

PROPAGATION THROUGH TRAPPED SETS AND SEMICLASSICAL RESOLVENT ESTIMATES

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ABSTRACT. Motivated by the study of resolvent estimates in the presence of trapping, we prove a semiclassical propagation theorem in a neighborhood of a compact invariant subset of the bicharacteristic flow which is isolated in a suitable sense. Examples include a global trapped set and a single isolated periodic trajectory. This is applied to obtain microlocal resolvent estimates with no loss compared to the nontrapping setting.

1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we study the following phenomenon: losses in high energy, i.e. semiclassical, resolvent estimates caused by trapping are removed if one truncates the resolvent (microlocally) away from the trapped set. Such results go back to work of Burq [Bur02] and Cardoso and Vodev [CaVo02]. Our result is based on a microlocal propagation estimate and is able to distinguish between different components of the trapped set. As an illustration, consider the following example:

Let (X, g) be the catenoid or the hyperbolic cylinder, i.e. the quotient of the hyperbolic upper half plane by $\langle z \mapsto 2z \rangle$. Let $P = h^2 \Delta_g - 1$. Let $R_h(\lambda) = (P - \lambda)^{-1}$. We are interested in behavior of this resolvent family when $\operatorname{Re} \lambda = 0$, $\operatorname{Im} \lambda \rightarrow 0^+$. It is well known that the limiting behavior of the resolvent is closely connected to dynamics of the geodesic flow on the energy surface, i.e. on the unit cosphere bundle. In this case the trapped, or nonwandering, set consists of two periodic orbits whose projections to X are the same, see Figure 1. Denote these two orbits by Γ^1 and Γ^2 , and denote by Γ_{\pm}^1 the set of $\rho \in S^*X$ such that the lifted geodesic through ρ tends to Γ^1 as $t \rightarrow \mp\infty$, and define Γ_{\pm}^2 similarly. Let $u = R_h(\lambda)f$ with λ as above. If f is $\mathcal{O}(1)$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(|\log h| h^{-1})$ by a result of Christianson [Chr07, Chr08]. A consequence of our main result is that if in addition f vanishes microlocally near Γ^1 but not near Γ^2 , then u is actually $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on $T^*X \setminus (\Gamma_1 \cup \Gamma_+^2)$. If we assume that f vanishes microlocally near Γ^2 as well, then a result of Cardoso and Vodev [CaVo02] (following earlier work of Burq [Bur02]) implies that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on $T^*X \setminus (\Gamma^1 \cup \Gamma^2)$. The novelty in this example is that we keep this improvement on Γ_+^1 even when f is nontrivial on Γ^2 .

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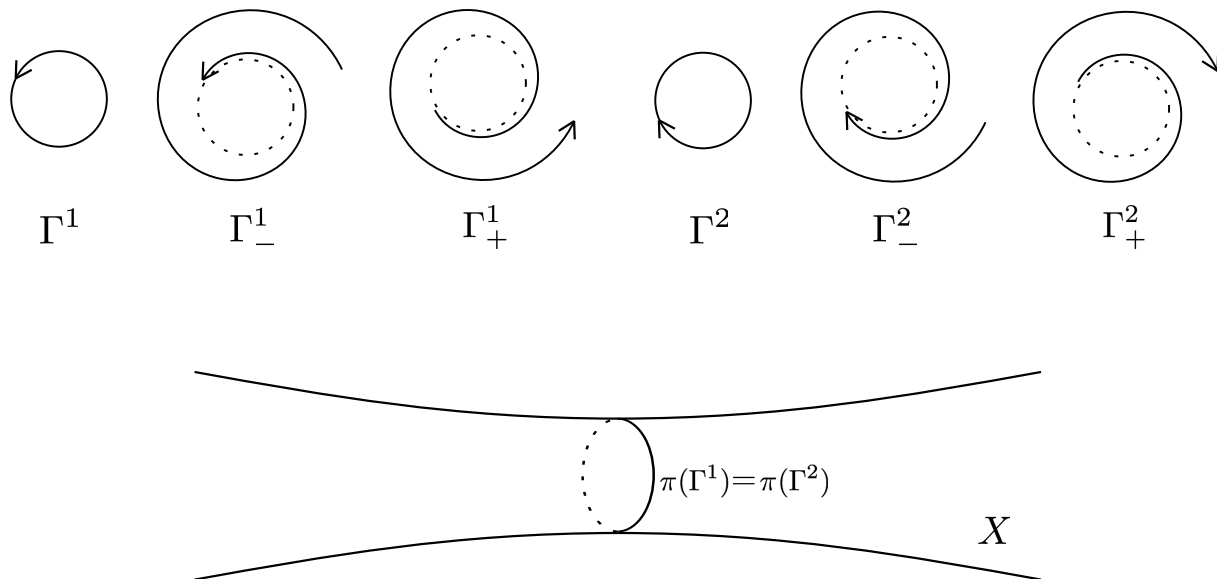


FIGURE 1. The two closed orbits Γ^1 and Γ^2 are obtained by lifting the geodesic at the neck of the catenoid or hyperbolic cylinder to S^*X . The sets Γ^j_\pm , which by definition contain the Γ^j , each consist of the infinitely many trajectories spiraling towards Γ^j as $t \rightarrow \mp\infty$. If $u = R_h(\lambda)f$ and f is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ then u is $\mathcal{O}(|\log h|h^{-1})$ globally by [Chr07, Chr08]. If f vanishes microlocally near $\Gamma^1 \cup \Gamma^2$ then u is actually $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ off of $\Gamma^1 \cup \Gamma^2$ by [CaVo02]. If f vanishes microlocally only near Γ^1 , we find that u is actually $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ off of $\Gamma^1 \cup \Gamma^2_+$.

We actually prove our main theorem in the following more general setting. Suppose X is a manifold, $P \in \Psi^{m,0}(X)$ a self adjoint, order $m > 0$, semiclassical pseudodifferential operator on X , with principal symbol p . For $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ compact and fixed, denote the characteristic set by $\Sigma = p^{-1}(I)$, and suppose that the projection to the base, $\pi: \Sigma \rightarrow X$, is proper (it is sufficient, for example, to have p classically elliptic). Suppose that $\Gamma \Subset T^*X$ is invariant under the bicharacteristic flow in Σ . Define the *forward*, *resp. backward flowout* Γ_+ , *resp.* Γ_- , of Γ as the set of points ρ in the characteristic set, Σ , from which the backward, *resp.* forward bicharacteristic segments tend to Γ , i.e. for any neighborhood O of Γ there exists $T > 0$ such that $-t \geq T$, *resp.* $t \geq T$, implies $\gamma(t) \in O$, where γ is the bicharacteristic with $\gamma(0) = \rho$. Here we think of Γ as the trapped set or as part of the trapped set, hence points in Γ_- , *resp.* Γ_+ are backward, *resp.* forward, trapped, explaining the notation. Suppose V, W are neighborhoods of Γ with $\overline{V} \subset W$, \overline{W} compact. Suppose also that

$$\text{If } \rho \in W \setminus \Gamma_+, \text{ resp. } \rho \in W \setminus \Gamma_-, \quad (1.1)$$

then the backward, *resp.* forward bicharacteristic from ρ intersects $W \setminus \overline{V}$.

In this paper we show the following:

Theorem 1.1. *Suppose that u is a polynomially bounded family (in h) of distributions with $(P - \lambda)u = f$, $\text{Re } \lambda \in I$ and $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$. Suppose f is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ in L^2 microlocally on W , $\text{WF}_h(f) \cap \overline{V} = \emptyset$, and u is in $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ microlocally on $W \cap \Gamma_- \setminus \overline{V}$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ microlocally on $W \cap \Gamma_+ \setminus \Gamma$.*

Note that there is no conclusion on u at Γ ; typically it will be merely polynomially bounded. However, to obtain $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ bounds for u on Γ_+ we only needed to assume $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ bounds for u on Γ_- and nowhere else. Note also that by the propagation of singularities, if u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at one point on any bicharacteristic, then it is such on the whole forward bicharacteristic. If $|\operatorname{Im} \lambda| = \mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ then the same is true for backward bicharacteristics.

Such a result has immediate applications to non-trapping type semiclassical resolvent estimates even in the presence of trapping, provided the function f the resolvent is applied to has disjoint wave front set from the trapped set. To be concrete, let (X, g) be a complete Riemannian manifold, $P = h^2 \Delta_g + V - 1$ a semiclassical Schrödinger operator, $V \in C^\infty(X; \mathbb{R})$ bounded, $h \in (0, 1)$. We say that a bicharacteristic (by which we always mean a bicharacteristic in $\Sigma = p^{-1}(I)$ for some $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ compact) is *backward nontrapped* if the flowout is disjoint from any compact set for sufficiently negative time (this definition is generalized in §2). Suppose the resolvent family $R_h(\lambda)$ is polynomially bounded in h over compact subsets of T^*X and *semiclassically outgoing* with a loss of h^{-1} at backward nontrapped points in the following sense: if $u = R_h(\lambda)f$ with $\lambda \in D \subset \{\operatorname{Re} \lambda \in I, \operatorname{Im} \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)\}$, and ρ lies on a backward nontrapped bicharacteristic, and if f is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on the backward flowout of ρ , then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ . Suppose also that $\tilde{\Gamma}$, the trapped set (the set of precompact bicharacteristics), is compact.

As a rather straightforward consequence, we deduce the following corollary, which generalizes the example at the beginning of the introduction:

Corollary. *Let (X, g) , P and λ be as in the above paragraph. Let $a \in C_0^\infty(T^*X)$ have support disjoint from $\tilde{\Gamma}$, the trapped set. Let $b \in C_0^\infty(T^*X)$ have support disjoint from all connected components of $\tilde{\Gamma}$ intersecting the closure of the backward bicharacteristic flowout of $\operatorname{supp} a$. Then*

$$\|\operatorname{Op}(a)R_h(\lambda)\operatorname{Op}(b)\|_{L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(X)} \leq Ch^{-1}, \quad (1.2)$$

i.e. nontrapping estimates hold.

