

## REMARKS ON WEAK STABILIZATION OF SEMILINEAR WAVE EQUATIONS

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**Abstract.** If a second order semilinear conservative equation with essentially oscillatory solutions such as the wave equation is perturbed by a possibly non monotone damping term which is effective in a non negligible sub-region for at least one sign of the velocity, all solutions of the perturbed system converge weakly to 0 as time tends to infinity. We present here a simple and natural method of proof of this kind of property, implying as a consequence some recent very general results of Judith Vancostenoble.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Following a recent work of Vancostenoble [20], we investigate the weak stabilization to 0 of solutions to the equations

$$u_{tt} + Au + Q(u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \quad (1.1)$$

$$u_{tt} + Au + g(u) + Q(u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \quad (1.2)$$

where  $A$  is a linear positive selfadjoint operator of elliptic type on  $H = L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $\Omega$  is a bounded open domain of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , the term  $-Q(u_t)$  represents a possibly non monotone feedback dissipation acting on a “non negligible” part  $Y$  of  $\overline{\Omega}$  and  $g(u)$  stands for the Nemytskii operator associated to some numerical function  $g \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$ . Concerning (1.1), the original proof from [20] was inspired both by the work of Slemrod [19] and the techniques of Conrad and Pierre [10]; here we present a new simplified proof relying on almost periodicity of generalized solutions to

$$u_{tt} + Au = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}$$

which implies some essential oscillatory behavior of those solutions on  $\mathbb{R} \times Y$ . Weak convergence is proved, following the philosophy introduced in [11] (*cf.* also [12, 13]) under the hypothesis that the damping is effective at least for one sign of the velocity (one-sided dissipation). This method is applicable to more complicated problems of the form (1.2) when solutions of

$$u_{tt} + Au + g(u) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}$$

are known to be oscillatory on  $\mathbb{R} \times Y$ . A typical example is the nonlinear string equation

$$u_{tt} - u_{xx} + g(u) + a(x)q(u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \Omega$$

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with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions on  $\partial\Omega$  with  $\Omega = (0, L)$  when  $g$  is odd nonincreasing,  $a \geq 0$ ,  $a > 0$  on an open subdomain  $\omega$  and  $q$  satisfies:

$$q \in C^1, \quad q(v)v \geq 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}, \quad q(v) > 0 \quad \text{for all } v > 0.$$

Here even if  $q$  is monotone, compactness of trajectories in the energy space is not known. The consideration of more general similar examples sheds a new light on the interest of oscillatory behavior of semilinear conservative systems.

## 2. INTERNAL DAMPING

In this section, we consider the case of equation (1.1) with internal damping, which means that  $Y = \omega$ , an open subset of  $\Omega$ . In other terms we consider the equation

$$u_{tt} + Au + a(x)q(u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \tag{2.1}$$

where  $a \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ ,  $a \geq 0$  a.e. in  $\Omega$  and  $a \geq \eta > 0$  a.e. in  $\omega$ . The function  $q \in C(\mathbb{R})$  satisfies

$$q(v)v \geq 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}, \quad q(v) > 0 \quad \text{for all } v > 0. \tag{2.2}$$

We consider a Hilbert space  $V \subset H = L^2(\Omega)$  with compact and dense imbedding. The linear operator  $A : V \rightarrow V'$  satisfies the following conditions

$$A \in \mathcal{L}(V, V'); \quad \forall v \in V, \langle Av, v \rangle \geq \alpha \|v\|^2$$

where  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\|v\|$  denotes the norm of  $v$  in  $V$ . Assume that

$$W = L^\infty(\Omega) \cap V \quad \text{is dense in } V.$$

We say that a function  $u : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow V$  is a solution of (2.1) if  $u$  satisfies the following conditions:

$$u \in C(\mathbb{R}^+, V) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}^+, H) \cap W_{\text{loc}}^{2,1}(\mathbb{R}^+, V'), \quad a(x)q(u') \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\mathbb{R}^+, L^1(\Omega))$$

$$\forall \varphi \in W, \quad \langle u''(t) + Au(t) + a(x)q(u'(t)), \varphi \rangle = 0 \quad \text{a.e. on } \mathbb{R}^+.$$

