

## The total energy decay of solutions for the wave equation with a dissipative term

By

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### §1. Introduction and the result.

Let  $\Omega$  be an open domain  $\subset \mathbf{R}^n (n \geq 1)$  exterior to a smooth bounded closed surface  $\partial\Omega$ . We shall consider the exterior initial-boundary value problem of the following type:

$$(1.1) \quad L[u] = u_{tt}(x, t) + a(x, t)u_t(x, t) - \Delta u(x, t) = 0,$$

where  $t \geq 0$ ,  $x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \in \Omega$ ,  $u_{tt} = \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2}$ ,  $u_t = \frac{\partial u}{\partial t}$ ,  $\Delta u = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x_k^2}$  and  $a(x, t)$  is non-negative;

$$(1.2) \quad u(x, 0) = f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad u_t(x, 0) = g(x),$$

where  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are real-valued continuous functions with compact support contained in the ball of radius  $\rho$  centered at the origin and  $f(x)$  belongs to class  $C^1$ ;

$$(1.3) \quad u(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial u}{\partial n}(x, t) = 0 \quad \text{on} \quad \partial\Omega,$$

where  $\frac{\partial}{\partial n}$  denotes the outward normal derivative on  $\partial\Omega$ .

The assumptions on the dissipative term  $a(x, t)$  of (1.1) will be stated precisely afterwards.

Let  $u = u(x, t)$  be a real-valued smooth solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). We define the total energy  $E(t)$  and  $E(0)$  for  $u$  as follows.

$$E(t) = \int_{\Omega} \{ |u_t(x, t)|^2 + |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 \} dx$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} E(0) &= \int_{\Omega} \{ |u_t(x, 0)|^2 + |\nabla u(x, 0)|^2 \} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \{ |g(x)|^2 + |\nabla f(x)|^2 \} dx = \|g\|^2 + \|\nabla f\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

where  $|\nabla u|^2 = \sum_{k=1}^n \left| \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_k} \right|^2$ .

In this paper we shall study the order of decay of  $E(t)$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Because of the dissipative term  $a(x, t)$   $E(t)$  is expected to decay to 0 as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

Mochizuki [3] and Matsumura [2] obtained the following results for solutions of the initial value problem for the equation (1.1) in the entire  $\mathbf{R}^n$  and (1.2).

Mochizuki's result: If  $0 \leq a(x, t) \leq C(1+|x|)^{-1-\delta}$  with positive constants  $C$  and  $\delta$ , then  $E(t)$  does not decay to 0 as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

Matsumura's result: If  $a(x, t) \geq 0$  and

$$\min_{|x| \leq t + \rho} a(x, t) \geq (K + \varepsilon t)^{-1} \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0$$

and

$$\max_{|x| \leq t + \rho} a_t(x, t) \leq \varepsilon^2 (2\gamma^2 + 6\gamma + 3)(2 + \gamma)^{-1} (K + \varepsilon t)^{-2} \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0,$$

where  $K$ ,  $\varepsilon$  and  $\rho$  are positive constants and  $\gamma = (3\varepsilon - 2 + \sqrt{9\varepsilon^2 - 4\varepsilon + 4})/2$ , and if the initial data are supported in the ball  $\{x; |x| < \rho\}$ , then the total energy decays to 0 as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  with the order  $t^{-2/2+\gamma}$ .

Now we state our assumptions on  $a(x, t)$ .

**Assumption on  $a(x, t)$ :** (1)  $a(x, t)$  is real, non-negative and differentiable in  $t$  ( $>0$ ).

(2) For some  $\delta > 0$   $a(x, t)$  and  $a_t(x, t)$  are bounded in  $\Omega \times [\delta, \infty)$ , and  $ta(x, t)$  and  $t^2 a_t(x, t)$  are also bounded in  $\Omega \times [0, \delta]$ .

(3)  $a(x, t)$  and  $a_t(x, t)$  are continuous in  $\Omega \times (0, \infty)$ .