In certain more complicated geometries it is possible to apply Theorem 1.1 with Γ a proper subset of $\tilde{\Gamma}$ which is not a connected component, allowing both $\operatorname{supp} a$ and $\operatorname{supp} b$ to intersect $\tilde{\Gamma}$. More specifically, when applying Theorem 1.1, $W \cap \tilde{\Gamma}$ does not have to be a subset of Γ . This is because of the possibility of interesting dynamics within $\tilde{\Gamma}$, for example a trajectory which tends to different closed orbits as $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$, and thus is trapped. In this case Γ could be one of the closed orbits. In §5.2 we give an (admittedly contrived) example of this.

Note that if X has suitable ends at infinity (for instance, asymptotically Euclidean or hyperbolic), then the semiclassically outgoing assumption is satisfied (see §6 below), and using standard microlocal elliptic regularity to pass from cutoffs in $C_0^\infty(T^*X)$ to cutoffs in $C_0^\infty(X)$ we obtain the following theorem.

Theorem 1.2. *Let (X, g) be a complete Riemannian manifold which is either asymptotically Euclidean or asymptotically hyperbolic in the sense of §2, and let Δ_g be the nonnegative Laplace-Beltrami operator on X . Suppose that for any $\chi_0 \in C_0^\infty(X)$ there exist $C_0, k, E_0 > 0$*

such that for any $E \geq E_0$, $\varepsilon > 0$ we have

$$\|\chi_0(\Delta_g - E - i\varepsilon)^{-1}\chi_0\|_{L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(X)} \leq C_0 E^k. \quad (1.3)$$

Let $K \subset X$ be the set of trapped geodesics, i.e. geodesics which remain in a compact set for all time, and suppose now that $\chi \in C_0^\infty(X)$ has support disjoint from K . Then there exist $C_1, E_1 > 0$ such that for any $E \geq E_1$, $\varepsilon > 0$ we have the following nontrapping estimate:

$$\|\chi(\Delta_g - E - i\varepsilon)^{-1}\chi\|_{L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(X)} \leq \frac{C_1}{\sqrt{E}}.$$

Such results were first obtained by Burq [Bur02], and were later refined by Cardoso and Vodev [CaVo02]. The improvement here is that the distance between K and the support of χ may be arbitrarily small, and as in the Corollary above one could use microlocal cutoffs, but the assumption (1.3) is not present in [Bur02, CaVo02]. The assumption (1.3) is not true for a general manifold, but is satisfied for many hyperbolic trapped geometries, including those studied in [NoZw09, WuZw10]. See [DaVa10, Theorem 6.1] for (1.3) in the asymptotically hyperbolic case, and see [Dat09] and [WuZw10, Corollary 1] for the asymptotically Euclidean case. Bony and Petkov [BoPe06] prove (1.3) for a general “black box” perturbation of the Laplacian in \mathbb{R}^n assuming only that there is a resonance-free strip, and it is likely that this condition suffices for asymptotically Euclidean or hyperbolic manifolds as well. It is an open problem to find the optimal general bound implied by a resonance free strip, or to find assumptions under which one has a polynomial bound (1.3) but no resonance free strip.

We remark that, in all known examples, (1.3) holds only when E^k can be replaced by $(\log E)/\sqrt{E}$, and so the improvement is only of a factor of $\log E$. On the other hand, in [BBR10], Bony, Burq and Ramond prove that for P a semiclassical Schrödinger operator on \mathbb{R}^n , the presence of a single trapped trajectory implies that

$$\sup_{\lambda \in [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]} \|\chi(P - \lambda)^{-1}\chi\| \geq \frac{\log(1/h)}{Ch},$$

provided $\chi \in C_0^\infty(X)$ is 1 on the projection of the trapped set, so in this case (and probably in general) the improvement in the Corollary is of no less than a factor of $\log(1/h)$.

An interesting open question concerns the optimality of the condition $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ in the Corollary. That some such condition is needed is suggested by the following result of Petkov and Stoyanov [PeSt09, §4] for obstacle scattering on \mathbb{R}^n with n odd. They show that if the cutoff resolvent continues analytically to $\{|\text{Re } \lambda| \leq E, \text{Im } \lambda \geq -Ch \log(1/h)\}$, then a polynomial bound for $\|\chi(h^2\Delta_g - \lambda)^{-1}\chi\|$ in this range of λ , even for $\chi \in C_0^\infty(X)$ supported very far from the trapped set, implies the same bound for a general $\chi \in C_0^\infty(X)$, with possibly worse constant C . In other words, no improvement is possible for such a large range of λ . In fact, we have been informed by Vesselin Petkov that the assumption that the cutoff resolvent continues analytically to a logarithmic region can be replaced by the same assumption on a strip, using the same method.

The general idea of proving propagation estimates through trapped sets via commutator estimates is that near the trapped set Γ , where we cannot expect any improvement over a priori bounds, the commutator should vanish, which is in particular the case if the commutant

is microlocally near Γ a (possibly h -dependent) multiple of the identity operator. Such a commutant, which is in addition decreasing along the Hamilton flow elsewhere on the characteristic set, at least apart from backward non-trapped bicharacteristics (where one has a priori bounds), can indeed be constructed, see §4. In fact, under additional geometric assumptions, namely a certain convexity (which also plays a role in [Bur02, CaVo02]), one can use as commutants cutoff functions which are constant on the projection of the trapped set to the base manifold X ; this is the special case we consider in §3.

This scheme has much in common with an aspect of N -particle scattering. In order to prove asymptotic completeness for the short range N -particle problem, it suffices to obtain improved weighted estimates in $\langle z \rangle^{1/2} L^2$, where z is the variable on \mathbb{R}^{Nd} (or $\mathbb{R}^{(N-1)d}$), away from the *radial set* of the Hamilton vector field of the various subsystems, also called the *propagation set* of Sigal and Soffer [SiSo87] (the corresponding global weighted estimate is in $\langle z \rangle^{1/2+\varepsilon} L^2$, and the improvement though small is crucial in the argument). Since there cannot be an improvement at the radial set, the commutant used in the proof must commute microlocally with the Hamiltonian there. Similarly, in our case, there cannot be an improvement at the trapped set, and so our commutant must commute microlocally with P there. In the N -particle setting, the weights $\langle z \rangle^s$ do not commute with the Hamiltonians, unlike the weights h^{-s} in the semiclassical setting, so, to obtain a microlocally commuting commutant, one needs to work with $s = 0$, which in turn gives rise to weighted estimates *only in the particular weighted space* $\langle z \rangle^{1/2} L^2$ microlocally away from the radial set. See [SiSo87] and [DeGé99] for a discussion of asymptotic completeness, and [Vas03] for a discussion of the proof of this estimate from a microlocal point of view.

More standard escape function methods can prove related but weaker results. For example in [BGH10, Lemma 2.2], Burq, Guillarmou and Hassell use a positive commutator argument with a global escape function (see also [GéSj87, Appendix] for a more general version of the same escape function) to prove local smoothing away from a trapped set. This corresponds in our setting to a resolvent estimate for $\text{Im } \lambda \geq Ch$ (i.e. not too close to the spectrum), and in this range of λ one has more flexibility in the behavior of the escape function near infinity, because the resolvent has good mapping properties for a wider range of pairs of weighted spaces. This difference is most significant in the case of an asymptotically hyperbolic space, such as the hyperbolic cylinder of the example at the beginning of the introduction, because here it does not seem to be possible to modify the global escape function so as to give uniform estimates up to the spectrum. In Theorem 1.1 the global construction is replaced by the assumption that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on Γ_- away from Γ . In the setting of resolvent estimates, this can be proved by commutator estimates on an asymptotically Euclidean space (see [VaZw00], [Dat09]), but on more general spaces other methods may be more convenient, or even necessary. For instance, in [MSV10], Melrose, Sá Barreto and the second author construct a parametrix for manifolds which are asymptotically hyperbolic in the sense of §2, and the Lagrangian structure of this parametrix implies the semiclassically outgoing property.

The other advantage over global escape function methods is that, because our assumptions and constructions are completely microlocalized to a neighborhood of Γ (which may be a proper subset of the full trapped set), our method can give more precise information about

a solution u to $Pu = f$ in the case where different estimates on f are available on different parts of T^*X . The key point is that in the Corollary and in the example at the beginning of the introduction we apply Theorem 1.1 with Γ a proper subset of the trapped set. A global escape function construction (in the case of asymptotically hyperbolic space) does not seem to be able to exploit the fact that good estimates on u near infinity fail only on Γ_+^2 and not on Γ_-^1 .

The structure of this paper is the following. In §2 we give definitions and notation. In §3, we prove a special case of Theorem 1.2 in which the ideas of the proof are more transparent. In §4 we prove Theorem 1.1. In §5 we prove the Corollary and give an example in which Theorem 1.1 can be applied to a subset of the trapped set which is not a connected component. In §6 we discuss the semiclassical outgoing assumption, and give examples of situations where it is satisfied, showing in particular that the Corollary implies Theorem 1.2.

We are grateful to Maciej Zworski for his interest in this project and for several stimulating discussions about polynomially bounded resolvents, and also to Vesselin Petkov for several interesting discussions about related results and problems in obstacle scattering.

2. DEFINITIONS AND NOTATION

- Let X be the interior of \bar{X} , a compact manifold with boundary and let x be a boundary defining function on \bar{X} , that is a function $x \in C^\infty(\bar{X}; [0, \infty))$ with $x^{-1}(0) = \partial\bar{X}$ and $dx|_{\partial\bar{X}} \neq 0$. Let g be a Riemannian metric on X . We say that (X, g) is *asymptotically Euclidean* if we have

$$g = \frac{dx^2}{x^4} + \frac{\tilde{g}}{x^2},$$

where \tilde{g} is a symmetric cotensor smooth up to ∂X with $\tilde{g}|_{\partial X}$ a metric.

