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# **REMOVING CUT-OFFS** FROM SINGULAR PERTURBATIONS: AN ABSTRACT RESULT

Submitted to "Letters in Mathematical Physics"

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In this note we shall consider the addition problem for pairs of self-adjoint operators in Hilbert spaces, when these operators are mutually singular. The aim was to understand at the abstract level the following interesting phenomenon appearing in the study of one-dimensional Schrödinger operators/1.2/. Suppose  $V_0(x)$ ,  $x \in R \setminus \{0\}$  is negative and sufficiently singular near origin that the quadratic form of  $-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V_0(x)$  is unbounded from below, but that  $H_{D^m} - (\frac{d^2}{dx^2})_D + V_0(x)$  is self-adjoint and bounded from below on the domain of  $-(\frac{d^2}{dx^2})_D$ , where D refers to the Dirichlet boundary conditions at origin. Suppose  $V_a(x) \rightarrow V_0(x)$ pointwise and  $H(a) = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V_a(x)$  be self-adjoint and bounded from below on  $D(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2})$ . It is proved in /2/ under some additional assumptions on  $V_a$  that  $H(a) \rightarrow H_D$  in the norm resolvent sense. In what follows  $H_0$  and V are self-adjoint operators in a

In what follows  $H_0$  and V are self-adjoint operators in a Hilbert space H,  $H_0 \ge 0$ . A sequence  $\{V_n\}_1^{\infty}$  of self-adjoint operators is said to be a regularising sequence for the pair  $(H_0, V)$  if the following conditions are met:

a.  $H_0 + V_n$  are self-adjoint and bounded from below on  $\mathfrak{L}(H_0)$ , b.  $\mathfrak{L}(V_n) \supset \mathfrak{L}(V)$ ,  $V_n f \rightarrow V f$  all  $f \in \mathfrak{L}(V)$ . The problem is to find conditions under which  $H_0 + V_n$  converge in some sense and to identify the limit. The problem is well understood if V = U + W, where U > 0 and W is form bounded with respect to  $H_0$  (see  $^{/3-6/}$  and references therein). As it is clear from the example above we are interested in the case when  $H_0 + V_n$  are not uniformly bounded from below, e.g.,  $V \leq 0$  and sufficiently singular with respect to  $H_0$ . Our result is contained in Theorem 1 below.

Theorem 1. Let  $H_0$  , V be self-adjoint operators,  $H_0\geq 0$  and  $\{V_n\}_1^\infty$  be a regularising sequence for the pair  $H_0$  , V . Suppose that

i. 
$$V_n \geq V$$

ii. There exists 
$$\mathfrak{L} \subset \mathfrak{L}(\mathfrak{H}_0) \cap \mathfrak{L}(\mathbb{V}), \mathfrak{L}_{-} \mathbb{H}$$
 such that

 $||Vf|| \le a ||H_0f|| + b||f|| ; a < 1, b < \infty all f \in \mathcal{L},$ (1)

 $||(V-V_n)f|| \le a_n ||H_0f|| + b_n ||f||; \quad \lim_{n \to \infty} a_n = \lim_{n \to \infty} b_n = 0, \text{ all } f \in \mathcal{L},$  (2)

 $(H_0 + V)_{Q}$  has deficiency indices  $(m, m), m < \infty$ : (3)

iii. There exists  $\{c_n\}_{l}^{\infty}$ ,  $\lim c_n = \infty$ such that the spectrum of  $H_0 + V_n$  contained in  $(-\infty, -c_n)$  consists in at least m eigenvalues (counting multiplicities).

is bounded from below and  $H_0 + V_n$ Then  $(H_0 + V) \upharpoonright_{\mathfrak{L}(H_0)}^{+} \cap \mathfrak{L}(V)$ converges in the norm resolvent sense to the Friedrichs extension  $(H_0 + V)_F$  of  $(H_0 + V)^{\dagger} \hat{\mathcal{T}}(H_0) \cap \hat{\mathcal{T}}(V)$ .

The proof of Theorem 1 is based on the following result proved in<sup>/7/</sup>.

