

# A simplified proof for a moving boundary problem for Hele-Shaw flows in the plane

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## 0. Introduction

In [7] Richardson derived a mathematical model for describing Hele-Shaw flows with a free boundary produced by the injection of fluid into a narrow channel. This model can be represented in the following form (see also [3]): Given  $f_0(z)$ ,  $f_0(0)=0$ , analytic and univalent in a neighbourhood of  $|z|\leq 1$ , find  $f(z, t)$ , analytic and univalent as a function of  $z$  in a neighbourhood of  $|z|\leq 1$ , continuously differentiable with respect to  $t$  in a right-sided neighbourhood of  $t=0$ , satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{z} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z, t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z, t)} \right) = 1 \quad \text{for } |z|=1; \\ (2) \quad & f(z, 0) = f_0(z) \quad \text{for } |z|\leq 1; \\ (3) \quad & f(0, t) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

With the results of Vinogradov–Kufarev [9] one gets the existence and uniqueness of solutions which depend analytically on  $z$  and  $t$  under the additional assumption  $f_z(0, t) > 0$ . But the proofs in [9] are fairly complicated.

For this reason Gustafsson gave in [3] a more elementary proof of existence and uniqueness of solutions of (1)–(3) in the case that  $f_0(z)$  is a polynomial or a rational function. In both cases the solution is of the same sort with regard to  $z$  as the initial value  $f_0(z)$ . The restriction to rational initial values seems to be indispensable for the used reduction of (1) to a finite system of ordinary differential equations in  $t$ .

The goal of the present paper is to give a simplified proof for a generalized Hele-Shaw problem containing as a special case the above formulated problem (1)–(3). This proof is based on the application of the non-linear abstract Cauchy–Kovalevsky theorem which was proved by Nishida in [5]. Moreover, this theorem gives uniqueness for solutions depending continuously differentiably on  $t$ .

**Theorem 1** ([5]). *Let us consider the abstract Cauchy–Kovalevsky problem*

$$(4) \quad \frac{dw}{dt} = \mathcal{L}(t, w), \quad w(0) = 0$$

*satisfying the following conditions in a scale of Banach spaces  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$  (A family of continuously embedded Banach spaces  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$  is called a Banach space scale if for all  $0 < s' \leq s \leq 1$  the norm of the canonical embedding operator  $\|I_{s \rightarrow s'}\| \leq 1$ .) ( $C, K, R$  and  $T$  are certain positive constants independent of  $s', s, t$ ):*

(i) *the right-hand side  $\mathcal{L}(t, w)$  is a continuous, in  $t$ , mapping of*

$$(5) \quad [0, T] \times \{w \in B_s : \|w\|_s < R\} \quad \text{into } B_{s'} \quad \text{for all } 0 < s' < s \leq 1;$$

(ii) *the continuous function  $\mathcal{L}(t, 0)$  satisfies*

$$(6) \quad \|\mathcal{L}(t, 0)\|_s \leq K/(1-s) \quad \text{for all } 0 < s < 1;$$

(iii) *for all  $0 < s' < s \leq 1, t \in [0, T]$  and  $w_1, w_2$  belonging to  $\{\|w\|_s < R\}$  we have*

$$(7) \quad \|\mathcal{L}(t, w_1) - \mathcal{L}(t, w_2)\|_{s'} \leq \frac{C}{s-s'} \|w_1 - w_2\|.$$

*Under these assumptions there exists one and only one solution*

$$w \in C^1([0, a_0(1-s)), B_s)_{0 < s < 1}, \quad \|w(t)\|_s < R,$$

*where  $a_0$  is a suitable positive constant.*

This theorem represents an essential tool for solving non-linear time-dependent mixed problems for harmonic or holomorphic functions in the mathematical literature ([1, 2, 4, 6]). Our problem (1)–(3) is of such a type. We shall show that after the reduction of the generalized Hele-Shaw problem to an equivalent problem for  $w = (\partial f / \partial z)^{-1}$ , which fulfills all the conditions (5)–(7) in suitable scales of Banach spaces, the abstract theorem is applicable and yields immediately the main result of [9] as a special case.

The result of Gustafsson [3] can be interpreted as a regularity result concerning the corresponding structures of the initial value and the solution. A result of the same type is derived at the end of this paper for  $(\partial f / \partial z)^{-1}$  or  $(\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}$  belonging to special classes of entire functions.

**1. Heuristic considerations and the derivation of a scale-type problem**

Let us start with a generalization of (1) to

$$(8) \quad \operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{h(z,t)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z,t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z,t)} \right) = g(z, \bar{z}, t)$$

for all  $|z|=1$  and  $t>0$ , where

(i) the real-valued function  $g=g(z, \bar{z}, t)$  is continuous on  $\{|z|=1\} \times [0, T]$  and possesses a holomorphic extension from  $|z|=1$  into a circular ring

$$(9) \quad K_b = \{1/b < |z| < b\}, \quad b > 1, \quad \text{for all } t \in [0, T];$$

(ii) the function  $h=h(z, t)$  is continuous in  $t \in [0, T]$  and for each such  $t$  analytic in a neighbourhood of

$$(10) \quad |z| \leq 1, \quad h(0, t) = 0, \quad h_z(0, t) \neq 0 \quad \text{for all } t \in [0, T]$$

and

$$h(z, t) \neq 0 \quad \text{for all } (z, t) \in \{0 < |z| \leq 1\} \times [0, T].$$

Setting  $h(z, t)=z$  and  $g(z, \bar{z}, t)=1$  in (8) we have the condition (1). The condition (8) is equivalent to

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{h(z,t)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z,t) \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)^{-1}(z,t) \right) = \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z,t) \right|^{-2} g(z, \bar{z}, t).$$

