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Olivier Poisson. Carleman estimates for the heat equation with discontinuous diffusion coefficients. 2008. hal-01255483

HAL Id: hal-01255483

<https://hal.science/hal-01255483>

Preprint submitted on 13 Jan 2016

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Carleman estimates for the heat equation with discontinuous diffusion coefficients

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Abstract. We consider the heat equation with a diffusion coefficient that is discontinuous at an interface. We give global Carleman estimates for solutions of this equation, even if the jump of the coefficient across the interface has not a constant sign.

AMS classification scheme numbers: 35K05, 35K55, 35R05, 35R30

1. Introduction

1.1. The heat Equation with a discontinuous diffusion coefficient

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ be a bounded connected open set with boundary Γ of class $\mathcal{C}^2$. Let $a(\cdot)$ be a measurable function of the variable $x \in \Omega$ and satisfying

Assumption 1.1 *There exist two constants a_{min} , a_{max} so that*
 $0 < a_{min} \leq a(x) \leq a_{max} < \infty$.

We denote by $\mathcal{A} := -\operatorname{div}(a\nabla \cdot)$ the formal stationary differential operator on Ω . We consider for a time $T > 0$ the formal heat operator $\mathcal{L} := \partial_t + \mathcal{A}$ in the cylinder $Q = (0, T) \times \Omega$ and we define L as the heat operator $L = \mathcal{L}$ with domain

$$D(L) := \{q : q \in L^2(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega)), \partial_t q \in L^2(0, T; H^{-1}(\Omega)), \mathcal{L}q \in L^2(Q)\}.$$

For $q_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$ we consider the following equations:

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{L}q &= f \text{ in } Q, \\ q(0, \cdot) &= q_0 \text{ in } \Omega. \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

The function q then satisfies the Dirichlet homogeneous condition $q(t, x) = 0$ for $(t, x) \in \Sigma := (0, T) \times \Gamma$. We know that if $f \in L^2(t_0, T; H^{-1}(\Omega))$ then (1.1) admits an unique solution we denote by $Y(f, q_0) \in L^2(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega))$, and if $f \in L^2(Q)$ then $Y(f, q_0) \in D(L)$. (We refer to [1, Theorems 1.1, 4.1 and Remark 4.3; Chap. 3] and to [2] for a complete proof). We make the following assumptions on the diffusion coefficients $a(\cdot)$: $a(x)$ is piecewise smooth in Ω ; more precisely, Ω admits a partition in two non

empty open sets, Ω_0 and $\Omega_1 = \Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega_0}$, such that $a_j \equiv a|_{\Omega_j} \in \mathcal{C}^1(\overline{\Omega_j})$, $j = 0, 1$. Moreover the interface $S = \overline{\Omega_0} \cap \overline{\Omega_1}$ is of class $\mathcal{C}^2$. We denote by n the outward unit normal to Ω_1 at the points of S and also the outward unit normal to Ω at the points of Γ . Formally, the jump of a quantity q on S is defined by $[q] := q_0 - q_1 \equiv (q|_{\Omega_0})|_S - (q|_{\Omega_1})|_S$. So S is partitioned in $S = S^+ \cup S^- \cup S^0$ with

$$S^\pm := \{x \in S; \pm[a](x) > 0\}, \quad S^0 = \{x \in S; [a](x) = 0\}.$$

We shall analyse (1.1) in the large framework $S \neq S^0$, that is, when a is discontinuous across $S^+ \cup S^- \neq \emptyset$.

We look for global Carleman estimates on $Y(f, q_0)$ with source terms in $\omega_T = (0, T) \times \omega$, where $\omega \subset \Omega$ is open, non empty, and satisfies

Assumption 1.2 *Each connected component of Ω_0 contains part of ω .*

Then there are two different situations that will be analysed in this work.

- **Case 1:** $\Omega_0 \subset\subset \Omega$ (see Fig. 1);
- **Case 2:** $\Omega_1 \subset\subset \Omega$ (see Fig. 2).

The main goal of this paper is to obtain a Carleman estimate for q solution of (1.1) in cases 1 or 2.

2. Main Results

In order to state the main result of this work, we need some geometrical conditions (see Figure 2).

2.1. Geometrical Conditions and Technical Assumptions

Assumption 2.1 *on (Ω_1, S) ; corresponding to case 1. There exists a vector field $\zeta : \overline{\Omega_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $\zeta \in \mathcal{C}^1(\overline{\Omega_1})$, so that*

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(x) \cdot n(x) &< 0 \quad \forall x \in \Gamma, \\ \zeta(x) \cdot n(x) &> 0 \quad \forall x \in S, \\ \zeta(x) &\neq 0 \quad \forall x \in \overline{\Omega_1}, \end{aligned}$$

and if we consider the characteristics associated to ζ

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = \zeta(x(t)), & t > 0, \\ x(0) = x_0, \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

with $x_0 \in \Gamma$, we also assume that for some time $T_1 > 0$ and for every $x_0 \in \Gamma$, there exists $t_1(x_0) < T_1$ such that the solution $x(t)$ of (2.1) verifies

$$x(t) \in \Omega_1 \text{ for } 0 < t < t_1(x_0), \text{ and } x(t_1(x_0)) \in S. \quad (2.2)$$

See figure 1 and [3, page 624].

Assumption 2.2 on (Ω_1, S) ; corresponding to case 2. There exists an open set $\mathcal{O} \subset \subset \Omega_1$ (with always a unit outward normal n) and a vector field $\zeta : \overline{\Omega_1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, $\zeta \in \mathcal{C}^1(\overline{\Omega_1})$, so that

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(x) \cdot n(x) &> 0 \quad \forall x \in S, \\ \zeta(x) \cdot n(x) &> 0 \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{O}, \\ \zeta(x) &\neq 0 \quad \forall x \in \overline{\Omega_1} \setminus \mathcal{O}, \end{aligned}$$

and for the characteristics associated to ζ

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx(t)}{dt} = -\zeta(x(t)), & t > 0, \\ x(0) = x_0, \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

with $x_0 \in S$, we also assume that for some time $T_2 > 0$ and for every $x_0 \in S$, there exists $t_2(x_0) < T_2$ such that the solution $x(t)$ of (2.3) verifies

$$x(t) \in \Omega_1 \setminus \mathcal{O} \text{ for } 0 < t < t_2(x_0), \text{ and } x(t_2(x_0)) \in \partial\mathcal{O}. \quad (2.4)$$

See figure 2 and [3, page 625].

The main restriction of this framework lies in

Assumption 2.3 The set S^+ can be extended to a variety S' of class C^2 which is the interface between two open sets $\Omega'_0, \Omega'_1 \subset \Omega$, with $\Omega'_1 \subset \Omega_0, \Omega_1 \subset \Omega'_0$ and each connected component of $\Omega'_0 = \Omega \setminus \overline{\Omega'_1}$ contains part of ω . See figures 1 and 2.

Remark 2.1 If $S^+ = \emptyset$ then assumption 2.3 holds for the case 1 with $S' = \emptyset$ and $\Omega'_1 = \emptyset$, and for the case 2 with $S' = \Gamma, \Omega'_1 = \emptyset$.

