

## NON-NEGATIVE PERTURBATIONS OF NON-NEGATIVE SELF-ADJOINT OPERATORS

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*In memory of my great teacher Mark Krein.*

ABSTRACT. Let  $A$  be a non-negative self-adjoint operator in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $A_0$  be some densely defined closed restriction of  $A_0$ ,  $A_0 \subseteq A \neq A_0$ . It is of interest to know whether  $A$  is the unique non-negative self-adjoint extensions of  $A_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ . We give a natural criterion that this is the case and if it fails, we describe all non-negative extensions of  $A_0$ . The obtained results are applied to investigation of non-negative singular point perturbations of the Laplace and poly-harmonic operators in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$ .

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we deal with a non-negative self-adjoint operator  $A$  in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , some densely defined not essentially self-adjoint restriction  $A_0$  of  $A$  and again with self-adjoint extensions of  $A_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ , which following [1] we call here *singular perturbations* of  $A$ . For quick getting onto the matter of the main problem let us compare the point perturbations of self-adjoint Laplace operators  $-\Delta$  in three and two dimensions acting in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_3)$  and  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$ , respectively, that is let us consider the restriction  $-\Delta^0$  of  $-\Delta$  onto the Sobolev subspaces  $\mathbb{H}_2^2(\mathbf{R}_i \setminus \{0\})$ ,  $i = 3, 2$ , and self-adjoint extensions  $-\Delta_\alpha$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$ , of  $-\Delta^0$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_i)$  with domains

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_\alpha^{(3)} &:= \left\{ f : f \in \mathbb{H}_2^2(\mathbf{R}_3), \lim_{|\mathbf{x}'| \downarrow 0} \left[ \frac{d}{d|\mathbf{x}'|} (|\mathbf{x}|f(\mathbf{x})) - \alpha|\mathbf{x}|f(\mathbf{x}) \right] = 0 \right\}, \\ \mathcal{D}_\alpha^{(2)} &:= \left\{ f : f \in \mathbb{H}_2^2(\mathbf{R}_2), \lim_{|\mathbf{x}'| \downarrow 0} \left[ \left( \frac{2\pi\alpha}{\ln|\mathbf{x}'|} + 1 \right) f(\mathbf{x}) - \lim_{|\mathbf{x}'| \downarrow 0} \frac{\ln|\mathbf{x}'|}{\ln|\mathbf{x}'|} f(\mathbf{x}') \right] = 0 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

The self-adjoint operators  $-\Delta_\alpha$  are just mentioned above singular perturbations of  $-\Delta$ . The resolvents  $(-\Delta_\alpha - z)^{-1}$ ,  $z \in \rho(-\Delta_\alpha)$ , of the operators  $-\Delta_\alpha$  act in the corresponding spaces  $\mathbb{L}_2$  as integral operators with kernels (Green functions) [1],

$$(1.2) \quad G_{\alpha,z}^3(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \begin{cases} G_z^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + (\alpha - i\sqrt{z}/4\pi)^{-1} G_z^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}, 0) G_z^{(0)}(0, \mathbf{x}'), \\ G_z^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \frac{\exp i\sqrt{z}|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|}{4\pi|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|} \text{ (three dimension);} \end{cases}$$

$$(1.3) \quad G_{\alpha,z}^2(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \begin{cases} G_z^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') + 2\pi(2\pi\alpha - \psi(1) + \ln \sqrt{z}/2i)^{-1} G_z^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}, 0) G_z^{(0)}(0, \mathbf{x}'), \\ G_z^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}') = \left(\frac{i}{4}\right) H_0^{(1)}(i\sqrt{z}|\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}'|) \text{ (two dimension).} \end{cases}$$

By (1.2) the Green function  $G_{\alpha,z}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}')$  of the self-adjoint operator  $-\Delta_\alpha$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_3)$  is holomorphic on the half-axis  $(-\infty, 0)$  for  $\alpha \geq 0$  and has on this half-axis a simple pole

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for  $\alpha < 0$ . Hence in the case of three dimensions self-adjoint extensions  $-\Delta_\alpha$  are non-negative for all ( $\alpha \geq 0$ ) and non-positive for  $\alpha < 0$ .

