

# **Remarks on the geodesically completeness and the smoothing effect on asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes**

**Kouichi Taira[1](http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4236-5502)**

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## **Abstract**

In this note, we study a geometric property of asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes and an analytic property of the wave operator. More precisely, our first main results show that asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes are geodesically complete under a null non-trapping condition. Secondly, we prove that Sobolev index of a real principal type estimate used in a previous work is optimal.

**Keywords** Geodesic completeness · Smoothing effects · Self-adjointness

**Mathematics Subject Classification** 35L05 · 53C22

## **1 Introduction**

Let *g*<sup>0</sup> be the Minkowski metric on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  and  $g_0^{-1}$  be its dual metric:

$$
g_0 = -dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + \dots + dx_{n+1}^2 = (g_{0,jk})_{j,k=1}^{n+1},
$$
  

$$
g_0^{-1} = -\partial_{x_1}^2 + \partial_{x_2}^2 + \dots + \partial_{x_{n+1}}^2 = (g_0^{jk})_{j,k=1}^{n+1},
$$

where we denote

$$
x=(t, y)\in \mathbb{R}\times \mathbb{R}^n,
$$

that is, *t* is the time variable and *y* is the space variable in the spacetime. We denote  $\langle x \rangle = (1 + |x|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and introduce the function space

$$
S_k(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) := \{a \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) \mid |\partial_x^{\alpha} a(x)| \le C_\alpha \langle x \rangle^{k - |\alpha|} \}, \quad k \in \mathbb{R}.
$$

B Kouichi Taira ktaira@fc.ritsumei.ac.jp

<sup>1</sup> Ritsumeikan Daigaku, Biwako Kusatsu Campus, Kusatsu, Shiga, Japan

<span id="page-1-0"></span>**Definition 1** A Lorentzian metric *g* on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  is called asymptotically Minkowski if the inverse matrix  $g(x)^{-1} = (g^{jk}(x))_{j,k=1}^{n+1}$  of  $g(x)$  satisfies  $g^{jk} - g_0^{jk} \in S_{-\mu}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ for some  $\mu > 0$  and for all  $j, k = 1, \ldots, n + 1$ .

**Remark 1.1** A Lorentzian metric  $g(x) = (g_{jk}(x))_{j,k=1}^{n+1}$  is asymptotically Minkowski if and only if  $g_{jk} - g_{0,jk} \in S_{-\mu}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  for some  $\mu > 0$  and for all  $j, k = 1, \ldots, n+1$ . This definition seems more natural than Definition [1,](#page-1-0) where we impose a condition on the inverse matrix  $g(x)^{-1}$  $g(x)^{-1}$  $g(x)^{-1}$ . However, in studies of PDE, Definition 1 is more useful since the principal symbol of the wave operator  $-\Box_g$  explicitly depends on the inverse matrix  $g(x)^{-1}$ .

The Feynman propagator, which is an inverse of  $-\Box_g$  and satisfies a certain wavefront condition, is a fundamental object in quantum field theory. In [\[5](#page-15-0), [6,](#page-15-1) [9](#page-15-2), [10](#page-15-3)] and [\[20](#page-15-4)], the Feynman propagator is constructed on various spacetimes including asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes. In [\[19\]](#page-15-5), it is proved that on asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes, the (anti-)Feynman propagator constructed in [\[9](#page-15-2)] and [\[10\]](#page-15-3) coincides with the outgoing resolvent of the wave operator. Such an identity should hold since, for the exact Minkowski spacetime, the Feynman propagator is defined by the outgoing resolvent in the physics literature. See also the review article [\[11\]](#page-15-6).

In this short note, we give supplementary results on the geometry and the property of the wave operator on asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes: One is a result on the completeness of asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes and the other is a result on the optimality of the local smoothing estimate used in [\[19\]](#page-15-5). As is stated below, the both results are closely related to essential self-adjointnness of the wave operator  $-\Box_g$  although they are results from different view points. These hopefully give a clue to solve the conjecture by Derezinski–Siemssen  $[7, §1.7]$  $[7, §1.7]$ , which states that wave operators on various spacetimes are essentially self-adjoint.

### **1.1 First result**

It is a classical question how the essential self-adjointness of pseudodifferential operators is related to the completeness of the associated Hamilton flow ( [\[17,](#page-15-8)Vol II], [\[2\]](#page-14-0)). In the case of the Laplace operator *P* on a semi-Riemannian manifold *M*, this corresponds to a relation between the essential self-adjointness of *P* and the geodesic completeness of *M*. It is well known that on a geodesically complete Riemannian manifold, the Laplace operator is essentially self-adjoint on  $C_c^{\infty}$ . In [\[2](#page-14-0)] and references therein, such a relation is studied for more general Schrödinger-type operators on complete Riemmanian manifolds.

In [\[3\]](#page-14-1), it is shown that the completeness of the Hamilton flow is equivalent to the essential self-adjointness on generic closed Lorentzian surfaces. The authors in [\[3](#page-14-1)] conjecture that the completeness of the Hamilton flow implies the essential selfadjointness for non-elliptic operators on closed manifolds. In [\[19](#page-15-5)], this conjecture is solved for general real principal type operators on the one-dimensional torus. As a related result, in [\[13\]](#page-15-9), the author gives an example of a Lorentzian manifold (*M*, *g*), which is geodesically complete and globally hyperbolic, but the wave operator associated with *g* is not essentially self-adjoint.

Recently, it was shown in [\[20\]](#page-15-4) and [\[16\]](#page-15-10) that the wave operator on an asymptotically Minkowski spacetime is essentially self-adjoint on  $C_c^{\infty}$  under a null non-trapping condition. However, on this manifold, a relation to the geodesic completeness was not revealed. In this note, we show that a null non-trapping condition implies the completeness on this manifold, including timelike and spacelike completeness.

<span id="page-2-0"></span>We introduce a non-trapping condition, which is a bit weaker than the condition in [\[9](#page-15-2), [10,](#page-15-3) [16\]](#page-15-10) and [\[19](#page-15-5)] in the sense that the completeness of the null geodesics is not assumed here.

