

Existence and decay of solutions of a beam equation with a nonlinear damping term

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Existence and decay of solutions of a beam equation with a nonlinear damping term

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Introduction

In this paper we consider the initial-boundary value problem for the nonlinear beam equation

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} u + \alpha \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} u + \nu(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u + \rho(x, \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u) - [\beta + k \int_0^t u_\xi(\xi, t)^2 d\xi] \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} = f(x, t) \quad (0.1)$$

on $[0, l] \times R^+$ with conditions

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} u(x, 0) = u_1(x), \quad (0.2)$$

$$u(0, t) = u(l, t) = u_{xx}(0, t) = u_{xx}(l, t) = 0 \quad (0.3)$$

where l , α and k are positive constants and R^+ denotes $[0, \infty)$.

This problem has an important physical meaning and has been investigated by many authors (see Woinowsky-Krieger [11], Reiss and Matkowsky [9], Dickey [3], Ball [1] etc.). Most of earlier papers, however, have treated the non damping equation (i.e. the case $\nu = \rho = 0$). In particular, recently Ball [1] has proved the existence and uniqueness of both weak and smooth solutions for arbitrary $\beta \in R$.

The equation with $\nu > 0$, $\rho = 0$, $\beta < 0$ has been discussed by Reiss and Matkowsky [9]. See also Ball [2] where the existence and stability of solutions of some generalized equations has been studied.

In the present paper we restrict ourselves to the case $\beta > -\frac{2\alpha}{l^2}$, $\nu > 0$ and $\rho(x, s)$ being monotonic in s to prove the existence and exponential decay of classical solutions for the problem (0.1)-(0.3). Our method and result here are closely related to those of our previous paper [7] where the non linear wave equations have been treated.

We consider only hinged boundary problem (0.3), but the results will be valid (without essential changes) for clamped boundary problem:

$$u(0, t) = u(l, t) = u_x(0, t) = u_x(l, t) = 0.$$

1. Preliminaries

We use standard notation for function spaces and norms, and their precise definitions are omitted (see e. g. Lions [4]). For brevity in notation derivatives with respect to time t are denoted by the dots above symbols or D_t , while derivatives with respect to distance x are denoted by $\frac{\partial^m}{\partial x^m} u = u^{(m)}$ or $D_x^m u$. Following Ball [1], let us introduce the subspaces of the hilbert space $L^2(\Omega)$ ($\Omega \equiv [0, l]$):

$$\begin{aligned} S_0 &= \{u \in H^3(\Omega) \mid u, u^{(2)}, u^{(4)}, u^{(6)} \in H_0^1(\Omega)\} \\ S_1 &= \{u \in H^6(\Omega) \mid u, u^{(2)}, u^{(4)} \in H_0^1(\Omega)\} \\ S_2 &= \{u \in H^4(\Omega) \mid u, u^{(2)} \in H_0^1(\Omega)\} \\ S_3 &= H^2(\Omega) \cap H_0^1(\Omega). \end{aligned}$$

(In [1] the space S_0 is not introduced and the notation is slightly different).

The boundary condition (0.3) will be realized requiring the solution u belongs to the space S_2 . The following two lemmas can be proved in the same way as in [1].

LEMMA 1.1. *If $u \in S_{3-j}$, $0 < j < 3$, then we have the inequalities*

$$\|f^{(i)}\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq (l/\sqrt{2}) \|f^{(i+1)}\|_{L^2(\Omega)} \quad (1.1)$$

for $i=0, \dots, 2j+1$.

LEMMA 1.2. $\phi_n = \sin(n\pi x/l)$, $n=1, 2, \dots$, is a basis of the spaces S_j , $0 \leq j \leq 3$.

Here we state our hypotheses on ν , ρ and f :

A₁. $\nu(x)$ is in $C^4(\Omega)$ and $0 < \nu_0 \leq \nu(x) \leq \nu_1$ for some positive constants ν_0 and ν_1 .

A₂. $\rho(x, s)$ is in $C^4(\Omega \times \mathbb{R})$ and satisfies the conditions

$$k_0 \sum_{i=1}^2 |s|^{r_i+2} \leq \rho(x, s) s \leq k_1 (1 + \sum_{i=1}^2 |s|^{r_i}) |s|^2$$

for $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and

$$k_0 \sum_{i=1}^2 |s|^{r_i} \leq \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \rho(x, s) \leq k_1 (1 + \sum_{i=1}^2 |s|^{r_i})$$

for $s \in \mathbb{R}$ where k_0, k_1, r_1, r_2 are some positive constants. Moreover we assume

$$\max_{x \in \Omega} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \rho(x, s) \right| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } s \rightarrow 0, \text{ and for } 0 \leq i+j \leq 2$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)^i \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial s} \right)^j \rho(x, s) = 0 \text{ at } (x, s) = (0, 0) \text{ and } (l, 0).$$

A₃. $f(t) \in C^1(\mathbb{R}^+; H^2 \cap H_0^1) \cap C^3(\mathbb{R}^+; L^2)$ and

$$\max_{x \in \Omega} |f(x, t)| + \delta_i(t) \leq k_2 e^{-\theta t}$$

for $i=0, 1, 2, 3$, where k_2, θ are some positive constants and

$$\delta_i(t) = \left(\int_t^{t+1} \|D_i^i f(s)\|_{L^2}^2 ds \right)^{1/2}.$$

Regarding initial data we assume

$$A_4. \quad (u_0, u_1) \in S_0 \times S_1.$$

We conclude this section by giving a lemma which is useful for the investigation of the asymptotic behaviour of solutions of evolution equations ([5], [6], [8]).