(4) There exist positive constants  $t_0$  and  $\alpha$  ( $0 < \alpha \leq 2$ ) such that the following inequalities hold:

$$\text{i) } \quad \quad \quad ta(x, t) \geq \alpha,$$

$$\text{ii) } \quad \quad \quad (\alpha - 1)\alpha - 2 - (\alpha - 1)ta(x, t) - t^2 a_t(x, t) \geq 0$$

for any  $(x, t)$  such that  $t > t_0$  and  $|x| \leq t + \rho$ .

Under these assumptions we shall investigate the order of decay of  $E(t)$ , and in §3 we shall prove the following result.

**Theorem.** Let  $a(x, t)$  satisfy the above assumptions, and let  $u$  be a real-valued smooth solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). Then for any  $t > t_0$ ,

$$E(t) \leq \frac{C}{t^\alpha},$$

where  $C$  depends only on the initial data.

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§2 Some auxiliary results.

Note that  $\rho$  has been chosen such that the ball with radius  $\rho$  centered at the origin contains  $\mathbf{R}^n - \Omega$  and the support of  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ .

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). Then  $u$  is identically zero for  $|x| > t + \rho$  ( $t > 0$ ).*

The proof is similar to the one in the case of the wave equation (see, e. g., [1], pp. 642-647), and is omitted.

We note that in the case of the Dirichlet boundary condition  $u_t(x, t)$  as well as  $u(x, t)$  is equal to 0 on  $\partial\Omega$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). Then*

$$(2.1) \quad E(t) \leq E(0).$$

*Proof.* From  $2u_t L[u] = 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\Omega \times (0, t]} 2a(x, t)(u_t)^2 dx dt &= \iint_{\Omega \times (0, t]} 2(u_t \Delta u - u_t u_{tt}) dx dt \\ &= \iint_{\Omega \times (0, t]} \left\{ 2 \sum_{k=1}^n (u_t u_{x_k})_{x_k} - \sum_{k=1}^n (u_{x_k})_t^2 - (u_t)_t^2 \right\} dx dt. \end{aligned}$$

Noting that  $u=0$  for  $|x| > t + \rho$  as asserted by Lemma 2.1, and the boundary condition (1.3), and applying integration by parts, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{\Omega \times (0, t]} 2a(x, t)(u_t)^2 dx dt &= - \int_{\Omega} \{ |\nabla u(x, t)|^2 + |u_t(x, t)|^2 \} dx + \int_{\Omega} \{ |\nabla u(x, 0)|^2 + |u_t(x, 0)|^2 \} dx \\ &= -E(t) + E(0). \end{aligned}$$

Thus (2.1) follows from  $a(x, t) \geq 0$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). Then for any  $t > 0$*

$$(2.2) \quad \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx \leq 2E(0)t^2 + 2\|f\|^2.$$

*Proof.* Applying Schwarz' inequality to the equation

$$u(x, t) = \int_0^t u_t(x, \tau) d\tau + f(x),$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.3) \quad u^2(x, t) &= \left\{ \int_0^t u_t(x, \tau) d\tau + f(x) \right\}^2 \\ &\leq 2 \left[ \left\{ \int_0^t u_t(x, \tau) d\tau \right\}^2 + f(x)^2 \right] \leq 2 \left\{ t \int_0^t u_t^2(x, \tau) d\tau + f(x)^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

If we integrate the both sides of (2.3) over  $\Omega$ , then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx &\leq 2 \left\{ t \int_{\Omega} dx \int_0^t u_i^2(x, \tau) d\tau + \int_{\Omega} f(x)^2 dx \right\} \\ &= 2 \left\{ t \int_0^t d\tau \int_{\Omega} u_i^2(x, \tau) dx + \|f\|^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

From Lemma 2.2 we have

$$\int_{\Omega} u_i^2(x, t) dx \leq E(t) \leq E(0).$$

Hence we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx \leq 2E(0)t^2 + 2\|f\|^2,$$

which proves the lemma.

Let  $\alpha$  and  $t_0$  be the constants in Assumption (4) on  $a(x, t)$ . Let  $\phi(t)$  be a  $C^2$ -function depending only on  $t$  and be defined in  $[0, \infty)$  such that

$$\phi(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} & \text{for } t \geq t_0 \\ t^2 & \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq t_0/2. \end{cases}$$

Now we shall show an energy identity of the following form.

