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# Boundary value problems for modified Helmholtz equations and applications

Longfei Gu and Zunwei Fu\*

\*Correspondence:  
fuzunwei@lyu.edu.cn  
Department of Mathematics, Linyi  
University, Linyi, Shandong 276005,  
P.R. China

## Abstract

We investigate factorizations of modified Helmholtz equations in Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{3,3})$ . Using the method of fundamental solutions for modified Helmholtz equations and Clifford calculus, we obtain some integral representation theorem in Clifford analysis. The boundedness of singular integral operators in Hölder space is given. Moreover, we establish solvability conditions of Riemann type problems for modified Helmholtz equations in Clifford analysis. As applications, we solve a kind of singular integral equations. The explicit representation of the solution is also given.

**MSC:** 30G35

**Keywords:** Clifford algebra; Riemann type problem; Hölder space; modified Helmholtz equations

## 1 Introduction

As we know, the Helmholtz equations can be regarded as a generalization of the Sturm-Liouville equation to higher dimensions. The research on the Helmholtz equations  $\Delta u \pm \kappa^2 u = 0$  has drawn the attention of some physicists and mathematicians, we refer to [1–17]. Using a new transform method, Fokas, ben-Avraham and Antipov translate some important boundary value problems for linear and for integral nonlinear partial differential equations in physical plane to the corresponding modified Helmholtz equations. Novel integral representations for the solution of the Helmholtz and the modified Helmholtz equations formulated in the interior of a convex polygon are presented. These representations provide the basis for the development of certain analytical and numerical techniques for diffusion-limited coalescence, see [4–6] for more details. This article focuses on modified Helmholtz equations in Clifford analysis.

The Clifford approach is a powerful mathematical tool for the treatment of partial differential equations in higher dimensions, see [1–3, 7, 15–23]. Maxwell's equations in physics are the fundamental equations of electromagnetism and are recast into Helmholtz equations by using the Clifford approach, which is different from the vector calculus method. The electric and magnetic fields are treated together, both encoded as bi-vector into one part of a four-dimensional Clifford number in Clifford approach; we mention here [7, 12–14]. It is natural to consider boundary value problems theory for Helmholtz equations and modified Helmholtz equations in higher dimensions, for instance, Riemann type problems, Dirichlet type problems, and so on. Besides the pure mathematical interest, these results are necessary for concrete problems in physics and engineering [8, 9]. In [17], Rie-

mann type problems for Helmholtz equations in the framework of Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{n,0})$  are considered. Based on some ideas from [17], Riemann type problems for Helmholtz equations in Hermitian Clifford analysis are studied in [3]. However, to the best of our knowledge, some boundary value problems for modified Helmholtz equations and their applications in integral equations in the framework of Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{n,n})$  ( $n \geq 3$ ) have not been considered. The main motivation is that the modified Helmholtz operator has been exactly factorized by means of the so-called  $\pm\kappa$ -Dirac operators ( $\kappa > 0$ ) i.e.,  $\Delta - \kappa^2 = (D + \kappa)(D - \kappa)$  in the Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{3,3})$ .

In this article, motivated by [24, 25], in the framework of Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{3,3})$ , we obtain second order generalized integral representations and solve some Dirichlet type problems for modified Helmholtz equations. We define some integral operators which are the generalization of classical Cauchy type integral operators, Teodorescu operators in Clifford analysis, and we study some properties of them. Finally, we study Riemann type problems for modified Helmholtz equations and give some applications.

### 2 Preliminaries

Let  $V_{3,3}$  be an 3-dimensional real linear space with basis  $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$ ,  $Cl(V_{3,3})$  be the Clifford algebra over  $V_{3,3}$  and the 8-dimensional real linear space with basis

$$\{e_A, A = \{l_1, \dots, l_r\} \in \mathcal{P}N, 1 \leq l_1 < \dots < l_r \leq 3\},$$

where  $N$  stands for the set  $\{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\mathcal{P}N$  denotes the family of all order-preserving subsets of  $N$  in the above way. Now denote  $e_\emptyset$  by  $e_0$  and  $e_{l_1 \dots l_r}$  by  $e_A$  for  $A = \{l_1, \dots, l_r\} \in \mathcal{P}N$ . The product on  $Cl(V_{3,3})$  is defined by

$$\begin{cases} e_A e_B = (-1)^{n(A \cap B)} (-1)^{P(A,B)} e_{A \Delta B}, & \text{if } A, B \in \mathcal{P}N, \\ \lambda \mu = \sum_{A, B \in \mathcal{P}N} \lambda_A \mu_B e_A e_B, & \text{if } \lambda = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}N} \lambda_A e_A, \\ \mu = \sum_{B \in \mathcal{P}N} \mu_B e_B, & \end{cases} \tag{2.1}$$

where  $n(A)$  is the cardinal number of the set  $A$ , the number  $P(A, B) = \sum_{j \in B} P(A, j)$ ,  $P(A, j) = n\{i, i \in A, i > j\}$ , the symmetric difference set  $A \Delta B$  is order-preserving in the above way, and  $\lambda_A \in \mathbb{R}$  is the coefficient of the  $e_A$ -component of the Clifford number  $\lambda$ . It follows from the multiplication rule above that  $e_0$  is the identity element written now as 1 and, in particular,

$$\begin{cases} e_i^2 = 1, & \text{if } i = 1, 2, 3, \\ e_i e_j = -e_j e_i, & \text{if } 1 \leq i < j \leq 3. \end{cases} \tag{2.2}$$

