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Decay of correlations in stochastic quantization: the exponential Euclidean field in two dimensions

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Abstract

We present two approaches to establish the exponential decay of correlation functions of Euclidean quantum field theories (EQFTs) via stochastic quantization (SQ). In particular we consider the elliptic stochastic quantization of the Høegh–Krohn (or $\exp(\alpha\phi)_2$) EQFT in two dimensions. The first method is based on a path-wise coupling argument and PDE apriori estimates, while the second on estimates of the Malliavin derivative of the solution to the SQ equation.

Keywords Stochastic quantization · Høegh-Krohn model · Decay of correlations · Euclidean quantum field theory

Mathematics Subject Classification 60H17 · 60H07 · 81T07

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References

1 Introduction

The last decade has seen a renewed interest in the study of rigorous stochastic quantization (SQ) of Euclidean quantum field theories (EQFTs). SQ is a technique, first proposed by Nelson [43] and Parisi–Wu [48], to realize EQFTs, or more generally Gibbsian measures on \mathbb{R}^d obtained as limits of perturbations of Gaussian measures, as solutions to certain stochastic partial differential equations (SPDEs) driven by Gaussian noise. After the pioneering work of Jona–Lasinio and Mitter [36, 37] and Da Prato–Debussche [16], only very recently substantial advances have allowed to attack the challenging problem of the SQ for classical EQFTs, including the Φ_3^4 model, see e.g. [5, 15, 27, 28, 30, 31, 39, 41, 42].

While the original approach of Parisi–Wu to the SQ method based on a Langevin equilibrium diffusion gives rise to parabolic SPDEs, this it is not the only possibility. Nowadays we dispose of at least two other methods of stochastic quantization:

- *the elliptic SQ approach* [1, 2, 14, 27], based on the dimensional reduction phenomenon described by Parisi and Sourlas [46, 47] and involving the solutions of an elliptic singular SPDE in $d + 2$ dimensions;
- *the variational method* [8, 12, 13] which involves forward–backward SDEs and can be also applied to fermionic EQFTs [17].

The aim of this work is to discuss the decay of correlations of Euclidean quantum fields from the point of view of the SQ methods. In particular we consider the elliptic SQ framework and restrict our attention to the following elliptic SQ equation with respect to the real valued random field $\varphi(z), z \in \mathbb{R}^4$,

$$(-\Delta + m^2)\varphi + \alpha \exp(\alpha\varphi - \infty) = \xi, \tag{1}$$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $m > 0$. Here, ξ is a Gaussian white noise on \mathbb{R}^4 and $-\infty$ means that the equation should be properly renormalized. The existence of a unique solution to Eq. (1) and the link with the corresponding EQF measure in two dimensions, called the Høegh–Krohn model [33] (also known as Liouville model in the literature) has been established in [2] for

$$|\alpha| < \alpha_{\max} := 4\pi\sqrt{8 - 4\sqrt{3}}.$$

More precisely, well-posedness holds in the weighted Besov space $B_{p,p,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^4)$, for suitable (p, s) given in (5) and $\ell > 0$ large enough (see Sect. 1.1 for precise notations).

The estimation of connected (or truncated) correlation functions, for example, the connected two-point function,

$$\mathbb{E}[\varphi(x_1)\varphi(x_2)] - \mathbb{E}[\varphi(x_1)]\mathbb{E}[\varphi(x_2)], \quad x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^4,$$

is a basic goal of any constructive EQFT approach. General truncated correlation functions allow to infer informations about masses of the particles in the QFT and estimate scattering amplitudes (see e.g. [32]). In the constructive literature, estimation of the connected correlation functions is obtained via cluster expansion methods or correlation inequalities. See for example the early work of Glimm–Jaffe–Spencer [25, 26]. The literature about expansion methods abounds. We suggest the interested reader to refer to [4, 6, 18, 24] and the reference therein for details and to [34] for a nice review of related results. Expansion methods for Euclidean fields involve two primary steps. The initial step is to expand the interaction into parts localized in different bounded volumes of Euclidean space. This gives control over the infinite volume method to establish the exponential decay of correlations. The second step is to expand interaction into components which are localized on different momentum scales. This helps in dealing with the local regularity properties of correlation functions. The technical difficulty is to mix these two expansions in a manageable way and to systematically extract contributions which require renormalization. Correlation inequalities methods instead employ discrete approximations, such as lattice approximations, whose specific algebraic properties allow for establishing bounds on a sufficiently broad class of observables.

While expansion methods can be applied to stochastic quantization, as evidenced in works such as [19, 38], we look here for a *stochastic analytic approach* leveraging the intrinsic features of SQ. Parisi [45] presented an early non-rigorous discussion of correlations within the SQ approach and studied how to estimate them directly via computer simulations. In this paper we introduce two simple, general and direct methods to study correlations in SQ applying them to the elliptic SQ of the exponential model (1):

- Coupling approach** It is possible to infer the decay of truncated correlations by proving that the solutions to the SQ equation exhibit almost independent behaviour in different regions of space. This can be achieved by coupling the solution to two independent copies by suitably choosing the driving noises. As far as our knowledge extends, it has been Funaki [23] who first introduced this idea in the context of equilibrium dynamics of Ginzburg–Landau continuum models.
- Malliavin calculus approach** Parisi [45] suggests to study variations of the SQ equations in order to infer truncated two-point correlations. His observation can actually be made precise and more general using the stochastic calculus of variations, i.e. the Malliavin calculus [44], and computing derivatives of the solutions to the SQ equation w.r.t. the driving noise ξ .

These two approaches will be used to prove the following statement about a general class of truncated covariances:

Theorem 1 *Let F_1, F_2 be Lipschitz and functionals on $B_{p,p,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and f be a given smooth function supported in an open ball of unit radius around the origin. Then we have the following exponential decay*

$$|\text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2)))| \leq M e^{-c|x_1-x_2|}, \tag{2}$$

for all $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^4$ where the constant M depends on m, f, F_1, F_2 , the constant c depends on m but both are independent of x_1, x_2 .

Remark 1 Here $\text{Cov}(F, G) := \mathbb{E}[FG] - \mathbb{E}[F]\mathbb{E}[G]$ as usual and $(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x))(\phi) := \varphi(f(\cdot - x)\phi(\cdot))$ for every test function ϕ .

In particular we prove that the solution of SQE (1) satisfies (formally),

$$|\text{Cov}(\varphi(x_1), \varphi(x_2))| \lesssim e^{-c|x_1-x_2|}, \forall x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^4.$$

It follows from Theorem 1 that the exponential EQFT in two dimensions has a mass gap, a fact first proven in [3] via correlation inequalities for the lattice approximation.

These approaches are general enough to be applicable to other EQFT models like $P(\varphi)_2$ or Φ_3^4 models. However a fundamental difficulty presents itself in establishing the required apriori estimates for the coupling method or in controlling the decay of Malliavin derivative in the Malliavin method. Both these difficulties originate in the lack of convexity of the renormalized interaction for a general EQFT. A similar problem is present in the analysis of logarithmic Sobolev inequalities for EQFT in bounded volumes [9, 11] especially for polynomial models. It also manifests in controlling the infinite volume limit of EQFT via stochastic quantization [13, 27, 28, 30], leading to a major obstacle in establishing uniqueness of the infinite volume solutions to the SQ equation.

Fortunately, these difficulties do not show up in the exponential model because its renormalization is multiplicative and it does not spoil the convex character of the interaction. For this reason our methods could be readily applied to obtain decay of correlations for the Sinh–Gordon model studied in [14]. Another model where uniqueness and correlations can be controlled via stochastic quantization is the Sine–Gordon model (for large mass and up the first renormalization threshold), studied by Barashkov via the variational method in [8]. Let us also mention that, inspired by the present paper, the coupling method has been already used to show decay of correlations for Euclidean fermionic QFTs and for sine-Gordon Euclidean QFTs via the FBSDE SQ method, respectively in [17] and [29].

Let us stress that proving uniqueness of (any kind of) stochastic quantization and establishing decay of correlation of models like $\Phi_{2,3}^4$ at high temperature is still largely an open problem which should be considered, in our opinion, as a crucial test to evaluate the effectivity of stochastic quantization as a constructive tool in quantum field theory. The present work is a preliminary step in the direction of understanding better this problem, and in general in devising appropriate tools to study stochastically quantized EQFTs.

Plan of the paper After introducing notations and definitions of function spaces in Sect. 1.1, the paper is structured into two main parts. In Sect. 2, we present a proof of Theorem 1 utilizing the coupling method, commencing with a review of essential results from [2]. Following this, in Sect. 3, we provide the Malliavin calculus proof of Theorem 1, beginning with a summary of relevant tools. The paper concludes with ‘‘Appendix A’’, where we revisit a few necessary results from the literature and establish the existence and uniqueness of solutions to the approximate Eq. (35).

1.1 Notations

In this section we describe some notations and definitions of function spaces used across the whole paper. Some approach depending notations which are also used in the paper are discussed in the corresponding sections.

- Throughout the paper, we use the notation $a \lesssim b$ if there exists a constant $c > 0$, independent of the variables under consideration, such that $a \leq cb$. If we want to emphasize the dependence of c on the variable x , then we write $a(x) \lesssim_x b(x)$. The symbol $:=$ means that the right hand side of the equality defines the left hand side.
- We set $\mathcal{L} := -\Delta + m^2$.
- For a distribution φ , a smooth function f and $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we define the translated distribution $(\varphi(\cdot + x))(\phi) = \varphi(\phi(\cdot - x))$ for all test functions ϕ and by $f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x)$ we denote the multiplication of a smooth function f and distribution $\varphi(\cdot + x)$.
- By \mathbb{N} we understand the set of natural numbers $\{1, 2, \dots\}$. For $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$, we write $C^k(\mathbb{R}^d)$ to denote the set of real valued functions which are differentiable up to k -times and the k -th derivative is continuous. We write $C(\mathbb{R}^d)$ for $k = 0$ and the topology we consider on this space is uniform norm topology. By $C_c^k(\mathbb{R}^d)$ we mean the collection of functions in $C^k(\mathbb{R}^d)$ having compact support. We denote the the space of smooth functions having compact support by $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$.
- For any $\ell > 0$ and weight $r_\ell(x) := (1 + |x|^2)^{-\ell/2}$, by $C_\ell^0(\mathbb{R}^d)$ we denote the space of continuous functions on \mathbb{R}^d such that

$$\|f\|_{C_\ell^0} := \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^d} |f(x)r_\ell(x)| < \infty.$$

- By symbol $L_\ell^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $p \in [1, \infty]$, we mean the Banach space of all (equivalence classes of) \mathbb{R} -valued weighted p -integrable functions on \mathbb{R}^d . The norm in $L_\ell^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$, $1 \leq p < \infty$ is given by

$$\|f\|_{L_\ell^p} := \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^d} |f(y)r_\ell(y)|^p dy \right]^{1/p}, \quad f \in L_\ell^p(\mathbb{R}^d).$$

For $p = \infty$ we understand it with the usual modification. If $\ell = 0$ we only write $L^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ instead $L_0^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Sometimes we also use weight function $r_{\lambda,\ell}(x) := (1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-\ell/2}$, for $\lambda, \ell > 0$, and in this case we define $L_{\lambda,\ell}^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$ by writing $r_{\lambda,\ell}$

in place of r_ℓ in definition of $L_\ell^p(\mathbb{R}^d)$. Similarly we define $L_\ell^p(E)$ and $L_{\lambda,\ell}^p(E)$ for an open subset $E \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.

- Let s be a real number and (p, q) be in $[1, \infty]^2$. The weighted Besov space $B_{p,q,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^d)$ consists of all tempered distributions $f \in \mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}^d)$ such that the norm

$$\|f\|_{B_{p,q,\ell}^s} := \left[\sum_{j \geq -1} 2^{sjq} \|\Delta_j(f)\|_{L_\ell^p(\mathbb{R}^d)}^q \right]^{1/q}$$

is finite, where Δ_j are the non-homogeneous dyadic blocks. See Appendix A of [2] for details and properties of $B_{p,q,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^d)$. We set $C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^d) := B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^d)$.

- For $r > 0, x \in \mathbb{R}^d$, we denote an open ball of radius r around x by $B(x, r)$. We also use $d(x, S)$ to define the distance between the point $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ and set $S \subset \mathbb{R}^d$.
- Let α be an auxiliary (radial) smooth, compactly supported function such that $\text{supp } \alpha \subset B(0, 1), \int \alpha(x)dx = 1$, and $\alpha_\varepsilon(x) := \varepsilon^{-4}\alpha(x/\varepsilon), x \in \mathbb{R}^4$. Note that $\text{supp } \alpha_\varepsilon \subset B(0, \varepsilon)$.