We shall need the technical assumption 2.4 below. We denote by ∇' the tangential derivative on S and we set $S^{00} := \overline{S^+} \cap \overline{S^-} \subset S^0$.

Assumption 2.4 There exist a neighbourhood $V \subset S$ of S^{00} and a function $h_0 \in \mathcal{C}^2(V)$ such that $(\nabla' h_0(x) \neq 0, \forall x \in V)$, and $(\pm h_0(x) > 0, \forall x \in V \cap S^\pm)$.

Equivalently, S^{00} is a $(n-2)$ -dimensional submanifold of S separating $S^- \cap V = h_0^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^{-*})$ and $S^+ \cap V = h_0^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^{+*})$. Assumption 2.4 is checked if $[a(\cdot)]$ is of class C^2 in a neighbourhood of S^{00} and if $\nabla'[a(x)] \neq 0$ for any $x \in S^{00}$: in such a case we can choose $h_0(x) = [a(x)]$.

Remark 2.2 If $S^+ = \emptyset$ then $S^{00} = \emptyset$ and so assumption 2.4 is validated. However it possibly happens that sets $S^\pm$ are non empty but $S^{00} = \emptyset$. In such a case $\nabla'[a] = 0$ on $S^0 = \partial S^+ \cup \partial S^-$.

Remark 2.3 In assumption 2.4 the function h_0 can be extended to a function $\tilde{h}_0 \in \mathcal{C}^2(W)$, where W is some neighbourhood of S^{00} in Ω , and such that the vector field $\nabla' h_0 \in (\mathcal{C}^1(V))^{n-1}$ extends to the vector field $\nabla \tilde{h}_0 \in (\mathcal{C}^1(W))^n$ satisfying $\nabla \tilde{h}_0(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in W$. The set $\tilde{h}_0^{-1}(\{0\}) \subset W$ separates W into $W^+ = \tilde{h}_0^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^{+*})$ and $W^- = \tilde{h}_0^{-1}(\mathbb{R}^{-*})$. Thus if S' is a $\mathcal{C}^2$ extension of S^+ , then $S' \cap W^+ = S^+ \cap W = S^+ \cap V$, $S \cap W^- = S^- \cap W = S^- \cap V$, $\tilde{h}_0(x) < 0$ for all $x \in (S' \setminus \overline{S^+}) \cap W$ and $\tilde{h}_0(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S^+ \cap W$.

Furthermore we can choose V, W sufficiently small so that $|\tilde{h}_0| \leq \frac{1}{2}$ in W .

Figure 1. Case 1: Assumption 2.1 is not fulfilled in situation a). Situation in b) shows a third case.

Figure 2. Case 1: Assumptions 2.1, 1.2 and 2.3 are fulfilled. The arrow means that we extend S^+ to S' .

Figure 3. Case 2: Assumptions 2.2, 1.2 and 2.3 are fulfilled. The arrow means that we extend S^+ to S' .

2.2. Carleman weight functions

Carleman estimates on q solution of (1.1) requires Carleman weight functions that we present now.

Lemma 2.1 *Assume that we have the geometrical situation of case 1. Under assumptions 1.2, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, there exist functions $\beta_i \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega})$, $i = 1, 2$ that satisfy the following properties.*

- (i) $\beta_i \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega})$, $\beta_i^k \equiv \beta_i|_{\Omega_k} \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_k})$, $k = 0, 1$; $\text{div}(a \nabla \beta_i) \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. (Thus the following transmission conditions are checked on S : $[\beta_i] = 0$ and $[a \partial_n \beta_i] = 0$).
- (ii) $\beta_i(x) > 0$, $\forall x \in \overline{\Omega}$.
- (iii) There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla \beta_i| \geq r$ in $\Omega \setminus \omega$, $i = 1, 2$.
- (iv) $\partial_n \beta_i(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$, $i = 1, 2$.

- (v) $\beta_1 = \beta_2$ on S^{00} , $\beta_1(x) > \beta_2(x)$ for any $x \in S^-$, $\beta_2(x) > \beta_1(x)$ for any $x \in S^+$.
 (vi) For $x \in S$, let the symmetrical matrix $\mathcal{M}(x) := \sum_{i=1,2} \mathcal{M}^i(x)$ of size $n+1$ where we set:

$$\mathcal{M}^i := \begin{pmatrix} -\rho a \partial_n \beta_i & \nabla' \beta_i & |\nabla' \beta_i|^2 - \rho(a \partial_n \beta_i)^2 \\ {}^t \nabla' \beta_i & -(a \partial_n \beta_i) I_{n-1} & {}^t 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \\ |\nabla' \beta_i|^2 - \rho(a \partial_n \beta_i)^2 & 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & 2a \partial_n \beta_i \{|\nabla' \beta_i|^2 - \rho(a \partial_n \beta_i)^2\} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.5)$$

Here I_{n-1} denotes the unit matrix of size $n-1$ and $\rho(x) := (a_0(x)a_1(x))^{-1}$.

Then $\mathcal{M}^1 \leq 0$ on S^- and $\mathcal{M}^2 \geq 0$ on S^+ . Furthermore there exists a neighbourhood V of S^{00} in S so that $\mathcal{M} = 0$ on V .

Lemma 2.2 Assume that we have the geometrical situation of case 2. Under assumptions 1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, there exist functions $\beta_i \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega})$, $i = 1, 2$ that satisfy properties (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi) of lemma 2.1. The function β_2 satisfies (iii) of lemma 2.1 and β_1 satisfies:

$$(iii)' \text{ there exists } r > 0 \text{ so that } |\nabla \beta_1| \geq r \text{ in } \Omega \setminus (\omega \cup B),$$

where B is an opened ball such that $B \subset \subset \mathcal{O}$. Moreover β_1 and β_2 satisfy

$$(vii) \beta_2 \geq 2\beta_1 \text{ in } B.$$

Remark 2.4 In all cases 1, 2, we can construct β_i so that $\beta_i|_{\Gamma}$ are constant, $i = 1, 2$.

Remark 2.5 In all cases 1, 2, we shall construct β_i , $i = 1, 2$, so that in V we have $\rho(a \partial_n \beta_i)^2 - |\nabla' \beta_i|^2 = 0$, $\mathcal{M} = 0$, and

$$\mathcal{M}^i = \begin{pmatrix} -\rho a \partial_n \beta_i & \nabla' \beta_i & 0 \\ {}^t \nabla' \beta_i & -(a \partial_n \beta_i) I_{n-1} & {}^t 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \\ 0 & 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.6)$$

Thus the eigenvalues of $\mathcal{M}^i(x)$ are 0 (with multiplicity n) and $-(\rho(x) + n - 1)(a \partial_n \beta_i)(x)$.

Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2 are proved in appendix.

2.3. Global Carleman Estimates

We set $\overline{\beta} := \frac{5}{4} \max_{i=1,2} \max_{\overline{\Omega}} \beta_i$. We can assume that

$$\max_{i=1,2} \max_{\overline{\Omega}} \beta_i(x) < \overline{\beta} < 2 \min_{i=1,2} \min_{\overline{\Omega}} \beta_i(x), \quad (2.7)$$

since if not, we replace β_i by $\beta_i + 4\overline{\beta}$ and then $\overline{\beta}$ by $6\overline{\beta}$.

