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UNIFORM SEMIGROUP SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF THE DISCRETE, FRACTIONAL AND CLASSICAL FOKKER-PLANCK EQUATIONS

by Stéphane Mischler & Isabelle Tristani

Abstract. — In this paper, we investigate the spectral analysis and long time asymptotic convergence of semigroups associated to discrete, fractional and classical Fokker-Planck equations in some regime where the corresponding operators are close. We successively deal with the discrete and the classical Fokker-Planck model, the fractional and the classical Fokker-Planck model and finally the discrete and the fractional Fokker-Planck model. In each case, we prove uniform spectral estimates using perturbation and/or enlargement arguments.

Résumé (Analyse spectrale uniforme des équations de Fokker-Planck discrète, fractionnaire et classique)

Dans cet article, nous nous intéressons à l'analyse spectrale et au comportement asymptotique en temps long des semi-groupes associés aux équations de Fokker-Planck discrète, fractionnaire et classique dans des régimes où les opérateurs correspondants sont proches. Nous traitons successivement les modèles de Fokker-Planck discret et classique, puis fractionnaire et classique et enfin discret et fractionnaire. Dans chaque cas, nous démontrons des estimations spectrales uniformes en utilisant des arguments de perturbation et/ou d'élargissement.

Contents

Mathematical subject classification (2010). — 47G20, 35B40, 35Q84.
Keywords. — Fokker-Planck equation, fractional Laplacian, spectral gap, exponential rate of convergence, long-time asymptotic, semigroup, dissipativity.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Models and main result. — In this paper, we are interested in the spectral analysis and the long time asymptotic convergence of semigroups associated to some discrete, fractional and classical Fokker-Planck equations. They are simple models for describing the time evolution of a density function $f = f(t,x)$, $t \geqslant 0$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, of particles undergoing both diffusion and (harmonic) confinement mechanisms and write

$$\partial_t f = \Lambda f = \mathcal{D} f + \mathrm{div}(xf), \quad f(0) = f_0. \tag{1.1}$$

The diffusion term may either be a discrete diffusion

$$\mathcal{D} f = \Delta_\kappa f := \kappa * f - \|\kappa\|_{L^1} f,$$

for a convenient (at least nonnegative and symmetric) kernel κ. It can also be a fractional diffusion

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{D} f)(x) &= -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f(x) \\ &:= c_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{f(y) - f(x) - \chi(x-y)(x-y)\cdot \nabla f(x)}{|x-y|^{d+\alpha}}\, dy, \end{aligned} \tag{1.2}$$

with $\alpha \in (0,2)$, $\chi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ radially symmetric satisfying the inequality $\mathbb{1}_{B(0,1)} \leqslant \chi \leqslant \mathbb{1}_{B(0,2)}$, and a convenient normalization constant $c_\alpha > 0$. It can finally be the classical diffusion

$$\mathcal{D} f = \Delta f := \sum_{i=1}^d \partial^2_{x_i x_i} f.$$

The main features of these equations are (expected to be) the same: they are mass preserving, namely

$$\langle f_t \rangle = \langle f_0 \rangle, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0, \quad \langle f \rangle := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f\, dx,$$

positivity preserving, have a unique positive stationary state with unit mass that we denote by G here and that stationary state is exponentially stable, meaning that

$$f_t \longrightarrow \langle f_0 \rangle G \quad \text{as} \quad t \longrightarrow \infty, \tag{1.3}$$

with an exponential rate for any solution f_t associated to an initial datum f_0 with mass $\langle f_0 \rangle$. Such results can be obtained using different tools as the spectral analysis of self-adjoint operators, some (generalization of) Poincaré inequalities or logarithmic Sobolev inequalities as well as the Krein-Rutman theory for positive semigroup.

The aim of this paper is to deal with the above generalized Fokker-Planck equations in an unified way and, more importantly, to establish that the convergence (1.3) is exponentially fast for a large class of initial data taken in a fixed weighted Lebesgue or weighted Sobolev space X, with a rate of convergence which can be chosen uniformly with respect to the diffusion term.

We investigate three regimes where these diffusion operators are close and for which such a uniform convergence can be established. In Section 2, we first consider the case

when the diffusion operator is discrete

$$\mathcal{D}f = \mathcal{D}_\varepsilon f := \Delta_{\kappa_\varepsilon} f, \quad \kappa_\varepsilon := \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\, k_\varepsilon,$$

where k is a nonnegative, symmetric, normalized, smooth and decaying fast enough kernel and where we use the notation $k_\varepsilon(x) = k(x/\varepsilon)/\varepsilon^d$, $\varepsilon > 0$. In the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$, one then recovers the classical diffusion operator $\mathcal{D}_0 = \Delta$.

In Section 3, we next consider the case when the diffusion operator is fractional

$$\mathcal{D}f = \mathcal{D}_\varepsilon f := -(-\Delta)^{(2-\varepsilon)/2} f, \quad \varepsilon \in (0,2),$$

so that in the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$ we also recover the classical diffusion operator $\mathcal{D}_0 = \Delta$.

In Section 4, we finally consider the case when the diffusion operator is a discrete version of the fractional diffusion, namely

$$\mathcal{D}f = \mathcal{D}_\varepsilon f := \Delta_{\kappa_\varepsilon} f,$$

where (κ_ε) is a family of convenient bounded kernels which converges towards the kernel of the fractional diffusion operator $k_0 := c_\alpha\, |\cdot|^{-d-\alpha}$ for some fixed $\alpha \in (0,2)$, in particular, in the limit $\varepsilon \to 0$, one may recover the fractional diffusion operator $\mathcal{D}_0 = -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2}$.

In order to write a rough version of our main result, we introduce some notation. We define the weighted Lebesgue space L^1_r, $r \geqslant 0$, as the space of measurable functions f such that $f\,\langle x\rangle^r \in L^1$, where $\langle x\rangle^2 := 1 + |x|^2$. For any $f_0 \in L^1_r$, we denote as f_t the solution to the generalized Fokker-Planck equation (1.1) with initial datum f_0 and then we define the semigroup S_{Λ_ε} on X by setting $S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 := f_t$.

Theorem 1.1 (rough version). — *There exist $r > 0$ and $\varepsilon_0 \in (0,2)$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$, the semigroup S_{Λ_ε} is well-defined on $X := L^1_r$ and there exists a unique positive and normalized stationary solution $G_\varepsilon \in X$ to (1.1). Moreover, there exist $a < 0$ and $C \geqslant 1$ such that for any $f_0 \in X$, there holds*

$$\|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0\rangle\|_X \leqslant C\, e^{at}\, \|f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0\rangle\|_X, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0. \tag{1.4}$$

Our approach is a semigroup approach in the spirit of the semigroup decomposition framework formalized by Mouhot in [13] and developed subsequently in [8, 5, 14, 9, 7]. Theorem 1.1 generalizes to the discrete diffusion Fokker-Planck equation and to the discrete fractional diffusion Fokker-Planck equation similar results obtained for the classical Fokker-Planck equation in [5, 9] (Section 2) and for the fractional one in [14] (Section 4). It also makes uniform with respect to the fractional diffusion parameter the convergence results obtained for the fractional diffusion equation in [14] (Section 3). It is worth mentioning that there exists a huge literature on the long-time behaviour for the Fokker-Planck equation as well as (to a lesser extent) for the fractional Fokker-Planck equation. We refer to the references quoted in [5, 9, 14] for details. There also probably exist many papers on the discrete diffusion equation since it is strongly related to a standard random walk in $\mathbb{R}^d$, but we were not able to find any precise reference in this PDE context.

1.2. Method of proof. — Let us explain our approach. First, we may associate a semigroup S_{Λ_ε} to the evolution equation (1.1) in many Sobolev spaces, and such a semigroup is mass preserving and positive. In other words, S_{Λ_ε} is a Markov semigroup and it is then expected that there exists a unique positive and unit mass steady state G_ε to the equation (1.1). Next, we are able to establish that the semigroup S_{Λ_ε} splits as

$$\begin{aligned} &S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} = S^1_\varepsilon + S^2_\varepsilon, \\ &S^1_\varepsilon \approx e^{tT_\varepsilon}, \quad T_\varepsilon \text{ finite dimensional}, \quad S^2_\varepsilon = \mathcal{O}(e^{at}),\ a<0, \end{aligned} \tag{1.5}$$

in these many weighted Sobolev spaces. The above decomposition of the semigroup is the main technical issue of the paper. It is obtained by introducing a convenient splitting

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon = \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon + \mathcal{B}_\varepsilon, \tag{1.6}$$

where $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ enjoys suitable dissipativity property and $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ enjoys some suitable $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$-power regularity (a property that we introduce in Section 2.4 (see also [7]) and that we name in that way by analogy with the $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$-power compactness notion introduced by Voigt [16]). Roughly speaking, we are able to establish that the iterated convolution

$$(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)} \text{ enjoys some regularization property for some } n \geqslant 1,$$

where for two functions of time U and V we define the convolution product

$$(U * V)(t) := \int_0^t U(t-s)V(s)\,ds$$

as well as the iterated convolution product by $U^{(*0)} = I$, $U^{(*m)} = U * U^{(*(m-1))}$, for any $m \geqslant 1$. It is worth emphasizing that we are able to exhibit such a splitting with uniform (dissipativity, regularity) estimates with respect to the diffusion parameter $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$ in several weighted Sobolev spaces.

As a consequence of (1.5), we may indeed apply the Krein-Rutman theory developed in [11, 7] and exhibit such a unique positive and unit mass steady state G_ε. Of course for the classical and fractional Fokker-Planck equations the steady state is trivially given by means of an explicit formula (the Krein-Rutman theory is useless in that cases). A next direct consequence of the above spectral and semigroup decomposition (1.5) is that there is a spectral gap in the spectral set $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon)$ of the generator Λ_ε, namely

$$\lambda_\varepsilon := \sup\{\Re e\,\xi \in \Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \setminus \{0\}\} < 0, \tag{1.7}$$

and next that an exponential trend to the equilibrium can be established, namely

$$\|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0\|_X \leqslant C_\varepsilon\, e^{at}\, \|f_0\|_X \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0,\ \forall\, \varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0],\ \forall\, a > \lambda_\varepsilon, \tag{1.8}$$

for any initial datum $f_0 \in X$ with vanishing mass.

Our final step consists in proving that the spectral gap (1.7) and the estimate (1.8) are uniform with respect to ε, more precisely, there exists $\lambda^* < 0$ such that $\lambda_\varepsilon \leqslant \lambda^*$ for any $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$ and C_ε can be chosen independent to $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$.

A first way to get such uniform bounds is just to have in at least one Hilbert space $E_\varepsilon \subset L^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ the estimate

$$\forall\, f \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^d),\ \langle f\rangle = 0, \quad (\Lambda_\varepsilon f, f)_{E_\varepsilon} \leqslant \lambda^* \|f\|^2_{E_\varepsilon}.$$

Estimate (1.8) then essentially follows from the fact that the splitting (1.6) holds with operators which are uniformly bounded with respect to $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$. It is the strategy we use in the case of the fractional diffusion (Section 3) and the work has already been made in [14] except for the simple but fundamental observation that the fractional diffusion operator is uniformly bounded (and converges to the classical diffusion operator) when it is suitable (re)scaled.

A second way to get the desired uniform estimate is to use a perturbation argument. Observing that, in the discrete cases (Sections 2 and 4),

$$\forall\, \varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0], \quad \Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0 = \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon),$$

for a suitable operator norm, we are able to deduce that $\varepsilon \mapsto \lambda_\varepsilon$ is a continuous function at $\varepsilon = 0$, from which we readily conclude. We use here again that the considered models converge to the classical or the fractional Fokker-Planck equation. In other words, the discrete models can be seen as (singular) perturbations of the limit equations and our analysis takes advantage of such a property in order to capture the asymptotic behaviour of the related spectral objects (spectrum, spectral projector) and to conclude the above uniform spectral decomposition. This kind of perturbative method has been introduced in [8] and improved in [15]. In Section 4, we give a new and improved version of the abstract perturbation argument where some dissipativity assumptions are relaxed with respect to [15] and only required to be satisfied for the limit operator ($\varepsilon = 0$).

1.3. Comments and possible extensions

Motivations. — The main motivation of the present work is rather theoretical and methodological. Spectral gap and semigroup estimates in large Lebesgue spaces have been established both for Boltzmann like equations and Fokker-Planck like equations in a series of recent papers [13, 8, 5, 11, 2, 1, 14, 9, 10]. The proofs are based on a splitting of the generator method as here and previously explained, but the appropriate splitting are rather different for the two kinds of models. The operator $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ is a multiplication (0-order) operator for a Fokker-Planck equation while it is an integral (-1-order) operator for a Boltzmann equation. More importantly, the fundamental and necessary regularizing effect is given by the action of the semigroup $S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$ for the Fokker-Planck equation while it is given by the action of the operator $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ for the Boltzmann equation. Let us underline here that in Section 4, we exhibit a new splitting for fractional diffusion Fokker-Planck operators (different from the one introduced in [14]) in the spirit of Boltzmann like operators (the operator $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ is an integral operator whereas it was a multiplication operator in [14] and in Section 3). Our purpose is precisely to show that all these equations can be handled in the same framework, by exhibiting a suitable and compatible splitting (1.6) which does not blow up and such

that the time indexed family of operators $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$ (or some iterated convolution products of that one) has a good regularizing property which is uniform in the singular limit $\varepsilon \to 0$.

Probability interpretation. — The discrete and fractional Fokker-Planck equations are the evolution equations satisfied by the law of the stochastic process which is solution to the SDE

$$dX_t = -X_t dt - d\mathscr{L}^\varepsilon_t, \tag{1.9}$$

where $\mathscr{L}^\varepsilon_t$ is the Lévy (jump) process associated to $k_\varepsilon/\varepsilon^2$ or $c_\varepsilon/|z|^{d+2-\varepsilon}$. For two trajectories X_t and Y_t to the above SDE associated to some initial data X_0 and Y_0, and $p \in [1,2)$, we have

$$d|X_t - Y_t|^p = -p|X_t - Y_t|^p dt,$$

from which we deduce

$$\mathbf{E}(|X_t - Y_t|^p) \leqslant e^{-pt}\mathbf{E}(|X_0 - Y_0|^p), \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0.$$

We fix now Y_t as a stable process for the SDE (1.9). Denoting by $f_\varepsilon(t)$ the law of X_t and G_ε the law of Y_t, we classically deduce the Wasserstein distance estimate

$$W_p(f_\varepsilon(t), G_\varepsilon) \leqslant e^{-t}\, W_p(f_0, G_\varepsilon), \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0. \tag{1.10}$$

In particular, for $p = 1$, the Kantorovich-Rubinstein Theorem says that (1.10) is equivalent to the estimate

$$\|f_\varepsilon(t) - G_\varepsilon\|_{(W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d))'} \leqslant e^{-t}\, \|f_0 - G_\varepsilon\|_{(W^{1,\infty}(\mathbb{R}^d))'}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0. \tag{1.11}$$

Estimates (1.10) and (1.11) have to be compared with (1.8). Proceeding in a similar way as in [11, 9] it is likely that the spectral gap estimate (1.11) can be extended (by "shrinkage of the space") to a weighted Lebesgue space framework and then to get the estimate in Theorem 1.1 for any $a \in (-1, 0)$.

Singular kernel and other confinement term. — We also believe that a similar analysis can be handled with more singular kernels than the ones considered here. The typical example should be $k(z) = (\delta_{-1} + \delta_1)/2$ in dimension $d = 1$, and for confinement term different from the harmonic confinement considered here, including other forces or discrete confinement term. In order to perform such an analysis one could use some trick developed in [11] in order to handle the equal mitosis (which uses one more iteration of the convolution product of the time indexed family of operators $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$).

Linearized and nonlinear equations. — We also believe that a similar analysis can be adapted to nonlinear equations. The typical example we have in mind is the Landau grazing collision limit of the Boltzmann equation. One can expect to get an exponential trend of solutions to its associated Maxwellian equilibrium which is uniform with respect to the considered model (Boltzmann equation with and without Grad's cutoff and Landau equation).

Kinetic like models. — A more challenging issue would be to extend the uniform asymptotic analysis to the Langevin SDE or the kinetic Fokker-Planck equation by using some idea developed in [1] which make possible to connect (from a spectral analysis point of view) the parabolic-parabolic Keller-Segel equation to the parabolic-elliptic Keller-Segel equation. The next step should be to apply the theory to the Navier-Stokes diffusion limit of the (in)elastic Boltzmann equation. These more technical problems will be investigated in next works.

1.4. Outline of the paper. — Let us describe the plan of the paper. In each section, we treat a family of equations in a uniform framework, from a spectral analysis viewpoint with a semigroup approach. In Section 2, we deal with the discrete and classical Fokker-Planck equations. Section 3 is dedicated to the analysis of the fractional and classical Fokker-Planck equations. Finally, Section 4 is devoted to the study of the discrete and fractional Fokker-Planck equations.

1.5. Notation. — For a (measurable) moment function $\nu : \mathbb{R}^d \to \mathbb{R}_+$, we define the norms

$$\|f\|_{L^p(\nu)} := \|f\,\nu\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)}, \quad \|f\|^p_{W^{k,p}(\nu)} := \sum_{i=0}^{k} \|\partial^i f\|^p_{L^p(\nu)}, \quad k \geqslant 1,$$

and the associated weighted Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces $L^p(\nu)$ and $W^{k,p}(\nu)$, we denote $H^k(\nu) = W^{k,2}(\nu)$ for $k \geqslant 1$. We also use the shorthand L^p_r and $W^{1,p}_r$ for the Lebesgue and Sobolev spaces $L^p(\nu)$ and $W^{1,p}(\nu)$ when the weight ν is defined as $\nu(x) = \langle x\rangle^r$, $\langle x\rangle := (1+|x|^2)^{1/2}$.