From the assumptions (3), (9), (10) and the univalence of  $f(z, t)$  in a neighbourhood of  $\{|z| \leq 1\}$  for all  $t \in [0, T]$  we get the holomorphy of

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z,t) \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)^{-1}(z,t) / h(z,t)$$

in  $\{|z| < 1\}$ . Using (8) and the fact that every holomorphic function in  $\{|z| < 1\}$  with prescribed real part on  $\{|z|=1\}$  is uniquely determined by the value for the imaginary part in  $z=0$  we are able to formulate the additional condition

$$(11) \quad \operatorname{Im} \left( \frac{1}{h(z,t)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z,t) \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right)^{-1}(z,t) \right) (0, t) = 0.$$

The application of the Schwarz formula leads to

$$(12) \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z,t) - h(z,t) \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z,t) \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|z|=1} \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial \varrho} \right|^{-2} g(\varrho, \bar{\varrho}, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho} = 0$$

for  $|z| < 1$ . For our further investigations we need the space  $\mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C(\bar{G}_r)$ , that is the space of all complex-valued functions defined and continuous in  $\bar{G}_r$  and holomorphic in  $G_r = \{|z| < r\}$ . In the same manner we introduce the spaces  $\mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C^\alpha(\bar{G}_r)$ ,  $\mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_r)$  and  $\mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C^{1,\alpha}(\bar{G}_r)$ .

**Lemma 1.** *Let us suppose that  $f(z, t) \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_1))$  is for each  $t \in [0, a_0]$  a univalent function in  $|z| \leq 1$  and in  $G_1 \times (0, a_0)$  a solution of the problem (8), (11), (2) and (3), and equivalently, of the problem (12), (2) and (3). Then  $v(z, t) = (\partial f / \partial z)^{-1} \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$  is a solution of*

$$(13) \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - hT_t(v) \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + v \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (hT_t(v)) = 0 \quad \text{for } (z, t) \in G_1 \times (0, a_0),$$

$$(14) \quad v(z, 0) = v_0(z) = (\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1} \quad \text{for } z \in \bar{G}_1,$$

where  $v(z, t) \neq 0$ .

Here  $T_t(v)$  denotes the non-linear operator

$$(15) \quad T_t(v) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_1} |v(\varrho)|^2 g(\varrho, \bar{\varrho}, t) \frac{\varrho + z}{\varrho - z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho}.$$

Conversely, let us suppose that  $v(z, t) \in C^1([0, a_1], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$  is a solution of (13) and (14) with  $v(z, t) \neq 0$  in  $\bar{G}_1 \times [0, a_0]$ . Then  $f(z, t) = \int_0^z (d\varrho) / (v(\varrho, t))$  belonging to  $C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_1))$  represents a locally univalent solution of (12), (2), and (3) and, equivalently, of (8), (11), (2) and (3) in  $\bar{G}_1 \times [0, a_0]$ .

*Proof.* Let  $f = f(z, t)$  as a univalent solution of (12), (2) and (3) satisfy the conditions of this lemma. Then  $v = (\partial f / \partial z)^{-1}$  belongs to  $C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$ . Differentiating (12) with respect to  $z$ , one obtains with  $v = (\partial f / \partial z)^{-1}$

$$\frac{\partial(1/v)}{\partial t} - hT_t(v) \frac{\partial(1/v)}{\partial z} - \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (hT_t(v)) = 0,$$

and hence,

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - hT_t(v) \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + v \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (hT_t(v)) = 0 \quad \text{with } v(z, 0) = (\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}.$$

Conversely, if  $v \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$  solves (13) and (14) with  $v(z, t) \neq 0$  in  $\bar{G}_1 \times [0, a_0]$ , then  $1/v$  belongs to  $C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$  and  $f$  belongs to  $C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_1))$ , where  $\partial_z f(z, t) \neq 0$ . Hence,  $f$  is locally univalent. The definition of  $f$  implies  $f(0, t) = 0$  for  $t \in [0, a_0]$ . Furthermore,

$$f(z, 0) = \int_0^z \frac{d\varrho}{v(\varrho, 0)} = \int_0^z \frac{\partial f_0}{\partial \varrho} d\varrho = f_0(z) - f_0(0) = f_0(z).$$

Thus the conditions (2) and (3) are fulfilled.

If  $v$  solves (13), then the same reasoning as above gives

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} - hT_t \left( \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho} \right)^{-1} \right) \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right) = 0.$$

For  $t \in (0, a_0)$  the term in the brackets is holomorphic in  $G_1$ , hence,

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t} - h \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} T_t \left( \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial \rho} \right)^{-1} \right) = k(t),$$

a constant depending on  $t$ . Inserting  $z=0$ , this shows that  $k(t)=0$ , hence (12) is satisfied.

Finally from the holomorphy of  $(1/h)(\partial f/\partial t)(\partial f/\partial z)^{-1}$  we obtain (8) and (11).

*Remark 1.* An analogous statement is valid for  $f \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C^{1,\alpha}(\bar{G}_1))$  and  $v \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C^\alpha(\bar{G}_1))$  instead of  $f \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_1))$  and  $v \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$ .

The lemma of equivalence just proved makes it possible to restrict ourselves to the problem (13) and (14). This is a scale-type problem. Thus it remains to show how we can interpret the problem (13) and (14) as a special case of (4) (see Section 3).

