

## ON A NONLOCAL SINGULAR MIXED EVOLUTION PROBLEM

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**Abstract.** In the present paper, the existence and uniqueness of the strong solution of a mixed problem for a second order plurihyperbolic equation with an integral condition is proved. The proof is essentially based on an a priori bound and on the density of the range of the operator generated by the considered problem. In spite of the apparant simplicity of the problem, the solution requires a delicate set of techniques. It seems very difficult to extend these technics to the considered equation in more than one dimension without imposing complementary conditions.

### 1. Statement of the problem

In the region  $Q = (0, a) \times (0, T_1) \times (0, T_2)$ , with  $a < \infty$ ,  $T_1 < \infty$  and  $T_2 < \infty$ , we consider the one dimensional hyperbolic equation

$$\mathcal{L}v = v_{t_1 t_2} - \frac{1}{x} (xv_x)_x = F(x, t_1, t_2), \quad (1)$$

The equation (1) is supplemented by boundary and initial conditions

$$\ell_1 v = v(x, 0, t_2) = \phi_1(x, t_2), \quad (x, t_2) \in Q_2 = (0, a) \times (0, T_2), \quad (2)$$

$$\ell_2 v = v(x, t_1, 0) = \phi_2(x, t_1), \quad (x, t_1) \in Q_1 = (0, a) \times (0, T_1), \quad (3)$$

$$v_x(a, t_1, t_2) = \Phi(t_1, t_2), \quad (t_1, t_2) \in (0, T_1) \times (0, T_2), \quad (4)$$

$$\int_0^a xv(x, t_1, t_2) dx = \Psi(t_1, t_2), \quad (t_1, t_2) \in (0, T_1) \times (0, T_2). \quad (5)$$

where  $\phi_1(x, t_2)$ ,  $\phi_2(x, t_1)$ ,  $\Phi(t_1, t_2)$ ,  $\Psi(t_1, t_2)$  and  $F(x, t_1, t_2)$  are given functions. The data functions have to satisfy the following compatibility conditions:

$$\frac{\partial \phi_1}{\partial x} = \Phi(0, t_2), \quad \int_0^a x\phi_1(x, t_2) dx = \Psi(0, t_2),$$
$$\frac{\partial \phi_2}{\partial x} = \Phi(t_1, 0), \quad \int_0^a x\phi_2(x, t_1) dx = \Psi(t_1, 0),$$

and  $\phi_1(x, 0) = \phi_2(x, 0)$ .

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*AMS Subject Classification:* 35 L 20, 35 L 67

*Key words and phrases:* Strong solution, a priori bound, plurihyperbolic equation.

In the early sixties Cannon [6] has proved by means of an integral equation (Potential method), the existence and uniqueness of the solution for a mixed problem combining a classical condition (Dirichlet condition) and an integral one for the homogeneous equation. One year later Kamynin [10] has generalized the results of Cannon by using a system of integral equations (Potential method). The importance of mixed problems with integral conditions has been also pointed out by Samarskii [14]. Problem (1)–(5), can be viewed as a non-local problem for a plurihyperbolic equation (with the Bessel operator). A similar problem for which a homogeneous Dirichlet condition and the linear constraint  $\int_0^a v(x, t) dx = 0$  are combined, has been investigated by Benouar and Yurchuk [1]. In their papers [2], [3], [4] and [5], the authors considered hyperbolic and parabolic equations having the operator  $(\alpha(x, t)v_x)_x$  instead of the Bessel operator considered in equation (1). For some mixed problems for second order parabolic equations which combine classical and integral conditions the reader should refer to Cannon-van der Hoek [7], [8], Cannon-Esteve-van der Hoek [9], Kartynik [11], Shi [15], Yurchuk [16] and Mesloub-Bouziani [13]. In this paper, the existence and uniqueness of a strong solution of problem (1)–(5) is proved by means of an energy estimate and a density argument.

