

Hodge–Helmholtz decompositions of weighted Sobolev spaces in irregular exterior domains with inhomogeneous and anisotropic media

Dirk Pauly*,†

Fachbereich Mathematik, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Campus Essen, Universitätsstr. 2, 45117 Essen, Germany

Communicated by W. Sproessig

SUMMARY

We study in detail Hodge–Helmholtz decompositions in nonsmooth exterior domains $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ filled with inhomogeneous and anisotropic media. We show decompositions of alternating differential forms of rank q belonging to the weighted L^2 -space $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, into irrotational and solenoidal q -forms. These decompositions are essential tools, for example, in electro-magnetic theory for exterior domains. To the best of our knowledge, these decompositions in exterior domains with nonsmooth boundaries and inhomogeneous and anisotropic media are fully new results. In the Appendix, we translate our results to the classical framework of vector analysis $N=3$ and $q=1, 2$. Copyright © 2008 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

KEY WORDS: Hodge–Helmholtz decompositions; Maxwell equations; electro-magnetic theory; weighted Sobolev spaces

1. INTRODUCTION

Hodge–Helmholtz decompositions of square integrable fields, i.e. decompositions in irrotational and solenoidal fields, are important and strong tools for solving partial differential equations, for instance, in electro-magnetic theory.

Since formally grad and div resp. curl and curl are adjoint to each other and $\text{curl grad}=0$ and $\text{div curl}=0$ hold as well, the ε - L^2 -orthogonal decompositions,

$$\begin{aligned} L^2(\Omega) &= \mathbb{H}(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} \mathbb{H}(\text{div}_0, \Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{H}(\Omega) \\ L^2(\Omega) &= \tilde{\mathbb{H}}(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{\mathbb{H}}(\text{div}_0, \Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

*Correspondence to: Dirk Pauly, Fachbereich Mathematik, Universität Duisburg-Essen, Campus Essen, Universitätsstr. 2, 45117 Essen, Germany.

†E-mail: dirk.pauly@uni-due.de

where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3$ is a domain, are easy consequences of the projection theorem in Hilbert space. Here $\varepsilon : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$ is a real-valued, symmetric and uniformly bounded and positive-definite matrix, which models material properties, such as the dielectricity or the permeability of the medium, and ${}_{\varepsilon}\mathcal{H}(\Omega)$ resp. ${}_{\varepsilon}\tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega)$ denotes the space of Dirichlet resp. Neumann fields. (See Appendix B.2 for the exact definitions of all these spaces.)

This problem may be generalized if we formulate Maxwell’s equations in the framework of alternating differential forms of order q , short q -forms, on some N -dimensional Riemannian manifold Ω . Additionally to the generality and the easy and short notation, this approach provides also a deeper insight into the structure of the underlying problems. It has become customary following Weyl [1] to denote the exterior derivative d by rot and the co-derivative δ by div . We will use this notation throughout this paper and thus we have on q -forms

$$\text{div} = (-1)^{(q+1)N} * \text{rot} *$$

where $*$ is Hodge’s star operator. Since rot and div are formally skew adjoint to each other as well as $\text{rot rot} = 0$ and $\text{div div} = 0$ hold, the corresponding Hodge–Helmholtz decompositions of L^2 -forms

$$L^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^q(\Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}^q(\Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} {}_{\varepsilon}\mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \tag{2}$$

again are easy consequences of the projection theorem. Here ε maps Ω to the real, linear, symmetric and uniformly bounded and positive-definite transformations on q -forms. Furthermore, we denote by \oplus_{ε} the orthogonal sum with respect to the $\langle \varepsilon \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -scalar product. (See Section 2 for definitions.) For $N=3$ and $q=1$ or $q=2$ we obtain the two classical decompositions (1).

In the case of unbounded domains, it is often necessary and useful to work with weighted Sobolev spaces. Especially in our efforts to completely determine the low-frequency asymptotics of the solutions of the time-harmonic Maxwell equations in exterior domains [2, 3] and a forthcoming third paper [4], it has turned out that decompositions of weighted L^2 -spaces are necessary and essential tools.

Hence motivated by this paper, we wish to answer the question, in which way the weighted L^2 -space of q -forms

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) := \{ F \in L_{\text{loc}}^{2,q}(\Omega) : \rho^s F \in L^{2,q}(\Omega) \}, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$$

where $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ is an exterior domain, i.e. a domain with compact complement, and $\rho := (1+r^2)^{1/2}$ with $r(x) := |x|$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}^N$ denotes a weight function, may be decomposed into irrotational and solenoidal forms, i.e. q -forms with vanishing rotation rot resp. divergence div .

For the special case $s=0$ Picard has shown (2) in [5, 6] and (in the classical framework) in [7, 8]. Moreover, for domains Ω possessing the ‘Maxwell local compactness property’ (MLCP) (See Section 2.) Picard proved the representations

$$\begin{aligned} {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^q(\Omega) &= \text{rot } {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^{q-1}(\Omega) = \text{rot}({}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap {}_0\mathbb{D}^{q-1}(\Omega)) \\ {}_0\mathbb{D}^q(\Omega) &= \text{div } \mathbb{D}^{q+1}(\Omega) = \text{div}(\mathbb{D}^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^{q+1}(\Omega)) \end{aligned}$$

i.e. any form from ${}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^q(\Omega)$ may be represented as a rotation of a solenoidal form and any form from ${}_0\mathbb{D}^q(\Omega)$ may be represented as a divergence of a irrotational form.

Now one may expect for arbitrary $s \in \mathbb{R}$ the direct decomposition

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \dot{+} \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega) \dot{+} \varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega)$$

However, as we will see, this holds only for s ‘near’ zero, since for small s we lose the directness of the decomposition and for large s the right-hand side is too small. However, both negative effects are of finite dimensional nature.

For general $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{I}$ introducing the countable discrete set of (bad) weights

$$\mathbb{I} = \{N/2 + n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0\} \cup \{1 - N/2 - n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$$

Weck and Witsch showed in [9] for the special case $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^N$ and $\varepsilon = \text{Id}$, where no Dirichlet forms and no boundary exist, the decompositions

$$L_s^{2,q} = \begin{cases} {}_0R_s^q + {}_0D_s^q, & s \in (-\infty, -N/2) \\ {}_0R_s^q \dot{+} {}_0D_s^q, & s \in (-N/2, N/2) \\ {}_0R_s^q \dot{+} {}_0D_s^q \dot{+} \mathcal{S}_s^q, & s \in (N/2, \infty) \end{cases}$$

and the representations

$${}_0R_s^q = \text{rot } R_{s-1}^{q-1}, \quad {}_0D_s^q = \text{div } D_{s-1}^{q+1}$$

Thereby \mathcal{S}_s^q is a finite dimensional subspace of $\mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\})$ generated by the action of the commutator of the Laplacian and a cut-off function η , which vanishes near the origin and equals one near infinity, on the linear hull of some finitely many decaying potential forms in $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}$, i.e. generalized spherical harmonics multiplied by a negative power of r solving Laplace’s equation. (Here we omit the dependence on the domain \mathbb{R}^N and denote the direct sum by $\dot{+}$.) We note that Weck and Witsch in [9] even decomposed the Lebesgue–Banach spaces $L_s^{p,q}$ with $p \in (1, \infty)$ instead of $p=2$. The proof of their results uses heavily the corresponding results for the scalar Laplacian in \mathbb{R}^N developed by McOwen [10]. For the Hilbert space case $p=2$ these results have been generalized to smooth (at least C^3) exterior domains $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ by Bauer [11]. Unfortunately by their second-order approach, these techniques cannot be applied to handle inhomogeneities ε and the smoothness of Ω is essential as well.

Results in the classical case $q=N-1$ have been given by Specovius-Neugebauer in [12] for $\varepsilon = \text{Id}$ and a smooth (C^2) exterior domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, $N \geq 3$. She considered only this special case and additionally only a weaker version of (2), which reads as $L^{2,N-1}(\Omega) = {}_0R^{N-1}(\Omega) \oplus \text{div } D_{-1}^N(\Omega)$ resp. in the classical language

$$L^2(\Omega) = \text{grad } H_{-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega) \oplus H(\text{div}_0, \Omega)$$

She was able to show for $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{I}$

$$L_s^2(\Omega) = \begin{cases} \text{grad } H_{s-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega) + H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega), & s \in (-\infty, -N/2) \\ \text{grad } H_{s-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega) \dot{+} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega), & s \in (-N/2, N/2) \\ \text{grad } H_{s-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega) \dot{+} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) \dot{+} \mathcal{S}_s, & s \in (N/2, \infty) \end{cases}$$

where \mathcal{S}_s corresponds to \mathcal{S}_s^{N-1} . We note that she proved the corresponding decompositions even for Banach spaces $L_s^p(\Omega)$ with $1 < p < \infty$. Since she used heavily trace operators and convolution techniques, her results cannot be generalized to nonsmooth boundaries or inhomogeneities ε .

Moreover, she showed no further decomposition of $H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega)$ into Neumann fields and images of curl-terms (for $N=3$), which is highly important in electro-magnetic theory.

Our main focus is to treat nonsmooth boundaries, i.e. Lipschitz boundaries or even weaker assumptions, and most of all nonsmooth inhomogeneities corresponding to inhomogeneous and anisotropic media, which are only asymptotically homogeneous. To the best of our knowledge, it was an open question, if those weighted L^2 -decompositions hold for inhomogeneous and anisotropic media or for nonsmooth boundaries. We will allow our transformations ε to be L^∞ -perturbations of the identity, i.e. $\varepsilon = \text{Id} + \hat{\varepsilon}$, where $\hat{\varepsilon}$ does not need to be compactly supported but decays at infinity. Moreover, $\hat{\varepsilon}$ is not assumed to be smooth. We require only $\hat{\varepsilon} \in C^1$ in the outside of an arbitrarily large ball. Omitting some details for this introductory remarks, we will show essentially for small $s \in (-\infty, -N/2) \setminus \mathbb{I}$

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$$

and for large $s \in (-N/2, \infty) \setminus \mathbb{I}$

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = \begin{cases} \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega), & s < N/2 \\ \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) + \Delta_\varepsilon \eta \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q, & s > N/2 \end{cases}$$

Here $\Delta_\varepsilon \eta \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q$ is a finite dimensional subspace of $\mathring{H}_s^{1,q}(\Omega) \cap C^{1,q}(\Omega)$, whose elements have supports in the outside of an arbitrarily large ball, and η is a cut-off function as before but now vanishing near the boundary $\partial\Omega$. The forms from $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q$ are potential forms, i.e. solve Laplace's equation in $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\}$, and

$$\Delta_\varepsilon = \text{rot div} + \varepsilon^{-1} \text{div rot}$$

In the special case $\varepsilon = \text{Id}$ since $\Delta = \text{rot div} + \text{div rot}$ (Here the Laplacian Δ is to be understood componentwise in Euclidean coordinates.) we have like above

$$\Delta \eta \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q = C_{\Delta, \eta} \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q = \mathcal{S}_s^q \subset \mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\Omega)$$

where $C_{A,B} := AB - BA$ denotes the commutator of two operators A and B . (For details see Theorem 3.2.) Furthermore, $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ decomposes for large s into $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$ and the linear hull of finitely many smooth forms, which have bounded supports. We note that for all $t \in [-N/2, N/2 - 1)$ the spaces of Dirichlet forms ${}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_t^q(\Omega)$ coincide. Moreover, for all $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{I}$ the irrotational forms from $\mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega)$ resp. the solenoidal forms from $\mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ can be represented as rotations resp. divergences, i.e.

$$\mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{rot } \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega), \quad \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{div } \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)$$

hold except of some special values of s or q . However, contrary to the case $s=0$ for large $s > 1 + N/2$ we lose integrability properties, if we wish to represent forms in $\mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega)$ resp. $\mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$

by rotations of solenoidal resp. divergences of irrotational forms. Looking at Theorem 3.5 we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega) &= \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{q-1}) \cap \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^{q-1}(\Omega)) \\ \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) &= \text{div}((\mathring{\mathbb{D}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{q+1}) \cap \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_{<N/2}^{q+1}(\Omega)) \end{aligned}$$

i.e. the representing solenoidal resp. irrotational forms no longer belong to $L_{s-1}^{2,q\mp 1}(\Omega)$ but to $L_t^{2,q\mp 1}(\Omega)$ for all $t < N/2$. (For details see Theorems 3.4, 3.5 and 3.8.)

If we project onto the orthogonal complement of $\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{-s}^q(\Omega)$, i.e. of more Dirichlet forms, we finally obtain even for large $s > N/2$

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{-s}^q(\Omega)^{\perp \varepsilon} = \mathring{0}\mathbb{R}_s^q(\Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{0}\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$$

2. DEFINITIONS AND PRELIMINARIES

We consider an exterior domain $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$, i.e. $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ is compact, as a special smooth Riemannian manifold of dimension $3 \leq N \in \mathbb{N}$, and fix a radius r_0 and radii $r_n := 2^n r_0$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$, such that $\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \Omega$ is a compact subset of $U_{r_0} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : |x| < r_0\}$. Moreover, we choose a cut-off function η , such that [2, (2.1)–(2.3)] hold. We then have $\eta = 0$ in U_{r_1} and $\eta = 1$ in $A_{r_2} := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^N : |x| > r_2\}$ and thus $\text{supp } \nabla \eta \subset \overline{A_{r_1} \cap U_{r_2}}$.

