

## Research Article

# On an Anisotropic Parabolic Equation on the Domain with a Disjoint Boundary

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Consider the anisotropic parabolic equation with the variable exponents  $v_t = \sum_{i=1}^n (b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i})_{x_i}$ , where  $b_i(x), q_i(x) \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $q_i(x) > 1$ , and  $b_i(x) \geq 0$ . If  $\{b_i(x)\}$  is not degenerate on  $\Sigma_p \subset \partial\Omega$ , a part of the boundary, but is degenerate on the remained part  $\partial\Omega \setminus \Sigma_p$ , then the boundary value condition is imposed on  $\Sigma_p$ , but there is no boundary value condition required on  $\partial\Omega \setminus \Sigma_p$ . The stability of the weak solutions can be proved based on the partial boundary value condition  $v|_{x \in \Sigma_p} = 0$ .

## 1. Introduction

Recently, we had considered the anisotropic parabolic equation

$$v_t = \sum_{i=1}^n \left( b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} \right)_{x_i}, \quad (1)$$

$$(x, t) \in Q_T = \Omega \times (0, T),$$

with the initial-boundary value conditions

$$v(x, 0) = v_0(x), \quad x \in \Omega, \quad (2)$$

$$v(x, t) = 0, \quad (x, t) \in \partial\Omega \times (0, T), \quad (3)$$

where  $b_i(x), q_i(x) \in C^1(\bar{\Omega})$ ,  $q_i(x) > 1$ ,  $b_i(x) \geq 0$ , and  $\Omega$  is a bounded domain with a smooth boundary  $\partial\Omega$ . If  $b_i(x) \equiv 1$ , the existence of the weak solution had been proved by Antontsev and Shmarev [1]. If some of  $b_i(x)$  are degenerate on the boundary, Zhan [2] had conjectured that, instead of the usual boundary value condition (3), only a partial boundary value condition,

$$v(x, t) = 0, \quad (x, t) \in \Sigma_p \times (0, T), \quad (4)$$

should be imposed, while  $\Sigma_p$  is relatively open in  $\partial\Omega$ . For example, if

$$\Omega = \{(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) : 0 < x_1 < 1, 0 < x_2 < 1, \dots, 0 < x_n < 1\} \quad (5)$$

and  $b_i(x)$  has some special restrictions, then the explicit  $\Sigma_p$  is given, and the stability of the weak solutions is proved dependent on the partial boundary value condition [2]. However, for a general bounded domain  $\Omega$ , how to depict out the explicit  $\Sigma_p$  seems very difficult. In this short paper, we give an original attempt, we first assume that

$$\partial\Omega = \Sigma_p \cup \Sigma'_p, \quad (6)$$

$$\overline{\Sigma_p} \cap \overline{\Sigma'_p} = \emptyset,$$

$$b_i(x) \geq c_i > 0, \quad x \in \Sigma_p, \quad (7)$$

$$b_i(x) = 0, \quad x \in \Sigma'_p, \quad (8)$$

where  $c_i$  is a suitable positive constant, and denote that

$$q_0 = \min_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \{q_1(x), q_2(x), \dots, q_{n-1}(x), q_n(x)\}, \quad q_0 > 1, \quad (9)$$

$$q^0 = \max_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} \{q_1(x), q_2(x), \dots, q_{n-1}(x), q_n(x)\}.$$

A simple example satisfies (6) is

$$\Omega = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^n : 1 < x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2 < 4\}. \quad (10)$$

*Definition 1.* If a function  $v(x, t)$  satisfies that

$$\begin{aligned} v &\in L^\infty(Q_T), \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} &\in L^2(Q_T), \\ b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} &\in L^2(0, T; L^1(\Omega)), \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

for any function  $\varphi, \varphi_{x_i} \in L^2(0, T; L^{q_i(x)}(\Omega))$  and  $\varphi|_{x \in \partial\Omega} = 0$ ,

$$\iint_{Q_T} \left[ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \varphi + \sum_{i=1}^n b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} \varphi_{x_i} \right] dx dt = 0, \quad (12)$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \int_{\Omega} |u(x, t) - u_0(x)| dx = 0, \quad (13)$$

then we say  $v(x, t)$  is a weak solution of (1) with the initial value condition (2). Besides, if the partial boundary value condition (4) is satisfied in the sense of the trace, then we say that  $v(x, t)$  is a weak solution of the initial-boundary value problem (1)-(2)-(4).

The existence of the weak solution can be proved by the usual parabolically regularized method [2]. We are not ready to discuss the existence again in this paper. We mainly pay attentions on the stability.

