

---

**A note on a modified Hilbert transform**

O. Steinbach, A. Missoni

---

**Berichte aus dem  
Institut für Angewandte Mathematik**



# Technische Universität Graz

---

A note on a modified Hilbert transform

O. Steinbach, A. Missoni

---

**Berichte aus dem  
Institut für Angewandte Mathematik**

Bericht 2021/14

Technische Universität Graz  
Institut für Angewandte Mathematik  
Steyrergasse 30  
A 8010 Graz

**WWW:** <http://www.applied.math.tugraz.at>

© Alle Rechte vorbehalten. Nachdruck nur mit Genehmigung des Autors.

# A note on a modified Hilbert transform

Olaf Steinbach and Agnese Missoni

Institut für Angewandte Mathematik, TU Graz, Austria

## ARTICLE HISTORY

Compiled November 2, 2021

## ABSTRACT

The Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  is a useful tool in the mathematical analysis of time-dependent partial differential equations in order to prove coercivity estimates in anisotropic Sobolev spaces in case of a bounded spatial domain  $\Omega$ , but an infinite time interval  $(0, \infty)$ . Instead, a modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  can be used if we consider a finite time interval  $(0, T)$ . In this note we prove that the classical and the modified Hilbert transformations differ by a compact perturbation, when a suitable extension of a function defined on a bounded time interval  $(0, T)$  onto  $\mathbb{R}$  is used. This result is important when we deal with space-time variational formulations of time-dependent partial differential equations, and for the implementation of related space-time finite and boundary element methods for the numerical solution of parabolic and hyperbolic equations with the heat and wave equations as model problems, respectively.

## KEYWORDS

Hilbert transform; modified Hilbert transform; compact perturbation

Dedicated to Wolfgang L. Wendland on the occasion of his 85th birthday.

## 1. Introduction

The Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$ , see, e.g., [6] for an introduction, has many applications not only in signal processing [5], but also for the solution of singular integral equations and of Riemann–Hilbert problems [10]. There is also a strong relationship between the Hilbert transform and the definition of fractional derivatives, see [2] and the references given therein.

Despite of the above mentioned applications, more recently, the Hilbert transform became a useful tool in the analysis of time-dependent partial differential equations. In his doctoral thesis [4], M. Fontes used the Hilbert transform to analyse parabolic evolution equations, e.g., the heat equation  $\partial_t u - \Delta_x u = f$  with zero initial and Dirichlet boundary conditions, in anisotropic Sobolev spaces with respect to a bounded spatial domain  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3$ , but an infinite time interval  $(0, \infty)$ . The numerical analysis of a related discretization scheme using wavelets was then considered in [7], where an appropriate cut off of the infinite time interval has been included. In fact, using the Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  one can prove boundedness and coercivity in anisotropic Sobolev spaces  $H^{1,1/2}(\Omega \times \mathbb{R}_+)$ , when considering the space-time bilinear form which is related to the transformed operator  $(I + \delta\mathcal{H})(\partial_t - \Delta_x)$ ,  $\delta > 0$ . For a more general setting, see also [1].

In [12], and for a finite time interval  $(0, T)$ , we have introduced a modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$ . Its original definition was using the conjugate of a Fourier series with respect to the eigenfunctions of the one-dimensional Laplace operator with mixed Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions. The duality pairing of the first order time derivative with this modified Hilbert transform then results in a norm representation  $\langle \partial_t v, \mathcal{H}_T v \rangle_{(0, T)} = \|v\|_{H^{1/2}(0, T)}^2$  for functions  $v \in H^{1/2}(0, T)$  which are zero at the origin,  $v(0) = 0$ . With this we were able to analyse space-time finite element methods for the heat equation in anisotropic Sobolev spaces  $H_{0;0}^{1,1/2}(Q)$  in the case of a bounded space-time domain  $Q := \Omega \times (0, T)$  with zero initial and Dirichlet boundary conditions. In particular, we have considered the transformed operator  $\mathcal{H}_T^{-1}(\partial_t - \Delta_x)$  in the case of a finite time interval  $(0, T)$ . A comparison with the infinite time interval  $(0, \infty)$  indicates a relation  $\mathcal{H}_T^{-1} \sim I + \delta\mathcal{H}$  which should also include some suitable extension from  $(0, T)$  onto  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Surprisingly, the modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  can also be used for the formulation of space-time finite element methods for the numerical solution of the wave equation with the D'Alembert operator  $\square := \partial_{tt} - \Delta_x$ . It turns out that the related bilinear form

