12 Boundary Value Problems and Boundary Value Spaces

This lecture is devoted to the study of inhomogeneous boundary value problems. For this, we shall reformulate the boundary value problem again into a form which fits within the general framework of evolutionary equations. In order to have an idea of the type of boundary values which make sense to study, we start off with a section that deals with the boundary values of the functions in the domain of the gradient operator defined on a half space in $\mathbb{R}^d$ (for $d = 1$ we have $L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}) = \mathbb{K}$).

12.1 The Boundary Values of $H^1(\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0})$

In this section we let $\Omega := \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ and $f \in H^1(\Omega)$; our aim is is to make sense of the function $\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \ni \check{x} \mapsto f(\check{x}, 0)$. Note that this makes no sense if we only assume $f \in L_2(\Omega)$ since $\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \{0\} = \partial\Omega$ is a set of (d-dimensional) Lebesgue-measure zero. However, if we assume f to be weakly differentiable, something more can be said and the boundary values can be defined by means of a continuous extension of the so-called trace map. In order to properly formulate this, we need the following density result.

Theorem 12.1.1. *The set $\mathcal{D} := \left\{\phi\colon \Omega \to \mathbb{K}\,;\, \exists \psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)\colon \psi|_\Omega = \phi\right\}$ is dense in the space $H^1(\Omega)$.*

We will need a density result for $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ first.

Lemma 12.1.2. *$C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is dense in $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$.*

Proof. Let $f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$. We first show that f can be approximated by functions with compact support. For this let $\phi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ with the properties $0 \leqslant \phi \leqslant 1$, $\phi = 1$ on $B(0, 1/2)$ and $\phi = 0$ on $\mathbb{R} \setminus B(0, 1)$. For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$ we put $\phi_k := \phi(\cdot/k)$ and $f_k := \phi_k f \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Then f_k has support contained in $B[0, k]$. The dominated convergence theorem readily implies that $f_k \to f$ in $L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as $k \to \infty$. Next, let $\psi \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)^d$ and compute for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
-\langle f_k, \operatorname{div}\psi\rangle &= -\langle \phi_k f, \operatorname{div}\psi\rangle = -\langle f, \phi_k \operatorname{div}\psi\rangle = -\langle f, \operatorname{div}(\phi_k\psi) - (\operatorname{grad}\phi_k)\cdot\psi\rangle \\
&= -\langle f, \operatorname{div}(\phi_k\psi)\rangle + \langle f \operatorname{grad}\phi_k, \psi\rangle = \left\langle (\operatorname{grad} f)\phi_k + \frac{1}{k} f(\operatorname{grad}\phi)(\cdot/k), \psi\right\rangle,
\end{aligned}
$$

which shows that $f_k \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad}) = H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\operatorname{grad} f_k = (\operatorname{grad} f)\phi_k + \frac{1}{k} f\,(\operatorname{grad}\phi)\,(\cdot/k)$. From this expression of $\operatorname{grad} f_k$ we observe $\operatorname{grad} f_k \to \operatorname{grad} f$ in $L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)^d$ by dominated convergence. Hence, $f_k \to f$ in $\operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})$.

To conclude the proof of this lemma it suffices to revisit Exercise 3.2. For this, let $(\phi_k)_k$ in $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a δ-sequence. Then, by Exercise 3.2, we infer $\psi_k * f \to f$ in $L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ as $k \to \infty$ and hence, by Exercise 12.1, it follows also that $\operatorname{grad}(\psi_k * f) = \psi_k * \operatorname{grad} f \to \operatorname{grad} f$ (note the component-wise definition of the convolution). A combination of the first part of this proof together with an estimate for the support of the convolution (see again Exercise 3.2) yields the assertion. □

Proof of Theorem 12.1.1. Let $f \in H^1(\Omega)$. The approximation of f by functions in $\mathcal{D}$ is done in two steps. First, we shift f in the negative e_d-direction to avoid the boundary, and then we convolve the shifted f to obtain smooth approximants in $\mathcal{D}$.
Let $\widetilde{f} \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be the extension of f by zero. Put $e_d := (\delta_{jd})_{j\in\{1,\ldots d\}}$, the d-th unit vector. Then for all $\tau > 0$ we have $\Omega + \tau e_d \subseteq \Omega$ and, thus by Exercise 12.2, we deduce $f_\tau := \widetilde{f}(\cdot + \tau e_d)|_\Omega \to f$ in $H^1(\Omega)$ as $\tau \to 0$. Thus, it suffices to approximate f_τ for $\tau > 0$. Let $\tau > 0$ and let $(\psi_k)_k$ in $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ be a δ-sequence. Then $\psi_k * \widetilde{f}(\cdot + \tau e_d) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, by Exercise 12.1. Define $f_{k,\tau} := \big(\psi_k * \widetilde{f}(\cdot + \tau e_d)\big)|_\Omega$. Then we obtain that $f_{k,\tau} \to f_\tau$ in $H^1(\Omega)$ as $k \to \infty$. Indeed, the only thing left to prove is that $\operatorname{grad} f_{k,\tau} \to \operatorname{grad} f_\tau$ in $L_2(\Omega)^d$ as $k \to \infty$. For this, we denote by g the extension of $\operatorname{grad} f$ by 0. Since $g \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)^d$ it suffices to show that $\operatorname{grad} f_{k,\tau} = \psi_k * g_\tau$ on Ω for all large enough $k \in \mathbb{N}$, where $g_\tau = g(\cdot + \tau e_d)$. Let $k > \frac{1}{\tau}$. Then for all $x \in \Omega$ and $y \in \operatorname{spt} \psi_k \subseteq [-1/k, 1/k]^d$ we infer $x - y + \tau e_d \in \Omega$. In particular, $f(\cdot - y + \tau e_d) \in H^1(\Omega)$ and $\operatorname{grad} f(\cdot - y + \tau e_d) = g(\cdot - y + \tau e_d)$. Take $\eta \in C_c^\infty(\Omega)^d$ and compute

