

ON PROPAGATION OF SINGULARITIES FOR FUCHSIAN QUASILINEAR DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS

BY

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Introduction

A Meyer type flow, of a Tricomi gas for nozzle problem, is expressed in terms of solutions of the system

$$(0.1) \quad \begin{pmatrix} s \\ \theta \end{pmatrix}_\psi = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ s & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ \theta \end{pmatrix}_\phi$$

where s is the speed, θ is the inclination of the velocity, ψ is the stream function and ϕ is the velocity potential (see Bers, [1]). Therefore, for sufficiently smooth solutions, one could reduce the problem to the study of solutions of the equation

$$(0.2) \quad u_{xx} - uu_{yy} - (u_y)^2 = 0.$$

A generic propagation of singularity result was proved in Guillemin–Schaeffer [3] for a linearization of (0.2), (considering Taylor expansion of u and u_y). This result was completed for the n -dimensional case by Santos Filho [6].

Based in the theory of paradifferential operators of Bony [2], see also Meyer [5], we can prove a result which, in particular, states that for sufficiently smooth solutions of (0.2) singularities can not be isolated in the set $\{(x, y); u(x, y) = 0, \nabla u(x, y) \neq 0\}$. The paper is organized as follows: In §1 we state the theorem and recall the main definitions and basic theorems of Bony's theory. In §2, we prove the main result. Finally, in §3, we state a generalization of our theorem.

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1. Statement of the theorem

Our equation has the form

$$(1.1) \quad u_{x_1x_1} - uu_{x_2x_2} - (u_{x_2})^2 = 0.$$

where $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbf{R}^2$ and u is real valued.

Let $s \in \mathbf{R}$ and $0 < \delta < 1$ we assume

$$(H1) \quad s > 2 + 2\delta.$$

Let $u \in H^{s-\delta}(\mathbf{R}^n)$. We assume the following:

$$(H2) \quad H_p(x^0, \xi^0) = \theta Z(x^0, \xi^0) \quad \text{with } \theta \neq 0 \text{ and } |\xi^0| = 1,$$

where

$$H_p(x^0, \xi^0) \left(= \sum \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \xi_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_i} \right) \right)$$

is the Hamiltonian vector field of

$$p(x, \xi) = \xi_1^2 - u(x)\xi_2^2$$

and $Z(x, \xi) = \sum \xi_i \partial_{\xi_i}$ the radial vector field, at (x^0, ξ^0) .

We also assume

$$(H3) \quad u \in H^s_{(x, \xi)} \cap H^{s-\delta}(\mathbf{R}^n) \quad \text{if } (x, t\xi) \neq (x^0, \xi^0), \forall t > 0.$$

and

$$(H4) \quad \theta(s - \frac{1}{2}) + 2\partial_{x_2} u(x^0) > 0$$

Here $H^t(\mathbf{R}^n) = H^t$ is the usual Sobolev space and $H^t_{(x, \xi)}$ is its microlocal version (see Hörmander [4]). From Bony's main result, see [2], we can consider that $(x^0, \xi^0) = (0, (0, 1))$ and hence we prove:

THEOREM. *Let u satisfy (1.1). Under the hypothesis (H1) to (H4) we have $u \in H^s(\mathbf{R}^n)$.*

We now recall some facts regarding the theory of Bony. Let $\phi \in C^\infty_0(\mathbf{R}^n)$ such that is supported in the ball centered at the origin and radius 1 and which is equal to one in the ball with same center and radius 1/2. Taking $\psi(\xi) = \phi(\xi 2^{-1}) - \phi(\xi)$. For $f \in S(\mathbf{R}^n)$ (the Schwartz space), consider

the Littlewood-Paley decomposition of f , $f = S_0(f) + \sum \Delta_k(f)$, where $(S_0(f))^\wedge = \phi f^\wedge$ and $(\Delta_k(f))^\wedge = \psi(\xi 2^{-k}) f^\wedge$; here \wedge means Fourier transform. For $f \in C^r$, $r > 0$, the sum converges uniformly to f . Let $f \in H^t(\mathbf{R}^n)$, $t > n/2$. Define the paraproduct

$$\Pi(f, g) = \sum S_{k-6}(f) \Delta_k(g), \quad g \in S(\mathbf{R}^n);$$

here $S_j(f) = S_0(f) + \sum_{l=1}^j \Delta_l(f)$, $j \geq 1$. We summarize results of Bony [2] and Meyer [5], see Theorems 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 of [2] and Theorems 3 and 5 of [5].

