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**On the asymptotic stability for abstract Volterra
integro-differential equations**

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Equazioni funzionali. — *On the asymptotic stability for abstract Volterra integro-differential equations.* Nota (*) di ANDREA SCHIAFFINO e ALBERTO TESEI, presentata dal Socio G. SCORZA DRAGONI.

RIASSUNTO. — Si danno condizioni per la stabilità asintotica della soluzione nulla di una classe di equazioni integro-differenziali di Volterra in spazi di Banach.

1. INTRODUCTION

We are concerned in the present paper with Liapunof stability and attractivity properties of the trivial solution of the linear problem:

$$(P) \quad \begin{cases} \frac{du(t)}{dt} = -Au(t) + \int_0^t ds \, k(t-s) u(s) & (t > 0) \\ u(0) = u_0; \end{cases}$$

here $-A$ is the infinitesimal generator of an analytic semigroup on a Banach space X , $k(\cdot)$ is an operator-valued map on $[0, +\infty)$ and u_0 belongs to X . The above problem arises e.g. when studying the Liapunof stability character of the equilibrium solutions for Volterra's integro-partial differential equation [5].

In the finite-dimensional case $X = \mathbb{R}^n$ the condition $\det [\zeta I + A - k^*(\zeta)] \neq 0$ for $\operatorname{Re} \zeta \geq 0$ is known to ensure, if $k(\cdot) \in L^1$, the asymptotic stability of the trivial solution with respect to (P) [2]. Under suitable separation assumptions on the spectrum of the operator A , we shall generalize the above result to the present situation (for this purpose, simpler techniques can be used in the case of a scalar-valued kernel $k(\cdot)$ [6]); use will be made of a projection procedure onto the invariant subspaces of X associated with the operator A , which gives rise to a family of approximating problems.

2. STATEMENT OF THE RESULTS

Let X denote a complex Banach space, endowed with the norm $X \ni u \rightarrow \|u\|_X$. We shall denote by $\mathcal{L}(X)$ the Banach algebra of linear bounded operators on X endowed with the operatorial norm $\mathcal{L}(X) \ni B \rightarrow \|B\|$. By $L^p(0, +\infty; Y)$ we mean the Banach space of measurable functions from

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$[0, +\infty)$ to the Banach space Y (norm $|\cdot|_Y$), such that $\int_0^{+\infty} |f(t)|_Y^p dt < +\infty$, endowed with the usual norm ($1 \leq p < +\infty$); we shall also be dealing with the Fréchet space $L_{loc}^1(0, +\infty; Y)$ endowed with the family of seminorms $f \rightarrow p_T(f) := \int_0^T |f(t)|_Y dt$ ($T > 0$). For any $k(\cdot) \in L^1(0, +\infty; Y)$, the notation $k^*(\cdot)$ for the Laplace transform of $k(\cdot)$ will be adopted.

The problem (P) will be studied under the following assumptions:

A_1) — A is the infinitesimal generator of an analytic semigroup $T(\cdot)$ on X , such that $\|T(t)\| \leq M \exp(\omega t)$ ($t \geq 0$; $M \geq 1$; $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$);

A_2) $(\zeta + A)^{-1}$ is compact for some ζ in the resolvent set $\rho(-A)$; moreover, there exists a sequence $\{P_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{L}(X)$ of projections such that ($n \in \mathbb{N}$):

$$(i) \quad \dim P_n < \infty, P_n P_{n+1} = P_{n+1} P_n = P_n;$$

$$(ii) \quad P_n A \subseteq A P_n;$$

(iii) there exist $\vartheta_0 \in [0, 1)$ and $\zeta_0 \in \rho(-A)$ such that $(I - P_n)(\zeta_0 + A)^{-\vartheta_0}$ converges in the strong sense as n diverges;

(iv) there exists $\bar{n} \in \mathbb{N}$ such that, for any $n \geq \bar{n}$, the type ω_n of the analytic semigroup $(I - P_n)T(\cdot)$ is strictly negative.