Note that to save space we do not write the integration limit and the measure in the case when it is easily understood from the context.

2 The coupling approach

In this approach towards to proof of Theorem 1 we first prove (2) for a random field φ_ε which solves an approximation (7) of SPDE (1). Then due to Fatou’s lemma we pass to the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ and obtain (2) for φ . We only need to consider the case of large $l := |x_1 - x_2|$ in detail as for small l the estimate (2) holds trivially.

Let us now sketch briefly the idea of the coupling approach. We consider two open balls D_1 and D_2 in \mathbb{R}^4 of radius $l/2$ with centers x_1 and x_2 . Further, we take two copies of Gaussian independent space white noises ζ_1 and ζ_2 and define, for $i = 1, 2$,

$$\xi_i := \mathbb{1}_{D_i} \xi + \mathbb{1}_{D_i^c} \zeta_i.$$

In this way, in D_i we have that $\xi = \xi_i$ for $i = 1, 2$, while ξ_1 and ξ_2 are independent everywhere. We let $X_\varepsilon, X_{1,\varepsilon}$ and $X_{2,\varepsilon}$ be the solutions to linear part (cfr. (8)) of the approximations of the Eq. (1) with noises replaced by $\xi_\varepsilon, \xi_{1,\varepsilon}$ and $\xi_{2,\varepsilon}$, respectively. Therefore $X_{1,\varepsilon}$ and $X_{2,\varepsilon}$ are independent while we will have $X_{i,\varepsilon} \approx X_\varepsilon$ in D_i . By stability estimates for eq. (1) we can derive estimates of the form (cfr. (23))

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}[\|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_i) - f \cdot \varphi_{i,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_i)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p] \\ & \leq e^{-c\left(1-\frac{l}{8}\right)} (\mathbb{E}[\|X_\varepsilon - X_{i,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p}^p] + \mathbb{E}[\|\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p}^p] + \mathbb{E}[\|\bar{\varphi}_{i,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p}^p]) \end{aligned}$$

for some c which depends on m and p , where $p \in [2, \infty)$ is fixed. In the above we have $\varphi_\varepsilon = \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon + X_\varepsilon$ and $\varphi_{i,\varepsilon} = \bar{\varphi}_{i,\varepsilon} + X_{i,\varepsilon}$, where φ_ε and $\varphi_{i,\varepsilon}$ respectively, are the unique solutions to the regularized SPDE (7) with ξ_ε and $\xi_{i,\varepsilon}$ as detailed in Sect. 2.1.

This estimate allows to replace φ_ε by $\varphi_{i,\varepsilon}$ in D_i by paying a small error of the order $e^{-c\ell}$ for some $c > 0$ (independent of x_i). Since $\varphi_{1,\varepsilon}$ and $\varphi_{2,\varepsilon}$ are independent, from the last estimate we can conclude easily the exponential decay for Lipschitz observables, see Sect. 2.2 for details.

2.1 Preliminaries

In this subsection we summarize the steps, with another suitably modified approximation, of the proof from [2], which also set further required notation. The main result of [2], which is about the existence of a unique solution to the singular SPDE (1), is based on the Da Prato–Debussche trick [16] and the fact that the Wick exponential is a positive measure.

- Let us consider a complete probability space $(\Omega, \mathfrak{F}, \mathbb{P})$, which satisfies the usual hypothesis, and ξ as Gaussian white noise on \mathbb{R}^4 defined on $(\Omega, \mathfrak{F}, \mathbb{P})$.
- Let X be the solution to $\mathcal{L}X = \xi$. The existence and uniqueness of such $X \in B_{q,q,\ell}^{-\delta}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ for every $q \in [1, \infty]$, $\delta > 0$ and $\ell > 0$ is proved in [27].
- To avoid clumsy notation we write $\eta := \exp^\diamond(\alpha \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi)$ for the renormalized version of the distribution $\exp(\alpha \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi - \infty)$, where \exp^\diamond denotes the Wick exponential of the Gaussian distribution $X = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi$.
- The first step in giving a meaning to Eq. (1) is to take the decomposition $\varphi = \bar{\varphi} + X$. Then observe that formally $\bar{\varphi}$ satisfies

$$\mathcal{L}\bar{\varphi} + \alpha \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi})\eta = 0. \tag{3}$$

- For any $\varepsilon > 0$ let us set $\xi_\varepsilon := \alpha_\varepsilon * \xi$ where $*$ denotes convolution. Note that

$$\eta = \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{\alpha^k}{k!} (\mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi)^{\diamond k},$$

where \diamond denotes the Wick product and $(\mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi)^{\diamond k} = \underbrace{\mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi \diamond \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi \diamond \dots \diamond \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi}_{k\text{-times}}$

$X^{\diamond k}$. By denoting $X_\varepsilon = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi_\varepsilon$ as the unique smooth solution to $\mathcal{L}X_\varepsilon = \xi_\varepsilon$, we set η_ε as the following positive measure

$$\eta_\varepsilon(dz) = \exp^\diamond(\alpha \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi_\varepsilon)dz = \exp(\alpha \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi_\varepsilon - C_\varepsilon)dz, \tag{4}$$

where $C_\varepsilon := \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \mathbb{E}[|X_\varepsilon|^2]$.

Moreover, from Section 3.1 of [2], we know that

$$\eta_\varepsilon = \sum_{k=0}^\infty \frac{\alpha^k}{k!} (\mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi_\varepsilon)^{\diamond k},$$

and, for $|\alpha| < 4\sqrt{2}\pi$, $p \in (1, 2]$, $s \leq -\frac{\alpha^2(p-1)}{(4\pi)^2}$ and $\ell > 0$ large enough, $\eta_\varepsilon \rightarrow \eta$, as $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$, in probability in $B_{p,p,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Note that the convergence $\eta_\varepsilon \rightarrow \eta$ in

probability implies that there exists a sequence ε_n , which converges to 0, such that $\eta_{\varepsilon_n} \rightarrow \eta$, as $\varepsilon_n \rightarrow 0$, in $B_{p,p,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^4)$ \mathbb{P} -almost surely. We will fix this sequence $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ in the whole paper.

- By Theorems 21 and 25 from [2] we have that for any $|\alpha| < \alpha_{\max}$, there exist p, s, δ satisfying

$$1 < p \leq 2, \quad p < \frac{2(4\pi)^2}{\alpha^2}, \quad -1 < s \leq -\frac{\alpha^2(p-1)}{(4\pi)^2} \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < \delta < s + 1, \tag{5}$$

the Eq. (3) has a unique solution $\bar{\varphi}$ in $B_{p,p,\ell+\delta'}^{s+2-\delta}(\mathbb{R}^4)$, \mathbb{P} -almost surely, for large enough $\ell > 0$ and small enough $\delta' > 0$. Moreover,

$$\alpha \bar{\varphi} \leq 0$$

holds true. Furthermore, for $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n \geq 1}$ as fixed above, $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon_n} \rightarrow \bar{\varphi}$ in $B_{p,p,\ell+\delta'}^{s+2-\delta}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, \mathbb{P} -almost surely, where $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon_n}$ solves the approximate equation

$$\mathcal{L}\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon_n} + \alpha \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon_n}) \eta_{\varepsilon_n} = 0 \tag{6}$$

uniquely in $C_\ell^0(\mathbb{R}^4)$ such that $\alpha \varphi_{\varepsilon_n} \leq 0$.

- Thus, for (p, s) such that (5) holds and $\ell > 0$ large enough, $\varphi = X + \bar{\varphi} \in B_{p,p,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^4)$, \mathbb{P} -almost surely, solves SPDE (1) uniquely. If we consider the following approximation of SPDE (1)

$$\mathcal{L}\varphi_{\varepsilon_n} + \alpha \exp(\alpha \varphi_{\varepsilon_n} - C_{\varepsilon_n}) = \mathbf{a}_{\varepsilon_n} * \xi, \tag{7}$$

then, from the proof of Theorem 35 of [2], we know that $\varphi_{\varepsilon_n} = \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon_n} + X_{\varepsilon_n}$ is the unique solution to (7) and $\varphi_{\varepsilon_n} \rightarrow \varphi$ in $B_{p,p,\ell}^s(\mathbb{R}^4)$, \mathbb{P} -almost surely as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Let us recall that we have fixed the sequence of $\{\varepsilon_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ which converges to 0 as $n \rightarrow \infty$. To shorten the notation, we will write $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ equivalently to $n \rightarrow \infty$.

2.2 Proof of Theorem 1

Assume that $|x_1 - x_2| \leq 8$. It is trivial to get (2) because its l.h.s. is bounded. Consider now the complementary case and let $l := |x_1 - x_2| > 8$. Take two open balls D_1 and D_2 in \mathbb{R}^4 of radius $l/2$ with centers x_1 and x_2 , respectively. Further, we take two copies of Gaussian independent space white noises ζ_1 and ζ_2 defined on $(\Omega, \mathfrak{F}, \mathbb{P})$. Define the processes X_1 and X_2 as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}X_1 = \mathbb{1}_{D_1} \xi + \mathbb{1}_{D_1^c} \zeta_1 =: \xi_1, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{L}X_2 = \mathbb{1}_{D_2} \xi + \mathbb{1}_{D_2^c} \zeta_2 =: \xi_2. \tag{8}$$

Note that that $\xi - \xi_i = 0$ on D_i , $i = 1, 2$ in the sense of distributions \mathbb{P} -a.s. Moreover, since $D_1 \cap D_2 = \emptyset$, the processes X_1 and X_2 are independent. Indeed, by setting

$(\mathbb{1}_{D_i} \xi)(f) := \xi(\mathbb{1}_{D_i} f)$, we observe that for $f, g \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$,

$$\mathbb{E}[\xi_1(f)\xi_2(g)] = \langle \mathbb{1}_{D_1} f, \mathbb{1}_{D_2} g \rangle_{L^2} = 0.$$

Let us set $\xi_\varepsilon := \alpha_\varepsilon * \xi$ and $\xi_{i,\varepsilon} := \alpha_\varepsilon * \xi_i, i = 1, 2$ for the whole subsection. Let φ_ε and $\varphi_{i,\varepsilon}$, respectively, be the unique solutions to the following regularized version of eq. (1)

$$\mathcal{L}\varphi_\varepsilon + \alpha \exp(\alpha\varphi_\varepsilon - C_\varepsilon) = \xi_\varepsilon,$$

and

$$\mathcal{L}\varphi_{i,\varepsilon} + \alpha \exp(\alpha\varphi_{i,\varepsilon} - C_\varepsilon) = \xi_{i,\varepsilon},$$

where $C_\varepsilon := \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \mathbb{E}[|X_\varepsilon|^2] = \frac{\alpha^2}{2} \mathbb{E}[|X_{i,\varepsilon}|^2]$ for $X_\varepsilon = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi_\varepsilon$ and $X_{i,\varepsilon} = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\xi_{i,\varepsilon}, i = 1, 2$. Note that due to stationarity in space of the white noise ξ , the constant C_ε does not depend on $x \in \mathbb{R}^4$.

Next, let us fix $p \in [2, \infty)$ and consider φ, φ_1 and φ_2 as the unique solutions to the SPDE (1) with noises ξ, ξ_1 and ξ_2 , respectively. Their existence has been summarized in Sect. 2.1. Then observe that, since F_1 and F_2 are Lipschitz and bounded functionals, using the Hölder inequality we get the following

$$\begin{aligned} & |\text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2)))| \\ & \leq |\mathbb{E}[(F_1(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_1)) - F_1(f \cdot \varphi_1(\cdot + x_1)))F_2(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2))]| \\ & \quad + |\mathbb{E}[F_1(f \cdot \varphi_1(\cdot + x_1))(F_2(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2)) - F_2(f \cdot \varphi_2(\cdot + x_2)))]| \\ & \quad + |\mathbb{E}[F_1(f \cdot \varphi_1(\cdot + x_1))F_2(f \cdot \varphi_2(\cdot + x_2))]| \\ & \quad - \mathbb{E}[F_1(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_1))]\mathbb{E}[F_2(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2))] \\ & \lesssim_{F_1, F_2} [\mathbb{E}[\|f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_1) - f \cdot \varphi_1(\cdot + x_1)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p]]^{1/p} \\ & \quad + [\mathbb{E}[\|f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2) - f \cdot \varphi_2(\cdot + x_2)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p]]^{1/p}. \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

Here we used that, since the processes ξ_1 and ξ_2 are independent and the processes ξ, ξ_1 and ξ_2 have same law,

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}[F_1(f \cdot \varphi_1(\cdot + x_1))F_2(f \cdot \varphi_2(\cdot + x_2))] \\ & - \mathbb{E}[F_1(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_1))]\mathbb{E}[F_2(f \cdot \varphi(\cdot + x_2))] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

But thanks to Fatou’s lemma (see Theorem 2.72 of [10]), to get (2) from (9) it is enough to prove that, for $i = 1, 2$,

$$\mathbb{E}[\|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_i) - f \cdot \varphi_{i,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_i)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p] \lesssim e^{-cl}, \tag{10}$$

uniform in ε , for some $c > 0$ which does not depend on x_1, x_2 .

