

EVOLUTION OPERATORS OF PARABOLIC EQUATIONS IN CONTINUOUS FUNCTION SPACE

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1. INTRODUCTION

Let

$$(P) \begin{cases} \partial u / \partial t + \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} a_{\alpha}(t, x) D^{\alpha} u = f(t, x) & \text{in } (0, T] \times \Omega \\ \sum_{|\beta| \leq m_j} b_{j\beta}(t, x) D^{\beta} u = 0 & \text{on } (0, T] \times \partial\Omega, \quad j = 1, \dots, m \\ u(0, x) = u_0(x) & \text{in } \Omega \end{cases}$$

be the initial value problem of a parabolic partial differential equation in a (bounded or unbounded) region Ω in \mathbb{R}^n . This Note studies the construction of an evolution operator (fundamental solution) for (P) in the continuous function space $\mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega})$ on $\bar{\Omega}$. In the L_p ($1 < p < \infty$) space case the construction has been studied by several authors, including Kato et al. [1], Tanabe [4] and Yagi [6]. Recently Tanabe [8] and his student Park [2] showed existence of the evolution operator for (P) even in a "worse" function space $L^1(\Omega)$ (recall that there is no a priori estimate for elliptic operators in L^1 space). We are then interested to work in another "worse" function space $\mathcal{C}(\bar{\Omega})$.

For $0 \leq t \leq T$ let $A(t)$ denote the operator

$\sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} a_\alpha(t, x) D^\alpha$ acting in $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$ with boundary conditions $\sum_{|\beta| \leq m_j} b_{j\beta}(t, x) D^\beta u = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ for $1 \leq j \leq m$. According to

Stewart [31], $A(t)$ are shown under suitable assumptions to be the generators of analytic semigroups on $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$, therefore (P) can be formulated as an abstract evolution equation

$$(E) \begin{cases} du/dt + A(t)u = f(t), & 0 < t \leq T \\ u(0) = u_0 \end{cases}$$

in the space $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$. In the present case, however, we have to notice that the domains $\mathcal{D}(A(t))$ of $A(t)$ may be no longer dense in $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$ (for example, consider the Dirichlet condition $u = 0$ on $\partial\Omega$ for second order operators in Ω , clearly the space $\{u \in \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega}); u = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega\}$ is not dense in $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$).

2. ABSTRACT EVOLUTION EQUATION (E)

Let X be a Banach space. In this section we study the construction of an evolution operator for an abstract evolution equation

$$(E) \begin{cases} du/dt + A(t)u = f(t), & 0 < t \leq T \\ u(0) = u_0 \end{cases}$$

in X . (E) is of parabolic type, this means that each $A(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T$, is the generator of an analytic semigroup on X , but the domain $\mathcal{D}(A(t))$ of $A(t)$ is not assumed to be dense in X . $f: [0, T] \rightarrow X$ and $u_0 \in X$ are given, $u: [0, T] \rightarrow X$ is unknown.

In the case where $A(t)$ are densely defined, there is already a large literature on the present problem. Some of

them, especially we are concerned with [6], can be generalized to the case of non dense domain. According to [6] let us make the following hypotheses:

(I) The resolvent sets $\rho(A(t))$ of $A(t)$ contain a sector $\Sigma = \{\lambda \in \mathbb{C}; |\arg \lambda| \geq \pi/2 - \delta\}$ where $\delta > 0$, and there the resolvents $(\lambda - A(t))^{-1}$ satisfy

$$\|(\lambda - A(t))^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq M/(|\lambda| + 1), \quad \lambda \in \Sigma.$$

(II) The function $A(\cdot)^{-1}$ is strongly continuously differentiable on $[0, T]: A(\cdot)^{-1} \in \mathcal{G}^1([0, T]; \mathcal{L}_0(X))$.

(III) The derivatives $dA(t)^{-1}/dt$, $0 \leq t \leq T$, satisfy

$$\|A(t)(\lambda - A(t))^{-1}dA(t)^{-1}/dt\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq N/(|\lambda| + 1)^\nu, \quad \lambda \in \Sigma$$

with some constants $0 < \nu \leq 1$ and $N \geq 0$.

