

SOME INEQUALITIES FOR SECOND ORDER DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS WITH UNBOUNDED DRIFT

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Communicated by I.N. Parasidis

**Key words:** second order differential equation, drift, invertibility, separability

**AMS Mathematics Subject Classification:** 34A30.

**Abstract.** We study coercive estimates for some second-order degenerate and damped differential operators with unbounded coefficients. We also establish the conditions for invertibility of these operators.

## 1 Introduction

For the Sturm-Liouville operator  $l_0y = -y'' + q(x)y$  ( $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ), coercive estimates and other properties associated with Sobolev spaces are well known (see [1, 3, 4, 15]). Properties of the operator  $ly = -y'' + ry' + qy$  with the intermediate coefficient  $r$  subordinated to the potential  $q$  in some sense, are studied in [5, 9].

In this work, we consider the minimal closed differential operator

$$Ly = -\rho(x)(\rho(x)y')' + r(x)y' + q(x)y$$

in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ , where  $\rho, r$  are continuously differentiable functions, and  $q$  is a continuous function. We do not assume that  $\rho, r, q$  are bounded in  $\mathbb{R}$ . The aim of this work is to show that the operator  $L$  is continuously invertible when these coefficients satisfy some conditions and to obtain the following estimate for  $y \in D(L)$

$$\|-\rho(\rho y')'\|_2 + \|ry'\|_2 + \|qy\|_2 \leq C \|Ly\|_2, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $D(L)$  is the domain of  $L$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_2$  is the norm in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ , and  $C$  independent of  $y$ .

Estimate (1.1) already implies that the domain of  $L$  coincides with the subspace generated by the norm  $\|-\rho(\rho y')'\|_2 + \|ry'\|_2 + \|qy\|_2$ . This fact enables us to use the methods of the embedding theory of weighted Sobolev spaces for studying many important properties (for example, regularity, spectral or approximation properties) of  $L$  (see [8, 12, 13, 16]).

The operator  $L$  has numerous applications in mathematical physics and stochastic processes. For example, in the theory of Brownian motion the Ornstein - Uhlenbek operator is used (see [10]), which is an operator of type  $L$ , and the Fokker - Plank and Kramer differential operators are generalizations of the Ornstein-Uhlenbek operator. The Ornstein-Uhlenbek operator was studied in works of M. Smoluchowski, A. Fokker,

M. Plank, H.C. Burger, R. Furth, L. Zernike, S. Goudsmitt, M.C. Wang (see [20] and the references therein). On the other hand, the operator  $L$  is used to describe the problem of the propagation of small oscillations in a viscoelastic compressible medium [17, 19]. Also, the operator  $L$  is used in the study of the vibrational motion in mediums with resistance, where the resistance depends on the velocity [18].

Recently in works of J. Pruss, R. Shnaubelt, A. Rhandi, G. Da Prato, V. Vespri, P. Clement, G. Metafune, D. Pallara, M. Hieber, L. Lorenzi and others the following Ornstein-Uhlenbeck-type operator

$$A_0 u = -\operatorname{div}(a \nabla u) + F \cdot \nabla u - V u$$

was investigated with various properties (see [2] and references therein). In this works are imposed the additional conditions which are sufficient to control the drift term  $F \cdot \nabla u$  by  $-\operatorname{div}(a \nabla u)$  and  $V u$ .

The results of the present paper show that if the intermediate coefficient  $r$  is quickly growing, then the one dimensional operator  $L$  is invertible and has regular properties. Estimate (1.1) is useful for evolutionary partial differential equations associated with the operator  $L$  (see [7]).

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we prove several auxiliary statements and the invertibility of the operator

$$l y = -\rho(\rho y')' + r y'$$

for a certain class of  $\rho$  and  $r$ . In Section 3 we prove inequality (1.1) under some additional conditions. We present some examples in Section 4.

Inequality (1.1) for operator  $l$  in the case  $\rho = 1$  was obtained in [11]. The coercive estimate of  $L$  in  $L_1(\mathbb{R})$  was proved in [14].

