

An inverse problem in potential theory and the inverse scattering problem

By

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0. Introduction

Let us start with the following result ([8], Theorem 5.3): Let $S(k)$, $k > 0$, be the S -matrix associated with the Schrödinger operator $H = -\Delta + Q$ in $L^2(R^3)$ with a short-range potential $Q(y)$. Then we have an asymptotic formula

$$(0.1) \quad \lim_{K \rightarrow \infty} k^2 (F(k) x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2} = -2\pi \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{-2} Q(y) dy,$$

where

$$(0.2) \quad \begin{cases} F(k) = -2\pi i k^{-1} (S(k) - I) & (k > 0), \\ x_{k,z}(\omega) = e^{-ikz\omega} & (\omega \in S^2, z \in R^3), \end{cases}$$

I is the identity operator on $L^2(S^2)$ and $(\cdot, \cdot)_{S^2}$ denotes the inner product of $L^2(S^2)$. (0.1) was used in [8] to show the uniqueness of the inverse scattering problem for general short-range potential $Q(y) = O(|y|^{-\mu})$ with $\mu > 1$ ([8], Theorem 5.4).

In this work we shall discuss the integral equation

$$(0.3) \quad g(z) = \lambda \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{-\alpha} Q(y) dy$$

in the following two sections. Here λ and α are constants such that λ is a complex number with $\lambda \neq 0$ and $0 < \alpha < 3$. When a function $g(z)$ is given, we seek the solution $Q(y)$ which satisfies

$$(0.4) \quad |Q(y)| \leq C(1 + |y|)^{-\mu} \quad (y \in R^3)$$

with $C > 0$ and $\mu > 3 - \alpha$. In §1 we shall show a necessary and sufficient condition on $g(z)$ that the equation (0.3)–(0.4) has a unique solution $Q(y)$. A sufficient condition for the solvability of (0.3)–(0.4) will be given in §2. For instance we shall show the following (Theorem 2.4): Let $1 < \alpha < 3$ and let

$$(0.5) \quad \begin{cases} |g(z)| \leq C(1+|z|)^{-\varepsilon} \\ |\Delta g(z)| \leq C(1+|z|)^{-\varepsilon'} \end{cases}$$

for all $z \in R^3$ with $C > 0$, $\varepsilon > 0$, $\varepsilon' > 2$. Then there exists a unique solution $Q(y)$ of the equation (0.3)–(0.4) and we have

$$(0.6) \quad Q(y) = \text{const.} \int_{R^3} |y-z|^{x-4} (\Delta g)(z) dz.$$

The results obtained in § 1 and § 2 will be applied to the inverse scattering problem in § 3. We shall discuss uniqueness and reconstruction of the potential $Q(y)$. Some characterization of the asymptotic behavior of the S -matrix will be given, too.

1. The equation $g = \lambda(|y|^{-\alpha} * Q)$

Let us first introduce some notations. Let μ be a real number. Then a function space A_μ is defined by

$$(1.1) \quad A_\mu = \{f \in C(R^3) / f(y) = O(|y|^{-\mu}) \text{ as } |y| \rightarrow \infty\},$$

where $C(R^3)$ is all continuous functions on R^3 . Accordingly the estimate

$$(1.2) \quad |f(y)| \leq C(1+|y|)^{-\mu} \quad (y \in R^3)$$

holds for any $f \in A_\mu$ with a constant $C > 0$. Let $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}(R^3)$ be all rapidly decreasing functions on R^3 , and let $\mathcal{S}' = \mathcal{S}'(R^3)$ be all linear continuous functionals on \mathcal{S} . The pairing between \mathcal{S} and \mathcal{S}' will be denoted by \langle, \rangle . Further we set

$$(1.3) \quad \mathcal{S}_0 = \mathcal{S}_0(R^3) = \{\varphi \in \mathcal{S} / \varphi = 0 \text{ in a neighborhood of } y=0\}.$$

The Fourier transform \mathcal{F} , $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$, \mathcal{F}^* , $\bar{\mathcal{F}}^*$ are defined by

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{cases} (\mathcal{F}f)(\xi) = (2\pi)^{-3/2} \int_{R^3} e^{-i\xi y} f(y) dy, \\ (\bar{\mathcal{F}}f)(\xi) = (\mathcal{F}f)(-\xi), \\ (\mathcal{F}^*F)(y) = (2\pi)^{-3/2} \int_{R^3} e^{i\xi y} F(\xi) d\xi, \\ (\bar{\mathcal{F}}^*F)(y) = (\mathcal{F}^*F)(-y). \end{cases}$$

Here $\xi y = \xi_1 y_1 + \xi_2 y_2 + \xi_3 y_3$ for $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3)$ and $y = (y_1, y_2, y_3)$.

Let α and λ be real and complex numbers, respectively, such that

$$(1.5) \quad 0 < \alpha < 3 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda \neq 0,$$

and let us consider the integral equation

$$(1.6) \quad \begin{cases} g(z) = \lambda \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{-\alpha} Q(y) dy & (= \lambda(|y|^{-\alpha} * Q)(z)), \\ Q \in A_\mu \end{cases}$$

with $3-\alpha < \mu < 3^1)$. Here $f * h$ means the convolution. If $Q \in A_\mu$ with $3-\alpha < \mu < 3$ and $g(z)$ is defined by (1.6), then we have

$$(1.7) \quad g \in A_{\mu-(3-\alpha)},$$

which is a consequence of the following well-known theorem.

Lemma 1.1. Let $0 < a < 3$, $0 < b < 3$ and $a + b > 3$. Then

$$(1.8) \quad |y|^{-a} * f \in A_{a+b-3}$$

for any $f \in A_b$.