Theorem 2. Let A be a densely defined, closed symmetric operator with deficiency indices (m,m),  $m < \infty$  and satisfying  $(f, A f) \geq ||f||^2$ ,  $f \in \mathfrak{T}(A)$ .

i. Let  $A_{\rm F}$  be the Friedrichs extension of A and P be the  $_{\rm l}$ orthogonal projection on  $(A \ (A))^{\perp}$ . Then for  $\lambda \in (-\infty, 1)$ ,  $P \lambda A_F(A_F - \lambda)$  P:  $PH \rightarrow PH$  is a strictly increasing function of  $\lambda$  and there exists  $-\infty < \alpha (A_F; \lambda) < \infty$  such that

$$\sigma(P \lambda A_{F}(A_{F} - \lambda)^{-1} P) \in (-\infty, -\alpha(A_{F}; \lambda)),$$
(4)

$$\lim_{\lambda \to -\infty} \alpha(A_F; \lambda) = \infty .$$
<sup>(5)</sup>

ii. Let  $A_q$  be a sequence of self-adjoint extensions of A with the property that there exists  $\{a_q\}_1^\infty$ ,  $a_q > 1$   $\lim_{q \to \infty} a_q = \infty$ such that the spectrum of  $A_q$  contained in  $(-\infty, -a_q)$  consists in m eigenvalues (counting multiplicities). Then  $0 \in \rho(A_q)$  and

$$0 \ge A_{q}^{-1} - A_{F}^{-1} \ge -P(Pa_{q}(A + a_{q})^{-1}P)^{-1}P.$$
(6)

Proof of Theorem 1. Without loss of generality one can take  $c_n \ge 1$ , and  $H_0 \uparrow \mathcal{D}$  to be closed. During the proof  $H_0 \ge 1$ ,  $b = b_n = 0$ some technical points are stated as lemmas and proved at the end.

Let  $\Re = (H_0 + V) \pounds$ ,  $\Re_n = (H_0 + V_n) \pounds$ . Due to (1), (2) and the fact that  $H_0 \ge 1$  ,  $\Re$  and for sufficiently large n ,  $\Re_n$  , are closed subspaces. Let Q and Q<sub>n</sub> be the orthogonal projections on  $\Re^+$ and  $\Re_n^{\perp}$  , respectively.

Lemma 1.

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} ||Q_n - Q|| = 0.$$
<sup>(7)</sup>

From the von Neumann theory of symmetric extensions it follows that all symmetric extensions of a symmetric operator bounded from below and with finite deficiency indices are bounded from below [8.Ch.8]. Hence  $(H_0^+ \cap V)|_{\mathfrak{L}(H_0)} \cap \mathfrak{L}(V)^{is}$  bounded from below.

Suppose now  $\mathfrak{L} \subseteq \mathfrak{L}(H_0) \cap \mathfrak{L}(V)$ . Since by Lemma 1, for sufficiently has deficiency indices (m,m) it large n ,  $(H_0 + V_n)$ follows that  $(H_0+\bar{V_n})|_{\widehat{\Sigma}(H_0)}\cap \widehat{\Sigma}(V)$  has deficiency indices (n,n) ,

n < m . On the other hand since  $V_n \ge V$  ,  $(H_0 + V_n) \uparrow_{\mathcal{L}(H_0) \cap \mathfrak{L}(V)}$ 

are uniformly bounded from below and therefore  $(H_0 + V_n)$  can have at most n eigenvalues going to  $-\infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  [8,§107]. This contradicts iii and hence  $\mathfrak{L} = \mathfrak{L}(H_0) \cap \mathfrak{L}(V)$ .

From (1),  $V_n \geq V$  and  $H_0 \geq 1$ , it follows that for all  $f \in \mathcal{L}$ 

$$(f, (H_0 + V_n)f) \ge (f, (H_0 + V)f) \ge (1 - \sqrt{a}) ||f||^2.$$
(8)

Let  $(H_0 + V)_F$ ,  $(H_0 + V_n)_F$  be the Friedrichs extensions of  $(H_0 + V)_T$ and  $(H_0 + V_n) \uparrow_{\Omega}$ , respectively.