$$a(v, v) = \langle \mathcal{H}_T \partial_t v, \partial_t v \rangle_{L^2(Q)} + \langle \nabla_x v, \mathcal{H}_T \nabla_x v \rangle_{L^2(Q)}$$

is positive in  $H_{0;0}^{1,1}(Q)$ , i.e., zero initial and Dirichlet boundary conditions; see [8] for first numerical results. In the case of the spatially one-dimensional wave equation, the composition of the modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  and the wave single layer boundary integral operator becomes elliptic in the natural Sobolev trace space  $H^{-1/2}(\Sigma)$ , where  $\Sigma$  is the lateral boundary of the space-time domain  $Q$ , see [11]. On the other hand, recent work of M. Costabel and M. Zank shows coercivity of the wave single layer boundary integral operator on screens, composed with the classical Hilbert transform  $I - \mathcal{H}$  in the infinite time interval, see [3].

The aim of this note is to provide a relation of the modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  with the classical Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  in order to be able to identify both in the mathematical and numerical analysis of time-dependent problems in bounded time intervals, where  $\mathcal{H}_T$  seems to be more appropriate. However, for a practical realisation, the classical Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  is probably simpler to implement. It turns out that the classical and the modified Hilbert transformations differ by a compact perturbation when extending a function defined on the bounded time interval  $(0, T)$  onto  $\mathbb{R}$  in a suitable way. Note that in [9] we already used, in a naive way, an intermediate result, namely  $\mathcal{H}_\infty$  instead of  $\mathcal{H}_T$ , to solve the heat equation in a finite time interval.

The remainder of this note is organised as follows: the definitions of the classical Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  and the modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  and some of their properties are summarized in Sections 2 and 3, respectively. The main results are given in Section 4, where we first present an alternative representation of  $\mathcal{H}_T$  combining  $\mathcal{H}$  with a suitable extension from  $(0, T)$  onto  $\mathbb{R}$ , and a perturbation which turns out to be compact. Finally we give some conclusions and comment on ongoing work.

## 2. Hilbert transform

For a sufficient regular density function  $\varphi$ , the Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  is defined as Cauchy principal value integral

$$(\mathcal{H}\varphi)(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{\varphi(s)}{t-s} ds \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (1)$$

It is well known that the Hilbert transform (1) commutes with the (fractional) derivative, i.e.,

$$D^\alpha(\mathcal{H}\varphi)(t) = \mathcal{H}(D^\alpha\varphi)(t), \quad (2)$$

see, e.g., [2, Lemma 2.4] in the case  $\alpha = k \in \mathbb{N}$ , and [2, Folgerung 5.21] in the case  $\alpha \in [n, n+1)$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  for the Riemann–Liouville partial derivative [2, p. 26]

$$(D^\alpha\varphi)(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(n+1-\alpha)} \frac{d^{n+1}}{dt^{n+1}} \int_{-\infty}^t (t-s)^{n-\alpha} \varphi(s) ds.$$

In particular for  $\varphi \in L^2(\mathbb{R})$  we also have [2, Lemma 2.3]

$$(\mathcal{H}(\mathcal{H}\varphi))(t) = -\varphi(t) \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ almost everywhere.}$$

When introducing the Fourier transform as

$$\mathcal{F}[\varphi](\eta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi(t) e^{-i\eta t} dt,$$

there holds the signum rule

$$\mathcal{F}[\mathcal{H}\varphi](\eta) = (-i \operatorname{sgn} \eta) \mathcal{F}[\varphi](\eta).$$

This relation is not only important to prove (2), but also in the proof of the coercivity estimate of the wave single layer boundary integral operator as discussed in [3].