We denote by m a polynomial weight $m(x) := \langle x\rangle^q$ with $q > 0$, the range of admissible q will be specified throughout the paper.

In what follows, we will use the same notation C for positive constants that may change from line to line. Moreover, the notation $A \approx B$ shall mean that there exist two positive constants C_1, C_2 such that $C_1 A \leqslant B \leqslant C_2 A$.

2. From discrete to classical Fokker-Planck equation

In this section, we consider a kernel $k \in W^{2,1} \cap L^1_3$ which is symmetric, i.e., $k(-x) = k(x)$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, satisfies the normalization condition

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k(x) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x \\ x \otimes x \end{pmatrix} dx = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 2I_d \end{pmatrix}, \tag{2.1}$$

as well as the positivity condition: there exist $\kappa_0, \rho > 0$ such that

$$k \geqslant \kappa_0 \mathbb{1}_{B(0,\rho)}. \tag{2.2}$$

We define $k_\varepsilon(x) := 1/\varepsilon^d k(x/\varepsilon)$, $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ for $\varepsilon > 0$, and we consider the discrete and classical Fokker-Planck equations

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f = \dfrac{1}{\varepsilon^2}(k_\varepsilon * f - f) + \operatorname{div}(xf) =: \Lambda_\varepsilon f, \quad \varepsilon > 0, \\ \partial_t f = \Delta f + \operatorname{div}(xf) =: \Lambda_0 f. \end{cases} \tag{2.3}$$

The main result of the section reads as follows.

Theorem 2.1. — *Assume $r > d/2$ and consider a symmetric kernel k belonging to $W^{2,1} \cap L^1_{2r_0+3}$ with $r_0 > \max(r + d/2, 5 + d/2)$ which satisfies* (2.1) *and* (2.2).

(1) *For any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a positive and unit mass normalized steady state $G_\varepsilon \in L^1_r$ to the discrete Fokker-Planck equation* (2.3).

(2) *There exist explicit constants $a_0 < 0$ and $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$, the semigroup $S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t)$ associated to the discrete Fokker-Planck equation* (2.3) *satisfies: for any $f_0 \in L^1_r$ and any $a > a_0$,*

$$\|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0 \rangle\|_{L^1_r} \leqslant C_a \, e^{at} \, \|f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0 \rangle\|_{L^1_r}, \quad \forall \, t \geqslant 0,$$

for some explicit constant $C_a \geqslant 1$. In particular, the spectrum $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon)$ of Λ_ε satisfies the separation property $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_{a_0} = \{0\}$ in L^1_r, where we have denoted $D_\alpha := \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d \, ; \, \Re e \, \xi > \alpha\}$.

The method of the proof consists in introducing a suitable splitting of the operator Λ_ε as $\Lambda_\varepsilon = \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon + \mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$, in establishing some dissipativity and regularity properties on $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ and $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$ and finally in applying the version [11, 7] of the Krein-Rutman theorem as well as the perturbation theory developed in [8, 15, 7].

2.1. Splitting of Λ_ε. — Let us fix $\chi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ radially symmetric and satisfying $\mathbb{1}_{B(0,1)} \leqslant \chi \leqslant \mathbb{1}_{B(0,2)}$. We define χ_R by $\chi_R(x) := \chi(x/R)$ for $R > 0$ and we denote $\chi^c_R := 1 - \chi_R$.

For $\varepsilon > 0$, we define the splitting $\Lambda_\varepsilon = \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon + \mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ with

$$\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f := M \, \chi_R \, (k_\varepsilon * f),$$
$$\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f := \Big(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - M\Big)(k_\varepsilon * f - f) + M \, \chi^c_R \, (k_\varepsilon * f - f) + \mathrm{div}(xf) - M \, \chi_R \, f,$$

for some constants M, R to be chosen later. Similarly, we define the splitting $\Lambda_0 = \mathcal{A}_0 + \mathcal{B}_0$ with $\mathcal{A}_0 f := M \, \chi_R f$ and thus $\mathcal{B}_0 f := \Lambda_0 f - M \, \chi_R f$ for some constants M, R to be chosen later.

2.2. Uniform boundedness of $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$

Lemma 2.2. — *For any $p \in [1, \infty]$, $s \geqslant 0$ and any weight function $\nu \geqslant 1$, the operator $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ is bounded from $W^{s,p}$ into $W^{s,p}(\nu)$ with norm independent of ε.*

Proof. — For any $f \in L^p(\nu)$, we have

$$\|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f\|_{L^p(\nu)} \leqslant C \, \|k_\varepsilon * f\|_{L^p} \leqslant C \, \|f\|_{L^p}.$$

thanks to the Young's inequality and because $\|k_\varepsilon\|_{L^1} = \|k\|_{L^1} = 1$. We conclude that $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ is bounded from L^p into $L^p(\nu)$. The proof for the case $s > 0$ is similar and it is thus skipped. □

2.3. Uniform dissipativity properties of $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$. — We recall that $m(x) = \langle x\rangle^q$.

Lemma 2.3. — *Consider $p \in [1,2]$ and $q > d(p-1)/p$. Let us suppose that $k \in L^1_{pq+1}$. For any $a > d(1-1/p) - q$, there exist $\varepsilon_0 > 0$, $M \geqslant 0$ and $R \geqslant 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0]$, $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - a$ is dissipative in L^p_q, or equivalently*

$$\langle (\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - a) f, \Phi'(f)\rangle_{L^p_q} \leqslant 0, \quad \forall\, f \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^d),\ \Phi(f) = |f|^p/p. \tag{2.4}$$

Proof. — We split the operator in several pieces

$$\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f = \Big(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - M\Big)(k_\varepsilon * f - f) + M\,\chi_R^c\,(k_\varepsilon * f - f) + \operatorname{div}(xf) - M\,\chi_R\,f =: \mathcal{B}^1_\varepsilon + \cdots + \mathcal{B}^4_\varepsilon,$$

and we estimate each term

$$T_i := \langle \mathcal{B}^i_\varepsilon f, \Phi'(f)\rangle_{L^p_q} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \big(\mathcal{B}^i_\varepsilon f\big)\ (\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p\,dx$$

separately. From now on, we consider $a > d(1-1/p) - q$, we fix $\varepsilon_1 > 0$ such that $M \leqslant 1/(2\varepsilon_1^2)$ and we consider $\varepsilon \in (0,\varepsilon_1]$.

We first deal with T_1. We observe that

$$(f(y) - f(x))\operatorname{sign}(f(x))\,|f|^{p-1}(x) \leqslant \frac{1}{p}(|f|^p(y) - |f|^p(x)), \tag{2.5}$$

using the convexity of Φ. We then compute

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \Big(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - M\Big)\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))\,\Phi'(f(x))\,m^p(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{p}\Big(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - M\Big)\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} (|f|^p(y) - |f|^p(x))\ k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,m^p(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &= \frac{1}{p}\Big(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - M\Big)\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} (m^p(y) - m^p(x))\ k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,|f|^p(x)\,dy\,dx, \end{aligned}$$

where we have performed a change of variables to get the last equality. From a Taylor expansion, we have

$$m^p(y) - m^p(x) = (y-x)\cdot\nabla m^p(x) + \Theta(x,y),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} |\Theta(x,y)| &\leqslant \frac{1}{2}\int_0^1 |D^2 m^p(x+\theta(y-x))(y-x,y-x)|\,d\theta \\ &\leqslant C\,|x-y|^2\,\langle x\rangle^{pq-2}\,\langle x-y\rangle^{pq-2}, \end{aligned}$$

for some constant $C \in (0,\infty)$. The term involving the gradient of m^p gives no contribution because of (2.1) and we thus obtain

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &\leqslant C\,\big(1 - M\varepsilon^2\big)\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\frac{|x-y|^2}{\varepsilon^2}\,\langle x-y\rangle^{pq-2}\,dy\,|f|^p(x)\langle x\rangle^{pq-2}\,dx \\ &\leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^p(x)\,\langle x\rangle^{pq-2}\,dx. \end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

We now treat the second term T_2. Proceeding as above and thanks to (2.5) again, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_2 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} M\,\chi_R^c(x)\,k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))\,\Phi'(f(x))\,m^p(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\leqslant \frac{M}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k(z)\,\{\chi_R^c(x+\varepsilon z)\,m^p(x+\varepsilon z)-\chi_R^c(x)\,m^p(x)\}\,dz\,|f(x)|^p\,dy. \end{aligned}$$

Using the mean value theorem

$$\chi_R^c(x+\varepsilon z)=\chi_R^c(x)+\varepsilon\,z\cdot\nabla\chi_R^c(x+\theta\varepsilon z),\quad m^p(x+\varepsilon z)=m^p(x)+\varepsilon z\cdot\nabla m^p(x+\theta'\varepsilon z),$$

for some $\theta,\theta'\in(0,1)$, and the estimates

$$|\nabla\chi_R^c|\leqslant C_R\quad\text{and}\quad|\nabla m^p(y+\theta'\varepsilon z)|\leqslant C\,\langle y\rangle^{pq-1}\langle z\rangle^{pq-1},$$

we conclude that

$$T_2\leqslant M\,C_R\,\varepsilon\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f|^p\,m^p. \tag{2.7}$$

As far as T_3 is concerned, we just perform an integration by parts:

$$\begin{aligned} T_3 &= d\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f(x)|^p\,m^p(x)\,dx-\frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f(x)|^p\ \mathrm{div}(x\,m^p)(x)\,dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f(x)|^p\,m^p(x)\Big(d\Big(1-\frac{1}{p}\Big)-\frac{q\,|x|^2}{\langle x\rangle^2}\Big)\,dx. \end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

The estimates (2.6), (2.7) and (2.8) together give

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f\,\Phi'(f)\,m^p &\leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f(x)|^p\,m^p(x)\,\Big(C\,\langle x\rangle^{-2}+\frac{d}{p'}-\frac{q\,|x|^2}{\langle x\rangle^2}+M\,C_R\,\varepsilon-M\,\chi_R\Big)\,dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f|^p\,m^p\,\big(\psi_{R,p}^\varepsilon-M\,\chi_R\big), \end{aligned}$$

where $p'=p/(p-1)$ and we have denoted

$$\psi_{R,p}^\varepsilon(x):=C\,\langle x\rangle^{-2}+\frac{d}{p'}-\frac{q\,|x|^2}{\langle x\rangle^2}+M\,C_R\,\varepsilon. \tag{2.9}$$

Because $\psi_{R,p}^\varepsilon(x)\to d/p'-q$ when $\varepsilon\to0$ and $|x|\to\infty$, we can thus choose $M\geqslant0$, $R\geqslant0$ and $\varepsilon_0\leqslant\varepsilon_1$ such that for any $\varepsilon\in(0,\varepsilon_0]$,

$$\forall\,x\in\mathbb{R}^d,\quad\psi_{R,p}^\varepsilon(x)\leqslant a.$$

As a conclusion, for such a choice of constants, we obtain (2.4). We refer to [5, 9] for the proof in the case $\varepsilon=0$. □

Lemma 2.4. — *Let $s\in\mathbb{N}$ and $q>d/2+s$. Assume that $k\in L^1_{2q+1}$. Then, for any $a>d/2-q+s$, there exist $\varepsilon_0>0$, $M\geqslant0$ and $R\geqslant0$ such that for any $\varepsilon\in[0,\varepsilon_0]$, $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon-a$ is hypodissipative in H^s_q.*

Proof. — The case $s=0$ is nothing but Lemma 2.3 applied with $p=2$. We now deal with the case $s=1$. We consider f_t a solution to

$$\partial_t f_t=\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f_t,\quad f_0=f.$$

From the previous lemma, we already know that

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\|f_t\|_{L^2_q}^2 \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_t^2\, m^2 \left(\psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} - M\chi_R\right). \tag{2.10}$$

We now want to compute the evolution of the derivative of f_t:

$$\partial_t \partial_x f_t = \mathcal{B}(\partial_x f_t) + M\,\partial_x(\chi_R^c)\,(k_\varepsilon * f_t - f_t) + \partial_x f_t,$$

which in turn implies that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\|\partial_x f_t\|_{L^2_q}^2 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f_t)\,\partial_t(\partial_x f_t)\, m^2 \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f_t)\,\mathcal{B}(\partial_x f_t)\, m^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} M\,\partial_x(\chi_R^c)\,(k_\varepsilon * f_t)\,(\partial_x f_t)\, m^2 \\
&\qquad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} M\,\partial_x(\chi_R^c)\, f_t\,(\partial_x f_t)\, m^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f_t)^2\, m^2 \\
&=: T_1 + T_2 + T_3 + T_4.
\end{aligned}$$

Concerning T_1, using the proof of Lemma 2.3, we obtain

$$T_1 \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f_t)^2\, m^2 \left(\psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} - M\,\chi_R\right). \tag{2.11}$$

Then, to deal with T_2, we first notice that using Jensen's inequality and (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\|k_\varepsilon * f\|_{L^2_q}^2 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, f(y)\, dy\right)^2 m^2(x)\, dx \\
&\leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, m^2(x)\, dx\, f^2(y)\, dy \\
&= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k(z)\, m^2(y+\varepsilon z)\, dz\, f^2(y)\, dy \\
&\leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k(z)\, m^2(z)\, dz \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2\, m^2.
\end{aligned}$$

We thus obtain using that $k \in L^1_{2q}$:

$$\|k_\varepsilon * f\|_{L^2_q} \leqslant C\,\|f\|_{L^2_q}.$$

The term T_2 is then treated using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, Young's inequality and the fact that $|\partial_x(\chi_R^c)|$ is bounded by a constant depending only on R:

$$\begin{aligned}
T_2 &\leqslant M\,C_R\,\|k_\varepsilon *_x f_t\|_{L^2_q}\|\partial_x f_t\|_{L^2_q} \\
&\leqslant M\,C_R\,\|f_t\|_{L^2_q}\|\partial_x f_t\|_{L^2_q} \\
&\leqslant M\,C_R\,K(\zeta)\|f_t\|_{L^2_q}^2 + M\,C_R\,\zeta\|\partial_x f_t\|_{L^2_q}^2
\end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

for any $\zeta > 0$ as small as we want.

The term T_3 is handled using an integration by parts and with the fact that $|\partial_x^2(\chi_R^c)|$ is bounded with a constant which only depends on R:

$$T_3 = \frac{M}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_x^2(\chi_R^c)\, f_t^2\, m^2 + \frac{M}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_x(\chi_R^c)\, f_t^2\, \partial_x(m^2) \leqslant M\,C_R\,\|f_t\|_{L^2_q}^2. \tag{2.13}$$

Combining estimates (2.11), (2.12) and (2.13), we easily deduce

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\|\partial_x f_t\|_{L^2_q}^2 \leqslant C_{R,M,\zeta}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_t^2\, m^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f_t)^2\, m^2\, \left(\psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} + M\, C_R\, \zeta + 1 - M\, \chi_R\right). \tag{2.14}$$

To conclude the proof in the case $s = 1$, we introduce the norm

$$|||f|||^2_{H^1_q} := \|f\|^2_{L^2_q} + \eta\, \|\partial_x f\|^2_{L^2_q}, \quad \eta > 0.$$

Combining (2.10) and (2.14), we get

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|||f_t|||^2_{H^1_q} \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f_t^2\, m^2\, \left(\psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} + \eta\, C_{R,M,\zeta} - M\chi_R\right) + \eta\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f_t)^2\, m^2\, \left(\psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} + M\, C_R\, \zeta + 1 - M\, \chi_R\right). \tag{2.15}$$

Using the same strategy as in the proof of Lemma 2.3, if $a > d/2 - q + 1$, we can choose M, R large enough and ζ, ε_0, η small enough such that we have on $\mathbb{R}^d$

$$\psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} + \eta\, C_{R,M,\zeta} - M\chi_R \leqslant a \quad \text{and} \quad \psi^\varepsilon_{R,2} + M\, C_R\, \zeta + 1 - M\, \chi_R \leqslant a$$

for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0]$, which implies that

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|||f_t|||^2_{H^1_q} \leqslant a\, |||f_t|||^2_{H^1_q}.$$

The higher order derivatives are treated with the same method introducing a similar modified H^s_q norm. □

2.4. Uniform $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$-power regularity of $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$. — In this section we prove that $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$ and its iterated convolution products fulfill nice regularization and growth estimates.