We denote by  $C(\mathbb{R})$  the class of the continuous functions, and by  $C^{(s)}(\mathbb{R})$  ( $s = 1, 2, \dots$ ) the class of all  $s$  times continuously differentiable functions and by  $C_0^{(s)}(\mathbb{R})$  ( $s = 1, 2, \dots$ ) the subset of all compactly supported functions in  $C^{(s)}(\mathbb{R})$ .

## 2 Auxiliary statements and existence of the resolvent for a degenerate operator

Denote by  $l$  the closure in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  of the differential expression

$$l_0 y = -\rho(\rho y')' + r y'$$

on  $C_0^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$ , where  $\rho \in C^{(1)}(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $r \in C(\mathbb{R})$ . The operator  $l$  is a degenerate operator, since it does not have the lower-order term. The domain  $D(l)$  is contained in the space  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  only in the case when the functions  $\rho$  and  $r$  satisfy some additional conditions.

In this section, we give some sufficient conditions for bounded invertibility of the operator  $l$ . We denote

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{g,h}(t) &= \|g\|_{L_2(0,t)} \|h^{-1}\|_{L_2(t,+\infty)} \quad (t > 0), \\ \beta_{g,h}(\tau) &= \|g\|_{L_2(\tau,0)} \|h^{-1}\|_{L_2(-\infty,\tau)} \quad (\tau < 0), \end{aligned}$$

$$\gamma_{g,h} = \max \left( \sup_{t>0} \alpha_{g,h}(t), \sup_{\tau<0} \beta_{g,h}(\tau) \right),$$

where  $g$  and  $h$  are given functions.

**Lemma 2.1.** [11]. *Let  $g$  and  $h$  be continuous functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\gamma_{g,h} < \infty$ . Then for any  $y \in C_0^{(1)}(\mathbb{R})$  the following inequality holds:*

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x)y(x)|^2 dx \leq c_1 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |h(x)y'(x)|^2 dx.$$

Moreover, the least such constant  $c_1$  satisfies  $\gamma_{g,h} \leq c_1 \leq 2\gamma_{g,h}$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $\rho \in C^{(1)}(\mathbb{R})$  and  $r \in C(\mathbb{R})$  satisfy the following conditions*

$$r \geq 1, \gamma_{1,\sqrt{r}} < \infty. \quad (2.1)$$

Then for  $y \in D(l)$  the following estimate holds:

$$\|\sqrt{r}y'\|_2 + \|y\|_2 \leq (1 + \sqrt{2\gamma_{1,\sqrt{r}}}) \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}ly \right\|_2. \quad (2.2)$$

*Proof.* Let  $y \in C_0^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$ . Integrating by parts, we have

$$(ly, y') = \int_{\mathbb{R}} r(x)(y')^2 dx. \quad (2.3)$$

By Hölder's inequality,

$$|(L_0y, y')| \leq \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}L_0y \right\|_2 \|\sqrt{r}y'\|_2. \quad (2.4)$$

Since  $r \geq 1$ , from (2.3) and (2.4) it follows that

$$\|\sqrt{r}y'\|_2 \leq \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{r}}L_0y \right\|_2. \quad (2.5)$$

On the other hand, using Lemma 2.1, we get

$$\|y\|_2 \leq 2\gamma_{1,\sqrt{r}} \|\sqrt{r}y'\|_2.$$

Then

$$\|\sqrt{r}y'\|_2 + \|y\|_2 \leq (1 + 2\gamma_{1,\sqrt{r}}) \|\sqrt{r}y'\|_2.$$

So, using (2.5) we obtain that (2.2) holds for any  $y \in C_0^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$ .

