

# Uniqueness for the inverse boundary value problem with singular potentials in 2D

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## Abstract

In this paper we consider the inverse boundary value problem for the Schrödinger equation with potential in  $L^p$  class,  $p > 4/3$ . We show that the potential is uniquely determined by the boundary measurements.

## 1 Introduction

In this work we study the inverse boundary value problem for the Schrödinger equation with singular potentials in the plane. Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be an open bounded domain with Lipschitz boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . Let  $q \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $p > 1$  and assume that 0 is not a Dirichlet eigenvalue of the Schrödinger operator  $\Delta + q$  in  $\Omega$ . Then the Dirichlet-Neumann map  $\Lambda_q : u|_{\partial\Omega} \mapsto \partial_\nu u|_{\partial\Omega}$ , where  $u$  satisfies  $\Delta u + qu = 0$  in  $\Omega$ , is well-defined (see [3, Lemma 5.1.3] for the precise statement). Here we are concerned with the unique determination of  $q$  from the knowledge of  $\Lambda_q$ , namely, whether

$$\Lambda_{q_1} = \Lambda_{q_2} \Rightarrow q_1 = q_2. \quad (1)$$

We will prove that (1) is indeed true for  $L^p(\Omega)$  potentials with  $p > 4/3$ .

Our method follows from the strategies introduced by Bukhgeim in [5] where he showed that (1) holds true for  $C^1$  potentials. The key ingredient in Bukhgeim's method is the invention of special complex geometrical optics solutions with non-degenerate singular phases, namely,  $\Phi(z) = (z - z_0)^2$ ,  $z, z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ . Using this type of complex geometrical optics solutions, Bukhgeim was able to prove the global uniqueness by the method of stationary phase. Bukhgeim's result was later improved to  $L^p(\Omega)$  with  $p > 2$  in [8] and [4].

In this paper, we push the uniqueness result even further to  $p > 4/3$ . To do so, we need to prove the existence of complex geometrical optics solutions with phase  $\Phi$  for such potentials. In fact, we show that such complex geometrical optics solutions exist for all potentials in  $L^p(\Omega)$  with  $p > 1$ . The improvement relies on a new estimate for the conjugated Cauchy operator (see Lemma 4.3). Having constructed the complex geometrical optics solutions, we then perform

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the usual step — substituting such special solutions into Alessandrini’s identity. In order to obtain the dominating term containing the difference of potentials in the method of stationary phase, we need to derive more refined estimates of terms of various orders in Alessandrini’s identity. In this step, we need to use the fact that the knowledge the DN map improves the integrability of the potential. In other words,  $\Lambda_{q_1} = \Lambda_{q_2}$  for  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $3/4 < p < 2$  implies  $q_1 - q_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$  (see [12]).

We would also like to mention another related paper. It was shown in [10, Thm 2.3] that if  $p > 1$  then for every  $z_0 \in \Omega$  there exists a *generic set* of potentials in  $L^p$  for which its value in a neighbourhood of  $z_0$  is recoverable. It was also remarked in [10] that the neighbourhood of  $z_0$  also depends on the chosen potential in the generic family which is determined by the choice of  $z_0 \in \Omega$ . Though the assumption on the  $L^p$  space of the potential is more general, the dependence of the generic set on the choice of the point  $z_0 \in \Omega$  and the dependence of the neighbourhood on the potential makes it unclear how a global identifiability result would follow from [10, Thm 2.3].

Intuitively, the uniqueness of the inverse boundary value problem is strongly related to the unique continuation property. For higher dimensions ( $n \geq 3$ ), it is known that the unique continuation holds for any solution  $u \in H_{loc}^{2, \frac{2n}{n+2}}(\Omega)$  when  $q \in L_{loc}^{n/2}$  (scale-invariant potentials) [9], where  $H_{loc}^{2,s}(\Omega) = \{u \in L_{loc}^1(\Omega) : \Delta u \in L_{loc}^s(\Omega)\}$ . In this situation, the global uniqueness of the inverse boundary value problem with  $q \in L^{n/2}$  was established in [6] (also see related result in [7] for  $n = 3, q \in W^{-1,3}$ ). When  $n = 2$ , the unique continuation holds relative to  $u \in H_{loc}^{2,s}$  for  $q \in L_{loc}^p$  with any  $p > 1$ , where  $s = \max\{1, \frac{2p}{p+2}\}$  [1]. Prior to [1], a weaker result which stated that the unique continuation property holds relative to  $u \in H_{loc}^{2,2}$  for  $q \in L_{loc}^p$  with  $p > 4/3$  was proved in [11]. Our uniqueness theorem of the inverse boundary value problem is consistent with the unique continuation result relative to  $u \in H_{loc}^{2,2}$ . It remains an interesting problem to close the gap of the uniqueness theorem for the inverse boundary value problem for  $q \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $1 < p \leq 4/3$ .