Due to symmetry, it is sufficient to estimate $\mathbb{E}[\|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_1) - f \cdot \varphi_{1,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_1)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p]$. For that let $\tilde{D}_1 := B(x_1, \frac{l}{4})$ and take

$$\rho(x) := e^{-\beta m|x-x_1|}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^4,$$

a weight function where we set the value of β later. Further, let us take θ as a non-negative smooth function supported in \tilde{D}_1 such that $\theta = 1$ in $\bar{D}_1 := B(x_1, \frac{l}{8})$. To shorten the notation we also set $\bar{\rho}(x) := \theta(x)\rho(x)$.

Since f has support in $B(0, 1)$, by the Besov embedding Theorem 5 followed by continuous embedding of $L_\ell^p(\mathbb{R}^4)$ into $B_{p,\infty,\ell}^0(\mathbb{R}^4)$ we get, where $\chi_\varepsilon := \varphi_\varepsilon - \varphi_{1,\varepsilon}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_1) - f \cdot \varphi_{1,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_1)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p &\lesssim \|f(\cdot - x_1)\chi_\varepsilon\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p \\ &\lesssim \int_{B(x_1,1)} |f(x - x_1)\chi_\varepsilon(x)|^p dx \leq e^{mp\beta} \|f\|_{L^\infty} \|\bar{\rho}\chi_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(B(x_1,1))}^p. \end{aligned} \tag{11}$$

Towards estimating $\|\bar{\rho}\chi_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(B(x_1,1))}^p$, first we claim that

$$\theta(x)(\xi_\varepsilon - \xi_{1,\varepsilon})(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{R}^4. \tag{12}$$

This is obvious for $x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \setminus \tilde{D}_1$. So let us take $x \in \tilde{D}_1$. Since

$$(\theta(\xi_\varepsilon - \xi_{1,\varepsilon}))(x) = \theta(x)(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * (\xi - \xi_1))(x),$$

it is sufficient to show that $(\xi - \xi_1, \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * g)_{\mathcal{S}',\mathcal{S}} = 0$ for all $g \in C_c^\infty(\tilde{D}_1)$, where $(\cdot, \cdot)_{\mathcal{S}',\mathcal{S}}$ is duality between Schwartz function \mathcal{S} and Schwartz distribution \mathcal{S}' . But, since $\xi - \xi_1 = 0$ on D_1 , for this it is enough to show that $\text{supp}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * g) \subset D_1$. This follows because

$$(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * g)(z) = \int_{\tilde{D}_1} \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(z - y)g(y) dy,$$

and for $z \in D_1^c$ and $y \in \tilde{D}_1$, $|z - y| \geq \frac{l}{4} > \frac{\varepsilon l}{4}$. Hence the claim (12).

Next, observe that χ_ε satisfies

$$\mathcal{L}\chi_\varepsilon + \mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon\chi_\varepsilon = \xi_\varepsilon - \xi_{1,\varepsilon}, \tag{13}$$

where $\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon := \alpha^2 \int_0^1 \exp\{\alpha\varphi_{1,\varepsilon} - C_\varepsilon + \Theta\alpha(\varphi_\varepsilon - \varphi_{1,\varepsilon})\}d\Theta > 0$. Then, testing (13) with $\bar{\rho}^p|\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2}\chi_\varepsilon$ and integrating on \mathbb{R}^4 give

$$\int \bar{\rho}^p|\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2}\chi_\varepsilon\mathcal{L}\chi_\varepsilon + \int \bar{\rho}^p|\chi_\varepsilon|^p\mathcal{Q}_\varepsilon = 0, \tag{14}$$

where the noise term vanishes because of (12). The first term on the l.h.s. above can be expanded as

$$\int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon \mathcal{L} \chi_\varepsilon = m^2 \int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p + \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon (-\Delta(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon)) + \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \Delta \bar{\rho} + 2 \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon \nabla \bar{\rho} \cdot \nabla \chi_\varepsilon.$$

But, since the integration by parts and the definition of divergence give

$$2 \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon \nabla \bar{\rho} \cdot \nabla \chi_\varepsilon = \frac{2}{p} \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} \nabla \bar{\rho} \cdot \nabla |\chi_\varepsilon|^p = -\frac{2}{p} \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \operatorname{div}(\bar{\rho}^{p-1} \nabla \bar{\rho}) = -\frac{2}{p} \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^p [(p-1) \bar{\rho}^{p-2} |\nabla \bar{\rho}|^2 + \bar{\rho}^{p-1} \Delta \bar{\rho}],$$

we have

$$\int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon \mathcal{L} \chi_\varepsilon = m^2 \int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p + \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon (-\Delta(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon)) + \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \Delta \bar{\rho} - \frac{2(p-1)}{p} \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \bar{\rho}^{p-2} |\nabla \bar{\rho}|^2. \tag{15}$$

Thus, substitution of (15) into (14) together with $Q_\varepsilon > 0$ yield

$$\int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon (-\Delta(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon)) + \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \Delta \bar{\rho} + m^2 \int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \leq \frac{2(p-1)}{p} \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \bar{\rho}^{p-2} |\nabla \bar{\rho}|^2. \tag{16}$$

Furthermore, since the integration by parts and the product rule of derivative give

$$\begin{aligned} \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon (-\Delta(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon)) &= \int (p-1) |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \chi_\varepsilon \bar{\rho}^{p-2} \nabla \bar{\rho} \cdot \nabla(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon) \\ &\quad + \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \nabla \chi_\varepsilon \cdot \nabla(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon) \\ &\quad + \int (p-2) \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \nabla \chi_\varepsilon \cdot \nabla(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon) \\ &= (p-1) \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\rho}^{p-2} |\nabla(\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon)|^2 \\ &\geq 0, \end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

from inequality (16) we obtain

$$\left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \Delta \bar{\rho} + m^2 \int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \leq \frac{2(p-1)}{p} \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \bar{\rho}^{p-2} |\nabla \bar{\rho}|^2. \tag{18}$$

Since $\nabla\rho(x) = -m\beta\frac{x-x_1}{|x-x_1|}\rho(x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \setminus \{x_1\}$,

$$\Delta\bar{\rho} = \rho\Delta\theta + 2\nabla\rho \cdot \nabla\theta + m^2\beta^2\theta\rho, \quad \text{and} \quad |\nabla\bar{\rho}| \leq |\nabla\theta|\rho + m\beta\rho\theta,$$

inequality (18) yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \rho \Delta\theta - 2m\beta \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \left[\rho \frac{x-x_1}{|x-x_1|} \cdot \nabla\theta \right] \\ & \quad + m^2\beta^2 \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \theta\rho + m^2 \int \bar{\rho}^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \\ & \leq \frac{4(p-1)}{p} \int |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \bar{\rho}^{p-2} \left[|\nabla\theta|^2 \rho^2 + m^2\beta^2 \rho^2 \theta^2 \right], \end{aligned}$$

where to get the r.h.s. terms we also used $(a+b)^2 \leq 2(a^2 + b^2)$, $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}$. Consequently, by regrouping the terms together with $\left| \frac{x-x_1}{|x-x_1|} \cdot \nabla\theta \right| \leq |\nabla\theta|$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} & m^2 \left(1 + \beta^2 \left(\frac{2-3p}{p}\right)\right) \|\bar{\rho}\chi_\varepsilon\|_{L^p}^p + \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \rho \Delta\theta \\ & \leq \frac{4(p-1)}{p} \int |\nabla\theta|^2 \rho^p \theta^{p-2} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p + 2m\beta \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \rho |\nabla\theta|. \quad (19) \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since θ is supported in \tilde{D}_1 and $\theta = 1$ on \bar{D}_1 , (19) gives

$$\begin{aligned} m^2 \left(1 + \beta^2 \left(\frac{2-3p}{p}\right)\right) \|\bar{\rho}\chi_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1)}^p & \leq \frac{4(p-1)}{p} \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} |\nabla\theta|^2 \rho^p \theta^{p-2} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \\ & \quad + 2m\beta \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \rho |\nabla\theta| \\ & \quad + \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} \bar{\rho}^{p-1} |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \rho |\Delta\theta|. \quad (20) \end{aligned}$$

To keep the coefficient of $\|\bar{\rho}\chi_\varepsilon\|_{L^p}$ positive in the l.h.s. above, we choose $\beta = \beta(p) > 0$ so small such that

$$1 + \beta^2 \left(\frac{2-3p}{p}\right) > 0. \quad (21)$$

To keep the notation simpler we set

$$K(m, \beta, p) := m^2 \left(1 + \beta^2 \left(\frac{2-3p}{p}\right)\right).$$

Thus, from (20) we deduce that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & K(m, \beta, \mathfrak{p}) \|\bar{\rho} \chi_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1)}^p \\
 & \leq M_\theta^p \left(\frac{4(\mathfrak{p} - 1)}{\mathfrak{p}} + (2m\beta + 1) \left(1 - \frac{2}{\mathfrak{p}} \right) \right) \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} \rho^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p, \tag{22}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $M_\theta > 0$ is the bound of θ and its derivatives up to order 2. Further, since

$$|\rho(x)| \leq e^{-m\beta \frac{l}{8}} \quad \text{for } x \in \tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1,$$

by substituting (22) in (11) we infer that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_1) - f \cdot \varphi_{1,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_1)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p \\
 & \lesssim \frac{e^{m\mathfrak{p}\beta} \|f\|_{L^\infty}}{K(m, \beta, \mathfrak{p})} M_\theta^p \left(\frac{4(\mathfrak{p} - 1)}{\mathfrak{p}} + (2m\beta + 1) \left(1 - \frac{2}{\mathfrak{p}} \right) \right) \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} \rho^p |\chi_\varepsilon|^p \\
 & \lesssim_{m,\mathfrak{p},M_\theta,\|f\|_{L^\infty}} e^{m\mathfrak{p}\beta \left(1 - \frac{l}{8}\right)} (\|X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p + \|\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon - \bar{\varphi}_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p).
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, by applying \mathbb{E} on both sides we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathbb{E} \left[\|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_1) - f \cdot \varphi_{1,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_1)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p \right] \\
 & \lesssim_{m,\mathfrak{p},M_\theta,\|f\|_{L^\infty}} e^{m\mathfrak{p}\beta \left(1 - \frac{l}{8}\right)} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[\|X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p \right] \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \mathbb{E} \left[\|\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p \right] + \mathbb{E} \left[\|\bar{\varphi}_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p \right] \right). \tag{23}
 \end{aligned}$$

To estimate the term $\mathbb{E}[\|X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p]$, since $\text{supp } \alpha_\varepsilon \subset B(0, \varepsilon)$, we first infer that $\xi_\varepsilon = \xi_{1,\varepsilon}$ on $D_{1,\varepsilon} := B(x_1, \frac{l}{2} - \varepsilon)$. By using the representation from Lemma 6 we have that

$$(X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon})(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z) (\xi_\varepsilon(dz) - \xi_{1,\varepsilon}(dz)). \tag{24}$$

Since, for $x \in \tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1$, we have $|x - z| > \frac{l}{4} - \varepsilon \gg 1$ for $z \in D_{1,\varepsilon}^c$, thus by Lemma 6 (1) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E} [((X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon})(x))^2] &= \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z) \xi_\varepsilon(dz) \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z_1) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z_1) \xi_\varepsilon(dz_1) \right] \\
 &\quad - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z) \xi_{1,\varepsilon}(dz) \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z_1) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z_1) \xi_\varepsilon(dz_1) \right] \\
 &\quad - \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z) \xi_\varepsilon(dz) \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x - z_1) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z_1) \xi_{1,\varepsilon}(dz_1) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x-z) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z) \xi_{1,\varepsilon}(dz) \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} K(x-z_1) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z_1) \xi_{1,\varepsilon}(dz_1) \right] \\
 & \lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^8} C_1^2 e^{-C_2|x-z|} e^{-C_2|x-z_1|} \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z) \mathbb{1}_{D_{1,\varepsilon}^c}(z_1) \\
 & \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(z-z_2) \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(z_1-z_2) dz_2 dz_1 \\
 & \leq C_1^2 e^{-C_2d(x,D_{1,\varepsilon}^c)} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} e^{-C_2|x-z_1|} dz_1 \lesssim e^{-C_2d(x,D_{1,\varepsilon}^c)},
 \end{aligned}$$

which is finite and independent of ε . Here we have also employed the fact that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} (\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon)(z-z_1) dz = 1$, which holds true because $\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon$ approximates $\delta * \delta$, where δ represents the Dirac delta distribution.

