Weyl function  $q^-$  admits the form

$$[q^-(z)]_{\sigma\sigma'} = (z - z_1) \langle \widehat{h}_\sigma, P_0^-(m) \widehat{h}_{\sigma'} \rangle_0 + (z - z_1)^2 \langle \widehat{h}_\sigma, P_0^-(m)(L - z)^{-1} \widehat{h}_{\sigma'} \rangle_0,$$

$z \in \text{res } L$ , and similarly for  $q^+$ . Thus the Weyl function  $q = q^- + q^+$  of the symmetric operator  $L_{\min}$  is the sum of the Weyl functions  $q^\pm$  of the corresponding symmetric restrictions  $L_{\min}^\pm$ . The latter property of additivity is clearly a consequence of the initial hypothesis that the subspaces  $\mathfrak{H}_0^\pm$  reduce the operator  $L$  (Theorem 5.6).

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Rytis Juršėnas  
rytis.jursenas@tfai.vu.lt  
 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0788-5123>

Vilnius University  
Institute of Theoretical Physics and Astronomy  
Saulėtekio Ave. 3, LT-10257 Vilnius, Lithuania

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