$$
\begin{aligned}
-\langle f_{k,\tau}, \operatorname{div} \eta\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} &= -\int_\Omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_k(x-y)\widetilde{f}(y+\tau e_d)^* \,\mathrm{d}y \operatorname{div}\eta(x)\,\mathrm{d}x \\
&= -\int_\Omega \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \psi_k(y)\widetilde{f}(x-y+\tau e_d)^* \,\mathrm{d}y \operatorname{div}\eta(x)\,\mathrm{d}x \\
&= -\int_\Omega \int_{[-1/k,1/k]^d} \psi_k(y) f(x-y+\tau e_d)^* \,\mathrm{d}y \operatorname{div}\eta(x)\,\mathrm{d}x \\
&= -\int_{[-1/k,1/k]^d} \psi_k(y) \langle f(\cdot - y + \tau e_d), \operatorname{div}\eta\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} \,\mathrm{d}y \\
&= \int_{[-1/k,1/k]^d} \psi_k(y) \langle g(\cdot - y + \tau e_d), \eta\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \,\mathrm{d}y \\
&= \langle \psi_k * g_\tau, \eta\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} .
\end{aligned}
$$

As $\psi_k * \widetilde{f}(\cdot + \tau e_d) \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$, we conclude the proof using Lemma 12.1.2. □

With these preparations at hand, we can define the boundary trace of $H^1(\Omega)$.

Theorem 12.1.3. *The operator*

$$
\begin{aligned}
\gamma\colon \mathcal{D} \subseteq H^1(\Omega) &\to L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}) \\
f &\mapsto \big(\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \ni \check{x} \mapsto f(\check{x}, 0)\big)
\end{aligned}
$$

is continuous, densely defined and, thus, admits a unique continuous extension to $H^1(\Omega)$ *again denoted by* γ. *Moreover, we have*

$$\|\gamma f\|_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \leqslant \Big(2\|f\|_{L_2(\Omega)}\|\operatorname{grad} f\|_{L_2(\Omega)^d}\Big)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leqslant \|f\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \quad (f \in H^1(\Omega)).$$

Proof. Note that γ is densely defined by Theorem 12.1.1. Let $f \in C_{\mathrm{c}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and $\breve{x} \in \mathbb{R}^{d-1}$. Let $R > 0$ be such that $\operatorname{spt} f \subseteq B(0, R)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} |f(\breve{x}, 0)|^2 \,\mathrm{d}\breve{x} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \int_0^R \partial_d |f(\breve{x}, \widehat{x})|^2 \,\mathrm{d}\widehat{x}\,\mathrm{d}\breve{x} = \int_\Omega \big(f(x)^*\partial_d f(x) + \partial_d f^*(x) f(x)\big)\,\mathrm{d}x \\ &\leqslant 2\|f\|_{L_2(\Omega)}\|\operatorname{grad} f\|_{L_2(\Omega)^d}.\end{aligned}$$

The remaining inequality follows from $2ab \leqslant a^2 + b^2$ for all $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. □

Except for one spatial dimension, where the boundary trace can be obtained by point evaluation, the boundary trace γ does not map onto the whole of $L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. Hence, in order to define the set of all possible boundary values for a function in H^1 one uses a quotient construction: we set

$$H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}) := \big\{\gamma f\,;\, f \in H^1(\Omega)\big\}$$

and endow $H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ with the norm

$$\|\gamma f\|_{H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} := \inf\Big\{\|g\|_{H^1(\Omega)}\,;\, g \in H^1(\Omega), \gamma g = \gamma f\Big\}.$$

It is not difficult to see that $H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ is unitarily equivalent to $(\ker\gamma)^\perp$, where the orthogonal complement is computed with respect to the scalar product in $H^1(\Omega)$. Thus, $H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ is a Hilbert space.

12.2 The Boundary Values of $H(\operatorname{div}, \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0})$

Let $\Omega := \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. There is also a space of corresponding boundary traces for the divergence operator. Similar to the boundary values for the domain of the gradient operator, $H^1(\Omega)$, the boundary trace for $H(\operatorname{div})$-vector fields rests on a density result. The proof can be done along the lines of Theorem 12.1.1 and will be addressed in Exercise 12.3.