Thus  $Cl(V_{3,3})$  is a real linear, associative, but non-commutative algebra. An involution is defined by

$$\begin{cases} \overline{e_A} = (-1)^{\frac{n(A)(n(A)+3)}{2}} e_A, & \text{if } A \in \mathcal{P}N, \\ \overline{\lambda} = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}N} \lambda_A \overline{e_A}, & \text{if } \lambda = \sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}N} \lambda_A e_A. \end{cases} \tag{2.3}$$

In view of the multiplication rule (2.1) and the definition of the involution (2.3), it is easy to check that

$$\begin{cases} \overline{e_i} = e_i, & \text{if } i = 0, 1, 2, 3, \\ \overline{\lambda \mu} = \overline{\mu} \overline{\lambda}, & \text{for any } \lambda, \mu \in Cl(V_{3,3}). \end{cases} \tag{2.4}$$

The norm of  $\lambda$  is defined by  $\|\lambda\| = (\sum_{A \in \mathcal{P}_N} |\lambda_A|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Throughout this article, suppose  $\Omega$  is an open bounded non-empty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , denote  $\Omega^+ = \Omega$ ,  $\Omega^- = \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}$ . We now introduce the Dirac operator  $D = \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ . In particular, we have  $DD = \Delta$  where  $\Delta$  is the Laplacian over  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . A function  $u : \Omega \mapsto Cl(V_{3,3})$  is said to be left monogenic if it satisfies the equation  $D[u](\mathbf{x}) = 0$  for each  $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$ . A similar definition can be given for right monogenic functions. Elementary properties of the Dirac operators and left monogenic functions can be found in [8, 9, 26–29].

The elliptic partial differential operator  $H = (\Delta - \kappa^2)$ , for  $\kappa > 0$ , corresponds to the modified Helmholtz equation:

$$Hu = (\Delta - \kappa^2)u = 0, \tag{2.5}$$

which has as fundamental solution the function

$$E_1(\mathbf{x}, \kappa^2) = \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{x}\|}}{4\pi\|\mathbf{x}\|}. \tag{2.6}$$

We defined the operators  $L_\kappa, L_{-\kappa}$  as follows:

$$L_\kappa u = Du + \kappa u, \quad L_{-\kappa} u = Du - \kappa u.$$

By the multiplication rule on Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{3,3})$ , the modified Helmholtz equation may be written as

$$L_\kappa L_{-\kappa} u = L_{-\kappa} L_\kappa u = 0.$$

Denote

$$K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} + \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^2} + \frac{\kappa}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} \right) e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|}, \tag{2.7}$$

$$K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} + \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^2} - \frac{\kappa}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} \right) e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|}, \tag{2.8}$$

where  $\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x} = \sum_{i=1}^3 (y_i - x_i)e_i$ . It is clear that  $K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa)$  and  $K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa)$  are fundamental solutions of  $L_\kappa = \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} + \kappa$  and  $L_{-\kappa} = \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} - \kappa$ , respectively.

### 3 Integral representation formulas and some properties of generalized Cauchy integral operators

Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $u(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_A e_A u_A(\mathbf{x})$ , where  $u_A(\mathbf{x})$  are real functions.  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is called a Hölder continuous functions on  $\overline{\Omega}$  if the following condition is satisfied:

$$\|u(\mathbf{x}_1) - u(\mathbf{x}_2)\| = \left[ \sum_A \|u_A(\mathbf{x}_1) - u_A(\mathbf{x}_2)\| \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq C\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|^\alpha,$$

where for any  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \overline{\Omega}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_1 \neq \mathbf{x}_2$ ,  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ ,  $C$  is a positive constant independent of  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2$ .

Denote by  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  the set of Hölder continuous functions with values in  $Cl(V_{3,3})$  on  $\partial\Omega$  (the Hölder exponent is  $\alpha$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ ). Define the norm of  $u$  in  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  as

$$\|u\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} = \|u\|_\infty + \|u\|_\alpha, \tag{3.1}$$

where  $\|u\|_\infty := \sup_{\mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega} \|u(\mathbf{x})\|$ ,  $\|u\|_\alpha := \sup_{\substack{\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \partial\Omega \\ \mathbf{x}_1 \neq \mathbf{x}_2}} \frac{\|u(\mathbf{x}_1) - u(\mathbf{x}_2)\|}{\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|^\alpha}$ .

**Lemma 3.1** [22] *The Hölder space  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  is a Banach space with norm (3.1).*

**Lemma 3.2** *Let  $f, g \in C^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . Then*

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} f d\sigma_y g = \int_{\Omega} [f]L_\kappa g dV + \int_{\Omega} fL_{-\kappa}[g] dV = \int_{\Omega} [f]L_{-\kappa}g dV + \int_{\Omega} fL_\kappa[g] dV.$$

*Proof* From Stokes' theorem in Clifford analysis in [26], the results can be directly proved. □

**Theorem 3.3** *If  $u \in C^2(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C^1(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) \\ & - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} H[u](\mathbf{y}) dV = \begin{cases} u(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

where  $K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa)$  is as in (2.8).