## 2 Main results

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $4/3 < p < 2$ . Assume 0 is not a Dirichlet-eigenvalue of either potential and that their Dirichlet-Neumann maps are identical  $\Lambda_{q_1} = \Lambda_{q_2}$ . Then  $q_1 = q_2$ .*

Let us fix some notational convention before stating our second theorem. Throughout this text we shall always assume the following, which we call *the usual assumptions*: Let  $\Omega, X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be bounded domains and  $\bar{\Omega} \subset\subset X$ . Fix a cut-off function  $\chi \in C_0^\infty(X)$  such that  $\chi \equiv 1$  on  $\Omega$ . Also, whenever we let a function belong to  $L^p(\Omega)$  for any  $p$  we automatically extend it by zero to  $L^p(X)$ . Finally, let  $\tau > 1$  and  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C} \equiv \mathbb{R}^2$  and set  $\Phi(z) = (z - z_0)^2$ . Moreover should  $\varphi_j$  or  $S_j$  be mentioned, then they refer to definitions 3.5 and 3.3. We now state the existence of complex geometrical optics solutions.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $q_j \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $1 < p < 2$ . For  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  let  $\beta_j = \beta_j(z_0)$  be uniformly bounded over a parameter  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ . Then for any  $z_0$  we may define the function  $\varphi_j$  from Definition 3.5 and the*

series

$$f_j(z) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} F_{j,m}(z) = e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} + \varphi_j(z) + S_j\varphi_j(z) + \dots$$

from Definition 3.6. The latter converges uniformly in the variable  $z \in X$  for  $\tau$  large enough and

$$\|F_{j,m}\|_{\infty} \leq (C\tau^{-\alpha})^m$$

for some  $C = C(p, \chi, q_j, \sup_{z_0} |\beta_j|)$ , where  $\alpha > 0$  is a constant obtained in Proposition 4.4. Moreover we have  $f_j \in W^{1,2}(X)$ . Lastly,  $(\Delta + q_1)(e^{i\tau\Phi} f_1) = 0$  and  $(\Delta + q_2)(e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_2) = 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

### 3 Notation and CGO solution buildup

In this section we shall start by defining the operators and notation used in the rest of the paper. At the same time we reduce the construction of Bukhgeim-type [5] complex geometrical optics solutions to an integral equation.

We shall use the complex geometrical optics solutions for  $(\Delta + q_j)u_j = 0$  of the form

$$u_1 = e^{i\tau\Phi} f_1, \quad u_2 = e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_2.$$

The special form of  $f_1, f_2$  which we are going to use was first defined in [8] and used in [4] for proving uniqueness for the boundary value inverse problem when the potentials are in  $L^p$ ,  $p > 2$ .

**Definition 3.1.** With the usual assumptions, define the differential operators

$$\begin{aligned} D_1 f &= -4e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \partial(e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \bar{\partial} f), \\ D_2 f &= -4e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \bar{\partial}(e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \partial f). \end{aligned}$$

**Lemma 3.2.** Let the usual assumptions hold. For  $q_j \in L^1(\Omega)$  and  $f_j \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\Delta + q_1)(e^{i\tau\Phi} f_1) = 0 &\quad \Leftrightarrow \quad D_1 f_1 = q_1 f_1, \\ (\Delta + q_2)(e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_2) = 0 &\quad \Leftrightarrow \quad D_2 f_2 = q_2 f_2, \end{aligned}$$

all in  $\Omega$ .

*Proof.* Use  $\Delta = 4\partial\bar{\partial} = 4\bar{\partial}\partial$  for distributions on  $\Omega$ . □

For inverting the operators  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  we will have to use conjugated versions of the Cauchy operators  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}$  and  $\partial^{-1}$ . We have included a short reminder of their properties in Section 6.

**Definition 3.3.** Let the usual assumptions hold. Then we define the operators  $S_1, S_2$  acting on  $f \in L^\infty(X)$  by

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 f &= -\frac{1}{4} \bar{\partial}^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi \partial^{-1} (e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} q_1 f)), \\ S_2 f &= -\frac{1}{4} \partial^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi \bar{\partial}^{-1} (e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} q_2 f)). \end{aligned}$$

*Remark 3.4.* We have  $D_j S_j f = q_j f$  in  $\Omega$  (but not in  $X \setminus \Omega$ ).

**Definition 3.5.** Let the usual assumptions hold and  $q_j \in L^1(\Omega)$ . Then for any given  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\beta_j = \beta_j(z_0)$ , we define functions of  $z \in X$  by

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1 &= \frac{1}{4} \bar{\partial}^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi(\beta_1(z_0) - \partial^{-1} q_1)), \\ \varphi_2 &= \frac{1}{4} \partial^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi(\beta_2(z_0) - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2)).\end{aligned}$$

Note that  $\partial^{-1} q_1$  and  $\bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2$  inside the parenthesis do not depend on  $z_0$ . For example

$$\varphi_1(z) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \frac{e^{-i\tau((z'-z_0)^2 + (\bar{z}' - \bar{z}_0)^2)} \chi(z') (\beta_1(z_0) - \partial^{-1} q_1(z'))}{z - z'} dm(z').$$

**Definition 3.6.** Let the usual assumptions hold. For  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  define

$$f_j = e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} S_j^m \varphi_j$$

where  $S_j$  is as in Definition 3.3 and  $\varphi_j$  as in Definition 3.5. For convenience we write

$$F_{j,0} = e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}, \quad F_{j,m} = S_j^{m-1} \varphi_j$$

when  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m \geq 1$ . Hence  $f_j = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} F_{j,m}$ .

We have made enough definitions now to show the structure of the complex geometrical optics solutions. Given  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\beta_j = \beta_j(z_0)$  we can show formally that if

$$u_1 = e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_1, \quad u_2 = e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_2,$$

then  $(\Delta + q_j)u_j = 0$  in  $\Omega$ . This follows from writing

$$f_j = e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} + \varphi_j + S_j(f_j - e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}),$$

applying  $D_j$  and noting that  $D_j(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}) = 0$ ,  $D_j S_j$  is the multiplication operator by  $q_j$  in  $\Omega$ , and  $D_j \varphi_j = q_j e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}$  in  $\Omega$ . Then  $D_j f_j = q_j f_j$  and Lemma 3.2 gives the rest. For proving actual existence and estimates, see the proof at the end of the next section.

