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# A global space-time estimate for dispersive operators through its local estimate  $\hat{X}$

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#### A R T I C L E I N F O A B S T R A C T

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We will show that a local space-time estimate implies a global space-time estimate for dispersive operators. In order for this implication we consider a Littlewood-Paley type square function estimate for dispersive operators in a time variable and a generalization of Tao's epsilon removal lemma in mixed norms. By applying this implication to the fractional Schrödinger equation in  $\mathbb{R}^{2+1}$  we obtain the sharp global space-time estimates with optimal regularity from the previous known local ones.

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# 1. Introduction

Let us consider a Cauchy problem of a dispersive equation in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ 

$$
\begin{cases}\ni\partial_t u + \Phi(D)u = 0, \\
u(0) = f,\n\end{cases}
$$
\n(1.1)

where  $\Phi(D)$  is the corresponding Fourier multiplier to the function  $\Phi$ . We assume that  $\Phi \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\})$ is a real-valued function satisfying the following conditions:

# Condition 1.1.

•  $|\nabla \Phi(\xi)| \neq 0$  for all  $\xi \neq 0$ .

<span id="page-0-0"></span>





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- <span id="page-1-0"></span>• There is a constant  $\mu \geq 1$  such that  $\mu^{-1} \leq |\Phi(\xi)| \leq \mu$  for any  $\xi$  with  $|\xi| = 1$ .
- There is a constant  $m \ge 1$  such that  $\Phi(\lambda \xi) = \lambda^m \Phi(\xi)$  for all  $\lambda > 0$  and all  $\xi \ne 0$ .
- The Hessian  $H_{\Phi}(\xi)$  of  $\Phi$  has rank at least 1 for all  $\xi \neq 0$ .

The solution *u* to [\(1.1\)](#page-0-0) becomes the Schrödinger operator  $e^{-it\Delta} f$  if  $\Phi(\xi) = |\xi|^2$  and the wave operator  $e^{it\sqrt{-\Delta}}f$  if  $\Phi(\xi) = |\xi|$ . When  $\Phi(\xi) = |\xi|^m$  for  $m > 1$ , the solution is called the fractional Schrödinger operator  $e^{it(\sqrt{-\Delta})^{m/2}} f$ .

Let  $e^{it\Phi(D)}f$  denote the solution to ([1.1](#page-0-0)). Our interest is to find suitable pairs  $(q, r)$  which satisfy the global space-time estimate

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C||f||_{\dot{H}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)},\tag{1.2}
$$

where  $\dot{H}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denotes the homogeneous  $L^2$  Sobolev space of order *s*. By scaling invariance the regularity  $s = s(r, q)$  should be defined as

$$
s = n\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{q}\right) - \frac{m}{r}.\tag{1.3}
$$

This problem for  $\mu = 1$  has been studied by many researchers. For the Schrödinger operator, Planchon [[15\]](#page-14-0) conjectured that the estimate (1.2) is valid if and only if  $r \geq 2$  and  $\frac{n+1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . Kenig–Ponce–Vega [[11\]](#page-14-0) showed the conjecture is true for  $n = 1$ . In higher dimensions  $n \geq 2$  it was proven by Vega [\[22\]](#page-14-0) that (1.2) holds for  $q \geq \frac{2(n+2)}{n}$  and  $\frac{n+1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} \leq \frac{n}{2}$ . When  $n = 2$  Rogers [\[16](#page-14-0)] showed it for  $2 \leq r < \infty$ ,  $q > \frac{16}{5}$  and  $\frac{3}{q} + \frac{1}{r} < 1$ , and later the excluded endline  $\frac{3}{q} + \frac{1}{r} = 1$  was obtained  $n \geq 3$ , Lee–Rogers–Vargas [\[12\]](#page-14-0) improved the previous known result to  $r \geq 2$ ,  $q > \frac{2(n+3)}{n+1}$  and  $\frac{n+1}{q} + \frac{1}{r} = \frac{n}{2}$ . Recently it is shown by Du–Kim–Wang–Zhang [\[6](#page-13-0)] that the estimate (1.2) with  $r = \infty$ , that is, the maximal estimate fails for  $n \geq 3$ . For a case of the wave operator it is known that (1.2) holds for  $(r, q)$  pairs such that  $2 \le r \le q$ ,  $q \ne \infty$  and  $\frac{1}{r} + \frac{n-1}{2q} \le \frac{n-1}{4}$  (see [\[9,](#page-13-0)[10,14](#page-14-0),[19\]](#page-14-0)) or such that  $q = \infty$  and  $2 \le r < \infty$  (see [[7,](#page-13-0) Proposition 4]). Particularly, when  $r = \infty$ , Rogers–Villarroya [\[17](#page-14-0)] showed that (1.2) with regularity  $s > n(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{q}) - \frac{1}{r}$  is valid for  $q \ge \frac{2(n+1)}{n-1}$ . For the fractional Schrödinger operator the known range of  $(r, q)$ for which the estimates hold is that  $2 \le r \le q$ ,  $q \ne \infty$  and  $\frac{n}{2q} + \frac{1}{r} \le \frac{n}{4}$  (see [\[1,2](#page-13-0),[4,](#page-13-0)[13,21](#page-14-0)]).

The case of  $\mu > 1$  has an interesting in its own right. The solution *u* is formally written as

$$
u(t,x) = e^{it\Phi(D)}f(x) := \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{i(x\cdot\xi + t\Phi(\xi))} \hat{f}(\xi) d\xi.
$$

From this form we see that the space-time Fourier transform of *u* is supported in the surface  $S = \{(\xi, \Phi(\xi))\}.$ It is known that the operator *u* is related to the curvature of *S* such as the sign of Gaussian curvature and the number of nonvanishing principle curvature. The Schrödinger operator corresponds to a paraboloid which has a positive Gaussian curvature, and the wave operator corresponds to a cone whose Gaussian curvature is zero. We are also interested in operators corresponding to a surface with negative Gaussian curvature. When  $\mu > 1$  there is a surface with negative Gaussian curvature. For instance, the surface  $\{(\xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_1^4 + 2\xi_1^3\xi_2 - 2\xi_1\xi_2^3 + \xi_2^4)\}\$ has negative Gaussian curvature on a neighborhood of the point  $(1, 0, 1)$ .