*Proof* Let  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}$ . Using Lemma 3.2, we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} H[u](\mathbf{y}) dV \\ & = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} \right] L_\kappa L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) dV \\ & = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) dV \\ & = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(\mathbf{y}). \end{aligned}$$

Then the left-hand side of (3.2) apparently equals zero.

Now, let  $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$  and take  $r > 0$  such that  $B(\mathbf{x}, r) \subset \Omega$ . Invoking the previous case, we may then write

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\partial(\Omega \setminus B(\mathbf{x}, r))} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial(\Omega \setminus B(\mathbf{x}, r))} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{y}\|} d\sigma_y L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) \\ & - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega \setminus B(\mathbf{x}, r)} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{y}\|} H[u](\mathbf{y}) dV = 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.3}$$

Here we take the limits for  $r \rightarrow 0$ . As regards the weak singularity of  $\frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|}$ , the third term of (3.3) yields

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega \setminus B(x,r)} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} H[u](y) dV = \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} H[u](y) dV. \tag{3.4}$$

Furthermore we write

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\partial(\Omega \setminus B(x,r))} K_{*1}(x, y, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(y) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial(\Omega \setminus B(x,r))} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} d\sigma_y L_{\kappa}[u](y) \\ &= \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(x, y, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(y) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} d\sigma_y L_{\kappa}[u](y) \\ & \quad - \int_{\partial B(x,r)} K_{*1}(x, y, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(y) - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial B(x,r)} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} d\sigma_y L_{\kappa}[u](y). \end{aligned} \tag{3.5}$$

We denote

$$\Theta(x) \triangleq \int_{\partial B(x,r)} K_{*1}(x, y, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(y) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial B(x,r)} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} d\sigma_y L_{\kappa}[u](y). \tag{3.6}$$

It follows from the Stokes formula that

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(x) &= \frac{3e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r^3} \int_{B(x,r)} u(y) dV + \frac{3\kappa e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r^2} \int_{B(x,r)} u(y) dV \\ & \quad + \frac{e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r^3} \int_{B(x,r)} (y-x)D[u](y) dV + \frac{\kappa e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r^2} \int_{B(x,r)} (y-x)D[u](y) dV \\ & \quad + \frac{e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r} \int_{B(x,r)} \Delta[u](y) dV. \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Applying the Lebesgue differentiation theorem, we have

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \Theta(x) = u(x). \tag{3.8}$$

Combining (3.3) with (3.4)-(3.8), we get the desired result. □

**Theorem 3.4** *If  $u \in C^2(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C^1(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$ , then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(x, y, \kappa) d\sigma_y u(y) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} d\sigma_y L_{-\kappa}[u](y) \\ & \quad - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|y-x\|}}{\|y-x\|} H[u](y) dV = \begin{cases} u(x), & x \in \Omega, \\ 0, & x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}, \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

where  $K_1(x, y, \kappa)$  is as in (2.7).

*Proof* The result can be similarly proved to Theorem 3.3. □

**Corollary 3.5** *If  $u \in C^2(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C^1(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$  and  $H[u] = L_\kappa L_{-\kappa}[u] = 0$  in  $\Omega$ , then*

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} L_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} u(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}, \end{cases} \quad (3.10)$$

where  $K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa)$  is as in (2.7).

**Corollary 3.6** *If  $u \in C^2(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C^1(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded nonempty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$  and  $H[u] = L_{-\kappa} L_\kappa[u] = 0$  in  $\Omega$ , then*

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) = \begin{cases} u(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \\ 0, & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \overline{\Omega}, \end{cases} \quad (3.11)$$

where  $K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa)$  is as in (2.8).

**Corollary 3.7** *Let  $f(\mathbf{x}) \in C_c^2(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . The solution of the following Dirichlet boundary value problem:*

$$\begin{cases} Hu = f, & \text{in } \Omega, \\ L_\kappa[u] = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ u = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (3.12)$$

is

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} f(\mathbf{y}) dV. \quad (3.13)$$

*Proof* By Theorem 3.3, the solution of (3.12) is formulated as

$$\begin{aligned} u(\mathbf{x}) &= \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{y}) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} H[u](\mathbf{y}) dV, \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

since  $L_\kappa[u] = 0$  and  $u = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , the result follows. □

Using Theorem 3.4, we also have the following result which can be similarly proved to Corollary 3.7.

**Corollary 3.8** *Let  $f(\mathbf{x}) \in C_c^2(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . The solution of the Dirichlet boundary value problem*

$$\begin{cases} Hu = f, & \text{in } \Omega, \\ L_{-\kappa}[u] = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ u = 0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad (3.15)$$

is

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} f(\mathbf{y}) dV. \quad (3.16)$$

Next, we introduce the following generalized Teodorescu operators  $\mathbb{T}_{\pm\kappa}$ , the generalized Cauchy integral operators  $\mathbb{F}_{\pm\kappa}$ , and the generalized Cauchy singular integral operators  $\mathbb{S}_{\pm\kappa}$ :

$$\mathbb{T}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) \triangleq - \int_{\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y}) dV, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \tag{3.17}$$

$$\mathbb{T}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) \triangleq - \int_{\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y}) dV, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \Omega, \tag{3.18}$$

$$\mathbb{F}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega, \tag{3.19}$$

$$\mathbb{F}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) \triangleq \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega, \tag{3.20}$$

$$\mathbb{S}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) \triangleq 2 \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \tag{3.21}$$

$$\mathbb{S}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) \triangleq 2 \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \tag{3.22}$$

where  $\kappa \geq 0, u \in H^{\alpha}(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ .

