

# TRAVEL TIME TOMOGRAPHY IN STATIONARY SPACETIMES

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we consider the boundary rigidity problem on a cylindrical domain in  $\mathbb{R}^{1+n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , equipped with a stationary (time-invariant) Lorentzian metric. We show that the time separation function between pairs of points on the boundary of the cylindrical domain determines the stationary spacetime, up to some time-invariant diffeomorphism, assuming that the metric satisfies some a-priori conditions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN RESULTS

Many inverse problems arise naturally in the study of physical astronomy. This is because modern astronomical observations are typically remotely sensed and need to be transformed into stable and physically meaningful representation of the source, and such transformations are normally accomplished by solving certain inverse problems. As the general theory of relativity proposes Lorentzian geometry as the underlying structure of spacetime, a suitable formulation of these problems is in such a geometric setting. For this reason inverse problems in Lorentzian geometry have been drawing more attention recently, see for instance [3, 23, 18, 21, 14]. The goal of these works is to determine some properties of the geometry from various timelike or lightlike observations.

In this article we are interested in determining certain almost-flat Lorentzian metrics from the measurement of time separation functions. We start by recalling some terminologies from Lorentzian geometry in order to formulate the problem. Given a Lorentzian manifold  $(M, g)$  of signature  $(-1, 1, \dots, 1)$ , a point  $p \in M$  is referred to as an event. A non-zero tangent vector  $\zeta$  is called *timelike*, *null* or *spacelike* if  $g(\zeta, \zeta) < 0, = 0$ , or  $> 0$ , resp. Given a smooth curve  $\gamma$ , we say  $\gamma$  is *timelike*, *null* or *spacelike* if  $\dot{\gamma}(s)$  is timelike, null or spacelike for each  $s$ , with the addition that  $\gamma$  is called *causal* if  $\dot{\gamma}(s)$  is either timelike or null for each  $s$ . We say  $M$  is *time-orientable* if there exists a global smooth timelike vector field  $X$  on  $M$ . Given such an  $X$ , we say that a tangent vector  $\zeta$  is *future-pointing* if  $g(\zeta, X) < 0$  and *past-pointing* if  $g(\zeta, X) > 0$ . We use the notation  $z \ll y$  if there exists a future-pointing timelike curve starting at  $z$  and ending at  $y$  (i.e.,  $y$  is in the future of  $z$ , or alternatively,  $z$  is in the past of  $y$ ) and  $z \leq y$  if there is a future-pointing causal curve starting at  $z$  and ending at  $y$ . The set  $I^+(z) := \{y : z \ll y\}$  is called the chronological future of  $z$ , and the set  $J^+(z) := \{y : z \leq y\}$  is called the causal future of  $z$ .

**Definition 1.1** ([27] Chapter 14, Definition 15). For a causal curve  $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow M$ , let

$$L(\gamma) := \int_a^b \sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu}(\gamma(s))\dot{\gamma}^\mu(s)\dot{\gamma}^\nu(s)} ds.$$

We define the *time separation function*  $\tau_g$  as

$$\tau_g(z, y) = \begin{cases} \sup\{L(\gamma) : \gamma \text{ is a causal curve from } z \text{ to } y\} & \text{if } y \in J^+(z), \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Given two events  $z, y \in M$  with  $z \ll y$ , there exists a future-pointing timelike curve from  $z$  to  $y$ . After a reparametrization we may assume  $\gamma : [0, T] \rightarrow M$  with  $g(\dot{\gamma}(s), \dot{\gamma}(s)) = -1$  and  $\gamma(0) = z, \gamma(T) = y$ . It is easy to see that  $T = L(\gamma)$  and we will call  $T$  the *proper time* between  $z$  and  $y$ . It has the physical interpretation that this is the elapsed time recorded by a clock which passes through  $z$  and  $y$  along  $\gamma$  in the spacetime. When the supremum is taken on,  $\tau_g(z, y)$  is the proper time of the slowest trip in  $M$  from  $z$  to  $y$ . If  $\tau_g(z, y) > 0$ , one can check that the maximum is achieved when  $\gamma$  is a timelike geodesic from  $z$  to  $y$ . The function  $\tau_g$  involves time orientation hence is not symmetric except for the trivial case. Some basic properties of time separation functions are studied in [23, Lemma 5].

Let  $(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}, g_0)$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , be the standard Minkowski spacetime with  $g_0$  the Minkowski metric of the signature  $(-1, 1, \dots, 1)$ , i.e.  $g_0 = -dt^2 + e = -dt^2 + (dx^1)^2 + \dots + (dx^n)^2$  with  $e$  the standard Euclidean metric. Let  $g_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$  be two *standard stationary* Lorentzian metrics on  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ , such that

$$(1) \quad g_j(t, x) = -\lambda_j(x)dt^2 + \omega_j(x) \otimes dt + dt \otimes \omega_j(x) + h_j(x), \quad j = 1, 2.$$

Here  $\lambda_j$  is a smooth positive function and  $\omega_j$  is a smooth one-form defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $h_j$  is a smooth Riemannian metric on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , so the metric  $g_j$  is time invariant. The vector field  $\partial_t$  defines the global orientation.

Stationary spacetimes provide examples of solutions to the Einstein field equations [8, 9] of general relativity, including the Kerr metric [17] which models the vacuum spacetime around an uncharged rotational black hole. Recent studies on the stationary spacetimes, especially some rigidity results can be found in e.g. [2, 15, 5, 16, 1, 6, 25]. There is also recent work on the spectral theory and trace formula for stationary spacetimes [41]. When  $\omega_j(x) \equiv 0$  in (1), the metric is said to be *static*. Static spacetimes, as a special type of stationary spacetimes, are irrotational, for example the Schwarzschild metric [31, 7] which describes uncharged non-rotating black holes. In the current paper, we focus on stationary metrics close to the Minkowski metric  $g_0$ . Such metrics can be used to describe the spacetime structure far away from the source of gravitational matter, e.g. a star or black hole, where the gravitational field is very weak. They are also related to the linearization approach of solving Einstein field equations.

We denote by  $\Omega$  a bounded domain in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . We assume that  $\partial\Omega$  is strictly convex w.r.t. the Euclidean metric, and  $g_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , differ from the Minkowski metric  $g_0$  only on the cylindrical domain  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . We measure the time separation function  $\tau_{g_j}$  of pairs of points on the boundary  $\mathbb{R} \times \partial\Omega$ . In the meantime, since  $g_j$  is time invariant, it suffices to restrict the measurement on  $\Gamma := [0, T] \times \partial\Omega$  for some  $T > 0$  sufficiently large (depending on the metric  $g_j$  and the domain  $\Omega$ ). The question we would like to consider is the following: does  $\tau_{g_1}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma} = \tau_{g_2}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma}$  imply  $g_1 = g_2$ ? Notice that  $g_1 = g_2 = g_0$  outside  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ .

The answer is no in general. An obvious obstruction exists: let  $\psi : \bar{\Omega} \rightarrow \bar{\Omega}$  be a diffeomorphism with  $\psi|_{\partial\Omega} = Id$ , and define the diffeomorphism  $\Psi : \mathbb{R} \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times \Omega$  by  $\Psi(t, x) := (t, \psi(x))$ , i.e.  $\Psi = Id \times \psi$ . Then it is easy to check that  $\tau_{\Psi^*g}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma} = \tau_g|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma}$ . This suggests that the above question should be considered modulo such diffeomorphisms.

To obtain an affirmative answer to the above question, we will impose further restrictions on the metrics, namely  $g_j$  is close to  $g_0$ . To be more precise, let  $C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})$  denote the space of  $k$ -differentiable tensors  $f$  with  $\partial^\alpha f = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  for  $|\alpha| \leq k$ , we require that for  $j = 1, 2$ ,

$$(2) \quad \|\lambda_j - 1\|_{C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})} < \epsilon, \quad \|\omega_j\|_{C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})} < \epsilon, \quad \|h_j - e\|_{C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})} < \epsilon$$

for some small  $\epsilon > 0$  and some index  $k$  to be specified later. It's useful to mention that the convexity of  $\partial\Omega$  is preserved under small perturbation of the metric. Moreover, we impose the following compatible condition for  $\omega_j$  and  $h_j$ .

