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2-Magnon scattering in the Heisenberg model

by

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ABSTRACT. – We prove asymptotic completeness for 2-magnon scattering in the Heisenberg model. The proof is based on a Mourre-estimate. The results equally apply to the scattering of two interacting particles on a lattice.

RÉSUMÉ. – On démontre la complétude asymptotique pour la diffusion à deux magnons dans le modèle de Heisenberg. La démonstration est basée sur une inégalité de Mourre. Les résultats sont également applicables à la diffusion de deux particules interagissant sur un réseau.

1. INTRODUCTION

The spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ Heisenberg model is formally given by the Hamiltonian

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu \\ |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| = 1}} \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(\mathbf{x})} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(\mathbf{y})}. \quad (1)$$

It describes a system of quantum-mechanical spins, one at each lattice site $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu$, where $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3)$ are the Pauli matrices. In one of its ground states all spins point down, *i.e.*,

$$\phi_0 = \bigotimes_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu} \phi^\downarrow(\mathbf{x}), \quad \sigma_-^{(\mathbf{x})} \phi^\downarrow(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \quad (\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu),$$

with $\sigma_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(\sigma_1 \pm i\sigma_2)$. The Hilbert space \mathcal{H} spanned by the states with all but finitely spins pointing down is the incomplete tensor product [14], [15]

$$\mathcal{H} = \bigotimes_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu}^{\phi_0} \mathbb{C}_\mathbf{x}^2$$

with respect to the ground state vector ϕ_0 . There, the Hamiltonian is

$$\begin{aligned} H &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu \\ |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| = 1}} (\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(\mathbf{x})} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{(\mathbf{y})} - 1) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\substack{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu \\ |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| = 1}} (\sigma_3^{(\mathbf{x})} \sigma_3^{(\mathbf{y})} - 1 + 4\sigma_+^{(\mathbf{x})} \sigma_-^{(\mathbf{y})}) \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

and differs from (1) by the subtraction of an infinite constant. Since H commutes with the *magnon* number $\mathbf{N} = 1/2 \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu} (\sigma_3^{(\mathbf{x})} + 1)$, it leaves the n -magnon subspace \mathcal{H}_n of $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{H}_n$ invariant. The restriction H_n of H to \mathcal{H}_n is a bounded operator.

Pairs of magnons may exhibit bound states, as shown by [1] ($\nu = 1$) resp. by Hanus [6] and Wortis [17] ($\nu \leq 3$). The existence of scattering states, *i.e.*, of states whose asymptotic incoming and outgoing configurations are characterized by noninteracting wave-packets of magnons, has been proven by Watts [16] for $n = 2$ and by Hepp [7] for arbitrary n . The scattering states are described in terms of states in a Hilbert space which differs from the physical one. The so-called ideal spin waves were introduced in this context by Dyson [5] (see however [2]). Asymptotic completeness for $n = 2$ and arbitrary ν has been established - using a time-independent method - by Perez [11]. Here we give an alternate proof which depends on a Mourre estimate. More general scattering problems, including two-body scattering of interacting particles on a lattice, will be dealt with similarly.

The scattering of magnons emerges from the comparison of the dynamics of H_n on \mathcal{H}_n with the one of $H_1^{(n)} = H_1 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{1} + \cdots + \mathbb{1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes H_1$ on the n -particle space $\otimes^n \mathcal{H}_1 = \otimes^n \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^\nu) =: \mathcal{F}_n$. Here and henceforth, \mathcal{H}_1 is identified with $\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^\nu)$ through

$$\ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^\nu) \ni f \mapsto \sum_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu} f(\mathbf{x}) \sigma_+^{(\mathbf{x})} \phi_0 \in \mathcal{H}_1.$$

The space \mathcal{H}_n is identified with the subspace $\{f \in \mathcal{F}_n \mid f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \text{ totally symmetric in } \mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n \text{ and } = 0 \text{ if } \mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{x}_j \text{ for some } i \neq j\}$ by means of the isometric embedding $I : \mathcal{H}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_n$ given by

$$I^* : f \mapsto \frac{1}{\sqrt{n!}} \sum_{\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{Z}^\nu} f(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \sigma_+^{(\mathbf{x}_1)} \cdots \sigma_+^{(\mathbf{x}_n)} \phi_0.$$

Then, as mentioned above, it is a result due to Hepp and Watts that the *wave operators*

$$\Omega_\pm := s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} e^{iH_n t} I^* e^{-iH_1^{(n)} t}$$

exist, proving the existence of scattering states.

Let us now focus on the case $n = 2$. Roughly speaking, asymptotic completeness means that the large time behaviour of two magnons is either that of two free magnons or that of a bound pair. We will decompose the Hilbert space as a *direct integral*,

$$\mathcal{H}_2 \cong \int_{[0,2\pi)^\nu}^\oplus \mathcal{H}_K \, dK, \tag{3}$$

where K is the total quasi-momentum. As this is a conserved quantity, the Hamiltonian H_2 has a *direct integral decomposition*

$$H_2 \cong \int_{[0,2\pi)^\nu}^\oplus H_2(K) \, dK.$$

A similar situation occurs in the case of two non-relativistic particles, where the total momentum P plays the role of K . However, in contrast to the 2-magnon case, the P -dependence of $H_2(P) = P^2/2 + H_{\text{rel}}$ is trivial, since it only amounts to an additive fiber-dependent constant. Now let $E_{\text{pp}/\text{cont}} \cong \int_{[0,2\pi)^\nu}^\oplus E_{\text{pp}/\text{cont}}(H_2(K)) \, dK$ w.r.t. the isomorphism (3).