In point of view of the used method, it is preferable to transform the nonhomogeneous conditions to homogeneous ones. If we set:

$$u(x, t_1, t_2) = v(x, t_1, t_2) - w(x, t_1, t_2),$$

where

$$w(x, t_1, t_2) = \left(x - \frac{4(x-a)^2}{a}\right) \cdot \Phi(t_1, t_2) + \frac{12(x-a)^2}{a^4} \cdot \Psi(t_1, t_2),$$

then problem (1)–(5), becomes

$$\mathcal{L}u = F(x, t_1, t_2) - \mathcal{L}w = f(x, t_1, t_2), \quad (6)$$

$$\ell_1 u = u(x, 0, t_2) = \phi_1(x, t_2) - \ell_1 w = \varphi_1(x, t_2), \quad (7)$$

$$\ell_2 u = u(x, t_1, 0) = \phi_2(x, t_1) - \ell_2 w = \varphi_2(x, t_1), \quad (8)$$

$$u_x(a, t_1, t_2) = 0, \quad (9)$$

$$\int_0^a xu(x, t_1, t_2) dx = 0 \quad (10)$$

We now introduce the appropriate function spaces needed for the investigation of the posed problem. Let  $L_\rho^2(Q)$  be the weighted  $L^2$ -space with finite norm

$$\|u\|_{L_\rho^2}^2 = \int_Q xu^2 dx dt,$$

$t = (t_1, t_2)$ ,  $dt = dt_1 dt_2$ . The scalar product in  $L_\rho^2(Q)$  is defined by  $(u, v)_{L_\rho^2} = (xu, v)_{L^2}$ . Let  $V_\rho^{1,0}(Q_i)$ ,  $V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)$ , and  $V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  be the Hilbert spaces

with scalar products respectively

$$\begin{aligned} (u, v)_{V_\rho^{1,0}(Q_i)} &= (u, v)_{L_\rho^2(Q_i)} + (u_x, v_x)_{L_\rho^2(Q_i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, \\ (u, v)_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)} &= (u, v)_{L_\rho^2(Q_1)} + (u_x, v_x)_{L_\rho^2(Q_1)} + (u_{t_1}, v_{t_1})_{L_\rho^2(Q_1)}, \\ (u, v)_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)} &= (u, v)_{L_\rho^2(Q_2)} + (u_x, v_x)_{L_\rho^2(Q_2)} + (u_{t_2}, v_{t_2})_{L_\rho^2(Q_2)}, \end{aligned}$$

and with associated norms

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{V_\rho^{1,0}(Q_i)}^2 &= \|u\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_i)}^2 + \|u_x\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_i)}^2, \quad i = 1, 2, \\ \|u\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)}^2 &= \|u\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_1)}^2 + \|u_x\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_1)}^2 + \|u_{t_1}\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_1)}^2, \\ \|u\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)}^2 &= \|u\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_2)}^2 + \|u_x\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_2)}^2 + \|u_{t_2}\|_{L_\rho^2(Q_2)}^2. \end{aligned}$$

The given problem (6)–(10) can be considered as the resolution of the operator equation

$$Lu = (\mathcal{L}u, \ell_1 u, \ell_2 u) = (f, \varphi_1, \varphi_2) = \mathcal{F},$$

where  $L$  is an operator defined on  $E$  into  $F$ , and  $E$  is the Banach space of functions  $u \in L_\rho^2(Q)$ , satisfying conditions (9) and (10), with the finite norm

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_E^2 &= \sup_{0 \leq \tau_2 \leq T_2} \left( \|u(\cdot, \cdot, \tau_2)\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1}(\cdot, \cdot, \tau_2))\|_{L^2(Q_1)}^2 \right) \\ &\quad + \sup_{0 \leq \tau_1 \leq T_1} \left( \|u(\cdot, \tau_1, \cdot)\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2}(\cdot, \tau_1, \cdot))\|_{L^2(Q_2)}^2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u) = \int_0^a \xi u(\xi, t_1, t_2) d\xi$ , and  $F$  is the Hilbert space  $L_\rho^2(Q) \times V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2) \times V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)$ , which consists of elements  $\mathcal{F} = (f, \varphi_1, \varphi_2)$  with finite norm

$$\|\mathcal{F}\|_F^2 = \|\varphi_1\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)}^2 + \|\varphi_2\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)}^2 + \|\mathcal{L}f\|_{L_\rho^2(Q)}^2.$$

Let  $D(L)$  be the set of all functions  $u \in L^2(Q)$  for which  $u_{t_1}, u_{t_2}, u_{t_1 t_2}, u_x, u_{xx}, u_{xt_1}, u_{xt_2} \in L^2(Q)$  and satisfying conditions (9) and (10).