LEMMA 1.3. *Let $\phi(t)$ be a bounded nonnegative function on $R^+ = [0, \infty)$ such that*

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \phi(s)^{1+r} \leq C(\phi(t) - \phi(t+1)) + \delta(t)$$

for $t \in R^+$, where $r \geq 0, C > 1$ are constants and $\delta(t)$ is a nonnegative function. Then it holds that

$$(i) \quad \text{if } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \delta(t) = 0 \text{ then } \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \phi(t) = 0$$

$$(ii) \quad \text{if } r > 0 \text{ and } \delta(t) \leq C't^{-\theta-1} \text{ with } \theta > \frac{1}{r} \text{ then } \phi(t) < C''t^{-1/r} \text{ for } t > 0$$

and

$$(iii) \quad \text{if } r = 0 \text{ and } \delta(t) \leq C''e^{-\theta t} \text{ with } \theta > 0 \text{ then}$$

$$\phi(t) \leq C''e^{-\theta t}$$

where C, C'' are positive constants depending on the bound $\max_{t \in [0, 1]} \phi(t)$ and other known constants and

$$\theta' = \min(\theta, \log \frac{C}{C-1}).$$

PROOF. For the proof see [6].

In this paper we use the above lemma mainly in the case $r=0$.

2. Approximate Solutions

For our purpose we employ Galerkin's method. First note that $\phi_n(x) = \sin(n/l\pi x)$, $n=1, 2, \dots$, is a basis of S_j , $j=0, 1, 2, 3$ and $L^2(\Omega)$. We assume as m -th approximate solution

$$u_m(x, t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_{i,m}(t) \phi_i(x) \quad (2.1)$$

where $\alpha_{i,m}(t)$ should be determined by the system of ordinary differential equations

$$(\ddot{u}_m(t), \phi_i) + (\alpha u_m^{(4)}, \phi_i) + (\nu \dot{u}_m(t), \phi_i) + (\rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t)), \phi_i) \\ - ([\beta + k \|u_m^{(1)}\|_{L^2}^2] u_m^{(2)}(t), \phi_i) = (f(\cdot, t), \phi_i), \quad i=1, 2, \dots, m, \quad (2.2)$$

and

$$u_m(0) = \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_{i,m}(0) \phi_i(x) \rightarrow u_0 \quad \text{in } S_0 \\ \dot{u}_m(0) = \sum_{i=1}^m \dot{\alpha}_{i,m}(0) \phi_i(x) \rightarrow u_1 \quad \text{in } S_1. \quad (2.3)$$

The equation (2.2) can be written in the form

$$\ddot{u}_m(t) + \alpha u_m^{(4)}(t) + \nu \dot{u}_m(t) + P_m \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t)) \\ - [\beta + k \|u_m^{(1)}(t)\|_{L^2}^2] u_m^{(2)}(t) = P_m f(t) \quad (2.2)'$$

where P_m is the projection of L^2 -space to the subspace spanned by ϕ_1, \dots, ϕ_m .

It is easy to see that $u_m(t)$ exists on R^+ . In the following we shall estimate $u_m(t)$ in various norms. Constants are denoted by C_i or λ_i , $i=1, 2, \dots$, their dependence on relevant parameters being mentioned where necessary. For simplicity we use the notation $\|\cdot\|$ for $\|\cdot\|_{L^2}$.

LEMMA 2.1 *We have*

$$E(u_m(t)) + \int_t^{t+1} \nu_0 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|^2 + k_0 \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{L^{r_i+2}}^{r_i+2} ds \\ \leq C_1 e^{-\lambda_1 t}, \quad m=1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad t \in R^+ \quad (2.4)$$

where we set

$E(u(t)) \equiv \|\dot{u}(t)\|^2 + \alpha \|u^{(2)}(t)\|^2 + \beta \|u^{(1)}(t)\|^2 + \frac{k}{2} \|u^{(1)}(t)\|^4$ and C_1, λ_1 are positive constants depending on $\|u_0\|_{H_2}, \|u_1\|, k_2, \theta$ and other known constants.

PROOF. First note that $\alpha \|u^{(2)}(t)\|^2 + \beta \|u^{(1)}(t)\|^2 \geq \text{const.} \|u^{(2)}(t)\|^2 \geq 0$ by our assumption on β . Multiplying (2.2) by $\dot{\alpha}_{i,m}(t)$, summing over i and integrating over $[t, t+1]$ we have

$$\frac{1}{2} E(u_m(t+1)) + \int_t^{t+1} \{\nu \dot{u}_m(s), \dot{u}_m(s)\} + (\rho(\dot{u}_m(s)), \dot{u}_m(s)) ds \\ = \frac{1}{2} E(u_m(t)) + \int_t^{t+1} (f(s), \dot{u}_m(s)) ds \quad (2.5)$$

and, using the assumptions A_1, A_2, A_3 ,

$$\int_t^{t+1} \nu_0 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|^2 + 2k_0 \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{L^{r_i+2}}^{r_i+2} ds \\ \leq E(u_m(t)) - E(u_m(t+1)) + \delta_0(t)^2 \quad (\equiv D_0(t)^2). \quad (2.6)$$

It is seen from (2.6) that there exists two points $t_1 \in [t, t + \frac{1}{4}]$, $t_2 \in [t + \frac{3}{4},$

$t+1]$ such that $\nu_0 \|\dot{u}_m(t_i)\|^2 \leq 4D_0(t)^2 \quad i=1, 2$.