In addition, we say that  $u$  satisfies the energy inequality if

$$\forall T > 0, \quad E(T) + \int_0^T \int_\Omega a(x)q(u'(t,x))u'(t,x) dx dt \leq E(0)$$

with

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad E(t) := \frac{1}{2} \{ |u'|^2(t) + \langle Au(t), u(t) \rangle \}.$$

Finally we say that unique determination of eigenfunctions of  $A$  holds in  $\omega$  if

$$\forall \lambda > 0, \forall \varphi \in V, \quad A\varphi = \lambda\varphi \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } \omega \implies \varphi \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega$$

The main result of this section is:

**Theorem 2.1.** *Under the above hypotheses, let  $u$  be a solution of (2.1) satisfying the energy inequality and assume that unique determination of eigenfunctions of  $A$  holds in  $\omega$ . Then as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ :*

$$(u(t), u_t(t)) \rightarrow (0, 0) \quad \text{in } V \times H.$$

*Proof.* Let  $t_n$  be a sequence of positive real numbers tending to  $+\infty$  with  $n$  and  $u_n(t, x) = u(t + t_n, x)$  for all  $(t, x) \in [-t_n, +\infty) \times \Omega$ . Given any  $\tau > 0$ , the function  $u_n(t, x)$  is well defined a.e. on  $\Omega$  as an element of  $V$  for all  $t \in [-\tau, \tau] =: J_\tau$  as soon as  $t_n \geq \tau$ . In addition it follows easily from the energy inequality that  $u_n$  is bounded uniformly in  $C(J_\tau, V) \cap C^1(J_\tau, H)$  for  $n \geq \tau$ . In particular, by Ascoli–Arzela’s theorem, we can assume that a certain subsequence  $u_{n_k} =: z_k$  converges in  $C(J_\tau, H)$  for all  $\tau > 0$ , to a certain limiting function  $z \in C(\mathbb{R}, H)$ . Moreover  $z$  is bounded in  $H$  and weakly differentiable  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow H$  with bounded derivative. From the energy inequality it also follows, by using continuity of  $q$  at 0, that

$$\forall \tau > 0, \quad a(x)q(u'_n(t, x)) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in } L^1(J_\tau \times \Omega) \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty$$

for all  $\tau > 0$ . By using as test functions the eigenfunctions of  $A$ , it follows easily that  $z$  is in fact a solution of

$$z \in C(\mathbb{R}, V) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}, H) \cap C^2(\mathbb{R}, V'), \quad z'' + Az = 0.$$

In particular,  $z$  is a  $C^1$  almost periodic vector function:  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow H$ , cf. e.g. [1, 3, 16]. From (2.2) we infer that in fact

$$z' = z_t \leq 0 \quad \text{a.e. on } \mathbb{R} \times \omega. \tag{2.3}$$

Assuming (2.3) the conclusion follows easily. Indeed then the trace of  $z$  on  $\omega$  is a non-increasing function:  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow L^2(\omega)$ . Classically, such a function has to remain constant with respect to  $t$  for almost all  $x \in \omega$  (this can be checked easily on multiplying by any smooth nonnegative function supported in  $\omega$  and applying a classical recurrence property of real-valued almost periodic vector function, cf. e.g. [1, 3] or Cor. 4.2.6, p. 50 of [16], or even Cor. I.3.1.6 of [15]), therefore if we consider (cf. e.g. [1, 18]) the Fourier–Bohr expansion of  $z$  given by the formula

$$z(t, x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[ \varphi_n(x) \cos(t\sqrt{\lambda_n}) + \psi_n(x) \sin(t\sqrt{\lambda_n}) \right]$$

where  $\{\lambda_n\}_{n \geq 1}$  is the increasing sequence of eigenvalues of  $A$  and

$$\varphi_n(x) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T}^T \cos(t\sqrt{\lambda_n}) z(t, x) dx$$

$$\psi_n(x) = \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T}^T \sin(t\sqrt{\lambda_n}) z(t, x) dx$$

the functions  $\varphi_n(x)$  and  $\psi_n(x)$  are eigenfunctions of  $A$  which vanish in  $\omega$ . By the unique determination of eigenfunctions of  $A$  in  $\omega$  the result follows at once. Now (2.3) will follow as an easy consequence of the following