Throughout this paper we will use the notations from [2, 3]. Considering alternating differential forms of rank $q \in \mathbb{Z}$ (short q -forms), we denote the exterior derivative d by rot and the co-derivative $\delta = \pm * d *$ ($*$: Hodge star operator) by div to remind of the electro-magnetic background. On $\mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\Omega)$ (the vector space of all C^{∞} - q -forms with compact support in Ω) we have a scalar product

$$\langle \Phi, \Psi \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} := \int_{\Omega} \Phi \wedge * \bar{\Psi} \quad \forall \Phi, \Psi \in \mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\Omega)$$

and an induced norm $\|\cdot\|_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} := \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}^{1/2}$. Thus we may define (taking the closure in the latter norm)

$$L^{2,q}(\Omega) := \overline{\mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\Omega)}$$

the Hilbert space of all square integrable q -forms on Ω . Moreover, due to Stokes' theorem on $\mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\Omega)$ the linear operators rot and div are formally skew adjoint to each other, i.e.

$$\langle \text{rot } \Phi, \Psi \rangle_{L^{2,q+1}(\Omega)} = - \langle \Phi, \text{div } \Psi \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$$

for all $(\Phi, \Psi) \in \mathring{C}^{\infty,q}(\Omega) \times \mathring{C}^{\infty,q+1}(\Omega)$, which gives rise to weak formulations of rot and div . Using these and the weight function $\rho(r) := (1+r^2)^{1/2}$ for $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we introduce the following weighted

Hilbert spaces (endowed with their natural norms) of q -forms:

$$\begin{aligned} L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) &:= \{E \in L_{\text{loc}}^{2,q}(\Omega) : \rho^s E \in L^{2,q}(\Omega)\} \\ R_s^q(\Omega) &:= \{E \in L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) : \text{rot } E \in L_{s+1}^{2,q+1}(\Omega)\} \\ D_s^q(\Omega) &:= \{H \in L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) : \text{div } H \in L_{s+1}^{2,q-1}(\Omega)\} \end{aligned}$$

All these spaces equal zero if $q \notin \{0, \dots, N\}$. Furthermore, taking the closure in $R_s^q(\Omega)$ we introduce the Hilbert space

$$\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) := \overline{C^{\infty,q}(\Omega)}$$

which generalizes the boundary condition of vanishing tangential component of a q -form at the boundary $\partial\Omega$. More precisely this generalizes the boundary condition $\iota^*E=0$, which means that the pull-back of E on the boundary of Ω (considered as a $(N-1)$ -dimensional Riemannian submanifold of $\overline{\Omega}$) vanishes. Here $\iota: \partial\Omega \hookrightarrow \overline{\Omega}$ denotes the natural embedding.

A lower left index 0 indicates vanishing rotation resp. divergence.

For weighted Sobolev spaces V_s , $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we define

$$V_{<t} := \bigcap_{s < t} V_s$$

We consider only exterior domains Ω , which possess the MLCP, i.e. for all q and all $t < s$ the embeddings

$$\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap D_s^q(\Omega) \hookrightarrow L_t^{2,q}(\Omega)$$

are compact. (See [2, Definition 2.4, Remark 2.5] and the literature cited there.)

We assume our real-valued transformations to be τ -admissible resp. $\tau\text{-C}^1$ -admissible as defined in [2, Definitions 2.1 and 2.2]. This means shortly that they generate scalar products on $L^{2,q}(\Omega)$ and are asymptotically the identity mapping. The parameter τ always denotes this rate of convergence and the perturbations only have to be C^1 in the outside of an arbitrarily large ball. Hence, we may choose r_0 , such that the transformations are C^1 in A_{r_0} .

Let ε be a $\tau\text{-C}^1$ -admissible transformation on q -forms with some $\tau > 0$. We need the finite dimensional vector space of Dirichlet forms

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_t^q(\Omega) := {}_0 \mathring{R}_t^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0 D_t^q(\Omega), \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

(Here we neglect the indices ε or t in the cases $\varepsilon = \text{Id}$ or $t = 0$.) Citing [3, Lemma 3.8] we have

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{-N/2}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{<N/2-1}^q(\Omega)$$

and even ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega)$ if $q \notin \{1, N-1\}$. Thus, ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \subset L_{-s}^{2,q}(\Omega)$ for $s > 1 - N/2$ and even for $s > -N/2$ if $q \notin \{1, N-1\}$.

Furthermore, for $\mathbb{R} \ni s > 1 - N/2$ we introduce the Hilbert spaces

$${}_0 \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) = {}_0 D_s^q(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^\perp, \quad {}_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) = {}_0 \mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^\perp \tag{3}$$

where we denote by \perp_ε the orthogonality with respect to the $\langle \varepsilon \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -scalar product, i.e. the duality between $L_t^{2,q}(\Omega)$ and $L_{-t}^{2,q}(\Omega)$. If $\varepsilon = \text{Id}$ we simply express $\perp := \perp_{\text{Id}}$. The restrictions on the weights s guarantee ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \subset L_{-s}^{2,q}(\Omega)$. However, for ranks $q \notin \{1, N-1\}$ also the inclusion ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \subset L_{<N/2}^{2,q}(\Omega)$ holds and these definitions extend to $s > -N/2$. Since there are no Dirichlet forms ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$ for $q \in \{0, N\}$ in these special cases the definitions (3) may be extended to all $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and we have

$$\begin{aligned} {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^0(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^0(\Omega) = \{0\}, & {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^N(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^N(\Omega) = L_s^{2,N}(\Omega) \\ {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^0(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^0(\Omega) = L_s^{2,0}(\Omega), & {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^N(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^N(\Omega) = \begin{cases} \{0\}, & s \geq -N/2 \\ \text{Lin}\{\ast\mathbf{1}\}, & s < -N/2 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, there are some other characterizations of these spaces. We remind of the finitely many special smooth forms $\mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega) \subset {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}^q(\Omega)$ and $\mathbb{B}^q(\Omega) \subset {}_0\mathbb{D}^q(\Omega)$ presented in [3, Section 4], which have compact resp. bounded supports in Ω and the properties

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \cap \mathbb{B}^q(\Omega)^\perp = \{0\} \tag{4}$$

We note in passing

$$\dim {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) = \dim \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) = \#\mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega) = \#\mathbb{B}^q(\Omega) =: d^q \in \mathbb{N}_0$$

Using [3, Corollary 4.4] we observe in fact that

$$\begin{aligned} {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^\perp = {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)^\perp \\ {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^\perp = {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathbb{B}^q(\Omega)^\perp \end{aligned}$$

do not depend on the transformation ε . Since $\mathbb{B}^q(\Omega)$ is only defined for $q \neq 1$, the last characterization in the second equation holds only for $q \neq 1$. Now the definitions of ${}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ and ${}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega)$ extend to arbitrary weights $s \in \mathbb{R}$, because the forms $\mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega), \mathbb{B}^q(\Omega)$ have bounded supports. We say that Ω possesses the ‘static Maxwell property’ (SMP), if and only if Ω has the MLCP and the forms $\mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)$ and $\mathbb{B}^q(\Omega)$ exist. For instance, the SMP is guaranteed for Lipschitz domains Ω . (See [3, Section 4] and the literature cited there.) We may choose r_0 , such that $\text{supp } b \subset U_{r_0}$ for all $b \in \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega) \cup \mathbb{B}^q(\Omega)$ and all q .

Finally, for $s > 1 - N/2$ or $s > -N/2$ and $q \notin \{1, N-1\}$ we put

$${}_\varepsilon \mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega) := L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$$

We also need the negative ‘tower forms’ $-D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell}, -R_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell}$ for the values $\ell = 0, 1, 2$ and $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}_0, m \in \{1, \dots, \mu_\sigma^q\}$ from [3, Section 2], which are harmonic polynomials except of a multiplication

by some negative integer power of r . These forms are homogeneous of degree ${}^{-}h_{\sigma}^{\ell} := \ell - \sigma - N$, belong to $C^{\infty,q}(\mathbb{R}^N \setminus \{0\})$ and satisfy the ‘tower equations’

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{rot} {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,0} &= 0, & \operatorname{div} {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q+1,0} &= 0 \\ \operatorname{div} {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} &= 0, & \operatorname{rot} {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q+1,\ell} &= 0 \\ \operatorname{rot} {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,k} &= {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q+1,k-1}, & \operatorname{div} {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q+1,k} &= {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,k-1} \end{aligned}$$

where $\ell=0, 1, 2$ and $k=1, 2$. (We note briefly that we need the positive tower forms of height zero ${}^{+}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,0}, {}^{+}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,0}$ in our proofs as well. However, they are not required to formulate our results.) From [3, Remark 2.5] we have for all $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}_0, m \in \{1, \dots, \mu_{\sigma}^q\}$ and all $\ell=0, 1, 2$ as well as all $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$

$${}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} \in L_s^{2,q}(A_1) \Leftrightarrow {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} \in H_s^{k,q}(A_1) \Leftrightarrow s < N/2 + \sigma - \ell$$

which completely determines the integrability properties of our tower forms at infinity. The same integrability holds true for ${}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell}$. Moreover, the ground forms (forms of height 0), which only occur for $1 \leq q \leq N - 1$, are linear dependent, i.e. we have

$$\alpha_{\sigma}^q \cdot {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,0} + i\alpha_{\sigma}^{q'} \cdot {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,0} = 0 \tag{5}$$

where $\alpha_{\sigma}^q := (q + \sigma)^{1/2}$ and $q' := N - q$. This motivates to define the harmonic tower forms

$$H_{\sigma,m}^q := \alpha_{\sigma}^q \cdot {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,0} = -i\alpha_{\sigma}^{q'} \cdot {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,0} \tag{6}$$

and the potential tower forms

$$P_{\sigma,m}^q := \alpha_{\sigma}^q \cdot {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,2} + i\alpha_{\sigma}^{q'} \cdot {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,2} \tag{7}$$

Since $\Delta = \operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div} + \operatorname{div} \operatorname{rot}$, we then obtain

$$\Delta {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} = \Delta {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} = \Delta H_{\sigma,m}^q = \Delta P_{\sigma,m}^q = 0, \quad \ell = 0, 1$$

Here Δ denotes the componentwise scalar Laplacian in Euclidean coordinates. We note also that $P_{\sigma,m}^q = H_{\sigma,m}^q = 0$ if $q \in \{0, N\}$. Furthermore, for $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\ell=0, 1, 2$ we introduce the finite dimensional vector spaces

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{D}}_s^{q,\ell} &:= \operatorname{Lin}\{{}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} : {}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} \notin L_s^{2,q}(A_1)\} = \operatorname{Lin}\{{}^{-}D_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} : \sigma \leq s - N/2 + \ell\} \\ \bar{\mathcal{R}}_s^{q,\ell} &:= \operatorname{Lin}\{{}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} : {}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} \notin L_s^{2,q}(A_1)\} = \operatorname{Lin}\{{}^{-}R_{\sigma,m}^{q,\ell} : \sigma \leq s - N/2 + \ell\} \\ \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q &:= \operatorname{Lin}\{H_{\sigma,m}^q : H_{\sigma,m}^q \notin L_s^{2,q}(A_1)\} = \operatorname{Lin}\{H_{\sigma,m}^q : \sigma \leq s - N/2\} \\ \bar{\mathcal{P}}_s^q &:= \operatorname{Lin}\{P_{\sigma,m}^q : P_{\sigma,m}^q \notin L_s^{2,q}(A_1)\} = \operatorname{Lin}\{P_{\sigma,m}^q : \sigma \leq s - N/2 + 2\} \end{aligned}$$

(Here we set $\text{Lin}\emptyset := \{0\}$.) We note

$$\bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q = \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q = \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-\ell}^{q,\ell} = \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-\ell}^{q,\ell} = \{0\} \Leftrightarrow s < N/2$$

Unfortunately due to the fact that $\text{rot} r^{2-N}$ (the gradient of r^{2-N} in classical terms) is irrotational and solenoidal but is itself no divergence, there exist four exceptional tower forms. These are (up to constants)

$$\check{P}^0 := r^{2-N} = -D_{0,1}^{0,2}, \quad \check{H}^1 := \text{rot } \check{P}^0 = r^{1-N} dr = -R_{0,1}^{1,1}$$

and their duals $\check{P}^N := * \check{P}^0 = -R_{0,1}^{N,2}$, $\check{H}^{N-1} := * \check{H}^1 = -D_{0,1}^{N-1,1}$. We have $\text{div } \check{P}^N = \check{H}^{N-1}$. Following the construction of the regular tower forms, we define for $s \geq N/2 - 2$

$$\check{\mathcal{P}}^0 := \check{\mathcal{P}}_s^0 := \text{Lin}\{\check{P}^0\}, \quad \check{\mathcal{P}}^N := \check{\mathcal{P}}_s^N := \text{Lin}\{\check{P}^N\}$$

and for $s \geq N/2 - 1$

$$\check{\mathcal{H}}^1 := \check{\mathcal{H}}_s^1 := \text{Lin}\{\check{H}^1\}, \quad \check{\mathcal{H}}^{N-1} := \check{\mathcal{H}}_s^{N-1} := \text{Lin}\{\check{H}^{N-1}\}$$

For all other values of s and q , we put $\check{\mathcal{P}}_s^q := \{0\}$ and $\check{\mathcal{H}}_s^q := \{0\}$.