## 4 Estimates for conjugated operators and CGO existence

In this section we will start by showing that a fundamental operator of the form  $a \mapsto \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} a)$  has decay properties as  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ . Section 7 contains the technical cut-off function estimates. Once estimates for this fundamental operator have been shown we can prove the required estimates for  $S_j$  from Definition 3.3. At the end of this section all the details for proving the existence

of complex geometrical optics solutions for  $L^p$ -potentials with  $1 < p < 2$ , i.e. Theorem 2.2, will be given. From now on, we define  $p^*$  satisfying the relation

$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{p^*}.$$

Thus, we have  $p^* > 2$ .

**Definition 4.1.** Let the usual assumptions hold. Define the operator  $\mathcal{T}$  by

$$\mathcal{T}a = \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}a).$$

**Lemma 4.2.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $\mathcal{T}$  as in Definition 4.1. Then, for  $p^* > 2$  we can extend  $\mathcal{T}$  to a mapping  $W_0^{1,p^*}(X) \rightarrow L^\infty(X)$  with norm estimate*

$$\|\mathcal{T}a\|_{L^\infty(X)} \leq C\tau^{-1/p^*} \|a\|_{W^{1,p^*}(X)},$$

where  $W_0^{1,p^*}(X)$  is the completion of  $C_0^\infty(X)$  under the  $W^{1,p^*}$ -norm.

*Proof.* Let  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be a test function supported in  $B(\bar{0}, 2)$  with  $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$  and  $\psi \equiv 1$  in  $B(\bar{0}, 1)$ . Write  $\psi_\tau(z) = \psi(\tau^{1/2}(z - z_0))$ . Let  $h(z) = (1 - \psi_\tau(z))/(\bar{z} - \bar{z}_0)$ . By integration by parts (Lemma 6.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}a) &= \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}\psi_\tau a) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2i\tau}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}ha - \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}\bar{\partial}ha) - \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}h\bar{\partial}a)). \end{aligned}$$

Then recall that by Lemma 6.4 we have  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}: L^{p^*}(X) \rightarrow W^{1,p^*}(X)$ , the latter of which is embedded into  $L^\infty(X)$  since  $p^* > 2$ . Hence, by taking the  $L^\infty(X)$ -norm we have

$$\|\mathcal{T}a\|_\infty \leq C(\|\psi_\tau a\|_{p^*} + \tau^{-1}(\|ha\|_\infty + \|\bar{\partial}ha\|_{p^*} + \|h\bar{\partial}a\|_{p^*})).$$

The claim follows from Hölder's inequality and lemmas 7.1 and 7.3 after estimating

$$\|\mathcal{T}a\|_\infty \leq C(\|\psi_\tau\|_{p^*} + \tau^{-1}(\|h\|_\infty + \|\bar{\partial}h\|_{p^*}))(\|a\|_\infty + \|\bar{\partial}a\|_{p^*})$$

and noting that  $\tau^{-1/2} \leq \tau^{-1/p^*}$  since  $\tau > 1$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.3.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $\mathcal{T}$  be as in Definition 4.1. Assume that  $2 < p^* < \infty$  and  $1/2 + 1/p^* \geq 1/q > 1/2$ . Then we can extend  $\mathcal{T}$  to a mapping  $W_0^{1,q}(X) \rightarrow L^{p^*}(X)$  with norm*

$$\|\mathcal{T}a\|_{L^{p^*}(X)} \leq C\tau^{1/q-1-1/p^*} \|a\|_{W^{1,q}(X)}$$

where  $C = C(p, q, X)$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be a test function supported in  $B(0, 2)$  with  $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$  and  $\psi \equiv 1$  in  $B(0, 1)$ . For  $\tau > 0$  and  $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  write  $\psi_\tau(z) = \psi(\tau^{1/2}(z - z_0))$ . Let  $h(z) = (1 - \psi_\tau(z))/(\bar{z} - \bar{z}_0)$ . Integration by parts gives

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}a) &= \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}\psi_\tau a) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2i\tau}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}ha - \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}\bar{\partial}ha) - \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}h\bar{\partial}a)) \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 6.3.

Sobolev embedding and Lemma 6.4 imply that  $\bar{\partial}^{-1} : L^p(X) \rightarrow L^{p^*}(X)$ . Taking the  $L^{p^*}(X)$ -norm gives

$$\|\mathcal{T}a\|_{p^*} \leq C(\|\psi_\tau a\|_p + \tau^{-1}(\|ha\|_{p^*} + \|\bar{\partial}ha\|_p + \|h\bar{\partial}a\|_p)).$$

Again, recall that  $W^{1,q}(X) \hookrightarrow L^{q^*}(X)$  where  $1/q^* = 1/q - 1/2$ . Hölder's inequality gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi_\tau a\|_p &\leq \|\psi_\tau\|_{r_1} \|a\|_{q^*}, & \frac{1}{r_1} &= \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q^*} = 1 + \frac{1}{p^*} - \frac{1}{q}, \\ \|ha\|_{p^*} &\leq \|h\|_{r_2} \|a\|_{q^*}, & \frac{1}{r_2} &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{p^*} - \frac{1}{q}, \\ \|\bar{\partial}ha\|_p &\leq \|\bar{\partial}h\|_{r_1} \|a\|_{q^*}, \\ \|h\bar{\partial}a\|_p &\leq \|h\|_{r_2} \|\bar{\partial}a\|_q. \end{aligned}$$