There is a gap between Richardson's mathematical model and Lemma 1. In Lemma 1 we obtain in the converse direction merely the local univalence of  $f(z, t)$ . But the following statement holds:

Suppose, that

(i) the initial value  $f_0(z)$  from (2) is an analytic and univalent function in  $\bar{G}_r, r > 1$ ;

(ii) the family  $\{f_t(z)\}$  of analytic functions belongs to  $C([0, T], \mathcal{H}(G_{r'}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r'}))$ ,  $r' < r$ .

Then there exists a positive constant  $T_0(r')$  such that  $f_t(z)$  is univalent in  $\bar{G}_{r'}$  for all  $t \in [0, T_0(r'))$ .

Using this statement the conditions

(i) univalence of the analytic function  $f_0(z)$  in  $\bar{G}_r$ ;

(ii)  $v \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_{r'}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r'}))$  with  $v(z, t) \neq 0$ ;

imply the univalence of  $f(z, t)$  for small  $t$  in a neighbourhood of  $\{|z| \leq 1\}$ .

In Chapter 3 we shall prove the existence of such functions  $v=v(z, t)$  as solutions of a modified problem to (13) and (14).

## 2. About the action of an operator $\tilde{T}_t$ representing a continuation of $T_t$ in some Banach spaces

Let  $v$  be in  $C([0, T], \mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C(\bar{G}_r))$  with  $r > 1$ . Then  $T_t(v)$  belongs to  $\mathcal{H}(G_1)$

for each  $t \in [0, T]$ . But moreover  $T_t(v)$  possesses an analytic continuation in a larger domain depending on  $G_r$  and  $K_b$  from (9).

**Lemma 2.** *For an arbitrary  $v \in \mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C(\bar{G}_r)$  the image  $T_t(v)$  of the non-linear operator  $T_t$  applied to  $v$  can be analytically continued into  $G_{r_0}$  with  $r_0 = \min(b, r)$ .*

*Proof.* From (15) we get

$$\begin{aligned} T_t(v) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_1} |v(\varrho)|^2 g(\varrho, \bar{\varrho}, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho} \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_1} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho} \quad \text{for all } z \in G_1. \end{aligned}$$

The assumption  $v \in \mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C(\bar{G}_r)$  and (9) guarantee that the kernel of the integral is holomorphic in the set  $\{1/r_0 < |\varrho| < r_0\} \setminus \{z\}$  for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and  $z \in G_1$ . Consequently,

$$T_t(v) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_a} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho}$$

for all  $z \in G_1$  and  $1 < a < r_0$ . Obviously, the right-hand-side can be defined for all  $z \in G_a$ , and  $T_t(v)$  possesses an analytic continuation

$$(16) \quad \tilde{T}_t(v) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_a} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho}$$

belonging to  $\mathcal{H}(G_a)$ . Since  $G_{r_0} = \bigcup_{1 < a < r_0} G_a$  the operator  $\tilde{T}_t$  maps  $\mathcal{H}(G_r)$  into  $\mathcal{H}(G_{r_0})$ . For all  $z \in G_1$  we conclude  $\tilde{T}_t(v)(z) = T_t(v)(z)$ . Hence  $\tilde{T}_t(v)$  represents an analytic continuation of  $T_t(v)$  for  $v \in \mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C(\bar{G}_r)$  into  $G_{r_0}$ .

There arises the question whether it is possible to estimate the action of  $\tilde{T}_t$  as a mapping of a Banach space  $B$  into itself. In the next lemma we shall give a positive answer for the case  $B = \mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C(\bar{G}_p)$ ,  $1 < p < r_0$ .

**Lemma 3.** (a) *For every function  $v$  from  $\mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C(\bar{G}_p)$  the following estimate connecting the norms  $\|v\|_p = \sup_{G_p} |v|$  and  $\|\tilde{T}_t(v)\|_p = \sup_{G_p} |\tilde{T}_t(v)|$  holds:*

$$\|\tilde{T}_t(v)\|_p \leq C(p, g) \|v\|_p^2,$$

where the constant  $C$  is independent of  $v \in \mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C(\bar{G}_p)$  and  $t \in [0, T]$ . Moreover, we obtain for all  $v_1, v_2 \in B$  with  $\|v_1\|_p, \|v_2\|_p < R$  the Lipschitz condition

$$\|\tilde{T}_t(v_1) - \tilde{T}_t(v_2)\|_p \leq 2C(p, g) R \|v_1 - v_2\|_p.$$

(b) *The family of operators  $\{\tilde{T}_t(v)\}_{t \in [0, T]}$  depends continuously on  $t \in [0, T]$ . This means*

$$\lim_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2} \|\tilde{T}_{t_1}(v) - \tilde{T}_{t_2}(v)\|_p = 0 \quad \text{for all } v \in \mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C(\bar{G}_p).$$

*Proof.* (a) Let us remember that

$$\tilde{T}_t(v) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_p} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho}.$$

Using the holomorphy of  $v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) (\varrho+z)/\varrho$  in  $\{1/p < |\varrho| < p\}$ , we obtain for all  $z \in \partial G_{p'}, p' \rightarrow p$ , and  $t \in [0, T]$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}_t(v)(z) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_{1/p}} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial \mathcal{U}_a(z)} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} g(\varrho, 1/\varrho, t) \frac{\varrho+z}{\varrho-z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\mathcal{U}_a(z)$  is a sufficiently small neighbourhood of  $z$  contained in  $G_p$ . From Cauchy's integral formula and a simple estimation it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{T}_t(v)(z)| &\leq \left| \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} v\left(\frac{1}{p} e^{i\varphi}\right) \overline{v(p e^{i\varphi})} g\left(\frac{1}{p} e^{i\varphi}, p e^{-i\varphi}, t\right) \frac{e^{i\varphi}/p+z}{e^{i\varphi}/p-z} d\varphi \right| \\ &\quad + 2|v(z) \overline{v(1/\bar{z})} g(z, 1/z, t)| \\ &\leq \|v\|_p^2 \sup_{(z,t) \in \{1/p < |z| < p\} \times [0, T]} |g(z, 1/z, t)| \left( 2 + \frac{|z|+1/p}{|z|-1/p} \right) \end{aligned}$$