In this paper we will establish a local-to-global approach as follows.

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $\mathbb{I} = (0,1)$  be a unit interval and  $\mathbb{B} = B(0,1)$  a unit ball in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Let  $q_0, r_0 \in [2,\infty)$ ,  $s(r,q)$ *defined as* (1.3) *and* Φ *satisfy Condition [1.1](#page-0-0). Suppose that the local estimate*

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{B};L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{I}))} \le C_{\epsilon} ||f||_{H^{s(r_0,q_0)+\epsilon}(\mathbb{R}^n)}
$$
\n(1.4)

<span id="page-2-0"></span>*holds for* all  $\epsilon > 0$ *. Then for any*  $q_0 < q < \infty$  *and*  $r_0 < r < \infty$ *, the global estimate* 

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C||f||_{\dot{H}^{s(r,q)}(\mathbb{R}^n)}
$$
\n(1.5)

holds, where  $H^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denotes the inhomogeneous  $L^2$ -Sobolev space of order s and  $\dot{H}^s(\mathbb{R}^n)$  denotes homoge*neous one.*

The maximal estimate, which is  $(1.4)$  $(1.4)$  with  $r_0 = \infty$ , is related to pointwise convergence problems. When *n* = 2 it was proven that the maximal estimates with  $m > 1$  and  $\mu = 1$  are valid for  $q_0 = 3$  and  $s > \frac{1}{3}$  (see [[3,5](#page-13-0)]). By interpolating with a Strichartz estimate

$$
\|e^{it\Phi(D)}f\|_{L_x^4(\mathbb{B};L_t^4(\mathbb{I}))} \le \|e^{it\Phi(D)}f\|_{L_x^4(\mathbb{R}^2;L_t^4(\mathbb{R}))}
$$
  
\n
$$
\le \|e^{it\Phi(D)}f\|_{L_t^4(\mathbb{R};L_x^4(\mathbb{R}^2))}
$$
  
\n
$$
\le C\|f\|_{\dot{H}^{\frac{2-m}{4}}(\mathbb{R}^2)} \le C\|f\|_{H^{\frac{2-m}{4}}(\mathbb{R}^2)},
$$

we have  $(1.5)$  for the line  $\frac{3}{q} + \frac{1}{r} = 1$  with  $r \ge 4$ . The case of  $2 \le r < 4$  follows from [[22\]](#page-14-0) (see also [[12\]](#page-14-0)). By Theorem [1.2,](#page-1-0) we can obtain the following global space-time estimates which is the Planchon conjecture for  $n = 2$  except the endline.

**Corollary 1.3.** Let  $m > 1$  and  $\mu = 1$ . For  $2 \le r < \infty$  and  $\frac{3}{q} + \frac{1}{r} < 1$ , the global estimate

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^2;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C||f||_{\dot{H}^{1-\frac{2}{q}-\frac{m}{r}}(\mathbb{R}^2)}.
$$

*Notation.* Throughout this paper let  $C > 0$  denote various constants that vary from line to line, which possibly depend on *n*, *q*, *r*, *m* and *μ*. We use  $A \leq B$  to denote  $A \leq CB$ , and if  $A \leq B$  and  $B \leq A$  we denote by  $A ∼ B$ .

#### 2. Proof of Theorem [1.2](#page-1-0)

In this section we prove Theorem [1.2](#page-1-0) by using two propositions. In subsection 2.1 we consider a Littlewood–Paley type inequality by which the initial data *f* can be assumed to be Fourier supported in  $\{1/2 \le |\xi| \le 2\}$ . In subsection [2.2](#page-5-0) we prove a mixed norm version of Tao's  $\varepsilon$ -removable lemma by which the global estimates with a compact Fourier support are reduced to local ones. In subsection [2.3](#page-11-0) we show the two propositions imply Theorem [1.2.](#page-1-0)

#### *2.1. A Littlewood-Paley type inequality*

We discuss a Littlewood-Paley type inequality for the operator  $e^{it\Phi(D)}$  in a time variable.

Let a cut-off function  $\phi \in C_0^{\infty}([\frac{1}{2}, 2])$  satisfy  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \phi(2^{-k}x) = 1$  for  $x \neq 0$ . We define Littlewood-Paley projection operators  $P_k$  and  $P_k$  by

$$
\widehat{P_k f}(\xi) = \phi(2^{-k}|\xi|) \widehat{f}(\xi) \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{\widetilde{P_k g}}(\tau) = \phi(2^{-mk}|\tau|) \widehat{g}(\tau)
$$

for  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^n$  and  $\tau \in \mathbb{R}$ , respectively.