While we can easily consider (1) for functions  $\varphi$  with  $\varphi(s) = 0$  for  $s < 0$ , we still have to assume a suitable decay condition for  $\varphi(s)$  as  $s \rightarrow \infty$ . From a computational point of view, one is therefore interested in the realisation of the Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  in a finite time interval  $(0, T)$  for a continuous function  $\varphi$  when assuming  $\varphi(0) = 0$ , but  $\varphi(T) \neq 0$ . While we can define a continuous zero extension of  $\varphi$  for  $s < 0$ , this is not obvious for  $s > T$ . However, in Section 4 we will describe a suitable extension of  $\varphi$  from  $(0, T)$  onto  $\mathbb{R}$ , first by reflecting  $\varphi$  with respect to the final time  $T$ , and then skew-reflecting the previous result with respect to the origin.

### 3. A modified Hilbert transform

In [12], and for a finite time interval  $(0, T)$ , we have introduced a modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  for  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$  as conjugate of the Fourier series

$$\varphi(t) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} u_k \sin\left(\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi\right) \frac{t}{T}\right), \quad u_k = \frac{2}{T} \int_0^T \varphi(s) \sin\left(\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi\right) \frac{s}{T}\right) ds, \quad (3)$$

i.e.,

$$(\mathcal{H}_T \varphi)(t) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} u_k \cos\left(\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi\right) \frac{t}{T}\right), \quad t \in (0, T). \quad (4)$$

Note that

$$\varphi_k(t) = \sin\left(\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi\right) \frac{t}{T}\right)$$

are the eigenfunctions of the one-dimensional Laplacian eigenvalue problem

$$-\partial_{tt}\varphi(t) = \lambda\varphi(t) \quad \text{for } t \in (0, T), \quad \varphi(0) = 0, \quad \partial_t\varphi(t)|_{t=0} = 0.$$

For  $\varphi \in H_{0,}^{1/2}(0, T) := \left\{v \in H^{1/2}(0, T), v(0) = 0\right\}$  we now conclude [12, Lemma 2.3]

$$\partial_t \mathcal{H}_T \varphi = -\mathcal{H}_T^{-1} \partial_t \varphi, \quad (5)$$

which can be seen as the counterpart of (2). Moreover, the operator

$$-\partial_t \mathcal{H}_T : H_{0,}^{1/2}(0, T) \rightarrow [H_{0,}^{1/2}(0, T)]'$$

is self-adjoint and elliptic, inducing an equivalent norm in  $H_{0,}^{1/2}(0, T)$ .

As discussed in [12], see also [13], we can conclude from (4) the closed representation

$$(\mathcal{H}_T \varphi)(t) = \frac{1}{2T} \text{p.v.} \int_0^T \left[ \frac{1}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{s-t}{T}\right)} + \frac{1}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{s+t}{T}\right)} \right] \varphi(s) ds \quad \text{for } t \in (0, T). \quad (6)$$

In particular for  $T \rightarrow \infty$ , and assuming  $\tilde{\varphi} \in L^2(\mathbb{R}_+)$ , this gives

$$(\mathcal{H}_\infty \tilde{\varphi})(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^\infty \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(s)}{s-t} \frac{2s}{s+t} ds \quad \text{for } t \in (0, \infty), \quad (7)$$

which obviously shows a connection with the Hilbert transform (1). This relation will be discussed in more detail in the next section.



#### 4. A relation between modified and classical Hilbert transformations

For a given  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$ , let  $\tilde{\varphi}$  be some extension on  $(0, \infty)$  to be specified. Using

$$\frac{2s}{(s-t)(s+t)} = \frac{1}{s-t} + \frac{1}{s+t}$$

we can write (7) as

$$(\mathcal{H}_\infty \tilde{\varphi})(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^\infty \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(s)}{s-t} ds + \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^\infty \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(s)}{s+t} ds \quad \text{for } t \in (0, \infty).$$

In the second integral we use the transformation  $s = -\sigma$  to obtain

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^\infty \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(s)}{s+t} ds = -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(-\sigma)}{\sigma-t} d\sigma,$$

and hence,

$$(\mathcal{H}_\infty \tilde{\varphi})(t) = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^\infty \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(s)}{s-t} ds + \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{-\tilde{\varphi}(-s)}{s-t} ds = -(\mathcal{H}\bar{\varphi})(t) \quad (8)$$

follows, where we have used (1) for

$$\bar{\varphi}(s) := \begin{cases} \tilde{\varphi}(s) & \text{for } s \in [0, \infty), \\ -\tilde{\varphi}(-s) & \text{for } s \in (-\infty, 0). \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