We set

$$\varphi_i(t, x) := \frac{e^{\lambda \beta_i(x)}}{t(T-t)}, \eta_i(t, x) := \frac{e^{\lambda \overline{\beta}} - e^{\lambda \beta_i(x)}}{t(T-t)},$$

$$\Pi_j := \sum_{i=1,2} s^j t^{-j} (T-t)^{-j} e^{-2s\eta_i}, j \in \mathbb{N}.$$

In order to state the main result of this work in common statements for cases 1 and 2, we set $B = \mathcal{O} = \emptyset$ in case 1.

Theorem 2.1 *Assume that conditions of lemma 2.1 in case 1 (respectively: of lemma 2.2 in case 2) are fulfilled. There exists $\lambda_1(\Omega, \omega, c) > 0$ such that for each $\lambda > \lambda_1$ there exists a positive constant C that only depend on $\Omega, \omega, \mathcal{O}$ and a , and $s_1(\lambda) > 0$ so that the following estimate holds*

$$\int_Q \Pi_3 |q|^2 + \int_Q \Pi_1 |\nabla q|^2 \leq C \left(\int_{\omega_T} \Pi_3 |q|^2 + C \int_Q \Pi_0 |Lq|^2 \right) \quad (2.8)$$

for all $q \in D(L)$ and $s \geq s_1$. Moreover, s_1 is of the form $s_1 = \sigma_1(T^2 + T)$, where σ_1 is a positive constant that only depends on $\Omega, \omega, \mathcal{O}, a$ and λ .

Theorem 2.2 *Assume that conditions of lemma 2.1 in case 1 (respectively: of lemma 2.2 in case 2) are fulfilled. Let $f \in (L^2(Q))^n$ and $q \in L^2(Q)$ satisfying $\mathcal{L}q = \text{div}f$, that is for any $g \in L^2(Q)$ we have*

$$\int_Q qg \, dxdt = - \int_Q f \cdot \nabla z \, dxdt + \int_{\Omega} q_0 z(t_0) \, dx, \quad (2.9)$$

where $z \in D(L^*)$ is solution of $L^*z = g$, $z(T) = 0$. Then there exists $\lambda_1(\Omega, \omega, a) > 0$ such that for each $\lambda > \lambda_1$ there exists a positive constant C that only depend on Ω, ω , and a , and $s_1(\lambda) > 0$ so that the following estimate holds

$$\int_Q \Pi_3 |q|^2 \leq C \left(\int_{\omega_T} \Pi_3 |q|^2 + C \int_Q \Pi_2 |f|^2 \right) \quad (2.10)$$

for $s \geq s_1$. Moreover, s_1 is of the form $s_1 = \sigma_1(T^2 + T)$, where σ_1 is a positive constant that only depends on $\Omega, \omega, \mathcal{O}, a$ and λ .

2.4. Applications

These Carleman estimates have many applications.

- Firstly, as described in [3], semilinear parabolic equations as

$$\begin{cases} Lq + f(q) &= v\chi_\omega + g \text{ in } Q, \\ q(0, x) &= q_0(x) \text{ in } \Omega, \end{cases}$$

with unknown $q \in D(L)$ and under additional assumptions on the functional f are exactly controllable to the trajectories. This is [3, theorem 2.1] if $S^+ = \emptyset$.

- Secondly the inverse problem related to equation 1.1 and stated in terms of uniqueness and Hölder stability for $a(\cdot)$, as described in [4], is solved in our extended framework.

2.5. Comments

Global Carleman inequalities were first used in [5] to obtain inequality of observability for parabolic equations with $\mathcal{C}^1$ coefficients. By this approach the problem of null controllability for semilinear parabolic equations can be proved: see [6], [7], [8]. In the case of a discontinuous coefficient, results on global Carleman equalities and on null controllability recently appear thanks to the developments in [3]. In the n dimensional

case [9] gives a positive answer to the controllability question for a class of discontinuous coefficients, with separated variables that are smooth w.r.t. to all but one variables, which includes the case of stratified media. The proof relies on the global Carleman inequalities pointed in [9], [10] for the one – dimensional case. The proof for null controllability for the *linear* parabolic heat equation is then achieved in [11] for the case of a coefficient that exhibits jump of arbitrary sign at an interface. Our work is about Global Carleman inequalities for the heat equation as in [3] where the null controllability problem for semilinear parabolic equations is solved. In fact authors of [3] prove inequalities (2.8) and (2.10), but with some restrictions that we remove. Let us precise several points about this.

1. They assume that $a_j \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_j})$, $j = 1, 2$, which is too strong. Indeed, the Carleman functions they build do not depends on all the $a_k(x)$, $x \in \Omega$, $k = 0, 1$, but only on the fraction $(a_1/a_0)(x)$, $x \in S$. Their condition – $a_j \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_j})$ – is only used in [3, Step 2, page 656] and similarly in [3, Step 4 page 659]. But if we use [12, Volume I, Corollary 1.3.4], then $a_j \in C^1(\overline{\Omega_j})$, $j = 1, 2$ suffices. Moreover, outside S , the assumption $a_j \in C^1(\overline{\Omega_j})$ is only used to ensure that $(\operatorname{div}(a_j \nabla \beta))|_{\Omega_j} \in C^0(\overline{\Omega_j})$. But in fact that we only need is $\operatorname{div}(a \nabla \beta) \in L^\infty(\Omega)$. Hence the results (about Carleman estimates) in [3] still holds if the assumption $a_j \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_j})$ is replaced by $a_j \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega_j)$, $j = 0, 1$.
2. They assume that q belongs to the following restricted set $Z_0 \subset D(L)$:

$$Z_0 := \{q : q|_{\Omega_j} \in \mathcal{C}^2([t_0, T] \times \overline{\Omega_j}), j = 0, 1, [q] = 0, [c\partial_n q] = 0, q = 0 \text{ on } \Sigma\} . \quad (2.11)$$

We can extend the results to $q \in D(L)$. See [4] for a proof.

3. They assume that $[a] \leq 0$, or equivalently $S^+ = \emptyset$, in both cases 1, 2.
Besides, regarding the case 2 with $S^+ = \emptyset$ and considering remark 2.1, assumption [3, Condition 2.2] appears more sophisticated than our assumption 2.2. (Precisely: two sets – $\mathcal{O}_i$, $i = 1, 2$ – in their work, only one – $\mathcal{O}$ – in our's) .

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 3 we first recall the main computations of [3] to prove (2.8) in the case 1, then we analyse the sign of the quadratic form coming from integrals on S . In Sections 4 and 5 we study two particular situations, where $S^{00} = \emptyset$. We show that we need only one function β that we describe there.

In Section 6 we derive from section 3 and from [3] the proof for the case 2.

3. Proof for the Case 1

We prove the part of theorems 2.1, 2.2 corresponding to Case 1.

3.1. Computation of integrals

As in [3] we restrict the proof to $q \in Z_0$ defined above. The general case $q \in D(L)$ is completed by following the proof of [4, §6.1].