Consequently, since $(X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon})(x)$ is Gaussian from (24), by hypercontractivity (see Theorem 3.50 in [35]) there exists a constant $C_p > 0$ such that, for every $x \in \tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbb{E} [|(X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon})(x)|^p] & \leq C_p \left(\mathbb{E} [|(X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon})(x)|^2] \right)^{\frac{p}{2}} \lesssim C_p e^{-\frac{p}{2} C_2 d(x, D_{1,\varepsilon}^c)} \\
 & \leq C_p.
 \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

Furthermore, since

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\|X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p \right] = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} |X_\varepsilon(x, \omega) - X_{1,\varepsilon}(x, \omega)|^p dx \mathbb{P}(d\omega),$$

the Fubini Theorem followed by (25) yield

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\|X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p \right] = \int_{\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1} \mathbb{E} [|(X_\varepsilon - X_{1,\varepsilon})(x)|^p] dx \lesssim C_p. \tag{26}$$

Finally, we assert that $\mathbb{E} [\|\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^4)}^p] < \infty$. This assertion trivially implies $\mathbb{E} [\|\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p(\tilde{D}_1 \setminus \bar{D}_1)}^p] < \infty$ in (23). We start the proof of this claim by recalling from Sect. 2.1 that $\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \leq 0$ and $\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon$ is a unique solution to

$$\mathcal{L} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon + \alpha \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \eta_\varepsilon = 0. \tag{27}$$

By testing (27) with $\rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon$ and integrating it on \mathbb{R}^4 we obtain

$$\int \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \mathcal{L} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon + \int \alpha \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \eta_\varepsilon = 0. \tag{28}$$

Since from (15) and (17)

$$\int \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \mathcal{L}\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon = m^2 \int \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p + \int \rho^{p-1} |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon (-\Delta(\rho \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon)) + \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \rho^{p-1} |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \Delta\rho - \frac{2(p-1)}{p} \int |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \rho^{p-2} |\nabla\rho|^2,$$

where $\int \rho^{p-1} |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon (-\Delta(\rho \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon)) \geq 0$, (28) gives

$$\begin{aligned} m^2 \int \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p + \int \alpha \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \eta_\varepsilon \\ = \frac{2(p-1)}{p} \int |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \rho^{p-2} |\nabla\rho|^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \rho^{p-1} |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \Delta\rho. \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

Since $\eta_\varepsilon \rho^p$ is a positive distribution, the second l.h.s. term in (29) can be estimated as

$$\left| \int \alpha \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \eta_\varepsilon \right| \leq \| |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \mathbb{I}(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \|_{C(\mathbb{R}^4)} \left[\int \eta_\varepsilon \rho^p \right],$$

where $\mathbb{I} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$ is a smooth function supported on $(-\infty, 1)$. Note that $\mathbb{I}(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) = 1$, since $\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \leq 0$. But, for each $x \in \mathbb{R}^4$,

$$\begin{aligned} | |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \mathbb{I}(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) | &= |\alpha|^{2-p} | |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^{p-2} \alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon \exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) \mathbb{I}(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon) | \\ &\leq |\alpha|^{2-p} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{R}^4} [|z| |z|^{p-2} \exp(z) \mathbb{I}(z)] \\ &\leq C |\alpha|^{2-p}, \end{aligned}$$

for some $C > 0$, where the r.h.s is independent of ε and x . By substituting the above estimate into (29) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} m^2 \int \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \leq \frac{2(p-1)}{p} \int |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \rho^p \frac{|\nabla\rho|^2}{\rho^2} - \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \int \rho^p |\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon|^p \frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} \\ + C |\alpha|^{2-p} \int \eta_\varepsilon \rho^p. \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

Now since $\nabla\rho(x) = -m\beta \frac{x-x_1}{|x-x_1|} \rho(x)$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}^4 \setminus \{x_1\}$ and $\Delta\rho = \rho m^2 \beta^2$, we can choose $\beta > 0$ such that

$$\frac{2(p-1)}{p} \frac{|\nabla\rho|^2}{\rho^2} - \left(1 - \frac{2}{p}\right) \frac{\Delta\rho}{\rho} = m^2 \beta^2 \leq \frac{m^2}{2}. \tag{31}$$

Consequently, with β such that (21) and (31) hold true, from (30) we deduce that

$$\frac{m^2}{2} \|\rho \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p}^p \leq C |\alpha|^{2-p} \int \eta_\varepsilon \rho^p. \tag{32}$$

Thus, $\mathbb{E} [\|\rho\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p}^p] < \infty$ and the bound is uniform in ε because

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int \eta_\varepsilon \rho^p \right] = \int e^{-m\beta|x-x_1|} dx < \infty.$$

Similarly we can show that $\mathbb{E}[\|\rho\bar{\varphi}_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p}^p] < \infty$ uniformly in ε .

Hence, substituting (26) together with (32) and the uniform boundedness of $\mathbb{E}[\|\rho\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon\|_{L^p}^p]$ and $\mathbb{E}[\|\rho\bar{\varphi}_{1,\varepsilon}\|_{L^p}^p]$ from (23), for β satisfying (21) and (31), we have

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\|f \cdot \varphi_\varepsilon(\cdot + x_1) - f \cdot \varphi_{1,\varepsilon}(\cdot + x_1)\|_{B_{p,p,\ell}^s}^p \right] \lesssim_{m,p,M_\theta,|\alpha|,\|f\|_{L^\infty}} e^{-m\beta\frac{l}{8}},$$

which is independent of ε and x_1 . Here we have also used $e^{m\beta(1-\frac{l}{8})} \simeq_{m,p} e^{-m\beta\frac{l}{8}}$. Hence we get (10) and due to inequality (9) the proof of Theorem 1 is complete.

3 The Malliavin calculus approach

In this section our aim is to present the proof of Theorem 1 via the approach based on Malliavin calculus. The proof will start by considering an approximation $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$ useful to be able to apply easily the Malliavin calculus, see eqns. (35) and (36). The solution theory to (35) is closely related to Lemmata 30 and 31 of [2] and proved in Proposition 1 and Lemma 5 below. The Malliavin calculus enters in estimating $\text{Cov}(\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x_1), \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x_2))$ in terms of the Malliavin derivative of $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$ which we denote by $D_z\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$, see eqs. (60), (62) and (63). The existence of $D_z\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$ and the linear elliptic SPDE it satisfies are established in Theorem 3 thanks to a preliminary abstract result from [49] which we state as Theorem 2. Finally the Feynman–Kac formula and some estimates from Malliavin calculus, for example (61), help us to finish the proof.

3.1 Preliminaries

Before moving on, let us first recall the tools from Malliavin calculus that we will need. Most of the definitions and preliminary results here are taken from Chapter 1 of Nualart’s book [44]. Let H be a separable Hilbert space and $W = \{W(h), h \in H\}$ an isonormal Gaussian process defined on a complete probability space $(\Omega, \mathfrak{F}, \mathbb{P})$. Let \mathcal{E} be the σ -field generated by the random variables $\{W(h), h \in H\}$. Since $\mathcal{E} \subseteq \mathfrak{F}$, note that when we write $(\Omega, \mathcal{E}, \mathbb{P})$ we mean that \mathbb{P} is the restriction of the probability measure defined on \mathfrak{F} to \mathcal{E} .

For each $n \geq 0$ by $H_n(x)$ we denote the well known n th Hermite polynomial and by \mathcal{H}_n , the Wiener chaos of order n , that is, the closed linear subspace of $L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{E}, \mathbb{P})$ generated by the random variables $\{H_n(W(h)), h \in H, \|h\|_H = 1\}$ whenever $n \geq 1$, and the set of constants for $n = 0$. One of the important results in the Malliavin calculus is the Wiener chaos decomposition of $L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{E}, \mathbb{P})$ into its projections in the

spaces \mathcal{H}_n , i.e.,

$$L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{E}, \mathbb{P}) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{H}_n.$$

In particular for any $F \in L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{E}, \mathbb{P})$, we have $F = \sum_{n=0}^\infty J_n F$ where $J_n F$ denotes the projection of F into \mathcal{H}_n . We will restrict our discussion of this section to $L^2(\Omega, \mathcal{E}, \mathbb{P})$ and to shorten the notation we will denote it by $L^2(\Omega)$.

The Malliavin derivative operator D maps the domain $\mathbb{D}^{1,2} \subseteq L^2(\Omega)$ to the space of H -valued random variables $L^2(\Omega; H)$. Note that $F \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$ if and only if $\sum_{n=1}^\infty n \|J_n F\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 < \infty$. Moreover, in this setting for all $n \geq 1$, we have

$$D(J_n F) = J_{n-1}(DF).$$

The divergence operator $\delta : \text{Dom } \delta \subseteq L^2(\Omega; H) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$ is defined as the adjoint of the derivative operator D . We will work in the special case of $H = L^2(T, \mathcal{B}, \tau)$, where (T, \mathcal{B}) is a measurable space and τ is a σ -finite atom-less measure on (T, \mathcal{B}) . Also, we will identify $L^2(\Omega; L^2(T))$ with $L^2(T \times \Omega)$ which is the set of square integrable stochastic processes. Thus, for $F \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$, $DF \in L^2(T \times \Omega)$ and we write $D_t F = DF(t)$, $\forall t \in T$. By $\mathbb{D}^{1,2}(L^2(T))$ we denote the set of stochastic processes $u \in L^2(T \times \Omega)$ such that $u(t) \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$ for almost all $t \in T$ and there exists a measurable version of the two parameter process $\{D_s u(t)\}_{s,t \in T} \subset L^2(\Omega)$ satisfying

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\int_T \int_T (D_s u(t))^2 \tau(ds) \tau(dt) \right] < \infty.$$

In the Malliavin calculus literature, the space $\mathbb{D}^{1,2}(L^2(T))$ is generally denoted by $\mathbb{L}^{1,2}$. Note that $\mathbb{L}^{1,2}$ is a subset of $\text{Dom } \delta$ and isomorphic to $L^2(T; \mathbb{D}^{1,2})$. Then, see (1.54) of [44], for $u, v \in \mathbb{L}^{1,2}$ we have

$$\mathbb{E}[\delta(u)\delta(v)] = \int_T \mathbb{E}[u(t)v(t)] \tau(dt) + \int_T \int_T \mathbb{E}[D_s u(t)D_s v(t)] \tau(ds) \tau(dt). \tag{33}$$

Let $\{P_t, t \geq 0\}$ be the one parameter Ornstein-Uhlenbeck semigroup of contraction operators in $L^2(\Omega)$ and by $L : L^2(\Omega) \ni F \rightarrow \sum_{n=0}^\infty -n J_n F \in L^2(\Omega)$ we denotes its infinitesimal generator with domain

$$\text{Dom } L = \left\{ F \in L^2(\Omega) : \sum_{n=0}^\infty n^2 \|J_n F\|_{L^2(\Omega)} < \infty \right\}.$$

From Proposition 1.4.3 of [44] we know that, for $F \in L^2(\Omega)$, $F \in \text{Dom } L$ if and only if $F \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$ and $DF \in \text{Dom } \delta$. In this case we have $\delta DF = -LF$.

With the above notation, equality (90) in [21] gives the following commutation property

$$D(I - L)^{-1} F = (2I - L)^{-1} DF, \quad \forall F \in L^2(\Omega),$$

and the proof of Lemma B.1 in [21] give the following first order expansion

$$F - \mathbb{E}[F] = \delta(I - L)^{-1}DF, \quad \forall F \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}. \tag{34}$$

To proceed with our analysis, let us fix the σ -finite measure space (T, \mathcal{B}, τ) as $(\mathbb{R}^4, \mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^4), dx)$ where $\mathcal{B}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ denotes the Borel σ -field on \mathbb{R}^4 and dx stands for the Lebesgue measure.

3.2 Proof of Theorem 1

We recall that ξ is a given space white noise on \mathbb{R}^4 . Thus, the isonormal Gaussian process we consider here is $W(h) = \langle \xi, h \rangle, h \in L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$, indexed by the Hilbert space $L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$. We will be working under the framework of Malliavin calculus associated to white noise ξ on \mathbb{R}^4 . To setup, let $\Omega = B_{\infty, \infty, \ell}^{-2-\kappa}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and let \mathbb{P} be the law of ξ on Ω .