As described in [3, Section 3] for $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we will consider vector spaces

$$V_s^q \dot{+} \eta \mathcal{V}_s^q, \quad (\dot{+}: \text{direct sum})$$

where $V_s^q \subset L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ is some Hilbert space and \mathcal{V}_s^q is some finite subset of our tower forms, e.g. $V_s^q = \mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap D_s^q(\Omega)$ and $\mathcal{V}_s^q = \check{\mathcal{H}}_s^q$. On $V_s^q \dot{+} \eta \mathcal{V}_s^q$, we define a scalar product, such that

- in V_s^q the original scalar product is kept;
- $\eta \mathcal{V}_s^q$ is an orthonormal system;
- the sum $V_s^q \dot{+} \eta \mathcal{V}_s^q = V_s^q \boxplus \eta \mathcal{V}_s^q$ is orthogonal.

As already indicated we denote the orthogonal sum with respect to this new inner product by \boxplus and clearly $V_s^q \boxplus \eta \mathcal{V}_s^q$ is a Hilbert space since \mathcal{V}_s^q is finite.

3. RESULTS

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ ($N \geq 3$) be an exterior domain as in the last section with the SMP or the MLCP depending on whether the forms $\mathring{B}^q(\Omega)$, $B^q(\Omega)$ are involved in our considerations or not. Recalling from [3, Section 3] the set of special weights \mathbb{I} , we put

$$\tilde{\mathbb{I}} := \mathbb{I} - 1 = \{N/2 + n - 1 : n \in \mathbb{N}_0\} \cup \{-N/2 - n : n \in \mathbb{N}_0\}$$

and from now on we make the following general assumptions:

- $q \in \{0, \dots, N\}$
- $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \tilde{\mathbb{I}}$, i.e. $s + 1 \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{I}$, i.e. for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$

$$s \neq n + N/2 - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad s \neq -n - N/2$$

- ε is a τ - C^1 -admissible transformation on q -forms with some $\tau = \tau_{s+1}$ satisfying

$$\tau > \max\{0, s + 1 - N/2\} \quad \text{and} \quad \tau \geq -s - 1$$

i.e.

$$\tau \begin{cases} \geq -s - 1, & s \in (-\infty, -1) \\ > 0, & s \in [-1, N/2 - 1] \\ > s + 1 - N/2, & s \in (N/2 - 1, \infty) \end{cases}$$

- ν and μ are $\tilde{\tau}$ - C^1 -admissible transformation on $(q - 1)$ -resp. $(q + 1)$ -forms with some $\tilde{\tau} = \tau_s$ satisfying

$$\tilde{\tau} > \max\{0, s - N/2\} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\tau} \geq -s$$

i.e.

$$\tilde{\tau} \begin{cases} \geq -s, & s \in (-\infty, 0) \\ > 0, & s \in [0, N/2] \\ > s - N/2, & s \in (N/2, \infty) \end{cases}$$

If $1 - N/2 < s < N/2 - 1$ or $-N/2 < s < N/2$ and $q \notin \{1, N - 1\}$ the ‘trivial’ orthogonal decomposition

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \tag{8}$$

holds. Throughout the paper we will denote the orthogonality with respect to the $\langle \varepsilon \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -scalar product or $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ - $L_{-s}^{2,q}(\Omega)$ -duality by \oplus_ε and put $\oplus = \oplus_{\text{Id}}$.

The first lemma shows how one may get rid of Dirichlet forms even for larger weights.

Lemma 3.1

Let $s > 1 - N/2$. Then the direct decompositions

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \dot{+} \text{Lin } \overset{\circ}{B}^q(\Omega), \quad L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \dot{+} \varepsilon^{-1} \text{Lin } B^q(\Omega)$$

hold, where the latter is only defined for $q \neq 1$. If $q \notin \{1, N - 1\}$ this decompositions hold for $s > -N/2$ as well.

To formulate our main decomposition result, we need the operator (a perturbation of the Laplacian Δ)

$$\Delta_\varepsilon := \text{rot div} + \varepsilon^{-1} \text{div rot} = \Delta + \check{\varepsilon} \text{div rot}$$

where $\varepsilon^{-1} =: \text{Id} + \check{\varepsilon}$ is also τ - C^1 -admissible. We obtain

Theorem 3.2

The following decompositions hold:

- (i) If $s < -N/2$, then

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega)$$

and the intersection equals the finite dimensional space of Dirichlet forms ${}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega)$.
Moreover,

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega)$$

and for $q \neq 1$ even

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega)$$

In both cases the intersection equals the finite dimensional space of Dirichlet forms ${}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$.

- (ii) If $-N/2 < s \leq 1 - N/2$, then

$$L_s^{2,1}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^1(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^1(\Omega)$$

$$L_s^{2,N-1}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^{N-1}(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^{N-1}(\Omega) + {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}^{N-1}(\Omega)$$

- (iii) If $1 - N/2 < s < N/2$ or $-N/2 < s \leq 1 - N/2$ and $q \notin \{1, N-1\}$, then

$${}_\varepsilon L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega)$$

For $s \geq 0$ this decomposition is even $\langle \varepsilon \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -orthogonal.

- (iv) If $s > N/2$, then

$${}_\varepsilon L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = (([L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s^q] \cap {}_0\mathring{R}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega)) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} ([L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s^q] \cap {}_0D_{<N/2}^q(\Omega))) \cap L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$$

and

$${}_\varepsilon L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega) + \Delta_\varepsilon \eta \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q$$

where the first two terms in the second decomposition are $\langle \varepsilon \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -orthogonal as well. Furthermore,

$$L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_{-s}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = {}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0D_s^q(\Omega)$$

Remark 3.3

- The decompositions in (ii)–(iv) are direct and define continuous projections.
- In (ii) we are forced to use the forms $B^q(\Omega)$ and $\mathring{B}^q(\Omega)$ in the definitions of ${}_0\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega)$ and ${}_0D_s^q(\Omega)$.

- To prove the last equation in (iv) we additionally assume $\tau \geq N/2 - 1$.
- The coefficients of the tower forms in the first equation of (iv) are related in the following way: If

$$F_{r,s} + \sum_{\ell} h_{r,\ell} \cdot \eta H_{\ell} + \varepsilon^{-1} (F_{d,s} + \sum_{\ell} h_{d,\ell} \cdot \eta H_{\ell}) = F \in {}_{\varepsilon} \mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$$

with $F_{r,s} \in \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega)$, $F_{d,s} \in \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ and $H_{\ell} \in \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q$ as well as $h_{r,\ell}, h_{d,\ell} \in \mathbb{C}$, then

$$h_{r,\ell} + h_{d,\ell} = 0$$

since H_{ℓ} are linear independent and do not belong to $\mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$.

- $\Delta_{\varepsilon} \eta \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q$ is a finite dimensional subspace of $\mathring{\mathbb{H}}_s^{1,q}(\Omega) \cap C^{1,q}(\Omega)$, whose elements have supports in $\overline{A_{r_1}}$.
- For $s < -N/2$ (and $\tau \geq N/2 - 1$) we have

$${}_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{J}_s^q(\Omega) = {}_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{J}^q(\Omega) \dot{+} {}_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{J}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_{\varepsilon}}$$

- Clearly the transformation ε may be moved to the rot-free terms in our decompositions as well.

Our decompositions and representations may be refined. For small weights, we have

Theorem 3.4

Let $s < N/2 + 1 - \delta_{q,0} - \delta_{q,N}$. Then ${}_0 \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ and ${}_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega)$ are closed subspaces of $\mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ whenever they exist and

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad {}_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) &= \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \nu^{-1} {}_0 \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega)) \\ &= \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \nu^{-1} {}_0 \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega)) = \text{rot} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

holds for $2 \leq q \leq N$ as well as for $q = 1$ and $s > 1 - N/2$;

$$\text{(ii)} \quad {}_0 \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{div}(\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap \mu^{-1} {}_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega))$$

holds for $1 \leq q \leq N - 1$ as well as for $q = 0$ and $s > 2 - N/2$;

$$\text{(iii)} \quad {}_0 \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{div}(\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap \mu^{-1} {}_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)) = \text{div} \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)$$

holds for $0 \leq q \leq N - 1$.

For large weights, we have

Theorem 3.5

Let $1 \leq q \leq N - 1$. Then for $s > N/2 + 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad & {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{q-1}) \cap \nu^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^{q-1}(\Omega)) \\ & = \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \nu^{-1} \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^{q-1}(\Omega)^{\perp \nu}) = \text{rot} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \\ \text{(ii)} \quad & {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{div}((\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{q+1}) \cap \mu^{-1} {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2}^{q+1}(\Omega)) \\ & = \text{div}(\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap \mu^{-1} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap \mathbb{B}^{q+1}(\Omega)^{\perp \mu}) = \text{div} \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

are closed subspaces of $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ and for $s > N/2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(iii)} \quad & (L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q) \cap {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega) \\ & = \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-1}^{q-1,0} \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-1}^{q-1,1}) \cap \nu^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2-1}^{q-1}(\Omega)) \\ & = {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \dot{+} \text{rot} \nu^{-1} \eta \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-1}^{q-1,1} \\ \text{(iv)} \quad & (L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q) \cap {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega) \\ & = \text{div}((\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1,0} \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1,1}) \cap \mu^{-1} {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)) \\ & = {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) \dot{+} \text{div} \mu^{-1} \eta \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1,1} \end{aligned}$$

are closed subspaces of $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q$.

Remark 3.6

We note $\text{div} \eta^- D_{\sigma,m}^{q-1,1} = 0$ and $\text{rot} \eta^- R_{\sigma,m}^{q+1,1} = 0$ by [3, Remark 2.4] and thus

$$\eta \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-1}^{q-1,1} \subset {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2-1}^{q-1}(\Omega), \quad \eta \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1,1} \subset {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)$$

Remark 3.7

Since there are no regular harmonic tower forms in the cases $q \in \{0, N\}$, i.e. $\bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^0 = \{0\}$, $\bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^N = \{0\}$, and because of $\eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q \subset L_{<N/2}^{2,q}(\Omega)$ the first equations in (iii) and (iv) simplify:

If $s > N/2$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (L_s^{2,1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^1) \cap {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2}^1(\Omega) &= \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^0(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-1}^{0,1}) \\ (L_s^{2,N-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^{N-1}) \cap {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^{N-1}(\Omega) &= \text{div}(\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^N(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-1}^{N,1}) \end{aligned}$$

If $N/2 < s < N/2 + 1$, then

$$\begin{aligned} (L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q) \cap {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega) &= \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{D}}_{s-1}^{q-1,1}) \cap \nu^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2-1}^{q-1}(\Omega)) \\ (L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q) \cap {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega) &= \text{div}((\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{R}}_{s-1}^{q+1,1}) \cap \mu^{-1} {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)) \end{aligned}$$

As mentioned above there are no harmonic tower forms in the remaining cases $q \in \{0, N\}$. Thus the equations in (i), (ii) and (iii), (iv) of the latter theorem would coincide for these values. Furthermore, in these special cases there occur the exceptional tower forms. We obtain

Theorem 3.8

Let $s > N/2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(i)} \quad L_s^{2,N}(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^N(\Omega) \\
 &= \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{N-1} \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}^{N-1}) \cap v^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2-1}^{N-1}(\Omega)) \\
 &= \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1} \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^{N-1}(\Omega)^{\perp_v}) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}^{N-1}) \\
 &= \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1} \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^{N-1}(\Omega)^{\perp_v}) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{P}}^N \\
 &= \text{rot} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{P}}^N \\
 \\
 \text{(ii)} \quad L_s^{2,0}(\Omega) &= {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^0(\Omega) \\
 &= \text{div}((\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^1(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^1 \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}^1) \cap \mu^{-1} {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2-1}^1(\Omega)) \\
 &= \text{div}((\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^1(\Omega) \cap \mu^{-1} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^1(\Omega)) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}^1) \\
 &= \text{div}(\mathbb{D}_{s-1}^1(\Omega) \cap \mu^{-1} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s-1}^1(\Omega)) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{P}}^0 \\
 &= \text{div} \mathbb{D}_{s-1}^1(\Omega) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{P}}^0
 \end{aligned}$$

Finally we note

Remark 3.9

We always obtain easily dual results using the Hodge star operator. This would change the homogeneous boundary condition from the tangential (electric) to the normal (magnetic) one. However, since this would multiply the number of results by two, we let their formulation to the interested reader.