**Definition 2** [\[1,](#page-14-2)Definition 11.17] Let  $(M, g)$  be a Lorentzian manifold and  $T_0, T_1 \in$  $[-\infty, \infty]$  with  $T_0 < T_1$ . We say that a maximally extended geodesic  $\gamma : (T_0, T_1) \rightarrow$ *M* is forward (resp. backward) non-trapping if for each  $t_0 \in (-T_0, T_1)$ ,  $\gamma|_{[t_0, T_1)}$  (resp.  $\gamma|_{(-T_0,t_0]}$ ) fails to have compact closure. We way that  $\gamma$  is non-trapping if  $\gamma$  is both forward and backward non-trapping. The Lorentzian manifold (*M*, *g*) is called null non-trapping (or null disprisoning) if every non-constant maximally extended null geodesic is non-trapping.

<span id="page-2-4"></span>**Theorem 1.2** *Suppose*  $(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, g)$  *is asymptotically Minkowski and null non-trapping in the sense of Definition* [2.](#page-2-0) Then  $(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, g)$  *is geodesically complete.* 

#### **1.2 Second result**

Next, we consider the exact Minkowski spacetime ( $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , *g*<sub>0</sub>) and the operator

<span id="page-2-2"></span><span id="page-2-1"></span>
$$
P=\partial_t^2-\Delta_y.
$$

It is well known that *P* is essentially self-adjoint on  $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . We denote the unique self-adjoint extension of *P* by the same symbol. In [\[19,](#page-15-5)Proposition 3.2], it is proved that the resolvent  $(P - i)^{-1}$  is a continuous map from  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  to  $\langle x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ :

$$
(P - i)^{-1} : L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) \to \langle x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} H^{\frac{1}{2}}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}), \quad \varepsilon > 0,
$$
 (1.1)

where the space  $H^k(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  is the usual Sobolev space. This mapping property plays a crucial role for the proof of the limiting absorption principle in [\[19\]](#page-15-5) on asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes. On the other hand, the radial estimate ( [\[4,](#page-14-3)Propositions A.3, A.4], [\[19](#page-15-5),Theorem A.3], [\[20,](#page-15-4)(2), (3)]) and the propagation of singularities imply that the resolvent  $(P - i)^{-1}$  is a continuous map from :  $\langle x \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon} L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  to  $\langle x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} H^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ 

$$
(P - i)^{-1} : \langle x \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon} L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) \to \langle x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} H^1(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}), \quad \varepsilon > 0. \tag{1.2}
$$

<span id="page-2-3"></span>Namely,  $(1.2)$  states that if  $f$  has an additional decay (compared with the case  $(1.1)$ ), then its image  $(P - i)^{-1} f$  gains a better regularity. So a natural question is whether the Sobolev index  $\frac{1}{2}$  in [\(1.1\)](#page-2-2) is optimal or not. In this note, we give an affirmative answer to this question.

**Theorem 1.3** *For the Minkowski spacetime*  $(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, g_0)$ *, for all*  $\varepsilon > 0$ *, there exists*  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  *such that*  $(P - i)^{-1} f \notin H_{loc}^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ *.* 

Usual real principal type estimates are used for proving existence of a local solution  $($  [\[12,](#page-15-11)Theorem 26.1.7]). Estimates like  $(1.1)$  and  $(1.2)$  might be regarded as global versions of the real principal type estimates. Theorem  $(1.3)$  states that a global analogue of the usual real principal type estimates with Sobolev index 1 does not hold if we impose  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  only. We note that the Sobolev index  $\frac{1}{2}$  in [\(1.1\)](#page-2-2) is the same as in the local smoothing effects for time-dependent Schrödinger equations (see also  $[19, §1.2]$  $[19, §1.2]$ ).

Regularity estimates such as  $(1.1)$  and  $(1.2)$  are also related to essential selfadjoiness of differential operators. Indeed, the argument in [\[16](#page-15-10),before Proposition 3.1] implies that in order to prove essential self-adjointness of the wave operator, it suffices to deduce that this operator has a kind of regularity. On the other hand, the results in [\[18](#page-15-12),proof of Theorem 5.1] show that essential self-adjointness of a differential operator may break due to the existence of its eigenfunction, which is not smooth enough. Hence, it seems important to know the regularity of differential operators quantitatively. Theorem [1.3](#page-2-3) shows that it strongly depends on weight functions of function spaces in non-compact spaces.

#### **1.3 Organization and notation**

This paper is organized as follows: In Sect. [2,](#page-3-0) the proof of the geodesic completeness is given. In Sect. [3,](#page-7-0) we show the optimality of the mapping property [\(1.1\)](#page-2-2). Moreover, in Appendix, we give a short proof of  $(1.1)$  and  $(1.2)$  on the exact Minkowski spacetime.

We fix some notations. We use the Sobolev spaces:  $H^k(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}) = \langle D \rangle^{-k} L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ for  $k \in \mathbb{R}$ . We write the variable on  $T^*\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  by  $(x, \xi)$  with  $x = (t, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$ and  $\xi = (\tau, \eta) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . We denote the Fourier transform on  $\mathbb{R}^m$  by  $\mathcal{F} f(y) =$  $(2\pi)^{-\frac{m}{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} e^{-iy\cdot\eta} f(y) dy$ . For a Banach space *X*, we denote the norm of *X* by  $\|\cdot\|_X$ . If *X* is a Hilbert space, we write the inner product of *X* by  $(\cdot, \cdot)_X$ , where  $(\cdot, \cdot)_X$  is linear with respect to the right variable. For a Lorentzian manifold (*M*, *g*), we say that  $v \in T_p M$  is a null vector if  $g_p(v, v) = 0$ .

#### <span id="page-3-0"></span>**2 Geodesic completeness of asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes**

#### **2.1 Completeness of trapped geodesics**

<span id="page-3-1"></span>In this subsection, we discuss the completeness of non-null trapped geodesics. The following lemma is possibly well known; however, the author could not find a suitable reference. Hence, we give a proof here.

**Lemma 2.1** *Suppose that a Lorentzian manifold* (*M*, *g*) *is null non-trapping and satisfies the second axiom of countability. Let*  $\gamma$  :  $(a, b) \rightarrow M$  *be a maximally extended*  *forward* (*resp. backward*) *trapped geodesic, satisfying*

$$
g(\gamma'(t), \gamma'(t)) \neq 0 \quad \text{for all} \quad t \in (a, b),
$$

*that is,* γ *is not null. Then,* γ *is forward complete* (*resp. backward complete*) *in the sense that*  $b = \infty$  (*resp.*  $a = -\infty$ ).