Contrary to this by (1.3) in the case of two dimensions for any  $\alpha \in \mathbf{R}$  the Green function  $G_{\alpha,z}$  has a simple pole on the half-axis  $(-\infty, 0)$ . Hence all singular perturbations  $-\Delta_\alpha$  of the two-dimensional Laplace operators have one negative eigenvalue. In other words the Laplace operator  $-\Delta$  defined in a standard way is a unique non-negative self-adjoint extension in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$  of the symmetric operator  $-\Delta^0$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$ .<sup>1</sup>

In this note we try to reveal the underlying cause of such discrepancy. Recall that each densely defined non-negative symmetric operator has at least one non-negative canonical self-adjoint extension (Friedrichs extension). In a more general setting we try to understand here why in some cases the non-negative extension appears to be unique. Actually this questions is embedded into the framework of the general extension theory for semi-bounded symmetric operators developed in the famous paper of M. G. Krein [2]. Naturally, there is a criterion of uniqueness of non-negative extension in [2]. In the next Section, using only approaches of [2] we find another form of this criterion, directly facilitating the investigation of singular perturbations and, for cases where the conditions of these criteria fail, describe all non-negative singular perturbations of a given non-negative self-adjoint operator  $A$  associated with some its densely defined non-self-adjoint restriction  $A_0$ . In fact we give here a parametrization of the operator interval  $[A_\mu, A_M]$  of all canonical non-negative self-adjoint extensions of a given densely defined non-negative operator. The third Section illustrates the obtained results by an example of singular perturbations of the Laplace and poly-harmonic operators in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$ .

Note that very close results were obtained recently in a somewhat different way in [3] where, in terms of this note, the authors have described singular perturbations of the Friedrichs extension of a given densely defined non-negative operator and also gave an illustration with an example of singular perturbations of the Laplace operator in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_3)$ .

## 2. UNIQUENESS CRITERION AND PARAMETRIZATION OF NON-NEGATIVE SINGULAR PERTURBATIONS

Let  $A$  be a non-negative self-adjoint operator acting in the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $A_0$  be a densely defined closed operator, which is a restriction of  $A$  onto a subset  $\mathcal{D}(A_0)$  of the domain  $\mathcal{D}(A)$  of  $A$ . Let us consider the subspaces  $\mathcal{M} := (I + A_0)\mathcal{D}(A_0)$  and  $\mathcal{N} := \mathcal{H} \ominus \mathcal{M}$ . We will assume that

$$(2.1) \quad 1) \mathcal{M} \neq \mathcal{H}, \quad 2) \mathcal{N} \cap \mathcal{D}(A) = \{0\}.$$

We call all self-adjoint extensions of  $A_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  other than the given  $A$  singular perturbations of  $A$ . It is of interest to know whether there are non-negative operators among singular perturbations of  $A$ . In this section we try to find a convenient criterion that such singular perturbations of  $A$  do not exist. In other words we look for a criterion that  $A$  is the only one non-negative operator among all self-adjoint extensions of  $A_0$ . Following the approach developed in the renowned paper of M. G. Krein [2] let us consider the operator from  $K_0 : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  defined by the relations

$$(2.2) \quad f = (I + A_0)x, \quad K_0f = A_0x, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}(A_0).$$

It is easy to see that  $K_0$  is a non-negative contraction,

$$(2.3) \quad (K_0f, f) \geq 0, \quad \|K_0f\|^2 \leq \|f\|^2, \quad f \in \mathcal{M}.$$

Let  $A_1$  be any non-negative self-adjoint extension of  $A_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Then  $K_1 := A_1(A_1 + I)^{-1}$  is a non-negative operator, which is a contractive extension of  $K_0$  from the domain  $\mathcal{M}$  onto the whole  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $K_1f = K_0f$ ,  $f \in \mathcal{M}$ .

<sup>1</sup>The attention of the author to this phenomenon was drawn by Sergey Gredeskul.

On the other hand, for any contractive extension  $K_1$  from  $\mathcal{M}$  onto  $\mathcal{H}$  such that the unity is not its eigenvalue the non-negative self-adjoint operator  $A_1 = K_1(I - K_1)^{-1}$  is a self-adjoint extension of  $A_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Therefore,  $A_0$  has a unique non-negative self-adjoint extension in  $\mathcal{H}$  if and only if  $K_0$  admits only one non-negative contractive extension onto the whole  $\mathcal{H}$ , no eigenvalue of which equals 1, that is,  $K = A(I + A)^{-1}$ . So the uniqueness of  $A$  as a non-negative extension of  $A_0$  is equivalent to uniqueness of  $K_0$  as a non-negative contractive extension of  $K_0$ .

