

## ON $m$ -ACCRETIVE SCHRÖDINGER-TYPE OPERATORS WITH SINGULAR POTENTIALS ON MANIFOLDS OF BOUNDED GEOMETRY

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We consider a Schrödinger-type differential expression  $\nabla^* \nabla + V$ , where  $\nabla$  is a  $C^\infty$ -bounded Hermitian connection on a Hermitian vector bundle  $E$  of bounded geometry over a manifold of bounded geometry  $(M, g)$  with positive  $C^\infty$ -bounded measure  $d\mu$ , and  $V$  is a locally integrable linear bundle endomorphism. We define a realization of  $\nabla^* \nabla + V$  in  $L^2(E)$  and give a sufficient condition for its  $m$ -accretiveness. The proof essentially follows the scheme of T. Kato, but it requires the use of a more general version of Kato's inequality for Bochner Laplacian operator as well as a result on the positivity of solution to a certain differential equation on  $M$ .

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### 1. Introduction and the main result

**1.1. The setting.** Let  $(M, g)$  be a  $C^\infty$  Riemannian manifold without boundary, with metric  $g$ ,  $\dim M = n$ . We will assume that  $M$  is connected. We will also assume that  $M$  has bounded geometry. Moreover, we will assume that we are given a positive  $C^\infty$ -bounded measure  $d\mu$ , that is, in any local coordinates  $x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n$ , there exists a strictly positive  $C^\infty$ -bounded density  $\rho(x)$  such that  $d\mu = \rho(x) dx^1 dx^2 \cdots dx^n$ .

Let  $E$  be a Hermitian vector bundle over  $M$ . We will assume that  $E$  is a bundle of bounded geometry (i.e., it is supplied by an additional structure: trivializations of  $E$  on every canonical coordinate neighborhood  $U$  such that the corresponding matrix transition functions  $h_{U,U'}$  on all intersections  $U \cap U'$  of such neighborhoods are  $C^\infty$ -bounded, that is, all derivatives  $\partial_y^\alpha h_{U,U'}(y)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a multiindex, with respect to canonical coordinates, are bounded with bounds  $C_\alpha$  which do not depend on the chosen pair  $U, U'$ ).

We denote by  $L^2(E)$  the Hilbert space of square integrable sections of  $E$  with respect to the scalar product

$$(u, v) = \int_M \langle u(x), v(x) \rangle_{E_x} d\mu(x). \quad (1.1)$$

Here  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{E_x}$  denotes the fiberwise inner product.

Let

$$\nabla : C^\infty(E) \rightarrow C^\infty(T^*M \otimes E) \tag{1.2}$$

be a Hermitian connection on  $E$  which is  $C^\infty$ -bounded as a linear differential operator, that is, in any canonical coordinate system  $U$  (with the chosen trivializations of  $E|_U$  and  $(T^*M \otimes E)|_U$ ),  $\nabla$  is written in the form

$$\nabla = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} a_\alpha(\gamma) \partial_\gamma^\alpha, \tag{1.3}$$

where  $\alpha$  is a multiindex, and the coefficients  $a_\alpha(\gamma)$  are matrix functions whose derivatives  $\partial_\gamma^\beta a_\alpha(\gamma)$  for any multiindex  $\beta$  are bounded by a constant  $C_\beta$  which does not depend on the chosen canonical neighborhood.

We will consider a Schrödinger type differential expression of the form

$$H_V = \nabla^* \nabla + V. \tag{1.4}$$

Here

$$\nabla^* : C^\infty(T^*M \otimes E) \rightarrow C^\infty(E) \tag{1.5}$$

is a differential operator which is formally adjoint to  $\nabla$  with respect to the scalar product (1.1), and  $V$  is a linear bundle endomorphism of  $E$ , that is, for every  $x \in M$ ,

$$V(x) : E_x \rightarrow E_x \tag{1.6}$$

is a linear operator.

We make the following assumption on  $V$ .

**ASSUMPTION 1.1.** Assume that  $V \in L_{\text{loc}}^p(\text{End } E)$ , where

- (i)  $p = 2n/(n + 2)$  for  $n \geq 3$ ,
- (ii)  $p > 1$  for  $n = 2$ ,
- (iii)  $p = 1$  for  $n = 1$ .

