Green's formulas and Poisson's equation for bosonic Laplacians

Chao Ding | John Ryan

A bosonic Laplacian is a conformally invariant second-order differential operator acting on smooth functions defined on domains in Euclidean space and taking values in higher-order irreducible representations of the special orthogonal group. In this paper, we firstly introduce the motivation for study of the generalized Maxwell operators and bosonic Laplacians (also known as the higher spin Laplace operators). Then, with the help of connections between Rarita–Schwinger type operators and bosonic Laplacians, we solve Poisson's equation for bosonic Laplacians. A representation formula for bounded solutions to Poisson's equation in Euclidean space is also provided. In the end, we provide Green's formulas for bosonic Laplacians in scalar-valued and Clifford-valued cases, respectively. These formulas reveal that bosonic Laplacians are self-adjoint with respect to a given $L^2$ inner product on certain compact supported function spaces.

**KEYWORDS**
- bosonic Laplacians
- green's formula
- Poisson's equation
- representation formula

**MSC CLASSIFICATION**
42Bxx; 42B37; 35J05

**INTRODUCTION**

Clifford analysis is introduced as a generalization of complex function theory to the higher dimensional cases. Many researchers have successfully generalized the theory of one-dimensional complex analysis to the higher dimension cases via Clifford analysis. For instance, the function theory of quaternion analysis is applied to study some boundary value problems in three or four dimensional spaces in Gürlebeck et al.\(^1\) Many important properties and problems, such as integral formulas, series expansion, integral transforms, and boundary value problems, have been generalized to higher dimensions as well in previous studies.\(^1\)-\(^3\)

The higher spin theory in Clifford analysis is the theory on functions taking values in irreducible representations of the spin group. These representation spaces are usually realized as spaces of homogeneous harmonic or monogenic (null solutions of the Dirac operator) polynomials. The study on this topic can be traced back to the work of Stein and Weiss given in.\(^4\) Stein and Weiss introduced a technique to construct first order conformally invariant differential operators, named as Stein–Weiss gradients, with a certain type of projections. Bureš et al\(^5\) investigated a class of generalized Rarita–Schwinger operators acting on functions taking values in irreducible representations of the spin group with weight $k + 1/2$ via Clifford analysis in 2002. These Rarita–Schwinger type operators were also studied by Dunkl et al\(^6\) with an analytic approach. In these two papers, one can notice that Rarita–Schwinger operators and the Dirac operator have very similar properties, such as Cauchy's Theorem, Cauchy's integral formula, and Stokes' Theorem. Therefore, Rarita–Schwinger...
operators are also considered as generalizations of the Dirac operator in the higher spin theory. In 2016, Eelbode et al.\textsuperscript{7} and De Bie et al.\textsuperscript{8} introduced generalizations of the Laplace operator with respect to the conformal invariance property in the higher spin theory. These differential operators are named as bosonic Laplacians (the higher spin Laplace operators) or the generalized Maxwell operators, which are special cases of bosonic Laplacians. It is reasonable to expect bosonic Laplacians also have similar properties as the Laplace operator has. In Ding et al.,\textsuperscript{9,10} the authors discovered intertwining operators, a Borel–Pompeiu formula, and a Green type integral formula for bosonic Laplacians. Recently, the authors\textsuperscript{11} also studied Dirichlet problems for bosonic Laplacians in the upper-half space and the unit ball. Further, many important properties, such as the mean-value property, Cauchy’s estimates, and Liouville’s Theorem, for null solutions to bosonic Laplacians, have been found in Ding et al.\textsuperscript{11} Here, we continue our investigation on properties of bosonic Laplacians in Euclidean space.

1.1 Main results

In this paper, we firstly look into the generalized Maxwell operators by generalizing classical Maxwell equations to the higher spin spaces in Section 2. This provides us the motivation for studying the generalized Maxwell operators and bosonic Laplacians. Some preliminaries of Clifford analysis setting, Rarita–Schwinger operators, and bosonic Laplacians will also be introduced here as well. In Section 3, we use some properties of Rarita–Schwinger operators and their connections to bosonic Laplacians to solve Poisson’s equation in the higher spin spaces. Section 4 will be devoted to introducing Green’s formulas in the higher spin spaces, which reveal that bosonic Laplacians are self-adjoint with respect to a given $L^2$ inner product. As in the harmonic analysis, these formulas can possibly be applied in our future work on constructing Green’s functions for solving certain boundary value problems.