THEOREM 1.1. *Let $f, g \in H^t$, $t > n/2$ and $h \in H^s$.*

- (a) $\Pi(f, \cdot)$ can be extended to a continuous operator from H^r into H^r .
- (b) $E = \Pi(f, \cdot) \circ \Pi(g, \cdot) - \Pi(ab, \cdot)$ is a $(t - n/2)$ -smoothing operator, that is, it maps continuously H^r into $H^{r+(t-n/2)}$.
- (c) The adjoint $(\Pi(f, \cdot))^*$ of $\Pi(f, \cdot)$ applies H^r into H^r and $\Pi(f, \cdot) - (\Pi(f, \cdot))^*$ is a $(t - n/2)$ -smoothing.
- (d) If $s > n/2$ then

$$fh = \Pi(f, h) + \Pi(h, f) + r$$

where $|r|_{s+t-n/2-\epsilon} \leq C|f|_t|h|_s$.

If $-t + n/2 < s \leq n/2$, then

$$fg = \Pi(f, g) + r$$

where $|r|_{s+t-t/2-\epsilon} \leq C|f|_t|h|_s$.

DEFINITION. We say $\sigma \in B_r^m$ if $\sigma \in S_{1,1}^m$,

$$\|\partial_\xi^\alpha \sigma(x, \xi)\|_{C^r} \geq C_\alpha (1 + |\xi|)^{m-|\alpha|}$$

and for each ξ , the support of $\sigma^\wedge(\cdot, \xi)$ is contained in $\{\eta; |\eta| < |\xi|/10\}$. Here $S_{\rho,\delta}^m$ is Hörmander's class of symbols; see [4].

Examples. (1) The symbol of $\Pi(a, \cdot)$ belongs to B_r^0 , where $r = s - n/2 > 0$, if $a \in H^s(\mathbf{R}^n)$.

(2) $\sigma(\xi) \in B_r^m$ for each $\sigma \in S_{1,0}^m$ and $r > 0$.

THEOREM 1.2. (a) *Let $F(x, y)$ be a C^∞ function, where $y = (y_0, \dots, y_\alpha, \dots)$, $|\alpha| \leq (m - 1)$, such that $F(x, 0) = 0$. Then*

$$F(x, U(x)) = \sum_{|\beta|=0}^{m-1} \Pi((\partial_{y_\beta} F)(x, U(x)), u) + E,$$

where $U(x) = (u(x), \dots, \partial^\beta u(x), \dots)$ with $u \in H^t$, $t - (m - 1) > n/2$ and $E \in H^{(2t-2(m-1)-n/2)}$.

(b) If $\sigma \in S_{1,1}^m$ then for $s > 0$ $\sigma(x, D)$ can be extended to a continuous operator from H^{s+m} into H^s .

(c) Let $r > 0$, $\sigma \in B_r^{m_1}$ and $\tau \in S_{1,1}^{m_2}$ then

$$\tau(x, D) \circ \sigma(x, D) = \omega(x, D) + \rho(x, D)$$

where

$$\omega(x, \xi) = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq [r]} \frac{1}{i^{|\alpha|}} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_\xi^\alpha \tau(x, \xi) \partial_x^\alpha \sigma(x, \xi) \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(x, \xi) \in S_{1,1}^{m_1+m_2-r}.$$

Remark. Theorem 1.2 implies the classical Schauder’s Lemma, which says that $H^t(\mathbf{R}^n)$, $t > n/2$ is invariant under non-linear transformations.

2. Proof of the theorem

Consider

$$(2.1) \quad D_{x_1}^2 u - u D_{x_2}^2 u + (u_{x_2})^2 = 0.$$

Multiplying this equation by χ , where $\chi \in C_0^\infty$, $\chi = 1$ if $|x| \leq \varepsilon/4$, $\chi = 0$ if $|x| \geq \varepsilon$, for $\varepsilon > 0$ small, we obtain

$$D_{x_1}^2(\chi u) - D_{x_2}^2(\chi u) + \chi((\chi u)_{x_2})^2 = f$$

where $f \in H^{s-1}(\mathbf{R}^2)$ from (H1) and (H3), by Schauder’s Lemma.

We write the equation above in the form

$$(2.1)' \quad P(\chi u) + Q(\chi u) = f$$

where $P = D_{x_1}^2 - u D_{x_2}^2$ and $Qv = \chi(\partial_{x_2}(v))^2$. We can assume $r = s - \delta - 1$ is a non-integer positive real number.