We will use the following notations:

$$V_1(x) := \frac{V(x) + (V(x))^*}{2}, \quad V_2(x) := \frac{V(x) - (V(x))^*}{2i}, \quad x \in M, \tag{1.7}$$

where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$  and  $(V(x))^*$  denotes the adjoint of the linear operator (1.6) (in the sense of linear algebra).

By (1.7), for all  $x \in M$ , we have the following decomposition:

$$V(x) = V_1(x) + iV_2(x). \tag{1.8}$$

**1.2. Sobolev space  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .** By  $W^{1,2}(E)$  we will denote the set of all  $u \in L^2(E)$  such that  $\nabla u \in L^2(T^*M \otimes E)$ . It is well known (see, e.g., [5, Section A1.1]) that  $W^{1,2}(E)$  is the completion of the space  $C_c^\infty(E)$  with respect to the norm  $\|\cdot\|_1$  defined by the scalar product

$$(u, v)_1 := (u, v) + (\nabla u, \nabla v), \quad u, v \in C_c^\infty(E). \tag{1.9}$$

By  $W^{-1,2}(E)$  we will denote the dual of  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .

Since  $(M, g)$  and  $E$  have bounded geometry, by [5, Section A1.1], it follows that the usual Sobolev embedding theorem (see, e.g., [1, Theorem 2.21]) holds for  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .

**1.3. A realization of  $H_V$  in  $L^2(E)$ .** Let  $V$  be as in Assumption 1.1. We define an operator  $S$  associated to  $H_V$  as an operator in  $L^2(E)$  given by  $Su = H_V u$  with domain

$$\text{Dom}(S) = \{u \in W^{1,2}(E) : H_V u \in L^2(E)\}. \tag{1.10}$$

**REMARK 1.2.** We will show that for all  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ , we have  $Vu \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$  so that  $H_V u$  in (1.10) can be understood in distributional sense.

Let  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ . For  $n \geq 3$ , by Section 1.2 above and the first part of Theorem 2.21 from Aubin [1], we have the following continuous embedding

$$W^{1,2}(E) \subset L^{p'}(E), \tag{1.11}$$

where  $1/p' = 1/2 - 1/n$ .

Let  $p = 2n/(n+2)$  be as in Assumption 1.1. Since  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ , by Hölder's inequality, it follows that  $Vu \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$ .

For  $n = 2$ , by the first part of Theorem 2.21 from Aubin [1], we get the continuous embedding (1.11) for all  $2 < p' < \infty$ . By Assumption 1.1, for  $n = 2$ , we have  $p > 1$ . We may assume that  $1 < p < 2$  (if  $V \in L^t_{\text{loc}}(\text{End} E)$  with  $t \geq 2$ , then  $V \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\text{End} E)$  for all  $1 < p < 2$ ). Given  $1 < p < 2$ , we can take  $p' > 2$  such that  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ . By Hölder's inequality, we have  $Vu \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$ .

For  $n = 1$ , it is well known (see, e.g., the second part of Theorem 2.21 in [1]) that (1.11) holds with  $p' = \infty$ . By Assumption 1.1, for  $n = 1$ , we have  $p = 1$ . Thus, by Hölder's inequality, we have  $Vu \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$ .

We now state the main result.

**THEOREM 1.3.** *Assume that  $(M, g)$  is a manifold of bounded geometry with a positive  $C^\infty$ -bounded measure  $d\mu$ . Assume that  $E$  is a Hermitian vector bundle of bounded geometry over  $M$ . Assume  $\nabla$  to be a  $C^\infty$ -bounded Hermitian connection*

on  $E$ . Let  $V$  be as in [Assumption 1.1](#). Moreover, assume that for all  $x \in M$ ,

$$V_1(x) \geq 0, \quad \text{as an operator } E_x \rightarrow E_x, \tag{1.12}$$

where  $V_1(x)$  is as in [\(1.7\)](#).

Then  $S$  is  $m$ -accretive.

**REMARK 1.4.** The main source of inspiration for [Theorem 1.3](#) was a result of Kato [[3](#), Theorem I] which was proven for the operator  $-\Delta + V$  on an open set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , where  $-\Delta$  is the standard Laplacian on  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with the standard metric and measure, and  $V \in L^p_{\text{loc}}(\Omega)$ , with  $p$  as in [Assumption 1.1](#), is a complex-valued function such that  $\text{Re } V \geq 0$ .