We particularly watch all the integrals on surfaces Γ or S .

Let $q \in Z_0$ and $f := Lq \in L^2(Q)$. We set $\psi_i := e^{-2s\eta_i}q$, $i = 1, 2$. Then we have

$$M_1\psi_i + M_2\psi_i = f_{i,s} \quad (3.1)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} M_1\psi_i &:= \operatorname{div}(a(x)\nabla\psi_i) + s^2\lambda^2\varphi_i^2|\nabla\beta_i|^2a(x)\psi_i + s\partial_t\eta_i\psi_i, \\ M_2\psi_i &:= \partial_t\psi_i - 2s\lambda\varphi_i a(x)\nabla\beta_i \cdot \nabla\psi_i - 2s\lambda^2\varphi_i a(x)|\nabla\beta_i|^2\psi_i, \\ f_{i,s} &:= e^{-s\eta_i}f + s\lambda\varphi_i \operatorname{div}(a(x)\nabla\beta_i)\psi_i - 2s\lambda^2\varphi_i a(x)|\nabla\beta_i|^2\psi_i. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.1), we obtain

$$\|M_1\psi_i\|_2^2 + \|M_2\psi_i\|_2^2 + 2(M_1\psi_i, M_2\psi_i) = \|f_{i,s}\|_2^2, \quad (3.2)$$

where $(\cdot, \cdot)$ denotes the scalar product in $L^2(Q)$. We compute the scalar product in the left hand side of (3.2), *with index i omitted*. We set $S_T = (0, T) \times S$ and $Q' = Q \setminus S_T$.

We have

$$(M_1\psi, M_2\psi) = \sum_{k=1, l=1}^3 I_{kl}, \quad (3.3)$$

where we set

- $I_{11} := \int_Q \operatorname{div}(a(x)\nabla\psi)\partial_t\psi = 0,$
- $I_{12} := -2s\lambda \int_Q \varphi \operatorname{div}(a(x)\nabla\psi)a(x)\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi = J_{12} + K_{12} + H_{12},$

where we set $J_{12} := 2s\lambda \int_{Q'} a\nabla(\varphi a\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi) \cdot \nabla\psi$, $K_{12} := 2s\lambda \int_{S_T} \varphi[\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi a^2\partial_n\psi]$, $H_{12} := -2s\lambda \int_{\Sigma} \varphi \nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi a^2\partial_n\psi$. We compute

$$\begin{aligned} J_{12} &= 2s\lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \nabla(\varphi a\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi)(a\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi) + 2s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi a\partial_j\psi \partial_j(a\partial_l\beta) \partial_l\psi \\ &\quad + 2s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi a^2\partial_j\psi \partial_{jl}^2\psi \partial_l\beta \\ &= 2s\lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \varphi |a\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi|^2 + 2s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi a\partial_j\psi \partial_j(a\partial_l\beta) \partial_l\psi + s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi a^2\nabla(|\nabla\psi|^2) \cdot \nabla\beta \\ &= 2s\lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \varphi |a\nabla\beta \cdot \nabla\psi|^2 + 2s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi a\partial_j\psi \partial_j(a\partial_l\beta) \partial_l\psi \\ &\quad - s\lambda \int_{Q'} |\nabla\psi|^2 \operatorname{div}(\varphi a^2\nabla\beta) + K'_{12} + H'_{12}, \end{aligned}$$

where we set $K'_{12} := -s\lambda \int_{S_T} \varphi[|\nabla\psi|^2 a^2\partial_n\beta]$, $H'_{12} := s\lambda \int_{\Sigma} |\nabla\psi|^2 \varphi a^2\partial_n\beta$. Finally since $H'_{12} = -\frac{1}{2}H_{12}$ we get

$$I_{12} := -s\lambda^2 \int_Q \varphi |a\nabla\beta|^2 |\nabla\psi|^2 + 2s\lambda^2 \int_Q \varphi (a\nabla\psi \cdot \nabla\beta)^2 + K_{12} + K'_{12} + \frac{1}{2}H_{12} + X_1,$$

$$X_1 := 2s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi a\partial_j\psi \partial_j(a\partial_l\beta) \partial_l\psi - s\lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi |\nabla\psi|^2 \operatorname{div}(a^2\nabla\beta).$$

- $I_{13} := -2s\lambda^2 \int_Q \operatorname{div}(a\nabla\psi)\varphi a|\nabla\beta|^2\psi = 2s\lambda^2 \int_{Q'} a\nabla\psi \nabla(\varphi a|\nabla\beta|^2\psi) + K_{13},$

with $K_{13} := 2s\lambda^2 \int_{S_T} \varphi [a^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 \psi \partial_n \psi]$. Thus we obtain

$$I_{13} = 2s\lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \varphi [a |\nabla \beta|^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 + X_2 + K_{13}],$$

$$\text{with } X_2 := 2s\lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \varphi a \nabla(a |\nabla \beta|^2) \nabla \psi \psi + 2s\lambda^3 \int_{Q'} \varphi a^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 \nabla \beta \cdot \nabla \psi \psi.$$

$$\bullet I_{21} := s^2 \lambda^2 \int_Q \varphi^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 a \partial_t \psi \psi = -s^2 \lambda^2 \int_Q \varphi \partial_t \varphi |\nabla \beta|^2 a |\psi|^2,$$

$$\bullet I_{22} := -s^3 \lambda^3 \int_Q \varphi^3 a^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 \nabla \beta \cdot \nabla \psi \psi = 3s^3 \lambda^4 \int_Q \varphi^3 a^2 |\nabla \beta|^4 |\psi|^2 + K_{22} + X_3,$$

$$\text{with } K_{22} := s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{S_T} \varphi^3 [a^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 \partial_n \beta] |\psi|^2, \quad X_3 := s^3 \lambda^3 \int_{Q'} \varphi^3 \operatorname{div}(a^2 |\nabla \beta|^2 \nabla \beta) |\psi|^2.$$

$$\bullet I_{23} := -2s^3 \lambda^4 \int_Q \varphi^3 a^2 |\nabla \beta|^4 |\psi|^2,$$

$$\bullet I_{31} := s \int_Q \partial_t \eta \psi \partial_t \psi = -\frac{1}{2} \int_Q \partial_t^2 \eta |\psi|^2,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet I_{32} &:= -2s^2 \lambda \int_Q \varphi \partial_t \eta a \nabla \beta \cdot \nabla \psi \psi \\ &= s^2 \lambda \int_{Q'} \varphi \operatorname{div}(a \nabla \beta) |\psi|^2 + s^2 \lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \varphi \partial_t \eta a |\nabla \beta|^2 |\psi|^2 - s^2 \lambda^2 \int_{Q'} \varphi \partial_t \varphi a |\nabla \beta|^2 |\psi|^2 + K_{32} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{with } K_{32} := s^2 \lambda \int_{S_T} \varphi \partial_t \eta [a \partial_n \beta] |\psi|^2.$$

$$\bullet I_{33} := -2s^2 \lambda^2 \int_Q \varphi a \partial_t \eta |\nabla \beta|^2 |\psi|^2.$$