From now on we will denote by  $\mathbf{G}$  the set consisting of  $A$  and all its singular perturbations and by  $\mathbf{C}$  the set of non-negative contractions obtained from  $\mathbf{G}$  by the transformation  $A_1 \rightarrow A_1(A_1 + I)^{-1}$ ,  $A_1 \in \mathbf{G}$ . Let us denote by  $P_{\mathcal{M}}$  the orthogonal projector onto  $\mathcal{M}$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  and let  $P_{\mathcal{N}} = I - P_{\mathcal{M}}$ . With respect to representation of  $\mathcal{H}$  as the orthogonal sum  $\mathcal{M} \oplus \mathcal{N}$  we can represent each operator from  $\mathbf{C}$  as  $2 \times 2$  block operator matrix

$$(2.4) \quad K_X = \begin{pmatrix} T & \Gamma^* \\ \Gamma & X \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here

$$T = P_{\mathcal{M}}K_0|_{\mathcal{M}}, \quad \Gamma = P_{\mathcal{M}}K_0|_{\mathcal{N}}$$

and  $X$  is some non-negative contraction in  $\mathcal{N}$ , which distinguishes different elements from  $\mathbf{C}$ . Since each  $K_X \in \mathbf{C}$  is non-negative and contractive, we have

$$(2.5) \quad T \geq 0, \quad T^2 + \Gamma^*\Gamma \leq I.$$

Note further that  $K_X \in \mathbf{C}$  is equivalent to

$$(2.6) \quad K_X + \varepsilon I \geq 0, \quad (1 + \varepsilon)I - K_X \geq 0$$

for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ .

The block matrix representation of  $K_X$  and the Schur-Frobenius factorization formula transform (2.6) into the following block matrix inequalities:

$$(2.7) \quad \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ \Gamma(T + \varepsilon)^{-1} & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T + \varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & X + \varepsilon - \Gamma(T + \varepsilon)^{-1}\Gamma^* \end{pmatrix} \\ \times \begin{pmatrix} I & (T + \varepsilon)^{-1}\Gamma^* \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \geq 0,$$

$$(2.8) \quad \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ -\Gamma(I + \varepsilon - T)^{-1} & I \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \varepsilon - T & 0 \\ 0 & 1 + \varepsilon - X - \Gamma(1 + \varepsilon - T)^{-1}\Gamma^* \end{pmatrix} \\ \times \begin{pmatrix} I & -(1 + \varepsilon - T)^{-1}\Gamma^* \\ 0 & I \end{pmatrix} \geq 0.$$

By our assumptions  $T \geq 0$  and  $I - T \geq 0$ . Therefore block matrix inequalities (2.7) and (2.8) are reduced to

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{cases} X + \varepsilon I - \Gamma(T + \varepsilon I)^{-1}\Gamma^* \geq 0, \\ (1 + \varepsilon)I - X - \Gamma[(1 + \varepsilon)I - T]^{-1}\Gamma^* \geq 0, \quad \varepsilon > 0. \end{cases}$$

Observe that the operator functions of  $\varepsilon$  in the left-hand sides of inequalities (2.9) are monotone. Setting

$$Y := X - \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \Gamma(T + \varepsilon I)^{-1}\Gamma^*$$

we conclude from (2.9) that  $K_X \in \mathbf{C}$  if and only if

$$(2.10) \quad 0 \leq Y \leq I - \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \{ \Gamma(T + \varepsilon I)^{-1}\Gamma^* + \Gamma[(1 + \varepsilon)I - T]^{-1}\Gamma^* \}.$$

Hence the equality

$$(2.11) \quad I - \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \{ \Gamma(T + \varepsilon I)^{-1}\Gamma^* + \Gamma[(1 + \varepsilon)I - T]^{-1}\Gamma^* \} = 0$$

is a criterion that there are no contractive non-negative extensions of  $K_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  other than  $K$ .

Let us express now (2.10) and (2.11) in terms of given  $K$  and  $A$ . To this end we use the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $L$  be a bounded invertible operator in the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{M} \oplus \mathcal{N}$  given as  $2 \times @$  block operator matrix*

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} R & U \\ V & S \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $R$  and  $S$  are invertible operators in  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$ , respectively, and  $U, V$  act between  $\mathcal{M}$  and  $\mathcal{N}$ . If  $R$  is an invertible operator in  $\mathcal{M}$ , then

$$(2.12) \quad \begin{pmatrix} R^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = L^{-1} - L^{-1}P_{\mathcal{N}}\Lambda^{-1}P_{\mathcal{N}}L^{-1}, \quad \Lambda = P_{\mathcal{N}}L^{-1}|_{\mathcal{N}}.$$

