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A note on the energy decay for some nonlinear dissipative wave equations in one space dimension

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0. Introduction

In this note we give a further result on the decay property of the solutions to the initial-boundary value problem for the nonlinear wave equations in one space dimension :

$$u_{tt} - u_{xx} + \sigma(x, u_t) + \beta(x, u) = 0 \text{ in } \Omega \times \mathbb{R}^+ \quad (0.1)$$

with the initial-boundary conditions

$$u(x, 0) = u_0(x), \quad u_t(x, 0) = u_1(x) \quad \text{and} \quad u(x, t)|_{\partial\Omega} = 0, \quad (0.2)$$

where Ω is a bounded open interval in $\mathbb{R}$, $\mathbb{R}^+ = (0, \infty)$ and $\sigma(x, u_t)$, $\beta(x, u)$ are functions like

$$\sigma(x, u_t) = a(x)|u_t|^r u_t, \quad r > 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \beta(x, u) = |u|^\alpha u, \quad \alpha > 0. \quad (0.3)$$

Concerning $a(x)$ in the above we assume that $a \in L^\infty(\Omega)$, $a(x) \geq 0$, $a(x) \neq 0$ a. e. $x \in \Omega$ and $a^{-1}(x) \equiv 1/a(x) \in L^p(\Omega)$ with some $0 < p < \infty$.

This problem has been treated in our previous paper [5], but under some restrictive condition on p . Let us consider the case (0.3) for simplicity. Then, we can apply a result of [5] (cf. Theorem 4) to get

$$\begin{aligned} E(u(t)) &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \{ \|u_t(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|u_x(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \} + \int_{\Omega} \int_0^u \beta(x, \eta) d\eta dx \\ &\leq C_1 (1+t)^{-4p/(pr+2)} \end{aligned} \quad (0.4)$$

under the condition

$$\alpha + 1 > (pr+2)/2p \quad \text{and} \quad 2/r > p > 2/(r+2), \quad (0.5)$$

where C_1 denotes a constant depending on $\|u_0\|_{H_2} + \|u_1\|_{H_1}$.

If $a(x)$ is smooth we must take necessarily p such that $0 < p < 1/2$ (consider the simplest case $a(x) = (x-x_0)^2$, $x_0 \in \Omega$). Therefore, the last inequality of (0.5) impose $r > 2$, which seems to be rather restrictive because the linear dissipative case ($r=0$) is completely excluded.

The object of this paper is to try to remove the condition $p > 2/(r+2)$ in (0.

5). Roughly speaking our result shows that if $E(u(0))$ is sufficiently small the decay estimate (0.4) holds provided that

$$\alpha + 1 > (pr + 2)/2p \quad \text{and} \quad 2/(r + 2) > p > 0.$$

As a corollary of our result we rediscover Theorem 4 in [5] mentioned before.

When $r = 0$ and $a(x)$ is smooth we can expect a usual exponential decay, but we do not know at this time the way how to prove it.

1. Some lemmas and the result

Let Ω be a bounded open interval in the real line $\mathbb{R}$. We use only the familiar function spaces $L^p(\Omega)$, $0 < p < \infty$, $H_m(\Omega)$, $C([0, T], L^q(\Omega))$, $1 < q < \infty$, etc. (strictly speaking, $L^p(\Omega)$, $0 < p < 1$, is not vector space and $\|u\|_{L^p} \equiv (\int_{\Omega} |u|^p dx)^{1/p}$ does not define a usual norm) and the definition of them are omitted. The functions considered are all real valued.

We make the following assumptions on $\sigma(x, v)$ and $\beta(x, u)$.