In order to solve the equation (1.6), let us introduce a linear functional $\Lambda^s g \in \mathcal{S}'_\xi = \mathcal{S}'(R^3_\xi)$ for $s > 0$ and $g \in A_\varepsilon$ with $\varepsilon > 0$.

Definition 1.2. Let $g \in A_\varepsilon$ with $\varepsilon > 0$ and let $s > 0$. Then a linear functional $\Lambda^s g$ on $\mathcal{S}_\xi = \mathcal{S}(R^3_\xi)$ is defined by

$$(1.9) \quad \langle \Lambda^s g, G \rangle = \int_{R^3} g(y) \{ \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^s G) \}(y) dy \quad (G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi).$$

$\Lambda^s g$ is well-defined as the element of \mathcal{S}'_ξ as will be shown in the next proposition. Let us introduce the norm $|\cdot|_s$, $s > 0$, by

$$(1.10) \quad |G|_s = \sum_{|\beta| \leq 3} \int_{R^3} |\xi|^{s-3+|\beta|} |D^\beta G(\xi)| d\xi + \int_{R^3} |\xi|^s |G(\xi)| d\xi.$$

Here $\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$ is a multi-index with $|\beta| = \beta_1 + \beta_2 + \beta_3$ and

$$(1.11) \quad D^\beta = (\partial/\partial \xi_1)^{\beta_1} (\partial/\partial \xi_2)^{\beta_2} (\partial/\partial \xi_3)^{\beta_3}.$$

Obviously the topology induced in \mathcal{S}_ξ by the norm $|\cdot|_s$ is weaker than the proper topology of \mathcal{S}_ξ .

Proposition 1.3. Let $g \in A_\varepsilon$ with $\varepsilon > 0$ and let $s > 0$. Then $\Lambda^s g$ defined by Definition 1.2 is an element of \mathcal{S}'_ξ and the estimate

$$(1.12) \quad |\langle \Lambda^s g, G \rangle| \leq C_s \|(1 + |y|)^{-3} g\|_{L^1} |G|_s$$

holds for any $G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi$, where $\|\cdot\|_{L^1}$ is the norm of $L^1(R^3)$ and C_s is a constant depending only on $s > 0$.

Proof. Repeating partial integration, we get

$$(1.13) \quad (\mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^s G))(y) = i|y|^{-2} y_i^{-1} (\mathcal{F}^* H_{j,s})(y),$$

where

$$(1.14) \quad \begin{aligned} H_{j,s}(\xi, G) = & s(s+1)(s+2)|\xi|^{s-4} \xi_j G(\xi) + s(s+3)|\xi|^{s-2} D_j G \\ & + 2s(s-2)|\xi|^{s-4} \xi_j \xi \cdot \nabla G(\xi) + 2s|\xi|^{s-2} \xi \cdot \nabla (D_j G) \end{aligned}$$

1) Here and in the sequel we assume $\mu < 3$. We are naturally interested in the case that μ is larger than $3-\alpha$ but is close to $3-\alpha$.

$$+s|\xi|^{s-2}\xi_j\Delta G(\xi)+|\xi|^s\Delta(D_jG).$$

Here $D_j=\partial/\partial\xi_j$, ∇ is the gradient and Δ is the Laplacian. It can be easily seen that

$$(1.15) \quad |(\mathcal{F}^*H_{j,s})(y)| \leq C_s|G|_s \quad (y \in R^3)$$

holds with a constant C_s depending only on s . Take $\phi_j \in C(R^3)$, $j=0, 1, 2, 3$, such that $0 \leq \phi_j(y) \leq 1$, $\sum_j \phi_j(y) = 1$, support of $\phi_0(y)$ is contained in $\{y/|y| \leq 2\}$ and the support of $\phi_j(y)$ is contained in $\{y/2|y_j| \geq |y|, |y| \geq 1\}$ for each $j=1, 2, 3$. Thus we obtain

$$(1.16) \quad \langle \Delta^s g, G \rangle = \langle \phi_0 g, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^s G) \rangle + \sum_{j=1}^3 \langle \phi_j g, i|y|^{-2} y_j^{-1} \mathcal{F}^* H_{j,s} \rangle.$$

(1.12) follows from (1.15) and (1.16).

Q. E. D.

Let $\mathcal{S}_{0\xi} = \mathcal{S}_0(R_\xi^3)$ be as in (1.3). It will be shown that $\mathcal{S}_{0\xi}$ is dense in \mathcal{S}_ξ with respect to the norm $|\cdot|_s$. Let $\rho(\xi) \in C^\infty(R_\xi^3)$ such that $0 \leq \rho(\xi) \leq 1$ and $\rho(\xi) = 0$ ($|\xi| \leq 1/2$), $= 1$ ($|\xi| \geq 1$), and set

$$(1.17) \quad \rho_m(\xi) = \rho(m\xi) \quad (m=1, 2, 3, \dots).$$

Lemma 1.4. *Let $s > 0$ and let $|\cdot|_s$ be as in (1.10). Then we have*

$$(1.18) \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} |G - \rho_m G|_s = 0$$

for any $G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi$.