Further we have the following assumptions:

$$k_1) \quad k(\cdot) \in L^1(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X));$$

k_2) there exists $\alpha > 2\vartheta_0 - 1$ such that $\|(tk)^*(\zeta)\| \leq \text{const.} (1 + |\zeta|)^{-\alpha}$ for any $\zeta \in C_+ := \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \mid \operatorname{Re} \zeta \geq 0\}$ (where $(tk)(t) := tk(t)$, $t \geq 0$);

H) for any $\zeta \in C_+$, there exists $D(\zeta) := [\zeta I + A - k^*(\zeta)]^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(X)$.

As a consequence of the assumption A_2), we can think of the Banach space X as a direct sum: $X = X_n \oplus \tilde{X}_n$, where $X_n := P_n X$ ($\dim X_n < \infty$) and $\tilde{X}_n := (I - P_n)X$; moreover, $X_n \subseteq X_{n+1}$ and $\tilde{X}_n \supseteq \tilde{X}_{n+1}$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$). The assumption A_2), (iii) is obviously satisfied with $\vartheta_0 = 0$ if X is Hilbert and A a normal operator; it can also be proved to hold in the case A is a second-order formally self-adjoint elliptic operator on $X = C(\bar{\Omega})$, $C(\bar{\Omega})$ denoting the Banach space of continuous functions (endowed with the supremum norm) on some bounded regular domain $\bar{\Omega} \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, $d \leq 3$ [5].

The regularity condition k_2) is satisfied e.g. if $(tk(\cdot)) \in L^1$ whenever $\vartheta_0 < 1/2$. Eventually, the part $-(I - P_n)A$ of $-A$ in X_n is easily seen to generate an analytic semigroup on X_n , so that the requirement A_2), (iv) makes sense.

By a fundamental solution of problem (P) we mean a map $\mathcal{S} : [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}(X)$ such that

$$(1) \quad \mathcal{S}(t) = T(t) + [T * k * \mathcal{S}](t) \quad (t \geq 0),$$

where the shorthand $(f * g)(t) := \int_0^t ds f(t-s)g(s) \quad (t \geq 0)$ for the convolution is used. As is well known, if a fundamental solution of (P) exists, $\mathcal{S}(\cdot)u_0$ is a mild solution of (P) [4]; moreover, due to assumption A_1 , the map $t \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(t)u_0$ is continuously differentiable for any $t > 0$ and satisfies (P).

The trivial solution $u = 0$ is said to be (Liapunov) stable with respect to (P) if for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta = \delta_\varepsilon > 0$ such that $|u_0|_X < \delta$ implies $|u(t)|_X < \varepsilon$ for any $t \geq 0$; it is said to be asymptotically stable if in addition it is attractive, namely if there exists $\eta > 0$ such that $|u_0|_X < \eta$ implies $|u(t)|_X \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow +\infty$.

Due to assumptions A_1 and k_1 , the existence of a unique fundamental solution $\mathcal{S}(\cdot) \in L^1_{loc}([0, +\infty); \mathcal{L}(X))$ follows from a standard contraction mapping argument and from the a priori estimate:

$$\|\mathcal{S}(t)\| \leq M \exp[\omega + M \|k\|_{L^1}] t \quad (t \geq 0),$$

which also proves the existence of the Laplace transform $\mathcal{S}^*(\cdot)$ of $\mathcal{S}(\cdot)$ in the complex half-plane $\operatorname{Re} \zeta > \omega + M \|k\|_{L^1}$; then it is easily seen that $\mathcal{S}^*(\zeta) = D(\zeta)$ whenever both quantities make sense. Conversely, under the above assumptions suitable boundedness and decrease properties for the fundamental solution can be derived, which imply the following main result.

THEOREM 1. *Let the assumption A_1 — H) be satisfied. Then the trivial solution is asymptotically stable with respect to problem (P).*

The proof will follow (see Section 5) from some preliminary consequences of the assumptions (see Section 3) and from the properties of the solutions of a family of problems, which approximate (P) in a suitable sense (Section 4).