We introduce the notation

$$I_\varepsilon(f) := \frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} (f(x) - f(y))^2\, k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, dx\, dy. \tag{2.16}$$

Lemma 2.5. — *There exists a constant $K > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon > 0$, the following estimate holds:*

$$\|\nabla(k_\varepsilon * f)\|^2_{L^2} \leqslant K\, I_\varepsilon(f). \tag{2.17}$$

Proof

Step 1. — We prove that the assumptions made on k imply

$$|\widehat{k}(\xi)|^2 \leqslant K\, \frac{1 - \widehat{k}(\xi)}{|\xi|^2}, \quad \forall\, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d, \tag{2.18}$$

for some constant $K > 0$. On the one hand, we have $\widehat{k}(0) = 1$, $\widehat{k}(\xi) \in \mathbb{R}$ because k is symmetric and $\widehat{k} \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ because $k \in L^1$. Moreover, performing a Taylor expansion, using the normalization condition (2.1) and the fact that $k \in L^1_3$, we have

$$\widehat{k}(\xi) = 1 - |\xi|^2 + \mathcal{O}(|\xi|^3), \quad \forall\, \xi \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

We then deduce that (2.18) holds with $K = 1$ in a small ball $\xi \in B(0,\delta)$. On the other hand, for any $\xi \neq 0$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{k}(\xi) &= \int_{E_\xi} k(x)\,\cos(\xi\cdot x)\,dx + \int_{E_\xi^c} k(x)\,\cos(\xi\cdot x)\,dx\\ &< \int_{E_\xi} k(x)\,dx + \int_{E_\xi^c} k(x)\,dx = 1,\end{aligned}$$

where $E_\xi := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^d \ ; \ x\cdot\xi \in (0,\pi),\ |x| \leqslant r\}$ so that $k(x)\cos(\xi\cdot x) < k(x)$ for any $x \in E_\xi$ from (2.2). Together with the fact that $\widehat{k} \in C_0(\mathbb{R}^d)$, we deduce that $1 - \widehat{k}(\xi) \geqslant \eta > 0$ for any $\xi \in B(0,\delta)^c$. Last, because $k \in W^{1,1}$, we also have $|\xi|^2\,|\widehat{k}(\xi)|^2 = |\widehat{\nabla k}(\xi)|^2 \leqslant C$ for any $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^d$. We then deduce that (2.18) holds with $K = C/\eta$ in the set $B(0,\delta)^c$.

Step 2. — From the normalization condition (2.1), we have

$$\begin{aligned}I_\varepsilon(f) &= \frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} f^2(x)\,k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,dx\,dy + \frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} f^2(y)\,k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,dx\,dy\\ &\qquad - \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} f(x)f(y)\,k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,dx\,dy\\ &= \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(k_\varepsilon * f)\,f\right).\end{aligned}$$

As a consequence, using Plancherel formula and the identity $\widehat{k_\varepsilon}(\xi) = \widehat{k}(\varepsilon\,\xi)$, $\forall\,\xi\in\mathbb{R}^d$, we get

$$I_\varepsilon(f) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\widehat{f}^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\widehat{k_\varepsilon}\,\widehat{f}^2\right) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\widehat{f}^2(\xi)\frac{1-\widehat{k}(\varepsilon\xi)}{\varepsilon^2}\,d\xi.$$

Then, we use again Plancherel formula to obtain

$$\|\partial_x(k_\varepsilon * f)\|_{L^2}^2 = \|\mathcal{F}(\partial_x(k_\varepsilon * f))\|_{L^2}^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|\xi|^2\,\widehat{k}(\varepsilon\xi)^2\,\widehat{f}^2. \tag{2.19}$$

We conclude to (2.17) by using (2.18). □

We now introduce the following notation $\lambda := 1/(2K) > 0$ and go into the analysis of regularization properties of the semigroup $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(t)$.

Lemma 2.6. — *Consider $s_1 < s_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ and $q > d/2 + s_2$. We suppose that $k \in L^1_{2q+1}$. Let M, R and ε_0 so that the conclusion of Lemma 2.4 holds in both spaces $H^{s_1}_q$ and $H^{s_2}_q$. Then, for any $a \in (\max\{d/2 - q + s_2, -\lambda\}, 0)$, there exists $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0]$, we have the following estimate*

$$\|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(H^{s_1}_q, H^{s_2}_q)} \leqslant C_a\,e^{at},$$

for some constant $C_a > 0$.

Proof. — We first give the proof for the case $(s_1, s_2) = (0, 1)$. We consider $a \in (\max\{d/2 - q + 1, -\lambda\}, 0)$, α_0 and α_1 such that $a > \alpha_0 > \alpha_1 > \max\{d/2 - q + 1, -\lambda\}$ and $f_t := S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(t)f$ with $f \in L^2_q$, i.e., that satisfies

$$\partial_t f_t = \mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f_t, \quad f_0 = f.$$

From the proof of Lemma 2.4, there exists ε_0 such that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}\|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q} &\leqslant -\frac{1}{2}\Big(\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} - M\Big)\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} (f(y) - f(x))^2 \; k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, m^2(x)\, dy\, dx + \alpha_0 \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q} \\
&\leqslant -\frac{1}{4\varepsilon^2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} (f(y) - f(x))^2 \; k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, dy\, dx + \alpha_0 \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q} \\
&\leqslant -\frac{1}{2} I_\varepsilon(f_t) + \alpha_0 \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q}
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used that $M \leqslant 1/(2\varepsilon^2)$ for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0]$. Using Lemma 2.5, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dt}\|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q} &\leqslant -2\lambda \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_t\|^2_{\dot H^1} + 2\alpha_0 \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q} \\
&\leqslant 2\alpha_0 \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_t\|^2_{\dot H^1} + 2\alpha_0 \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q}.
\end{aligned}$$

Multiplying this inequality by $e^{-2\alpha_0 t}$, it implies that

$$\frac{d}{dt}\Big(\|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 t}\Big) \leqslant 2\alpha_0 \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_t\|^2_{\dot H^1}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 t}$$

and thus, integrating in time

$$\|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 t} - 2\alpha_0 \int_0^t \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_s\|^2_{\dot H^1} e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds \leqslant \|f\|^2_{L^2_q}.$$

In particular, we obtain

$$\int_0^\infty \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_s\|^2_{\dot H^1} e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds \leqslant -\frac{1}{2\alpha_0}\|f\|^2_{L^2_q}. \tag{2.20}$$

We now want to estimate

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s) f\|^2_{H^1_q} e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds &= \int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f_s\|^2_{L^2_q} e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds + \int_0^\infty \|\partial_x\left(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f_s\right)\|^2_{L^2_q}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds \\
&\leqslant \int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f_s\|^2_{L^2_q}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds + \int_0^\infty \|M\partial_x(\chi_R)\, k_\varepsilon *_x f_s\|^2_{L^2_q}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds \\
&\qquad + \int_0^\infty \|M\chi_R\, \partial_x(k_\varepsilon *_x f_s)\|^2_{L^2_q}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds \\
&=: I_1 + I_2 + I_3.
\end{aligned}$$

Using dissipativity properties of $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ and boundedness of $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$, we get

$$I_1 \leqslant \int_0^\infty e^{2\alpha_1 s} e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\, ds\, \|f\|^2_{L^2_q} \leqslant C\, \|f\|^2_{L^2_q}.$$

We deal with I_2 using the fact that $M\partial_x(\chi_R)$ is compactly supported, Young's inequality and dissipativity properties of $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$:

$$\begin{aligned} I_2 &\leqslant C\int_0^\infty \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_s\|_{L^2}^2\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\,ds \leqslant C\int_0^\infty \|f_s\|_{L^2}^2 e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\,ds \\ &\leqslant C\int_0^\infty e^{2\alpha_1 s}\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\,ds\, \|f\|_{L^2_q}^2 \leqslant C\,\|f\|_{L^2_q}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, for I_3, we use (2.20) to obtain

$$I_3 \leqslant \int_0^\infty \|k_\varepsilon *_x f_s\|_{\dot H^1}^2\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\,ds \leqslant C\,\|f\|_{L^2_q}^2.$$

All together, we have proved

$$\int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)f\|_{H^1_q}^2\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\,ds \leqslant C\,\|f\|_{L^2_q}^2.$$

Consequently, using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(\int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)f\|_{H^1_q}\, e^{-as}\,ds\right)^2 \\ &\qquad\leqslant \int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)f\|_{H^1_q}^2\, e^{-2\alpha_0 s}\,ds \int_0^\infty e^{-2(a-\alpha_0)s}\,ds \\ &\qquad\leqslant C\,\|f\|_{L^2_q}^2. \end{aligned} \tag{2.21}$$

From the dissipativity of $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ in H^1_q proved in Lemma 2.4 and the fact that $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ is bounded in H^1_q, we also have

$$\|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)\|_{H^1_q\to H^1_q}\, e^{-as} \leqslant C, \qquad \forall\, s \geqslant 0.$$

Using the two last estimates together, we deduce that for any $t \geqslant 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*2)}(t)f\|_{H^1_q} &\leqslant \int_0^t \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(t-s)\|_{H^1_q\to H^1_q}\|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)f\|_{H^1_q}\,ds \\ &\leqslant C\,e^{at}\int_0^\infty e^{-as}\,\|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)f\|_{H^1_q}\,ds \\ &\leqslant C\,e^{at}\,\|f\|_{L^2_q}. \end{aligned}$$

We have thus proved

$$\|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*2)}(t)\|_{L^2_q\to H^1_q} \leqslant C\,e^{at},$$

which corresponds to the case $(s_1, s_2) = (0, 1)$.

Using the same strategy, we can easily obtain that

$$\int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(s)f\|_{H^s_q}^2\, e^{-2as}\,ds \leqslant C\,\|f\|_{H^{s-1}_q}^2,$$

for any $s \geqslant 2$, and then conclude the proof of the lemma in the case $\varepsilon > 0$. We refer to [5, 9] for the proof in the case $\varepsilon = 0$. □

Lemma 2.7. — *Consider $q > d/2$, $k \in L^1_{2q+1}$ and M, R, ε_0 so that the conclusions of Lemma 2.3 hold. Then, for any $a \in (-q, 0)$, there exists $n \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the following estimate holds for any $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$:*

$$\forall\, t \geqslant 0, \quad \|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(L^1_q, L^2_q)} \leqslant C_a\, e^{at},$$

for some constant $C_a > 0$.

Proof. — We first introduce the formal dual operators of $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ and $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$:

$$\mathcal{A}^*_\varepsilon \phi := k_\varepsilon * (M\, \chi_R\, \phi), \quad \mathcal{B}^*_\varepsilon \phi := \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}(k_\varepsilon * \phi - \phi) - x \cdot \nabla \phi - k_\varepsilon * (M\, \chi_R \phi).$$

We use the same computation as the one used to deal with T_1 is the proof of Lemma 2.3 and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}^*_\varepsilon \phi)\, \phi \leqslant & -\frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, (\phi(y) - \phi(x))^2\, dy\, dx \\ & + \frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} (\phi^2(y) - \phi^2(x))\, k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, dy\, dx \\ & + \frac{d}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2 + \|k_\varepsilon * (M\, \chi_R\, \phi)\|_{L^2}\, \|\phi\|_{L^2}.\end{aligned}$$

We then notice that the second term equals 0 and we use Young's inequality and the fact that $\|k_\varepsilon\|_{L^1} = 1$ to get

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}^*_\varepsilon \phi)\, \phi & \leqslant -\frac{1}{2\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, (\phi(y) - \phi(x))^2\, dy\, dx \\ & \qquad + \frac{d}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|M\, \chi_R\, \phi\|^2_{L^2} + \frac{1}{2} \|\phi\|^2_{L^2} \\ & \leqslant -\, I_\varepsilon(\phi) + C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2\end{aligned}$$

where I_ε is defined in (2.16). We also have the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}I_\varepsilon(\chi_R\, \phi) & \leqslant \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, \phi^2(x)\, (\chi_R(y) - \chi_R(x))^2\, dy\, dx \\ & \qquad + \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\, \chi^2_R(y)\, (\phi(y) - \phi(x))^2\, dy\, dx \\ & \leqslant C\, \|\nabla \chi_R\|_\infty \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2 + 2 I_\varepsilon(\phi).\end{aligned}$$

If we denote $\phi_t := S_{\mathcal{B}^*_\varepsilon}(t)\phi$, we thus have

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\phi_t\|^2_{L^2} \leqslant -\lambda\, \|k_\varepsilon * (\chi_R\, \phi_t)\|^2_{\dot{H}^1} + b\, \|\phi_t\|^2_{L^2}, \quad b > 0.$$

Multiplying this inequality by e^{-bt}, we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(\|\phi_t\|^2_{L^2}\, e^{-bt} \right) \leqslant -2\lambda\, \|k_\varepsilon * (\chi_R\, \phi_t)\|^2_{\dot{H}^1}\, e^{-bt}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0,$$

and integrating in time, we get

$$\|\phi_t\|^2_{L^2}\, e^{-bt} + 2\lambda \int_0^t \|k_\varepsilon * (\chi_R\, \phi_s)\|^2_{\dot{H}^1}\, e^{-bs}\, ds \leqslant \|\phi\|^2_{L^2_q}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0. \tag{2.22}$$

We now estimate

$$\int_0^t \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon^*\, S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^*}(s)\,\phi\|_{H^1}^2\, e^{-2bs}\,ds = \int_0^t \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon^*\,\phi_s\|_{H^1}^2\, e^{-2bs}\,ds$$
$$= \int_0^t \|k_\varepsilon * (M\,\chi_R\,\phi_s)\|_{L^2}^2\, e^{-2bs}\,ds + \int_0^t \|k_\varepsilon * (M\,\chi_R\,\phi_s)\|_{\dot H^1}^2\, e^{-2bs}\,ds.$$

Using Young's inequality and (2.22), we conclude that

$$\int_0^\infty \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon^*\, S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^*}(t)\,\phi\|_{H^1}^2\, e^{-2bs}\,ds \leqslant C\,\|\phi\|_{L^2}^2.$$

As in the proof of Lemma 2.6, for any $s \geqslant 1$, we can then establish that

$$\|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon^*\, S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^*})^{(*2s)}(t)\|_{L^2\to H^s} \leqslant C\,e^{b't}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0,\ \forall\, \varepsilon \in (0,\varepsilon_0],$$

for some $b' \geqslant 0$, and by duality

$$\|(S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon})^{(*2s)}(t)\|_{H^{-s}\to L^2} \leqslant C\,e^{b't}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0,\ \forall\, \varepsilon \in (0,\varepsilon_0].$$

Taking $\ell > d/2$, so that we can use the continuous Sobolev embedding $L^1 \subset H^{-\ell}$, we obtain

$$\|(S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon})^{(*2\ell)}(t)\|_{L^1\to L^2} \leqslant C\,e^{b't}.$$

Noticing next that

$$(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*(2\ell+1))} = \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon\,(S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon)^{(*(2\ell))} * S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$$

and using the fact that $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ is compactly supported combined with Lemma 2.3, we get

$$\|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*(2\ell+1))}(t)\|_{L^1_q\to L^2_q}$$
$$\leqslant \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon\|_{L^2\to L^2_q}\left\{\|(S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon)^{(*(2\ell))}(\cdot)\|_{L^1\to L^2} *_t \|S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(\cdot)\|_{L^1_q\to L^1}\right\}(t)$$
$$\leqslant C\,e^{b''t},$$

for some $b'' \geqslant 0$. To conclude the proof, we use [5, Lem. 2.17]. Indeed, up to taking more convolutions, we are able to recover a good rate in the last estimate. We refer to [5, 9] for the proof in the case $\varepsilon = 0$. □

2.5. Convergences $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon \to \mathcal{A}_0$ and $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon \to \mathcal{B}_0$.

Lemma 2.8. — *Consider $s \in \mathbb{N}$, $q > 0$ and $k \in L^1_{2q+3}$. The following convergences hold:*

$$\|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon - \mathcal{A}_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(H^{s+1}_q, H^s_q)} \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \|\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - \mathcal{B}_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(H^{s+3}_q, H^s_q)} \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0.$$

Proof

Step 1. — We first deal with $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ in the case $s = 0$. Using that $\chi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $k \in L^1_1$, we have

$$\|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f - \mathcal{A}_0 f\|_{L^2_q} = \|M\,\chi_R\,(k_\varepsilon * f - f)\,m\|_{L^2} \leqslant C\,\|k_\varepsilon * f - f\|_{L^2}$$
$$= C\,\|(\widehat{k_\varepsilon} - 1)\,\widehat{f}\|_{L^2} \leqslant C\,\varepsilon\,\|f\|_{H^1}.$$

Concerning the first derivative, writing that

$$\partial_x(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f - \mathcal{A}_0 f) = M\,(\partial_x\chi_R)\,(k_\varepsilon * f - f) + M\,\chi_R\,(k_\varepsilon * \partial_x f - \partial_x f)$$

and using that $\partial_x \chi_R$ is uniformly bounded as well as χ_R, we obtain the result. We omit the details of the proof for higher order derivatives.

Step 2. — In order to prove the second part of the result, we just have to prove

$$\|\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(H^{s+3}_q, H^s_q)} \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0.$$

Using (2.1), we have

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon f(x) - \Lambda_0 f(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)(f(y) - f(x))\, dy - \Delta f(x).$$

A Taylor expansion of f gives

$$\begin{aligned} f(y) - f(x) = (y-x)\cdot \nabla f(x) + \frac{1}{2} D^2 f(x)(y-x, y-x) \\ + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 (1-s)^2 D^3 f(x + s(y-x))(y-x, y-x, y-x)\, ds. \end{aligned}$$

We then observe that, because of (2.1), the integral in the y variable of the gradient term cancels and the contribution of the second term is precisely $\Delta f(x)$. We deduce that

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon f(x) - \Lambda_0 f(x) = \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k(z) \int_0^1 (1-s)^2 D^3 f(x + s\varepsilon z)(z, z, z)\, ds\, dz.$$

Consequently, using Jensen's inequality and the fact that $k \in L^1_{2q+3}$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0\|^2_{L^2_q} &\leqslant C\, \varepsilon^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k(z)\, |z|^3 \int_0^1 |D^3 f(x + s\varepsilon z)|^2\, m^2(x + s\varepsilon z)\, m^2(s\varepsilon z)\, ds\, dz\, dx \\ &\leqslant C\, \varepsilon^2\, \|f\|^2_{H^3_q} \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0. \end{aligned}$$

This concludes the proof of the second part in the case $s = 0$. The proof for $s > 0$ follows from the fact that the operator ∂_x commutes with $\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0$. □

2.6. Spectral analysis

Lemma 2.9. — *For any $\varepsilon > 0$, $\Lambda_\varepsilon^* 1 = 0$ and Λ_ε satisfies Kato's inequalities:*

$$\forall\, f \in D(\Lambda_\varepsilon), \quad \Lambda_\varepsilon\left(\beta(f)\right) \geqslant \beta'(f)\left(\Lambda_\varepsilon f\right), \quad \beta(s) = |s|.$$

As a consequence, for any $q \geqslant 0$ and any $\varepsilon > 0$, the semigroup S_{Λ_ε} is mass preserving, it is a semigroup of contractions in L^1 and it is positive in L^1_q, in the sense that $S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 \geqslant 0$ for any $t \geqslant 0$ if $f_0 \in L^1_q$ and $f_0 \geqslant 0$.