Lemmas 7.1 and 7.3 then give

$$\begin{aligned} \|\psi_\tau a\|_p &\leq C\tau^{-1-1/p^*+1/q} \|a\|_{q^*}, \\ \|ha\|_{p^*} &\leq C\tau^{-1/p^*+1/q} \|a\|_{q^*}, \\ \|\bar{\partial}ha\|_p &\leq C\tau^{-1/p^*+1/q} \|a\|_{q^*}, \\ \|h\bar{\partial}a\|_p &\leq C\tau^{-1/p^*+1/q} \|\bar{\partial}a\|_q, \end{aligned}$$

which implies the claim.  $\square$

**Proposition 4.4.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and let  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$  where  $1 < p < 2$ . Then we can extend  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  from Definition 3.3 to the following maps with corresponding norm estimates*

$$\begin{aligned} S_j : L^\infty(X) &\rightarrow L^{p^*}(X), & \|S_j f\|_{p^*} &\leq C\tau^{-1/2} \|f\|_\infty, \\ S_j : L^\infty(X) &\rightarrow L^\infty(X), & \|S_j f\|_\infty &\leq C\tau^{-\alpha} \|f\|_\infty, \end{aligned}$$

where  $C = C(p, \chi) \|q_j\|_p$  and  $0 < \alpha < 1/p$  with  $\alpha = \alpha(p)$ . If in addition  $p > 4/3$  then we have the extension

$$S_j : L^{p^*}(X) \rightarrow L^{p^*/2}(X), \quad \|S_j f\|_{p^*/2} \leq C\tau^{-1/2} \|f\|_{p^*}.$$

*Proof.* We shall prove the claim for  $j = 1$ . The other case follows similarly. Using the notation from Lemma 4.3 we can write  $-4S_1 f = \mathcal{T}(\chi\bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}q_1 f))$ . The lemma combined with Lemma 6.4 gives us

$$\|S_1 f\|_{q^*} \leq C\tau^{-1/2} \left\| \chi\bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}q_1 f) \right\|_{W^{1,q}} \leq C\tau^{-1/2} \|q_1 f\|_q$$

whenever  $2 < q^* < \infty$  and  $1/q = 1/2 + 1/q^*$ . For the first estimate choose  $q = p$ ,  $q^* = p^*$ , and for the third one  $1/q = 1/p + 1/p^*$ ,  $q^* = p^*/2$ . Hölder's inequality implies the rest.

The second claim follows by interpolation. Let  $2 < Q < \infty$  and  $1 < q < p$ . If  $q_1 \in L^Q(X)$  then by Lemma 4.2

$$\|S_1 f\|_\infty \leq C\tau^{-1/Q} \left\| \chi\bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}q_1 f) \right\|_{W^{1,Q}}$$

and Lemma 6.4 gives the bound  $C\tau^{-1/Q} \|q_1\|_Q \|f\|_\infty$ . The latter lemma and Sobolev embedding imply that  $\partial^{-1} : L^q \rightarrow L^{q^*}$  and  $\bar{\partial}^{-1} : L^{q^*} \rightarrow L^\infty$ . Hence  $\|S_1 f\|_\infty \leq C \|q_1\|_q \|f\|_\infty$ . Since  $q < p < Q$  and  $1/Q > 0$  interpolation gives us the second estimate with some  $\alpha > 0$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.5.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $q_j \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $1 < p < 2$ . Then  $\varphi_j$ , the function of  $z \in X$  given by Definition 3.5, is in  $L^\infty(X)$  with norm*

$$\|\varphi_j\|_\infty \leq C\tau^{-\alpha}$$

for  $\alpha > 0$  as in Proposition 4.4, and is in  $L^{p^*}(X)$  satisfying

$$\|\varphi_j\|_{p^*} \leq C\tau^{-1/2},$$

where  $C = C(p, \chi)(\|q_j\|_p + |\beta_j(z_0)|)$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $\varphi_1 = \frac{1}{4}\beta_1(z_0)\bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}\chi) + S_1(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})})$  and use Proposition 4.4 and lemmas 4.2 and 4.3.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.2.* By Proposition 4.4 and Lemma 4.5 we have

$$\|S_j f\|_\infty \leq C(p, \chi) \|q_j\|_p \tau^{-\alpha} \|f\|_\infty, \quad \|\varphi_j\|_\infty \leq C(p, \chi)(\|q_j\|_p + |\beta_j(z_0)|)\tau^{-\alpha}$$

where these norms are over the variable  $z \in X$ . Hence we get  $\|F_{j,m}\|_\infty \leq C^m \tau^{-m\alpha}$  for some  $C = C(p, \chi, q_j, \sup_{z_0} |\beta_j(z_0)|)$  when  $m \geq 0$ . If  $\tau > C^{1/\alpha}$  then the series for  $f_j$  converges in  $L^\infty(X)$ .

The following observations, which are each easy to check in  $\mathcal{D}'(X)$ , imply that  $D_j f_j = q_j f_j$  in  $\Omega$ . Note that  $\beta_j$  are functions of the parameter  $z_0$  but constant in the variable  $z$ . Recall the definitions 3.1, 3.3 and 3.5 of  $D_j$ ,  $S_j$  and  $\varphi_j$ . Then

- $f_j = e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} + \varphi_j + S_j(f_j - e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})})$ ,
- $D_j(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}) = 0$ ,
- $D_j S_j f = q_j f$  in  $\Omega$ ,
- $D_j \varphi_j = q_j e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}$  in  $\Omega$ .

Lemma 3.2 shows that we indeed get solutions to  $(\Delta + q_j)u_j = 0$ .

