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Convergence to Diffusion Waves of Solutions for Viscous Conservation Laws

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Abstract. We study the large-time behavior of solutions of viscous conservation laws. It is shown that solutions tend to diffusion waves, which are constructed based on the heat equation and Burgers equation. The convergence is in the L_p , $1 \le p \le \infty$ sense and is obtained as a consequence of the L_2 decay of the difference between the solution and its asymptotic state of diffusion waves.

1. Introduction

Consider a system of viscous conservation laws

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(B(u) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \right), \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^n, \quad t \ge 0, \quad -\infty x < \infty.$$
(1.1)

We are interested in the large-time behavior of solutions whose initial value tends to a constant state at $x = \pm \infty$. Without loss of generality we take the constant state to be zero:

$$u(x,0) \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad x \to \pm \infty \,.$$
 (1.2)

Physical models of the form (1.1) include the compressible Navier-Stokes equations and magnetohydrodynamics. The $n \times n$ viscosity matrix B(u) represents a dissipative mechanism, and the solution u(x, t) is expected to decay to the zero state as $t \to \infty$. The decay in L_{∞} and L_2 has been studied by viewing (1.1) as a perturbation of the linearized equations

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + f'(0)\frac{\partial u}{\partial x} = B(0)\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2},\tag{1.3}$$

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[2, 7], and references therein. The purpose of the present article is to study the large-time behavior in the L_p sense $1 \le p \le \infty$. System (1.1) is in conservation form

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x,t)dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x,0)dx, \quad t \ge 0.$$
(1.4)

Consequently u(x, t) does not decay in L_1 . The study of L_1 behavior of u(x, t) involves nonlinear waves. The asymptotic state has been constructed in [5] based on the self-similar solutions of the heat equation and Burgers equation:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2},$$
(1.5)

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + c \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} + dw \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = \alpha \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2},$$
(1.6)

where $c, d, \alpha > 0$ are constant and $w \in \mathbb{R}^1$. Our main result shows that u(x, t) tends to its asymptotic state in L_1 as $t \to \infty$. The result yields the distribution of the basic physical density u(x, t), and therefore is of physical significance. The phenomenon of decay in L_2 and L_{∞} for solutions of the nonlinear system (1.1) is similar to that for solutions of the linearized system (1.3). On the other hand, L_1 behavior for (1.1) involves nonlinear waves, while for (1.3) involves only linear waves.

To simplify the presentation we carry out our analysis for the simplified situation where the viscosity B(u) is the identity matrix:

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}.$$
(1.7)

Our main assumption is that the associated inviscid conservation laws

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f(u)}{\partial x} = 0 \tag{1.8}$$

are strictly hyperbolic. This means that f'(u) has real and distinct eigenvalues $\lambda_1(u) < \lambda_2(u) < \ldots < \lambda_n(u)$ with right eigenvectors $r_i(u)$ and left eigenvectors $l_i(u)$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$. By a linear transformation we may assume that

$$f'(0) \stackrel{*}{=} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1(0) & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_n(0) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{array}{c} r_i(0) = (\delta_{i1}, \dots, \delta_{in})^t \\ l_i(0) = (\delta_{i1}, \dots, \delta_{in}). \end{array}$$
(1.9)

We abbreviate $\lambda_i(0), r_i(0)$ by λ_i, r_i and decompose the initial data into

$$u(x,0) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \theta_{i}^{0}(x) r_{i} = (\theta_{1}^{0}(x), \theta_{2}^{0}(x), ..., \theta_{n}^{0}(x)).$$
(1.10)

For each mode *i*, we consider the parabolic equation

$$\frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial t} + \lambda_i \frac{\partial \theta_i}{\partial x} + \frac{1}{2} b_i \frac{\partial (\theta_i^2)}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \theta_i}{\partial x^2}, \qquad b_i \equiv \nabla \lambda_i(0) \cdot r_i(0), \qquad (1.11)$$

with initial data

$$\theta_i(x,0) = \theta_i^0(x). \tag{1.12}$$

When $b_i = 0$, (1.11) is the linear heat equation, and the solution is

$$\theta_i(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{(x-\lambda_i t-y)^2}{2t}} \theta_i^0(y) dy, \quad b_i = 0.$$
(1.13)

When $b_i \neq 0$, (1.11) is the Burgers equation which can be linearized through the Hopf-Cole transformation, [1],

$$\frac{\partial \varphi_i}{\partial t} + \lambda_i \frac{\partial \varphi_i}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_i}{\partial x^2},$$
$$\varphi_i(x,t) \equiv \exp\left(-b_i \int \theta_i(\xi,t) d\xi\right),$$

and the solution of (1.11) and (1.12) is

$$\theta_{i}(x,t) = -\frac{1}{b_{i}}(\ln\varphi_{i})_{x},$$

$$\varphi_{i}(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{\frac{-(x-\lambda_{i}t-y)^{2}}{2t}} \varphi_{i}^{0}(y) dy,$$

$$\varphi_{i}^{0}(y) \equiv \exp\left(-b_{i} \int_{0}^{x} \theta_{i}^{0}(\eta) dy\right), \quad b_{i} \neq 0.$$
(1.14)

The solutions (1.13) and (1.14) are called linear and nonlinear diffusion waves, respectively, and will be shown to represent the asymptotic state of the solution of (1.7) and (1.10). The construction of diffusion waves here differs somewhat from that of [5].

