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Operational approach for biharmonic equations in L^p -spaces

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Abstract

In this work, we study the existence, uniqueness and maximal L^p -regularity of the solution of different biharmonic problems. We rewrite these problems by a fourth order operational equation and different boundary conditions, set in a cylindrical n -dimensional spatial region Ω of \mathbb{R}^n . To this end, we give an explicit representation formula, using analytic semigroups, and invert explicitly a determinant operator in L^p -spaces thanks to H^∞ -calculus and operator sums theory.

Key Words and Phrases: Operational differential equations, functional calculus, analytic semigroups, interpolation spaces, maximal regularity.

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1 Introduction

In this article we develop an operator approach to study some properties of the solutions of the biharmonic problem

$$\Delta^2 u = f, \quad (1)$$

set on a straight cylinder $\Omega = (a, b) \times \omega$ where $\omega \subset \mathbb{R}^{n-1}$ denotes a bounded domain with a C^2 boundary and $n \geq 2$ is a given integer while the function $f \in L^p(\Omega)$ with $p \in (1, \infty)$.

Here we are concerned with the existence, uniqueness and L^p -maximal regularity of the solutions of (1) when this problem is supplemented with various types of non-homogeneous boundary conditions (see below).

Biharmonic problems arise in various applicative fields, including physics, engineering and biology. In [5], [15], or [26], biharmonic equations are used to model elasticity problem where displacement, stress, and strain satisfy (1). One may also refer to [3], [12] or [20] for biharmonic models in electrostatic, to [8], [10] or [27] for applications in plate theory where various different boundary conditions arise. We also refer to [4], [18], [19] or [25] for models in population dynamics.

Coming back to (1), we now specify the boundary conditions that will be studied along this work. First we assume the homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions on the lateral boundary of Ω , namely $(a, b) \times \partial\omega$. This reads as

$$u(x, \zeta) = \Delta u(x, \zeta) = 0, \quad (x, \zeta) \in (a, b) \times \partial\omega. \quad (2)$$

As far as the boundary conditions on $\{a, b\} \times \omega$, we shall study the following five different types

$$\begin{cases} u(a, y) = \varphi_1(y), & u(b, y) = \varphi_2(y), & y \in \omega, \\ \partial_{xx} u(a, y) = \varphi_3(y), & \partial_{xx} u(b, y) = \varphi_4(y), & y \in \omega, \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

or

$$\begin{cases} \partial_x u(a, y) = \varphi_1(y), & \partial_x u(b, y) = \varphi_2(y), & y \in \omega, \\ \Delta u(a, y) = \varphi_3(y), & \Delta u(b, y) = \varphi_4(y), & y \in \omega, \end{cases} \quad (3.2)$$

or

$$\begin{cases} u(a, y) = \varphi_1(y), & u(b, y) = \varphi_2(y), & y \in \omega, \\ \partial_x u(a, y) = \varphi_3(y), & \partial_x u(b, y) = \varphi_4(y), & y \in \omega, \end{cases} \quad (3.3)$$

or

$$\begin{cases} \partial_x u(a, y) = \varphi_1(y), & \partial_x u(b, y) = \varphi_2(y), & y \in \omega, \\ \partial_{xx} u(a, y) = \varphi_3(y), & \partial_{xx} u(b, y) = \varphi_4(y), & y \in \omega, \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

or

$$\begin{cases} u(a, y) = \varphi_1(y), & u(b, y) = \varphi_2(y), & y \in \omega, \\ \Delta u(a, y) = \varphi_3(y), & \Delta u(b, y) = \varphi_4(y), & y \in \omega. \end{cases} \quad (3.5)$$

In the above boundary conditions, the functions $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3$ and φ_4 are assumed to belong to $L^p(\omega)$

As mentioned above, in this article we develop an operator theoretic approach to handle the biharmonic equation (1)-(2) and supplemented with one of the previous boundary conditions. This work can be viewed as a continuation of the analysis proposed in [19] where the equation

$$k_2 \Delta^2 u - k_1 \Delta u = f,$$

has been studied using a suitable operational framework. Note that in the aforementioned work, the condition $k_1 \neq 0$ plays a crucial role in this analysis. So that the present work extends this previous analysis by taking into account this limit case $k_1 = 0$.

Here, to handle (1)-(2) and one of the previous boundary conditions, we reformulate this problem as a suitable fourth order abstract differential equation that allow us to derive existence, uniqueness and also to provide necessary and sufficient conditions on the boundary functions φ_i arising in the previous boundary conditions, ensuring maximal L^p -regularity.

More specifically let us define A_0 , the Laplace operator in \mathbb{R}^{n-1} , $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 1\}$, on the Banach space $L^q(\omega)$, $q \in (1, +\infty)$, with homogeneous Dirichlet boundary conditions on ω . Then, A_0 reads as:

$$\begin{cases} D(A_0) := \{\psi \in W^{2,p}(\omega) : \psi = 0 \text{ on } \partial\omega\} \\ \forall \psi \in D(A_0), \quad A_0 \psi = \Delta_y \psi. \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Thus, equation (1) could be reformulated as the fourth order operational differential equation,

$$u^{(4)}(x) + 2A_0 u''(x) + A_0^2 u(x) = f(x), \quad \text{for a. e. } x \in (a, b),$$

where $f \in L^p(a, b; L^q(\omega))$, $p \in (1, +\infty)$, with $u(x) := u(x, \cdot)$ and $f(x) := f(x, \cdot)$. Then, we consider the generalization of this equation with $(A, D(A))$, instead of $(A_0, D(A_0))$:

$$u^{(4)}(x) + 2A u''(x) + A^2 u(x) = f(x), \quad \text{for a. e. } x \in (a, b), \quad (4)$$

where "-A" is a BIP operator of angle $\theta_A \in (0, \pi)$ on a UMD space X , see Section 2 below for the definitions of BIP operator and UMD spaces, and $f \in L^p(a, b; X)$, $p \in (1, +\infty)$.

More precisely, we will study equation (4) under the following boundary conditions:

$$\begin{cases} u(a) = \varphi_1, & u(b) = \varphi_2, \\ u''(a) = \varphi_3, & u''(b) = \varphi_4, \end{cases} \quad (\text{BC1})$$

or

$$\begin{cases} u'(a) = \varphi_1, & u'(b) = \varphi_2, \\ u''(a) + Au(a) = \varphi_3, & u''(b) + Au(b) = \varphi_4, \end{cases} \quad (\text{BC2})$$

or

$$\begin{cases} u(a) = \varphi_1, & u(b) = \varphi_2, \\ u'(a) = \varphi_3, & u'(b) = \varphi_4, \end{cases} \quad (\text{BC3})$$

or

$$\begin{cases} u'(a) = \varphi_1, & u'(b) = \varphi_2, \\ u''(a) = \varphi_3, & u''(b) = \varphi_4, \end{cases} \quad (\text{BC4})$$

or

$$\begin{cases} u(a) = \varphi_1, & u(b) = \varphi_2, \\ u''(a) + Au(a) = \varphi_3, & u''(b) + Au(b) = \varphi_4, \end{cases} \quad (\text{BC5})$$

where $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in X$.