Proof. — First, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{sign} f(x)\, \Lambda_\varepsilon f(x) = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\left(f(y) - f(x)\right) dy \operatorname{sign} f(x) \\ + d\, f(x) \operatorname{sign} f(x) + x\cdot \nabla f(x) \operatorname{sign} f(x) \\ \leqslant \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\left(|f|(y) - |f|(x)\right) dy + d\, |f|(x) + x\cdot \nabla |f|(x) = \Lambda_\varepsilon |f|(x), \end{aligned}$$

which ends the proof of the Kato's inequality.

We consider $f_0 \leqslant 0$ and denote $f_t := S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0$. We define the function $\beta(s) = s_+ = (|s| + s)/2$. Using Kato's inequality, we have $\partial_t \beta(f_t) \leqslant \Lambda_\varepsilon \beta(f_t)$, and then

$$0 \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \beta(f_t) \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \beta(f_0) = 0, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0,$$

from which we deduce $f_t \leqslant 0$ for any $t \geqslant 0$. Similarly, Kato's inequality with $\beta(s) := |s|$ and $\Lambda_\varepsilon^* 1 = 0$ yield the contraction property in L^1 and the conservation of mass. □

The operator $-\Lambda_\varepsilon$ satisfies the following form of the strong maximum principle.

Lemma 2.10. — *Any nonnegative eigenfunction associated to the eigenvalue* 0 *is positive. In other words, we have*

$$f \in D(\Lambda_\varepsilon), \quad \Lambda_\varepsilon f = 0, \quad f \geqslant 0, \quad f \neq 0 \Longrightarrow f > 0.$$

Proof. — We define

$$\mathcal{C} f = \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} k_\varepsilon * f, \quad \mathcal{D} f = x \cdot \nabla_x f + \lambda\, f, \quad \lambda := d - \frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}$$

and the semigroup

$$S_{\mathcal{D}}(t) g := g(e^t x)\, e^{\lambda t}$$

with generator $\mathcal{D}$. Thanks to the Duhamel formula

$$S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) = S_{\mathcal{D}}(t) + \int_0^t S_{\mathcal{D}}(s)\, \mathcal{C} S_\Lambda(t-s)\, ds,$$

the eigenfunction f satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} f = S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f &= S_{\mathcal{D}}(t) f + \int_0^t S_{\mathcal{D}}(s)\, \mathcal{C} S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t-s) f\, ds \\ &\geqslant \int_0^t S_{\mathcal{D}}(s)\, \mathcal{C} f\, ds \quad \forall\, t > 0. \end{aligned}$$

By assumption, there exists $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^d$ such that $f \not\equiv 0$ on $B(x_0, \rho/2)$. As a consequence, denoting $\vartheta := \|f\|_{L^1(B(x_0,\rho/2))} > 0$, we have

$$\mathcal{C} f \geqslant \frac{\kappa_0\, \vartheta}{\varepsilon^2}\, \mathbb{1}_{B(x_0,\rho/2)},$$

and then

$$f \geqslant \frac{\kappa_0\, \vartheta}{\varepsilon^2} \sup_{t>0} \int_0^t e^{\lambda s}\, \mathbb{1}_{B(e^{-s}x_0, e^{-t}\rho/2)}\, ds \geqslant \kappa_1 \mathbb{1}_{B(x_0,\rho/4)}, \quad \kappa_1 > 0. \tag{2.23}$$

Using that lower bound, we obtain

$$\mathcal{C} f \geqslant \theta_d \frac{\kappa_0\, \kappa_{i-1}}{\varepsilon^2}\, \mathbb{1}_{B(x_0,u_i\rho)}, \quad \text{and then} \quad f \geqslant \kappa_i \mathbb{1}_{B(x_0,v_i\rho)},$$

with $i = 2$, $u_2 = 1$, $\kappa_2 > 0$, $v_2 = 3/4$. Repeating once more the argument, we get the same lower estimate with $i = 3$, $u_3 = 7/4$, $\kappa_3 > 0$ and $v_3 = 3/2$. By an induction argument, we finally get $f > 0$ on $\mathbb{R}^d$. □

We are now able to prove Theorem 2.1. In a first step, instead of applying directly the version of Krein-Rutman theorem established in [11] (see also [7]) and in order to be a bit more self-contained and pedagogical, we rather follow the same line of proof as for [11, Th. 5.3] but we perform some simplification by taking advantage of the mass conservation property.

Proof of part (1) *in Theorem* 2.1. — We fix $X := H^6_{r_0+1}$ and we define $e_\beta(t) := e^{\beta t}$ for any $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$. We start observing that, because of Lemmas 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4, for any $m \geqslant 0$ and $a \in (d/2 + 5 - r_0, 0)$

$$S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*m)} e_{-a} \text{ is bounded in } L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathscr{B}(X)),$$

uniformly in $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$, and because of Lemmas 2.2, 2.7 & 2.6, there exists $n \geqslant 0$ such that for any $a \in (-q, 0)$,

$$(S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon)^{(*n)} e_{-a} \text{ is bounded in } L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathscr{B}(L^1, X)),$$

uniformly in $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$. Using the iterated Duhamel formula

$$S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} = S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} + \cdots + S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*(n-1))} + (S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon)^{(*n)} * S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon},$$

the fact that S_{Λ_ε} is a semigroup of contractions in L^1 from Lemma 2.9 and the two above estimates, we deduce that S_{Λ_ε} is a bounded semigroup in X. As a consequence, the new norm defined by

$$\forall\, f \in X, \quad |\!|\!| f |\!|\!| := \sup_{t \geqslant 0} \|S_{\mathcal{L}}(t) f\|_X$$

is equivalent to the usual norm of X. For a given $0 \leqslant g_0 \in X$, $\langle g_0 \rangle = 1$, we define $C := |\!|\!| g_0 |\!|\!|$ and next the set

$$\mathcal{C} := \Big\{ f \in X \,;\; f \geqslant 0,\; \langle f \rangle = 1,\; |\!|\!| f |\!|\!| \leqslant C \Big\},$$

which is not empty (e.g. $g_0 \in \mathcal{C}$), convex and compact for the weak topology of X. Moreover, thanks to Lemma 2.9, the flow is continuous for the L^1 norm and preserves positivity and total mass. By construction, we see that for any $f_0 \in \mathcal{C}$ and $t \geqslant 0$, we have

$$|\!|\!| S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 |\!|\!| = \sup_{s \geqslant t} \|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(s) f_0\|_X \leqslant \sup_{s \geqslant 0} \|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(s) f_0\|_X = |\!|\!| f_0 |\!|\!| \leqslant C.$$

All together, the set $\mathcal{C}$ is clearly invariant by the flow S_{Λ_ε}. Thanks to a standard variant of the Brouwer-Schauder-Tychonoff fixed point theorem (see for instance [3, Th. 1.2]), we obtain the existence of an invariant element G_ε for the discrete Fokker-Planck flow which furthermore belongs to $\mathcal{C}$. In other words, we have $G_\varepsilon \in D(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \setminus \{0\}$ and $\Lambda_\varepsilon G_\varepsilon = 0$, so that G_ε is a stationary state for the discrete Fokker-Planck equation. The uniqueness of the normalized and positive steady state G_ε as well as the fact that the punctual spectrum $\Sigma_P(\Lambda_\varepsilon)$ of Λ_ε satisfies $\Sigma_P(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap \overline{\Delta}_0 = \{0\}$ then follow from the weak and strong maximum principle as stated in Lemmas 2.9 & 2.10. We refer to the proof of [11, Th. 5.3] (see also [6, 12]) where these classical arguments are presented.

Proof of part (2) *in Theorem* 2.1. — We still denote $X = H^6_{r_0+1}$ and we now consider the semigroup S_{Λ_ε} as acting on L^1_r. We observe that from Lemmas 2.2, 2.3 & 2.4 for any $m \geqslant 0$ and $a \in (\max(-r, d/2+5-r_0, 0))$,

$$S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*m)} e_{-a} \text{ is bounded in } L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathscr{B}(L^1_r)), \tag{2.24}$$

uniformly in $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$, and that Lemmas 2.2, 2.7 & 2.6 also implies that there exists $n \geqslant 0$ such that for any $q \in [0, r]$, $a \in (-r, 0)$,

$$(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)} e_{-a} \text{ is bounded in } L^\infty(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathscr{B}(L^1_q, X)), \tag{2.25}$$

uniformly in $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$, where it is worth emphasizing that $X \subset D(\Lambda_\varepsilon)$ and X has compact embedding into L^1_r. Using the iterated Duhamel formula

$$S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} = S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} + \cdots + S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*(n-1))} + S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)} \tag{2.26}$$

and the corresponding identity at the level of the resolvent

$$R_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} = R_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} + \cdots + (-1)^{n-1} R_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon R_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{n-1} + (-1)^n R_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon R_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^n,$$

where we recall that for an operator L its resolvent is defined by $R_L(z) := (L - z)^{-1}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Sigma(L)$, together with the estimates (2.24) & (2.25), it has been established in [11] the following versions of Weyl's Theorem and of the spectral mapping theorem (see in particular [11, Th. 2.1], [11, Th. 3.1] and their proof). First, for any $a \in (\max(-r, d/2+5-r_0, 0))$, the set $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_a$ is discrete. As a consequence, there exists $a \in (\max(-r, d/2+5-r_0, 0))$ such that

$$\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_{a_\varepsilon} = \{0\}, \quad \Pi^\perp_\varepsilon R_{\Lambda_\varepsilon} \text{ is bounded on } D_{a_\varepsilon},$$

where $\Pi^\perp_\varepsilon := I - \Pi_\varepsilon$ and Π_ε stands for the projection onto the null space of Λ_ε, that is $\Pi_\varepsilon f = \langle f \rangle G_\varepsilon$ for any $f \in X$ (notice that $L^1_r \subset X$). Next, there exists $C_\varepsilon \geqslant 1$ such that

$$\| S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) \Pi^\perp_\varepsilon \|_{\mathscr{B}(L^1_r)} \leqslant C_\varepsilon \, e^{at}, \quad \forall\, a > a_\varepsilon, \ \forall\, t \geqslant 0. \tag{2.27}$$

We now have to establish that estimate (2.27) can be obtained uniformly in $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$. In order to do so, we first use a perturbation argument to prove that our operator Λ_ε has a spectral gap in $H^3_{r_0}$ which does not depend on ε.

We introduce the following spaces:

$$X_1 := H^6_{r_0+1} \subset X_0 := H^3_{r_0} \subset X_{-1} := L^2_{r_0}.$$

It is worth noticing that $r_0 > d/2 + 5$ implies that the conclusion of Lemma 2.4 is satisfied in the three spaces X_i, $i = -1, 0, 1$ and that the following embeddings hold true

$$X_1 \subset H^5_{r_0+1} \subset D_{L^2_{r_0}}(\Lambda_\varepsilon) = D_{L^2_{r_0}}(\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon) \subset D_{L^2_{r_0}}(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon) \subset X_0,$$

where here $D_X(L)$ stands for the domain of the operator L when considered as acting in the space X.

Collecting the estimates obtained in Lemmas 2.8, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6 and the spectral information available on the classical Fokker-Planck operator as established in [5, 9], we see that there exist $a_0 < 0$ and $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$:

(i) For any $i=-1,0,1$, $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon \in \mathscr{B}(X_i)$ uniformly in ε.

(ii) For any $a > a_0$ and $\ell \geqslant 0$, there exists $C_{\ell,a} > 0$ such that

$$\forall\, i=-1,0,1, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0, \quad \|S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*\ell)}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_i,X_i)} \leqslant C_{\ell,a}\, e^{at}.$$

(iii) For any $a > a_0$, there exist $n \geqslant 1$ and $C_{n,a} > 0$ such that

$$\forall\, i=-1,0, \quad \|(\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_i,X_{i+1})} \leqslant C_{n,a}\, e^{at}.$$

(iv) There exists a function $\eta(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0$ such that

$$\forall\, i=-1,0, \quad \|\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon - \mathcal{A}_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_i,X_i)} \leqslant \eta(\varepsilon) \quad \text{and} \quad \|\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - \mathcal{B}_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_i,X_{i-1})} \leqslant \eta(\varepsilon).$$

(v) $\Sigma(\Lambda_0) \cap D_{a_0} = \{0\}$ in the spaces X_i, $i=-1,0,1$, where 0 is a one dimensional eigenvalue.

Using a perturbative argument as in [15], we deduce from the facts (i)–(v), that there exist $a_0 < 0$ and $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0]$, the following properties hold in $X_0 = H^3_{r_0}$:

(1) $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_{a_0} = \{0\}$ in X_0;

(2) for any $f_0 \in X_0$ and any $a > a_0$,

$$\|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0\rangle\|_{X_0} \leqslant C_a\, e^{at}\, \|f_0 - G_\varepsilon\langle f_0\rangle\|_{X_0}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0 \tag{2.28}$$

for some explicit constant $C_a > 0$.

We do not give more details on that perturbation argument here and we rather refer to the last section, where a similar but more general proof will be given with full details.

To conclude the proof of Theorem 2.1, we use an enlargement argument as introduced in [5, Th. 2.13]. More precisely, we immediately conclude by using the iterated Duhamel formula (2.26) written as

$$S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}\Pi_\varepsilon^\perp = \Pi_\varepsilon^\perp S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} + \cdots + \Pi_\varepsilon^\perp S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n-1)} + (\Pi_\varepsilon^\perp S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}) * (\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon})^{(*n)} \tag{2.29}$$

together with the estimates (2.24), (2.25) and (2.28) in order to control the decay of each term.

3. From fractional to classical Fokker-Planck equation

In this part, we denote $\alpha := 2-\varepsilon \in (0,2]$ and we deal with the equations

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f = -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f + \operatorname{div}(xf) = \Lambda_{2-\alpha} f =: \mathcal{L}_\alpha f, \quad \alpha \in (0,2) \\ \partial_t f = \Delta f + \operatorname{div}(xf) = \Lambda_0 f =: \mathcal{L}_2 f. \end{cases} \tag{3.1}$$

We here recall that the fractional Laplacian $\Delta^{\alpha/2} f$ is defined for a Schwartz function f through the integral formula (1.2). Moreover, the constant c_α in (1.2) is chosen such that

$$\frac{c_\alpha}{2} \int_{|z|\leqslant 1} \frac{z_1^2}{|z|^{d+\alpha}} = 1,$$

which implies that $c_\alpha \approx (2-\alpha)$. By duality, we can extend the definition of the fractional Laplacian to the following class of functions:

$$\left\{ f \in L^1_{\rm loc}(\mathbb{R}^d)\,;\, \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(x)|\,\langle x\rangle^{-d-\alpha}\,dx < \infty \right\}.$$

In particular, one can define $(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} m$ when $q < \alpha$ (where we recall again that $m(x) = \langle x\rangle^q$).

We recall that the equation $\partial_t f = \mathcal{L}_\alpha f$ admits a unique equilibrium of mass 1 that we denote G_α (see [4] for the case $\alpha < 2$). Moreover, if $\alpha < 2$, one can prove that $G_\alpha(x) \approx \langle x\rangle^{-d-\alpha}$ (see [14]) and for $\alpha = 2$, we have an explicit formula $G_2(x) = (2\pi)^{-d/2} e^{-|x|^2/2}$. The main result of this section reads:

Theorem 3.1. — *Assume $\alpha_0 \in (0,2)$ and $q < \alpha_0$. There exists an explicit constant $a_0 < 0$ such that for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$, the semigroup $S_{\mathcal{L}_\alpha}(t)$ associated to the fractional Fokker-Planck equation* (3.1) *satisfies: for any $f_0 \in L^1_q$, any $a > a_0$ and any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$,*

$$\|S_{\mathcal{L}_\alpha}(t) f_0 - G_\alpha \langle f_0\rangle\|_{L^1_q} \leqslant C_a e^{at} \|f_0 - G_\alpha \langle f_0\rangle\|_{L^1_q}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0$$

for some explicit constant $C_a \geqslant 1$. In particular, the spectrum $\Sigma(\mathcal{L}_\alpha)$ of $\mathcal{L}_\alpha$ satisfies the separation property $\Sigma(\mathcal{L}_\alpha) \cap D_{a_0} = \{0\}$ in L^1_q for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$.

3.1. Exponential decay in $L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})$. — We recall a result from [4] which establishes an exponential decay to equilibrium for the semigroup $S_{\mathcal{L}_\alpha}(t)$ in the small space $L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})$.