3. PRELIMINARY RESULTS

As a first consequence of assumptions A_1 , A_2) we have the following lemma.

LEMMA 1. *Let A_1 , A_2) be satisfied. Then the following hold:*

- (i) $\|(I - P_n)T(t)\| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ for any $t > 0$;
- (ii) $\|(I - P_n)(\zeta + A)^{-\vartheta}\| \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0$ for any $\vartheta > \vartheta_0$ and $\zeta \in \rho(-A)$; the

convergence is uniform in any closed subset of C_+ whose intersection with the spectrum $\sigma(-A)$ is empty.

Proof. Let $\{B_n\} \subseteq \mathcal{L}(X)$, $B_n \rightarrow 0$ in the strong sense and $C \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ be compact; then it is easily proved that $\|B_n C\| \rightarrow 0$ as n diverges. Now the proof of (i) follows from the identity

$$(I - P_n) T(t) = (I - P_n) (\zeta_0' + A)^{-\vartheta_0} (\zeta_0 + A)^{\vartheta_0} T(t) \quad (t \geq 0; \zeta_0 \in \rho(-A))$$

and the assumed regularization properties of $T(t)$ for any $t > 0$. The proof of (ii) is similar.

PROPOSITION 1. Let A_1, A_2 be satisfied. Then

$$(2) \quad \int_0^{+\infty} \|(I - P_n) T(t)\|^\beta dt \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0 \quad \text{for any } \beta \in [1, 1/\vartheta_0).$$

Proof. Due to Lemma 1 and the dominated convergence theorem, suffice it to exhibit a map $\varphi(\cdot) \in L^\beta(0, +\infty)$ such that $\|(I - P_n) T(t)\| \leq \varphi(t)$ for almost every $t > 0$. In fact, according to hypotheses A_2 , (i)–(iii), there exist $\bar{n} \in \mathbb{N}$ and a constant $B > 0$ such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \|(I - P_n) T(t)\| &= \sup_{x \in X, \|x\|_X \leq 1} |(I - P_n) T(t)x|_X \leq \sup_{y \in \tilde{X}_n, \|y\|_X \leq B} |(\zeta_0 + A)^{\vartheta_0} T(t)y|_X \leq \\ &\leq \sup_{y \in \tilde{X}_{\bar{n}}, \|y\|_X \leq B} |(\zeta_0 + A)^{\vartheta_0} T(t)y|_X \leq B M_{\bar{n}} \exp(\omega_{\bar{n}} t) t^{-\vartheta_0} =: \varphi(t) \quad (t > 0) \end{aligned}$$

with suitable constant $M_{\bar{n}} > 0$; then the conclusion follows.

PROPOSITION 2. Let A_1, k_1 and H) be satisfied. Then there exists $h > 0$ such that the following inequality holds:

$$(3) \quad \|D(\zeta)\| \leq h/(1 + |\zeta|) \quad (\operatorname{Re} \zeta \geq 0).$$

Proof. According to assumption A_1 , there exist $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\vartheta \in (0, \pi/2)$ such that $\rho(-A) \supseteq \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C} \mid |\arg(\zeta - \gamma)| \leq \pi/2 + \vartheta\}$. Let us limit ourselves to the case $\gamma > 0$ (the proof is easier if $\gamma \leq 0$). Define $V := \{\zeta \in C_+ \mid |\arg(\zeta - \gamma)| \geq \pi/2 + \vartheta\}$ and $S_\delta := \{\zeta \in C_+ \mid |\zeta| \leq \delta\}$ ($\delta > 0$); let moreover $\tilde{V}$ (resp. $\tilde{S}_\delta$) denote the complement of V (resp. S_δ) with respect to the closed half-plane C_+ .