THEOREM 1.1. – *The limits*

$$\Omega_H = s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{iH_2 t} I^* e^{-iH_1^{(2)} t}, \tag{4}$$

$$\Omega_H^* = s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{iH_1^{(2)} t} I e^{-iH_2 t} E_{\text{cont}} \tag{5}$$

exist and are mutually adjoint.

Asymptotic completeness is the statement (5). It implies that for any $\psi \in \mathcal{H}_2$ there exist $\phi \in \mathcal{F}_2$ such that

$$\|e^{-iH_2 t} \psi - (I^* e^{-iH_1^{(2)} t} \phi + e^{-iH_2 t} E_{\text{pp}} \psi)\| \rightarrow 0$$

as $t \rightarrow \infty$, reflecting the picture given before.

In what follows, we will prove a slightly more general result than Theorem 1.1. Two interacting particles on a lattice can be viewed as a single particle in configuration space moving in a potential. Coinciding particles correspond to a sub-lattice, and their interaction to a potential invariant under translations along that sub-lattice. We are thus led to consider the scattering of a particle off a (possibly nonlocal) potential which is invariant under translations along a sub-lattice. More precisely, let

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{Z}^\nu \times \mathbb{Z}^\nu \ni (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = x$$

be the configuration space of two particles, and $\mathcal{D} = \{x \in \mathcal{L} \mid \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_2\}$. We then consider bounded operators H_0 and V on $\ell^2(\mathcal{L})$, where

$$(H_0\psi)(x) = \sum_{|y-x|=1} [\psi(x) - \psi(y)], \quad (6)$$

and

$$(V\psi)(x) = \sum_{y \in \mathcal{L}} V(x, y)\psi(y)$$

satisfies the following properties:

(i) V is selfadjoint, i.e., $V(x, y) = \overline{V(y, x)}$.

(ii) V is invariant under translations along \mathcal{D} , i.e., $V(x + d, y + d) = V(x, y)$ for $d \in \mathcal{D}$.

(iii) V is of finite range across \mathcal{D} , i.e., there are at most finitely many equivalence classes $[x] \in \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D}$ such that $V(x, y) \neq 0$ for some $x \in [x], y \in \mathcal{L}$.

We will actually discuss the scattering for the pair $(H_0, H = H_0 + V)$ when $\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{Z}^N$ and $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{L}$ is an arbitrary sub-lattice, and see that it covers the situation of Theorem 1.1.

2. PROOFS

A character of \mathcal{L} is a group homomorphism $\chi : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow S^1 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| = 1\}$. Let

$$\widehat{\mathcal{L}} = \{\chi \mid \chi \text{ is a character of } \mathcal{L}\}$$

be the dual group of \mathcal{L} , i.e., the Brillouin zone, equipped with its Haar measure $d\mu(\chi)$. Similarly, let

$$\widehat{\mathcal{D}} = \{\phi \mid \phi \text{ is a character of } \mathcal{D}\},$$

with Haar measure $d\nu(\phi)$. Define the group homomorphism $\pi : \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow \widehat{\mathcal{D}}$ by

$$\chi \mapsto \pi(\chi) = \chi|_{\mathcal{D}}.$$

Then $(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}, \widehat{\mathcal{D}}, \pi)$ is a principal fiber bundle with structure group $\ker \pi$. Each fiber

$$F_\phi = \pi^{-1}(\phi) = \{\chi \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \mid \chi|_{\mathcal{D}} = \phi\}$$

is a coset of $\ker \pi$ in $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ and carries the measure $\mu_\phi(\cdot) = \mu_0(\chi^{-1}\cdot)$, where μ_0 is the Haar measure on $F_{\text{id}} = \ker \pi$, and μ_ϕ is independent of $\chi \in F_\phi$.

Corresponding to this fibration of $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$, $L^2(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}, d\mu)$ becomes a Hilbert space of sections [4],

$$L^2(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}, d\mu) \cong \int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} d\nu(\phi) L^2(F_\phi, d\mu_\phi), \tag{7}$$

the isomorphism being $\hat{\psi} \mapsto \{\hat{\psi}|F_\phi\}_{\phi \in \widehat{\mathcal{D}}}$. The Fourier transform

$$U : \ell^2(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow L^2(\widehat{\mathcal{L}}), \quad \psi \mapsto U\psi =: \hat{\psi}$$

defined by

$$\hat{\psi}(\chi) = \sum_{x \in \mathcal{L}} \overline{\chi(x)} \psi(x),$$

and the translation $T_a : \ell^2(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathcal{L}), a \in \mathcal{L}$, given by

$$(T_a \psi)(x) = \psi(x + a),$$

are unitary operators. Both H_0 and V commute with T_d for $d \in \mathcal{D}$. As a result, UH_0U^{-1} and UVU^{-1} are decomposable w.r.t. (7), i.e.,

$$UH_0U^{-1} \cong \int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} H_0(\phi) d\nu(\phi), \quad UVU^{-1} \cong \int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} V(\phi) d\nu(\phi).$$

Indeed, this follows from [12, Thm XIII.84], since

$$(UT_dU^{-1}\hat{\psi})(\chi) = \chi(d)\hat{\psi}(\chi) = \phi(d)\hat{\psi}(\chi)$$

for $\chi \in F_\phi$ and the span of the functions $\hat{d} : \phi \mapsto \phi(d)$, or rather of the multiplication operators associated to them, is strongly dense in the algebra of decomposable operators whose fibers are multiples of the identity.