For  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$  we now define

$$\tilde{\varphi}(s) := \begin{cases} \varphi(s) & \text{for } s \in (0, T), \\ \varphi(2T-s) & \text{for } s \in (T, 2T), \\ 0 & \text{for } s \in (2T, \infty), \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

and we consider

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathcal{H}_\infty \tilde{\varphi})(t) &= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^\infty \frac{\tilde{\varphi}(s)}{s-t} \frac{2s}{s+t} ds \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^T \frac{\varphi(s)}{s-t} \frac{2s}{s+t} ds + \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_T^{2T} \frac{\varphi(2T-s)}{s-t} \frac{2s}{s+t} ds. \end{aligned}$$

With the transformation  $\sigma = 2T - s$ , i.e.,  $s = 2T - \sigma$ , we obtain

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_T^{2T} \frac{\varphi(2T-s)}{s-t} \frac{2s}{s+t} ds = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^T \frac{\varphi(\sigma)}{2T-\sigma-t} \frac{2(2T-\sigma)}{2T-\sigma+t} d\sigma,$$

and therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
(\mathcal{H}_\infty \tilde{\varphi})(t) &= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^T \varphi(s) \left[ \frac{1}{s-t} \frac{2s}{s+t} + \frac{1}{2T-s-t} \frac{2(2T-s)}{2T-s+t} \right] ds \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^T \varphi(s) \left[ \frac{1}{s-t} + \frac{1}{s+t} + \frac{1}{2T-s-t} + \frac{1}{2T-s+t} \right] ds \\
&= \frac{1}{\pi} \text{p.v.} \int_0^T \varphi(s) \left[ \frac{2T}{(s-t)(2T-(s-t))} + \frac{2T}{(s+t)(2T-(s+t))} \right] ds
\end{aligned}$$

follows. Hence we obtain

$$(B\varphi)(t) := (\mathcal{H}_T\varphi)(t) - (\mathcal{H}_\infty\tilde{\varphi})(t) = \int_0^T \left[ k_1(s, t) + k_2(s, t) \right] \varphi(s) ds \quad (11)$$

with the kernel functions, for  $s, t \in (0, T)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
k_1(s, t) &:= \frac{1}{2T} \frac{1}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{s-t}{T}\right)} - \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{2T}{(s-t)(2T-(s-t))}, \\
k_2(s, t) &:= \frac{1}{2T} \frac{1}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{s+t}{T}\right)} - \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{2T}{(s+t)(2T-(s+t))}.
\end{aligned}$$

Summarizing the above, we have shown the following result.

**Lemma 4.1.** For  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$  we find the alternative representation

$$(\mathcal{H}_T\varphi)(t) = -(\mathcal{H}\bar{\varphi})(t) + (B\varphi)(t), \quad t \in (0, T), \quad (12)$$

of the modified Hilbert transform (6) when using (1) and (11), as well as

$$\bar{\varphi}(s) := \begin{cases} \varphi(s) & \text{for } s \in (0, T), \\ \varphi(2T-s) & \text{for } s \in (T, 2T), \\ -\varphi(-s) & \text{for } s \in (-T, 0), \\ -\varphi(2T+s) & \text{for } s \in (-2T, -T), \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

It remains to state some mapping properties of  $B$  when assuming  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** For the operator  $B$  as defined in (11) there hold the bounds

$$\|B\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)} \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)}, \quad \|\partial_t B\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)} \leq \frac{1}{T} \left[ \frac{23}{36} \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{24} \right] \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)} \quad (14)$$

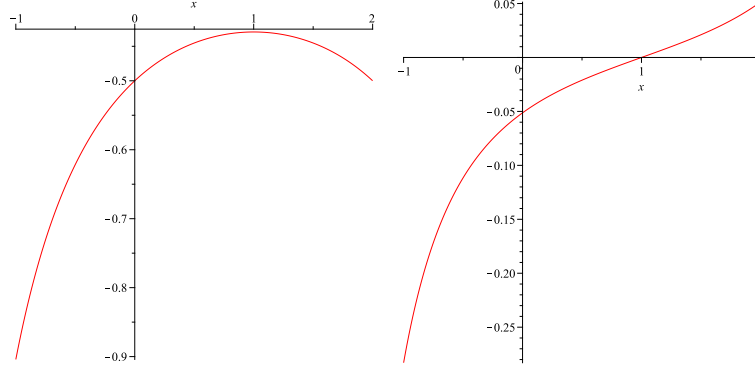
for all  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$ .