Proof. Noting that $\rho_m(\xi) = 1$ for $|\xi| \geq m^{-1}$, we can see that

$$(1.19) \quad \int_{R^3} |\xi|^{s-3} |G - \rho_m G| d\xi \leq \int_0^{m^{-1}} r^{s-1} dr \int_{S_2} |G(r\omega)| d\omega \longrightarrow 0$$

as $m \rightarrow \infty$. As for the first derivatives we get

$$(1.20) \quad \begin{aligned} & \int_{R^3} |\xi|^{s-2} |D_j(G - \rho_m G)| d\xi \\ & \leq c_j \int_{|\xi| \leq m^{-1}} |\xi|^{s-3} |G| d\xi + \int_{|\xi| \leq m^{-1}} |\xi|^{s-2} |D_j G| d\xi \end{aligned}$$

for $j=1, 2, 3$, where $c_j = \max_\xi |D_j \rho(\xi)|$ and we have used the fact that $m \leq |\xi|^{-1}$ on the support of $D_j \rho_m(\xi)$. Thus we get

$$(1.21) \quad \int_{R^3} |\xi|^{s-2} |D_j(G - \rho_m G)| d\xi \longrightarrow 0 \quad (m \longrightarrow \infty).$$

Similarly it can be seen that

$$(1.22) \quad \begin{cases} \int_{R^3} |\xi|^{s-3+|\beta|} |D^\beta(G - \rho_m G)| d\xi \longrightarrow 0, \\ \int_{R^3} |\xi|^s |G - \rho_m G| d\xi \longrightarrow 0 \end{cases}$$

as $m \rightarrow \infty$ for any multi-index β with $0 \leq |\beta| \leq 3$, which implies (1.18).

Q. E. D.

Let us now give an inversion formula for the equation (1.6)

Proposition 1.5. Let $0 < \alpha < 3$ and let $Q \in A_\mu$ with $3 - \alpha < \mu < 3$. Let $g(z)$ be defined by (1.6). Then we have $g \in A_{\mu-(3-\alpha)}$ and

$$(1.23) \quad Q = (c_\alpha \lambda)^{-1} \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha} g \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}',$$

i.e.,

$$(1.24) \quad \langle Q, \varphi \rangle = (c_\alpha \lambda)^{-1} \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha} g, \varphi \rangle \quad (\varphi \in \mathcal{S}),$$

with a constant

$$(1.25) \quad c_\alpha = 2^{3-\alpha} \pi^{3/2} \Gamma((3-\alpha)/2) \Gamma(2/\alpha)^{-1},$$

where $\Gamma(t)$ is the Γ -function.

Proof. Let $\{Q_n\}$ be a sequence such that

$$(1.26) \quad \begin{cases} Q_n \in C_0^\infty = C_0^\infty(R^3) & (n = 1, 2, \dots), \\ |Q_n(y)| \leq C(1 + |y|)^{-\mu} & (y \in R^3, n = 1, 2, \dots), \\ Q_n(y) \longrightarrow Q(y) & (y \in R^3, n \longrightarrow \infty), \end{cases}$$

where $C > 0$ is independent of $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Such an approximate sequence can be constructed by making use of the Friedrichs mollifier. If we set

$$(1.27) \quad g_n(z) = \lambda \int_{R^3} |z - y|^{-\alpha} Q_n(y) dy,$$

then $g_n \in A_{\mu-(3-\alpha)}$ by Lemma 1.1 and g_n satisfies

$$(1.28) \quad \begin{cases} |g_n(z)| \leq C(1 + |z|)^{-(\mu+\alpha-3)} & (z \in R^3, n = 1, 2, \dots), \\ g_n(z) \longrightarrow g(z) & (z \in R^3, n \longrightarrow \infty), \end{cases}$$

C being independent of $n = 1, 2, \dots$. Let $G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi$. Then we have for $n = 1, 2, \dots$

$$(1.29) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{F} g_n, G \rangle &= \langle g_n, \mathcal{F}^* G \rangle = \lambda \langle |y|^{-\alpha} * Q_n, \mathcal{F}^* G \rangle \\ &= \lambda \langle |y|^{-\alpha}, \check{Q}_n * (\mathcal{F}^* G) \rangle \quad (\check{Q}_n(y) = Q_n(-y)). \end{aligned}$$

Noting that

$$(1.30) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^*(|y|^{-\alpha})(y) &= 2^{-\gamma+(3/2)} \Gamma((3-\gamma)/2) \Gamma(2/\gamma)^{-1} |y|^{-3+\gamma} \\ &= h_\gamma |y|^{-3+\gamma} \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}' \end{aligned}$$

for $0 < \gamma < 3$, and setting $\gamma = 3 - \alpha$ in (1.30), we get from (1.29)

2) See, e.g., Gel'fand-Shilov [4], p. 194, though the definition of the Fourier transforms in [4] is a little bit different from the ones used here.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1.31) \quad \langle \mathcal{F}g_n, G \rangle &= \lambda b_{3-x}^{-1} \langle \mathcal{F}^*(|\zeta|^{x-3}), \check{Q}_n^*(\mathcal{F}^*G) \rangle \\
 &= (2\pi)^{3/2} \lambda b_{3-x}^{-1} \langle |\zeta|^{x-3}(\mathcal{F}Q_n), G \rangle,
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the relations

$$(1.32) \quad \mathcal{F}(f * g)(\zeta) = (2\pi)^{3/2} (\mathcal{F}f)(\zeta) \cdot (\mathcal{F}g)(\zeta) \quad (f, g \in \mathcal{S})$$

and

$$(1.33) \quad (\mathcal{F}\check{Q}_n)(\zeta) = (\mathcal{F}Q_n)(\zeta).$$

Therefore we have

$$(1.34) \quad \mathcal{F}g_n = c_x \lambda |\zeta|^{x-3} (\mathcal{F}Q_n) \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'_\xi$$

with c_x given in (1.25). Let ρ_m be as in (1.17). Since $|\zeta|^{3-x}\rho_m G \in \mathcal{S}_{0\xi} \subset \mathcal{S}_\xi$ for any $G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi$, we have from (1.34)

$$(1.35) \quad (c_x \lambda)^{-1} \langle \mathcal{F}g_n, |\zeta|^{3-x}\rho_m G \rangle = \langle |\zeta|^{x-3} \mathcal{F}Q_n, |\zeta|^{3-x}\rho_m G \rangle \quad (G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi),$$

whence follows that

$$(1.36) \quad (c_x \lambda)^{-1} \langle \Lambda^{3-x}g_n, \rho_m G \rangle = \langle \mathcal{F}Q_n, \rho_m G \rangle.$$

Letting $m \rightarrow \infty$ in (1.36) and taking account of Proposition 1.3 and Lemma 1.4, we can see that

$$(1.37) \quad (c_x \lambda)^{-1} \langle \Lambda^{3-x}g_n, G \rangle = \langle \mathcal{F}Q_n, G \rangle$$

for any $G \in \mathcal{S}_\xi$. Further we let $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (1.37) and make use of (1.26) and (1.28) to get

$$(1.38) \quad (c_x \lambda)^{-1} \Lambda^{3-x}g = \mathcal{F}Q \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'_\xi$$

whence (1.24) directly follows.

