A remark on the local Lipschitz continuity of vector hysteresis operators

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Abstract. It is known that the vector stop operator with a convex closed characteristic Z of class C^1 is locally Lipschitz in the space of absolutely continuous functions if the unit outward normal mapping n is Lipschitz on the boundary ∂Z of Z. We prove that in the regular case, this condition is also necessary.

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1 Introduction

Mathematical models of multidimensional hysteresis phenomena in elastoplasticity or ferromagnetism are often based on the variational inequality (see e. g. [Al, Be, Bro, BK, DL, K1, NH, V])

(1.1)
$$\begin{cases} \langle \dot{u}(t) - \dot{x}(t), x(t) - \varphi \rangle \ge 0 & \forall \varphi \in Z, \\ x(t) \in Z & \forall t \in [0, T], \\ x(0) = x^0 \in Z, \end{cases}$$

where $u \in W^{1,1}(0,T;X)$ is a given function, X a Hilbert space endowed with a scalar product $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$, $Z \subset X$ is a convex closed set, $t \in [0,T]$ is the time variable and the dot denotes the derivative with respect to t.

The existence of a unique solution $x \in W^{1,1}(0,T;X)$ to problem (1.1) is a special case of classical results for evolution variational inequalities, cf. e. g. [Bre, DL].

In stochastics, inequality (1.1) is known as a special case of the *Skorokhod problem* ([DI, DN]). In the theory of hysteresis operators, the solution mapping

(1.2)
$$S: Z \times W^{1,1}(0,T;X) \to W^{1,1}(0,T;X): (x^0,u) \mapsto x$$

is called the *stop operator with characteristic* Z and its properties have been systematically studied (see [KP, V, K1, K2]) together with its extension to the space C([0, T]; X)of continuous functions. The dynamics described by the operator S is a special case of a *sweeping process*, see [M].

Analytical properties of the stop in the space $W^{1,1}(0,T;X)$ endowed with the norm

(1.3)
$$|u|_{1,1} := |u(0)| + \int_0^T |\dot{u}(t)| dt$$

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depend substantially on the geometry of the characteristic Z. The operator $S: Z \times W^{1,1}(0,T;X) \to W^{1,1}(0,T;X)$ is always continuous, see Theorem I.3.12 of [K1]. It was conjectured without proof in [KP] that this mapping is Lipschitz if Z is a polyhedron and locally Lipschitz if the boundary ∂Z of Z is smooth. These statements have been rigorously proved only recently in [DT] and [D], respectively. In [D], it was shown that the Lipschitz continuity of the mapping

(1.4)
$$n: \partial Z \to \partial B_1(0)$$

(by $B_r(z)$ we denote the ball centered at $z \in X$ with radius r > 0), which with each $x \in \partial Z$ associates the unit outward normal n(x) to Z at the point x, is sufficient for the local Lipschitz continuity of the stop. Another proof which also yields an explicit upper bound for the Lipschitz coefficient (optimal if Z is a ball) can be found in [K2] as a generalization of the technique used in [BK] for the ball.

Example 3.2 of [D] shows that the stop is not necessarily locally Lipschitz if the mapping n is only 1/2-Hölder continuous. The aim of this paper is to fill the gap and to prove that the local Lipschitz continuity cannot be expected if ∂Z is of class C^1 and the ratio |n(x) - n(y)|/|x - y|, $x, y \in \partial Z$, is unbounded.

Let us note that this is not just an academic question. A precise upper bound for the Lipschitz coefficient of the stop has been substantially exploited in [BK] for proving the well-posedness of constitutive laws of elastoplasticity with nonlinear kinematic hardening.

2 Main result

We consider the simplest case $X = \mathbb{R}^2$ and fix a convex closed set $Z \subset X$ of class C^1 in such a way that there exists a point $x^* \in \partial Z$ for which we have

(2.1)
$$\lim_{\substack{x \to x^* \\ x \in \partial Z}} |n(x) - n(x^*)| / |x - x^*| = +\infty.$$

By shifting and rotating the coordinate system we may assume that $x^* = 0$ and that there exists $\varepsilon > 0$ such that

(2.2)
$$Z \cap \left([-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^2 \right) = \left\{ \left(\begin{array}{c} a \\ b \end{array} \right) \in [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon]^2; \ b \ge G(a) \right\},$$

where $G : [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon] \to \mathbb{R}^+$ is a convex function, G(0) = 0, and its derivative g = G' is continuous, increasing, g(0) = 0 and $\lim_{a\to 0^+} g(a)/a = +\infty$ (see Fig. 1).

We make the following simplifying assumptions.