Next, multiplying (2.2) by $\alpha_{i,m}(t)$, summing over i and integrating over $[t_1, t_2]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{t_2}^{t_1} (\alpha \|u_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 + \beta \|u_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 + k \|u_m^{(1)}(s)\|^4) ds \\
&= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds + (\dot{u}_m(t_1), u_m(t_1)) - (\dot{u}_m(t_2), u_m(t_2)) \\
&\quad + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \{ -(\nu \dot{u}_m, u_m) + (f(s), u_m(s)) \} ds \\
&\quad + k_1 \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \int_a (1 + \sum_{i=1}^2 |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^{r_i}) |\dot{u}_m(x, s)| |u_m(x, s)| dx ds \\
&\leq C_2 (D_0^2(t) + D_0(t) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|u_m(s)\| + \delta_0(t) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|u_m(s)\| \\
&\quad + D_0(t) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|u_m(s)\|_{H_0^1}) \tag{2.7}
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact

$$\|u\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq C_p \|u\|_{H_0^1(\Omega)}, \quad 1 < p < \infty,$$

for $u \in H_0^1 = H_0^1(\Omega)$, C_p being constant.

From (2.6) and (2.7) we see that there exists a point $t^* \in [t_1, t_2]$ such that

$$\begin{aligned}
& \nu_0 \|\dot{u}_m(t^*)\|^2 + 2k_0 \sum_{i=1}^2 \|\dot{u}_m(t^*)\|_{L^{r_i+2}}^{r_i+2} + \alpha \|u_m^{(2)}(t^*)\|^2 \\
&\quad + \beta \|u_m^{(1)}(t^*)\|^2 + k \|u_m^{(1)}(t^*)\|^4 \\
&\leq 2D_0(t)^2 + 2C_2 \{D_0(t)^2 + (D_0(t) + \delta_0(t)) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|u_m(s)\| \\
&\quad + D_0(t) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|u_m(s)\|_{H^1}\}
\end{aligned}$$

and hence, with the aid of Lemma 1.1,

$$E(u_m(t^*)) \leq C_3 \{D_0(t)^2 + (D_0(t) + \delta_0(t)) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} E(u_m(s))\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \tag{2.8}$$

Therefore a similar equation to (2.5) implies

$$\begin{aligned}
& \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} E(u_m(s)) \leq E(u_m(t^*)) + \int_t^{t+1} \nu_1 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds \\
&\quad + k_1 \int_t^{t+1} \int_a (1 + \sum_{i=1}^2 |u_m(x, s)|^{r_i}) |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^2 dx ds + \int_t^{t+1} |(f(s), \dot{u}_m(s))| ds \\
&\leq C_4 \{D_0(t)^2 + (D_0(t) + \delta_0(t)) \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} E(u_m(s))\}^{\frac{1}{2}}
\end{aligned}$$

and recalling the definition of $D_0(t)$

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} E(u_m(s)) \leq C_5 (E(u_m(t)) - E(u_m(t+1)) + \delta_0(t)^2). \tag{2.9}$$

The inequality (2.9) implies readily

$$E(u_m(t)) \leq \max_{s \in [0, 1]} (\max_{s \in [0, 1]} E(u_m(s)), C_5 \delta_0(t)^2).$$

Therefore to prove our lemma it suffices by Lemma 1.3 to show that $\max_{s \in [0, 1]}$

$E(u_m(s))$ is bounded by a constant independent of m . But by a familiar argument we see easily

$$E(u_m(t)) \leq C_6(E(u_m(0))) \leq C_7(\|u_0\|_{H^2}, \|u_1\|_{H^1})$$

for $t \in [0, 1]$, which completes the proof.

q. e. d.

LEMMA 2.2. *We have*

$$\|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2 \leq C_8 e^{-\lambda_2 t} \quad \text{for } t \in \mathbb{R}^+ \quad (2.10)$$

where we set

$$\begin{aligned} \|u(t)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2 &= \|\dot{u}(t)\|^2 + \alpha \|u^{(2)}(t)\|^2 + \beta \|u^{(1)}\|^2 \\ &(\geq \|\dot{u}(t)\|^2 + (\alpha + \frac{\beta l^2}{2}) \|u^{(2)}(t)\|^2 > 0) \end{aligned}$$

and C_8, λ_2 are positive constants depending on $\|u_0\|_{H^1}, \|u_1\|_{H^2}, k_2, \theta, C_1, \lambda_1$ etc. but independent of m .

PROOF. Differentiating (2.2) with respect to t we have

$$\begin{aligned} &(\ddot{u}_m(t), \phi_i) + (\alpha \dot{u}_m^{(4)}(t), \phi_i) + \nu (\dot{u}_m(t), \phi_i) + \rho'(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t)) \dot{u}_m(t), \phi_i) \\ &\quad - (2k(u_m^{(1)}, \dot{u}_m^{(1)})u_m^{(2)}(t) + [\beta + k(u_m^{(1)}(t))^2] \dot{u}_m^{(2)}(t), \phi_i) \\ &= (\dot{f}(t), \phi_i). \quad (\rho'(x, s) = \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \rho(x, s)) \quad (2.11) \end{aligned}$$