Theorem 12.2.1. $\mathcal{D}^d$ *is dense in* $H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$.

Equipped with this result, we can describe all possible boundary values of $H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$. It will turn out that vector fields in $H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$ have a well-defined *normal* trace. Hence, the projection onto the last component in the following theorem.

Theorem 12.2.2. *The operator*

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}\colon \mathcal{D}^d \subseteq H(\operatorname{div},\Omega) &\to \Big(H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})\Big)' =: H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})\\ q &\mapsto \big(\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \ni \breve{x} \mapsto -q_d(\breve{x},0)\big),\end{aligned}$$

is densely defined, continuous with norm bounded by 1 *and has dense range. Thus* γ_{n} *admits a unique extension to* $H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)$ *again denoted by* γ_{n}. *Here,* $-q_d$ *is the negative of the d-th component of* q *pointing into the outward normal direction of* Ω *and* $-q_d$ *is identified with the linear functional*

$$H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^d) \ni \gamma f \mapsto \langle -q_d(\cdot,0), \gamma f\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}.$$

Moreover, for all $f \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})$ *and* $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div})$ *we have*

$$\langle f, \operatorname{div} q\rangle + \langle \operatorname{grad} f, q\rangle = \langle \gamma f^*, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\rangle_{H^{1/2},H^{-1/2}} \tag{12.1}$$

We will denote the unique extension of γ_{n} again by γ_{n}.

Proof. Let $f \in \mathcal{D}$ and $q \in \mathcal{D}^d$. Then integration by parts yields

$$\begin{aligned}\langle f, \operatorname{div} q\rangle + \langle \operatorname{grad} f, q\rangle &= \int_\Omega \operatorname{div}(qf^*) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \langle q(\breve{x},0)\,(\gamma f^*)\,(\breve{x}), -\left(\delta_{jd}\right)_{j\in\{1,\ldots,d\}}\rangle\,\mathrm{d}\breve{x}\\ &= -\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \gamma f^* \gamma q_d = \langle \gamma f, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}.\end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\Big|\langle \gamma f, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}\Big| \leqslant \|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div})}\|f\|_{H^1}.$$

Since $\mathcal{D}$ is dense in $H^1(\Omega)$, the inequality remains true for all $f \in H^1(\Omega)$. Thus,

$$\Big|\langle \gamma f, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}\Big| \leqslant \|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div})}\|f\|_{H^1} \quad (f \in H^1(\Omega)).$$

Computing the infimum over all $g \in H^1(\Omega)$ with $\gamma g = \gamma f$, we deduce

$$\Big|\langle \gamma f, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}\Big| \leqslant \|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div})}\|\gamma f\|_{H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \quad (f \in H^1(\Omega)).$$

Therefore $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q \in H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ and $\|\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\|_{H^{-1/2}} \leqslant \|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div})}$, which shows continuity of γ_{n}. It is left to show that γ_{n} has dense range. For this, take $\gamma f \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ for some $f \in H^1(\Omega)$ such that

$$\langle \gamma f, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} g\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} = 0$$

for all $g \in \mathcal{D}^d$. Next, take $\widetilde{g} \in C_{\mathrm{c}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ and $\psi \in C_{\mathrm{c}}^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $\psi(0) = 1$. Then we set $g\colon \Omega \ni (\breve{x},\widehat{x}) \mapsto -e_d\widetilde{g}(\breve{x})\psi(\widehat{x}) \in \mathcal{D}^d$ and note that $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} g = \widetilde{g}$. Hence

$$\langle \gamma f, \widetilde{g}\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} = 0 \quad (\widetilde{g} \in C_{\mathrm{c}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})).$$

Thus, $\gamma f = 0$, which implies that the range of γ_{n} is dense as $H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ is a Hilbert space. The remaining formula follows by continuously extending both the left- and right-hand side of the integration by parts formula from the beginning of the proof. Note that for this, we have used both Theorem 12.1.1 and Theorem 12.2.1. □

Corollary 12.2.3. *Let $f \in H^1(\Omega)$, $q \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$. Then $f \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad}_0)$ if and only if $\gamma f = 0$ and $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div}_0)$ if and only if $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q = 0$.*

Proof. We only show the statement for q. The proof for f is analogous. If $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div}_0)$, then there exists a sequence $(\psi_n)_n$ in $C_{\mathrm{c}}^\infty(\Omega)^d$ such that $\psi_n \to q$ in $H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$ as $n \to \infty$. Thus, by continuity of γ_{n}, we infer $0 = \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} \psi_n \to \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q$. Assume on the other hand that $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div})$ with $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q = 0$. Using (12.1), we obtain for all $f \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})$

$$\langle \operatorname{div} q, f\rangle + \langle q, \operatorname{grad} f\rangle = 0.$$

This equality implies that $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad}^*) = \operatorname{dom}(-\operatorname{div}_0)$ and $-\operatorname{div}_0 q = -\operatorname{div} q$, which shows the remaining assertion. □

The remaining part of this section is devoted to showing that the continuous extension of γ_{n} maps onto $H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. For this we require the following observation, which will also be needed later on.