3.2. The quadratic form on the interface

Thus we write (3.3) in the form $(M_1 \psi_i, M_2 \psi_i) = J_i + K_i + H_i$, with J_i : integrals on Q' , K_i : integrals on S_T , H_i : integrals on Σ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} J_i &:= \int_{S_T} \{Q_{nn}^i |a \partial_n \psi_i|^2 + 2Q_{n\tau}^i \cdot \nabla' \psi_i (a \partial_n \psi_i) + Q_{\tau\tau}^i |\nabla' \psi_i|^2 \\ &\quad + (Q_{00}^i + X_{00}^i) |\psi_i|^2 + 2X_{n0}^i (a \partial_n \psi_i) \psi_i\}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{nn}^i &:= s\lambda \varphi_i [\partial_n \beta_i], \quad Q_{n\tau}^i := s\lambda \varphi_i [a \nabla' \beta_i], \quad Q_{\tau\tau}^i := -s\lambda \varphi_i [a^2 \partial_n \beta_i], \\ X_{n0}^i &:= s\lambda^2 \varphi_i [a |\nabla \beta_i|^2], \quad Q_{00}^i := s^3 \lambda^3 \varphi_i^3 [a^2 \partial_n \beta_i |\nabla \beta_i|^2], \quad X_{00}^i := s^2 \lambda \varphi_i \partial_t \eta_i [a \partial_n \beta_i]. \end{aligned}$$

We write (3.4) by using $\psi_i := e^{-s\eta_i} q$ and $\nabla \psi_i = e^{-s\eta_i} \nabla q + s\lambda \varphi_i \nabla \beta_i q$. Thus we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_i &:= \int_{S_T} e^{-2s\eta_i} \{Q_{nn}^i |a \partial_n q|^2 + 2Q_{n\tau}^i \cdot \nabla' q (a \partial_n q) + Q_{\tau\tau}^i |\nabla' q|^2 \\ &\quad + (2Q_{00}^i + Y_{00}^i) |q|^2 + 2(Q_{n0}^i + X_{n0}^i) (a \partial_n q) q\}, \end{aligned}$$

with $Y_{00}^i := 2s^{-1} \varphi_i^{-1} Q_{00}^i + X_{00}^i$, $Q_{n0}^i := s^2 \lambda^2 \varphi_i^2 [a |\nabla \beta_i|^2]$. We set

$$R^i := \begin{pmatrix} Q_{nn}^i & Q_{n\tau}^i & Q_{n0}^i \\ Q_{n\tau}^i & Q_{\tau\tau}^i I_{n-1} & {}^t 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \\ Q_{n0}^i & 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & 2Q_{00}^i \end{pmatrix}, \quad X^i := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & X_{n0}^i \\ {}^t 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & 0_{n-1} & {}^t 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \\ X_{n0}^i & 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & Y_{00}^i \end{pmatrix},$$

and $R'_i := e^{-2s\eta_i} R^i$, $X'_i := e^{-2s\eta_i} X^i$, $R' := \sum_{i=1,2} R'_i$, $X' := \sum_{i=1,2} X'_i$, $P := R' + X'$. We prove that $P \geq 0$ on S for s sufficiently large.

Firstly, note that if $x \in S^0$ then $P = 0_{n+1}$, since $[a(x)] = 0$.

Let $L^i(x)$, $i = 1, 2$, be the $(n+1)$ sized strictly positive diagonal matrix with $L^i_{jj} = 1$, $j \leq n$, and $L^i_{n+1,n+1}(x) = s\lambda\varphi_i(x)$ for $x \in S$. Thus $R^i = [a] s\lambda\varphi_i L^i \mathcal{M}^i L^i$.

Let $x \in V \cap S^+$. Note that $X^i_{00} = 0$ since $[a\partial_n\beta_i(x)] = 0$, and that $X^i_{n0} = Q^i_{00} = Y^i_{00} = 0$. Thus $X'(x) = 0_{n+1}$. Since $[a(x)] \geq 0$, $\mathcal{M}^2(x) \geq 0$ and $\mathcal{M}^1(x) = -\mathcal{M}^2(x) \leq 0$, we thus have $R^2(x) \geq 0$ and $R^1(x) \leq 0$. From $\beta_2(x) \geq \beta_1(x)$ we obtain $\varphi_2(x) \geq \varphi_1(x)$, $\eta_2(x) \leq \eta_1(x)$, $e^{-2s\eta_2(x)} \geq e^{-2s\eta_1(x)}$ and $L^2(x) \geq L^1(x)$. We thus obtain $R'_2(x) \geq -R'_1(x)$, $R'(x) \geq 0$, and $P(x) \geq 0$.

Similarly we obtain $P(x) \geq 0$ for any $x \in V \cap S^-$.

Let $x \in S^+ \setminus V$. We have $\mathcal{M}^2(x) \geq r > 0$ for some $r \geq 0$ that do not depend of x and $X^2 = [a] \lambda L^2 \mathcal{Y}^2 L^2$ where the matrix $\mathcal{Y}^2$ does not depend on s and λ . So $s^{-1}|\mathcal{Y}^2(x)| \leq \frac{1}{4}\mathcal{M}^2(x)$ for s sufficiently large, X^2 is a perturbation term for R^2 of order $s^{-1}\varphi_2^{-1}$, and $R'_2 + X'_2 \geq \frac{3}{4}R'_2$. Then we have $\mathcal{M}^2(x) \geq r > 0$ and $\beta_2(x) \geq \beta_1(x) + r$ for some $r \geq 0$ that does not depend of x . Thus $L^2(x) \geq L^1(x)$ and $e^{-2s\eta_1(x)}$ is a perturbation term for $e^{-2s\eta_2(x)}$ of order s^{-1} (at least). Consequently we have $R'_2(x) + R'_1(x) + X'_2(x) \geq \frac{1}{4}R'_2(x)$ if s is sufficiently large, uniformly for $x \in S^+ \setminus V$. Thus $P(x) \geq 0$.

Similarly we obtain $P(x) \geq 0$ for any $x \in S^- \setminus V$.

Consequently, if s is sufficiently large, then $\sum_{i=1,2} J_i \geq 0$.

Then we can complete the computations in [3] and the proof of (2.8).

4. A Particular situation for the case 1

The following result corresponds to the case $S^- = \emptyset$.

Lemma 4.1 *We assume that Γ and S are of class $\mathcal{C}^2$ and $S^+ = S \setminus S^0$ satisfies assumption 2.3. Then there exists a function $\beta \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega})$ that satisfies the following properties.*

- (1) $\beta^k \equiv \beta|_{\Omega_k} \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_k})$, $k = 0, 1$;
- (2) $[\beta] = 0$ and $[a\partial_n\beta_i] = 0$;
- (3) $\beta(x) > 0$, $\forall x \in \overline{\Omega}$.
- (4) There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla\beta| \geq r$ in $\Omega \setminus \omega$.
- (5) β is constant on Γ and $\partial_n\beta(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$.
- (6) There exists $r > 0$ so that if we set

$$\mathcal{M}(x) := \begin{pmatrix} -\rho a \partial_n \beta & \nabla' \beta_i & |\nabla' \beta|^2 - \rho(a \partial_n \beta)^2 \\ {}^t \nabla' \beta & -(a \partial_n \beta) I_{n-1} & {}^t 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} \\ |\nabla' \beta|^2 - \rho(a \partial_n \beta)^2 & 0_{\mathbb{R}^{n-1}} & 2a \partial_n \beta \{ |\nabla' \beta|^2 - \rho(a \partial_n \beta)^2 \} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (4.1)$$

then $\mathcal{M}(x) \geq r > 0$ on S^+ .