It turns out that the following approximation of the Eq. (3), instead of (6), is more suitable to work with the above mentioned tools from Malliavin calculus

$$\mathcal{L}\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon, R} + \alpha K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon, R}) \exp(\alpha X_\varepsilon - C_\varepsilon)) = 0, \tag{35}$$

where $K_R : (0, \infty) \rightarrow (0, \infty)$ is a smooth function which is equal to x if $x \in (0, R-1]$, equal to R if $x \geq R$ and K_R is increasing for $x \in (R-1, R)$. Since the proof presented here of the solution theory to Eq. (35) is closely related to Lemmata 30 and 31 of [2], the results about the existence of a unique solution $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon, R}$ to (35) are postponed to Proposition 1 and Lemma 5 in Appendix A. Moreover, it is straightforward to see that $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon, R} \rightarrow \bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon$ as $R \rightarrow \infty$, where $\bar{\varphi}_\varepsilon$ is the unique solution to the Eq. (6).

Further recall, from (4), that we denote the expression $\exp(\alpha X_\varepsilon - C_\varepsilon)$ by η_ε . Let us define the following random field

$$(\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi)(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} (\alpha_\varepsilon * \mathcal{G})(x - y) \xi(dy), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^4,$$

where \mathcal{G} is the Green function associated with the operator $(-\Delta + m^2)^{-1}$ and $\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon := \alpha_\varepsilon * \mathcal{G}$. It can be shown that $\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi$ is a smooth Gaussian process, see Theorem 5.1 of [41].

By setting $\varphi_{\varepsilon, R} = \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon, R} + X_\varepsilon$, from (35) we get that $\varphi_{\varepsilon, R}$ uniquely solves the following equation

$$\mathcal{L}\varphi_{\varepsilon, R} + \alpha K_R(\exp(\alpha\varphi_{\varepsilon, R} - C_\varepsilon)) = \xi_\varepsilon, \tag{36}$$

which is equivalent to say that, for $x \in \mathbb{R}^4$ and $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$\varphi_{\varepsilon, R}(x, \omega) + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y) K_R(\exp(\alpha\varphi_{\varepsilon, R}(y, \omega) - C_\varepsilon)) dy = (\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi)(x). \tag{37}$$

To shorten the notation we will write

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(y, \omega) - C_\varepsilon)) \, dy = (\mathcal{G} * K_R(\exp(\alpha\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot, \omega) - C_\varepsilon)))(x).$$

Since one can write the term $\text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))$, that we want to estimate, in terms of $D_z\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$, see (60) for precise expression, we aim next to find the equation for $D_z\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$. This we achieve in Theorem 3 whose proof is based on the following abstract result which is stated as Theorem 2.5 in [49].

Theorem 2 *Let (Ω, \mathbb{P}) be a complete probability space on which ξ is a canonical process. Further, assume that H is continuously embedded in Ω and let us denote this embedding by i . Let $F \in L^2(\Omega)$. Then $F \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$ iff the following conditions are satisfied.*

1. *For all $h \in H$, there exists a version \tilde{F}_h of F such that, for every $\omega \in \Omega$, the mapping $\mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto \tilde{F}_h[\omega + ti(h)]$ is absolutely continuous.*
2. *There exists $\zeta \in L^2(\Omega; H)$ such that, for all $h \in H$,*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{t} \{F[\omega + ti(h)] - F(\omega)\} = \langle \zeta(\omega), h \rangle, \quad \mathbb{P}\text{-a.s.}$$

From the proof of Theorem 3 it can be observed that we apply Theorem 2, for each $x \in \mathbb{R}^4$, ε and R on F with $H := L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$ where

$$F(\omega) := \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x, \omega), \quad \omega \in \Omega. \tag{38}$$

Since most of the results of this section are independent of ε , R and x or for fixed ε , R and x , unless otherwise stated we will not write the explicit dependence of functions defined here on ε , R and x .

To study the required properties of F , which allow us to apply Theorem 2, we write (37) in the functional form as, for $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$\mathcal{T}(\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot, \omega)) = (\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi)(\cdot).$$

Here \mathcal{T} is defined as

$$\mathcal{T} : \mathcal{B} \ni w \rightarrow w + \alpha\mathcal{G} * K_R(\exp(\alpha w - C_\varepsilon)) \in \mathcal{B} := C^0_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4). \tag{39}$$

Note that, because of the convolution, the map \mathcal{T} is well-defined. Moreover, by definition of the map \mathcal{T} , (38) can be understood as, for each $\omega \in \Omega$,

$$F(\omega) = (\mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi))(x). \tag{40}$$

Thus, because of (40), in order to study F we first show in Lemma 2 that \mathcal{T}^{-1} exists, i.e., prove the bijectivity of the map \mathcal{T} . This is precisely our next result. Before this we prove an auxiliary result as follows.

Lemma 1 Let $v \in L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and $u \in H^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$ be a unique weak solution to $(-\Delta + m^2)u = v$. Then

$$\langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * v), (\mathcal{G} * v)\nabla r_\ell^2 \rangle + m^2 \|\mathcal{G} * v\|_{L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)}^2 \leq \langle \mathcal{G} * v, v \rangle_\ell, \tag{41}$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\ell$, respectively, denote the standard inner product in $L^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and $L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$.

Proof Let $u = \mathcal{G} * v \in H^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$ be a unique weak solution to $(-\Delta + m^2)u = v$ for given $v \in L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$.

Multiplying on both sides of $(-\Delta + m^2)u = v$ by $r_\ell^2 u$ give

$$\langle (-\Delta + m^2)u, u \rangle_\ell = \langle u, v \rangle_\ell.$$

Integration by parts yield,

$$\langle \nabla u, u\nabla r_\ell^2 \rangle + m^2 \|u\|_{L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)}^2 \leq \langle u, v \rangle_\ell.$$

By substituting $u = \mathcal{G} * v$, above gives the conclusion. □

To avoid complexity in notation we set $G(w) := \alpha K_R(\exp(\alpha w - C_\epsilon))$, $w \in \mathcal{B}$. Then, G is non-negative, bounded, smooth and non-decreasing.

Lemma 2 The map \mathcal{T} is bijective from \mathcal{B} onto \mathcal{B} .

Proof Let us first show that \mathcal{T} is one-one. In particular, we show that for small enough $\lambda > 0$ if $u, v \in \mathcal{B} \subset L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ for $\ell \leq \ell'$ such that $\mathcal{T}u = \mathcal{T}v$, then $u = v$.

Since $\mathcal{T}u = \mathcal{T}v$, we have

$$u - v + [\mathcal{G} * G(u) - \mathcal{G} * G(v)] = 0. \tag{42}$$

Multiply this by $r_{\lambda, \ell'}(G(u) - G(v))$ and integrate on \mathbb{R}^4 to get

$$\langle u - v, G(u) - G(v) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} + \langle \mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)), G(u) - G(v) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} = 0, \tag{43}$$

where $\langle a, b \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} := \int a(x)b(x)(1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-\ell'} dx$.

Consequently, since G is non-decreasing and $\langle u - v, G(u) - G(v) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} \geq 0$, from (43) we get

$$\langle \mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)), G(u) - G(v) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} \leq 0. \tag{44}$$

But by substituting $G(u) - G(v)$ in place of v in (41) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))) \nabla r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 \rangle + m^2 \|\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))\|_{L_{\lambda, \ell'}^2}^2 \\ & \leq \langle \mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)), (G(u) - G(v)) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'}. \end{aligned}$$

So, using (44) in above yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))) \nabla r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 \rangle + m^2 \|\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))\|_{L_{\lambda, \ell'}^2}^2 \\ & \leq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

But due to the integration by parts we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))) \nabla r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 \rangle \\ & = -\langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))) \nabla r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 \rangle \\ & \quad - \int (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)))^2 \Delta r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned} & 2\langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))) \nabla r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 \rangle \\ & = - \int (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)))^2 \Delta r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 dx, \end{aligned} \tag{46}$$

where $r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2(x) = (1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-\ell'}$ and $\nabla r_{\ell'}^2(x) = -2\lambda\ell'(1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-(\ell'+1)}x$ and

$$\Delta r_{\ell'}^2(x) = -4\lambda\ell(1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-(\ell+1)} + 4\lambda^2\ell(\ell + 1)|x|^2(1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-(\ell+2)}. \tag{47}$$

Hence, substituting (47) into (46) give

$$\begin{aligned} & 2\langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))) \nabla r_{\lambda, \ell'}^2 \rangle \\ & = -4\lambda^2\ell'(\ell' + 1) \int (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)))^2 |x|^2 (1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-(\ell'+2)} dx \\ & \quad + 4\lambda\ell' \int (\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v)))^2 (1 + \lambda|x|^2)^{-(\ell'+1)} dx. \end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

Consequently, using (48) into (45) provides

$$(m^2 - 2\lambda\ell'^2) \|\mathcal{G} * (G(u) - G(v))\|_{L_{\lambda, \ell'}^2}^2 \leq 0. \tag{49}$$

By taking sufficiently small λ , using (42) together with (49) we get $\|u - v\|_{L_{\lambda, \ell'}^2}^2 \leq 0$.

This implies $u = v$ in $L_{\lambda, \ell'}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and hence the map \mathcal{T} is 1-1.

To prove surjectivity let $v \in \mathcal{B}$ and $\{v_n\}_n \subset C_c^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ such that

$$\|v_n - v\|_{L^2_{\ell'}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

Let $h_n := (-\Delta + m^2)v_n$. Then it follows, from the first part of Proposition 1, that the elliptic PDE

$$(-\Delta + m^2)u_n + G(u_n) = h_n$$

admits a unique solution in $C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Then we get

$$u_n + \mathcal{G} * G(u_n) = \mathcal{G} * h_n = v_n \quad \Rightarrow \mathcal{T}(u_n) = v_n. \tag{50}$$

Next, we prove that $\{u_n\}_n$ forms a Cauchy sequence in $L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ for sufficiently small $\lambda > 0$. By multiplying

$$u_n - u_m + \mathcal{G} * G(u_n) - \mathcal{G} * G(u_m) = v_n - v_m \tag{51}$$

by $r^2_{\lambda, \ell'}(G(u_n) - G(u_m))$ and integrate on \mathbb{R}^4 we get

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_n - u_m, G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} + \langle \mathcal{G} * G(u_n) - \mathcal{G} * G(u_m), G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} \\ = \langle v_n - v_m, G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'}. \end{aligned}$$

Since G is increasing, $\langle u_n - u_m, G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} \geq 0$. Thus, the above implies

$$\langle \mathcal{G} * G(u_n) - \mathcal{G} * G(u_m), G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'} \leq \langle v_n - v_m, G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'}.$$

Thus, taking $v = G(u_n) - G(u_m)$ in (41) (modified version for λ) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))) \nabla r^2_{\lambda, \ell'} \rangle \\ + m^2 \|\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))\|^2_{L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}} \leq \langle \mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m)), G(u_n) - G(u_m) \rangle_{\lambda, \ell'}. \end{aligned}$$

So the last two estimates together with the Cauchy-Schwartz inequality give

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \nabla(\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))), (\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))) \nabla r^2_{\lambda, \ell'} \rangle \\ + m^2 \|\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))\|^2_{L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}} \leq \|v_n - v\|_{L^2_{\ell'}} \|G(u_n) - G(u_m)\|_{L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, the computation as in (49) gives

$$(m^2 - 2\lambda \ell'^2) \|\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))\|^2_{L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}} \leq \|v_n - v\|_{L^2_{\ell'}} \|G(u_n) - G(u_m)\|_{L^2_{\lambda, \ell'}}. \tag{52}$$

Substituting $\mathcal{G} * (G(u_n) - G(u_m))$ from (51) into (52) followed by the reverse triangle inequality yield

$$(m^2 - 2\lambda\ell'^2)\|u_n - u_m\|_{L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}}^2 \leq (m^2 - 2\lambda\ell'^2)\|v_n - v\|_{L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}} + \|v_n - v\|_{L^2_{\ell'}}\|G(u_n) - G(u_m)\|_{L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}}.$$

Since $\|v_n - v\|_{L^2_{\ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ and G is bounded, for sufficiently small $\lambda > 0$ we get that $\{u_n\}_n$ forms a Cauchy sequence in $L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Since $L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ is complete, there exists $L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4) \ni u = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n$. Since G is bounded, $G(u) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} G(u_n)$ in $L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Thus by taking limit $n \rightarrow \infty$ in (50) we obtain the existence of $u \in L^2_{\lambda,\ell'}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ such that

$$u + \mathcal{G} * G(u) = v \implies \mathcal{T}(u) = v.$$

So if we show that $u \in \mathcal{B}$ then we are done but that is true because,

$$\|u\|_{C^0_\ell} \leq |\alpha|R \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)r_{\lambda,\ell'}(x) \, dx + \|v\|_{C^0_\ell},$$

which is finite. Hence $u \in \mathcal{B}$ and we finish the proof of bijectivity of \mathcal{T} . □

Hence we know that \mathcal{T}^{-1} exists. Let $\mathcal{T}^{-1}(V) = v$ for some $v, V \in \mathcal{B}$. Then $V = \mathcal{T}(v)$ and from (39), we have that

$$\mathcal{T}^{-1}(V) = V - \alpha\mathcal{G} * K_R \left(\exp \left(\alpha\mathcal{T}^{-1}(V) - C_\varepsilon \right) \right).$$

From here it is clear that, for $V \in \mathcal{B}$,

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \mathcal{T}^{-1}(V)(x) \right| &\leq |V(x)| + \alpha \left| \mathcal{G} * K_R \left(\exp \left(\alpha\mathcal{T}^{-1}(V)(x) - C_\varepsilon \right) \right) \right| \\ &\leq |V(x)| + \alpha R \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} |\mathcal{G}(x - y)| \, dy. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, by the Minkowski inequality for integral we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \mathcal{T}^{-1}(V)(x) \right\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 &\leq \int_{\Omega} |V(x, \omega)|^2 \mathbb{P}(d\omega) \\ &\quad + (\alpha R)^2 \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \left(\int_{\Omega} |\mathcal{G}(x - y)|^2 \mathbb{P}(d\omega) \right)^{1/2} dy \right)^2 \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} |V(x, \omega)|^2 \mathbb{P}(d\omega) + (\alpha R)^2 \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} |\mathcal{G}(x - y)| \, dy \right)^2 =: C_R. \end{aligned} \tag{53}$$

In our next result we show that \mathcal{T}^{-1} is continuous as well.

