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**Sharp regularity theory for second order hyperbolic
equations of Neumann type**

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Equazioni a derivate parziali. — *Sharp regularity theory for second order hyperbolic equations of Neumann type* (*). Nota (**) di IRENA LASIECKA e ROBERTO TRIGGIANI, presentata dal Corrisp. R. CONTI.

ABSTRACT. — This note provides sharp regularity results for general, time-independent, second order hyperbolic equations with non-homogeneous data of Neumann type.

KEY WORDS: Hyperbolic partial differential equations.

RIASSUNTO. — *Regolarità delle soluzioni di equazioni differenziali iperboliche del secondo ordine con dati al contorno di tipo Neumann.* Si danno risultati di regolarità delle soluzioni del problema misto per equazioni a derivate parziali del secondo ordine di tipo iperbolico, con dato non omogeneo sulla frontiera di tipo Neumann.

1. REGULARITY PROBLEM, PRELIMINARIES, AND STATEMENT OF MAIN RESULTS

Let $x > 0$ be a scalar positive variable, t be a real variable, and $y = [y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}]$ be an $(n-1)$ -dimensional vector with real components. In symbols: $x \in R_x^1$; $t \in R_t^1$; $y \in R_y^{n-1}$. Let

$$(1.1) \quad \Omega \equiv R_x^1 \times R_y^{n-1}, \quad \Gamma \equiv R_y^{n-1} = \Omega|_{x=0}$$

be, respectively, an n -dimensional half-space Ω with boundary Γ . On Ω we consider the second order differential operator

$$(1.2) \quad P(x, y; D_t, D_x, D_y) \equiv -aD_t^2 + \sum_{i,j=1}^{n-1} a_{ij}D_{y_i}D_{y_j} + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj}D_{y_j}D_x + D_x^2$$

with space-dependent, but time-independent coefficients

$$(1.3) \quad a \equiv a(x, y), \quad a_{ij} \equiv a_{ij}(x, y), \quad i = 1, \dots, n; [x, y] \in \Omega, j = 1, \dots, n-1$$

satisfying the symmetricity conditions $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$, $i, j = 1, \dots, n-1$. Here and throughout we use the notation

$$D_t \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial t}; \quad D_x \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x}; \quad D_{y_j} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{-1}} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_j} \quad \text{etc.}$$

On Γ , the boundary of the half-space Ω , we consider the first order operator

$$(1.4) \quad B(y; D_x, D_y) \equiv D_x + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} b_j D_{y_j} \quad \text{on } x = 0$$

with space-dependent, but time-independent coefficients

$$(1.5) \quad b_j \equiv b_j(y), \quad y \in \Gamma.$$

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(**) Il contenuto di questa Nota è stato presentato in una serie di seminari alla Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, nel luglio 1985; e, inoltre, all'IFIP Conference, Santiago di Campostela, Spagna, nel luglio 1987.

The present paper investigates *regularity properties* of the solution $u(t, x, y)$ of the following second order hyperbolic mixed problem with Neumann boundary conditions

$$(1.6) \quad \begin{cases} (a) & P(x, y; D_t, D_x, D_y) u = f(t, x, y) & \text{on } \Omega, t > 0, \\ (b) & B(y; D_x, D_y) u = g(t, y) & \text{on } \Gamma, t > 0, \\ (c) & u|_{t=0} = u_0; D_t u|_{t=0} = u_1 & \text{on } \Omega, t = 0, \end{cases}$$

at least for a few specific fundamental function spaces for f and g . Other classes of function spaces will be examined in a subsequent paper [13]. Generally, we are interested in the continuity of the map from the data (u_0, u_1, f, g) in preassigned function spaces (possibly, subject to compatibility conditions) into the solution $u, u_t, \dots$ and possibly its trace $u|_{\Gamma}, \dots$ in suitable (optimal) function spaces. Throughout the paper, problem (1.6) will be subject to the following *assumptions*:

(i) the coefficients a, a_{ij}, a_{nj} of P and b_j of B are assumed real, time independent, sufficiently smooth in the space variables, and constant outside a compact set $\mathcal{K}_{xy}$ of $R_{x^+}^1 \times R_y^{n-1} = \Omega$;

(ii) the boundary Γ ($x=0$) is non-characteristic for P and P is «regularly hyperbolic with respect to t »; i.e. the characteristic polynomial of P ,

$$(1.7a) \quad p(x, y; \tau, \xi, \eta) \equiv -a\tau^2 + \sum_{i,j=1}^{n-1} a_{ij} \eta_i \eta_j + 2\xi \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj} \eta_j + \xi^2$$

$$(1.7b) \quad \equiv -a\tau^2 + \left(\xi + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj} \eta_j \right)^2 + \sum_{i,j=1}^{n-1} a_{ij} \eta_i \eta_j - \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj} \eta_j \right)^2$$

has *two real and distinct roots* in τ , for $(x, y) \in \Omega$ and (ξ, η) on the unit sphere $\xi^2 + |\eta|^2 = 1$, where $|\eta|^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \eta_j^2$. If we consider $\eta = 0$ and $\xi = 1$, this requirement yields the condition

$$(1.8) \quad \min a(x, y) > 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega;$$

moreover, if we consider the points of the unit sphere in (ξ, η) which lie also on the hyperplane $\xi + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj} \eta_j = 0$, this requirement yields the necessary condition, which is plainly also sufficient, that the quadratic form in η

$$(1.9) \quad d(x, y; \eta) \equiv a^2(x, y) \left\{ \sum_{i,j=1}^{n-1} a_{ij}(x, y) \eta_i \eta_j - \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj}(x, y) \eta_j \right)^2 \right\}$$

(independent of ξ) be positive definite

$$(1.10) \quad d(x, y; \eta) > 0 \quad (x, y) \in \Omega, \quad |\eta|^2 \neq 0;$$

(iii) the first order operator $\tilde{D}_x$ defined by

$$(1.11) \quad \tilde{D}_x = D_x + \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} a_{nj}(x, y) D_{y_j}$$

restricted on the boundary Γ , coincides with B ; i.e.

$$(1.12) \quad B \equiv \widetilde{D}_x|_{x=0}; \quad \text{i.e.} \quad b_j(y) \equiv a_{nj}(0, y), \quad j = 1, \dots, n-1.$$

The following results are known and provide the a-priori regularity needed in the subsequent development.