Let $\mathcal{C} \subset S_{1,0}^{s-(m-1)/2-\lambda}(\mathbf{R}^{2n})$, $\lambda > \frac{1}{2} + \delta$ be a bounded subset of $S^{s-1/2}(\mathbf{R}^{2n})$, which consists of real valued symbols. For each $c \in \mathcal{C}$ we put $C = c(x, D)$ and hence by (2.1)' we get

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathfrak{S}m(Cf, Cu) &= \mathfrak{S}m(C(Pu - \Pi, Cu) + \mathfrak{S}m(\Pi(Cu), Cu) \\ &\quad + \mathfrak{S}m([C, \Pi]u, Cu) + \mathfrak{S}m(C(Q(u)), Cu) \end{aligned}$$

here $\Pi = D_{x_1}^2 - \Pi(u, \cdot) \circ D_{x_2}^2$. For convenience, we write the right hand side of (2.2) as, I + II + III + IV, respectively.

We will analyse the terms I, II, III and IV of the right hand side of (2.2), keeping the non-absorbable terms (in a sense we will make precise along the lines of this proof). By a linear change of variables, we assume $(x^0, \xi^0) = (0, e_n)$, $e_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$, and by replacing p by $-p$ (if necessary) we assume $\theta > 0$.

Step 1. Analysis of term I. We have

$$(P - \Pi)(\chi u) = -(M_u - \Pi(u, \cdot))D_{x_2}^2(\chi u),$$

where M_u is the multiplication by u . From Theorem 1.1(d) we have

$$(-M_u + \Pi(u, \cdot))D_{x_2}^2(\chi u) \in H^{2r-1-\epsilon}, \quad \forall \epsilon > 0.$$

From this we know that there exist $K_{1,0}$ and $K_{1,1}$ positive constants, uniformly on \mathcal{C} , such that for all $\mu > 0$,

$$(2.3) \quad |\text{I}| \leq \mu K_{1,1} \|(\text{I} - \Delta)^{1/4} C(\chi u)\|_{L_2}^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} K_{1,0}$$

where $(\text{I} - \Delta)^{1/4}$ is the pseudo-differential operator whose symbol is $(1 + |\xi|)^{1/4}$.

Step 2. Analysis of term II. We have

$$\Pi - \Pi^* = \Pi(u, \cdot) \circ D_{x_2}^2 - D_{x_2}^2 \circ (\Pi(u, \cdot))^*,$$

and from Theorem 1.1(c), $-\Pi(\bar{u}, \cdot) + (\Pi(u, \cdot))^* = R_{2,1}$, where $R_{2,1}$ is an r -smoothing; and since u is real-valued, we have $\Pi - (\Pi)^* = [\Pi(u, \cdot), D_{x_2}^2] - D_{x_2}^2 \cdot R_{2,1}$. In the other hand, from Theorem 1.2,

$$[\Pi(u, \cdot), D_{x_2}^2] = \omega(x, D) + R_{2,2}$$

where

$$\omega(x, \xi) = - \sum_{1 \leq |\alpha| \leq [r]} (i)^{-|\alpha|} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \alpha_\xi^\alpha \xi_2^{2\alpha} \sigma(\pi(u, \cdot))$$

and $\sigma(R_{2,2}) \in S_{1,1}^{2-r}$. Here $[r]$ is the greatest integer less or equal to r .

From Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.2 it can be shown that $\text{Im}(A \circ C(\chi u), C(\chi u))$ satisfies the same type of estimate in (2.3), where A is

taken to be $D_{x_2}^2 \circ R_{2,1}$ or $R_{2,2}$ or

$$\sum_{[r] \geq |\alpha| > 1} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_\xi^\alpha \xi_2^2 \sigma(\pi(D^\alpha u, \cdot))(x, D)$$

or

$$\left(\sum_{|\alpha|=1} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_\xi^\alpha \xi_2^2 (M_{D^\alpha u(x)} - M_{D^\alpha u(0)}) \right) (D).$$

Which finally gives this result:

There exist $K_{2,0}$ and $K_{2,1}$ positive constants, uniformly on \mathcal{C} , such that for all $\mu > 0$, we have

$$(2.4) \quad \left| \text{II} - D_{x_2} u(0)(D_{x_2} \circ C(\chi u), C(\chi u)) \right| \leq K_{2,1} \mu \left\| (I - \Delta)^{1/4} C(\chi u) \right\|_{L^2}^2 + K_{2,0} \frac{1}{\mu}.$$