**Theorem 2.** *If  $\Omega$  satisfies (6),  $b_i$  satisfies (7)-(8), and for large enough  $m$ ,*

$$m \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) \left| \left( \prod_{j=1}^n b_j(x) \right)_{x_i}^{q_i(x)} dx \right|^{1/q_i^+} \leq c, \quad (14)$$

$v(x, t)$  and  $u(x, t)$  are two solutions of (1) with the same partial boundary value condition

$$v(x, t) = u(x, t) = 0, \quad (x, t) \in \Sigma_p \times (0, T), \quad (15)$$

then

$$\int_{\Omega} |v(x, t) - u(x, t)| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |v(x, 0) - u(x, 0)| dx, \quad (16)$$

where  $\Omega_m = \{x \in \Omega : \prod_{i=1}^n b_i(x) > 1/m\}$ .

*Remark 3.* Since the domain  $\Omega$  satisfies (6) and  $b_i$  satisfies (7)-(8) and when  $x$  is near to  $\Sigma_p$ , (1) is not degenerate, by (14),

$$\int_{\Omega_{1\delta}} |\nabla v|^{q_0} dx < \infty, \quad (17)$$

then we can define the trace of  $v(x, t)$  on  $\Sigma_p$ , and condition (15) is reasonable. Here  $\delta > 0$  is a small enough constant,

$$\Omega_{1\delta} = \{x \in \Omega : d(x) = \text{dist}(x, \Sigma_p) < \delta\}. \quad (18)$$

However, when  $\overline{\Sigma_p} \cap \overline{\Sigma'_p} \neq \emptyset$ , then (17) is not clear. In this case, only if

$$\int_{\Omega} [b_i(x)]^{-1/(q_i(x)-1)} dx < \infty, \quad (19)$$

then we have a similar conclusion. This is the following theorem.

**Theorem 4.** *If the domain  $\Omega$  satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned} \partial\Omega &= \Sigma_p \cup \Sigma'_p, \\ \Sigma_p \cap \Sigma'_p &= \emptyset, \\ \overline{\Sigma_p} \cap \overline{\Sigma'_p} &\neq \emptyset, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

$b_i$  satisfies (19) and

$$b_i(x) > 0, \quad x \in \Sigma_p, \quad b_i(x) = 0, \quad x \in \Sigma'_p, \quad (21)$$

condition (14) is true when  $m$  is large enough, and if  $v(x, t)$  and  $u(x, t)$  are two solutions of (1) with the same partial boundary value condition (15), then stability (16) is true.

Let us give an example of the domain  $\Omega$  and  $b_i(x)$  in Theorem 4. For example,  $n = 2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega &= D_1 = \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_1^2 + x_2^2 < 1\}, \\ \Sigma_p &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1, x_2 > 0\}, \\ \Sigma'_p &= \{x \in \mathbb{R}^2 : x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1, x_2 \leq 0\}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

$$\begin{aligned} v_t &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} \left( b_1(x) |v_{x_1}|^{q_1(x)-2} v_{x_1} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} \left( b_2(x) |v_{x_2}|^{q_2(x)-2} v_{x_2} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

$$b_1(x) = b_2(x) = x_2 + \sqrt{1 - x_1^2}. \quad (24)$$

At the end of this section, we would like to give a simple comment on the research background of this paper. Equation (1) is the generalized equation of the following equation:

$$v_t = \text{div} \left( b(x) |\nabla v|^{q(x)-2} \nabla v \right), \quad (x, t) \in Q_T, \quad (25)$$

which originally comes from the electrorheological fluids theory (see [3, 4]). If  $b(x) \equiv 1$ , there are many related papers; one can see [5-7] and the references therein. If  $b(x) > 0$  when  $x \in \Omega$  but  $b(x)|_{x \in \partial\Omega} = 0$ , then the stability of the weak solutions without the boundary value condition had been studied by Zhan et al. [8-10], provided that the diffusion coefficient  $b(x)$  satisfies some other restrictions.

## 2. The Stability

The concepts of the exponent variable spaces,  $(L^{q(x)}(\Omega), |\cdot|_{L^{q(x)}(\Omega)})$ ,  $(W^{1,q(x)}(\Omega), |\cdot|_{W^{1,q(x)}(\Omega)})$ , and  $W_0^{1,q(x)}(\Omega)$ , can be found in [11-15].