**Definition 1.2.** Given a standard stationary Lorentzian metric

$$g = -\lambda dt^2 + \omega \otimes dt + dt \otimes \omega + h$$

on  $\mathbb{R}^{1+n}$ , which differs from the Minkowski metric  $g_0$  only on  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ . Suppose  $g$  is close to  $g_0$  in the sense of (2) for  $\epsilon > 0$  sufficiently small. We say that  $g$  satisfies the *orthogonal assumption* if there exists a hyperplane  $H \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega$ , so that  $\omega(\dot{\sigma}) = 0$  along any geodesic  $\sigma$ , w.r.t. the Riemannian metric  $h$ , normal to  $H$ .

Given two such metrics  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  satisfying the orthogonal assumption w.r.t. the same hyperplane  $H$ . We say that  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  satisfy the *spatial distance assumption* w.r.t. the hyperplane  $H$  if  $d_{h_1}(x, y) = d_{h_2}(x, y)$  for all  $x, y \in \partial\Omega$  with  $x - y$  almost normal (in Euclidean product) to  $H$ , i.e. the angle between  $x - y$  and  $H$  is in some small neighborhood of  $\pi/2$ . Here  $d_h$  is the Riemannian distance function w.r.t. metric  $h$ .

The orthogonal assumption implies that there exist global coordinates  $(x^1, \dots, x^n)$ , in which  $\omega$  can be written as  $\omega = \omega_2 dx^2 + \dots + \omega_n dx^n$ , i.e.  $\omega_1 \equiv 0$ . The spatial distance assumption also appears in [42] on the stability estimate of the Riemannian boundary rigidity problem. On the other hand, the spatial dimension is  $\geq 2$ , the spatial distance assumption only requires that  $d_{h_1} = d_{h_2}$  on a small subset of  $\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega$ . See Section 2.2 for the details.

Next we define sets of pairs of stationary metrics satisfying some a-priori estimates

$$\mathcal{G}_K := \{(g_1, g_2) : \|g_1 - g_2\|_{H^2(\bar{\Omega})} \leq K \|g_1 - g_2\|_{H^1(\bar{\Omega})}\}, \quad K \geq 1.$$

We have the following main result of this article.

**Theorem 1.3.** *Let  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  be two standard stationary Lorentzian metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^{1+n}$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , which differ from the standard Minkowski metric  $g_0$  only on  $\bar{\Omega}$ , and  $(g_1, g_2) \in \mathcal{G}_K$  for some constant  $K \geq 1$ . Suppose these metrics are close to  $g_0$  in the  $C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})$ -norm,  $k \geq 2n + 6$ , in the sense of (2) for some sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$  (depending on  $K$ ), and satisfy the orthogonal and spatial distance assumption w.r.t. the same hyperplane  $H$ . There exists  $T_0 > 0$  depending on  $\Omega$  and  $\epsilon$ , for any  $T > T_0$ , if  $\Gamma = [0, T] \times \partial\Omega$  and*

$$\tau_{g_1}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma} = \tau_{g_2}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma},$$

then there exists a diffeomorphism  $\psi$  on  $\bar{\Omega}$  with  $\psi|_{\partial\Omega} = Id$ , such that for  $\Psi = Id \times \psi$ ,  $g_2 = \Psi^*g_1$ .

Note that  $g_2 = \Psi^*g_1$  is equivalent to the statement that  $\lambda_2 = \psi^*\lambda_1$ ,  $\omega_2 = \psi^*\omega_1$  and  $h_2 = \psi^*h_1$ .

There are very few rigidity results with respect to the time separation function  $\tau_g$  in the Lorentzian context. It is known that the time separation function determines the Lorentzian metrics, up to diffeomorphism, on flat two dimensional product Lorentzian manifolds [3] and on universal covering spaces of real-analytic Lorentzian manifolds [23] (under additional assumptions). Our result works for smooth Lorentzian metrics in dimensions 3 and higher.

An analogous inverse problem in Riemannian geometry exists and has been extensively studied. The problem is typically known as the *boundary rigidity problem*, and it asks to what extent can one determine a Riemannian metric on a compact smooth manifold with boundary from the distance between boundary points. In geophysical literature, this problem is known as the *travel time tomography*, which is concerned with the recovery of the inner structure of the Earth from the travel times of seismic waves at the surface [13, 44]. Rigidity results have been established when the metrics are close to the Euclidean one [36, 24, 4]. For general geometry, Michel conjectured that simple manifolds are boundary rigid [26]. We recall that a compact Riemannian manifold with boundary is *simple* if the boundary is strictly convex and any two points can be joined by a unique distance minimizing geodesic. Boundary rigidity is shown on simple Riemannian surfaces [30] and generic simple metrics in dimensions  $\geq 3$  [37], including the real-analytic ones. We refer to the recent survey [40] and the references therein for the developments in the Riemannian case.

Theorem 1.3 is a generalization of the Riemannian case [36] to the Lorentzian geometry. When the Lorentzian metric  $g = -dt^2 + h$  on  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ , where  $h$  is a Riemannian metric, then it is easy to check that the spatial projection of an arbitrary time-like geodesic is a Riemannian geodesic w.r.t. the metric  $h$ . In particular, one can determine the time separation function  $\tau_g$  from the length of Riemannian geodesics connecting the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  w.r.t.  $h$ . Now a weaker version of the main result of [36] follows immediately from Theorem 1.3. Notice that [36] considers only the 3 dimensional case, we improve the method so that it works in any dimension  $\geq 2$ . Let  $d_h : \partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be the Riemannian boundary distance function.

**Corollary 1.4.** *Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  be two Riemannian metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , which differ from the Euclidean metric  $e$  only on  $\bar{\Omega}$ , and  $(h_1, h_2) \in \mathcal{G}_K$  for some constant  $K \geq 1$ . Suppose  $\|h_j - e\|_{C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})} \leq \epsilon$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $k \geq 2n + 6$ , for some sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$  (depending on  $K$ ), and*

$$d_{h_1}|_{\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega} = d_{h_2}|_{\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega},$$

then there exists a diffeomorphism  $\psi$  on  $\bar{\Omega}$  with  $\psi|_{\partial\Omega} = Id$ , such that  $h_2 = \psi^*h_1$ .

The assumption that  $(h_1, h_2) \in \mathcal{G}_K$  for some  $K \geq 1$  is not needed in [36]. Indeed, for the Riemannian case, by combining the ideas of [36] and the current article, we can drop this assumption, and generalize the main theorem of [36] to arbitrary dimension  $\geq 2$ .

**Theorem 1.5.** *Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  be two Riemannian metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , which differ from the Euclidean metric  $e$  only on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . Suppose  $\|h_j - e\|_{C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})} \leq \epsilon$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $k \geq 2n + 6$ , for some sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$ , and*

$$d_{h_1}|_{\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega} = d_{h_2}|_{\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega},$$

*then there exists a diffeomorphism  $\psi$  on  $\bar{\Omega}$  with  $\psi|_{\partial\Omega} = Id$ , such that  $h_2 = \psi^*h_1$ .*

To prove the main theorem, we adopt an approach similar to the one of [36]. We first show that the time separation function determines the scattering relation of the Hamiltonian flow of time-like geodesics. Then a key ingredient of the method is an integral identity derived in [36]. In our case, it implies that the difference of the scattering relations of  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  (in coordinates) equals some weighted ray transform of  $g_1 - g_2$  and  $\nabla(g_1 - g_2)$  along time-like geodesics. The integral identity also plays an important role in recent advances on boundary and lens rigidity problems for Riemannian metrics [38, 39], and other rigidity problems [19, 46, 29, 20]. The study of the injectivity of this ray transform takes the main part of the current article. We analyze the transform as a Fourier integral operator (FIO), and apply a perturbation argument (note that the metrics are close to the Minkowski metric) to achieve the invertibility. We remark that there are previous studies of ray transforms on Lorentzian manifolds [32, 33, 21, 43, 22, 10, 11], which all consider the case of null geodesics (i.e. light ray transform). In the current paper, we focus on time-like geodesics. Previous studies of weighted (Riemannian) geodesic ray transforms can be found in e.g. [12, 28, 45].

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2 we establish some preliminary results to be used in the proofs later. Section 3 is devoted to the proof of Theorem 1.3. A sketch of the proof of Theorem 1.5 is given in Section 4.

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## 2. PRELIMINARIES

**2.1. Recovering the scattering relation from the time separation function.** We first prove a lemma to be used in the establishment of the main integral identity. The lemma roughly says that two timelike geodesics with respect to  $g_1, g_2$ , respectively which enter  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$  at the same point in the same direction will exit from the same point in the same direction, provided that  $\tau_{g_1}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma} = \tau_{g_2}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma}$ .