4. PROOFS

Let ε , v and μ be as in Section 3. We start with the

Proof of Lemma 3.1

Let $E \in L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$. Looking at [3, Section 4] and using the Helmholtz decompositions [2, (2.7)], we may choose $b_\ell \in \text{Lin} \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)$, $\ell = 1, \dots, d^q$, with $b_\ell = \Phi_\ell + H_\ell \in \text{rot} \mathring{\mathbb{R}}^{q-1}(\Omega) \oplus_{\varepsilon \varepsilon} \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$, where $\{H_\ell\}$ is a \oplus_ε -ONB of ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$. Then $e := E - \sum_\ell \langle E, \varepsilon H_\ell \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} b_\ell \in {}_\varepsilon \mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$. This proves one inclusion and the other one is trivial, because the forms of $\mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)$ are smooth and compactly

supported. Moreover, if $E \in \text{Lin } \mathring{\mathbf{B}}^q(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^\perp$, then $\varepsilon E = \sum_\ell e_\ell \varepsilon b_\ell \in {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^\perp$ and thus

$$0 = \langle \varepsilon E, H_k \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} = \sum_\ell e_\ell \langle \varepsilon H_\ell, H_k \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} = e_k$$

which proves the directness of the sum. The other direct decomposition may be shown in a similar way. \square

We introduce the Hilbert spaces (closed subspaces of $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega) &:= \{E \in \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega) : \text{rot}(\rho^{2s} E) = 0\} \\ &= \{E \in \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega) : \text{rot } E = -2s\rho^{-2} R E\} \\ \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega) &:= \{E \in \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega) : \text{div}(\rho^{2s} E) = 0\} \\ &= \{E \in \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega) : \text{div } E = -2s\rho^{-2} T E\} \end{aligned}$$

and note the important fact that the $\|\cdot\|_{\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega)}$, $\|\cdot\|_{\mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -norms resp. the $\|\cdot\|_{\mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)}$, $\|\cdot\|_{\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega)}$ and $\|\cdot\|_{L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -norms are equivalent on $\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega)$ resp. $\mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)$. Here we used the operators R, T from [9, Definition 1]. First, we need an easy consequence of the projection theorem:

Lemma 4.1

Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Then the orthogonal decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(i)} \quad L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) &= \overline{\text{rot } \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \oplus_{s,\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)} = \varepsilon^{-1} \overline{\text{rot } \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \oplus_{s,\varepsilon} \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)} \\ \text{(ii)} \quad L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) &= \overline{\text{div } \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \oplus_{s,\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega)} = \varepsilon^{-1} \overline{\text{div } \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \oplus_{s,\varepsilon} \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega)} \end{aligned}$$

hold with continuous projections. Here we denote by $\oplus_{s,\varepsilon}$ the orthogonal sum with respect to the $\langle \varepsilon \rho^{2s} \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)}$ -scalar product and the closures are taken in $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$. The space $\overline{\text{rot } \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega)}$ resp. $\overline{\text{div } \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_{s-1}^{q+1}(\Omega)}$ may be replaced by $\overline{\text{rot } \mathring{\mathbf{C}}^{\infty,q-1}(\Omega)}$ resp. $\overline{\text{div } \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_{\text{vox}}^{q+1}(\Omega)}$.

Proof

Since $\mathring{\mathbf{C}}^{\infty,q-1}(\Omega)$ is dense in $\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega)$ we have $E \in L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap (\text{rot } \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega))^\perp$, if and only if $E \in L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap (\text{rot } \mathring{\mathbf{C}}^{\infty,q-1}(\Omega))^\perp$, which means $\rho^{2s} \varepsilon E \in \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)$. Thus $E \in \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_s^q(\Omega)$, because $0 = \text{div}(\rho^{2s} \varepsilon E) = \rho^{2s} \text{div } \varepsilon E + 2s\rho^{2s-2} T \varepsilon E$. This shows (i) and (ii) follows analogously. \square

Remark 4.2

Clearly this lemma holds for 0-admissible transformations ε as well.

We need two important results, which may be formulated as follows: Defining the Hilbert space

$${}_\varepsilon X_t^q(\Omega) := (\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_t^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{\mathbf{D}}_t^q(\Omega)) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}_t^q \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}_t^q, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}$$

we have

Lemma 4.3

Let $s \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{I}$ and $q \neq 0$ or $q = 0$ and $s > -N/2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \text{ROT}_s^q : \varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{\text{loc}}^q(\Omega) &\longrightarrow {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s+1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \\ E &\longmapsto \text{rot } E \\ \varepsilon \text{DIV}_s^q : \varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega) \cap {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{\text{loc}}^q(\Omega) &\longrightarrow {}_0\mathbb{D}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \\ H &\longmapsto \text{div } \varepsilon H \end{aligned}$$

are continuous and surjective Fredholm operators with kernels

$$N(\varepsilon \text{ROT}_s^q) = N(\varepsilon \text{DIV}_s^q) = \begin{cases} \varepsilon \mathcal{J}_s^q(\Omega) & \text{if } s < -N/2 \\ \varepsilon \mathcal{J}^q(\Omega) & \text{if } s > -N/2 \end{cases}$$

Remark 4.4

By adding suitable Dirichlet forms from $\varepsilon \mathcal{J}^q(\Omega)$ we always may obtain $H \perp B^q(\Omega)$, $q \neq 1$, and $\varepsilon E \perp \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)$ or εH , $\varepsilon E \perp \varepsilon \mathcal{J}^q(\Omega)$, if $s > -N/2$. Then for $s > -N/2$ the operators

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon \text{ROT}_s^q : \varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{\text{loc}}^q(\Omega) &\longrightarrow {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{s+1}^{q+1}(\Omega) \\ \varepsilon \text{DIV}_s^q : \varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega) \cap {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{\text{loc}}^q(\Omega) &\longrightarrow {}_0\mathbb{D}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

are also injective and hence topological isomorphisms by the bounded inverse theorem. Furthermore, we note (using the notations from [3])

$$\bar{\mathcal{H}}_t^q = \mathcal{D}^q(\bar{\mathcal{J}}_t^{q,0}) = \mathcal{R}^q(\bar{\mathcal{J}}_t^{q,0}), \quad \check{\mathcal{H}}_t^q = \check{\mathcal{D}}_t^{q,1} = \check{\mathcal{R}}_t^{q,1}$$

and for $t < N/2$

$$\bar{\mathcal{H}}_t^q = \check{\mathcal{H}}_{t-1}^q = \{0\}$$

Proof

This lemma has been proved in [3, Corollary 3.13, Lemma 3.14] for $s > -N/2$. Hence we only have to discuss the cases of small weights $s < -N/2$ and ranks of forms $1 \leq q \leq N$. Well-definedness, continuity and the assertions about the kernels are trivial in these cases. To show surjectivity for $\varepsilon \text{DIV}_s^q$, let us pick some $F \in {}_0\mathbb{D}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega)$. Following the proofs of [3, Lemmas 3.5, 3.12] and using [9, Theorem 4], we represent the extension by zero of F to \mathbb{R}^N by

$$\hat{F} =: F_D + F_R \in {}_0\mathbb{D}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\mathbb{R}^N) + {}_0\mathbb{R}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

Now F_D is contained in the range of the operator B from [9, Theorem 7] and thus we obtain some

$$h \in \mathbb{D}_s^q(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap {}_0\mathbb{R}_s^q(\mathbb{R}^N) \quad \text{solving} \quad \text{div } h = F_D$$

Applying the regularity result [13, Satz 3.7] we even have $h \in H_s^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$. Since F_R is an element of ${}^0D_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap {}^0R_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega)$ we may represent this form in terms of a spherical harmonics expansion

$$F_R|_{A_{r_0}} = \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}^{q-1,0}} f_I D_I^{q-1} + f \hat{D}^{q-1,1} + \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I D_I^{q-1}$$

with uniquely determined $f_I, f \in \mathbb{C}$ using [3, Theorem 2.6], where

$${}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0} := \{I \in \mathcal{J}^{q-1,0} : \mathbf{s}(I) = + \wedge \mathbf{e}(I) < -s - 1 - N/2\}$$

Now looking at [3, Remark 2.5] the first term of the sum on the right-hand side belongs to $L_{<N/2}^{2,q-1}(A_{r_0})$, the second to $L_{<N/2-1}^{2,q-1}(A_{r_0})$ and the third to $L_{s+1}^{2,q-1}(A_{r_0})$. Therefore,

$$F_R - \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I \eta D_I^{q-1} \in L^{2,q-1}(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

This suggests the ansatz

$$H := \eta h + \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I \eta R_{1I}^q + \Phi$$

to solve $H \in {}^0R_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1}D_s^q(\Omega)$ and $\operatorname{div} \varepsilon H = F$. Thus, we are searching for some q -form Φ in ${}^0R_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1}D_s^q(\Omega)$ satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{rot} \Phi &= -\operatorname{rot}(\eta h) = -C_{\operatorname{rot},\eta} h =: \tilde{G} \\ \operatorname{div} \varepsilon \Phi &= F - \operatorname{div}(\eta \varepsilon h) - \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I \operatorname{div}(\eta \varepsilon R_{1I}^q) =: \tilde{F} \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

since $\operatorname{rot}(\eta R_{1I}^q) = 0$. Clearly, we have got $\tilde{G} \in {}^0\mathring{R}_{\operatorname{vox}}^{q+1}(\Omega) \subset {}^0\mathring{R}^{q+1}(\Omega)$. Moreover, not only \tilde{F} is an element of ${}^0\mathring{D}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega)$ but also $\tilde{F} \in {}^0\mathring{D}^{q-1}(\Omega)$ holds, because

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F} &= \operatorname{div}(1 - \eta)h - \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I C_{\operatorname{div},\eta} R_{1I}^q + F_R - \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I \eta D_I^{q-1} \\ &\quad - \operatorname{div}(\hat{\varepsilon} \eta (h + \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I \eta R_{1I}^q)) \end{aligned}$$

where the first two terms of the sum on the right-hand side lie in $L_{\operatorname{vox}}^{2,q-1}(\Omega)$, the sum of the third and fourth terms in $L^{2,q-1}(\Omega)$ and the last one in $L_{s+1+\tau}^{2,q-1}(\Omega) \subset L^{2,q-1}(\Omega)$, since

$$\eta (h + \sum_{I \in {}_s\mathcal{J}^{q-1,0}} f_I \eta R_{1I}^q) \in H_s^{1,q}(\mathbb{R}^N)$$

and $\tau \geq -s - 1$. Now we are able to apply the result [13, Satz 6.10] and obtain some q -form $\Phi \in {}^0R_{-1}^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1}D_{-1}^q(\Omega)$ solving the system (9). Since $s < -N/2 < -3/2$, we see that ϕ is an

element of $\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathbf{D}_s^q(\Omega)$, which completes the proof. The assertion about ${}_\varepsilon \text{ROT}_s^q$ follows analogously. □

Proof of Theorem 3.4

Apply Lemma 4.3 and Remark 4.4 with the modified values for q, s and ε . □

Proof of Theorem 3.5

The first equations in (i)–(iv) have already been proved in [3, Theorem 5.8]. Let

$$G \in {}_0\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_s^q(\Omega) = \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{q-1}) \cap v^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^{q-1}(\Omega))$$

i.e.

$$G = \text{rot } G_{s-1} + \sum_{I \in \bar{\mathcal{I}}_{s-1}^{q-1,0}} g_I \text{rot } \eta D_I^{q-1}$$

with $G_{s-1} \in \mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1} \mathbf{D}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbf{B}}^{q-1}(\Omega)^{\perp_v}$ and $g_I \in \mathbb{C}$. Since

$$\text{rot } \eta D_I^{q-1} = \text{rot } \Delta \eta D_{2I}^{q-1} - \text{rot } C_{\text{div rot}, \eta} D_{2I}^{q-1}$$

and clearly

$$\text{rot } \Delta \eta R_{2I}^{q-1} = \text{rot } \text{div } C_{\text{rot}, \eta} R_{2I}^{q-1}$$

we obtain

$$i\alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^{q'} \text{rot } \eta D_I^{q-1} = \text{rot } \Delta \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{e}(I)}^{q-1} - i\alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^{q'} \text{rot } C_{\text{div rot}, \eta} D_{2I}^{q-1} - \alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^q \text{rot } \text{div } C_{\text{rot}, \eta} R_{2I}^{q-1}$$

Now $\Delta \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{e}(I)}^{q-1} = C_{\Delta, \eta} P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{e}(I)}^{q-1}$ has compact support and therefore

$$G \in \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1} \mathbf{D}_{s-1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbf{B}}^{q-1}(\Omega)^{\perp_v})$$

which proves (i). (ii) is shown analogously. The last equation in (iii) follows from (i), since we can split off a term

$$\eta^- D_{\sigma, m}^{q-1,1} = v^{-1} v \eta^- D_{\sigma, m}^{q-1,1} = v^{-1} \eta^- D_{\sigma, m}^{q-1,1} + v^{-1} \hat{v} \eta^- D_{\sigma, m}^{q-1,1}$$

and the tower forms are smooth and \hat{v} decays as well as $\text{div } \eta^- D_{\sigma, m}^{q-1,1} = 0$ holds by Remark 3.6. Finally the last equation in (iv) is a direct consequence of (ii) and a similar argument like the latter one. □

Proof of Theorem 3.8

Lemma 4.3 yields

$$\mathbf{L}_s^{2,N}(\Omega) = \text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{N-1} \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{H}}^{N-1}) \cap v^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2-1}^{N-1}(\Omega))$$

and the same arguments used in the latter proof show

$$\text{rot}((\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{H}}_{s-1}^{N-1}) \cap v^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_{<N/2-1}^{N-1}(\Omega)) = \text{rot}(\mathring{\mathbf{R}}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1} \mathbf{D}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbf{B}}^{N-1}(\Omega)^{\perp_v})$$

Because $\operatorname{div} \eta \check{H}^{N-1} = 0$, we have

$$L_s^{2,N}(\Omega) = \operatorname{rot}((\mathring{R}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1}D_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^{N-1}(\Omega)^\perp) \boxplus \eta \check{H}^{N-1})$$

Now $\operatorname{div} \check{P}^N = \check{H}^{N-1}$ and thus $\operatorname{rot} \eta \check{H}^{N-1} = \Delta \eta \check{P}^N - \operatorname{rot} C_{\operatorname{div}, \eta} \check{P}^N$, which proves

$$L_s^{2,N}(\Omega) = \operatorname{rot}(\mathring{R}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap v^{-1}D_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^{N-1}(\Omega)^\perp) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{P}^N$$

