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**Abstract**

**Full Text**

**L. N. Prokopenko**

**On the Uniqueness of the Solution of the Cauchy Problem for Operator-Differential Equations**

*(Presented by Academician I. G. Petrovskii on 21 VIII 1962)*

In the present note we consider the question of uniqueness of the solution of the Cauchy problem for the operator-differential equation in a Banach space

$$\frac{du}{dt} = Au \quad (0 \leq t < T \leq \infty);$$

$$u \Big|_{t=0} = 0. \tag{1}$$

(and also for more general equations). The results set forth below are adjacent to the investigations of Yu. I. Lyubich <sup>(1,2)</sup> and constitute their further development.

1°. In equation (1) the operator  $A$  is a closed linear operator in a complex Banach space  $B$  (moreover, its domain of definition  $D_A$  is not assumed, in general, to be dense in  $B$ ). By a solution of the Cauchy problem (1) we shall understand a vector-function  $u = u(t)$ ,  $0 \leq t < T$ , with values in  $B$ , which almost everywhere satisfies (1) in the weak sense (i.e.  $u(t)$  is (weakly) absolutely continuous,  $u'(t) = du/dt$  exists almost everywhere (in the weak sense), for almost all  $t$  one has  $u(t) \in D_A$  and  $u'(t) = Au(t)$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} u(t) = 0$  (in the weak sense)).

**Condition A.** There exist: a) a ray  $l$  in the complex plane:

$$l = \{z : z = re^{i\varphi} + z_0, \quad 0 \leq r < \infty\},$$

forming an acute angle with the positive direction of the real axis (i.e.  $|\varphi| < \pi/2$ )\*; b) constants  $\sigma > 0$  and  $C > 0$  such that for  $u \in D_A$  and  $z \in l$

$$\|Au - zu\| \geq Ce^{-\sigma \operatorname{Re} z} \|u\|. \tag{2}$$

**Theorem 1.** *If Condition A is fulfilled and  $\sigma < T < \infty$ , then the solution of the Cauchy problem (1) is identically equal to zero on  $[0, T - \sigma]$ .*

Let us indicate the idea of the proof. Consider the Laplace transform of  $u(t)$

$$\hat{u}(z) = \int_0^T e^{-zt} u(t) dt$$

(the integral is understood in the sense of Bochner);  $\hat{u}(z)$  is an entire vector-function of finite degree, and, moreover ( $x = \operatorname{Re} z$ ),

$$\|\hat{u}(z)\| \leq \text{const} \cdot \frac{1 - e^{-xT}}{x}. \quad (3)$$

Using equation (1), one can show that  $\hat{u}(z) \in D_A$  for all  $z$  and

$$A\hat{u}(z) - z\hat{u}(z) = e^{-zT} u(T).$$

Hence, by Condition A, it follows that for  $z \in l$

$$\|\hat{u}(z)\| \leq C_1 e^{\sigma x} \|A\hat{u}(z) - z\hat{u}(z)\| = C_2 e^{x(\sigma - T)}. \quad (4)$$

\* Such a ray will henceforth be called positive.

Consider in the complex plane the straight line  $l_1 = \{z : \operatorname{Re} z = \operatorname{Re} z_0\}$  and the angles  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  between  $l_1$  and the ray  $l$ . The entire function  $U(z) = e^{z(T-\sigma)} \hat{u}(z)$ , by virtue of inequalities (3) and (4), is bounded on  $l$  and  $l_1$ , i.e., on the sides of the angles  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ ; on the basis of the Phragmén–Lindelöf principle it proves to be bounded also inside the angles  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ . Thus, throughout the half-plane  $\operatorname{Re} z \geq \operatorname{Re} z_0$  the estimate  $\|\hat{u}(z)\| \leq \text{const} e^{-x(T-\sigma)}$  ( $x = \operatorname{Re} z$ ) holds. Hence we obtain that  $u(t) = 0$  for  $0 \leq t \leq T - \sigma$  (cf., for example, (3), pp. 175–176; (4), pp. 345–346).

**Corollary 1.** *If condition A is satisfied with some  $\sigma > 0$ , then there is no nonzero solution of the Cauchy problem (1) defined for all  $t > 0$  (in other words, global uniqueness holds).*

This follows from the fact that in Theorem 1,  $T$ , and consequently also  $T - \sigma$ , may be arbitrary numbers.

**Corollary 2.** *If condition A is satisfied for arbitrary  $\sigma > 0$  (with  $C$  depending on  $\sigma$ ), then uniqueness holds for the Cauchy problem (1) on any interval  $[0, T]$  (local uniqueness).*

Indeed, in this case  $T - \sigma$  may be arbitrarily close to  $T$ .