Proposition 12.2.4. *Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ be open. Then*

$$H_0(\operatorname{div}, U)^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{div}, U)}} = \left\{ q \in H(\operatorname{div}, U)\,;\, \operatorname{div} q \in H^1(U), q = \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q \right\}.$$

Proof. Let $q \in H(\operatorname{div}, U)$. Then $q \in H_0(\operatorname{div}, U)^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{div}, U)}}$ if and only if for all $r \in H_0(\operatorname{div}, U)$ we have

$$0 = \langle r, q\rangle_{H(\operatorname{div}, U)} = \langle r, q\rangle_{L_2(U)^d} + \langle \operatorname{div} r, \operatorname{div} q\rangle_{L_2(U)} = \langle r, q\rangle_{L_2(U)^d} + \langle \operatorname{div}_0 r, \operatorname{div} q\rangle_{L_2(U)}.$$

The latter, in turn, is equivalent to $\operatorname{div} q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div}_0^*) = \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad}) = H^1(U)$ and $-\operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q = \operatorname{div}_0^* \operatorname{div} q = -q$. □

Theorem 12.2.5. *γ_{n} maps onto $H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. In particular, we have*

$$\|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)} \leqslant \|\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\|_{H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}$$

for all $q \in H_0(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)}}$.

Proof. By Theorem 12.2.2 it suffices to show that γ_{n} has closed range. For this, it suffices to show that there exists $c > 0$ such that

$$\|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)} \leqslant c \|\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\|_{H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})}$$

for all $q \in \ker(\gamma_{\mathrm{n}})^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)}}$. By Corollary 12.2.3, we obtain $\ker(\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}) = H_0(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$. Hence, by Proposition 12.2.4, we deduce that $q \in \ker(\gamma_{\mathrm{n}})^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)}}$ if and only if $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div})$ and $q = \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q$. So, assume that $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div})$ with $q = \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q$. Then (12.1) applied to $q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div})$ and $f = \operatorname{div} q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})$ yields

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \gamma \operatorname{div} q, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\rangle_{H^{1/2}, H^{-1/2}} &= \langle \operatorname{div} q, \operatorname{div} q\rangle + \langle q, \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q\rangle = \langle \operatorname{div} q, \operatorname{div} q\rangle + \langle q, q\rangle \\ &= \|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)}^2,\end{aligned}$$

where we used $\operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q = q$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned}\|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)}^2 &\leqslant \|\gamma \operatorname{div} q\|_{H^{1/2}} \|\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\|_{H^{-1/2}} \leqslant \|\operatorname{div} q\|_{H^1(\Omega)} \|\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\|_{H^{-1/2}} \\ &= \|q\|_{H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)} \|\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q\|_{H^{-1/2}}\end{aligned}$$

where we again used that $\operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q = q$. This yields the assertion. □

12.3 Inhomogeneous Boundary Value Problems

Let $\Omega := \mathbb{R}^{d-1}\times\mathbb{R}_{>0}$. With the notion of traces we now have a tool at hand that allows us to formulate inhomogeneous boundary value problems. We shall address other boundary value problems in the exercises. Here we focus on the scalar wave type equation for given Neumann data $\widetilde{g}\in H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. More precisely, for the material law $M\colon \operatorname{dom}(M)\subseteq \mathbb{C}\to L\big(L_2(\Omega)\times L_2(\Omega)^d\big)$ with $\mathrm{s_b}(M)<\nu_0$ for some $\nu_0\in\mathbb{R}$ satisfying the positive definiteness condition in Theorem 6.2.1; that is, there exists $c>0$ such that for all $z\in\mathbb{C}_{\operatorname{Re}\geqslant\nu_0}$ we have $\operatorname{Re} zM(z)\geqslant c$. For $\nu\geqslant\nu_0$ we want to solve

$$\begin{cases}\left(\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})+\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}\right)\begin{pmatrix}v\\ q\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}0\\0\end{pmatrix} & \text{on }\Omega,\\ \gamma_{\mathrm{n}}q(t,\cdot)=\widetilde{g} & \text{on }\partial\Omega\text{ for all }t\in\mathbb{R}.\end{cases}$$

Let us reformulate this problem. Let $\phi\in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ such that $0\leqslant\phi\leqslant 1$ with $\phi=1$ on $[0,\infty)$ and $\phi=0$ on $(-\infty,-1]$. We define the function $g\colon \big(t\mapsto\phi(t)\widetilde{g}\in H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})\big)\in\bigcap_{\nu>0}L_{2,\nu}(\mathbb{R};H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}))$ and consider

$$\begin{cases}\left(\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})+\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}\right)\begin{pmatrix}v\\ q\end{pmatrix}=\begin{pmatrix}0\\0\end{pmatrix} & \text{on }\Omega,\\ \gamma_{\mathrm{n}}q(t)=g(t) & \text{for all }t>0.\end{cases}\tag{12.2}$$

instead.