We then introduce E_{cont}^0 and E_{cont} as

$$UE_{\text{cont}}^0U^{-1} = \int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} E_{\text{cont}}(H_0(\phi)) d\nu(\phi),$$

$$UE_{\text{cont}}U^{-1} = \int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} E_{\text{cont}}(H(\phi)) d\nu(\phi).$$

THEOREM 2.1 (Asymptotic completeness). – *The limits*

$$\Omega = s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{itH} e^{-itH_0} E_{\text{cont}}^0, \tag{8}$$

$$\Omega^* = s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{itH_0} e^{-itH} E_{\text{cont}} \tag{9}$$

exist and are mutually adjoint.

We remark that it is not necessary to assume \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D} infinite, in which case $E_{\text{cont}}^0 = \mathbb{1}$ (see Lemma 2.4). However, if it is finite, then $E_{\text{cont}}^0 = E_{\text{cont}} = 0$ and the theorem is trivial.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. – As in the first section, let

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{Z}^\nu \times \mathbb{Z}^\nu \ni (\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = x$$

and

$$\mathcal{D} = \{x \in \mathcal{L} \mid \mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_2\}.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{F}_2 = \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^\nu) \otimes \ell^2(\mathbb{Z}^\nu) = \ell^2(\mathcal{L}).$$

Let H_0 and H be the bounded operators on $\ell^2(\mathcal{L})$ given by (6), resp. by

$$(H\psi)(x) = \begin{cases} \sum_{\substack{|y-x|=1 \\ y \notin \mathcal{D}}} [\psi(x) - \psi(y)] & x \notin \mathcal{D} \\ 0 & x \in \mathcal{D}. \end{cases}$$

Clearly, $V = H - H_0$ satisfies properties (i-iii). Moreover, $2H_0 = H_1^{(2)}$, $2I^*H = H_2I^*$ and thus $I^*e^{2iHt} = e^{iH_2t}I^*$. Given Theorem 2.1, this and its adjoint imply Theorem 1.1 with $\Omega_H = I^*\Omega$. \square

LEMMA 2.2. – (a) $H_0(\phi)$ is multiplication with $E|_{F_\phi}$, where

$$E(\chi) = 2 \sum_{i=1}^N (1 - \text{Re } \chi(e_i)). \quad (10)$$

(b) $V(\phi) : L^2(F_\phi) \rightarrow L^2(F_\phi)$ is of finite rank for ν -a.e. ϕ .

Proof. – (a) Follows immediately from $H_0 = \sum_{i=1}^N (2 - T_{e_i} - T_{-e_i})$.

(b) We will factorize U into two partial Fourier transforms, i.e.,

$$U = \left(\int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} d\nu(\phi) U_2(\phi) \right) U_1, \quad (11)$$

where

$$U_1 : \ell^2(\mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \int_{\widehat{\mathcal{D}}}^{\oplus} d\nu(\phi) \ell^2(\mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D}),$$

$$U_2(\phi) : \ell^2(\mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow L^2(F_\phi).$$

The factorization requires the choice of a “gauge”, *i.e.*, of an arbitrary measurable section $\phi \mapsto \chi_\phi \in F_\phi$. Then, (11) holds upon defining U_1 and U_2 as

$$(U_1\psi)(\phi, [x]) = \sum_{x \in [x]} \overline{\chi_\phi(x)}\psi(x), \tag{12}$$

$$(U_2(\phi)\psi)(\chi) = \sum_{[x] \in \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D}} \overline{\chi(x)}\chi_\phi(x)\psi([x]) \quad (\chi \in F_\phi). \tag{13}$$

We remark that (13) is independent of the choice $x \in [x]$, since $\bar{\chi}\chi_\phi \in \ker \pi$. We now set

$$V_\phi([x], [y]) = \sum_{x \in [x]} \overline{\chi_\phi(x)}V(x, y)\chi_\phi(y), \tag{14}$$

which is independent of the choice of $y \in [y]$ due to (ii), and is finite $\phi - \nu$ -a.e. because V is bounded. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (U_1V\psi)(\phi, [x]) &= \sum_{x \in [x], y \in \mathcal{L}} \overline{\chi_\phi(x)}V(x, y)\psi(y) \\ &= \sum_{y \in \mathcal{L}} V_\phi([x], [y])\overline{\chi_\phi(y)}\psi(y) \\ &= \sum_{[y] \in \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D}} V_\phi([x], [y])(U_1\psi)(\phi, [y]), \end{aligned}$$

i.e., $U_1VU_1^{-1}|_\phi = U_2(\phi)^{-1}V(\phi)U_2(\phi)$ has kernel (14) and is thus of finite rank by (iii). □

Part (b) already implies ([11], [12, Thm XI.8 or Sect. XI.14]) a weaker form of asymptotic completeness in which $E_{\text{cont}}^{(0)}$ is replaced by $E_{\text{ac}}^{(0)}$ in (8, 9).