Lemma 3 *The map T^{-1} is continuous on \mathcal{B} .*

Proof Let $\{w_n\}_n \subset \mathcal{B}$ be a sequence converging to some $w \in \mathcal{B}$. Let us set $T^{-1}w_n =: \bar{w}_n$ and $T^{-1}w =: \bar{w}$. We will show that $\bar{w}_n \rightarrow \bar{w}$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ in \mathcal{B} . Note that, we have

$$\bar{w}_n(x) + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_n(y) - C_\varepsilon)) dy = w_n(x). \tag{54}$$

The first claim in the current proof is that the sequence $\{\bar{w}_n\}_n$ is relatively compact in \mathcal{B} . In order to prove this, first we show that $\{\bar{w}_n\}_n$ is uniformly bounded. Since $\{w_n\}_n$ is convergent in \mathcal{B} and α is a constant, due to (54) it is sufficient to show the uniform boundedness property for $\{\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(\cdot - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_n(y))) dy\}_n \subset \mathcal{B}$. For this observe that, by (47), (48) of [2] we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_n(y))) dy &\leq R \int_{|z|<1} \left\{ \frac{-2}{(4\pi)^2} \log_+(|z|) + C_1 \right\} dz \\ &\quad + R \int_{|z|\geq 1} C_2 \exp(-C_3|z|) dz, \end{aligned}$$

where the rhs is bounded uniformly in x and n . To move further, let us set

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_n(y) - C_\varepsilon))dy =: \bar{g}_n \text{ in } \mathcal{B}.$$

But by its structure we know that \bar{g}_n solves the following equation uniquely

$$(-\Delta + m^2)\bar{g}_n = K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_n - C_\varepsilon)).$$

Thus,

$$\|\bar{g}_n\|_{C_\ell^2} \lesssim \|K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_n - C_\varepsilon))\|_{C_\ell^0} \leq R.$$

This further implies, due to embedding, see (3.10) in [41], $B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^4) \hookrightarrow B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and the equivalency of $B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^{1/2}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ with $\frac{1}{2}$ -Hölder weighted continuous functions, the equicontinuity of $\{\bar{g}_n\}_n$. Thus, since the uniform topology, which space \mathcal{B} has, implies the topology of compact convergence, the Ascoli–Arzelà theorem (e.g. see Theorem 47.1 on page 290 in [40]) implies the relative compactness of $\{\bar{w}_n\}_n \subset \mathcal{B}$. Let us denote a converging subsequence $\{\bar{w}_{n_k}\}_k$ of $\{\bar{w}_n\}_n$ and set the limit as $\mathcal{B} \ni \hat{w} := \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \bar{w}_{n_k}$. Since $G(\cdot) = \alpha K_R(\exp(\alpha \cdot - C_\varepsilon))$ is smooth and bounded, we have

$$\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{w}_{n_k}(y) - C_\varepsilon)) dy \rightarrow \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)K_R(\exp(\alpha\hat{w}(y) - C_\varepsilon)) dy,$$

as $k \rightarrow \infty$ and thus passing the limit $k \rightarrow \infty$ in (54) yield

$$\hat{w}(x) + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y) K_R(\exp(\alpha \hat{w}(y) - C_\varepsilon)) \, dy = w(x) \Rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\hat{w}) = w.$$

But since $\mathcal{T}^{-1}w = \bar{w}$ and \mathcal{T} is bijective, we have $\hat{w} = \bar{w}$. Consequently, any converging subsequence $\{\bar{w}_{n_k}\}_k$ converges to \bar{w} , which implies the continuity as desired. Hence the proof of continuity of \mathcal{T}^{-1} on \mathcal{B} is complete. \square

Recall that we aim to prove that, for fixed ε and R , $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$, which solves (36) and has representation (38), is Malliavin differentiable. Due to (40), in order to prove the differentiability of $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$ or say F as the next step we show that the map \mathcal{T}^{-1} , whose existence and continuity is proved, respectively, in Lemmata 2 and 3, is differentiable.

Lemma 4 *The map \mathcal{T}^{-1} is differentiable and there exists a constant $M > 0$ (depends on m) such that*

$$\|(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{B},\mathcal{B})} \leq M,$$

where $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B})$ is the set of all bounded linear operators from \mathcal{B} to \mathcal{B} , uniformly for $v \in \mathcal{B}$.

Proof It is straightforward to see that the Gateaux derivative of \mathcal{T} at $v \in \mathcal{B}$ in the direction of an arbitrary $w \in \mathcal{B}$, is

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{T}(v + tw) - \mathcal{T}(v)}{t} = w + \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(\cdot - y) G'(v(y)) w(y) \, dy,$$

where recall that $G(v(\cdot)) = \alpha K_R(\exp(\alpha v(\cdot) - C_\varepsilon))$. Thus, \mathcal{T} is differentiable. Let us denote by $\mathcal{T}'_v(w)$ the derivative of \mathcal{T} at $v \in \mathcal{B}$ in the direction of $w \in \mathcal{B}$ which is defined above, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{T}'_v(w) := w + \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(\cdot - y) G'(v(y)) w(y) \, dy. \tag{55}$$

Note that since G' is bounded and $w \in \mathcal{B}$, $\mathcal{T}'_v(w)$ is a well-defined element of \mathcal{B} . Next, let us fix $v \in \mathcal{B}$ in the remaining part of the proof.

We claim that \mathcal{T}'_v is one-one. Indeed, let $\mathcal{T}'_v(w) = 0$ for each $w \in \mathcal{B}$ as element of \mathcal{B} then by (55) we deduce that w solves the following equation

$$(-\Delta + m^2)w + G'(v)w = 0. \tag{56}$$

It is clear that $w = 0$ is a solution to (56). From the computation in the proof of Proposition 1 and Lemma 5, we know that (56) has a unique solution in $C^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$, in particular $w = 0$ is the unique solution to (56). Thus, \mathcal{T}'_v is non-degenerate and $(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B})$ is well-defined.

We aim to show that $(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B})$ is uniformly bounded in $v \in \mathcal{B}$. For this let us take any $U \in \mathcal{B}$ and $W := (\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)$. Note that $(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)$ satisfies

$$(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U) = U - \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(\cdot - y)G'(v(y))(y)(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U) \, dy. \tag{57}$$

Let us consider $C^2_{c,\ell}(\mathbb{R}^4)$, space of functions in $C^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$ having compact support, as subset of \mathcal{B} . Let $U \in C^2_{c,\ell}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and let $V = (-\Delta + m^2)U \in \mathcal{B}$. Then from (57) we get that $(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)$ satisfy the following equation

$$(-\Delta + m^2 + G'(v(y)))(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U) = V.$$

Here $G'(v)(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)$ is simply the product of two functions $G'(v)$ and $(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)$. Thus, since $G' \geq 0$, Theorem 5.1 on page 145 in [22] implies, for $w \in \mathcal{B}$,

$$(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)(x) = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_x \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} V(B_t) \exp \left(- \int_0^t G'(v(B_s)) \, ds \right) \, dt \right],$$

by the Feynman–Kac formula, where B is an \mathbb{R}^4 -valued Brownian motion which starts at x defined on a complete probability space $(\tilde{\Omega}, \tilde{\mathcal{F}}, \tilde{\mathbb{P}})$ and $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_x$ denotes the expectation w.r.t. $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$. But the r.h.s. in above can be estimated as follows to get, since $\exp \left(- \int_0^t G'(v(B_s)) \, ds \right)$ is bounded,

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)(x) &\leq \|V\|_{\mathcal{B}} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_x \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} (1 + \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_x[|B_t|^2])^{\ell/2} \, dt \right] \\ &\leq \|U\|_{C^2_\ell} \int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} (1 + |x|^2 + t)^{\ell/2} \, dt. \end{aligned}$$

This gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}(U)\|_{\mathcal{B}} &\leq \|U\|_{C^2_\ell} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^4} \int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} (1 + |x|^2)^{-\ell/2} (1 + |x|^2 + t)^{\ell/2} \, dt \\ &\leq \|U\|_{C^2_\ell} \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^4} \int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \, dt, \end{aligned}$$

which is finite. Consequently, by extension to \mathcal{B} , we get that there exists a constant $M > 0$ (depends on m) such that

$$\|(\mathcal{T}'_v)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B})} \leq M \text{ for every } v \in \mathcal{B}.$$

□

Now we come to an important result of our paper that justifies the Malliavin differentiability of $\varphi_{\varepsilon, R}$, for fix ε and R , which solves (36). In other words, the next result gives the differentiability of F which is defined in (38).

Theorem 3 *Let us fix $\varepsilon > 0$, $R > 1$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^4$. The solution $\varphi := \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$ to (36) is such that $\varphi(y) \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$, for every $y \in \mathbb{R}^4$. Moreover, the process $\{D_z\varphi(x), z \in \mathbb{R}^4\}$ satisfies*

$$D_z\varphi(x) + \alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - y)D_z\varphi(y)G'(\varphi(y)) \, dy = (\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathcal{G})(x - z),$$

which is equivalent to

$$(\mathcal{L}D_z\varphi)(x) + \alpha G'(\varphi(x))D_z\varphi(x) = (\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \delta_z)(x) = \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x - z).$$

Proof Since $\varepsilon > 0$ and $R > 1$ are fixed, we will avoid there explicit dependency. The idea of the proof is to show that the conditions of Theorem 2 with $F(\omega) := \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x, \omega)$, are satisfied which will imply the conclusions of the current result. By (53) we have that that $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x) \in L^2(\Omega)$. Indeed,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 &= \|\mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi)(x)\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 \\ &\leq \int_{\Omega} |(\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * \xi)(x)|^2 \mathbb{P}(d\omega) + (\alpha R)^2 \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} |\mathcal{G}(x - y)| \, dy \right)^2, \end{aligned}$$

which is finite with the bound depends on R . Denote by $\mathfrak{G}h$ the following defined function

$$\mathfrak{G}h(x) = (\mathcal{G}_\varepsilon * h)(x) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} (\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathcal{G})(x - y)h(y) \, dy.$$

Note that $\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}(\omega) = \mathfrak{G}\xi$. Observe that, for $h \in L^2_\ell(\mathbb{R}^4)$, due to (40)

$$F[\omega + ti(h)] = \{\mathcal{T}^{-1}(\mathfrak{G}\xi + t\mathfrak{G}h)\}(x).$$

But, since the above expression is linear in t , $F[\omega + ti(h)]$ as function of t is an absolutely continuous function of t . From Lemma 4, we know that $\mathcal{T}'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}}$ exists and non-degenerate and satisfy $\|(\mathcal{T}'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}})^{-1}\|_{\mathfrak{L}(\mathcal{B},\mathcal{B})} \leq M$, \mathbb{P} -a.s. Thus, \mathbb{P} -a.s. we have

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{F[\omega + ti(h)] - F(\omega)}{t} = \{(\mathcal{T}^{-1})'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}}(\mathfrak{G}h)\}(x).$$

Finally, due to the nice decay property of $\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathcal{G}$ and Hölder inequality, \mathbb{P} -a.s. we have

$$\|(\mathcal{T}^{-1})'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}}(\mathfrak{G}h)\|_{L^\infty_\ell} \leq \|(\mathcal{T}^{-1})'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}}\|_{\mathfrak{L}(\mathcal{B},\mathcal{B})} \|h\|_{L^2_\ell} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} |(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathcal{G})(y)r_\ell(y)|^2 \, dy \right)^{1/2},$$

but this is finite. Now we define an H -valued random variable by

$$\zeta : \Omega \ni \omega \mapsto \{(\mathcal{T}^{-1})'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}} \mathfrak{G}\}(x) \in H \text{ such that } \langle \zeta(\omega), h \rangle = \{(\mathcal{T}^{-1})'_{\varphi_{0,\varepsilon}}(\mathfrak{G}h)\}(x).$$