<span id="page-3-0"></span>**Lemma 2.1.** *Suppose that*  $\Phi$  *satisfies Condition [1.1.](#page-0-0) Then for*  $1 < r < \infty$ *,* 

$$
\left\|e^{it\Phi(D)}f(x)\right\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})} \leq C_{m,\mu}\left\|\left(\sum_{\substack{j,k\in\mathbb{Z}:\\|k-j|\le\frac{\log_2\mu}{m}+2}}|\widetilde{P_j}e^{it\Phi(D)}P_kf(x)|^2\right)^{1/2}\right\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}
$$

*for all Schwartz functions*  $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^n)$  *and all*  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\}.$ 

Proof. For simplicity,

$$
F(t) := e^{it\Phi(D)} f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad F_k(t) := e^{it\Phi(D)} P_k f(x).
$$

Since the projection operators are linear, we have an identity

$$
F(t) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \widetilde{P}_j F(t) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \widetilde{P}_j F_k(t).
$$

We claim that  $P_j F_k(t) = 0$  if

$$
|k - j| > \frac{\log_2 \mu}{m} + 2. \tag{2.1}
$$

Indeed, the Fourier transform  $f$  of a Schwartz function  $f$  may be written as

$$
\widehat{f}(\tau) = \lim_{R \to \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it\tau} \psi\left(\frac{t}{R}\right) f(t) dt,
$$

where  $\psi \in C_0^{\infty}([-2, 2])$  with  $\psi = 1$  in  $[-1, 1]$ . Using this equation we have

$$
\widehat{\widetilde{P_j}F_k}(\tau) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{n+1}} \phi\left(\frac{|\tau|}{2^{mj}}\right) \lim_{R \to \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} e^{ix\cdot\xi} \bigg(\int_{\mathbb{R}} e^{it(\tau+\Phi(\xi))} \psi\left(\frac{t}{R}\right) dt\bigg) \phi\left(\frac{|\xi|}{2^k}\right) \widehat{f}(\xi) d\xi.
$$

In the right side of the above equation, we see that the range of  $(\tau, \xi)$  is contained in

$$
2^{m(j-1)} \le |\tau| \le 2^{m(j+1)}
$$
 and  $2^{(k-1)} \le |\xi| \le 2^{(k+1)}$ .

From Condition [1.1](#page-0-0) we have a bound

$$
\mu^{-1}2^{m(k-1)} \le |\Phi(\xi)| \le \mu 2^{m(k+1)}.
$$

Then it follows that for  $k$  and  $j$  satisfying  $(2.1)$ ,

$$
|\tau + \Phi(\xi)| > 0.
$$

By the integration by parts it implies that there exists a constant  $C_0 > 0$  such that

$$
\Big|\int\limits_{\mathbb R} e^{it\tau} e^{it\Phi(\xi)} \psi\Big(\frac{t}{R}\Big) dt\Big| \leq \frac{1}{C_0 R}.
$$

From this estimate and the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem we obtain  $P_jF_k = 0$ , which implies the claim.

<span id="page-4-0"></span>By the claim, the Littlewood-Paley theory and the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality,

$$
\|e^{it\Phi(D)}f(x)\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})} = \Big\| \sum_{j\in\mathbb{Z}} \widetilde{P}_j\Big(\sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} F_k(\cdot, x)\Big) \Big\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C \Big\| \Big(\sum_{j\in\mathbb{Z}} \Big| \sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}:|k-j|\leq \frac{\log_2 \mu}{m}+2} \widetilde{P}_j F_k(\cdot, x) \Big|^2 \Big)^{1/2} \Big\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C_{m,\mu} \Big\| \Big(\sum_{j\in\mathbb{Z}} \sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}:|k-j|\leq \frac{\log_2 \mu}{m}+2} |\widetilde{P}_j F_k(\cdot, x)|^2 \Big)^{1/2} \Big\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}.
$$

This is the desired inequality.  $\Box$ 

Using the above lemma we can have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let*  $2 \leq q, r < \infty$ *. Suppose that*  $\Phi$  *satisfies Condition [1.1.](#page-0-0) If the estimate* 

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L^{q}_{x}(\mathbb{R}^{n};L_{t}^{r}(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C||f||_{L^{2}(\mathbb{R}^{n})}
$$
\n(2.2)

*holds for all f with* supp  $\hat{f} \subset \{1/2 \leq |\xi| \leq 2\}$ , *then the estimate* 

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C_{m,\mu}||f||_{\dot{H}^{\frac{n}{2}-\frac{n}{q}-\frac{m}{r}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}
$$

*holds for all f.*

Proof. The Minkowski inequality and Lemma [2.1](#page-3-0) allow that

$$
\left\|e^{it\Phi(D)}f\right\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C_{m,\mu}\left\|\left(\sum_{|k-j|\leq \frac{\log_2\mu}{m}+2}\left\|\widetilde{P_j}\left(e^{it\Phi(D)}P_kf\right)\right\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}^2\right)^{1/2}\right\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}.
$$

Since  $\overline{P}_j$  is bounded in  $L^p$ , it is bounded by

$$
C_{m,\mu}\bigg\|\bigg(\sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}}\big\|e^{it\Phi(D)}P_kf\big\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}^2\bigg)^{1/2}\bigg\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n)}.
$$

By the Minkowski inequality we thus have

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C_{m,\mu} \bigg(\sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} ||e^{it\Phi(D)}P_kf||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))}^2 \bigg)^{1/2}.
$$

Apply (2.2) to the right side of the above estimate after rescaling. Then we obtain

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C_{m,\mu} \bigg(\sum_{k\in\mathbb{Z}} 2^{2k(\frac{n}{2}-\frac{n}{q}-\frac{m}{r})} ||P_kf||_2^2\bigg)^{1/2}
$$
  
= 
$$
C_{m,\mu}||f||_{\dot{H}^{\frac{n}{2}-\frac{n}{q}-\frac{m}{r}}(\mathbb{R}^n)}.\quad \Box
$$

#### <span id="page-5-0"></span>*2.2. Local-to-global arguments*

We will show that the global estimate  $(2.2)$  is obtained from its local estimate. Adopting the arguments in  $[20]$ , we consider the dual estimate of  $(2.2)$  $(2.2)$ .

