2. *Global Solutions of the Boltzmann Equation in a Bounded Convex Domain*

By Yasushi SHIZUTA*) and Kiyoshi ASANO**)

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1. **Introduction.** We consider the Boltzmann equation

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t}+\sum_{i=1}^{3}\xi_i\frac{\partial F}{\partial x_i}=J(F,F), \tag{1}$$

which describes the change in time of the distribution function of the arguments space x and velocity ξ. Here $J(F,F)$ is the collision integral [1]. The equilibrium solution of (1) is $F=\omega$, where

$$\omega(\xi)=\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}}\exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}|\xi|^2\right).$$

As we are interested in solutions of (1) which are close to $F=\omega$, we introduce $f(x,\xi)$ by

$$F=\omega+\omega^{1/2}f. \tag{2}$$

Then the equation satisfied by f is

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial t}=Bf+\Lambda\Gamma(f,f). \tag{3}$$

The explicit form of the operator B is

$$\begin{aligned}(Bf)(x,\xi)=&-\sum_{i=1}^{3}\xi_i\frac{\partial f(x,\xi)}{\partial x_i}-\nu(\xi)f(x,\xi)\\&+\int_{R^3}K(\xi,\eta)f(x,\eta)d\eta,\end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

where $\nu(\xi)$, the collision frequency, is a certain unbounded positive function of ξ and $K(\xi,\eta)$, the collision kernel, is a symmetric function of ξ and η. The operator Λ is the multiplication operator by $\nu(\xi)$ and $\Gamma(f,f)$ denotes the quadratic term. Note that $J(\omega,\omega)=0$. We shall use Grad's estimates [1], [2] for $\nu(\xi)$, $K(\xi,\eta)$ and $\Gamma(f,f)$ in computations. This means that the potential is a hard potential in the sense of Grad and that the angular cut-off assumption is made for the differential cross section. A typical example satisfying these conditions is a gas of rigid spheres. The initial value problems for the Boltzmann equation on the torus and on the entire space have been studied earlier in [4] and [5], respectively. In this note, we treat the initial boundary value problem for the case of specular reflection boundary condition. Our

*) Department of Mathematics, Nara Women's University, Nara 630, Japan.
**) Institute of Mathematics, Yoshida College, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606, Japan.

aim is to show the existence of solutions in the large for the initial data near equilibrium.

2. Decay estimates. Let us consider a bounded convex domain Ω in R^3 and assume that the boundary $\partial\Omega$ is three times continuously differentiable. In addition, the principal curvatures are assumed to be positive on $\partial\Omega$. The appropriate function space is S_α, $\alpha\geqq 0$, i.e., the set of all functions satisfying

(i) f is a continuous function on $\bar{\Omega}\times R^3$,

(ii) for $(x,\xi)\in\partial\Omega\times R^3$,

$$f(x,\xi)=f(x,\xi-2n_x(\xi\cdot n_x)),$$

where n_x denotes the inner normal to $\partial\Omega$ at x,

(iii) $\sup_x (1+|\xi|^2)^{\alpha/2}|f(x,\xi)|\to 0, \qquad \text{as } |\xi|\to\infty.$

On this space we have the norm

$$\|f\|_\alpha=\sup_{x,\xi}(1+|\xi|^2)^{\alpha/2}\cdot|f(x,\xi)|.$$

Taking into account of the specular reflection boundary condition, we see that the operator B generates a bounded semi-group $\{V(t)\}$ in S_α for any $\alpha\geqq 0$. The imaginary axis belongs to the resolvent set of B except for $\lambda=0$, which is an isolated eigenvalue of B. The resolvent $(\lambda-B)^{-1}$ has a simple pole at $\lambda=0$. The residue of the resolvent at $\lambda=0$ is a projection operator P of finite rank r, $2\leqq r\leqq 5$. By using a theorem of Jörgens and Vidav, we obtain the following estimate.

Theorem 1. *For any $\gamma>0$ small enough, there exists a constant $M>0$ depending only on α and γ such that*

$$\|V(t)(I-P)\|_{S_\alpha\to S_\alpha}\leqq Me^{-\gamma t}, \qquad \text{for } t\geqq 0. \tag{5}$$

3. Global solutions. The space $X_{\alpha,\gamma}$ is the set of functions of argument t with values in S_α satisfying

(i) f is a continuous function on $[0,\infty)$,

(ii) $\sup_t e^{\gamma t}\|f(t)\|_\alpha<\infty$.

$X_{\alpha,\gamma}$ is endowed with the norm

$$\|f\|_{\alpha,\gamma}=\sup_t e^{\gamma t}\|f(t)\|_\alpha.$$

We denote by N_α the set of all functions $f\in S_\alpha$ satisfying $Pf=0$. This is equivalent to saying that $f\in N_\alpha$ if and only if

$$\iint_{\Omega\times R^3} f(x,\xi)\psi_i(x,\xi)dxd\xi=0, \qquad i=1,2,\cdots,r,$$

where $\{\psi_i\}$ is a basis of the nullspace of B. $Y_{\alpha,\gamma}$ denotes the set of all functions $f\in X_{\alpha,\gamma}$ taking its values in N_α. Now we consider the integral equation

$$f(t)=V(t)\phi+\int_0^t V(t-s)\Lambda\Gamma(f(s),f(s))ds, \tag{6}$$

which is derived formally from (3) with $f(0)=\phi$. Note that the integral in the right side of (6) is well defined in $S_{\alpha-1}$ for any continuous function f with values $f(t)$ in S_α, $\alpha\geqq 1$.

Theorem 2. *If $\gamma>0$ is small enough and $\alpha \geqq 1$, there exists a positive constant d depending only on α and γ such that, for any $\phi \in N_\alpha$ with $\|\phi\|_\alpha \leqq d^2$,* (6) *has a unique solution $f \in Y_{\alpha,\gamma}$ with $\|f\|_{\alpha,\gamma} \leqq d$. The mapping $\phi \to f$ is continuous and indefinitely differentiable. Furthermore, $f=f(t,x,\xi)$ satisfies*

$$\begin{aligned}&\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial t}+\sum_{i=1}^{3}\xi_i\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}\right]f(t,x,\xi)\\ &\qquad=-\nu(\xi)f(t,x,\xi)+\int K(\xi,\eta)f(t,x,\eta)d\eta\\ &\qquad\quad+\nu(\xi)(\Gamma(f(t),f(t)))(x,\xi),\end{aligned}\tag{7}$$

pointwise on $(0,\infty)\times\Omega\times R^3$. Here $[\partial/\partial t+\sum_{i=1}^{3}\xi_i\partial/\partial x_i]$ means the differentiation in the direction $(1,\xi_1,\xi_2,\xi_3)$ for every fixed ξ.

The proof is based on Theorem 1 and the implicit function theorem. A similar result has been obtained by Guiraud [3] for the case of pseudo reflection boundary condition.

References

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