Finally, we have to show that the sum is direct. To do this, let $F = f \Delta \eta \check{P}^N = \operatorname{rot} E$ with some $f \in \mathbb{C}$ and $E \in \mathring{R}_{s-1}^{N-1}(\Omega)$. We want to use the notations from [9], i.e. the forms $P_{0,1}^{N,4}$ and $Q_{0,1}^{N,4}$, as well. By definition there exists a constant $c \neq 0$, such that $\check{P}^N = c^{-1} R_{0,1}^{N,2} = c/(2-N) Q_{0,1}^{N,4}$ using [3, Remark 2.3]. Since $s > N/2$ and $P_{0,1}^{N,4} \in L_{<-N/2}^{2,N}(\Omega)$ partial integration yields

$$\langle \operatorname{rot} E, P_{0,1}^{N,4} \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} = 0$$

because $P_{0,1}^{N,4} \in \operatorname{Lin}\{\ast \mathbf{1}\}$ is constant. However, on the other hand, we obtain

$$\langle F, P_{0,1}^{N,4} \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} = f \langle \Delta \eta \check{P}^N, P_{0,1}^{N,4} \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} = \frac{cf}{2-N} \langle C_{\Delta, \eta} Q_{0,1}^{N,4}, P_{0,1}^{N,4} \rangle_{L^{2,q}(\Omega)} = cf$$

by [9, (73)], i.e. $f = 0$. □

Now we turn to the main idea of our decompositions and the

Proof of Theorem 3.2

Let $1 \leq q \leq N-1$ and s be as in Section 3 as well as $F \in L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$. Using Lemma 4.1 we decompose $F = F_r + \varepsilon^{-1} \hat{F}_d$ with $F_r \in \operatorname{rot} \mathring{C}^{\infty, q-1}(\Omega)$ and $\hat{F}_d \in \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)$. A second application of this lemma yields the decomposition $\varepsilon^{-1} \hat{F}_d = \varepsilon^{-1} F_d + \tilde{F}$ with $F_d \in \operatorname{div} \mathring{D}_{\operatorname{vox}}^{q+1}(\Omega)$ and $\tilde{F} \in \mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)$. Furthermore, there exists a constant $c > 0$ independent of F , such that

$$\|F_r\|_{L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)} + \|F_d\|_{L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)} + \|\tilde{F}\|_{\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)} \leq c \|F\|_{L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)}$$

Now \tilde{F} is more regular than F and this enables us to solve

$$\operatorname{div} \varepsilon H = \operatorname{div} \varepsilon \tilde{F} \in {}_0\mathring{D}_{s+1}^{q-1}(\Omega), \quad \operatorname{rot} E = \operatorname{rot} \tilde{F} \in {}_0\mathring{R}_{s+1}^{q+1}(\Omega)$$

with some $H \in {}_\varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega) \cap {}_0\mathring{R}_{\operatorname{loc}}^q(\Omega)$ and $E \in {}_\varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0\mathring{D}_{\operatorname{loc}}^q(\Omega)$ by Lemma 4.3. We note that $E, H \in L_t^{2,q}(\Omega)$ for all t with $t \leq s$ and $t < N/2 - 1$. Then $\hat{F} := \tilde{F} - E - H \in {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_t^q(\Omega)$ and

$$F = F_r + H + \varepsilon^{-1}(F_d + \varepsilon E) + \hat{F} \tag{10}$$

where $F_r + H \in {}_0\mathring{R}_t^q(\Omega)$ and $F_d + \varepsilon E \in {}_0\mathring{D}_t^q(\Omega)$.

For $s > -N/2$ we may refine this representation of F . In fact for these values of s we have $\hat{F} \in {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{>-N/2}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$ by [3, Lemma 3.8]. Using Remark 4.4 or [3, Theorem 5.1] additionally we may obtain $\varepsilon E \perp \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)$ and $H \perp \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)$, if $q \neq 1$, or $\varepsilon E \perp {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$ and $\varepsilon H \perp {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$, if

$s > 1 - N/2$. Therefore, $F_d + \varepsilon E \in \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ holds for $s > -N/2$ and $F_r + H \in \mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega)$ for $s > 1 - N/2$ or $1 - N/2 > s > -N/2$ and $q \neq 1$. Moreover, [3, Theorem 5.1] yields not only $E, H \in \varepsilon X_s^q(\Omega)$ but also

$$E \in (\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)) \boxplus \eta \mathcal{D}^q(\tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}) \quad \text{if } q \neq N-1$$

$$H \in (\mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)) \boxplus \eta \mathcal{R}^q(\tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}) \quad \text{if } q \neq 1$$

i.e. the exceptional forms do not appear in these cases.

The stronger assumption $F \in \varepsilon \mathring{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ for $s > 1 - N/2$ or $s > -N/2$ and $2 \leq q \leq N-2$ implies $\hat{F} \in \varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)^{-\varepsilon}$ and thus $\hat{F} = 0$. Hence in these cases (10) turns to

$$F = F_r + H + \varepsilon^{-1}(F_d + \varepsilon E) \tag{11}$$

Until now we have shown the assertions of Theorem 3.2 (i), (ii) and also (iii) for $s < N/2 - 1$.

Considering larger weights $s > N/2 - 1$ and $F \in \varepsilon \mathring{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$, the tower forms occur in the representation (11). More precisely we have

$$E = E_s + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \eta D_I^q + e \eta \begin{cases} -D_{0,1}^{N-1,1} & \text{if } q = N-1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$H = H_s + \sum_{J \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} h_J \eta R_J^q + h \eta \begin{cases} -R_{0,1}^{1,1} & \text{if } q = 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

with uniquely determined $E_s, H_s \in \mathring{R}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \varepsilon^{-1} \mathring{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ and $e_I, e, h_J, h \in \mathbb{C}$. We note $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0} = \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}$. For $s < N/2$ we have $\tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0} = \emptyset$ and for $s > N/2$ we observe $\alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^q \eta R_I^q = -i \alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^{q'} \eta D_I^q \in \mathring{L}_{<N/2}^{2,q}(\Omega)$ for all $I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}$ by (5). Thus, we obtain

$$F = F_r + H_s + \varepsilon^{-1} F_d + E_s + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} (h_I - \tilde{e}_I) \eta R_I^q + \eta \begin{cases} h^- R_{0,1}^{1,1} & \text{if } q = 1 \\ e^- D_{0,1}^{N-1,1} & \text{if } q = N-1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where we define $\tilde{e}_I := -ie_I \alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^q / \alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^{q'}$. Looking, for example, at the case $q = 1$ we observe that $\eta^- R_{0,1}^{1,1} \notin \mathring{L}_{\geq N/2-1}^{2,q}(\Omega)$. Then for integrability reasons we obtain $h = 0$, such that the exceptional tower form does not appear. Clearly also $e = 0$ holds true for $q = N - 1$. Moreover, $h_I = \tilde{e}_I$ since R_I^q are linear independent and $\eta R_I^q \notin \mathring{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ for all $I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}$ and $s > N/2$.

By the smoothness of ηD_I^q as well as the decay and differentiability properties of $\hat{\varepsilon}$, we obtain furthermore $\hat{\varepsilon} \eta D_I^q \in \mathring{H}_s^{1,q}(\Omega)$. Thus, for all $s > 1 - N/2$ we obtain the representation

$$F = \tilde{F}_r + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} h_I \eta R_I^q + \varepsilon^{-1} (\tilde{F}_d + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \eta D_I^q)$$

where $\tilde{F}_r := F_r + H_s$ and $\tilde{F}_d := F_d + \varepsilon E_s + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \hat{\varepsilon} \eta D_I^q$ as well as

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_r + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} h_I \eta R_I^q &\in (\mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s^q) \cap_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega) \\ \tilde{F}_d + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \eta D_I^q &\in (\mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s^q) \cap_0 \mathbb{D}_{<N/2}^q(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

with $\alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^{q'} h_I + i \alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^q e_I = 0$ for all $I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}$. This proves the remaining assertions of (iii) and the first equation in (iv).

To show the second equation in (iv), we observe

$$\begin{aligned} \eta D_I^q &= \eta \operatorname{div} \operatorname{rot} D_{2I}^q = \operatorname{div} \operatorname{rot} \eta D_{2I}^q - C_{\operatorname{div} \operatorname{rot}, \eta} D_{2I}^q \\ \eta R_I^q &= \eta \operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div} R_{2I}^q = \operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div} \eta R_{2I}^q - C_{\operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div}, \eta} R_{2I}^q \end{aligned}$$

and therefore

$$F = \tilde{F}_r + \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{F}_d + \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} \frac{h_I}{\alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^q} \Delta_\varepsilon \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_r &:= \tilde{F}_r - \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} h_I C_{\operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div}, \eta} R_{2I}^q - \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \operatorname{rot} C_{\operatorname{div}, \eta} D_{2I}^q \in_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \\ \tilde{F}_d &:= \tilde{F}_d - \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I C_{\operatorname{div} \operatorname{rot}, \eta} D_{2I}^q - \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} h_I \operatorname{div} C_{\operatorname{rot}, \eta} R_{2I}^q \in_0 \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) \\ &\sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} \frac{h_I}{\alpha_{\mathbf{e}(I)}^q} \Delta_\varepsilon \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q \in \Delta_\varepsilon \eta \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q \end{aligned}$$

Clearly all sums are direct resp. orthogonal as stated. Only in the second equation of (iv) one may see this not directly. Hence, for example, if

$$E = \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \Delta_\varepsilon \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q = G + \varepsilon^{-1} F \in_0 \mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \dot{+} \varepsilon^{-1} \mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega)$$

with some $s > N/2$, then

$$H := G - \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div} \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q = \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \varepsilon^{-1} \operatorname{div} \operatorname{rot} \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q - \varepsilon^{-1} F$$

is not only a Dirichlet form, i.e. $H \in_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega)$, but also an element of $\mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$. Hence, H must vanish and thus

$$G = \sum_{I \in \tilde{\mathcal{J}}_s^{q,0}} e_I \operatorname{rot} \operatorname{div} \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q \in \mathbb{L}_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$$

which is only possible, if $e_I = 0$ for all $I \in \bar{\mathcal{I}}_s^{q,0}$, since $\text{rot div } \eta P_{\mathbf{e}(I), \mathbf{c}(I)}^q \notin L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$ are linear independent.

It remains to prove the last equation of (iv). Before we start with this we observe that by the closed graph theorem all projections in (ii)–(iv) are continuous. We note

$${}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega), \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) \subset L_s^{2,q}(\Omega) \cap {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_{-s}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} =: \mathbb{Y}_s^q(\Omega)$$

and thus

$$\mathbb{X}_s^q(\Omega) := {}_0\mathring{\mathbb{R}}_s^q(\Omega) \oplus_\varepsilon \varepsilon^{-1} {}_0\mathbb{D}_s^q(\Omega) \subset \mathbb{Y}_s^q(\Omega)$$

Furthermore, $\mathbb{X}_s^q(\Omega)$ and $\mathbb{Y}_s^q(\Omega)$ are closed subspaces of $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$. By the first equation of (iv) and Lemma 3.1, we have

$$\text{codim } \mathbb{X}_s^q(\Omega) = \dim {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) + \dim \Delta_\varepsilon \eta \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q = d^q + \sum_{0 \leq \sigma < s - N/2} \mu_\sigma^q$$

since $\dim \Delta_\varepsilon \eta \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q = \dim \bar{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2}^q = \dim \bar{\mathcal{H}}_s^q$ and $s - N/2 \notin \mathbb{N}_0$ because $s \notin \tilde{\mathbb{I}}$. With the identity $\text{codim } \mathbb{Y}_s^q(\Omega) = \dim {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_{-s}^q(\Omega)$ we get by Appendix A that $\mathbb{X}_s^q(\Omega)$ and $\mathbb{Y}_s^q(\Omega)$ possess the same finite codimension in $L_s^{2,q}(\Omega)$. Consequently we obtain $\mathbb{X}_s^q(\Omega) = \mathbb{Y}_s^q(\Omega)$. \square

APPENDIX A: WEIGHTED DIRICHLET FORMS

Let $\tau > 0$. As already mentioned in Section 2 for the space of Dirichlet forms we have

$${}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_{-N/2}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_{<t}^q(\Omega), \quad t := N/2 - \delta_{q,1} - \delta_{q,N-1}$$

and its dimension equals $d^q = \beta_{q'}$, the q' th Betti number of Ω . Furthermore, we have for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$

$${}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_t^0(\Omega) = \{0\}, \quad {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_t^N(\Omega) = \begin{cases} \{0\}, & t \geq -N/2 \\ \varepsilon^{-1} \text{Lin}\{\ast \mathbf{1}\}, & t < -N/2 \end{cases}$$

(This holds even for $\tau = 0$.) We repeat some notations and results from [3, 9, 13]. Let us introduce the ‘special growing Dirichlet forms’ $E_{\sigma,m}^+$ from [13, Lemma 7.11] or [4] as the unique solutions of the problems

$$E_{\sigma,m}^+ \in {}_\varepsilon\mathcal{H}_{<-N/2-\sigma}^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathbb{B}}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}, \quad E_{\sigma,m}^+ - {}^+D_{\sigma,m}^{q,0} \in L_{>-N/2}^{2,q}(\Omega)$$

where $\sigma \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $1 \leq m \leq \mu_\sigma^q$ with

$$\mu_\sigma^q = \binom{N}{q} \binom{N-1+\sigma}{\sigma} \frac{qq'(N+2\sigma)}{N(q+\sigma)(q'+\sigma)}$$

from [9, Theorem 1 (iii)]. To guarantee their existence we have to impose the decay conditions $\tau > \sigma$ and $\tau \geq N/2 - 1$. We note $\mu_0^q = \binom{N}{q}$ and thus $\mu_0^0 = \mu_0^N = 1$. Moreover, ${}^+D_{0,1}^{0,0}$ resp. ${}^+D_{0,1}^{N,0}$ is a multiple of $\mathbf{1}$ resp. $*\mathbf{1}$.