*Proof* We consider the forward case only. Since *M* satisfies the second axiom of countability, there exists a complete Riemannian metric on *M* (see [\[15\]](#page-15-13)). We fix a complete Riemannian metric *h* on *M*. Let

$$
SM = \{(x, v) \in TM \mid h(v, v) = 1\}
$$

t be the sphere bundle associated with *h*. Since  $\gamma$  is trapped, there exists  $b \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\gamma([0, b)) \subset K$  for a compact set  $K \subset M$ .

Set

$$
v(t) = \frac{1}{h(\gamma'(t), \gamma'(t))^{\frac{1}{2}}}\gamma'(t) \in S_{\gamma(t)}M.
$$

Let  $\varphi_t$  be the geodesic flow on *TM* and  $\pi : TM \to M$  be the natural projection. Since  $(\gamma(t), v(t)) \in SM|_K := SM \cap \pi^{-1}(K)$  and  $SM|_K$  is compact, there exist a sequence  ${t_i}_i$  and  $(q, v) \in SM|_K$  such that  $t_i \rightarrow b$  and  $(\gamma(t_i), v(t_i)) \rightarrow (q, v) \in SM$  as  $i \rightarrow \infty$ . We shall show that v is not null. We suppose v is a null vector. Then, the null non-trapping condition implies the existence of  $T > 0$  such that  $\varphi_t(q, v)$ exists for  $0 \le t \le T$  and  $\varphi_T(q, v) \notin SM|_K$ . By the continuous dependence of initial data of ODE, we have  $\varphi_T(\gamma(t_i), v(t_i)) \to \varphi_T(q, v)$  as  $i \to \infty$ . In particular,  $\varphi_T(\gamma(t_i), v(t_i)) \notin SM|_K$ . This contradicts

$$
\varphi_T(\gamma(t_i),v(t_i))=\varphi\frac{\tau}{h(\gamma'(t),\gamma'(t))^\frac{1}{2}}(\gamma(t_i),\gamma'(t_i))\in SM|_K.
$$

Thus, it follows that  $v$  is a not null vector.

Suppose  $\gamma$  is not forward complete. Then, we have  $b < \infty$  and

$$
0 \neq g(v, v) = \lim_{i \to \infty} g(v(t_i), v(t_i)) = \lim_{i \to \infty} \frac{g(\gamma'(t_i), \gamma'(t_i))}{h(\gamma'(t_i), \gamma'(t_i))}.
$$

Notice that  $g(\gamma'(t_i), \gamma'(t_i))$  is nonzero constant. Thus, we have

$$
\lim_{i \to \infty} h(\gamma'(t_i), \gamma'(t_i)) = \frac{g(\gamma'(t_i), \gamma'(t_i))}{g(v, v)} < \infty
$$

Since  $\gamma([0, b)) \subset K$  and the Riemannian metric *h* is complete, it contradicts  $b < \infty$  and [8.Proposition 2.1]. and [\[8,](#page-15-14)Proposition 2.1].

#### **2.2 Completeness of non-trapping orbits**

In the rest of this section, we assume *g* is an asymptotically Minkowski metric on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . We set  $p(x,\xi) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j,k=1}^{n} g^{ij}(x)\xi_i\xi_j$  for  $(x,\xi) \in T^*\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . Let  $(y(t, x, \xi), \eta(t, x, \xi))$  denote the solution to the Hamilton equations:

$$
\begin{cases}\n\frac{d}{dt}y(t, x, \xi) = \partial_{\xi} p(y(t, x, \xi), \eta(t, x, \xi)), \\
\frac{d}{dt}\eta(t, x, \xi) = -\partial_{x} p(y(t, x, \xi), \eta(t, x, \xi)),\n\end{cases}\n\quad \begin{cases}\ny(0, x, \xi) = x, \\
\eta(0, x, \xi) = \xi.\n\end{cases}\n(2.1)
$$

It is well known that  $t \mapsto y(t, x, \xi)$  is a geodesic on the Lorentzian manifold  $(M, g)$ with the initial value *x* and the initial velocity  $g(x)^{-1}\xi$ . Moreover, we denote the Hamiltonian vector field  $H_p$  of the function  $p \in C^\infty(T^*\mathbb{R}^{n+1}; \mathbb{R})$  by

<span id="page-5-0"></span>
$$
H_p = \sum_{j=1}^{n+1} \left( \partial_{\xi_j} p \partial_{x_j} - \partial_{x_j} p \partial_{\xi_j} \right)
$$

<span id="page-5-1"></span>The following lemma follows from a direct calculation. See [\[16](#page-15-10),Lemma A.1] for a proof.

**Lemma 2.2** *There exist*  $M > 0$  *and*  $R_0 > 1$  *such that* 

$$
H_p^2(|x|^2) \ge M|\xi|^2
$$

*for any*  $(x, \xi) \in \{(y, \eta) \in T^* \mathbb{R}^n \mid |y| > R_0, |\eta| \neq 0\}.$ 

<span id="page-5-2"></span>We also mention a result on an extension of solutions to the Hamilton equation.

**Lemma 2.3** *Let*  $(x, \xi) \in T^*\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ *. Suppose that the solution*  $(y(t, x, \xi), \eta(t, x, \xi))$  *to*  $(2.1)$  exists for a time interval  $(T_0, T_1)$  and that there exists  $C > 0$  such that

$$
|\eta(t, x, \xi)| \le C \quad \text{for} \quad t \in (T_0, T_1).
$$

*Then, the solution*  $(y(t, x, \xi), \eta(t, x, \xi))$  *can be extended to a time interval beyond*  $(T_0, T_1)$ .

*Proof* We note  $|\partial_{\xi} p(x, \xi)| \le C' |\xi|$  with a constant  $C' > 0$ . By the assumption and the Hamilton equation, we have  $|y(t, x, \xi)| \le |x| + CC'|t|$ . Thus,  $(y(t, x, \xi), \eta(t, x, \xi))$ stays in a fixed compact set for  $t \in (T_0, T_1)$ . The standard theory of ODE gives our conclusion.  $\Box$ conclusion.  $\Box$ 

<span id="page-5-3"></span>Now we show that non-trapping orbits are complete on the asymptotically Minkowski spacetimes. The following proposition is proved by a slight modification of the proof in  $[16]$ , which follows the strategy in  $[14]$  $[14]$ .