Given a Lorentzian manifold  $(M, g)$ , we define the associated Hamiltonian  $H_g := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j,k=0}^n g^{jk} \zeta_j \zeta_k$  where  $g^{-1} = (g^{jk})$  is the inverse of  $g = (g_{jk})$ , and the Hamiltonian vector field

$$V_g := \left( \frac{\partial H_g}{\partial \zeta}, -\frac{\partial H_g}{\partial z} \right).$$

Fix a point  $z_{(0)} \in M$  and a covector  $\zeta^{(0)} \in T_{z_{(0)}}^* M$ , we denote by  $(z_g(s), \zeta_g(s))$  the bi-characteristic curve initiated from  $(z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ , that is, the solution of the Hamiltonian

system, in coordinates  $z = (z^0, z^1, \dots, z^n)$ ,

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{dz_g^j}{ds} = \sum_{l=0}^n g^{jl} \zeta_l, & z_g(0) = z_{(0)} \\ \frac{d\zeta_{g_j}}{ds} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{l,m=0}^n \frac{\partial g^{lm}}{\partial z^j} \zeta_l \zeta_m, & \zeta_g(0) = \zeta^{(0)}. \end{cases}$$

Let us make two definitions on covectors. We say that a covector  $\zeta$  is *timelike* if its dual vector  $g^{-1}\zeta = (g^{ij}\zeta_j)$  is timelike. In the meantime,  $\zeta$  is *future (past) pointing* if its dual vector  $g^{-1}\zeta$  is future (past) pointing.

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $g_j$  ( $j = 1, 2$ ) be two Lorentzian metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^{1+n}$  which differ from  $g_0$  only in  $\mathbb{R} \times \bar{\Omega}$ . Let  $z_{(0)} \in \{0\} \times \partial\Omega$ ,  $\zeta^{(0)} \in T_{z_{(0)}}^* \mathbb{R}^{1+n}$  be a future-pointing timelike covector. Denote by  $(z_{g_j}, \zeta_{g_j})$  the solution to (3) of initial value  $(z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ , with  $g$  replaced by  $g_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . Let  $\ell > 0$  be the first time such that  $z_{g_1}(\ell) \in \Gamma = [0, T] \times \partial\Omega$  for some  $T > 0$  sufficiently large. If  $\tau_{g_1}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma} = \tau_{g_2}|_{\Gamma \times \Gamma}$ , then*

$$z_{g_1}(\ell) = z_{g_2}(\ell) \in \Gamma, \quad \zeta_{g_1}(\ell) = \zeta_{g_2}(\ell).$$

**Remark:** On  $\mathbb{R}^{1+n}$ , we have the global coordinates  $z = (z^0, z^1, \dots, z^n)$  with  $z^0 = t$ ,  $(z^1, \dots, z^n) = x$ . Notice that geodesics have constant speed, i.e.  $|\dot{\zeta}|_g = \text{const}$ , we do not require the curve  $z_{g_j}$  to have unit speed, i.e. the time  $\ell > 0$  does not need to be the proper time.

*Proof.* Consider the gradient  $\nabla_z \tau_{g_j}(z_{(0)}, z)$  for  $z = (t, x) \in I^+(z_{(0)})$ , i.e.  $z$  is in the future of  $z_{(0)}$ . Then by the definition of the time separation function, one can check that

$$(4) \quad g_j(\nabla_z \tau_{g_j}(z_{(0)}, z), \nabla_z \tau_{g_j}(z_{(0)}, z)) = -1.$$

By the assumption  $\tau_{g_1}(z_{(0)}, z) = \tau_{g_2}(z_{(0)}, z)$ , we get that

$$\partial_t \tau_{g_1}(z_{(0)}, z) = \partial_t \tau_{g_2}(z_{(0)}, z), \quad \nabla_T \tau_{g_1}(z_{(0)}, z) = \nabla_T \tau_{g_2}(z_{(0)}, z),$$

where  $\nabla_T$  is the tangential gradient of the spatial variables  $x$  with respect to the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . Notice

$$\nabla_z \tau(z_{(0)}, (t, x)) = (\partial_t \tau(z_{(0)}, (t, x)), \nabla_T \tau(z_{(0)}, (t, x)), \partial_\nu \tau(z_{(0)}, (t, x))),$$

where  $\partial_\nu$  is the spatial normal derivative with respect to  $\partial\Omega$ . Since  $g_1|_\Gamma = g_2|_\Gamma = g_0$ , (4) implies that  $\partial_\nu \tau_{g_1}(z_{(0)}, z) = \partial_\nu \tau_{g_2}(z_{(0)}, z)$ . Therefore

$$\nabla_z \tau_{g_1}(z_{(0)}, z_{g_1}(\ell)) = \nabla_z \tau_{g_2}(z_{(0)}, z_{g_1}(\ell)),$$

which implies that the time-like geodesics  $z_{g_1}$  and  $y_{g_2}$  w.r.t.  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  respectively, connecting points  $z_{(0)}$  and  $z_{g_1}(\ell)$  must be tangent at the end point  $z_{g_1}(\ell)$ . Similarly, one can show that they must be tangent at the initial point  $z_{(0)}$  as well.

We conclude that the  $g_2$  time-like geodesics  $z_{g_2}$  and  $y_{g_2}$  share the same initial data, by the uniqueness of ODEs, this implies that  $z_{g_2} \equiv y_{g_2}$ . In particular, since  $g_1 = g_2$  on  $\Gamma$  and  $\tau_{g_1}(z_{(0)}, z_{g_1}(\ell)) = \tau_{g_2}(z_{(0)}, z_{g_1}(\ell))$ , we get  $z_{g_1}(\ell) = z_{g_2}(\ell)$  and  $\zeta_{g_1}(\ell) = \zeta_{g_2}(\ell)$ .  $\square$

The Riemannian case of the above lemma was established in [26].

**Remark:** A stationary metric  $g$  is invariant in time, therefore even though we only know the information of  $\tau_g(z, y)$  for  $z, y \in \Gamma$ , we have that  $\tau_g(z, y) = \tau_g(\Lambda_s z, \Lambda_s y)$ ,  $\forall s \in \mathbb{R}$ , where  $\Lambda_s$  is the translation by  $s$  in the time direction, i.e.  $\Lambda_s(t, x) = (t + s, x)$ . Therefore, it's enough to consider  $z_{(0)} \in \{0\} \times \partial\Omega$  in Lemma 2.1. On the other hand, in the proof of the main theorem, we only need to take use of those time-like geodesics which are close to light-like ones, i.e. whose tangent vectors are close to light-like ones. The above analysis implies that it suffices to measure the time separation function on  $\Gamma = [0, T] \times \partial\Omega$  for any  $T > T_0$ , where  $T_0$ , roughly speaking, is approximately equal to the (Euclidean) diameter of  $\Omega$ .

**2.2. Pullback of the metrics by diffeomorphisms.** In this part we simplify the form of the metrics  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ . We will see that to solve the original problem, it is enough to consider a similar problem where the two metrics are of special structures and satisfy the same conditions as  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ . In the rest of the paper we name various positive constants which are independent of  $\epsilon$  as  $C$  in the estimates.

Since  $g_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , satisfy the orthogonal assumption for the same hyperplane, there exists a hyperplane  $H \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega$  and global coordinates  $(x^1, x^2, \dots, x^n)$  so that the  $H = \{x^1 = 0\}$ . Recall that

$$g_j = -\lambda_j dt^2 + \omega_j \otimes dt + dt \otimes \omega_j + h_j,$$

the orthogonal assumption implies that  $\omega_j(\dot{\sigma}_j) = 0$  along any  $h_j$ -geodesic  $\sigma_j$  normal to  $H$ .

The assumption that  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  are close to the Euclidean metric implies their bi-characteristics are close to the straight lines in  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ . More precisely, we work in the global coordinates  $(x^1, \dots, x^n)$  induced by the hyperplane  $H$ , for  $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ , denote by  $x = x(s, x_0)$  and  $\xi = \xi(s, x_0)$  the solution to the Hamiltonian system with respect to the  $h$ -geodesic flow

$$(5) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{dx^j}{ds} = \sum_{l=1}^n h^{jl} \xi_l, & x(0) = (0, x_0) \\ \frac{d\xi_j}{ds} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{l,m=1}^n \frac{\partial h^{lm}}{\partial x^j} \xi_l \xi_m, & \xi(0) = (1, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{R}^n. \end{cases}$$

where  $h$  is either  $h_1$  or  $h_2$ . The hypothesis (2) combined with elementary ODE theory claims

$$(6) \quad \|x - (s, x_0)\|_{C^{k-1}} + \|\xi - (1, 0, \dots, 0)\|_{C^{k-1}} \leq C\epsilon$$

for some constant  $C > 0$  which is uniform in  $(s, x_0)$  on compact sets. Notice that  $x(0) \in H \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega$ , so  $h(x(0)) = e$ , which implies that the solution of (5) are geodesics normal to  $H$ .