Theorem 1 was essentially proved by Yu. I. Lyubich under the assumption that along the ray  $l$  there exists the resolvent  $R_z = (A - zE)^{-1}$ . This assumption is essential for the method of proof proposed by him. In this case inequality (2) may be written in the following equivalent form:

$$\|R_z\| \leq C e^{\sigma \operatorname{Re} z} \quad (z \in l).$$

This form of notation may also be retained in the general case, if one regards the operator  $R_z$  as defined not on all of  $B$ , but only on some of its subspace (depending on  $z$ ).

2°. In a similar way one may consider the equation

$$\sum_{k=0}^n A_k \frac{d^k u}{dt^k} = 0; \quad \left. \frac{d^k u}{dt^k} \right|_{t=0} = 0 \quad (k = 0, \dots, n-1). \quad (5)$$

Here  $A_k$  ( $k = 0, 1, \dots, n$ ) are closed linear operators in  $B$ ; the solution is understood in the weak sense. In this case, in condition  $A$  inequality (2) should be replaced by the inequality ( $u \in \bigcap D(A_k)$ ,  $z \in l$ )

$$\left\| \sum_{k=0}^n z^k A_k u \right\| \geq C e^{-\sigma \operatorname{Re} z} \|u\|. \quad (6)$$

**Theorem 2.** *If condition  $A$  is satisfied with (2) replaced by (6) and  $0 < \sigma < T$ , then the solution of the Cauchy problem is identically equal to zero on  $[0, T - \sigma]$ .*

Obviously, the corollaries of Theorem 1 are valid, with the corresponding changes, also for equation (5).

In particular, for the Cauchy problem

$$\frac{d^2 u}{dt^2} = Au, \quad u(0) = u'(0) = 0 \quad (7)$$

the condition ensuring local uniqueness has the form (after the substitution  $z^2 = \zeta$ )

$$\|Au - \zeta u\| \geq C_\sigma e^{-\sigma|\zeta|^{1/2}} \|u\|$$

( $u \in D_A$ ,  $\sigma$  is an arbitrary positive number), where  $\zeta$  runs along one of the branches of an arbitrary parabola with focus at the point  $\zeta = 0$  and axis,

distinct from the negative real half-axis; this parabola, in particular, may degenerate into a ray emanating from the origin and also not coinciding with the negative real half-axis.

3°. We now suppose that  $B$  is a Hilbert space. Denote by  $W_0(A)$  the set of values of the quadratic form of the operator  $A$  on the unit sphere:

$$W_0(A) = \{z : z = (Au, u), \quad u \in D_A, \quad \|u\| = 1\};$$

let  $W(A)$  be the closure of  $W_0(A)$ . It is known (see <sup>(5)</sup>, pp. 130-132) that  $W(A)$  is a closed convex set in the complex plane.

**Theorem 3.** *If  $W(A)$  coincides neither with the whole plane nor with any right half-plane  $\operatorname{Re} z \geq a$ , then for the Cauchy problem (1) local uniqueness holds.*

Indeed, in this case, by virtue of the convexity of  $W(A)$ , it is possible to draw a positive ray  $l$  lying at a positive distance  $d$  from  $W(A)$ . Then for  $z \in l$ ,  $u \in D_A$ ,  $\|u\| = 1$ , the inequality

$$|(Au - zu, u)| = |(Au, u) - z| \geq d > 0$$

is satisfied, since  $(Au, u) \in W(A)$ . Hence we obtain that for all  $u \in D_A$ ,  $z \in l$ ,

$$\|Au - zu\| \geq d\|u\|,$$

and this, by Corollary 2 of Theorem 1, ensures local uniqueness for the Cauchy problem (1).

Let us note that for the Cauchy problem (7) the exceptional case is the unique one in which  $W(A)$  coincides with the whole plane.

**Example.** Let  $A_0$  be a maximal Hermitian operator and  $A = A_0^*$ . Then for the Cauchy problem (1) local uniqueness holds.

Indeed, since one of the defect numbers of the operator  $A_0$  is equal to zero, in Neumann's formula (see <sup>(6)</sup>, p. 132)

$$\operatorname{Im}(Au, u) \equiv \operatorname{Im}(A_0^*u, u) = \|u^+\|^2 - \|u^-\|^2$$

(where  $u^- \in \mathfrak{N}_i$ ,  $u^+ \in \mathfrak{N}_{-i}$ ,  $\mathfrak{N}_i$  and  $\mathfrak{N}_{-i}$  are the defect subspaces of the operator  $A_0$ ) one of the terms  $\|u^+\|^2$  or  $\|u^-\|^2$  disappears; consequently,  $\operatorname{Im}(Au, u)$  has one and the same sign for all  $u \in D_A$ , i.e.  $W(A)$  is entirely contained either in the upper or in the lower half-plane, and this ensures local uniqueness for the Cauchy problem (1). Let us note that an analogous result is also valid for the operator  $A = \lambda A_0$ , where  $\lambda$  is an arbitrary non-purely imaginary number ( $\operatorname{Re} \lambda \neq 0$ ).

