

108. On the C^∞ -Goursat Problem for 2nd Order Equations with Real Constant Coefficients

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§ 1. Introduction. We consider the following Goursat problem (1.1)–(1.2).

$$(1.1) \quad \partial_t \partial_x u = \sum_{\substack{i+j+|\alpha| \leq 2 \\ i+j \leq 1}} a_{ij\alpha} \partial_t^i \partial_x^j \partial_y^\alpha u, \quad t \in R_+, x \in R^1, y \in R^n$$

where $a_{ij\alpha}$ are real constants

$$(1.2) \quad \begin{cases} u(0, x, y) = \varphi(x, y) \in \mathcal{E}_{xy} \\ u(t, 0, y) = \psi(t, y) \in \mathcal{E}_{ty} & t \geq 0 \\ \varphi(0, y) = \psi(0, y) \quad (\text{compatibility condition}). \end{cases}$$

We notice that, $t=0$ and $x=0$ are characteristic hypersurfaces of the equation (1.1). We say that the Goursat problem (1.1)–(1.2) is well posed for the future in the space \mathcal{E} , if for any given Goursat data (1.2), there exists a unique solution $u(t, x, y) \in \mathcal{E}_{txy}$, $t \geq 0$, which takes the given Goursat data at $t=0$ and $x=0$.*)

Let us consider the characteristic equation (considering the lower order terms) of (1.1).

$$\lambda \xi = \sum_{\substack{1 \leq i+j+|\alpha| \leq 2 \\ i+j \leq 1}} a_{ij\alpha} \lambda^i \xi^j \eta^\alpha, \quad \xi \in R^1, \eta \in R^n.$$

Then we have

$$(1.3) \quad \lambda = \frac{\sum_{j \leq 1, 1 \leq j+|\alpha| \leq 2} a_{0j\alpha} \xi^j \eta^\alpha}{\left(\xi - \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 1} a_{10\alpha} \eta^\alpha \right)}.$$

Our purpose is to prove the following

Theorem 1. *The necessary and sufficient condition for the \mathcal{E} -wellposedness of the Goursat problem (1.1)–(1.2) in the neighborhood of the origin is that λ in (1.3) remains bounded when $|\xi| + |\eta|$ remains bounded.*

Remark 1. We can rewrite (1.1) in the following.

$$(1.4) \quad \{ \partial_t - (a_1 \partial_{y_1} + a_2 \partial_{y_2} + \cdots + a_n \partial_{y_n} + a_0) \} \{ \partial_x - (b_1 \partial_{y_1} + \cdots + b_n \partial_{y_n} + b_0) \} u \\ = \sum_{|\alpha| \leq 2} c_\alpha \partial_y^\alpha u.$$

The necessary and sufficient condition in the theorem 1 is equivalent to $c_\alpha = 0$ for $|\alpha| \geq 1$.

§ 2. Proof of Theorem 1. At first we consider the following fairly simple equation;

*) According to Banach's closed graph theorem, if the Goursat problem is \mathcal{E} -wellposed then the linear mapping $(\varphi, \psi) \rightarrow u$ is continuous from $\mathcal{E}_{xy} \times \mathcal{E}_{ty}$ into \mathcal{E}_{txy} .

$$(2.1) \quad \partial_t \partial_x u = a \partial_y^2 u + b \partial_y u + cu \quad y \in R^1.$$

We shall show

Proposition. *If the Goursat problem (2.1)–(1.2) is \mathcal{E} -wellposed in the neighborhood of the origin, then we have $a=b=0$.*

For the proof of this proposition, we use the following lemma on Bessel functions (see [1] p. 526).

Lemma. *The Bessel function*

$$(2.2) \quad J_0(z) = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(-z^2/4)^k}{(k!)^2}$$

has the following representation for large $|z|$ inside an angle $-\frac{1}{2}\pi + \delta$

$$\langle \arg z \rangle < \frac{1}{2}\pi - \delta \quad (\delta > 0),$$

$$(2.3) \quad J_0(z) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi z}} (e^{i(z-\pi/4)} + e^{-i(z-\pi/4)}) + O(|z|^{-2/3}).$$

The proof of Proposition. At first we suppose $a \neq 0$. We can reduce (2.1) to the following form:

$$(2.4) \quad \partial_t \partial_x u = a \partial_y^2 u + cu.$$

Let us show that (2.4) is not \mathcal{E} -wellposed. We seek for the solution of (2.4) which has the form $u = v(t, x)e^{t\eta y}$ (where η is real and positive).