Due to assumption A_1 , there exist $\delta > 0, c_1 = c_1(\delta) > 0$ such that:

$$\|(\zeta + A)^{-1}\| \leq c_1/(1 + |\zeta|) \quad (\zeta \in \tilde{V} \cap \tilde{S}_\delta).$$

By assumption H) we get the estimate:

$$\|D(\zeta)\| \leq 2 c_1/(1 + |\zeta|) \quad (\zeta \in \tilde{V} \cap \tilde{S}_\delta),$$

where $\bar{\delta} := \max \{ \delta, 2 \|k\|_{L_1} c_1 - 1 \}$. Due to the analyticity of the map $D(\cdot)$, in the compact subset $V \cup S_{\bar{\delta}}$ we have the similar estimate:

$$\|D(\zeta)\| \leq c_2 / (1 + \|\zeta\|) \quad (\zeta \in V \cup S_{\bar{\delta}})$$

for a suitable constant $c_2 > 0$; then the result follows with $h := \max \{2c_1, c_2\}$.

In the finite-dimensional case, the inequality (3) implies that

$$\mathcal{S}(\cdot) \in L^2(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X)) \quad [3, \text{Ch. 1}].$$

4. APPROXIMATE PROBLEMS

Let us consider the family of approximate problems:

$$(4_n) \quad \mathcal{S}_n(t) = T(t) P_n + [T * (P_n k P_n) * \mathcal{S}_n](t) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}; t \geq 0).$$

The same arguments used in connection with problem (1) prove the existence of a unique solution $\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot) \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X))$ of (4_n) , for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$; moreover, $\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot)$ is continuous in the uniform sense as $t \rightarrow 0^+$. By the uniqueness of the solution of (4_n) we also have $\mathcal{S}_n(t) P_n = P_n \mathcal{S}_n(t) = \mathcal{S}_n(t)$.

In connection with problems (4_n) the following proposition is of use.

PROPOSITION 3. *Let A_1, A_2, k_1 and H) be satisfied. Then there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $[\zeta I + A - P_n k^*(\zeta)]^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ for any $n > n_0$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$) and $\zeta \in C_+$.*

Proof. Suppose false; then there exist sequences $\{\zeta_k\} \subseteq C_+, \{u_k\} \subseteq X, \|u_k\|_X = 1$ such that

$$\zeta_k u_k + A u_k - P_{n_k} k^*(\zeta_k) u_k = 0 \quad (k \in \mathbb{N}).$$

We may suppose either $\zeta_k \rightarrow \hat{\zeta}$ or $\|\zeta_k\| \rightarrow +\infty$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. If $\|\zeta_k\| \rightarrow +\infty$, due to Lemma 1, (ii) and the above equation the contradiction $\|u_k\|_X \rightarrow 0$ easily follows; thus we can assume $\zeta_k \rightarrow \hat{\zeta}$ ($\text{Re } \hat{\zeta} \geq 0$). Due to the equality

$$u_k = (\zeta_0 - \zeta_k)(\zeta_0 + A)^{-1} u_k - (\zeta_0 + A)^{-\theta_0} P_{n_k} (\zeta_0 + A)^{-1+\theta_0} k^*(\zeta_k) u_k,$$

by a compactness argument, we may assume $\hat{u} \in X, \|\hat{u}\|_X = 1$ to exist, such that $\|u_k - \hat{u}\|_X \rightarrow 0$ as k diverges. As a consequence, $\hat{u}$ is in the domain of $(\zeta_0 + A)^{1-\theta_0}$ and the following equality holds:

$$(\zeta_0 + A)^{1-\theta_0} \hat{u} = (\zeta_0 - \hat{\zeta})(\zeta_0 + A)^{-\theta_0} \hat{u} + (\zeta_0 + A)^{-\theta_0} k^*(\hat{\zeta}) \hat{u};$$

this in turn implies $\hat{u} \in D(A)$ and the relation $[\hat{\zeta} I + A - k^*(\hat{\zeta})] \hat{u} = 0$, whence the conclusion follows.

COROLLARY 1. *Let A_1, A_2, k_1 and H) be satisfied. Then there exists $n_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $D_n(\zeta) := [\zeta I + A - P_n k^*(\zeta)]^{-1} P_n \in \mathcal{L}(X_n)$ for any $n > n_0$ and $\zeta \in C_+$.*

Proof. Follows from Proposition 3, as the operator $\zeta I + A - P_n k^*(\zeta)$ leaves the subspace X_n invariant.