2 PRELIMINARIES

2.1 Notations

Suppose that $\{e_1, \ldots, e_m\}$ is a standard orthonormal basis for the $m$-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^m$. The (real) Clifford algebra $Cl_m$ is generated by $\mathbb{R}^m$ with the relationship $e_ie_j + e_je_i = -2\delta_{ij}$, $1 \leq i, j \leq m$. This implies that an element of the basis of the Clifford algebra can be written as $e_A = e_{i_1} \cdots e_{i_r}$, where $A = \{i_1, \ldots, i_r\} \subset \{1, 2, \ldots, m\}$ and $1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \ldots < j_r \leq m$. Hence, any element $a \in Cl_m$ can be represented by $a = \sum_A a Ae_A$, where $a_A \in \mathbb{R}$. In particular, $e_0 = 1$, and we call $a_0 = Scr(a)$ the scalar part of $a$. The $m$-dimensional Euclidean space $\mathbb{R}^m$ is embedded into $Cl_m$ as follows.

$$\mathbb{R}^m \to Cl_m,$$

$$(x_1, \ldots, x_m) \mapsto \sum_{j=1}^m x_j e_j.$$ 

Hence, for $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$, one can easily see that $\|x\|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^m x_j^2 = -x^2$. For $a = \sum_A a_A e_A \in Cl_m$, we define the reversion of $a$ as

$$\tilde{a} = \sum_A (-1)^{|A||A|-1/2} a_A e_A,$$

where $|A|$ is the cardinality of $A$. In particular, $e_j \cdots e_{j_r} = e_{j_r} \cdots e_j$. Also $\tilde{ab} = \tilde{b}\tilde{a}$ for $a, b \in Cl_m$.

Now suppose $a \in S^{m-1} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ and $x \in \mathbb{R}^m$. If we consider $axa$, we may decompose

$$x = xa_{\parallel} + xa_{\perp},$$

where $xa_{\parallel}$ is the projection of $x$ onto $a$ and $xa_{\perp}$ is the remainder part of $x$ perpendicular to $a$. Hence, $xa_{\parallel}$ is a scalar multiple of $a$, and we have

$$axa = axa_{\parallel}a + axa_{\perp}a = -xa_{\parallel} + xa_{\perp}.$$ 

So the action $axa$ describes a reflection of $x$ in the direction of $a$. More details can be found in, for instance, Delanghe et al.\textsuperscript{12}
The classical Dirac operator is defined as \( D_x = \sum_{j=1}^{m} \partial_x e_j \), which factorizes the Laplace operator \( \Delta_x = -D_x^2 \). A \( Cl^m \)-valued function \( f(x) \) defined on a domain \( \Omega \) in \( \mathbb{R}^m \) is called left monogenic if it satisfies \( D_x f(x) = 0 \) in \( \Omega \). Since multiplication of Clifford numbers is not commutative in general, there is a similar definition for right monogenic functions.

### 2.2 | Rarita–Schwinger type operators

Let \( H_k(Cl_m)(\mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m)) \) stand for the space of Clifford-valued harmonic (monogenic) polynomials homogeneous of degree \( k \). Notice that if \( h_k(u) \in H_k(Cl_m) \), then \( D_u h_k(u) \in \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m) \), but \( D_u u p_{k-1}(u) = (\pm 2 - 2k + 2)p_{k-1}(u) \), where \( p_{k-1}(u) \in \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m) \). Hence, we have

\[
H_k(Cl_m) = \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m) \oplus u \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m), \quad h_k = p_k + u p_{k-1}.
\]

This is called an Almansi–Fischer decomposition of \( H_k(Cl_m) \).\(^5,6\) In this decomposition, we have \( P^+ \) and \( P^- \) as the projection maps

\[
P^+_k = 1 + \frac{u D_u}{m + 2k - 2} : H_k(Cl_m) \to \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m),
\]

\[
P^-_k = I - P^+_k = \frac{-u D_u}{m + 2k - 2} : H_k(Cl_m) \to u \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m).
\]

Suppose \( \Omega \) is a domain in \( \mathbb{R}^m \). Consider a differentiable function \( f : \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^m \to Cl_m \) such that, for each \( x \in \Omega, f(x,u) \) is a left monogenic polynomial homogeneous of degree \( k \) in \( u \). Then the **Rarita–Schwinger operator**\(^5,6\) is defined by

\[
R_k = P^+_k D_x : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m)) \to C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m)).
\]

We also need the following three Rarita–Schwinger type operators.

- **The twistor operator:** \( T_k = P^+_k D_x : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, u \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m)) \to C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m)) \).
- **The dual twistor operator:** \( T^+_k = P^+_k D_x : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m)) \to C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, u \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m)) \).
- **The remaining operator:** \( Q_k = P^-_k D_x : C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, u \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m)) \to C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^m, u \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(Cl_m)) \).

More details can be found in Bureš et al.\(^5\) and Dunkl et al.\(^6\)

### 2.3 | The generalized Maxwell operators

In Eelbode and Roels,\(^7\) the authors constructed the generalized Maxwell operators as a type of second-order conformally invariant differential operators on particular function spaces. It was also pointed out that these differential operators reduced to the classical source-free Maxwell equations in the Minkowski space. Here, we will show the details on how to obtain the generalized Maxwell operators from the classical source-free Maxwell equations. This gives us the motivation to study this particular type of second-order differential operators.