Recall that  $1/p = 1/2 + 1/p^*$ . Then by Lemma 6.4 we have  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}, \partial^{-1} : L^{p^*} \rightarrow W^{1,p^*}$  which embeds to  $W^{1,2}$  locally since  $p^* > 2$ . Moreover by Sobolev embedding we have  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}, \partial^{-1} : L^p \rightarrow L^{p^*}$ . Hence by the first item above  $f_j \in W^{1,2}(X)$ .  $\square$

## 5 Proof of the main result

We will prove Theorem 2.1 in this section. The proof will be split into several lemmas. By Alessandrini's identity

$$\int_{\Omega} (q_1 - q_2) u_1 u_2 dx = 0$$

for solutions  $u_j$  to  $(\Delta + q_j)u_j = 0$  in  $\Omega$ . For any parameter  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  let  $u_j$  be the complex geometrical optics solution given by Theorem 2.2. Recall that they are defined in  $X \supset \Omega$  but are solutions only in  $\Omega$ . Then the product  $u_1 u_2$  will be a series of terms, and these will have to be estimated carefully. Lemmas 5.1 – 5.6 deal with this. The main proof follows.

**Lemma 5.1.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $1 < p < 2$  with  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$ . Let  $f_1, f_2 \in L^\infty(X)$  be as in Theorem 2.2 and set  $u_1 = e^{i\tau\Phi} f_1$  and  $u_2 = e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_2$ . Then*

$$\frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) u_1 u_2 dx = \sum_{k+l=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx$$

where  $k, l \geq 0$  and the sum converges in the  $L^\infty(X)$ -norm with respect to  $z_0$ .

*Proof.* We can estimate

$$\left| \int \sum_{k+l=N}^{\infty} (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx \right| \leq \int \sum_{k+l=N}^{\infty} |q_1 - q_2| |F_{1,k}| |F_{2,l}| dx$$

and use the  $z_0$ -independent estimates for  $F_{j,m}$  from Theorem 2.2 to see that the remainder tends to zero as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence the sum can be taken out of the integral and the claim follows.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.2.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $4/3 < p < 2$ . For  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  take  $F_{j,m}$  as in Definition 3.6.*

*Then if  $q_1 - q_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$  we have*

$$\left| \tau \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx \right| \leq C^{k+l} \tau^{-(k+l-2)\alpha}.$$

when  $k+l \geq 3$ . Here  $C = C(p, \chi, \|q_1\|_p, \|q_2\|_p, \|q_1 - q_2\|_2)(1 + |\beta_1(z_0)| + |\beta_2(z_0)|)$  and  $\alpha > 0$  is as in Proposition 4.4.

*Proof.* We may assume that  $k \geq l$ . By Hölder's inequality the integral can be estimated with

$$C\tau \|q_1 - q_2\|_2 \|F_{1,k}\|_{p^*/2} \|F_{2,l}\|_\infty$$

because  $p > 4/3$  implies  $p^* > 4$  for  $1/p = 1/2 + 1/p^*$  and then  $1/2 + 2/p^* \leq 1$ . Proposition 4.4 and Lemma 4.5 imply the following estimates

$$\begin{aligned} \|F_{j,0}\|_\infty &= 1, & \|F_{j,1}\|_\infty &\leq C\tau^{-\alpha}, & \|F_{j,1}\|_{p^*} &\leq C\tau^{-1/2}, \\ \|F_{j,m+1}\|_\infty &\leq C\tau^{-\alpha} \|F_{j,m}\|_\infty, \\ \|F_{j,m+1}\|_{p^*} &\leq C\tau^{-1/2} \|F_{j,m}\|_\infty, \\ \|F_{j,m+1}\|_{p^*/2} &\leq C\tau^{-1/2} \|F_{j,m}\|_{p^*} \end{aligned}$$



for  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $m = 1, 2, \dots$ . These imply

$$\|F_{1,k}\|_{p^*/2} \leq C^k \tau^{-1-(k-2)\alpha}, \quad \|F_{2,l}\|_\infty \leq C^l \tau^{-l\alpha}$$

for  $k \geq 2, l \geq 0$ . The claim is direct consequence.  $\square$

From Lemma 5.2, we can see that the higher order terms decay in  $\tau$  whenever  $k+l \geq 3$ . A more refined estimate shows that the term of  $k+l = 2$  also decays.

**Lemma 5.3.** *Let the usual assumption hold and  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $4/3 < p < 2$ . For  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  let  $F_{j,m}$  be as in Definition 3.6. Assume that  $q_1 - q_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$ . For  $k+l = 2$ , we have*

$$\left| \tau \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx \right| \leq C \tau^{1/p-3/4},$$

where the constant  $C$  is of the form  $C(p, \chi, \|q_1\|_p, \|q_2\|_p, \|q_1 - q_2\|_2)(1 + |\beta_1(z_0)| + |\beta_2(z_0)|)$ .

*Proof.* We can assume that  $k \geq l$ . There are two cases:  $k = 2, l = 0$  and  $k = l = 1$ . Start with the first one. The integral with  $F_{1,2} F_{2,0}$  is

$$-\frac{1}{4} \tau \int (q_1 - q_2) \bar{\partial}^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi \partial^{-1} (e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} q_1 \varphi_1)) dx$$

by Definition 3.3. We have  $q_1 - q_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$  and hence we should take the  $L^{r^*}(X)$ -norm of the remaining factor for any  $r^* \geq 2$ .

We note that  $\varphi_1 \in L^{p^*}(X)$  and  $q_1 \in L^p(X)$ . Hence their product is in  $L^q(X)$  with  $1/q = 1/p + 1/p^* = 2/p - 1/2$ . Choose  $1/r^* = 1/p - 1/4$ . Then  $2 < r^* < \infty$  and  $1/2 + 1/r^* \geq 1/q > 1/2$  since  $4/3 < p < 2$ . Hence by Lemma 4.3

$$\left\| \bar{\partial}^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi \partial^{-1} (e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} q_1 \varphi_1)) \right\|_{r^*} \leq C \tau^{1/q-1-1/r^*} \|q_1\|_p \|\varphi_1\|_{p^*}$$

and the exponential is  $1/q - 1 - 1/r^* = 1/p - 5/4$ . Recall that  $\|\varphi_1\|_{p^*} \leq C \tau^{-1/2}$  by Lemma 4.5. The claim for  $k = 2, l = 0$  follows.