4°. Let  $B$  still be a Hilbert space, and let the operator  $A$  satisfy the condition ( $u \in D_A$ )

$$\operatorname{Re}(Au, u) \leq c(u, u). \quad (8)$$

For  $x > c$ ,  $u \in D_A$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \|Au - xu\|^2 &= \|Au - cu\|^2 - 2(x - c) \operatorname{Re}(Au - cu, u) + (x - c)^2 \|u\|^2 \geq \\ &\geq \|Au - cu\|^2 + (x - c)^2 \|u\|^2, \end{aligned}$$

whence for  $z = x + iy = c + re^{i\varphi}$ ,  $|\varphi| < \pi/2$ , and for arbitrary  $\varepsilon > 0$  we easily obtain

$$\|Au - zu\|^2 \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{1 + \varepsilon} \|Au - cu\|^2 + \varepsilon(x - c)^2 \left( \frac{1}{1 + \varepsilon} - \operatorname{tg}^2 \varphi \right) \|u\|^2. \quad (9)$$

Further,

$$-\operatorname{Re}(Au - zu, u) = -\operatorname{Re}(Au, u) + x(u, u) \geq (x - c)\|u\|^2,$$

whence

$$\|Au - zu\|^2 \geq (x - c)^2\|u\|^2. \quad (10)$$

Multiplying inequality (9) by  $\lambda$ ,  $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ , and inequality (10) by  $1 - \lambda$  and adding, we obtain ( $k = |\operatorname{tg} \varphi|$ )

$$\|Au - zu\|^2 \geq \frac{\lambda\varepsilon}{1 + \varepsilon}\|Au - cu\|^2 + \left(\frac{\lambda\varepsilon}{1 + \varepsilon} - \lambda\varepsilon k^2 + 1 - \lambda\right)(x - c)^2\|u\|^2.$$

Choosing  $\lambda$  and  $\varepsilon$  in an optimal way, we arrive at the inequality

$$\|Au - zu\|^2 \geq p\|Au\|^2 + C_p|z|^2\|u\|^2, \quad (11)$$

valid for  $|z| \geq r_0$  and  $p < P(k)$ , where

$$P(k) = \begin{cases} 1 - k^2, & \text{for } 0 \leq k \leq k_0 = \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2}, \\ \frac{1}{k(k + 2)}, & \text{for } k \geq k_0. \end{cases}$$

For the operator  $A = e^{i\alpha}A_0$ ,  $|\alpha| < \pi$ , where  $A_0$  satisfies (8), inequality (11) remains valid for  $z = re^{i\varphi}$  with  $|\varphi - \alpha| < \pi/2$  and  $k = |\operatorname{tg}(\varphi - \alpha)|$ . Hence it is easy to obtain that there always exists a positive ray  $z = re^{i\varphi}$  ( $|\varphi| < \pi/2$ ), along which inequality (11) holds for arbitrary  $p < P_1(\alpha)$ , where

$$P_1(\alpha) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{for } |\alpha| \leq \pi/2, \\ 1 - \operatorname{ctg}^2 \alpha, & \text{for } \pi/2 \leq |\alpha| \leq \alpha_0 = \pi - \operatorname{arc} \operatorname{ctg} \frac{\sqrt{5} - 1}{2}, \\ \frac{1}{|\operatorname{ctg} \alpha|(|\operatorname{ctg} \alpha| + 2)}, & \text{for } \alpha_0 \leq |\alpha| < \pi \end{cases}$$

(it is enough to put  $\varphi = \alpha$  for  $|\alpha| < \pi/2$ , and  $\varphi = \pm(\pi/2 - \varepsilon)$  for  $\pi/2 \leq |\alpha| < \pi$ ). The existence of inequality (11) makes it possible to establish the following result:

**Theorem 4.** *If the operator  $A$  has the form  $A = e^{i\alpha}A_0 + A_1$ , where  $|\alpha| < \pi$ ,  $A_0$  satisfies (8), and  $A_1$  is subordinate to  $A_0$ : for  $u \in D(A_0) \subset D(A_1)$*

$$\|A_1 u\|^2 \leq p \|A_0 u\|^2 + C \|u\|^2, \quad (12)$$

with  $p < P_1(\alpha)$ , then local uniqueness holds for the Cauchy problem (1).

If the operator  $A_0$  satisfies the condition

$$c_1(u, u) \leq \operatorname{Re}(A_0 u, u) \leq c_2(u, u),$$

then uniqueness is preserved if in inequality (12)  $p < 1$  (and  $\alpha$  is arbitrary). The same circumstance also holds for a Hermitian operator  $A_0$ .

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*Note: Figure translations are in progress. See original paper for figures.*

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