Our basic assumption on the initial data u(x, 0) is that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\theta_i^0(x)| dx < \infty , \qquad \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |x\theta_i^0(x)| dx < \infty .$$
(1.15)

The main result of this paper is to show that the solution u(x, t) of (1.7) and (1.10) converges to $\theta(x, t) \equiv (\theta_1(x, t), \dots, \theta_n(x, t))$ as $t \to \infty$. Note that both (1.7) and (1.11) are conservation laws. Thus from (1.10) we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \bar{u}(x,t)dx = 0, \quad t \ge 0, \quad (1.16)$$

$$\bar{u}(x,t) \equiv u(x,t) - \theta(x,t), \qquad (1.17)$$

and it is natural to introduce

$$v(x,t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{x} \bar{u}(y,t) dy. \qquad (1.18)$$

We have from (1.17), (1.10), and (1.11) that

$$\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial t} + f'(0)\frac{\partial \bar{u}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}L(\theta)\bar{u} + \frac{\partial N(\theta,\bar{u})}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2 \bar{u}}{\partial x^2},$$
(1.19)

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + f'(0)\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + L(\theta)\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + N\left(\theta, \frac{\partial v}{\partial x}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2},$$
(1.20)

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$$\bar{u}(x,0) = v(x,0) = 0,$$
 (1.21)

$$L(\theta) \equiv f''(0)(\theta),$$

$$N(a,b) \equiv f(a+b) - f'(0)(a+b) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} (f'(0)r_i, r_i)a_i^2 - (f'(0)a, b).$$
(1.22)

We carry out our analysis based on (1.20). The first result concerns the L_2 decay of v(x, t):

Theorem 1.1. Suppose that the initial data u(x, 0) has the property that

$$\delta \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|u(x,0)| + |xu(x,0)|)dx + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|u(x,0)|^2 + |u_x(x,0)|^2)dx$$

is sufficiently small. Then the solution v(x, t) of (1.20), (1.21) exists in $c((0, \infty), H^{l+1}) \cap L^2((0, \infty), H^{l+2})$ and satisfies for all $\sigma > 0$ sufficiently small,

$$\|D^l v(t)\|_{L_2} = O(1)\delta(1+t)^{-1/4-l/2+\sigma}, \quad l=0,1,2,\ldots$$

Here H^l is the Sobolev space, $H^0 = L_2$ and $D^l \equiv \partial^l / \partial x^l$.

As a consequence of the above decay result for v(x, t), we obtain the asymptotic behavior of u(x, t). We show that u(x, t) tends to $\theta(x, t)$. It can be shown that $\theta(x, t)$ in turn converges to the combination of linear and nonlinear heat kernels:

$$\theta^*(x,t) \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n t^{-1/2} \theta_i^*\left(\frac{x-\lambda_i t}{\sqrt{t}}\right) r_i, \qquad (1.23)_1$$

$$\theta_{i}^{*}(\bar{x}) \begin{cases} = \frac{m_{i}}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\bar{x}^{2}}{2}} & \text{if } b_{i} = 0 \\ = \frac{1}{b_{i}} (\ln \psi_{i}(\bar{x}))' & \text{if } b_{i} \neq 0 \end{cases}$$
(1.23)₂

$$\psi_i(\bar{x}) \equiv e^{\frac{b_i m_i}{2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\bar{x}} e^{-y^2/2} dy + e^{\frac{-b_i m_i}{2}} \int_{\bar{x}}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2} dy}, \qquad (1.23)_3$$

$$m_i \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \theta_i(x,0) dx \,. \tag{1.24}_4$$

Theorem 1.2. Under the same hypotheses as in Theorem 1.1, the solution of (1.7), (1.2) exists in $C((0, \infty), H^l) \cap L^2((0, \infty), H^{l+1})$ and satisfies, for any $\sigma > 0$ sufficiently small

$$\|D^{l}(u-\theta^{*})\|_{L_{p}}(t) = O(1)\delta t^{-\left(\frac{l}{2}+1-\frac{1}{2p}+\sigma\right)}.$$
(1.24)

Of particular interest is the case where p = 1 and $p = \infty$. From the conservation laws (1.1) we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x,t)dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} u(x,0)dx, \quad t \ge 0,$$

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and so the solution u(x, t) in general does not decay in L_1 . Because of (1.16), we have the decay of $u - \theta^*$ in L_1 :

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |u(x,t) - \theta^*(x,t)| dx = O(1)\delta t^{-\frac{1}{2} + \sigma}.$$
(1.25)

About the convergence in L_{∞} , we have the following more precise formulation in the self-similar coordinates:

$$\sup_{\bar{x}\in I_{i}(t)} [t^{1/2}u(\lambda_{i}t+\sqrt{t\bar{x}},t)-\theta_{i}^{*}(\bar{x})r_{i}] = O(1)t^{-\frac{1}{2}+\sigma},$$

$$I_{i}(t) \equiv (\bar{x}:(\lambda_{i-1}-\lambda_{i})t/2 \leq \sqrt{t\bar{x}} \leq (\lambda_{i+1}-\lambda_{i})t/2),$$

$$\lambda_{0} \equiv -\infty, \quad \lambda_{n+1} \equiv \infty.$$
(1.26)

In Sect. 2, we make basic estimates on diffusion waves. In Sect. 3 we first use Moser's inequalities to estimate the nonlinear terms in (1.20). This allows us to prove the decay result, Theorem 1.1, by employing an analysis of Kawashima [2] on the energy decay for weakly nonlinear systems. Theorem 1.2 is proved in Sect. 4 as a corollary of Theorem 1.1. Finally in Sect. 5 we indicate how to generalize our analysis for (1.7) to the general system (1.1). This will involve linear hyperbolic waves in the construction of diffusion waves, [5], and energy estimates for hyperbolic-parabolic systems, [6, 7] and references therein.