Theorem 3.2. — *There exists a constant $a_0 < 0$ such that for any $\alpha \in (0,2)$,*

(1) *in $L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})$, there holds $\Sigma(\mathcal{L}_\alpha) \cap D_{a_0} = \{0\}$;*
(2) *the following estimate holds: for any $f_0 \in L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})$ and any $a > a_0$,*

$$\|S_{\mathcal{L}_\alpha}(t) f_0 - G_\alpha \langle f_0\rangle\|_{L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})} \leqslant e^{at}\, \|f_0 - G_\alpha \langle f_0\rangle\|_{L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})}, \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0.$$

3.2. Splitting of $\mathcal{L}_\alpha$ and uniform estimates. — The proof of Theorem 3.1 is based on the splitting of the operator $\mathcal{L}_\alpha$ as $\mathcal{L}_\alpha = \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}_\alpha$, where $\mathcal{A}$ is the multiplier operator $\mathcal{A} f := M\, \chi_R f$, for some $M, R > 0$ to be chosen later, and an extension argument taking advantage of the already known exponential decay in $L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})$.

As a straightforward consequence of the definition of $\mathcal{A}$, we get the following estimates.

Lemma 3.3. — *Consider $s \in \mathbb{N}$ and $p \geqslant 1$. The operator $\mathcal{A}$ is uniformly bounded in α from $W^{s,p}(\nu)$ to $W^{s,p}$ with $\nu = m$ or $\nu = G_\alpha^{-1/2}$.*

We next establish that $\mathcal{B}_\alpha$ enjoys uniform dissipativity properties.

Lemma 3.4. — *For any $a > -q$, there exist $M > 0$ and $R > 0$ such that for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$, $\mathcal{B}_\alpha - a$ is dissipative in L^1_q.*

Proof. — We just have to adapt the proof of Lemma 5.1 from [14] taking into account the constant c_α. Indeed, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{L}_\alpha f)\,\mathrm{sign}\, f\, m \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(x)|\, m(x) \Big(\frac{I_\alpha(m)(x)}{m(x)} - \frac{x\cdot\nabla m(x)}{m(x)} \Big)\, dx.$$

We can then show that thanks to the rescaling constant c_α, $I_\alpha(m)/m$ goes to 0 at infinity uniformly in $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2)$. As a consequence, if $a > -q$, since $(x\cdot\nabla m)/m$ goes to $-q$ at infinity, one may choose M and R such that for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2)$,

$$\frac{I_\alpha(m)(x)}{m(x)} - \frac{x\cdot\nabla m(x)}{m(x)} - M\,\chi_R(x) \leqslant a, \quad \forall\, x \in \mathbb{R}^d,$$

which gives the result. □

Lemma 3.5. — *For any $a > a_0$, where a_0 is defined in Theorem 3.2, $\mathcal{B}_\alpha - a$ is dissipative in $L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})$.*

Proof. — The proof also comes from [14, Lem. 5.1]. □

We finally establish that $\mathcal{A}S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha}$ enjoys some uniform regularization properties.

Lemma 3.6. — *There exist some constants $b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $C > 0$ such that for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$, the following estimates hold:*

$$\forall\, t \geqslant 0, \quad \|S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(L^1,L^2)} \leqslant C\, \frac{e^{bt}}{t^{d/2\alpha_0}}.$$

As a consequence, we can prove that for any $a > \max(-q, a_0)$, $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$,

$$\forall\, t \geqslant 0, \quad \|(\mathcal{A}\, S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha})^{(*n)}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(L^1_q, L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2}))} \leqslant C\, e^{at}. \tag{3.2}$$

Proof. — We do not write the proof for the case $\alpha = 2$, for which we refer to [5, 9].

Step 1. — The key argument to prove this regularization property of $S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha}(t)$ is the Nash inequality. For $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2)$, from the proof of [14, Lem. 5.3], we obtain that there exist $b \geqslant 0$ and $C > 0$ such that for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2)$,

$$\forall\, t \geqslant 0, \quad \|S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha}(t) f\|_{L^2} \leqslant C\, \frac{e^{bt}}{t^{d/(2\alpha_0)}}\, \|f\|_{L^1}.$$

Step 2. — Using that $\mathcal{A}$ is compactly supported, we can write

$$\|\mathcal{A} S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha}(t) f\|_{L^2_q} \leqslant C\, \|S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha}(t) f\|_{L^2} \leqslant C\, \frac{e^{bt}}{t^{d/(2\alpha_0)}}\, \|f\|_{L^1}.$$

Using the same method as in [5], we can first deduce that there exists $\ell_0 \in \mathbb{N}$, $\gamma \in [0, 1)$ and $K \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$,

$$\|(\mathcal{A} S_{\mathcal{B}_\alpha})^{(*\ell_0)}(t) f\|_{L^2(G_\alpha^{-1/2})} \leqslant C\, \frac{e^{bt}}{t^\gamma}\, \|f\|_{L^1_q}.$$

We next conclude that (3.2) holds using [5, Lem. 2.17] together with Lemmas 3.4 and 3.3. □

3.3. Spectral analysis. — Before going into the proof of Theorem 3.1, let us notice that we can make explicit the projection Π_α onto the null space through the following formula: $\Pi_\alpha f = \langle f \rangle\, G_\alpha$ for any $f \in L^1_q$. Moreover, since the mass is preserved by the equation $\partial_t f = \mathcal{L}_\alpha f$, we can deduce that $\Pi_\alpha(S_{\mathcal{L}_\alpha}(t) f) = \Pi_\alpha f$ for any $t \geqslant 0$ and any $f \in L^1_q$.

Proof of Theorem 3.1. — We use the enlargement argument for each $\alpha \in [\alpha_0, 2]$ exactly as in the end of the proof of part (2) in Theorem 2.1, by taking advantage of the several estimates established in Theorem 3.2 and in Lemmas 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6. □

4. From discrete to fractional Fokker-Planck equation

Let us fix $\alpha \in (0, 2)$. We consider the equations

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t f = k_\varepsilon * f - \|k_\varepsilon\|_{L^1} f + \mathrm{div}_x(xf) =: \Lambda_\varepsilon f, \quad \varepsilon > 0, \\ \partial_t f = -(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} f + \mathrm{div}_x(xf) =: \Lambda_0 f, \end{cases} \tag{4.1}$$

where

$$k_\varepsilon(x) := \mathbb{1}_{\varepsilon \leqslant |x| \leqslant 1/\varepsilon}\, k_0(x) + \mathbb{1}_{|x| < \varepsilon}\, k_0(\varepsilon), \quad k_0(x) := |x|^{-d-\alpha}.$$

Notice that

$$\forall\, x \in \mathbb{R}^d \setminus \{0\}, \quad k_\varepsilon(x) \nearrow k_0(x) \quad \text{as} \quad \varepsilon \longrightarrow 0. \tag{4.2}$$

For $\alpha \in (0, 2)$, the fractional Laplacian on Schwartz functions is still defined through the formula (1.2). However, since α is fixed in this part, we can get rid of the constant c_α and consider that it equals 1. The main theorem of this section reads:

Theorem 4.1. — *Assume* $0 < r < \alpha/2$.

(1) *For any* $\varepsilon > 0$, *there exists a positive and unit mass normalized steady state* $G_\varepsilon \in L^1_r$ *to the discrete fractional Fokker-Planck equation* (4.1).

(2) *There exist an explicit constant* $a_0 < 0$ *and a constant* $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ *such that for any* $\varepsilon \in [0, \varepsilon_0]$, *the semigroup* $S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t)$ *associated to the discrete and fractional Fokker-Planck equations* (4.1) *satisfies: for any* $f_0 \in L^1_r$ *and any* $a > a_0$,

$$\|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0 \rangle\|_{L^1_r} \leqslant C_a\, e^{at}\, \|f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0 \rangle\|_{L^1_r} \quad \forall\, t \geqslant 0,$$

for some explicit constant $C_a \geqslant 1$. *In particular, the spectrum* $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon)$ *of* Λ_ε *satisfies the separation property* $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_{a_0} = \{0\}$ *in* L^1_r.

The method of the proof is similar to the one of Section 2. We introduce a suitable splitting $\Lambda_\varepsilon = \mathcal{A}_\varepsilon + \mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$, establish some dissipativity and regularity properties on $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ and $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}$ and apply the Krein-Rutman theory revisited in [11, 7]. However, let us emphasize that we introduce a new splitting for the fractional operator (a different one from Section 3 and from [14]) and we also develop a new perturbative argument in the same line as [8, 15, 7] but with some less restrictive assumptions on the operators $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$ and $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$, requiring that they are fulfilled only on the limit operator (i.e., for $\varepsilon = 0$). We finally recall that we denote $m(x) = \langle x \rangle^q$ during the proofs.

4.1. Splittings of Λ_ε. — For any $0<\beta<\beta'$, as previously, we introduce $\chi_\beta(x):=\chi(x/\beta)$, $\chi^c_\beta:=1-\chi_\beta$; we also define $\chi_{\beta,\beta'}:=\chi_{\beta'}-\chi_\beta$ and introduce the function ξ_β defined on $\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d$ by $\xi_\beta(x,y):=\chi_\beta(x)+\chi_\beta(y)-\chi_\beta(x)\chi_\beta(y)$ and $\xi^c_\beta:=1-\xi_\beta$. We denote $I_0(f):=-(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2}f$ and $I_\varepsilon(f):=k_\varepsilon*f-\|k_\varepsilon\|_{L^1}f$ for $\varepsilon>0$. We split these operators into several parts: for any $\varepsilon\geqslant 0$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
I_\varepsilon(f)(x)=&\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\chi_\eta(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x)-\chi(x-y)(y-x)\cdot\nabla f(x))\,dy\\
&+\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\chi^c_L(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))\,dy\\
&+\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\chi_{\eta,L}(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))\,\xi^c_R(x,y)\,dy\\
&-\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\chi_{\eta,L}(x-y)\,\xi_R(x,y)\,dy\,f(x)\\
&+\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\chi_{\eta,L}(x-y)\,\xi_R(x,y)f(y)\,dy\\
=:&\,\mathcal{B}^1_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^2_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^4_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon f,
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.3}
$$

where the constants $\eta\in[\varepsilon,1]$, $R>0$ and $0<L\leqslant 1/\varepsilon$ will be chosen later. One can notice that given the facts that $\eta\geqslant\varepsilon$ and $L\leqslant 1/\varepsilon$, we have for any $\varepsilon>0$, $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon=\mathcal{A}_0=:\mathcal{A}$. Finally, we denote for any $\varepsilon\geqslant 0$,

$$
\mathcal{B}^5_\varepsilon f=\operatorname{div}(xf)\quad\text{and}\quad\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f=\mathcal{B}^1_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^2_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^4_\varepsilon f+\mathcal{B}^5_\varepsilon f.
$$

4.2. Convergence $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon\to\mathcal{B}_0$.

Lemma 4.2. — *Consider $p\in(1,\infty)$ and $q\in(0,\alpha/p)$. The following convergence holds:*

$$
\|\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon-\mathcal{B}_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(W^{s+2,p}_q,W^{s,p}_q)}\leqslant\eta_1(\varepsilon)\xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{}0,\quad s=-2,0.
$$

Proof. — Let us notice that $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon-\mathcal{B}_0=\Lambda_\varepsilon-\Lambda_0$.

Step 1. — We first consider the case $s=0$ and we introduce the notation $k_{0,\varepsilon}:=k_0-k_\varepsilon$. We compute

$$
\begin{aligned}
\|\Lambda_\varepsilon f-\Lambda_0 f\|^p_{L^p_q}&=\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,(f(x+z)-f(x)-\chi(z)z\cdot\nabla f(x))\,dz\right|^p m^p(x)\,dx\\
&\leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\left|\int_{|z|\leqslant 1}k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,(f(x+z)-f(x)-\chi(z)z\cdot\nabla f(x))\,dz\right|^p m^p(x)\,dx\\
&\quad+C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\left|\int_{|z|\geqslant 1}k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,(f(x+z)-f(x)-\chi(z)z\cdot\nabla f(x))\,dz\right|^p m^p(x)\,dx\\
&=:T_1+T_2.
\end{aligned}
$$

To deal with T_1, we perform a Taylor expansion of f of order 2 and we use that $\chi(z) = 1$ if $|z| \leqslant 1$, in order to get

$$T_1 \leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\int_{|z|\leqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,|z|^2 \int_0^1 (1-s)\,|D^2 f(x+sz)|\,ds\,dz \right)^p m^p(x)\,dx.$$

From Hölder's inequality applied with the measure $\mu_\varepsilon(dz) := \mathbb{1}_{|z|\leqslant 1}\, k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,|z|^2\,dz$, we have

$$T_1 \leqslant C \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mu_\varepsilon(dz) \right)^{p/p'} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\int_0^1 |D^2 f(x+sz)|\,ds \right)^p \mu_\varepsilon(dz)\, m^p(x)\,dx$$

where $p' = p/(p-1)$ is the Hölder conjugate exponent of p. Using now Jensen's inequality, we get

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &\leqslant C \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mu_\varepsilon(dz) \right)^{p/p'} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} \int_0^1 |D^2 f(x+sz)|^p\,ds\,\mu_\varepsilon(dz)\, m^p(x)\,dx \\ &\leqslant C \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mu_\varepsilon(dz) \right)^{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |D^2 f(x)|^p\, m^p(x)\,dx, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mu_\varepsilon(dz) = \int_{|z|\leqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,|z|^2\,dz \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0$$

by Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem. To treat T_2, we first notice that the term involving $\nabla f(x)$ gives no contribution, because $k_{0,\varepsilon}\chi \equiv 0$ for $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$, so that performing similar computations as for T_1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_2 &\leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left| \int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,(f(x+z)-f(x))\,dz \right|^p m^p(x)\,dx \\ &\leqslant C \left(\int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,dz \right)^{p/p'} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \int_{|z|\geqslant 1} |k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)|(|f|^p(x+z)+|f|^p(x))\,dz\, m^p(x)\,dx \\ &\leqslant C \left(\int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, m^p(z)\,dz \right)^{p} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^p(x)\, m^p(x)\,dx, \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, m^p(z)\,dz \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0$$

by the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem again. As a consequence, we obtain

$$\|(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(f)\|_{L^p_q} \leqslant \eta(\varepsilon)\|f\|_{W^{2,p}_q}, \quad \eta(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0.$$

Step 2. — We now consider the case $s = -2$, and we recall that by definition

$$\begin{aligned} \|\Lambda_\varepsilon f - \Lambda_0 f\|_{W^{-2,p}_q} &= \sup_{\|\phi\|_{W^{2,p'}}\leqslant 1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f\,(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)^*(\phi\, m) \\ &= \sup_{\|\phi\|_{W^{2,p'}}\leqslant 1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f\,(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m) \end{aligned}$$

where $p' = p/(p-1)$ and because $(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)^* = \Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0$ (where Λ^* stands for the formal dual operator of Λ). For sake of simplicity, we introduce the notation

$$\mathcal{T}_\nu(x,y) := \nu(y) - \nu(x) - \nabla\nu(x)\cdot(y-x)\,\chi(x-y). \tag{4.4}$$

We then estimate the integral in the right hand side of the previous equality:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f\,(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m)}{m}\, f\, m \\ &\leqslant \|(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m)/m\|_{L^{p'}}\, \|f\|_{L^p_q}.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m)(x) &= (I_\varepsilon - I_0)(\phi\, m)(x) \\ &= (I_\varepsilon - I_0)(\phi)(x)\, m(x) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,\phi(x+z)\,\mathcal{T}_m(x,x+z)\,dz \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,\chi(z)\,z\cdot\nabla m(x)\,(\phi(x+z)-\phi(x))\,dz.\end{aligned} \tag{4.5}$$

We deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}\|(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m)/m\|^{p'}_{L^{p'}} &\leqslant C\,\bigg(\|(I_\varepsilon - I_0)(\phi)\|^{p'}_{L^{p'}} \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m^{p'}(x)}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\phi(x+z)\,\mathcal{T}_m(x,x+z)\,dz\right|^{p'} dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m^{p'}(x)}\left|\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\,\chi(z)\,z\cdot\nabla m(x)\,(\phi(x+z)-\phi(x))\,dz\right|^{p'} dx\bigg) \\ &=: C\,(J_1 + J_2 + J_3).\end{aligned}$$

To deal with J_1, we use the step 1 of the proof which gives us

$$\|(I_\varepsilon - I_0)(\phi)\|_{L^{p'}} \leqslant \eta(\varepsilon)\|\phi\|_{W^{2,p'}}, \quad \eta(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0.$$

The term J_2 is split into two parts:

$$\begin{aligned}J_2 &\leqslant C\bigg(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m^{p'}(x)}\left|\int_{|z|\leqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\phi(x+z)\,\mathcal{T}_m(x,x+z)\,dz\right|^{p'} dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m^{p'}(x)}\left|\int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\phi(x+z)\,\mathcal{T}_m(x,x+z)\,dz\right|^{p'} dx\bigg) \\ &=: J_{21} + J_{22}.\end{aligned}$$

We first notice that for $|z| \leqslant 1$,

$$\mathcal{T}_m(x,x+z) = \int_0^1 (1-\theta) D^2 m(x+\theta z)(z,z)\,d\theta,$$

which implies that

$$J_{21} \leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m^{p'}(x)}\bigg(\int_0^1 \int_{|z|\leqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)|z|^2 |D^2 m(x+\theta z)||\phi|(x+z)\,d\theta dz\bigg)^{p'} dx.$$