Theorem 12.3.1. *Let $\nu\geqslant\max\{\nu_0,0\},\nu\neq 0$. Then (12.2) admits a unique solution $(v,q)\in H_\nu^1\Big(\mathbb{R};\operatorname{dom}\Big(\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}\Big)\Big)$.*

Proof. We start with the existence part. By Theorem 12.2.5, we find $\widetilde{G}\in H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)$ such that $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}\widetilde{G}=\widetilde{g}$; set $G:=\phi(\cdot)\widetilde{G}\in H_\nu^3(\mathbb{R};H(\operatorname{div},\Omega))$. Consider the following evolutionary equation

$$\left(\overline{\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})+\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}_0\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}}\right)\begin{pmatrix}u\\ r\end{pmatrix}=\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})\begin{pmatrix}0\\ -G\end{pmatrix}+\begin{pmatrix}-\operatorname{div}G\\ 0\end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that the right-hand side is in $H_\nu^2(\mathbb{R};L_2(\Omega)\times L_2(\Omega)^d)$. By Theorem 6.2.1, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\begin{pmatrix}u\\ r\end{pmatrix}&=\left(\overline{\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})+\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}_0\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}}\right)^{-1}\left(\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})\begin{pmatrix}0\\ -G\end{pmatrix}+\begin{pmatrix}-\operatorname{div}G\\ 0\end{pmatrix}\right)\\ &\in H_\nu^1(\mathbb{R};L_2(\Omega)\times L_2(\Omega)^d)\cap L_{2,\nu}\Big(\mathbb{R};\operatorname{dom}\Big(\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}\Big)\Big).\end{aligned}$$

Indeed, since the solution operator commutes with $\partial_{t,\nu}$ and the right-hand side lies in H_ν^2, it even follows that $\begin{pmatrix}u\\ r\end{pmatrix}\in H_\nu^2(\mathbb{R};L_2(\Omega)\times L_2(\Omega)^d)$. From the equality

$$\left(\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})+\begin{pmatrix}0 & \operatorname{div}_0\\ \operatorname{grad} & 0\end{pmatrix}\right)\begin{pmatrix}u\\ r\end{pmatrix}=\partial_{t,\nu}M(\partial_{t,\nu})\begin{pmatrix}0\\ -G\end{pmatrix}+\begin{pmatrix}-\operatorname{div}G\\ 0\end{pmatrix}$$

it follows that

$$\begin{pmatrix} u \\ r \end{pmatrix} \in H_\nu^1\Big(\mathbb{R}; \operatorname{dom}\Big(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div}_0 \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}\Big)\Big).$$

Also, we deduce that

$$\left(\partial_{t,\nu} M(\partial_{t,\nu}) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}\right) \begin{pmatrix} u \\ r+G \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Since $r \in H_\nu^1(\mathbb{R}; \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div}_0))$, by Corollary 12.2.3 and Theorem 4.1.2 we obtain

$$\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}\left((r+G)(t)\right) = \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} G(t) = g(t) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}).$$

Hence, $(u, r+G)$ solves (12.2).
Next we address the uniqueness result. For this we note that a straightforward computation shows

$$\begin{pmatrix} v \\ q-G \end{pmatrix} = \left(\overline{\partial_{t,\nu} M(\partial_{t,\nu}) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div}_0 \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}}\right)^{-1} \left(\partial_{t,\nu} M(\partial_{t,\nu}) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -G \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -\operatorname{div} G \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\right),$$

which coincides with the formula for $(u, r+G)$. □

The upshot of the rationale exemplified in the proof is that inhomogeneous boundary value problems can be reduced to an evolutionary equation of the standard form with non-vanishing right-hand side. Of course the treatment of inhomogeneous Dirichlet data works along similar lines.

12.4 Abstract Boundary Data Spaces

Of course inhomogeneous boundary value problems can be addressed for other domains Ω than the half space $\mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Classically, some more specific properties need to be imposed on the description of the boundary $\partial\Omega$. In this section, however, we deviate from the classical perspective in as much as we like to consider *arbitrary* open sets $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$. For this we introduce

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div}) &= \{q \in H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)\,;\, \operatorname{div} q \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad}), \operatorname{grad}\operatorname{div} q = q\}, \\ \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad}) &= \big\{u \in H^1(\Omega)\,;\, \operatorname{grad} u \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{div}), \operatorname{div}\operatorname{grad} u = u\big\}. \end{aligned}$$

By Proposition 12.2.4 and Exercise 6.7, these spaces are closed subspaces of $H(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)$ and $H^1(\Omega)$, respectively, and therefore Hilbert spaces. Indeed,

$$\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div}) = H_0(\operatorname{div}, \Omega)^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)}}$$

and

$$\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad}) = H_0^1(\Omega)^{\perp_{H^1(\Omega)}}.$$

Now, we are in a position to solve inhomogeneous boundary value problems, where the trace mappings γ and γ_{n} are replaced by the canonical orthogonal projections $\pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})}$

and $\pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{div})}$ respectively; see Exercise 12.4. We devote the rest of this section to describe the relationship between the classical trace spaces introduced before and the BD-spaces. In the perspective outlined here, there is not much of a difference between Neumann boundary values and Dirichlet boundary values. The next result is an incarnation of this.