- Let X be the interior of \bar{X} , a compact manifold with boundary, and g a Riemannian metric on X . We say that (X, g) is *asymptotically hyperbolic* if each connected component of $\partial\bar{X}$ is a sphere and if

$$g = g_{\mathbb{H}} + \tilde{g},$$

where $g_{\mathbb{H}}$ is a symmetric cotensor which agrees with the hyperbolic metric on \mathbb{H}^n in a neighborhood of each connected component $\partial\bar{X}$, and \tilde{g} is a symmetric cotensor smooth up to $\partial\bar{X}$.

- We denote by π the projection $T^*X \rightarrow X$.
- If u is a function, $\|u\|$ denotes the $L^2(X)$ norm. If A is an operator, $\|A\|$ denotes the $L^2(X) \rightarrow L^2(X)$ norm. Angle brackets $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denote the inner product on $L^2(X)$.
- We say that a family of functions $u = (u_h)_{h \in (0,1)}$ on X is *polynomially bounded* if $\|u\| \leq Ch^{-N}$ for some N .
- By $u \in \mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ or $u = \mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ we mean $\|u\| \leq C_N h^N$ for every N and for $h \in (0, 1)$. By $\mu \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ we mean $\mu \geq -C_N h^N$ for every N , $h \in (0, 1)$.
- For $a = (a_h)_{h \in (0,1)} \in C^\infty(T^*X)$, we say $a \in S^{m,k}(X)$ if a obeys

$$\left| \partial_z^\alpha \partial_\zeta^\beta a \right| \leq C_{\alpha,\beta} h^{-k} (1 + |\zeta|^2)^{(m-|\beta|)/2},$$

in any coordinate patch, where the z are coordinates in the base and ζ are coordinates in the fiber, and α, β are multiindices. Acting on $u \in C_0^\infty(X)$ compactly supported in a patch, $\text{Op}(a)$ is a *semiclassical quantization* given in local coordinates by

$$\text{Op}(a)u(z) = \frac{1}{(2\pi h)^n} \int e^{iz\zeta/h} a(z, \zeta) \widehat{u}(\zeta) d\zeta.$$

The operator $\text{Op}(a)$ can be extended to general $u \in C_0^\infty(X)$ by using a partition of unity subordinate to an atlas of charts, and we say $\text{Op}(a) \in \Psi^{m,k}(X)$. The quantization depends on the choice of atlas and on the partition of unity, but the classes $S^{m,k}$ and $\Psi^{m,k}$ do not. Moreover, for given $A = \text{Op}(a) \in \Psi^{m,k}$, the *principal symbol*, defined to be the equivalence class of a in $S^{m,k}/S^{m-1,k-1}$, is also invariantly defined. If $A \in \Psi^{m,k}$ and $B \in \Psi^{m',k'}$, then $[A, B] \in \Psi^{m+m'-1, k+k'-1}$ and has principal symbol $\frac{h}{i} H_a b$. See, for example, [DiSj99, EvZw10] for more information on these and other results from semiclassical analysis discussed in this section.

- By *bicharacteristic* we always mean a bicharacteristic of P , that is an integral curve of the Hamiltonian vector field of p (the principal symbol of P), contained in $p^{-1}(I)$. We denote by γ_ρ the bicharacteristic at ρ (or from ρ or through ρ), which is defined by the properties $\gamma'_\rho(t) = H_p(\gamma_\rho(t))$ and $\gamma_\rho(0) = \rho$. We denote this by γ_ρ^\pm the restriction of γ_ρ to $\{\pm t \geq 0\}$. We call γ_ρ^+ the *forward bicharacteristic* and γ_ρ^- the *backward bicharacteristic*.
- For $\Gamma \Subset T^*X$ invariant under the bicharacteristic flow, we define the *forward, resp. backward flowout* Γ_+ , resp. Γ_- , of Γ as the set of points $\rho \in T^*X$ from which the backward, resp. forward bicharacteristic segments tend to Γ , i.e. for any neighborhood O of Γ there exists $T > 0$ such that $-t \geq T$, resp. $t \geq T$, implies $\gamma_\rho(t) \in O$. Here we think of Γ as the trapped set or as part of the trapped, hence points in Γ_- , resp. Γ_+ are backward, resp. forward, trapped, explaining the notation.
- For $E \subset T^*X$, we denote by Γ_\pm^E the set $\{\rho \in \Gamma_\pm : \gamma_\rho^\mp \in E\}$. Note that $E \subset F \Rightarrow \Gamma_\pm^E \subset \Gamma_\pm^F$, and that $\Gamma_\pm \setminus \Gamma_\pm^U$ is closed when U is open.
- For $k \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$, we say that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ at a point $\rho \in T^*X$ if there exists $a \in C_0^\infty(T^*X)$ with $a(\rho) \neq 0$ such that $\|\text{Op}(a)u\| = \mathcal{O}(h^k)$. We say that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ on a set $E \subset T^*X$ if it is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ at each point in E . Observe that if E is compact we may sum finitely many such functions $|a|^2$ to obtain $b \in C_0^\infty(T^*X)$ which is nonvanishing on E such that $\|\text{Op}(b)u\| = \mathcal{O}(h^k)$. Observe also that the set on which u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ is open for any k .
- The *semiclassical wave front set*, $\text{WF}_h(u)$, is defined for polynomially bounded u as follows: a point $\rho \in T^*X$ is not in $\text{WF}_h(u)$ if u is $\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ at ρ . One can also extend the definition to $\rho \in S^*X$ (thought of as the cosphere bundle at fiber-infinity in T^*X); then $\text{WF}_h(u) = \emptyset$ implies $u = \mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ (in L^2).
- The *microsupport*, $\text{WF}'_h A$, is defined for $A = \text{Op}(a) \in \Psi^{m,k}(X)$ as follows: a point $\rho \in T^*X$ is not in $\text{WF}'_h A$ if $|\partial^\alpha a| = \mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ near ρ for any multiindex α . For any $B \in \Psi^{m',k'}$, we have $\text{WF}'_h([A, B]) \subset \text{supp } da$, and for any u polynomially bounded we have $\text{WF}_h Au \subset \text{WF}'_h A \cap \text{WF}_h u$.
- If $A \in \Psi^{m,k}$ has principal symbol $a = a_h$, we say that A (or a) is *elliptic* at a point $\rho \in T^*X$ if $|a(\rho')| \geq Ch^{-k}$ for ρ' near ρ and $h > 0$ sufficiently small. We say A (or a) is elliptic on a set $E \Subset T^*X$ if it is elliptic at each point in E , and we automatically get a uniform estimate $|a(\rho')| \geq Ch^{-k}$ for $\rho' \in E$. *Microlocal elliptic regularity* states

that if $Au = f$ with u polynomially bounded, then if f is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on a set E and if A is elliptic on E , then u is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on E .

- Let $P \in \Psi^{m,0}(X)$ be a self adjoint, order $m > 0$, semiclassical pseudodifferential operator on X , with principal symbol p . For $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ compact and fixed, denote the characteristic set by $\Sigma = p^{-1}(I)$, and suppose that the projection to the base, $\pi: \Sigma \rightarrow X$, is proper (it is sufficient, for example, to have p classically elliptic). For $w \in C^\infty(T^*X; [0, \infty))$. We say that a point $\rho \in \Sigma$ is *backward nontrapped* with respect to $p - iw$, if either $w(\gamma_\rho(t)) > 0$ for some $t < 0$ or if for any $K \Subset T^*X$, there exists $T_K < 0$ such that $\gamma_\rho(t) \notin K$ whenever $t \leq T_K$.
- We say that a polynomially bounded resolvent family $R_h(\lambda)$ is *semiclassically outgoing* with loss of h^{-1} at backward nontrapped points if the following holds. If $u = R_h(\lambda)f$ with f compactly supported and ρ lies on a backward nontrapped bicharacteristic, and if f is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ on the backward flowout of ρ , then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ . *In the rest of the paper we will often write simply ‘semiclassically outgoing’ for brevity, but note that this condition is stronger than the one in [DaVa10] because the loss is specified to be h^{-1} .* This condition is discussed in §6.
- In this setting *propagation of singularities* states that if $u = R_h(\lambda)f$, and u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ at ρ and f is $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1})$ on $\gamma_\rho([0, T])$ for some $T > 0$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ at $\gamma_\rho(T)$.

3. A MICROLOCAL PROOF IN A NON-MICROLOCAL SETTING

In the next section we prove our general result. In this section we prove a special case of Theorem 1.2, indeed essentially a special case of [Bur02, (2.28)] and [CaVo02, (1.5)], in which the ideas are more transparent. We assume the resolvent is polynomially bounded and semiclassically outgoing at backward nontrapped points. However, we do not assume a specific structure at infinity: this is replaced by the semiclassically outgoing assumption, which is currently known for certain asymptotically Euclidean and hyperbolic infinities (see §6), but should hold in other cases as well. In this section we make a convexity assumption in an annular neighborhood of the trapped set, but this assumption is removed in the next section.

Let X be a manifold without boundary, g a complete metric on X , and P a self-adjoint semiclassical Schrödinger operator on X . Assume that there exists a small family of convex compact hypersurfaces which enclose the trapped set in the following sense. Fix $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ compact and $x \in C^\infty(X)$ such that $\{x \geq 1\}$ is compact and such that the trapped set Γ (i.e. the set of precompact bicharacteristics in $p^{-1}(I)$) sits inside $\{x > 5\}$. Suppose that the bicharacteristics γ of P in $p^{-1}(I)$ satisfy the convexity assumption

$$1 < x(\gamma(t)) < 5, \dot{x}(\gamma(t)) = 0 \Rightarrow \ddot{x}(\gamma(t)) < 0. \quad (3.1)$$

Here we note that if f is a C^∞ function on $[0, \infty)$ with $f' > 0$, and x satisfies (3.1) then so does $f \circ x$. In particular the specific constants above and below (such as $x < 5$) are chosen only for convenience, and can be replaced by arbitrary constants that preserve the ordering. In examples x might be the reciprocal of a function which measures distance to a given point, or more generally x might be a boundary defining function.