Let  $y \in D(l)$ . Then there exists a sequence  $\{y_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \subset C_0^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\|y_n - y\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\|ly_n - ly\|_2 \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Since (2.2) holds for all  $y_n$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ). Then passing to limit as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain the desired estimate for  $y \in D(l)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $r \in C(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $\rho \in C^{(1)}(\mathbb{R})$  be such that

$$r \geq \rho^2, \gamma_{1, \sqrt{r}} < \infty \quad (2.6)$$

and for some  $N > 0$  the following inequality holds

$$1 \leq \rho(x) \leq c_2 (1 + x^2)^N. \quad (2.7)$$

Then the operator  $l$  is invertible and the inverse operator  $l^{-1}$  is defined on the whole  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ .

*Proof.* Inequality (2.2) implies that the inverse  $l^{-1}$  exists. It suffices to show that  $R(l) = L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Assume that  $R(l) \neq L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Then there exists a non-zero element  $v \in L_2(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $v \perp R(l)$ . It follows that

$$l^*v \equiv (\rho(\rho v)')' + (rv)' = 0,$$

where  $l^*$  is the adjoint operator of  $l$ . Put  $\rho v = z$ , then

$$\left( \rho z' + \frac{r}{\rho} z \right)' = 0,$$

or

$$\left( z \exp \left[ \int_a^x \frac{r(t)}{\rho^2(t)} dt \right] \right)' = \frac{c}{\rho} \exp \left( \int_a^x \frac{r(t)}{\rho^2(t)} dt \right),$$

where  $c$  is a constant.

If  $c \neq 0$ , then we can assume that  $c = -1$ . Inequalities (2.6), (2.7) imply that

$$\left( z(x) \exp \left[ \int_a^x \frac{r(t)}{\rho^2(t)} dt \right] \right)' \leq c_1 < 0, \quad x \in (a, +\infty).$$

Hence (2.6) and (2.7) imply that  $v \notin L_2(\mathbb{R})$ .

If  $c = 0$ , then we have

$$v = \frac{c_2}{\rho(x)} \exp \left[ - \int_a^x \frac{r(t)}{\rho^2(t)} dt \right].$$

By (2.7), there exists  $x_0 < a$  such that  $|v(x)| \geq \delta > 0$  for any  $x \leq x_0$ . So  $v \notin L_2(\mathbb{R})$ .

Hence, we obtained a contradiction. Thus  $R(l) = L_2(\mathbb{R})$ .  $\square$

**Definition 1.**  $l$  is called separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ , if there exists  $c > 0$  such that

$$\|\rho(\rho y)'\|_2 + \|ry'\|_2 \leq c_3 \|ly\|_2 \quad (2.8)$$

for all  $y \in D(l)$ .

Put  $\rho y' = z$ . Then

$$ly = -\rho z' + \frac{r}{\rho} z.$$

Let  $\lambda \geq 0$ , and  $\rho$  be a bounded function. We define  $K_\lambda : L_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L_2(\mathbb{R})$  as follows:

$$K_\lambda z = -z' + \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) z, \quad z \in D(K_\lambda),$$

where  $D(K_\lambda)$  is the domain of  $K_\lambda$ . Note that  $K_\lambda$  is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ , if for some  $c_4 > 0$ ,

$$\|z'\|_2 + \left\| \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) z \right\|_2 \leq c_4 \|K_\lambda z\|_2$$

for all  $z \in D(K_\lambda)$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $\rho \in C^{(1)}(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $1 \leq \rho \leq s$ ,  $r \in C(\mathbb{R})$  satisfy (2.2). Then  $l$  is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  if and only if*

$$K_\lambda z = -z' + \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) z$$

*is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  for some  $\lambda \geq 0$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $l$  is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Put  $\rho y' = z$ . Then

$$\|-\rho z'\|_2 + \left\| \frac{r}{\rho} z \right\|_2 \leq c_5 \|\rho^{-1} K_0 z\|_2.$$

Hence,

$$\| -z' \|_2 + \left\| \frac{r}{\rho^2} z \right\|_2 \leq c_5 \|K_0 z\|_2. \quad (2.9)$$

It is easy to check that for any  $z \in D(K_\lambda)$  the following estimate holds:

$$\left\| \sqrt{\frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda} z \right\|_2 \leq \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda}} K_\lambda z \right\|_2. \quad (2.10)$$

Therefore,

$$\left( \frac{1}{s^2} + \lambda \right) \|z\|_2 \leq \|K_\lambda z\|_2, \quad z \in D(K_\lambda). \quad (2.11)$$

By (2.9) and (2.11), we have that

$$\| -z' \|_2 + \left\| \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) z \right\|_2 \leq c_5 \|K_0 z\|_2 + \lambda \|z\|_2 \leq (c_5 + 2) \|K_\lambda z\|_2. \quad (2.12)$$

So,  $K_\lambda$  is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ .

Let  $K_\lambda$  be separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ , i.e.

$$\| -z' \|_2 + \left\| \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) z \right\|_2 \leq c_6 \|K_\lambda z\|_2, \quad z \in D(K_\lambda).$$

By (2.11), we obtain that

$$\|K_\lambda z\|_2 \leq \|K_0 z\|_2 + \frac{\lambda}{\lambda + 1/s^2} \|K_\lambda z\|_2,$$

hence

$$\|K_\lambda z\|_2 \leq (s^2\lambda + 1)\|K_0 z\|_2.$$

So, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \|\rho z'\|_2 + \left\| \frac{r}{\rho} z \right\|_2 &\leq s \left[ \|z'\|_2 + \left\| \frac{r}{\rho^2} z \right\|_2 \right] \leq c_6 \|K_\lambda z\|_2 + \lambda \|z\|_2 \\ &\leq (c_6 + 1) \|K_\lambda z\|_2 \leq 2c_6 (s^2\lambda + 1) \|K_0 z\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $z/\rho = y'$ , we get that

$$\|\rho(\rho y')'\|_2 + \|r y'\|_2 \leq c_7 \|l y\|_2.$$

□

**Lemma 2.4.** *Let  $\rho \in C^{(1)}(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $1 \leq \rho \leq s$  and  $r \in C(\mathbb{R})$ . Suppose that*

$$\sup_{|x-\eta| \leq 2} \frac{r(x)}{r(\eta)} < \infty \quad (2.13)$$

and condition (2.2) hold. Then  $l$  is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.3, it is enough to prove that  $K_\lambda$  is separable in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  for some  $\lambda \geq 0$ .

Theorem 2.1 implies that  $K_\lambda$  is continuously invertible on  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  for all  $\lambda \geq 0$ . Next, we show a useful representation of  $K_\lambda^{-1}$ . Let  $\Delta_j = (j-1, j+1)$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), and  $\{\varphi_j\}_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty}$  be a sequence in  $C_0^\infty(\Delta_j)$  such that

$$0 \leq \varphi_j \leq 1, |\varphi_j'(x)| \leq m \quad (j \in \mathbb{Z}), \quad \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi_j^2(x) = 1.$$

We extend the restriction of  $r(x)\rho^{-2}(x)$  to the interval  $\Delta_j$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  as a piecewise continuous function  $\psi_j(x)$  with period 2. Let  $K_{\lambda,j}$  be the closure in  $L_2(\Delta_j)$  of the differential operator  $-z' + (\psi_j(x) + \lambda)z$  on  $C_0^{(1)}(\Delta_j)$ . Similarly to (2.10), we obtain that

$$\left\| \sqrt{\psi_j + \lambda} z \right\|_{2, \Delta_j} \leq \left\| \frac{1}{\sqrt{\psi_j + \lambda}} K_{\lambda,j} z \right\|_{2, \Delta_j}, \quad z \in C_0^{(1)}(\Delta_j), j \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Hence,

$$\left( \frac{1}{s^2} + \lambda \right) \|z\|_{2, \Delta_j} \leq \|K_{\lambda,j} z\|_{2, \Delta_j}, \quad z \in D(K_{\lambda,j}), j \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (2.14)$$

So,  $K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}$  exists. On the other hand, by Theorem 2.1,  $K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}$  is defined on the whole  $L_2(\Delta_j)$ .