**Lemma 5** (see [11-13]). *If  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are real functions with  $1/p(x) + 1/q(x) = 1$  and  $q(x) > 1$ , then, for any  $v \in L^{p(x)}(\Omega)$  and  $u \in L^{q(x)}(\Omega)$ , one has*

$$\left| \int_{\Omega} vu dx \right| \leq 2 \|v\|_{L^{p(x)}(\Omega)} \|u\|_{L^{q(x)}(\Omega)}. \quad (26)$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{if } |v|_{L^{q(x)}(\Omega)} = 1, \\
 & \text{then } \int_{\Omega} |v|^{q(x)} dx = 1, \\
 & \text{if } |v|_{L^{q(x)}(\Omega)} > 1, \\
 & \text{then } |v|_{L^{q(x)}}^{q^-} \leq \int_{\Omega} |v|^{q(x)} dx \leq |v|_{L^{q(x)}}^{q^+}, \\
 & \text{if } |v|_{L^{q(x)}(\Omega)} < 1, \\
 & \text{then } |v|_{L^{q(x)}}^{q^+} \leq \int_{\Omega} |v|^{q(x)} dx \leq |v|_{L^{q(x)}}^{q^-}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

One lets  $k_m(s)$  be an odd function, and

$$k_m(s) = \begin{cases} 1, & s > \frac{1}{m}, \\ m^2 s^2 e^{1-m^2 s^2}, & 0 \leq s \leq \frac{1}{m}. \end{cases} \tag{28}$$

Then,

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} k_m(s) = \text{sgn}(s), \quad s \in (-\infty, +\infty). \tag{29}$$

Let  $\varphi(x)$  be a  $C^1(\bar{\Omega})$  function satisfying

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \varphi(x)|_{x \in \Sigma'_p} = 0, \quad \varphi(x)|_{x \in \bar{\Omega} \setminus \Sigma'_p} > 0, \\
 & \Omega_m = \left\{ x \in \Omega : \varphi(x) > \frac{1}{m} \right\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

**Theorem 6.** If  $\Omega$  satisfies (6),  $b_i$  satisfies (7)-(8), and for large enough  $m$ ,

$$m \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |\varphi(x)_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/q_i^+} \leq c, \tag{31}$$

$v(x, t)$  and  $u(x, t)$  are two solutions of (1) with the same partial boundary value condition

$$v(x, t) = u(x, t) = 0, \quad (x, t) \in \Sigma_p \times (0, T), \tag{32}$$

then

$$\int_{\Omega} |v(x, t) - u(x, t)| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |v(x, 0) - u(x, 0)| dx. \tag{33}$$

*Proof.* We let  $v(x, t)$  and  $u(x, t)$  be two weak solutions of (1) with the partial boundary value condition (32). Then,  $k_m(v - u)|_{x \in \Sigma'_p} = 0$ .

Let

$$\varphi_m(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in \Omega_m, \\ m\varphi(x), & \text{if } x \in \Omega \setminus \Omega_m. \end{cases} \tag{34}$$

Then  $\varphi_m(x)|_{x \in \Sigma'_p} = 0$ .

Let  $\chi_{[\tau, s]}$  be the characteristic function of  $[\tau, s] \subseteq [0, T]$ . We can choose  $\chi_{[\tau, s]} \varphi_m k_m(v - u)$  as the test function, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\tau}^s \int_{\Omega} \varphi_m k_m(v - u) \frac{\partial(v - u)}{\partial t} dx dt \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\tau}^s \int_{\Omega} b_i(x) \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} - |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} u_{x_i} \right) \\
 & \cdot (v_{x_i} - u_{x_i}) k'_m(v - u) \varphi_m(x) dx dt \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\tau}^s \int_{\Omega} b_i(x) \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} - |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} u_{x_i} \right) \\
 & \cdot (v_{x_i} - u_{x_i}) k_m(v - u) \varphi_{mx_i} dx dt = 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

Certainly, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\Omega} b_i(x) \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} - |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} u_{x_i} \right) (v_{x_i} - u_{x_i}) \\
 & \cdot k'_m(v - u) \varphi_m(x) dx \geq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Since  $v_i \in L^2(Q_T)$ , by the Lebesgue dominated convergence theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\tau}^s \int_{\Omega} \varphi_m(x) k_m(v - u) \frac{\partial(v - u)}{\partial t} dx dt \\
 & = \int_{\Omega} |v - u|(x, s) dx - \int_{\Omega} |v - u|(x, \tau) dx.
 \end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