Let  $S = \{(\xi, \Phi(\xi)) \in \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R} : 1/2 \leq |\xi| \leq 2\}$  be a compact hypersurface with the induced (singular) Lebesgue measure  $d\sigma$ . We define the Fourier restriction operator  $\Re$  for a compact surface S by the restriction of  $\hat{f}$  to  $S$ , i.e.,

$$
\Re f = \hat{f}\big|_S.
$$

Its adjoint operator  $\mathfrak{R}^* f = \overline{f d \sigma}$  can be written as  $e^{it \Phi(D)} g$  with

$$
\hat{g}(\xi) := f(\xi, \Phi(\xi)) J_{\Phi}(\xi),
$$

where  $J_{\Phi}$  is the Jacobian determinant of  $\Phi$ .

Let  $\rho > 0$  be the decay of  $\widehat{d\sigma}$ , i.e.,

$$
|\widehat{d\sigma}(x)| \lesssim (1+|x|)^{-\rho}, \qquad x \in \mathbb{R}^{n+1}.
$$
\n(2.3)

It is known that  $\rho$  is determined by the number of nonzero principal curvatures of the surface *S*, which is equal to the rank of the Hessian  $H_{\Phi}$ . Specifically, if  $H_{\Phi}$  has rank at least *k* then

$$
\rho = k/2,
$$

see [\[18](#page-14-0), subsection 5.8, VIII]. From Condition [1.1](#page-0-0) we have  $k \geq 1$ .

When a function f has a compact Fourier support, the  $\overline{f}d\sigma$  decays away from the support of  $\hat{f}$  because of the decay of *dσ*. Thus if *f* and *g* are compactly Fourier supported and their supports are far away from each other then the interaction between  $\hat{f}d\hat{\sigma}$  and  $\hat{q}d\hat{\sigma}$  is negligible.

**Definition 2.3.** A finite collection  $\{Q(z_i, R)\}_{i=1}^N$  of balls in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$  with radius  $R > 0$  is called  $(N, R)$ -sparse if the centers  $\{z_i\}$  are  $(NR)^{\gamma}$ -separated where  $\gamma := n/\rho \ (\geq 2)$ .

From the definition of  $(N, R)$ -sparse we have a kind of orthogonality as follows. Let  $\phi$  be a radial Schwartz function such that  $\phi > 0$  on the ball  $B(0, \delta^{-1})$ ,  $\phi \ge 1/2$  on the unit ball  $B(0, 1)$ , and the Fourier transform  $\hat{\phi}$  is supported in the ball  $B(0,\delta)$  where  $0 < \delta < 1$  is a constant.

**Lemma 2.4** ([\[20](#page-14-0), in the proof of Lemma 3.2]). Let  $\{Q(z_i, R)\}_{i=1}^N$  be a  $(N, R)$ -sparse collection for  $R > 1$  and  $\phi_i(z) = \phi(R^{-1}(z - z_i))$  for  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . Then there is a constant C independent of N such that

$$
\left\| \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_i * \hat{\phi}_i \right|_{S} \right\|_{2} \leq C R^{1/2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} \|f_i\|_{2}^{2} \right)^{1/2}
$$
\n(2.4)

*for all*  $f_i \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^{n+1})$ *.* 

A proof of the above lemma is given in Appendix [A](#page-11-0).

Let  $\mathbb{I}_R = (0, R)$  denote an *R*-interval and  $\mathbb{B}_R$  the ball of radius *R* centered at the origin in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . Using Lemma 2.4 we have an intermediate result.

<span id="page-6-0"></span>**Proposition 2.5.** *Let*  $R > 1$  *and*  $1 < q, r \leq 2$ *. Suppose that there is a constant*  $A(R)$  *such that* 

$$
\|\Re(\chi_{\mathbb{I}_R\times\mathbb{B}_R}f)\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \le A(R)\|f\|_{L^q_x(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r_t(\mathbb{R}))}
$$
\n(2.5)

for all  $f \in L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))$ . Then for any  $(N, R)$ -sparse collection  $\{Q(z_i, R)\}_{i=1}^N$  there is a constant C *independent of N such that*

$$
\|\Re f\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \le CA(R)\|f\|_{L^q_x(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r_t(\mathbb{R}))} \tag{2.6}
$$

*for all f supported in*  $\cup_{i=1}^{N} Q(z_i, R)$ *.* 

**Proof.** Let  $f_i = f \chi_{Q(z_i,R)}$ . Then,

$$
\Re f_i = \hat{f}_i\big|_S = \widehat{f_i\phi_i}\big|_S = (\hat{f}_i * \hat{\phi}_i)\big|_S,
$$

where  $\phi_i(z)$  is defined as in Lemma [2.4](#page-5-0). Since  $\hat{\phi}_i$  is supported on the ball  $B(0, \frac{2}{3R})$ , we may restrict the support of  $\hat{f}_i$  to a  $O(1/R)$ -neighborhood of the surface *S* and write

$$
\Re f_i = (\hat{f}_i|_{\mathcal{N}_{1/R}(S)} * \hat{\phi}_i)|_S
$$

where  $\mathcal{N}_{1/R}(S)$  is a  $O(1/R)$ -neighborhood of the surface *S*. Let  $\tilde{\mathfrak{R}}$  be another restriction operator defined by  $\tilde{\mathfrak{R}}f = \hat{f}|_{\mathcal{N}_{1/R}(S)}$ . If *f* is supported in  $\cup_{i=1}^{N} Q(z_i, R)$ , we write

$$
\Re f = \sum_{i=1}^N (\tilde{\Re} f_i * \hat{\phi}_i) \big|_S.
$$

By Lemma [2.4](#page-5-0),

$$
\|\Re f\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq CR^{1/2} \Big(\sum_{i=1}^N \|\tilde{\Re} f_i\|_{L^2(\mathcal{N}_{1/R}(S))}^2\Big)^{1/2}.
$$