Q. E. D.

The converse of Proposition 1.5 will be shown in the next proposition.

Proposition 1.6. *Let $0 < \alpha < 3$ and let $3 - \alpha < \mu < 3$. Let $g \in A_{\mu-(3-\alpha)}$ with*

$$(1.39) \quad \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-x}g \in A_\mu,$$

i.e., there exists $h \in A_\mu$ such that $h = \mathcal{F}^ \Lambda^{3-x}g$ in \mathcal{S}' . Then*

$$(1.40) \quad Q = (c_x \lambda)^{-1} \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-x}g = (c_x \lambda)^{-1} h$$

is a solution of the equation (1.6). c_x is given in (1.25).

Proof. Let $Q(y)$ be defined by (1.40). We have for $G \in \mathcal{S}_{0\xi}$

$$(1.41) \quad \langle |y|^{-x} * Q, \mathcal{F}^* G \rangle = \langle Q, |y|^{-x} * (\mathcal{F}^* G) \rangle.$$

Here we should note that $|y|^{-x} * (\mathcal{F}^* G) \in \mathcal{S}$, because, noting that (1.32) is valid in \mathcal{S}' for $f = |y|^{-x}$ and $g = \mathcal{F}^* G$, we have from (1.30)

$$(1.42) \quad \mathcal{F}^*(|y|^{-\alpha}(\mathcal{F}^*G)) = (2\pi)^{3/2}b_x|\xi|^{3-\alpha}G(\xi) \in \mathcal{S}_{0\xi}.$$

From (1.42) and (1.42) we see that

$$(1.43) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle |y|^{-\alpha}Q, \mathcal{F}^*G \rangle &= (c_x\lambda)^{-1} \langle \mathcal{F}^*A^{3-\alpha}g, |y|^{-\alpha}(\mathcal{F}^*G) \rangle \\ &= (c_x\lambda)^{-1} (2\pi)^{3/2}b_x \langle A^{3-\alpha}g, |\xi|^{3-\alpha}G \rangle \\ &= \lambda^{-1} \langle g, \mathcal{F}^*\{|\xi|^{3-\alpha}|\xi|^{3-\alpha}G\} \rangle \\ &= \lambda^{-1} \langle g, \mathcal{F}^*G \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

where it should be noted that $(2\pi)^{3/2}c_x^{-1}b_x = b_xb_{3-\alpha} = 1$. Thus we get

$$(1.44) \quad \langle \mathcal{F}\{g - \lambda(|y|^{-\alpha}Q)\}, G \rangle = 0$$

for any $G \in \mathcal{S}_{0\xi}$, which implies that the support of $\mathcal{F}\{g - \lambda(|y|^{-\alpha}Q)\}$ is contained in the origin $\{0\}$. Therefore there exists a polynomial $P(y) = P(y_1, y_2, y_3)$ such that

$$(1.45) \quad \mathcal{F}\{g - \lambda(|y|^{-\alpha}Q)\} = P(D)\delta,$$

where δ is the Dirac δ -function and $D = (-D_1, -iD_2, -iD_3)$. For the proof of (1.45) see, e.g., Schwartz [9], p. 100. Since $\mathcal{F}^*P(D)\delta = P(y)$, it can be seen from (1.45) that

$$(1.46) \quad g(y) - \lambda(|y|^{-\alpha}Q)(y) = P(y).$$

Here the left-hand side of (1.46) is $o(1)$ at infinity by Lemma 1.1. and hence we have $P(y) \equiv 0$. Thus it has been shown that Q defined by (1.40) is a solution of the equation (1.6). Q. E. D.

The main result of this section directly follows from Propositions 1.5 and 1.6.

Theorem 1.7. *Let $0 < \alpha < 3$. Then the integral equation (1.6) has a unique solution $Q \in A_\mu$ with $3 - \alpha < \mu < 3$ if and only if*

$$(1.47) \quad \begin{cases} g \in A_{\mu-(3-\alpha)}, \\ \mathcal{F}^*A^{3-\alpha}g \in A_\mu. \end{cases}$$

Then the solution $Q(y)$ has the form (1.40). $Q(y)$ is real-valued if λ is real and $g(z)$ is real-valued.

Proof. Now that Propositions 1.5 and 1.6 have been shown, we have only to show the final statement of the theorem. Let λ be real and let $g(z)$ be real-valued. Then, taking the conjugate of (1.6), we can see that the conjugate $\overline{Q(y)}$ of $Q(y)$ is a solution of the equation (1.6), and hence the uniqueness of the solution of (1.6) can be applied to get $\overline{Q(y)} = Q(y)$, which completes the proof. Q. E. D.

It can be seen from Theorem 1.7 that the equation (1.6) is solvable if $g(z)$ and its derivatives decrease sufficiently rapidly at infinity.