Lemma A.1

Let $1 \leq q \leq N - 1$ and $s \in (-\infty, -N/2) \setminus \tilde{\mathbb{I}}$ as well as $\tau > -s - N/2$ and $\tau \geq N/2 - 1$. Then

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \dot{+} {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$$

holds. Moreover,

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = \text{Lin}\{E_{\sigma,m}^q : \sigma < -s - N/2\}$$

Corollary A.2

The dimension d_s^q of ${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega)$ is finite and independent of ε . More precisely

$$d_s^q = d^q + \sum_{\sigma < -s - N/2} \mu_\sigma^q$$

Furthermore, the mapping

$$\begin{aligned} d^q(\cdot) : (-\infty, -N/2) \setminus \tilde{\mathbb{I}} \cup (-N/2, N/2 - 1) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{N}_0 \\ s &\longmapsto d_s^q \end{aligned}$$

is locally constant and monotone decreasing. It jumps exactly at the points $s \in \tilde{\mathbb{I}}$, i.e. $-s - N/2 \in \mathbb{N}_0$.

Proof

The directness of the sum follows by (4) and the inclusions

$$\begin{aligned} {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \dot{+} {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} &\subset {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \\ \text{Lin}\{E_{\sigma,m}^q : \sigma < -s - N/2\} &\subset {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^q(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$

are trivial. Hence, it remains to prove

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega) \subset {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \dot{+} \text{Lin}\{E_{\sigma,m}^q : \sigma < -s - N/2\}$$

Therefore, we pick some $E \in {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega)$. We observe $E \in H_s^{1,q}(A_\rho)$ by the regularity result [13, Korollar 3.8] and even

$$\text{rot } E = 0, \quad \text{div } E|_{A_\rho} = -\text{div } \hat{\varepsilon} E|_{A_\rho} \in L_{s+\tau+1}^{2,q}(A_\rho)$$

for all $r_0 < \rho < r_1$. Thus, we have $\eta E \in \mathring{R}_s^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap D_s^q(\Omega)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rot } \eta E &= C_{\text{rot},\eta} E \in {}_0\mathring{R}_{\text{vox}}^{q+1}(\Omega) \cap B^{q+1}(\Omega)^\perp \\ \text{div } \eta E &= C_{\text{div},\eta} E - \eta \text{div } E \in {}_0D_{s+\tau+1}^{q-1}(\Omega) \cap \mathring{B}^{q-1}(\Omega)^\perp \end{aligned}$$

The assumptions on τ yield $s + \tau + 1 > 1 - N/2$. Thus, by Lemma 4.3 there exists some q -form $e \in \mathring{R}_t^q(\Omega) \cap D_t^q(\Omega)$ with some $t > -N/2$ solving

$$\operatorname{rote} = \operatorname{rot} \eta E, \quad \operatorname{div} e = \operatorname{div} \eta E$$

Therefore $H := \eta E - e \in \mathcal{H}_s^q(\Omega)$. Thus, $\operatorname{rot} H = 0$ and $\operatorname{div} H = 0$ in A_{r_0} and we may represent H in terms of a spherical harmonics expansion

$$H|_{A_{r_0}} = \sum_{\gamma, n} h_{\gamma, n}^- \cdot D_{\gamma, n}^{q, 0} + \hat{h} \hat{D}^{q, 1} + \sum_{\sigma < -s - N/2} \sum_{m=1}^{\mu_\sigma^q} h_{\sigma, m}^+ \cdot D_{\sigma, m}^{q, 0}$$

with uniquely determined $h_{\gamma, n}^-, \hat{h}, h_{\sigma, m}^+ \in \mathbb{C}$ using [3, Theorem 2.6]. By [3, Remark 2.5] the first term of the sum on the right-hand side belongs to $L_{<N/2}^{2, q}(A_{r_0})$, the second to $L_{<N/2-1}^{2, q}(A_{r_0})$ and the third to $L_s^{2, q}(A_{r_0})$. We obtain

$$H - \sum_{\sigma < -s - N/2} \sum_{m=1}^{\mu_\sigma^q} e_{\sigma, m}^+ \cdot D_{\sigma, m}^{q, 0} \in L_{<N/2-1}^{2, q}(A_{r_0})$$

which yields

$$h := H - \sum_{\sigma < -s - N/2} \sum_{m=1}^{\mu_\sigma^q} h_{\sigma, m}^+ E_{\sigma, m}^+ \in L_{>-N/2}^{2, q}(\Omega)$$

Finally, we obtain

$$E - \sum_{\sigma < -s - N/2} \sum_{m=1}^{\mu_\sigma^q} h_{\sigma, m}^+ E_{\sigma, m}^+ = (1 - \eta)E + e + h \in {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{>-N/2}^q(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}^q(\Omega) \quad \square$$

APPENDIX B: VECTOR FIELDS IN THREE DIMENSIONS

Now we will translate our results to the classical framework of vector analysis. Thus, we switch to some (maybe) more common notations.

Let $N := 3$. We identify 1-forms with vector fields via Riesz' representation theorem and 2-forms with 1-forms via the Hodge star operator and thus with vector fields as well. Using Euclidean coordinates $\{x_1, x_2, x_3\}$ this means in detail we identify the vector field

$$E = \begin{bmatrix} E_1 \\ E_2 \\ E_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

with the 1-form

$$E_1 dx_1 + E_2 dx_2 + E_3 dx_3$$

resp. with the 2-form

$$E_1 * dx_1 + E_2 * dx_2 + E_3 * dx_3 = E_1 dx_2 \wedge dx_3 + E_2 dx_3 \wedge dx_1 + E_3 dx_1 \wedge dx_2$$

Moreover, we identify the 3-form $E dx_1 \wedge dx_2 \wedge dx_3$ with the 0-form and/or function E . We will denote these identification isomorphisms by \cong . Then the exterior derivative and co-derivative turn to the classical differential operators

$$\text{grad} = \nabla = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_1 \\ \partial_2 \\ \partial_3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{curl} = \nabla \times, \quad \text{div} = \nabla \cdot$$

from vector analysis, where \times resp. \cdot denotes the vector resp. scalar product in \mathbb{R}^3 . In particular we have the following identification table:

	$q=0$	$q=1$	$q=2$	$q=3$
rot=d	grad	curl	div	0
div= δ	0	div	-curl	grad

B.1. Tower functions and fields

Let us briefly construct our tower forms once more in classical terms. Using polar coordinates $\{r, \varphi, \vartheta\}$, i.e.

$$x = \Phi(r, \varphi, \vartheta) = r \begin{bmatrix} \cos \varphi \cos \vartheta \\ \sin \varphi \cos \vartheta \\ \sin \vartheta \end{bmatrix}$$

we have with an obvious notation

$$\begin{bmatrix} dx_1 \\ dx_2 \\ dx_3 \end{bmatrix} = J_\Phi \begin{bmatrix} dr \\ d\varphi \\ d\vartheta \end{bmatrix} = Q \begin{bmatrix} dr \\ r \cos \vartheta d\varphi \\ r d\vartheta \end{bmatrix}$$

where $Q := [\mathbf{e}_r \ \mathbf{e}_\varphi \ \mathbf{e}_\vartheta]$ is an orthonormal matrix and

$$\mathbf{e}_r := \begin{bmatrix} \cos \vartheta \cos \varphi \\ \cos \vartheta \sin \varphi \\ \sin \vartheta \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}_\varphi := \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \varphi \\ \cos \varphi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}_\vartheta := \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \vartheta \cos \varphi \\ -\sin \vartheta \sin \varphi \\ \cos \vartheta \end{bmatrix}$$

the corresponding orthonormal basis of \mathbb{R}^3 . Since $\{dx_1, dx_2, dx_3\}$ is an orthonormal basis of 1-forms, $\{dr, r \cos \vartheta d\varphi, r d\vartheta\}$ is an orthonormal basis as well. Moreover, we have again with an obvious notation

$$\begin{bmatrix} dr \\ r \cos \vartheta d\varphi \\ r d\vartheta \end{bmatrix} = Q^t \begin{bmatrix} dx_1 \\ dx_2 \\ dx_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_r^t \\ \mathbf{e}_\varphi^t \\ \mathbf{e}_\vartheta^t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dx_1 \\ dx_2 \\ dx_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{e}_r \cdot dx \\ \mathbf{e}_\varphi \cdot dx \\ \mathbf{e}_\vartheta \cdot dx \end{bmatrix}$$

which shows

$$dr \cong \mathbf{e}_r, \quad r \cos \vartheta d\varphi \cong \mathbf{e}_\varphi, \quad r d\vartheta \cong \mathbf{e}_\vartheta$$

We will denote the representations of grad, curl and div in polar coordinates by **grad**, **curl** and **div** as well as their realizations on $S := S^2$ by **grad**_S, **curl**_S and **div**_S. These may be derived by the formula

$$(\nabla_x u) \circ \Phi = J_\Phi^{-t} \nabla_{r, \varphi, \vartheta} (u \circ \Phi) = [\mathbf{e}_r \ (r \cos \vartheta)^{-1} \mathbf{e}_\varphi \ r^{-1} \mathbf{e}_\vartheta] \nabla_{r, \varphi, \vartheta} (u \circ \Phi)$$

and we then have the following representations:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{grad} u &= \mathbf{e}_r \partial_r u + \frac{1}{r} \mathbf{grad}_S u, & \mathbf{grad}_S u &= \frac{1}{\cos \vartheta} \mathbf{e}_\varphi \partial_\varphi u + \mathbf{e}_\vartheta \partial_\vartheta u \\ \mathbf{curl} v &= \mathbf{e}_r \times \partial_r v + \frac{1}{r} \mathbf{curl}_S v, & \mathbf{curl}_S v &= \frac{1}{\cos \vartheta} \mathbf{e}_\varphi \times \partial_\varphi v + \mathbf{e}_\vartheta \times \partial_\vartheta v \\ \mathbf{div} v &= \mathbf{e}_r \cdot \partial_r v + \frac{1}{r} \mathbf{div}_S v, & \mathbf{div}_S v &= \frac{1}{\cos \vartheta} \mathbf{e}_\varphi \cdot \partial_\varphi v + \mathbf{e}_\vartheta \cdot \partial_\vartheta v \end{aligned}$$

We note that we do not distinguish between u resp. v and $u \circ \Phi$ resp. $v \circ \Phi$ anymore. Moreover, in polar coordinates the Laplacian reads

$$\Delta = \partial_r^2 + \frac{2}{r} \partial_r + \frac{1}{r^2} \Delta_S$$

where

$$\Delta_S = \frac{1}{\cos^2 \vartheta} \partial_\varphi^2 + \partial_\vartheta^2 - \frac{\sin \vartheta}{\cos \vartheta} \partial_\vartheta$$

is the Laplace–Beltrami operator.

Let us introduce the classical spherical harmonics of order n

$$y_{n,m}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \quad m = 1, \dots, 2n+1$$

which form a complete orthonormal system in $L^2(S)$, i.e. $\langle y_{n,m}, y_{\ell,k} \rangle_{L^2(S)} = \delta_{n,\ell} \delta_{m,k}$ and satisfy

$$(\Delta_S + \lambda_n) y_{n,m} = 0, \quad \lambda_n := n(n+1)$$

as well as the corresponding potential functions

$$z_{\pm, n, m} := r^{\theta_{\pm, n}} y_{n,m}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \quad m = 1, \dots, 2n+1$$

which are homogeneous of degree

$$\theta_{\pm,n} := \begin{cases} n & \text{if } \pm = + \\ -n - 1 & \text{if } \pm = - \end{cases}$$

and solve

$$\Delta z_{\pm,n,m} = \Delta z_{\pm,n,m} = 0$$

(See, for example, [14, Kapitel VII, Section 4; 15, Chapter 2.3].)