Since the estimate  $(2.5)$  is translation invariant, by a slice argument we have

$$
\|\tilde{\mathfrak{R}}f_i\|_{L^2(\mathcal{N}_{1/R}(S))} \leq CR^{-1/2}A(R)\|f_i\|_{L^q_x(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r_t(\mathbb{R}))}.
$$

By combining the previous two estimates,

$$
\|\Re f\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq CA(R) \Big(\sum_{i=1}^N \|f_i\|_{L^q_x(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r_t(\mathbb{R}))}^2\Big)^{1/2}.
$$

If  $1 \leq r \leq q \leq 2$  then by  $\ell^r \subset \ell^q \subset \ell^2$ ,

$$
\left(\sum_{i=1}^N \|f_i\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))}^2\right)^{1/2} \le \left(\sum_{i=1}^N \|f_i\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))}^q\right)^{1/q}
$$

$$
= \left(\int\limits_{\mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{i=1}^N \|f_i\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}^q dx\right)^{1/q}
$$

$$
\leq \Big( \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Big( \sum\limits_{i=1}^N \|f_i\|_{L_t^r(\mathbb{R})}^r \Big)^{q/r} dx \Big)^{1/q}
$$
  
= 
$$
\|f\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))}.
$$

<span id="page-7-0"></span>If  $1 \le q \le r \le 2$  one can use the embedding  $\ell^r \subset \ell^2$  and the Minkowski inequality to get

$$
\left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \|f_{i}\|_{L_{x}^{q}(\mathbb{R}^{n};L_{t}^{r}(\mathbb{R}))}^{2}\right)^{1/2} \leq \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \|f_{i}\|_{L_{x}^{q}(\mathbb{R}^{n};L_{t}^{r}(\mathbb{R}))}^{2}\right)^{1/r}
$$

$$
\leq \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^{n}} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N} \|f_{i}\|_{L_{t}^{r}(\mathbb{R})}^{2}\right)^{q/r} dx\right)^{1/q}
$$

$$
= \|f\|_{L_{x}^{q}(\mathbb{R}^{n};L_{t}^{r}(\mathbb{R}))}.
$$

Therefore we have  $(2.6)$ .  $\Box$ 

We now extend the  $(N, R)$ -sparse sets to the whole space. For this we need the following decomposition lemma.

**Lemma 2.6** ([[20](#page-14-0)]). Let E be a subset in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with  $|E| > 1$ . Suppose that E is a finite union of finitely overlapping cubes of side-length  $c \sim 1$ . Then for each  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ , there are subsets  $E_1, E_2, \cdots, E_K$  of E with

$$
E = \bigcup_{k=1}^{K} E_k
$$

*such that each*  $E_k$  *has*  $O(|E|^{1/K})$  *number of*  $(O(|E|), |E|^{O(\gamma^{k-1}}))$ *-sparse collections* 

$$
\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{S}_{O(|E|^{1/K})}
$$

*of which the union*  $\mathbf{S}_1 \cup \mathbf{S}_2 \cup \cdots \cup \mathbf{S}_{O(|E|^{1/K})}$  *is a covering of*  $E_k$ *.* 

This lemma is a precise version of Lemma 3.3 in [\[20](#page-14-0)]. A detailed proof can be found in Appendix [A.](#page-11-0) Using the above lemma we have the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.7.** Let  $1 < q_0, r_0 < \infty$ . Suppose that for any  $\epsilon > 0$  and any  $(N, R)$ -sparse collection  ${Q(z_i, R)}_{i=1}^N$  *in*  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ *, the estimate* 

$$
\|\Re f\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \le C_{\epsilon} R^{\epsilon} \|f\|_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}))}
$$
\n(2.7)

holds for all f supported in  $\cup_{i=1}^{N} Q(z_i, R)$ . Then for any  $1 \leq q < q_0$  and  $1 \leq r < r_0$ , the estimate

$$
\|\Re f\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^q_x(\mathbb{R}^n; L^r_t(\mathbb{R}))}
$$

*holds for all*  $f \in L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))$ *.* 

**Proof.** By interpolation (see [\[8](#page-13-0)]), it suffices to show that for  $1 \le q < q_0$  and  $1 \le r < r_0$ , the restricted type estimate

$$
\|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \le C \|\chi_E\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))}
$$
\n(2.8)

<span id="page-8-0"></span>for all subset *E* in  $\mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . We may assume  $|E| > 1$ , otherwise the estimate is trivial. Indeed,

$$
\|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C \|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^\infty(S)} \leq C|E| \leq C.
$$

Since the set *S* is compact, there is a bump function  $\varphi \in C_0^{\infty}$  supported in a cube of sidelength  $2c \sim 1$ and centered at the origin such that  $\hat{\varphi}$  is positive on a cube of sidelength  $(2c)^{-1}$  that contains *S*. By the Poisson summation formula we may assume that  $\sum_{k \in \mathbb{C}} \mathbb{Z}^{n+1} \varphi(\cdot - k) = 1$ .

Let *c*-lattice cubes  $\{\Delta_k\}$  cover the set *E*. We claim that if the estimate

$$
\|\Re(\sum_{k}\chi_{\Delta_{k}})\|_{L^{2}(d\sigma)} \leq C \Big\|\sum_{k}\chi_{\Delta_{k}}\Big\|_{L^{q}(\mathbb{R}^{n};L^{r}(\mathbb{R}))}
$$

holds for any  $1 \leq q < q_0$  and  $1 \leq r < r_0$ , then we have [\(2.8](#page-7-0)). By interpolation the above estimate implies that for any  $1 \leq q < q_0$  and  $1 \leq r < r_0$ ,

$$
\|\Re(\sum_{k} a_k \chi_{\Delta_k})\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C \Big\|\sum_{k} a_k \chi_{\Delta_k}\Big\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))},
$$

for all real sequences  $\{a_k\}$ . Let  $\varphi_k$  be a translation of  $\varphi$  which is supported in  $2\Delta_k$ . Since  $\varphi_k$  decays rapidly away from  $\Delta_k$ , the above inequality implies

$$
\|\Re(\sum_{k} a_k \varphi_k)\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \le C \Big\| \sum_{k} a_k \varphi_k \Big\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L^r(\mathbb{R}))} + C^{-N} \tag{2.9}
$$

where  $N \geq 1$  is a large number.