Example 1.8. (i) Let g satisfy

$$(1.48) \quad \begin{cases} g \in A_{\mu-1} \cap D((-\Delta)^{1/2}), \\ (-\Delta)^{1/2}g \in A_\mu \end{cases}$$

with $1 < \mu < 3$, where $D((-\Delta)^{1/2})$ is the domain of the self-adjoint operator $(-\Delta)^{1/2}$ in $L^2(R^3)$. Then the equation (1.6) with $\alpha=2$ has a unique solution $Q=(2\pi^2\lambda)^{-1}(-\Delta)^{1/2}g$.

(ii) Let $g(z)$ be a smooth function such that $|\mathcal{F}g|_{3-\alpha} < \infty$ with $0 < \alpha < 3$. Then the equation (1.6) has a unique solution $Q=(c_\alpha\lambda)^{-1}\mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{3-\alpha}g)$. The proof is easy by the use of (1.15) in the proof of Proposition 1.3.

(iii) Let us consider the case that $\alpha=1$. Then the equation (1.6) has a unique solution if and only if $\mathcal{F}^*A^2g \in A_\mu$ and $g \in A_{\mu-2}$ with $\mu > 2$. Since

$$(1.49) \quad \langle \mathcal{F}^*A^2g, \varphi \rangle = \langle g, -\Delta\varphi \rangle \quad (\varphi \in \mathcal{S})$$

we can say that (1.6) with $\alpha=1$ has a unique solution $Q(y) = -(2\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}\lambda)^{-1}\Delta g$ if and only if $\Delta g \in A_\mu$ and $g \in A_{\mu-2}$ with $\mu > 2$, where Δg is defined in the sense of distributions.

2. A sufficient condition for the solvability

The purpose of this section is to show the following theorem which gives a sufficient condition on $g(z)$ that the equation (1.6) is solvable.

Theorem 2.1. *Let $0 < \alpha < 3$. Suppose that $g \in A_\varepsilon$ with $\varepsilon > 0$ and there exists a positive number a such that $3 - \alpha < s < 3$ and*

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{F}^*A^s g = g_s \in A_\mu$$

with $s < \mu < 3$. Then the integral equation (1.6) has a unique solution

$$(2.2) \quad Q(y) = (c_{\alpha,s}\lambda)^{-1} \int_{R^3} |y-z|^{2+s-6} g_s(z) dz \in A_{3-\alpha+\varepsilon},$$

where A^s is as in Definition 1.2 and

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{cases} \delta = \min(\mu - s, \varepsilon), \\ c_{\alpha,s} = 2^s \pi^3 \Gamma((3-\alpha)/2) \Gamma((\alpha+s-3)/2) \{ \Gamma(\alpha/2) \Gamma((6-\alpha-s)/2) \}^{-1}. \end{cases}$$

We need some preparations before giving the proof of this theorem.

Let $g_s \in A_\mu$ as in Theorem 2.1 and take a sequence $\{g_{s,n}\}$ which satisfies

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{cases} g_{s,n} \in C_0^\infty, \\ g_{s,n}(z) = C(1+|z|)^{-\mu} \quad (z \in R^3), \\ g_{s,n}(z) \longrightarrow g_s(z) \quad (z \in R^3, n \longrightarrow \infty), \end{cases}$$

where the constant C is independent of $n=1, 2, \dots$. Set

$$(2.5) \quad F_{s,n}(y) = (\mathcal{F}^*|\xi|^{3-\alpha-s}\mathcal{F}g_{s,n})(y)$$

for each $n=1, 2, \dots$. Since $3-\alpha-s > -3$, we have $|\xi|^{3-\alpha-s}(\mathcal{F}g_{s,n})(\xi) \in L^1(R_\xi^3)$, which

implies that $F_{s,n}(y)$ is well-defined as a continuous function on R^3 .

Proposition 2.2. *Let $F_{s,n}(y)$ be as above. Then we have*

$$(2.6) \quad \begin{cases} F_{s,n}(y) = d_{z,s} \int_{R^3} |y-z|^{z+s-6} g_{s,n}(z) dz \in A_{3-z+\mu-s}, \\ |F_{s,n}(y)| \leq C(1+|y|)^{-(3-z+\mu-s)} \end{cases}$$

with a constant C independent of $n=1, 2, \dots$ and $d_{z,s} = (2\pi)^{-3/2} b_{z+s-3}$, where b_γ is given in (1.30). Further,

$$(2.7) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{s,n}(y) = d_{z,s} \int_{R^3} |y-z|^{z+s-6} g_s(z) dz$$

holds for any $y \in R^3$.

Proof. First let us note that $0 < 6 - \alpha - s < 3$. Then we can apply (1.30) with $\gamma = 6 - \alpha - s$ to show

$$(2.8) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle &= \langle |\xi|^{3-\alpha-s} \mathcal{F} g_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle \\ &= b_{z+s-3} \langle \mathcal{F} |y|^{z+s-6}, (\mathcal{F} g_{s,n})(\mathcal{F} \varphi) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, using (1.32), we have

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle &= (2\pi)^{-3/2} \langle |y|^{z+s-6}, g_{s,n} * (\mathcal{F}^* \mathcal{F} \varphi) \rangle \\ &= d_{z,s} \langle |y|^{z+s-6}, g_{s,n} * \check{\varphi} \rangle \quad (\check{\varphi}(y) = \varphi(-y)) \\ &= d_{z,s} \langle |y|^{z+s-6} * g_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle, \end{aligned}$$

which is combined with (2.4) to give (2.6). By letting $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.6) and noting (2.4), (2.7) can be easily derived. Q. E. D.