We make a change of variable to “straighten” the geodesics of  $h$ . Let  $x = x(s, x_0)$  be the solution to the system (5) and let  $y = y(s) := (s, x_0)$ . The latter is actually the solution to the system (5) when  $h = e$ . Define the map  $\psi(y) := x$ . This map is close to

the identity map in the  $C^{k-1}(\bar{\Omega})$  topology due to (6), it is therefore a diffeomorphism. Moreover, the pull-back metric  $\psi^*h$  in the coordinates  $y$  takes the form

$$(7) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ 0_{(n-1) \times 1} & *(n-1) \times (n-1) \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $*$  denotes an  $(n-1) \times (n-1)$  matrix-valued function of  $y$ .

Then we consider the pull-back one form  $\psi^*\omega$ . By the orthogonal assumption, it is easy to see that  $h^{-1}(\omega, \xi) = 0$ , where  $\xi$  is the solution to the Hamiltonian system (5). Notice that  $\psi^*\xi = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ , this implies the pull-back one form  $\psi^*\omega$  in the  $y$  coordinates takes the form

$$(8) \quad (0, *_{1 \times (n-1)}),$$

where  $*$  is a  $1 \times (n-1)$  vector-valued function of  $y$ .

Denote by  $\psi_1, \psi_2$  the change of variables  $y \mapsto x$  related to  $h_1, h_2$ , respectively. By applying the idea of the proof of Lemma 2.1 to the Riemannian case (see also [36, Lemma 2.1]), the spatial distance assumption for  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  implies that if  $x, y \in \partial\Omega$  and  $x - y$  is almost normal to  $H$ , then two geodesics connecting  $x$  and  $y$  w.r.t.  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  must be tangent with each other at  $x$  and  $y$ . In particular,  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  share the same scattering relation for  $(x, \xi) \in T^*\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $x \in \partial\Omega$  and  $\xi = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$ . Then one can deduce that  $\psi_1 = \psi_2$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega$ . so  $\psi_1$  and  $\psi_2$  map  $\Omega$  to the same new domain, say  $\tilde{\Omega}$ . Denote  $\Psi_j := Id \times \psi_j : \mathbb{R}^{1+n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{1+n}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , and let  $\tilde{g}_1 := \Psi_1^*g_1$  and  $\tilde{g}_2 := \Psi_2^*g_2$ , it follows

$$\|\tilde{g}_j - g_0\|_{C^{k-2}} \leq C\epsilon, \quad j = 1, 2$$

for some constant  $C > 0$ . By (7) and (8),  $\tilde{g}_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , have the form

$$(9) \quad \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 & *_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ 0 & 1 & 0_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ *_{(n-1) \times 1} & 0_{(n-1) \times 1} & *(n-1) \times (n-1) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then it's easy to check that the inverse  $\tilde{g}_j^{-1}$  takes the same form. Moreover, the time separation function is unchanged under the diffeomorphisms, i.e.  $\tau_{\tilde{g}_j} = \tau_{g_j}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ .

Now we only need to prove  $\tilde{g}_1 = \tilde{g}_2$ , then  $\Psi_2^{-1}\Psi_1$  is a (time-invariant) diffeomorphism which fixes  $\mathbb{R} \times \partial\Omega$  and satisfies  $(\Psi_2^{-1}\Psi_1)^*g_1 = g_2$ . From now on we assume such a modification has been made so that we can consider the same problem under the additional assumption that the two metrics  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  take the form (9).

**2.3. An integral identity.** The main ingredient of our proof is an integral identity due to Stefanov and Uhlmann [36]. We include its derivation here for the sake of completeness and to fix some notations for later discussion.

Notice that the solution of (3) depends on the initial conditions, that is,  $z = z(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ ,  $\zeta = \zeta(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ . We denote  $X = (z, \zeta)$ , therefore  $X_{g_j} = X_{g_j}(s, X_{(0)})$ , where  $X_{(0)} := (z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ . Define a function

$$F(s) := X_{g_2}(\ell - s, X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)}))$$



where  $\ell$  is the common time at which the two geodesics  $z_{g_j}$  exit  $\mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ , see Lemma 2.1. Note that

$$F(0) = X_{g_2}(\ell, X_{g_1}(0, X_{(0)})) = X_{g_2}(\ell, X_{(0)}) = X_{g_1}(\ell, X_{(0)})$$

and

$$F(\ell) = X_{g_2}(0, X_{g_1}(\ell, X_{(0)})) = X_{g_1}(\ell, X_{(0)}).$$

Thus

$$(10) \quad \int_0^\ell F'(s) ds = 0.$$

Let  $V_{g_j}$  denote the Hamiltonian vector field associated with  $g_j$  for  $j = 1, 2$ . Then it is easily seen that

$$(11) \quad F'(s) = -V_{g_2}(X_{g_2}(\ell - s, X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)}))) + \frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}(\ell - s, X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)}))V_{g_1}(X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)}))$$

where  $\frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}$  denotes the matrix derivative with respect to the initial condition  $X_{(0)}$ . To rewrite the first term on the right, we observe that  $X_{g_2}(\ell - s, X_{g_2}(s, X_{(0)}))$  is independent of  $s$ , hence

$$0 = \frac{d}{ds} \Big|_{s=0} X_{g_2}(\ell - s, X_{g_2}(s, X_{(0)})) = -V_{g_2}(X_{g_2}(\ell - s, X_{(0)})) + \frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}(\ell - s, X_{(0)})V_{g_2}(X_{(0)}).$$

Substituting this into (11) we have

$$F'(s) = \frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}(\ell - s, X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)}))(V_{g_1} - V_{g_2})(X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)})).$$

This combined with (10) yields the desired integral identity

$$(12) \quad \int_0^\ell \frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}(\ell - s, X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)}))(V_{g_1} - V_{g_2})(X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)})) ds = 0.$$

Recall the Hamiltonian system (3) for the geodesic flows of the Lorentzian metric  $g = g_1$  or  $g_2$  with initial data  $(z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ . Let  $(z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$  be such that  $z_{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^{1+n} \setminus \mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ ,  $\zeta^{(0)}$  is a timelike covector with respect to  $g_0$  and close to light-like. Since  $g_1 = g_2 = g_0$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{1+n} \setminus \mathbb{R} \times \Omega$ ,  $\zeta^{(0)}$  is timelike with respect to  $g_1, g_2$  as well.

Denote by  $z_g(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$  and  $\zeta_g(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$  the solutions of the Hamiltonian system. When  $g = g_0$  the solution is

$$z_{g_0} = z_{(0)} + sg_0\zeta^{(0)}, \quad \zeta_{g_0} = \zeta^{(0)}.$$

Here  $g_0\zeta = (-\zeta_0, \zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n)$  for  $\zeta = (\zeta_0, \zeta_1, \dots, \zeta_n)$ . The closeness condition (2) implies

$$(13) \quad z_g = z_{(0)} + sg_0\zeta^{(0)} + O(\epsilon), \quad \zeta_g = \zeta^{(0)} + O(\epsilon) \quad \text{in } C^{k-3}.$$

Here the  $C^{k-3}$  norm is with respect to the variables  $s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)}$  and  $O(\epsilon)$  means functions with norm bounded by  $C\epsilon$  with a constant  $C > 0$  uniform in any fixed compact set. The map  $z_{g_0} \mapsto z_g(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$  is close to the identity map and thus is a diffeomorphism for small  $\epsilon$ .

