

# Bilaplacian problems with a sign-changing coefficient

Lucas Chesnel<sup>†</sup>, Jérémy Firozaly<sup>‡</sup>

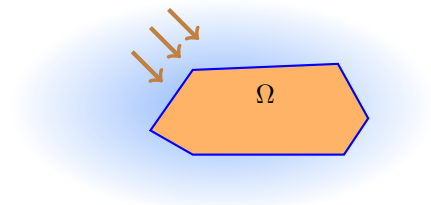
<sup>†</sup>Inverse Problems Research Group, Aalto University, Helsinki, Finland  
<sup>‡</sup>POems team, Ensta, Paris, France



# Introduction: the ITEP

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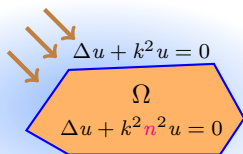
- ▶ Scattering in **time-harmonic** regime by a penetrable **inclusion**  $\Omega$  (coefficient  $n$ ) in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ : we look for an incident wave that **does not scatter**.



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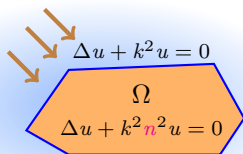
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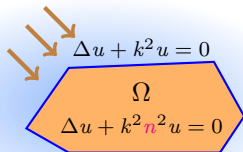
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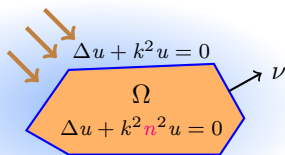


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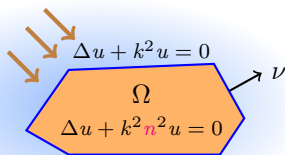
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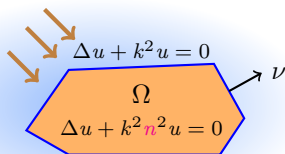
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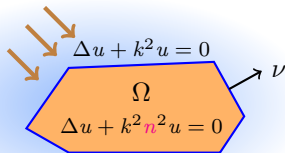
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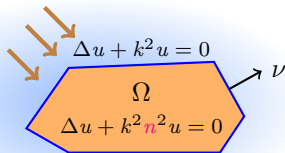
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DEFINITION. Values of  $k \in \mathbb{C}$  for which this problem has a nontrivial solution  $(u, w)$  are called **transmission eigenvalues**.

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- This implies

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} (\Delta + k^2) \left( \frac{1}{1 - n^2} (\Delta v + k^2 n^2 v) \right) = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \\ v = \nu \cdot \nabla v = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{array} \right.$$

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- ▶ One of the goals is to prove that the **set of transmission eigenvalues** is at most **discrete**.
- ▶ This problem has been widely studied since 1986-1988 (**Bellis, Cakoni, Colton, Gintides, Guzina, Haddar, Kirsch, Kress, Monk, Päivärinta, Rynne, Sleeman, Sylvester...**) when  $n > 1$  on  $\Omega$  or  $n < 1$  on  $\Omega$ .

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What happens when  $1 - n^2$  changes sign?

- ▶ We define  $\sigma = (1 - n^2)^{-1}$  and we focus on the **principal part**:

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } v \in H_0^2(\Omega) \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta v \Delta v' = \langle f, v' \rangle_{\Omega}, \quad \forall v' \in H_0^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right.$$

# Outline of the talk

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- ▶ ... and more generally, we study the problem:

$$(\mathcal{P}) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } v \in \mathbf{X} \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta v \Delta v' = \underbrace{\langle f, v' \rangle_{\Omega}}_{l(v')}, \quad \forall v' \in \mathbf{X}. \end{array} \right.$$

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We study  $(\mathcal{P})$  with  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{H}_0^1(\Delta) := \{v \in \mathbf{H}_0^1(\Omega) \mid \Delta v \in \mathbf{L}^2(\Omega)\}$ .

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- 3 A biaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

We study  $(\mathcal{P})$  with  $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{H}_0^2(\Omega)$ .

## Reminder: properties of $\operatorname{div}(\sigma \nabla \cdot)$

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- ▶ In the fields of **plasmonic** and **negative metamaterials**, we study:

$$(\mathcal{F}) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \nabla v \cdot \nabla v' = \langle f, v' \rangle_{\Omega}, \quad \forall v' \in H_0^1(\Omega). \end{array} \right.$$

- ▶  $\Omega$  is **partitioned** into two domains  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$ . We assume that  $\sigma_1 := \sigma|_{\Omega_1}$  and  $\sigma_2 := \sigma|_{\Omega_2}$  are **constants**.