This is well-defined by the Riesz representation theorem and satisfies point (2) of Theorem 2. Hence, we complete the proof of Theorem 3. \square

Recall that $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$ is the unique solution to (36). Proceeding further, we set $\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z := D_z(\varphi_{\varepsilon,R})$. By applying Theorem 3 to $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}$, we ascertain that $\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x) \in \mathbb{D}^{1,2}$ and at point $z \in \mathbb{R}^4$,

$$(\mathcal{L}\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z)(x) + \alpha^2 K'_R(\exp(\alpha\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x) - C_\varepsilon)) \exp(\alpha\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(x) - C_\varepsilon)\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(x) = \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x - z). \tag{58}$$

Here we have also used the chain rule (Proposition 1.2.3 of [44]). Since (58) is linear in $\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z$, the Feynman-Kac formula yields

$$\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(x) = \int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \mathbb{E}_x \left[\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x + B_t - z) e^{-\int_0^t \alpha^2 \mathfrak{K}(s) ds} \right] dt, \tag{59}$$

where

$$\mathfrak{K}(s) := K'_R(\exp(\alpha\varphi_\varepsilon(x + B_s) - C_\varepsilon)) \exp(\alpha\varphi_\varepsilon(x + B_s) - C_\varepsilon).$$

Here \mathbb{E}_x is the expectation operator w.r.t. the probability measure \mathbb{P}^x and $\{B_t, t \geq 0\}$ is a \mathbb{R}^4 -valued Brownian motion under \mathbb{P}^x with initial condition $B_0 = x$. Observe that, for $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{R}^4$, expressions (34) followed by (33) yield

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2))) \\ &= \mathbb{E} \left[\{\delta(I - L)^{-1} D(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)))\} \{\delta(I - L)^{-1} D(F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))\} \right] \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathbb{E} \left[\{(I - L)^{-1} D_z(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)))\} \{(I - L)^{-1} D_z(F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))\} \right] dz \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathbb{E} \left[D_{z'} \{(I - L)^{-1} D_z(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)))\} \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. D_z \{(I - L)^{-1} D_{z'}(F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))\} \right] dz dz'. \end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

Since, see Corollary B.6 in [21] for the proof, for every $F \in L^2(\Omega)$ we have

$$\|D(I - L)^{-1} F\|_{L^2(\Omega; L^2_\sharp(\mathbb{R}^4))} \lesssim \|F\|_{L^2(\Omega)}, \tag{61}$$

we estimate the second term in the r.h.s. of (60), by the Hölder inequality and Proposition 1.2.3 of [44] along with Lipschitzness of F_1 and F_2 , as

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathbb{E} \left[D_{z'} \{(I - L)^{-1} D_z(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)))\} \times \right. \\ &\quad \left. D_z \{(I - L)^{-1} D_{z'}(F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))\} \right] dz dz' \\ &\lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \|D_z(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)))\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|D_z(F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))\|_{L^2(\Omega)} dz \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \|F'_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1))D_z(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1))\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \times \\
 &\quad \|F'_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2))D_z(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2))\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \, dz \\
 &\lesssim_{F_1, F_2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \|f \cdot D_z(\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1))\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \|f \cdot D_z(\varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2))\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \, dz \\
 &\leq f \sup_{\substack{x \in B(x_1, 1) \\ y \in B(x_2, 1)}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(x)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(y)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} \, dz. \tag{62}
 \end{aligned}$$

Further, since $(I - L)^{-1}$ is a bounded operator on $L^2(\Omega)$, as in (62), the first integral in r.h.s. of (60) satisfies

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathbb{E} \left[\left\{ (I-L)^{-1} D_z(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1))) \right\} \left\{ (I-L)^{-1} D_z(F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2))) \right\} \right] \, dz \\
 &\lesssim_{F_1, F_2, f} \sup_{\substack{x \in B(x_1, 1) \\ y \in B(x_2, 1)}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(x)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(y)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} \, dz. \tag{63}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, substituting (62)–(63) into (60) yield

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|\text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))| \\
 &\lesssim_{F_1, F_2, f} \sup_{\substack{x \in B(x_1, 1) \\ y \in B(x_2, 1)}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(x)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} \left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon,R}^z(y)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} \, dz. \tag{64}
 \end{aligned}$$

Applying the Minkowski inequality for integrals and the Fubini theorem to (59) we further have

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\left(\mathbb{E} \left[|\theta_{\varepsilon}^z(x)|^2\right]\right)^{1/2} = \left(\mathbb{E} \left[\left| \int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \mathbb{E}_x \left[\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x + B_t - z) e^{-\alpha^2 \int_0^t \mathfrak{K}(s) ds} \right] dt \right|^2 \right] \right)^{1/2} \\
 &\leq \mathbb{E}_x \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x + B_t - z) \left(\mathbb{E} \left[e^{-2\alpha^2 \int_0^t \mathfrak{K}(s) ds} \right]\right)^{1/2} dt \right] \\
 &\lesssim \mathbb{E}_x \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x + B_t - z) dt \right]. \tag{65}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that the r.h.s. of (65) is independent of R . Hence, substituting the above into (64) and using the Feynman-Kac formula (59) (with zero nonlinearity), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 &|\text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))| \\
 &\lesssim \sup_{\substack{x \in B(x_1, 1) \\ y \in B(x_2, 1)}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathbb{E}_x \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x + B_t - z) dt \right] \\
 &\quad \mathbb{E}_y \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-m^2 t} \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(y + B_t - z) dt \right] \, dz
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \sup_{\substack{x \in B(x_1, 1) \\ y \in B(x_2, 1)}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(x - u) \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(u - z) \, du \right) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \mathcal{G}(y - u) \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(u - z) \, du \right) \, dz \\
 &=: \sup_{\substack{x \in B(x_1, 1) \\ y \in B(x_2, 1)}} I(x, y).
 \end{aligned} \tag{66}$$

To estimate $I(x, y)$, we utilize the following representation of the kernel \mathcal{G} , which is based on the Fourier transform, see pg. 273 of [7],

$$(\mathcal{G} * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(\cdot - z))(x) = [\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}((m^2 - \Delta)^{-1}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(\cdot - z))))](x), \quad \forall x, z \in \mathbb{R}^4.$$

Thus, we deduce that, for all $x, y \in \mathbb{R}^4$,

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(x, y) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} (\mathcal{G} * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon)(x - z) (\mathcal{G} * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon)(y - z) \, dz = ((m^2 - \Delta)^{-2}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(x - y) \\
 &= [\mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{F}((m^2 - \Delta)^{-2}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon * \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon)))](x - y) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} e^{iz \cdot (x - y)} \frac{((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(z))^2}{(m^2 + |z|^2)^2} \, dz.
 \end{aligned} \tag{67}$$

Next, we apply a change of variable $z \mapsto Az$, in (67), where A represents the rotation matrix on \mathbb{R}^4 such that the vector $x - y \in \mathbb{R}^4_H$ transform to align with one axis, let's say the first axis. Then, with $z = Aw$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(x, y) &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \frac{e^{iw \cdot \frac{(\bar{x}_1 - \bar{y}_1, 0, 0, 0)}{|x - y|}} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(Aw))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + |Aw|^2)^2} \, dw \\
 &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{e^{\pm iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(Aw))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + w_1^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^2} \, dw_1 \, dw_{1,\perp},
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$Ax = (\bar{x}_1, 0, 0, 0), Ay = (\bar{y}_1, 0, 0, 0) \text{ and } w = (w_1, w_{1,\perp}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

Let us only consider the positive sign in $e^{\pm iw_1}$. A similar approach will handle the negative sign case, with the contour C containing $-i$ instead i .

First, we compute the integral $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + w_1^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^2} \, dw_1$ for fixed $w_{1,\perp} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ using the residue theorem. We define the contour C that traverses along the real line from $-a$ to a and then counterclockwise along a semicircle centered at 0 from $-a$ to a . Choosing $a \geq 1$ ensures that the point $i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2}$ lies within the contour. Now, consider the contour integral

$$\int_C \frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + w_1^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^2} \, dw_1. \tag{68}$$

Since the integrand in (68) has singularities at $\pm i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2}$ with multiplicity 2, by the residue theorem, for fixed $w_{1,\perp} \in \mathbb{R}^3$, we have

$$\int_C \frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + w_1^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^2} dw_1 = -2\pi i (\text{Res}(f(w_1), w_1 = i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2})), \tag{69}$$

where

$$f(w_1) = \frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + w_1^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^2}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Res}(f(w_1), w_1 = i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2}) \\ &= \lim_{z \rightarrow i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2}} \frac{d}{dw_1} \left[\frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(w_1 + i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2})^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{70}$$

Here, with abbreviated notation $\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) = (\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp}))$, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dw_1} \left[\frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(w_1 + i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2})^2} \right] \\ &= \frac{e^{iw_1} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) \{ [i\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) + 2(\mathcal{F}(-ix_1 \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x)))](w_1 + i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2}) - 2\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) \}}{(w_1 + i(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{1/2})^3}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, substituting the above expression in (70) and then taking the limit as $a \rightarrow \infty$ in (69), we obtain, for fixed $w_{1,\perp} \in \mathbb{R}^3$,

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{e^{iw_1} ((\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp})))^2}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + w_1^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^2} dw_1 \\ &= \frac{\pi e^{-(\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} \mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) \{ [i\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) + 2(\mathcal{F}(-i\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x)))](2i(\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}) - 2\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon) \}}{(m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{3/2}}. \end{aligned}$$

where we set $m^2|x - y|^2 + |w_{1,\perp}|^2 =: \mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x, y)$. Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} I(x, y) &\lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} |(\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp}))|^2}{\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x, y)} dw_{1,\perp} \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} |(\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp}))| |(\mathcal{F}(-ix_1 \mathbf{a}_\varepsilon(x)))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp}))|}{\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x, y)} dw_{1,\perp} \\ &+ \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} |(\mathcal{F}(\mathbf{a}_\varepsilon))(A(w_1, w_{1,\perp}))|^2}{(\mathfrak{w}_{1,\perp}(x, y))^{3/2}} dw_{1,\perp} \\ &=: I_1(x, y) + I_2(x, y) + I_3(x, y). \end{aligned} \tag{71}$$

Since $-ix_1\alpha_\varepsilon(x)$, where $x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4)$, is also a smooth and compactly supported function, it suffices to estimate I_1 and I_3 in (71). For I_1 , using estimate (81), for $N = 1$, where we let $w_{1,\perp} = mu|x - y|$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_1(x, y) &\lesssim C_N \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(w_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} (1 + |A(i(w_{1,\perp}(x, y))^{1/2}, w_{1,\perp})|)^{-2N}}{w_{1,\perp}(x, y)} dw_{1,\perp} \\
 &\lesssim_N \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(w_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} (1 + |i(w_{1,\perp}(x, y))^{1/2}, w_{1,\perp}|^2)^{-N}}{w_{1,\perp}(x, y)} dw_{1,\perp} \\
 &\lesssim e^{-m|x-y|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{m|x-y|e^{-|u|}}{(1 + |u|^2) (m^2|x-y|^2 + 2m^2|x-y|^2|u|^2)^N} du \\
 &\lesssim e^{-m|x-y|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-|u|}}{(1 + |u|^2)^2} du.
 \end{aligned} \tag{72}$$

For I_3 in (71), we can perform similar computation and obtain,

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_3(x, y) &\lesssim C_N \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(w_{1,\perp}(x,y))^{1/2}} (1 + |A(i(w_{1,\perp}(x, y))^{1/2}, w_{1,\perp})|)^{-2N}}{(w_{1,\perp}(x, y))^{3/2}} dw_{1,\perp} \\
 &\lesssim \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-(m^2|x-y|^2+m^2|x-y|^2|u|^2)^{1/2}} (1 + m^2|x-y|^2 + 2|x-y|^2|u|^2)^{-N}}{(m^2|x-y|^2 + |x-y|^2|u|^2)^{3/2}} m^3|x-y|^3 du \\
 &\lesssim e^{-m|x-y|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{e^{-|u|}}{(m|x-y|^2) (1 + |u|^2)^{3/2} (1 + |u|^2)} du \\
 &\lesssim e^{-m|x-y|} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (1 + |u|)^{-5} du.
 \end{aligned} \tag{73}$$

Thus, substituting (72)–(73) into (71), yields

$$I(x, y) \lesssim e^{-m|x-y|}.$$

Further, by substituting this into (66), we can make the estimation under the condition $l = |x_1 - x_2| > 2$ as

$$|\text{Cov}(F_1(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_1)), F_2(f \cdot \varphi_{\varepsilon,R}(\cdot + x_2)))| \lesssim_{F_1, F_2, f} e^{-ml}. \tag{74}$$

The complementary case of $|x_1 - x_2| \leq 2$ is straightforward, akin to the coupling approach. Therefore, since (74) holds uniformly in ε and R , we conclude the proof of Theorem 1 by first taking the limit taking $R \rightarrow \infty$ and then letting $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$.