**Lemma 2.2.** *Let  $(U, \mu)$  be any finitely measured space and  $w_n \in L^p(U, d\mu)$  with  $p > 1$ . Assume*

$$w_n \rightharpoonup w \quad \text{in } L^p(U, d\mu) \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty \tag{2.4}$$

$$\mu\{w_n \geq 0\} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \tag{2.5}$$

*Then we have:*

$$\mu\{w > 0\} = 0. \tag{2.6}$$

*Proof of Lemma 2.2.* Let  $y_n = \inf\{w_n, 0\} = -w_n^- \leq 0$ . We have

$$\|y_n - w_n\|_{L^1(U)} \leq \|w_n\|_{L^p(U)} [\mu\{w_n \geq 0\}]^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \tag{2.7}$$

In particular we have

$$y_n \rightharpoonup w \quad \text{in } L^1(U, d\mu) \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \tag{2.8}$$

Since by construction,  $y_n \leq 0$ ,  $\mu.a.e.$  on  $U$ , (2.6) follows immediately.

*End of proof of Theorem 2.1.* From (2.2) we finally deduce (2.3) as follows. Let  $\tau > 0$  be fixed and set  $U = J_\tau \times \omega$  and denote by  $\mu$  the Lebesgue measure on  $U$  in  $\mathbb{R}^{N+1}$ . We establish that  $w = z' \leq 0$ , a.e. on  $U$ . In order to do that it is sufficient to establish, for any given  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the inequality  $w = z' \leq \varepsilon$ ,  $\mu - a.e.$  on  $U$ . First, given any  $\delta > 0$  we select  $M = M(\delta)$  such that

$$\forall n \geq \tau, \quad \mu\{(t, x) \in U, z'_n(t, x) \geq M\} \leq \delta.$$

This is made possible by boundedness of  $u'$  in  $L^2(\Omega)$ . In particular we have

$$\forall n \geq \tau, \quad \mu\{(t, x) \in U, z'_n(t, x) \geq \varepsilon\} \leq \delta + \mu\{(t, x) \in U, \varepsilon \leq z'_n(t, x) \leq M\}.$$

As a consequence of (2.2) and by compactness of  $[\varepsilon, M]$  it now follows easily from the properties  $a \geq \eta > 0$  a.e. in  $\omega$  and  $a(x)q(u'_n(t, x)) \rightarrow 0$  in  $L^1(U)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu\{(t, x) \in U, \varepsilon \leq z'_n(t, x) \leq M\} = 0.$$

Therefore

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu\{(t, x) \in U, z'_n(t, x) \geq \varepsilon\} \leq \delta.$$

Since  $\delta > 0$  is arbitrary, this means

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mu\{(t, x) \in U, z'_n(t, x) \geq \varepsilon\} = 0.$$

By Lemma 2.2 applied with  $w_n = z'_n - \varepsilon$  we deduce  $z' \leq \varepsilon$ ,  $\mu - a.e.$  on  $U$ . The proof is now complete.  $\square$

### 3. THE GENERAL CASE

In this section, we consider the case of equation (1.1) with a damping possibly distributed on a lower dimensional subset. For instance  $Y$  can be a relatively open subset of  $\partial\Omega$ , in which case (1.1) can take the form of a wave equation with boundary dissipation

$$u_{tt} - \Delta u = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \Omega; \quad \frac{\partial u(t, x)}{\partial \nu} + a(x)q(u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \partial\Omega \tag{3.1}$$

considered in [21] by Vancostenoble.