For  $X_{(0)} = (z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ , taking derivatives in (13) shows that

$$\frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + O(\epsilon). \quad \text{in } C^{k-4}.$$

This implies

$$(14) \quad \frac{\partial X_{g_2}}{\partial X_{(0)}}(\ell - s, X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)})) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell - s \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + B(s). \quad \text{in } C^{k-4}$$

where  $\ell$  is the common exit time and

$$B(s) := B(s, X_{(0)}; g_1, g_2) = \begin{pmatrix} B_{11} & B_{12} \\ B_{21} & B_{22} \end{pmatrix} = O(\epsilon) \quad \text{in } C^{k-4}$$

is a  $2(1+n) \times 2(1+n)$  matrix-valued function and each block  $B_{ij}$  is a  $(1+n) \times (1+n)$  matrix-valued function. Insert (14) into the integral identity (12) to derive

$$(15) \quad \int_0^\ell \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \ell - s \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + B(s) \right) (V_{g_1} - V_{g_2})(X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)})) ds = 0.$$

Write  $m := g_1^{-1} - g_2^{-1}$ ,  $\zeta = \zeta_{g_1}(s, z_{(0)}, \xi^{(0)})$ , and let  $x$  be the spatial part of  $z_{g_1}(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)})$ . Simple calculation shows that

$$(16) \quad (V_{g_1} - V_{g_2})(X_{g_1}(s, X_{(0)})) = (m(x)\zeta, -\frac{1}{2}\nabla_x m(x)\zeta \cdot \zeta),$$

where  $\nabla_x m(x)\zeta \cdot \zeta$  is a vector whose components are  $\frac{\partial m}{\partial x^j} \zeta \cdot \zeta$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ . Note that  $m$  is independent of the time variable, we view  $\nabla_x m$  and the full gradient  $\nabla m = (0, \nabla_x m)$  as the same. Inserting the expression (16) into (15) and comparing the last  $(1+n)$  components gives

$$(17) \quad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta - 2B_{21}m\zeta + B_{22}\nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta) ds = 0.$$

Here the integration in  $s$  can be extended to  $\pm\infty$  due to the fact that  $m$  is compactly supported.

Notice that  $g_j^{-1}$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , are of the form (9), therefore  $m = g_1^{-1} - g_2^{-1}$  is of the form

$$(18) \quad \begin{pmatrix} * & 0 & *_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ 0 & 0 & 0_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ *_{(n-1) \times 1} & 0_{(n-1) \times 1} & *_{(n-1) \times (n-1)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

In other words,

$$m = m_\lambda(x)dt^2 + 2m_\omega(x)dt \otimes dx + m_h(x)dx^2,$$

where  $m_\omega$  and  $m_h$  have the form

$$(19) \quad (0, *_{1 \times (n-1)}) \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ 0_{(n-1) \times 1} & *_{(n-1) \times (n-1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

respectively.

## 3. PROOF OF THEOREM 1.3

Now we fix a future-pointing time-like covector  $\zeta^{(0)} = (\varrho, \xi)$ ,  $\varrho < -1$ ,  $\xi \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , which is close to light-like (see the remark at the end of Section 2.1), i.e.  $\varrho$  is close to  $-1$ . Denote by  $\xi^\perp := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^n : y \cdot \xi = 0\}$ . Here  $|\cdot|$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  are Euclidean norm and inner product. Let  $z_{(0)} = (0, y) - \rho(-\varrho, \xi)$  for some  $y \in \xi^\perp$  and  $\rho > 0$  large enough, so that  $y - \rho\xi \notin \Omega$ . Notice that  $\rho$  can be chosen uniformly for all  $y \in \xi^\perp$ . In other words,  $\overline{\Omega} \subset B_\rho$ , where  $B_\rho := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : |x| < \rho\}$ .

Next we apply the Fourier transform to (17) with respect to the spatial variable  $y \in \xi^\perp$

$$\int_{\xi^\perp} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\eta \cdot y} \left( \nabla_x m(x) \zeta \cdot \zeta - 2B_{21}m(x)\zeta + B_{22}\nabla_x m(x)\zeta \cdot \zeta \right) ds dy = 0,$$

where  $\eta \in \xi^\perp$  is the dual variable. Recall that  $z = z_{g_1}(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)}) = z_{g_1}(s, y, \varrho, \xi)$ ,  $\zeta = \zeta_{g_1}(s, z_{(0)}, \zeta^{(0)}) = \zeta_{g_1}(s, y, \varrho, \xi)$ , and  $x = x_{g_1}$  is the spatial component of  $z$ .

Since  $\eta \cdot \xi = 0$ , we deduce  $\eta \cdot y = \eta \cdot (y + (s - \rho)\xi) := \eta \cdot x_{g_0}$  where  $x_{g_0} := x_{g_0}(s, y, \varrho, \xi) = y + (s - \rho)\xi$  is the spatial component of the geodesic with respect to the Minkowski metric  $g_0$ . Making the change of variable by  $x_{g_0} \mapsto x$  we have

$$(20) \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\varphi(x, \eta)} (\nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta - 2B_{21}m\zeta + B_{22}\nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta) J_1^{-1} dx = 0, \quad \eta \in \xi^\perp.$$

Here  $\varphi(x, \eta) := \eta \cdot x_{g_0}(x)$  where  $x_{g_0}(x)$  is the inverse of the change of variable  $x_{g_0} \mapsto x$ ;  $J_1$  is the Jacobian of the change of variable. For the following analysis, we can view the Jacobian the same as an identity, up to an  $O(\epsilon)$  term in  $C^{k-4}$ , due to the closeness of  $g_1$  to  $g_0$ .

Let us pause here to make some preparations for the proof later. First, we introduce the symbol class to be used.

**Definition 3.1.** Define

$$\begin{aligned} S_k^m &:= \{a(x, y, \xi) \in C^k(B_\rho \times B_\rho \times \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}) : \text{there exists a constant } C > 0 \\ &\text{such that } |\partial_x^\alpha \partial_y^\beta \partial_\xi^\gamma a(x, y, \xi)| \leq C |\xi|^{m-|\gamma|} \text{ for } (x, y, \xi) \in B_\rho \times B_\rho \times \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \\ &\text{and } |\alpha| + |\beta| + |\gamma| \leq k\}. \end{aligned}$$

This space is equipped with the norm

$$\|a\|_{S_k^m} := \sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta|+|\gamma| \leq k} \sup_{(x, y, \xi) \in B_\rho \times B_\rho \times \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}} \frac{|\partial_x^\alpha \partial_y^\beta \partial_\xi^\gamma a(x, y, \xi)|}{|\xi|^{m-|\gamma|}}$$

so that  $a = O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_k^m$  means  $\|a\|_{S_k^m} = O(\epsilon)$ .

This is the analog of Hörmander's symbol class but with finite regularity. This type of symbol class of finite regularity has been introduced before in [34, 35] and some useful estimates have been developed therein.

**Remark:** In view of the estimate in Definition 3.1, the symbol  $a(x, y, \xi)$  is allowed to be singular with respect to  $\xi$  at  $\xi = 0$ . However, as one will see in the proof, the symbol class  $S_k^m$  that we are interested in satisfies  $m = 0$  or  $1$ . In the meantime, we do not

need to take higher derivatives with respect to the phase variable  $\xi$ . Therefore, all the integrals regarding the symbol classes in our argument are well defined.

We denote  $\eta = (\eta_1, \eta')$  with  $\eta' \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ . Let  $\chi : \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow [0, \infty)$  be a smooth homogeneous function of order 0 satisfying

$$\chi(\eta) = \begin{cases} 0, & |\eta_1|/|\eta| < \mu/2, \\ 1, & |\eta_1|/|\eta| > \mu, \end{cases}$$

for some small  $\mu > 0$ . When  $\eta \in \text{supp } \chi$  (so  $\eta_1 \neq 0$ ), and  $(\xi_1, \xi') = \xi \perp \eta$  (i.e.  $\eta_1 \xi_1 + \eta' \cdot \xi' = 0$ ), since  $\xi \in \mathbb{S}^{n-1}$ , then  $\xi' \neq 0$ . Thus we may fix some  $p \in \mathbb{S}^{n-2}$ , let

$$(21) \quad \xi_1(\eta, p) = \frac{-\eta' \cdot p}{\sqrt{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2}}, \quad \xi'(\eta, p) = \frac{\eta_1 p}{\sqrt{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2}}.$$

Our definition of  $\xi(\eta, p)$  works in any dimensions, while the one in [36] is defined specifically for 3D, due to the use of cross product. Then we multiply (20) by the cut-off function  $\chi$  to get

$$(22) \quad \chi(\eta) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\varphi(x, \eta)} (\nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta - 2B_{21} m \zeta + B_{22} \nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta) J_1^{-1} dx = 0.$$

Next we compute the integrand in (22). The closeness condition (13) implies that for  $x$  and  $\eta$  in a compact set

$$(23) \quad \varphi(x, \eta) = x \cdot \eta + O(\epsilon) \quad \text{in } S_{k-3}^1.$$

The closeness condition (13) also ensures that for  $x$  and  $\eta$  in a compact set,  $\zeta(\varrho, \eta) = \zeta^{(0)}(\varrho, \eta) + O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-3}^0$ . Then the components of the term  $\nabla_x m \zeta \cdot \zeta$  in (22) can be computed as