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3), and  $\phi(t)$  as above. Then for any  $T > t_0$*

$$\begin{aligned} (2.4) \quad & \frac{1}{2} T^{\alpha} E(T) + \frac{\alpha}{2} T^{\alpha-1} \int_{\Omega} u(x, T) u_t(x, T) dx \\ & + \iint_{\Omega \times [0, t_0]} \left( \phi - \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} \right) (|\nabla u|^2 + |u_t|^2) dx dt \\ & + \iint_{\Omega \times [0, T]} (at^{\alpha} - 2\phi) |u_t|^2 dx dt \\ & + \frac{\alpha}{4} T^{\alpha-2} \int_{\Omega} \{a(x, T) - (\alpha-1)\} u(x, T)^2 dx \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\Omega \times [0, T]} \{\phi_{tt} - (\phi a)_t\} u^2 dx dt = 0. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We note that the following identities hold.

$$\begin{aligned} (2.5) \quad t^{\alpha} u_t L[u] &= - \sum_{k=1}^n (t^{\alpha} u_t u_{x_k})_{x_k} + \sum_{k=1}^n \left\{ \frac{1}{2} t^{\alpha} (u_{x_k})^2 \right\}_t \\ & - \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \{t^{\alpha} (u_t)^2\}_t - \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^{\alpha-1} (u_t)^2 + t^{\alpha} a (u_t)^2, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (2.6) \quad \phi(t) u L[u] &= - \sum_{k=1}^n (\phi u u_{x_k})_{x_k} + \phi |\nabla u|^2 + (\phi u u_t)_t - \frac{1}{2} (\phi_t u^2)_t \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \phi_{tt} u^2 - \phi (u_t)^2 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \phi a u^2 \right)_t - \frac{1}{2} (\phi a)_t u^2. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $B = \{x; |x| < \rho' + T\} \cap \bar{\Omega}$ , where  $\rho' (> \rho)$  and  $T (> t_0)$  are any fixed constants, and let  $\partial B[0, T]$  denote the surface of the cylinder  $B[0, T] = B \times [0, T]$  in  $\bar{\Omega} \times [0, \infty)$ . Let  $\partial B_x$  be the lateral surface of  $B[0, T]$ , and  $\partial B_T$  and  $\partial B_0$  be the upper and the lower bases of  $B[0, T]$ , respectively. Let  $n = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n, \tau)$  be the outward unit normal to  $\partial B[0, T]$  and  $-\frac{\partial}{\partial n}$  be the outward directional derivative to  $\partial B[0, T]$ . Then  $\partial B[0, T] = \partial B_x \cup \partial B_0 \cup \partial B_T$  and  $n = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \dots, \xi_n, 0)$ ,  $(0, 0, \dots, 0, -1)$  and  $(0, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$  on  $\partial B_x$ ,  $\partial B_0$ , and  $\partial B_T$ , respectively.

Now we have by integrating by parts

$$(2.7) \quad \iint_{B[0, T]} \left\{ - \sum_{k=1}^n (t^\alpha u_t u_{x_k})_{x_k} - \sum_{k=1}^n (\phi u u_{x_k})_{x_k} \right\} dx dt \\ = - \int_{\partial B_x} \left( \sum_{k=1}^n t^\alpha u_t u_{x_k} \xi_k + \sum_{k=1}^n \phi u u_{x_k} \xi_k \right) dS \\ = - \int_{\partial B_x} \left( t^\alpha u_t \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} + \phi u \frac{\partial u}{\partial n} \right) dS = 0,$$

where we have used the boundary condition (1.3) and  $u_t = 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ , and we should note in view of Lemma 2.1 that  $u(x, t)$  and all its derivatives vanish in  $\{(x, t); |x| \geq \rho' + T \text{ and } 0 \leq t \leq T\}$ . Also we have