From (2.11) we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2 + \nu_0 \int_t^{t+1} \|\ddot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds + \int_t^{t+1} \int_\Omega |\rho'(x, \dot{u}_m(x, s))| |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^2 dx ds \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2 + 2k \int_t^{t+1} \int_\Omega |(u_m^{(1)}, \dot{u}_m^{(1)})| |u_m^{(2)}| |\dot{u}_m| dx ds \\ &\quad + k \int_t^{t+1} \|u_m^{(1)}\|^2 \int_\Omega |\dot{u}_m^{(2)} \dot{u}_m| dx ds + \frac{1}{\nu_0} \int_t^{t+1} \|\dot{f}(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\quad + \frac{\nu_0}{2} \int_t^{t+1} \|\ddot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds \end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} &\nu_0 \int_t^{t+1} \|\ddot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds + 2 \int_t^{t+1} \int_\Omega k_0 \sum_{i=1}^2 |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^{r_i} |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^2 dx ds \\ &\leq 4k \int_t^{t+1} \|u_m^{(1)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\| \|u_m^{(2)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| ds \\ &\quad + 2k \int_t^{t+1} \|u_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| ds \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{\nu_0} \delta_1^2(t) + \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2 - \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2. \quad (2.12) \end{aligned}$$

Using Lemmas 1.1 and 2.1 the first and second terms of the right hand side of (2.12) are estimated as follows:

$$(\text{the first and the second terms}) \leq C_9 e^{-\frac{\lambda_1}{2} t} \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{L}^2}^2$$

and we have

$$\int_t^{t+1} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E^2 ds + \int_t^{t+1} \int_a^2 \sum_{i=1}^2 |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^{\tau_i} |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^2 dx ds \leq D_1^2(t) \quad (2.13)$$

where

$$D_1^2(t) \equiv C_{10} (\|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_E^2 - \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_E^2 + e^{-\lambda_1 t} \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E^2 + \delta_1^2(t)).$$

Next, by (2.11) we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_t^{t+1} (\alpha \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 + \beta \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2) ds \\ & \leq |(\dot{u}_m(t), \dot{u}_m(t))| + |(\dot{u}_m(t+1), \dot{u}_m(t+1))| \\ & \quad + \int_t^{t+1} \{\nu_1 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| + \|f^{\dot{}}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|\} ds \\ & \quad + \int_t^{t+1} \int_a^2 \{k_1 (1 + \sum_{i=1}^2 |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^{\tau_i}) |\dot{u}_m(x, s)| \\ & \quad \quad + 2k |(\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s), \dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s))| |\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(x, s)| \\ & \quad \quad + k \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 |\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(x, s)|\} |\dot{u}_m(x, s)| dx ds \\ & \leq 2 \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| + \{(\nu_1 + k_1) D_1(t) + \delta_1(t)\} \\ & \quad \times \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| + k_1 \sum_{i=1}^2 \int_t^{t+1} \int_a^2 (|\dot{u}_m|^{\tau_i} |\dot{u}_m|^2 + |\dot{u}_m|^{\tau_i+2}) dx ds \\ & \quad + 2k \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| \\ & \quad + k \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\| \|\dot{u}_m(s)\| \\ & \leq C_{11} (e^{-\lambda_1 t} + D_1^2(t) + \delta_1^2(t) + e^{-\lambda_1 t} \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E) \quad (2.14) \end{aligned}$$

From (2.13) and (2.14) we see that there exists a point $t^* \in [t, t+1]$ such that

$$\|\dot{u}_m(t^*)\|_E \leq D_1^2(t) + \text{(the right hand side of (2.14))}$$

and hence, using similar inequality to (2.12),

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E \leq C_{12} \{e^{-\lambda_1 t} + D_1^2(t) + e^{-\lambda_1 t} \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E\} \\ & \leq C_{13} \{e^{-\lambda_1 t} + \delta_1^2(t) + e^{-\lambda_1 t} \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E + \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_E \\ & \quad - \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_E\} + \frac{1}{2} \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore there exist a time T_0 such that if $t \geq T_0$, then

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_E \leq 3C_{13} \{e^{-\lambda_1 t} + \delta_1^2(t) + \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_E \\ & \quad - \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_E\}. \quad (2.15) \end{aligned}$$

Thus to prove Lemma 2.2 it suffices (by Lemma 1.3) to show that $\|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_E$ is bounded on $[0, T_0+1]$ by a constant independent of m . For this it suffices

also to show $\|u_m(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2$ is bounded by such constant. However we have by (2.2)'

$$\begin{aligned} \|\dot{u}_m(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 &= \|\dot{u}_m(0)\|^2 + \alpha \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(0)\|^2 + \beta \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2 \\ &\leq \|-\alpha u_m^{(4)}(0) - \nu \dot{u}_m(0) - P_m \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(0)) \\ &\quad + [\beta + k \|u_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2] u_m^{(2)}(0) + P_m f(0)\|^2 + \alpha \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(0)\|^2 + \beta \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2 \\ &\leq C_{14} (\|u_0\|_{\mathbb{H}^4}^2 + \|u_1\|_{\mathbb{H}^2}^2 + \sum_{i=1}^2 \|u_i\|_{H^1}^{2r_i+2} + \|f(0)\|^2) \\ &< +\infty \quad (\text{by (2.3)}) \end{aligned}$$

which completes the proof.

q. e. d.

We proceed to further estimations of $u_m(t)$. To do so we consider here the linear equation:

$$\dot{u}(t) + u^{(4)}(t) + \alpha \dot{u}(t) - \beta u^{(2)}(t) = F(t) \quad \text{on } R^+. \quad (2.16)$$

For the solutions of (2.16) we obtain the following lemma.