## 2. A priori bound and its consequences

**THEOREM 2.1.** *For any function  $u \in D(L)$ , there exists a positive constant  $c$  independent of the solution  $u$  such that*

$$\|u\|_E \leq c \|Lu\|_F. \quad (11)$$

*Proof.* Taking the scalar product in  $L^2(Q^\tau)$  of equation (6) and the integro-differential operator

$$\mathcal{M}u = x(u_{t_1} + u_{t_2}) - x\mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1} + \xi u_{t_2}),$$

where  $Q^\tau = (0, a) \times (0, \tau_1) \times (0, \tau_2)$  and  $\mathfrak{S}_x^2 h = \int_0^x \int_0^\xi h(\zeta, t_1, t_2) d\zeta d\xi$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &(u_{t_1 t_2}, u_{t_1} + u_{t_2})_{L_\rho^2(Q^\tau)} - (u_{t_1 t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1} + \xi u_{t_2}))_{L_\rho^2(Q^\tau)} \\ &\quad - (u_{t_1} + u_{t_2}, (xu_x)_x)_{L^2(Q^\tau)} + (\mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1} + \xi u_{t_2}), (xu_x)_x)_{L^2(Q^\tau)} \\ &= (\mathcal{L}u, \mathcal{M}u)_{L^2(Q^\tau)}. \quad (12) \end{aligned}$$

The successive integration by parts of integrals on the left-hand side of (12) are straightforward but somewhat tedious. We only give their results

$$\begin{aligned} (u_{t_1 t_2}, u_{t_1} + u_{t_2})_{L^2_\rho(Q^\tau)} &= \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1^{\tau_1}} x(u_{t_1}(x, t_1, \tau_2))^2 dx dt_1 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1^{\tau_1}} x \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial t_1} \right)^2 dx dt_1 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_2^{\tau_2}} x(u_{t_2}(x, \tau_1, t_2))^2 dx dt_1 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_2^{\tau_2}} x \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial t_2} \right)^2 dx dt_2, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} - (u_{t_1 t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1} + \xi u_{t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q^\tau)} &= \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1^{\tau_1}} (\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1}(x, t_1, \tau_2)))^2 dx dt_1 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1^{\tau_1}} (\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial t_1}))^2 dx dt_1 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_2^{\tau_2}} (\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2}(x, \tau_1, t_2)))^2 dx dt_2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_2^{\tau_2}} (\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial t_2}))^2 dx dt_2, \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{aligned} - (u_{t_1} + u_{t_2}, (xu_x)_x)_{L^2(Q^\tau)} &= \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_2^{\tau_2}} x(u_x(x, \tau_1, t_2))^2 dx dt_2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_2^{\tau_2}} x \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x} \right)^2 dx dt_2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1^{\tau_1}} x(u_x(x, t_1, \tau_2))^2 dx dt_1 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1^{\tau_1}} x \left( \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial x} \right)^2 dx dt_1, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1} + \xi u_{t_2}), (xu_x)_x)_{L^2(Q^\tau)} &= \\ &= - \int_{Q^\tau} xu_x (\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1}) + \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2})) dx dt_1 dt_2. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