In the case  $k = l = 1$  note that  $\beta_1(z_0) - \partial^{-1} q_1 \in W^{1,p}(X)$  by Lemma 6.4. Note that  $4/3 < p < 2$  implies  $1/2 + 1/4 \geq 1/p > 1/2$ . Then by Lemma 4.3

$$\|\varphi_1\|_4 \leq C \tau^{1/p-1-1/4} \|\beta_1(z_0) - \partial^{-1} q_1\|_{W^{1,p}} \leq C \tau^{1/p-5/4} (|\beta_1(z_0)| + \|q_1\|_p).$$

When  $k = l = 1$ , the absolute value of the integral in the lemma statement becomes

$$\left| \tau \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \varphi_1 \varphi_2 dx \right| \leq \|q_1 - q_2\|_2 \tau \|\varphi_1\|_4 \|\varphi_2\|_4$$

by Hölder's inequality. The claim follows since  $\tau^{2/p-6/4} < \tau^{1/p-3/4}$  when  $\tau > 1$  and  $p > 4/3$ .  $\square$

We recall the method of stationary phase and its convergence in the  $L^2$ -sense before proceeding to deal with terms of order one and zero in the Alessandrini identity.

**Lemma 5.4.** For  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ ,  $\Phi(z) = (z - z_0)^2$  and  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$  define the operator

$$Ef(z_0) = \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} f(z) dm(z)$$

for  $f \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{C})$ . Here  $dm(z)$  is the two-dimensional Lebesgue measure in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Then  $E$  can be extended to a unitary operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{C})$  such that

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \pm\infty} \|Ef - f\|_2 = 0.$$

*Proof.* Consider the function  $z \mapsto 2\tau \exp(-i(z^2 + \bar{z}^2))/\pi$  defined on  $\mathbb{C} \equiv \mathbb{R}^2$ . Its Fourier transform is  $\exp(i(\xi^2 + \bar{\xi}^2)/(16\tau))$  by for example [4]. We have  $Ef = \frac{2\tau}{\pi} e^{-i(z^2 + \bar{z}^2)} * f$  and hence  $\mathcal{F}\{Ef\}(\xi) = e^{i\frac{\xi^2 + \bar{\xi}^2}{16\tau}} \hat{f}(\xi)$ . Parseval's theorem implies the unitary extension to  $L^2(\mathbb{C})$ . When  $\tau \rightarrow \pm\infty$  the exponential tends to 1 pointwise. Dominated convergence and Parseval's theorem imply the second claim.  $\square$

The following way of dealing with the first order terms comes from [8, 4].

**Lemma 5.5.** Let the usual assumptions hold and  $q_1, q_2 \in L^p(\Omega)$  with  $4/3 < p < 2$ . For  $j \in \{1, 2\}$  and  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , let  $F_{j,m}$  be as in Definition 3.6. Moreover let  $\beta_j \in L^\infty(X)$  with respect to the  $z_0$ -variable. Then

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx \right\|_2 \leq C \left\| \beta_2 - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2 \right\|_{p^*} \|q_1 - q_2\|_p$$

for  $k = 1, l = 0$ , where the  $L^2(X)$ -norm is taken over the variable  $z_0$  and  $C = C(p, \chi)$ . A similar bound holds for  $k = 0$  and  $l = 1$ .

*Proof.* Recall that  $\varphi_2 = \frac{1}{4} \partial^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi(\beta_2(z_0) - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2))$  and hence the integral becomes

$$\frac{\tau}{2\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) \partial^{-1} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi(\beta_2(z_0) - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2)) dx$$

when  $k = 1, l = 0$ . By Fubini's theorem this is equal to

$$-\frac{\tau}{2\pi} \int e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \chi(\beta_2(z_0) - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2) \partial^{-1} (q_1 - q_2) dx,$$

and using the stationary phase operator of Lemma 5.4 it is equal to

$$\frac{1}{4} E(\chi \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2 \partial^{-1} (q_1 - q_2))(z_0) - \frac{1}{4} \beta_2(z_0) E(\chi \partial^{-1} (q_1 - q_2))(z_0).$$

We have  $\partial^{-1}(q_1 - q_2) \in L^{p^*}(X)$  where  $p^* > 4$  since  $p > 4/3$  (e.g. Lemma 6.4 and Sobolev embedding). Similarly  $\chi \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2 \in L^{p^*}(\mathbb{C})$ . Their product is in  $L^2(\mathbb{C})$  since  $\chi$  has compact support. Hence the operator  $E$  is being applied to  $L^2(\mathbb{C})$ -functions above. Since  $z_0 \mapsto \beta_2(z_0)$  is uniformly bounded, the above converges to

$$\frac{1}{4} \chi(\bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2 - \beta_2) \partial^{-1} (q_1 - q_2)$$

in the  $L^2(\mathbb{C})$ -norm with respect to  $z_0$  as  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$  by Lemma 5.4. The claim follows from the norm estimates at the beginning of this paragraph.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.6.** *Let the usual assumptions hold and  $q_1 - q_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$ . Then*

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi + \bar{\Phi})} F_{1,0} F_{2,0} dx - (q_1 - q_2) \right\|_2 = 0,$$

where  $F_{j,0}$  are as in Definition 3.6 and the norm is taken with respect to the variable  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$ .