Then we can prove:

THEOREM 2.1 *There exists a family $U(t, s)$, $0 \leq s \leq t \leq T$, of bounded linear operators on X which have the properties: a) $U(t, s)U(s, r) = U(t, r)$ for $0 \leq r \leq s \leq t \leq T$, $U(s, s) = 1$ for $0 \leq s \leq T$; b) $U(t, s)$ is strongly continuous for $0 \leq s < t \leq T$ with an estimate $\|U(t, s)\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq C_1$; c) the ranges $\mathcal{R}(U(t, s))$ are contained in $\mathcal{D}(A(t))$ for all $0 \leq s < t \leq T$, and $A(t)U(t, s)$ is strongly continuous for $0 \leq s < t \leq T$ with an estimate $\|A(t)U(t, s)\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq C_2(t - s)^{-1}$; and d) $U(t, s)$ is strongly continuously differentiable in t for $0 \leq s < t \leq T$, and $\partial U(t, s)/\partial t = -A(t)U(t, s)$.*

$U(t, s)$ is called the evolution operator for (E). In fact, an existence and uniqueness result of strict solution u (i.e. $u \in \mathcal{G}^1((0, T]; X)$, $A(\cdot)u(\cdot) \in \mathcal{G}((0, T]; X)$, and $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} A(t)^{-1}(u(t) - u_0) = 0$ in X) for the problem (E) is obtained by using

the operator $U(t,s)$.

THEOREM 2.2 For any $f \in \mathcal{C}^\sigma([0,T];X)$, $\sigma > 0$, and any $u_0 \in X$, the function u defined by

$$(2.1) \quad u(t) = U(t,0)u_0 + \int_0^t U(t,\tau)f(\tau)d\tau, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T,$$

gives a strict solution of (E). Conversely, let u be any strict solution of (E) where $f \in \mathcal{C}([0,T];X)$ and $u_0 \in X$ are arbitrary, and assume that u satisfies a growth condition: $\|u(t)\|_X \leq Ct^{-\gamma}$ near $t = 0$ with some $\gamma < \nu$; then, necessarily u must be equal to the function given by (2.1) for all $0 \leq t \leq T$.

The spirit of proof of these two theorems is quite similar to that in [6] where the theorems have been proved in the case where $\mathcal{D}(A(t))$ are dense. We have to recover, however, a technical difficulty that the Yosida regularization $n(n + A(t))^{-1}$ of $A(t)$ converges to the identity mapping no longer on the whole space X but only on the closure of $\mathcal{D}(A(t))$, which results from lack of the density of the domains. Full proof will be seen in the forthcoming paper [7].

3. INITIAL VALUE PROBLEM (P)

Let us observe in this Section how to apply the abstract result in the previous Section to the problem (P).

Let Ω be a (possibly unbounded) region in \mathbb{R}^n with the boundary $\partial\Omega$, $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \bar{\Omega}$. For each integer $k \geq 0$, $\mathcal{C}^k(\bar{\Omega})$ (resp. $\mathcal{C}^k(\partial\Omega)$) is the Banach space of all continuous bounded functions on $\bar{\Omega}$ (resp. $\partial\Omega$) which have smooth and bounded derivatives on $\bar{\Omega}$ (resp. $\partial\Omega$) up to the order k ; $\mathcal{C}^0(\bar{\Omega})$

(resp. $\mathcal{E}^0(\partial\Omega)$) will be abbreviated to $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$ (resp. $\mathcal{E}(\partial\Omega)$).

For $0 \leq t \leq T$, let

$$A(t, x; D) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} a_\alpha(t, x) D^\alpha$$

be differential operators in Ω of order $2m$, where $D_1 = i^{-1} \partial / \partial x_1, \dots, D_n = i^{-1} \partial / \partial x_n$, and $D^\alpha = D_1^{\alpha_1} \cdots D_n^{\alpha_n}$ for multi index $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n)$. And let

$$B_j(t, x; D) = \sum_{|\beta| \leq m_j} b_{j\beta}(t, x) D^\beta, \quad j = 1, \dots, m$$

be boundary differential operators on $\partial\Omega$ of order $m_j \leq 2m-1$.

We assume the following conditions:

(R1) The boundary $\partial\Omega$ is uniformly regular of class \mathcal{E}^{2m} .

(A1) $a_\alpha \in \mathcal{E}^1([0, T]; \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega}))$ for $|\alpha| \leq 2m$, moreover $a_\alpha(t, \cdot)$ are uniformly continuous on $\bar{\Omega}$ for $|\alpha| = 2m$.