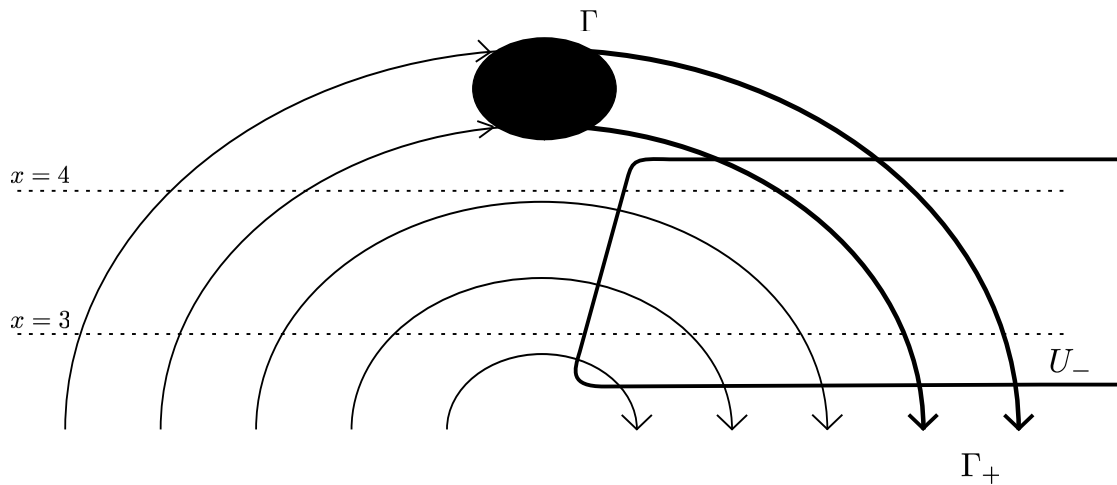


FIGURE 2. The characteristic set $\Sigma = p^{-1}(I)$ in §3, with bicharacteristics shown as arrows. The first paragraph of the proof of Proposition 3.1 reduces the problem to showing that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on a compact subset of $\Gamma_+ \cap \{3 < x < 4\}$. To do this we use as a commutator a cutoff function $\chi = \chi(x)$ which is 1 for $x \geq 4$, 0 for $x \leq 3$, and monotonic in between. This commutator has a uniform sign on the part of $U_- \subset \{H_p x < -c\}$ where χ' is bounded away from 0. If $\text{supp } \chi'$ is sufficiently large and $c > 0$ is sufficiently small this set contains the compact subset of $\Gamma_+ \cap \{3 < x < 4\}$ in which we are interested.

Proposition 3.1. *Let (X, g) , P , I , and x be as in the above paragraph. Assume that there exists $N > 0$, $\chi_0 \in C_0^\infty(X)$ with $\chi_0 = 1$ on $\{x \geq 1\}$, and $C > 0$ such that the resolvent satisfies*

$$\|\chi_0 R_h(\lambda) \chi_0\| \leq Ch^{-N},$$

for $\lambda \in D \subset \{\text{Re } \lambda \in I, \text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)\}$. Assume that the resolvent is semiclassically outgoing at backward nontrapped points. Then if $\chi_1 \in C_0^\infty(X)$ is supported in $\{3 < x < 4\}$ we have

$$\|\chi_1 R_h(\lambda) \chi_1\| \leq Ch^{-1},$$

for $\lambda \in D$.

Proof. We show first that if v is compactly supported with $\|v\| = \mathcal{O}(1)$, and $u = R_h(\lambda)f$, where $f = \chi_1 v$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on $T^* \text{supp } \chi_1$. By our hypothesis, u is polynomially bounded in h , namely is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-N})$, $(P_h - \lambda)u_h = f_h$ is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ and compactly supported, and $(P_h - \lambda)u_h = 0$ in $x > 2$. Thus, by microlocal elliptic regularity, using the polynomial bound, u_h is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ away from the characteristic set, $\Sigma = \{p - \text{Re } \lambda \in I\}$. Moreover, by the semiclassical outgoing assumption, if ρ is a point in Σ but not in Γ_+ , then $(P - \lambda)u = f$ being $\mathcal{O}(1)$ implies that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ along γ_ρ , i.e. a non-trapping estimate holds microlocally along γ_ρ . It remains to show that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on points in $\Sigma \cap \Gamma_+ \cap \{3 < x < 4\}$.

To do so, we proceed inductively, assuming that for some $k \leq -3/2$, u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ in a compact subset of $\{3 < x < 4\}$, and show that it is in fact $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1/2})$ on a slightly smaller subset.

Note that the last assumption automatically holds with $k \leq -N$ by the a priori polynomial bound assumption, and thus the proof of the proposition is complete once the inductive step is shown.

Take $\chi = \chi(x) \geq 0$ to be a function such that $\chi \equiv 1$ in $x \geq 4$, $\chi \equiv 0$ in $x \leq 3$, and χ is an increasing function of x , and $\chi' = \psi^2$ with ψ smooth. By microlocal elliptic regularity, $\text{WF}_h(u) \cap \text{supp } \chi$ is a subset of the characteristic set of $P_h - \lambda$. Then consider

$$\langle \chi u, (P - \lambda)u \rangle - \langle \chi(P - \lambda)u, u \rangle = \langle [P, \chi]u, u \rangle + \langle 2i \text{Im } \lambda \chi u, u \rangle. \quad (3.2)$$

The left hand side *vanishes* in view of the support properties of χ and $f = (P - \lambda)u$. Since $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$, i.e. for all M there is C such that $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -Ch^M$, we thus conclude that

$$\langle i[P, \chi]u, u \rangle \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty).$$

The semiclassical principal symbol of $[P, \chi]$ is

$$\frac{1}{i}hH_p\chi = \frac{1}{i}h\chi'H_px.$$

Letting $c > 0$ to be determined later on, we now use a partition of unity for T^*X corresponding to an open cover which in a neighborhood of the characteristic set over $\{3 \leq x \leq 4\}$ is essentially given in terms of the sign of H_px . So consider a neighborhood of the characteristic set over $\{3 \leq x \leq 4\}$ with compact closure K , and let O be a neighborhood of K with compact closure, and consider the open cover of T^*X by

$$U_- \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\rho \in O : H_px(\rho) < -c\}, \quad U_+ \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\rho \in O : H_px(\rho) > -2c\} \cup (T^*X \setminus K),$$

and take $\phi_\pm \in C^\infty(O)$ with $\phi_+^2 + \phi_-^2 = 1$ and $\text{supp } \phi_\pm \subset \text{supp } U_\pm$. Then $(-H_px)^{1/2}$ is C^∞ on $\text{supp } \phi_-$, and

$$H_p\chi = -((-H_px)^{1/2}\psi\phi_-)^2 + \psi^2 H_px\phi_+^2,$$

so with $b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (-H_px)^{1/2}\psi\phi_-$, $e \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \psi^2 H_px\phi_+^2$, $B, E \in \Psi^{-\infty, 0}(X)$ with principal symbol b , resp. e , and microsupport $\text{supp } b$, resp. $\text{supp } e$.

$$i[P, \chi] = -hB^*B + hE + h^2F,$$

where $F \in \Psi^{-\infty, 0}(X)$, so

$$h\|Bu\|^2 = \langle (hE + h^2F - i[P, \chi])u, u \rangle = h\langle Eu, u \rangle + h^2\langle Fu, u \rangle - 2\text{Im } \lambda \|\chi^{1/2}u\|^2.$$

Note that $h^2\langle Fu, u \rangle$ is $\mathcal{O}(h^{2+2k})$ by our a priori assumptions. Thus, if u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1/2})$ on $\text{WF}'_h(E)$ (half an order better than a priori expected), the same is true for u on the elliptic set of B , i.e. we have half an order improvement on the elliptic set of B .

So far we worked with arbitrary c ; however, if c is not suitably chosen, the assumption on u on $\text{WF}'_h(E)$ is not necessarily satisfied. Namely, we need to choose c so that $\text{WF}'_h(E)$ is in the union of the elliptic set with the backward non-trapped set, where we already have $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ bounds on u .

To do so we choose $c > 0$ is sufficiently small so that all bicharacteristics from points ρ in $\{3 \leq x \leq 4\}$ with $(H_px)(\rho) \geq -2c$ escape to $x < 3$ in the backward direction without entering the region $x \geq 5$. This is possible due to convexity and compactness: by convexity, if $H_px(\rho) \geq 0$ implies that on the backward bicharacteristic through ρ , x is decreasing as

time decreases, so by compactness there exists $T > 0$ such that if ρ is as above, then at time $-T$ the bicharacteristics are in $x \leq 2$. Then by compactness again, there is $c > 0$ such that for all ρ with $(H_p x)(\rho) \geq -2c$, at time $-T$ the bicharacteristics are in $x \leq 2.5$. With this choice of c , every point in $\text{WF}'_h(E)$ is backward non-trapped or elliptic. Thus, for $k + 1/2 \leq -1$, one deduces that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1/2})$ on the elliptic set of B . In particular, we conclude that where $\chi' > 0$, u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1/2})$ since such points are either in the elliptic set of B or of $P - \lambda$, or $(H_p x)(\rho) \geq -2c$ there, and in either case u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ (here we use $k + 1/2 \leq -1$).

One can iterate this by shrinking the support of $d\chi$, hence those of B and E and deduce that u is actually $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ in any compact subset of $\{3 < x < 4\}$ (one has to choose the initial χ appropriately if this subset is large). This proves that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on $\text{supp } \chi_1$, i.e. $\|\chi_1 R_h(\lambda) \chi_1 v\| \leq Ch^{-1}$. An application of Banach-Steinhaus finishes the proof, giving a constant C uniform in v . \square

We remark that a key point in this argument is that because $(P - \lambda)u = 0$ in the trapping region, one needs to know nothing about u itself when one considers $\langle \chi(P - \lambda)u, u \rangle - \langle \chi u, (P - \lambda)u \rangle$ in (3.2), at least if $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$. If instead $(P - \lambda)u$ is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ there, then all one can say is that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-N})$ which completely destroys the bounds above, i.e. gives a loss.