Define  $B_\lambda$  and  $M_\lambda$  as follows:

$$B_\lambda f = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi_j'(x) K_{\lambda,j}^{-1} \varphi_j f, \quad M_\lambda f = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi_j(x) K_{\lambda,j}^{-1} \varphi_j f, \quad f \in L_2(\mathbb{R}).$$

Since  $\text{supp } \varphi_j \subset \Delta_{j-1} \cup \Delta_j \cup \Delta_{j+1}$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), at each point  $x \in \mathbb{R}$  the sums of the right-hand side of  $B_\lambda$  and  $M_\lambda$  contain no more than two summands, so  $B_\lambda$  and  $M_\lambda$  are well-defined on the whole  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Moreover, it is clear that

$$K_\lambda M_\lambda = E - B_\lambda. \quad (2.15)$$

Notice that in  $(j, j+1)$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ) only the functions  $\varphi_j$  and  $\varphi_{j+1}$  are not equal to zero. So, we have that

$$\begin{aligned} \|B_\lambda f\|_2^2 &= \left\| \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi'_j(x) K_{\lambda,j}^{-1} \varphi_j f \right\|_2^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left| \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} \varphi'_j(x) K_{\lambda,j}^{-1} \varphi_j f \right|^2 dx \\ &= \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_i^{i+1} \left( \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} |\varphi'_j(x)| | [K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}(\varphi_j f)](x) | \right)^2 dx \\ &= \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_i^{i+1} [ |\varphi'_i| | (K_{\lambda,i}^{-1}(\varphi_i f)) | + |\varphi'_{i+1}| | (K_{\lambda,i+1}^{-1}(\varphi_{i+1} f)) | ]^2 dx \\ &\leq 2 \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} \left( \int_{\Delta_i} |\varphi'_i|^2 |K_{\lambda,i}^{-1}(\varphi_i f)|^2 dx + \int_{\Delta_{i+1}} |\varphi'_{i+1}|^2 |K_{\lambda,i+1}^{-1}(\varphi_{i+1} f)|^2 dx \right) \\ &= 4 \sum_{i=-\infty}^{+\infty} \int_{\Delta_i} |\varphi'_i(x)|^2 |K_{\lambda,i}^{-1}(\varphi_i f)(x)|^2 dx. \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore

$$\begin{aligned} \|B_\lambda f\|_2^2 &\leq 4m^2 \sum_{j=-\infty}^{+\infty} \left( \|K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}\|_{L_2(\Delta_j) \rightarrow L_2(\Delta_j)}^2 \|\varphi_j f\|_{2, \Delta_j}^2 \right) \\ &\leq 8m^2 \sup_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \|K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}\|_{L_2(\Delta_j) \rightarrow L_2(\Delta_j)}^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \sum_j \varphi_j^2 \right) |f|^2 dx \\ &= 8m^2 \sup_{j \in \mathbb{Z}} \|K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}\|_{L_2(\Delta_j) \rightarrow L_2(\Delta_j)}^2 \|f\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

By inequality (2.14),

$$\|K_{\lambda,j}^{-1}\|_{L_2(\Delta_j) \rightarrow L_2(\Delta_j)} \leq \frac{s^2}{1 + s^2 \lambda}.$$

Thus  $\|B_\lambda f\|_2 \leq \frac{2\sqrt{2}ms^2}{1+s^2\lambda} \|f\|_2$ ,  $f \in L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Let  $\lambda_0 = (4\sqrt{2}ms^2 - 1)s^{-2}$ . Then

$$\|B_\lambda\|_{L_2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L_2(\mathbb{R})} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

holds for any  $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ . So,  $E + B_\lambda$  ( $\lambda \geq \lambda_0$ ) is invertible. By (2.15), we get

$$K_\lambda^{-1} = M_\lambda (E - B_\lambda)^{-1}, \lambda \geq \lambda_0. \quad (2.16)$$