for all  $z \in \partial G_{p'}$ . But the continuity of  $v$  in  $\bar{G}_p$  guarantees that the last inequality remains valid for all  $z \in \partial G_p$ . Hence, by the maximum principle

$$\|\tilde{T}_t(v)\|_p = \sup_{z \in \bar{G}_p} |\tilde{T}_t(v)(z)| \leq C(p, g) \|v\|_p^2$$

with

$$C(p, g) = \sup_{(z,t) \in \{1/p < |z| < p\} \times [0, T]} |g(z, 1/z, t)| \left( 2 + \frac{p^2+1}{p^2-1} \right).$$

By (9) and  $1 < p < r_0 \leq b$  the constant  $C(p, g)$  is finite. The same reasoning leads to the Lipschitz condition.

(b) As in the proof of (a) one deduces

$$\|\tilde{T}_{t_1}(v)(z) - \tilde{T}_{t_2}(v)(z)\|_p \leq \left(2 + \frac{p^2 + 1}{p^2 - 1}\right) \sup_{z \in \{1/p < |z| < p\}} |g(z, 1/z, t_1) - g(z, 1/z, t_2)| \leq \varepsilon$$

for  $|t_1 - t_2|$  sufficiently small and all  $1 < p < r_0$ , taking into consideration the uniform continuity of  $g$  in  $\{1/p \leq |z| \leq p\} \times [0, T]$ .

*Remark 2.* It is possible to prove a corresponding inequality between  $\|v\|_{p,\alpha}$  and  $\|\tilde{T}_t(v)\|_{p,\alpha}$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$ , where  $\|v\|_{p,\alpha}$  denotes the Hölder-norm of  $v \in \mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C^\alpha(\bar{G}_p)$ . The proof of  $\|\tilde{T}_t(v)\|_{p,\alpha} \leq C(p, \alpha, g) \|v\|_{p,\alpha}^2$  is omitted.

For proving a regularity result for  $(\partial f / \partial z)^{-1}$  in the sense of the results in [3] the next lemma represents an essential tool. For the formulation of this lemma we choose the following family  $\{E_r\}_{r>0}$  of Banach spaces of entire functions:

$$\{E_r\}_{r>0} = \left\{v \in \mathcal{H}(\mathbf{C}) : \sup_{z \in \mathbf{C}} |v(z)e^{-r|z|}| = \|v\|_r < \infty\right\}_{r>0}.$$

Now we are choosing  $g=1$  in (16).

**Lemma 4.** *The operator*

$$\tilde{T}(v)(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_a} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} \frac{\varrho + z}{\varrho - z} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho},$$

$z \in G_a$ ,  $a > 1$  arbitrary, maps  $E_r$  into itself, where  $\|\tilde{T}(v)\|_r \leq \frac{11}{3} \exp(5r/2) \|v\|_r^2$ .

Moreover, we obtain for all  $v_1, v_2 \in E_r$  with  $\|v_1\|_r, \|v_2\|_r < R$  the Lipschitz condition  $\|\tilde{T}_t(v_1) - \tilde{T}_t(v_2)\|_r \leq \frac{22}{3} R e^{5r/2} \|v_1 - v_2\|_r$ .

*Proof.* Supposing  $v \in E_r$  the above-defined function  $\tilde{T}(v)(z)$  makes sense for all  $z \in \mathbf{C}$ . This follows from the fact that  $v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} (\varrho + z)$  is holomorphic in  $\mathbf{C} \setminus \{0\}$ . Hence  $\tilde{T}(v)$  is an entire function.

Now let us fix  $z_0 \in \mathbf{C}$  with  $|z_0| \geq 2$ . Then as in the proof of Lemma 3(a) we arrive at

$$\tilde{T}(v)(z_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_{1/b}} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} \frac{\varrho + z_0}{\varrho - z_0} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho} + 2v(z_0) \overline{v(1/\bar{z}_0)}$$

for an arbitrary  $b > |z_0|$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{T}(v)(z_0) \exp(-r|z_0|) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\partial G_{1/b}} v(\varrho) \overline{v(1/\bar{\varrho})} e^{-r/|\varrho|} e^{r(1/|\varrho| - |z_0|)} \frac{\varrho + z_0}{\varrho - z_0} \frac{d\varrho}{\varrho} \\ &\quad + 2v(z_0) e^{-r|z_0|} \overline{v(1/\bar{z}_0)}. \end{aligned}$$



But this leads immediately to

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{T}(v)(z_0)e^{-r|z_0|}| &\leq \frac{5}{3} \max_{|z|=1/b} |v(z)| \max_{|z|=b} |v(z)e^{-r|z|}| e^{-r(b-|z_0|)} \\ &\quad + 2 \max_{|z|=1/2} |v(z)| |v(z_0)| e^{-r|z_0|} \\ &\leq \frac{11}{3} \max_{|z|=1/2} |v(z)| \|v\|_r \end{aligned}$$

if one takes into account that

$$\frac{|z_0|+1/b}{|z_0|-1/b} \leq \frac{|z_0|+\frac{1}{2}}{|z_0|-\frac{1}{2}} \leq \frac{5}{3} \quad \text{for } |z_0| \geq 2, \quad b > 0$$

and  $e^{r(b-|z_0|)} \rightarrow 1$  for  $|z_0| \rightarrow b$ .