Moreover, for $k, n \in \mathbb{N}_0, m = 1, \dots, 2n + 1$, we define

$$z_{\pm,n,m}^k := \zeta_{\pm,n}^k r^{2k} z_{\pm,n,m} = \zeta_{\pm,n}^k r^{\theta_{\pm,n}^{2k}} y_{n,m}$$

where

$$\zeta_{\pm,n}^k := \frac{\Gamma(1 \pm n \pm 1/2)}{4^k \cdot k! \cdot \Gamma(k + 1 \pm n \pm 1/2)}$$

and Γ denotes the gamma-function. The functions $z_{\pm,n,m}^k$ are homogeneous of degree $\theta_{\pm,n}^{2k}$ with

$$\theta_{\pm,n}^\ell := \ell + \theta_{\pm,n}$$

and satisfy

$$\Delta z_{\pm,n,m}^k = z_{\pm,n,m}^{k-1}$$

where $z_{\pm,n,m}^{-1} := 0$. With the aid of these functions, which we will call a ‘ Δ -tower’, we construct for $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ the functions and fields

$$U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k} := z_{\pm,n,m}^k$$

$$U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k-1} := \text{grad } U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k}$$

which we will call a ‘div grad-tower’, as well as the fields

$$V_{\pm,n,m}^{2k} := r \mathbf{e}_r \times \text{grad } z_{\pm,n,m}^k = \mathbf{e}_r \times \text{grad}_S z_{\pm,n,m}^k = \zeta_{\pm,n}^k r^{\theta_{\pm,n}^{2k}} \mathbf{e}_r \times Y_{n,m}$$

$$V_{\pm,n,m}^{2k-1} := -\text{curl } V_{\pm,n,m}^{2k}$$

which we will call a ‘ $-\text{curl curl}$ -tower’. Here $Y_{n,m} := \text{grad}_S y_{n,m}$. The fields $U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k-1}$ are irrotational and the fields $V_{\pm,n,m}^\ell$ solenoidal. Moreover, we have

$$\text{div } U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k+1} = U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k}, \quad \text{curl } V_{\pm,n,m}^{2k+1} = V_{\pm,n,m}^{2k}$$

as well as $\text{div } U_{\pm,n,m}^{-1} = 0$ and $\text{curl } V_{\pm,n,m}^{-1} = 0$ and thus

$$\Delta U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k} = \text{div grad } U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k} = U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k-2}$$

$$\Delta U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k+1} = \text{grad div } U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k+1} = U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k-1}$$

$$\Delta V_{\pm,n,m}^\ell = -\text{curl curl } V_{\pm,n,m}^\ell = V_{\pm,n,m}^{\ell-2}$$

where $U_{\pm,n,m}^{-2} := 0, V_{\pm,n,m}^{-2} := 0$. We mention that $U_{\pm,n,m}^\ell$ and $V_{\pm,n,m}^\ell$ are homogeneous of degree $\theta_{\pm,n}^\ell$. Moreover,

$$U_{\pm,n,m}^{-1} = V_{\pm,n,m}^{-1}$$

Thus, we define

$$P_{\pm,n,m} := U_{\pm,n,m}^1 - V_{\pm,n,m}^1$$

Then $U_{\pm,n,m}^\ell, V_{\pm,n,m}^\ell, \ell = -1, 0$, and even $P_{\pm,n,m}$ are potential fields resp. functions.

The next picture may illustrate the denotations tower:

			div ↓		↓ curl
3. floor		$U_{\pm,n,m}^2$		$V_{\pm,n,m}^2$	$\xrightarrow{\text{div}} 0$
		grad ↓		↓ -curl	
2. floor	0	$\xleftarrow{\text{curl}} U_{\pm,n,m}^1$		$V_{\pm,n,m}^1$	$\xrightarrow{\text{div}} 0$
		div ↓		↓ curl	
1. floor		$U_{\pm,n,m}^0$		$V_{\pm,n,m}^0$	$\xrightarrow{\text{div}} 0$
		grad ↓		↓ -curl	
ground	0	$\xleftarrow{\text{curl}} U_{\pm,n,m}^{-1}$	=	$V_{\pm,n,m}^{-1}$	$\xrightarrow{\text{div}} 0$
		div ↓		↓ curl, div	
		0		0	
		div grad-tower		- curl curl-tower	

In the exceptional case $(n, m) = (0, 1)$, the function $z_{\pm,0,1}^k$ is a multiple of $r^{2k+\theta_{\pm,0}}$ and thus we obtain $V_{\pm,0,1}^\ell = 0$ for all ℓ as well as an exceptional div grad-tower

$$U_{\pm,0,1}^{2k} = \zeta_{\pm,0}^k r^{2k-\delta_{-, \pm}}$$

$$U_{\pm,0,1}^{2k-1} = \text{grad } U_{\pm,0,1}^{2k} = \zeta_{\pm,0}^k \partial_r r^{2k-\delta_{-, \pm}} \mathbf{e}_r = \zeta_{\pm,0}^k (2k - \delta_{-, \pm}) r^{2k-1-\delta_{-, \pm}} \mathbf{e}_r$$

where $U_{+,0,1}^{-1} = 0$.

Let us briefly compare these classical towers with the q -form towers: On S we identify 1-forms with linear combinations of \mathbf{e}_φ and \mathbf{e}_ϑ as well as 2-forms with scalar functions. More precisely a 1-form $\omega_\varphi \cos \vartheta d\varphi + \omega_\vartheta d\vartheta$ will be identified with the tangential vector field $\omega_\varphi \mathbf{e}_\varphi + \omega_\vartheta \mathbf{e}_\vartheta$ and a

2-form $\omega \cos \vartheta d\varphi \wedge d\vartheta$ with the function ω . Then our operators ρ, τ and $\check{\rho}, \check{\tau}$ from [9] turn to

	$q=0$	$q=1$	$q=2$	$q=3$
$\rho v \cong$	0	$v \cdot \mathbf{e}_r$	$v \times \mathbf{e}_r$	v
$\tau v \cong$	v	$-(v \times \mathbf{e}_r) \times \mathbf{e}_r$	$v \cdot \mathbf{e}_r$	0
$\check{\rho} v \cong$	$v \mathbf{e}_r$	$-v \times \mathbf{e}_r$	v	—
$\check{\tau} v \cong$	v	v	$v \mathbf{e}_r$	—

where

$$-(v \times \mathbf{e}_r) \times \mathbf{e}_r = v \cdot \mathbf{e}_\varphi \mathbf{e}_\varphi + v \cdot \mathbf{e}_\vartheta \mathbf{e}_\vartheta = v - v \cdot \mathbf{e}_r \mathbf{e}_r$$

$$v \times \mathbf{e}_r = v \cdot \mathbf{e}_\vartheta \mathbf{e}_\varphi - v \cdot \mathbf{e}_\varphi \mathbf{e}_\vartheta$$

We note

$$y_{0,1} \cong S_{0,1}^0 \text{ is constant}$$

$$y_{n,m} \cong T_{n-1,m}^0$$

$$Y_{n,m} = \mathbf{grad}_S y_{n,m} \cong in^{1/2}(n+1)^{1/2} S_{n-1,m}^1$$

for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ in the terminology of [9]. Then for $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we get up to constants

$$U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k} \cong D_{(\pm,2k+1,n-1,m)}^0 = *R_{(\pm,2k+1,n-1,m)}^3$$

$$U_{\pm,n,m}^{2k-1} \cong R_{(\pm,2k,n-1,m)}^1 = *D_{(\pm,2k,n-1,m)}^2$$

$$V_{\pm,n,m}^\ell \cong D_{(\pm,\ell+1,n-1,m)}^1 = *R_{(\pm,\ell+1,n-1,m)}^2$$

and for $n=0$

$$U_{+,0,1}^{2k} \cong D_{(+,2k,0,1)}^0 = *R_{(+,2k,0,1)}^3$$

$$U_{+,0,1}^{2k-1} \cong R_{(+,2k-1,0,1)}^1 = *D_{(+,2k-1,0,1)}^2$$

$$U_{-,0,1}^{2k} \cong D_{(-,2k+2,0,1)}^0 = *R_{(-,2k+2,0,1)}^3$$

$$U_{-,0,1}^{2k-1} \cong R_{(-,2k+1,0,1)}^1 = *D_{(-,2k+1,0,1)}^2$$

Finally for $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\ell = -1, 0$, we put (with $\text{Lin} \emptyset := \{0\}$)

$$\bar{\mathcal{V}}_s^\ell := \text{Lin}\{V_{-,n,m}^\ell : V_{-,n,m}^\ell \notin L_s^2(A_1)\} = \text{Lin}\{V_{-,n,m}^\ell : n \leq \ell + s + 1/2\}$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{U}}_s^\ell := \text{Lin}\{U_{-,n,m}^\ell : U_{-,n,m}^\ell \notin L_s^2(A_1)\} = \text{Lin}\{U_{-,n,m}^\ell : n \leq \ell + s + 1/2\}$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{P}}_s := \text{Lin}\{P_{-,n,m} : P_{-,n,m} \notin L_s^2(A_1)\} = \text{Lin}\{P_{-,n,m} : n \leq s + 3/2\}$$

$$\check{\mathcal{U}}^\ell := \check{\mathcal{U}}_s^\ell := \text{Lin}\{U_{-,0,1}^\ell : U_{-,0,1}^\ell \notin L_s^2(A_1)\} = \text{Lin}\{U_{-,0,1}^\ell : 0 \leq \ell + s + 1/2\}$$

B.2. Results for vector fields

For some operator $\diamond \in \{\text{grad}, \text{curl}, \text{div}\}$ and $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we define the Hilbert spaces

$$\begin{aligned} H_s(\diamond, \Omega) &:= \{u \in L_s^2(\Omega) : \diamond u \in L_{s+1}^2(\Omega)\}, & H_s(\overset{\circ}{\diamond}, \Omega) &:= \overline{C^\infty(\Omega)} \\ H_s(\diamond_0, \Omega) &:= \{H_s(\diamond, \Omega) : \diamond u = 0\}, & H_s(\overset{\circ}{\diamond}_0, \Omega) &:= \{H_s(\overset{\circ}{\diamond}, \Omega) : \diamond u = 0\} \end{aligned}$$

where the closure is taken in $H_s(\diamond, \Omega)$. Then the spaces $\overset{\circ}{R}_s^q(\Omega)$ and $\overset{\circ}{D}_s^q(\Omega)$ turn to the usual Sobolev spaces, i.e.

	$q=0$	$q=1$	$q=2$	$q=3$
$\overset{\circ}{R}_s^q(\Omega)$	$H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{grad}}, \Omega) = \overset{\circ}{H}_s^1(\Omega)$	$H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}, \Omega)$	$H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}, \Omega)$	$L_s^2(\Omega)$
$\overset{\circ}{D}_s^q(\Omega)$	$L_s^2(\Omega)$	$H_s(\text{div}, \Omega)$	$H_s(\text{curl}, \Omega)$	$H_s(\text{grad}, \Omega) = H_s^1(\Omega)$

For two operators $\diamond, \square \in \{\overset{(\circ)}{\text{grad}}_{(0)}, \overset{(\circ)}{\text{curl}}_{(0)}, \overset{(\circ)}{\text{div}}_{(0)}\}$, we define

$$H_s(\diamond, \square, \Omega) := H_s(\diamond, \Omega) \cap H_s(\square, \Omega)$$

The generalized boundary condition $\iota^* E = 0$ for a q -form E from $\overset{\circ}{R}_{\text{loc}}^q(\Omega)$ turns to the usual boundary conditions $\gamma E = E|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$, $\gamma_t E = \nu \times E|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$ and $\gamma_n E = \nu \cdot E|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$ (for $q=0, 1, 2$) weakly formulated in the spaces $H(\overset{\circ}{\text{grad}}, \Omega)$, $H(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}, \Omega)$ and $H(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}, \Omega)$, where ν denotes the outward unit normal at $\partial\Omega$ and γ the trace as well as γ_t resp. γ_n the tangential resp. normal trace of the vector field E . The linear transformations ε, ν, μ (ν and μ may be identified!) can be considered as real-valued, variable, symmetric and uniformly positive-definite matrices with $L^\infty(\Omega)$ -entries, which satisfy the asymptotics at infinity assumed in Sections 2 and 3. Moreover, for $\diamond, \square \in \{\overset{(\circ)}{\text{curl}}_{(0)}, \overset{(\circ)}{\text{div}}_{(0)}\}$ we define

$$H_s(\square\varepsilon, \Omega) := \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\square, \Omega), \quad H_s(\diamond, \square\varepsilon, \Omega) := H_s(\diamond, \Omega) \cap H_s(\square\varepsilon, \Omega)$$

Now we have two kinds of Dirichlet fields. The first ones, the classical Dirichlet fields,

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s(\Omega) := H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \text{div}_0 \varepsilon, \Omega) \cong {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s^1(\Omega), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$$

correspond to $q=1$ and the second ones, the classical Neumann fields,

$${}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s(\Omega) := H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \text{div}_0 \varepsilon, \Omega) \cong \varepsilon^{-1} {}_{\varepsilon^{-1}} \mathcal{H}_s^2(\Omega), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$$

correspond to $q=2$. Moreover, we have the compactly supported fields

$$\overset{\circ}{B}^1(\Omega) \cong: \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^1(\Omega) \subset H(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega), \quad \overset{\circ}{B}^2(\Omega) \cong: \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega) \subset H(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega)$$

and the fields with bounded supports

$$B^2(\Omega) \cong: \mathcal{B}(\Omega) \subset H(\text{curl}_0, \Omega)$$

Let $s > -\frac{1}{2}$. Using the Dirichlet and Neumann fields, we put

$$\mathbb{H}_s(\diamond, \Omega) := H_s(\diamond, \Omega) \cap \mathcal{H}(\Omega)^\perp, \quad \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\diamond, \Omega) := H_s(\diamond, \Omega) \cap \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega)^\perp$$

and define in the same way $\mathbb{H}_s(\diamond, \square, \Omega)$, $\mathbb{H}_s(\diamond, \square_\varepsilon, \Omega)$ and $\tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\diamond, \square, \Omega)$, $\tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\diamond, \square_\varepsilon, \Omega)$. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{H}_s(\operatorname{div}_0, \Omega) &= H_s(\operatorname{div}_0, \Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}(\Omega)^\perp = H_s(\operatorname{div}_0, \Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^1(\Omega)^\perp \\ \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\operatorname{div}_0, \Omega) &= H_s(\operatorname{div}_0, \Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega)^\perp = H_s(\operatorname{div}_0, \Omega) \cap \mathcal{B}(\Omega)^\perp \\ \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\operatorname{curl}_0, \Omega) &= H_s(\operatorname{curl}_0, \Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = H_s(\operatorname{curl}_0, \Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega)^\perp \\ \mathbb{H}_s(\operatorname{curl}_0, \Omega) &= H_s(\operatorname{curl}_0, \Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} \end{aligned}$$

and thus except of the last one the definitions of these spaces extend to all $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Moreover, we set for $s > -\frac{1}{2}$

$${}_\varepsilon \mathbb{L}_s^2(\Omega) := L_s^2(\Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}, \quad \tilde{{}_\varepsilon \mathbb{L}}_s^2(\Omega) := L_s^2(\Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$$