(A2) $A(t, x; D)$ are uniformly strongly elliptic, i.e.

$$\sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} a_\alpha(t, x) \xi^\alpha \geq E |\xi|^{2m} \quad (E > 0) \quad \text{for } \xi \in \mathbb{R}^n, x \in \bar{\Omega}, 0 \leq t \leq T.$$

(B1) $b_{j\beta} \in \mathcal{E}^1([0, T]; \mathcal{E}^{2m-m_j}(\partial\Omega))$ for $|\beta| \leq m_j, 1 \leq j \leq m$; and $D^\gamma b_{j\beta}(t, \cdot)$ are uniformly continuous on $\partial\Omega$ for $|\gamma| = 2m-m_j$.

(B2) For $|\theta| \geq \pi/2 - \delta$ ($\delta > 0$), $A(t, x; D) - e^{i\theta} D_y^{2m}$ and $B_j(t, x; D)$ satisfy the complementing condition on a product region $\bar{\Omega} \times \mathbb{R}_y$ (specifically see e.g. [8, p.251]).

Set

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} X = \{f \in \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega}); \lim_{x \in \Omega, |x| \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 0\} \\ X = \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega}) \quad \text{if } \Omega \text{ is a bounded region} \\ \|f\|_X = \|f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})}. \end{array} \right.$$

And define, for each $0 \leq t \leq T$, a linear operator $A(t)$ acting in X by

$$\mathcal{D}(A(t)) = \{u \in \bigcap_{n < q < \infty} W_q^{2m}(\Omega); A(t, x; D)u \in X \text{ and}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} B_j(t, x; D)u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq m, \\ A(t)u = A(t, x; D)u - \lambda_0 u. \end{array} \right.$$

Then it is verified that:

THEOREM 3.1 $A(t)$, $0 \leq t \leq T$, satisfy the Hypotheses (I), (II) and (III) in Section 2 (we shall assume if necessary that the constant λ_0 is sufficiently positive).

Proof In fact, (I) has been already verified by Stewart [3].

To verify (II) and (III) we use a priori estimates in L^p_{loc} space for $1 < p < \infty$. For $x \in \bar{\Omega}$ and $r > 0$, $\Omega(x, r) = \{y \in \Omega; |y - x| < r\}$. For $0 \leq j \leq 2m$, $\|\cdot\|_{j, p, \omega}$ is the usual norm of the Sobolev space $W^j_p(\omega)$ on $\omega \subset \Omega$.

LEMMA 3.2 For any $1 < p < \infty$ there are two positive constants C_p and R_p such that, if $|\arg \lambda| \geq \pi/2 - \delta$ and $|\lambda| \geq C_p$ and if $r \geq R_p$, then

$$(3.1) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{2m} |\lambda|^{1-j/2m} \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|u\|_{j, p, \Omega(x, r)} \leq C_p \left\{ \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|(\lambda - A(t, x; D))u\|_{0, p, \Omega(x, r)} + \sum_{j=1}^m |\lambda|^{1-m_j/2m} \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|g_j\|_{0, p, \Omega(x, r)} + \sum_{j=1}^m \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|g_j\|_{2m-m_j, p, \Omega(x, r)} \right\}$$

for all $u \in W^{2m}_p(\Omega)$, here g_j ($1 \leq j \leq m$) are arbitrary functions in $W^{2m-m_j}_p(\Omega)$ provided $g_j = B_j(t, x; D)u$ on $\partial\Omega$.

We take some $n/2m < p < \infty$, and assume that $\lambda_0 \geq C_p$. Let $f \in \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$ be a function with compact support; since $f \in L^p(\Omega)$, $A(t)^{-1}f$ belongs to $W^{2m}_p(\Omega)$ and satisfies

$$(3.2) \quad (A(t, x; D) - \lambda_0)A(t)^{-1}f = f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \text{ and}$$

$$(3.3) \quad B_j(t, x; D)A(t)^{-1}f = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad 1 \leq j \leq m.$$

Then, by using the a priori estimates in $L^p(\Omega)$, it is shown from (A1) and (B1) that $A(\cdot)^{-1}f$ is, as a $W^{2m}_p(\Omega)$ -valued

function, continuously differentiable on $[0, T]$ and the derivative $dA(t)^{-1}/dtf$ is specified by

$$(3.4) (A(t, x; D) - \lambda_0) dA(t)^{-1}/dtf =$$

$$- \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} \partial a_\alpha(t, x) / \partial t D^\alpha A(t)^{-1} f \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

$$(3.5) B_j(t, x; D) dA(t)^{-1}/dtf =$$

$$- \sum_{|\beta| \leq m_j} \partial b_{j\beta}(t, x) / \partial t D^\beta A(t)^{-1} f \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