*Proof.* This follows directly from  $F_{j,0} = \exp(-i\tau(\Phi + \bar{\Phi}))$  and the stationary phase Lemma 5.4.  $\square$

We are ready to prove uniqueness for the inverse problem with potential in  $L^p$ ,  $4/3 < p < 2$ .

*Proof of Theorem 2.1.* In view of Green's identity and the symmetry of the DN map, we can see that the condition of identical Dirichlet-Neumann maps imply that

$$\int_{\Omega} (q_1 - q_2) u_1 u_2 dx = 0$$

for any solution  $u_j \in W^{1,2}(\Omega)$  to  $(\Delta + q_j)u_j = 0$  in  $\Omega$ . We also note that Theorem 3 in [12] implies that  $q_1 - q_2 \in H^t(\Omega)$  for any  $t < 3 - 4/p$ . Hence  $q_1 - q_2 \in L^2(\Omega)$ .

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and take  $\beta_j \in C_0^\infty(X)$  such that

$$\|\beta_1 - \partial^{-1} q_1\|_{L^{p^*}(X)} < \varepsilon, \quad \|\beta_2 - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2\|_{L^{p^*}(X)} < \varepsilon \quad (2)$$

which is possible since  $\partial^{-1} q_1, \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2 \in L^{p^*}$  by Sobolev embedding and Lemma 6.4. Let  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and from now  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  shall be evaluated at  $z_0$  if not mentioned otherwise, and note that they are uniformly bounded. Then, given  $\tau > 1$  large enough let  $u_1 = e^{i\tau\Phi} f_1$  and  $u_2 = e^{i\tau\bar{\Phi}} f_2$  be the solutions in the variable  $z$  with parameter  $z_0$ , given by Theorem 2.2. They are in  $W^{1,2}(X)$  and satisfy  $(\Delta + q_j)u_j = 0$  in  $\Omega$ . By Lemma 5.1 we have

$$\frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) u_1 u_2 dx = \sum_{k+l=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi + \bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx.$$

In view of lemmas 5.2 and 5.3

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k+l=2}^{\infty} \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \left| \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi + \bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx \right| &\leq C \tau^{1/p-3/4} + \sum_{k+l=3}^{\infty} C^{k+l} \tau^{-(k+l-2)\alpha} \\ &= C \left( \tau^{1/p-3/4} + \sum_{N=3}^{\infty} (N+1) (C\tau)^{-(N-2)\alpha} \right) \end{aligned}$$

for any  $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and where  $C = C_{p,q_1,q_2,\Omega} (1 + \|\beta_1\|_\infty + \|\beta_2\|_\infty)$ . Recall that  $p > 4/3$  so the first exponent is negative. Note that for  $\tau$  sufficiently large,  $(C\tau)^{-\alpha} < 1$  so the sum can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{N=3}^{\infty} (N+1) ((C\tau)^{-\alpha})^{N-2} &= \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} (N+1) ((C\tau)^{-\alpha})^N + 2 \sum_{N=1}^{\infty} ((C\tau)^{-\alpha})^N \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - (C\tau)^{-\alpha})^2} - 1 + \frac{2(C\tau)^{-\alpha}}{1 - (C\tau)^{-\alpha}}, \end{aligned}$$

which tends to zero as  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence the sum of the terms with  $k + l \geq 2$  in the original sum tends to zero when  $\beta_j$  are fixed.

For the terms with  $k + l \in \{0, 1\}$  we will use lemmas 5.5 and 5.6. By them

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \left\| \sum_{k+l=0}^1 \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx - (q_1 - q_2) \right\|_{L^2(X)} \\ & \leq C(\|\beta_1 - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_1\|_{L^{p^*}(X)} + \|\beta_2 - \bar{\partial}^{-1} q_2\|_{L^{p^*}(X)}) \leq 2C\varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

where the  $L^2(X)$ -norm is taken with respect to  $z_0$  and this time  $C$  does not depend on  $\beta_1$  or  $\beta_2$ . We can redo this whole argument for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , and thus by Alessandrini's identity

$$\|q_1 - q_2\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \left\| q_1 - q_2 - \sum_{k+l=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\tau}{\pi} \int (q_1 - q_2) e^{i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} F_{1,k} F_{2,l} dx \right\|_{L^2(\Omega)}$$

the latter of which can be made as small as we please by choosing  $\beta_1, \beta_2$ . The claim follows.  $\square$

## 6 Appendix 1: Cauchy operator and integration by parts

We define the two fundamental tools for solving the two-dimensional inverse problem of the Schrödinger operator in this section: the Cauchy operators and an integration by parts formula for the Cauchy operator conjugated by an exponential. These were used by Bukhgeim [5] for solving the problem.

**Definition 6.1.** Let  $u \in \mathcal{E}'(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be a compactly supported distribution. Then we define the *Cauchy operators* by

$$\bar{\partial}^{-1} u = \frac{1}{\pi z} * u, \quad \partial^{-1} u = \frac{1}{\pi \bar{z}} * u.$$

*Remark 6.2.* The notations  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}$  and  $\partial^{-1}$  cause no problems because  $1/(\pi z)$  and  $1/(\pi \bar{z})$  are the fundamental solutions to the operators  $\bar{\partial} = (\partial_1 + i\partial_2)/2$  and  $\partial = (\partial_1 - i\partial_2)/2$ .