A₁. $\sigma(x, v)$ is measurable on $\Omega \times \mathbb{R}$, continuously differentiable in $v \in \mathbb{R}$ for each $x \in \Omega$ and satisfies the conditions :

$$\sigma(x, v) v \geq k_0 a(x) |v|^{r+2}, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \sigma(x, v) \geq 0 \quad (1.1)$$

and

$$|\sigma(x, v)| \leq k_1 \{|v|^{r+1} + |v|\} \quad (1.2)$$

with some $k_0 > 0$, $k_1 > 0$ and $r \neq 0$, where $a(x)$ is a function such that

$$a(\cdot) \in L^\infty(\Omega), \quad a(x) \geq 0, \quad a(x) \neq 0 \text{ a. e. } x \in \Omega \text{ and } a^{-1}(\cdot) \in L^p(\Omega) \quad (1.3)$$

for some $0 < p < \infty$.

A₂. $\beta(x, u)$ is measurable on $\Omega \times \mathbb{R}$, continuously differentiable in u for each $x \in \Omega$ and satisfies

$$\beta(x, u) u \geq k_0 \int_0^u \beta(x, \eta) d\eta \geq 0 \quad (1.4)$$

and

$$\left| \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \beta(x, u) \right| \leq k_2(L) |u|^\alpha \text{ for } |u| \leq L \quad (1.5)$$

with some $\alpha > 0$, $k_0 > 0$ and $k_2(L) \geq 0$, where $k_2(L)$ may be chosen for each $L > 0$.

To state our result we introduce a set of initial data (u_0, u_1) .

For $K > 0$ we define

$$S_K = \{(u_0, u_1) \in H_2 \cap H_1^0 \times H_1^0 \mid I_1 + Ck_2 I_0^{\alpha+1} (1 + G_K) < K\} \quad (1.6)$$

where C is a certain positive constant depending on p , r and α , and we set

$$\begin{aligned} I_0^2 &\equiv E(u(0)) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \{ \|u_1\|_2^2 + \|u_{0x}\|_2^2 \} + \int_{\Omega_0}^{u_0} \beta(x, \eta) d\eta dx, \\ I_1^2 &\equiv E(u_t(0)) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \{ \|u_{tt}(0)\|_2^2 + \|u_{tx}(0)\|_2^2 \} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \{ \|u_{0xx} + \sigma(\cdot, u_1) - \beta(\cdot, u_0)\|_2^2 + \|u_{1x}\|_2^2 \}, \\ G_K &\equiv K^{(2-pr)/2p} + I_0^{(4p+2+pr)(r+1)-p(r+2)/p(r+2)} + I_0^{(2+pr)/2} \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

and

$$k_2 \equiv k_2(\tilde{C}I_0) \text{ (with some } \tilde{C} > 0).$$

Our result reads as follows.

THEOREM. *Suppose that the hypotheses A_1 and A_2 are fulfilled with $p > 0$, $r > 0$ and $\alpha > 0$ such that*

$$\alpha + 1 > (pr + 2)/2p \quad \text{and} \quad 2/r > p > 0 \quad (1.8)$$

Then, for each $(u_0, u_1) \in S = \bigcup_{K \geq 0} S_K$ the problem (0.1)–(0.2) has a unique solution $u(t)$ in the class

$$C^2([0, \infty); L^2(\Omega)) \cap C^1([0, \infty); H_1^0(\Omega)) \cap C([0, \infty); H_2(\Omega)) \quad (1.9)$$

and $u(t)$ meets the decay estimate :

$$E(u(t)) \leq C_1 (1+t)^{-4p/(pr+2)}, \quad (1.10)$$

where C_1 is a constant depending on $\|u_0\|_{H_2}, \|u_1\|_{H_1}, \|a^{-1}\|_p, \|a\|_\infty$ and other known quantities.

REMARK. (i) Take any $K > 0$ such that $K > I_1$. Then, we see $(u_0, u_1) \in S_K$ if I_0 is sufficiently small. Thus, roughly speaking, the estimate (1.10) holds if $\|u_0\|_{H_1} + \|u_1\|_2$ is sufficiently small.