Setting

$$(2.13) \quad \Lambda_{1,\varepsilon} = P_{\mathcal{N}}(K + \varepsilon I)^{-1}|_{\mathcal{N}}, \quad \Lambda_{2,\varepsilon} = P_{\mathcal{N}}[(1 + \varepsilon)I - K]^{-1}|_{\mathcal{N}}$$

and applying (2.12) with  $L = K + \varepsilon I$  and

$$\begin{aligned} R &= T + \varepsilon I, & U &= \Gamma^* = P_{\mathcal{M}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} = P_{\mathcal{M}}[K + \varepsilon I]|_{\mathcal{N}}, \\ V &= \Gamma = P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{M}} = P_{\mathcal{N}}[K + \varepsilon I]|_{\mathcal{M}}, & S &= P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} + \varepsilon I, \end{aligned}$$

yields

$$\Gamma(T + \varepsilon I)^{-1}\Gamma^* = P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} + \varepsilon I - \Lambda_{1,\varepsilon}^{-1}.$$

In the same fashion we get

$$\Gamma[(1 + \varepsilon)I - T]^{-1}\Gamma^* = P_{\mathcal{N}}[I - K]|_{\mathcal{N}} + \varepsilon I - \Lambda_{2,\varepsilon}^{-1}.$$

Hence

$$(2.14) \quad I - \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (\Gamma(T + \varepsilon I)^{-1}\Gamma^* + \Gamma[(1 + \varepsilon)I - T]^{-1}\Gamma^*) = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \Lambda_{1,\varepsilon}^{-1} + \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \Lambda_{2,\varepsilon}^{-1}.$$

Combining (2.10), (2.11) and (2.14) results in the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $K$  be a non-negative contraction in the Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{M} \oplus \mathcal{N}$ ,  $K_0$  is the restriction of  $K$  onto the subspace  $\mathcal{M}(= \mathcal{M} \oplus \{0\})$  and*

$$G_1 = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (P_{\mathcal{N}}[K + \varepsilon I]|_{\mathcal{N}})^{-1}, \quad G_2 = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (P_{\mathcal{N}}[I - K + \varepsilon I]|_{\mathcal{N}})^{-1}.$$

Then the set  $\mathbf{C}$  of all non-negative contractive extensions  $K_X$  of  $K_0$  in  $\mathcal{H}$  is described by the expression

$$(2.15) \quad K_X = \begin{pmatrix} P_{\mathcal{M}}K|_{\mathcal{M}} & P_{\mathcal{M}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} \\ P_{\mathcal{M}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} & X \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $X$  runs over the set of all non-negative contractions in  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfying the inequalities

$$(2.16) \quad P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} - G_1 \leq X \leq P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} + G_2.$$

In particular,  $K$  is a unique non-negative contractive extension of  $K_0$  if and only if  $G_1 = G_2 = 0$ .

*Remark 2.3.* The set  $\mathbf{C}$  of non-negative contractions of  $K_0$  contains a minimal extension  $K_{X_\mu}$  with  $X_\mu = P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} - G_1$  in (2.15) and a maximal extension  $K_{X_M}$  with  $X_M = P_{\mathcal{N}}K|_{\mathcal{N}} + G_2$  in (2.15). If  $G_1 = 0$  ( $G_2 = 0$ ), then  $K$  is a minimal (maximal) element of  $\mathbf{C}$ .

Theorem 2.2 can be formulated in terms of a non-negative self-adjoint operator  $A$  and its non-negative singular perturbations.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Let  $A$  be a non-negative self-adjoint operator in a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ ,  $A_0$  is a densely defined closed symmetric operator, which is a restriction of  $A$  onto a linear subset  $\mathcal{D}(A_0) \subset \mathcal{D}(A)$  such that  $\mathcal{N} = (I + A)\mathcal{D}(A_0) \neq \{0\}$  and let*

$$G_1 = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (P_{\mathcal{N}}[I + A][A + \varepsilon I]|_{\mathcal{N}})^{-1}, \quad G_2 = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} (P_{\mathcal{N}}[I + A][I + \varepsilon A]|_{\mathcal{N}})^{-1}.$$

Then the set of all non-negative singular perturbations  $A_Y$  of  $A$  is described by the formula

$$(2.17) \quad \begin{cases} f = g - Y(I + A)g, \\ A_Y f = Ag + Y(I + A)g, \end{cases}$$

where  $g \in \mathcal{D}(A)$  and  $Y$  runs over the set of non-negative contractions in  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfying the inequalities

$$(2.18) \quad -G_1 \leq Y \leq G_2.$$

$A$  has no singular non-negative perturbations if and only if  $G_1 = G_2 = 0$ .