It is worth noting that although we needed $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$, in any region $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -Ch^s$, $s > 1$, we can do a finite amount of iteration and improve on the assumption that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-N})$. However, it is not clear whether this can give any useful bounds in practice.

4. THE GENERAL CASE

In this section we prove Theorem 1.1. First observe that if u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at a point $\rho \in \Gamma_+$, then it is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on γ_ρ^+ , the forward bicharacteristic from ρ . Hence it suffices to construct a microlocal commutant whose commutator is positive on points ρ such that γ_ρ^- is contained in a small neighborhood of Γ , and merely nonnegative on the rest of Γ_+ . The main constraint on the neighborhood in which we work is that it must be contained in the U of Lemma 4.1 and Remark 4.2. The proof uses an inductive iteration as in §3, so in Lemma 4.3 we introduce open neighborhoods $\Gamma \subset U_1 \Subset U_0 \Subset U$ but no other properties of these neighborhoods will be used, and they may be arbitrarily close to Γ and to ∂U respectively.

Lemma 4.1. *Suppose U_- is a neighborhood of $(\Gamma_- \setminus \Gamma) \cap (\overline{W} \setminus V)$. There is a neighborhood $U \subset V$ of Γ such that if $\alpha \in U \setminus \Gamma_+$ then the backward bicharacteristic from α enters U_- .*

Remark 4.2. Note that from this and from the assumption that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on Γ_- , it follows that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on $U \setminus \Gamma_+$, provided U_- is chosen sufficiently small, namely small enough that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on U_- . Note also that, because $U \subset V$, we have $\text{WF}_h f \cap U = \emptyset$.

Proof. Suppose no such U exists. Then there is a sequence $\alpha_j \in V \setminus \Gamma_+$ such that $\alpha_j \rightarrow \Gamma$ but the backward bicharacteristics $\gamma_{\alpha_j}^-$ through α_j are disjoint from U_- ; by passing to a subsequence, using the compactness of Γ , we may assume that $\alpha_j \rightarrow \alpha \in \Gamma$. By (1.1), the

bicharacteristics $\gamma_{\alpha_j}^-$ enter $W \setminus \bar{V} \subset \bar{W} \setminus V$, and the latter is compact. Let $t_j = \sup\{t < 0 : \gamma_{\alpha_j}(t) \in \bar{W} \setminus V\}$, and let $\beta_j = \gamma_{\alpha_j}(t_j)$, so $\beta_j \in \bar{W} \setminus V$ as the latter set is closed. Moreover, $\beta_j \in \bar{V}$: indeed $\gamma_{\alpha_j}([t_j, 0])$ is connected and contained in $\bar{V} \cup (T^*X \setminus W)$, a union of disjoint closed sets, and $\gamma_{\alpha_j}(0) \in V \subset \bar{V}$. By the compactness of \bar{V} , the β_j have a convergent subsequence, say β_{j_k} , converging to some $\beta \in (\bar{W} \setminus V) \cap \bar{V} = \partial V$.

We claim that $\beta \in \Gamma_-$, which is a contradiction with $\beta_{j_k} \notin U_-$. Indeed, otherwise, by (1.1), the forward bicharacteristic γ_β^+ from β intersects $W \setminus \bar{V}$. Moreover, since $\gamma_\beta(0) = \beta \in \bar{V}$, there is $T > 0$ such that $\gamma_\beta(T) \in W \setminus \bar{V}$. Then, for sufficiently large k , the same is true for the forward bicharacteristic at time T from β_{j_k} as $W \setminus \bar{V}$ is open, i.e. $\gamma_{\alpha_{j_k}}(t_{j_k} + T) \in W \setminus \bar{V}$. By the definition of t_{j_k} , $t_{j_k} + T > 0$, so $t_{j_k} > -T$ for all k . But, if γ_α is the bicharacteristic through α , then $\gamma_{\alpha_{j_k}}(t) \rightarrow \gamma_\alpha(t)$ uniformly in $[-T, 0]$. By passing to a convergent subsequence of t_{j_k} , say $t_{j'_k}$, $\gamma_{\alpha_{j'_k}}(t_{j'_k}) \rightarrow \gamma_\alpha(\lim t_{j'_k}) \in \Gamma$ by the flow-invariance of Γ , so $\beta \in \Gamma$ which contradicts $\beta \notin V$. Thus, $\beta \in \Gamma_-$, as claimed. \square

In the following lemma we construct an escape function $q \in C_0^\infty(T^*X)$ which is constant near Γ , nonincreasing along Γ_+ , and has $H_p q < 0$ on a sufficiently large subset of Γ_+ . This construction is based in part on the construction of a nontrapping escape function in [VaZw00, §4] and on the construction of an escape function away from a trapped set in [GéSj87, Appendix]. We will use a quantization of q as a microlocal commutant in this section, replacing the cutoff function χ of §3.

Lemma 4.3. *Let U_1 and U_0 be an open set with $\Gamma \subset U_1 \Subset U_0 \Subset U$. Then there exists a nonnegative function $q \in C_0^\infty(U)$ such that*

$$q = 1 \text{ near } \Gamma, \quad H_p q \leq 0 \text{ near } \Gamma_+, \quad H_p q < 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_+^{\bar{U}_0} \setminus U_1.$$

Moreover, we can take q such that both \sqrt{q} and $\sqrt{-H_p q}$ are smooth near Γ_+ .

Recall that Γ_+^E is the set of points $\rho \in \Gamma_+$ whose backward bicharacteristic γ_ρ^- is contained in E . The condition that \sqrt{q} and $\sqrt{-H_p q}$ are smooth near Γ_+ is used only to avoid invoking the sharp Gårding inequality.

To motivate the statement, we outline how Lemma 4.3 will be used to prove Theorem 1.1. We will see that a positive commutator estimate as in §3 directly gives us good control of u on $\Gamma_+^{\bar{U}_0} \setminus U_1$, where the commutator is elliptic, up to errors which are of two types. By propagation of singularities we can extend these good estimates to the forward flowout of $\Gamma_+^{\bar{U}_0} \setminus U_1$, namely to $\Gamma_+ \setminus U_1$. The first type of error is in the region away from Γ_+ , where we do not have $H_p q \leq 0$, but here we know that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ thanks to Remark 4.2. The second type of error is in the region where $H_p q \leq 0$ but not uniformly bounded away from 0. We control this error using an iteration as in §3. We will need a finite sequence of q_j (the number of iterations is determined by the polynomial bound on u) such that $H_p q_{j+1} < 0$ on $\text{supp } dq_j \cap \Gamma_+$. To obtain q_1 we apply Lemma 4.3 with any U_1, U_0 satisfying the hypotheses of the lemma. To obtain q_{j+1} from q_j we observe that

$$\Gamma \subset T^*X \setminus \text{supp}(1 - q_j) \subset \text{supp } q_j \subset U,$$

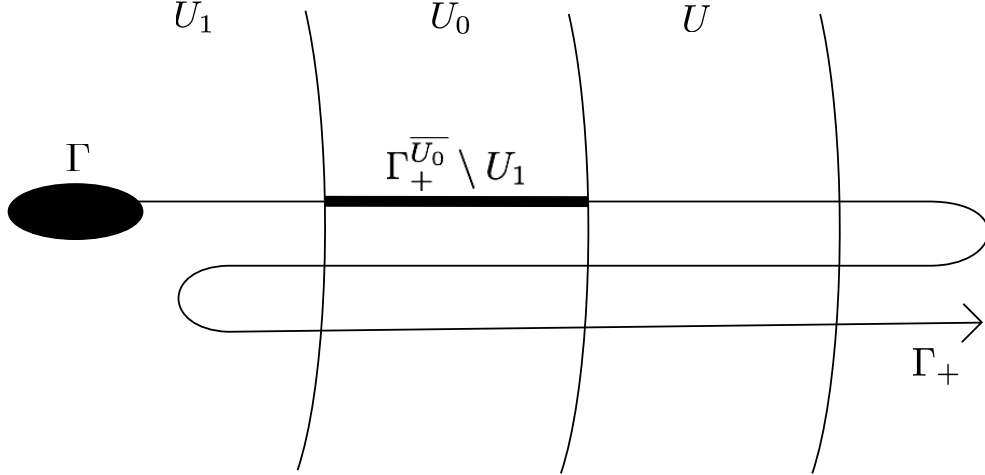


FIGURE 3. We construct q so that it is identically 1 near Γ , and then non-increasing along Γ_+ . We make q strictly decreasing along $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1$, and then identically 0 outside of U (because in this last region Remark 4.2 provides no information about u so we must not produce any error terms here). Since q must be nonincreasing along Γ_+ and compactly supported, it must remain 0 after this point, and in particular we cannot make $H_p q < 0$ on any of $\Gamma_+ \setminus \Gamma_+^U$.

and apply Lemma 4.3 with a new U_1, U_0 such that $U_1 \Subset T^*X \setminus \text{supp}(1 - q_j)$ and $\text{supp } q_j \subset U_0$. To simplify notation we will not discuss the iteration in more detail, and will simply use q rather than q_j .

Proof. We will construct a function \tilde{q} , smooth in a neighborhood of \overline{U} , satisfying

$$\tilde{q} = 0 \text{ near } \Gamma, \quad H_p \tilde{q} \leq 0, \quad H_p \tilde{q}|_{\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1} < 0, \quad \tilde{q}|_{\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1} \geq -1/2, \quad \tilde{q} \leq -2 \text{ near } \Gamma_+ \setminus \Gamma_+^U.$$

Then we take $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ nondecreasing such that $f(t) = t + 1$ near $t \geq -1/2$ and $f(t) = 0$ near $t \leq -2$. We take further $\chi_q \in C_0^\infty(U; [0, \infty))$ identically 1 near $\{\tilde{q} < 2\} \cap \Gamma_+$ (note that $\{\tilde{q} < 2\} \cap \Gamma_+ \Subset U$). It then suffices to put

$$q(\rho) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_q(\rho) f(\tilde{q}(\rho)).$$

Indeed, that q is nonnegative and identically 1 near Γ is immediate. That $H_p q < 0$ on $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1$ follows from the fact that on that set we have $f \circ \tilde{q} = \tilde{q} + 1$ and $\chi = 1$. That $H_p q \leq 0$ near Γ_+ follows from the fact that $\{H_p q > 0\} \subset \text{supp } d\chi_q \cap \{\tilde{q} < 2\}$, which is disjoint from Γ_+ .