**Proposition 2.4** *Fix*  $(x_0, \xi_0) \in T^* \mathbb{R}^n$  *with*  $\xi_0 \neq 0$  *and suppose that*  $(x_0, \xi_0)$  *is forward* (*resp. backward*) *non-trapping in the sense that there exists*  $T \in (0, \infty)$  (*resp.*  $[-\infty.0)$ ) *such that* 

$$
\lim_{t \to T, t < T} |y(t, x_0, \xi_0)| = \infty \quad (resp. \quad \lim_{t \to T, t > T} |y(t, x_0, \xi_0)| = \infty)
$$

*Then, there exist*  $C_1$ *,*  $C_2 > 0$  *such that* 

$$
C_1 \le |\eta(t, x_0, \xi_0)| \le C_2 \ \text{for} \ \ 0 \le t < T \ \ \text{(resp. } -T < t \le 0).
$$

*Moreover, it follows that*  $|T| = \infty$  *and that the orbit*  $(y(t, x_0, \xi_0), \eta(t, x_0, \xi_0))$  *is forward* (*resp. backward*) *complete.*

*Proof* We consider the forward case only. We write  $y(t) = y(t, x_0, \xi_0)$  and  $\eta(t) =$  $\eta(t, x_0, \xi_0)$ . Let  $R_0$  be as in Lemma [2.2,](#page-5-1) and we let  $R_1 \ge R_0$  which is determined later. We first note that by the forward non-trapping condition and Lemma [2.2,](#page-5-1) there exits  $0 \le t_0 < T$  such that for  $t_0 \le t < T$ , we have

<span id="page-6-0"></span>
$$
|y(t)| \ge R_1, \quad \frac{d}{dt}|y(t)|^2 \ge 0.
$$
 (2.2)

Indeed, it is easy to see that there are  $0 < s_0 < t_0 < T$  such that  $\frac{d^2}{dt^2}|y(t)|^2 > 0$  for  $t \geq s_0$ , and  $\frac{d}{dt} |y(t)|^2 |_{t=t_0} > 0$ . Then for all  $t_0 \leq t < T$ , the condition [\(2.2\)](#page-6-0) is satisfied.

Take a constant  $C_0 > 0$  such that

$$
|\partial_x p(x,\xi)| \le C_0 |x|^{-1-\mu} |\xi|^2 \quad \text{for} \quad |x| \ge 1.
$$

We write  $\eta_0 = |\eta(t_0)|$  and  $T_1 := \sup\{s \in [t_0, T) | \frac{1}{2}\eta_0 \leq |\eta(t)|\}$ . By Lemma [2.2](#page-5-1) and  $(2.2)$ , we have

$$
|y(t)|^2 \ge R_1^2 + \frac{M\eta_0^2}{8}(t-t_0)^2 \text{ for } t_0 \le t < T_1.
$$

Since  $R_1 \geq 1$ , the Hamilton equation gives  $|\eta'(t)| \leq C_0 |y(t)|^{-1-\mu} |\eta(t)|^2$  for  $t_0 \leq t < T_1$  and hence

$$
\left|\frac{d}{dt}|\eta(t)|^{-1}\right| \leq C_0 \left(R_1^2 + \frac{M\eta_0^2}{8}(t-t_0)^2\right)^{-\frac{1+\mu}{2}} \quad \text{for} \quad t_0 \leq t < T_1.
$$

Thus, for  $t_0 \leq t < T_1$ , we obtain

$$
|\eta_0^{-1} - |\eta(t)|^{-1}| \le C_0 \int_{t_0}^t \left( R_1^2 + \frac{M\eta_0^2}{8}(s-t_0)^2 \right)^{-\frac{1+\mu}{2}} ds \le \frac{2\sqrt{2}C_0C_\mu}{R_1^{\mu}M^{\frac{1}{2}}}\eta_0^{-1}
$$

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where  $C_{\mu} = \int_0^{\infty} (1 + s^2)^{-\frac{1+\mu}{2}} ds$ . Taking  $R_1$  large enough, we have  $\frac{2}{3}\eta_0 \leq |\eta(t)|$  $\leq \frac{4}{3}\eta_0$  for  $t_0 \leq t < T_1$ . By the definition of  $T_1$ , we obtain  $T_1 = T$ . Moreover, by Lemma [2.3](#page-5-2) and the inequality  $\frac{2}{3}\eta_0 \leq |\eta(t)| \leq \frac{4}{3}\eta_0$  for  $t_0 \leq t < T = T_1$ , we conclude  $T = \infty$ .

### **2.3 Proof of the first main result**

Now we prove our first main result.

*Proof (Proof of Theorem [1.2\)](#page-2-4)* Let  $\gamma$  :  $(a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  be a geodesic on an asymptotically Minkowski spacetime  $(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}, g)$  satisfying the null non-trapping condition in the sense of Definition [2.](#page-2-0) When the geodesic  $\gamma$  satisfies the non-trapping condition, then the convexity near infinity ( $[19]$ ) implies that  $|\gamma(t)| \to \infty$  as  $t \to a$  and  $t \to b$ . Hence, the geodesic  $\gamma$  is complete due to Proposition [2.4.](#page-5-3) Thus, we only consider the case when the geodesic  $\gamma$  is trapped.

Suppose that the geodesic  $\gamma$  is trapped. Then, it is not null by the null non-trapping condition. Now completeness of the geodesic  $\gamma$  follows from Lemma [2.1.](#page-3-1)  $\Box$ 

#### <span id="page-7-0"></span>**3 Optimality of the local smoothing estimate**

In this section, we assume that  $g = g_0$  is the Minkowski metric on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1} = \mathbb{R}_t \times \mathbb{R}^n$ .

### **3.1 An explicit formula for the resolvent**  $(P - i)^{-1}$

We recall  $P = \partial_t^2 - \Delta_y$  on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . First, we calculate an explicit formula for the resolvent  $(P - i)^{-1}$ . A similar formula also appears in the proof of [\[4](#page-14-3),Theorem C.1]. To do this, at first, we shall calculate the imaginary part of the symbol of  $\sqrt{-\Delta_y - i}$ . Set

$$
A := \sqrt{-\Delta_y + i} = A_1 - iA_2 \quad A_1, A_2
$$
: self-adjoint

<span id="page-7-1"></span>with  $A_2 \geq 0$ . First, we compute the symbols of  $A_1, A_2$ .