Since $0 < q < 2$, $|D^2 m| \leqslant C$ and $1/m^{p'} \leqslant C$ in $\mathbb{R}^d$, we thus deduce using Hölder's inequality and a change of variable,

$$J_{21} \leqslant C \left(\int_{|z| \leqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, |z|^2 \, dz \right)^{p'} \|\phi\|_{L^{p'}}^{p'} \quad \text{with} \quad \int_{|z| \leqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, |z|^2 \, dz \xrightarrow[\varepsilon \to 0]{} 0.$$

Concerning J_{22}, we use $|z\chi(z)| \leqslant C$ for any $|z| \geqslant 1$ and $|\nabla m| \leqslant C\, m$ in $\mathbb{R}^d$, and we obtain that J_{22} is bounded from above by

$$C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{1}{m^{p'}(x)} \left(\int_{|z| \geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z) |\phi|(x+z)\, (m(x+z) + m(x) + |\nabla m(x)|)\, dz \right)^{p'} dx$$
$$\leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \left(\int_{|z| \geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, |\phi|(x+z)\, m(z)\, dz \right)^{p'} dx,$$

which implies, using Hölder's inequality and a change of variable,

$$J_{22} \leqslant C \left(\int_{|z| \geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, m^p(z)\, dz \right)^{p'} \|\phi\|_{L^{p'}}^{p'} \quad \text{with} \quad \int_{|z| \geqslant 1} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, m^p(z)\, dz \xrightarrow[\varepsilon \to 0]{} 0.$$

Finally, we handle J_3 performing a Taylor expansion of ϕ:

$$\phi(x+z) - \phi(x) = \int_0^1 (1-s)\, \nabla\phi(x+sz) \cdot z \, ds$$

which implies, using that $|\nabla m|^{p'}/m^{p'} \in L^\infty$, Hölder's inequality and a change of variable,

$$J_3 \leqslant \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{|\nabla m|^{p'}(x)}{m^{p'}(x)} \left(\int_{|z| \leqslant 2} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, |z|^2 \int_0^1 |\nabla\phi|(x+sz)\, ds\, dz \right)^{p'} dx \right)^{1/p'}$$
$$\leqslant C \int_{|z| \leqslant 2} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, |z|^2 \, dz\, \|\nabla\phi\|_{L^{p'}} \quad \text{with} \quad \int_{|z| \leqslant 2} k_{0,\varepsilon}(z)\, |z|^2 \, dz \xrightarrow[\varepsilon \to 0]{} 0.$$

As a consequence, we obtain that

$$\|(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)(\phi\, m)/m\|_{L^{p'}} \leqslant \eta(\varepsilon) \|\phi\|_{W^{2,p'}}, \quad \eta(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon \to 0]{} 0,$$

which concludes the proof. □

4.3. Regularization properties of $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon$

Lemma 4.3. — *For any $p \in (1,\infty)$, $(s,t) = (-2,0)$ or $(0,2)$, the operator $\mathcal{A}_\varepsilon = \mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{A}$ defined in* (4.3) *by*

$$\mathcal{A} f = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\, \chi_{\eta,L}(x-y)\, \xi_R(x,y) f(y)\, dy$$

is bounded from $W^{s,p}$ to $W^{t,p}(\nu)$ for any weight function ν.

Proof. — First, one can notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_R(x,y)\, \chi_{\eta,L}(x-y) &\leqslant (\chi_R(x) + \chi_R(y))\ \chi_{\eta,L}(x-y) \\ &\leqslant \left(\mathbb{1}_{|x| \leqslant 2R} + \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leqslant 2R} \right)\ \mathbb{1}_{\eta \leqslant |x-y| \leqslant 2L} \\ &\leqslant 2\, \mathbb{1}_{\eta \leqslant |x-y| \leqslant 2L}\, \mathbb{1}_{|x| \leqslant 2(R+L)}\, \mathbb{1}_{|y| \leqslant 2(R+L)}, \end{aligned} \tag{4.6}$$

the proof is hence immediate in the case $s = t = 0$ using Young's inequality:

$$\|\mathcal{A}f\|_{L^p(\nu)} \leqslant C\,\|\mathcal{A}f\|_{L^p} \leqslant \|k_0\,\mathbb{1}_{\eta\leqslant|\cdot|\leqslant 2L}\|_{L^1}\,\|f\|_{L^p}.$$

We now deal with the case $(s,t) = (0,2)$. First, we have for $\ell = 1,2$

$$\partial_x^\ell(\mathcal{A}f)(x) = \sum_{i+j+k=\ell}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_x^i(k_0(x-y))\,\partial_x^j(\chi_{\eta,L}(x-y))\,\partial_x^k(\xi_R(x,y))\,f(y)\,dy,$$

and for any (i,j,k) such that $i+j+k=\ell$,

$$\left|\partial_x^i(k_0(x-y))\,\partial_x^j(\chi_{\eta,L}(x-y))\,\partial_x^k(\xi_R(x,y))\right| \leqslant C\,|\partial_x^i(k_0(x-y))|\,\mathbb{1}_{\eta\leqslant|x-y|\leqslant 2L}\,\mathbb{1}_{|x|\leqslant 2(R+L)}.$$

As a consequence, for $\ell = 0,1,2$,

$$\|\partial_x^\ell(\mathcal{A}f)\|_{L^p(\nu)} \leqslant \sum_{i=0}^{2}\|\partial_x^i k_0\,\mathbb{1}_{\eta\leqslant|\cdot|\leqslant 2L}\|_{L^1}\,\|f\|_{L^p},$$

which concludes the proof in the case $(s,t) = (0,2)$.

Finally, arguing by duality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\|\mathcal{A}f\|_{L^p(\nu)} &\leqslant C\sup_{\|\phi\|_{L^{p'}}\leqslant 1}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\mathcal{A}f)\,\phi = C\sup_{\|\phi\|_{L^{p'}}\leqslant 1}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\mathcal{A}\phi)\,f\\ &\leqslant C\sup_{\|\phi\|_{L^{p'}}\leqslant 1}\|f\|_{W^{-2,p}}\,\|\mathcal{A}\phi\|_{W^{2,p'}} \leqslant C\,\|f\|_{W^{-2,p}},\end{aligned}$$

which proves the estimate in the case $(s,t) = (-2,0)$. □

4.4. Dissipativity properties of $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$ and $\mathcal{B}_0$

Lemma 4.4. — *Consider $p \in [1,2]$ and $q \in (0,\alpha/p)$. For any $a > d(1-1/p)-q$, there exist $\varepsilon_1 > 0$, $\eta > 0$, $L > 0$ and $R > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_1]$, $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - a$ is dissipative in L^p_q.*

Proof. — We consider $a > d(1-1/p)-q$ and we estimate for $i = 1,\dots,5$ the integral $\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\left(\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^i f\right)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p$.

We first deal with $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^1$ in both cases $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\varepsilon = 0$ simultaneously noticing that for any $\varepsilon \geqslant 0$,

$$\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^1 f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(k_\varepsilon\,\chi_\eta)(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x)-(y-x)\cdot\nabla f(x))\,dy.$$

Then, using (2.5), we have

$$\begin{aligned}&\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon^1 f)(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p\\ &\qquad\leqslant \frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d}(|f|^p(y)-|f|^p(x)-(y-x)\cdot\nabla|f|^p(x))\,(k_\varepsilon\,\chi_\eta)(x-y)dy\,m^p(x)\,dx\\ &\qquad= \frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d}(m^p(y)-m^p(x)-(y-x)\cdot\nabla m^p(x))\,(k_\varepsilon\,\chi_\eta)(x-y)\,dy\,|f|^p(x)\,dx.\end{aligned}$$

Using a Taylor expansion of order 2 and that $pq < \alpha < 2$, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (m^p(y) - m^p(x) - (y-x)\cdot\nabla m^p(x))\,(k_\varepsilon\,\chi_\eta)(x-y)\,dy \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\int_0^1 (1-\theta)\,D^2 m^p(x+\theta z))(z,z)\,(k_\varepsilon\,\chi_\eta)(z)\,d\theta\,dz \\ &\leqslant C\int_{|z|\leqslant 2\eta} |z|^2\,k_0(z)\,dz,\end{aligned}$$

and thus

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\big(\mathcal{B}^1_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \leqslant \kappa_\eta\int_{\mathbb{R}}|f|^p\,m^p \quad\text{with}\quad \kappa_\eta \approx \int_{|z|\leqslant 2\eta} k_0(z)\,|z|^2\,dz \xrightarrow[\eta\to 0]{} 0.$$

Concerning $\mathcal{B}^2_\varepsilon$, we also treat the case $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\varepsilon = 0$ in a same time using (2.5):

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\big(\mathcal{B}^2_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\;(|f|^p(y) - |f|^p(x))\;\chi^c_L(x-y)\,m^p(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &= \frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\;(m^p(y) - m^p(x))\;\chi^c_L(x-y)\,|f|^p(x)\,dy\,dx.\end{aligned}$$

We now use the fact that the function $s \mapsto s^{pq/2}$ is $pq/2$-Hölder continuous since $pq/2 < \alpha/2 \leqslant 1$ to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}|m^p(x) - m^p(y)| &\leqslant C\;||x| - |y||^{pq/2}\;(|x| + |y|)^{pq/2} \\ &\leqslant C\,|x-y|^{pq/2}\min\big((|x| + |x-y| + |x|)^{pq/2}, (|y| + |x-y| + |y|)^{pq/2}\big) \\ &\leqslant C\,\big(\min\big(|x-y|^{pq/2}|x|^{pq/2}, |x-y|^{pq/2}|y|^{pq/2}\big) + |x-y|^{pq}\big) \\ &\leqslant C\,\langle x-y\rangle^{pq}\;\min\big(\langle x\rangle^{pq/2}, \langle y\rangle^{pq/2}\big).\end{aligned} \tag{4.7}$$

We deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\big(\mathcal{B}^2_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p &\leqslant C\int_{|z|\geqslant L} k_0(z)\,m^p(z)\,dz\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f|^p(x)\,\langle x\rangle^{pq/2}\,dx \\ &\leqslant \kappa_L\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}|f|^p\,m^p, \quad\text{with}\quad \kappa_L \approx \int_{|z|\geqslant L} k_0(z)\,m^p(z)\,dz \xrightarrow[L\to+\infty]{} 0.\end{aligned}$$

We now handle the third term $\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon$ first using inequality (2.5) again:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\big(\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon f\big)(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \\ &\leqslant \frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(x-y)\,\chi_{\eta,L}(x-y)\,\xi^c_R(x,y)\,(|f|^p(y) - |f|^p(x))\,m^p(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &= \frac{1}{p}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(z)\,\chi_{\eta,L}(z)\,\xi^c_R(y+z,y)\,|f|^p(y)\,(m^p(y+z) - m^p(y))\,dy\,dz.\end{aligned}$$

We then use the Taylor-Lagrange formula which gives us the existence of $\theta \in (0,1)$ such that

$$m^p(y+z) = m^p(y) + z\cdot\nabla m^p(y+\theta z).$$

Notice that there exists $C_L > 0$ depending on L such that $|\nabla m^p(y+\theta z)| \leqslant C_L \langle y\rangle^{pq-1}$ for any $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $|z| \leqslant 2L$. We hence obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \big(\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \\ &\leqslant C_L \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(z)\,|z|\,\chi_{\eta,L}(z)\,\xi^c_R(y+z,y)\,|f|^p(y)\,\langle y\rangle^{pq-1}\,dy\,dz \\ &\leqslant C_L \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_\varepsilon(z)\,|z|\,\chi_{\eta,L}(z)\,\chi^c_R(y)\,|f|^p(y)\,\frac{m^p(y)}{\langle y\rangle}\,dy\,dz \\ &\leqslant C_L \int_{\eta\leqslant|z|\leqslant 2L} k_0(z)\,|z|\,dz \int_{|y|\geqslant 2R} |f|^p(y)\,\frac{m^p(y)}{\langle y\rangle}\,dy,\end{aligned}$$

which leads to

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \big(\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \leqslant C_{\eta,L} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|^p(y)\,\frac{m^p(y)}{R}\,dy.$$

As a consequence, we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \big(\mathcal{B}^3_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \leqslant \kappa_R\,C_{\eta,L} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f|\,m \ \text{ with } \ \kappa_R \approx \frac{1}{R} \xrightarrow[R\to+\infty]{} 0.$$

We estimate the term involving $\mathcal{B}^4_\varepsilon$ using that $\xi_R(x,y) \geqslant \chi_R(x)$, and we get

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \big(\mathcal{B}^4_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \leqslant -\int_{2\eta\leqslant|z|\leqslant L} k_\varepsilon(z)\,dz \int_{|x|\leqslant R} |f|^p\,m^p.$$

Finally, using integration by parts, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \big(\mathcal{B}^5_\varepsilon f\big)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(x)|^p\,m^p(x)\Big(d\Big(1-\frac{1}{p}\Big) - \frac{x\cdot\nabla m^p(x)}{p\,m^p(x)}\Big)\,dx.$$

Gathering all the previous estimates and denoting

$$\psi^\varepsilon_{\eta,L,R}(x) := \kappa_\eta+\kappa_L+\kappa_R\,C_{\eta,L} - \int_{2\eta\leqslant|z|\leqslant L} k_\varepsilon(z)\,dz\,\mathbb{1}_{|x|\leqslant R} - \Big(d\Big(1-\frac{1}{p}\Big) - \frac{x\cdot\nabla m^p(x)}{p\,m^p(x)}\Big),$$

we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon f)\,(\operatorname{sign} f)\,|f|^{p-1}\,m^p \leqslant \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi^\varepsilon_{\eta,L,R}(x)\,|f|^p(x)\,m^p(x)\,dx.$$

First, since $\varphi_m : x \mapsto d(1-1/p) - x\cdot\nabla m^p(x)/p\,m^p(x)$ is a continuous function, we can bound it from above by a constant C_R depending on R on $\{|x| \leqslant R\}$ for any $R > 0$. We denote $\ell := d(1-1/p) - q$ which is the limit of φ_m as $|x| \to \infty$. One can also notice that $A^\varepsilon_{\eta,L} := \int_{2\eta\leqslant|z|\leqslant L} k_\varepsilon(z)\,dz \to \infty$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$ and $\eta \to 0$. We first choose $\varepsilon_1 > 0$, $\eta \geqslant \varepsilon_1$, $L \leqslant 1/\varepsilon_1$ and $R > 0$, so that we have

$$|x| \geqslant R \Longrightarrow \varphi_m(x) \leqslant \frac{a+\ell}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \kappa_\eta + \kappa_L + \kappa_R\,C_{\eta,L} \leqslant \frac{a-\ell}{2}.$$

Up to make decrease the value of η, we can then choose $\varepsilon_0 < \varepsilon_1$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0]$,

$$\kappa_\eta + \kappa_L + \kappa_R\,C_{\eta,L} + C_R - A^\varepsilon_{\eta,L} \leqslant a.$$

As a conclusion, for this choice of constants, for any $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and $\varepsilon \in [0,\varepsilon_0]$, we have $\psi^\varepsilon_{\eta,L,R}(x) \leqslant a$, which yields the result. □

Lemma 4.5. — *Consider $q \in (0, \alpha/2)$. There exists $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $s \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{B}_0 - b$ is hypodissipative in H^s_q.*

Proof

Step 1. — We first treat the case $s = 0$. We write $\mathcal{B}_0 = \Lambda_0 - \mathcal{A}_0$ and we compute

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}_0 f)\, f\, m^2 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\Lambda_0 f)\, f\, m^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{A}_0 f)\, f\, m^2 \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} I_0(f)\, f\, m^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \operatorname{div}(xf)\, f\, m^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{A}_0 f)\, f\, m^2 \\ &=: T_1 + T_2 + T_3.\end{aligned}$$

Concerning T_1, we have

$$\begin{aligned}T_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(f(y) - f(x) - \chi(x-y)\,(y-x)\cdot\nabla f(x)) f(x)\, m^2(x)\, dy\, dx \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))^2\, dy\, m^2(x)\, dx + \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2\, I_0(m^2).\end{aligned}$$

Since one can prove that $I_0(m^2)/m^2$ goes to 0 at infinity (cf. [14, Lem. 5.1]) and is thus bounded in $\mathbb{R}^d$, we can deduce that there exists $C \in \mathbb{R}_+$ such that

$$T_1 \leqslant -\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))^2\, dy\, m^2(x)\, dx + C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2\, m^2.$$

We observe that

$$\begin{aligned}-\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} & k_0(x-y)\,(f(y)-f(x))^2\, dy\, m^2(x)\, dx \\ &\leqslant -\frac{1}{4}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,((fm)(y) - (fm)(x))^2\, dy\, dx \\ &\qquad + \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(m(y)-m(x))^2\, dx\, f^2(y)\, dy.\end{aligned}$$

We split the last term into two pieces, that we estimate in the following way:

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{|x-y|\leqslant 1} & k_0(x-y)\,(m(y)-m(x))^2\, dx\, f^2(y)\, dy \\ &\leqslant \int_0^1 \int_{|x-y|\leqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,|x-y|^2\,|\nabla m(x+\theta(y-x))|^2\, dx\, f^2(y)\, dy d\theta \\ &\leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2\, m^2\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{|x-y|\geqslant 1} & k_0(x-y)\,(m(y)-m(x))^2\, dx\, f^2(y)\, dy \\ &\leqslant C\int_{|x-y|\geqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,(m^2(y) + m^2(y)\, m^2(x-y))\, dx\, f^2(y)\, dy \\ &\leqslant C\int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_0(z)\, m^p(z)\, dz \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2\, m^2 \leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2\, m^2.\end{aligned}$$