We obtain

Lemma B.1

Let $s > -\frac{1}{2}$. Then the direct decompositions

$$\begin{aligned} L_s^2(\Omega) &= {}_\varepsilon \mathbb{L}_s^2(\Omega) \dot{+} \operatorname{Lin} \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^1(\Omega) \\ L_s^2(\Omega) &= {}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathbb{L}}_s^2(\Omega) \dot{+} \varepsilon^{-1} \operatorname{Lin} \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathbb{L}}_s^2(\Omega) \dot{+} \operatorname{Lin} \mathcal{B}(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

hold. If additionally $s < \frac{1}{2}$, then

$$L_s^2(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathbb{L}_s^2(\Omega) \oplus_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}(\Omega), \quad \tilde{L}_s^2(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathbb{L}}_s^2(\Omega) \oplus_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega)$$

Let us note that the operator Δ_ε reads as follows:

q	Δ_ε
0	$\varepsilon^{-1} \operatorname{div} \operatorname{grad}$
1	$\operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} - \varepsilon^{-1} \operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl}$
2	$-\operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl} + \varepsilon^{-1} \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div}$
3	$\operatorname{div} \operatorname{grad}$

Thus we define

$$\square_\varepsilon := \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} - \varepsilon^{-1} \operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl} = \Delta - \check{\varepsilon} \operatorname{curl} \operatorname{curl}$$

Always assuming $s \notin \tilde{\mathbb{I}}$, i.e. for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$

$$s \neq n + \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad s \neq -n - \frac{3}{2}$$

we obtain

Theorem B.2

The following decompositions hold:

(i) If $s < -\frac{3}{2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} L_s^2(\Omega) &= H_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) = H_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) \\ &= H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) = \tilde{H}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{H}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) \end{aligned}$$

In the first line the intersections equal the finite dimensional space of Dirichlet fields resp. Neumann fields ${}_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{H}_s(\Omega)$ resp. ${}_{\varepsilon} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s(\Omega)$ and in the second line the intersections equal the finite dimensional space of Dirichlet fields resp. Neumann fields ${}_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{H}_s(\Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^1(\Omega)^{\perp \varepsilon}$ resp. ${}_{\varepsilon} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s(\Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega)^{\perp}$.

(ii) If $-\frac{3}{2} < s \leq -\frac{1}{2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} L_s^2(\Omega) &= H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) \\ &= \tilde{H}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{H}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) + {}_{\varepsilon} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

(iii) If $-\frac{1}{2} < s < \frac{3}{2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\varepsilon} L_s^2(\Omega) &= H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) \\ {}_{\varepsilon} \tilde{L}_s^2(\Omega) &= \tilde{H}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{H}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) \end{aligned}$$

For $s \geq 0$ this decomposition is even $\langle \varepsilon \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{L^2(\Omega)}$ -orthogonal.

(iv) If $s > \frac{3}{2}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\varepsilon} L_s^2(\Omega) &= (([L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}] \cap H_{<3/2}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega)) \\ &\quad \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} ([L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}] \cap H_{<3/2}(\text{div}_0, \Omega))) \cap L_s^2(\Omega) \\ {}_{\varepsilon} \tilde{L}_s^2(\Omega) &= (([L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}] \cap \tilde{H}_{<3/2}(\text{curl}_0, \Omega)) \\ &\quad \oplus_{\varepsilon} \varepsilon^{-1} ([L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \tilde{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}] \cap \tilde{H}_{<3/2}(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega))) \cap L_s^2(\Omega) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\varepsilon} L_s^2(\Omega) &= H_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} H_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) + \square_{\varepsilon} \eta \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2} \\ {}_{\varepsilon} \tilde{L}_s^2(\Omega) &= \tilde{H}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) + \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{H}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) + \square_{\varepsilon} \eta \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{s-2} \end{aligned}$$

where the first two terms in the latter two decomposition are $(\varepsilon \cdot, \cdot)_{L^2(\Omega)}$ -orthogonal as well. Furthermore,

$$L_s^2(\Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_{-s}(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = \mathbb{H}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) \oplus_\varepsilon \varepsilon^{-1} \mathbb{H}_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega)$$

$$L_s^2(\Omega) \cap_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_{-s}(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon} = \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) \oplus_\varepsilon \varepsilon^{-1} \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega)$$

Remark B.3

Here Remark 3.3 holds analogously. In particular the matrix ε may be moved to the curl-free terms in our decompositions as well and for $s < -\frac{3}{2}$ and $\tau \geq \frac{1}{2}$ we have

$${}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}(\Omega) \dot{+} {}_\varepsilon \mathcal{H}_s(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathcal{B}}^1(\Omega)^{\perp_\varepsilon}$$

$${}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s(\Omega) = {}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}(\Omega) \dot{+} {}_\varepsilon \tilde{\mathcal{H}}_s(\Omega) \cap \mathring{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega)^\perp$$

Theorem B.4

Let $s \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$(i) \quad \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) = \text{grad} H_{s-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega)$$

and for $s > -\frac{1}{2}$

$$(i') \quad \mathbb{H}_s(\text{curl}_0, \Omega) = \text{grad} H_{s-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega)$$

If $s < \frac{5}{2}$, then

$$(ii) \quad \begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) &= \text{curl } \mathbb{H}_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega) \\ &= \text{curl } H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega) = \text{curl } H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \Omega) \\ \mathbb{H}_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) &= \text{curl } \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega) \\ &= \text{curl } H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega) = \text{curl } H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \Omega) \end{aligned}$$

All these spaces are closed subspaces of $L_s^2(\Omega)$. For $s < \frac{3}{2}$

$$(iii) \quad \begin{aligned} L_s^2(\Omega) &= \text{div } \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{s-1}(\text{div}, \text{curl}_0 \mu, \Omega) \\ &= \text{div } H_{s-1}(\text{div}, \text{curl}_0 \mu, \Omega) = \text{div } H_{s-1}(\text{div}, \Omega) \\ L_s^2(\Omega) &= \text{div } \mathbb{H}_{s-1}(\text{div}, \text{curl}_0 \mu, \Omega) \quad \text{if } s > \frac{1}{2} \\ L_s^2(\Omega) &= \text{div } H_{s-1}(\text{div}, \text{curl}_0 \mu, \Omega) = \text{div } H_{s-1}(\text{div}, \Omega) \end{aligned}$$

Theorem B.5

(i) For $s > \frac{5}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) &= \text{curl}((H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^{-1}) \cap \mathbb{H}_{<3/2}(\text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega)) \\ &= \text{curl}(H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}, \text{div } \mu, \Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^1(\Omega)^{\perp \mu}) = \text{curl } H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}, \Omega) \\ \mathbb{H}_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) &= \text{curl}((H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^{-1}) \cap \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{<3/2}(\text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega)) \\ &= \text{curl}(H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \text{div } \mu, \Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}(\Omega)^{\perp \mu}) = \text{curl } H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \Omega) \end{aligned}$$

are closed subspaces of $L_s^2(\Omega)$.

(ii) For $s > \frac{3}{2}$

$$\begin{aligned} (L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}) \cap \mathbb{H}_{<3/2}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) &= \text{grad}(H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{grad}}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{U}}_{s-1}^0) = \mathbb{H}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) \dot{+} \text{grad } \eta \bar{\mathcal{U}}_{s-1}^0 \\ (L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}) \cap \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{<3/2}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) &= \text{grad}(H_{s-1}(\text{grad}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{U}}_{s-1}^0) = \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}_0, \Omega) \dot{+} \text{grad } \eta \bar{\mathcal{U}}_{s-1}^0 \\ (L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}) \cap \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{<3/2}(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) &= \text{curl}((H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{curl}}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^{-1} \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^0) \cap \mathbb{H}_{<1/2}(\text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega)) \\ &= \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_s(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}_0, \Omega) \dot{+} \text{curl } \mu^{-1} \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^0 \\ (L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}) \cap \mathbb{H}_{<3/2}(\text{div}_0, \Omega) &= \text{curl}((H_{s-1}(\text{curl}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^{-1} \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^0) \cap \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{<1/2}(\text{div}_0 \mu, \Omega)) \\ &= \mathbb{H}_s(\text{div}_0, \Omega) \dot{+} \text{curl } \mu^{-1} \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^0 \end{aligned}$$

are closed subspaces of $L_s^2(\Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_s^{-1}$. Moreover, $\text{div } \eta V_{-,n,m}^0 = 0$.

Theorem B.6

Let $s > \frac{3}{2}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad L_s^2(\Omega) &= \text{div}((H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \bar{\mathcal{V}}_{s-1}^{-1} \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^{-1}) \cap \tilde{\mathbb{H}}_{<1/2}(\text{curl}_0 \mu, \Omega)) \\ &= \text{div}((H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}, \text{curl } \mu, \Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega)^{\perp \mu}) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^{-1}) \\ &= \text{div}(H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}, \text{curl } \mu, \Omega) \cap \overset{\circ}{\mathcal{B}}^2(\Omega)^{\perp \mu}) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^0 \\ &= \text{div } H_{s-1}(\overset{\circ}{\text{div}}, \Omega) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(ii) \quad L_s^2(\Omega) &= \operatorname{div}((H_{s-1}(\operatorname{div}, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \check{r}_{s-1}^{-1} \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^{-1}) \cap \mathbb{H}_{<1/2}(\operatorname{curl}_0 \mu, \Omega)) \\
&= \operatorname{div}(H_{s-1}(\operatorname{div}, \operatorname{curl} \mu, \Omega) \boxplus \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^{-1}) \\
&= \operatorname{div} H_{s-1}(\operatorname{div}, \operatorname{curl} \mu, \Omega) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^0 \\
&= \operatorname{div} H_{s-1}(\operatorname{div}, \Omega) \dot{+} \Delta \eta \check{\mathcal{U}}^0
\end{aligned}$$

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Sebastian Bauer and Michael Trebing for many helpful discussions.

REFERENCES

1. Weyl H. Die natürlichen Randwertaufgaben im Außenraum für Strahlungsfelder beliebiger Dimension und beliebigen Ranges. *Mathematische Zeitschrift* 1952; **56**:105–119.
2. Pauly D. Low frequency asymptotics for time-harmonic generalized Maxwell equations in nonsmooth exterior domains. *Advances in Mathematical Sciences and Applications* 2006; **12**(2):591–622.
3. Pauly D. Generalized electro-magneto statics in nonsmooth exterior domains. *Analysis* 2007; **27**(4):425–464.
4. Pauly D. Complete low frequency asymptotics for time-harmonic generalized Maxwell equations in nonsmooth exterior domains. *Asymptotic Analysis* 2008; accepted.
5. Picard R. Some decomposition theorems and their applications to non-linear potential theory and Hodge theory. *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences* 1990; **12**:35–53.
6. Picard R. Randwertaufgaben der verallgemeinerten Potentialtheorie. *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences* 1981; **3**:218–228.
7. Picard R. On the boundary value problems of electro- and magnetostatics. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* 1982; **92**(A):165–174.
8. Picard R, Milani A. *Decomposition Theorems and Their Applications to Non-linear Electro- and Magneto-static Boundary Value Problems*. Lecture Notes in Mathematics: Partial Differential Equations and Calculus of Variations, vol. 1357. Springer: Berlin, New York, 1988; 317–340.
9. Weck N, Witsch KJ. Generalized spherical harmonics and exterior differentiation in weighted Sobolev spaces. *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences* 1994; **17**:1017–1043.
10. McOwen RC. Behavior of the Laplacian in weighted Sobolev spaces. *Communications on Pure and Applied Mathematics* 1979; **32**:783–795.
11. Bauer S. Eine Helmholtzzerlegung gewichteter L^2 -Räume von q -Formen in Außengebieten des \mathbb{R}^N , *Diplomarbeit*, Essen, 2000. (Available from: <http://www.uni-duisburg-essen.de/~mat201>.)
12. Specovius-Neugebauer M. The Helmholtz decomposition of weighted L^r -spaces. *Communications in Partial Differential Equations* 1990; **15**(3):273–288.
13. Pauly D. Niederfrequenzasymptotik der Maxwell-Gleichung im inhomogenen und anisotropen Außengebiet, *Dissertation*, Duisburg-Essen, 2003. (Available from: <http://duepublico.uni-duisburg-essen.de>.)
14. Courant R, Hilbert D. *Methoden der Mathematischen Physik I*. Springer: Berlin, 1924.
15. Colton D, Kress R. *Inverse Acoustic and Electromagnetic Scattering Theory* (2nd edn). Springer: Berlin, Heidelberg, New York, 1998.