

# An identification problem with evolution on the boundary of hyperbolic type

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### The identification problem

Determine two functions  $u : [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  and  $k : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  solutions to

$$(P) \begin{cases} A(u + k * u) = f, \text{ in } (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ D_t^2 u + b(x)D_{\nu_A} u = g, \text{ on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ u(0, \cdot) = u_0, \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \\ D_t u(0, \cdot) = u_1, \text{ on } \partial\Omega, \\ \Phi[u(t, \cdot)] = l(t), t \in [0, T], \end{cases}$$

where  $\Omega$  is an open bounded domain in  $\mathbf{R}^n$  with a boundary  $\partial\Omega$  of class  $C^2$ ,  $A$  is a linear uniformly elliptic operator of second order.

Moreover  $\nu_A$  denotes the conormal unit vector related to  $A$  and  $b \in C^2(\overline{\Omega})$ ,  $b(x) > 0$  for all  $x \in \overline{\Omega}$  and  $D_{\nu_A} b \geq 0$  on  $\partial\Omega$ .

Additional information:  $\Phi \in H^{1/2+\varepsilon}(\partial\Omega)^*$ ,  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1/2)$ , e.g.,

$$\Phi[z] = \int_{\Omega} \phi_0(x)z(x) dx + \int_{\Omega \times \Omega} \phi_1(x, y)|x - y|^{-(n+2\varepsilon)}[z(x) - z(y)] dx dy,$$

$\phi_0$  and  $\phi_1$  being two given functions in  $L^2(\Omega)$  and  $L^2(\Omega \times \Omega)$ , respectively.

A. Lorenzi, F. M.: *A new identification problem with evolution on the boundary*, to appear in *Advances in Differential Equations*.

### Assumptions on the operator $A$

Let  $A : H^2(\Omega) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$  be a linear (uniformly) elliptic operator of the following form:

$$A = \sum_{i,j=1}^n D_{x_i} [a_{i,j}(x) D_{x_j}] + \sum_{j=1}^n a_j(x) D_{x_j} + a_0(x),$$

where  $a_{i,j} \in C^2(\overline{\Omega})$ ,  $a_j \in C^1(\overline{\Omega})$   $i, j = 1, \dots, n$ ,  $a_0 \in C(\overline{\Omega})$  and

$$a_0(x) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n D_{x_j} a_j(x) \leq 0, \quad x \in \overline{\Omega}, \quad \sum_{i,j=1}^n a_{i,j}(x) \xi_i \xi_j \geq \kappa |\xi|^2, \quad (x, \xi) \in \overline{\Omega} \times \mathbf{R}^n,$$

for some positive constant  $\kappa$ . According to Theorem 9.11 in

*D. Gilbarg, N.S. Trudinger: Elliptic partial differential equations of second order, Classics in Mathematics, Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2001, xiv+517,*

from our assumptions on the coefficients  $a_{i,j}$  and  $a_0$  we can conclude that, for any pair  $(f, w) \in L^2(\Omega) \times H^{3/2}(\partial\Omega)$ , the Dirichlet problem

$$Av = f, \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad v = w \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \quad (1)$$

admits a unique solution  $v \in H^2(\Omega)$  satisfying the estimate

$$\|v\|_{H^2(\Omega)} \leq C(\|f\|_{L^2(\Omega)} + \|w\|_{H^{3/2}(\partial\Omega)}).$$

Moreover, according to the fundamental result in

J. L. Lions, E. Magenes: *Problemi ai limiti non omogenei (V)*, (in Italian) Ann. Sc. Norm. Sup. Pisa, 16 (1962), 1-44,

the solution to the elliptic boundary value problem (1) admits the representation

$$v = L_0 w + L_1 f,$$

where

$$L_0 \in \mathcal{L}(H^{s-1/2}(\partial\Omega); H^s(\Omega)), \quad 1/2 < s \leq 2, \quad s \neq 3/2,$$

$$L_1 \in \mathcal{L}(H^s(\Omega); H^{2+s}(\Omega)), \quad 1/2 < s \leq 2, \quad s \neq 3/2.$$

We emphasize that  $L_0 w$  stands for the solution to problem (1) with  $f = 0$ , while  $L_1 f$  stands for the solution to problem (1) with  $w = 0$ , i.e.