LEMMA 2.3. *Let $F(t) \in L_{loc}^2(R^+; L^2)$ and $u(t)$ be a solution of (2.16) with*

$$u(t) \in L_{loc}^2(R^+; S_2) \text{ and } u(t) \in L_{loc}^2(R^+; L^2).$$

Then we have

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|u(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \leq C_{15} (\|u(t)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 - \|u(t+1)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + \Delta(t)^2)$$

where C_{15} is a positive constant independent of u and

$$\Delta^2(t) = \int_t^{t+1} \|F(s)\|^2 ds.$$

PROOF. The proof is easy (cf. Lemma 2.1) and omitted.

Using above Lemma we obtain first

LEMMA 2.4. *Let $u_m(t)$ be m -th approximate solution. Then we have*

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \leq C_{16} e^{-\lambda_3 t} \quad \text{for } t \in R^+$$

where C_{16}, λ_3 are positive constants depending on other known constants, in particular, $\|u_0\|_{\mathbb{H}^6}$ and $\|u_1\|_{\mathbb{H}^4}$, but independent of m .

PROOF. Differentiating (2.2) two times we have

$$\begin{aligned} (D_t^2 u_m(t), \phi_i) + (\alpha \ddot{u}_m^{(4)}(t), \phi_i) + (\nu \ddot{u}_m(t), \phi_i) \\ - (\beta \ddot{u}_m^{(2)}(t), \phi_i) + (F_m(\cdot, t), \phi_i) = (\vec{f}(t), \phi_i) \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

$i=1, 2, 3, \dots, m$, where

$$\begin{aligned} F_m(x, t) &= -k \{2(u_m^{(1)}, \dot{u}_m^{(1)}) \dot{u}_m^{(2)} + \|u_m^{(1)}\| \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}\| + 2\|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}\|^2 u_m^{(2)} \\ &\quad + 2(u_m^{(1)}, \ddot{u}_m^{(1)}) u_m^{(2)}\} + \rho''(x, \dot{u}_m) (\ddot{u}_m)^2 + \rho'(x, \dot{u}_m) \ddot{u}_m \\ (\rho''(x, s) &\equiv \frac{\partial^2}{\partial s^2} \rho(x, s)). \end{aligned}$$

Applying Lemma 2.3 to the equation (2.17) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|u_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 &\leq C_{15} \{ \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 - \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \\ &\quad + 2 \int_t^{\ell+1} (\|F_m(\cdot, s)\|^2 ds + \|\bar{f}(t)\|^2) ds \}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.18)$$

Now we estimate $\int_t^{\ell+1} \|F_m(s)\|^2 ds$:

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_t^{\ell+1} \|(\dot{u}_m^{(1)}, \dot{u}_m^{(1)}) \dot{u}_m^{(2)}\|^2 ds \\ &\leq \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 \\ &\leq C_{17} e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)t} \quad (\text{by Lemmas 2.1, 2.2}), \\ &\int_t^{\ell+1} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^4 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 ds + \int_t^{\ell+1} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^4 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq C_{18} e^{-\lambda_1 t} \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \quad (\text{by Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2}), \\ &\int_t^{\ell+1} |(\dot{u}_m^{(1)}, \dot{u}_m^{(1)})|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq \int_t^{\ell+1} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq C_{19} e^{-\lambda_1 t} \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \quad (\text{by Lemmas 1.1 and 2.1}) \end{aligned} \quad (2.21)$$

and moreover

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_t^{\ell+1} \int_a \left| \rho''(x, \dot{u}_m(x, s)) \right|^2 |\dot{u}_m(x, s)|^4 dx ds \\ &\leq \max_{x \in a, s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \left| \rho''(x, \dot{u}_m(x, s)) \right|^2 \int_t^{\ell+1} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{L^\infty}^2 \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds \\ &\leq C_{20} e^{-\lambda_2 t} \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \quad (\text{by Lemma 2.2}) \end{aligned} \quad (2.22)$$

where we note again

$$\|u\|_{L^\infty} \leq \text{const.} \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}\| \quad \text{if } u \in H_0^1.$$

For the last term $\rho'(\cdot, \dot{u}_m) \ddot{u}_m$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_t^{\ell+1} \|\rho'(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(s)) \ddot{u}_m(s)\|^2 ds &\leq \max_{x \in a, s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \left| \rho'(x, \dot{u}_m(x, s)) \right|^2 \\ &\quad \times \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\ddot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

Since $\|\rho'(\cdot, s)\|_{L^\infty} \rightarrow 0$ as $s \rightarrow 0$ and $\|\dot{u}_m(x, s)\| \leq (l^2/2) \cdot \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(s)\| \leq (l^2/2\alpha) \cdot C_8 e^{-\lambda_2 s}$, we have

$$\max_{x \in a, s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \left| \rho'(x, \dot{u}_m(x, s)) \right| \leq \varepsilon(t) \quad (2.24)$$

where $\varepsilon(t)$ is a function tending to 0 as $t \rightarrow \infty$. From above estimates (2.18)-(2.24) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 &\leq C_{21} \{ \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 - \|\dot{u}_m(t+1)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \\ &\quad + (e^{-\lambda_1 t} + e^{-\lambda_2 t} + \varepsilon(t)) \max_{s \in [\ell, \ell+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + \delta_2(t)^2 \} \end{aligned}$$

and hence there exists a time $T_1 > 0$ such that if $t \geq T_1$, then

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \leq C_{22} (\|\dot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 - \dot{u}_m \| \dot{u}_m(t+1) \|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + e^{-(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)t} + e^{-2\theta t}). \quad (2.25)$$