Hypothesis 2.1

- (i) $G: [-\varepsilon, \varepsilon] \to \mathbb{R}^+$ is convex and even, G(0) = 0,
- (ii) g = G' is increasing and concave in $[0, \varepsilon[, g(0) = 0, g'(0+) = +\infty]$.

The rest of this paper is devoted to the proof of the following result.

Theorem 2.2 Let $Z \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ be a convex closed set satisfying condition (2.2) and Hypothesis 2.1. Then for every R > 0 there exists a function $u \in W^{1,1}(0,1;\mathbb{R}^2)$ such that $|u|_{1,1} \leq 1$, and initial conditions $x^0, y^0 \in Z$ such that the functions $x = \mathcal{S}(x^0, u)$, $y = \mathcal{S}(y^0, u)$, where \mathcal{S} is the stop operator (1.2), satisfy the inequality

(2.3)
$$\int_0^1 |\dot{x}(t) - \dot{y}(t)| \, dt \ge R \left| x^0 - y^0 \right| \, .$$



Figure 1: The convex characteristic Z

3 Proof of Theorem 2.2

We follow the construction from Example 3.2 of [D]. Taking a smaller $\varepsilon > 0$ if necessary, we may assume that

(3.1)
$$\varepsilon < \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}, \quad g(\varepsilon) < \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

We fix some $a_0 \in [0, \varepsilon]$ (arbitrary, for the moment) and construct a sequence $\{a_k; k \in$ $\mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}\}$ by induction in the following way. Let $a_0 > a_1 > \ldots > a_k > 0$ be already given and let us consider the differential equation

(3.2)
$$\dot{r}_k = \frac{1 - g(a_k - t) g(r_k)}{1 + g^2(r_k)}, \quad r_k(0) = 0,$$

in the domain $(t, r_k) \in \mathcal{D}_k := [0, a_k] \times [0, a_k]$. The function

$$F: (t, r_k) \mapsto \frac{1 - g(a_k - t) g(r_k)}{1 + g^2(r_k)}$$

is continuous in \mathcal{D}_k and $0 < F(t, r_k) < 1$ whenever $(t, r_k) \in \mathcal{D}_k$, $r_k > 0$. Moreover, the function $r_k \mapsto F(t, r_k)$ is decreasing in $[0, a_k]$ for every $t \in [0, a_k]$; problem (3.2) therefore admits in \mathcal{D}_k a unique maximal solution $r_k : [0, a_k] \to [0, a_k], \ 0 < \dot{r}_k(t) < 1$ for all $t \in [0, a_k]$. Putting)

$$(3.3) a_{k+1} := r_k(a_k)$$

we thus have $0 < a_{k+1} < a_k$ and the induction step is complete. By construction, we moreover have for every $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$

(3.4)
$$a_{k+1} \ge a_k \frac{1 - g^2(a_k)}{1 + g^2(a_k)} \ge a_k \left(1 - 2g^2(a_k)\right)$$

For $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$ put

(3.5)
$$t_0 := 0, \quad t_{k+1} := t_k + a_k, \quad T := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k \le \infty.$$

We choose two points $x^0, y^0 \in Z$ in the form

(3.6)
$$x^{0} := \begin{pmatrix} -a_{0} \\ G(a_{0}) \end{pmatrix}, \quad y^{0} := \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

and define functions $\bar{u}, \bar{x}, \bar{y} \, : \, [0, T[\to \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ by the formulas}]$

(3.7)
$$\bar{u}(0) := 0, \quad \bar{x}(0) := x^0, \quad \bar{y}(0) := y^0,$$

$$(3.8) \quad \bar{u}(t) := \begin{cases} \bar{u}(t_j) + \begin{pmatrix} t - t_j \\ G(t_{j+1} - t) - G(a_j) \end{pmatrix} & \text{for } t \in]t_j, t_{j+1}], \ j \text{ even}, \\ \bar{u}(t_j) + \begin{pmatrix} t_j - t \\ G(t_{j+1} - t) - G(a_j) \end{pmatrix} & \text{for } t \in]t_j, t_{j+1}], \ j \text{ odd}, \end{cases}$$

$$(3.9) \quad \bar{x}(t) := \begin{cases} \bar{x}(t_j) + \bar{u}(t) - \bar{u}(t_j) & \text{for } t \in]t_j, t_{j+1}], \ j \text{ even}, \\ \begin{pmatrix} -r_j(t - t_j) \\ G(r_j(t - t_j)) \end{pmatrix} & \text{for } t \in]t_j, t_{j+1}], \ j \text{ odd}, \end{cases}$$

$$(3.10) \quad \bar{y}(t) := \begin{cases} \begin{pmatrix} r_j(t - t_j) \\ G(r_j(t - t_j)) \end{pmatrix} & \text{for } t \in]t_j, t_{j+1}], \ j \text{ even}, \\ \bar{y}(t_j) + \bar{u}(t) - \bar{u}(t_j) & \text{for } t \in]t_j, t_{j+1}], \ j \text{ even}, \end{cases}$$

where $r_j : [0, a_j] \to [0, a_{j+1}]$ is the solution of equation (3.2) for $j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. Let us check by induction that we have