COROLLARY 2. *Let $A_1), A_2), k_1)$ and $H)$ be satisfied. Then $\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot) \in L^1(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X))$ for any $n > n_0$.*

Proof. Follows from Corollary 1 by finite-dimensional results [2].

A property of uniform boundedness of the sequences $\{D_n(\cdot)\}, \{(dD_n/d\zeta)(\cdot)\}$ in C_+ is the content of the following propositions.

PROPOSITION 4. *Let $A_1), A_2), k_1)$ and $H)$ be satisfied. Then there exist $n_1 \in \mathbb{N}, n_1 > n_0$ and $\tilde{h} > 0$ such that the following inequality holds:*

$$(5) \quad \|D_n(\zeta)\| \leq \tilde{h}/(1 + |\zeta|)^{1-\vartheta_0} \quad (n > n_1, \operatorname{Re} \zeta \geq 0).$$

Proof. (i) As a consequence of Lemma 1, there exist $\eta > 0$ and $n' \in \mathbb{N}$ such that

$$\sup_{\zeta \in \tilde{S}_\eta} \|(I - P_n)D(\zeta)\| \leq 1/(2 \|k\|_{L^1}) \quad (n > n').$$

Then, if $n > n^* := \max\{n_0, n'\}$ and $\zeta \in \tilde{S}_\eta$, the following relation is easily seen to hold:

$$\begin{aligned} \|D_n(\zeta)\| &\leq h_1 \|P_n D(\zeta)\| = h_1 \|P_n(\zeta + A)^{-1} [I - k^*(\zeta)(\zeta + A)^{-1}]^{-1}\| \leq \\ &\leq h_2 (1 + |\zeta|)^{\vartheta_0-1} \quad (h_1, h_2 > 0). \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Now we claim that $n^{**} \geq n_0, n^{**} \in \mathbb{N}$ exists, such that for any integer $n > n^{**} \sup_{\zeta \in \tilde{S}_\eta} \|D_n(\zeta)\| \leq \text{const.}$ Suppose false; then there exist sequences $\{\zeta_k\} \subset \tilde{S}_\eta, \zeta_k \rightarrow \tilde{\zeta}$ as k diverges, $\{u_k\} \subset X, |u_k|_X = 1$, such that the sequence $\{v_k\} := \{D_{n_k}(\zeta_k) u_k\} \subset X$ diverges as k diverges. Set $w_k := \pm v_k/|v_k|_X$; from the equality

$$\begin{aligned} (\zeta_0 + A)^{-1}(\zeta_0 - \zeta_k)w_k + P_{n_k}(\zeta_0 + A)^{-1}(|v_k|_X)^{-1}u_k = \\ = w_k - P_{n_k}(\zeta_0 + A)^{-1}k^*(\zeta_k)w_k \end{aligned}$$

we may assume $\tilde{w} \in X$ to exist, such that $|w_k - \tilde{w}|_X \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$. It follows that $\tilde{w} \in D(A)$ and $[\tilde{\zeta}I + A - k^*(\tilde{\zeta})]\tilde{w} = 0$, so that by contradiction the claim is proved. Now the conclusion follows with $n_1 := \max\{n^*, n^{**}\}$ and a suitable constant $h > 0$.

PROPOSITION 5. *Let $A_1), A_2), k_1), k_2)$ and $H)$ be satisfied. Then there exists $h > 0$ such that the following inequality holds:*

$$(6) \quad \|(dD_n/d\zeta)(\zeta)\| \leq h/(1 + |\zeta|)^\nu \quad (n > n_1; \operatorname{Re} \zeta \geq 0),$$

where $\nu := \min\{2 - \vartheta_0, 2(1 - \vartheta_0) + \alpha\} > 1$.