By replacing  $\chi_E$  with  $\sum_k \chi_E \varphi_k$ ,

$$
\|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C \Big\|\sum_k \hat{\chi}_E * \hat{\varphi}_k\Big|_S \Big\|_{L^2(d\sigma)}.
$$

Using  $\|\hat{f}\|_{\infty} \leq C \|f\|_1$  we have

$$
|\hat{\chi}_E * \hat{\varphi}_k(z)| \le C \int \chi_E \varphi_k.
$$

Since  $\frac{1}{|\Delta_k|}\hat{\varphi}_k$  is a positive Schwartz function and  $\frac{1}{|\Delta_k|}\hat{\varphi}_k \lesssim 1$  on *S*, we have that for any  $z \in S$ ,

$$
|\hat{\chi}_E * \hat{\varphi}_k(z)| \leq C a_k \hat{\varphi}_k(z),
$$

where

$$
a_k := \frac{1}{|\Delta_k|} \int \chi_E \varphi_k.
$$

Thus,

$$
\|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C \Big\|\sum_k a_k \hat{\varphi}_k\Big|_S \Big\|_{L^2(d\sigma)}.
$$

Apply  $(2.9)$ . Then,

$$
\|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \le C \Big\| \sum_k a_k \varphi_k \Big\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L^r(\mathbb{R}))} + C^{-N}.
$$
\n(2.10)

Since the supports of  $\varphi_k$  are finitely overlapped, we have

$$
\Big\|\sum_{k} a_k \varphi_k \Big\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C \Big( \int\limits_{\mathbb{R}^n} \Big( \sum_{k} \|a_k \varphi_k(x)\|_{L^r(\mathbb{R})}^r \Big)^{q/r} dx \Big)^{1/q}
$$
  

$$
\leq C \Big( \sum_{k} a_k^q \|\varphi_k\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L^r(\mathbb{R}))}^q \Big)^{1/q}.
$$

By Hölder's inequality,

$$
a_k = \frac{1}{|\Delta_k|} \int \chi_E \varphi_k \leq C \frac{\|\chi_E \varphi_k\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L^r(\mathbb{R}))} \|\varphi_k\|_{L^{q'}(\mathbb{R}^n; L^{r'}(\mathbb{R}))}}{\|\varphi_k\|_1}
$$

*.*

By calculation we can see  $\|\varphi_k\|_{L^{q'}(\mathbb{R}^n;L^{r'}(\mathbb{R}))} \|\varphi_k\|_{L^{q}(\mathbb{R}^n;L^{r}(\mathbb{R}))} \sim \|\varphi_k\|_1$ , and

$$
a_k \|\varphi_k\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C \|\chi_E \varphi_k\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))}.
$$

By inserting this estimate,

$$
\Big\|\sum_{k}a_k\varphi_k\Big\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))}\leq C\Big(\sum_{k}\|\chi_E\varphi_k\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))}^q\Big)^{1/q}.
$$

Since the supports of  $\varphi_k$  are finitely overlapped, the above estimate is

$$
\leq C \Big\|\sum_{k} \chi_E \varphi_k \Big\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))} = C \|\chi_E\|_{L^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r(\mathbb{R}))}.
$$

By combining this estimate with [\(2.10\)](#page-8-0) we obtain ([2.8\)](#page-7-0). The claim is proved.

By the claim, the set *E* in [\(2.8\)](#page-7-0) can be considered as the union of c-cubes  $\Delta_k$ . We denote by  $\text{proj}(E)$  the projection of *E* onto the *x*-plane. For each grid point  $x \in c\mathbb{Z}^n \cap \text{proj}(E)$ , we define  $E_x$  to be the union of *c*-cubes in *E* that intersect  $\mathbb{R} \times \{x\}$ . Let  $E^j$  be the union of  $E_x$  which satisfies

*2*<sup>*j*−1</sup> < the number of *c* - cubes contained in  $E_x \le 2^{j+1}$ 

for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$ , (see Fig. [1\)](#page-10-0). Then,

$$
E = \bigcup_{j \ge 1} E^j.
$$

By using Lemma [2.6](#page-7-0) with

$$
K := \frac{\log(1/\epsilon)}{2\log \gamma} + 1,
$$

the  $E^j$  is decomposed into  $E_k^j$ 's which are covered by  $O(|E^j|^{1/K})$  number of  $(O(|E^j|), |E^j|^{C\gamma^{k-1}}))$ -sparse collections. We apply  $(2.7)$  $(2.7)$  to these sparse collections and obtain

$$
\|\Re \chi_{E_k^j}\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C_{\epsilon} |E^j|^{1/K} (|E^j|^{C\gamma^{k-1}})^{\epsilon} \|\chi_{E_k^j}\|_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}))}.
$$

Summing over k, we have

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

Fig. 1. The sets  $E$ , proj $E$ ,  $E_x$  and  $E^j$  in the proof of Proposition [2.7](#page-7-0).