Appendix A Auxiliary results

The first result in this section is about the solution theory to Eq. (35).

Proposition 1 *For given $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and $R \geq 1$, there exists a $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \in C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^4) := B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ which solves (35). Moreover, $\alpha\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \leq 0$.*

Proof Let us introduce the following map

$$\mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}, \eta_\varepsilon) := -\alpha(-\Delta + m^2)^{-1}(K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R})\eta_\varepsilon)). \tag{75}$$

We first show that there exists a solution $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \in B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ to the equation

$$\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} = \mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}, \eta_\varepsilon).$$

We aim to use Schaefer’s fixed-point theorem (see Theorem 4 in Section 9.2 of Chapter 9 of [20]) to prove the claim. In order to do this we have to prove that \mathcal{K} is continuous in $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}$, that it maps any bounded set into a compact set and that the set of solutions to the equations

$$\bar{\varphi} = \lambda\mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}, \eta)$$

is bounded uniformly for all $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$. The continuity of \mathcal{K} is an easy consequence of continuity of $(-\Delta + m^2)^{-1}$ from $B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^0(\mathbb{R}^4)$ into $B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ and properties of functions K_R and \exp . The map \mathcal{K} is compact because the Schauder estimates and embedding $L_\ell^\infty(\mathbb{R}^4) \hookrightarrow B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^0(\mathbb{R}^4)$ imply

$$\|\mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}, \eta_\varepsilon)\|_{B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2} \leq |\alpha| \|K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{\varphi})\eta)\|_{L_\ell^\infty} \leq R|\alpha|, \tag{76}$$

and the immersion $B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^4) \hookrightarrow B_{\infty,\infty,\ell+\delta'}^{2-\delta}(\mathbb{R}^4)$ is compact, see Proposition 52 of [2]. Finally the uniform boundedness in λ follows from inequality (76). Thus, by Schaefer’s fixed-point theorem there exists a fixed point of $\bar{\varphi} = \mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}, \eta)$ in $B_{\infty,\infty,\ell+\delta'}^{2-\delta}(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Let us call it $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}$. Further note that, since $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}$ is a fixed point, (76) also give

$$\|\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}\|_{B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2} = \|\mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}, \eta_\varepsilon)\|_{B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2} \leq R|\alpha|.$$

Thus, $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \in B_{\infty,\infty,\ell}^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Hence the first part of the proof.

Next, since $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \in C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$, $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \in L_\ell^\infty(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Let us define, for $x \in \mathbb{R}^4$,

$$r_{\ell,\theta}(x) := (1 + \theta|x|^2)^{-\ell}, \quad \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha} := \alpha\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi := r_{\ell,\theta}\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha},$$

where ℓ is chosen such that the first part of the current proposition holds valid. Note that from the first part, ψ is bounded and locally belongs to $C^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$. Assume for the moment that ψ has a global maximum and attains its maximum value at \hat{x} . Then, since \hat{x} is a critical point,

$$0 = \nabla\psi = \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha}\nabla r_{\ell,\theta} + r_{\ell,\theta}\nabla\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha},$$

and, thus, by the second derivative test,

$$0 \leq -\Delta\psi = -r_{\ell,\theta}\Delta\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha} - \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha}\Delta r_{\ell,\theta} + 2\frac{|\nabla r_{\ell,\theta}|^2}{r_{\ell,\theta}}\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha}. \tag{77}$$

But

$$\Delta \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R,\alpha} = \alpha \Delta \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} = \alpha m^2 \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} + \alpha^2 K_R(\exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}) \eta_\varepsilon),$$

so, from (77)

$$\alpha m^2 \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} + \alpha^2 K_R(\exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}) \eta_\varepsilon) \leq -\alpha \left[\frac{\Delta r_{\ell,\theta}}{r_{\ell,\theta}} - 2 \frac{|\nabla r_{\ell,\theta}|^2}{(r_{\ell,\theta})^2} \right] \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}.$$

Since $\alpha^2 K_R(\exp(\alpha \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}) \eta_\varepsilon) \geq 0$, we get

$$\alpha m^2 \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} + \alpha \left[\frac{\Delta r_{\ell,\theta}}{r_{\ell,\theta}} - 2 \frac{|\nabla r_{\ell,\theta}|^2}{(r_{\ell,\theta})^2} \right] \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \leq 0. \tag{78}$$

But note that due to the choice of weight $r_{\ell,\theta}$, we can choose $\theta > 0$ such that

$$\left| \frac{-r_{\ell,\theta} \Delta r_{\ell,\theta} + 2|\nabla r_{\ell,\theta}|^2}{r_{\ell,\theta}^2} \right| < m^2.$$

Hence, with the choice of θ from (78) we have

$$\alpha \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \left[m^2 - \left\{ -\frac{\Delta r_{\ell,\theta}}{r_{\ell,\theta}} + 2 \frac{|\nabla r_{\ell,\theta}|^2}{r_{\ell,\theta}^2} \right\} \right] \leq 0,$$

where the quantity in curly bracket is positive. Thus, the above is only possible if $\alpha \bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R} \leq 0$. Hence we have prove the result in the case $\bar{\varphi}_{\varepsilon,R}$ attains its maximum. The case when it does not, can be taken care as explained in Lemma 2.8 in [27]. This completes the proof. \square

Now we move to the uniqueness of above constructed solution. The approach to prove the next result is closely related to the proof of Lemma 31 in [2].

Lemma 5 For given $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and $R \geq 1$, the solution to Eq. (35) is unique in $C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$.

Proof Let $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$ and $R \geq 1$ be fixed parameters. We will omit explicit mention of them for the remainder of the proof. Consider $J : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, a smooth, bounded, strictly increasing function such that $J(0) = 0$ and $J(-x) = -J(x)$. Further, let $\bar{\varphi}_1$ and $\bar{\varphi}_2$ be two solutions to equation (35). Since they are smooth, $J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) \in C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ implying that $r_{\ell'}(\lambda z) J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) \in C_\ell^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ for $\ell' > 0$ sufficiently large enough and any $\lambda > 0$. This implies that, where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ denotes just the $L^2(\mathbb{R}^4)$ -inner product,

$$\langle r_{\ell'}(\lambda z) J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2), (-\Delta + m^2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2 - \mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_1, \eta) + \mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_2, \eta)) \rangle = 0,$$

where \mathcal{K} is defined in (75).

We claim that the inequality

$$\langle r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2), (-\Delta + m^2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) \rangle \geq C \int r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz, \tag{79}$$

holds for sufficiently small $\lambda > 0$ and some constant $C > 0$. Indeed, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2), (-\Delta + m^2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) \rangle &= \int r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J'(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)|\nabla\bar{\varphi}_1 - \nabla\bar{\varphi}_2|^2 dz \\ &\quad + \lambda \int \nabla r_{\ell'}(\lambda\hat{z})J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) \cdot (\nabla\bar{\varphi}_1 - \nabla\bar{\varphi}_2) dz \\ &\quad + m^2 \int r_{\ell'}(\lambda\hat{z})J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz \\ &\geq -\lambda^2 \int (\Delta r_{\ell'}(\lambda\hat{z}))J^{-1}(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz + m^2 \int r_{\ell'}(\lambda\hat{z})J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz \\ &\geq \int \left(m^2 - \left| \frac{\lambda^2 \Delta r_{\ell'}}{r_{\ell'}} \right| \right) r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz, \end{aligned}$$

where $J^{-1}(t) = \int_0^t J(\tau)d\tau$. By selecting a sufficiently small $\lambda > 0$, we get the claim. For the first inequality we utilize the following fact:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \nabla r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) \cdot (\nabla\bar{\varphi}_1 - \nabla\bar{\varphi}_2) dz &= \int \nabla r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)\nabla J^{-1}(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz \\ &= -\lambda \int \Delta r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J^{-1}(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2) dz, \end{aligned}$$

which holds true since J^{-1} is a Lipschitz function satisfying $J^{-1}(0) = 0$. Additionally, we exploit the increasing behavior of J to establish $J^{-1}(t) \leq tJ(t)$.

The next claim is that $\langle r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2), (-\Delta + m^2)(-\mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_1, \eta) + \mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_2, \eta)) \rangle \geq 0$. To demonstrate this, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2), (-\Delta + m^2)(-\mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_1, \eta) + \mathcal{K}(\bar{\varphi}_2, \eta)) \rangle \\ = \int r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)(\alpha(K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{\varphi}_1)\eta)) - \alpha(K_R(\exp(\alpha\bar{\varphi}_2)\eta)))J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)dz \geq 0, \end{aligned} \tag{80}$$

where we use the fact that $(\alpha(K_R(\exp(\alpha t_1)\eta)) - \alpha(K_R(\exp(\alpha t_2)\eta))) \cdot J(t_1 - t_2)$ is positive since both $\alpha(K_R(\exp(\alpha \cdot)\eta))$ and J are increasing functions and $J(0) = 0$. Thus, combining inequalities (79) and (80) we deduce that

$$\int r_{\ell'}(\lambda z)J(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)(\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2)dz \leq 0,$$

which implies $\bar{\varphi}_1 - \bar{\varphi}_2 = 0$, since J is a strictly increasing function. Consequently, the proof of uniqueness is established. \square

For the next result assume that Δ is the d -dimensional Laplacian. Let us denote the kernel representation of \mathcal{L}^{-1} by

$$(\mathcal{L}^{-1}\phi)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} \mathcal{G}(x - y)\phi(y) \, dy, \quad \phi \in \mathcal{S}.$$

Lemma 6 \mathcal{G} has the following integral representation

$$\mathcal{G}(x) = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \int_0^\infty \exp\left\{-\frac{|x|^2}{4s} - m^2s\right\} s^{-\frac{d}{2}} \, ds, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^d.$$

Moreover, there exist some constants $C_1, C_2 > 0$ such that the following holds:

1. if $d > 2$ then

$$\mathcal{G}(x) \leq C_1|x|^{-d+2} \text{ if } |x| < 1 \text{ and } C_1e^{-C_2|x|} \text{ if } |x| \geq 1;$$

2. if $d < 2$ then

$$\mathcal{G}(x) \leq C_1|x|^{-d+2} \text{ for } x \in \mathbb{R}^d;$$

3. if $d = 2$ then

$$\mathcal{G}(x) \leq C_1 - \frac{2}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)} \log(|x|) \text{ if } |x| < 1 \text{ and } C_1e^{-C_2|x|} \text{ if } |x| \geq 1.$$

Proof See Proposition A.1 in [7]. □

The next result is well-known in the literature.

Theorem 4 (Paley–Wiener–Schwartz) For any $d \in \mathbb{N}$, the vector space $C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, comprising compactly supported smooth functions on \mathbb{R}^d , is isomorphic, via the Fourier transform, to the space of entire functions F on \mathbb{C}^d satisfying the following condition: there exists a positive real number B such that for every integer $N > 0$, there is a real number $C_N > 0$ such that

$$|F(\xi)| \leq C_N(1 + |\xi|)^{-N} e^{B|\text{Im}(\xi)|}, \quad \forall \xi \in \mathbb{C}^d. \tag{81}$$

This implies that for any $u \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^d)$, there exists an entire function $F = \hat{u}$ satisfying the above estimate.

Finally we need the following Besov embedding.

Theorem 5 Consider $p_1, p_2, q_1, q_2 \in [1, \infty]$, $s_1 > s_2$ and $\ell_1, \ell_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\ell_1 \leq \ell_2 \quad \text{and} \quad s_1 - \frac{d}{p_1} \geq s_2 - \frac{d}{p_2},$$

then $B_{p_1, q_1, \ell_1}^{s_1}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is continuously embedded in $B_{p_2, q_2, \ell_2}^{s_2}(\mathbb{R}^d)$. And if $\ell_1 < \ell_2$ and $s_1 - \frac{d}{p_1} > s_2 - \frac{d}{p_2}$ then the embedding $B_{p_1, q_1, \ell_1}^{s_1}(\mathbb{R}^d) \hookrightarrow B_{p_2, q_2, \ell_2}^{s_2}(\mathbb{R}^d)$ is compact.

Proof See Theorem 6.7 in [50]. \square

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