(3.11)
$$\bar{x} = \mathcal{S}(x^0, \bar{u}), \quad \bar{y} = \mathcal{S}(y^0, \bar{u}) \quad \text{in } [0, T[.$$

Assume that identities (3.11) hold for $t \in [0, t_k]$, and let for instance k be even, $k \ge 0$ (the case 'k odd' is analogous). For $k \ge 2$ we have

(3.12)
$$\bar{x}(t_k) = \begin{pmatrix} -r_{k-1}(t_k - t_{k-1}) \\ G(r_{k-1}(t_k - t_{k-1})) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -a_k \\ G(a_k) \end{pmatrix},$$

(3.13)
$$\bar{y}(t_k) = \bar{y}(t_{k-1}) + \bar{u}(t_k) - \bar{u}(t_{k-1})$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} r_{k-2}(t_{k-1} - t_{k-2}) \\ G(r_{k-2}(t_{k-1} - t_{k-2})) \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} a_{k-1} \\ G(a_{k-1}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

for k = 0 the above identities hold by the choice (3.6), (3.7) of initial conditions. For $t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]$ we have by definition

$$\bar{x}(t) := \bar{x}(t_k) + \bar{u}(t) - \bar{u}(t_k) = \begin{pmatrix} t - t_{k+1} \\ G(t_{k+1} - t) \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \bar{y}(t) := \begin{pmatrix} r_k(t - t_k) \\ G(r_k(t - t_k)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

In particular, both \bar{x} , \bar{y} are absolutely continuous in $[0, t_{k+1}]$ and $\bar{x}(t)$, $\bar{y}(t)$ belong to Z for all $t \in [t_k, t_{k+1}]$. Since $\dot{\bar{x}}(t) = \dot{\bar{u}}(t)$ for all $t \in]t_k, t_{k+1}[$, the function \bar{x} is automatically a solution of problem (1.1) in $[0, t_{k+1}]$. The same argument applies to \bar{y} provided we check that the inequality

(3.14)
$$\langle \dot{\bar{u}}(t) - \dot{\bar{y}}(t), \bar{y}(t) - \varphi \rangle \ge 0 \quad \forall \varphi \in \mathbb{Z}$$

holds in $]t_k, t_{k+1}[$.

Equation (3.2) yields

(3.15)
$$\dot{r}_k(t-t_k) = \frac{1-g(t_{k+1}-t)g(r_k(t-t_k))}{1+g^2(r_k(t-t_k))} \quad \text{for } t \in]t_k, t_{k+1}[$$

hence

(3.16)
$$\dot{\bar{u}}(t) - \dot{\bar{y}}(t) = \frac{g(t_{k+1} - t) + g(r_k(t - t_k))}{\sqrt{1 + g^2(r_k(t - t_k))}} \ n(\bar{y}(t)),$$

where

(3.17)
$$n(\bar{y}(t)) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + g^2(r_k(t - t_k))}} \begin{pmatrix} g(r_k(t - t_k)) \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

is the unit outward normal to Z at the point $\bar{y}(t)$ and inequality (3.14) follows from the convexity of Z. We have thus proved that identities (3.11) are fulfilled.

An elementary computation yields for all $j \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$

(3.18)
$$\int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} |\dot{\bar{u}}(t)| dt = \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} \sqrt{1 + g^2(t_{j+1} - t)} dt$$
$$= \int_0^{a_j} \sqrt{1 + g^2(s)} ds \leq \sqrt{2} a_j,$$
(3.19)
$$\int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} |\dot{\bar{x}}(t) - \dot{\bar{y}}(t)| dt = \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} \frac{g(t_{j+1} - t) + g(r_j(t - t_j))}{\sqrt{1 + g^2(r_j(t - t_j))}} dt$$
$$\geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} g(t_{j+1} - t) dt = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} G(a_j)$$

The proof of Theorem 2.2 consists in choosing an appropriate value of a_0 in the above construction and putting