If f and χ_q are chosen such that \sqrt{f} and $\sqrt{\chi_q}$ are smooth, then \sqrt{q} is smooth. Meanwhile, near Γ_+ , $-H_p q = -(f' \circ \tilde{q}) H_p \tilde{q}$, and hence it suffices to make $\sqrt{f'}$ and $\sqrt{-H_p \tilde{q}}$ smooth. In the case of f it suffices to make f a translation of $e^{-1/t}|_{t>0}$ near the boundary of its support. We will indicate below how to achieve this for \tilde{q} .

We take \tilde{q} of the form

$$\tilde{q} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{k=1}^N q_{\rho_k}, \quad (4.1)$$

where each q_{ρ_k} is supported near a portion of the bicharacteristic through ρ_k , a suitably chosen point in $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U}_0} \setminus U_1$.

To determine the ρ_k we first fix open sets V_1 and V_0 with $\Gamma \subset V_1 \Subset U_1$ and $U_0 \Subset V_0 \Subset U$. We then associate to each $\rho \in \Gamma_+^{\overline{U}_0} \setminus U_1$ the following *escape times*:

$$T_\rho^{V_1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R} : \gamma_\rho(t) \notin V_1\}, \quad T_\rho^{V_0} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \inf\{t \in \mathbb{R} : \gamma_\rho(t) \notin V_0\}, \quad T_\rho^U \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sup\{t \in \mathbb{R} : \gamma_\rho(t) \in \overline{U}\}.$$

Note that these are finite because of the definition of Γ_+ and (1.1).

Next let \mathcal{S}_ρ be a hypersurface through ρ which is transversal to H_ρ near ρ . Then if U_ρ is a sufficiently small neighborhood of ρ , the set

$$V_\rho \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\gamma_\alpha(t) : \alpha \in U_\rho \cap \mathcal{S}_\rho, t \in (T_\rho^{V_1} - 1, T_\rho^U + 1)\}$$

is diffeomorphic to $(\mathcal{S}_\rho \cap U_\rho) \times (T_\rho^{V_1} - 1, T_\rho^U + 1)$. We use this diffeomorphism to define product coordinates on V_ρ . If necessary, shrink U_ρ so that

$$\overline{V}_\rho \cap \{t \leq T_\rho^{V_1}\} \cap \overline{U}_1 = \emptyset, \quad \overline{V}_\rho \cap \{t \leq T_\rho^{V_0}\} \subset U, \quad \overline{V}_\rho \cap \{t = T_\rho^{V_0}\} \cap \overline{U}_0 = \emptyset.$$

This is possible because $\gamma_\rho(\{t \leq T_\rho^{V_1}\}) \cap \overline{U}_1 = \emptyset$, $\gamma_\rho(\{t \leq T_\rho^{V_0}\}) \subset U$, and $\gamma_\rho(T_\rho^{V_0}) \notin \overline{U}_0$.

Take $\varphi_\rho \in C_0^\infty(\mathcal{S}_\rho \cap U_\rho; [0, 1])$ identically 1 near ρ , also a considered a function on V_ρ via the product coordinates, and let $V'_\rho \subset V_\rho$ be an open set containing $\gamma_\rho([T_\rho^{V_1} - 1/2, T_\rho^U + 1/2])$ such that $\varphi_\rho = 1$ on V'_ρ . Observe that the V'_ρ with $\rho \in \Gamma_+^{\overline{U}_0} \setminus U_1$ are an open cover of $\Gamma_+ \cap \overline{U} \setminus U_1$, because any backward bicharacteristic from a point in $\Gamma_+ \cap \overline{U} \setminus U_1$ enters $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U}_0} \setminus U_1$ eventually. Now take ρ_1, \dots, ρ_N such that

$$\Gamma_+ \cap \overline{U} \setminus U_1 \subset \bigcup_{k=1}^N V'_{\rho_k}. \quad (4.2)$$

For each $\rho \in \{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N\}$ put

$$q_\rho \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \chi_\rho \varphi_\rho, \quad H_p q_\rho = \chi'_\rho \varphi_\rho,$$

where $\chi_\rho \in C^\infty((T_\rho^{V_1} - 1, T_\rho^U + 1))$.

We further impose that χ_ρ has $\chi'_\rho(t) \leq 0$ for all t and also satisfies

- (1) $\chi_\rho(t) = 0$ for $t \leq T_\rho^{V_1} - 1/2$,
- (2) $\chi'_\rho(t) < 0$, $\chi_\rho(t) \geq -(2N)^{-1}$ for $T_\rho^{V_1} \leq t \leq T_\rho^{V_0}$,
- (3) $\chi_\rho(t) = -2$ for $t \geq T_\rho^{V_0} + \varepsilon_\rho$.

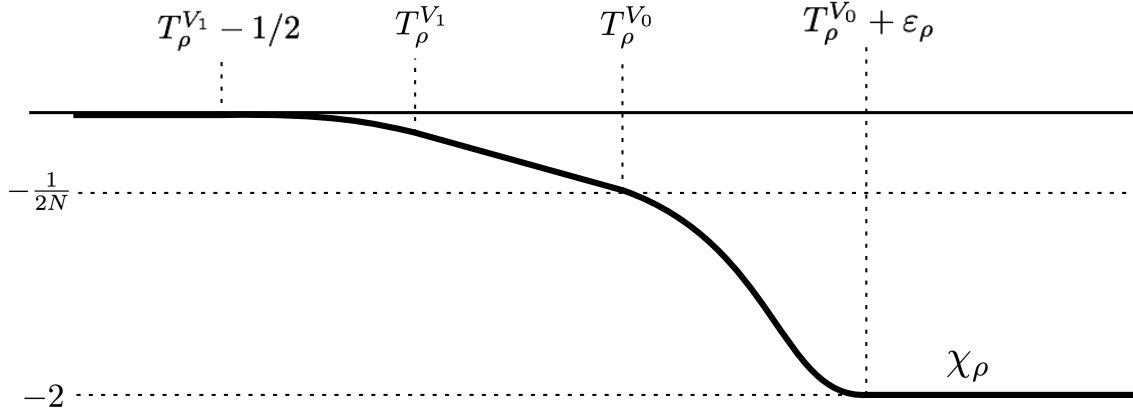


FIGURE 4. The graph of χ_ρ , $\rho \in \{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_N\}$.

Here ε_ρ is a positive number less than $1/2$ and small enough that $\gamma_\alpha(t) \in U$ for $\alpha \in U_\rho \cap \mathcal{S}_\rho$ and $t \leq T_\rho^V + \varepsilon_\rho$. Such an ε_ρ exists because $\overline{V}_\rho \cap \{t \leq T_\rho^{V_0}\} \subset U$. Note that in condition (2) we use the same N as in (4.2). Observe that extending q_ρ by 0 outside of V_ρ gives a function which is C^∞ near \overline{U} .

We now check that \tilde{q} has the desired properties. That $\tilde{q} = 0$ near Γ follows from the fact that $\text{supp } \tilde{q} \subset \bigcup V_{\rho_k}$ and each V_{ρ_k} is disjoint from Γ . That $H_p \tilde{q} \leq 0$ follows from $\chi'_\rho \leq 0$. That $H_p \tilde{q} < 0$ and $\tilde{q} \geq -1/2$ on $\Gamma^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1$ follows from condition (2) on the χ_ρ and from the covering property (4.2), as well as from the fact that we took care to make $\overline{V}_\rho \cap \{t \geq T_\rho^{V_0}\} \cap \Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} = \emptyset$ so none of the summands in (4.1) are too negative here. That $\tilde{q} \leq -2$ near $\Gamma_+ \setminus \Gamma_+^U$ follows from condition (3) on the χ_ρ together with (4.2).

To make $\sqrt{-H_p \tilde{q}}$ smooth we simply make $\sqrt{\varphi_{\rho_k}}$ and $\sqrt{-\chi'_{\rho_k}}$ (but not necessarily $\sqrt{-\chi_{\rho_k}}$) smooth for each k . \square

We conclude this section and the proof of Theorem 1.1 by proving the inductive step in the iteration: if u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ on a sufficiently large compact subset of $U \cap \Gamma_+ \setminus \Gamma$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1/2})$ on $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1$, provided $k + 1/2 \leq -1$.

First let U_- be an open neighborhood of $\Gamma_+ \cap \text{supp } q$ which is sufficiently small that $H_p q \leq 0$ on U_- and that $\sqrt{-H_p q}$ is smooth on U_- . Let U_+ be an open neighborhood of $\text{supp } q \setminus U_1$ whose closure is disjoint from Γ_+ and from $T^*X \setminus \overline{U}$. Define $\phi_\pm \in C^\infty(U_+ \cup U_-)$ with $\text{supp } \phi_\pm \subset U_\pm$ and with $\phi_+^2 + \phi_-^2 = 1$ on $U_+ \cup U_-$.