$$\begin{cases} AL_0 w = 0 & \text{in } \Omega, \\ L_0 w = w & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} AL_1 f = f & \text{in } \Omega, \\ L_1 f = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases}$$

**Main result**

To be able to state our fundamental result we need some notation.

$$\|g\|_{t,m,\beta,Y} = \|g\|_{C^m([0,t];H^\beta(Y))}, \quad \beta \geq 0, \quad \|l\|_{t,m} = \|l\|_{C^m([0,t])}, \quad t \in (0, T].$$

For  $Y \in \{\partial\Omega, \Omega\}$  we set

$$\|u_0\|_{\beta,Y} = \|u_0\|_{H^\beta(Y)}, \quad \beta \geq 0,$$

To define in a precise way the admissible space for our data we need to introduce the following non-standard vector space, where  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\beta \in (0, +\infty)$ ,  $s \in \mathbf{N}$ :

$$C_\alpha^s([0, T]; H^\beta(Y)) := \{v \in C^s([0, T]; H^\beta(Y)) :$$

$$\mathbf{D}_t^s v\|_{\alpha,\beta,Y} = \sup_{t \in (0,T]} t^{-\alpha} \|D_t^s v(t) - D_t^s v(0)\|_{\varepsilon,Y} < +\infty\}.$$

When endowed with the norm

$$\|v\|_{C_\alpha^s([0,T];H^\beta(Y))} := \|v\|_{T,s,\beta,Y} + \mathbf{D}_t^s v\|_{\alpha,\beta,Y}$$

$C_\alpha^s([0, T]; H^\beta(Y))$  turns out to be a Banach space.

We can now introduce the space of *admissible data*:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}(\varepsilon, \alpha, R_0) := \{ \mathbf{d} = (u_0, u_1, f, g, l) : u_0 \in H^{2+\varepsilon}(\partial\Omega), u_1 \in H^{1+\varepsilon}(\partial\Omega), \\ f \in C_\alpha^2([0, T]; H^\varepsilon(\Omega)), g \in C_\alpha([0, T]; H^{1/2+\varepsilon}(\partial\Omega)), l \in C_\alpha^2([0, T]), \\ \|\mathbf{d}\|_{\beta,\varepsilon} \leq R_0, |\Phi[L_1(bf(0, \cdot))]| \geq m_1 > 0, \\ |\Phi[L_0u_0 + L_1f(0, \cdot)]| \geq m_2 > 0 \}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\varepsilon \in [0, 1/2)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{d}\|_{\alpha,\varepsilon} := \|u_0\|_{2+\varepsilon,\partial\Omega} + \|u_1\|_{1+\varepsilon,\partial\Omega} + \|f\|_{C_\alpha^2([0,T];H^\varepsilon(\Omega))} + \|g\|_{C_\alpha([0,T];H^{1/2+\varepsilon}(\partial\Omega))} \\ + \|l\|_{C_\alpha^2([0,T])}. \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *Let  $\mathbf{d} = (u_0, u_1, f, g, l) \in \mathcal{D}(\varepsilon, \alpha, R_0)$ . Then problem P) admits a unique solution  $(u, k) \in C([0, T]; H^{1/2+\varepsilon}(\Omega)) \times C^1([0, T])$ , such that  $D_{\nu_A} u \in C([0, T]; H^\varepsilon(\partial\Omega))$  continuously depending on the data  $\mathbf{d}$  with respect to the natural metrics of the spaces pointed out.*

**An equivalent differential problem**

Assume that  $k \in L^p((0, T))$ . Then there exists a unique solution  $h \in L^p((0, T))$  solving the convolution equation

$$h + k + h * k = 0 \quad \text{in } (0, T).$$

Introduce the new unknown

$$v = u + k * u \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad u = v + h * v.$$

Determine two functions  $v : [0, T] \times \Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  and  $h : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  solutions to

$$(P') \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Av = f \quad \text{in } (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ D_t^2 v + D_t h * D_t v + h(0) D_t v + u_0 D_t h + b D_{\nu_A} v + b h * D_{\nu_A} v = g \\ \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ v(0, \cdot) = u_0 \quad \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ D_t v(0, \cdot) = u_1 - h(0) u_0 \quad \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ \Phi[v(t, \cdot)] + h * \Phi[v(t, \cdot)] = l(t) \quad t \in [0, T]. \end{array} \right.$$