Recall that the classical source-free coupled Maxwell equations are given by

\[
\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t},
\]

where \( \mathbf{E} \) stands for the electric field, \( \mathbf{B} \) stands for the magnetic field, and \( \mathbf{B} \) and \( \mathbf{E} \) are both vector fields in \( \mathbb{R}^3 \). \( \mu_0 \) is the permeability of free space, and \( \varepsilon_0 \) is the permittivity of free space.

Since \( \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \), we can define \( \mathbf{B} \) in terms of a vector potential \( \mathbf{C} \) as \( \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{C} \). From Maxwell Faraday’s equation, one obtains that \( \nabla \times (\mathbf{E} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial t}) = 0 \). This means that \( \mathbf{E} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial t} \) can be written as the gradient of some scalar function, namely, a scalar potential \( \Phi \). Hence, one has

\[
\mathbf{E} = -\nabla \Phi - \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial t},
\]

with a scalar potential \( \Phi \).

Plugging \( \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{C} \) and \( \mathbf{E} = -\nabla \Phi - \frac{\partial \mathbf{C}}{\partial t} \) into \( \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = 0, \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \), one has

\[
\nabla^2 \Phi + \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{C}) = 0, \quad \nabla^2 \mathbf{C} - \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{C}}{\partial t^2} - \nabla \left( \nabla \cdot \mathbf{C} + \mu_0 \varepsilon_0 \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} \right) = 0.
\]
Next, we choose a set of potentials \((C, \Phi)\) to satisfy the Lorenz condition \(\nabla \cdot C + \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \partial \Phi / \partial t = 0\), which uncouples the pair of equations given in (3). Now one has

\[
\nabla^2 \Phi - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial t^2} = 0, \quad \nabla^2 C - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial t^2} = 0.
\]

The potentials \(C\) and \(\Phi\) form a 4-vector potential \(C' = (\Phi, C)\). Then the two equations above and the Lorenz condition become

\[
\square C' = 0, \quad \partial_x A^x = 0,
\]

where \(\square = \nabla^2 - \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}\) is the d’Alembert operator. For \(E = -\nabla \Phi - \partial C / \partial t\) and \(B = \nabla \times C\), if the space coordinate is given by \((x, y, z)\), the \(x\) components of \(E\) and \(B\) can be written explicitly as

\[
E_x = -\mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial C_x}{\partial t} - \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial x} = -(\partial^0 C^1 - \partial^1 C^0), \quad B_x = \frac{\partial C_z}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial C_y}{\partial z} = -(\partial^2 C^3 - \partial^3 C^2),
\]

where \(\partial^s = (\partial / \partial t, -\nabla)\). These equations imply that the electric and magnetic fields are the elements of a second rank, antisymmetric field-strength tensor \(F^{\alpha \beta} = \partial^s C^\alpha - \partial^\alpha C^s\).

This leads to a different formulation of Maxwell equations in terms of a differential 2-form \(F^{\alpha \beta}\), known as the Maxwell–Faraday tensor, \(\partial_s F^{\alpha \beta} = 0\), which can also be rewritten as

\[
\square C' - \partial^s \partial_s C'^s = 0.
\]

where \(C'^s = (\Phi, C), \partial^s = (\partial_t, -\nabla)\), and \(\partial_s = (\partial_t, \nabla)\) and

\[
F^{\alpha \beta} = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & E_x & E_y & E_z \\
-E_x & 0 & -B_z & B_x \\
-E_y & B_z & 0 & -B_x \\
-E_z & -B_y & B_x & 0
\end{pmatrix}.
\]

The equation \(\square C'^s - \partial^s \partial_s C'^s = 0\) in the Minkowski space has a generalization to the \(m\)-dimensional Euclidean space given below.

\[
\Delta f_s(x) - \frac{4}{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \partial_x \partial_x f_j(x) = 0, \quad 1 \leq s \leq m,
\]

where \(f_s(x)\) is a vector valued function, with \(x \in \mathbb{R}^m\). The constant \(4/m\) allows the generalized operator above to preserve the conformal invariance property of the Maxwell equations. Notice that the space of real-valued homogeneous of harmonic polynomials with degree-1 with respect to a variable \(u \in \mathbb{R}^m\), denoted by \(H_1(\mathbb{R})\), is spanned by \(\{u_1, \ldots, u_m\}\). The \(m\) equations above can be replaced by one equation

\[
\sum_{j=1}^{m} u_s \left( \Delta f_s(x) - \frac{4}{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \partial_x \partial_x f_j(x) \right) = 0.
\]

This equation can also be rewritten as

\[
0 = \sum_{s=1}^{m} \Delta_x u_s f_s(x) - \frac{4}{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} u_s \partial_x \partial_x f_j(x) = \sum_{s=1}^{m} \Delta_x u_s f_s(x) - \frac{4}{m} \sum_{j,k=1}^{m} u_s \partial_x \partial_x u_k f_k(x).
\]