Next, we shall show the boundedness of $\|\ddot{u}_m(0)\|_{\mathcal{E}}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \|\ddot{u}_m(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 &= \|\ddot{u}_m(0)\|^2 + \alpha \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(0)\|^2 + \beta \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2 \\ &\leq \|D_t \{-\alpha u_m^{(4)} - \nu \dot{u}_m(t) - P_m \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t)) + \beta u_m^{(2)}(t) \\ &\quad + k \|u_m^{(1)}\|^2 u_m^{(2)} + f\}_{t=0}\|^2 \\ &\quad + (\alpha + \frac{1}{2}\beta) \|\{-\alpha u_m^{(6)} - \nu \dot{u}_m^{(2)} - D_t^2 P_m \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m) \\ &\quad + \beta u_m^{(4)} + k \|u_m^{(1)}\|^2 u_m^{(4)} + f^{(2)}\}_{t=0}\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (2.26)$$

Since P_m and D_t^2 are commutative on $H^2 \cap H_0^1$, we see $D_t^2 P_m \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t)) = P_m D_t^2 \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t))$ because $\rho(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(t)) \in H^2 \cap H_0^1$ by the assumption $\rho(x, 0) = 0$. Thus by (2.26) we have easily

$$\|\dot{u}_m(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \leq C_{23} (\|u_0\|_{H^3}, \|u_1\|_{H^4}, \|\dot{f}(0)\|_{H^2}) < +\infty. \quad (2.27)$$

From (2.25) and (2.27) we can conclude the estimate in Lemma 2.4 is valid. q. e. d.

Finally we shall show:

LEMMA 2.5. *We have*

$$\|\ddot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \leq C_{24} e^{-\lambda_4 t} \quad \text{for } t \in R^+,$$

where C_{24}, λ_4 are positive constants depending, in particular, $\|u_0\|_{H^3}$ and $\|u_1\|_{H^4}$.

PROOF. Differentiating (2.2)' three times with respect to t , using similar arguments as in the proof of Lemma 2.4 we can show easily the following inequality

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} \|\ddot{u}_m(s)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \leq C_{25} (\|\ddot{u}_m(t)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 - \|\ddot{u}_m(t+1)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + e^{-\lambda_5 t} + \delta_3^2(t)) \quad \text{for } t \geq T_2$$

where λ_5 and T_2 are some positive constants. Therefore to complete the proof it suffices to show the boundedness of $\|\ddot{u}_m(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}$. Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \|\ddot{u}_m(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 &= \|D_t \{u_m^{(4)} + P_m \rho(\dot{u}_m) - (\beta + k \|u_m^{(1)}\|^2) u_m^{(2)} + f(t)\}_{t=0}\|^2 \\ &\leq \|\dot{u}_m^{(4)}(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + \|P_m \rho'(\dot{u}_m) \dot{u}_m\|_{t=0}\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + \|\beta \dot{u}_m^{(2)}(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \\ &\quad + k^2 (\|u_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}\| + 2(u_m^{(1)}) u_m^{(2)}(0))\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 + \|\dot{f}(0)\|_{\mathbb{E}}^2 \\ &\leq \|u_m^{(8)}(0) + \alpha \dot{u}_m^{(4)}(0) - (\beta + k \|u_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2) u_m^{(6)}(0) \\ &\quad + D_t^4 P_m \rho(\dot{u}_m(0))\|^2 + \alpha \|\dot{u}_m^{(6)}(0)\|^2 + \beta \|\dot{u}_m^{(5)}(0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|\rho''(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(0)) | \dot{u}_m(0) \|^2 + \alpha \|D_t^2 P_m [\rho'(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(0)) \dot{u}_m(0)]\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|\beta \|D_x P_m [\rho'(\cdot, \dot{u}_m(0)) \dot{u}_m(0)]\|^2 + \beta^2 \|\dot{u}_m(0)\|^2 + \alpha \beta^2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(4)}(0)\|^2 \\ &\quad + \|\beta\|^3 \|\dot{u}_m^{(3)}(0)\|^2 + k^2 \|\{4(u_m^{(1)}(0), \dot{u}_m^{(1)}(0)) \dot{u}_m^{(2)}(0) \\ &\quad + \|u_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2 \dot{u}_m^{(2)}(0) + 2 \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2 u_m^{(2)}(0)\} \|^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& +2(\mathbf{u}_m^{(1)}(0), \dot{\mathbf{u}}_m^{(1)}(0))\dot{\mathbf{u}}_m^{(2)}(0)\|^2 \\
& +\alpha k^2\|\{\|\mathbf{u}_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2\dot{\mathbf{u}}_m^{(4)}(0)+2(\mathbf{u}_m^{(1)}(0), \dot{\mathbf{u}}_m^{(1)}(0))\mathbf{u}_m^{(4)}(0)\}\|^2 \\
& +|\beta|k^2\|\{\mathbf{u}_m^{(1)}(0)\|^2\dot{\mathbf{u}}_m^{(3)}(0)+2(\mathbf{u}_m^{(1)}(0), \dot{\mathbf{u}}_m^{(1)}(0))\mathbf{u}_m^{(3)}(0)\}\|^2 \\
& +\|\tilde{f}(0)\|^2+\alpha\|D_m^2 P_m \dot{f}(0)\|^2+\frac{|\beta|L}{2}\|D_m^2 P_m f(0)\|^2 \\
& \leq C_{23}(\|\mathbf{u}_0\|_{H^8}, \|\mathbf{u}_1\|_{H^6}, \|\dot{f}(0)\|_{H^2})
\end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that $\rho'(\dot{\mathbf{u}}_m(0)\dot{\mathbf{u}}_m(0))$, $D_m^2\rho(\cdot, \dot{\mathbf{u}}_m(0))$ and $\dot{f}(0)$ are in $H^2 \cap H_0^1$ (by A_2 and A_3). The proof is completed. \square q. e. d.