Indeed,  $v(0) = u(0) = u_0$  on  $\partial\Omega$  and

$$u = v + h * v,$$

$$D_t u = D_t v + h * D_t v + h v(0), \quad D_t^2 u = D_t^2 v + D_t h * D_t v + h(0) D_t v + D_t h v(0).$$

We prove that problems (P) in  $(u, k)$  and (P') in  $(v, h)$  are equivalent.

First equivalent boundary integrodifferential problem

$$v = L_0 w + L_1 f$$

Introduce the new unknown

$$w = v \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega.$$

Determine two functions  $w : [0, T] \times \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  and  $h : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  solutions to

$$(P'') \quad \begin{cases} D_t^2 w - Bw = [g - bD_{\nu_A} L_1 f] + [-h(0)D_t w - bh * D_{\nu_A} L_1 f - D_t h * D_t w \\ + h * Bw] - u_0 D_t h =: F_1 + F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h) - u_0 D_t h & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ w(0, \cdot) = u_0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ D_t w(0, \cdot) = u_1 - h(0)u_0, & \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ \Phi[L_0 w(t, \cdot) + L_1 f(t, \cdot)] + h * \Phi[L_0 w(t, \cdot) + L_1 f(t, \cdot)] = l(t) & t \in [0, T]. \end{cases}$$

We denote

$$B := -bD_{\nu_A} L_0.$$

We prove that problems  $(P')$  in  $(v, h)$  and  $(P'')$  in  $(w, h)$  are equivalent.

**Second equivalent boundary integrodifferential problem**

Then, by differentiation, we obtain the following new problem:

Determine two functions  $w : [0, T] \times \partial\Omega \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  and  $h : [0, T] \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  solutions to

$$(P''') \left\{ \begin{array}{l} D_t^2 w - Bw = [g - bD_{\nu_A} L_1 f] + [-h(0)D_t w - bh * D_{\nu_A} L_1 f - D_t h * D_t w \\ + h * Bw] - u_0 D_t h =: F_1 + F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h) - u_0 D_t h \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ w(0, \cdot) = u_0, \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ D_t w(0, \cdot) = u_1 - h_0 u_0, \quad \text{on } \partial\Omega, \\ \Phi[L_0 D_t^2 w(t, \cdot)] + h_0 \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)] + D_t h * \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)] + \Phi[L_1 D_t^2 f(t, \cdot)] \\ + D_t h * \Phi[L_1 D_t f(t, \cdot)] + h_0 \Phi[L_1 D_t f(t, \cdot)] + D_t h(t) \{ \Phi[L_0 u_0] + \Phi[L_1 f(0, \cdot)] \} \\ = l''(t), \quad t \in [0, T]. \end{array} \right.$$

We denote

$$h(0) = \{ \Phi[L_0 u_0 + L_1 f(0, \cdot)] \}^{-1} \{ l'(0) - \Phi[L_0 u_1 + L_1 D_t f(0, \cdot)] \} =: h_0.$$

We prove that problems  $(P'')$  and  $(P''')$  are equivalent.

Then we observe that the first equation in  $(P''')$  is equivalent to the following system for  $(w, D_t w)$

$$D_t \begin{pmatrix} w \\ D_t w \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{B}_\beta \begin{pmatrix} w \\ D_t w \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ F_1 + F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h) - u_0 D_t h \end{pmatrix}$$

where

$$\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{B}_\beta) = H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega) \times H^\beta(\partial\Omega), \quad \mathcal{B}_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ B & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \beta \geq 0.$$

We note that  $\mathcal{B}_\beta \in \mathcal{L}(H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega) \times H^\beta(\partial\Omega); H^\beta(\partial\Omega) \times H^{\beta-1/2}(\partial\Omega))$ , for all  $\beta \geq 0$ . Indeed,  $B \in \mathcal{L}(H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega); H^{\beta-1/2}(\partial\Omega))$ ,  $\beta \geq 0$ , cf.