This then shows by the Sobolev imbedding theorem ($W_p^{2m}(\Omega) \subset \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$) that $A(\cdot)^{-1}f \in \mathcal{E}^1([0, T]; X)$. Take an arbitrary point

$x_0 \in \bar{\Omega}$, and let $\phi_0(x) = \phi(x - x_0)$ be a function such that $\phi \in \mathcal{E}_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $\text{supp } \phi \subset \{|x| < R_p\}$ and $\phi(0) = 1$. Then

$$|(dA(t)^{-1}/dtf)(x_0)|$$

$$\leq (\|\phi_0 dA(t)^{-1}/dtf\|_{2m, p, \Omega})^\mu (\|\phi_0 dA(t)^{-1}/dtf\|_{0, p, \Omega})^{1-\mu}$$

with $\mu = n/2mp$, so that

$$\leq C_p (\|dA(t)^{-1}/dtf\|_{2m, p, \Omega(x_0, R_p)})^\mu (\|dA(t)^{-1}/dtf\|_{0, p, \Omega(x_0, R_p)})^{1-\mu}.$$

We here use the local a priori estimate (3.1) with $\lambda = \lambda_0$, then it follows from (3.4) and (3.5) that

$$\leq C_p \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|A(t)^{-1}f\|_{2m, p, \Omega(x, R_p)}.$$

We use again (3.1), then (3.2) and (3.3) yield

$$(3.6) \quad \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|A(t)^{-1}f\|_{2m, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \leq C_p \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|f\|_{0, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \\ \leq C_p \|f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})}.$$

Hence we have proved that

$$\|dA(t)^{-1}/dtf\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})} \leq C_p \|f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})},$$

the constant C_p being independent of f . (II) then follows easily from the fact that functions in $\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$ with compact support are dense in X .

Verification of (III) is now an easy analogue to the

L^p case (cf. [5] or [6]). For $|\arg \lambda| \geq \pi/2 - \delta$ and $0 \leq t \leq T$, we denote the operator $A(t)(\lambda - A(t))^{-1}dA(t)^{-1}/dt$ by $D(\lambda, t)$. Let $f \in \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$ be again with compact support; $D(\lambda, t)f$ is a function in $W_p^{2m}(\Omega) \subset \mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})$; in the same way as above it is seen that

$$(3.7) \|D(\lambda, t)f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})} \leq C_p \left\{ \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|D(\lambda, t)f\|_{2m, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \right\}^\mu \left\{ \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|D(\lambda, t)f\|_{0, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \right\}^{1-\mu}$$

with $\mu = n/2mp$. But, since

$$(\lambda + \lambda_0 - A(t, x; D))D(\lambda, t)f = (A(t, x; D) - \lambda_0)dA(t)^{-1}/dt f \text{ in } \Omega$$

and (3.4), and since

$$B_j(t, x; D)D(\lambda, t)f = -B_j(t, x; D)dA(t)^{-1}/dt f \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \quad 1 \leq j \leq m$$

and (3.5), it follows by using (3.1) that

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^{2m} |\lambda|^{1-j/2m} \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|D(\lambda, t)f\|_{j, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \\ \leq C_p \left\{ \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|A(t)^{-1}f\|_{2m, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \right\} + \\ \sum_{1 \leq j \leq m, m_j \neq 0} |\lambda|^{1-m_j/2m} \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|A(t)^{-1}f\|_{m_j, p, \Omega(x, R_p)} \end{aligned}$$

(note that $B_j(t, x; D) = b_{j0}(t, x) \equiv 1$ if $m_j = 0$). Therefore from (3.6)

$$\leq C_p |\lambda|^{1-\nu_B} \|f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})},$$

where $\nu_B = \text{Min}\{m_j > 0; 1 \leq j \leq m\}/2m$. We therefore conclude (from (3.7)) that

$$\|D(\lambda, t)f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})} \leq C_p |\lambda|^{\mu - \nu_B} \|f\|_{\mathcal{E}(\bar{\Omega})}.$$

The density of functions with compact support provides thus

$$\|D(\lambda, t)\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq C_p |\lambda|^{\mu - \nu_B},$$

hence (III) (remember that p was arbitrarily taken in $n/2m < p < \infty$).