Then we have

$$(2.5) \quad \partial_t \partial_x v = -a\eta^2 v + cv.$$

We impose the data (2.6) on v .

$$(2.6) \quad v(t, 0) = v(0, x) = 1.$$

The function

$$(2.7) \quad v(t, x) = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{\{(-\eta^2 a + c)xt\}^k}{(k!)^2}$$

satisfies (2.5) and (2.6), therefore $u(t, x)$ is a solution of (2.4) and has the following Goursat data (2.8).

$$(2.8) \quad u(0, x) = u(t, 0) = e^{t\eta y}.$$

For $-ax > 0$ and for sufficiently large η , we have

$$(2.9) \quad v(t, x) \geq \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(\sqrt{(-\eta^2 a + c)xt})^{2k}}{(2k)!} = \frac{1}{2} (e^{\sqrt{(-\eta^2 a + c)xt}} + e^{-\sqrt{(-\eta^2 a + c)xt}}).$$

Hence

$$(2.10) \quad |u(t, x, y)| > \frac{1}{2} e^{\sqrt{(-a\eta^2 + c)xt}} \quad \text{for } -ax > 0 \text{ and large } \eta.$$

(2.8) and (2.10) show that the continuity from data to solution can not be held. Then “ \mathcal{E} -wellposedness $\Rightarrow a=0$ ” has been proved.

Next, we suppose $a=0, b \neq 0$ in (2.1). In this case we can reduce (2.1) to the following

$$(2.11) \quad \partial_t \partial_x u = b \partial_y u.$$

In the same way as the case $a \neq 0, u = v(t, x)e^{t\eta y}$ is a solution of (2.11),

where v is the following

$$(2.12) \quad v = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{(ibxt\eta)^k}{(k!)^2}.$$

From (2.2) and (2.12), we have

$$(2.13) \quad v(t, x) = J_0(2\sqrt{-bx\eta}te^{\pi i/4}) \quad \text{for } -bx > 0.$$

In view of Lemma we have

$$(2.14) \quad |v(t, x)| > \text{constant} \cdot \eta^{-1/4} e^{\sqrt{2|bx|\eta}i} \quad \text{for large } \eta.$$

So in the same way as the case $a \neq 0$, we have “ \mathcal{E} -wellposedness $\Rightarrow b=0$ ”. The proof of proposition thus completes.

The proof of Theorem 1. In view of Remark 1, we consider (1.4) instead of (1.1). If $c_\alpha = 0$ for $|\alpha| \geq 1$ in (1.4), we have

$$(2.15) \quad \{\partial_t - (a_1 \partial_{y_1} + \cdots + a_n \partial_{y_n} + a_0)\} \{\partial_x - (b_1 \partial_{y_1} + \cdots + b_n \partial_{y_n} + b_0)\} u = cu.$$

Let us consider the following change of independent variables.

$$(2.16) \quad \begin{cases} T = t \\ X = x \\ Y_i = y_i + a_i t + b_i x \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, n. \end{cases}$$

From (2.15) and (2.16), we have

$$(2.17) \quad (\partial_T - a_0)(\partial_X - b_0)u = cu.$$

Let

$$(2.18) \quad u = e^{a_0 T + b_0 X} \tilde{u}.$$

We have

$$(2.19) \quad \partial_T \partial_X \tilde{u} = c \tilde{u}.$$

Considering (2.16) and (2.18), we rewrite (1.2) in the following

$$(2.20) \quad \begin{cases} \tilde{u}|_{T=0} = \tilde{\varphi}(X, Y) \\ \tilde{u}|_{X=0} = \tilde{\psi}(T, Y). \end{cases}$$

By successive approximation we have a unique C^∞ -solution of the Goursat problem (2.19)–(2.20).

To prove that the condition in Theorem 1 is necessary, changing the independent variables and unknown function, we can reduce Theorem 1 to Proposition.

Remark 2. When the hypersurface $x=0$ is not characteristic, i.e. the term ∂_x^2 appears in the right hand side of (1.1), we have some results which are analogous to Theorem 1.

§ 3. A result concerning system. Let us consider the following Goursat problem

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ & & 1 \\ 0 & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \partial_t u - \sum_{k=1}^n A_k \partial_{x_k} u - Bu = 0 \quad t \in R_+^1, x \in R^n$$

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{cases} u_i(0, x) = u_i(x) & i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1 \\ u_N(t, x)|_{x_1=0} = u_N(t, x') & x' = (x_2, x_3, \dots, x_n) \end{cases}$$

where A_k and B are matrices of order N , each components are $C_{t,x}^\infty$

functions, and (N, N) component of A_1 is 1.

We consider the following characteristic polynomial;

$$(3.3) \quad \det \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & 0 \\ & \cdot & \\ 0 & & 1 \\ & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \lambda - \sum_{k=1}^n A_k(0, 0) \xi_k \right\} = b_1(\xi) \lambda^{N-1} + \dots + b_N(\xi).$$

Our result is the following.

“Assume that, for some ξ^0 ($\neq 0$) real, $b_1(\xi^0) \neq 0$ and the polynomial $b_1(\xi^0) \lambda^{N-1} + \dots + b_N(\xi^0)$ has a non real root, then Goursat problem (3.1)–(3.2) is not \mathcal{E} -wellposed in any small neighborhood of the origin”.

The proof of Remark 2 and § 3 will be given in a forthcoming paper.

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Reference

- [1] R. Courant and D. Hilbert: *Methods of Mathematical Physics 1*. Interscience publishers. New York (1953).