We will derive a Mourre estimate. As a preliminary, we identify $\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle = \mathbb{R}^N$, the \mathbb{R} -linear span of \mathcal{L} , with $T_\chi^*\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$, the cotangent space of $\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$ at $\chi \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$, as follows. For $x \in \mathcal{L}$, let $\hat{x} : \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow S^1, \chi \mapsto \hat{x}(\chi) = \chi(x)$. The map

$$\omega : \mathcal{L} \rightarrow T_\chi^*\widehat{\mathcal{L}}, \quad x \mapsto \omega(x) = -i \frac{d\hat{x}}{\hat{x}} \Big|_\chi \tag{15}$$

is well-defined. Furthermore, it is \mathbb{Z} -linear and thus extends to a linear map from $\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$ to $T_\chi^*\widehat{\mathcal{L}}$. Indeed, $\widehat{x+y} = \hat{x} \cdot \hat{y}$, so that $d(\widehat{x+y}) = \hat{y} d\hat{x} + \hat{x} d\hat{y}$ and hence $\omega(x+y) = \omega(x) + \omega(y)$. The so extended ω has trivial kernel since

the differentials $d\widehat{e}_i$ are linearly independent. It thus is an isomorphism from $\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$ onto $T_\chi^* \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$.

Let $Q(x) = s(x, x) \geq 0$, where $s(x, y)$ a symmetric \mathbb{Z} -bilinear form on \mathcal{L} . We set

$$A = i \left[H_0, \frac{1}{2} Q(x) \right].$$

$Q(x)$ uniquely extends to a quadratic form on $\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$. We can take Q so that its null space is $\langle \mathcal{D} \rangle$. Then, UQU^{-1} and UAU^{-1} are decomposable.

LEMMA 2.3. – *Let $Q_* = Q \circ \omega^{-1}$. Then*

$$U i[H_0, A]U^{-1} = Q_*(dE) \geq 0,$$

and for $\chi \in F_\phi$, $\bar{x} \in T_\chi^* \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$,

$$Q_*(\bar{x}) = 0 \iff \bar{x} \upharpoonright T_\chi F_\phi = 0. \quad (16)$$

We remark that $dE(\chi)$ is the group velocity of waves with “quasi-momentum” χ .

Proof. – For an arbitrary function $g(x)$ on \mathcal{L} we have $[T_e, g] = (D_e g)T_e$, where $(D_e g)(x) = g(x + e) - g(x)$. Since $(D_f D_e Q) = 2s(e, f)$ we get

$$i[H_0, A] = \sum_{i,j=1}^N i^2 (T_{e_i} - T_{-e_i}) s(e_i, e_j) (T_{e_j} - T_{-e_j}).$$

Using $iU(T_e - T_{-e})U^{-1} = -2\text{Im} \widehat{e}$ and $dE = -2 \sum_{j=1}^N \text{Re} d\widehat{e}_j = \omega(2 \sum_{j=1}^N (\text{Im} \widehat{e}_j) e_j)$ we obtain

$$U i[H_0, A]U^{-1} = Q \left(-2 \sum_{j=1}^N (\text{Im} \widehat{e}_j) e_j \right) = Q_*(dE).$$

$Q_*(\bar{x}) = 0$ is equivalent to $\bar{x} \in \omega(\langle \mathcal{D} \rangle)$, so that (16) is a consequence of

$$\omega(\langle \mathcal{D} \rangle) = \{ \bar{x} \in T_\chi^* \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \mid \bar{x} \upharpoonright T_\chi F_\phi = 0 \}.$$

Here, the inclusion \subset follows from $\hat{d}(\chi) = \phi(d)$ for all $\chi \in F_\phi$, implying $\omega(d) \upharpoonright T_\chi F_\phi = -i\hat{d}^{-1} d\hat{d} \upharpoonright T_\chi F_\phi = 0$. Equality then follows by equality of dimensions. \square

For each $\phi \in \widehat{\mathcal{D}}$, let

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_\phi &= \{E(\chi) \mid \chi \in F_\phi, Q_*(dE)(\chi) = 0\} \\ \mathcal{E}_\phi &= \{\text{Eigenvalues of } H(\phi)\}, \\ \mathcal{E}_\phi^0 &= \{\text{Eigenvalues of } H_0(\phi)\}. \end{aligned}$$

\mathcal{T}_ϕ is the set of “thresholds”.

LEMMA 2.4. – (a) \mathcal{T}_ϕ is closed and countable.

(b) $\mathcal{E}_\phi^0 \subset \mathcal{T}_\phi$ for all ϕ . Moreover, $E_{\text{cont}}^0 = \begin{cases} \mathbf{1} & \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D} \text{ is infinite} \\ 0 & \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D} \text{ is finite.} \end{cases}$

Proof. – (a) \mathcal{T}_ϕ is clearly closed. By (16) it consists of the critical values of $E|_{F_\phi}$. It is thus countable (actually: finite) by Sard’s Theorem for analytic functions [10].