Let  $d : C^\infty(M) \rightarrow \Omega^1(M)$  be the standard differential. Then  $d^*d : C^\infty(M) \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$  is called the scalar Laplacian and will be denoted by  $\Delta_M$ .

**2. Proof of Theorem 1.3.** We will adopt the proof of [[3](#), Theorem I] in our context. Throughout this section, we assume that all hypotheses of [Theorem 1.3](#) are satisfied. We begin by introducing another realization of  $H_V$ .

**2.1. Maximal realization of  $H_V$  between  $W^{1,2}(E)$  and  $W^{-1,2}(E)$ .** We define an operator  $T$  associated to  $H_V$  as an operator  $W^{1,2}(E) \rightarrow W^{-1,2}(E)$  given by  $Tu = H_Vu$  with domain

$$\text{Dom}(T) = \{u \in W^{1,2}(E) : H_Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)\}. \tag{2.1}$$

**REMARK 2.1.** Condition  $H_Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  for  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$  makes sense since  $H_Vu$  is a distributional section of  $E$  by [Remark 1.2](#). Since  $\nabla^* \nabla u \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  for  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ , it follows that the condition  $H_Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  in [\(2.1\)](#) is equivalent to  $Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  for  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ .

**LEMMA 2.2.** *The following inclusion holds:  $C_c^\infty(E) \subset \text{Dom}(T)$ .*

**PROOF.** Let  $u \in C_c^\infty(E)$ . Then  $Vu \in L^p(E)$ , where  $p$  is as in [Assumption 1.1](#). By [Remark 1.2](#), it follows that  $W^{1,2}(E) \subset L^{p'}(E)$ , where  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ . By duality, we have  $L^p(E) \subset W^{-1,2}(E)$ . Thus  $Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$ , and hence  $u \in \text{Dom}(T)$ . □

**2.2. Minimal realization of  $H_V$  between  $W^{1,2}(E)$  and  $W^{-1,2}(E)$ .** By  $T_0$  we will denote the restriction of  $T$  with  $\text{Dom}(T_0) = C_c^\infty(E)$ . Clearly,  $T_0$  is a densely defined operator.

**REMARK 2.3.** Since  $\text{Dom}(S)$ , where  $S$  is as in [\(1.10\)](#), does not necessarily contain  $C_c^\infty(E)$ , there is no minimal realization of  $H_V$  in  $L^2(E)$  (in the sense of [Section 2.2](#)).

**2.3. Maximal and minimal realization of  $H_{V^*}$ .** In what follows, we will denote by  $T'$  and  $T'_0$  the maximal and minimal realization of  $H_{V^*}$  in the sense of [Sections 2.1](#) and [2.2](#), respectively, where  $V^*$  is the adjoint of  $V$  as in [\(1.7\)](#).

**LEMMA 2.4.** *The following holds:  $T = (T'_0)^*$ , where  $*$  denotes the adjoint of an operator.*

**PROOF.** We need to show that for any  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$  and  $f \in W^{-1,2}(E)$ , the equation  $Tu = f$  is true if and only if

$$(u, T's) = (f, s), \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.2}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes the duality between  $W_{loc}^{1,2}(E)$  and  $W_{comp}^{-1,2}(E)$  extending the inner product in  $L^2(E)$  by continuity from  $C_c^\infty(E)$ .

(1) Assume that  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ ,  $f \in W^{-1,2}(E)$ , and  $Tu = f$ . Then  $Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$ . By Lemma 2.2, for all  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$ , we have  $V^*s \in W_{comp}^{-1,2}(E)$ . Since  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$ , we have  $V^*s \in L_{comp}^p(E)$  with  $p$  as in Assumption 1.1. By the proof in Remark 1.2, we have  $u \in W^{1,2}(E) \subset L^{p'}(E)$  (continuous embedding), where  $1/p + 1/p' = 1$ . By Hölder's inequality,  $L_{loc}^{p'}(E)$  is in a continuous duality with  $L_{comp}^p(E)$  by the usual integration. Thus, for all  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$ , we have (after approximating  $u$  by sections  $u_j \in C_c^\infty(E)$  in  $W^{1,2}$ -norm in a neighborhood of  $\text{supp } s$ )

$$\begin{aligned} (u, V^*s) &= \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} (u_j, V^*s) = \lim_{j \rightarrow \infty} \int \langle u_j(x), (V^*s)(x) \rangle d\mu(x) \\ &= \int \langle u(x), (V^*s)(x) \rangle d\mu(x), \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2). The second equality in (2.3) holds since  $V^*s \in L_{loc}^1(E)$  by Remark 1.2 and  $u_j \in C_c^\infty(E)$ .