From (8) it follows that  $0 \in \rho((H_0 + V)_F) \cap \rho((H_0 + V_p)_F)$ .

Lemma 2.

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$$\lim_{n \to \infty} || (H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1} - (H_0 + V)_F^{-1} || = 0.$$
(9)

Now  $H_0 + V_n$  is a self-adjoint extension of  $(H_0 + V_n) \nmid f$ . Since by the general theory of self-adjoint extensions [8 § 107] the spectrum of  $(H_0 + V_n)$  in the interval  $(-\infty, \inf_{f \in \Omega} (f, (H_0 + V_n)f))$  consists in at most m eigenvalues it follows that  $0 \in \rho (H_0 + V_n)$ . From  $||(H_0 + V)_F^{-1} - (H_0 + V_p)^{-1}|| \le$ 

$$\leq || (H_0 + V)_F^{-1} - (H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1} || + || (H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1} - (H_0 + V_n)_{-1}^{-1} ||^2$$

due to Theorem 2 ii and Lemma 2 the only thing we have to prove is that

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} || (Q_n c_n (H_0 + V_n)_F ((H_0 + V_n) + c_n)^{-1} Q_n)^{-1} || = 0.$$

For, let us remark first that from (8) it follows  $(H_0 + V)_F \leq (H_0 + V_n)_F$ wherefrom for  $\lambda < 0$ 

$$0 \ge \lambda (H_0 + V)_F ((H_0 + V)_F - \lambda)^{-1} \ge \lambda (H_0 + V_n)_F ((H_0 + V_n)_F - \lambda)^{-1}.$$
(10)

Consider, for sufficiently large n , the operator

$$U_n = (1 - (Q_n - Q)^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (Q_n Q + (1 - Q_n)(1 - Q)).$$

Then [9, II 4.2]  $U_n$  is unitary and `

 $U_n Q = Q_n U_n$ . (11)

Moreover from the definition and Lemma 1

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} || U_n -1 || = 0.$$
(12)  
From definition, for  $\lambda < 0$ 

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$$|| \lambda (H_0 + V)_F ((H_0 + V)_F - \lambda)^{-1}|| \le |\lambda|.$$
(13)

$$\mathbf{b}_{n} = \min \{ \mathbf{c}_{n}, \epsilon_{n}^{-1} \}.$$
(14)

Then using (10), Theorem 2i, (13) and (14) one has  $Q_n c_n (H_0 + V_n)_F ((H_0 + V_n)_F + c_n)^{-1} Q_n \ge 0$ 

$$\geq [Q_n b_n (H_0 + V)_F ((H_0 + V)_F + b_n)^{-1} Q_n \geq (15)]$$

$$\geq Q_n U_n b_n (H_0 + V)_F ((H_0 + V)_F + b_n)^{-1} U_n^* Q_n - Q_n .$$

Due to (11)

$$Q_{n}U_{n}b_{n}(H_{0} + V)_{F}((H_{0} + V)_{F} + b_{n})^{-1}U_{n}^{*}Q_{n} =$$

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$$Q_{n}U_{n}Q_{n}(H_{0} + V)_{F}((H_{0} + V)_{F} + b_{n})^{-1}QU_{n}^{*}Q_{n},$$

wherefrom

$$\sigma \cdot (Q_n U_n b_n (H_0 + V)_F ((H_0 + V)_F + b_n)^{-1} U_n^* Q_n) \in (\alpha ((H_0 + V)_F; b_n), \infty).$$
(16)

From (15) and (16)

$$\sigma(Q_n c_n(H_0 + V_n)_F((H_0 + V_n)_F + c_n)^{-1}Q_n) \subset (\alpha((H_0 + V)_F; b_n) - 1, \infty)$$

which together with (5) proves the theorem.