$$(2.8) \quad \iint_{B[0, T]} \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \left\{ \frac{1}{2} t^\alpha (u_{x_k})^2 \right\}_t + \frac{1}{2} \{t^\alpha (u_t)^2\}_t + (\phi u u_t)_t - \frac{1}{2} (\phi_t u^2)_t + \left( \frac{1}{2} \phi a u^2 \right)_t \right] dx dt \\ = \left( \int_{\partial B_T} - \int_{\partial B_0} \right) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} t^\alpha |\nabla u|^2 + \frac{1}{2} t^\alpha (u_t)^2 + \phi u u_t - \frac{1}{2} \phi_t u^2 + \frac{1}{2} \phi a u^2 \right\} dS \\ = \frac{1}{2} T^\alpha \int_B \{ |\nabla u(x, T)|^2 + |u_t(x, T)|^2 \} dx + \phi(T) \int_B u(x, T) u_t(x, T) dx \\ - \frac{1}{2} \phi_t(T) \int_B u^2(x, T) dx + \frac{1}{2} \phi(T) \int_B a(x, T) u^2(x, T) dx \\ = \frac{1}{2} T^\alpha E(T) + \phi(T) \int_\Omega u(x, T) u_t(x, T) dx - \frac{1}{2} \phi_t(T) \int_\Omega u^2(x, T) dx \\ + \frac{1}{2} \phi(T) \int_\Omega a(x, T) u^2(x, T) dx \\ = \frac{1}{2} T^\alpha E(T) + \frac{\alpha}{2} T^{\alpha-1} \int_\Omega u(x, T) u_t(x, T) dx \\ + \frac{\alpha}{4} T^{\alpha-2} \int_\Omega \{ T a(x, T) - (\alpha-1) \} u^2(x, T) dx.$$

In the above integrals  $dS$  denotes the surface element of  $\partial B[0, T]$ , and we have used the relations  $\phi(0) = \phi_t(0) = 0$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_B \phi(t) a(x, t) u^2(x, t) dx = 0$ , which follow from the definition of  $\phi$ .

Integrating  $(t^\alpha u_t + \phi u) L[u] = 0$  over  $\Omega \times [0, T]$  and taking account of (2.5), (2.6), (2.7) and (2.8), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \frac{1}{2} T^\alpha E(T) + \frac{\alpha}{2} T^{\alpha-1} \int_{\Omega} u(x, T) u_t(x, T) dx \\
&\quad + \iint_{\Omega \times [0, t_0]} \left( \phi - \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} \right) (|\nabla u|^2 + |u_t|^2) dx dt \\
&\quad + \iint_{\Omega \times [0, T_1]} (a t^\alpha - 2\phi) (u_t)^2 dx dt + \frac{\alpha}{4} T^{\alpha-2} \int_{\Omega} \{T a(x, T) - (\alpha-1)\} u^2(x, T) dx \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\Omega \times [0, T_1]} \{\phi_{tt} - (\phi a)_t\} u^2 dx dt,
\end{aligned}$$

where we should note  $\phi(t) = \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1}$  for  $t \geq t_0$ . Thus we have completed the proof.

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). Then for any  $t \geq t_0$*

$$(2.9) \quad t^\alpha E(t) + \alpha t^{\alpha-1} \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) u_t(x, t) dx + \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-2} \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx \leq C,$$

where  $C$  depends only on  $E(0)$  and  $\|f\|$ .

*Proof.* We put

$$\begin{aligned}
I_1 &= 2 \iint_{\Omega \times [0, t_0]} \left( \phi - \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} \right) (|\nabla u|^2 + |u_t|^2) dx dt, \\
I_2 &= 2 \iint_{\Omega \times [0, T_1]} (a t^\alpha - 2\phi) (u_t)^2 dx dt = 2 \iint_{\Omega \times [0, t_0]} + 2 \iint_{\Omega \times [t_0, T_1]} \\
&= J_1 + J_2, \\
I_3 &= \frac{\alpha}{2} T^{\alpha-2} \int_{\Omega} \{T a - (\alpha-1)\} u^2 dx,
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
I_4 &= \iint_{\Omega \times [0, T_1]} \{\phi_{tt} - (\phi a)_t\} u^2 dx dt = \iint_{\Omega \times [0, t_0]} + \iint_{\Omega \times [t_0, T_1]} \\
&= K_1 + K_2.
\end{aligned}$$