We recall that the homogeneous Sobolev space $\dot{H}^s$ for $s \in \mathbb{R}$ is the set of tempered distributions u such that $\widehat{u}$ belongs to $L^1_{\rm loc}$ and

$$\|u\|^2_{\dot{H}^s} := \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |\xi|^{2s} \, |\widehat{u}(\xi)|^2 \, d\xi < \infty,$$

and that for $s \in (0,1)$, there exists a constant $c_0 > 0$ such that

$$\|u\|^2_{\dot{H}^s} = c_0^{-1} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} \frac{(u(x)-u(y))^2}{|x-y|^{d+2s}} \, dx \, dy,$$

from which we deduce the following identity:

$$c_0 \, \|u\|^2_{\dot{H}^{\alpha/2}} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d \times \mathbb{R}^d} (u(x)-u(y))^2 \, k_0(x-y) \, dx \, dy \quad \forall \, \alpha \in (0,2). \tag{4.8}$$

As a consequence, up to change the value of C, we have proved

$$T_1 \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4} \, \|f \, m\|^2_{\dot{H}^{\alpha/2}} + C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2 \, m^2.$$

Next, we compute

$$T_2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2 \, m^2 \left(\frac{d}{2} - \frac{x \cdot \nabla m^2}{2 \, m^2} \right) \leqslant \frac{d}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2 \, m^2.$$

Concerning T_3, we use Lemma 4.3 and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality:

$$T_3 \leqslant \|\mathcal{A}_0 f\|_{L^2_q} \, \|f\|_{L^2_q} \leqslant C \, \|f\|^2_{L^2_q}.$$

As a consequence, gathering the three previous inequalities, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}_0 f) \, f \, m^2 \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4} \, \|f \, m\|^2_{\dot{H}^{\alpha/2}} + b_0 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} f^2 \, m^2, \quad b_0 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Step 2. — We now consider $b > b_0$ and we prove that for any $s \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{B}_0 - b$ is hypodissipative in H^s_q. For $s \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we introduce the norm

$$|\!|\!| f |\!|\!|^2_{H^s_q} = \sum_{j=0}^{s} \eta^j \, \|\partial_x^j f\|^2_{L^2_q}, \quad \eta > 0, \tag{4.9}$$

which is equivalent to the classical H^s_q norm. We use again the fact that $\mathcal{B}_0 = \Lambda_0 - \mathcal{A}_0$ and we only deal with the case $s = 1$, the higher order derivatives being treated in the same way. First, we have

$$\partial_x(\mathcal{B}_0 f) = \Lambda_0(\partial_x f) + \partial_x f - \partial_x(\mathcal{A}_0 f).$$

Then, we can notice that

$$\mathcal{A}_0 f(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(z) \, \chi_{\eta,L}(z) \, \xi_R(x, x+z) \, f(x+z) \, dz$$

so that

$$\partial_x(\mathcal{A}_0 f)(x) = \mathcal{A}_0(\partial_x f)(x) + \widetilde{\mathcal{A}_0} f(x), \quad \text{with} \quad \|\widetilde{\mathcal{A}_0} f\|_{L^2_q} \leqslant C \, \|f\|_{L^2},$$

where the last inequality is obtained thanks to inequality (4.6) as in the proof of Lemma 4.3. We deduce that

$$\partial_x(\mathcal{B}_0 f) = \mathcal{B}_0(\partial_x f) + \partial_x f - \widetilde{\mathcal{A}_0} f.$$

Then, doing the same computations as in the case $s = 0$, we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_x(\mathcal{B}_0 f)\,(\partial_x f)\,m^2 = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{B}_0(\partial_x f)\,(\partial_x f)\,m^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f)^2\,m^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \widetilde{\mathcal{A}_0 f}\,(\partial_x f)\,m^2$$
$$=: J_1 + J_2 + J_3.$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &\leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|(\partial_x f)m\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + b_0 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f)^2\,m^2 \\ &\leqslant -\frac{c_0}{8}\|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}} + \frac{c_0}{4}\,\|f\,\partial_x m\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + b_0 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\partial_x f)^2\,m^2 \\ &\leqslant -\frac{c_0}{8}\|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}} + C\big(\|f\|^2_{L^2_q} + \|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^1}\big), \end{aligned}$$

and also

$$J_2 \leqslant \frac{1}{2}\big(\|f\|^2_{L^2_q} + \|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^1}\big).$$

Finally, using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, we have

$$J_3 \leqslant \|\widetilde{\mathcal{A}_0 f}\|_{L^2_q}\,\|\partial_x f\|_{L^2_q} \leqslant C\big(\|f\|^2_{L^2_q} + \|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^1}\big).$$

As a consequence, we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_x(\mathcal{B}_0 f)\,(\partial_x f)\,m^2 \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{8}\|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}} + b_1\big(\|f\|^2_{L^2_q} + \|f\,m\|^2_{\dot H^1}\big), \quad b_1 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

We now introduce f_t the solution to the evolution equation

$$\partial_t f_t = \mathcal{B}_0 f_t, \quad f_0 = f,$$

and we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|\!|\!|f_t|\!|\!|^2_{H^1_q} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}_0 f_t)\,f_t\,m^2 + \eta \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \partial_x(\mathcal{B}_0 f_t)\,(\partial_x f_t)\,m^2 \\ &\leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|f_t\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} - \eta\frac{c_0}{8}\|f_t\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}} \\ &\qquad + \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q}(b_0 + \eta\,b_1) + \eta\,b_1\,\|f_t\,m\|^2_{\dot H^1}. \end{aligned}$$

We now use the following interpolation inequality

$$\|h\|_{\dot H^1} \leqslant \|h\|^{\alpha/2}_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}}\,\|h\|^{1-\alpha/2}_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}},$$

which implies

$$\|h\|^2_{\dot H^1} \leqslant K(\zeta)\,\|h\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + \zeta\,\|h\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}}, \quad \zeta > 0. \tag{4.10}$$

We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|\!|\!|f_t|\!|\!|^2_{H^1_q} &\leqslant \Big(-\frac{c_0}{4} + \eta\,b_1\,K(\zeta)\Big)\,\|f_t\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + \eta\,\Big(-\frac{c_0}{8} + \zeta\,b_1\Big)\,\|f_t\,m\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}} \\ &\quad + \|f_t\|^2_{L^2_q}(b_0 + \eta\,b_1). \end{aligned}$$

Choosing ζ small enough so that $-c_0/8 + \zeta\,b_1 < 0$ and then η small enough so that $-c_0/4 + \eta\,b_1\,K(\zeta) < 0$ and $b_0 + \eta\,b_1 < b$, we get

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|\!|\!|f_t|\!|\!|^2_{H^1_q} \leqslant b\,|\!|\!|f_t|\!|\!|^2_{H^1_q}$$

which concludes the proof in the case $s = 1$. □

We now introduce the operator $\mathcal{B}_{0,m}$ defined by

$$\mathcal{B}_{0,m}(h) = m\,\mathcal{B}_0(m^{-1}h). \tag{4.11}$$

Corollary 4.6. — *Consider q such that $2q < \alpha$. There exists $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $s \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{B}_{0,m} - b$ is hypodissipative in H^s.*

Proof. — The proof comes from Lemma 4.5 and is immediate noticing that the norms defined on H^s_q by

$$\|f\|_1^2 = \sum_{j=0}^{s} \|\partial_x^j f\|_{L^2_q}^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \|f\|_2^2 := \|f\,m\|_{H^s}^2$$

are equivalent. □

Lemma 4.7. — *Consider q such that $2q < \alpha$. There exists $b \in \mathbb{R}$ such that for any $s \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{B}_{0,m} - b$ is hypodissipative in H^{-s}, (or equivalently, $\mathcal{B}_0 - b$ is hypodissipative in H^{-s}_q).*

Proof. — We introduce the dual operator of $\mathcal{B}_{0,m}$ defined by:

$$\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi = \omega\, I_0(m\,\phi) - x\cdot\nabla\phi - \frac{x\cdot\nabla m}{m}\,\phi - \omega\,\mathcal{A}_0(m\,\phi),$$

where $\omega := m^{-1}$. We now want to prove that $\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}$ is hypodissipative in H^s.

Step 1. — We consider first the case $s = 0$ and we compute

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi)\,\phi &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} I_0(m\,\phi)\,\omega\,\phi - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} x\cdot(\nabla\phi)\,\phi - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \frac{x\cdot\nabla m}{m}\,\phi^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \omega\,\mathcal{A}_0(m\,\phi)\,\phi \\ &=: T_1 + \cdots + T_4.\end{aligned}$$

We have

$$T_2 = \frac{d}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2 \quad \text{and} \quad T_3 \leqslant 0.$$

Next, using (4.6), we have $\|\mathcal{A}_0(m\,\phi)\|_{L^2} \leqslant C\,\|\mathcal{A}_0(|\phi|)\|_{L^2}$ and thus

$$T_4 \leqslant C\left(\|\mathcal{A}_0(|\phi|)\|^2 + \|\phi\|^2_{L^2}\right) \leqslant C\,\|\phi\|^2_{L^2}$$

from Lemma 4.3. Let us now estimate T_1.

Case $\alpha < 1$. — We write

$$\begin{aligned}T_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,((m\phi)(y) - (m\phi)(x))\,\omega(x)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(\phi(y)-\phi(x))\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\qquad + \int_{|x-y|\leqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,(m(y)-m(x))\,\omega(x)\,\phi(y)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\qquad + \int_{|x-y|\geqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,(m(y)-m(x))\,\omega(x)\,\phi(y)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &=: T_{11} + T_{12} + T_{13}.\end{aligned}$$

Let us point out here that from (4.8), we have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{11} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} I_0(\phi)\,\phi \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(\phi(y)-\phi(x))^2\,dy\,dx + \frac{1}{2}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} I_0(\phi^2) \\ &= -\frac{c_0}{2}\|\phi\|^2_{\dot{H}^{\alpha/2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Next, using a Taylor expansion, there exists $\theta \in (0,1)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} T_{12} &= \int_{|x-y|\leqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,(m(y)-m(x))\,\omega(x)\,\phi(y)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\leqslant C\int_{|x-y|\leqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,|x-y|\,|\nabla m(x+\theta(y-x))|\,\omega(x)\,(\phi^2(y)+\phi^2(x))\,dy\,dx. \end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

Using that $|\nabla m(x+\theta(y-x))|\,\omega(x) \leqslant C$ for any x, $y \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $|x-y| \leqslant 1$, we deduce

$$T_{12} \leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2.$$

Concerning T_{13}, we have from (4.7)

$$|m(y)-m(x)| \leqslant C\,\langle x-y\rangle^q\,\min\big(\langle x\rangle^{q/2},\langle y\rangle^{q/2}\big),$$

from which we deduce

$$T_{13} \leqslant C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2.$$

Altogether, we have thus proved

$$T_1 \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{2}\|\phi\|^2_{\dot{H}^{\alpha/2}} + C\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\phi^2.$$

Case $\alpha \in [1,2)$. — We write

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,\mathcal{T}_{m\phi}(x,y)\,\omega(x)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} I_0(\phi)\,\phi + \int_{|x-y|\leqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,\mathcal{T}_m(x,y)\,\omega(x)\,\phi(y)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\qquad + \int_{|x-y|\geqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,\mathcal{T}_m(x,y)\,\omega(x)\,\phi(y)\,\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\qquad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(\phi(y)-\phi(x))\,\phi(x)\,\omega(x)\,\nabla m(x)\cdot(y-x)\,\chi(y-x)\,dy\,dx \\ &=: T_{11}+T_{12}+T_{13}+T_{14} \end{aligned}$$

where we recall that $\mathcal{T}_\nu$ is defined in (4.4). We have again

$$T_{11} = -\frac{c_0}{2}\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot{H}^{\alpha/2}}.$$

Arguing similarly as for T_{12} in (4.12), but using a Taylor expansion at order 2 instead of order 1, we obtain

$$T_{12} \leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2.$$

Next, we split T_{13} into two parts:

$$\begin{aligned} T_{13} &\leqslant C \int_{|x-y|\geqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,|m(y)-m(x)|\,\omega(x)(\phi^2(x)+\phi^2(y))\,dx\,dy \\ &\qquad + C \int_{1\leqslant|x-y|\leqslant 2} k_0(x-y)\,|x-y|\,|\nabla m(x)|\,\omega(x)\,(\phi^2(x)+\phi^2(y))\,dx\,dy \\ &\leqslant C \int_{|x-y|\geqslant 1} k_0(x-y)\,\langle x-y\rangle^q\,\langle x\rangle^{-q/2}\,(\phi^2(x)+\phi^2(y))\,dx\,dy \\ &\qquad + C \int_{1\leqslant|x-y|\leqslant 2} k_0(x-y)\,(\phi^2(x)+\phi^2(y))\,dx\,dy, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used (4.7), we thus obtain:

$$T_{13} \leqslant C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2.$$

Concerning T_{14}, we use Young's inequality which implies that for any $\zeta > 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} T_{14} &\leqslant \zeta \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(\phi(y)-\phi(x))^2\,dy\,dx \\ &\qquad + K(\zeta) \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,\phi^2(x)\,\frac{|\nabla m(x)|^2}{m^2(x)}\,|y-x|^2\,\chi^2(x-y)\,dy\,dx \\ &\leqslant \zeta\,c_0\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + K(\zeta) \int_{|z|\leqslant 2} k(z)\,|z|^2\,dz \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, taking $\zeta > 0$ small enough, we have

$$T_1 \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + C \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2.$$

We hence conclude that

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} (\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi)\,\phi \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}} + b_0 \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi^2, \quad b_0 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Step 2. — We now consider $b > b_0$ and we prove that for any $s \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m} - b$ is hypodissipative in H^s. As in (4.9), for $s \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we introduce the norm

$$|\!|\!|\phi|\!|\!|^2_{H^s} := \sum_{j=0}^{s} \eta^j\,\|\partial_x^j\phi\|^2_{L^2}, \quad \eta > 0,$$

which is equivalent to the classical H^s norm. We only deal with the case $s = 1$, the higher order derivatives are treated in the same way. First, using the identity (4.5) (with k_0 instead of $k_{0,\varepsilon}$), we notice that

$$\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi = I_0(\phi) + \omega\,\mathcal{C}^1_m(\phi) + \omega\,\mathcal{C}^2_m(\phi) - x\cdot\nabla\phi - \frac{x\cdot\nabla m}{m}\,\phi - \omega\,\mathcal{A}_0(m\,\phi),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{C}^1_m(\phi)(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,\phi(y)\,(m(y)-m(x)-(y-x)\cdot\nabla m(x)\,\chi(x-y))\,dy\\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(z)\,\phi(x+z)\,(m(x+z)-m(x)-z\cdot\nabla m(x)\,\chi(z))\,dz\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{C}^2_m(\phi)(x) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\,(\phi(y)-\phi(x))\,\nabla m(x)\cdot(y-x)\,\chi(x-y)\,dy\\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(z)\,(\phi(x+z)-\phi(x))\,\nabla m(x)\cdot z\,\chi(z)\,dz.\end{aligned}$$

Before going into the computation of $\partial_x(\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi)$, we also notice that

$$\partial_x\,(\omega\,\mathcal{A}_0(m\,\phi)) = \omega\,\mathcal{A}_0(m\,\partial_x\phi) + \widehat{\mathcal{A}_{0,m}}(\phi),$$

where $\widehat{\mathcal{A}_{0,m}}$ satisfies

$$\|\widehat{\mathcal{A}_{0,m}}(\phi)\|_{L^2} \leqslant C\,\|\phi\|_{L^2}$$

thanks to (4.6). Consequently, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_x(\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi) = \mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}(\partial_x\phi) + \omega\,\mathcal{C}^1_{\partial_x m}(\phi) + \omega\,\mathcal{C}^2_{\partial_x m}(\phi) + \partial_x\omega\,\mathcal{C}^1_m(\phi) + \partial_x\omega\,\mathcal{C}^2_m(\phi)\\ - \partial_x\phi - \partial_x\Big(\frac{x\cdot\nabla m}{m}\Big)\phi - \widehat{\mathcal{A}_{0,m}}(\phi)\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\partial_x(\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi)\,\partial_x\phi &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}(\partial_x\phi)\,(\partial_x\phi) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\omega\,\mathcal{C}^1_{\partial_x m}(\phi)\,(\partial_x\phi) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\omega\,\mathcal{C}^2_{\partial_x m}(\phi)\,(\partial_x\phi)\\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\partial_x\omega\,\mathcal{C}^1_m(\phi)\,(\partial_x\phi) + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\partial_x\omega\,\mathcal{C}^2_m(\phi)\,(\partial_x\phi) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\partial_x\phi)^2\\ &\quad - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\partial_x\Big(\frac{x\cdot\nabla m}{m}\Big)\,\phi\,(\partial_x\phi) - \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\widehat{\mathcal{A}_{0,m}}(\phi)\,(\partial_x\phi)\\ &=: J_1+\cdots+J_8.\end{aligned}$$

We have from the step 1 of the proof

$$J_1 \leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot{H}^{1+\alpha/2}} + b_0\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\partial_x\phi)^2.$$

Moreover, we easily obtain that

$$J_6+J_7+J_8 \leqslant C\,\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\phi^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\partial_x\phi)^2\right).$$