(b) The set

$$Z = \{\chi \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \mid Q_*(dE(\chi)) = 0\} = \{\chi \in \widehat{\mathcal{L}} \mid \omega^{-1}(dE(\chi)) \in \langle \mathcal{D} \rangle\}$$

is a level set of a real-analytic function. Thus $\mu(Z) = 0$ or $Z = \widehat{\mathcal{L}}$. The two possibilities correspond to $\langle \mathcal{D} \rangle \neq \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$, resp. to $\langle \mathcal{D} \rangle = \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle$ (or, equivalently, \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D} infinite, resp. finite). Indeed, the map $\widehat{\mathcal{L}} \rightarrow \langle \mathcal{L} \rangle, \chi \mapsto \omega^{-1}(dE(\chi))$ has full rank μ -a.e. Using (16) we have $Z_\phi = \{\chi \in F_\phi \mid dE(\chi)|_{T_\chi F_\phi} = 0\}$. The alternative above carries over to almost all fibers simultaneously: Either $\mu_\phi(Z_\phi) = 0$ (ν -a.e.) or $Z_\phi = F_\phi$ ($\phi \in \widehat{\mathcal{D}}$). On the other hand, for each $\phi \in \widehat{\mathcal{D}}$ we have either $\mu_\phi(\{\chi \in F_\phi \mid E(\chi) = \lambda\}) = 0$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$, or E is constant on some connected component of F_ϕ , the value being in \mathcal{T}_ϕ . Clearly, for ν -almost all ϕ , the first pair of alternatives coincide with the latter, thus showing

$$E_{\text{pp}}^0(\phi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D} \text{ is infinite} \\ \mathbf{1} & \mathcal{L}/\mathcal{D} \text{ is finite} \end{cases} \quad (\nu \text{-a.e.})$$

□

Due to Lemma 2.3 we have the following *Mourre estimate* for H_0 :

PROPOSITION 2.5. – Let $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}$ be open, $\overline{\Delta} \cap \mathcal{T}_\phi = \emptyset$. Then

$$E_\Delta(H_0(\phi)) i[H_0(\phi), A(\phi)] E_\Delta(H_0(\phi)) \geq c E_\Delta(H_0(\phi))$$

for some $c > 0$.

Proof. – This follows immediately from $Q_*(dE) \geq c > 0$ on every compact set $U \subset \{\chi \in F_\phi \mid Q_*(dE(\chi)) \neq 0\}$ and from the continuity of $E(\chi)$. □

There is also a Mourre estimate for H :

THEOREM 2.6. – (a) Let $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}$ be open, $\bar{\Delta} \cap \mathcal{T}_\phi = \emptyset$. Then

$$E_\Delta(H(\phi)) i[H(\phi), A(\phi)] E_\Delta(H(\phi)) \geq cE_\Delta(H(\phi)) + C(\phi) \quad (17)$$

for some $c > 0$ and $C(\phi)$ compact.

(b) Non-threshold eigenvalues of $H(\phi)$ have finite multiplicity and can only accumulate at \mathcal{T}_ϕ .

Proof. – (a) Due to property (iii) of V , AV and VA are bounded. Furthermore $A(\phi)V(\phi)$ and $V(\phi)A(\phi)$ have finite rank since $V(\phi)$ has. It follows that

$$i[H(\phi), A(\phi)] = i[H_0(\phi), A(\phi)] + \text{compact}.$$

Let $z \in \mathbb{C}$ with $\text{Im } z \neq 0$. Then $(H(\phi) - z)^{-1} - (H_0(\phi) - z)^{-1} = -(H(\phi) - z)^{-1}V(\phi)(H_0(\phi) - z)^{-1}$ is compact and so is $f(H(\phi)) - f(H_0(\phi))$ for all $f \in C_0(\mathbb{R})$. Choosing f such that $f = 1$ on Δ and $\text{supp } f \cap \mathcal{T}_\phi = \emptyset$, we get

$$\bar{f}(H(\phi)) i[H(\phi), A(\phi)] f(H(\phi)) \geq c \bar{f}f(H(\phi)) + \text{compact}$$

for some $c > 0$ by Proposition 2.5. Multiplying from both sides with $E_\Delta(H(\phi))$ proves (a).

(b) Assume $H(\phi)\psi_n = \lambda_n\psi_n$ with $\|\psi_n\| = 1$ and $\lambda_n \rightarrow \lambda \notin \mathcal{T}_\phi$. Choose $\Delta \ni \lambda$ open such that $\bar{\Delta} \cap \mathcal{T}_\phi = \emptyset$. From $(\psi_n, i[H(\phi), A(\phi)]\psi_n) = 0$ and (a) we conclude that $0 \geq c + (\psi_n, C(\phi)\psi_n)$ for all n . But this is impossible since $\psi_n \xrightarrow{w} 0$ and $C(\phi)$ is compact, hence $(\psi_n, C(\phi)\psi_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. \square

COROLLARY 2.7. – Let $\lambda \notin (\mathcal{E}_\phi \cup \mathcal{T}_\phi)$. Then there is an open $\Delta \ni \lambda$ such that

$$E_\Delta(H(\phi)) i[H(\phi), A(\phi)] E_\Delta(H(\phi)) \geq cE_\Delta(H(\phi)) \quad (18)$$

for some $c > 0$.

Proof. – In (17), $C(\phi)$ can be replaced by $E_\Delta(H(\phi))C(\phi)E_\Delta(H(\phi))$. Since $\lambda \notin \mathcal{E}_\phi$ we have $E_\Delta(H(\phi)) \xrightarrow{s} E_{\{\lambda\}}(H(\phi)) = 0$ and so $E_\Delta(H(\phi))C(\phi)E_\Delta(H(\phi)) \rightarrow 0$ in norm as $\Delta \rightarrow \{\lambda\}$. Hence we can omit $C(\phi)$ in (17) at expense of making c and Δ smaller. \square

PROPOSITION 2.8. – Let $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}$ be such that $\overline{\Delta} \cap (\mathcal{E}_\phi \cup \mathcal{T}_\phi) = \emptyset$. Then for any $\alpha > 1$

$$\int_1^\infty dt \|\langle A(\phi) \rangle^{-\alpha/2} e^{-iH(\phi)t} E_\Delta(H(\phi))\psi\|^2 \leq \text{const.} \|\psi\|^2 \quad (19)$$

$$\int_1^\infty dt \|\langle A(\phi) \rangle^{-\alpha/2} e^{-iH_0(\phi)t} E_\Delta(H_0(\phi))\psi\|^2 \leq \text{const.} \|\psi\|^2, \quad (20)$$

for all $\psi \in L^2(F_\phi)$, where $\langle x \rangle \equiv (x^2 + 1)^{1/2}$.