In the general case we consider a function  $q \in C(\mathbb{R})$  satisfying (2.2) and the stronger condition

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \quad \inf_{s \geq \varepsilon} q(s) > 0. \tag{3.2}$$

We consider a Hilbert space  $V \subset H = L^2(\Omega)$  with compact and dense imbedding. The linear operator  $A : V \rightarrow V'$  satisfies the following conditions

$$A \in \mathcal{L}(V, V'); \quad \forall v \in V, \langle Av, v \rangle \geq \alpha \|v\|^2$$

where  $\alpha > 0$  and  $\|v\|$  denotes the norm of  $v$  in  $V$ . Assume that

$$W = C(\overline{\Omega}) \cap V \quad \text{is dense in } V.$$

In addition we consider a compact subset  $Y$  of  $\overline{\Omega}$  and a nonnegative bounded measure  $\mu \in M_B(Y)$ . We say that a function  $u : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow V$  is a solution of (1.1) if  $u$  satisfies the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &u \in C(\mathbb{R}^+, V) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}^+, H) \cap W_{loc}^{2,1}(\mathbb{R}^+, V') \\
 &a(y)q(u'(t, y)) \in L_{loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^+, L^1(Y, d\mu)) \\
 &\forall \varphi \in W, \quad \langle u''(t) + Au(t), \varphi \rangle + \int_Y a(y)q(u'(t, y))\varphi(y)d\mu(y) = 0 \quad \text{a.e. on } \mathbb{R}^+.
 \end{aligned}$$

In addition, we say that  $u$  satisfies the energy inequality if

$$\forall T > 0, \quad E(T) + \int_0^T \int_Y a(y)q(u'(t, y))u'(t, y)d\mu(y)dt \leq E(0)$$

with

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad E(t) := \frac{1}{2}\{|u'|^2(t) + \langle Au(t), u(t) \rangle\}.$$

Finally we say that unique determination of eigenfunctions of  $A$  holds in  $\omega \subset Y$  if

$$\forall \lambda > 0, \forall \varphi \in V, \quad A\varphi = \lambda\varphi \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi \equiv 0 \quad \mu - \text{a.e. in } \omega \implies \varphi \equiv 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega.$$

The main result of this section is:

**Theorem 3.1.** *Under the above hypotheses, assume that unique determination of eigenfunctions of  $A$  holds in  $\omega$  with  $\inf_{y \in \omega} a(y) > 0$ . In addition assume that the trace  $z \rightarrow z|_Y$  is well defined and continuous:  $V \rightarrow L^1(Y, d\mu)$ . Let  $u$  be a solution of (1.1) satisfying the energy inequality. Then as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ :*

$$(u(t), u_t(t)) \rightarrow (0, 0) \quad \text{in } V \times H.$$

*Proof of Theorem 3.1.* Let  $t_n$  be a sequence of positive real numbers tending to  $+\infty$  with  $n$  and  $u_n(t, x) = u(t + t_n, x)$  for all  $(t, x) \in [-t_n, +\infty) \times \Omega$ . Keeping the notation of Section 2, by Ascoli–Arzela’s theorem, we can assume that a certain subsequence  $u_{n_k} =: z_k$  converges in  $C(J_\tau, H)$  for all  $\tau > 0$ , to a limiting function  $z \in C(\mathbb{R}, H)$ . Moreover  $z$  is bounded in  $H$  and weakly differentiable  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow H$  with bounded derivative. From the energy inequality it also follows, by using continuity of  $q$  at 0, that

$$\forall \tau > 0, \quad a(y)q(u'_n(t, y)) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{in } L^1(J_\tau \times Y) \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

By using as test functions the eigenfunctions of  $A$ , it follows easily that  $z$  is in fact a solution of

$$z \in C(\mathbb{R}, V) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}, H) \cap C^2(\mathbb{R}, V'), \quad z'' + Az = 0.$$