Now, we consider \(f(x, u) := \sum_{s=1}^{m} u_s f_s(x)\) as a \(H_1(\mathbb{R})\)-valued function on \(\mathbb{R}^m\). With the help of the Dirac operator \(D_x = \sum_{s=1}^{m} e_s \partial_x\) in the \(m\)-dimensional Euclidean space. This equation can be written in a compact form

\[
\left( \Delta_x - \frac{4}{m} \langle u, D_x \rangle \langle D_u, D_x \rangle \right) f(x, u) = 0.
\]
where \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \) is the standard inner product in Euclidean space. The operator \( \Delta_{x} - 4/m(u, D_{x})(D_{u}, D_{x}) \), denoted by \( D_{1} \), is called the generalized Maxwell operator, which is a second-order conformally invariant differential operator in the higher spin spaces in Clifford analysis. It was firstly constructed by Eelbode et al. in Eelbode and Roels.7

More generally, if we consider a function \( f(x, u) \in C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{m}, H_{k}(\mathbb{R})) \), that is, for a fixed \( x \in \mathbb{R}^{m} \), \( f(x, u) \in H_{k}(\mathbb{R}) \) with respect to \( u \), where \( H_{k}(\mathbb{R}) \) stands for the space of real-valued homogeneous harmonic polynomials of degree \( k \). The second-order conformally invariant differential operators, named as bosonic Laplacians (also known as the higher spin Laplace operators7), are defined as

\[
D_{k} : C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{m}, H_{k}(\mathbb{R})) \to C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{m}, H_{k}(\mathbb{R})),
\]

\[
D_{k} = \Delta_{x} - \frac{4(u, D_{x})(D_{u}, D_{x})}{m + 2k - 2} + \frac{4|u|^{2}(D_{u}, D_{x})^{2}}{(m + 2k - 2)(m + 2k - 4)},
\]

(4)

where \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \) is the standard inner product in \( \mathbb{R}^{m} \). One can easily see that \( D_{k} \) reduces to the generalized Maxwell operator when \( k = 1 \). More details for \( D_{k} \) can be found in previous studies.8,9,11

### 3 | POISSON'S EQUATION AND REPRESENTATION FORMULA

In this section, we will review some properties of the Rarita–Schwinger type operators and bosonic Laplacians from previous studies,6,8,9,13 which will be needed for solving a Poisson's equation in the higher spin spaces.

Let \( Z_{k}^{1}(u, v) \) be the reproducing kernel for \( M_{k}(Cl_{m}) \), which satisfies

\[
f(v) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} Z_{k}^{1}(u, v)f(u)dS(u), \text{ for all } f(v) \in M_{k}(Cl_{m}).
\]

Then the fundamental solution for \( R_{k} \) (Section 5.1, Bureš et al.15) is

\[
E_{k}(x, y, u, v) = \frac{m + 2k - 2}{(m - 2)\omega_{m}} y - x Z_{k}^{1} \left( \frac{(y - x)u(y - x)}{|y - x|^{2}}, v \right).
\]

Similarly, we have the fundamental solution for \( Q_{k} \) (section 3, Li and Ryan13) as follows.

\[
F_{k}(x, y, u, v) = \frac{m + 2k - 2}{(2 - m)\omega_{m}} y - x Z_{k-1}^{1} \left( \frac{(y - x)u(y - x)}{|y - x|^{2}}, v \right).
\]

We also have that

**Theorem 1** (Theorem 10, Dunkl et al.6). Let \( f \in C_{c}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{m}, M_{k}(Cl_{m})) \), we have

\[
R_{k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{m}} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} E_{k}(x, y, u, v)f(x, u)dS(u)dx = f(y, v),
\]

and

**Theorem 2** (Theorem 6, Li and Ryan13). Let \( f \in C_{c}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{m}, uM_{k-1}(Cl_{m})) \), we have

\[
Q_{k} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{m}} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} F_{k}(x, y, u, v)f(x, u)dS(u)dx = f(y, v).
\]
Recall that (Proposition 1, Ding and Ryan$^9$) the connection between bosonic Laplacians and the Rarita–Schwinger type operators is given by

\[
D_k = -R_k^2 P_k^+ + \frac{2R_k T_k P_k^-}{m + 2k - 4} - \frac{2Q_k T_k^+ P_k^+}{m + 2k - 4} - \frac{(m + 2k)Q_k^2 P_k^-}{m + 2k - 4}.
\]

We let \( A_k = -R_k P_k^+ + 2T_k P_k^- / m + 2k - 4 \) and \( B_k = -2T_k^+ P_k^+ / m + 2k - 4 - (m + 2k)Q_k P_k^- / m + 2k - 4 \) for convenience, then we have

\[
D_k = R_k A_k + Q_k B_k.
\]

Now, we can solve a Poisson’s equation for bosonic Laplacian \( D_k \) as follows.