For the last term on the left hand side of (35), obviously,  $\varphi_{mx_i} = m\varphi_{x_i}$  when  $x \in \Omega \setminus \Omega_m$ ; in the other places, it vanishes. By condition (31), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left| \int_{\Omega} b_i(x) \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} - |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} u_{x_i} \right) \cdot \varphi_{mx_i} k_m(v - u) dx \right| \\
 & = \left| \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) \cdot \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} - |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} u_{x_i} \right) \cdot \varphi_{mx_i} k_m(v - u) dx \right| \\
 & \leq cm \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) \cdot \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} + |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} \right) dx \right)^{1/p_i^+} \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) \cdot |\varphi_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/q_i^+} \\
 & \leq c \left[ \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/p_i^+} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/p_i^+} \\
 & \cdot \left[ m \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |\varphi_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/q_i^+} \right] \\
 & \leq c \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/p_i^+} \\
 & + c \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/p_i^+}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

Here  $p_i(x) = q_i(x)/(q_i(x) - 1)$  and  $p_i^+ = \max_{x \in \bar{\Omega}} p_i(x)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left| \int_{\tau}^s \int_{\Omega} b_i(x) \left( |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} v_{x_i} - |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)-2} u_{x_i} \right) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. \cdot \varphi_{m x_i} k_m(v - u) dx dt \right| \\
 & \leq c \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |v_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/p_i^+} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) |u_{x_i}|^{q_i(x)} dx \right)^{1/p_i^+} \right] = 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{39}$$

Now, let  $m \rightarrow \infty$  in (35). Then

$$\int_{\Omega} |v(x, s) - u(x, s)| dx \leq \int_{\Omega} |v(x, \tau) - u(x, \tau)| dx, \tag{40}$$

and by the arbitrary of  $\tau$ , we have (33). The theorem is proved.  $\square$

**Corollary 7.** *Theorem 2 is true.*

*Proof.* We only need to choose

$$\varphi(x) = \prod_{i=1}^n b_i(x); \tag{41}$$

in Theorem 6, the conclusion is clear.

Certainly, there are many choices of  $\varphi$ . For example, when  $x$  is near to the boundary,  $\varphi(x) = d_{\Sigma'_p}(x) = \text{dist}(x, \Sigma'_p)$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 8.** *Instead of the condition (31), if*

$$m \left( \int_{\Omega \setminus \Omega_m} b_i(x) dx \right)^{1/q_i^+} \leq c \tag{42}$$

and  $\varphi(x) = d_{\Sigma'_p}$ , then the same conclusion of Theorem 6 is true. Only if one notices that

$$|\varphi_{x_i}| = |d_{x_i}| = |\nabla d| = 1, \tag{43}$$

then the corollary follows.

### 3. Proof of Theorem 4

Similar to the proof of Lemma 3.2 in [2], we have the following lemma.

**Lemma 9.** *If for any given  $j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ ,*

$$\int_{\Omega} b_j^{-1/(q_j(x)-1)}(x) dx < \infty, \tag{44}$$

then

$$\int_{\Omega} |v_{x_j}| dx \leq c. \tag{45}$$

One omits the details of the proof here. By this lemma, one can see that if  $b_i(x)$  satisfies (7), (8), and (44), then one can define the trace of  $v$  on the boundary  $\partial\Omega$ .

*Proof of Theorem 4.* Since  $\bar{\Sigma}'_p \cap \bar{\Sigma}''_p \neq \emptyset$ , (17) is not true generally. But we have added another condition (44) in Theorem 4; by Lemma 9, we still can impose the partial boundary condition (15). Accordingly, we can choose  $\chi_{[\tau, s]} \varphi_m k_m(v - u)$  as the test function. Thus, similar to the proof of Theorem 6, we can prove Theorem 4.  $\square$

### 4. Conclusion

An anisotropic parabolic equation is considered in this paper. In our previous work [2], if the diffusion coefficients are degenerate on the boundary in some directions, while in the other directions they are not degenerate, how to give a suitable partial boundary value condition to match the equation had been studied. In this short paper, we consider the problem in a different view. We assume that the all diffusion coefficients are degenerate on a part of the boundary  $\Sigma'_p$  but not degenerate on the remained part of the boundary  $\Sigma_p$ . It is clear that we should impose the boundary value condition on  $\Sigma_p$ . By choosing a test function associated with the domain, the stability of the weak solutions is proved in this paper based on the partial boundary value condition. The method of choosing a test function associated with the domain is an innovative method, which can be generalized to use in the other kinds of the degenerate parabolic equation.

### Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that he has no conflicts of interest.

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