From the definition of  $\|v\|_r$  we obtain

$$\max_{|z|=1/2} |v(z)| \leq \|v\|_r e^{r/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \max_{|z|=2} |v(z)| \leq \|v\|_r e^{2r}.$$

Thus it is possible to draw the following two conclusions:

$$|\tilde{T}(v)(z_0)e^{-r|z_0|}| \leq \frac{11}{3} e^{r/2} \|v\|_r^2 \quad \text{for each } z_0 \in C \text{ with } |z_0| \geq 2,$$

and

$$|\tilde{T}(v)(z_0)e^{-r|z_0|}| \leq \max_{|z|=2} |\tilde{T}(v)(z)e^{-2r}| \leq \frac{11}{3} e^{5r/2} \|v\|_r^2,$$

for each  $z_0 \in C$  with  $|z_0| < 2$ .

But these conclusions yield  $\|\tilde{T}(v)\|_r \leq \frac{11}{3} e^{5r/2} \|v\|_r^2$ .

The same reasoning gives the Lipschitz condition.

In this section we introduced the operator  $\tilde{T}_t(v)$  and studied some of its properties as for example the relation between  $T_t$  and  $\tilde{T}_t$ . The results obtained are useful in examining the problem

$$(17) \quad \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} - h\tilde{T}_t(v) \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} + v \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (h\tilde{T}_t(v)) = 0, \quad v(z, 0) = v_0(z) = (\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}.$$

The restriction of a solution  $v \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_r) \cap C(\bar{G}_r))$  of this problem to  $(z, t) \in \bar{G}_1 \times [0, a_0]$  represents a solution  $v \in C^1([0, a_0], \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1))$  of (13) and (14).

### 3. The problem (17) and (14) as a special case of (4)

To apply Theorem 1 to the problem (17) and (14), we only have to show that the conditions (5)–(7) are fulfilled. The assumptions concerning  $f_0$  and  $h$  guarantee the existence of constants  $1 < r_2 < b$  and  $R > 0$  such that

$$R \leq |v_0(z)| = |(\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}| \quad \text{in } \bar{G}_{r_2},$$

and  $h \in C([0, T], \mathcal{H}(G_{r_2}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r_2}))$ . For a fixed  $1 < r_1 < r_2$  let us choose the Banach space scale

$$\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1} = \{\mathcal{H}(G_{r_1+s(r_2-r_1)}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r_1+s(r_2-r_1)}), \sup_{G_{r_1+s(r_2-r_1)}} |\cdot|\}_{0 < s \leq 1}.$$

Following Lemma 1 ( $v(z, t) \neq 0$ ) it is necessary to choose the sphere

$$\{w \in B_s : \|w\|_s < R\}.$$

Introducing  $w(z, t) = v(z, t) - v_0(z)$ , this implies a homogeneous initial condition. Thus the problem (17) and (14) can be transformed to

$$(18) \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} = \mathcal{L}_0(t, w) = -(w + v_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (h \tilde{T}_t(w + v_0)) + h \tilde{T}_t(w + v_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w + v_0),$$

$$(19) \quad w(z, 0) = 0.$$

**Lemma 5.** *The operator  $\mathcal{L}_0$  satisfies in the above-introduced Banach space scale  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$  the conditions (5)–(7) of Theorem 1.*

*Proof.* Every space  $B_s$  forms a Banach algebra. Consequently, from Lemma 3(a),  $v_0 \in B_1$  and  $h \in C([0, T], B_1)$  we conclude that  $h \tilde{T}_t(w + v_0) \in B_s$  for all  $0 < s \leq 1$  and all  $w \in B_s$ . Using the result of Tutschke [8] that  $\partial/\partial z$  is a bounded operator as the mapping of  $B_s$  into  $B'_s$  with  $\|\partial/\partial z\|_{s \rightarrow s'} \leq ((r_2 - r_1)(s - s'))^{-1}$  one obtains  $\mathcal{L}_0(t, w) \in B_{s'}$  for every  $(t, w) \in [0, T] \times \{w \in B_s : \|w\|_s < R\}$ . From Lemma 3(b) it follows that for a given  $w \in B_s$  the term  $\tilde{T}_t(w + v_0)$  depends continuously on  $t$ . But this leads to  $\lim_{t_1 \rightarrow t_2} \|\mathcal{L}_0(t_1, w) - \mathcal{L}_0(t_2, w)\|_{s'} = 0$  for all  $t_1, t_2 \in [0, T]$  and all  $w \in B_s$ . This proves (5).

Let us further consider the difference

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0(t, w_1) - \mathcal{L}_0(t, w_2) &= -(w_1 - w_2) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (h \tilde{T}_t(w_1 + v_0)) - (w_2 + v_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (h (\tilde{T}_t(w_1 + v_0) \\ &\quad - \tilde{T}_t(w_2 + v_0))) + h (\tilde{T}_t(w_1 + v_0) - \tilde{T}_t(w_2 + v_0)) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w_1 + v_0) \\ &\quad + h \tilde{T}_t(w_2 + v_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w_1 - w_2). \end{aligned}$$