**Lemma 3.1** *For*  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ *, set*  $a = \sqrt{|\eta|^2 - i} = re^{i\theta}$  *with* Im  $a \le 0$ *. Then we have* 

$$
r = (|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{4}}, \quad \text{Im } a = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{1}{2}}(\sqrt{|\eta|^4 + 1} + |\eta|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}.
$$

*In particular,*  $C^{-1}\langle \eta \rangle \leq |a| \leq C\langle \eta \rangle$  *and*  $C^{-1}\langle \eta \rangle^{-1} \leq |Im a| \leq C\langle \eta \rangle^{-1}$  *with a constant*  $C > 0$ *.* 

*Proof* Since  $a^2 = |\eta|^2 - i$ , we have  $r^2 = |a|^2 = |a^2| = ||\eta|^2 - i| = (|\eta|^4 + |\eta|^2 - i|)$ 1)<sup> $\frac{1}{2}$ </sup>, which implies  $r = (|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{4}}$ . Moreover, it follows that  $r^2 \cos 2\theta + ir^2 \sin 2\theta$  $= r^2 e^{2i\theta} = |\eta|^2 - i$  and

 $\Box$ 

<span id="page-8-1"></span><span id="page-8-0"></span> $\Box$ 

$$
\cos 2\theta = \frac{|\eta|^2}{(|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}}, \quad \sin 2\theta = \frac{-1}{(|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}},
$$

$$
\sin^2 \theta = \frac{1}{2(|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}((|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} + |\eta|^2)}.
$$

This calculation with Im  $a \leq 0$  implies

Im 
$$
a = r \sin \theta = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{1}{2}}((|\eta|^4 + 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} + |\eta|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}
$$
.

We write

$$
a_1 = \text{Re } a, \quad a_2 = -\text{Im } a, \quad A_1 = a_1(D_\eta), \quad A_2 = a_2(D_\eta).
$$

Since  $C^{-1}(\eta)^{-1}$  <  $|\text{Im } a|$  <  $C(\eta)^{-1}$ , we have

$$
C^{-1} \|u\|_{H^k(\mathbb{R}^n_y)} \le \|A_2^{-k} u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)} \le C \|u\|_{H^k(\mathbb{R}^n_y)}
$$
(3.1)

for all  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  with a constant  $C > 0$ .

Now we calculate an expression for the resolvent  $(P - i)^{-1}$ .

**Proposition 3.2** *For*  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ *, we have* 

$$
(P - i)^{-1} f(t, y) = \frac{i}{2} A^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^{t} e^{-i(t - s)A} f(s, y) ds - \frac{i}{2} A^{-1} \int_{+\infty}^{t} e^{i(t - s)A} f(s, y) ds
$$

$$
= \frac{i}{2} A^{-1} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i|t - s|A} f(s, y) ds.
$$
(3.2)

*Proof* Set  $Rf(t, y) = \frac{i}{2}A^{-1}\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i|t-s|A}f(s, y)ds$ . Since *P* is essentially selfadjoint on  $C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ , it suffices to prove that  $(P - i)Rf = f$  for  $f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ and that *R* is a bounded operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . In fact, the essential self-adjointness of  $P|_{C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$  ensures that the domain  $D(P)$  of P is written as  $D(P) = \{u \in$ *L*<sup>2</sup>(ℝ<sup>*n*+1</sup>) | *Pu* ∈ *L*<sup>2</sup>(ℝ<sup>*n*+1</sup>)}. Then, the relation  $(P - i)Rf = f$  for  $f \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ and the boundedness of *R* on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  show  $Rf \in D(P)$  for  $f \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . Using the relation  $(P - i)^{-1}(P - i)u = u$  for  $u \in D(P)$  with  $u = Rf$ , we have  $R|_{C^{\infty}_c(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} = (P - i)^{-1}|_{C^{\infty}_c(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$ . Hence, a density argument gives  $R = (P - i)^{-1}$ on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ .

The identity  $(P-i)Rf = f$  follows from a direct calculation. Hence, we shall prove that *R* is bounded on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . Set  $a_2(\eta) = -\text{Im } a$ . Using the Fourier transform in the *y*-variable and a scaling, we have

$$
\begin{split} \|Rf\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{t,y}^{n+1})} &= \|\mathcal{F}_{y \to \eta} Rf\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{t,\eta}^{n+1})} \leq \frac{1}{2} \|a^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-|t-s|a_{2}} |\mathcal{F}_{y \to \eta} f(s,\eta)| ds \|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{t,\eta}^{n+1})} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|a_{2}^{-\frac{3}{2}} a^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-|t-s|} |\mathcal{F}_{y \to \eta} f(\frac{s}{a_{2}},\eta)| ds \|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{t,\eta}^{n+1})} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|e^{-|t|} \|_{L^{1}(\mathbb{R}_{t})} \|a_{2}^{-\frac{3}{2}} a^{-1} \mathcal{F}_{y \to \eta} f(\frac{t}{a_{2}},\eta) \|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{t,\eta}^{n+1})} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \|e^{-|t|} \|_{L^{1}(\mathbb{R}_{t})} \|a_{2}^{-1} a^{-1} \mathcal{F}_{y \to \eta} f(t,\eta) \|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{t,\eta}^{n+1})} \leq C \|f\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}. \end{split}
$$

Here we use the Young inequality in the third line and set

$$
C = \frac{\|e^{-|t|}\|_{L^1(\mathbb{R}_t)}}{2} \sup_{\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n} |a_2(\eta)^{-1} a(\eta)^{-1}|,
$$

which is finite by virtue of Lemma [3.1.](#page-7-1) This completes the proof.  $\square$ 

#### **3.2 Proof of the second result**

In this subsection, we shall prove Theorem [1.3.](#page-2-3) To do this, it suffices to find  $f$  ∈  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$  such that

$$
\langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} u \notin L^2_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}),
$$

where we set  $u := (P - i)^{-1} f$  and we write  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$  as the dual variable of *y*. Let  $\chi \in C_c^\infty((\frac{1}{4}, 1); [0, 1])$  and  $\psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n; [0, 1])$  satisfying  $\|\chi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R})}$ 

 $= \|\psi\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)} = 1$  and

$$
\chi(t) = 1
$$
 on  $\frac{1}{2} \le t \le 1$ ,  $\psi(\eta) = 1$  on  $\frac{1}{2} \le |\eta| \le 1$ .