First observe that

$$\|\mathfrak{S}_x u\|_{L^2(Q^\tau)}^2 \leq \frac{a^2}{2} \|u\|_{L^2(Q^\tau)}^2, \quad (17)$$

then by making use of (13)–(17), the Cauchy  $\varepsilon$ -inequality  $\alpha\theta \leq \varepsilon\alpha^2/2 + \theta^2/2\varepsilon$ , and the identity (12), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_1}(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_2}(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_x(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \|u_x(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1}(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2))\|_{L^2(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2}(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 \\ &\leq \left(\frac{a^4}{4} + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left\| \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial t_2} \right\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2)}^2 + \left(\frac{a^4}{4} + \frac{1}{2}\right) \left\| \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial t_1} \right\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \frac{\partial \varphi_2}{\partial x} \right\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1)}^2 + a \|u_x\|_{L^2_\rho(Q^\tau)}^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \left\| \frac{\partial \varphi_1}{\partial x} \right\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q^\tau)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_2}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q^\tau)}^2 + 2 \|\mathcal{L}u\|_{L^2_\rho(Q^\tau)}^2 \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{a^3}{4}\right) \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1})\|_{L^2(Q^\tau)}^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{a^3}{4}\right) \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2})\|_{L^2(Q^\tau)}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Consider the elementary inequalities:

$$\|u(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 \leq \|u\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|u_{t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|\varphi_1\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2)}^2, \quad (19)$$

$$\|u(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 \leq \|u\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|u_{t_2}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|\varphi_2\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1)}^2. \quad (20)$$

Adding side to side inequalities (18)–(20), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_{t_1}(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 + \|u_{t_2}(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 + \|u_x(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 \\ & + \|u_x(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1}(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2))\|_{L^2(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2}(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 \\ & \quad + \|u(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 + \|u(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 \\ & \leq k \left\{ \|\varphi_1\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)}^2 + \|\varphi_2\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)}^2 + \|\mathcal{L}u\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|u\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|u_{t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 \right. \\ & \quad \left. + \|u_{t_2}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|u_x\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1})\|_{L^2(Q_\tau)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2})\|_{L^2(Q_\tau)}^2 \right\}, \quad (21) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$k = \max \left\{ 2a, 4, 1 + \frac{a^3}{2}, 1 + \frac{a^4}{2} \right\}.$$

Now, to eliminate the last six terms on the right-hand side of (21), we use the following lemma which can be proved in the same fashion as in lemma 7.1 from [12]. ■

LEMMA 2.2. *If  $f_1(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ ,  $f_2(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  and  $f_3(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  are nonnegative functions on the rectangle  $(0, T_1) \times (0, T_2)$ ,  $f_1(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  and  $f_2(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  are integrable, and  $f_3(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  is nondecreasing in each of its variables separately, then it follows from*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^{\tau_1} \int_0^{\tau_2} f_1(\tau_1, \tau_2) dt_1 dt_2 + f_2(\tau_1, \tau_2) \\ & \leq c \int_0^{\tau_1} f_2(t_1, \tau_2) dt_1 + c \int_0^{\tau_2} f_2(\tau_1, t_2) dt_2 + f_3(\tau_1, \tau_2) \end{aligned}$$

that

$$\int_0^{\tau_1} \int_0^{\tau_2} f_1(\tau_1, \tau_2) dt_1 dt_2 + f_2(\tau_1, \tau_2) \leq \exp(2c(\tau_1 + \tau_2)) \cdot f_3(\tau_1, \tau_2).$$

Then (21) takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2)\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1}(\cdot, t_1, \tau_2))\|_{L^2(Q_1^{\tau_1})}^2 \\ & \quad + \|u(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2)\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2}(\cdot, \tau_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_2^{\tau_2})}^2 \\ & \leq k e^{k(T_1+T_2)} \left\{ \|\varphi_1\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)}^2 + \|\varphi_2\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)}^2 + \|\mathcal{L}u\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_\tau)}^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since the right-hand side of the above inequality is independent of  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$ , we can take the least upper bound of the left side with respect to  $(\tau_1, \tau_2)$  from  $[0, T_1)$  and  $[0, T_2)$  respectively, we get the desired estimate (11) with  $c = \sqrt{k} e^{k(T_1+T_2)/2}$ .