Recently, Nishida [9] announced a similar L_2 decay result for two equations of viscous barotropic gas. For two viscous conservation laws, there exists a coordinate of Riemann invariants which allows explicit computations. Kawashima has also announced the L_2 decay result for general system of hyperbolicparabolic type using his earlier works [2] and that of [5]. However, he does not give L_p , $p \neq 2, \infty$, description of the convergence. The pointwise description (1.26) is the natural one. Our analysis is carried out for (1.7), and therefore does not require the existence of a strictly convex entropy function. By studying the linear hyperbolic waves carefully, the rate of convergence for the general system (1.1) is the same as that for (1.7).

The rates obtained in the above theorems would be optimal if $\sigma = 0$. If we view (1.20) as a perturbation of the linear system depending on diffusion waves θ :

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + f'(0)\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + L(\theta)\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2},$$

 $\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + f'(0)\frac{\partial v}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2}$

instead of

as is

It is interesting to compare the similarity and differences in the large-time behavior between solutions of viscous conservation laws (1.1) and of hyperbolic conservation laws (1.8). Each mode for (1.1) depends only on one time-invariant $(1.23)_4$. For (1.8) each nonlinear mode has two time-invariants, while each linear mode has infinitely many time-invariants, see [4] and references therein. Moreover, the L_1 -convergence rate to diffusion waves for solutions of (1.1) is around $t^{-1/2}$. On the other hand, the convergence rate to N-waves of solutions of

(1.8) has been shown only to be $O(1)t^{-1/4}$ [4], for general systems. Although for the scalar hyperbolic conservation law the rate is still $t^{-1/2}$, for the general system $t^{-1/4}$ may be optimal. In other words, the nonlinear coupling of different modes for (1.8) may be substantially stronger than that for (1.1).

2. Diffusion Waves

We want to study the properties of diffusion waves. The first proposition relates the solution $\theta_i(x, t)$ of (1.11), (1.12) and θ_i^* of (1.23).

Proposition 2.1. Suppose that

$$\delta \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|\theta_i(x,0)| + |x\theta_i(x,0)|) dx$$

is bounded. Then $\theta(x, t)$ converges to θ^* time asymptotically in the sense that

(i)
$$\left\| D^{l} \left[\theta_{i}(x,t) - t^{-1/2} \theta_{i}^{*} \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right] \right\|_{L_{P}} = O(1) \delta t^{\frac{1}{2p} - \frac{1}{2} - 1}$$

for some O(1) independent of t and δ . Moreover in the self-similar coordinate we have

(ii)
$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \sqrt{t} \left\{ t^{\frac{l+1}{2}} (D^{l}\theta_{i})(\lambda_{i}t + \sqrt{t}\bar{x}, t) - D^{l}_{\bar{x}}\theta_{i}^{*}(\bar{x}) \right\}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \left(D^{l+1}e^{-\frac{\bar{x}^{2}}{2}} \right) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} y\theta_{i}(y, 0)dy, \quad for \quad b_{i} = 0,$$
(iii)
$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \sqrt{t} \left\{ t^{\frac{l+1}{2}} (D^{l}\theta_{i})(\lambda_{i}t + \sqrt{t}\bar{x}, t) - D^{l}_{\bar{x}}\theta_{i}^{*}(\bar{x}) \right\}$$
$$= -\frac{1}{b_{i}} \frac{2\sqrt{2\pi}\Delta_{i}}{\varphi_{i}^{0}(+\infty) - \varphi_{i}^{0}(-\infty)} D^{l+2}(\ln\psi_{i}(\bar{x})) \quad for \quad b_{i} \neq 0,$$
$$\Delta_{i} \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{0} (\varphi_{i}^{0}(y) - \varphi_{i}^{0}(-\infty))dy + \int_{0}^{\infty} (\varphi_{i}^{0}(y) - \varphi_{i}^{0}(+\infty))dy,$$
$$\varphi_{i}^{0}(y) \equiv \exp\left(-b_{i}\int_{0}^{y}\theta_{i}(\eta, 0)dy\right),$$

uniformly in \bar{x} .

Proof. When $b_i = 0$ we have from (1.13) and (1.23) that

$$\begin{split} e_{l}(x,t) &\equiv D^{l} \Bigg[\theta_{i}(x,t) - t^{-1/2} \theta_{i}^{*} \left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \Bigg] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} D^{l} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Bigg[e^{-\frac{(x-y)^{2}}{2t}} - e^{-\frac{x^{2}}{2t}} \Bigg] \theta_{i}(y,0) dy \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} D^{l} \Bigg[\int_{0}^{1} \frac{(x-sy)}{t} e^{-\frac{(x-sy)^{2}}{2t}} ds \Bigg] y \theta_{i}(y,0) dy \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} t^{-1-l/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \Bigg[\int_{0}^{1} p_{l+1} \Bigg[\frac{(x-sy)}{t} \Bigg] e^{-\frac{(x-sy)^{2}}{2t}} ds \Bigg] y \theta_{i}(y,0) dy \end{split}$$