Proposition 2.3. *Let $F_{s,n}(y)$ be as above. Then*

$$(2.10) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_{s,n} = \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha} g \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'.$$

Proof. It suffices to show

$$(2.11) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle = \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha} g, \varphi \rangle$$

for $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}$. Let us first consider the case that $\varphi = \mathcal{F}^* G$ with $G \in \mathcal{S}_{0\xi}$. Then $\mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^t \varphi) \in \mathcal{S}$ for any real t . Using

$$(2.12) \quad \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle = \langle g_s, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{3-\alpha-s} G) \rangle$$

and recalling (2.4) and the definition of Λ^s , we have

$$(2.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle &= \langle g_s, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{3-\alpha} G) \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^s g, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{3-\alpha-s} G) \rangle \\ &= \langle g, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^s |\xi|^{3-\alpha-s} G) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \langle g, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{3-\alpha}G) \rangle \\
&= \langle \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g, G \rangle = \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g, \varphi \rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

Let us next consider the general case, i.e., let us show (2.11) for $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}$. Let ρ_m be as in (1.17) and set

$$(2.14) \quad \varphi_m = \mathcal{F}^*(\rho_m \mathcal{F} \varphi) \quad (m=1, 2, \dots).$$

Then $\varphi_m \in \mathcal{S}_{0\sharp}$ and it follows from Lemma 1.4 that

$$(2.15) \quad |\varphi - \varphi_m|_t \longrightarrow 0$$

as $m \rightarrow \infty$ for each $t > 0$. In the relation

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.16) \quad \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g - F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle &= \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g - F_{s,n}, \varphi_m \rangle + \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g, \varphi - \varphi_m \rangle \\
&\quad - \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi - \varphi_m \rangle
\end{aligned}$$

the first term of the right-hand side tends to 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$ for each m because of (2.12). By the use of Proposition 1.3 and (2.15) with $t=3-\alpha$ the second term of the right-hand side is estimated as

$$(2.17) \quad |\langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g, \varphi - \varphi_m \rangle| \leq c_{3-\alpha} \|(1 + |\cdot|)^{-3}g\|_{L^1} |\varphi - \varphi_m|_{3-\alpha} \longrightarrow 0$$

as $m \rightarrow \infty$. Thus, in order to show (2.11), it is sufficient to prove

$$(2.18) \quad |\langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle| \leq C |\mathcal{F} \varphi|_{3-\alpha} \quad (\varphi \in \mathcal{S})$$

with a constant C independent of $n=1, 2, \dots$. Let us now show (2.18). Since we can see that

$$(2.19) \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{-s} \mathcal{F} g_{s,n})(z) = (2\pi)^{3/2} b_{3-s}^{-1} \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{s-3} g_{s,n}(y) dy \\ \quad \equiv h_{s,n}(z) \in A_{\mu-s}, \\ |h_{s,n}(z)| \leq C(1+|z|)^{s-\mu} \quad (z \in R^3, n=1, 2, \dots) \end{cases}$$

in quite a similar way to the one used in the proof of (2.6) in Proposition 2.2, $\langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle$ is calculated as

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.20) \quad \langle F_{s,n}, \varphi \rangle &= \langle |\xi|^{3-\alpha-s} \mathcal{F} g_{s,n}, \mathcal{F} \varphi \rangle \\
&= \langle |\xi|^{-s} \mathcal{F} g_{s,n}, |\xi|^{3-\alpha} \mathcal{F} \varphi \rangle \\
&= \langle h_{s,n}, \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^{3-\alpha} \mathcal{F} \varphi) \rangle = \langle \Lambda^{3-\alpha} h_{s,n}, \mathcal{F} \varphi \rangle.
\end{aligned}$$

(2.18) follows from (2.19), (2.20) and Proposition 1.3.

Q. E. D.

Proof of Theorem 2.1. From Propositions 2.2 and 2.3 we have

$$(2.21) \quad \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-\alpha}g = d_{\alpha,s}(|y|^{x+s-6} * g_s) \in A_{3-\alpha+\mu-s}$$

in \mathcal{S}' . On the other hand g is assumed to satisfy

$$(2.22) \quad g \in A_\varepsilon$$

with $\varepsilon > 0$. Therefore, setting $\delta = \min(\mu - s, \varepsilon)$, we can apply Theorem 1.7 to see that the equation (1.6) has a unique solution $Q = (c_x \lambda)^{-1} \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^{3-s} g = (c_x \lambda)^{-1} d_{x,s}|y|^{x+s-6} * g_s$. Now we have only to note that $c_x/d_{x,s}$ is equal to $c_{x,s}$ defined by (2.3). Q. E. D.

The next theorem is an application of Theorem 2.1.

Theorem 2.4. Let $1 < \alpha < 3$. Assume that $g \in A_\varepsilon$ with $\varepsilon > 0$ and $\Delta g \in Q_\mu$ with $\mu > 2$, where Δg is defined in the sense of distributions. Then the equation (1.6) has a unique solution $Q \in A_{3-x+\delta}$ with $\delta = \min(\mu - 2, \varepsilon)$ which has the form

$$(2.23) \quad Q(y) = -(c_{\alpha,2} \lambda)^{-1} \int_{R^3} |y-z|^{x-4} (\Delta g)(z) dz,$$

where

$$(2.24) \quad c_{\alpha,2} = 4\pi^3 \Gamma((3-\alpha)/2) \Gamma((\alpha-1)/2) \{\Gamma(\alpha/2) \Gamma((4-\alpha)/2)\}^{-1}.$$

Proof. Since $\mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|^2 \mathcal{F}\varphi) = -\Delta\varphi$ for $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}$, we have

$$(2.25) \quad \langle \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^2 g, \varphi \rangle = \langle -\Delta g, \varphi \rangle \quad (\varphi \in \mathcal{S}),$$

i.e.,

$$(2.26) \quad \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^2 g = -\Delta g \in A_\mu \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'.$$

Therefore Theorem 2.1 with $s=2$ can be applied.

Q. E. D.

Remark 2.5. Let $\lambda > 0$ in the equation (1.6). Then, under the assumptions of Theorem 2.4, the solution $Q(y) \leq 0$ (or $Q(y) \geq 0$) if $g(z)$ is subharmonic (or superharmonic).