**Proof.** Using the transformation  $x := (s-t)/T \in (-1, 1)$  for  $s, t \in (0, T)$  we obtain

$$k_1(s, t) = \frac{1}{\pi T} \left[ \frac{\frac{\pi}{2}}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)} - \frac{2}{x(2-x)} \right] =: \frac{1}{\pi T} f(x), \quad x \in (-1, 1).$$

With the transformation  $y := (s + t)/T \in (0, 2)$  for  $s, t \in (0, T)$  we also conclude

$$k_2(s, t) := \frac{1}{\pi T} \left[ \frac{\frac{\pi}{2}}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}y\right)} - \frac{2}{y(2-y)} \right] = \frac{1}{\pi T} f(y).$$



**Figure 1.** Graphs of  $f(x) = \frac{\frac{\pi}{2}}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)} - \frac{2}{x(2-x)}$  (left) and  $g(x) = \frac{\pi}{4} \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)}{\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)} + \frac{4}{\pi x^2(2-x)^2}$  (right).

From the behavior of the function  $f(x)$  for  $x \in (-1, 2)$ , see the left graph in Fig. 1, we then obtain

$$|k_1(s, t)| \leq \frac{1}{\pi T} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{2}{3} \right), \quad |k_2(s, t)| \leq \frac{1}{2\pi T} \quad \text{for } (s, t) \in (0, T),$$

i.e.,

$$|k_1(s, t) + k_2(s, t)| \leq \frac{1}{\pi T} \left[ \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{1}{6} \right] \leq \frac{1}{2T} \quad \text{for } (s, t) \in (0, T).$$

With this,

$$|(B\varphi)(t)| \leq \frac{1}{2T} \int_0^T |\varphi(s)| ds \leq \frac{1}{2\sqrt{T}} \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0,T)},$$

i.e.,

$$|(B\varphi)(t)|^2 \leq \frac{1}{4T} \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0,T)}^2$$

follows. Integration over  $t \in (0, T)$  finally gives

$$\|B\varphi\|_{L^2(0,T)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{4} \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0,T)}^2.$$

Moreover, we also consider

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}k_1(s, t) &= \frac{\pi}{4T^2} \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\frac{s-t}{T}\right)}{\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\frac{s-t}{T}\right)} + \frac{2T}{\pi} \frac{2(s-t) - 2T}{(s-t)^2(2T - (s-t))^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{T^2} \left[ \frac{\pi \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)}{4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}x\right)} + \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{x-1}{x^2(2-x)^2} \right] =: \frac{1}{T^2} g(x), \quad x \in (-1, 1),\end{aligned}$$

as well as

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial t}k_2(s, t) &= -\frac{\pi}{4T^2} \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\frac{s+t}{T}\right)}{\sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\frac{s+t}{T}\right)} - \frac{2T}{\pi} \frac{2(s+t) - 2T}{(s+t)^2(2T - (s+t))^2} \\ &= -\frac{1}{T^2} \left[ \frac{\pi \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}y\right)}{4 \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}y\right)} + \frac{4}{\pi} \frac{y-1}{y^2(2-y)^2} \right] = -\frac{1}{T^2} g(y), \quad y \in (0, 2).\end{aligned}$$

From the behavior of the function  $g(x)$  for  $x \in (-1, 2)$ , see the right plot in Fig. 1, we then obtain

$$|\partial_t k_1(s, t)| \leq \frac{8}{9\pi T^2}, \quad |\partial_t k_2(s, t)| \leq \frac{1}{T^2} \left( \frac{\pi}{24} - \frac{1}{4\pi} \right), \quad s, t \in (0, T),$$

i.e.,

$$|\partial_t k_1(s, t) + \partial_t k_2(s, t)| \leq \frac{1}{T^2} \left[ \frac{23}{36} \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{24} \right], \quad (s, t) \in (0, T).$$