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial x_j} \zeta \cdot \zeta = \frac{\partial m_\lambda}{\partial x_j} \varrho^2 + 2 \frac{\partial m_\omega}{\partial x_j} \xi \varrho + \frac{\partial m_h}{\partial x_j} \xi \cdot \xi + O(\epsilon) \frac{\partial m}{\partial x_j}$$

where  $O(\epsilon)$  is in  $S_{k-3}^0$ . Note that  $\varrho$  is constant along the geodesics of  $g_1$ . The other terms in the integrand of (22) can be computed analogously. Recall that  $B_{21}, B_{22} = O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^0$ , and  $J_1^{-1} = 1 + O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^0$  too. With these expressions (22) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(\eta) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\varphi(x, \eta)} (\nabla_x m_\lambda \varrho^2 + 2 \nabla_x m_\omega \xi \varrho + \nabla_x m_h \xi \cdot \xi + \\ \sum_{\alpha, \beta=0}^n D_{\alpha\beta} m_{\alpha\beta} + \sum_{l=1}^n \sum_{\alpha, \beta=0}^n E_{\alpha\beta l} \frac{\partial m_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x_l}) dx = 0 \end{aligned}$$

with

$$(24) \quad D_{\alpha\beta} = D_{\alpha\beta}(x, p, \varrho, \eta) = O(\epsilon), \quad E_{\alpha\beta l} = E_{\alpha\beta l}(x, p, \varrho, \eta) = O(\epsilon) \quad \text{in } S_{k-4}^0 \text{ for } \eta \in \text{supp } \chi.$$

In other words,

$$(25) \quad \begin{aligned} & \chi(\eta) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} (\nabla_x m_\lambda \varrho^2 + 2\nabla_x m_\omega \xi \varrho + \nabla_x m_h \xi \cdot \xi) dx \\ &= -\chi(\eta) \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} \left( \sum_{\alpha,\beta=0}^n D_{\alpha\beta} m_{\alpha\beta} + \sum_{l=1}^n \sum_{\alpha,\beta=0}^n E_{\alpha\beta l} \frac{\partial m_{\alpha\beta}}{\partial x_l} \right) dx. \end{aligned}$$

The right-hand side is an oscillatory integral with the phase function  $\varphi$  satisfying (23) and the amplitude of magnitude  $O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^0$ . Notice that these integrands are all supported in  $\Omega$ .

Taking use of the structure of  $m$ , see (18) and (19), we introduce the notations

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 m(\eta) &:= \chi(\eta) \int e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} \nabla_x m_\lambda(x) dx, \\ A_2 m(\eta, p) &:= \chi(\eta) \int e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} \psi_p(\eta) \nabla_x m_\omega(x) p dx, \\ A_3 m(\eta, p) &:= \chi(\eta) \int e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} \psi_p^2(\eta) \nabla_x m_h(x) p \cdot p dx. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $\psi_p(\eta) := \frac{\eta_1}{\sqrt{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2}}$ , which is a homogeneous function of order 0 in the support of  $\chi$ . Thus we can write (25) as

$$\begin{aligned} Am(\varrho, \eta, p) &:= \varrho^2 A_1 m(\eta) + 2\varrho A_2 m(\eta, p) + A_3 m(\eta, p) \\ &= \chi(\eta) \int e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) dx. \end{aligned}$$

Notice that  $A_2 m$  is odd in  $p$ , while  $A_3 m$  is even in  $p$  for  $p \in \mathbb{S}^{n-2}$ . Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 m(\eta, p) &= \frac{1}{4\varrho} (Am(\varrho, \eta, p) - Am(\varrho, \eta, -p)), \\ \varrho^2 A_1 m(\eta) + A_3 m(\eta, p) &= \frac{1}{2} (Am(\varrho, \eta, p) + Am(\varrho, \eta, -p)). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, let  $-1 > \varrho_1 > \varrho_2$  be close to  $-1$  and fixed (so the choice of  $\epsilon$  later is independent of  $\varrho$ ), since  $A_3 m_h$  is independent of  $\varrho$ , we get that

$$\begin{aligned} A_1 m(\eta) &= \frac{1}{2(\varrho_2^2 - \varrho_1^2)} (Am(\varrho_2, \eta, p) + Am(\varrho_2, \eta, -p) - Am(\varrho_1, \eta, p) - Am(\varrho_1, \eta, -p)), \\ A_3 m(\eta, p) &= \frac{1}{2} (Am(\varrho, \eta, p) + Am(\varrho, \eta, -p)) - \varrho^2 A_1 m(\eta). \end{aligned}$$

In other words, one can determine  $A_j m$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ , and

$$(26) \quad A_j m = \chi(\eta) \int e^{-i\varphi(x,\eta)} (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) dx$$

with  $O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^0$ .

Let  $a(x)$  be a smooth cut-off function with  $\text{supp } a \subset B_\rho$  and  $a(x) = 1$  for  $x \in \Omega$ , then  $m = a(x)m$ ,  $\nabla m = a(x)\nabla m$ . We multiply the identities (26) by  $a(y)e^{i\varphi(y,\eta)}\psi_p^{j-1}(\eta)$  and integrate in  $\eta$  to obtain

$$(27) \quad \begin{aligned} P_j m(y, p) &:= a(y) \int e^{i\varphi(y,\eta)} \psi_p^{j-1}(\eta) A_j m(\eta, p) d\eta \\ &= a(y) \int \int \chi(\eta) e^{i(\varphi(y,\eta) - \varphi(x,\eta))} \psi_p^{j-1}(\eta) a(x) (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) dx d\eta. \end{aligned}$$

In particular

$$(28) \quad \begin{aligned} P_1 m(y, p) &= a(y) \int \int \chi(\eta) e^{i(\varphi(y,\eta) - \varphi(x,\eta))} a(x) \nabla m_\lambda(x) dx d\eta, \\ P_2 m(y, p) &= a(y) \int \int \chi(\eta) e^{i(\varphi(y,\eta) - \varphi(x,\eta))} \psi_p^2(\eta) a(x) \nabla m_\omega(x) p dx d\eta, \\ P_3 m(y, p) &= a(y) \int \int \chi(\eta) e^{i(\varphi(y,\eta) - \varphi(x,\eta))} \psi_p^4(\eta) a(x) \nabla m_h(x) p \cdot p dx d\eta. \end{aligned}$$

Next we would like to make a change of variable so that the phase function is simplified. By Taylor's expansion

$$\varphi(y, \eta) - \varphi(x, \eta) = (y - x) \cdot \theta(x, y, \eta), \quad \theta(x, y, \eta) := - \int_0^1 \nabla \varphi(y + t(x - y), \eta) dt.$$

It is easy to see that  $\theta$ , as a function of  $\eta$ , is homogeneous of order 1 and  $\theta = \eta + O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^1$ . Therefore, the map  $\eta \mapsto \theta$  is a change of variable whose Jacobian  $J_2 := \det(\frac{d\theta}{d\eta})$  satisfies  $J_2 = 1 + O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-5}^0$ . Replacing  $\eta \mapsto \theta$  in (27) and (28) gives

$$(29) \quad \begin{aligned} P_1 m(y, p) &= \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\eta(x, y, \theta)) a(x) \nabla m_\lambda(x) J_2^{-1} dx d\theta, \\ P_2 m(y, p) &= \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\eta(x, y, \theta)) \psi_p^2(\eta(x, y, \theta)) a(x) \nabla m_\omega(x) p J_2^{-1} dx d\theta, \\ P_3 m(y, p) &= \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\eta(x, y, \theta)) \psi_p^4(\eta(x, y, \theta)) a(x) \nabla m_h(x) p \cdot p J_2^{-1} dx d\theta, \end{aligned}$$

and for each  $j = 1, 2, 3$

$$(30) \quad \begin{aligned} P_j m(y, p) &= \\ &\int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\eta(x, y, \theta)) \psi_p^{j-1}(\eta(x, y, \theta)) a(x) (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) J_2^{-1} dx d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

In view of  $J_2^{-1} = 1 + O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-5}^0$  and  $\eta = \theta + O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^1$ , we get for any  $l \geq 0$

$$a(y) \chi(\eta(x, y, \theta)) \psi_p^l(\eta(x, y, \theta)) a(x) J_2^{-1} = a(y) \chi(\theta) \psi_p^l(\theta) a(x) + O(\epsilon) \quad \text{in } S_{k-5}^0.$$

Combine (29) and (30), the above analysis implies

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\theta) a(x) \nabla m_\lambda(x) \, dx d\theta \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad = \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) \, dx d\theta, \\
(31) \quad & \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\theta) \psi_p^2(\theta) a(x) \nabla m_\omega(x) p \, dx d\theta \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad = \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) \, dx d\theta, \\
& \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi(\theta) \psi_p^4(\theta) a(x) \nabla m_h(x) p \cdot p \, dx d\theta \\
& \qquad \qquad \qquad = \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) \, dx d\theta.
\end{aligned}$$

The  $O(\epsilon)$  on the right hand side of the above equalities are in  $S_{k-5}^0$ .