(3.20)
$$u(t) := \begin{cases} \bar{u}(t) & \text{for } t \in [0, t_n], \\ \bar{u}(t_n) & \text{for } t \in]t_n, 1], \end{cases}$$

with some n depending on a_0 such that $t_n < 1$. More precisely, we choose n to be the integer part of $1/(\sqrt{2} a_0)$,

$$(3.21) n := \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2} a_0}\right],$$

and, according to assumption (3.1), we have

(3.22)
$$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} \le n a_0 \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Definition (3.5) yields

$$t_n = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k \le n a_0 \le \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} < 1,$$

hence formula (3.20) is meaningful. Inequality (3.18) yields

(3.23)
$$|u|_{1,1} = \int_0^1 |\dot{u}(t)| \, dt = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} |\dot{\bar{u}}(t)| \, dt \le \sqrt{2} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k \le 1.$$

Let now R > 0 be given. The proof will be complete if we check that inequality (2.3) holds for a suitable choice of a_0 .

Let us first estimate the integral $\int_0^1 |\dot{x}(t) - \dot{y}(t)| dt$ from below. We obviously have $x = \bar{x}$, $y = \bar{y}$ in $[0, t_n]$, $\dot{x} = \dot{y} = 0$ in $]t_n, 1[$, consequently

(3.24)
$$\int_0^1 |\dot{x}(t) - \dot{y}(t)| \, dt = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \int_{t_k}^{t_{k+1}} |\dot{\bar{x}}(t) - \dot{\bar{y}}(t)| \, dt \ge \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} G(a_k)$$

according to inequality (3.19).

We define auxiliary functions

(3.25)
$$\phi(s) := 2 s g^2(s), \quad \Phi(s) := \int_s^\varepsilon \frac{dr}{\phi(r)} \quad \text{for } s \in]0, \varepsilon].$$

Then $\Phi' = -1/\phi$, $\Phi(\varepsilon) = 0$, $\Phi(0+) = +\infty$, $\phi(0) = 0$ and Hypothesis 2.1 (i) entails $\lim_{s\to 0+} \phi'(s) = 0$. Inequality (3.4) can be written in the form

(3.26)
$$a_{k+1} \ge a_k - \phi(a_k),$$

which implies that

(3.27)
$$\Phi(a_{k+1}) - \Phi(a_k) = \int_{a_{k+1}}^{a_k} \frac{dr}{\phi(r)} \le \frac{a_k - a_{k+1}}{\phi(a_{k+1})} \le \frac{\phi(a_k)}{\phi(a_k - \phi(a_k))}$$

for $k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$. Note that

(3.28)
$$\lim_{s \to 0+} \frac{\phi(s) - \phi(s - \phi(s))}{\phi(s)} = \lim_{s \to 0+} \frac{1}{\phi(s)} \int_{s - \phi(s)}^{s} \phi'(r) dr = 0,$$

hence

(3.29)
$$\lim_{s \to 0+} \frac{\phi(s)}{\phi(s - \phi(s))} = 1.$$

Consequently, we can put

(3.30)
$$\alpha := \sup_{s \in [0,\varepsilon]} \frac{\phi(s)}{\phi(s-\phi(s))} < \infty$$

and from inequality (3.27) it follows that

(3.31)
$$\Phi(a_{k+1}) - \Phi(a_k) \leq \alpha \qquad \forall k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}.$$

Let $\Phi^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^+ \to]0, \varepsilon]$ be the inverse function to Φ . Summing up the above inequalities over k, we obtain

(3.32)
$$a_k \geq \Phi^{-1}(\Phi(a_0) + \alpha k) \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$$

Combining relations (3.32) and (3.22), we have

$$(3.33) \quad \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} G(a_k) \geq \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} G\left(\Phi^{-1}(\Phi(a_0) + \alpha k)\right) \geq \int_0^n G\left(\Phi^{-1}(\Phi(a_0) + \alpha x)\right) dx$$
$$\geq \int_0^{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2a_0}}} G\left(\Phi^{-1}(\Phi(a_0) + \alpha x)\right) dx.$$

The estimates (3.33) and (3.24) together with the elementary inequality $|x^0 - y^0| = \sqrt{a_0^2 + G^2(a_0)} \le \sqrt{2} a_0$ show that Theorem 2.2 will be proved if

(3.34)
$$\limsup_{s \to 0+} \frac{1}{s} \int_0^{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2s}}} G\left(\Phi^{-1}(\Phi(s) + \alpha x)\right) dx = \infty,$$

that is,

(3.35)
$$\limsup_{s \to 0+} \frac{1}{s} \int_{\Phi(s)}^{\Phi(s) + \frac{\beta}{s}} G\left(\Phi^{-1}(y)\right) dy = \infty \quad \text{with} \quad \beta = \frac{\alpha}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