Put

$$b \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \phi_- \sqrt{-H_p q^2}, \quad e \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \phi_+^2 H_p q^2.$$

Let $Q, B, E \in \Psi^{-\infty,0}(X)$ have principal symbols q, b, e , and microsupports $\text{supp } q, \text{supp } b, \text{supp } e$, so that

$$\frac{i}{h}[P, Q^*Q] = -B^*B + E + hF,$$

with $F \in \Psi^{-\infty,0}(X)$ such that $\text{WF}'_h F \subset \text{supp } dq \subset U \setminus \Gamma$. But

$$\frac{i}{h}\langle [P, Q^*Q]u, u \rangle = \frac{2}{h} \text{Im} \langle Q^*Q(P - \lambda)u, u \rangle + \frac{2}{h} \langle Q^*Q \text{Im } \lambda u, u \rangle \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)\|u\|^2,$$

where we used $\text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ and $\text{supp } q \cap \text{WF}_h(P - \lambda)u = \emptyset$. So

$$\|Bu\|^2 \leq \langle Eu, u \rangle + h\langle Fu, u \rangle + \mathcal{O}(h^\infty).$$

But $|\langle Eu, u \rangle| \leq Ch^{-2}$ because $\text{WF}'_h E \cap \Gamma_+ = \emptyset$ allows us to use Remark 4.2 to conclude that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on $\text{WF}'_h E$. Meanwhile $|\langle Fu, u \rangle| \leq C(h^{-2} + h^{2k})$ because all points of $\text{WF}'_h F$ are either in $U \setminus \Gamma_+$, where we know u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ from Remark 4.2, or on a single compact subset of $U \cap \Gamma_+ \setminus \Gamma$, where we know that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^k)$ by inductive hypothesis. Since $b = \sqrt{-H_p q^2} > 0$ on $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1$, we can use microlocal elliptic regularity to conclude that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{k+1/2})$ on $\Gamma_+^{\overline{U_0}} \setminus U_1$, as desired.

5. APPLICATION TO RESOLVENT ESTIMATES

5.1. Proof of Corollary. Let $f = \text{Op}(b)v$, $\|v\| = \mathcal{O}(1)$, $u = R_h(\lambda)f$. Let Γ be the union of the connected components of the trapped set which intersect the backward bicharacteristic flowout of $\text{supp } a$. Note that if V and W are chosen such that \overline{W} is disjoint from any other components of the trapped set, then the assumptions of Theorem 1.1 are satisfied. We must show that for any $\rho \in \text{supp } a$, u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ . There are three cases.

- (1) If $\rho \notin \Sigma = p^{-1}(I)$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ at ρ by elliptic regularity and the polynomial boundedness of the resolvent.
- (2) If ρ is backward nontrapped, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ by the semiclassically outgoing assumption.
- (3) If ρ is backward trapped, then $\rho \in \Gamma_+$ by the definition of Γ_+ and by the support property of a . Hence u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ by Theorem 1.1. The assumption in Theorem 1.1 that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on Γ_- follows from case (2) above.

This proves that

$$\|\text{Op}(a)R_h(\lambda)\text{Op}(b)v\| \leq Ch^{-1}.$$

The uniformity in v follows from Banach-Steinhaus.

5.2. Nontrapping estimates on part of the trapped set. We now give an example, although a somewhat unphysical one, in which Theorem 1.1 can be applied with Γ a proper subset of the trapped set but not a connected component. In this example we obtain the nontrapping estimate (1.2) for a and b with supports overlapping a certain part of the trapped set. More specifically, we will apply Theorem 1.1 with Γ a union of closed orbits and with part of Γ_+ or Γ_- contained in the trapped set.

Let $y = y(z) \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ be even, positive-valued, with a nondegenerate local maximum at 0, and with $y'' > 0$ outside of a neighborhood of 0, such that y'' changes sign only twice. Let (X, g) be the surface of revolution obtained by revolving the graph of y around the z axis (see Figure 5). Suppose this surface is an asymptotically Euclidean or hyperbolic manifold as in §2 (for example, it may be a catenoid outside of a compact set). We will use coordinates (s, θ) on X , where $s = s(z)$ is an arclength parametrization of the graph of y with $s(0) = 0$, and θ measures the angle of revolution. Let $a(s) = y(z)$ and (σ, μ) be dual to (s, θ) . In these coordinates the manifold (X, g) and the geodesic Hamiltonian p_0 are given by

$$X = \mathbb{R}_s \times (\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z})_\theta, \quad g = ds^2 + a(s)^2 d\theta^2, \quad p_0 = \sigma^2 + a(s)^{-2} \mu^2.$$

Let s_0 be the point in $\{s > 0\}$ at which the global minimum of a is attained. The unit speed geodesic flow has six closed orbits along latitude circles: two elliptic orbits at $s = 0$ and two hyperbolic orbits at each of $s = \pm s_0$. See Figure 5 for a sketch of the projection of the bicharacteristic flowlines to the (s, σ) plane.

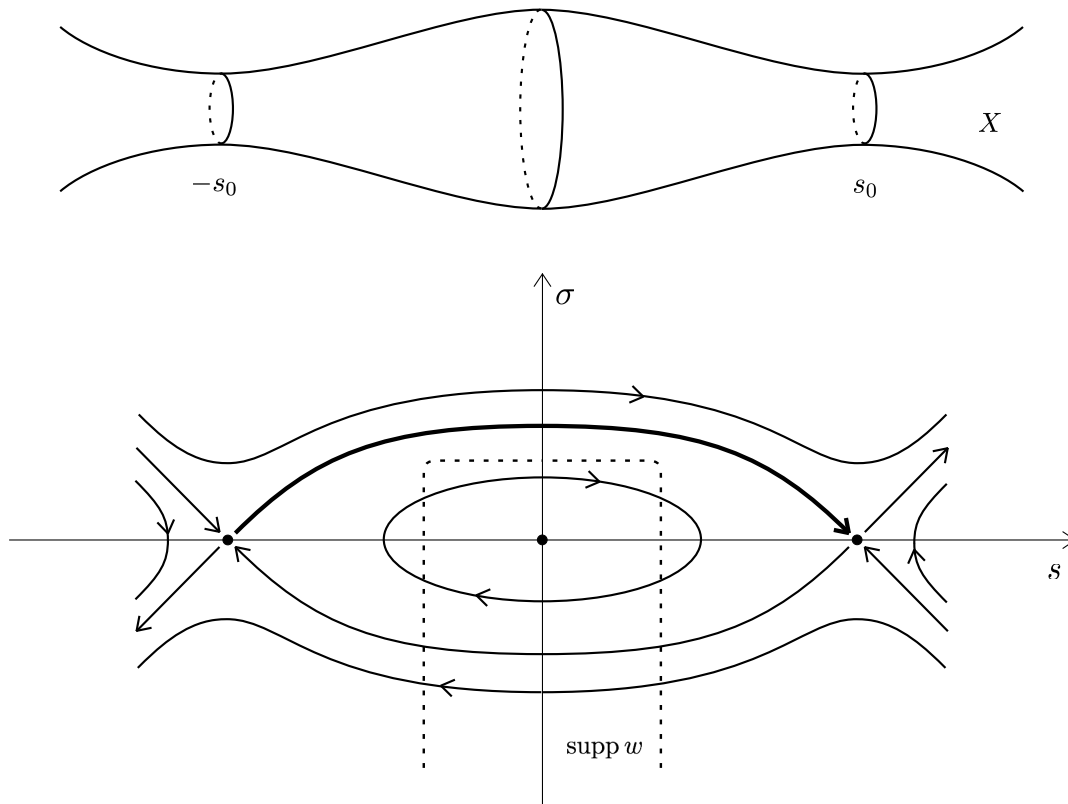


FIGURE 5. The surface of revolution (X, g) with its three geodesic latitude circles, and the unit speed geodesic flow on S^*X projected onto the (s, σ) plane. The complex absorbing barrier w is supported inside the dashed outline. In Proposition 5.2 we apply Theorem 1.1 first with Γ taken to be the two hyperbolic closed orbits at $(s, \sigma) = (-s_0, 0)$, and then with Γ taken to be the orbits at $(s, \sigma) = (s_0, 0)$. The darkened arrow is the portion of the trapped set on which we prove a nontrapping resolvent estimate.

We would like to apply Theorem 1.1 with Γ taken to be one or several of the hyperbolic closed orbits at $s = \pm s_0$. However, the resolvent of the Laplacian on this surface will not be polynomially bounded because of the elliptic trapping, and Γ_- in this case will include trapped trajectories on which $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ resolvent bounds do not hold, so we introduce a complex absorbing barrier as in §6.1 to suppress some of the trapping. Let $w \in C_0^\infty(T^*X; [0, 1])$ be supported as in Figure 5 and satisfy $w = 1$ on $S^*X \cap \{s = 0, \sigma \leq 0\}$. More specifically, we require that $\text{supp } w \subset \{-s_0/2 < s < s_0/2\}$, and that $\text{supp } w$ be disjoint from bicharacteristics $\gamma(t)$ with $\lim_{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} s(\gamma(t)) = \pm s_0$. Let

$$P = h^2 \Delta_g - 1 - iW,$$

where $W \in \Psi^{-\infty, 0}(X)$ has principal symbol w . In Lemma 5.1 we show that the resolvent of this operator is polynomially bounded. The proof uses microlocal estimates near the hyperbolic orbits originally due to Christianson [Chr07, Chr08] together with the gluing method of [DaVa10]. To apply the gluing method, we use the following convexity properties of the bicharacteristic flow: If $\gamma(t)$ is a bicharacteristic in S^*X , then

$$\dot{s}(\gamma(t)) = 0, \quad \pm s(\gamma(t)) > s_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \pm \ddot{s}(\gamma(t)) > 0, \quad (5.1)$$

$$\dot{s}(\gamma(t)) = 0, \quad 0 < \pm s(\gamma(t)) < s_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \pm \ddot{s}(\gamma(t)) < 0. \quad (5.2)$$

Lemma 5.1. *For all $\chi_0 \in C_0^\infty(X)$ there exist C, h_0 such that*

$$\|\chi_0(P - \lambda)^{-1}\chi_0\| \leq C \frac{\log(1/h)}{h}$$

for $0 < h \leq h_0$ and $\text{Re } \lambda = 0, \text{Im } \lambda \geq 0$.

Proof. We define two model operators: a nontrapping model P_0 and a trapping model P_1 . Unlike in the usual setup, the nontrapping model is “compact” in the sense that it agrees with P only for small values of s , while the region near $\{|s| \geq s_0\}$ is suppressed by a complex absorbing barrier. Meanwhile the trapping model is “noncompact” in the sense that it agrees with P outside a small neighborhood of $\{|s| = 0\}$, and only the region near $\{|s| = 0\}$ is suppressed. For the resolvent of P_0 we prove an $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ bound (this is standard), and for the resolvent of P_1 we prove an $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1} \log(h^{-1}))$ bound (for this we use [DaVa10, Theorem 2.1]), after which an $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1} \log(h^{-1}))$ bound for P follows by the parametrix construction of [DaVa10, §3].