Proposition 12.4.1. *We have*

$$\operatorname{grad}[\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})] \subseteq \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div}) \quad \textit{and} \quad \operatorname{div}[\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})] \subseteq \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad}).$$

Moreover, the mappings

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}} \colon \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad}) &\to \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div}), \\ u &\mapsto \operatorname{grad} u \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}} \colon \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div}) &\to \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad}), \\ q &\mapsto \operatorname{div} q \end{aligned}$$

are unitary and $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}^* = \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}$.

Proof. Let $\phi \in \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})$. Then $\operatorname{grad}\phi \in H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)$ and $\operatorname{div}\operatorname{grad}\phi = \phi$. This implies $\operatorname{div}\operatorname{grad}\phi \in \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})$ and $\operatorname{grad}\operatorname{div}\operatorname{grad}\phi = \operatorname{grad}\phi$, which yields $\operatorname{grad}\phi \in \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})$. Thus, $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ is defined everywhere; interchanging the roles of grad and div, we obtain $\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ is also defined everywhere. We infer $\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}} = 1_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})}$ and $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}} = 1_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})}$ and thus $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ is bijective with $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}^{-1} = \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}$. It remains to show that $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ preserves the norm. For this we compute

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}\phi, \operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}\phi\rangle_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})} &= \langle \operatorname{grad}\phi, \operatorname{grad}\phi\rangle_{H(\operatorname{div})} \\ &= \langle \operatorname{grad}\phi, \operatorname{grad}\phi\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle \operatorname{div}\operatorname{grad}\phi, \operatorname{div}\operatorname{grad}\phi\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} \\ &= \langle \operatorname{grad}\phi, \operatorname{grad}\phi\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle \phi, \phi\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} \\ &= \langle \phi, \phi\rangle_{\operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})} = \langle \phi, \phi\rangle_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})}, \end{aligned}$$

which implies that $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ is unitary. Hence, $\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}} = \operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}^{-1} = \operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}^*$. □

It is also possible to show an 'integration by parts' formula analogous to (12.1) for the abstract situation:

Proposition 12.4.2. *Let* $u \in H^1(\Omega)$ *and* $q \in H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)$. *Then*

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \operatorname{div} q, u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q, \operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} &= \left\langle \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}\pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})}q, \pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})}u\right\rangle_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})} \\ &= \left\langle \pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})}q, \operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}\pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})}u\right\rangle_{\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{div})}. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We decompose $u = u_0 + u_1$ and $q = q_0 + q_1$ with $u_0 \in H_0^1(\Omega)$, $q_0 \in H_0(\mathrm{div}, \Omega)$, $u_1 = \pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}} u$ and $q_1 = \pi_{\mathrm{BD(div)}} q$. Then we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&\langle \operatorname{div} q, u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q, \operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \langle \operatorname{div}_0 q_0, u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q_0, \operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \langle q_0, -\operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q_0, \operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad} u\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u_0\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad} u_0\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad} u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \langle q_1, -\operatorname{grad}_0 u_0\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad}_0 u_0\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad} u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q_1, \operatorname{grad} u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle \operatorname{grad} \operatorname{div} q_1, \operatorname{grad} u_1\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} = \langle \operatorname{div} q_1, u_1\rangle_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}.
\end{aligned}$$

The remaining equality follows from the unitarity of $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ and $\operatorname{grad}_{\mathrm{BD}}^{-1} = \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}$ by Proposition 12.4.1. □

In view of Proposition 12.4.2 (although being the same mapping up to a unitary transformation) the proper replacement of γ_{n} appears to be $\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}} \pi_{\mathrm{BD(div)}}$ instead of just $\pi_{\mathrm{BD(div)}}$. Next, we show the equivalence of the trace spaces for the half space and the abstract ones introduced in this section.

Theorem 12.4.3. *Let* $\Omega := \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. *Then* $\gamma|_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}} : \mathrm{BD(grad)} \to H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ *and* $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}|_{\mathrm{BD(div)}} : \mathrm{BD(div)} \to H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ *are unitary mappings.*

Proof. We begin with γ_{n}. We have shown in Theorem 12.2.2 that $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}|_{\mathrm{BD(div)}}$ is continuous and in Theorem 12.2.5 it has been shown that $(\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}|_{\mathrm{BD(div)}})^{-1}$ is continuous. Also the two norm inequalities have been established.
The injectivity of $\gamma|_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}$ follows from $\ker \gamma = H_0^1(\Omega)$ by Corollary 12.2.3. All that remains simply relies upon recalling that $H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ is isomorphic to $(\ker \gamma)^{\perp}$ with the orthogonal complement computed in $H^1(\Omega)$. □