**Theorem 3** (Solving Poisson’s equation). Let \( f \in C^2_\mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R})) \), that is \( f \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R})) \) and \( f \) has compact support with respect to \( x \) and set

\[
\Phi(y, v) = \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^m \times S^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) f(x, u) dS(u) dx.
\]

Then, we have

1. \( \Phi \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R})) \),
2. \( D_k \Phi = f \) in \( \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{B}^m \).

**Proof.**

1. Firstly, we notice that \( Z_k \left( \frac{x u_k}{|x|^2}, v \right) \) is a \( k \)-homogeneous harmonic polynomial with respect to \( v \), so \( \Phi \) is harmonic with respect to \( v \). Further, we have

\[
\Phi(y, v) = \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^m \times S^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) f(x, u) dS(u) dx = \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^m \times S^{n-1}} H_k(x, 0, u, v) f(y - x, u) dS(u) dx;
\]

hence,

\[
\frac{\Phi(y + h e_j, v) - \Phi(y, v)}{h} = \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^m \times S^{n-1}} H_k(x, 0, u, v) \frac{f(y - x + h e_j, u) - f(y - x, u)}{h} dS(u) dx,
\]

where \( h \neq 0 \) and \( e_j = (0, \ldots, 1, \ldots, 0) \) with 1 in the \( j \)th spot. Notice that \( f \in C^2_\mathcal{C}^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R})) \), which tells us that

\[
\frac{f(y - x + h e_j, u) - f(y - x, u)}{h} \rightarrow f_{y_j}(y - x, u), h \to 0
\]

uniformly. Hence, we have

\[
\Phi_{y_j}(y, v) = \int \int_{\mathbb{R}^m \times S^{n-1}} H_k(x, 0, u, v) f_{y_j}(y - x, u) dS(u) dx.
\]

A similar argument can be applied to the second derivatives, which implies \( \Phi \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R})) \).

2. We prove the second claim by applying the properties of the Rarita–Schwinger type operators and the connection between the Rarita–Schwinger type operators and bosonic Laplacians given in (5). Recall that \( D_k = R_k A_k + Q_k B_k \), and from Proposition 2 in Ding and Ryan,$^9$ we know that

\[
R_k A_k H_k(x, y, u, v) = R_k E_k(x, y, u, v) = \delta(y - x) Z_k^1(u, v),
\]

\[
Q_k B_k H_k(x, y, u, v) = Q_k F_k(x, y, u, v) = \delta(y - x) v Z_{k-1}^1(u, v) u,
\]
in the distributional sense. Further, it also tells us that

$$D_k \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) f(x, u) dS(u) dx = (R_k A_k + Q_k B_k) \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v)(P^+_k + P^-_k) f(x, u) dS(u) dx$$

$$= R_k A_k \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) P^+_k f(x, u) dS(u) dx + Q_k B_k \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) P^-_k f(x, u) dS(u) dx.$$

The last equation comes from the fact that

$$R_k A_k H_k, P^+_k f \in \mathcal{M}_k(Cl_m); Q_k B_k H_k, P^-_k f \in \mathcal{M}_{k-1}(C_l m),$$

and two functions from different function spaces above are orthogonal to each other with respect to the integral over the unit sphere with respect to $u$ (Lemma 5 in Dunkl et al). Further, Dunkl et al, Theorem 10 show that

$$R_k A_k \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) P^+_k f(x, u) dS(u) dx = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} R_k E_k(x, y, u, v) P^+_k f(x, u) dS(u) dx = P^+_k f(y, v),$$

and Li and Ryan, Theorem 6 give us that

$$Q_k B_k \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) P^-_k f(x, u) dS(u) dx = P^-_k f(y, v).$$

Hence, one has

$$D_k \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) f(x, u) dS(u) dx = P^+_k f(y, v) + P^-_k f(y, v) = f(y, v),$$

which completes the proof.

With Theorem 3 and the Liouville-type theorem given in Ding et al, Theorem 5.7 one can immediately have a representation formula as follows.

**Theorem 4** (Representation formula). Assume $m > 4$ and $f \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R}))$. Then any bounded solution of $D_k g = f$ in $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m$ has the form

$$g(y, v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) f(x, u) dS(u) dx + h(v), \quad y \in \mathbb{R}^m, \quad v \in \mathbb{R}^m,$$

where $h \in H_k(\mathbb{R})$.

**Proof.** Notice that $H_k(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \to 0$ when $|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}| \to \infty$ for $m > 4$, hence,

$$\Phi(y, v) := \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{n-1}} H_k(x, y, u, v) f(x, u) dS(u) dx$$

is a bounded solution in $C^2(\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R}))$ for $D_k g = f$ in $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m$. If $\Phi'$ is another bounded solution in $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m$, then we have a bounded solution $\Phi - \Phi'$ for $D_k g = 0$ in $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m$. In accordance to the Liouville-type theorem, $\Phi - \Phi' = h(v)$ in $\mathbb{R}^m \times \mathbb{R}^m$, where $h(v) \in H_k(\mathbb{R})$, which completes the proof.