Recall that u is a classical solution of equation (4) if u is a solution of (4) satisfying

$$u \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad u'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A)),$$

Moreover, for $i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$, we say that u is a classical solution of problem (4)-(BCi), if u is a classical solution of (4) satisfying (BCi).

Our main result is given by Theorem 2.8 in which we give necessary and sufficient conditions for the existence and uniqueness of a classical solution u of problem (4)-(BCi).

As a byproduct of our analysis, we also obtain an explicit representation formula of the solutions of (4) and also a regularity result of the terms composed by a polynomial function and an analytic semigroup.

The paper is organised as follows:

In Section 2, we detail our hypotheses on a UMD Banach space X and on the operator A . Then, we give our main results. As a consequence, we obtain Corollary 2.9 which establishes the existence and the uniqueness of the solution u in $W^{4,p}(\Omega)$ of problem (1)-(2)-(3.3).

In Section 3, we recall some well-known results useful for the next sections.

In Section 4, we establish some preliminary results. First of all, in Section 4.1, we make explicit, in Proposition 4.1, a general representation formula for classical solutions. In Section 4.2, we give a very useful technical result in Proposition 4.2 concerning the regularity of the product between a polynomial function and an analytic semigroup. In Section 4.3, we give some traces result in Proposition 4.3. Then, in Section 4.4, we use functional calculus to prove an invertibility result in Proposition 4.6 which is very useful for the last section.

Finally, in the last section, we prove our main result, Theorem 2.8, which completes Theorem 2.6 by showing the existence and the uniqueness of the classical solution u of problems (4)-(BC2), (4)-(BC3) and (4)-(BC4).

2 Assumptions and statement of results

2.1 Hypotheses

Throughout the article, $(X, \|\cdot\|)$ is a complex Banach space. We first give some useful definitions before stating our hypotheses.

Definition 2.1. A Banach space X is a UMD space if and only if for all $p \in (1, +\infty)$, the Hilbert transform is bounded from $L^p(\mathbb{R}, X)$ into itself (see [1] and [2]).

Definition 2.2. A closed linear operator T_1 in X is called sectorial of angle $\omega \in [0, \pi]$ if

$$\begin{aligned} i) \quad & \sigma(T_1) \subset \overline{S_\omega}, \\ ii) \quad & \forall \omega' \in (\omega, \pi), \quad \sup \left\{ \|\lambda(\lambda I - T_1)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} : \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{S_{\omega'}} \right\} < +\infty, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S_\omega := \begin{cases} \{z \in \mathbb{C} : z \neq 0 \text{ and } |\arg(z)| < \omega\} & \text{if } \omega \in (0, \pi], \\ (0, +\infty) & \text{if } \omega = 0, \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

see [13], p. 19.

Definition 2.3. We denote by $\text{BIP}(X, \theta)$, $\theta \in [0, \pi)$, see [23], p. 430, the class of sectorial injective operators T_1 in X such that

$$\begin{aligned} i) \quad & \overline{D(T_1)} = \overline{R(T_1)} = X, \\ ii) \quad & \forall s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad T_1^{is} \in \mathcal{L}(X), \\ iii) \quad & \exists C \geq 1, \forall s \in \mathbb{R}, \quad \|T_1^{is}\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq Ce^{|s|\theta}. \end{aligned}$$

We are now in position to describe our assumptions:

- (H₁) X is a UMD space,
- (H₂) A is a closed linear operator in X and $0 \in \rho(A)$,
- (H₃) $-A \in \text{BIP}(X, \theta_A)$ for some $\theta_A \in (0, \pi)$,

Some of our results need a supplementary hypothesis:

$$(H_4) \quad \sigma(A) \subset (-\infty, 0) \quad \text{and} \quad \forall \theta \in (0, \pi), \quad \sup_{\lambda \in S_\theta} \|\lambda(\lambda I - A)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} < +\infty,$$

Note that (H₄) means that $-A$ is a sectorial operator of angle 0. Let us give some consequences of our assumptions.

Remark 2.4.

1. It is known that operator A_0 , given by (3), satisfies all the previous hypotheses with $X = L^q(\omega)$, $q \in (1, +\infty)$.
2. If we consider the real case (with $-A > 0$), then we can solve equation (1) with the help of the roots $\pm\sqrt{-A}$ of the characteristic equation

$$x^4 + 2Ax^2 + A^2 = 0,$$

this is why, in our operational case, we consider the operator

$$M := -\sqrt{-A}.$$

From (H₃), since $-A$ is a sectorial operator, then the existence of M is ensured, see [13], p. 25.

3. Due to (H₂) we deduce that $0 \in \rho(M)$, from [13], Proposition 3.3.1, p. 62.
4. From [13], Proposition 3.2.1, p. 71 and (H₃), we deduce that
$$-M \in \text{BIP}(X, \theta_A/2).$$
5. Since $\theta_A/2 \in (0, \pi/2)$, from [23], Theorem 2, p. 437, M generates a bounded analytic semigroup, $(e^{xM})_{x \geq 0}$. Moreover, for all $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, from [23], Theorem 4, p. 441, nM generates a bounded analytic semigroup, $(e^{nxM})_{x \geq 0}$. The last results use the works of [6] and [7].

2.2 The main results

We first need some definitions and results concerning real interpolation spaces, the definition of which is given in [21]. We consider here the following particular case:

Definition 2.5. Let $T_2 : D(T_2) \subset X \longrightarrow X$ be a linear operator such that

$$(0, +\infty) \subset \rho(T_2) \quad \text{and} \quad \exists C > 0 : \forall t > 0, \quad \|t(T_2 - tI)^{-1}\|_{\mathcal{L}(X)} \leq C. \quad (6)$$

Then, for $\theta \in (0, 1)$ and $q \in [1, +\infty]$, we can define the real interpolation space

$$(D(T_2), X)_{\theta, q} := \left\{ \psi \in X : t \longmapsto t^{1-\theta} \|T_2(T_2 - tI)^{-1}\psi\|_X \in L_*^q(0, +\infty) \right\},$$

see [11], p. 665, Teorema 3. In [28], p. 78, this space is denoted by $(X, D(T_2))_{1-\theta, q}$.

We set also, for any $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$

$$\begin{aligned} (D(T_2), X)_{k+\theta, q} &:= \left\{ \psi \in D(T_2^k) : T_2^k \psi \in (D(T_2), X)_{\theta, q} \right\}, \\ (X, D(T_2))_{k+\theta, q} &:= \left\{ \psi \in D(T_2^k) : T_2^k \psi \in (X, D(T_2))_{\theta, q} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

Note that for an operator T_2 satisfying (6), T_2^k is closed for any $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ since $\rho(T_2) \neq \emptyset$; consequently we can consider $(D(T_2^k), X)_{\theta, q} = (X, D(T_2^k))_{1-\theta, q}$.