We denote the Fourier transform from the variable  $\eta$  to the variable *y* by  $\mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1}$  and set

$$
g(t, \eta) := \langle \eta \rangle^{-\frac{n+1}{2} - \varepsilon} \chi \left( \frac{t}{\langle \eta \rangle} \right) e^{ita_1(\eta)} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1}), \quad f(t, y) = \mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} g(t, y),
$$
  

$$
u := (P - i)^{-1} f.
$$

In order to prove Theorem [1.3,](#page-2-3) it suffices to show

<span id="page-9-0"></span>
$$
\varphi(y)\langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} u \notin L^2((0, \frac{1}{4})_t \times \mathbb{R}^n_y), \tag{3.3}
$$

where  $\varphi \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n_y)$  is determined as follows: Let  $M > 0$  be a constant satisfy- $\lim_{n \to \infty} |\partial_{\eta}a_1(\eta)| \leq M$  for all  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Take  $\varphi, \varphi_1 \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n; [0, 1])$  such that  $\varphi_1(y)$  $= \varphi_1(-y)$  and

$$
\varphi(y) = 1
$$
 on  $|y| \le M$ ,  $\varphi_1(y) = 1$  on  $|y| \le \frac{M}{8}$ , supp  $\varphi_1 \subset \{|y| \le \frac{M}{4}\}$ .

As is seen below, *e*−*itA*<sup>1</sup> *u* has no oscillation terms and is easy to handle. In order to remove the oscillation factor  $e^{itA_1}$ , we will use Egorov's theorem and an elliptic estimate from microlocal analysis. Precisely, we shall prove

<span id="page-10-1"></span><span id="page-10-0"></span>
$$
\varphi_1 \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \notin L^2((0, \frac{1}{4})_t \times \mathbb{R}^n_y), \tag{3.4}
$$

$$
\|\varphi_1 \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \|_{L^2((0, \frac{1}{4})_t \times \mathbb{R}^n_y)} \le C \|\varphi \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} u \|_{L^2((0, \frac{1}{4})_t \times \mathbb{R}^n_y)} + C \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}
$$
(3.5)

which ensure  $(3.3)$ . Thus, it remains to prove  $(3.4)$  and  $(3.5)$ .

### **Proof of [\(3.4\)](#page-10-0)**

First, we deal with [\(3.4\)](#page-10-0). Since  $t - s \le 0$  for  $t \le \frac{1}{4}$  and  $s \in \text{supp }\chi(\frac{1}{\langle \eta \rangle})$ , it follows from [\(3.2\)](#page-8-0) that for  $t \leq \frac{1}{4}$ , we have

$$
\mathcal{F}_{y\to\eta}(\langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}e^{-itA_1}u)(t,\eta)
$$
\n
$$
=\frac{i}{2}\langle \eta \rangle^{-\frac{n}{2}}a(\eta)^{-1}\int_t^{+\infty}e^{-|t-s|a_2(\eta)}\chi(\frac{s}{\langle \eta \rangle})ds
$$
\n
$$
=\frac{i}{2}\langle \eta \rangle^{-\frac{n}{2}+1}a(\eta)^{-1}\int_{\langle \eta \rangle^{-1}t}^{+\infty}e^{-|\langle \eta \rangle^{-1}t-s|\langle \eta \rangle a_2(\eta)}\chi(s)ds=:b_t(t,\eta).
$$

Thus, we have  $\varphi_1(y) (\langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u)(t, y) = \varphi_1(y) (\mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} b_t)(y)$ . By Lemma [3.1,](#page-7-1)  $b_t$  satisfies

<span id="page-10-2"></span>
$$
|\partial_{\eta}^{\alpha}b_{t}(\eta)| \leq C_{\alpha}\langle \eta \rangle^{-\frac{n}{2}}, \quad C^{-1}\langle \eta \rangle^{-\frac{n}{2}} \leq |b_{t}(\eta)| \leq C\langle \eta \rangle^{-\frac{n}{2}} \tag{3.6}
$$

uniformly in  $t \in (0, \frac{1}{4})$ .

**Lemma 3.3** *Let*  $b_t$  ∈  $C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$  *satisfying* [\(3.6\)](#page-10-2) *uniformly in t. Then we have*  $\varphi_1 \mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} b_t \notin L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)$  *for each t.* 

*Proof* By the second inequality in [\(3.6\)](#page-10-2), we have  $b_t \notin L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)$ . This implies  $\mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} b_t \notin$  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)$  by the Plancherel theorem. Thus, it suffices to prove  $(1 - \varphi_1) \mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} b_t \in$  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)$ . By integrating by parts and by using the first inequality in [\(3.6\)](#page-10-2), it turns out that  $\mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} b_t(y)$  is rapidly decreasing and smooth away from  $y = 0$ . Since  $\varphi_1(y) = 1$ near *y* = 0, then we obtain  $(1 - \varphi_1) \mathcal{F}_{\eta \to y}^{-1} b_t \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)$  $y$ <sup>n</sup>).

Now we suppose  $\varphi_1(y) \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \in L^2((0, \frac{1}{4})_t \times \mathbb{R}^n_y)$ . Then, we have

$$
\varphi_1(y)\langle D_y\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}e^{-itA_1}u\in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)
$$

for almost all  $t \in (0, \frac{1}{4})$ . This contradicts the lemma above. We complete the proof of [\(3.4\)](#page-10-0).

#### **Proof of [\(3.5\)](#page-10-1)**

Next, we prove [\(3.5\)](#page-10-1). We briefly recall the notion of pseudodifferential operators. For a precise treatment, see [\[12](#page-15-11),§18]. For  $k \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $a \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{2n})$ , we call  $a \in S^k$  if

$$
|\partial_{y}^{\alpha}\partial_{\eta}^{\beta}a(y,\eta)|\leq C_{\alpha\beta}\langle\eta\rangle^{k-|\beta|}.
$$

We define the Weyl quantization of a function *a* by

$$
Op(a)u(y) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{i(y-y')\cdot\eta} a(\frac{y+y'}{2}, \xi) u(y') dy' d\eta.
$$

We note that if *a* is real-valued, then  $Op(a)$  is formally self-adjoint and if  $a \in S^0$ , then  $Op(a)$  is bounded in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ . Moreover, if the function *a* depends only on the variable  $y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , then its quantization  $Op(a)$  is a multiplication operator  $a(y)$ . We define  $\{a, b\} := H_a b := \partial_n a \cdot \partial_y b - \partial_y a \cdot \partial_n b$ . For  $a \in S^{k_1}$  and  $b \in S^{k_2}$ , we have

$$
Op(a)Op(b) - Op(ab) \in OpS^{k_1 + k_2 - 1}, [Op(a), iOp(b)] - Op({a, b}) \in OpS^{k_1 + k_2 - 2}
$$
\n(3.7)

We need the following lemmas.