4. PROOF OF LEMMA 3.2

Lemma 3.2 is a slight modification of the ordinary a priori estimates in L^p space. Under (R1), (A1-2) and (B1-2) it is known (see e.g. [8, Lemma 17.6]) that:

Theorem 4.1 *For any $1 < p < \infty$ there is a positive constant C_p such that, if $|\arg \lambda| \geq \pi/2 - \delta$ and $|\lambda| \geq C_p$, then*

$$(4.1) \quad \sum_{j=1}^{2m} |\lambda|^{1-j/2m} \|u\|_{j,p,\Omega} \leq C_p \{ \|(\lambda - A(t,x;D))u\|_{0,p,\Omega} + \sum_{j=1}^m |\lambda|^{1-m_j/2m} \|g_j\|_{0,p,\Omega} + \sum_{j=1}^m \|g_j\|_{2m-m_j,p,\Omega} \}$$

for all $u \in W_p^{2m}(\Omega)$, where $g_j \in W_p^{2m-m_j}(\Omega)$ with the condition that $g_j = B_j(t,x;D)u$ on $\partial\Omega$, $1 \leq j \leq m$.

Let ψ be a function in $\mathcal{E}_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with $\text{supp } \psi \subset \{|x| < 2\}$ and $\psi \equiv 1$ on $\{|x| \leq 1\}$. For any $x_0 \in \bar{\Omega}$ and $r \geq 1$, we set $\psi_0(x) = \psi((x-x_0)/r)$ and apply (4.1) to $\psi_0 u$. Since $(\lambda - A(t,x;D))(\psi_0 u) = \psi_0(\lambda - A(t,x;D))u$

$$+ \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2m} \sum_{0 \neq \gamma \leq \alpha} \binom{\alpha}{\gamma} a_\alpha(t,x) D^\alpha \psi_0 D^{\alpha-\gamma} u \quad \text{in } \Omega,$$

it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|(\lambda - A(t,x;D))(\psi_0 u)\|_{0,p,\Omega} \\ & \leq C_p \{ \|(\lambda - A(t,x;D))u\|_{0,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} + \frac{1}{r} \|u\|_{2m-1,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} \}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, if we put

$$h_j = \psi_0 g_j + \sum_{|\beta| \leq m_j} \sum_{0 \neq \gamma \leq \beta} \binom{\beta}{\gamma} b_{j\beta}(t,x) D^\gamma \psi_0 D^{\beta-\gamma} u, \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq m,$$

then $h_j \in W_p^{2m-m_j}(\Omega)$, $h_j = B_j(t,x;D)(\psi_0 u)$ on $\partial\Omega$ and h_j satisfies for $0 \leq k \leq 2m - m_j$ the estimate

$$\|h_j\|_{k,p,\Omega} \leq C_p \{ \|g_j\|_{k,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} + \frac{1}{r} \|u\|_{m_j+k-1,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} \}.$$

Hence it turns out that

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{j=0}^{2m} |\lambda|^{1-j/2m} \|u\|_{j,p,\Omega(x_0,r)} &\leq \sum_{j=0}^{2m} |\lambda|^{1-j/2m} \|\psi_0 u\|_{j,p,\Omega} \\
&\leq C_p \{ (\lambda - A(t,x;D))u \|_{0,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} \\
&+ \sum_{j=1}^m |\lambda|^{1-m_j/2m} \|g_j\|_{0,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} + \sum_{j=1}^m \|g_j\|_{2m-m_j,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} \} \\
&+ C_p/r \{ \sum_{j=1}^m |\lambda|^{1-m_j/2m} \|u\|_{m_j-1,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} + \|u\|_{2m-1,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} \}.
\end{aligned}$$

To complete the proof it now suffices to notice a fact that for an integer N , which is independent of $x_0 \in \bar{\Omega}$ and $r \geq 1$, $\Omega(x_0, 2r)$ can be covered by N number of $\Omega(x_i, r)$, $x_i \in \bar{\Omega}$, $1 \leq i \leq N$, and therefore

$$\|v\|_{j,p,\Omega(x_0,2r)} \leq N \sup_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \|v\|_{j,p,\Omega(x,r)}, \quad v \in W_p^j(\Omega)$$

hold for all $0 \leq j \leq 2m$.

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