Therefore, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (u, V^*s) &= \int \langle u(x), (V^*s)(x) \rangle d\mu(x) \\ &= \int \langle (Vu)(x), s(x) \rangle d\mu(x) = (Vu, s), \end{aligned} \tag{2.4}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2). The first equality in (2.4) follows from (2.3). The second equality in (2.4) holds by the definition of  $(V(x))^* : E_x \rightarrow E_x$ . The third equality in (2.4) holds for all  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$  since  $Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  and  $Vu \in L_{loc}^1(E)$  by Remark 1.2.

Using (2.4), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (u, T's) &= (u, \nabla^* \nabla s + V^*s) = (u, \nabla^* \nabla s) + (u, V^*s) \\ &= (\nabla^* \nabla u, s) + (Vu, s) = (Tu, s), \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

where  $V^*$  is the adjoint of  $V$  as in (1.7) and  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2). In the third equality, we also used the integration by parts (see, e.g., [2, Lemma 8.8]).

(2) Assume that  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ ,  $f \in W^{-1,2}(E)$ , and (2.2) holds. Then the first two equalities in (2.4) hold (we do not know a priori that  $Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  so the

third equality in (2.4) is not yet justified). Thus for all  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} (f, s) &= (u, T's) = (u, \nabla^* \nabla s) + (u, V^* s) \\ &= (\nabla^* \nabla u, s) + \int \langle (Vu)(x), s(x) \rangle d\mu(x), \end{aligned} \tag{2.6}$$

where the second equality follows as in (2.5), and the third equality follows from integration by parts and the second equality in (2.4).

Since  $\nabla^* \nabla u \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  and  $f \in W^{-1,2}(E)$ , we obtain

$$(f - \nabla^* \nabla u, s) = \int \langle (Vu)(x), s(x) \rangle d\mu(x), \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.7}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2).

Since  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$ , from Remark 1.2, we know that  $Vu \in L^1_{loc}(E)$ . By (2.7), we get  $Vu \in W^{-1,2}(E)$  since  $C_c^\infty(E)$  is dense in  $W^{1,2}(E)$ . Thus, as in (2.4),

$$\int \langle (Vu)(x), s(x) \rangle d\mu(x) = (Vu, s), \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.8}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2).

From (2.7) and (2.8), we obtain

$$(f - \nabla^* \nabla u, s) = (Vu, s), \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.9}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2).

Therefore,

$$(f, s) = (\nabla^* \nabla u, s) + (Vu, s) = (Tu, s), \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.10}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.2).

This shows that  $Tu = f$ , and the lemma is proven. □

In what follows, we will adopt the terminology of Kato [3] and distinguish between monotone and accretive operators. Accretive operators act within the same Hilbert space, while monotone operators act from a Hilbert space into its adjoint space (antidual).

**LEMMA 2.5.** *The operator  $T_0$  is monotone, that is,*

$$\operatorname{Re}(T_0 s, s) \geq 0, \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.11}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes the duality between  $W^{-1,2}(E)$  and  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .

**PROOF.** We have for all  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Re}(T_0 s, s) &= \operatorname{Re} \left[ (\nabla^* \nabla s, s) + \int \langle Vs, s \rangle d\mu \right] \\ &= \|\nabla s\|^2 + \operatorname{Re} \left[ \int \langle V_1 s, s \rangle d\mu + i \int \langle V_2 s, s \rangle d\mu \right] \\ &\geq \|\nabla s\|^2, \end{aligned} \tag{2.12}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.11),  $\|\cdot\|$  denotes the  $L^2$ -norm, and  $V_1 \geq 0$  and  $V_2$  are linear selfadjoint bundle endomorphisms as in (1.7).