12.5 Robin Boundary Conditions

The classical Robin boundary conditions involve both traces, the Dirichlet trace γ and the Neumann trace γ_{n}. To motivate things, let us again have a look at the case $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. We consider the boundary condition for given $q \in H(\mathrm{div}, \Omega)$ and $u \in H^1(\Omega)$

$$\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q + \mathrm{i}\gamma u = 0,$$

in the sense that

$$\langle \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q, v\rangle_{H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}), H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} = \langle -\mathrm{i}\gamma u, v\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \quad (v \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})).$$

Note that this is an implicit regularity statement as $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ is representable as an $L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ function. The next result asserts that an evolutionary equation with a spatial operator of the type $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ with the above Robin boundary condition fits into the setting rendered by Theorem 6.2.1. In other words:

Theorem 12.5.1. *Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Then the operator $A\colon \operatorname{dom}(A) \subseteq L_2(\Omega)^{d+1} \to L_2(\Omega)^{d+1}$ with $A \subseteq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ with domain*

$$\operatorname{dom}(A) = \big\{(u,q) \in H^1(\Omega) \times H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)\,;\, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q + \mathrm{i}\gamma u = 0\big\}$$

is skew-selfadjoint.

Proof. Let $(u,q),(v,r) \in H^1(\Omega) \times H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)$. Then, by (12.1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ q \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} v \\ r \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle + \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} u \\ q \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v \\ r \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \\
&= \langle \operatorname{div} q, v\rangle + \langle \operatorname{grad} u, r\rangle + \langle u, \operatorname{div} r\rangle + \langle q, \operatorname{grad} v\rangle = \langle \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q, \gamma v\rangle + \langle \gamma u, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} r\rangle\,.
\end{aligned}$$

If, in addition, $(u,q) \in \operatorname{dom}(A)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
&\left\langle A \begin{pmatrix} u \\ q \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} v \\ r \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle + \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} u \\ q \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v \\ r \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle \\
&= \langle \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q, \gamma v\rangle + \langle \gamma u, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} r\rangle = -\langle \mathrm{i}\gamma u, \gamma v\rangle + \langle \gamma u, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} r\rangle = \langle \gamma u, \mathrm{i}\gamma v\rangle + \langle \gamma u, \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} r\rangle \\
&= \langle \gamma u, \mathrm{i}\gamma v + \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} r\rangle\,.
\end{aligned}$$

Since for every $u \in \mathcal{D}$, we find $q \in \mathcal{D}^d$ such that $(u,q) \in \operatorname{dom}(A)$,

$$\gamma[\mathcal{D}] \subseteq \{\gamma u\,;\, \exists q \in H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)\colon (u,q) \in \operatorname{dom}(A)\}\,.$$

Thus, the set on the right-hand side is dense in $H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. This in turn implies that $(v,r) \in \operatorname{dom}(A^*)$ if and only if $\mathrm{i}\gamma v + \gamma_{\mathrm{n}} r = 0$, and in this case we have $A^*(v,r) = -A(v,r)$. This implies that A is skew-selfadjoint. □

Next, one could argue that in the case for arbitrary Ω, the condition

$$\mathrm{i}\pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{grad})} u + \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}} \pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{div})} q = 0 \tag{12.3}$$

amounts to a generalisation of the Robin boundary condition just considered. However, this is not true as the following proposition shows.

Proposition 12.5.2. *Let $u \in H^1(\Omega), q \in H(\operatorname{div},\Omega)$. Moreover, we set $\kappa\colon \mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{grad}) \to L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$ with $\kappa v = \gamma v$ for $v \in \mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{grad})$. Then $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}} q + \mathrm{i}\gamma u = 0$ if and only if*

$$\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}} \pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{div})} q + \mathrm{i}\kappa^*\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD}(\mathrm{grad})} u = 0.$$

Proof. We first observe that $\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}w = \gamma w$ for each $w \in H^1(\Omega)$.
Assume now that $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}q + \mathrm{i}\gamma u = 0$ and let $v \in \mathrm{BD(grad)}$. Then we compute, using Proposition 12.4.2 and (12.1)

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\langle \mathrm{i}\kappa^*\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}u, v\right\rangle_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}} &= \left\langle \mathrm{i}\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}u, \kappa v\right\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \\
&= \langle \mathrm{i}\gamma u, \gamma v\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \\
&= \langle -(\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}q)^*, \gamma v\rangle_{H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}),H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \\
&= \langle -\operatorname{div} q, v\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle -q, \operatorname{grad} v\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \left\langle -\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}\pi_{\mathrm{BD(div)}}q, v\right\rangle_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}},
\end{aligned}$$

which proves one of the asserted implications.
Assume now that $\operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}\pi_{\mathrm{BD(div)}}q + \mathrm{i}\kappa^*\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}u = 0$ and let $v \in H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. We take $w \in H^1(\Omega)$ with $\gamma w = v$ and compute