Using

$$\left\| \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w_1 - w_2) \right\|_p \leq 2C(p, g)(R + \|v_0\|_1) \|w_1 - w_2\|_p$$

for all  $w_1, w_2 \in \mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C(\bar{G}_p)$  with  $\|w_1\|_p, \|w_2\|_p < R$  and all  $t \in [0, T]$  the following estimates are valid in  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathcal{L}_0(t, w_1) - \mathcal{L}_0(t, w_2)\|_{s'} &\leq \|w_1 - w_2\|_s \|h\|_1 \frac{\|\tilde{T}_t(w_1 + v_0)\|_s}{(s - s')(r_2 - r_1)} \\ &\quad + \frac{\|h\|_1 \|w_2 + v_0\|_s}{(s - s')(r_2 - r_1)} \|\tilde{T}_t(w_1 + v_0) - \tilde{T}_t(w_2 + v_0)\|_s \\ &\quad + \|h\|_1 \|\tilde{T}_t(w_1 + v_0) - \tilde{T}_t(w_2 + v_0)\|_s \frac{\|w_1 + v_0\|_s}{(s - s')(r_2 - r_1)} \\ &\quad + \|h\|_1 \|\tilde{T}_t(w_2 + v_0)\|_s \frac{\|w_1 - w_2\|_s}{(r_2 - r_1)(s - s')} \\ &\leq \frac{\|w_1 - w_2\|_2}{(s - s')(r_2 - r_1)} \|h\|_1 (R + \|v_0\|_1)^2 6C(r_2, r_1, g) \end{aligned}$$

with

$$C(r_2, r_1, g) = \sup_{(z, t) \in \{1/r_2 < |z| < r_2\} \times [0, T]} |g(z, 1/z, t)| \left( 2 + \frac{r_2^2 + 1}{r_1^2 - 1} \right).$$

So, also (7) is proved.

Finally, in the same manner it can be verified that

$$\|\mathcal{L}_0(t, 0)\|_s = \left\| v_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (h\tilde{T}_t(v_0)) - h\tilde{T}_t(v_0) \frac{\partial}{\partial z} v_0 \right\|_s \leq K/(1 - s)$$

with a certain constant  $K$  independent of  $s$  and  $t$ . Hence also (6) is true, which completes the proof of this lemma.

Now the application of Theorem 1 to the problem (18) and (19) yields one and only one solution

$$w \in C^1([0, a_0(1 - s)), \mathcal{H}(G_{r_1 + s(r_2 - r_1)}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r_1 + s(r_2 - r_1)}))_{0 < s < 1}$$

with  $\sup_{G_{r_1 + s(r_2 - r_1)}} |w(z, t)| < R$  for all  $t \in [0, a_0(1 - s))$ .

But then  $v(z, t) = w(z, t) + v_0(z)$  represents a solution

$$v \in C^1([0, a_0(1 - s)), \mathcal{H}(G_{r_1 + s(r_2 - r_1)}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r_1 + s(r_2 - r_1)}))_{0 < s < 1}$$

of the problem (17) and (14) with  $\sup_{G_{r_1 + s(r_2 - r_1)}} |v(z, t)| > 0$  for all  $t \in [0, a_0(1 - s))$ .

The coincidence of the operators  $\tilde{T}_t$  and  $T_t$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{H}(G_1) \cap C(\bar{G}_1)$  guarantees that the restriction of  $v(z, t)$  to  $C^1([0, a_0), \mathcal{H}(G_{r_1}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r_1}))$  is a solution of (13) and (14) with  $\sup_{G_{r_1}} |v(z, t)| > 0$  for all  $t \in [0, a_0)$ . From this result together with Lemma 1, the end of Chapter 1 and the equivalence of (12) with (8) and (11) we get the following theorem concerning problem (8), (2) and (3).

**Theorem 2.** *Suppose that*

(i) *the real-valued function  $g=g(z, \bar{z}, t)$  is continuous in  $\{|z|=1\} \times [0, T]$  and possesses a holomorphic extension into a circular ring  $K_b=\{1/b < |z| < b\}$  for all  $t \in [0, T]$ ;*

(ii) *the function  $h=h(z, t)$  belongs to the space  $C([0, T], \mathcal{H}(G_{r_2}) \cap C(\bar{G}_{r_2}))$ ,  $1 < r_2 < b$ ,  $G_{r_2}=\{|z| < r_2\}$ , where  $h(0, t)=0$ ,  $h_z(0, t) \neq 0$  and  $h(z, t) \neq 0$  for all  $(z, t) \in \{0 < |z| \leq 1\} \times [0, T]$ ;*

(iii) *the function  $f_0(z)$ ,  $f_0(0)=0$ , is holomorphic and univalent in  $\bar{G}_{r_2}$ .*

*Then for every  $1 < r_1 < r_2$  there exist a positive constant  $a_0(r_1)$  and a uniquely determined function  $f=f(z, t)$ , holomorphic and univalent in  $\bar{G}_{r_1}$ , belonging to  $C^1([0, a_0(r_1)], \mathcal{H}(G_{r_1}) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_{r_1}))$  and satisfying the conditions*

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{h(z, t)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z, t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z, t)} \right) = g(z, \bar{z}, t) \quad \text{for all } (z, t) \in \{|z|=1\} \times (0, a_0(r_1));$$

$$\operatorname{Im} \left( \frac{1}{h(z, t)} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z, t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z, t)} \right) (0, t) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \in (0, a_0(r_1));$$

$$f(z, 0) = f_0(z) \quad \text{for } z \in \bar{G}_{r_1};$$

$$f(0, t) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \in [0, a_0(r_1)).$$

As a conclusion from Theorem 2 we immediately get a statement concerning the classical Hele-Shaw problem in the plane ( $h(z, t)=z$ ,  $g(z, \bar{z}, t)=1$ ).