$$
\|\Re \chi_{E^j}\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq \sum_{k=1}^K \|\Re \chi_{E^j_k}\|_{L^2(d\sigma)}
$$
  

$$
\leq C_{\epsilon} |E^j|^{1/K} (|E^j|^{C\gamma^{K-1}})^{\epsilon} \|\chi_{E^j}\|_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}))}
$$

where *K* is absorbed into  $C_{\epsilon}$ . Since  $|E^j| \leq 2^{j+1}$  |proj $(E^j)$ |, we have

$$
\|\Re \chi_{E^j}\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C_{\epsilon} 2^{j(\frac{1}{r_0}+\delta(\epsilon))} |\text{proj}(E^j)|^{\frac{1}{q_0}+\delta(\epsilon)},
$$

where

$$
\delta(\epsilon) := \frac{1}{K} + C\gamma^{K-1}\epsilon.
$$

Since  $\lim_{\epsilon\rightarrow 0}\delta(\epsilon)=0,$  we can take  $\epsilon>0$  such that

$$
0 < \delta(\epsilon) + \epsilon \le \min\left(\frac{1}{q} - \frac{1}{q_0}, \frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{r_0}\right).
$$

Thus,

$$
\|\Re \chi_E\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq \sum_{j\geq 1} \|\Re \chi_{E^j}\|_{L^2(d\sigma)}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C_{\epsilon} \sum_{j\geq 1} 2^{j(\frac{1}{\tau_0} + \delta(\epsilon))} |\text{proj}(E^j)|^{\frac{1}{q_0} + \delta(\epsilon)}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C \sum_{j\geq 1} 2^{-\epsilon j} 2^{\frac{1}{r}j} |\text{proj}(E^j)|^{\frac{1}{q}}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C \sum_{j\geq 1} 2^{-\epsilon j} \|\chi_E\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))}
$$
  
\n
$$
\leq C \|\chi_E\|_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))}. \quad \Box
$$

Combining Proposition [2.5](#page-6-0) and Proposition [2.7](#page-7-0) we obtain an extension of Tao's epsilon removal lemma as follows.

<span id="page-11-0"></span>**Proposition 2.8.** *Let*  $1 < q_0, r_0 \leq 2$ *. Suppose that* 

$$
\|\Re(\chi_{\mathbb{I}_R\times\mathbb{B}_R}f)\|_{L^2(d\sigma)}\leq C_{\epsilon}R^{\epsilon}\|f\|_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}))}
$$

for all  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $R > 1$  and all  $f \in L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{R}))$ . Then for any  $1 \le q < q_0$  and  $1 \le r < r_0$ ,

$$
\|\Re f\|_{L^2(d\sigma)} \leq C \|f\|_{L^q_x(\mathbb{R}^n;L^r_t(\mathbb{R}))}
$$

*for all*  $f \in L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n; L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))$ *.* 

Now we are ready to prove Theorem [1.2](#page-1-0). The theorem follows from Proposition [2.2](#page-4-0) and Proposition 2.8 as follows.

#### *2.3. Proof of Theorem [1.2](#page-1-0)*

Let  $P_0$  be the Littlewood-Paley projection operator as in subsection [2.1](#page-2-0). By rescaling  $x \mapsto 2^{-k}x$  and  $t \mapsto 2^{-mk}t$ , the estimate [\(1.4](#page-1-0)) implies

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}P_0f||_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{B}_{2^k};L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{I}_{2^{mk}}))} \leq C_{\epsilon}2^{k\epsilon}||P_0f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}
$$

for all  $k \ge 1$  and  $\epsilon > 0$ . Since  $m \ge 1$ , we have

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}P_0f||_{L_x^{q_0}(\mathbb{B}_{2^k};L_t^{r_0}(\mathbb{I}_{2^k}))} \leq C_{\epsilon}2^{k\epsilon}||P_0f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}.
$$

By Proposition 2.8 and duality,

$$
||e^{it\Phi(D)}P_0f||_{L_x^q(\mathbb{R}^n;L_t^r(\mathbb{R}))} \leq C||P_0f||_{L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)}.
$$

By Proposition [2.2](#page-4-0), we obtain the desired estimate.  $\Box$ 

## Appendix A

*A.1. Proof of Lemma [2.4](#page-5-0)*

We divide the left side of [\(2.4\)](#page-5-0) into two parts

$$
\|\sum_{i=1}^N f_i * \hat{\phi}_i |_{S}\|_2^2 = \sum_i \|f_i * \hat{\phi}_i |_{S}\|_2^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} \int f_i * \hat{\phi}_i \overline{f_j * \hat{\phi}_j} d\sigma.
$$

We may assume that  $N \geq 2$  because if  $N = 1$  then the estimate is trivial. By a basic restriction estimate we have  $||f_i * \hat{\phi}_i||_2 \lesssim R^{1/2} ||f_i||_2$  (for details see [\[20,23](#page-14-0)]). Thus,

$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \|f_i * \hat{\phi}_i|_S \|^2 \lesssim R \sum_{i=1}^{N} \|f_i\|^2.
$$
\n(A.1)

By Parseval's identity,

$$
\int f_i \ast \hat{\phi}_i \overline{f_j \ast \hat{\phi}_j} d\sigma = \int \overline{\check{f}_j \phi_j} ((\check{f}_i \phi_i) \ast \widehat{d\sigma}),
$$

<span id="page-12-0"></span>where the  $\check{ }$  denotes the inverse Fourier transform. It is bounded by

$$
\big(\sup_{z,w}|\phi_j^{1/2}(z)\phi_i^{1/2}(w)\widehat{d\sigma}(z-w)|\big)\|\check f_i\phi_i^{1/2}\|_1\|\check f_j\phi_j^{1/2}\|_1.
$$

By the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality and Plancherel's theorem,

$$
\|\check{f}_i\phi_i^{1/2}\|_1 \lesssim R^{(n+1)/2} \|f_i\|_2.
$$

By [\(2.3](#page-5-0)),

$$
\sup_{z,w} |\phi_j^{1/2}(z)\phi_i^{1/2}(w)\widehat{d\sigma}(z-w)| \lesssim |z_i-z_j-2R|^{-\rho}.
$$