3. Some remarks on the inverse scattering problem

1⁰ Let us consider the Schrödinger operator

$$(3.1) \quad H = -\Delta + Q$$

in R^3 , where Q is a multiplication operator by a real-valued function $Q(y) \in A_\mu$ with $\mu > 1$, i.e., $Q(y)$ is a short-range potential. As is well-known, the restriction of the differential operator H to C_0^∞ is essentially self-adjoint in $L^2(R^3)$. The (unique) self-adjoint extension will be denoted again by H .

2⁰ Let us give a brief sketch of scattering theory for H . First the wave operators

$$(3.2) \quad W_\pm = s\text{-}\lim_{t \rightarrow \pm\infty} e^{itH} e^{-itH_0}$$

are defined as partially isometric operators in $L^2(R^3)$ (Kuroda [5]). Let $E(\lambda)$ be the spectral measure associated with H . Then the ranges of W_\pm are known to be $E((0, \infty))L^2(R^3)$ which is also the absolutely continuous subspace of $L^2(R^3)$ with respect

to H (Agmon [1], Saitō [7]). By the use of W_{\pm} the scattering operator S is defined by

$$(3.3) \quad S = W_{+}^{*} W_{-}.$$

S is a unitary operator on $L^2(R^3)$. Further it can be shown that there exists a family of unitary operators $S(k)$, $k > 0$, on $L^2(S^2)$ such that

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{F} S \mathcal{F}^{*}\} G\}(\xi) &= \{S(|\xi|)G(|\xi| \cdot)\}(\tilde{\xi}) \\ (G \in C_0^{\infty}(R_+^3), \tilde{\xi} &= \xi/|\xi|). \end{aligned}$$

Here \mathcal{F} is the Fourier transform defined by the first relation of (1.4). $S(k)$, $k > 0$, called the S -matrix associated with H . Set

$$(3.5) \quad F(k) = -2\pi i k^{-1}(S(k) - I),$$

I being the identity operator on $L^2(R^3)$. Then $F(k)$ is a compact operator for each $k > 0$ (Agmon [1]). If $Q \in A_{\mu}$ with $\mu > 2$, then $F(k)$ is a Hilbert-Schmidt operator on $L^2(S^2)$ with its Hilbert Schmidt kernel $F(k, \omega, \omega')$ ($k > 0$, $\omega, \omega' \in S^2$) (Amerein et al. [2], Saitō [8]), i.e.,

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{cases} (F(k)x)(\omega) = \int_{S^2} F(k, \omega, \omega')x(\omega')d\omega', \\ \int_{S^2} \int_{S^2} |F(k, \omega, \omega')|^2 d\omega d\omega' < \infty \end{cases}$$

for $x \in L^2(S^2)$. $F(k, \omega, \omega')$ is called the scattering amplitude.

3° Usually the inverse scattering problem consists of the attempt to reconstruct the potential $Q(y)$, which is often called the underlying potential, from the scattering amplitude $F(k, \omega, \omega')$. Let us now replace the scattering amplitude $F(k, \omega, \omega')$ by the S -matrix $S(k)$ in the above definition of the inverse scattering problem, because we treat general short-range potentials $Q(y) \in A_{\mu}$ with $\mu > 1$ and $F(k)$ has no Hilbert-Schmidt kernel in general for such a potential. As has been mentioned in Newton [6], the inverse scattering problem has the following three separate aspects:

- (a) Reconstruction of the underlying potential.
- (b) Uniqueness of the underlying potential.
- (c) Existence of an underlying potential, or characterization of the class of S -matrices associated with potentials (in a given class).

4° Let us first consider the problem (a). Newton [6] showed that the underlying potential $Q(y)$ is reconstructed by solving an integral equation which can be regarded as an extension of the Marchenko equation in the one-dimensional case. Here $Q(y)$ has to fulfil some pretty restrictive conditions which are satisfied by, e.g., $|Q(y)| \leq C(1 + |y|)^{-3-\varepsilon}$ and $|FQ(y)| \leq C(1 + |y|)^{-2-\varepsilon}$ with $C, \varepsilon > 0$. Now, using the results obtained in § 1 and § 2 and the formula (0.1), we shall show another reconstruction formula for the underlying potential $Q(y) \in A_{\mu}$ with $\mu > 1$. Set

$$(3.7) \quad g(z, k) = k^2 (F(k)x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2}$$

for $k > 0$, $z \in R^3$, where $x_{k,z}(\omega) = e^{-ikz\omega}$ and $(\cdot, \cdot)_{S^2}$ is the inner product of $L^2(S^2)$.

Theorem 3.1. (i) Let $S(k)$, $k > 0$, be the S -matrix for the Schrödinger operator $H = -\Delta + Q$ with real $Q \in A_\mu$ ($1 < \mu < 3$) and let $F(k)$ be as in (3.5). Then the limit

$$(3.8) \quad g(z) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} g(z, k) = -2\pi \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{-2} Q(y) dy$$

exists for each $z \in R^3$ and $g(z)$ satisfies

$$(3.9) \quad \begin{cases} g \in A_{\mu-1}, \\ \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^1 g \in A_\mu, \end{cases}$$

Λ^1 being as in the Definition 1.2 with $s=1$. We have a reconstruction formula

$$(3.10) \quad Q(y) = -(4\pi^3)^{-1} \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^1 g(y).$$

(ii) We have another expression for $Q(y)$.

$$(3.11) \quad Q = -(4\pi^3)^{-1} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}^* \Lambda^1 g(\cdot, k) \quad \text{in } \mathcal{S}'.$$

Proof. The existence of limit (3.8) is shown in [8] (Theorem 5.3). (3.9) and (3.10) follows from Theorem 1.7 with $\alpha=2$ and $\lambda=-2\pi$. Since it can be seen from the proof of Theorem 5.3 of [8] that the estimate

$$(3.12) \quad |g(z, k)| \leq C(1+|z|)^{-(\mu-1)} \quad (z \in R^3, k \geq 1)$$

holds with a constant $C > 0$ independent of $k \geq 1$. (3.12) is combined with (3.8) to give

$$(3.13) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{R^3} g(z, k) \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|G)(z) dz = \int_{R^3} g(z) \mathcal{F}^*(|\xi|G)(z) dz \quad (G \in \mathcal{S}),$$

which completes the proof of (3.11). Q. E. D.