Proof. Follows from assumption k_2) and Proposition 4, due to the identity:

$$(dD_n/d\zeta)(\zeta) = -[\zeta I + A - P_n k^*(\zeta)]^{-1} [I - P_n (dk^*/d\zeta)(\zeta)] D_n(\zeta) \\ (n > n_0; \operatorname{Re} \zeta \geq 0).$$

5. CONVERGENCE RESULTS

It is convenient to consider the projected equalities:

$$(7_n) \quad P_n \mathcal{S}(t) = T(t) P_n + [(TP_n)^* k^* \mathcal{S}](t) \quad (t \geq 0).$$

By standard uniqueness results and the very definition of $\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot)$, the following relation is proved to hold:

$$(8_n) \quad \mathcal{S}_n(t) = P_n \mathcal{S}(t) - [\mathcal{S}_n^* k^* (I - P_n) \mathcal{S}](t) \quad (n \in \mathbb{N}; t \geq 0).$$

PROPOSITION 6. *Let A_1) and A_2) be satisfied. Then the sequence $\{(I - P_n) \mathcal{S}(\cdot)\}$ is infinitesimal in $L^1_{loc}(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X))$.*

Proof. Due to Proposition 1 and the boundedness of $\mathcal{S}(\cdot)$ on the bounded subsets of $[0, +\infty)$, we have

$$\sup_{t \in [0, t]} \|(I - P_n) T^* k^* \mathcal{S}\|(t) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{for any } t > 0; \\ n \rightarrow \infty$$

then the conclusion follows from (7_n) according to Proposition 1.

Concerning the sequence of approximate solutions $\{\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot)\}$, we have the following result.

PROPOSITION 7. *Let A_1) — H) be satisfied. Then there exists an integer n_1 such that, for any $n > n_1$ ($n \in \mathbb{N}$), the following hold:*

- (i) $\|t \mathcal{S}_n(t)\| \leq m_1$ for any $t > 0$ ($m_1 > 0$);
- (ii) the sequence $\{\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot)\}$ is bounded in $L^1_{loc}(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X))$.

Proof. According to Corollary 2 and Proposition 5, for any integer n the map $\zeta \rightarrow (dD_n/d\zeta)(\zeta)$ is the Laplace transform of $-(t \mathcal{S}_n)(\cdot)$; then the conclusion follows from the inversion formula of the Laplace transform [1] due to the uniform estimate (6). This proves (i); as for (ii), suffice it to prove

that $\int_0^\tau \|\mathcal{S}_n(t)\| dt \leq \text{const.}$ for a suitable $\tau > 0$. According to Proposition 1,

$\int_0^{+\infty} \|(I - P_n) T^* k^*\|(t) dt \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$; thus we can choose $\tau > 0$ such

that $\int_0^\tau \|(P_n T)^* k^*\|(t) dt \leq 1/2$; due to (4_n) and Proposition 1 the result

follows.

Remark. By the above argument the sequence $\{\mathcal{S}_n(\cdot)\}$ can be proved to be bounded in $L^\beta(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X))$ for any $\beta \in (1, 1/\vartheta_0)$.

PROPOSITION 8. *Let $A_1) - H)$ be satisfied. Then the sequence $\{(\mathcal{S}_n - P_n \mathcal{S})(\cdot)\}$ is infinitesimal in $L^1_{loc}(0, +\infty; \mathcal{L}(X))$.*

Proof. Follows from the identity (8_n) according to Propositions 6 and 7, (ii) above.

Finally, Theorem 1 is an easy consequence of the following result.

PROPOSITION 9. *Let $A_1) - H)$ be satisfied. Then the following inequality holds:*

$$(9) \quad \|\mathcal{S}(t)\| \leq \text{const}/(1+t)^{-1}$$

Proof. Due to Propositions 6 and 8, a subsequence $\{\mathcal{S}_{n_k}(\cdot)\}$ exists, such that $\|\mathcal{S}_{n_k}(t) - \mathcal{S}(t)\| \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$ for almost every $t \geq 0$. By Proposition 7, (i) and the boundedness of $\mathcal{S}(\cdot)$ on the bounded subsets of $[0, +\infty)$ we get the inequality (9).

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