for some polynomial p_{l+1} of degree l+1. Here we assume, for notational convenience that $\lambda_i = 0$. From above, there exists $\gamma \in (0, 1/2)$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} |e_{l}(x,t)| &\leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} t^{-1-l/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[\int_{0}^{1} e^{-y \frac{(x-sy)^{2}}{t}} ds \right] |y\theta_{i}(y,0)| dy \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} t^{-1-l/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-y \frac{(x-y)^{2}}{t}} \phi_{i}(y) dy , \\ \phi_{i}(y) &\equiv \int_{0}^{y} \left| \frac{y}{s^{2}} \theta_{i} \left(\frac{y}{s}, 0 \right) \right| ds = \int_{\pm\infty}^{y} |\theta_{i}(r,0)| dr , \quad y \leq 0 . \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have

$$\|\phi_i\|_{L_1} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |y\theta_i(y,0)| dy \le \delta,$$

$$\|e_i(x,t)\|_{L_p} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} t^{-1-l/2} \left\| e^{-\frac{\gamma x^2}{t}} \right\|_{L_p} \|\phi_i\|_{L_1} = O(1)\delta t^{-1-l/2+\frac{1}{2p}}.$$

This proves (i) for $b_i = 0$.

For $b_i \neq 0$, and again, for simplicity, $\lambda_i = 0$, we have from (1.14) and (1.23) that

$$\theta_i = \left(-\frac{1}{b_i}\ln\varphi\right)_x, \quad \varphi = \psi + \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}E,$$

$$E = E_1 + E_2 \equiv \int_0^\infty e^{\frac{-(x-y)^2}{2t}}(\varphi_0(y) - \varphi_0(\infty))dy + \int_{-\infty}^0 e^{\frac{-(x-y)^2}{2t}}(\varphi_0(y) - \varphi_0(-\infty))dy,$$

$$\varphi_0(y) \equiv \exp\left(-b_i\int_0^x \theta_i(\xi, 0)d\xi\right).$$

We note that there exists $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that

$$\varphi(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{\frac{-(x-y)^2}{2t}} \varphi_0(y) dy \ge \varepsilon_0,$$
$$\psi\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) = \varphi_0(\infty) \int_{-\infty}^{\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy + \varphi_0(-\infty) \int_{\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{y^2}{2}} dy \ge \varepsilon_0$$

From above we have

$$e_{l}(x,t) = D^{l} \left[\theta_{i}(x,t) - t^{-1/2} \theta_{i}^{*}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) \right] = D^{l+1} \left[\frac{1}{b_{i}} \ln\left(1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{t}}\right) \right],$$
$$\zeta \equiv \frac{E}{\psi}.$$

As noted above we have

$$C_0 \leq 1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{t}} = \frac{\varphi}{\psi} \leq C_1$$

for some positive constants C_1 and C_2 .

Thus we may apply the chain rule to yield

$$\begin{split} \left| D^{l+1} \ln\left(1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{t}}\right) \right| &= \sum_{\substack{1 \leq \varrho \leq l+1 \\ \varphi_1 + \dots + \varphi_{l+1} = \varrho}} \left| \frac{d^{\varrho} F}{dy^{\varrho}} C_{\varrho \alpha} \left(\frac{D\zeta}{\sqrt{t}} \right)^{\alpha_1} \dots \left(\frac{D^{l+1} \zeta}{\sqrt{t}} \right)^{\alpha_{l+1}} \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{\varrho, \alpha} C_{\varrho \alpha} (\varrho - 1)! \left| 1 + \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{t}} \right|^{-\varrho_t - \varrho/2} |D\zeta|^{\alpha_1} \dots |D^{l+1}|^{\alpha_{l+1}} \\ &= O(1) \sum t^{-\varrho/2} |D\zeta|^{\alpha_1} \dots |D^{l+1} \zeta|^{\alpha_{l+1}}, \end{split}$$

where $F(y) \equiv \ln(1+y)$ and $C_{\varrho\alpha}$ are some constants. Consequently by Holder's inequality, we have

$$\|e_l\|_{L_p} = O(1) \sum_{\varrho, \alpha} t^{-\varrho/2} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |D\zeta|^{\alpha_i p} \dots |D^{l+1}\zeta|^{\alpha_{l+1} p} dx \right)^{1/p}$$

= $O(1) \sum_{\varrho=1}^{l+1} t^{-\varrho/2} \left(\sum_{\alpha} \prod_j \|D^j\zeta\|_{\frac{L_p(l+1)}{j}}^{\alpha_j} \right).$

From the explicit form of ψ we easily have

$$|D^{j}\zeta| = O(1) \sum_{0 \le K \le j} |D^{k}E| \left| D^{j-k} \left(\frac{1}{\psi} \right) \right| = O(1) \sum_{0 \le K \le j} |D^{k}E| t^{\frac{-j+k}{2}}.$$

Similar to the estimate for the case $b_i = 0$, we have

$$\begin{split} |D^{k}E_{1}(x,t)| &= \left| \int_{0}^{\infty} t^{-k/2} P_{k} \left(\frac{x-y}{\sqrt{t}} \right) e^{-\frac{(x-y)^{2}}{2t}} (\phi_{0}(y) - \phi_{0}(\infty)) dy \right| \\ &\leq t^{-k/2} \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{y(x-y)^{2}}{t}} |(\phi_{0}(y) - \phi_{0}(\infty))| dy \,, \end{split}$$

and so

$$\|D^{k}E_{1}\|_{L_{q}} = O(1)t^{-\frac{k}{2} + \frac{1}{2q}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |\varphi_{0}(y) - \varphi_{0}(\infty)| dy.$$