We prove this lemma in appendix.

Remark 4.1 We built β independently of the fact that $[a] = 0$ in $S \setminus S^+$. This will be used above (see the Proof of lemma 2.1).

We straightforwardly obtain:

Corollary 4.1 If we modify the weight functions by setting

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi(t, x) &:= \frac{e^{\lambda\beta(x)}}{t(T-t)}, \eta(t, x) := \frac{e^{\lambda\bar{\beta}} - e^{\lambda\beta(x)}}{t(T-t)}, \\ \Pi_j &:= s^j t^{-j} (T-t)^{-j} e^{-2s\eta}, \quad j \in \mathbb{N},\end{aligned}$$

then theorems 2.1 and 2.2 still hold in case 1 with $S^- = \emptyset$.

5. A second Particular situation for the case 1

In this part we assume S^- and S^+ non empty, and S^{00} empty, that is, $d(S^-, S^+) = 0$. Thus for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ there exists two open sets $U_1, U_2 \subset\subset \Omega$ with $d(U_1, U_2) > 0$, $S^+ \subset U_2$, $S^- \subset U_1$, and two functions $\psi_1, \psi_2 \in \mathcal{C}^2(\bar{\Omega})$ such that $\varepsilon \leq \psi_i \leq 1$, $\psi_1 = \varepsilon$ in S^+ , $\psi_1 = 1$ in $\Omega \setminus U^2$, $\psi_2 = \varepsilon$ in S^- , $\psi_2 = 1$ in $\Omega \setminus U^2$.

Let $\beta_2 = \psi_2 \beta$ where β is built as in lemma 4.1 (with the modification $S^+ = S \setminus (S^- \cup S^0)$). See also remark 4.1. Let $\beta_1 = \psi_1 \beta$ where β is defined as in [3, (43) page 629] (with the modification that S^+ is non empty). See also remark 4.1.

We choose $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $\beta_1 \geq \frac{1}{2}\beta_2$ in U_1 and $\beta_2 \geq \frac{1}{2}\beta_1$ in U_2 . Note that $|\nabla\beta_1| \geq r > 0$ in $\Omega \setminus (\omega \cup U_2)$ and $|\nabla\beta_2| \geq r > 0$ in $\Omega \setminus (\omega \cup U_1)$. Thus $|\nabla\beta_1| + |\nabla\beta_2| \geq r > 0$ in $\Omega \setminus \omega$. Then we can easily check that

$$J := \sum_{i=1,2} J_i \geq r \int_{S_T} s \lambda \varphi_i e^{-2s\eta_i} \{ |a \partial_n q|^2 + |\nabla' q|^2 + s^2 \lambda^2 \varphi^2 |q|^2 \}.$$

for some $r > 0$ and for s sufficiently large. Hence with this modified function β , the conclusion of corollary 4.1 holds again in this situation.

6. Proof for the case 2

We prove the part of theorems 2.1, 2.2 corresponding to Case 2.

Thanks to the computations in [3, Proof of theorem 3.4] and to the properties of the Carleman weights that originate from lemma 2.2, we can complete the proof of these theorems in the case 2.

Remark 6.1 If S^- is empty or, more generally, if S^{00} is empty, then we are as in the first or the second particular situations above – see sections 4, 5 but corresponding to case 2. Then, by following lemma 4.1 and section 5, we can prove theorems 2.1 and 2.2 (in case 2) by introducing only one function β . This is as corollary 4.1, but in the situation of case 2.

7. Appendix

7.1. Proof of lemma 4.1

Step 1 - Let S' be an extension of S^+ inside Ω_0 of class $\mathcal{C}^2$, that separates Ω in two open sets Ω'_0 and Ω'_1 , with $\omega \subset\subset \Omega'_0 \subset\subset \Omega$. We denote by n' the unit vector field on S' with $n'(x)$ pointing towards Ω'_0 . We are thus in the situation of [3, case 2, page 1] with the prime suppressed, but $a_j \in W^{1,\infty}(\Omega_j)$ only (that is not a problem as we pointed in comment 1. of §2.5). So at this point we could conclude with two β_j functions. In fact, we can use only one. This has a the great advantage for the inverse problem treatment: one measurement instead of two (see [4]).

Indeed, we construct a function $\beta' \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega'_0})$ satisfying

- $\beta'(x) > 0, \forall x \in \overline{\Omega'_0}$,
- $\beta'|_{\Gamma}$ is constant and $\partial_n \beta'(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$,
- $\beta'|_{S'}$ is constant and $\partial_{n'} \beta'(x) > 0$ for any $x \in S'$,
- There exists $r > 0$ such that $|\nabla \beta'| \geq r$ in $\Omega'_0 \setminus \omega$.

All these points can be checked by following [3, Proof of lemma 3.2, Steps 4, 5, 6]. (Concerning the last point, we use there the fact that each connected component of Ω'_0 contains part of ω , thanks to assumption 2.3).

Note that we have $\partial_n \beta'(x) < 0$ for any $x \in S \cap S'$, since $n' = -n$ on $S \cap S'$.

We set $\beta = \beta'$ in $\overline{\Omega_1}$.

Step 2 - Following [3, Proof of Lemma 3.1, Steps 2, 3, 4], we then extend β in Ω_0 such that

- (i) $\beta \in \mathcal{C}^0(\overline{\Omega})$; $\beta^k \equiv \beta|_{\Omega_k} \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_k})$, $k = 0, 1$; $\partial_n \beta^0 = \frac{a_1}{a_0} \partial_n \beta^1$ on S . (Thus β satisfies the transmission conditions on S : $[\beta] = 0$ and $[a \partial_n \beta] = 0$).
- (ii) $\beta(x) > 0, \forall x \in \overline{\Omega}$.
- (iii) There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla \beta| \geq r$ in $\Omega \setminus \omega$.

(Concerning point (iii), we use there the fact that each connected component of Ω_0 contains part of ω , thanks to assumption 1.2).

We thus have $\nabla' \beta(x) = 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma \cup S^+$, and, for any $x \in S^+ \subset S \cap S'$, $\mathcal{M}(x) \geq r' > 0$. (Here, setting $\alpha \equiv a \partial_n \beta$, the value

$$r' = \min_{x \in S^+} \alpha(x) \min(1, \rho(x) \frac{\alpha^2(x)}{1 + 2\alpha^2(x)})$$

is suitable).