To simplify the notations, we still use  $P_j m$ ,  $j = 1, 2, 3$ , to denote the left hand side of the three equalities in (31) respectively. The above argument implies that

**Lemma 3.2.** For  $j = 1, 2, 3$ ,

$$P_j m(y, p) = \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} O(\epsilon) m(x) \, dx d\theta + \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} O(\epsilon) \nabla_x m(x) \, dx d\theta,$$

where  $O(\epsilon)$  are in  $S_{k-5}^0$ .

To deal with the integrals with amplitudes of order  $O(\epsilon)$ , we recall the following result established in [34, Theorem A1].

**Lemma 3.3.** Let  $P$  be the operator

$$P f(x) := \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\xi} a(x, y, \xi) f(y) \, dy d\xi$$

If for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$\sum_{|\alpha|+|\beta|\leq 2n+1} \int \int |\partial_x^\alpha \partial_y^\beta a(x, y, \xi)| \, dx dy \leq M.$$

Then  $P : L^2(\mathbb{R}^n) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$  is a bounded operator, and  $\|P\|_{L^2 \rightarrow L^2} \leq CM$  for some constant  $C > 0$ .

Applying Lemma 3.3 to Lemma 3.2, we have for  $k-5 \geq 2n+1$  (this is the reason we assume that  $g_j$  is close to  $g_0$  in  $C^k$ -norm,  $k \geq 2n+6$ , in Theorem 1.3),

$$P_j m(y, p) = O(\epsilon \|m\|) + O(\epsilon \|\nabla m\|) \text{ in } L^2(\mathbb{R}_y^n), \quad j = 1, 2, 3,$$

where  $\|m\| := \|m\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}$ . By the Poincaré's inequality  $\|m\|_{L^2} \leq C \|\nabla m\|_{L^2}$  (note that  $m$  is compactly supported), the first term on the right hand side can be absorbed into the second term, thus

$$P_j m(y, p) = O(\epsilon \|\nabla m\|) \quad \text{in } L^2(\mathbb{R}^n).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}\|\chi(\theta)\theta\hat{m}_\lambda(\theta)\|_{L^2}^2 &= (\nabla m_\lambda, P_1 m)_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_y^n)} = O(\epsilon\|\nabla m\|^2), \\ \|\chi(\theta)\psi_p(\theta)\theta\hat{m}_\omega(\theta)p\|_{L^2}^2 &= (\nabla m_\omega p, P_2 m)_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_y^n)} = O(\epsilon\|\nabla m\|^2), \\ \|\chi(\theta)\psi_p^2(\theta)\theta\hat{m}_h(\theta)p \cdot p\|_{L^2}^2 &= (\nabla m_h p \cdot p, P_3 m)_{L^2(\mathbb{R}_y^n)} = O(\epsilon\|\nabla m\|^2),\end{aligned}$$

which yield

$$\begin{aligned}\theta\hat{m}_\lambda(\theta) &= O(\sqrt{\epsilon}\|\nabla m\|), \\ \psi_p(\theta)\theta\hat{m}_\omega(\theta)p &= O(\sqrt{\epsilon}\|\nabla m\|), \\ \psi_p^2(\theta)\theta\hat{m}_h(\theta)p \cdot p &= O(\sqrt{\epsilon}\|\nabla m\|)\end{aligned}$$

in  $L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| > \mu)$  with  $\mu > 0$  a small parameter. Here  $\hat{m}$  is the Fourier transform of  $m$ .

Recall that  $\psi_p(\theta) = \frac{\theta_1}{\sqrt{|\theta' \cdot p|^2 + |\theta_1|^2}}$ , therefore when  $|\theta_1|/|\theta| > \mu$ , we have  $|\psi_p(\theta)| > \mu$ .

This implies

$$\theta\hat{m}_\lambda(\theta) = O(\sqrt{\epsilon}\|\nabla m\|), \quad \theta\hat{m}_\omega(\theta)p = O\left(\frac{\sqrt{\epsilon}}{\mu}\|\nabla m\|\right), \quad \theta\hat{m}_h(\theta)p \cdot p = O\left(\frac{\sqrt{\epsilon}}{\mu^2}\|\nabla m\|\right)$$

in  $L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| > \mu)$ . Notice that  $p$  is an arbitrary vector on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-2}$ , taking into account the structure of  $m_\omega$  and  $m_h$  (19), we derive that

$$(32) \quad \theta\hat{m}_\lambda(\theta) = O(\sqrt{\epsilon}\|\nabla m\|), \quad \theta\hat{m}_\omega(\theta) = O\left(\frac{\sqrt{\epsilon}}{\mu}\|\nabla m\|\right), \quad \theta\hat{m}_h(\theta) = O\left(\frac{\sqrt{\epsilon}}{\mu^2}\|\nabla m\|\right)$$

in  $L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| > \mu)$ .

Then we estimate the  $L^2$ -norm of  $\theta\hat{m}(\theta)$  in the region  $\{|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu\}$ , which is unbounded.

**Lemma 3.4.** *Assume that  $\|m\|_{H^2} \leq K\|m\|_{H^1}$  for some constant  $K > 0$ , then*

$$(33) \quad \|\theta\hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu)} \leq \frac{1}{3}\|\nabla m\|_{L^2}$$

for sufficiently small  $\mu$ , depending on  $K$ .

*Proof.*

$$\|\theta\hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu)}^2 = \int_{|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu, |\theta| < r} |\theta\hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta + \int_{|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu, |\theta| \geq r} |\theta\hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta.$$

We need to estimate the two terms on the right hand side. Denote the bounded region  $\{|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu, |\theta| < r\}$  by  $U_{\mu,r}$ , then

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{U_{\mu,r}} |\theta\hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta &= \int_{U_{\mu,r}} \left| \int_{\Omega} e^{-i\theta x} \nabla m(x) dx \right|^2 d\theta \leq \int_{U_{\mu,r}} \left( \int_{\Omega} 1 dx \int |\nabla m(x)|^2 dx \right) d\theta \\ &= \text{Vol}(U_{\mu,r}) \text{Vol}(\Omega) \|\nabla m\|_{L^2}^2,\end{aligned}$$



where  $\text{Vol}(U_{\mu,r}) = f^2(\mu)r^n$  with a positive function  $f(\mu) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\mu \rightarrow 0$ , independent of  $r$ . Here  $\text{Vol}(U)$  means the volume of a set  $U$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu, |\theta| \geq r} |\theta \hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta &\leq \int_{|\theta| \geq r} |\theta \hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta = \int_{|\theta| \geq r} \frac{|\theta|^2}{|\theta|^2} |\theta \hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta \\ &\leq r^{-2} \int_{|\theta| \geq r} (|\theta|^2 |\hat{m}(\theta)|)^2 d\theta \leq Cr^{-2} \|m\|_{H^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Apply the assumption  $\|m\|_{H^2} \leq K\|m\|_{H^1}$ , by the Poincaré inequality we have

$$\int_{|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu, |\theta| \geq r} |\theta \hat{m}(\theta)|^2 d\theta \leq Cr^{-2} \|m\|_{H^1}^2 \leq Cr^{-2} \|\nabla m\|_{L^2}^2$$

Combining the above argument

$$\|\theta \hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu)} \leq C(f(\mu)r^{n/2} + r^{-1}) \|\nabla m\|_{L^2}.$$

In particular, let  $r = 4C$ , recall that  $f(\mu) \rightarrow 0$  as  $\mu \rightarrow 0$ ,

$$\|\theta \hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu)} \leq (Cf(\mu) + \frac{1}{4}) \|\nabla m\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{1}{3} \|\nabla m\|_{L^2}$$

when  $\mu$  is sufficiently small.  $\square$

Now by the a priori estimate in Theorem 1.3,  $\|g_1 - g_2\|_{H^2} \leq K\|g_1 - g_2\|_{H^1}$ , the estimate holds after diffeomorphisms that are sufficiently close to the identity map. Therefore we have  $m = \tilde{g}_1^{-1} - \tilde{g}_2^{-1}$  satisfies similar estimate with a new fixed bound  $K$ . Apply Lemma 3.4, we get the estimate (33) for sufficiently small  $\mu > 0$ .