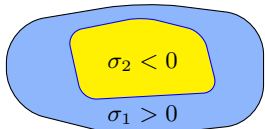
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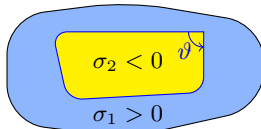
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Smooth interface



- ✓  $(\mathcal{F})$  well-posed in the Fredholm sense iff  $\kappa_{\sigma} = \sigma_2/\sigma_1 \neq -1$ .

Interface with a **corner**



- ✓  $(\mathcal{F})$  well-posed in the Fredholm sense iff  $\kappa_{\sigma} \notin [-I; -1/I]$ ,  $I = (2\pi - \vartheta)/\vartheta$ .



Well-posedness depends on the **smoothness of the interface** and on  $\sigma$  (c.f. work of M. Costabel, E. Stephan 1985).

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# Mixed Boundary Conditions I

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Let  $T$  be an **isomorphism** of  $X$ .

$(\mathcal{P}) \mid$  Find  $u \in X$  such that:  
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Goal: Find  $\mathbf{T}$  such that  $a$  is  $\mathbf{T}$ -coercive:  $\int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta(\mathbf{T}u) \geq C \|u\|_X^2$ .

In this case, Lax-Milgram  $\Rightarrow (\mathcal{P}^{\mathbf{T}})$  (and so  $(\mathcal{P})$ ) well-posed.

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$$(\mathcal{P}) \Leftrightarrow (\mathcal{P}^{\mathbf{T}}) \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in X \text{ such that:} \\ a(u, \mathbf{T}v) = l(\mathbf{T}v), \forall v \in X. \end{array} \right.$$



Goal: Find  $\mathbf{T}$  such that  $a$  is  $\mathbf{T}$ -coercive:  $\int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta(\mathbf{T}u) \geq C \|u\|_X^2$ .

In this case, Lax-Milgram  $\Rightarrow$   $(\mathcal{P}^{\mathbf{T}})$  (and so  $(\mathcal{P})$ ) well-posed.

In this section,  $X = H_0^1(\Delta)$ .

- 1 Define  $\mathbf{T}u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  the function such that  $\Delta(\mathbf{T}u) = \sigma^{-1} \Delta u$ .
- 2  $\mathbf{T}$  is an **isomorphism** of  $H_0^1(\Delta)$ .
- 3 One obtains  $a(u, \mathbf{T}u) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta(\mathbf{T}u) = \|\Delta u\|_{\Omega}^2$ .

**THEOREM.** Assume that  $\sigma \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$  is such that  $\sigma^{-1} \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ . Then, the operator  $A : H_0^1(\Delta) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Delta)$  associated with  $(\mathcal{P})$  is an **isomorphism**.

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The change of sign of  $\sigma$  is not a problem!

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- 1 A bilaplacian problem with mixed boundary conditions I
- 2 A bilaplacian problem with mixed boundary conditions II
- 3 A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

# Mixed Boundary Conditions II

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In this section,  $X = H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ .

$$(\mathcal{P}) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta v = l(v), \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right.$$

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$$(\mathcal{P}) \Leftrightarrow (\mathcal{P}^T) \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta(Tv) = l(Tv), \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right.$$

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- 3 One obtains  $a(u, Tu) = \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta(Tu) = \|\Delta u\|_{\Omega}^2$ .

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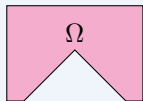
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What happens if  $\Omega$  has a reentrant corner ?

## Polygonal $\partial\Omega$ with one reentrant corner

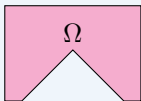


i) The space of functions  $\psi \in L^2(\Omega)$  s.t  $\Delta\psi = 0$  in  $\Omega$  and  $\psi = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , is of dimension 1, **spanned by some  $\zeta$** .