A similar estimate also holds for E_2 . We conclude that

$$\begin{split} \|D^{j}\zeta\|_{\frac{L_{p(l+1)}}{j}} &= O(1) \sum_{0 \leq K \leq j} \|D^{k}E\|_{\frac{L_{p(l+1)}}{j}} t^{\frac{-j+k}{2}} = O(1)\overline{\Delta}t^{-\frac{j}{2} + \frac{j}{2p(l+1)}}, \\ \overline{\Delta} &\equiv \int_{0}^{\infty} |\varphi_{0}(y) - \varphi_{0}(\infty)| dy + \int_{-\infty}^{0} |\varphi_{0}(y) - \varphi_{0}(-\infty)| dy, \\ \|e_{l}\|_{L_{p}} &= O(1)(\overline{\Delta} + t^{-1/2}\overline{\Delta}^{2} + \dots + t^{-l/2}\overline{\Delta}^{l+1})t^{-\frac{l}{2} - 1 + \frac{1}{2p}}, \end{split}$$

where we have used

$$\sum j\alpha_j = l+1$$
.

Since $\overline{A} = O(1)\delta$, this proves (i) for $b_i \neq 0$. (ii) and (iii) are proved using a similar method and the dominated convergence theorem. Q.E.D.

Proposition 2.2. Under the same assumption as Proposition 2.1 we have

(i)
$$\|D^l\theta(t)\|_{L_2} = O(1)\delta(1+t)^{-1/4-l/2},$$

(ii)
$$\|D^{l}(\theta_{i}(t)\theta_{j}(t))\|_{L_{1}} = O(1)\delta^{2}(1+t)^{-l/2-1}, \quad i \neq j, \quad i, j = 1, 2, ..., n,$$

(iii)
$$\|D^{l}(\theta_{i}(t)\theta_{j}(t))\|_{L_{2}} = O(1)\delta^{2}(1+t)^{-l/2-5/4}, \quad i \neq j, \quad i, j = 1, 2, ..., n.$$

Proof. (i) follows easily from (i) of Proposition 2.1 and that it holds clearly for $\theta = \theta_*$. Similarly, to prove (ii) and (iii) we need only to show that they hold for $\theta_i^*(\bar{x})\theta_j^*(\bar{x})t^{-1}$. In fact by explicit computations, it is easy to see that $\theta_i^*(\bar{x})\theta_j^*(\bar{x})t^{-1}$ decays exponentially in t. This proves the proposition. Q.E.D.

3. L_2 Decay

To prove Theorem 1.1 on L_2 decay we view (1.20) as a perturbation of a linear system with constant coefficient

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + f'(0)\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial x^2} - F, \qquad F \equiv L(\theta)v_x + N(\theta, v_x).$$

With zero data (1.21) we have

$$v(x,t) = -\int_{0}^{t} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(x-y,t-s)F(y,s)dyds,$$

$$G(x,t) \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi t}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{-\frac{(x-\lambda_{1}t)^{2}}{2t}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-\frac{(x-\lambda_{n}t)^{2}}{2t}} \end{pmatrix}.$$
(3.2)

Lemma 3.1. There exist constant $\eta > 0$, c > 0 such that for $|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty} \leq \eta$,

(i)
$$\|D^{l-1}(L(\theta)v_y)\|_{L_1} \leq c(\|\theta\|_{L_2}\|D^lv\|_{L_2} + \|D^{l-1}\theta\|_{L_2}\|v_y\|_{L_2}),$$

(ii)
$$\|D^{l}(L(\theta)v_{y})\|_{L_{2}} \leq c(\|\theta\|_{\infty}\|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}} + \|D^{l}\theta\|_{L_{2}}\|v_{y}\|_{\infty}),$$

(iii)
$$\|D^{l-1}N(\theta, v_y)\|_{L_1} \leq c \left(\sum_{i \neq j} \|D^{l-1}(\theta_i \theta_j)\|_{L_1} + \|D^l v\|_{L_2}\right)$$

$$\begin{split} & \times \|Dv\|_{L_{2}} + (\|\theta\|_{L_{2}} + \|v_{y}\|_{L_{2}}) \\ & \times (|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})(\|D^{l-1}\theta\|_{L_{2}} + \|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}})), \end{split} \\ \text{(iv)} \qquad \|D^{l}N(\theta, v_{y})\|_{L_{2}} \leq c \left(\sum_{i \neq j} \|D^{l}(\theta_{i}\theta_{j})\|_{L_{2}} + |v_{y}|_{\infty} \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}} \\ & + (|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})^{2}(\|D^{l}\theta\|_{L_{2}} + \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}})\right). \end{split}$$

Proof. The lemma can be proved easily via Moser's inequalities which are listed in Lemmas A2–A4 of the Appendix. We will prove (iii), (iv) for demonstration. The nonlinear function N can be written as

$$N(a,b) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i+j}^{n} (f''(0)r_i, r_j)a_ia_j + \frac{1}{2}(f''(0)b, b) + H(a, b),$$
$$H(a,b) = O(1)(|a|+|b|)^3.$$