Step 3. Analysis of the term III. By assuming $\sigma(C) \in B_r^m$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma([C, \pi]) &= \sum_{|\alpha|=1} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_\xi^\alpha c \sigma(\pi(D^\alpha u, \cdot)) \xi_2^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{i^{|\alpha|}} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_\xi^\alpha (\xi_2^2 \sigma(\pi(u, \cdot))) \partial_x^\alpha c(x, \xi) \right) + \sigma(R_{3,1}) \end{aligned}$$

where $\sigma(R_{3,1}) \in S^{s+1/2-\tilde{r}+1-\lambda}$, and $\tilde{r} = \text{Min}\{r, 2\}$. Hence as before:

There exist $K_{3,0}$ and $K_{3,1}$ positive constants, uniformly on \mathcal{C} , such that for all $\mu > 0$, we have

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} &\left| \text{Im}([C, \pi](\chi u), C(\chi u)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Re}(H_c(\xi_1^2 - u\xi_2^2)(0, D)(\chi u), C(\chi u)) \right| \\ &\leq \mu K_{3,1} \left\| (I - \Delta)^{1/4} (Cu) \right\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} K_{3,0}. \end{aligned}$$

Step 4. Analysis of the term IV. Using Taylor’s formula, by Schauder’s Lemma since (H1) and (H3) hold, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(\partial_{x_2}(\chi u))^2 &= \chi(\partial_{x_2} u(0))^2 \\ &\quad + \chi 2(\partial_{x_2} u(0))(\partial_{x_2}(\chi u) - (\partial_{x_2} u)(0)) + \tilde{q}(\partial_{x_2}(\chi u(x))) \end{aligned}$$

where $\tilde{q}(\partial_{x_2}(u(0))) = 0$ and $\nabla \tilde{q}(\partial_{x_2}(u(0))) = 0$. Therefore, as before:

There exist $K_{4,0}$ and $K_{4,1}$ positive constants, uniformly on \mathcal{C} , such that for all $\mu > 0$, we have

$$(2.6) \quad \left| \operatorname{Im}(C(Q(\chi u)), C(\chi u)) - \operatorname{Im}\left(C(\chi 2(\partial_{x_2} u)(0) \partial x_2(\chi u)), C(\chi u)\right) \right| \leq \mu K_{4,1} \|(I - \Delta)^{1/4}(Cu)\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} K_{4,0}.$$

Step 5. End of the proof. Using (2.3), (2.4), (2.5) and (2.6), and since $\operatorname{Im}(Cf, C(\chi u))$ is also absorbable (in the sense the above inequality is true for $|\operatorname{Im}(Cf, C(\chi u))|$), we have:

There exist $K_{5,0}$ and $K_{5,1}$ positive constants, uniformly on \mathcal{C} , such that for all $\mu > 0$,

$$(2.7) \quad \left| \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}\left((2\partial_{x_2} u(0) D_{x_2} + \chi 2(\partial_{x_2} u)(0) D_{x_2})C(\chi u), Cu\right) + \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re} H_c(\xi_1^2 + u(x)\xi_2^2)(0, D), Cu \right| \leq \mu K_{5,1} \|(I - \Delta)^{1/4}(Cu)\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} K_{5,0}.$$

Observe that the first term of the right hand side of (2.7) can be expressed in an invariant form, namely, for the general case it is equal to $\operatorname{Re}((\sigma_{sub}(P_L)C(\chi u), Cu))$, where P_L is the linearization of P at u , $\sigma(P_L) = \Sigma \partial_{(\sigma u)}(Pu)\xi^\alpha$ and $\sigma_{sub}(P_L)$ is the subprincipal symbol of P_L (see [4]). This will give us

$$(2.8) \quad \left| \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}(H_{\sigma(P)}c^2(0, D)(\chi u), \chi u) + \operatorname{Re}(\sigma_{sub}(P_L)c^2(0, D)(\chi u), \chi u) \right| \leq \mu K_1 \|(I - \Delta)^{1/4}(Cu)\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{1}{\mu} K_0,$$

for positive constants K_0 and K_1 and for all $\mu > 0$, uniformly on \mathcal{C} . Here $\sigma_{sub}(P_L)(0, \xi)$ is in this case equal to $2\partial_{x_2} u(0)\xi_2$.