In particular,  $z$  is a  $C^1$  almost periodic vector function:  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow H$ . However in the general case the analog of (2.3) is more delicate to establish and in fact, in order to use the trace operator:  $V \rightarrow L^1(Y, d\mu)$  we shall rely on a smoothing procedure replacing  $u_{n_k} =: z_k$  by some auxiliary functions which have bounded time-derivatives in  $V$ . For any  $\delta > 0$ , we consider

$$u_\delta(t) := \int_t^{t+\delta} u(s)ds$$

and we define accordingly  $u_{\delta, n}(t)$  and  $z_\delta(t)$ . From (2.2) and (3.2) we infer that in fact

$$z'_\delta(t, y) \leq 0 \quad \mu - \text{a.e. on } \mathbb{R} \times \omega. \tag{3.3}$$

In order to establish (3.3), first of all from the energy inequality we deduce

$$\int_{-\tau}^{\tau} \int_{\omega} (u'_n - \varepsilon)^+(t, y) d\mu(y) dt \rightarrow 0$$

valid for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ . On the other hand we have for each  $\delta \in (0, \tau)$

$$u'_{\delta,n}(t, y) - \delta\varepsilon \leq \int_t^{t+\delta} (u'_n - \varepsilon)^+(t, y) ds$$

almost-everywhere on  $\Omega$  and in particular for any nonnegative function  $\zeta \in L^\infty(\omega, d\mu)$  we find, since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrarily small

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\omega} (u'_{\delta,n}(t, y) \zeta(y) d\mu(y) dt \leq 0.$$

Now since  $u'_{\delta,n}(t, x) = u_n(t + \delta, x) - u_n(t, x)$ , the convergence of to  $z(t, \cdot)$  in  $V$  weak implies the convergence pointwise in  $t$  of  $u'_{\delta,n}(t, \cdot)$  to  $z'_\delta(t, \cdot)$  in  $V$  weak. Since  $V$  is a Hilbert space, there is, for each given  $t$ , a convex combination of the functions  $u'_{\delta,n}(t, \cdot)$  which converges in fact to  $z'_\delta(t, \cdot)$  in  $V$  strong. By continuity of the trace:  $V \rightarrow L^1(Y, d\mu)$  we obtain (3.3), more precisely we find

$$\forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \forall \zeta \in L^{\infty}_+(\omega, d\mu), \quad \int_{\omega} z'_\delta(t, y) \zeta(y) d\mu(y) dt \leq 0.$$

Now the conclusion follows easily. Indeed then the trace of  $z_\delta$  on  $\omega$  is a non-increasing almost periodic function:  $\mathbb{R} \rightarrow L^1(\omega, d\mu)$  which is also the trace of a solution of the linear equation. Classically, such a function has to remain constant, and by the unique determination of eigenfunctions of  $A$  in  $\omega$ , reasoning as in the proof of Theorem 2.1, we find that  $z_\delta = 0$  for all  $\delta > 0$ . By letting  $\delta \rightarrow 0$  we obtain  $z = 0$ . Since the result is valid for any convergent subsequence of  $(u_n, u'_n)$  we conclude easily.

#### 4. ADDITIONAL RESULTS AND REMARKS

The method of proof of Theorems 2.1 and 3.1 is applicable to more complicated problems of the form (1.2) when solutions of

$$u_{tt} + Au + g(u) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}$$

are known to be oscillatory on  $\mathbb{R} \times Y$ . As a typical example we consider the nonlinear string equation

$$u_{tt} - u_{xx} + g(u) + a(x)q(u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times (0, L); \quad u(t, 0) = u(t, L) \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \tag{4.1}$$

when  $g$  is odd nonincreasing,  $a \in L^\infty(0, L)$ ,  $a \geq 0$ ,  $a(x) \geq \alpha > 0$  on some open subdomain  $\omega$  and  $q$  satisfies:

$$q \in C^1, \quad q(v)v \geq 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}, \quad q(v) > 0 \quad \text{for all } v > 0.$$

Here we obtain:

**Theorem 4.1.** *Under the above hypotheses, let  $u$  be a solution of (4.1) satisfying the energy inequality*

$$\forall T > 0, \quad E(T) + \int_0^T \int_0^L a(x)q(u_t(t, x))u_t(t, x) dx dt \leq E(0)$$

with

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad E(t) := \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L \{u_t^2(t, x) + u_x^2(t, x)\} dx + \int_0^L G(u(t, x)) dx$$

where

$$G(r) := \int_0^r g(s)ds$$

Then as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$(u(t), u_t(t)) \rightarrow (0, 0) \text{ in } V \times H$$

with

$$V = H_0^1(0, L) \text{ and } H = L^2(0, L).$$

*Proof of Theorem 4.1.* Let  $\Omega = (0, L)$ , let  $t_n$  be a sequence of positive real numbers tending to  $+\infty$  with  $n$  and  $u_n(t, x) = u(t + t_n, x)$  for all  $(t, x) \in [-t_n, +\infty) \times \Omega$ . Keeping the notation of Section 2, we obtain that a certain subsequence  $u_{n_k} =: z_k$  converges in  $C(J_\tau, H)$  for all  $\tau > 0$ , to a certain limiting function  $z \in C(\mathbb{R}, H)$ . From the energy inequality it also follows, by using continuity of  $q$  at 0, that

$$\forall \tau > 0, \quad a(x)q(u'_n(t, x)) \rightarrow 0 \text{ in } L^1(J_\tau \times \Omega) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

It follows easily that  $z$  is in fact a solution of

$$z \in C(\mathbb{R}, V) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}, H) \cap C^2(\mathbb{R}, V'),$$

$$z_{tt} - z_{xx} + g(z) = 0 \text{ on } \mathbb{R} \times (0, L)$$

with in addition

$$z' = z_t \leq 0 \text{ a.e. on } \mathbb{R} \times \omega.$$

As a consequence of [2, 3], it follows that  $z = 0$ . The conclusion then follows easily from the fact that any sequence  $(u(t_n), u'(t_n))$  has a subsequence converging weakly to  $(0, 0)$ .

**Remark 4.2.** Here even if  $q$  is monotone, compactness of trajectories in the energy space is not known.

**Remark 4.3.** When  $q(s) = cs$  for some  $c > 0$ , compactness of positive trajectories in the energy space is satisfied as a special case of the classical theorem of Webb [22]. Indeed then the equation

$$u_{tt} - u_{xx} + ca(x)(u_t) = 0 \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times (0, L); \quad u(t, 0) = u(t, L) \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^+$$

generates an exponentially damped linear semi-group in  $V \times H$  and the Nemytskii operator  $u \rightarrow g(u)$  is compact  $V \rightarrow H$ .

**Remark 4.4.** The method of proof of Theorems 2.1 and 2.2 applies also to the more general case of the equation

$$u_{tt} + Au + Q(t, u_t) = 0 \text{ on } \mathbb{R}^+ \tag{4.2}$$

where  $Q(t, u_t)$  is realized in the form

$$a(t, y)q(t, y, u_t)$$

with

$$\inf_{y \in \omega, t \geq 0} a(t, y) > 0$$

when  $q$  satisfies the uniform conditions

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \quad \inf_{s \geq \varepsilon, y \in \omega, t \geq 0} q(t, y, s) > 0$$

and

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sup_{|s| \leq \varepsilon, y \in \omega, t \geq 0} |q(t, y, s)| = 0.$$

This is in particular applicable to the problems

$$u_{tt} - \Delta u + a(x)\tilde{q}(x, \nabla u, u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \Omega; \quad u(t, x) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \partial\Omega$$

and

$$u_{tt} - \Delta u = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \Omega; \quad \frac{\partial u(t, x)}{\partial \nu} + a(x)\tilde{q}(x, \nabla u, u_t) = 0 \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R}^+ \times \partial\Omega$$

with

$$\tilde{q}(x, \nabla u, u_t) = \tilde{q}(y, \nabla u(t, y), u_t(t, y)) =: q(t, y, u_t).$$

In this case we recover some recent results of Vancostenoble [21] which generalize Slemrod [19].

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