With this,

$$|\partial_t(B\varphi)(t)| \leq \frac{1}{T^2} \left[ \frac{23}{36} \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{24} \right] \int_0^T |\varphi(s)| ds \leq \frac{1}{T^{3/2}} \left[ \frac{23}{36} \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{24} \right] \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)},$$

i.e.,

$$|\partial_t(B\varphi)(t)|^2 \leq \frac{1}{T^3} \left[ \frac{23}{36} \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{24} \right]^2 \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)}^2$$

follows. Integration over  $t \in (0, T)$  finally gives

$$\|\partial_t B\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{T^2} \left[ \frac{23}{36} \frac{1}{\pi} + \frac{\pi}{24} \right]^2 \|\varphi\|_{L^2(0, T)}^2.$$

□

From (14) we immediately obtain that  $B : L^2(0, T) \rightarrow H^1(0, T)$  is bounded, and since  $H^1(0, T)$  is compactly embedded in  $L^2(0, T)$  we conclude that  $B : L^2(0, T) \rightarrow L^2(0, T)$  is compact. With this we are now in a position to formulate the main result of this note.

**Theorem 4.3.** *The modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  as given in (6) is a compact perturbation of the Hilbert transform (1) applied to the reflection (13), i.e., for  $\varphi \in L^2(0, T)$  we have  $\mathcal{H}_T\varphi = -\mathcal{H}\bar{\varphi} + B\varphi$  in  $L^2(0, T)$ .*

## 5. Conclusions

The relation between the classical and the modified Hilbert transformations  $\mathcal{H}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_T$  provides a link between the coercivity results for the wave single layer boundary integral operator as considered in [3] in the case of an unbounded time interval  $(0, \infty)$ , and in [11] for a bounded time interval  $(0, T)$ . More general, this result may be helpful to prove coercivity estimates for time-dependent parabolic and hyperbolic partial differential equations in bounded and unbounded time intervals, both for related domain bilinear forms and boundary integral operators. But also from a computational point of view this result will be important. Following [9], we may replace the modified Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}_T$  by the classical Hilbert transform  $\mathcal{H}$  taking into account the extension (13), since the latter is probably simpler to implement which is important when considering completely unstructured simplicial meshes in space-time finite and boundary element methods. Finally, and following [2], one may generalize the relations and representations of the classical Hilbert transform and the fractional derivative to the modified Hilbert transform, in particular when considering problems in finite time intervals.

## References

- [1] Auscher P, Egert M, Nyström K.  $L^2$  well-posedness of boundary value problems for parabolic systems with measurable coefficients. *J. Eur. Math. Soc.* 2020; 22: 2943–3058.
- [2] Butzer PL, Trebels W. Hilberttransformation, gebrochene Integration und Differentiation. Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien; 1968.
- [3] Costabel M, Zank M. Coercive space-time single layer operator of the wave equation for flat objects. In preparation; 2021.
- [4] Fontes M. Parabolic equations with low regularity. PhD thesis, Lund University; 1996.
- [5] Hahn SL. Hilbert transforms in signal processing. London: Artech House Publishers; 1996.
- [6] King FW. Hilbert transforms, volume 1. Cambridge University Press; 2009.
- [7] Larsson S, Schwab C. Compressive space-time Galerkin discretizations of parabolic partial differential equations. arXiv:1501.04514v1; 2015.
- [8] Löscher R, Steinbach O, Zank M. Numerical results for an unconditionally stable space-time finite element method for the wave equation. In: Brenner S, Chung E, Klawonn A, Kwok F, Xu J, Zou J, editors. Domain Decomposition Methods in Science and Engineering XXVI. Lecture Notes in Computational Science and Engineering, Springer, Cham, accepted; 2021.
- [9] Niino K, Hanzawa M, Steinbach O. On a finite element method using a Hilbert-type transformation for the 1D heat equation. *JASCOME 2019*; 19: 19-191201, 4 pp. (in Japanese).
- [10] Olver S. Computing the Hilbert transform and its inverse. *Math. Comp.* 2011; 80: 1745–1767.
- [11] Steinbach O, Urzúa–Torres C, Zank M. Towards coercive boundary element methods for the wave equation. arXiv:2106.01646; 2021.
- [12] Steinbach O, Zank M. Coercive space-time finite element methods for initial boundary value problems. *Electron. Trans. Numer. Anal.* 2020; 52: 154–194.
- [13] Steinbach O, Zank M. A note on the efficient evaluation of a modified Hilbert transformation. *J. Numer. Math.* 2021; 29: 47–61.