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle(\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}q)^*, v\rangle_{H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1}),H^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} &= \langle \operatorname{div} q, w\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)} + \langle q, \operatorname{grad} w\rangle_{L_2(\Omega)^d} \\
&= \left\langle \operatorname{div}_{\mathrm{BD}}\pi_{\mathrm{BD(div)}}q, \pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}w\right\rangle_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}} \\
&= \left\langle -\mathrm{i}\kappa^*\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}u, \pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}w\right\rangle_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}} \\
&= \left\langle -\mathrm{i}\kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}u, \kappa\pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}}w\right\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})} \\
&= \langle -\mathrm{i}\gamma u, \gamma w\rangle_{L_2(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})},
\end{aligned}$$

which shows the remaining implication. □

12.6 Comments

The concept of abstract trace spaces has been introduced in [4] in order to study a multi-dimensional analogue for port-Hamiltonian systems. Also concerning differential equations at the boundary (so-called impedance type boundary conditions), the concept of abstract boundary value spaces has been employed, see [5].
A comparison between abstract and classical trace spaces has been provided in [3, 6] particularly concerning $H^{-1/2}(\mathbb{R}^{d-1})$. A good introduction for trace mappings for more complicated geometries can be found e.g. in [1]. The trace operator can also be suitably established for $H(\operatorname{curl}, \Omega)$-regular vector fields given that Ω is a so-called Lipschitz domain, see [2].

Exercises

Exercise 12.1. Let $\phi \in C_{\mathrm{c}}^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $f \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Show that

$$\phi * f \colon x \mapsto \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \phi(x-y)f(y)\,\mathrm{d}y$$

belongs to $H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ and that $\operatorname{grad}(\phi * f) = (\operatorname{grad}\phi) * f$. If, in addition, $f \in H^1(\mathbb{R}^d) = \operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{grad})$, then $\operatorname{grad}(\phi * f) = \phi * \operatorname{grad} f$, where the convolution is always taken component wise.

Exercise 12.2. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ be open. Let $f \in L_2(\Omega)$ and denote by $\widetilde{f} \in L_2(\mathbb{R}^d)$ the extension of f by zero. Let $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$, $\tau > 0$ and define $f_\tau := \widetilde{f}(\cdot + \tau v)|_\Omega$.

(a) Show that $f_\tau \to f$ in $L_2(\Omega)$ as $\tau \to 0$.

(b) Let now $f \in H^1(\Omega)$ and $\Omega + \tau v \subseteq \Omega$ for all $\tau > 0$. Show that $f_\tau \to f$ in $H^1(\Omega)$ as $\tau \to 0$.

Exercise 12.3. Prove Theorem 12.2.1.

Exercise 12.4. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$ be open, $M\colon \operatorname{dom}(M) \subseteq \mathbb{C} \to L\big(L_2(\Omega) \times L_2(\Omega)^d\big)$ with $\mathrm{s_b}(M) < \nu_0$ for some $\nu_0 \in \mathbb{R}$, $c > 0$ such that for all $z \in \mathbb{C}_{\mathrm{Re} \geqslant \nu_0}$ we have $\operatorname{Re} zM(z) \geqslant c$, $\nu \geqslant \max\{\nu_0, 0\}$ and $\nu \neq 0$. Show that there exists a unique

$$\begin{pmatrix} v \\ q \end{pmatrix} \in H^1_\nu\Big(\mathbb{R}; \operatorname{dom}\Big(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}\Big)\Big)$$

satisfying

$$\begin{cases} \left(\partial_{t,\nu} M(\partial_{t,\nu}) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \operatorname{div} \\ \operatorname{grad} & 0 \end{pmatrix}\right) \begin{pmatrix} v \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & \text{on } \Omega, \\ \pi_{\mathrm{BD(grad)}} v(t) = \phi(t) f & \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}, \end{cases}$$

for some bounded $\phi \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$ with $\inf \operatorname{spt} \phi > -\infty$ and $f \in \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{grad})$.

Exercise 12.5. Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Show that there exists a continuous linear operator $E\colon H^1(\Omega) \to H^1(\mathbb{R}^d)$ such that $E(\phi)|_\Omega = \phi$.

Exercise 12.6 (Korn's second inequality)**.** Let $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}$. Using Exercise 12.5 show that there exists $c > 0$ such that for all $\phi \in H^1(\Omega)^d$ we have

$$\|\phi\|_{H^1(\Omega)^d} \leqslant c \left(\|\phi\|_{L_2(\Omega)^d} + \|\operatorname{Grad}\phi\|_{L_2(\Omega)^{d\times d}} \right).$$

Thus, describe the space of boundary values of $\operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{Grad})$.
Hint: Prove a corresponding result for $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^d$ first after having shown that $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)^d$ forms a dense subset of both $H^1(\Omega)^d$ and $\operatorname{dom}(\operatorname{Grad})$.

Exercise 12.7. Let $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$ be open. Compute $\mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{curl}) := H_0(\operatorname{curl}, \Omega)^{\perp_{H(\operatorname{curl},\Omega)}}$ and show that $\operatorname{curl}\colon \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{curl}) \to \mathrm{BD}(\operatorname{curl})$ is well-defined, unitary and skew-selfadjoint.

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