**Lemma 3.4** *[Egorov's theorem] Set*  $a_t(y, \eta) := \varphi(y - t \partial_\eta a_1(\eta))$ *. Then* 

<span id="page-11-0"></span>
$$
e^{-itA_1}\varphi(y)e^{itA_1}+R_t=\mathrm{Op}(a_t),
$$

*where*  $R_t \in B(H^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n), L^2(\mathbb{R}^n))$  *is an operator locally uniformly bounded in t.* 

*Proof* Using  $(e^{itA_1}Op(a_t)e^{-itA_1})'|_{t=0} = \varphi(y)$ , we have  $Op(a_t) = e^{-itA_1}\varphi(y)e^{itA_1}$  $+ R_t$ , where

$$
R_t = \int_0^t e^{-i(t-s)A_1} \left(\frac{d}{ds} \text{Op}(a_s) + [A_1, i \text{Op}(a_s)]\right) e^{i(t-s)A_1} ds
$$
  
= 
$$
\int_0^t e^{-i(t-s)A_1} L_s e^{i(t-s)A_1} ds
$$

and  $L_s = \frac{d}{ds} \text{Op}(a_s) + [A_1, i \text{Op}(a_s)]$ . The formula [\(3.7\)](#page-11-0) implies that  $L_s \in \text{Op}S^{-1}$ is locally uniformly bounded in *t*. Since  $e^{-itA_1}$  preserves  $H^k(\mathbb{R}^n)$ , it follows that  $R_t \in B(H^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^n), L^2(\mathbb{R}^n))$  is locally uniformly bounded in *t*.

<span id="page-11-2"></span>**Lemma 3.5** *[Elliptic parametrix] For*  $0 \le t \le \frac{1}{4}$ *, we have* 

<span id="page-11-1"></span>
$$
(\text{supp }\varphi_1) \times \mathbb{R}^n \subset \{ (y, \eta) \in \mathbb{R}^{2n} \mid \varphi(y - t \partial_\eta a_1(\eta)) = 1 \},\tag{3.8}
$$

*that is,*  $\varphi(y - t \partial_{\eta} a_1(\eta))$  *is elliptic on* supp  $\varphi_1 \times \mathbb{R}^n$  *in the phase space. Moreover, there exist*  $c_t \in S^0$  *and*  $r_t \in S^{-1}$ *, which are locally uniformly bounded in t such that* 

<span id="page-12-0"></span>
$$
\varphi_1 = \text{Op}(c_t)\text{Op}(a_t) + \text{Op}(r_t) \tag{3.9}
$$

*where we recall*  $a_t(y, \eta) := \varphi(y - t \partial_{\eta} a_1(\eta))$  *and the notation*  $\varphi_1$  *in the left-hand side of [\(3.9\)](#page-12-0) is a multiplication operator.*

**Proof** For  $0 \le t \le \frac{1}{4}$  and  $|y| \le \frac{M}{4}$ , we have

$$
|y-t\partial_{\eta}a(\eta)|\leq |y|+|t||\partial_{\eta}a(\eta)|\leq \frac{M}{4}+\frac{1}{4}\cdot M
$$

which implies [\(3.8\)](#page-11-1). We note that the smooth function  $c_t(y, \eta) = \varphi_1(y)/a_t(y, \eta)$  is well-defined by the support condition [\(3.8\)](#page-11-1). Since  $a_t \in S^0$  is locally uniformly bounded in  $t$ ,  $c_t$  is also locally uniformly bounded in  $t$ . The composition formula [\(3.7\)](#page-11-0) gives [\(3.9\)](#page-12-0) with a symbol  $r_t$  ∈  $S^{-1}$  locally uniformly bounded in *t*.  $\Box$ 

Now we prove [\(3.5\)](#page-10-1). Set

$$
C_1 := \sup_{t \in (0, \frac{1}{4})} \max(\|Op(c_t)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \to L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}, \|R_t\|_{H^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^n) \to L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)},
$$
  

$$
\|Op(r_t)\|_{H^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}(\mathbb{R}^n) \to L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}).
$$

By Lemma [3.5](#page-11-2) and the unitarity of  $e^{-itA_1}$ , we have

$$
\|\varphi_1 \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq \| \text{Op}(c_t) \text{Op}(a_t) \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)} + \| \text{Op}(r_t) \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C_1 \| \text{Op}(a_t) \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)} + C_1 \| u \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}
$$
\n(3.10)

uniformly in *t* ∈ (0,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). Moreover, Lemma [3.5](#page-11-2) and the unitarity of  $e^{-itA_1}$  imply

$$
\|Op(a_{t})\langle D_{y}\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}e^{-itA_{1}}u\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{y}^{n})}\leq\|e^{-itA_{1}}\varphi e^{itA_{1}}\langle D_{y}\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}e^{-itA_{1}}u\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{y}^{n})}+\|R_{t}\langle D_{y}\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}e^{-itA_{1}}u\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{y}^{n})}\leq\|\varphi\langle D_{y}\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}u\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{y}^{n})}+C_{1}\|u\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}_{y}^{n})},
$$
\n(3.11)

where we use the identity  $e^{itA_1} \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} e^{-itA_1} = \langle D_y \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}$  at the last line. By inequalities  $(3.10)$  and  $(3.11)$ , we have

$$
\|\varphi_1\langle D_y\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}e^{-itA_1}u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)} \leq C_1\|\varphi\langle D_y\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)} + (C_1+C_1^2)\|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n_y)}
$$

uniformly in  $(0, \frac{1}{4})$ . Integrating this inequality in  $t \in (0, \frac{1}{4})$ , we obtain [\(3.5\)](#page-10-1).