This propagation estimate is based on the Mourre estimate and will be proven in the appendix by making use of a propagation observable. Note that it follows also from [3, Thm 4.9] and [12, Thm XIII.25 and Corollary], or from [12, Thm 2.9].

PROPOSITION 2.9. – Let $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}$ be open such that $\overline{\Delta} \cap (\mathcal{E}_\phi \cup \mathcal{T}_\phi) = \emptyset$. Then the wave operators

$$s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{iH(\phi)t} e^{-iH_0(\phi)t} E_\Delta(H_0(\phi)), \quad (21)$$

$$s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{iH_0(\phi)t} e^{-iH(\phi)t} E_\Delta(H(\phi)) \quad (22)$$

exist.

Proof. – We prove the existence of (21). The existence of (22) can be shown analogously. Let us omit writing the ϕ -dependence for convenience. First we claim that the limit (21) equals

$$s - \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\Delta(H) e^{iHt} e^{-iH_0t} E_\Delta(H_0) =: \Omega, \quad (23)$$

provided this limit exists. To prove this, let $\psi = E_{\Delta'}(H_0)\psi$ for some compact $\Delta' \subset \Delta$ and let $f \in C_0(\mathbb{R})$ with $\text{supp } f \subset \Delta$, $f = 1$ on Δ' . Then $f(H) - f(H_0)$ is compact by the proof of Theorem 2.6. Since $\langle A \rangle^{-1}$ has trivial kernel, $\text{Ran } E_\Delta(H_0) \subset \mathcal{H}_{\text{ac}}(H_0)$ by Proposition 2.8 and [12, Thm XIII.23], implying $e^{-iH_0t} E_\Delta(H_0) \xrightarrow{w} 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{iHt} e^{-iH_0t} E_\Delta(H_0)\psi &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(H) e^{iHt} e^{-iH_0t} E_\Delta(H_0)\psi \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} E_\Delta(H) e^{iHt} e^{-iH_0t} E_\Delta(H_0)\psi. \end{aligned}$$

The integral in

$$\Omega\psi = E_\Delta(H)E_\Delta(H_0)\psi + \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^t ds E_\Delta(H) e^{iHs} i(H - H_0) e^{-iH_0s} E_\Delta(H_0)\psi$$

converges, because Proposition 2.8 and $\|\langle A \rangle V \langle A \rangle\| < \infty$ yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} ds E_{\Delta}(H) e^{iHs} V e^{-iH_0s} E_{\Delta}(H_0) \psi \right\|^2 \\ &= \sup_{\|\varphi\|=1} \left| \int_{t_1}^{t_2} ds \langle \varphi, E_{\Delta}(H) e^{iHs} V e^{-iH_0s} E_{\Delta}(H_0) \psi \rangle \right|^2 \\ &\leq \|\langle A \rangle V \langle A \rangle\| \left(\sup_{\|\varphi\|=1} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} ds \left\| \langle A \rangle^{-1} e^{-iHs} E_{\Delta}(H) \varphi \right\|^2 \right) \\ &\quad \times \int_{t_1}^{t_2} ds \left\| \langle A \rangle^{-1} e^{-iH_0s} E_{\Delta}(H_0) \psi \right\|^2 \\ &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

as $t_1, t_2 \rightarrow \infty$. This proves the existence of Ω . \square

We can now finish the proof of asymptotic completeness:

Proof of Theorem 2.1. – By dominated convergence, it suffices to prove the claim on each fiber. So let $\psi \in E_{\text{cont}}(H(\phi))$ and $\epsilon > 0$ fixed. By Theorem 2.6 b and Lemma 2.4 a there is $\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}$ open with $\overline{\Delta} \cap (\mathcal{E}_{\phi} \cup \mathcal{T}_{\phi}) = \emptyset$ such that $\|(1 - E_{\Delta}(H(\phi)))\psi\| \leq \epsilon$. The existence of (9) then follows from Proposition 2.9. The proof of (8) is identical. Then the mutual adjointness of Ω and Ω^* is immediate. \square

A APPENDIX

To prove Proposition 2.8 we calculate commutator expansions using *almost analytic* extensions of functions defined on \mathbb{R} [9], [8]. By this we understand an extension \tilde{f} of f to the complex plane that satisfies the Cauchy-Riemann equation on the real axis: $\partial_{\bar{z}} \tilde{f} = 0$ for $z \in \mathbb{R}$. The extension \tilde{f} can be chosen largely arbitrary, but the following one will do best for our purposes.