3. Passage to the limit

In this section we shall prove several convergency properties of the approximate solutions $\{\mathbf{u}_m(x, t)\}$, the limit function being the required classical solution. As is proved in the previous section we know

$$\|D_i^i \mathbf{u}_m(t)\|_E \leq C_{24} e^{-\lambda t} \quad t \in R^+, \quad i=0, 1, 2, 3, \quad (3.1)$$

for a certain $C_{24}, \lambda > 0$.

Therefore, noting that the space $H^1(\mathcal{Q})$ is imbedded into $C(\mathcal{Q})$ and the imbedding map is compact, we can apply Ascoli-Arzela's lemma to the sequence $\{\mathbf{u}_m(t)\}$ to obtain that there exists a subsequence, which will be denoted by the same symbol for simplicity, and a function $u(x, t)$ such that

$D_i^i \mathbf{u}_m(t) \rightarrow D_i^i u(t)$ in $C^1(\mathcal{Q})$ uniformly on each compact interval $[0, T]$ ($T > 0$) for $i=0, 1, 2$, and consequently

$D_i^i \rho(x, \dot{\mathbf{u}}_m(x, t)) \rightarrow D_i^i \rho(x, \dot{u}(x, t))$ uniformly on $\mathcal{Q} \times [0, T]$ for $i=0, 1$, and moreover

$$D_i^i \|\mathbf{u}_m^{(1)}(t)\|^2 \rightarrow D_i^i \|u^{(1)}(t)\|^2 \text{ uniformly on } [0, T] \text{ for } i=0, 1, 2.$$

Furthermore by a standard compactness argument we may assume

$$D_i^i \mathbf{u}_m(t) \rightarrow D_i^i u(t) \text{ weakly star in } L^\infty(R^+; L^2)$$

and

$$D_i^{i-1} \mathbf{u}_m(t) \rightarrow D_i^{i-1} u(t) \text{ weakly star in } L^\infty(R^+; H^2)$$

for $i=0, 1, 2, 3, 4$, and

$$\|D_i^i u(t)\|_E \leq C_{25} e^{-\lambda t}, \quad t \in R^+, \quad i=0, 1, 2, 3. \quad (3.1)'$$

The inequality (3.1)' implies in particular

$$D_i^i u \in C(R^+; L^2), \quad D_i^{i-1} u \in C(R^+; H^2) \subset C(R^+; C^1(\mathcal{Q}))$$

for $i=0, 1, 2, 3$.

$$(3.2)$$

From the above convergency properties of $\mathbf{u}_m(t)$, we can conclude that $u(t)$ is a generalized solution of the equation (0.1). However we know

$$\begin{aligned} u^{(4)}(x, t) &= -\ddot{u} - \rho(\cdot, \dot{u}) + [\beta + k \|u^{(1)}(t)\|^2] u^{(2)}(t) + f(t) \\ &\in C^1(R^+; L^2) \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

and hence we have easily

$$u(x, t) \in C^1(R^+; H^4) \subset C^1(R^+; C^3(\mathcal{Q})). \quad (3.4)$$

The relations (3.2) and (3.4) imply

$$\text{(the right hand side of (3.3))} \in C^1(R^+; C^1(\mathcal{Q}))$$

and consequently

$$u \in C^1(R^+; C^5(\mathcal{Q})). \quad (3.5)$$

Thus we conclude that

$$u \in C^1(R^+; C^5(\mathcal{Q})) \cap C^2(R^+; C^1(\mathcal{Q})) \quad (3.6)$$

and u is a classical solution of the equation (0.1).

We must show that this solution u satisfies the initial-boundary condition (0.2)-(0.3). From the equations

$$u_m(x, t) = \int_0^t \dot{u}_m(x, s) ds + u_m(x, 0)$$

and

$$\dot{u}_m(x, t) = \int_0^t \ddot{u}_m(x, s) ds + \dot{u}_m(x, 0)$$

we have, by taking the limits as $m \rightarrow \infty$,

$$u(x, t) = \int_0^t \dot{u}(x, s) ds + u_0(x)$$

$$\dot{u}(x, t) = \int_0^t \ddot{u}(x, s) ds + \dot{u}_1(x)$$

which yield (0.2).

To see (0.3) we note that

$$u_m(t) \in S_2 \text{ and } \|u_m(t)\|_{H^4} \leq \text{const. } \|u_m^{(4)}\| \leq \text{const. } < +\infty,$$

which allows us to assume

$$u_m(t) \rightharpoonup u(t) \text{ weakly star in } L^\infty(R^+; S_2),$$

that is,

$$u(t) \in L^\infty(R^+; S_2). \quad (3.7)$$

The relations (3.6) and (3.7) imply immediately (0.3).