**Corollary 1.** *Under the assumption that the function  $f_0(z)$ ,  $f_0(0)=0$ , is holomorphic and univalent in  $\bar{G}_{r_2}$ , for every  $1 < r_1 < r_2$  there exist a positive constant  $a_0(r_1)$  and one and only one holomorphic and univalent in  $\bar{G}_{r_1}$  function  $f=f(z, t) \in C^1([0, a_0(r_1)], \mathcal{H}(G_{r_1}) \cap C^1(\bar{G}_{r_1}))$  satisfying*

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{z} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z, t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z, t)} \right) = 1 \quad \text{for } (z, t) \in \{|z|=1\} \times (0, a_0(r_1));$$

$$\operatorname{Im} \left( \frac{1}{z} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z, t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z, t)} \right) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \in (0, a_0(r_1));$$

$$f(z, 0) = f_0(z) \quad \text{for } z \in \bar{G}_{r_1};$$

$$f(0, t) = 0 \quad \text{for } t \in [0, a_0(r_1)).$$

**Remark 3.** In connection with the moment problem for holomorphic functions Gustafson [3] studied the conditions

$$\operatorname{Re} \left( \frac{1}{z} \frac{\partial f}{\partial t}(z, t) \overline{\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(z, t)} \right) = \begin{cases} \cos n\varphi = (z^n + \bar{z}^n)/2 \\ \sin n\varphi = (z^n - \bar{z}^n)/(2i) \end{cases} \quad \text{on } |z|=1$$

instead of (1).

These conditions are special cases of (8), (9) and (10). The conditions (8)–(10) represent the most general conditions for a successful application of the non-linear abstract Cauchy–Kovalevsky Theorem due to Nishida [5].

*Remark 4.* Comparing (11) ( $h(z, t) = z$ ) with Gustafsson’s condition  $f_z(0, t) > 0$ , it is easy to see that this assumption leads to (11). Hence the solutions of Theorem 2 for the classical Hele-Shaw problem coincide with the solutions constructed by Gustafsson in [3]. On the other hand, since  $h(z, t) \sim h_z(0, t)z$  as  $z \rightarrow 0$ , (11) is equivalent to the representation  $f_z(0, t) = \exp(i\alpha) \exp(g(t))$  if we additionally suppose that  $h_z(0, t)$  is real-valued ( $\alpha$  is a real constant,  $g = g(t)$  a real-valued continuous function). Thus, (11) really generalizes the condition  $f_z(0, t) > 0$ .

*Remark 5.* From Theorem 1 applied to problem (18) and (19) one obtains the estimate  $\sup_{\bar{G}_{r_1}} |(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1}| \leq \|(\partial f_0/\partial z)^{-1}\|_{r_2} + R$ , where  $f = f(z, t)$  is the solution from Theorem 2 and  $R$  fulfills  $\|(\partial f_0/\partial z)^{-1}\|_{r_2} \geq R$  for all  $z \in \bar{G}_{r_2}$ .

Taking account of Remarks 1 and 2 and the result of [8] that the operator  $\partial/\partial z$  is bounded as a mapping of  $\mathcal{H}(G_p) \cap C^\alpha(\bar{G}_p)$  into  $\mathcal{H}(G_{p'}) \cap C^\alpha(\bar{G}_{p'})$ ; ( $p' < p$ ,  $0 < \alpha < 1$  and  $\|\partial/\partial z\|_{p \rightarrow p'} \leq C/(p - p')$ ), we are able to prove a result corresponding to Theorem 2 based on the scale of Banach spaces

$$\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1} = \{\mathcal{H}(G_{r_1+s(r_2-r_1)}) \cap C^\alpha(\bar{G}_{r_1+s(r_2-r_1)}), \|\cdot\|_{s,\alpha}\}.$$

For in general a smaller interval  $t \in [0, b_0)$  an upper bound for the Hölder-norm of  $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1}$  in  $\bar{G}_{r_1}$  can be obtained by  $\|(\partial f_0/\partial z(z))^{-1}\|_{r_2,\alpha} + R$  with the same  $R$  as in the case of the supremum-norms.

#### 4. About the coincidence of the structures of $(\partial f_0/\partial z)^{-1}$ and $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1}$

Gustafsson proved in [3] that, if the initial value  $f_0(z)$  is a univalent polynomial or a univalent rational function in a neighbourhood of  $|z| \leq 1$ , then the solution of (1)–(3) is as a function of  $z$  of the same structure as  $f_0(z)$ , which means a univalent polynomial or a univalent rational function. In the polynomial case this coincidence of the structures can be expressed by the aid of the derivatives in the following form:

If  $\partial f_0/\partial z$  is a polynomial which has no zeros in a neighbourhood of  $|z| \leq 1$  then also  $\partial f(z, t)/\partial z$  is a polynomial which has no zeros in a neighbourhood of  $|z| \leq 1$  for  $t$  from a suitable right-sided neighbourhood of  $t = 0$ .

Such a formulation cannot be deduced for the rational case from the results of [3].

Using  $(\partial f_0/\partial z)^{-1}$  and  $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1}$  the last statement concerning the derivatives  $\partial f_0/\partial z$  and  $\partial f(z, t)/\partial z$  gets a new formulation.

If  $(\partial f_0/\partial z)^{-1} = 1/P(z)$ , where  $P(z)$  is a polynomial without zeros in a neighbourhood of  $|z| \leq 1$ , then  $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1} = 1/Q(z, t)$ , where  $Q(z, t)$  is a polynomial in  $z$  without zeros in a neighbourhood of  $|z| \leq 1$  for every  $t$  from a right-sided neighbourhood of  $t = 0$ .

In the following we are interested in the proof of a result of the same type. For this purpose, let us choose with arbitrary  $0 < s_1 < s_2$  the Banach space scale of entire functions

$$\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1} = \{E_{s_1 + (s_2 - s_1)(1-s)}, \|\cdot\|_{s_1 + (s_2 - s_1)(1-s)}\}_{0 < s \leq 1},$$

where the spaces  $E_r$  were introduced in Section 2.