T. Hintermann: *Evolution equations with dynamic boundary conditions*, Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh Sect. A 113 (1989), no. 1-2, 43–60.

Therefore  $\mathcal{B}_\beta$  generates a continuous semigroup

$$\mathcal{S}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} S_{11}(t) & S_{12}(t) \\ S_{21}(t) & S_{22}(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

of linear bounded operators from  $H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega) \times H^\beta(\partial\Omega)$  into itself, for all  $\beta \geq 0$ .



For  $\beta \geq 0$

$$S_{21}(t)x = S_{12}(t)Bx, \quad x \in H^{\beta+1}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$S_{22}(t)y = S_{11}(t)y, \quad y \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$S_{22}(t)Bx = BS_{11}(t)x, \quad x \in H^{\beta+1}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$S_{21}(t)y = BS_{12}(t)y, \quad y \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega).$$

$$BS_{11}(t)x = S_{11}(t)Bx \quad x \in H^{\beta+1}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$BS_{12}(t)y = S_{12}(t)By, \quad y \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega).$$

$$D_t[S_{11}(t)x] = S_{12}(t)Bx, \quad D_t[S_{21}(t)x] = BS_{11}(t)x, \quad x \in H^{\beta+1}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$D_t[S_{12}(t)y] = S_{11}(t)y, \quad y \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$D_t[S_{22}(t)y] = BS_{12}(t)y, \quad y \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega).$$

$$\|S_{11}(t)x\|_{H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega)} \leq Me^{wt}\|x\|_{H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega)}, \quad x \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$\|S_{12}(t)y\|_{H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega)} \leq Me^{wt}\|y\|_{H^\beta(\partial\Omega)}, \quad y \in H^\beta(\partial\Omega),$$

$$\|S_{21}(t)x\|_{H^\beta(\partial\Omega)} \leq Me^{wt}\|x\|_{H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega)}, \quad x \in H^{\beta+1/2}(\partial\Omega),$$

$$\|S_{22}(t)y\|_{H^\beta(\partial\Omega)} \leq Me^{wt}\|y\|_{H^\beta(\partial\Omega)}, \quad y \in H^\beta(\partial\Omega).$$

According well-known results in Semigroup Theory, the first two equations in problem ( $P'''$ ) are equivalent to the following fixed-point equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
w(t) &= u_0 + \left\{ [S_{11}(t) - I]u_0 + S_{12}(t)(u_1 - h_0u_0) + \int_0^t S_{12}(t-s)F_1(s) ds \right\} \\
&\quad + \int_0^t S_{12}(t-s)F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(s) ds - \int_0^t D_t h(s)S_{12}(t-s)u_0 ds \\
&=: u_0 + w_1(t) + \tilde{N}_1(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t) - \int_0^t D_t h(s)S_{12}(t-s)u_0 ds \\
&=: u_0 + w_1(t) + N_1(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t).
\end{aligned}$$

Differentiating the previous equation and using the relations on  $S_{ij}(t)$  and their derivatives we get

$$\begin{aligned}
D_t w(t) &= \left\{ S_{12}(t)Bu_0 + S_{11}(t)(u_1 - h_0u_0) + \int_0^t S_{11}(t-s)F_1(s) ds \right\} \\
&\quad + \int_0^t S_{11}(t-s)F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(s) ds - \int_0^t D_t h(s)S_{11}(t-s)u_0 ds \\
&= u_1 - h_0u_0 + \left\{ S_{12}(t)Bu_0 + [S_{11}(t) - I](u_1 - h_0u_0) + \int_0^t S_{11}(t-s)F_1(s) ds \right\} \\
&\quad + \int_0^t S_{11}(t-s)F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(s) ds - \int_0^t D_t h(s)S_{11}(t-s)u_0 ds \\
&=: u_1 - h_0u_0 + w_2(t) + \tilde{N}_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t) - \int_0^t D_t h(s)S_{11}(t-s)u_0 ds \\
&=: u_1 - h_0u_0 + w_2(t) + N_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t).
\end{aligned}$$