Let us compute  $I_k$  ( $k=1, 2, 3, 4$ ). We have from Lemma 2.2

$$\begin{aligned}
|I_1| &\leq \int_0^{t_0} \left| \phi - \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} \right| dt \int_{\Omega} (|\nabla u|^2 + |u_t|^2) dx \\
&\leq E(0) \int_0^{t_0} \left| \phi - \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-1} \right| dt \leq C_1 E(0),
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$|J_1| \leq \int_0^{t_0} |a t^\alpha - 2\phi| dt \int_{\Omega} (u_t)^2 dx \leq E(0) \int_0^{t_0} |a t^\alpha - 2\phi| dt \leq C_2 E(0),$$

where the positive constants  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are independent of  $u$ . We have from Lemma 2.3

$$|K_1| \leq \int_0^{t_0} |\phi_{tt} - (\phi a)_t| dt \int_{\Omega} u^2 dx$$

$$\leq 2 \int_0^{t_0} \{(E(0)t^2 + \|f\|^2) |\phi_{tt} - (\phi a)_t|\} dt \leq C_3(E(0) + \|f\|^2),$$

where the positive constant  $C_3$  depends only on  $t_0$ , bounds of  $|a|$  and  $|a_t|$ , and  $\phi$ . By Assumption (4) we see that

$$J_2 = 2 \iint_{\Omega \times [t_0, T]} (at - \alpha)t^{\alpha-1}(u_t)^2 dx dt \geq 0$$

and

$$I_3 \geq \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-2} \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx.$$

Since  $\phi_{tt} - (\phi a)_t = \frac{\alpha}{2} \{(\alpha-1)(\alpha-2) - (\alpha-1)ta - t^2 a_t\}$  for  $t \geq t_0$ , by Assumption (4) we have

$$K_2 \geq 0.$$

Thus it follows from Lemma 2.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} t^\alpha E(t) + \alpha t^{\alpha-1} \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) u_t(x, t) dx + \frac{\alpha}{2} t^{\alpha-2} \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx &\leq C \\ &= C_1 E(0) + C_2 E(0) + C_3(E(0) + \|f\|^2), \end{aligned}$$

which prove the lemma.

**Lemma 2.6.** *Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1), (1.2) and (1.3). Then for any  $t \geq t_0$  and for appropriate positive constants  $A$  and  $B$*

$$(2.10) \quad \int_{\Omega} u^2(x, t) dx = \|u(\cdot, t)\|^2 \leq A t^{2-\alpha} + B.$$

*Proof.* Noting that  $t^\alpha E(t) \geq 0$  and  $\int_{\Omega} u(x, t) u_t(x, t) dx = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|u(\cdot, t)\|^2$ , from Lemma 2.5 we obtain

$$t \frac{d}{dt} \|u(\cdot, t)\|^2 + \|u(\cdot, t)\|^2 = \frac{d}{dt} (t \|u(\cdot, t)\|^2) \leq \frac{2}{\alpha} C t^{2-\alpha}$$

for any  $t > t_0$ . Integrating both sides from  $t$  to  $t_0$ , we have

$$t \|u(\cdot, t)\|^2 - t_0 \|u(\cdot, t_0)\|^2 < \frac{2C}{\alpha(3-\alpha)} (t^{3-\alpha} - t_0^{3-\alpha}).$$

Thus we have

$$\|u(\cdot, t)\|^2 < \frac{2C}{\alpha(3-\alpha)} t^{2-\alpha} + \frac{1}{t} \left\{ t_0 \|u(\cdot, t_0)\|^2 - \frac{2C}{\alpha(3-\alpha)} t_0^{3-\alpha} \right\}.$$

Here we put

$$A = \frac{2C}{\alpha(3-\alpha)} t^{2-\alpha} \quad \text{and} \quad B = 2E(0)t_0^2 + 2\|f\|^2 + \frac{2C}{\alpha(3-\alpha)} t_0^{3-\alpha}.$$

Then from Lemma 2.3 we can easily show

$$B > \frac{1}{t} \left\{ t_0 \|u(\cdot, t_0)\|^2 - \frac{2C}{\alpha(3-\alpha)} t_0^{3-\alpha} \right\}.$$

Thus we completed the proof.