In particular, if we let $g(x, u)$ above be the fundamental solution of $D_k$ given by (Theorem 5.2, De Bie et al),

$$H_k(x, y, u, v) = \frac{(m + 2k - 4) \Gamma \left( \frac{m}{2} \right)}{4(m - 4) \pi^\frac{m}{2}} |y - x|^{2-m} Z_k \left( \frac{(y - x) u (y - x)}{|y - x|^2}, v \right),$$
and discuss the only singular point $y$ with the technique applied in Ding And Ryan, we can obtain a Green's integral formula as follows.

**Proposition 1** (Green's integral formula). Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be an open domain and $f \in C^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R}))$. Then, we have

$$f(y, v) = \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (Af)(x, u) H_k(x, y, u, v) - f(x, u)(Ah_k)(x, y, u, v) dS(u) d\sigma(x),$$

where $A$ is the operator given in Theorem 5.

## 4 GREEN'S FORMULAS IN THE HIGHER SPIN SPACES

It is well-known that Green's formulas are very important in many applications, especially in the study of boundary value problems. In this section, we provide Green's formulas for bosonic Laplacians acting on scalar-valued functions and Clifford-valued functions, respectively.

### 4.1 Green's formula: Scalar-valued version

Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be an open domain; we consider scalar-valued function spaces $C^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R}))$ and define the following inner product:

$$\langle f | g \rangle = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} f(x, u) g(x, u) dS(u) dx, \quad f, g \in C^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R})). \quad (7)$$

**Theorem 5** (Green's formula: scalar-valued version). Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be an open domain, $\partial \Omega$ is piecewise smooth, and $f, g \in C^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(\mathbb{R}))$. Then, we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (D_k f(x, u)) g(x, u) - f(x, u)(D_k g(x, u)) dS(u) dx = \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (Af)(x, u) g(x, u) - f(x, u)(Ag)(x, u) dS(u) d\sigma(x),$$

where $\sigma(x)$ is the area element on $\partial \Omega$ and $n_x$ is the outward unit normal vector on $\partial \Omega$ and

$$A = \frac{\partial}{\partial n_x} - \frac{4\langle u, n_x \rangle \langle Du, Dk \rangle}{m+2k-2}.$$

**Proof.** The main tools used here are Stokes' Theorem and the orthogonality between homogeneous harmonic polynomials with respect to the $L^2$ integral inner product over the unit sphere. Firstly, let us look at

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (D_k f(x, u)) g(x, u) dS(u) dx = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} \left[ \left( \Delta_x - \frac{4\langle u, D_k \rangle \langle Du, Dk \rangle}{m+2k-2} + \frac{4|u|^2 \langle Du, Dk \rangle^2}{(m+2k-2)(m+2k-4)} \right) f(x, u) \right] g(x, u) dS(u) dx \quad (8)$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} \left[ \Delta_x - \frac{4\langle u, D_k \rangle \langle Du, Dk \rangle}{m+2k-2} \right] f(x, u) g(x, u) dS(u) dx.$$

The last equation comes from the fact that

$$\int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (|u|^2 \langle Du, Dk \rangle^2 f(x, u)) g(x, u) dS(u) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (\langle Du, Dk \rangle^2 f(x, u)) g(x, u) dS(u) = 0.$$
where \( (D_u, D_x)^2 f \in \mathcal{H}_{k-2}(\mathbb{R}^m) \), \( g \in \mathcal{H}_k(\mathbb{R}^m) \); hence, they are orthogonal to each other with respect to the integral over the unit sphere. On the one hand, by Green’s formula with respect to \( x \), we have

\[
\int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} (\Delta f(x, u) g(x, u)) dS(u) dx = \int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} f(x, u) (\Delta g(x, u)) dS(u) dx + \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{n-1}} \frac{\partial f(x, u)}{\partial n_x} g(x, u) dS(u) d\sigma(x) - \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{n-1}} f(x, u) \frac{\partial g(x, u)}{\partial n_x} dS(u) d\sigma(x). \tag{9}
\]

On the other hand, we have

\[
\int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (u, D_x) (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), g(x, u) \rangle dS(u) dx
= -\int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), (u, D_x) g(x, u) \rangle dS(u) dx + \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle u, n_x \rangle (D_u, D_x) f(x, u) g(x, u) dS(u) d\sigma(x).
\]