We shall now prove that the operator  $L$  admits a closure. For this we must either show that it follows from a well known theorem in the theory of unbounded operators that the operator  $L^*$  adjoint to  $L$  is defined in a dense set, or else verify directly the following assertion: If  $u_n \in D(L)$  is a sequence such that

$$u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \text{in the norm of } E, \quad (22)$$

and

$$Lu_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} \mathcal{F} = (f, \varphi_1, \varphi_2) \quad \text{in the norm of } F, \quad (23)$$

then  $f = 0$ ,  $\varphi_1 = 0$ ,  $\varphi_2 = 0$ .

Since (22) holds, then

$$u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q), \quad (24)$$

where  $\mathcal{D}'(Q)$  is the space of distributions on  $Q$ . By virtue of the continuity of derivation of  $\mathcal{D}'(Q)$  in  $\mathcal{D}'(Q)$ , (24) implies that

$$\mathcal{L}u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q). \quad (25)$$

But since

$$\mathcal{L}u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} f \quad \text{in } L^2_\rho(Q), \quad (26)$$

then

$$\mathcal{L}u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} f \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q). \quad (27)$$

From the uniqueness of the limit in the space  $\mathcal{D}'(Q)$ , we conclude that  $f = 0$ .

According to (23), we have

$$\ell_1 u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2), \quad (28)$$

and by the fact that the canonical injection from  $V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)$  into  $\mathcal{D}'(Q_2)$  is continuous, (28) implies

$$\ell_1 u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} \varphi_1 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q_2). \quad (29)$$

Moreover, since (22) holds and

$$\|\ell_1 u_n\|_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)} \leq \|u_n\|_E \quad \forall n, \quad (30)$$

we have

$$\ell_1 u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \text{in } V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2). \quad (31)$$

Hence

$$\ell_1 u_n \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D}'(Q_2). \quad (32)$$

By virtue of the uniqueness of the limit in  $\mathcal{D}'(Q_2)$ , we conclude from (29) and (32), that  $\varphi_1 = 0$ . In the same fashion, we can show that  $\varphi_2 = 0$ .

Let  $\bar{L}$  be the closure of the operator  $L$  with domain of definition  $D(\bar{L})$ .

DEFINITION 2.1. A solution of the operator equation

$$\bar{L}u = \mathcal{F},$$

is called the *strong solution* of the problem (6)–(10).

By passing to the limit, the estimate (11) can be extended to strong solutions, that is we have the inequality

$$\|u\|_E \leq c \|\bar{L}u\|_F \quad \forall u \in D(\bar{L}). \quad (33)$$

Hence

COROLLARY 2.3. *If a strong solution of (6)–(10) exists, it is unique and depends continuously on elements  $\mathcal{F} = (f, \varphi_1, \varphi_2) \in F$ .*

COROLLARY 2.4. *The range  $R(\bar{L})$  of the operator  $\bar{L}$  is closed in  $F$  and  $R(\bar{L}) = \overline{R(L)}$ .*

Hence, to prove that a strong solution of problem (6)–(10) exists for any element  $(f, \varphi_1, \varphi_2) \in F$ , it remains to prove that  $R(\bar{L}) = F$ .

### 3. Solvability of the posed problem

THEOREM 3.1. *If, for some function  $\omega \in L^2(Q)$  and for all  $u \in D(L)$  verifying  $\ell_1 u = \ell_2 u = 0$ , we have*

$$\int_Q x \mathcal{L}u \cdot \omega \, dx \, dt = 0, \quad (34)$$

*then  $\omega$  vanishes almost everywhere in the domain  $Q$ .*

*Proof.* Relation (34) holds for any function  $u$  in  $D(L)$  such that  $\ell_1 u = \ell_2 u = 0$ , so it can be expressed in a particular form. Consider the function  $g_{ij}$  defined by

$$g_{ij}(t_1, t_2, x) = \int_{t_i}^{T_i} \omega_{ij} \, d\tau_i, \quad i, j = 1, 2.$$