REMINDER

## Polygonal $\partial\Omega$ with one reentrant corner

REMINDER

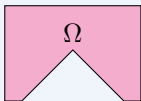


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REMINDER



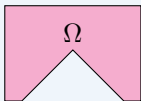
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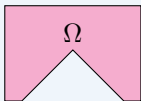
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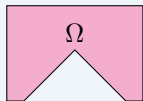
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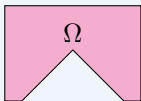
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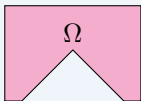
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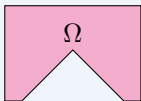
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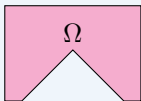
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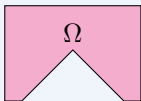
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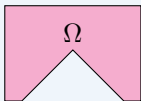
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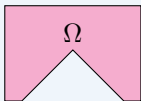
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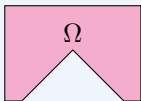
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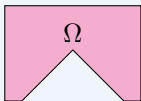
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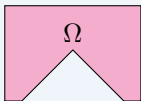
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- If  $(\sigma^{-1}\zeta, \zeta)_\Omega \neq 0$ , then  $A$  is an **isomorphism**.

# Polygonal $\partial\Omega$ with one reentrant corner

REMINDER



i) The space of functions  $\psi \in L^2(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\Delta\psi = 0$  in  $\Omega$  and  $\psi = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , is of dimension 1, **spanned by some  $\zeta$** .

ii)  $\varphi \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  s.t.  $\Delta\varphi \in L^2(\Omega)$  is in  $H^2(\Omega)$  iff  **$(\Delta\varphi, \zeta)_\Omega = 0$** .

1 Define  $\mathbf{T}u \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  the function such that  $\Delta(\mathbf{T}u) = \sigma^{-1}(\Delta u - a\zeta)$  with  $a = (\sigma^{-1}\Delta u, \zeta)_\Omega / (\sigma^{-1}\zeta, \zeta)_\Omega$ . (c.f. Sapongyan paradox **S.A. Nazarov, G. Sweers**)

2 One can prove that  $\mathbf{T}$  is an **isomorphism** of  $H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ .

3 One obtains  $a(u, \mathbf{T}u) = \int_\Omega \sigma \Delta u \Delta(\mathbf{T}u) = \int_\Omega \Delta u (\Delta u - a\zeta) = \|\Delta u\|_\Omega^2$ .

**THEOREM.** Assume that  $\sigma \in L^\infty(\Omega)$  is such that  $\sigma^{-1} \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ . Introduce  $A : H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$  the operator associated with  $(\mathcal{P})$ .

- If  $(\sigma^{-1}\zeta, \zeta)_\Omega \neq 0$ , then  $A$  is an **isomorphism**.
- If  $(\sigma^{-1}\zeta, \zeta)_\Omega = 0$ , then  $A$  is **Fredholm** of **index zero** and  **$\dim \ker A = 1$** .

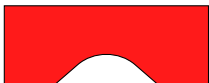
# Summary of the results when $X = H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$

$$(\mathcal{P}) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta v = l(v), \forall v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right.$$

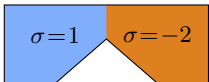
► We introduce the operator  $A : H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$  such that  $(\Delta(Au), \Delta v)_{\Omega} = (\sigma \Delta u, \Delta v)_{\Omega}$  for all  $u, v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ .



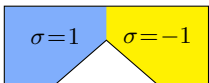
✓  $A$  is an isomorphism.



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✓  $A$  is an isomorphism because  $(\sigma^{-1}\zeta, \zeta)_{\Omega} \neq 0$ .



✓  $A$  is a Fredholm operator of index 0 and  $\dim \ker A = 1$  because  $(\sigma^{-1}\zeta, \zeta)_{\Omega} = 0$ .

- 1 A bilaplacian problem with mixed boundary conditions I
- 2 A bilaplacian problem with mixed boundary conditions II
- 3 A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions**

# A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

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Message: The operators  $\Delta(\sigma\Delta\cdot) : H_0^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-2}(\Omega)$  and  $\text{div}(\sigma\nabla\cdot) : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-1}(\Omega)$  have **very different** properties.

# A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

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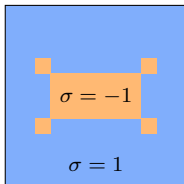
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**THEOREM.** The problem  $(\mathcal{P})$  is **well-posed** in the Fredholm sense as soon as  $\sigma$  **does not change sign in a neighbourhood** of  $\partial\Omega$ .