More concretely, let $W_0 \in C^\infty(X; [0, 1])$ be 0 for $|s| \leq 5s_0/7$ and 1 for $|s| \geq 6s_0/7$. Let $W_1 \in C^\infty(X; [0, 1])$ be 0 for $|s| \geq 2s_0/7$ and 1 for $|s| \leq s_0/7$.

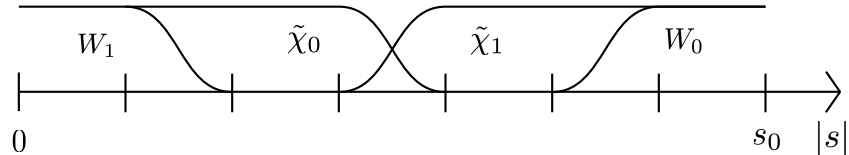


FIGURE 6. The complex absorbing barriers and cutoffs of Lemma 5.1.

Then put

$$P_j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P - iW_j, \quad X_j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} X \setminus \text{supp } W_j, \quad P_j|_{X_j} = P|_{X_j}, \quad j \in \{0, 1\},$$

and let $R_j(\lambda) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (P_j - \lambda)^{-1}$. By the discussion in §6.1 we have

$$\|\chi_0 R_0(\lambda) \chi_0\| \leq Ch^{-1},$$

because all backward bicharacteristics enter $\{W_0 = 1\}$. Meanwhile the trapping in P_1 consists of four isolated closed hyperbolic orbits, and hence

$$\|\chi_0 R_1(\lambda) \chi_0\| \leq C \frac{\log(1/h)}{h},$$

by [DaVa10, Theorem 2.1], where we used the convexity conditions (5.1) and (5.2) to glue a trapping estimate near the hyperbolic orbits (such as [WuZw10, (1.1)]) to a nontrapping estimate for the infinite end (such as [CPV04, (1.6)]). Note that by the discussion in §6, the resolvents of both P_0 and P_1 are semiclassically outgoing. Now let $\tilde{\chi}_0 \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}; [0, 1])$ be 1 near $|s| \leq 3s_0/7$ and 0 near $|s| \geq 4s_0/7$, let $\tilde{\chi}_1 = 1 - \tilde{\chi}_0$, and define a right parametrix for P by

$$F \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tilde{\chi}_0(s - s_0/7) R_0(\lambda) \tilde{\chi}_0(s) + \tilde{\chi}_1(s + s_0/7) R_1(\lambda) \tilde{\chi}_1(s).$$

An iterated construction using this F , but otherwise just as in [DaVa10, §3], gives the Lemma. We use the convexity condition (5.2) to prove the analogue of [DaVa10, Lemma 3.1]. \square

Now by the discussion in §6 the resolvent $(P - \lambda)^{-1}$ is semiclassically outgoing, and recall that trajectories which intersect $\{w = 1\}$ at some negative time are considered backward nontrapped, allowing us to apply Theorem 1 with Γ taken to be one or several of the hyperbolic closed orbits at $s = \pm s_0$. For example, we have the following statement:

Proposition 5.2. *For all $\chi_1 \in C_0^\infty(X)$ with $\text{supp } \chi_1 \cap \{|s| = s_0\} = \emptyset$, there exist C, h_0 such that*

$$\|\chi_1 (P - \lambda)^{-1} \chi_1\| \leq \frac{C}{h}$$

for $0 < h \leq h_0$ and $\text{Re } \lambda = 0, \text{Im } \lambda \geq 0$.

Proof. We closely follow §5.1. Let $f = \chi_1 v$, $\|v\| = \mathcal{O}(1)$, $u = (P - \lambda)^{-1} f$. We must show that for any $\rho \in T^* \text{supp } \chi_1$, u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ . There are four cases.

- (1) If $\rho \notin \Sigma = p^{-1}(0)$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(1)$ at ρ by elliptic regularity and the polynomial boundedness of the resolvent.
- (2) If ρ is backward nontrapped (i.e. either escapes to infinity or enters the interior of the support of w), then, because (X, g) is asymptotically Euclidean or hyperbolic, u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ by the discussion in §6.1 and §6.2.
- (3) If $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} s(\gamma_\rho(t)) = -s_0$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ by Theorem 1.1 applied with Γ the union of the two closed orbits at $s = -s_0$. The assumption in Theorem 1.1 that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on Γ_- follows from case (2) above.
- (4) If $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} s(\gamma_\rho(t)) = s_0$, then u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ at ρ by Theorem 1.1 applied with Γ the union of the two closed orbits at $s = s_0$. The assumption in Theorem 1.1 that u is $\mathcal{O}(h^{-1})$ on Γ_- follows from cases (2) and (3) above.

This proves that

$$\|\chi_1 (P - \lambda)^{-1} \chi_1 v\| \leq Ch^{-1}.$$

The uniformity in v follows from Banach-Steinhaus. □

6. SEMICLASSICALLY OUTGOING RESOLVENTS

In this section we discuss the assumption that the resolvent family is semiclassically outgoing. As mentioned above, this condition replaces any explicit assumptions about the structure of the manifold near infinity and allows us to work in an arbitrarily small neighborhood of the trapped set. In §6.1 we explain this condition in the case of a polynomially bounded resolvent with a complex absorbing barrier added, a convenient simple model of infinity used to study resolvents in trapping geometries. In §6.2 we consider manifolds which are asymptotically Euclidean or asymptotically hyperbolic in the sense of §2. Finally, in §6.3 we give an example from 3-body scattering, illustrating that this assumption is flexible in the sense that it can hold on a manifold whose natural compactification is a manifold with corners rather than a manifold with boundary, and which is not covered by the analysis of [CaVo02, CPV04]. Introducing a suitable short-range three-particle interaction in this setting can produce a hyperbolic trapped set to which Theorem 1.1 can be applied.

In all the examples discussed in this section, the semiclassically outgoing condition with a quantified h^{-1} loss follows from the proof of the same condition without the quantified loss. This weaker condition is discussed in [DaVa10] for several of the examples below, and since no significant changes are needed we omit many details.

6.1. Complex absorbing barriers. The simplest setting in which the resolvent is semiclassically outgoing is when “infinity is suppressed” by a *complex absorbing barrier*, which we denote by adding a term of the form $-iW$ to a Schrödinger operator. See [NoZw09] and [WuZw10] for examples of theorems about resolvent estimates in the presence of trapping which are simplified in this setting, and see [DaVa10] for a general method for gluing in another (more interesting) semiclassically outgoing infinity once such an estimate is proved. This method is used in the present paper to construct the example in §5.

The following lemma is standard, and the proof is essentially the same as that of [DaVa10, Lemma 5.1].

Lemma 6.1. *Let (X, g) be a complete Riemannian manifold, let $P_0 = h^2\Delta_g + V$ be a semiclassical Schrödinger operator with $V \in C^\infty(X)$, let $P = P_0 - iW$ where $W = \text{Op}(w)$ and $w \in C^\infty(T^*X; [0, 1])$ is identically 1 off a compact subset of T^*X , and let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ be compact. Suppose $R_h(\lambda) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (P - \lambda)^{-1}$, is polynomially bounded for $\lambda \in D \subset \{\text{Re } \lambda \in I, \text{Im } \lambda \geq -\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)\}$. Then $R_h(\lambda)$ is semiclassically outgoing for $\lambda \in D$.*

In applications, w is often chosen to be identically 0 near Γ , and the assumption on w is often replaced by the assumption that $w \in C^\infty(X; [0, 1])$ with w identically 1 off a compact subset of X .

6.2. Asymptotically Euclidean and hyperbolic manifolds. On an asymptotically Euclidean manifold (see §2 for a definition), the semiclassically outgoing assumption follows from the construction and estimates of [VaZw00]: see [Dat09, Lemma 2] for a very similar statement. In the asymptotically hyperbolic case studied in [MSV10], one can use an argument similar to that in [DaVa10, §4.2] and derive the semiclassically outgoing property from a description of the Schwartz kernel of the resolvent as a paired Lagrangian distribution to which a semiclassical version of [GrUh90, Theorem 3.3] can be applied.

6.3. An example from 3-body scattering. Consider the following 3-body Hamiltonian on \mathbb{R}^3 :

$$P_0 = -h^2\partial_{x_1}^2 - h^2\partial_{x_2}^2 - h^2\partial_{x_3}^2 + V(x_1 - x_2) + V(x_2 - x_3) + V(x_3 - x_1) - 1,$$

where $V \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$. The particles here are constrained to move on a line, and V is the interaction potential between each pair of them. Passing to center of mass coordinates, we obtain the following reduced Hamiltonian on the plane $X = \{x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0\}$:

$$P = -h^2\Delta + \pi_1^*V + \pi_2^*V + \pi_3^*V - 1,$$

where π_1 is the projection $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \mapsto x_1 - x_2$, and similarly for π_2 and π_3 . Note that even when V is small, the perturbation is very long range (and consequently not covered by [CaVo02, CPV04]), and it cannot be extended smoothly to a compactification \overline{X} of X unless \overline{X} is a manifold with corners.

In [Gér90], Gérard shows that if V is classically nontrapping (for example it suffices to take V small) then the resolvent obeys the standard nontrapping bound:

$$\|\chi R_h(\lambda)\chi\| \leq Ch^{-1},$$

for $0 < h \leq h_0$, $|\operatorname{Re} \lambda| \leq \varepsilon_0 < 1$, $\operatorname{Im} \lambda \geq 0$. Moreover the methods of the paper, more explicitly elaborated by Wang [Wan91] in the general N -body setting, imply that the resolvent is semiclassically outgoing [Wan91, (1.8)]. More specifically, Wang shows that for f compactly supported, $R_h(\lambda)f$ is $\mathcal{O}(h^\infty)$ near spatial infinity, where the radial momentum is negative. If V is nontrapping, any backward bicharacteristic eventually enters this region, so the semiclassically outgoing condition follows from propagation of singularities.

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