At this point, we take a explicit class \mathcal{C} of symbols, which is taken in such a way we can apply the sharp Garding inequality for $\operatorname{Re}(Su, u)$ where $\sigma(S) = \frac{1}{2}H_{\sigma(P)}c^2 + \sigma_{sub}(P_L)c^2(0, \xi)$. Namely we take

$$c_\gamma(x, \xi) = (\chi(x))^2 (\psi(\xi))^2 \xi_2^{s-1/2} (1 + \gamma \xi_2^2)^{-\lambda/2}$$

where $0 < \gamma < 1$ and $\psi \in S_{1,0}^0$, homogeneous of degree 0 for $|\xi| \geq \frac{1}{2}$, $\phi(\xi) = 1$ for $|\xi_1| \leq \frac{1}{2}\xi_2$ and $\psi(\xi) = 0$ for $|\xi_2| \geq \xi_2$. So

$$\frac{1}{2} 2H_{\sigma P}(c_\gamma^2)(0, \xi_n) \geq (s - \frac{1}{2} - \gamma\lambda)\theta \xi_2 c_\gamma^2,$$

where θ is given in (H2). So by taking γ small the proof of the theorem is finished from (H4) and Garding inequality, see [4].

3. Remarks

A generalization of our theorem can be expressed in the following form:
Let

$$(3.1) \quad \sum_{|\alpha|=m} A_\alpha(x, u(x), \dots, \partial^\beta u(x), \dots)_{|\beta| \leq p_\alpha} \partial^\alpha u + q(x; u(x), \dots, \partial^\beta u(x), \dots)_{|\beta| \leq p_{m-1}} = 0.$$

where $p_{m-1}, p_\alpha \leq m - 1$ ($p_\alpha = -\infty$ (resp. p_{m-1}) if A_α (resp. q) depends only on $x \in \mathbf{R}^n$), $A_\alpha = A_\alpha(x, y)$ and $q = q(x, \bar{y})$ are C^∞ real-valued defined in an appropriate \mathbf{R}^{N+m} and u is a real function defined in \mathbf{R}^n .

Let $s \in \mathbf{R}$ and $0 < \delta < 1$ and assume

- (H1) (a) $s > p_{m-1} + \frac{n}{2} + \delta$
- (b) $s > \delta + \frac{\text{Max } p(\alpha) + m}{2} + \frac{n}{4}$
- (c) $s > \frac{n}{2} + \text{Max } p(\alpha) + 1 + 2\delta.$

Let $u \in H^{s-\delta}(\mathbf{R}^n)$. We assume

$$(H2) \quad H_p(x^0, \xi^0) = \theta Z(x^0, \xi^0) \quad \text{with } \theta \neq 0 \text{ and } |\xi^0| = 1,$$

where

$$H_p(x^0, \xi^0) \left(= \sum \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \xi_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} - \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_i} \right) \right)$$

is the Hamiltonian vector field of $p(x, \xi) = \sum_{|\alpha|=m} A_\alpha(x, u(x), \dots) \xi^\alpha$ and $Z(x, \xi) = \sum \xi_i \partial_{\xi_i}$ the radial vector field, at (x^0, ξ^0) . Observe that from (H1), $A_\alpha(x, u(x), \dots) \in C^{1+\delta}(\mathbf{R}^n)$, so H_p is a well defined Hölder continuous vector field.

Also we assume

$$(H3) \quad u \in H^s_{(x, \xi)} \cap H^{s-\delta}(\mathbf{R}^n) \text{ if } (x, t\xi) \neq (x^0, \xi^0), \forall t > 0.$$

and

$$(H4) \quad \theta \left(s - \frac{m-1}{2} \right) + 2\sigma_{sub}(x_0, \xi_0) > 0$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{sub}(x_0, \xi_0) = \operatorname{Re} \left(\sum_{|\beta|=m-1} (\partial_{y_\beta} q)(x_0, u(x_0), \dots) \xi_0^\beta \right) \\ + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{|\beta|=1} (\partial_x^\beta A_\alpha)(x_0, u(x_0), \dots) (\partial_\xi^\beta \xi^\alpha)(\xi_0). \end{aligned}$$

Using the same method one can prove:

THEOREM. *Let u satisfy (1.1). Under the hypothesis (H1) to (H4) we have $u \in H^s(\mathbf{R}^n)$.*

It should be said that even for the linear case this theorem says something new. In particular, it says that the solutions with prescribed singularities in a ray constructed in [3] and [6] cannot be arbitrarily smooth. In fact, it says that the solutions constructed therein are sharp regarding the regularity aspect.

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