Fredholm



# A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

IDEAS OF THE PROOF: We have

$$a(v, v) = (\sigma \Delta v, \Delta v)_\Omega.$$

We would like to build  $\mathbf{T} : H_0^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H_0^2(\Omega)$  such that  $\Delta(\mathbf{T}v) = \sigma^{-1} \Delta v$

so that  $a(v, \mathbf{T}v) = (\sigma \Delta v, \Delta(\mathbf{T}v))_\Omega = (\Delta v, \Delta v)_\Omega.$

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- ① Let  $w \in H_0^1(\Omega)$  such that  $\Delta w = \sigma^{-1} \Delta v.$

Fredholm


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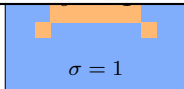
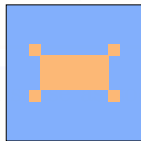
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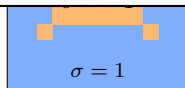
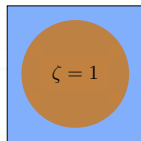
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# A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

- In this section,  $X = H_0^2(\Omega)$ .

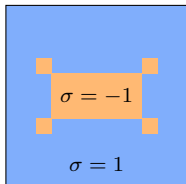
$$(\mathcal{P}) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } u \in H_0^2(\Omega) \text{ such that:} \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta u \Delta v = l(v), \quad \forall v \in H_0^2(\Omega). \end{array} \right.$$



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Fredholm



# A bilaplacian problem with Dirichlet boundary conditions

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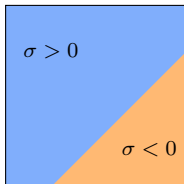
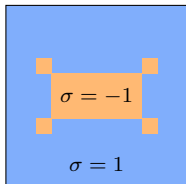
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Message: The operators  $\Delta(\sigma \Delta \cdot) : H_0^2(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-2}(\Omega)$  and  $\text{div}(\sigma \nabla \cdot) : H_0^1(\Omega) \rightarrow H^{-1}(\Omega)$  have **very different** properties.

... but  $(\mathcal{P})$  can be **ill-posed** (not Fredholm) when  $\sigma$  changes sign “on  $\partial\Omega$ ”  
 $\Rightarrow$  work with **J. Firozaly**.

Fredholm



Not always  
Fredholm

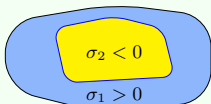


- 1 A bilaplacian problem with mixed boundary conditions I
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# Conclusion

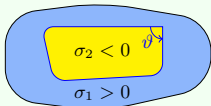
$$\left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } v \in H_0^1(\Omega) \text{ s.t., } \forall v' \in H_0^1(\Omega), \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \nabla v \cdot \nabla v' = \ell(v'). \end{array} \right.$$

♠ **Smooth** interface



Well-posed in the Fredholm sense **iff**  
 $\kappa_{\sigma} = \sigma_2/\sigma_1 \neq -1$ .

♠ Interface with a **corner**



Well-posed in the Fredholm sense **iff**  
 $\kappa_{\sigma} \notin [-I; -1/I]$ ,  $I = (2\pi - \vartheta)/\vartheta$ .

$$\left| \begin{array}{l} \text{Find } v \in \mathbf{X} \text{ s.t., } \forall v' \in \mathbf{X}, \\ \int_{\Omega} \sigma \Delta v \Delta v' = \ell(v'). \end{array} \right.$$

We assume  $\sigma \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ ,  $\sigma^{-1} \in L^{\infty}(\Omega)$ .

♠ If  $\mathbf{X} = H_0^1(\Delta)$ : Well-posed.

♠ If  $\mathbf{X} = H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ :

- Well-posed when  $\Omega$  is **convex** or of **class  $\mathcal{C}^2$** .
- When  $\Omega$  has one **reentrant corner**, it can occur a **kernel** of dimension 1.

♠ If  $\mathbf{X} = H_0^2(\Omega)$ :

- Well-posed in the Fredholm sense when  $\sigma$  does not change sign on a **neighbourhood of  $\partial\Omega$** .
- When  $\sigma$  changes sign on  $\partial\Omega$ , **Fredholmness can be lost**.

**Thank you for your attention!!!**