LEMMA A.1. – *Let $f \in C^{n+2}(\mathbb{R})$ and $\chi \in C_0^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ with $\chi = 1$ on some neighbourhood of 0. Assume $\|f^{(k)}\|_{k-1} < \infty$ for all $k = 0, \dots, n+2$, where the norms $\|\cdot\|_m$ are defined by*

$$\|f\|_m = \int dx \langle x \rangle^m |f(x)|, \quad \langle x \rangle \equiv (x^2 + 1)^{1/2}.$$

Then

$$\tilde{f}(z) = \chi \left(\frac{y}{\langle x \rangle} \right) \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} f^{(k)}(x) \frac{(iy)^k}{k!}, \quad (z = x + iy) \quad (\text{A.1})$$

defines an almost analytic extension of f so that for any selfadjoint operator A and all $p = 0, \dots, n$,

$$\frac{1}{p!} f^{(p)}(A) = \int d\tilde{f}(z) (z - A)^{-p-1}, \quad d\tilde{f}(z) \equiv -(2\pi)^{-1} \partial_{\bar{z}} \tilde{f}(z) dx dy, \tag{A.2}$$

the integral converging absolutely in norm sense due to the estimates

$$\int dy |\partial_{\bar{z}} \tilde{f}(z)| |y|^{-p-1} \leq \text{const.} \sum_{k=0}^{n+2} \langle x \rangle^{k-p-1} |f^{(k)}(x)| \tag{A.3}$$

respectively

$$\int |d\tilde{f}(z)| |\text{Im } z|^{-p-1} \leq \text{const.} \sum_{k=0}^{n+2} \|f^{(k)}\|_{k-p-1}. \tag{A.4}$$

Let now A and H be selfadjoint. Multiple commutators are defined recursively by

$$\text{ad}_A^{(k)}(H) = [\text{ad}_A^{(k-1)}(H), A], \quad \text{ad}_A^{(0)}(H) = H.$$

Then we have

PROPOSITION A.2. - Let $g \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$, $f \in C^{n+2}(\mathbb{R})$ such that for some $0 \leq p \leq n$ $\|f^{(k)}\|_{k-p-1} < \infty$ for all $k = 0, \dots, p+2$, and let \tilde{f} be defined by (A.1). Suppose A and H are selfadjoint such that $\text{ad}_A^{(k)}(H)$ is H -bounded for $k \leq p$. Then, $\text{ad}_A^{(k)}(g(H))$ is bounded for $k \leq p$ and $[g(H), f(A)]$ can be expanded as

$$[g(H), f(A)] = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{1}{k!} f^{(k)}(A) \text{ad}_A^{(k)}(g(H)) + R_p, \\ R_p = \int d\tilde{f}(z) (z - A)^{-p} \text{ad}_A^{(p)}(g(H)) (z - A)^{-1}, \tag{A.5}$$

respectively as

$$[g(H), f(A)] = \sum_{k=1}^{p-1} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k!} \text{ad}_A^{(k)}(g(H)) f^{(k)}(A) + \tilde{R}_p, \\ \tilde{R}_p = (-1)^{p-1} \int d\tilde{f}(z) (z - A)^{-1} \text{ad}_A^{(p)}(g(H)) (z - A)^{-p}. \tag{A.6}$$

Note that the conditions on f in Proposition A.2 are weaker than the ones in Lemma A.1.

Proof of Proposition 2.8. – We prove (19). The proof of (20) identical. Let us for convenience omit the variable ϕ . We consider a propagation observable

$$\Phi_\lambda = E_\Delta(H)F_\alpha(A/\lambda)E_\Delta(H),$$

where

$$F_\alpha(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \langle s \rangle^{-\alpha} ds$$

with $1 < \alpha < 2$. In fact, this will suffice since $\langle x \rangle^{-\beta} \leq \langle x \rangle^{-\alpha}$ for $\alpha \leq \beta$. From $\|F_\alpha\|_\infty \leq 4(\alpha - 1)^{-1}$ we conclude that Φ_λ is bounded and together with $\|(\frac{d}{dx})^k \langle x \rangle^{-\alpha}\|_{k-n} < \infty$ for $n \geq 0, k \geq 0$, we get

$$\|F_\alpha^{(k)}\|_{k-n-1} < \infty \quad (n \geq 1, k \geq 0).$$

Moreover, $\text{ad}_A^{(k)}(H)$ is bounded for all $k \geq 0$. Hence, we can use Proposition A.2 (with $n = 3, p = 2$) and get by taking the half-sum of (A.5) and (A.6)

$$\begin{aligned} & i[H, F_\alpha(A)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^\alpha} i[H, A] + i[H, A] \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^\alpha} \right) \\ & \quad - \frac{i}{2} \int d\tilde{F}_\alpha(z) (z - A)^{-2} \text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H) (z - A)^{-2} \\ &= \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \left\{ i[H, A] - \frac{1}{2} \left[i[H, A], \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \right], \langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2} \right\} \\ & \quad - \frac{i}{2} \int d\tilde{F}_\alpha(z) \langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2} (z - A)^{-2} \text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H) (z - A)^{-2} \langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2} \left\} \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \\ &=: \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \{ i[H, A] - R \} \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}}, \quad R = R^*. \end{aligned} \tag{A.7}$$

LEMMA. – $\|R\| \leq \text{const.} \|\text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H)\|$, the constant being independent of A . In particular, the constant is independent of λ as A is replaced by A/λ .