### §3. Proof of the Theorem.

Now applying Lemma 2.5 and Lemma 2.6, we can give the proof of the Theorem.

*Proof of the Theorem.* Applying Lemma 2.6 and  $\|u_t(\cdot, t)\| \leq \sqrt{E(t)}$  to

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) u_t(x, t) dx \right| \leq \|u(\cdot, t)\| \|u_t(\cdot, t)\|,$$

we get

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} u(x, t) u_t(x, t) dx \right| \leq \sqrt{At^{2-\alpha} + B} \|u_t\| \leq \sqrt{(At^{2-\alpha} + B)E(t)}.$$

Therefore from Lemma 2.5 we have

$$\begin{aligned} t^\alpha E(t) &\leq \alpha t^{\alpha-1} \sqrt{(At^{2-\alpha} + B)E(t)} + C \\ &\leq \alpha \sqrt{(At^\alpha + Bt^{2\alpha-2})E(t)} + C \leq \alpha \sqrt{(A+B)t^\alpha E(t)} + C. \end{aligned}$$

So we have

$$\left( t^{\alpha/2} E(t)^{1/2} - \frac{\alpha \sqrt{A+B}}{2} \right)^2 \leq \frac{\alpha^2(A+B)}{4} + C$$

and

$$t^\alpha E(t) \leq \left( \frac{\alpha \sqrt{A+B}}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{\alpha^2(A+B)}{4} + C} \right)^2,$$

which was to be proved. Thus we have concluded the proof of the Theorem.

### §4. Remarks and examples.

Our  $a(x, t)$  is admitted to have a singularity like  $t^{-\delta}$  ( $0 \leq \delta \leq 1$ ) at  $t=0$  and behave like  $t^\delta$  ( $-1 \leq \delta < 1$ ) as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  under our Assumptions on  $a(x, t)$ . The typical form of  $a(x, t)$  is that of  $\lambda(x)/t$  for all  $t > t_0$ , where  $t_0$  is a suitable non-negative constant and  $\lambda(x)$  is a bounded positive valued function of  $x$ . Hence the equation  $L[u]=0$  includes the Euler-Poisson-Darboux equation as a special case. We remark the following. If  $\min_{x \in \Omega} \lambda(x) \leq 2$ , then we can put  $\alpha = \min_{x \in \Omega} \lambda(x)$  and get the energy decay with the order of  $t^{-\alpha}$  for  $0 < \alpha \leq 2$ . But if  $\min_{x \in \Omega} \lambda(x) > 2$ , then we cannot put  $\alpha = \min_{x \in \Omega} \lambda(x)$ , but at most  $\alpha = 2$ . The author obtained more detailed results on the decay problem concerning the Euler-Poisson-Darboux equation. These results will be given in a forthcoming paper.

Here we shall give several examples of  $a(x, t)$ . In the following examples we assume that  $\lambda(x)$  is a smooth, bounded and positive-valued function of  $x$ .

**Example 1.** Let  $a(x, t) = \lambda(x)/t^\varepsilon$  with  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ . Then for any  $\alpha < 1 + \varepsilon$

$$E(t) \leq \frac{C}{t^\alpha}.$$



**Example 2.** Let  $a(x, t) = \lambda(x)$ . Then we can take  $\alpha = 1$ , and

$$E(t) \leq \frac{C}{t}.$$

**Example 3.** Let  $a(x, t) = \lambda(x)t^\varepsilon$  with  $0 < \varepsilon < 1$ . Then for  $\alpha = 1 - \varepsilon$

$$E(t) \leq \frac{C}{t^\alpha}.$$

**Example 4.** Let  $a(x, t) = (1 + |x|)^{-\varepsilon}(1 + t)^{-1 + \varepsilon}$  with  $0 \leq \varepsilon \leq 1$ . Then for any  $\alpha < 1$

$$E(t) \leq \frac{C}{t^\alpha}.$$

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