We recall the following Theorem obtained in [19] (this result is given for $k \neq 0$ but clearly remains true if $k = 0$).

Theorem 2.6 (see [19]). *Let $f \in L^p(a, b; X)$ with $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $a < b$ and $p \in (1, +\infty)$. Assume that (H_1) , (H_2) and (H_3) hold. Then*

1. *there exists a unique classical solution u of (4)-(BC1) if and only if*

$$\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2p}, p}. \quad (8)$$

This unique classical solution is called $F_{\Phi, f}$ with $\Phi := (\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4)$ and is explicitly described by

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\Phi, f}(x) &:= e^{(x-a)M} Z \varphi_1 + e^{(b-x)M} Z \varphi_2 \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} e^{(x-a)M} Z M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(s-a)M} v_0(s) \, ds \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} e^{(b-x)M} Z M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(b-s)M} v_0(s) \, ds \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} M^{-1} \int_a^x e^{(x-s)M} v_0(s) \, ds + \frac{1}{2} M^{-1} \int_x^b e^{(s-x)M} v_0(s) \, ds \\ &\quad - e^{(b-x)M} e^{(b-a)M} \varphi_1 - e^{(x-a)M} e^{(b-a)M} \varphi_2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} e^{(x-a)M} Z e^{(b-a)M} M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(b-s)M} v_0(s) \, ds \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} e^{(b-x)M} Z e^{(b-a)M} M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(s-a)M} v_0(s) \, ds, \quad x \in [a, b], \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} v_0(x) &:= e^{(x-a)M} Z (\varphi_3 + A\varphi_1) + e^{(b-x)M} Z (\varphi_4 + A\varphi_2) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} e^{(x-a)M} Z M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(s-a)M} f(s) \, ds - \frac{1}{2} e^{(b-x)M} Z M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(b-s)M} f(s) \, ds \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} M^{-1} \int_a^x e^{(x-s)M} f(s) \, ds + \frac{1}{2} M^{-1} \int_x^b e^{(s-x)M} f(s) \, ds \\ &\quad - e^{(b-x)M} e^{(b-a)M} (\varphi_3 + A\varphi_1) - e^{(x-a)M} e^{(b-a)M} (\varphi_4 + A\varphi_2) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} e^{(x-a)M} Z e^{(b-a)M} M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(b-s)M} f(s) \, ds \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} e^{(b-x)M} Z e^{(b-a)M} M^{-1} \int_a^b e^{(s-a)M} f(s) \, ds, \quad x \in [a, b], \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

and $Z := (I - e^{2(b-a)M})^{-1}$.

The existence of Z is ensured from [22], Proposition 2.3.6, p. 60.

2. *there exists a unique classical solution u of (4)-(BC5) if and only if*

$$\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2p}, p}. \quad (11)$$

In this case the unique solution is $u = F_{(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3 - A\varphi_1, \varphi_4 - A\varphi_2), f}$.

Remark 2.7. In the previous Theorem, statement 2. is obtained from statement 1. in the following manner: condition (BC5) could be written as follows

$$\begin{cases} u(a) &= \varphi_1, & u(b) &= \varphi_2, \\ u''(a) &= \varphi_3 - A\varphi_1, & u''(b) &= \varphi_4 - A\varphi_2. \end{cases}$$

From statement 1., there exists a unique classical solution u of problem (4)-(BC5) if and only if

$$\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_3 - A\varphi_1, \varphi_4 - A\varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2p}, p},$$

which is equivalent to (11). Thus, we deduce that $u = F_{(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3 - A\varphi_1, \varphi_4 - A\varphi_2), f}$.

Now, we give our main results.

Theorem 2.8. *Let $f \in L^p(a, b; X)$ with $a < b$, $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ and $p \in (1, +\infty)$. Assume that (H_1) , (H_2) and (H_3) hold. Then*

1. *there exists a unique classical solution u of (4)-(BC2) if and only if*

$$\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2p}, p}. \quad (12)$$

Moreover, if (H_4) holds, then

2. *there exists a unique classical solution u of (4)-(BC3) if and only if*

$$\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p}, \quad (13)$$

3. *there exists a unique classical solution u of (4)-(BC4) if and only if*

$$\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2p}, p}. \quad (14)$$

As a consequence of Theorem 2.8, we can make explicit our problems (4)-(BCi) with $A = A_0$ and, for instance, we do it for (4)-(BC3) and solve problem (1)-(2)-(3.3):

Corollary 2.9. *Consider a cylindrical domain $\Omega = (a, b) \times \omega$ of \mathbb{R}^n , where $n \geq 2$, $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$, $a < b$ and ω is a bounded open set of \mathbb{R}^{n-1} , where $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 1\}$, with C^2 boundary. Let $f \in L^p(\Omega)$ with $p \in (1, +\infty)$ and $p > n$. Then, there exists a unique solution $u \in W^{4,p}(\Omega)$ of*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \Delta^2 u(x, y) &= f(x, y), \quad (x, y) \in \Omega \\ u(x, \zeta) = \Delta u(x, \zeta) &= 0, \quad (x, \zeta) \in (a, b) \times \partial\omega \\ u(a, y) &= \varphi_1(y), \quad y \in \omega \\ u(b, y) &= \varphi_2(y), \quad y \in \omega \\ \partial_x u(a, y) &= \varphi_3(y), \quad y \in \omega \\ \partial_x u(b, y) &= \varphi_4(y), \quad y \in \omega, \end{array} \right.$$

if and only if

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in W^{2,p}(\omega) \cap W_0^{1,p}(\omega) \\ \Delta \varphi_1, \Delta \varphi_2 \in W^{2-\frac{1}{p},p}(\omega) \cap W_0^{1,p}(\omega) \\ \Delta \varphi_3, \Delta \varphi_4 \in W^{1-\frac{1}{p},p}(\omega) \cap W_0^{1,p}(\omega). \end{array} \right.$$

Proof. The proof is quite similar to the one of Corollary 2.7 in [19], see also Corollary 3.6 in [18]. \square

Taking into account the result of Theorem 2.8, we can also obtain anisotropic result by considering $f \in L^p(a, b; L^q(\omega))$ with $p, q \in (1, +\infty)$.

3 Prerequisites

In this section, we recall some well-known facts, useful in our proofs.

Lemma 3.1 ([11]). *Let T be a linear operator satisfying (6). Let u such that*

$$u \in W^{n,p}(a_1, b_1; X) \cap L^p(a_1, b_1; D(T_2^k)),$$

where $a_1, b_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ with $a_1 < b_1$, $n, k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ and $p \in (1, +\infty)$. Then for any $j \in \mathbb{N}$ satisfying the Poulsen condition $0 < \frac{1}{p} + j < n$ and $s \in \{a_1, b_1\}$, we have

$$u^{(j)}(s) \in (D(T_2^k), X)_{\frac{j}{n} + \frac{1}{np}, p}.$$

This result is proved in [11], Theorem 2'.