By Lemmas A2-A4,

$$\begin{split} \|D^{l-1}N(\theta \cdot v_{y})\|_{L_{1}} &\leq c \left(\sum_{i \neq j} \|D^{l-1}(\theta_{i}\theta_{j})\|_{L_{1}} + \|D^{l-1}(v_{y}^{2})\|_{L_{1}} \\ &+ \|D^{l-1}H(\theta, v_{y})\|_{L_{1}}\right), \\ \|D^{l-1}(v_{y}^{2})\|_{L_{1}} &\leq c (\|Dv\|_{L_{2}}\|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}}), \\ \|D^{l-1}H(\theta, v_{y}^{2})\|_{L_{1}} &\leq c (\|\theta\|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})(\|\theta\|_{L_{1}} + \|v_{y}\|_{L_{2}}) \\ &\times (\|D^{l-1}\theta\|_{L_{2}} + \|D^{l}v)\|_{L_{2}}), \\ \|D^{l}H(\theta, v_{y})\|_{L_{2}} &\leq c \left(\sum_{i \neq j} \|D^{l}(\theta_{i}\theta_{j})\|_{L_{2}} + \|D^{l}(v_{y})^{2}\|_{L_{2}} \\ &+ \|D^{l}H(\theta, v_{y})\|_{L_{2}}\right), \\ \|D^{l}H(\theta, v_{y})\|_{L_{2}} &\leq c (|v_{y}|_{\infty} \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}}, \\ \|D^{l}H(\theta, v_{y})\|_{L_{2}} &\leq c (|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})^{2} (\|D^{l}\theta\|_{L_{2}} + \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}}). \end{split}$$

This proves (iii), (iv). Q.E.D.

The following lemma follows from easy computations.

Lemma 3.2. Let α , β , γ be positive constants. Then

(i)
$$\int_{0}^{t/2} (1+t-s)^{-\beta} (1+s)^{-\gamma} ds = O(1)(1+t)^{-\alpha}$$

if $\alpha \leq \beta$, $\alpha \leq \beta + \gamma - 1$, $\gamma \neq 1$, or if $\alpha < \beta$, $\alpha \leq \beta + \gamma - 1$, $\gamma = 1$,

(ii)
$$\int_{t/2}^{t} (1+t-s)^{-\beta}(1+s)^{-\gamma} ds = O(1)(1+t)^{-\alpha},$$

if $\alpha \leq \gamma, \alpha \leq \beta + \gamma - 1, \beta \neq 1$, *or if* $\alpha < \gamma, \alpha \leq \beta + \gamma - 1, \beta = 1$, (iii) $\int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)}(1+s)^{-\gamma} ds = O(1)(1+t)^{-\alpha},$

(iii)
$$\int_{0}^{1} e^{-\beta(t-s)}(1+s)^{-\gamma} ds = O(1)(1+t)$$

if $\alpha \leq \gamma$.

Lemma 3.3 (Energy estimate). Suppose that (1.20), (1.21) has a solution v(x, t) in $C([0, T], H^{m+1}) \cap L_2([0, T], H^{m+2})$. Then there exists c > 0 independent of $t \in [0, T]$ such that

$$\begin{split} &\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}}^{2} + \frac{1}{4} \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}}^{2}) \\ &\leq c \left((|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{x}|_{\infty})^{2} \|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}}^{2} + \sum_{i \neq j} \|D^{l}(\theta_{i}\theta_{j})\|_{L_{2}}^{2} \\ &+ (|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{x}|_{\infty})^{2} \|D^{l}\theta\|_{L_{2}}^{2} \right), \quad 0 \leq t \leq T, \quad 0 \leq l \leq m+1, \end{split}$$

provided that $|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_x|_{\infty} \leq \eta$, where η is defined in Lemma 3.1.

The above lemma follows from the usual energy method of integrating $(D^l v) \cdot D^l((1.20))$ over x and using (ii), (iv) of Lemma 3.1. The next lemma is proved by the spectral method, [2].

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Lemma 3.4. Set

$$\tilde{v}(x,t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(x-y,t)\tilde{w}(y)dy.$$

Then there exist c > 0, $\beta > 0$ such that

$$\|D^{l}\tilde{v}(t)\|_{L_{2}} \leq (e^{-\beta t} \|D^{l}\tilde{w}\|_{L_{2}}) + c(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{l}{2} + \frac{k}{2}} \|D^{k}\tilde{w}\|_{L_{1}},$$

$$0 \leq k \leq l, \quad t \geq 0.$$

With these lemmas we are ready to prove the main decay estimates.

Proposition 3.5. Suppose that δ of Theorem 1.1 is sufficiently small and that the solution v(x, t) of (1.20), (1.21) exists in $c([0, \infty], H^{m+1}) \cap L^2([0, \infty), H^{m+2})$. Then

$$\|D^{l}v(t)\|_{L_{2}} = O(1)\delta(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4}-\frac{l}{2}+\sigma}, \quad 0 \leq l \leq m+1,$$

for all $\sigma > 0$ sufficiently small.

Proof. Fix T > 0 and set

$$M_{l} \equiv M_{l}(T) \equiv \sup_{0 \le t \le T} (1+t)^{\frac{1}{4} + \frac{l}{2} - \sigma} \|D^{l}v(t)\|_{L_{2}}, \quad 0 \le l \le m+1.$$
(3.3)

From (3.2), Lemma 3.4,

$$\|D^{l}v(t)\|_{L_{2}} = O(1)(\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{II} + \mathbf{III}),$$

$$\mathbf{I} \equiv \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)} \|D^{l}(L(\theta)v_{y} + N(\theta, v_{y}))(s)\|_{L_{2}} ds,$$

$$\mathbf{II} \equiv \int_{0}^{t/2} (1+t-s)^{\frac{1}{4}-\frac{l}{2}} \|(L(\theta)v_{y} + N(\theta, v_{y}))(s)\|_{L_{1}} ds,$$

$$\mathbf{III} \equiv \int_{t/2}^{t} (1+t-s)^{-\frac{1}{4}-\frac{1}{2}} \|D^{l-1}(L(\theta)v_{y} + N(\theta, v_{y}))(s)\|_{L_{1}} ds.$$
(3.4)