Proof of Lemma 1. Let  $g \in \mathcal{R}$ , ||g|| = 1,  $g = (H_0 + V)f$ . From (1) and (2) one obtains

$$||(H_0 + V_n)f| - (H_0 + V)f|| \le a_n(1-a)^{-1},$$

wherefrom

$$D[g, \mathcal{R}_{n}] = \inf_{h_{n} \in \mathcal{R}_{n}} ||g - h_{n}|| \le a_{n} (1-a)^{-1}.$$
 (17)

In a similar way if  $g_n \in \mathcal{R}_n$ ,  $||g_n|| = 1$  then for sufficiently large n

$$D[g_n, \mathcal{R}] \leq a_n (1-a-a_n)^{-1}$$
 (18)

From (17) and (18) it follows that for sufficiently large n [8 § 39]

$$||Q-Q_n|| \leq a_n(1-a-a_n)^{-1}$$

and the proof of Lemma 1 is complete.  
Proof of Lemma 2. Let 
$$f \in \mathcal{R}$$
,  $||f|| = 1$ . Then  
 $||(H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1} - (H_0 + V)_F^{-1} f|| \le$   
 $\le ||(H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1} [f - (H_0 + V_n)(H_0 + V)^{-1} f]|| \le$   
 $\le ||(H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1}|| ||(V_n - V)(H_0 + V)^{-1} f|| \le$   
 $\le a_n (1 - a)^{-1} ||(H_0 + V_n)_F^{-1}||.$ 
(19)

From Theorem 7.9 in  $^{/3/}$ ,  $(H_0 + V_n)_F \rightarrow (H_0 + V)_F$  in the sense of strong resolvent convergence. On the other hand, from (19) the convergence is unifrom on  $\Re$  which finishes the proof of Lemma 2 since dim  $\Re = m < \infty$ .

Remarks

1. From (1) it follows that

 $H_{0,F} + V = (H_0 + V)_F$ ,

where  $H_{0,F}$  is the Friedrichs extension of  $H_0|_{\hat{L}}$ , and  $H_{0,F} + V$  is the from sum of  $H_{0,F}$  and V.

2. Theorem 1 implies results of the sort given  $in^{/1,2/}$ . The following is an example.

Corollary 1. Let  $-\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ ,  $(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2})_D$ ,  $x \in \mathbf{R}$  be the Laplacian, and the Laplacian with Dirichlet boundary conditions at 0, respectively. Let V(x),  $V_n(x)$ ,  $x \in \mathbf{R}$ , n = 1, 2, ... be real functions satisfying:  $V(x) \leq V_n(x) \leq 0$ ;  $|x|^{\gamma} V(x) \in L^{\infty}$  for some  $\gamma, 0 \leq \gamma < 3/2$ ;  $\int V(x) dx = -\infty$ ;  $V_n(x) \in L^{\infty}$ ;  $\lim_{n \to \infty} V_n(x) = V(x)$  a.e. Then  $-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V_n$  converge in the norm resolvent sense to  $(-\frac{d^2}{dx^2})_D + V$ .

Proof. Let  $\mathfrak{T} = \mathfrak{T}_1 \oplus \mathfrak{T}_2$ , where

$$\hat{T}_{1} = \{ f \in \hat{T} (-\frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}}) | f(x) = -f(-x) \},$$

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$$\mathfrak{D}_2 = \{ f \in \mathcal{C}_0^{\infty}(\mathbf{R} \setminus \{0\} \mid f(x) = f(-x) \}.$$

Then using the Hardy inequality in two of its variants

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} |x^{-\beta} \int_{0}^{x} f(y) dy|^{2} dx \leq (\beta - 1/2)^{-2} \int_{0}^{\infty} |x^{-\beta + 1} f(x)|^{2} dx, \quad \beta > 1/2$$

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} |x^{-\beta} \int_{x}^{\infty} f(y) dy|^{2} dx \leq (\beta - 1/2)^{-2} \int_{0}^{\infty} |x^{-\beta + 1} f(x)|^{2} dx, \quad \beta < 1/2$$

one can easily verify that the conditions of Theorem 1 with  $H_0 = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ , V, V<sub>n</sub>,  $\hat{L}$  are fulfilled.

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