Lemma 3.2. [28] *Let $\psi \in X$ and T_2 be a generator of a bounded analytic semigroup in X with $0 \in \rho(T_2)$. Then, for any $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ and $p \in [1, +\infty]$, the next properties are equivalent:*

1. $x \mapsto e^{(x-a)T_2}\psi \in W^{n,p}(a, b; X)$
2. $x \mapsto T_2^n e^{(x-a)T_2}\psi \in L^p(a, b; X)$
3. $x \mapsto e^{(x-a)T_2}\psi \in W^{n,p}(a, +\infty; X)$
4. $x \mapsto T_2^n e^{(x-a)T_2}\psi \in L^p(a, +\infty; X)$
5. $\psi \in (D(T_2), X)_{n-1+\frac{1}{p}, p}$

Obviously, statement 1. is equivalent to statement 2. and also statement 3. is equivalent to statement 4. Furthermore, 4. is equivalent to 5., see [28], Theorem, p. 96. Finally, since T_2 is a generator of a bounded analytic semigroup with $0 \in \rho(T_2)$, we have

$$\omega_{T_2} := \sup\{Re(\lambda) : \lambda \in \sigma(T_2)\} < 0,$$

so from Proposition 2.3.1. in [22], p. 56, we have

$$\exists M \geq 1, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \geq b, \quad \|T_2^n e^{(x-a)T_2}\| \leq \frac{M}{(x-a)^n} e^{-\delta(x-a)},$$

from which we deduce that statement 2. is equivalent to statement 4.

Lemma 3.3 ([19]). *Let $V \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ such that $0 \in \rho(I + V)$. Then, there exists $W \in \mathcal{L}(X)$ such that*

$$(I + V)^{-1} = I - W,$$

and $W(X) \subset V(X)$. Moreover, if T is a linear operator in X such that $V(X) \subset D(T)$ and for $\psi \in D(T)$, $TV\psi = VT\psi$, then

$$\forall \psi \in D(T), \quad WT\psi = TW\psi.$$

This result is proved in [19], Lemma 5.1.

4 Preliminary results

We first note that $F_{0,f}$ defined in Theorem 2.6 is a particular solution of equation (4), this will be used, in the following subsection, to build a general representation formula of the solution of equation (4). Then, in the next subsection, we give a result which allow us to study the regularity of this representation formula. In the third subsection, we give a result on traces of classical solution of (4). Finally, in the last subsection, we give some invertibility results using functional calculus.

4.1 Representation formula

Theorem 2.6 furnishes results of existence and uniqueness of a classical solution of problem (4)-(BC1) and (4)-(BC5). With other boundary conditions, the equation (4) is not easy to study: the first step is to state a representation formula of the solution of equation (4). A similar representation formula has been given in [8] without details, this formula gives a formal solution of equation (4), nevertheless, it has not been proved that this formula leads to formal solution of all the classical solutions of equation (4).

Proposition 4.1. *Under (H_1) , (H_2) , (H_3) , if u is a classical solution of (4), then there exist $K_i \in X$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, such that, for all $x \in [a, b]$, we have*

$$u(x) = e^{(x-a)M}K_1 + (x-a)e^{(x-a)M}K_2 + e^{(b-x)M}K_3 + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M}K_4 + F_{0,f}(x), \quad (15)$$

where $F_{0,f}$ is defined in Theorem 2.6.

Proof. Let u be a classical solution of (4). From Theorem 2.6, there exists a classical solution $F_{0,f}$ of (4)-(BC1). Thus

$$F_{0,f}(a) = F_{0,f}(b) = F_{0,f}''(a) = F_{0,f}''(b) = 0. \quad (16)$$

Set $u_h := u - F_{0,f}$. Then, u_h is a classical solution of

$$u_h^{(4)}(x) + 2Au_h''(x) + A^2u_h(x) = 0, \quad \text{a. e. } x \in (a, b).$$

Now, it remains to determine the expression of u_h . To this end, we have to solve the previous homogeneous equation. For all $x \in [a, b]$, we set

$$v(x) = u_h''(x) + Au_h(x).$$

Since $u_h \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2))$ with $u_h'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A))$, we deduce that

$$v \in W^{2,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A)).$$

Then, for a. e. $x \in (a, b)$, we have

$$v''(x) + Av(x) = u_h^{(4)}(x) + 2Au_h''(x) + A^2u_h(x) = 0.$$

Using results in [9], we obtain that the solution v of the previous homogeneous equation reads as

$$v(x) = e^{(x-a)M}C_0 + e^{(b-x)M}C_1, \quad \text{for all } x \in [a, b],$$

where $C_0, C_1 \in X$.

Now, we solve the whole equation

$$u_h''(x) + Au_h(x) = v(x), \quad \text{for all } x \in [a, b].$$

Using again results in [9], we obtain that, for all $x \in [a, b]$, the solution u_h reads as

$$u_h(x) = e^{(x-a)M}C_2 + e^{(b-x)M}C_3 + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_a^x e^{(x-s)M}v(s) ds + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_x^b e^{(s-x)M}v(s) ds$$

where $C_2, C_3 \in X$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
u_h(x) &= e^{(x-a)M}C_2 + e^{(b-x)M}C_3 + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_a^x e^{(x-s)M} \left(e^{(s-a)M}C_0 + e^{(b-s)M}C_1 \right) ds \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_x^b e^{(s-x)M} \left(e^{(s-a)M}C_0 + e^{(b-s)M}C_1 \right) ds \\
&= e^{(x-a)M}C_2 + e^{(b-x)M}C_3 + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_a^x e^{(x-a)M}C_0 ds + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_a^x e^{(x+b-2s)M}C_1 ds \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_x^b e^{(2s-x-a)M}C_0 ds + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1} \int_x^b e^{(b-x)M}C_1 ds \\
&= e^{(x-a)M}C_2 + (x-a)e^{(x-a)M}\frac{1}{2}M^{-1}C_0 - \frac{1}{4}M^{-2} \left(e^{(b-x)M} - e^{(x-a)M}e^{(b-a)M} \right) C_1 \\
&\quad + e^{(b-x)M}C_3 + \frac{1}{4}M^{-2} \left(e^{(b-x)M}e^{(b-a)M} - e^{(x-a)M} \right) C_0 + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M}\frac{1}{2}M^{-1}C_1 \\
&= e^{(x-a)M} \left(C_2 + \frac{1}{4}M^{-2} \left(e^{(b-a)M}C_1 - C_0 \right) \right) + (x-a)e^{(x-a)M}\frac{1}{2}M^{-1}C_0 \\
&\quad + e^{(b-x)M} \left(C_3 + \frac{1}{4}M^{-2} \left(e^{(b-a)M}C_0 - C_1 \right) \right) + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M}\frac{1}{2}M^{-1}C_1.
\end{aligned}$$

So, we set

$$K_1 = C_2 + \frac{1}{4}M^{-2} \left(e^{(b-a)M}C_1 - C_0 \right), \quad K_2 = \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}C_0,$$

and

$$K_3 = C_3 + \frac{1}{4}M^{-2} \left(e^{(b-a)M}C_0 - C_1 \right), \quad K_4 = \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}C_1.$$

We conclude that, for all $x \in [a, b]$, we have

$$u_h(x) = e^{(x-a)M}K_1 + (x-a)e^{(x-a)M}K_2 + e^{(b-x)M}K_3 + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M}K_4.$$

Thus, u satisfies (15), which gives the result. \square

4.2 Regularity of polynomial exponential terms

We state below a result which concerns the regularity of the terms composed by a polynomial function and an analytic semigroup. This result improves the ones obtained in [8], Lemma 3.2 and Proposition 1.