The term J_2 is first separated into two parts:

$$\begin{aligned}J_2 &= \int_{|z|\leqslant 1} k_0(z)\,\phi(y)\,\mathcal{T}_{\partial_x m}(x,x+z)\,\omega(x)\,\partial_x\phi(x)\,dz\,dx\\ &\quad + \int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_0(z)\phi(y)\mathcal{T}_{\partial_x m}(x,x+z)\,\omega(x)\partial_x\phi(x)\,dz\,dx\\ &=: J_{21}+J_{22},\end{aligned}$$

where we recall that $\mathcal{T}_{\partial_x m}$ is defined in (4.4). The term J_{21} is treated as T_{12} is the step 1 of the proof. Concerning J_{22}, as for T_{13}, we split it into two parts:

$$\begin{aligned} J_{22} &\leqslant \int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_0(z)\,|(\partial_x m)(x+z)-(\partial_x m)(x)|\,\omega(x)(\phi^2(x+z)+(\partial_x\phi)^2(x))\,dx\,dz \\ &\quad+\int_{1\leqslant|z|\leqslant 2} k_0(z)\,|z|\,|\nabla(\partial_x m)(x)|\,\omega(x)\,(\phi^2(x+z)+(\partial_x\phi)^2(x+z))\,dx\,dz \\ &\leqslant C\int_{|z|\geqslant 1} k_0(z)\,(\phi^2(x+z)+(\partial_x\phi)^2(x))\,dx\,dz \\ &\quad+C\int_{1\leqslant|z|\leqslant 2} k_0(z)\,(\phi^2(x+z)+(\partial_x\phi)^2(x+z))\,dx\,dz, \end{aligned}$$

where the second inequality comes from the fact that

$$|(\partial_x m)(y)-(\partial_x m)(x)|\,\omega(x)\leqslant C \quad\text{and}\quad |\nabla(\partial_x m)(x)|\,\omega(x)\leqslant C \quad \forall\, x,\, y\in\mathbb{R}^d$$

because $q<\alpha/2<1$. We hence deduce that

$$J_2\leqslant C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\phi^2+\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\partial_x\phi)^2\right).$$

Concerning J_3, we perform a Taylor expansion of ϕ and we use the fact that $|\nabla(\partial_x m)|\,\omega\in L^\infty$:

$$\begin{aligned} J_3 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^d\times\mathbb{R}^d} k_0(x-y)\int_0^1(1-t)\,\nabla\phi(y+t(x-y))\cdot(y-x)\,dt \\ &\qquad\qquad \nabla(\partial_x m)(x)\cdot(y-x)\,\chi(x-y)\,\omega(x)\,\partial_x\phi(x)\,dy\,dx \\ &\leqslant C\int_{|z|\leqslant 2} k_0(z)\,|z|^2\int_0^1|\nabla\phi(x+tz)|^2\,dt\,dz\,dx+\int_{|z|\leqslant 2}k_0(z)\,|z|^2\,|\partial_x\phi(x)|^2\,dz\,dx, \end{aligned} \tag{4.13}$$

where we have used Jensen's inequality and Young's inequality. We use a change of variable for the first term of the RHS of (4.13), which implies that

$$J_3\leqslant C\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^1}.$$

We deal with J_4 splitting it into two parts ($|x-y|\leqslant 1$ and $|x-y|\geqslant 1$) and using the same method as for T_{12} and T_{13} in the step 1 of the proof, we obtain

$$J_4\leqslant C\left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\phi^2+\int_{\mathbb{R}^d}(\partial_x\phi)^2\right).$$

To deal with J_5, we proceed exactly as for J_3 and we obtain

$$J_5\leqslant C\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^1}.$$

Summarizing the previous inequalities and using (4.10), we obtain that for any $\zeta>0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^d}\partial_x(\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi)\,\partial_x\phi &\leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}}+b_1\left(\|\phi\|^2_{L^2}+\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^1}\right) \\ &\leqslant -\frac{c_0}{4}\,\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}}+b_1\left(\|\phi\|^2_{L^2}+K(\zeta)\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}}+\zeta\|\phi\|^2_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}}\right), \end{aligned}$$

$b_1\in\mathbb{R}$. This implies that if ϕ_t is the solution of

$$\partial_t\phi_t=\mathcal{B}^*_{0,m}\phi_t,\quad \phi_0=\phi,$$

then

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|||\phi_t|||_{H^1}^2 \leqslant \Big(-\frac{c_0}{4}+\eta\, b_1\, K(\zeta)\Big)\|\phi_t\|_{\dot H^{\alpha/2}}^2 + \eta\Big(-\frac{c_0}{4}+\zeta\, b_1\Big)\|\phi_t\|_{\dot H^{1+\alpha/2}}^2 + (b_0+\eta\, b_1)\|\phi_t\|_{L^2}^2.$$

Taking ζ and η small enough, we deduce that

$$\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dt}|||\phi_t|||_{H^1}^2 \leqslant b\,|||\phi_t|||_{H^1}^2,$$

this concludes the proof in the case $s=1$. □

We now fix $0<r<\alpha/2$ as in the assumptions of Theorem 4.1. We also introduce $r_0\in(r,\alpha/2)$ and $m_0(x):=\langle x\rangle^{r_0}$. From Lemma 4.4 applied with $p=1$, there exists $a<0$ such that $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - a$ is dissipative in $L^1_{r_0}$ for any $\varepsilon\in[0,\varepsilon_1]$ (or equivalently, $\mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon,m_0}-a$ is dissipative in L^1, where $\mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon,m_0}$ is defined as $\mathcal{B}_{0,m}$ in (4.11)). From Lemma 4.4 applied with $p=2$, Corollary 4.6 and Lemma 4.7, there exists $b\in\mathbb{R}$ such that $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - b$ is dissipative in $L^2_{r_0}$ for any $\varepsilon\in[0,\varepsilon_1]$ (or equivalently, $\mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon,m_0}-b$ is dissipative in L^2) and $\mathcal{B}_{0,m_0}-b$ is hypodissipative in H^s and H^{-s} for any $s\in\mathbb{N}^*$.

We introduce $p_\theta:=2/(1+\theta)$ and its Hölder conjugate $p'_\theta:=2/(1-\theta)$ for $\theta\in(0,1)$. We then choose $\theta\in(0,1)$ such that $a_\theta:=a\theta+b(1-\theta)<0$, $p'_\theta\in\mathbb{N}$ and $p'_\theta(r_0-r)>d$. We denote

$$X_1:=W^{2,p_\theta}_{r_0}\subset X_0:=L^{p_\theta}_{r_0}\subset X_{-1}:=W^{-2,p_\theta}_{r_0}.$$

Lemma 4.8. — *The operator $\mathcal{B}_0-a_\theta$ is hypodissipative in X_i, $i=-1,0,1$ and the operator $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon-a_\theta$ is dissipative in X_0 for any $\varepsilon\in(0,\varepsilon_1]$.*

Proof. — We prove that $\mathcal{B}_{0,m_0}-a_\theta$ is hypodissipative in W^{-2,p_θ}, L^{p_θ} and W^{2,p_θ} by interpolation. To conclude for X_0, we just have to interpolate the results coming from Lemma 4.4 with $p=1$ and Lemma 4.5 with $s=0$ and use the fact that $\big[L^1,L^2\big]_\theta=L^{p_\theta}$ with $1/p_\theta=\theta+(1-\theta)/2$ i.e., $p_\theta=2/(1+\theta)$. Then, for X_1 and X_{-1}, we first choose s_0 large enough so that $s_0(1-\theta)=2$. We then have $\big[L^1,H^{s_0}\big]_\theta=W^{2,p_\theta}$, $\big[L^1,H^{-s_0}\big]_\theta=W^{-2,p_\theta}$ and we conclude thanks to Lemma 4.4 with $p=1$ and Lemma 4.5 with $s=s_0$.

We prove that $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon-a_\theta$ is dissipative in X_0 exactly in the same way as we proved that $\mathcal{B}_0-a_\theta$ is dissipative in X_0. □

4.5. Spectral analysis. — We here divide the proof of Theorem 4.1 into two parts, using Krein-Rutman theory for the first part and using both perturbative and enlargement arguments for the second part.

Proof of part (1) *of Theorem* 4.1. — First, we notice that as in Section 2 (Lemmas 2.9 and 2.10), we can prove that the operator Λ_ε satisfies Kato's inequalities, S_{Λ_ε} is a positive semigroup and $(-\Lambda_\varepsilon)$ satisfies a strong maximum principle. Using Krein-Rutman theory as recalled in the proof of part (1) in Theorem 2.1, this gives the first part of Theorem 4.1 i.e., that there exists a unique $G_\varepsilon>0$ such that $\|G_\varepsilon\|_{L^1}=1$, $\Lambda_\varepsilon G_\varepsilon=0$. Moreover, it also implies that the projection $\Pi_{\varepsilon,0}$ onto the null space of Λ_ε

is given through the explicit formula $\Pi_{\varepsilon,0} f = \langle f \rangle G_\varepsilon$ for any $f \in L^1_r$ and any $f \in X_i$, $i = -1, 0, 1$.

Proof of part (2) *of Theorem* 4.1. — We first develop a perturbative argument which is detailed in what follows, improving a bit similar results presented in [9, 15]. The main difference with those previous works lies in the fact that we have some dissipativity properties in all the spaces X_i, $i = -1, 0, 1$ only for the limit operator $\mathcal{B}_0$. Concerning the perturbation $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon$, we only require it to be dissipative in X_0.

Lemma 4.9. — *For any $z \in \Omega := D_{a_\theta} \setminus \{0\}$ we define the family of operators*

$$K_\varepsilon(z) := -(\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0)\, \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\, (\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)).$$

There exists a function $\eta_2(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon \to 0]{} 0$ such that

$$\|K_\varepsilon(z)\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_0)} \leqslant \eta_2(\varepsilon) \quad \forall\, z \in \Omega_\varepsilon := \Delta_a \setminus \overline{B}_\varepsilon, \quad B_\varepsilon := B(0, \eta_2(\varepsilon)). \tag{4.14}$$

Moreover, there exists $\varepsilon_2 \in (0, \varepsilon_1)$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_2)$ the operators $I + K_\varepsilon(z)$ and $\Lambda_\varepsilon - z$ are invertible for any $z \in \Omega_\varepsilon$ and

$$\forall\, z \in \Omega_\varepsilon, \quad \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(z) = \mathcal{U}_\varepsilon(z)\, (I + K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}$$

with

$$\mathcal{U}_\varepsilon := \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} - \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(\mathcal{A}\, \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}).$$

As an immediate consequence, there holds

$$\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_{a_\theta} \subset \overline{B}_\varepsilon.$$

Proof. — We know that the operators $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z) : X_0 \to X_1$ (from Lemmas 4.3 and 4.8) and $\mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z) : X_1 \to X_1$ (previous works from [5, 9]) are bounded for any $z \in \Omega$ and that the operators $\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0 : X_1 \to X_0$ are small as $\varepsilon \to 0$ uniformly in $z \in \Omega$ (Lemma 4.2). Because 0 is a simple eigenvalue, we have

$$\|\mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_1)} \leqslant C\, |z|^{-1} \quad \forall\, z \in \Omega.$$

for some $C > 0$. We introduce the constant $C_{a_\theta} > 0$ (coming from Lemmas 4.3 and 4.8) such that

$$\|\mathcal{A} S_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(t)\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_0, X_1)} \leqslant C_{a_\theta}\, e^{a_\theta t}.$$

Defining $\eta_2(\varepsilon) := (C\, C_{a_\theta}\, \eta_1(\varepsilon))^{1/2}$, we deduce that for any $z \in \Omega_\varepsilon$,

$$\|K_\varepsilon(z)\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_0)} \leqslant \eta_1(\varepsilon)\, \frac{C}{\eta_2(\varepsilon)}\, C_{a_\theta} = \eta_2(\varepsilon). \tag{4.15}$$

We choose $\varepsilon_2 > 0$ such that $\eta_2(\varepsilon) < 1$ for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_2)$, we thus obtain that $\|K_\varepsilon(z)\| < 1$ for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_2)$ and $z \in \Omega_\varepsilon$, which implies that $I + K_\varepsilon(z)$ is invertible.

We compute

$$\begin{aligned}(\Lambda_\varepsilon - z)\, \mathcal{U}_\varepsilon &= (\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - z + \mathcal{A})\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} - (\Lambda_\varepsilon - \Lambda_0 + \Lambda_0 - z)\mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}\, \mathcal{A}\, \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon} \\ &= I + K_\varepsilon.\end{aligned}$$

For $z \in \Omega_\varepsilon$, $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_2)$, we denote $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon(z) := \mathcal{U}_\varepsilon(z)\, (I + K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}$, so that

$$(\Lambda_\varepsilon - z)\, \mathcal{J}_\varepsilon(z) = I,$$

which implies that $\Lambda_\varepsilon - z$ has a right-inverse $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon(z)$.

Since $\Lambda_\varepsilon - z$ is invertible for $\Re e\, z$ large enough and $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon(z)$ is uniformly locally bounded in Ω_ε, we deduce that $\Lambda_\varepsilon - z$ is invertible in Ω_ε, and its inverse is its right-inverse $\mathcal{J}_\varepsilon(z)$. □

Lemma 4.10. — *Let us denote*

$$\Pi_\varepsilon := \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(z)\,dz, \quad \Gamma_\varepsilon := \{z\in\mathbb{C}\ ;\ |z| = \eta_2(\varepsilon)\}$$

the spectral projector onto eigenspaces associated to eigenvalues contained in $\overline{B}_\varepsilon$. *There exists* $\eta_3(\varepsilon)$ *such that*

$$\|\Pi_\varepsilon - \Pi_0\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_0)} \leqslant \eta_3(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0.$$

Proof. — First, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_\varepsilon &= \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \{\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z) - \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z))\}\,(I+K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}\,dz\\
&= \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)\left\{I - K_\varepsilon(z)(I+K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}\right\}\,dz\\
&\qquad\qquad - \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z))\left\{I - K_\varepsilon(z)(I+K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}\right\}\,dz\\
&= \frac{1}{2i\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)K_\varepsilon(z)(I+K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}\,dz\\
&\qquad\qquad - \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z))\left\{I - K_\varepsilon(z)(I+K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}\right\}\,dz
\end{aligned}$$

and similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_0 = \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\,dz &= \frac{i}{2\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \{\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z) - \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\,(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z))\}\,dz\\
&= \frac{1}{2i\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\,(\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z))\,dz.
\end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pi_0 - \Pi_\varepsilon &= \frac{1}{2i\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\ \{\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z) - \mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)\}\,dz\\
&\qquad - \frac{1}{2i\pi}\int_{\Gamma_\varepsilon} \{\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z) - \mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)\}\,K_\varepsilon(z)(I+K_\varepsilon(z))^{-1}\,dz\\
&=: T_1 + T_2.
\end{aligned}$$

Concerning T_1, we use the identity

$$\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z) - \mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z) = \mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z)(\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - \mathcal{B}_0)\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)$$

with Lemmas 4.2, 4.3 and 4.8 which imply that

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)\in\mathscr{B}(X_0),\ \ \|\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - \mathcal{B}_0\|_{X_0\to X_{-1}} \leqslant \eta_1(\varepsilon) \xrightarrow[\varepsilon\to 0]{} 0,\ \ \mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_0}(z)\in\mathscr{B}(X_{-1},X_0).$$

To treat T_2, we use estimate (4.14) on $K_\varepsilon(z)$, the facts that $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)\in\mathscr{B}(X_0)$ and that we also have $\mathcal{R}_{\Lambda_0}(z)\mathcal{A}\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon}(z)\in\mathscr{B}(X_0)$. This concludes the proof. □

Proposition 4.11. — *There exists $\varepsilon_0 \in (0, \varepsilon_2)$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$, the following properties hold in X_0:*

(1) $\Sigma(\Lambda_\varepsilon) \cap D_{a_\theta} = \{0\}$;

(2) *for any $f_0 \in X_0$ and any $a > a_\theta$,*

$$\|S_{\Lambda_\varepsilon}(t) f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0 \rangle\|_{X_0} \leqslant C_a \, e^{at} \, \|f_0 - G_\varepsilon \langle f_0 \rangle\|_{X_0}, \quad \forall \, t \geqslant 0,$$

for some explicit constant $C_a \geqslant 1$.

Proof. — We know that if P and Q are two projectors such that $\|P - Q\|_{\mathscr{B}(X_0)} < 1$, then their ranges are isomorphic. Lemma 4.10 thus implies that there exists $\varepsilon_0 \in (0, \varepsilon_1)$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$,

$$\dim \mathrm{R}(\Pi_\varepsilon) = \dim \mathrm{R}(\Pi_0) = 1.$$

We also know that 0 is an eigenvalue for Λ_ε (cf. part (1) of Theorem 4.1). This concludes the proof of the first part of the proposition.

To get the estimate on the semigroup, we use a spectral mapping theorem coming from [11, Th. 2.1]. The hypotheses of the theorem are satisfied because $\mathcal{B}_\varepsilon - a$ is hypodissipative in X_0 (and thus in $D(\Lambda_{\varepsilon_{|X_0}}) = D(\mathcal{B}_{\varepsilon_{|X_0}})$) and $\mathcal{A} \in \mathscr{B}(X_0, W^{2,p_\theta}_{r_0+1})$ (and thus $\mathcal{A} \in \mathscr{B}(X_0, D(\Lambda_{\varepsilon_{|X_0}}))$. □

We now end the proof of part (2) of Theorem 4.1 using an enlargement argument from the "small space" $E = L^{p_\theta}_{r_0}$ to the "large" space $\mathcal{E} = L^1_r$. More precisely, we use the estimates established in Proposition 4.11, Lemmas 4.3 and 4.4–4.8 as well as $\mathcal{A} \in \mathscr{B}(\mathcal{E}, E)$ in order to control the decay of each term involved in the iterated Duhamel formula (2.29).

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