Now, we can prove (2.8). Let  $m_1 = \sup_{|x-\eta|\leq 2} \frac{r(x)}{r(\eta)}$ . By (2.16) and the properties of  $\varphi_j$  ( $j \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), we obtain that

$$\left\| \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) K_\lambda^{-1} f \right\|_2 \leq 4\sqrt{2} (m_1 s^2 + 1) \|f\|_2.$$

Then, for  $\lambda \geq (4\sqrt{2}m_1s^2 - 1)s^{-2}$ , we have that

$$\|z'\|_2 + \left\| \left( \frac{r}{\rho^2} + \lambda \right) z \right\|_2 \leq (1 + 4\sqrt{2} + 4\sqrt{2}m_1s^2) \|K_\lambda z\|_2. \quad (2.17)$$

Put  $z = \rho y'$ . By (2.17), we get that

$$\|\rho(\rho y')'\|_2 + \|r y'\|_2 \leq 8\sqrt{2}m_1s(1 + 4\sqrt{2} + 4\sqrt{2}m_1s^2) \|l y\|_2, \quad y \in D(l), \quad (2.18)$$

hence  $l$  is separable.  $\square$

### 3 Separability of the damped differential operator

Denote by  $L$  the closure in  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$  of the differential expression

$$\tilde{L}y = -\rho(\rho y')' + r y' + q y$$

on  $C_0^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$ , where  $\rho$  is a continuously differentiable function,  $r$  and  $q$  are continuous functions.

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\rho$  be a bounded continuously differentiable function,  $r$  and  $q$  be continuous functions. Suppose that  $\rho \geq 1$ ,  $r$  and  $q$  satisfy conditions (2.2), (2.17) and  $\gamma_{q,r} < \infty$ . Then  $L$  is continuously invertible, and  $L^{-1}$  is defined on the whole  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Furthermore, there exists  $c_8$  such that*

$$\|-\rho(\rho y')'\|_2 + \|r y'\|_2 + \|q y\|_2 \leq c_8 \|L y\|_2, \quad (3.1)$$

for any  $y \in D(L)$ .

*Proof.* We consider the equation

$$L y = f. \quad (3.2)$$

A function  $y \in L_2(\mathbb{R})$  is called a solution to (3.2), if there is a sequence  $\{y_n\}_{n=1}^{+\infty} \subset C_0^{(2)}(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $\|y_n - y\|_2 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\|L y_n - f\|_2 \rightarrow 0$  ( $n \rightarrow +\infty$ ). It is clear that  $L$  is continuously invertible if and only if there exists a unique solution  $y$  to (3.2) for each  $f \in L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Putting  $x = at$  ( $a > 0$ ), we rewrite (3.2) in the following form:

$$-\tilde{\rho}(t)(\tilde{\rho}(t)\tilde{y}'_t)' + 1/\alpha\tilde{r}(t)\tilde{y}'_t + 1/\alpha^2\tilde{q}(t)\tilde{y} = \tilde{f}, \quad (3.3)$$

where

$$\tilde{y}(t) = y(at), \tilde{\rho}(t) = \rho(at), \tilde{r}(t) = r(at), \tilde{q}(t) = q(at), \tilde{f}(t) = f(at)/a^2.$$



Let

$$\hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} = -\tilde{\rho}(t)(\tilde{\rho}(t)\tilde{y}'_t)' + \tilde{r}/a \tilde{y}'_t,$$

then from (3.3) we obtain

$$\hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} + \tilde{q}(t)/a^2 \tilde{y} = \tilde{f}(t). \quad (3.4)$$

Note that  $\tilde{r}/a$  satisfies the conditions of Lemma 2.3, so the operator  $\hat{l}_0$  is continuously invertible. By (2.18),

$$\left\| -\tilde{\rho}(t)(\tilde{\rho}(t)\tilde{y}'_t)' \right\|_2 + \left\| \tilde{r}/a \tilde{y}'_t \right\|_2 \leq T \left\| \hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} \right\|_2, \forall \tilde{y} \in D(\hat{l}_0), \quad (3.5)$$

where  $T = 8\sqrt{2}ms(1 + 4\sqrt{2} + 4\sqrt{2}m_1s^2)$ .