Let  $\partial^2 u / \partial t_i \partial t_j$  be the solution of the equation

$$\partial^2 u / \partial t_i \partial t_j - \int_0^x \int_0^\xi \zeta \partial^2 u / \partial t_i \partial t_j \, d\zeta \, d\xi = g_{ij}(t_1, t_2, x) \quad (35)$$

and let

$$u = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 \leq t_i \leq s_i, \\ \int_{s_1}^{t_1} \int_{s_2}^{t_2} u_{\tau_1 \tau_2} \, d\tau_1 \, d\tau_2, & s_i \leq t_i \leq T_i, \end{cases} \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (36)$$

From the above relations, we have

$$\omega = \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \omega_{ij} = - \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \left( \partial^2 u / \partial t_i \partial t_j - \int_0^x \int_0^\xi \zeta \partial^2 u / \partial t_i \partial t_j \, d\zeta \, d\xi \right)_{t_i}. \quad (37)$$

LEMMA 3.2. *The function  $\omega$  defined by (37) is in  $L^2(Q)$ .*

*Proof.* The proof can be derived as in [2]. ■

To continue the proof of Theorem 3.1, replacing  $\omega$  in (34) by its representation (37), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& - (u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_1 t_1 t_j})_{L^2_\rho(Q)} + (u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1 t_1 t_j}))_{L^2_\rho(Q)} \\
& + ((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_1 t_1 t_j})_{L^2(Q)} - ((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1 t_1 t_j}))_{L^2(Q)} \\
& - (u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_2 t_2 t_j})_{L^2_\rho(Q)} + (u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_2 t_2 t_j}))_{L^2_\rho(Q)} \\
& + ((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_2 t_2 t_j})_{L^2(Q)} - ((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_2 t_2 t_j}))_{L^2(Q)} = 0. \quad (38)
\end{aligned}$$

Using conditions (9), (10), the particular form of  $u$  given by the relations (35), (36) and then integrating by parts each term of (38), we get

$$- (u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_1 t_1 t_j})_{L^2_\rho(Q)} = \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2, \quad (39)$$

where  $Q_{s_1}^1 = (0, a) \times (s_1, T_1)$ ,

$$(u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_1 t_1 t_j}))_{L^2_\rho(Q)} = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2, \quad (40)$$

$$((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_1 t_1 t_j})_{L^2(Q)} = \frac{1}{2} \|u_{x t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2, \quad (41)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - ((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1 t_j}))_{L^2(Q)} = -(u_{x t_1}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} - \\
& - (u_{x t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} + (xu_x(x, t_1, T_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}, \quad (42)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $Q_s = (0, a) \times (s_1, T_1) \times (s_2, T_2)$ ,

$$- (u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_2 t_2 t_j})_{L^2_\rho(Q)} = \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2, \quad (43)$$

where  $Q_{s_2}^2 = (0, a) \times (s_2, T_2)$ ,

$$(u_{t_1 t_2}, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_2 t_2 t_j}))_{L^2_\rho(Q)} = \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2, \quad (44)$$

$$((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 u_{t_2 t_2 t_j})_{L^2(Q)} = \frac{1}{2} \|u_{x t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2, \quad (45)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - ((xu_x)_x, \sum_{j=1}^2 \mathfrak{S}_x^2(\xi u_{t_2 t_2 t_j}))_{L^2(Q)} = -(u_{x t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} - \\
& - (u_{x t_1}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} + (xu_x(x, T_1, t_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}. \quad (46)
\end{aligned}$$



Combining equalities (38)–(46), we get

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 \\
& \quad + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{x t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 \\
& \quad + \frac{1}{2} \|u_{x t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(r, T_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 \\
& = (u_{x t_1}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} + (u_{x t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} + (u_{x t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} \\
& \quad + (u_{x t_1}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} - (x u_x(x, T_1, t_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)} \\
& \quad - (x u_x(x, t_1, T_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}. \quad (47)
\end{aligned}$$