Proof. – The functions $f(x) = \langle A \rangle^{-\alpha/2}$ and $g(x) = \langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}$ satisfy $\|f^{(k)}\|_{k-2} < \infty, \|g^{(k)}\|_{k-2} < \infty$ for $k \geq 0$. Using (A.5) twice with $n = p = 1$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[\left[i[H, A], \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \right], \langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2} \right] \\ &= i \int d\tilde{f}(z) \int d\tilde{g}(\zeta) (\zeta - A)^{-1} (z - A)^{-1} \text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H) (z - A)^{-1} (\zeta - A)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

By (A.4) this is estimated in norm by

$$\begin{aligned} \|\text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H)\| & \int |\text{d}\tilde{f}(z)| |\text{Im } z|^{-2} \int |\text{d}\tilde{g}(\zeta)| |\text{Im } \zeta|^{-2} \\ & \leq \text{const.} \|\text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H)\| \sum_{k,l=0}^3 \left\| f^{(k)} \right\|_{k-2} \left\| g^{(l)} \right\|_{l-2}. \end{aligned}$$

For the other contribution we get using (A.3) and (A.4)

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| \int \text{d}\tilde{F}_\alpha(z) \frac{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}}{z-A} (z-A)^{-1} \text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H) (z-A)^{-1} \frac{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}}{z-A} \right\| \\ & \leq \int |\text{d}\tilde{F}_\alpha(z)| \left\| \frac{\langle A \rangle}{z-A} \right\|^2 |\text{Im } z|^{-2} \|\text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H)\| \\ & \leq \|\text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H)\| \int |\text{d}\tilde{F}_\alpha(z)| (\langle \text{Re } z \rangle^2 |\text{Im } z|^{-2} + 1) |\text{Im } z|^{-2} \\ & \leq \text{const.} \|\text{ad}_A^{(3)}(H)\| \sum_{k=0}^5 \left\| F_\alpha^{(k)} \right\|_{k-2} \end{aligned}$$

which is also of the claimed form. □

Now let Δ' be open such that $\bar{\Delta} \subset \Delta'$ and $\bar{\Delta}' \cap (\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{E}) = \emptyset$. Denote by c' the Mourre constant of Δ' , so that (18) holds on Δ' , and let $g \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $0 \leq g \leq 1$, $\text{supp } g \subset \Delta'$, $g = 1$ on Δ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \left[g(H), \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \right] & = -\frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} [g(H), \langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}] \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \\ & =: \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} R_1 = -R_1^* \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \end{aligned} \tag{A.8}$$

with

$$\|R_1\| \leq \text{const.} \| [H, A] \|, \tag{A.9}$$

the constant being again independent of A . In fact, for $f(x) = \langle x \rangle^{\alpha/2}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & [g(H), f(A)] \\ & = \int \text{d}\tilde{g}(z) \int \text{d}\tilde{f}(\zeta) (z-H)^{-1} (\zeta-A)^{-1} [H, A] (\zeta-A)^{-1} (z-H)^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

with $\|(\zeta - A)^{-1}\| \leq |\text{Im } \zeta|$, which implies (A.8) using (A.4).

Let $R(\lambda)$ and $R_1(\lambda)$ be the above remainders we obtain upon replacing A by A/λ . Then $\|R(\lambda)\| \leq \text{const. } \lambda^{-3}$ due to the Lemma and $\|R_1(\lambda)\| \leq \text{const. } \lambda^{-1}$ by (A.9). By setting $g = g(H)$, $E_\Delta = E_\Delta(H)$ and using (A.7, A.8) we thus obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 i[H, \lambda\Phi_\lambda] &= E_\Delta g i[H, \lambda F_\alpha(A/\lambda)] g E_\Delta \\
 &= E_\Delta g \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \{i[H, A] - \lambda R(\lambda)\} \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} g E_\Delta \\
 &= E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} g i[H, A] g \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} E_\Delta \\
 &\quad + E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (R_1(\lambda) i[H, A] (1-g) + \text{h.c.}) - \lambda R(\lambda) \right\} \\
 &\quad \times \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} E_\Delta \\
 &=: E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \{g i[H, A] g - R_2(\lambda)\} \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} E_\Delta \\
 &\geq E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \{g c' g - R_2(\lambda)\} \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} E_\Delta \\
 &= E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} \{c' - \tilde{R}(\lambda)\} \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^{\alpha/2}} E_\Delta \tag{A.10}
 \end{aligned}$$

where the last line follows by commuting back $g(H)$ and the resulting expressions similar to the ones in (A.10) are absorbed in $\tilde{R}(\lambda)$. Since $\|\tilde{R}(\lambda)\| \leq c\lambda^{-1}$ we conclude that

$$i[H, \lambda\Phi_\lambda] \geq \frac{c'}{2} E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A/\lambda \rangle^\alpha} E_\Delta \geq \frac{c'}{2} E_\Delta \frac{1}{\langle A \rangle^\alpha} E_\Delta$$

for $\lambda \geq \max\{2c/c', 1\}$. The claim then follows using a standard argument:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_1^{t_0} dt \|\langle A \rangle^{-\alpha/2} E_\Delta \psi_t\|^2 &= \int_1^{t_0} dt (\psi_t, E_\Delta \langle A \rangle^{-\alpha} E_\Delta \psi_t) \\
 &\leq \frac{2}{c'} \int_1^{t_0} dt (\psi_t, i[H, \lambda\Phi_\lambda] \psi_t) \\
 &= \frac{2}{c'} \int_1^{t_0} dt \frac{d}{dt} (\psi_t, \lambda\Phi_\lambda \psi_t) \\
 &\leq \frac{4}{c'} \|\lambda\Phi_\lambda\| \|\psi\|^2,
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\psi_t \equiv e^{-iHt}\psi$. □

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