*Remark 2.5.* The set of all non-negative singular perturbations of  $A$  contains a minimal perturbation  $A_\mu$  with and a maximal perturbation  $A_M$  such that any non-negative perturbation  $A_X$  satisfies the inequalities

$$(I + A_M)^{-1} \leq A_Y \leq (I + A_\mu)^{-1}.$$

The corresponding values of the parameters  $Y$  in Theorem 2.4 are

$$(2.19) \quad \begin{aligned} Y_\mu &= -G_1, \\ Y_M &= G_2. \end{aligned}$$

If  $G_1 = 0$  ( $G_2 = 0$ ), then the minimal (maximal) perturbation coincides with  $A$ .

By simple calculation we get from (2.17) the following version of the M. G. Krein resolvent formula.

**Proposition 2.6.** *The set of resolvents of all non-negative singular perturbations  $A_Y$  of  $A$  is described by the M. G. Krein formula*

$$(2.20) \quad \begin{aligned} (A_Y - zI)^{-1} &= (A - zI)^{-1} \\ &\quad - (1 + z)(A + I)(A - zI)^{-1}Y [I + (1 + z)P_{\mathcal{N}}(A + I)(A - zI)^{-1}Y]^{-1} \\ &\quad \times P_{\mathcal{N}}(A + I)(A - zI)^{-1}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $Y$  runs over the contractions in  $\mathcal{N}$  satisfying inequalities  $-G_1 \leq Y \leq G_2$ .

### 3. APPLICATION TO SOME DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

Let us consider the multiplication operator  $A$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$  by a continuous function  $\varphi(k)$ ,  $k^2 = k_1^2 + \dots + k_n^2$ , such that  $\varphi(k) > 0$  almost everywhere and

$$(3.1) \quad \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{(1 + \varphi(k))^2} k^{n-1} dk < \infty.$$

$A$  is a non-negative self-adjoint operator,

$$\mathcal{D}(A) = \left\{ f : \int_{\mathbf{R}_n} |1 + \varphi(k)|^2 |f(\mathbf{k})|^2 d\mathbf{k} < \infty, f \in \mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n) \right\}.$$

In the sequel  $\hat{\delta}$  stands for the unbounded linear functional in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$ , formally defined as follows:

$$\hat{\delta}(f) = \int_{\mathbf{R}_n} f(\mathbf{k}) d\mathbf{k}.$$

Note that the domain of  $\hat{\delta}$  contains  $\mathcal{D}(A)$ . Let us denote by  $A_0$  the restriction of  $A$  onto the linear set

$$(3.2) \quad \mathcal{D}_0(A) := \left\{ f : f \in \mathcal{D}(A), \hat{\delta}(f) = 0 \right\}.$$

The closure of  $A_0 \neq A$  and

$$\mathcal{N} = (\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n) \ominus (I + A)\mathcal{D}_0(A)) = \left\{ \xi \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \varphi(k)}, \xi \in \mathbf{C} \right\}.$$

Applying Theorem 2.4 yields

**Proposition 3.1.** *A is a unique non-negative self-adjoint extension of  $A_0$ , that is,  $A$  has no non-negative singular perturbations if and only if*

$$(3.3) \quad \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\varphi(k)(1 + \varphi(k))} k^{n-1} dk = \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{(1 + \varphi(k))} k^{n-1} dk = \infty.$$

Put  $\varphi(k) = k^2$  and let  $n = 2$ . Then the both integrals in Proposition 3.1 are divergent. Hence the restriction  $A_0$  of the operator  $A$  of multiplication by  $k^2$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$  onto the linear set (3.2) has a unique non-negative self-adjoint extension in  $\mathbb{L}_2$ . Note that the multiplication operator by  $k^2$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$  is isomorphic to the self-adjoint Laplace operator  $-\Delta$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$  and its considered here restriction  $A_0$  is isomorphic to the restriction of  $-\Delta$  onto the Sobolev subspace  $\mathbb{H}_2^2(\mathbf{R}_n \setminus \{0\})$ . It follows that the self-adjoint Laplace operator in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$  has no non-negative singular perturbations with support at one point of  $\mathbf{R}_2$ .