**Lemma 3.9** [22] *Let  $\Omega$  be an open nonempty bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega, u \in H^{\alpha}(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})), 0 < \alpha \leq 1$ . Then*

$$\lim_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_0 \in \partial\Omega \\ \mathbf{x} \in \Omega}} \mathbb{F}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) = \frac{u(\mathbf{x}_0)}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{S}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}_0), \tag{3.23}$$

$$\lim_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_0 \in \partial\Omega \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{\Omega}}} \mathbb{F}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{u(\mathbf{x}_0)}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{S}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}_0), \tag{3.24}$$

$$\lim_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_0 \in \partial\Omega \\ \mathbf{x} \in \Omega}} \mathbb{F}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) = \frac{u(\mathbf{x}_0)}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{S}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}_0), \tag{3.25}$$

$$\lim_{\substack{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x}_0 \in \partial\Omega \\ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \bar{\Omega}}} \mathbb{F}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{u(\mathbf{x}_0)}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{S}_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}_0). \tag{3.26}$$

**Theorem 3.10** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded non-empty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega, u \in C^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C(\bar{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . Then for  $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$ ,*

$$L_{\kappa} \mathbb{T}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) = u(\mathbf{x}). \tag{3.27}$$

*Proof* Step 1. Because  $u(\mathbf{x})$  has its compact support  $\text{supp}[u] \Subset \Omega$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{T}_{\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) &= - \int_{\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y}) dV \\ &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y}) dV \\ &= - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) dV. \end{aligned}$$

In view of  $u(\mathbf{x})$  having a compact support, the operator  $L_\kappa$  acting on  $\mathbb{T}_\kappa[u](\mathbf{x})$  may be interchanged with integration. Thus we get

$$\begin{aligned} L_\kappa \mathbb{T}_\kappa [u](\mathbf{x}) &= -\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B(0,r)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x})] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \kappa K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) \right] dV \\ &= -\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B(0,r)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \kappa K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) \right] dV \\ &= -\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B(0,r)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \kappa K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) \right] dV \\ &= -\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus B(0,r)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^3 e_i \frac{\partial}{\partial y_i} [K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x})] \right] dV. \end{aligned}$$

Using the Stokes formula, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} L_\kappa \mathbb{T}_\kappa [u](\mathbf{x}) &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\|\mathbf{y}\|=r} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\|\mathbf{y}\|=r} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) [u(\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}) - u(\mathbf{x})] \\ &\quad + \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \int_{\|\mathbf{y}\|=r} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{x}, \kappa) u(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\|\mathbf{y}\|=r} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} \left( \frac{\mathbf{y}}{\|\mathbf{y}\|^3} + \frac{\kappa \mathbf{y}}{\|\mathbf{y}\|^2} - \frac{\kappa}{\|\mathbf{y}\|} \right) e^{-\kappa \|\mathbf{y}\|} u(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{3e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r^3} \int_{\|\mathbf{y}\| \leq r} dV + \frac{3\kappa e^{-\kappa r}}{4\pi r^2} \int_{\|\mathbf{y}\| \leq r} dV \right) u(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= u(\mathbf{x}). \tag{3.28} \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have proved that (3.27) follows for any  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in C_c^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ .

Step 2. We prove that (3.27) holds for any  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in C^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . We take a neighborhood  $V$  of  $\mathbf{x}$  such that  $\mathbf{x} \in V \Subset \Omega$ , a real-valued function  $\Psi \in C^\infty(\Omega)$  such that  $\Psi|_V = 1$  and  $\text{supp } \Psi \Subset \Omega$ . Then

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = u\Psi + u(1 - \Psi) := u_1(\mathbf{x}) + u_2(\mathbf{x}).$$

It is obvious that  $u_1(\mathbf{x}) \in C_c^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $u_2(\mathbf{x}) \in C^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  and  $u_1|_V = u$ ,  $u_2|_V = 0$ . Following step 1, we obtain

$$L_\kappa \mathbb{T}_\kappa [u_1](\mathbf{x}) = u_1(\mathbf{x}) = u(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in V. \tag{3.29}$$



Since  $u_2(\mathbf{x})$  equals zero in  $V$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} L_\kappa \mathbb{T}_\kappa [u_2](\mathbf{x}) &= L_\kappa \left[ - \int_\Omega K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) u_2(\mathbf{y}) dV \right] \\ &= L_\kappa \left[ - \int_{\Omega \setminus V} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) u_2(\mathbf{y}) dV \right] \\ &= 0. \end{aligned} \tag{3.30}$$

It follows from (3.29) and (3.30) that

$$L_\kappa \mathbb{T}_\kappa [u](\mathbf{x}) = u(\mathbf{x}). \tag{3.31}$$

Because  $\mathbf{x}$  is taken arbitrarily in  $\Omega$ , the result follows. □

Corresponding to Theorem 3.10, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.11** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded non-empty subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$ ,  $u \in C^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . Then for  $\mathbf{x} \in \Omega$ ,*

$$L_{-\kappa} \mathbb{T}_{-\kappa} [u](\mathbf{x}) = u(\mathbf{x}). \tag{3.32}$$

In the following, we need to consider Hölder’s boundedness of the singular integral operators  $\mathbb{S}_{\pm\kappa}$ . It is necessary to solve the following boundary value problems in Clifford analysis.