(ii) If $\beta(x, u) \equiv 0$, i. e., $k_2 = 0$ (1.10) is valid for all $p > 0$ and all $(u_0, u_1) \in H_2 \cap H_1^0 \times H_1^0$, which is the content of Theorem 2 in [5].

COROLLARY (Theorem 4 in [5]). *Under the condition (0.5) we have the estimate (0.4) ((0.10)) for all solutions $u(t)$ with $(u_0, u_1) \in H_2 \cap H_1^0 \times H_1^0$.*

PROOF.

If $p > 2/(r+2)$ we see $(2-pr)/2p < 1$, and hence it is clear that $(u_0, u_1) \in S_K$ for sufficiently large $K > 0$. Thus, the assertion follows from Theorem.

q. e. d.

To prove our Theorem we rely on the following lemmas.

LEMMA 1. (Gagliardo & Nirenberg). For $1 \leq r \leq q \leq \infty$ we have

$$\|u\|_q \leq \text{const.} \|u\|_{hm}^\theta \|u\|_r^{1-\theta} \text{ for } u \in H_m(\Omega), m \geq 1,$$

with $\theta = (r^{-1} - q^{-1})(m + r^{-1} - 2^{-1})^{-1}$, where $\|\cdot\|_q$ denotes $\|\cdot\|_{L^q}$.

LEMMA 2. Let $\phi(t)$ be a nonnegative nonincreasing function on $[0, T]$, $T > 1$, satisfying

$$\phi(t)^{1+r} \leq g(t)(\phi(t) - (\phi(t+1))), 0 \leq t < T-1,$$

with a monotone continuous function $g(t)$ on $[0, T]$ and a positive constant r .

Then, we have

$$\phi(t) \leq \{\phi(0)^{-r} + r \int_1^{t-2} g(s)^{-1} ds\}^{-1/r} \quad (1.11)$$

for $2 \leq t < T$.

PROOF.

The cases $g(t) = C > 0$ and $g(t) = C(1+t)^\theta$ ($\theta > 0$) are proved in [2] and [3], respectively. The general case can be proved also quite similarly and the proof is omitted.

2. Proof of Theorem

Our treatment of the degeneracy of $a(x)$ is the same as in our previous papers [4, 5]. That is, our starting point is the following proposition.

PROPOSITION 1. Let $(u_0, u_1) \in H_2 \cap H_1^0 \times H_1^0$ and let u be the solution of the problem (0.1)–(0.2) in the class (1.9). Assume that $0 < p < 2/r$ if $r > 0$. Then, the following inequality holds.

$$\begin{aligned} E(u(t)) &\leq C \{ D(t)^{4p(r+2)/(4p+2+pr)} \sup_{t \leq s \leq t+1} \|u_{tx}(s)\|_2^{2(2-pr)/(4p+2+pr)} \\ &\quad + D(t)^{2(r+1)} + D(t)^{r+2} \}, 0 \leq t < T-1, \end{aligned} \quad (2.1)$$

where C denotes a constant independent of u and we set

$$D(t)^{r+2} \equiv E(u(t)) - E(u(t+1)).$$

PROOF.

The proof is essentially included in [4, proposition 1] (see also [5, Proposition 1]) and omitted. (Lemma 1 is used here.)

We proceed to the proof of Theorem. The existence and uniqueness part is well known for all $(u_0, u_1) \in H_2 \cap H_1^0 \times H_1^0$ (cf. Lions [1], Strauss [6] etc.) and it suffices to derive the estimate (1.10) for $(u_0, u_1) \in S$.

Above all we notice that the energy equality

$$E(u(t)) + \int_0^t \int_\Omega \sigma(x, u_t) u_t dx ds = E(u(0)) \quad (2.2)$$

holds, and hence, we have in particular

$$\|u(t)\|_{\infty} \leq \tilde{C} \|u_x(t)\|_2 \leq \tilde{C} \sqrt{E(u(0))} \equiv \tilde{C} I_0 < \infty. \quad (2.3)$$

We set $k_2 \equiv k_2(\tilde{C} I_0)$ by taking account of (2.3) and (1.5).