Proposition 4.2. *Let T be the infinitesimal generator of a bounded analytic semigroup, $p \in [1, +\infty]$ with $0 \in \rho(T)$. For all $x \in [a, b]$ and $\psi \in X$, we set*

$$v_\psi(x) = (x-a)e^{(x-a)T}\psi \quad \text{and} \quad w_\psi(x) = (b-x)e^{(b-x)T}\psi.$$

Then, we have

1. $v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T))$.
2. For $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0, 1\}$, $v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T^n))$ if and only if $\psi \in (D(T), X)_{n-2+\frac{1}{p}, p}$.
3. For $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, if $v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T^n))$ then $v_\psi \in W^{n,p}(a, b; X)$.

Moreover, these three statements hold if we replace v_ψ by w_ψ .

Proof.

We begin by statement 2. From [28], Theorem, p. 96, for $\theta \in (0, 1)$, we know that

$$\begin{aligned}\psi \in (X, D(T^n))_{\theta, p} &\iff \int_0^{+\infty} \|t^{n(1-\theta)} T^n e^{tT} \psi\|^p \frac{dt}{t} < +\infty \\ &\iff \int_0^{+\infty} \|t^{n(1-\theta)-\frac{1}{p}} T^n e^{tT} \psi\|^p dt < +\infty.\end{aligned}$$

Moreover, for $n \geq 2$, we set

$$\theta = 1 - \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{np} \in (0, 1),$$

since $n(1 - \theta) - \frac{1}{p} = 1$, we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned}\psi \in (X, D(T^n))_{\theta, p} &\iff \int_0^{+\infty} \|t T^n e^{tT} \psi\|^p dt < +\infty \\ &\iff t \mapsto t T^n e^{tT} \psi \in L^p(0, +\infty; X).\end{aligned}$$

Replacing t by $x - a$, we have

$$t \mapsto t T^n e^{tT} \psi \in L^p(0, +\infty; X) \iff v_\psi \in L^p(a, +\infty; D(T^n)),$$

and from Lemma 3.2, we deduce that

$$v_\psi \in L^p(a, +\infty; D(T^n)) \iff v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T^n)).$$

From the reiteration Theorem, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}(X, D(T^n))_{\theta, p} &= (X, D(T^n))_{1-\frac{1}{n}-\frac{1}{np}, p} \\ &= (X, D(T))_{n-1-\frac{1}{p}, p} \\ &= (D(T), X)_{n-2+\frac{1}{p}, p}.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, it follows that

$$\psi \in (D(T), X)_{n-2+\frac{1}{p}, p} \iff v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T^n)). \quad (17)$$

Statement 1. is easily deduced from statement 2., indeed

$$\begin{aligned}T v_\psi &= (x - a) T e^{(x-a)T} \psi \\ &= (x - a) T^2 e^{(x-a)T} T^{-1} \psi \\ &= T^2 v_{T^{-1}\psi}(x).\end{aligned}$$

Since $T^{-1}\psi \in D(T) \subset (D(T), X)_{\frac{1}{p}, p}$, from statement 2., for $n = 2$, we obtain that

$$T^2 v_{T^{-1}\psi} \in L^p(a, b; X).$$

For statement 3., we begin by the case $n \geq 2$: if $v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T^n))$ then from statement 2., $\psi \in (D(T), X)_{n-2+\frac{1}{p}, p}$, this ensure by Lemma 3.2 that we have

$$x \mapsto T^{n-1} e^{(x-a)T} \psi \in L^p(a, b; X).$$

We conclude that

$$v_\psi^{(n)}(\cdot) = n T^{n-1} e^{(\cdot-a)T} \psi + T^n v_\psi(\cdot) \in L^p(a, b; X).$$

Now, we consider the case $n = 1$. If $v_\psi \in L^p(a, b; D(T))$ then we have

$$v'_\psi(\cdot) = e^{(\cdot-a)T} \psi + T v_\psi(\cdot) \in L^p(a, b; X).$$

To prove that these three statements hold if we replace v_ψ by w_ψ , it sufficient to use a variable change: $w_\psi(x) = v_\psi(b + a - x)$. \square

4.3 Traces result

Proposition 4.3. *Assume that (H_2) , (H_3) hold. Let u be a classical solution of (4), then, for $s \in \{a, b\}$, we have*

$$u(s) \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p}, p}, \quad u'(s) \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad u''(s) \in (D(M), X)_{1+\frac{1}{p}, p}. \quad (18)$$

Moreover, we have

$$\begin{cases} (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p}, & (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p}, \\ (D(M), X)_{1+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2p}, p}, & (D(M), X)_{\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

Proof. Since $A^2 = M^4$, we have $u \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(M^4))$. Then, from Lemma 3.1, for $s \in \{a, b\}$, we obtain

$$u(s) \in (D(M^4), X)_{\frac{1}{4p}, p}, \quad u'(s) \in (D(M^4), X)_{\frac{1}{4}+\frac{1}{4p}, p} \quad \text{and} \quad u''(s) \in (D(M^4), X)_{\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{4p}, p},$$

which leads to (18) by using the reiteration theorem. Noting that $A = M^2$, again by the reiteration theorem, we obtain (19). \square

Note that the result remains true if (H_3) is replaced by a sectoriality assumption on A .

4.4 Functional calculus

Throughout the paper, we set

$$c = b - a > 0.$$

We will need the invertibility of U and V given by

$$\begin{cases} U &:= I - e^{2cM} + 2cMe^{cM} \\ V &:= I - e^{2cM} - 2cMe^{cM}. \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

To this end, we need a result from functional calculus. To state it, we have to set some notations and give some technical lemmas.

Let $\theta \in (0, \pi)$, we denote by $H(S_\theta)$ the space of holomorphic functions on S_θ , the sector of angle θ (see (5)) with values in \mathbb{C} . Moreover, we consider the following subspace of $H(S_\theta)$:

$$\mathcal{E}_\infty(S_\theta) := \{f \in H(S_\theta) : f = O(|z|^{-s}) \text{ } (|z| \rightarrow +\infty) \text{ for some } s > 0\}.$$

In other words, $\mathcal{E}_\infty(S_\theta)$ is the space of polynomial decreasing holomorphic functions at $+\infty$. Let T be an invertible sectorial operator of angle $\theta_T \in (0, \pi)$. If $f \in \mathcal{E}_\infty(S_\theta)$, with $\theta \in (\theta_T, \pi)$, then we can define, by functional calculus, $f(T) \in \mathcal{L}(X)$, see [13], p. 45. In this work, we use functional calculus, as classically done, see for instance [14], [16], [17] or [24].