For I we apply (ii), (iv) of Lemma 3.2

$$\mathbf{I} = O(1) \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)} (|\theta|_{\infty} ||D^{l+1}v||_{L_{2}}) + ||D^{l}\theta||_{L_{2}} |v_{y}|_{\infty} + \sum_{i \neq j} ||D^{l}(\theta_{i}\theta_{j})||_{L_{2}} + |v_{y}|_{\infty} ||D^{l+1}v||_{L_{2}} + (|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})^{2} (||D^{l}\theta||_{L_{2}} + D^{l+1}v||_{L_{2}})(s) ds.$$

Except the terms involving $D^{l+1}v$, the right-hand side above is estimated using Proposition 2.2 and (3.3). We use Lemma 3.3 to deal with $D^{l+1}v$:

$$\int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)} \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}}(s)ds = O(1) \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)} \|D^{l}v(s)\|_{L_{2}}^{2} ds$$

+ $O(1) \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)} \Big[(|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})^{2} \|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}}^{2}$
+ $\sum_{i \neq j} \|D^{l}(\theta_{i}\theta_{j})\|_{L_{2}}^{2} + (|\theta|_{\infty} + |v_{y}|_{\infty})^{2} \|D^{l}\theta\|_{L_{2}}^{2} \Big] (s)ds ,$

,

where we have also used (1.21). We use (3.2) and the Sobolev inequality to yield

$$\begin{aligned} |\theta(s)|_{\infty} + |v_{y}(s)|_{\infty} &= O(1)(1+s)^{-1/2}(\delta + M_{1} + M_{2}) \\ \|D^{l}v(s)\|_{L_{2}} &= O(1)(1+s)^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{l}{2} + \sigma} M_{l}, \end{aligned}$$

and so from (iii) of Lemma 3.2 and Proposition 2.2,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \int_{0}^{t} e^{-\beta(t-s)} \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{2}}^{2}(s) ds \end{pmatrix}^{1/2}$$

= $O(1)(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4}-\frac{l}{2}+\sigma} \{\delta^{2}+M_{1}+M_{2}+M_{l}\}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T$

Similarly from Proposition 2.2, Lemmas 3.1 and 3.2 that

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{I} &= O(1)(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{l}{2} + \sigma} (\delta + M_1 + M_2)(\delta + M_l),\\ \mathbf{II} &= O(1)(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{l}{2} + \sigma} (\delta M_1 + \delta^2 + M_1^2 + (\delta + M_1)^2 (\delta + M_1 + M_2)),\\ \mathbf{III} &= O(1)(1+t)^{-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{l}{2} + \sigma} ((\delta + M_1 + M_2)(\delta + M_l)). \end{split}$$

We conclude from (3.4) that

$$M = O(1)(\delta + (\delta + M)^2 + (\delta + M)^3), \qquad M \equiv \sum_{l=0}^{m+1} M_l(T).$$
(3.5)

It follows from (3.5) that for δ sufficiently small $M = O(1)\delta$. This proves the proposition. Q.E.D.

Finally, the proof of Theorem 1.1 follows from Proposition 3.5 and the standard local existence theorem for uniform parabolic systems.

4. Asymptotic Behavior

We first prove Theorem 1.2 for $p = \infty$. From (1.18) we need to show that

$$|D^{l+1}v(t)|_{\infty} = O(1)\delta t^{-\frac{l}{2}-1+\sigma}, \quad 0 \leq l \leq m-1.$$

This follows immediately from Theorem 1.1 and the Sobolev inequality

$$\begin{aligned} |D^{l+1}v(t)|_{\infty} &= O(1) \, \|D^{l+1}(t)\|_{L_{2}}^{1/2} \|D^{l+2}(t)\|_{L_{2}}^{1/2} \\ &= O(1)\delta(1+t)^{\left(-\frac{1}{4} - \frac{l+1}{2} + \sigma - \frac{1}{4} - \frac{l+2}{2} + \sigma\right)\frac{1}{2}} = O(1)t^{-\frac{l}{2} - 1 + \sigma} \end{aligned}$$

The estimate (1.26) follows from this estimate and Proposition 2.1. Next we prove Theorem 1.2 for p=1. From Proposition 2.1, (1.18) and (3.2) we have

$$\begin{split} \|D^{l}(u-\theta^{*})\|_{L_{p}}(t) &= \|D^{l+1}v\|_{L_{p}}(t) \\ &\leq \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left|\int_{0}^{t/2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (D^{l+1}G)(x-y,t-s)F(y,s)dyds\right|^{p}dx\right)^{1/p} \\ &+ \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left|\int_{t/2}^{t} (D^{l+1}G)(y,s)F(x-y,t-s)dyds\right|^{p}dx\right)^{1/p}. \end{split}$$

From Proposition 2.2, Lemma 3.1 and Theorem 1.1 and the above estimate on L_∞ decay, we have

$$\|D^{i}F(s)\|_{L_{1}} = O(1)\delta(1+s)^{-1-\frac{i}{2}+\sigma}, \quad i=0,1,...,m, \quad s \ge 0.$$

By the explicit form of G, a similar decay also holds for G:

$$\|D^{i+1}G(s)\|_{L_1} = O(1)(1+s)^{-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{i}{2}}, \quad i=0,1,...,m, \quad s \ge 0.$$

Thus we have from the usual estimates for convolution that

$$\begin{split} \|D(u-\theta^*)\|_{L_1}(t) &\leq \int_0^{t/2} \|D^{l+1}G(t-s)\|_{L_1} \|F(s)\|_{L_1} ds \\ &+ \int_{t/2}^t \|DG(s)\|_{L_1} \|D^l F(t-s)\|_{L_1} ds \\ &= O(1)\delta \int_0^{t/2} (1+t-s)^{-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{l}{2}} (1+s)^{-1+\sigma} ds \\ &= O(1)\delta \int_{t/2}^t (1+s)^{-1-\frac{l}{2}+\sigma} (1+t-s)^{-1/2} ds \,. \end{split}$$

This implies Theorem 1.2 for p=1 by virtue of Lemma 3.2.