Finally to see the decay of solutions we note that the right hand side of (3.3) decays exponentially in the L^2 -norm and consequently, taking account of the boundary condition (0.3),

$$\|u(t)\|_{H^4} \leq C_{26} e^{-\lambda_5 t}$$

for some $C_{26}, \lambda_5 > 0$.

Thus the right hand side of (3.3) decays exponentially in the norm corresponding $C(\mathcal{Q})$ (in fact, $C^1(\mathcal{Q})$ -norm if $f(t)$ decays exponentially in

$C^1(\mathcal{Q})$), and we have easily

$$|u(t)|_{C^4(\mathcal{Q})} \leq C_{27} e^{-\lambda_6 t}$$

for some $C_{27}, \lambda_6 > 0$.

The uniqueness of classical solution of the problem (0.1)-(0.3) is clear.

Now, we summarize above results in the following:

THEOREM 3.1. *Under the assumptions A_1 - A_4) the problem (0.1)-(0.3) admits a unique classical solution $u(x, t)$, satisfying*

$$\sum_{i=0}^3 \|D^i u(t)\|_E + |u(t)|_{C^4(\mathcal{Q})} \leq C_{28} e^{-\lambda t}, \quad t \in R^+ \quad (3.8)$$

for some positive constants C_{28}, λ which depend, in particular, on $\|u_0\|_{H^8}$ and $\|u_1\|_{H^6}$.

COROLLARY. *Let u be the solution in Theorem 3.1. Then we have*

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 |D^i u(t)|_{C^1(\mathcal{Q})} + |u(t)|_{C^4(\mathcal{Q})} \leq C_{30} e^{-\lambda t}.$$

4. Final remarks

In this section we mention the case $\nu=0$ briefly. At this time we cannot expect the decay of classical solutions in the classical norm, i.e., in $C^4(\mathcal{Q})$ for this case, and we consider the generalized solutions.

Now we assume

A_1'). $\nu=0$ in (0.1).

A_2'). $\rho(x, s)$ is measurable in x and continuous in s on $\mathcal{Q} \times R^+$, and satisfies, for simplicity,

$$k_0 |s|^{\tau+2} \leq \rho(x, s) \leq k_1 (|s|^{\tau+2} + |s|^2)$$

for some $k_0, k_1, \tau > 0$.

A_3'). $f(t) \in L^{\frac{\tau+1}{\tau+2}}(R^+; L^{\frac{\tau+1}{\tau+2}}(\mathcal{Q}))$ and

$$\delta(t) \equiv \left(\int_t^{t+1} \|f(s)\|_{L^{\frac{\tau+1}{\tau+2}}(\mathcal{Q})}^{(\tau+2)/(\tau+1)} ds \right)^{\frac{\tau+1}{\tau+2}} \leq \text{const. } t^{-\frac{1}{r'}-1}$$

for some $r' > 0$ with $0 < r' < r$.

A_4'). $(u_0, u_1) \in S_2 \times S_3$.

Let $u_m(x, t)$ be the m -th approximate solution constructed in § 2. Then by familiar energy estimate we can obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\dot{u}_m(t)\|^2 + \|u_m^{(2)}(t)\|^2 + \|u_m^{(1)}(t)\|^2 + \int_t^{t+1} \|\dot{u}_m(s)\|_{L^{\frac{\tau+2}{\tau+1}}}^{\tau+2} ds \\ & + \|\ddot{u}_m(t)\|^2 + \|\dot{u}_m^{(2)}(t)\|^2 + \|\dot{u}_m^{(1)}(t)\|^2 \leq C_T < +\infty \text{ on } [0, T] \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

for each $T > 0$. Therefore by a standard compactness argument we can obtain a generalized solution u of the problem (0.1)-(0.3). Moreover the

solution u satisfies the following energy equalities (cf. Strauss [10], Ball [1]):

$$\frac{1}{2}E(u(t+1)) + \int_t^{t+1} (\rho(\cdot, \dot{u}(s)), \dot{u}(s)) ds = \frac{1}{2}E(u(t)) + \int_t^{t+1} (f(s), \dot{u}(s)) ds$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\alpha \|u^{(2)}(s)\|^2 + \beta \|u^{(1)}(s)\|^2 + k \|u^{(1)}(s)\|^4) ds \\ &= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \|\dot{u}(s)\|^2 ds + (\dot{u}(t_1), u(t_1)) - (\dot{u}(t_2), u(t_2)) \\ & \quad + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \{(f(s), u(s)) - (\rho(\cdot, \dot{u}(s)), u(s))\} ds \end{aligned}$$

for $t, t_1, t_2 \geq 0$.

Therefore we can apply the result in [5] to obtain the inequality

$$\max_{s \in [t, t+1]} E(u(s))^{1+\frac{r}{2}} \leq C_{31} (E(u(t)) - E(u(t+1)) + \delta(t)^{r+2/r+1}),$$

and with the aid of Lemma 1.3 we obtain as in [5]

THEOREM 4.1 *Under the assumption A'_1 - A'_4), the problem (0.1)-(0.3) admits a unique generalized solution u , satisfying*

$$\|\dot{u}(t)\|^2 + \|u^{(2)}(t)\|^2 + \|u^{(1)}(t)\|^4 + \int_t^{t+1} \|\dot{u}(s)\|_{L^{r+2}}^{r+2} ds \leq \text{const. } t^{-\frac{2}{r}}$$

for $t \in \mathbb{R}^+$.

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