7.2. Proof of lemma 2.1

We will use the following lemma:

Lemma 7.1 *Let $r > 0$ and, for any ε sufficiently small, let ϕ_ε be a $\mathcal{C}^2$ diffeomorphism defined in a neighbourhood $\overline{U}$ of S such that $\|\phi_\varepsilon - Id\|_\infty < \varepsilon$, $|J(\phi_\varepsilon) - 1| < \varepsilon$, where $J(\phi_\varepsilon)$ denotes the jacobian of ϕ_ε . We assume that $S_\varepsilon := \phi_\varepsilon(S) \subset U_1$, $U_1 := U \cap \Omega_1$, and we denote by n_ε the unit normal on S_ε pointing towards S .*

Let h_1, h_2 be two functions in $\mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_1})$ with $h_1 - h_2 \circ \phi_\varepsilon \geq r$, $g_1 \geq r$ on S and $g_2 \geq r$ on S_ε , where we set $g_1 := \partial_n h_1$ on S , $g_2 = \partial_{n_\varepsilon} h_2$ on S_ε .

Then there exists $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that for any $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0]$ there exist in $\overline{U_1}$ a neighbourhood $\overline{U_\varepsilon}$ of S containing S_ε and a function $h \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{U_\varepsilon})$ so that $h = h_1$ on S , $h = h_2$ on S_ε , $\partial_n h = g_1$ on S , $\partial_{n_\varepsilon} h = g_2$ on S_ε , and $|\nabla h| \geq \frac{1}{2}r$ for any $x \in \overline{U_\varepsilon}$.

Proof

Denote by p the orthogonal projection on S , defined in a neighbourhood U' of S in Ω . Then $p \in \mathcal{C}^2(U')$. We set $q := Id - p \in \mathcal{C}^2(U')$. Let $U_\varepsilon := \{tp(x) + (1-t)x; 0 < t < 1; x \in S_\varepsilon\}$. Note that for any $z \in \overline{U_\varepsilon}$ there exists a unique $(t, x) \in [0, 1] \times S_\varepsilon$ so that $z = tp(x) + (1-t)x$, and $z \mapsto (t, x)$ is of class $\mathcal{C}^2$. We set $\psi \in \mathcal{C}_0^\infty([-1, 1])$ such that $0 \leq \psi \leq 1$, $\psi = 1$ in $[0, \frac{1}{4}]$, $\psi = 0$ in $[\frac{3}{4}, 1]$. We set $h(z) = (1 - \psi(t))h_1(z) + \psi(t)h_2(z)$. Thus $h = h_1$ (respectively $h = h_2$) on a neighbourhood of S (respectively S_ε). Moreover we have $\partial_t h(z) = -((1 - \psi(t))\nabla h_1(z) + \psi(t)\nabla h_2(z)) \cdot q(x) + \psi'(t)(h_2(z) - h_1(z))$. Since $h_1 - h_2 \circ \phi_\varepsilon \geq r > 0$ on S , then there exists $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ so that $h_1(z) > h_2(z')$ for all $\varepsilon \in (0, \varepsilon_0)$ and all $z, z' \in \overline{U_\varepsilon}$. On the other hand if $x \in S_\varepsilon$ then $q(x) = -|q(x)|n(p(x))$, $|q(x)| = O(\varepsilon)$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ and $z = tp(x) + (1-t)x = p(x) + (1-t)q(x) = p(x) + O(\varepsilon)$. Thus we have $\nabla h_1(z) \cdot q(x) = -g_1(p(x))|q(x)|(1 + O(\varepsilon)) < 0$ and $\nabla h_2(z) \cdot q(x) = -g_2(x)|q(x)|(1 + O(\varepsilon)) < 0$ as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$. Hence if ε is sufficiently small we obtain $\partial_t h(z) \geq \frac{1}{2}r$ for any $z \in \overline{U_\varepsilon}$. $\square$

Let us prove lemma 2.1 in 6 steps. We successively construct $\beta_2|_{S'}$, $(a\partial_{n'}\beta_2)|_{S'}$, β_2 in Ω , $\beta_1|_S$, $(a\partial_n\beta_1)|_S$, β_1 in Ω .

Step 1 - Let S' be the interface between Ω'_0 and Ω'_1 that extends S^+ inside Ω_0 . Thus $S^{00} \subset S \cap S'$. Let h_0 be the function of assumption 2.4 defined in $V \subset S$ and let $\tilde{h}_0 \in \mathcal{C}^2(W)$ be an extension to $W \subset \Omega$, as explained in remark 2.3.

We set $V' = W \cap S'$ of S^{00} and $h' = 2 + \tilde{h}_0$ in V' . Then h' can be extended to S' so that

- $h' \in \mathcal{C}^2(S')$;
- $3 \geq h'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S'$;
- $h'(x) > 2$ for all $x \in S^+$.

Note that $h' = 2$ on S^{00} , $h'(x) < 2$ for all $x \in V \cap S^-$, and $\nabla' h'(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in V'$. We then consider $g' \in \mathcal{C}^1(S')$ defined on V' by

$$g' = \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}|\nabla' h'|,$$

and satisfying $g'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S'$.

Step 2 - Corollary 1.3.4 of [12, Volume I] shows that there exists a positive function β' defined in a neighbourhood $U_0 \subset \overline{\Omega'_0}$ of S' with $\beta' \in C^2(U_0)$, $\beta'|_{S'} = h'$ and $\partial_{n'}\beta' = \frac{1}{a_1}g'$ on S' .

Thanks to assumption 2.3 and as in Proof of Lemma 4.1, Step 1, we then extend β' into Ω'_0 , so that

- $\beta' \in C^0(\overline{\Omega'_0})$;
- $\beta'(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega'_0}$;
- $\beta'|_{\Gamma}$ is constant and $\partial_n\beta'(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$.
- There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla\beta'| \geq r$ in $\Omega'_0 \setminus \omega$.

We set $\beta_2 = \beta'$ in $\overline{\Omega_1}$.

Step 3 - Thanks to assumption 1.2 and as in Proof of Lemma 4.1, Step 2, we then extend β_2 into Ω_0 , so that

- $\beta_2 \in C^0(\overline{\Omega})$, $\beta_2|_{\Omega_k} \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_k})$;
- $\beta_2(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega}$;
- $\beta_2|_{\Gamma}$ is constant and $\partial_n\beta_2(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$.
- There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla\beta_2| \geq r$ in $\Omega \setminus \omega$.
- $[a\partial_n\beta_2] = 0$ on S .

Note that $(a\partial_n\beta_2)(x) = -g'(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \overline{S^+}$.

Step 4 - Thanks to the properties of h' (cf. step 1) we have $3 \geq \beta_2(x) > 2$ for $x \in S^+$ and $\beta_2(x) < 2$ for $x \in V \cap S^-$. Thus there exists $h \in C^2(S)$ with the following properties:

- $h = 4 - \beta_2$ in $\overline{S^+} \cup V$;
- $h(x) > \beta_2(x)$ for all $x \in S^-$,
- $h(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S$.

Note that $h = 2$ on S^{00} , $h(x) < \beta_2(x)$ for any $x \in S^+$, $h(x) > \beta_2(x)$ for any $x \in S^-$, and $\nabla'\beta_2(x) \neq 0$ for all $x \in V$. We then consider $g \in C^1(S)$ defined in V by

$$g = \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}|\nabla'h|,$$

and satisfying $g(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S$. Note that $g = \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}|\nabla'\beta_2|$ in V .