**Theorem 3.12** *Let  $\Omega$  be an open nonempty bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . Then the generalized Cauchy integral operator  $\mathbb{S}_\kappa: H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \mapsto H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  defined by (3.21) is bounded, i.e.*

$$\|\mathbb{S}_\kappa [u]\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} \leq C \|u\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)}, \tag{3.33}$$

where  $C = \max\{\frac{C_4}{2\pi} \eta^{2-\alpha} (|\partial\Omega| + \frac{1}{2-\alpha}) + C_6, \frac{C_5(|\partial\Omega| + \eta^2 + \eta)}{2\pi\eta} + \frac{2\kappa(C_2\eta^2 + C_3|\partial\Omega|)}{\eta}\}$  and  $|\partial\Omega|$  denotes the surface area of  $\Omega$ .

*Proof* For  $\mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbb{S}_\kappa [u](\mathbf{x})\| &= \left\| \frac{2}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \left[ \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} + \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^2} - \frac{\kappa}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} \right] e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^2} e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) \right\| \\ &\quad + \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\kappa}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) \right\| \\ &\quad + \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) \right\| \\ &:= J_1 + J_2 + J_3. \end{aligned} \tag{3.34}$$

Since  $\partial\Omega$  is Lyapunov boundary, the normal vector  $\mathbf{n}$  is continuous on  $\partial\Omega$ . Therefore, we can choose  $0 < \eta \leq 1$  such that for the scalar product

$$(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}); \mathbf{n}(\mathbf{y})) \geq \frac{1}{2} \tag{3.35}$$

for all  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \partial\Omega$  with  $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\| \leq \eta$ . It is enough to consider the case of  $\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|$  being sufficiently small such that the set  $\partial L \triangleq \{\mathbf{y} \in \partial\Omega : \|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\| \leq \eta\}$  is connected for each  $\mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega$ . Then the condition (3.35) implies that  $\partial L$  can be bijective into the tangent plane to  $\partial\Omega$  at the point  $\mathbf{x}$ . Using polar coordinates  $(r, \omega)$  in the tangent plane with origin in  $\mathbf{x}$ , for any  $u \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ , we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_{\partial L} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^2} e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) \right\| &\leq \kappa C_1 \|u\|_\infty \int_{\partial L} \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} dS \leq 2\pi\kappa C_2 \|u\|_\infty \int_0^\eta dr \\ &= 2\pi\kappa C_2 \eta \|u\|_\infty, \end{aligned} \tag{3.36}$$

where  $C_1, C_2$  denote nonnegative constants which are independent of  $u$ . Here we use the facts that  $\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\| \geq r$ , that the surface element

$$dS = \frac{r dr d\omega}{(\mathbf{n}(\mathbf{x}), \mathbf{x}(\mathbf{y}))} \tag{3.37}$$

can be estimated with the aid of (3.35) by  $dS \leq 2r dr d\omega$ , and that the projection  $\partial L$  into the tangent plane is contained in the interior of the sphere of radius  $\eta$  and center  $\mathbf{x}$ . Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \int_{\partial\Omega \setminus \partial L} \frac{\kappa(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^2} e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}) \right\| &\leq 2\pi\kappa C_3 \|u\|_\infty \int_{\partial\Omega \setminus \partial L} \eta^{-1} dS \\ &\leq 2\pi\kappa C_3 \|u\|_\infty \eta^{-1} |\partial\Omega|, \end{aligned} \tag{3.38}$$

where  $|\partial\Omega|$  is the surface area of  $\Omega$ . Inequalities (3.36) with (3.38) imply

$$J_1 \leq \frac{\kappa C_2 \eta^2 + \kappa C_3 |\partial\Omega|}{\eta} \|u\|_\infty. \tag{3.39}$$

Using a similar method to the proof of  $J_1$ , we obtain

$$J_2 \leq \frac{\kappa C_2 \eta^2 + \kappa C_3 |\partial\Omega|}{\eta} \|u\|_\infty. \tag{3.40}$$

Now we estimate  $J_3$ . Combining  $u \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  with

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \text{for } \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega,$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} J_3 \leq &\left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} [e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} (u(\mathbf{y}) - u(\mathbf{x}))] \right\| \\ &+ \left\| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}}{\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|^3} d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} [u(\mathbf{x}) e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}\|} - u(\mathbf{x})] \right\| + \|u(\mathbf{x})\| \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\leq C_4 \|u\|_\alpha \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{1}{\|y-x\|^{2-\alpha}} dS + C_5 \frac{1}{2\pi} \|u\|_\infty \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{1}{\|y-x\|} dS + \|u\|_\infty \\
 &\leq \frac{C_4}{2\pi} \left( \int_{\partial\Omega \setminus \partial L} \frac{1}{\|y-x\|^{2-\alpha}} dS + \int_{\partial L} \frac{1}{\|y-x\|^{2-\alpha}} dS \right) \|u\|_\alpha \\
 &\quad + \frac{C_5}{2\pi} \left( \int_{\partial\Omega \setminus \partial L} \frac{1}{\|y-x\|} dS + \int_{\partial L} \frac{1}{\|y-x\|} dS \right) \|u\|_\infty + \|u\|_\infty \\
 &\leq \frac{C_4}{2\pi} \left( \eta^{2-\alpha} |\partial\Omega| + \frac{\eta^{2-\alpha}}{2-\alpha} \right) \|u\|_\alpha + \frac{C_5}{2\pi} (\eta^{-1} |\partial\Omega| + \eta + 1) \|u\|_\infty. \tag{3.41}
 \end{aligned}$$