We can use the results in §2 to get another reconstruction formula for $Q(y)$. The following results corresponds to Theorem 2.4.

Theorem 3.2. Let $S(k)$ be as in Theorem 3.1 and $g(z)$ be as in (3.8). Further, let $\Delta g \in A_\mu$ with $\lambda > 2$, where Δg is defined in the sense of distributions. Then we have

$$(3.14) \quad Q(y) = (8\pi^5)^{-1} \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{-2} (\Delta g)(z) dz.$$

Proof. We have only to apply Theorem 2.4 with $\alpha=2$ and $\lambda=-2\pi$, and note that $c_{2,2}=4\pi^4$ which follows from (2.24) with $\alpha=s=2$. Q. E. D.

⁵⁰ Let us next consider the problem (b); uniqueness of the underlying potential. Faddeev [3] showed the uniqueness of the underlying potential for the potential $Q \in A_\mu$ with $\mu > 3$. This result was extended to the case that Q belongs to the Robin class R (Newton [6], §3). Saitō [8] showed that the uniqueness holds for $Q \in A_\mu$

with $\mu > 1$. Now it can be obtained directly from Theorem 1.7 with $\alpha = 2$, $\lambda = -2\pi$.

Theorem 3.3. *Let $Q_1(y)$ and $Q_2(y)$ belong to A_μ with $\mu > 1$ and let $S_1(k)$ and $S_2(k)$ be the S -matrices $H_1 = -\Delta + Q_1$ and $H_2 = -\Delta + Q_2$, respectively. If $S_1(k) = S_2(k)$ for all $k > 0$ (or more exactly, $S_1(k_n) = S_2(k_n)$ for a sequence $\{k_n\}$ such that $k_n \uparrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$), then $Q_1(y) = Q_2(y)$ for all $y \in \mathbb{R}^3$.*

⁶⁰ As for the existence problem (c), we can say very little though the existence of the limit (3.8) gives a necessary condition for the S -matrix. Let us now show one more result concerning the problem (c). Let us take two families $\{S_j(k)/k > 0\}$, $j = 1, 2$, of unitary operators on $L^2(S^2)$. We shall say that $S_1(k)$ is asymptotically equal to $S_2(k)$ with respect to $x_{k,z}(\omega) = e^{-ikz\omega}$ if

$$(3.15) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k(\{S_2(k) - S_1(k)\}x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2} = 0.$$

Theorem 3.4. *Let $\{S(k)/k > 0\}$ be a family of unitary operators on $L^2(S^2)$. Then there exists $Q \in A_\mu$ with $\mu > 1$ such that $S(k)$ is asymptotically equal to the S -matrix $S_0(k)$ associated with the Schrödinger operator $H = -\Delta + Q$ with respect to $x_{k,z}$ if and only if there exists the limit*

$$(3.16) \quad g(z) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k^2(F(k)x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2}$$

for each $z \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and $g(z)$ satisfies

$$(3.17) \quad \begin{cases} g \in A_{\mu-1}, \\ \mathcal{F}^* A^1 g \in A_\mu, \end{cases}$$

where $F(k) = -2\pi i k^{-1}(S(k) - I)$. Then the potential $Q(y)$ is determined uniquely by

$$(3.18) \quad Q(y) = -(4\pi^3)^{-1}(\mathcal{F}^* A^1 g)(y).$$

Proof. Let us first suppose that $S(k)$ is asymptotically equal to the S -matrix $S_0(k)$ associated with the Schrödinger operator $H = -\Delta + Q$ with a potential $Q(y) \in A_\mu$, $\mu > 1$. Then it follows from

$$(3.19) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k(\{S(k) - S_0(k)\}x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2} = 0$$

that

$$(3.20) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k^2(\{F(k) - F_0(k)\}x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2} = 0$$

with $F_0(k) = -2\pi i k^{-1}(S_0(k) - I)$. On the other hand, as is shown in Theorem 3.1, we have

$$(3.21) \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k^2(F_0(k)x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2} = -2\pi \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |z-y|^{-2} Q(y) dy \in A_{\mu-1}.$$

Thus it can be seen from (3.20) and (3.21) that the limit (3.16) exists and is equal to the right-hand side of (3.21). Therefore Theorem 1.7 with $\alpha = 2$ and $\lambda = -2\pi$ can be applied to get (3.17).

Let us next assume that the limit (3.16) exists and (3.17) holds. Then it follows from Theorem 1.7 with $\alpha=2$, $\lambda=-2\pi$ that there exists $Q \in A_\mu$ such that

$$(3.22) \quad g(z) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} k^2 (F(k)x_{k,z}, x_{k,z})_{S^2} = -2\pi \int_{R^3} |z-y|^{-2} Q(y) dy$$

holds for each $z \in R^3$. Let $S_0(k)$, $k>0$, be the S -matrix associated with the Schrodinger $H = -\Delta + Q$. Then (3.21) holds with $F_0(k) = -2\pi i k^{-1}(S_0(k) - I)$, which, together with (3.22), yields (3.20). (3.19) directly follows from (3.20). Q. E. D.

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