Finally, let  $\mu = \epsilon^{1/8}$  for  $\epsilon > 0$  sufficiently small, we combine (32) and (33) to get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla m\|_{L^2} &= \|\theta \hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(\theta)} \leq \|\theta \hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| > \mu)} + \|\theta \hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(|\theta_1|/|\theta| \leq \mu)} \\ &\leq (\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}) \|\nabla m\|_{L^2} = \frac{2}{3} \|\nabla m\|_{L^2}, \end{aligned}$$

so  $\nabla m = 0$ . Note that  $m$  is compactly supported, we get immediately that  $m \equiv 0$ . This proves Theorem 1.3.

#### 4. SKETCH OF THE PROOF OF THEOREM 1.5

In this section, we give a sketch of the proof of the improved result for the Riemannian case of Theorem 1.5.

Let  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  be two Riemannian metrics in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \geq 2$ , which differ from the Euclidean metric  $e$  only on  $\bar{\Omega}$ . Suppose  $\|h_j - e\|_{C_0^k(\bar{\Omega})} \leq \epsilon$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ ,  $k \geq 2n + 6$ , for some sufficiently small  $\epsilon > 0$ , and  $h_1, h_2$  have the same boundary distance function, i.e.

$$d_{h_1}|_{\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega} = d_{h_2}|_{\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega}.$$

By applying the argument of Lemma 2.1, see also [36, Lemma 2.1],  $h_1$  and  $h_2$  have the same scattering relation. Then following the argument of Section 2.2, in particular let

the hyperplane  $H$  be  $\{x^1 = -\rho\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \Omega$ , we obtain diffeomorphisms  $\psi_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , so that  $\tilde{h}_j := \psi_j^* h_j$  has the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ 0_{(n-1) \times 1} & *_{(n-1) \times (n-1)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore  $m = \tilde{h}_1^{-1} - \tilde{h}_2^{-1}$  takes the form

$$(34) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0_{1 \times (n-1)} \\ 0_{(n-1) \times 1} & *_{(n-1) \times (n-1)} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Similar to (17), the integral identity w.r.t. the Riemannian geodesic flows implies

$$(35) \quad \int (\nabla m \xi \cdot \xi - 2B_{21} m \xi + B_{22} \nabla m \xi \cdot \xi) ds = 0,$$

with  $B_{21}, B_{22} = O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-4}^0$ . Then we follow the argument in Section 3, denote  $\eta = (\eta_1, \eta')$ ,  $\eta' \in \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$  and  $p \in \mathbb{S}^{n-2}$ , let

$$\xi_1(\eta, p) = \frac{-\eta' \cdot p}{\sqrt{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2}}, \quad \xi'(\eta, p) = \frac{\eta_1 p}{\sqrt{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2}}$$

give the initial direction  $\xi^{(0)} = \xi(\eta, p)$ . However, we modify the homogeneous cut-off function  $\chi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$  as

$$\chi_p(\eta) = \begin{cases} 0, & \frac{|\eta' \cdot p| + |\eta_1|}{|\eta|} < \mu/2, \\ 1, & \frac{|\eta' \cdot p| + |\eta_1|}{|\eta|} > \mu, \end{cases}$$

for some small  $\mu > 0$ , so it avoids the singularity of  $\xi(\eta, p)$ , i.e.  $\eta_1 = 0$ ,  $\eta' \perp p$ . Notice that if  $n = 2$ , then  $\chi_p(\eta) \equiv 1$  for  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ .

Recall that the diffeomorphism  $\psi_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , maps straight lines to geodesics of metric  $g_j$  with initial velocity  $\xi^{(0)} = \pm e_1 = \pm \partial_{x^1}$  (so  $\xi'(\eta, p) = 0$ , i.e.  $\eta_1 = 0$ ), thus the pullback of  $\xi = \xi(s)$  is constantly  $\pm e_1$ . This implies

$$\xi = \xi(\eta, p) + \frac{\eta_1}{|\eta|} O(\epsilon) = \frac{\eta_1}{\sqrt{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2}} \left[ \left( \frac{-\eta' \cdot p}{\eta_1}, p \right) + O(\epsilon) \right]$$

with  $O(\epsilon) \in S_{k-4}^0$ . Similarly, in view of the definition of  $B_{ij}$  in (14), when  $\xi^{(0)} = \pm e_1$ , one can check that  $B_{21} \equiv 0$ . Thus generally  $B_{21} = \frac{\eta_1}{|\eta|} \tilde{B}_{21}$  with  $\tilde{B}_{21} = O(\epsilon) \in S_{k-5}^0$ . We remark that the above asymptotic expressions does not hold for the Lorentzian case in Section 3, since the pullback of timelike geodesics by a time invariant diffeomorphism are not straight lines in general. In particular, taking into account the structure of  $m$  (34), the above analysis implies

$$\nabla m \xi \cdot \xi - 2B_{21} m \xi + B_{22} \nabla m \xi \cdot \xi = \frac{\eta_1^2}{|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + |\eta_1|^2} \left( \nabla m p \cdot p + D m + E \nabla m \right),$$

where  $D = O(\epsilon)$ ,  $E = O(\epsilon)$  in  $S_{k-5}^0$ , are matrix functions. Thus in the support of  $\chi_p$ , we can cancel the common factor  $\eta_1^2/(|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + \eta_1^2)$  from (35) to get

$$\int (\nabla m \cdot p \cdot p + D m + E \nabla m) ds = 0.$$

**Remark:** In the support of  $\chi_p$ , the common factor  $\eta_1^2/(|\eta' \cdot p|^2 + \eta_1^2)$ , which is exactly  $\psi_p^2(\eta)$  in Section 3, could be zero, then its inverse will blow up. This is the reason we choose a different cut-off function  $\chi$  in the Lorentzian case.

Next we follow the approach in Section 3 by taking Fourier transform of the above integral identity, and to get eventually

$$(36) \quad \begin{aligned} \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} a(y) \chi_p(\theta) a(x) \nabla m(x) p \cdot p \, dx d\theta \\ = \int \int e^{i(y-x)\cdot\theta} (O(\epsilon)m(x) + O(\epsilon)\nabla m(x)) \, dx d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

Here  $a(x)$  is a smooth cut-off function with  $\text{supp } a \subset B_\rho$  and  $a(x) = 1$  for  $x \in \Omega$ . The  $O(\epsilon)$  on the right hand side of the above equality are in  $S_{k-5}^0$ .

It follows that

$$\|\chi_p(\theta) \theta \hat{m}(\theta) p \cdot p\|_{L^2}^2 = O(\epsilon \|\nabla m\|^2),$$

which yields

$$\theta \hat{m}(\theta) p \cdot p = O(\sqrt{\epsilon} \|\nabla m\|)$$

in  $L^2(\frac{|\theta' \cdot p| + |\theta_1|}{|\theta|} > \mu)$  with  $\mu > 0$  a small parameter. Here  $\hat{m}$  is the Fourier transform of  $m$ .

When  $n = 2$ ,  $\{\frac{|\theta' \cdot p| + |\theta_1|}{|\theta|} > \mu\} = \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$  for  $\mu$  sufficiently small. Then it follows immediately that  $\theta \hat{m}(\theta) = O(\sqrt{\epsilon} \|\nabla m\|)$  in  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$ .

When  $n \geq 3$ , the set  $\{\frac{|\theta' \cdot p| + |\theta_1|}{|\theta|} \leq \mu\}$  is a conic neighborhood of the  $n - 2$  dimensional plane  $\{\theta_1 = 0, \theta' \cdot p = 0\}$ , with the vertex at the origin. Notice that  $p$  is an arbitrary vector on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-2}$ , taking into account the structure of  $m$  (34), we choose  $(n - 1)^2$  vectors  $p \in \mathbb{S}^{n-2}$ , similar to the choice in [36], so that for  $\mu$  is sufficiently small, we can derive that

$$\theta \hat{m}_{ij}(\theta) = O(\sqrt{\epsilon} \|\nabla m\|) \quad \text{in } L^2(\mathbb{R}^n), \quad i, j = 2, \dots, n.$$

Finally, let  $\epsilon > 0$  be sufficiently small, we obtain

$$\|\nabla m\|_{L^2} = \|\theta \hat{m}(\theta)\|_{L^2(\theta)} \leq C \sqrt{\epsilon} \|\nabla m\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\nabla m\|_{L^2},$$

so  $\nabla m = 0$ . Since  $m$  is compactly supported, we get immediately that  $m \equiv 0$ . This proves Theorem 1.5.

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