LEMMA 1.1. Let $u_0 = u_1 = 0$ in (1.6c) and let $0 < T < \infty$.

a) Let $g \equiv 0$ and $f \in L_1(0, T; L_2(\Omega))$ in (1.6). Then

$$\begin{aligned} u &\in C([0, T]; H^1(\Omega)) \\ u_t &\in C([0, T]; L_2(\Omega)) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{a fortiori } u \in H^1([0, T] \times \Omega))$$

continuously.

b) Let $f \equiv 0$ and $g \in L_2(0, T; L_2(\Omega))$ in (1.6). Then ⁽¹⁾

$$\begin{aligned} u &\in C([0, T]; H^{1/2}(\Omega)) \\ u_t &\in C([0, T]; H^{-1/2}(\Omega)) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{a fortiori } u \in H^{1/2}([0, T] \times \Omega)) \quad \square$$

Trace theory applied to Lemma 1.1a) then gives

$$(1.13) \quad \left. \begin{aligned} f &\in L_1(0, T; L_2(\Omega)) \\ g &= 0 \\ u_0 &= u_1 = 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \rightarrow u|_{\Sigma} \in C([0, T]; H^{1/2}(\Gamma)) \text{ continuously.}$$

A main goal of the present paper is to show the following

MAIN THEOREM 1.2. Let $g = 0$ and $u_0 = u_1 = 0$ and let $f \in L_2(Q_+)$, $Q_+ = R_t^1 \times \Omega$. Then,

a) If $\Sigma_+ = R_t^1 \times \Gamma$, the trace $u|_{\Sigma}$ of the solution to (1.6) satisfies $u|_{\Sigma} \in H^{3/5}(\Sigma_+)$ continuously: there is a constant $\mathcal{C} > 0$ independent of f such that

$$(1.14) \quad \|u|_{\Sigma}\|_{H^{3/5}(\Sigma_+)} \leq \mathcal{C} \|f\|_{L_2(Q_+)}.$$

b) In the special cases where the coefficients a_{ij} , $i, j = 1, \dots, n-1$; a_{nj} , $j = 1, \dots, n-1$ either do *not* depend on x , or else do *not* depend on y , then $u|_{\Sigma} \in H^{2/3}(\Sigma_+)$ continuously: there is a constant $\mathcal{C} > 0$ independent of f such that

$$(1.15) \quad \|u|_{\Sigma}\|_{H^{2/3}(\Sigma_+)} \leq \mathcal{C} \|f\|_{L_2(Q_+)}.$$

REMARKS 1.1. (i) The general case (1.14) represents an improvement by «1/10» ($1/2 + 1/10 = 3/5$) in the space regularity of the trace over (1.13).

(ii) Addition of a *first* order differential operator to P does not affect the results. $\square$

A second main result of this paper is the following

⁽¹⁾ Lions-Magenes, vol. II, p. 120 provide only $L_2(0, T; \cdot)$; but this can be improved to $C([0, T]; \cdot)$ with the same space regularity, as e.g. in [3], [11].

MAIN THEOREM 1.3. Let $f=0$, $u_0=u_1=0$, and $g \in L_2(\Sigma_+)$. Then, continuously, for any $\varepsilon > 0$:

$$(1.16) \quad a) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} v \in H^{3/5-\varepsilon}(Q_+) \left(\text{improvement by almost } \ll \frac{1}{10} \gg \text{ over Lemma 1.1b} \right) \\ \text{AND} \\ u|_{\Sigma} \in H^{1/5-\varepsilon}(\Sigma_+) . \end{array} \right.$$

b) In the special case where the coefficients a_{ij} , a_{nj} , $i, j = 1, \dots, n-1$ either do not depend on x , or else do not depend on y , then

$$(1.18) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u \in H^{2/3}(Q_+) \\ \text{AND} \\ u|_{\Sigma} \in H^{1/3}(\Sigma_+) \end{array} \right. \quad \square$$

REMARKS 1.2. (i) For $\dim \Omega \geq 2$ and the Laplacian case, one can show that $u \notin H^{3/4+\varepsilon}(Q)$, $\forall \varepsilon > 0$ [5], [12].

(ii) Result (1.17) is a *regularity result*. Trace theory applied to interior regularity (1.16) gives only $H^{3/5-1/2=1/10}(\Sigma)$, a result worse than (1.17) by $\ll 1/10 \gg$. Similarly, trace theory applied to (1.18) gives $H^{2/3-1/2=1/6}(\Sigma)$, a result worse than (1.19) by $\ll 1/6 \gg$.

iii) The regularity in (1.18)-(1.19) coincides with that proved *directly*, by eigenfunction expansions, for the Laplacian Δ on a *sphere* $= \Omega$ [3].

iv) Direct computations, by eigenfunction expansions, with the Laplacian on a parallelepiped Ω produce $u \in H^{3/4-\varepsilon}(Q)$, $\varepsilon > 0$ and $u|_{\Sigma} \in H^{1/2-\varepsilon}(\Sigma_+)$ [3].

The proofs of Theorems 1.2 and 1.3 are very lengthy and technical and are to be found in [12].

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