Noticing that \( u \) is the unit normal vector on the unit sphere, we apply Stokes’ Theorem with respect to \( u \) to the first integral above, which is equal to

\[
-\int_\Omega \sum_{j=1}^m \langle \partial_u (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), \partial_u g(x, u) \rangle dudx - \int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), (D_u, D_x) g(x, u) \rangle dudx
= -\int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), (D_u, D_x) g(x, u) \rangle dudx,
\]

where the equation above comes from the fact that \( \partial_u (D_u, D_x) f(x, u) \in \mathcal{H}_{k-2}(\mathbb{R}^m) \) and \( \partial_u g(x, u) \in \mathcal{H}_k(\mathbb{R}^m) \), which implies that they are orthogonal to each other. Now, we apply Stokes’ Theorem to \( x \) and \( u \) separately and also use the orthogonality between \( \mathcal{H}_k(\mathbb{R}^m) \) and \( \mathcal{H}_{k-2}(\mathbb{R}^m) \); we eventually obtain

\[
\int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (u, D_x) (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), g(x, u) \rangle dS(u) dx = \int_\Omega \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (u, D_x) (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), g(x, u) \rangle dS(u) dx + \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle (u, n_x) (D_u, D_x) f(x, u), g(x, u) \rangle dS(u) d\sigma(x) - \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{n-1}} \langle f(x, u) (u, n_x), (D_u, D_x) g(x, u) \rangle dS(u) d\sigma(x). \tag{10}
\]

Now, we plug (9) and (10) into (8), which completes the proof. \( \square \)

**Remark 1.** The Green’s formula above shows that bosonic Laplacians \( D_k \) are self-adjoint with respect to the inner product \( \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \) given in (7) for functions vanishing on the boundary of the domain with respect to \( x \).

### 4.2 Green’s formula: Clifford-valued version

The difficulty in the Clifford-valued case is caused by the fact that multiplication of Clifford numbers is not commutative in general. In our case, we need to use the connection between Rarita–Schwinger type operators and bosonic Laplacians given in (5) and Stokes’ Theorems for Rarita–Schwinger type operators given in Ding and Ryan.\(^{14, \text{Theorem 4.6,8,10}}\)
Theorem 6 (Green's formula: Clifford-valued version). Let $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^m$ be a bounded domain and $\partial \Omega$ is piecewise smooth. We assume that $f, g \in C^2(\Omega \times \mathbb{B}^m, H_k(Cl_m))$, then we have

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (D_k f(x, u)) g(x, u) dS(u) dx = \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} f(x, u)(D_k g(x, u)) dS(u) dx$$

$$+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r}) d\sigma_x \left[ \left( -R_k P^+_k + \frac{2Q_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4} \right) g \right] dS(u)$$

$$+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^-_{k,r}) d\sigma_x \left[ \left( \frac{2R_k P^+_k}{m+2k-4} + \frac{(m+2k)Q_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4} \right) g \right] dS(u)$$

$$+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} \left[ f \left( P^+_k R_k T_k - \frac{2P^-_{k,r} T_k}{m+2k-4} \right) \right] d\sigma_x (P^+_k g) dS(u)$$

$$+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} \left[ f \left( \frac{2P^+_{k,r} T_k}{m+2k-4} - (m+2k)P^-_{k,r} \right) \right] d\sigma_x (P^-_k g) dS(u),$$

where $P_{k,r}$ stands for the projection operator $P_k$ acting from the right hand side.

Proof. Recall that

$$D_k = -R^2_k P^+_k + \frac{2R_k T_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4} - \frac{2Q_k T^+_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4} - \frac{(m+2k)Q^2_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4} = -R^2_k P^+_k + \frac{2T_k R_k P^+_k}{m+2k-4} - \frac{2T_k Q_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4} - \frac{(m+2k)Q^2_k P^-_k}{m+2k-4}.$$ 

Then, we will calculate

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (D_k f(x, u)) g(x, u) dS(u) dx,$$ 

as the sum of four integrals regarding the four terms in the first expression of $D_k$ above. In the calculation below, we write the functions $f$ without the variables for convenience. Firstly, we apply Dunkl et al.\textsuperscript{16} Lemma \textsuperscript{5} and Stokes' Theorem for $R_k$,\textsuperscript{14} Theorem \textsuperscript{4} to obtain

With the help of Stokes' Theorem for $R_k$,\textsuperscript{14} Theorem \textsuperscript{4} and Stokes' Theorem for $T_k$,\textsuperscript{14} Theorem \textsuperscript{10} we can also have

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r} T_k R_k) g dS(u) dx$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r}) (T_k R_k P^+_k g) dS(u) dx - \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r}) d\sigma_x (R_k P^+_k g) dS(u) + \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^-_{k,r} T_k) d\sigma_x (P^+_k g) dS(u).$$

Similarly, one can obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r} T_k Q_k) g dS(u) dx$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r}) (T_k Q_k P^-_k g) dS(u) dx - \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^+_{k,r}) d\sigma_x (Q_k P^-_k g) dS(u) + \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{\mathbb{S}^{m-1}} (f P^-_{k,r} T_k) d\sigma_x (P^-_k g) dS(u).$$
and
\[
\int_{\Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left( f P_{k,r}^- Q_{k,r}^2 \right) g dS(u) d\sigma(x) \\
= \int_{\Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left( f P_{k,r}^- \right) \left( Q_{k,r}^2 P_{k,r}^- g \right) dS(u) d\sigma(x) + \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left( f P_{k,r}^- Q_{k,r} \right) d\sigma(x) \left( P_{k,r}^- g \right) dS(u).
\]