<span id="page-12-2"></span><span id="page-12-1"></span><sup>2</sup> Springer

### **A short proof of smoothing effects on the Minkowski spacetimes**

<span id="page-13-1"></span>In this appendix, we give a short proof of  $(1.1)$  and  $(1.2)$  using the explicit formula  $(3.2).$  $(3.2).$ 

**Lemma A.1** *Set*

$$
I(t, y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-i|t-s|A} f(s, y) ds.
$$

*Then, for*  $\varepsilon > 0$  *we have* 

$$
\|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}I\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \leq C \|\langle D_{y}\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}f\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}, \quad \|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}I\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}
$$
  

$$
\leq C \|\langle t\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}f\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}
$$

*Proof* The second inequality immediately follows from Hölder's inequality. Thus, we shall show the first inequality. We write  $\hat{f}(t, \eta) = \mathcal{F}_{\gamma \to \eta} f(t, \eta)$  and  $a_2 := -\text{Im } a$  $=-\text{Im }\sqrt{|\eta|^2-i}$ , where  $\mathcal{F}_{y\to\eta}$  denotes the Fourier transform from the variable *y* to the variable *η*. Fourier transforming in  $y \rightarrow \eta$  and using Young's inequality, we have

$$
|\hat{I}(t,\eta)| \leq |\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{-(t-s)a_2} |\hat{f}(s,\eta)| ds| \leq ||e^{-sa_2}||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_s)} ||\hat{f}(s,\eta)||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_s)}
$$
  

$$
\leq C ||a_2^{-\frac{1}{2}} \hat{f}(s,\eta)||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_s)}.
$$

This calculation gives  $\|\langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon} \hat{I}(t, \eta) \|_{L_t^2} \leq \| \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon} \|_{L_t^2} \| \hat{I}(t, \eta) \|_{L_t^{\infty}}$  $\leq C \|a_2^{-\frac{1}{2}}\hat{f}(t,\eta)\|_{L^2_t}$ . Plancherel's theorem and [\(3.1\)](#page-8-1) imply

$$
\|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}I\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_{t,y}^{n+1})}\leq C\|a_2^{-\frac{1}{2}}\hat{f}\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_{t,\eta}^{n+1})}\leq C\|\langle D_y\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_{t,y}^{n+1})}.
$$

Now we shall prove [\(1.1\)](#page-2-2) or a stronger bound:  $\|\langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} \langle D_x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}} (P-t)^{-1} f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$  $\leq C \|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$ . To do this, it suffices to prove

<span id="page-13-0"></span>
$$
\|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}\langle D_y\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}(P-i)^{-1}f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \leq C\|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}.
$$
 (4.1)

where we recall  $x = (t, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . In fact, we take  $\varphi(D_x) = \psi(P/(-\Delta_x + 1)),$ where  $\psi \in C_c^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}; [0, 1])$  satisfies  $\psi(s) = 1$  on  $|s| \leq \frac{1}{4}$  and supp  $\psi \subset \{|s| \leq \frac{1}{2}\}.$ Moreover, we set  $\chi(D_x) = \varphi(D_x) \langle D_x \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}} \langle D_y \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ . Since *P* is elliptic on the essential support of  $1 - \varphi(D_x)$ , we have  $\|(1 - \varphi(D_x))(D_x)^{\frac{1}{2}}(P - i)^{-1}f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$  $\leq C \|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$ . Moreover, since  $c^{-1}|\xi| \leq |\eta| \leq c|\xi|$  on the essential support of  $\varphi(D_x)$  with a constant  $c \ge 1$ , it turns out that  $\chi(D_x)$  is bounded in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . Hence,

$$
\begin{aligned} \|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}\varphi(D_x)\langle D_x\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}(P-i)^{-1}f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} &= \|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}\chi(D_x)\langle D_y\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}(P-i)^{-1}f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \\ &\leq &C\|\chi(D_x)f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \leq &C\|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}, \end{aligned}
$$

due to  $(4.1)$ . Combining these inequalities with  $(4.2)$ , we obtain  $(1.1)$ . Now we turn to the proof of  $(4.1)$ . Lemma [A.1](#page-13-1) with the formula  $(3.2)$  immediately implies

$$
\|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}(P-i)^{-1}f\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}\leq C\|A^{-1}\langle D_{y}\rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}f\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}\leq C\|\langle D_{y}\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}}f\|_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})},\tag{4.2}
$$

which shows  $(4.1)$ .

Finally, we prove [\(1.2\)](#page-2-1) or a stronger bound:  $\int_0^{\pi} \sqrt{t^2-t^2} \langle D_x \rangle (P-t)^{-1} \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}$  $f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \leq C \|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$ . Lemma [A.1](#page-13-1) with the formula [\(3.2\)](#page-8-0) implies

<span id="page-14-4"></span>
$$
\|\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}\langle D_y\rangle (P-i)^{-1}\langle t\rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}\leq C\|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})},
$$

where we recall  $x = (t, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $\varphi$  be as in the proof of [\(4.1\)](#page-13-0) and set  $\chi_1(D_x) = \varphi(D_x) \langle D_x \rangle \langle D_y \rangle^{-1}$ . We repeat an argument similar to the proof of [\(4.1\)](#page-13-0): Since *P* is elliptic on the essential support of  $1 - \varphi(D_x)$ , we have  $||(1 - \varphi(D_x))\langle D_x \rangle (P - i)^{-1} f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \leq C ||f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}$ . Moreover, since  $c^{-1}|\xi|$  $\leq |\eta| \leq c |\xi|$  on the essential support of  $\varphi(D_x)$  with a constant  $c \geq 1$ , it turns out that  $\chi_1(D_x)$  is bounded in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . Since  $\chi_1(D_x)$  is a pseudodifferential operator of order 0, then  $[\langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon}, \chi_1(D_x)]$  is a pseudodifferential operator of order −1. Hence,  $[(t)^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}, \chi_1(D_x)]\langle D_y \rangle$  is bounded on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ . Thus, we have

$$
\begin{split} &\| \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} \varphi(D_x) \langle D_x \rangle (P-i)^{-1} \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \\ &= \| \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} \chi_1(D_x) \langle D_y \rangle (P-i)^{-1} \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \\ &\leq \| [(t)^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon}, \chi_1(D_x)] \langle D_y \rangle \|_{L^2 \to L^2} \| (P-i)^{-1} f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \\ &+ C \| \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} \langle D_y \rangle (P-i)^{-1} \langle t \rangle^{-\frac{1}{2}-\varepsilon} f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})} \\ &\leq C \| f \|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})}, \end{split}
$$

This completes the proof of [\(1.2\)](#page-2-1). See also the proof of [\[4,](#page-14-3)Theorem C.1].

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