Let us assume $(u_0, u_1) \in S_K$, $K > 0$, and let

$$E(u_t(t)) \leq K^2 \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq T \quad (2.4)$$

with some $T > 0$. Note that (2.4) is valid if T is small. Then, by Proposition 1 and (2.2) we have

$$\begin{aligned} E(u(t))^{1+(2+pr)/4p} &\leq C \{E(u(t)) - E(u(t+1))\} \sup_{t \leq s \leq t+1} \|u_{tx}(s)\|_2^{2-pr/2p} \\ &\quad + C \{D(t)^{(4p+2+pr)(r+1)/2p} + D(t)^{(4p+2+pr)(r+2)/4p}\} \\ &\leq CG_K, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T-1 \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

where we recall the definition of G_K , (1.7).

Now, applying Lemma 2 to (2.5) we find

$$E(u(t)) \leq \{E(u(0))^{-(2+pr)/4p} + G_K^{-1}(t-3)^+\}^{-4p/(2+pr)} \quad (2.6)$$

for $0 \leq t \leq T$.

On the other hand, differentiating the equation (0.1) with respect to t we have

$$u_{ttt} - u_{txx} + \sigma'(x, u_t) u_{tt} + \beta'(x, u) u_t = 0. \quad (2.7)$$

$$(\beta'(x, u) \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \beta(x, u))$$

From (2.7) we obtain (cf. Strauss [7]) the energy equality for u_t :

$$E(u_t(t)) + \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \sigma'(x, u_t) u_{tt} dx ds = E(u_t(0)) - \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} \beta'(x, u) u_t u_{tt} dx ds, \quad (2.8)$$

where we recall

$$E(u_t(t)) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \{ \|u_{tt}(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{tx}(t)\|_2^2 \}.$$

It follows from (2.8), Hypotheses A_2 and Lemma 1 that

$$\begin{aligned} E(u_t(t)) &\leq E(u_t(0)) + k_2 \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |u|^{\alpha} |u_t| \|u_{tt}\| dx ds \\ &\leq I_1^2 + k_2 \int_0^t \|u(s)\|_{\infty}^{\alpha} \|u_t(s)\|_2 \|u_{tt}(s)\|_2 ds \\ &\leq I_1^2 + Ck_2 \int_0^t E(u(s))^{(\alpha+1)/2} \sqrt{E(u_t(s))} ds. \end{aligned}$$

This inequality together with (2.6) yields

$$\begin{aligned} E(u_t(t)) &\leq \{I_1 + \frac{1}{2} Ck_2 \int_0^t E(u(s))^{(\alpha+1)/2} ds\}^2 \\ &\leq \{I_1 + Ck_2 \int_0^t (I_0^{-(2+pr)/2p} + G_K^{-1}(s-3)^+)^{-2p(\alpha+1)/(2+pr)} ds\}^2 \\ &\leq \{I_1 + Ck_2 I_0^{\alpha+1} + Ck_2 \int_0^{\infty} (I_0^{-(2+pr)/2p} + G_K^{-1}s)^{-2p(\alpha+1)/(2+pr)} ds\}^2 \\ &\leq \{I_1 + Ck_2 I_0^{\alpha+1} + Ck_2 G_K I_0^{\alpha+1}\}^2, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T, \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

with a certain $C > 0$ independent of u , where we have used the assumption

$2p(\alpha+1) > 2+pr$ at the last step.

Thus, by the assumption $(u_0, u_1) \in S_K$ we obtain

$$E(u_t(t)) < K^2 \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq T. \quad (2.10)$$

From (2.4) and (2.10) we conclude that the estimate

$$E(u_t(t)) < K^2 \quad (2.11)$$

is valid for all $t \geq 0$, and in turn we obtain the estimate (2.6) for all $t \geq 0$. The proof of Theorem is now complete.

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