For $z \in \mathbb{C}$, we set

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{u}(z) &= 1 - e^{-2c\sqrt{z}} - 2c\sqrt{z}e^{-c\sqrt{z}} \\ \tilde{v}(z) &= 1 - e^{-2c\sqrt{z}} + 2c\sqrt{z}e^{-c\sqrt{z}}. \end{cases}$$

Note that, we can write formally $U = \tilde{u}(-A)$ and $V = \tilde{v}(-A)$. For $x \in (0, +\infty)$, we have

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{u}(x) &= 1 - e^{-2c\sqrt{x}} - 2c\sqrt{x}e^{-c\sqrt{x}} \\ \tilde{v}(x) &= 1 - e^{-2c\sqrt{x}} + 2c\sqrt{x}e^{-c\sqrt{x}}. \end{cases}$$

Lemma 4.4. *For all $x \in (0, +\infty)$, $\tilde{u}(x)$ and $\tilde{v}(x)$ do not vanish.*

Proof. We want to show that \tilde{u} and \tilde{v} do not vanish on $(0, +\infty)$. Since for $x > 0$, $\tilde{u}(x) < \tilde{v}(x)$, we just study the positivity of \tilde{u} .

$$\tilde{u}'(x) = \frac{c}{\sqrt{x}}e^{-2c\sqrt{x}} - \frac{c}{\sqrt{x}}e^{-c\sqrt{x}} + c^2e^{-c\sqrt{x}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{x}}e^{-c\sqrt{x}}(e^{-c\sqrt{x}} - 1 + c\sqrt{x}).$$

We set

$$h(x) = e^{-c\sqrt{x}} - 1 + c\sqrt{x}.$$

Then, we deduce

$$h'(x) = -\frac{c}{2\sqrt{x}}e^{-c\sqrt{x}} + \frac{c}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{c}{2\sqrt{x}}(1 - e^{-c\sqrt{x}}) > 0.$$

Thus, h is a strictly increasing function on $(0, +\infty)$ and $h(0) = 0$, so $h(x) > 0$. Moreover, we have

$$\tilde{u}'(x) = \frac{c}{\sqrt{x}}e^{-c\sqrt{x}}h(x) > 0.$$

Then, we have shown that \tilde{u} is a strictly increasing function on $(0, +\infty)$ and since $\tilde{u}(0) = 0$, we deduce that for $x > 0$, $0 < \tilde{u}(x) < \tilde{v}(x)$. \square

We recall, for the reader convenience, the following useful technical result from [19], Lemma 5.3:

Lemma 4.5 ([19]). *Let P be a sectorial invertible operator in X of angle θ' , for all $\theta' \in (0, \pi)$. Let $f \in H(S_\theta)$, for a given $\theta \in (0, \pi)$. If*

$$(i) \quad 1 - f \in \mathcal{E}_\infty(S_\theta),$$

$$(ii) \quad f(x) \neq 0 \text{ for } x \in (0, +\infty),$$

then, $f(P) \in \mathcal{L}(X)$, is invertible with bounded inverse.

We obtain the following result:

Proposition 4.6. *Assume that (H_2) , (H_3) and (H_4) hold. Then U and V , defined by (20), are invertible with bounded inverse.*

Proof. Let $\theta \in (0, \pi)$ fixed. It is clear that $\tilde{u} \in H(S_\theta)$, $\tilde{v} \in H(S_\theta)$, $1 - \tilde{u} \in \mathcal{E}_\infty(S_\theta)$ and $1 - \tilde{v} \in \mathcal{E}_\infty(S_\theta)$. Moreover, from Lemma 4.4, \tilde{u} and \tilde{v} do not vanish on $(0, +\infty)$. From (H_2) and (H_4) , we can apply Lemma 4.5 with $P = -A$ to deduce that $U = \tilde{u}(-A)$ and $V = \tilde{v}(-A)$ are invertible with bounded inverse. \square

5 Proof of Theorem 2.8

Note that from Proposition 4.3, in Theorem 2.8, we just have to prove the reciprocal implications. For each boundary conditions, the proof of Theorem 2.8 is divided in two steps. First, using the representation formula obtained in Proposition 4.1, we show the uniqueness of the classical solution. Then, in a second step, we state that the solution given by the representation formula is a classical solution.

5.1 Proof of statement 1. (Boundary Conditions (BC2))

Assume that (H_1) , (H_2) , (H_3) and (12) hold. First of all, we will show that the solution of problem (4)-(BC2) is unique by determining constants K_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ of the representation formula (15). Then, we will prove that this formula is a classical solution.

First step: Uniqueness.

If u is a classical solution of problem (4)-(BC2), then from Proposition 4.1, u reads as

$$u(x) = e^{(x-a)M} K_1 + (x-a)e^{(x-a)M} K_2 + e^{(b-x)M} K_3 + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M} K_4 + F_{0,f}(x).$$

To conclude, it is sufficient to show that K_1, K_2, K_3 and K_4 are uniquely determined.

Since $F_{0,f}$ satisfies (16), by making explicit the boundary conditions with $M^{-1}u(x)$, $M^{-1}u'(x)$ and $M^{-1}u''(x)$, we obtain the following system:

$$\begin{cases} K_1 + M^{-1}K_2 - e^{cM}K_3 - (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_4 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_1 - F'_{0,f}(a)) \\ e^{cM}K_1 + (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_2 - K_3 - M^{-1}K_4 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_2 - F'_{0,f}(b)) \\ 2K_2 + 2e^{cM}K_4 &= M^{-1}\varphi_3 \\ 2e^{cM}K_2 + 2K_4 &= M^{-1}\varphi_4. \end{cases}$$

Note that we have considered $M^{-1}u(x)$, $M^{-1}u'(x)$ and $M^{-1}u''(x)$, because we do not know if $K_i \in D(M)$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$. We deduce that this system can be written as two uncoupled sub-systems:

$$\begin{cases} K_1 - e^{cM}K_3 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_1 - F'_{0,f}(a) - K_2) + (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_4 \\ e^{cM}K_1 - K_3 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_2 - F'_{0,f}(b) + K_4) - (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_2 \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} K_2 + e^{cM}K_4 &= \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}\varphi_3 \\ e^{cM}K_2 + K_4 &= \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}\varphi_4, \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

which we have to solve. We begin by system (22). We calculate the determinant of the associated matrix called Λ_1 . Hence

$$\det(\Lambda_1) = I - e^{2cM},$$

which is invertible from [22], Proposition 2.3.6, p. 60. Thus

$$\begin{cases} K_2 &= \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}(I - e^{2cM})^{-1}(\varphi_3 - e^{cM}\varphi_4) \\ K_4 &= \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}(I - e^{2cM})^{-1}(\varphi_4 - e^{cM}\varphi_3). \end{cases}$$