We need now to compute  $D_t^2 w$ . It seems more convenient to differentiate from equation for  $D_t w$  with respect to  $t$ . We get

$$\begin{aligned}
D_t^2 w(t) &= Bu_0 + F_1(0) - h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0) + \left\{ [S_{11}(t) - I]Bu_0 + S_{12}(t)[Bu_1 - h_0 Bu_0] \right. \\
&\quad + \int_0^t S_{11}(s)D_t F_1(t-s) ds + [S_{11}(t) - I]F_1(0) \\
&\quad - h_0 \int_0^t S_{11}(s)bD_{\nu_A} L_1 f(t-s) ds - h_0[S_{11}(t) - I](u_1 - h_0 u_0) \left. \right\} \\
&\quad + \left\{ \int_0^t S_{11}(t-s)F_3(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)(s) ds \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \int_0^t D_t h(s)S_{12}(t-s)Bu_0 ds \right\} - D_t h(t)u_0 \\
&=: Bu_0 + F_1(0) - h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0) + \tilde{w}_3(t) + \tilde{N}_3(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, D_t h)(t) \\
&\quad - D_t h(t)u_0,
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
F_3(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t) &=: D_t F_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t) + h_0 b D_{\nu_A} L_1 f(t) \\
&= -h_0 D_t^2 w(t) - b D_t h * D_{\nu_A} L_1 f(t) - D_t h * D_t^2 w(t) \\
&\quad - D_t h(t)(u_1 - h_0 u_0) + D_t h * Bw(t) + h_0 Bw(t).
\end{aligned}$$

Then we replace the expression of  $D_t^2 w$  into the last equation of  $(P^{III})$  and we obtain the following fixed-point equation for  $D_t h$ ,  $t \in [0, T]$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
D_t h(t) &= \chi^{-1} \{ -\Phi[L_0 Bu_0] - \Phi[L_0 F_1(0)] + \Phi[L_0 h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0)] - \Phi[L_1 D_t^2 f(0, \cdot)] \\
&\quad - h_0 \Phi[L_1 D_t f(0, \cdot)] + l''(0) \} + \chi^{-1} \{ -\Phi\{L_1 D_t^2 [f(t, \cdot) - f(0, \cdot)]\} \\
&\quad - h_0 \Phi\{L_1 [D_t f(t, \cdot) - D_t f(0, \cdot)]\} + l''(t) - l''(0) - \Phi[L_0 \tilde{w}_3(t)] \} \\
&+ \chi^{-1} \{ h_0 \Phi[L_0 S_{11} * D_t^2 w(t)] + \Phi[L_0 D_t h * S_{11} * b D_{\nu_A} L_1 f(t)] + \Phi[L_0 D_t h * S_{11} * D_t^2 w(t)] \\
&+ \Phi[L_0 D_t h * S_{11}(u_1 - h_0 u_0)] - \Phi[L_0 D_t h * S_{11} * Bw(t)] - h_0 \Phi[L_0 S_{11} * Bw(t)] \\
&- D_t h * \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)] - D_t h * \Phi[L_1 D_t f(t, \cdot)] \} - h_0 \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)] \\
&=: \chi^{-1} \{ -\Phi[L_0 Bu_0] - \Phi[L_0 F_1(0)] + \Phi[L_0 h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0)] - \Phi[L_1 D_t^2 f(0, \cdot)] \\
&- h_0 \Phi[L_1 D_t f(0, \cdot)] + l''(0) \} + \tilde{h}(t) + \tilde{N}_4(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, D_t h)(t) - h_0 \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)].
\end{aligned}$$

Up to now we have proved that the sextuple  $(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)$  satisfies the equivalent new system:

$$(P^{IV}) \left\{ \begin{array}{l} w(t) = u_0 + w_1(t) + N_1(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ D_t w(t) = u_1 - h_0 u_0 + w_2(t) + N_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ D_t^2 w(t) + D_t h(t) u_0 = Bu_0 + F_1(0) - h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0) + \tilde{w}_3(t) \\ \quad + \tilde{N}_3(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, D_t h)(t), \\ Bw(t) - h_0 D_t w(t) = Bu_0 - h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0) + Bw_1(t) + \tilde{w}_5(t) \\ \quad + \tilde{N}_5(D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ h(t) = h_0 + 1 * D_t h(t), \\ D_t h(t) + h_0 \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)] = \chi^{-1} \{ -\Phi[L_0 B u_0] - \Phi[L_0 F_1(0)] \\ + \Phi[L_0 h_0(u_1 - h_0 u_0)] - \Phi[L_1 D_t^2 f(0, \cdot)] - h_0 \Phi[L_1 D_t f(0, \cdot)] + l''(0) \} + \tilde{h}(t) \\ + \tilde{N}_4(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, D_t h)(t). \end{array} \right.$$