Since  $|z_i - z_j| \ge (NR)^\gamma$ ,  $\gamma \ge 2$ ,  $N \ge 2$  and  $R > 1$ ,

$$
|z_i - z_j - 2R| \ge |z_i - z_j| - 2R \gtrsim |z_i - z_j|/2.
$$

Thus,

$$
\sup_{z,w} |\phi_j^{1/2}(z)\phi_i^{1/2}(w)\widehat{d\sigma}(z-w)| \lesssim |z_i - z_j|^{-\rho}.
$$

Combining these estimates we have

$$
\sum_{i \neq j} \int f_i * \hat{\phi}_i \overline{f_j * \hat{\phi}_j} d\sigma \lesssim R^{n+1} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{\substack{j \in \{1, 2, ..., N\}, i \neq j}} |z_i - z_j|^{-\rho} ||f_i||_2 ||f_j||_2
$$
  

$$
\lesssim R^{n+1} N \max_{i,j} |z_i - z_j|^{-\rho} \sum_{i=1}^N ||f_i||_2^2.
$$

Since  $|z_i - z_j| \ge (NR)^\gamma \ge N^{\frac{1}{\rho}} R^{\frac{n}{\rho}}$ , it follows that

$$
\sum_{i \neq j} \int f_i \ast \hat{\phi}_i \overline{f_j \ast \hat{\phi}_j} d\sigma \lesssim R \sum_{i=1}^N \|f_i\|_2^2.
$$

From the above estimate and  $(A.1)$  $(A.1)$  we obtain  $(2.4)$  $(2.4)$ .  $\Box$ 

*A.2. Proof of Lemma [2.6](#page-7-0)*

Fix  $K \in \mathbb{N}$ . We define  $R_0 = 1$  and  $R_k$  for  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$  recursively by

$$
R_k = |E|^{\gamma} R_{k-1}^{\gamma}.
$$
\n(A.2)

From this definition we have  $R_k = |E|^{\frac{\gamma^{k+1}-\gamma}{\gamma-1}}$ . Let  $E_0 = \emptyset$ . We define  $E_k$  for  $k = 1, 2, \cdots, K$  to be the set of all  $x \in E \setminus \cup_{j=0,1,2,\cdots,k-1} E_j$  such that

$$
|E \cap B(x, R_k)| \le |E|^{k/K}.\tag{A.3}
$$

Then,  $E = \bigcup_{k=1}^{K} E_k$ . From this construction it follows that for  $x \in E_k$ ,  $k = 2, 3, \dots, K$ ,

$$
|E \cap B(x, R_{k-1})| > |E|^{(k-1)/K}.
$$
\n(A.4)

<span id="page-13-0"></span>We cover  $E_k$  with finitely overlapping  $R_k$ -balls  $\mathbf{C}_{E_k} := \{B_i = B(x_i, R_k) : x_i \in E_k\}$ . Since E is a finite union of cubes of side-length  $c \sim 1$ , it is obvious that  $\#\mathbf{C}_{E_k} \lesssim |E|$ . For each  $B_i \in \mathbf{C}_{E_k}$  we cover  $E_k \cap B_i$ with finitely overlapping  $R_{k-1}$ -balls  $\mathbf{C}_{E_k \cap B_i} := \{B'_{ij} = B'(y_j, R_{k-1}) : y_j \in E_k \cap B_i\}$ , that is,

$$
E_k \cap B_i = \bigcup_{B'_{ij} \in \mathbf{C}_{E_k \cap B_i}} E_k \cap B'_{ij}.
$$

Since  $((E \setminus E_k) \cap B'_{ij}) \subset ((E \setminus E_k) \cap B_i)$  for all *j*, we have

$$
(E_k \cap B_i) \cup ((E \setminus E_k) \cap B_i) \supset \bigcup_{B'_{ij} \in \mathbf{C}_{E_k} \cap B_i} (E_k \cap B'_{ij}) \cup ((E \setminus E_k) \cap B'_{ij}),
$$

thus

$$
E \cap B_i \supset \bigcup_{B_{ij}' \in \mathbf{C}_{E_k \cap B_i}} E \cap B_{ij}'.
$$

By finitely overlapping,

$$
\#\mathbf{C}_{E_k\cap B_i}\lesssim \max_{B_{ij}'\in\mathbf{C}_{E_k\cap B_i}}\frac{|E\cap B_i|}{|E\cap B_{ij}'|}.
$$

By ([A.3](#page-12-0)) and (A.4) the above is bounded by  $C|E|^{1/K}$ , and we have  $\#\mathbf{C}_{E_k \cap B_i} \leq C|E|^{1/K}$  for all *i*. Thus,

$$
E_k \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^{O(|E|)} \bigcup_{j=1}^{O(|E|^{1/K})} B'_{ij}.
$$

We choose  $O(R_k)$ -separated balls  ${B'_{ij(i)}}_{i=1}^{O(|E|)}$ . Then it is a  $(O(|E|), R_{k-1})$ -sparse collection because of [\(A.2](#page-12-0)). Since  $R_{k-1} = |E|^{O(\gamma^{k-1})}$  and every  $B_i \in \mathbf{C}_{E_k}$  has the covering  $\mathbf{C}_{E_k \cap B_i}$  of cardinality  $O(|E|^{1/K})$ , there are  $O(|E|^{1/K})$  number of  $(O(|E|), |E|^{O(\gamma^{k-1})})$ -sparse collections  $\mathbf{S}_1, \mathbf{S}_2, \cdots, \mathbf{S}_{O(|E|^{1/K})}$  such that

$$
E_k \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^{O(|E|^{1/K})} \bigcup_{B' \in \mathbf{S}_j} B'. \quad \Box
$$

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