To determine K_1 and K_3 (as function of K_2 and K_4), it is sufficient to remark that system (21) reads as

$$\begin{cases} K_1 - e^{cM}K_3 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_1 - F'_{0,f}(a) - K_2) + (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_4 \\ e^{cM}K_1 - K_3 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_2 - F'_{0,f}(b) + K_4) - (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_2. \end{cases}$$

Then we compute the determinant of the associated matrix called Λ_2 .

$$\det(\Lambda_2) = -(I - e^{2cM}),$$

which is invertible from [22], Proposition 2.3.6, p. 60. Thus K_1 and K_3 are uniquely determined. Moreover, we have

$$\begin{cases} K_1 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_1 - F'_{0,f}(a) - K_2) + (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_4 + e^{cM}K_3 \\ K_3 &= -M^{-1}(\varphi_2 - F'_{0,f}(b) + K_4) + (cI + M^{-1})e^{cM}K_2 + e^{cM}K_1, \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

where $e^{cM}K_1$ and $e^{cM}K_3$ are regular terms, see (25) below.

Second step: Existence.

From the previous step, if the classical solution exists, it is unique and is given by the representation formula (15). Note that since $F_{0,f} \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2))$, then from Lemma 3.1, (19) and (16), we have

$$F'_{0,f}(a), F'_{0,f}(b) \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p}. \quad (24)$$

We have to make explicit constants K_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and to determine their regularity. From Lemma 3.3, we have

$$\left(I \pm e^{2cM}\right)^{-1} = I + R_{\pm}, \quad \text{where} \quad R_{\pm}(X) \subset D(M^{\infty}) := \bigcap_{k \geq 0} D(M^k) \quad \text{and} \quad R_{\pm}M = MR_{\pm}.$$

Moreover, for $c > 0$ and $\psi \in X$

$$e^{cM}\psi \in D(M^{\infty}). \quad (25)$$

Then, from (23), (25) and Lemma 3.3, there exist $R_i \in D(M^{\infty})$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, such that

$$\begin{cases} K_2 &= \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}\varphi_3 + R_2 \\ K_4 &= \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}\varphi_4 + R_4 \\ K_1 &= M^{-1}(\varphi_1 - F'_{0,f}(a) - K_2) + R_1 \\ K_3 &= -M^{-1}(\varphi_2 - F'_{0,f}(b) + K_4) + R_3. \end{cases}$$

So, from (12), (24) and (19), we have

$$K_2, K_4 \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p},$$

hence, we deduce that

$$K_1, K_3 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p}.$$

Thus, from Lemma 3.2, we obtain that $u_M : x \mapsto e^{(x-a)M}K_1 + e^{(b-x)M}K_3$, satisfies

$$u_M \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad u''_M \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (26)$$

From Proposition 4.2, we deduce that $v_{K_2} : x \mapsto (x-a)e^{(x-a)M}K_2$ satisfies

$$v_{K_2} \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad v''_{K_2} \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (27)$$

In the same way, $v_{K_4} : x \mapsto (b-x)e^{(b-x)M}K_4$ satisfies

$$v_{K_4} \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad v''_{K_4} \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (28)$$

Since $F_{0,f}$ is a classical solution of (4), from (26), (27) and (28), u is a classical solution of problem (4)-(BC2).

5.2 Proof of statement 2. (Boundary Conditions (BC3))

Now, we assume that (H_1) , (H_2) , (H_3) and (H_4) hold. For the statement 1., the representation formula was easily obtained by taking into account the boundary conditions. Nevertheless, for the following statements, to build the representation formula, we need the invertibility of determinants operators, defined by (20). This invertibility has been proved in Proposition 4.6 .

Proof of 2. of Theorem 2.8. Assume that (13) holds. We will show that there exists a unique classical solution of (4)-(BC3). The proof is divided in two step. First, we prove the uniqueness of the solution by determining constants K_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, of the representation formula (15). Then, we show that the formula obtained is a classical solution.

First step: Uniqueness.

If u is a classical solution of problem (4)-(BC3), then from Proposition 4.1, the solution u reads as

$$u(x) = e^{(x-a)M} K_1 + (x-a)e^{(x-a)M} K_2 + e^{(b-x)M} K_3 + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M} K_4 + F_{0,f}(x).$$

To simplify our computations, we set

$$\alpha_1 := \frac{K_1 - K_3}{2}, \quad \alpha_2 := \frac{K_2 - K_4}{2}, \quad \alpha_3 := \frac{K_1 + K_3}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_4 := \frac{K_2 + K_4}{2}. \quad (29)$$

Then, u is given by

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \left(e^{(x-a)M} - e^{(b-x)M} \right) \alpha_1 + \left((x-a)e^{(x-a)M} - (b-x)e^{(b-x)M} \right) \alpha_2 \\ &\quad + \left(e^{(x-a)M} + e^{(b-x)M} \right) \alpha_3 + \left((x-a)e^{(x-a)M} + (b-x)e^{(b-x)M} \right) \alpha_4 + F_{0,f}(x). \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

As $F_{0,f}$ satisfies (16), to make explicit the boundary conditions, we consider $M^{-1}u(x)$ and $M^{-1}u'(x)$, since we do not know if $\alpha_1, \alpha_3 \in D(M)$. Therefore, we obtain the following equations:

$$\left(I - e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_1 - ce^{cM} M^{-1} \alpha_2 + \left(I + e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_3 + ce^{cM} M^{-1} \alpha_4 = M^{-1} \varphi_1 \quad (31)$$

$$- \left(I - e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_1 + ce^{cM} M^{-1} \alpha_2 + \left(I + e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_3 + ce^{cM} M^{-1} \alpha_4 = M^{-1} \varphi_2 \quad (32)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(I + e^{cM} \right) \alpha_1 + \left(I + (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_2 \\ &+ \left(I - e^{cM} \right) \alpha_3 + \left(I - (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_4 = M^{-1} \left(\varphi_3 - F'_{0,f}(a) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\left(I + e^{cM} \right) \alpha_1 + \left(I + (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_2 \\ &- \left(I - e^{cM} \right) \alpha_3 - \left(I - (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_4 = M^{-1} \left(\varphi_4 - F'_{0,f}(b) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

Summing (31) with (32) and subtracting (34) to (33), we obtain the following system

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(I + e^{cM} \right) \alpha_3 + ce^{cM} \alpha_4 = \frac{\varphi_1 + \varphi_2}{2} \\ \left(I - e^{cM} \right) \alpha_3 + \left(I - (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_4 = M^{-1} \tilde{\varphi}_1 \\ - \left(I - e^{cM} \right) \alpha_1 + ce^{cM} \alpha_2 = \frac{\varphi_2 - \varphi_1}{2} \\ \left(I + e^{cM} \right) \alpha_1 + \left(I + (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_2 = M^{-1} \tilde{\varphi}_2, \end{array} \right.$$

where

$$\tilde{\varphi}_1 := \frac{\varphi_3 - \varphi_4 + F'_{0,f}(b) - F'_{0,f}(a)}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\varphi}_2 := \frac{\varphi_3 + \varphi_4 - F'_{0,f}(a) - F'_{0,f}(b)}{2}. \quad (35)$$