It is clear that  $\gamma_{\tilde{q},\tilde{r}} = 1/a \gamma_{q,r}$ . By Lemma 2.1 and (3.5),

$$\left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq \frac{2\gamma_{\tilde{q},\tilde{r}}}{a^2} \|\tilde{r}\tilde{y}'\|_2 \leq 2\gamma_{q,r}a^{-2} \left\| \frac{1}{a} \tilde{r}\tilde{y}' \right\|_2 \leq \frac{2T\gamma_{q,r}}{a^2} \left\| \hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} \right\|_2.$$

Choose  $a = 2\sqrt{T \gamma_{q,r}}$ , then

$$\left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \left\| \hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} \right\|_2. \quad (3.6)$$

By Theorem 1.16 in Chapter IV of [6],  $\hat{l}_0 + \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q}_1(t)E$  is invertible and  $R\left(\hat{l}_0 + \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q}_1 E\right) = L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Let  $\tilde{y}$  be a solution to (3.4). Then, by (3.5) and (3.6), we get that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\| -\tilde{\rho}(t)(\tilde{\rho}(t)\tilde{y}'_t)' \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{1}{a} \tilde{r}\tilde{y}'_t \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \\ & \leq \left[ T \left( 1 + \frac{2\gamma_{q,r}}{a^2} \right) \right] \left\| \hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} \right\|_2. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

On the other hand,

$$\left\| \hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq \left\| \left( \hat{l}_0 + \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} E \right) \tilde{y} \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2. \quad (3.8)$$

Using (3.4) and (3.6), we obtain that

$$\left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq \left\| \left( \hat{l}_0 + \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} E \right) \tilde{y} \right\|_2,$$

and

$$\left\| \hat{l}_0 \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq \left\| \left( \hat{l}_0 + \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} E \right) \tilde{y} \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq 2 \left\| \left( \hat{l}_0 + \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} E \right) \tilde{y} \right\|_2. \quad (3.9)$$

So, (3.7) and (3.9) imply that the inequality

$$\left\| -\tilde{\rho}(\tilde{\rho}\tilde{y}'_t)' \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{1}{a} \tilde{r}\tilde{y}'_t \right\|_2 + \left\| \frac{1}{a^2} \tilde{q} \tilde{y} \right\|_2 \leq 2 \left[ T \left( 1 + \frac{2\gamma_{q,r}}{a^2} \right) \right] \left\| \tilde{f} \right\|_2$$

holds for any solution  $\tilde{y}$  to (3.4). Let  $t = x/a$ . Rewriting the above formula, we obtain (3.1).  $\square$

## 4 Examples

1. Let  $L_0 y = (1 + x^2) ((1 + x^2) y')' + (5 + x^4) y'$ . Then all conditions of Theorem 2.1 are satisfied. Hence,  $L_0$  is invertible, and  $L_0^{-1}$  is continuous.

2. We consider

$$Ly = -y'' + (1 + x^2)^\omega y' + |x|^\sigma y,$$

where  $\omega > 0$ ,  $\sigma \geq 0$ . If  $\omega \geq \sigma/2 + 3/4$ , then the conditions of Theorem 3.1 are satisfied. So  $L$  has a bounded inverse  $L^{-1}$ , and there exists  $c_9 > 0$  such that

$$\|y''\|_2 + \|(1 + x^2)^\omega y'\|_2 + \||x|^\sigma y\|_2 \leq c_9 \|Ly\|_2$$

for all  $y \in D(L)$ .

3. By Theorem 3.1,  $\tilde{L}y = -y'' + \exp(1 + x^2)y' + \exp|x|y$  is continuously invertible on  $L_2(\mathbb{R})$ . Moreover, for all  $y \in D(\tilde{L})$ ,

$$\|y''\|_2 + \|\exp(1 + x^2) y'\|_2 + \|\exp|x| y\|_2 \leq c_{10} \|\tilde{L}y\|_2,$$

where  $c_{10}$  is independent of  $y$ .

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Received: 22.04.2015