The lemma is proven. □

**LEMMA 2.6.** *The operator  $1 + T_0$  is coercive in the sense that*

$$\|(1 + T_0)s\|_{-1} \geq \|s\|_1, \quad \forall s \in \text{Dom}(T_0) = C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.13}$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_{-1}$  is the norm in  $W^{-1,2}(E)$ , and  $\|\cdot\|_1$  is the norm in  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .

**PROOF.** As in (2.12), we have for all  $s \in C_c^\infty(E)$ ,

$$\text{Re}((T_0 + 1)s, s) \geq \|s\|^2 + \|\nabla s\|^2 = \|s\|_1^2, \tag{2.14}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.11).

Since the left-hand side of (2.14) does not exceed  $\|(1 + T_0)s\|_{-1}\|s\|_1$ , inequality (2.13) immediately follows from (2.14). □

In what follows,  $\text{Ker } A$  and  $\text{Ran } A$  denote the kernel and the range of operator  $A$ , respectively, and  $\bar{A}$  denotes the closure of  $A$ .

**LEMMA 2.7.** *The following holds:*

- (i) *the operator  $T_0$  is closable with closure  $T_0^{**}$ ,*
- (ii)  *$\text{Ran}(1 + T_0^{**})$  is closed.*

**PROOF.** By Lemma 2.4, it follows that  $T' = T_0^*$ , where  $T'$  is as in Section 2.3. Since  $T_0' \subset T'$  (as operators), it follows that  $T'$  is densely defined. Thus  $T_0^{**}$  exists and equals  $\bar{T_0}$ . This proves property (i).

We will now prove property (ii). Since  $1 + T_0$  is coercive by Lemma 2.6, it follows by definition of  $\bar{T_0}$  that  $1 + T_0^{**} = 1 + \bar{T_0}$  is also coercive, that is,

$$\|(1 + T_0^{**})u\|_{-1} \geq \|u\|_1, \quad \forall u \in \text{Dom}(T_0^{**}), \tag{2.15}$$

where  $\|\cdot\|_{-1}$  is the norm in  $W^{-1,2}(E)$ , and  $\|\cdot\|_1$  is the norm in  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .

We will now show that  $\text{Ran}(1 + T_0^{**})$  is closed.

Let  $f_j \in \text{Ran}(1 + T_0^{**})$  and  $\|f_j - f\|_{-1} \rightarrow 0$  as  $j \rightarrow \infty$ . Let  $u_j \in \text{Dom}(1 + T_0^{**})$  be a sequence such that  $(1 + T_0^{**})u_j = f_j$ . Since  $f_j$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $\|\cdot\|_{-1}$ , by (2.15) it follows that  $u_j$  is a Cauchy sequence in  $\|\cdot\|_1$ . Thus  $u_j$  converges in  $\|\cdot\|_1$ , and we will denote its limit by  $u$ . Since  $1 + T_0^{**}$  is a closed operator, it follows that  $u \in \text{Dom}(1 + T_0^{**})$  and  $f = (1 + T_0^{**})u$ . Thus  $f \in \text{Ran}(1 + T_0^{**})$ , and property (ii) is proven. □

In what follows, we will use the general version of Kato's inequality whose proof is given in [2, Theorem 5.7].

**LEMMA 2.8.** *Assume that  $(M, g)$  is a Riemannian manifold. Assume that  $E$  is a Hermitian vector bundle over  $M$  and  $\nabla$  is a Hermitian connection on  $E$ .*

Assume that  $w \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$  and  $\nabla^* \nabla w \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$ . Then

$$\Delta_M |w| \leq \text{Re} \langle \nabla^* \nabla w, \text{sign } w \rangle, \tag{2.16}$$

where  $\Delta_M$  is the scalar Laplacian on  $M$  and

$$\text{sign } w(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{w(x)}{|w(x)|} & \text{if } w(x) \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{2.17}$$

We now state and prove the key proposition.

**PROPOSITION 2.9.** *The following holds:  $\text{Ran}(1 + T_0^{**}) = W^{-1,2}(E)$ .*

**PROOF.** By Lemma 2.7, it suffices to show that if  $u \in W^{1,2}(E)$  and

$$((1 + T_0)s, u) = 0, \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \tag{2.18}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.11), then  $u = 0$ .