Let us now consider the auxiliary system

$$\begin{aligned} D_t w(t) &= f_1(t), \\ D_t^2 w(t) + D_t h(t) u_0 &= f_2(t), \\ Bw(t) - h_0 D_t w(t) &= f_3(t), \\ D_t h(t) + h_0 \chi^{-1} \Phi[L_0 D_t w(t, \cdot)] &= f_4(t). \end{aligned}$$

The solution of such a system is given by

$$\begin{aligned} D_t w(t) &= f_1(t), & D_t^2 w(t) &= f_2(t) + h_0 \chi^{-1} \Phi[L_0 f_1(t)] u_0 - f_4(t) u_0, \\ Bw(t) &= f_3(t) + h_0 f_1(t), & D_t h(t) &= -h_0 \chi^{-1} \Phi[L_0 f_1(t)] + f_4(t). \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, system  $(P^{IV})$  is equivalent to the following one, where we have separated the values at  $t = 0$  of the right-hand sides - which are independent of the unknowns - from the terms vanishing at  $t = 0$ :

$$(P^V) \begin{cases} w(t) = z_{0,1} + w_1(t) + N_1(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ D_t w(t) = z_{0,2} + w_2(t) + N_2(w, D_t w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ D_t^2 w(t) = z_{0,3} + w_3(t) + N_3(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ Bw(t) = z_{0,4} + w_4(t) + N_4(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \\ h(t) = z_{0,5} + N_5(D_t h)(t), \\ D_t h(t) = z_{0,6} + w_6(t) + N_6(w, D_t w, D_t^2 w, Bw, h, D_t h)(t), \end{cases}$$

Now we the following abstract system for  $\mathbf{z}$

$$(P^{VI}) \begin{cases} z_1(t) = z_{0,1}(\mathbf{d}) + w_1(\mathbf{d})(t) + N_1(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})(t), \\ z_2(t) = z_{0,2}(\mathbf{d}) + w_2(\mathbf{d})(t) + N_2(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})(t), \\ z_3(t) = z_{0,3}(\mathbf{d}) + w_3(\mathbf{d})(t) + N_3(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})(t), \\ z_4(t) = z_{0,4}(\mathbf{d}) + w_4(\mathbf{d})(t) + N_4(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})(t), \\ z_5(t) = z_{0,5}(\mathbf{d}) + N_5(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})(t), \\ z_6(t) = z_{0,6}(\mathbf{d}) + w_6(\mathbf{d})(t) + N_6(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{d})(t), \end{cases}$$

where we have replaced  $(w, D_t w, Bw, D_t^2 w, h, D_t h)$  with  $\mathbf{z}$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $\mathbf{d} = (u_0, u_1, f, g, l) \in \mathcal{D}(\varepsilon, \alpha, R_0)$ . Then the fixed-point system  $(P^{VI})$  admits a unique solution  $\mathbf{z} \in [C([0, T]; H^\varepsilon(\partial\Omega))]^4 \times [C([0, T])]^2$  such that  $z_1 \in C([0, T]; H^{1/2+\varepsilon}(\partial\Omega))$ .  $\mathbf{z}$  continuously depends on the data  $\mathbf{d}$  with respect to the metrics of the spaces pointed out.*

**Main result****Theorem 0.**

*Let  $(f, u_0, l, g)$  satisfy assumptions H1–H5 and consistency conditions (??), (??) and (??) for some  $\alpha \in (0, 1/2)$ . Then there exists a unique pair*

$$(u, k) \in C^{1+\alpha}([0, T]; W^{2,p}(\Omega)) \times C^{1+\alpha}([0, T]),$$

*solving problem (P).*

### Auxiliary theorems

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $(f, u_0, l, g)$  satisfy assumptions H1–H5 and consistency conditions (??), (??) and (??). Then problems (P) and  $(P^{iv})$  are equivalent and their solutions*

$$(u, k) \in C^{1+\alpha}([0, T]; W^{2,p}(\Omega)) \times C^{1+\alpha}([0, T]) \quad (2)$$

and

$$(z, q) \in C^\alpha([0, T]; W^{2-1/p,p}(\partial\Omega)) \times C^\alpha([0, T]) \quad (3)$$

are related by formulae (??)–(??).