By Hypothesis 2.1 (ii), we have $2G(z) \ge zg(z)$ and $g(z) \le g(s)$ for $0 < z < s < \varepsilon$, hence

$$(3.36) \qquad \frac{1}{s} \int_{\Phi(s)}^{\Phi(s)+\frac{\beta}{s}} G\left(\Phi^{-1}(y)\right) dy = \frac{1}{2s} \int_{\Phi^{-1}\left(\Phi(s)+\frac{\beta}{s}\right)}^{s} \frac{G(z)}{zg^{2}(z)} dz \\ \geq \frac{1}{4g(s)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{s} \Phi^{-1}\left(\Phi(s) + \frac{\beta}{s}\right)\right)$$

Let us define an auxiliary function $\psi(v) := 1/\Phi^{-1}(v)$ for v > 0. Then $\psi(0) = 1/\varepsilon$, $\lim_{v \to +\infty} \psi(v) = +\infty$, ψ is increasing in \mathbb{R}^+ and satisfies the differential equation

(3.37)
$$\psi'(v) = 2 \psi(v) g^2 \left(\frac{1}{\psi(v)}\right).$$

By the change of variables $s = 1/\psi(v)$ we obtain

(3.38)
$$\frac{1}{s}\Phi^{-1}\left(\Phi(s) + \frac{\beta}{s}\right) = \frac{\psi(v)}{\psi(v + \beta\psi(v))}$$

According to the Mean Value Theorem, for all v > 0 we have

(3.39)
$$\frac{\psi(v+\beta\psi(v))}{\psi(v)} = 1+\beta\psi'(m(v))$$

for some $m(v) \in [v, v + \beta \psi(v)]$. Using Eq. (3.37) and the fact that the function $s \mapsto g(s)/s$ is decreasing, we obtain

(3.40)
$$\frac{\psi(v+\beta\psi(v))}{\psi(v)} = 1+2\beta\psi(m(v))g^2\left(\frac{1}{\psi(m(v))}\right)$$
$$\geq 1+2\beta\frac{\psi^2(v)g^2\left(\frac{1}{\psi(v)}\right)}{\psi(m(v))}$$
$$\geq 1+2\beta\frac{\psi^2(v)g^2\left(\frac{1}{\psi(v)}\right)}{\psi(v+\beta\psi(v))},$$

hence

(3.41)
$$\frac{\psi(v+\beta\psi(v))}{\psi(v)} \geq \frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta\psi(v)g^2\left(\frac{1}{\psi(v)}\right)\right)^{1/2} \quad \forall v > 0.$$

In terms of $s = 1/\psi(v)$, the above inequality reads

(3.42)
$$\frac{1}{s}\Phi^{-1}\left(\Phi(s) + \frac{\beta}{s}\right) \leq \left(\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta \frac{g^2(s)}{s}\right)^{1/2}\right)^{-1} \quad \forall s \in]0, \varepsilon],$$

and we conclude that for all $s \in [0, \varepsilon]$ we have

$$(3.43) \quad \frac{1}{g(s)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{s} \Phi^{-1} \left(\Phi(s) + \frac{\beta}{s} \right) \right) \geq 2\beta \frac{g(s)}{s} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta \frac{g^2(s)}{s} \right)^{1/2} \right)^{-2}.$$

Taking into account estimates (3.36) and (3.43), we see that relation (3.35) is fulfilled provided

(3.44)
$$\limsup_{s \to 0+} \frac{g(s)}{s} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta \frac{g^2(s)}{s} \right)^{1/2} \right)^{-2} = +\infty.$$

We distinguish two cases.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{A.} \quad \exists \gamma > 0: \ \limsup_{s \to 0+} \ g^2(s)/s &\geq \gamma \,. \\ \text{The function } x \mapsto x \left(1/2 + (1/4 + x)^{1/2} \right)^{-2} \text{ is increasing for } x > 0 \,, \, \text{hence} \\ \\ \limsup_{s \to 0+} \ \frac{g^2(s)}{s} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta \, \frac{g^2(s)}{s} \right)^{1/2} \right)^{-2} &\geq \gamma \left(\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta \, \gamma \right)^{1/2} \right)^{-2} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

and $\lim_{s \to 0^+} 1/g(s) = +\infty$, which yields the assertion.

B. $\lim_{s \to 0+} g^2(s)/s = 0.$ Then

$$\lim_{s \to 0+} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2\beta \frac{g^2(s)}{s} \right)^{1/2} \right)^{-2} = 1$$

and $\lim_{s \to 0+} g(s)/s = +\infty$, with the same conclusion as above. Theorem 2.2 is proved.

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