Using condition (2.18) and the same arguments as in the proof of the first two equalities in (2.4) and the equation (2.8), we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= (s, u) + (\nabla^* \nabla s, u) + (Vs, u) \\ &= (s, u) + (s, \nabla^* \nabla u) + (s, V^* u), \quad \forall s \in C_c^\infty(E), \end{aligned} \tag{2.19}$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is as in (2.11), and  $V^*$  is as in (1.7).

Therefore, the following distributional equality holds (recall that by Remark 1.2, we have  $V^* u \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$ )

$$\nabla^* \nabla u + V^* u + u = 0. \tag{2.20}$$

From (2.20), we have  $\nabla^* \nabla u = -V^* u - u \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(E)$ . Therefore, by Lemma 2.8, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_M |u| &\leq \text{Re} \langle \nabla^* \nabla u, \text{sign } u \rangle \\ &= \text{Re} \langle -u - V_1 u + iV_2 u, \text{sign } u \rangle \\ &= -|u| - \langle V_1 u, \text{sign } u \rangle \leq -|u|, \end{aligned} \tag{2.21}$$

where  $\Delta_M, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  and  $\text{sign } u$  are as in (2.16), and  $V_1 \geq 0, V_2$  are linear selfadjoint bundle endomorphisms as in (1.7).

By (2.21), we get the following distributional inequality:

$$(\Delta_M + 1)|u| \leq 0. \tag{2.22}$$

Since  $(M, g)$  is a manifold of bounded geometry, by [2, Proposition B.3], inequality (2.22) implies that  $|u| = 0$ , that is,  $u = 0$ . This concludes the proof of the proposition. □

**COROLLARY 2.10.** *The operator  $T_0^{**}$  is maximal monotone (in the sense that it is monotone and has no proper monotone extension).*

**PROOF.** The corollary follows immediately from [Proposition 2.9](#), inequality (2.15), and the remark after equation (3.38) of [4, Section 5.3.10].  $\square$

**PROPOSITION 2.11.** *The following holds:*

- (i)  $T = T_0^{**}$ ,
- (ii) *the operator  $T$  is maximal monotone.*

**PROOF.** We first prove property (i). Since  $T_0 \subset T$  (as operators), it follows that  $T_0^{**} \subset T$  because  $T$  is closed by [Lemma 2.4](#). By [Proposition 2.9](#),  $\text{Ran}(1 + T_0^{**}) = W^{-1,2}(E)$ . By the same proposition (with  $V$  replaced by  $V^*$ ), it follows that  $\text{Ran}(1 + (T_0')^{**}) = W^{-1,2}(E)$ , where  $T_0'$  is as in [Section 2.3](#). Since  $1 + T = 1 + (T_0')^*$  (see [Lemma 2.4](#)), it follows that  $\text{Ker}(1 + T) = \{0\}$ . Hence,  $T$  cannot be a proper extension of  $T_0^{**}$ . This shows that  $T_0^{**} = T$ .

Property (ii) follows immediately from property (i) and [Corollary 2.10](#).  $\square$

**3. Proof of Theorem 1.3.** First, note that the following holds:  $u \in \text{Dom}(S)$  if and only if  $u \in \text{Dom}(T)$  and  $Tu \in L^2(E)$  (in which case  $Su = Tu$ ).

By [Propositions 2.9](#) and [2.11](#), it follows that  $\text{Ran}(1 + T) = W^{-1,2}(E)$ . Therefore,  $\text{Ran}(1 + S) = L^2(E)$ . Furthermore, since  $T$  is maximal monotone by [Proposition 2.11](#), it follows that

$$\text{Re}(Su, u)_{L^2(E)} = \text{Re}(Tu, u) \geq 0, \quad \forall u \in \text{Dom}(S), \quad (3.1)$$

where  $(\cdot, \cdot)_{L^2(E)}$  denotes the inner product in  $L^2(E)$ , and  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  is the duality between  $W^{-1,2}(E)$  and  $W^{1,2}(E)$ .

Thus we proved that  $S$  is accretive and  $\text{Ran}(1 + S) = L^2(E)$ . By the remark after equation (3.37) of [4, Section 5.3.10], it follows that  $S$  is  $m$ -accretive.

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