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $(f, u_0, l, g)$  satisfy assumptions H1–H5 and set*

$$\begin{aligned} Z^\alpha(\partial\Omega) \times Q^\alpha &:= [C^{1+\alpha}([0, T]; W^{1-1/p,p}(\partial\Omega)) \cap C^\alpha([0, T]; W^{2-1/p,p}(\partial\Omega))] \\ &\quad \times C^\alpha([0, T]). \end{aligned}$$

*Then there exists a unique pair*

$$(z, q) \in Z^\alpha(\partial\Omega) \times Q^\alpha \quad (4)$$

*solving problem  $(P^{iv})$ .*

Sketch of the proof of Theorem 1.

We make use of

- i)* consistency conditions (??), (??) and (??);
- ii)* well-known properties concerning convolutions;
- iii)* well-known properties of the Dirichlet problem for elliptic operators;
- iv)* well-known results for abstract semigroups.



Sketch of the proof of Theorem 2.

We consider the following fixed point problem

$$(P^{iv}) \quad \begin{cases} z(t) =: \zeta(t) - N_1(z, q)(t), \\ q(t) =: \kappa(t) - N_2(z, q)(t). \end{cases}$$

Recalling that

$$Z^\alpha(\partial\Omega) := [C^{1+\alpha}([0, T]; W^{1-1/p, p}(\partial\Omega)) \cap C^\alpha([0, T]; W^{2-1/p, p}(\partial\Omega))],$$

$$Q^\alpha := C^\alpha([0, T]),$$

we endow the vector spaces  $Z^\alpha(\partial\Omega)$  and  $Q^\alpha$  with the following weighted norms:

$$\|z\|_{Z_\rho^\alpha} = \|e^{-\rho} z\|_{C^\alpha([0, T]; X)} + \|e^{-\rho} D_t z\|_{C^\alpha([0, T]; X)} + \|e^{-\rho} Bz\|_{C^\alpha([0, T]; D(B))},$$

$$\|q\|_{Q_\rho^\alpha} = \|e^{-\rho} q\|_{C^\alpha([0, T])},$$

where we denote them by  $Z_\rho^\alpha(\partial\Omega)$  and  $Q_\rho^\alpha$ .

The following formulae hold true

$$D_t \int_0^t S(t-s)h(s) ds = \int_0^t S'(t-s)[h(s) - h(t)] ds + S(t)h(t), \quad (5)$$

$$B \int_0^t S(t-s)h(s) ds = \int_0^t S'(t-s)[h(s) - h(t)] ds + S(t)h(t) - h(t), \quad (6)$$

see, for example,

E. Sinetrari: *On the abstract Cauchy problem of parabolic type in spaces of continuous functions*, J. Math. Anal. Appl., 107 1985, 16-66.

Making use of (5) and (6) we estimate

$$\|N_1(z, q)\|_{Z_\rho^\alpha}, \|N_1(z_1, q_1) - N_1(z_2, q_2)\|_{Z_\rho^\alpha}, \|N_2(z, q)\|_{Q_\rho^\alpha}, \|N_2(z_1, q_1) - N_2(z_2, q_2)\|_{Q_\rho^\alpha}.$$

Consequently we prove that  $N_1$  maps  $Z_\rho^\alpha \times Q_\rho^\alpha$  into  $Z_\rho^\alpha$  and  $N_2$  maps  $Z_\rho^\alpha \times Q_\rho^\alpha$  into  $Q_\rho^\alpha$ .

Moreover the vector operator  $(N_1, N_2)$  is a contraction mapping from  $Z_\rho^\alpha \times Q_\rho^\alpha$  into itself.