Step 5 - Corollary 1.3.4 of [12, Volume I] implies that there exists a positive function β defined in a neighbourhood $U \subset \overline{\Omega_0}$ of S with $\beta \in C^2(U)$, $\beta|_S = h$ and $\partial_n\beta = \frac{1}{a_0}g$ on S .

Thanks to assumption 1.2 and as in Proof of Lemma 4.1, Step 2, we then extend β into Ω_0 so that

- $\beta \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_0})$;
- $\beta(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega_0}$;
- There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla\beta| \geq r$ in $\Omega_0 \setminus \omega$.

Step 6 - Corollary 1.3.4 of [12, Volume I] implies that there exists a positive function α defined in a neighbourhood $\overline{U_1} \subset \overline{\Omega_1}$ of S with $\alpha \in C^2(\overline{U_1})$, $\alpha|_S = h$ and $\partial_n \alpha = g$ on S . Moreover we can choose U_1 so that $\alpha(x) > 0$ and $\nabla \alpha(x) \neq 0$ for $x \in \overline{U_1}$.

For $\varepsilon > 0$ we set $V_\varepsilon^1 := \{x \in \overline{\Omega_1}; d(x, S) < \varepsilon\}$, $\Omega_1^\varepsilon = \Omega_1 \setminus \overline{V_\varepsilon^1}$ and $S_\varepsilon := \{x \in \overline{\Omega_1}; d(x, S) = \varepsilon\}$. We notice that if ε is sufficiently small then S_ε satisfies the condition in lemma 7.1 (with some ϕ_ε) and $(\Omega_1^\varepsilon, S_\varepsilon)$ satisfies assumption 2.1. The proof of [3, Lemma 3.1, Step 1] with (Ω_1, S) replaced by $(\Omega_1^\varepsilon, S_\varepsilon)$ shows that there exists a function $\beta_3 \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_1^\varepsilon})$ such that

- $\beta_3(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega_1^\varepsilon}$;
- $\beta_3|_\Gamma$ is constant and $\partial_n \beta_3(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$;
- $\beta_3|_{S_\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{2} \min_{\overline{U_1}} \alpha$ on S_ε .
- There exists $r' > 0$ so that $|\nabla \beta_3| \geq r'$ in $\overline{\Omega_1^\varepsilon}$.

Moreover, we can extend β_3 in V_ε^1 in such a way that $\beta_3 \in C^2(\overline{\Omega_1})$ and $\beta_3(\phi_\varepsilon(x)) < \alpha(x)$ for $x \in S$. Then we apply lemma 7.1 with $h_1 = \alpha$, $h_2 = \beta_3$, and we denote by $h_3 \in C^2(\overline{U_\varepsilon})$ the resulting function h of lemma 7.1.

We set $\beta_1 = \beta_3$ in $\overline{\Omega_1^\varepsilon}$ and $\beta_1 = h_3$ in $V_\varepsilon^1 \subset \overline{U_\varepsilon}$. In fact, in such a way, the property $\beta_1|_{\Omega_1} \in C^2(\Omega_1)$ fails, but we can use the argument at the end of [3, proof of Lemma 3.1, Step 1]. This shows that we can extend $\beta_1|_{\Omega_0}$ into Ω_1 as we wish.

7.3. Proof of lemma 2.2

We follow the proof of lemma 2.1 by pointing the modifications. We consider an interface S' between Ω'_0 and Ω'_1 that extends S^+ inside Ω_0 .

Step 1 - We construct a neighbourhood $V' \subset S'$ of S^{00} , $h' \in C^2(S')$ and $g' \in C^1(S')$ so that

- $h' = 2$ on S^{00} ,
- $3 \geq h'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S'$,
- $h'(x) > 2$ for all $x \in S^+$,
- $h'(x) < 2$ for all $x \in V \cap S^-$,
- $g' = \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}} |\nabla' h'|$ in V' ,
- $g'(x) > 0$ for any $x \in S'$.

Step 2 - Thanks to assumption 2.3, there exists a positive function β' defined in Ω'_0 so that

- $\beta' \in C^0(\overline{\Omega'_0})$ and $\beta'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in \overline{\Omega'_0}$;
- There exists $r > 0$ so that $|\nabla \beta'| \geq r$ in $\Omega'_0 \setminus \omega$.

We set $\beta_2 = \beta'$ in $\overline{\Omega_1}$.

Step 3 - Thanks to assumption 1.2 and as in Proof of Lemma 4.1, Step 2, we then extend β_2 into Ω_0 , so that

- $\beta_2|_{\Omega_k} \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_k})$ and $\beta_2(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega}$;
- $[\beta_2] = 0$ and $[a\partial_n\beta_2] = 0$ on S .
- $\beta_2|_\Gamma$ is constant and $\partial_n\beta_2(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \Gamma$.
- There exists $r > 0$ such that $|\nabla\beta_2| \geq r$ in $\Omega \setminus \omega$.

Note that $(a\partial_n\beta_2)(x) = -g'(x) < 0$ for any $x \in \overline{S^+}$.

Step 4 - There exist functions $h \in \mathcal{C}^2(S)$, $g \in \mathcal{C}^1(S)$ so that:

- $h = 2$ on S^{00} , $h = 4 - \beta_2$ in $\overline{S^+} \cup V$;
- $h(x) < \beta_2(x)$ for all $x \in S^+$, $h(x) > \beta_2(x)$ for all $x \in S^-$, $h(x) > 0$ for all $x \in S$;
- $g = \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}|\nabla'h| = \rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}|\nabla'\beta_2|$ in V and $g(x) > 0$ for any $x \in S$.

Step 5 - Following Step 5 of the proof of lemma 2.1, there exist $r > 0$ and a function $\beta_1 \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_0})$ so that

- $\beta_1|_S = h$ and $\partial_n\beta_1 = \frac{1}{a_0}g$ on S ;
- $\beta_1|_\Gamma$ is constant and $\partial_n\beta_1(x) < 0$ for all $x \in \Gamma$;
- $\beta_1(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega_0}$;
- $|\nabla\beta_1|(x) \geq r > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega_0} \setminus \omega$.

Step 6 - We then extend β_1 into Ω_1 so that

- $\beta_1|_{\Omega_1} \in \mathcal{C}^2(\overline{\Omega_1})$, and $\beta_1(x) > 0$ for any $x \in \overline{\Omega_1}$,
- $[\beta_1] = 0$ and $[a\partial_n\beta_1] = 0$ on S ,
- $|\nabla\beta_1| \geq r' > 0$ in $\Omega_1 \setminus B$,
- $\beta_1|_{\mathcal{O}} = \frac{1}{2} \min \beta_2|_{\overline{\Omega_1}} > 0$ and $\partial_n\beta_1(x) > 0$ for all $x \in \mathcal{O}$.

(We follow [3, Steps 1, 2 of the Proof of Lemma 3.2] for the construction of β_1 near $\partial\mathcal{O}$ and steps 5, 6 of lemma 2.1 for the extension of β_1 near S).

Step 7 - As in [3, Step 3, Proof of Lemma 3.2] we can construct β_1 so that $\beta_1 \leq \frac{1}{2}\beta_2$ in $\mathcal{O}$.

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