Combining (3.34), (3.39), (3.40), and (3.41), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|\mathbb{S}_\kappa[u]\|_\infty &\leq \frac{C_4}{2\pi} \eta^{2-\alpha} \left( |\partial\Omega| + \frac{1}{2-\alpha} \right) \|u\|_\alpha \\
 &\quad + \left[ \frac{C_5(|\partial\Omega| + \eta^2 + \eta)}{2\pi\eta} + \frac{2\kappa(C_2\eta^2 + C_3|\partial\Omega|)}{\eta} \right] \|u\|_\infty, \tag{3.42}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_4, C_5, C_6$  denote nonnegative constants which are independent of  $u$ .

On the other hand, for  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in \partial\Omega$ , it is enough to consider the case of  $\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|$  being sufficiently small. It is obvious that

$$e^{-\kappa\|y-x_i\|} u(\mathbf{y}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})), \quad i = 1, 2,$$

and

$$\|y-x\| e^{-\kappa\|y-x_i\|} u(\mathbf{y}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega \times \partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})), \quad i = 1, 2.$$

Applying some properties of the Hilbert transform in Clifford analysis (see [8, 9, 16, 30]) and the weak singularity of  $\frac{y-x}{\|y-x\|^2}$  and  $\frac{1}{\|y-x\|}$ , we conclude

$$\|\mathbb{S}_\kappa[u](\mathbf{x}_1) - \mathbb{S}_\kappa[u](\mathbf{x}_2)\| \leq C_6 \|u\|_\alpha \|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|^\alpha, \tag{3.43}$$

where  $C_6$  is a nonnegative constant independent of  $\mathbf{x}_1$  and  $\mathbf{x}_2$ . It follows from (3.42) and (3.43) that

$$\|\mathbb{S}_\kappa[u]\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} \leq C \|u\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)},$$

where  $C = \max\{\frac{C_4}{2\pi} \eta^{2-\alpha} (|\partial\Omega| + \frac{1}{2-\alpha}) + C_6, \frac{C_5(|\partial\Omega| + \eta^2 + \eta)}{2\pi\eta} + \frac{2\kappa(C_2\eta^2 + C_3|\partial\Omega|)}{\eta}\}$ . The proof is complete.  $\square$

**Remark 3.13** By the same technique we obtain the following result that the generalized Cauchy integral operator  $\mathbb{S}_{-\kappa}: H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \mapsto H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  defined by (3.22) is bounded.

**Remark 3.14** We assume  $u \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . All integrals are understood in the Riemann integral sense in Lemma 3.9 and Theorem 3.12. Now, let  $L^p(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})), 1 \leq p < \infty$  be the space of all Clifford algebra valued functions, whose  $p$ th power is Lebesgue integrable in  $\partial\Omega$ . If  $u \in L^p(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  then one has to understand  $\mathbb{F}_{\pm\kappa}$  as a Lebesgue integral,

and the necessary changes can be easily made. For instance, the limits exist almost everywhere on  $\partial\Omega$  with respect to the surface Lebesgue measure in Lemma 3.9. Using classical Calderón-Zygmund theory, an  $L^p$  formulation of Theorem 3.12 holds.

In the framework of Clifford algebra  $Cl(V_{3,3})$ , we come back to the modified Helmholtz equation  $(\Delta - \kappa^2)[u](\mathbf{x}) = 0, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$ . By Theorem 3.3, Theorem 3.4, Theorem 3.10, and Theorem 3.11, we have the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.15** *Suppose that  $\Omega$  is an open nonempty bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with a Lyapunov boundary  $\partial\Omega, f, g \in C^1(\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3})) \cap C(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $L_{-\kappa}[f] = 0$  and  $L_\kappa[g] = 0$  in  $\Omega$ . Then the function  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is determined by*

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{T}_\kappa[f](\mathbf{x}) + g(\mathbf{x}) \tag{3.44}$$

or

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbb{T}_{-\kappa}[g](\mathbf{x}) + f(\mathbf{x}). \tag{3.45}$$

Conversely, suppose  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in C^1(\overline{\Omega}, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  and  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is a solution of the modified Helmholtz equation. Then  $u$  may be represented by (3.44) or (3.45), where  $L_{-\kappa}[f] = 0$  and  $L_\kappa[g] = 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

#### 4 Some boundary value problems for modified Helmholtz equations and its application

We consider the following Riemann type problem now:

$$\begin{cases} Hu = 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega, \\ u^+(\mathbf{x}) = u^-(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x}) + g_1(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \\ L_\kappa[u]^+(\mathbf{x}) = L_\kappa[u]^-(\mathbf{x})A + g_2(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \\ \lim_{\|\mathbf{x}\| \rightarrow \infty} u(\mathbf{x}) = 0, \end{cases} \tag{4.1}$$

where  $A$  is any invertible Clifford constant.  $g_1(\mathbf{x}), g_2(\mathbf{x})$ , and  $f(\mathbf{x})$  are Clifford value functions in  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1, H = \Delta - \kappa^2, \kappa \geq 0$ . We establish solvability conditions of the Riemann type problem (4.1).