However, the non-negative singular perturbations of  $-\Delta$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$  with support at two or more points do already exist. For example, let us consider there the restriction  $A_0$  of the multiplication operator by  $k^2$ , for which the defect subspace  $\mathcal{N}$  is one-dimensional and consists of functions collinear to

$$e_0(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{1 - \exp(-i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0))}{1 + k^2}, \quad \mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbf{R}_2.$$

In this case,

$$\begin{aligned} \|e_0\|^2 &= \int_{\mathbf{R}_2} \frac{4 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0)}{(1 + k^2)^2} \cdot d\mathbf{k} < \infty, \\ ((I + A)A^{-1}e_0, e_0) &= \int_{\mathbf{R}_2} \frac{4 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0)}{k^2(1 + k^2)} \cdot d\mathbf{k} < \infty, \\ ((I + A)e_0, e_0) &= \int_{\mathbf{R}_2} \frac{4 \sin^2 \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0)}{1 + k^2} \cdot d\mathbf{k} = \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $G_1 = \|e_0\|^2 \cdot ((I + A)e_0, e_0)^{-1} > 0$ , but  $G_2 = 0$ . Hence, the considered restriction  $A_0$  of the multiplication operator  $A$  by  $k^2$  has non-negative self-adjoint extensions in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$  other than  $A$ , and  $A$  is a maximal element in the set of these extensions. It remains to note that  $A$  is isomorphic to the self-adjoint Laplace operator  $-\Delta$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_2)$ , and  $A_0$  is isomorphic to the restriction of this  $-\Delta$  to the subset of functions  $f(\mathbf{x})$  from  $\mathcal{D}(-\Delta)$  satisfying the conditions

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow 0} (\ln |\mathbf{x}|)^{-1} f(\mathbf{x}) - \lim_{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0| \rightarrow 0} (\ln |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0|)^{-1} f(\mathbf{x}) &= 0, \\ \lim_{|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow 0} \left[ f(\mathbf{x}) - \ln |\mathbf{x}| \lim_{|\mathbf{x}'| \rightarrow 0} (\ln |\mathbf{x}'|)^{-1} f(\mathbf{x}') \right] \\ - \lim_{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0| \rightarrow 0} \left[ f(\mathbf{x}) - \ln |\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0| \lim_{|\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}_0| \rightarrow 0} (\ln |\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}_0|)^{-1} f(\mathbf{x}') \right] &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Put now as above  $\varphi(k) = k^2$  and let  $n = 3$ . Then the first integral in Proposition 3.1 is convergent while the second one, as before, is divergent. Hence the restriction  $A_0$  of the

operator  $A$  of multiplication by  $k^2$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_3)$  onto the linear set (3.2) has infinitely many non-negative self-adjoint extension in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_3)$ . Hence, the self-adjoint Laplace operator in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_3)$  has infinitely many non-negative singular perturbations with support at one point of  $\mathbf{R}_3$  and the standard Laplace operator is a maximal element in the set of these perturbations.

As the next example we consider the multiplication operator  $A$  by  $k^{2l}$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$  assuming that  $4l \leq n + 1$ .  $A$  is isomorphic to the polyharmonic operator  $(-\Delta)^l$  in  $\mathbb{L}_2(\mathbf{R}_n)$ . Let us consider the restriction  $A_0$  of  $A$  with the domain (3.2) that is non-negative symmetric operator which is isomorphic to the restriction of the polyharmonic operator  $(-\Delta)^l$  onto the Sobolev subspace  $\mathbb{H}_{2l}^2(\mathbf{R}_n \setminus \{0\})$ . Applying Theorem 2.4 and Proposition 3.1 results in the following proposition.

**Proposition 3.2.** *If  $n < 2l$  then there are infinitely many non-negative singular perturbations of  $(-\Delta)^l$  associated with the one-point symmetric restriction  $A_0$  and  $(-\Delta)^l$  is a minimal element in the set of non-negative extensions of  $A_0$  in  $\mathbb{H}_{2l}^2(\mathbf{R}_n \setminus \{0\})$ .*

*If  $n = 2l$  then  $(-\Delta)^l$  has no such perturbations in  $\mathbb{H}_{2l}^2(\mathbf{R}_n \setminus \{0\})$ .*

*If  $n > 2l$  then there is an infinite set of non-negative singular perturbations of  $(-\Delta)^l$  associated with  $A_0$  and, for them considered as non-negative extensions of  $A_0$  in the set  $\mathbb{H}_{2l}^2(\mathbf{R}_n \setminus \{0\})$ , the operator  $(-\Delta)^l$  is a maximal element.*

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