**Lemma 6.3.** Let  $\tau > 0$ ,  $z_0 \in \mathbb{C}$  and  $\Phi(z) = (z - z_0)^2$ . Let  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  with  $\psi \equiv 1$  in a neighbourhood of 0, and write

$$\psi_\tau(z) = \psi(\tau^{1/2}(z - z_0)), \quad h(z) = \frac{1 - \psi_\tau(z)}{\bar{z} - \bar{z}_0}.$$

Then for  $a \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  we have the integration by parts formula

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} a) &= \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \psi_\tau a) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2i\tau} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} h a - \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \bar{\partial} h a) - \bar{\partial}^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} h \bar{\partial} a)). \end{aligned}$$

If we had set  $h(z) = (1 - \psi_\tau(z))/(z - z_0)$  instead then

$$\begin{aligned} \partial^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} a) &= \partial^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \psi a) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2i\tau} (e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} h a - \partial^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} \partial h a) - \partial^{-1}(e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})} h \partial a)). \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The proof follows by differentiating  $e^{-i\tau(\Phi+\bar{\Phi})}ha$  and noting that by Remark 6.2 the operators  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}\bar{\partial}$  and  $\partial^{-1}\partial$  are the identity on compactly supported distributions.  $\square$

**Lemma 6.4.** *Let  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  be a bounded domain and  $1 < p < \infty$ . Then the Cauchy operators  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}$  and  $\partial^{-1}$  are bounded  $L^p(X) \rightarrow W^{1,p}(X)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $f \in L^p(X)$  we extend it by zero to  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus X$  to create a compactly supported distribution and thus  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}f$  is well defined by Definition 6.1. The convolution kernel  $1/(\pi z)$  is locally integrable, so by Young's inequality

$$\left\| \bar{\partial}^{-1}f \right\|_{L^p(X)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^p(X)},$$

because in essence  $\bar{\partial}^{-1}f$  has the same values in  $X$  as the convolution of  $f$  with the kernel  $\chi_{X-X}(z)/(\pi z)$ , where  $X-X = \{z \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid z = z_1 - z_2, z_j \in \mathbb{R}^2\}$ .

For the derivatives note that by Remark 6.2 we have  $\bar{\partial}\bar{\partial}^{-1}f = f$ . On the other hand  $\partial\bar{\partial}^{-1}f = \Pi f$  which is the Beurling transform, and hence bounded  $L^p(X) \rightarrow L^p(X)$ . For reference see for example Section 4.5.2 in [2] or [13] for a more classical approach.  $\square$

## 7 Appendix 2: Cut-off function estimates

This section contains all the technical cut-off function construction and norm estimates used in the paper.

**Lemma 7.1.** *Let  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$ . For  $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\tau > 0$  write  $\psi_\tau(z) = \psi(\tau^{1/2}(z - z_0))$ . Then, given any vector  $v \in \mathbb{C}^2$ , we have*

$$\|\psi_\tau\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} = \|\psi\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} \tau^{-1/p}, \quad \|v \cdot \nabla \psi_\tau\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} = \|v \cdot \nabla \psi\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} \tau^{1/2-1/p}$$

for  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ .

*Proof.* This follows directly from the scaling properties and translation invariance of  $L^p$ -norms in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 7.2.** *Let  $\tau > 0$  and set  $\mathbb{R}_\tau^2 = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B(0, \tau^{-1/2})$ . Then*

$$\|z^{-a}\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}_\tau^2)} = \left( \frac{2\pi}{ap-2} \right)^{1/p} \tau^{a/2-1/p}$$

for  $a > 0$  and  $2/a < p \leq \infty$ .

*Proof.* This is a direct computation using the polar coordinates integral transform  $\int_{\mathbb{R}_\tau^2} \dots dz = \int_{\tau^{-1/2}}^\infty \int_{\mathbb{S}^1} \dots d\sigma(\theta)rdr$ , with  $z = r\theta$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 7.3.** *Let  $\psi \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  be a test function supported in  $B(0, 2)$  with  $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$  and  $\psi \equiv 1$  in  $B(0, 1)$ . For  $\tau > 0$  and  $z_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$  write  $\psi_\tau(z) = \psi(\tau^{1/2}(z - z_0))$ . Let  $h(z) = (1 - \psi_\tau(z))/(\bar{z} - \bar{z}_0)$ . Then*

$$\|h\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leq C_p \tau^{1/2-1/p}$$

for  $C_p < \infty$  when  $2 < p \leq \infty$  and for any complex vector  $v \in \mathbb{C}^2$  we have

$$\|v \cdot \nabla h\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leq C_{\psi,p,v} \tau^{1-1/p}$$

for  $C_{\psi,p,v} < \infty$  when  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$ . The same conclusions hold if we had defined  $h$  by dividing  $1 - \psi_\tau$  by  $z - z_0$  instead of its complex conjugate.

*Proof.* For the first claim note that  $|h(z)| \leq |z - z_0|^{-1}$  and  $\text{supp } h \subset \mathbb{R}_\tau^2 + z_0 = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B(z_0, \tau^{-1/2})$ . Hence  $\|h\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^2)} \leq \|z^{-1}\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}_\tau^2)}$  and Lemma 7.2 takes care of the first estimate.

For the second estimate

$$v \cdot \nabla h(z) = \frac{v \cdot \nabla \psi_\tau(z)}{\bar{z} - \bar{z}_0} - \frac{1 - \psi_\tau(z)}{(\bar{z} - \bar{z}_0)^2}.$$

The  $L^p$ -norm of the first term is bounded by  $\|v \cdot \nabla \psi_\tau\|_{L^p} \|z^{-1}\|_{L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_\tau^2)}$  which is at most  $C_{\psi,p,v} \tau^{1-1/p}$  according to lemmas 7.1 and 7.2. The second term is supported in  $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus B(z_0, \tau^{-1/2})$  and bounded pointwise by  $|z - z_0|^{-2}$ . Hence, as in the first paragraph, it has the required bound.  $\square$

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