(15)

Now, we plug (12)–(15) into (11), and we obtain
\[
\int_{\Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left( D_k f(x,u) \right) g(x,u) dS(u) d\sigma(x) = \int_{\Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} f(x,u) \left( D_k g(x,u) \right) dS(u) d\sigma(x)
\]
\[
+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left( f P_{k,r}^{+} \right) d\sigma_x \left[ \left( -R_k P_{k,r}^+ + \frac{2Q_k P_{k,r}^-}{m+2k-4} \right) g \right] dS(u)
\]
\[
+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left( f P_{k,r}^- \right) d\sigma_x \left[ \left( -\frac{2R_k P_{k,r}^+}{m+2k-4} + \frac{(m+2k)Q_k P_{k,r}^-}{m+2k-4} \right) g \right] dS(u)
\]
\[
+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left[ f \left( P_{k,r}^+ T_{k,r}^- + \frac{2P_{k,r}^+ R_{k,r}}{m+2k-4} \right) \right] d\sigma_x \left( P_{k,r}^+ g \right) dS(u)
\]
\[
+ \int_{\partial \Omega} \int_{S^{m-1}} \left[ f \left( -\frac{2R_{k,r} T_{k,r}^+}{m+2k-4} - \frac{(m+2k)P_{k,r}^- Q_{k,r}}{m+2k-4} \right) \right] d\sigma_x \left( P_{k,r}^- g \right) dS(u),
\]
as desired. We remind the reader that \(D_k\) on the right hand side above is obtained from the second expression of \(D_k\) given in the very beginning of the proof. □

Remark 2. If we replace \(g\) by the fundamental solution of \(D_k\) in the previous theorem, we can have the Borel–Pompeiu formula obtained in Ding and Ryan\(^9\) with a standard argument at the singular point.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
This paper is dedicated to Klaus Gürlebeck on his 65th birthday. Chao Ding is supported by Czech Science Foundation, project GJ19-14413Y. The authors are also grateful to the referees for helpful comments.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
This work does not have any conflicts of interest.

ORCID
Chao Ding\(^{15}\) https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5721-9650

REFERENCES
1. Gürlebeck K, Habetha K, Sprößig W. Holomorphic Functions in the Plane and n-dimensional Space. Basel: Birkhäuser; 2008.
2. Gürlebeck K, Habetha K, Sprößig W. Application of Holomorphic Functions in Two and Higher Dimensions. Basel: Birkhäuser; 2016.
3. Gürlebeck K, Sprößig W. Quaternionic Analysis and Elliptic Boundary Value Problems. Basel: Birkhäuser; 1989.
4. Stein E, Weiss G. Generalization of the Cauchy–Riemann equations and representations of the rotation group. Amer J Math. 1968;90:163–196.
5. Bureš J, Sommen F, Souček V, Van Lancker P. Rarita–Schwinger type operators in Clifford analysis. J Funct Anal. 2001;185(2):425–455.
6. Dunkl CF, Li J, Ryan J, Van Lancker P. Some Rarita–Schwinger type operators. Comput Methods Funct Theory. 2013;13(3):397–424.
7. Elbode D, Roels M. Generalised Maxwell equations in higher dimensions. Compl Anal Oper Theory. 2016;10(2):267–293.
8. De Bie H, Elbode D, Roels M. The higher spin Laplace operator. Potential Anal. 2017;47(2):123–149.
9. Ding C, Ryan J. Some properties of the higher spin Laplace operator. Trans Am Math Soc. 2019;371(5):3375–3395.
10. Ding C, Walter R, Ryan J. Construction of arbitrary order conformally invariant operators in higher spin spaces. J Geogr Anal. 2017;27(3):2418–2452.
11. Ding C, Nguyen PT, Ryan J. Boundary Value Problems in Euclidean Space for Bosonic Laplacians. submitted.
12. Delanghe R, Sommen F, Souček V. Clifford Algebra and Spinor-Valued Functions, A Function Theory for the Dirac Operator. Netherlands: Springer; 1992.
13. Li J, Ryan J. Some operators associated with Rarita–Schwinger type operators, Complex Variables and Elliptic Equations. Int J. 2012;57(7-8):885–902.
14. Ding C, Ryan J. On Some conformally invariant operators in Euclidean space, Clifford analysis and related topics. Honor of Paul A.M. Dirac; 2014:15–17.

How to cite this article: Ding C, Ryan J. Green’s formulas and Poisson’s equation for bosonic Laplacians. Math. Meth. Appl. Sci. 47 (2024), 7850–7861. DOI 10.1002/mma.6922