**Theorem 3.** *In addition to the assumptions of Corollary 1 suppose that  $(\partial f_0/\partial z)^{-1}$  is an entire function belonging to  $E_{s_1}$ . Then it is known that besides the statement of Corollary 1, there holds  $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1} \in C^1([0, a_0(s_2)), B_{s_2})$  with  $s_2 > s_1$  and a certain positive constant  $a_0(s_2)$ . In particular this means that  $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1}$  is an entire function for all  $t \in [0, a_0(s_2))$ .*

(In  $[0, a_0(r_1, s_2)), a_0(r_1, s_2) = \min(a_0(s_2), a_0(r_1))$ , both properties of  $f(z, t)$  are fulfilled.)

*Proof.* It remains to prove the statement for  $(\partial f(z, t)/\partial z)^{-1}$ , which follows from the application of Theorem 1 to the problem (18) and (19), equivalently, (17) and (14) with the scale  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$ .

From Lemma 4 the continuity of  $\tilde{T}_i(v)$  as a mapping of  $B_s$  into itself is clear. Hence we only have to study the behaviour of the differential operator  $\partial/\partial z$  and the multiplication operator  $z \cdot$  in the scale  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$ .

For the first let  $v$  be a function from  $E_r$ . Applying Cauchy's integral formula in a small neighbourhood  $U_a(z_0)$  of a fixed point  $z_0$  we obtain

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial z}(z_0)e^{-rz_0} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{v(\varrho)e^{-r|\varrho|}e^{r(|\varrho|-|z_0|)}}{\varrho - z_0} d\varphi$$

with  $\varrho = z_0 + a \exp(i\varphi)$ . Using  $\||\varrho| - |z_0|\| \leq |\varrho - z_0|$  this relation leads to

$$\left| \frac{\partial v}{\partial z}(z_0)e^{-r|z_0|} \right| \leq \|v\|_r e^{ar}/a.$$

With  $a = 1/r$  we have  $\|\partial v/\partial z\|_r \leq er\|v\|_r$ . Hence  $\partial/\partial z$  is a bounded operator from  $E_r$ , respectively, from  $B_s$  into itself. In the second place let  $v$  be a function from

$E_r$ . Then it cannot be expected, that  $zv$  belongs to  $E_r$ . For example, let us choose  $v = \exp(2z) \in E_2$ . Then

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbf{C}} |ze^{2z}e^{-2|z|}| \geq \sup_{x \in \mathbf{R}^+} |x \exp(2x) \exp(-2x)| = \infty$$

as  $x$  tends to infinity. But if we consider  $z$  as a mapping of  $E_r$  into  $E_{r'}$  with  $r' > r$ , then

$$\|zv\|_{r'} = \sup_{z \in \mathbf{C}} |zve^{-r'|z|}| \leq \sup_{z \in \mathbf{C}} |ve^{-r|z|}| \sup_{z \in \mathbf{C}} |z|e^{-(r'-r)|z|} \leq \|v\|_r \frac{1}{e^{(r'-r)}}.$$

Hence the multiplication operator  $z \cdot$  is a bounded operator in the scale  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}$  with  $\|zv\|_{s'} \leq \|v\|_s / (e^{(s_2 - s_1)}(s - s'))$ .

As in Lemma 5 one proves that the operator  $\mathcal{L}_0$  from (18) satisfies the conditions (5)–(7) from Theorem 1. The application of this Theorem to (18) and (19) with the scale  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$  yields the statement for  $(\partial f(z, t) / \partial z)^{-1}$ . This completes the proof.

*Remark 6.* Using the scale  $\{B_s, \|\cdot\|_s\}_{0 < s \leq 1}$  one can also get the univalence of  $f(z, t)$  from that of  $f_0(z)$ . Let us suppose  $|(\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}| \geq R > 0$  in  $\bar{G}_{r_2}$  and fix the sphere  $\|v - (\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}\|_s < R \exp(-r_2 s_2)$  around  $(\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}$ . Then the application of Theorem 1 to the problem (18) and (19) leads to

$$\|v(z, t) - (\partial f_0(z) / \partial z)^{-1}\|_s = \|(\partial f(z, t) / \partial z)^{-1} - (\partial f_0(z) / \partial z)^{-1}\|_s < R e^{-r_2 s_2}.$$

But this means that

$$\max_{G_{r_2}} |(\partial f(z, t) / \partial z)^{-1} - (\partial f_0(z) / \partial z)^{-1}| e^{-(s_1 + (s_2 - s_1)(1 - s)|z|)} < R e^{-r_2 s_2},$$

and

$$\max_{\bar{G}_{r_2}} |(\partial f(z, t) / \partial z)^{-1} - (\partial f_0(z) / \partial z)^{-1}| < R.$$

Hence  $\partial f(z, t) / \partial z \neq 0$  for all  $z \in \bar{G}_{r_2}$  and all suitable  $t \in [0, a_0(s_2)]$ . Then an upper bound for  $\|(\partial f(z, t) / \partial z)^{-1}\|_{s_2}$  is  $\|(\partial f_0(z) / \partial z)^{-1}\|_{s_1} + R e^{-r_2 s_2}$ .

But we point out that the restriction to the above-introduced sphere around  $(\partial f_0 / \partial z)^{-1}$  can reduce the interval of existence of the solution with regard to  $t$  from Corollary 1.

*Note.* The authors thank the referee for the information about a new reference which gives more of the history and the physical background for equations (1) till (3) and which also contains an up-to-date bibliography for it: S. D. Howison: Complex variable methods in Hele-Shaw moving boundary problems, preprint 1991 (Mathematical Institute, Oxford OX1 3LB, United Kingdom).

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