**Theorem 4.1** *Suppose  $f(\mathbf{x}), g_1(\mathbf{x}), g_2(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , and  $f(\mathbf{x})$  satisfies the following condition:*

$$\|1 - f(\mathbf{x})\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} < \frac{1}{C + 1}, \tag{4.2}$$

where  $C$  is a positive constant mentioned in Theorem 3.12. Then there exists a unique solution to the Riemann type problem (4.1).

*Proof* Combining  $H[u](\mathbf{x}) = L_{-\kappa}[L_\kappa[u]](\mathbf{x}) = 0$  and  $u(\infty) = 0$ , we easily check  $L_{-\kappa}[u](\mathbf{x}) = 0$  and  $\omega(\infty) = 0$ . Let  $\omega(\mathbf{x}) = L_\kappa[u](\mathbf{x})$ . Then

$$\omega^+(\mathbf{x}) = \omega^-(\mathbf{x})A + g_2(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \tag{4.3}$$

holds. Furthermore, we obtain

$$\omega(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y g_2(\mathbf{y}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^+, \\ \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y g_2(\mathbf{y}) A^{-1}, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^-. \end{cases} \tag{4.4}$$

Let

$$u_1(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y g_2(\mathbf{y}), & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^+, \\ \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y g_2(\mathbf{y}) A^{-1}, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^-. \end{cases} \tag{4.5}$$

It is easy to see that

$$L_\kappa[u - u_1](\mathbf{x}) = 0, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega. \tag{4.6}$$

Denote  $u(\mathbf{x}) - u_1(\mathbf{x}) := \varphi(\mathbf{x})$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega$ , applying the transmission condition

$$u^+(\mathbf{x}) = u^-(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x}) + g_1(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega,$$

we have

$$\varphi^+(\mathbf{x}) = \varphi^-(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x}) + \tilde{g}_1(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \tag{4.7}$$

where

$$\tilde{g}_1(\mathbf{x}) = g_1(\mathbf{x}) - \frac{1}{\omega_3} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y g_2(\mathbf{y}) + \frac{1}{\omega_3} \int_{\partial\Omega} \frac{e^{-\kappa\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|}}{\|\mathbf{y}-\mathbf{x}\|} d\sigma_y g_2(\mathbf{y}) A^{-1} f(\mathbf{x}).$$

It is clear that  $\tilde{g}_1(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ . We have  $\varphi(\infty) = 0$ . Combining (4.6) with (4.7), we have

$$\begin{cases} L_\kappa[\varphi] = 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega, \\ \varphi^+(\mathbf{x}) = \varphi^-(\mathbf{x})f(\mathbf{x}) + \tilde{g}_1(\mathbf{x}), & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \varphi(\infty) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{4.8}$$

We only need to consider the existence of solutions to (4.8). The solution to this problem may be written in the form

$$\varphi(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y \varphi_1(\mathbf{y}), \tag{4.9}$$

where  $\varphi_1(\mathbf{y})$  is a Hölder continuous function to be determined on  $\partial\Omega$ . Using Lemma 3.9, (4.8) can be reduced to an equivalent singular integral equation for  $\varphi_1$ ,

$$\varphi_1(\mathbf{x}) = \left[ \frac{\varphi_1(\mathbf{x})}{2} - \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_y \varphi_1(\mathbf{y}) \right] (1 - f(\mathbf{x})) + \tilde{g}_1(\mathbf{x}). \tag{4.10}$$

We set

$$(T\varphi_1)(\mathbf{x}) = \left[ \varphi_1(\mathbf{x}) - (\mathbb{S}_\kappa \varphi_1)(\mathbf{x}) \right] \frac{(1 - f(\mathbf{x}))}{2} + \tilde{g}_1(\mathbf{x}). \tag{4.11}$$

For any  $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,

$$\|T\omega_1 - T\omega_2\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} \leq \|\omega_1 - \omega_2\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} \|1 - f\|_{(\alpha, \partial\Omega)} (1 + C). \tag{4.12}$$

From (4.2), the integral operator  $T$  is a contraction operator mapping the Banach space  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  into itself. Then the operator  $T$  has a unique fixed point. Thus there exists a unique solution to (4.8). The proof is finished.  $\square$

**Remark 4.2** In the above Theorem 4.1, the existence and uniqueness of solutions of the Riemann type problem for the modified Helmholtz equation with variable coefficient *i.e.*,  $f(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  is illustrated. Particularly, when  $f(\mathbf{x})$  is just an invertible Clifford constant, for the boundary value problem (4.1) there exists a unique solution. Moreover, we have obtained an explicit representation of solutions in [22].

As applications, using Lemma 3.9 and the results of the boundary value problem, we consider two kinds of singular integral equations and obtain their explicit representations of solutions.

**Theorem 4.3** *Consider the singular integral equation:*

$$u(\mathbf{x})A + 2 \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y})B = f(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3, \tag{4.13}$$

where  $f(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $B$  is a non-zero Clifford constant,  $A + B$  and  $A - B$  are invertible Clifford constants, and  $(A + B)^{-1}$  and  $(A - B)^{-1}$  are invertible elements, respectively. Then:

1. If  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  is a solution to (4.13), and

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega, \tag{4.14}$$

then

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x}) \cdot (A - B)(A + B)^{-1} + f(\mathbf{x})(A + B)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \tag{4.15}$$

and

$$\lim_{\|\mathbf{x}\| \rightarrow \infty} \mathfrak{F}_{*1}(\mathbf{x}) = 0. \tag{4.16}$$

2. Assume  $\mathfrak{F}_{*1}(\mathbf{x})$  is solution of Riemann type problem (4.15) and  $L_\kappa[\mathfrak{F}_{*1}](\mathbf{x}) = 0$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}), \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . Let

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) - \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x}).$$

Then  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is the solution of the singular equation (4.13)  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ .

*Proof* 1. Using Lemma 3.9, we have

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{u(\mathbf{x})}{2} + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \tag{4.17}$$

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{u(\mathbf{x})}{2} + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}). \tag{4.18}$$

Combining (4.17) with (4.18), we get

$$[\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) - \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x})]A + [\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) + \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x})]B = f(\mathbf{x}) \tag{4.19}$$

i.e.,

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x}) \cdot (A - B)(A + B)^{-1} + f(\mathbf{x})(A + B)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega. \tag{4.20}$$

It is clear that  $\mathfrak{F}(\infty) = 0$ . The result follows.

2. In view of Theorem 4.1 and Remark 4.2, we obtain

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}). \tag{4.21}$$

By Lemma 3.9, we get

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{u(\mathbf{x})}{2} + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \tag{4.22}$$

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{u(\mathbf{x})}{2} + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}). \tag{4.23}$$

Combining (4.22), (4.23), and (4.20), the result follows. □

**Theorem 4.4** *The singular integral equation (4.13) is solvable in  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  and the solution may be represented by the following formula:*

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f(\mathbf{x})}{2} [(A + B)^{-1} + (A - B)^{-1}] + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{y}) [(A + B)^{-1} - (A - B)^{-1}], \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega. \tag{4.24}$$

*Proof* In view of Theorem 4.3, we consider the following Riemann boundary value problem:

$$\begin{cases} L_\kappa[\mathfrak{F}] = 0, & \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega, \\ \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^+(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{F}_{*1}^-(\mathbf{x}) \cdot (A - B)(A + B)^{-1} + f(\mathbf{x})(A + B)^{-1}, & \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega, \\ \mathfrak{F}_{*1}(\infty) = 0. \end{cases} \tag{4.25}$$

We have

$$\mathfrak{F}_{*1}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{y})(A + B)^{-1}, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^+, \\ \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{y})(A - B)^{-1}, & \mathbf{x} \in \Omega^-. \end{cases} \tag{4.26}$$

Using again Theorem 4.3, the proof is complete. □

**Remark 4.5** When  $A = 0$ , the singular integral equation (4.13) is solvable in  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  and the solution may be represented by the following formula:

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = 2 \int_{\partial\Omega} K_{*1}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{y}) B^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega.$$

The following theorems can be similarly proved as Theorem 4.3 and Theorem 4.4.

**Theorem 4.6** Consider the singular integral equation:

$$u(\mathbf{x})C + 2 \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y})D = f(\mathbf{x}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^3, \tag{4.27}$$

where  $f(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ ,  $D$  is a non-zero Clifford constant,  $C + D$  and  $C - D$  are invertible Clifford constants, and  $(C + D)^{-1}$  and  $(C - D)^{-1}$  are invertible elements, respectively. Then:

1. If  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  is a solution to (4.27), set

$$\mathfrak{F}_1(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} u(\mathbf{y}), \quad \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega. \tag{4.28}$$

Then

$$\mathfrak{F}_1^+(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{F}_1^-(\mathbf{x}) \cdot (A - B)(A + B)^{-1} + f(\mathbf{x})(A + B)^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega \tag{4.29}$$

and

$$\lim_{\|\mathbf{x}\| \rightarrow \infty} \mathfrak{F}_1(\mathbf{x}) = 0. \tag{4.30}$$

2. Conversely, if  $\mathfrak{F}_1(\mathbf{x})$  is solution of Riemann type problem (4.29) and  $L_{-\kappa}[\mathfrak{F}_1](\mathbf{x}) = 0$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \setminus \partial\Omega$ ,  $\mathfrak{F}_1^+(\mathbf{x}), \mathfrak{F}_1^-(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ . Let

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \mathfrak{F}_1^+(\mathbf{x}) - \mathfrak{F}_1^-(\mathbf{x}).$$

Then  $u(\mathbf{x})$  is the solution of singular equation (4.27),  $u(\mathbf{x}) \in H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$ .

**Theorem 4.7** The singular integral equation (4.27) is solvable in  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  and the solution may be represented by the following formula:

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{f(\mathbf{x})}{2} [(C + D)^{-1} + (C - D)^{-1}] + \int_{\partial\Omega} K_1(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{y}) [(C + D)^{-1} - (C - D)^{-1}], \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega.$$

**Remark 4.8** When  $C = 0$ , the singular integral equation (4.27) is solvable in  $H^\alpha(\partial\Omega, Cl(V_{3,3}))$  and the solution may be represented by the following formula:

$$u(\mathbf{x}) = 2 \int_{\partial\Omega} K_*(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \kappa) d\sigma_{\mathbf{y}} f(\mathbf{y}) D^{-1}, \quad \mathbf{x} \in \partial\Omega.$$



**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors' contributions**

All authors contributed equally to the manuscript and typed, read, and approved the final manuscript.

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