We now estimate the terms on the right-hand side of (47). We have

$$(u_{x t_1}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} \leq \frac{a}{2} \|u_{x t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1})\|_{L^2(Q_s)}^2, \quad (48)$$

$$(u_{x t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} \leq \frac{a}{2} \|u_{t_2 x}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2})\|_{L^2(Q_s)}^2, \quad (49)$$

$$(u_{x t_2}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} \leq \frac{a}{2} \|u_{t_2 x}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1})\|_{L^2(Q_s)}^2, \quad (50)$$

$$(u_{x t_1}, \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}))_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)} \leq \frac{a}{2} \|u_{t_1 x}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2})\|_{L^2(Q_s)}^2, \quad (51)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - (x u_x(x, t_1, T_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)} \\
& \leq a \|u_x(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2. \quad (52)
\end{aligned}$$

Consider the elementary inequality

$$a \|u_x(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 \leq a \|u_x\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + a \|u_{x t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2. \quad (53)$$

Applying the Poincaré-Friedriks inequality to the first term on the right-hand side of (53), then (52) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
& - (x u_x(x, t_1, T_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)} \\
& \leq (c_1 a + a) \|u_{x t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2. \quad (54)
\end{aligned}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned}
& - (x u_x(x, T_1, t_2), \mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)))_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)} \\
& \leq (c_2 a + a) \|u_{x t_2}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2. \quad (55)
\end{aligned}$$

Combining the equality (47), the estimates (48)–(51), (54) and (55), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 \\
& \quad + \|u_{x t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \|u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 \\
& \quad + \|u_{x t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(r, T_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 \\
& \leq c \left\{ \|u_{x t_1}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1})\|_{L^2(Q_s)}^2 + \|u_{t_2 x}\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_s)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2})\|_{L^2(Q_s)}^2 \right\}, \quad (56)
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$c = \max\{8a + 4c_1a, 8a + 4c_2a, 4\}.$$

It results from (56) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_1 t_1}(x, t_1, T_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 \\ & \quad + \|u_{x t_1}(x, t_1, T_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_1}^1)}^2 + \|u_{t_2 t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 \\ & \quad + \|u_{x t_2}(x, T_1, t_2)\|_{L^2_\rho(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 + \|\mathfrak{S}_x(\xi u_{t_2 t_2}(r, T_1, t_2))\|_{L^2(Q_{s_2}^2)}^2 \leq 0, \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

thanks to Gronwall's lemma 2.2. Hence (57) implies that  $\omega = 0$  almost everywhere on  $Q$ . This achieves the proof of Theorem 3.1. ■

**THEOREM 3.3.** *The range  $R(L)$  of the operator  $L$  coincides with  $F$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose that, for some  $W = (\omega, w_1, w_2) \in R(L)^\perp$ ,

$$(\mathcal{L}u, \omega)_{L^2_\rho(Q)} + (\ell_1 u, w_1)_{V_\rho^{1,0}(Q_2)} + (\ell_2 u, w_2)_{V_\rho^{1,0}(Q_1)} = 0. \quad (58)$$

We must prove that  $W = 0$ .

Let

$$D_0(L) = \{u \in D(L) : \ell_1 u = \ell_2 u = 0\}$$

Putting  $u \in D_0(L)$  in (58), we get  $(\mathcal{L}u, \omega)_{L^2_\rho(Q)} = 0$ ,  $u \in D_0(L)$ . Hence, by virtue of Theorem 3.1 it follows that  $\omega = 0$ . Thus (58) becomes

$$(\ell_1 u, w_1)_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)} + (\ell_2 u, w_2)_{V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)} = 0. \quad (59)$$

$\ell_1 u$ , and  $\ell_2 u$  are independent, and the ranges of the operators  $\ell_1$  and  $\ell_2$  are everywhere dense in the spaces  $V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_2)$ , and  $V_\rho^{1,1}(Q_1)$ , respectively. Hence the equality (59) implies that  $w_1 = w_2 = 0$ . Consequently  $W = 0$ . This ends the proof of Theorem 3.3. ■

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(received 20.01.2001, in revised form 15.12.2001)

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