It remains to prove Theorem 1.2 for $p \neq 1$, $p \neq 2$, $p \neq \infty$. This follows from the usual interpolation formulas:

$$\begin{split} \|f\|_{L_p} &\leq \|f\|_{L_2}^{2/p} |f|_{\infty}^{\frac{p-2}{p}}, \qquad 2 \leq p \leq \infty, \\ \|f\|_{L_p} &\leq \|f\|_{L_1}^{2/p} \|f\|_{L_2}^{2-\frac{2}{p}}, \qquad 1 \leq p \leq 2. \end{split}$$

This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2.

5. General System

In this section we indicate how to generalize our analysis to systems of the general form (1.1) when the viscosity B(u) is not the identity matrix and (1.1) is not uniformly parabolic but hyperbolic-parabolic. Most physical models such as the compressible Navier-Stokes equations have such properties. First, we follow the approach of Sects. 3, 4, and 6 of [6] in deriving the asymptotic state. The asymptotic state consists of diffusion waves ψ (with slightly a different construction from θ in Sect. 2 of the present article) and a linear hyperbolic wave ξ . Write

$$u = \psi + \xi + u^*, \quad v(x,t) \equiv \int_{-\infty}^{x} u^*(y,t) dy, \quad v(\pm \infty,t) = 0, \quad t \ge 0,$$

so that v satisfies cf. (6.29) of [6],

$$\begin{split} v_t + f'(\psi) v_x &= B(v_x + \psi + \xi)(v_{xx} + \xi_x) + O(1) \\ &\times \left(|v_x|^2 + |\xi| + |\psi_x|^2 + (|v_x| + \xi)|\psi_x| + \sum_{i \pm j} |\psi_{ix}\psi_{jx}| \right). \end{split}$$

The system is then viewed as a perturbation of a linear system

$$v_t + f'(0)v_x = B(0)v_{xx} + F$$

cf. (2.20)'. The next step is to use the Fourier transform to study the decay property of the solution operator of the linear system

$$w_t + f'(0)w_x = B(0)w_{xx}$$
.

We then apply the argument in the proof of Theorem 4.1. If the case (1.1) is uniformly parabolic there exists an energy estimate similar to (4.7). The situation is somewhat more complicated here because \tilde{F} depends on v, Dv, and D^2v ; while F in (2.20)' depends only on v and Dv. Nevertheless, we need only to apply the energy estimate twice to express $D^{l+2}v$ in terms of D^lv . When (1.1) is not uniformly parabolic one needs to use the particular coupling property of the equations in the system to derive the energy estimates, cf. [6] and references therein. Finally, \tilde{F} also depends on the linear hyperbolic wave ξ . This causes no problem because ξ has higher rates of decay than the diffusion wave ψ , Sect. 7 of [6].

Appendix

Lemma A1 (Sobolev inequality). If $v \in H'(\mathbb{R})$, then

 $|v|_{\infty} \leq c |v|_{L_2}^{1/2} \|Dv\|_{L_2}^{1/2}$

for some constant c.

Lemmas A2 and A3 are Moser's inequalities [3].

Lemma A2. If $u, v \in H^l \cap L^{\infty}$, then

$$\|D^{l}(uv)\|_{L_{2}} \leq c(\|u\|_{\infty} \|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}} + \|v\|_{\infty} \|D^{l}u\|_{L_{2}}),$$

$$\|D^{l}(uv)\|_{L_{1}} \leq c(\|u\|_{L_{2}} \|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}} + \|v\|_{\infty} \|D^{l}u\|_{L_{2}}).$$

Lemma A3. Suppose N is a smooth function in the neighborhood of $O \in \mathbb{R}^N$. Suppose v is a \mathbb{R}^N -valued function $v \in H^1 \cap L^\infty$. Then \exists constant η depending on N and constant $c(\eta)$ such that

$$||D^{l}N(v)||_{L_{2}} \leq c(\eta) ||D^{l}v||_{L_{2}},$$

provided $|v|_{\infty} \leq \eta$.

Lemma A4. Suppose H is a smooth function in the neighborhood of $O \in \mathbb{R}^N$, and $H(b) = O(|b|^p)$ near b = 0. Suppose v is a \mathbb{R}^N -valued function, $v \in H^1 \cap L^\infty$. Then \exists constant η and c, as in Lemma A3 such that

$$\|D^{l}H(v)\|_{L_{2}} \leq c(n)\|v\|_{\infty}^{p-1}\|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}},$$

$$\|D^{l}H(v)\|_{L_{1}} \leq c(n)\|v\|_{\infty}^{p-2}\|v\|_{L_{2}}\|D^{l}v\|_{L_{2}}.$$

Proof. This is a direct consequence of Lemmas A2 and A3.

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