We deduce that this system can be written as two uncoupled sub-systems:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left(I + e^{cM} \right) \alpha_3 + ce^{cM} \alpha_4 = \frac{\varphi_1 + \varphi_2}{2} \\ \left(I - e^{cM} \right) \alpha_3 + \left(I - (cM + I) e^{cM} \right) M^{-1} \alpha_4 = M^{-1} \tilde{\varphi}_1, \end{array} \right. \quad (36)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} -\left(I - e^{cM}\right) \alpha_1 + ce^{cM} \alpha_2 &= \frac{\varphi_2 - \varphi_1}{2} \\ \left(I + e^{cM}\right) \alpha_1 + \left(I + (cM + I) e^{cM}\right) M^{-1} \alpha_2 &= M^{-1} \tilde{\varphi}_2, \end{cases} \quad (37)$$

which we have to solve. We begin by system (36). By summing both lines, we obtain

$$\begin{cases} \left(I + e^{cM}\right) \alpha_3 + ce^{cM} \alpha_4 &= \frac{\varphi_1 + \varphi_2}{2} \\ 2\alpha_3 + \left(I - e^{cM}\right) M^{-1} \alpha_4 &= M^{-1} \tilde{\varphi}_1 + \frac{\varphi_1 + \varphi_2}{2}. \end{cases} \quad (38)$$

Then, we calculate the determinant of the associated matrix Λ_1 ,

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\Lambda_1) &= \left(I + e^{cM}\right) \left(I - e^{cM}\right) M^{-1} - 2ce^{cM} \\ &= M^{-1} \left(I - e^{2cM} - 2cMe^{cM}\right) \\ &= M^{-1} V, \end{aligned}$$

where V is defined by (20).

Now, we consider system (37). By subtracting the first line to the second, we obtain

$$\begin{cases} -\left(I - e^{cM}\right) \alpha_1 + ce^{cM} \alpha_2 &= \frac{\varphi_2 - \varphi_1}{2} \\ 2\alpha_1 + \left(I + e^{cM}\right) M^{-1} \alpha_2 &= M^{-1} \tilde{\varphi}_2 - \frac{\varphi_2 - \varphi_1}{2}. \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

Then, we calculate the determinant of the associated matrix Λ_2 ,

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\Lambda_2) &= -\left(I - e^{cM}\right) \left(I + e^{cM}\right) M^{-1} - 2ce^{cM} \\ &= -M^{-1} \left(I - e^{2cM} + 2cMe^{cM}\right) \\ &= -M^{-1} U, \end{aligned}$$

where U is defined by (20).

From Proposition 4.6, U and V are invertible with bounded inverse. Thus, if u is a classical solution of (4)-(BC3), then u is uniquely determined by (30), where α_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ (which the explicit expression is given in the second step) are the unique solutions of systems (38) and (39).

Second step: Existence.

From the previous step, if the classical solution u exists, it is unique and it is given by (30), (38) and (39). Now we have to make explicit constants α_i and K_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ to determine their regularity. From (35) and (39), we have

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_1 = \frac{1}{2} U^{-1} \left(\left(I + (I + cM) e^{cM} \right) (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) + ce^{cM} (\varphi_3 + \varphi_4) \right) \\ \quad - \frac{c}{2} U^{-1} e^{cM} \left(F'_{0,f}(a) + F'_{0,f}(b) \right) \\ \alpha_2 = \frac{1}{2} U^{-1} \left(\left(I + e^{cM} \right) M (\varphi_2 - \varphi_1) + \left(I - e^{cM} \right) (\varphi_3 + \varphi_4) \right) \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2} U^{-1} \left(I - e^{cM} \right) \left(F'_{0,f}(a) + F'_{0,f}(b) \right) \end{cases}$$

In the same way, from (35) and (38), we have

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_3 &= \frac{1}{2}V^{-1} \left(\left(I - (I + cM) e^{cM} \right) (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) - c e^{cM} (\varphi_3 - \varphi_4) \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{c}{2} V^{-1} e^{cM} \left(F'_{0,f}(a) - F'_{0,f}(b) \right) \\ \alpha_4 &= -\frac{1}{2}V^{-1} \left(\left(I - e^{cM} \right) M(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) - \left(I + e^{cM} \right) (\varphi_3 - \varphi_4) \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2}V^{-1} \left(I + e^{cM} \right) \left(F'_{0,f}(a) - F'_{0,f}(b) \right). \end{cases}$$

From Lemma 3.3, we have

$$U^{-1} = I + R_U \quad \text{and} \quad V^{-1} = I + R_V.$$

From (25), since $M e^{xM} = e^{xM} M$ on $D(M)$, for $x \geq 0$, Lemma 3.3 implies that

$$R_U(X), R_V(X) \subset D(M^\infty), \quad R_U M = M R_U \quad \text{and} \quad R_V M = M R_V.$$

We deduce that there exist $R_i \in D(M^\infty)$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, such that

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_1 &= \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) + R_1 \\ \alpha_2 &= \frac{1}{2} \left(M(\varphi_2 - \varphi_1) + (\varphi_3 + \varphi_4) - F'_{0,f}(a) - F'_{0,f}(b) \right) + R_2 \\ \alpha_3 &= \frac{1}{2}(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) + R_3 \\ \alpha_4 &= -\frac{1}{2} \left(M(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) - (\varphi_3 - \varphi_4) + F'_{0,f}(a) - F'_{0,f}(b) \right) + R_4. \end{cases}$$

From (24) and (29), there exist $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_3 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p},p}$ and $\mathcal{R}_2, \mathcal{R}_4 \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p},p}$, such that

$$\begin{cases} K_1 &= \varphi_1 + \mathcal{R}_1 \\ K_2 &= \varphi_3 - M\varphi_1 + \mathcal{R}_2 \\ K_3 &= \varphi_2 + \mathcal{R}_3 \\ K_4 &= -M\varphi_2 - \varphi_4 + \mathcal{R}_4. \end{cases}$$

Then, from (19) and (13), since $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p},p}$, we have

$$K_1 = \varphi_1 + \mathcal{R}_1 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p},p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p},p},$$

and

$$K_3 = \varphi_2 + \mathcal{R}_3 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p},p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p},p}.$$

From Lemma 3.2, $u_M : x \mapsto e^{(x-a)M} K_1 + e^{(b-x)M} K_3$ satisfies

$$u_M \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p \left(a, b; D(A^2) \right) \quad \text{and} \quad u_M'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (40)$$

In the same way, from (13) and (19), since $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p},p}$ and $\varphi_3, \varphi_4 \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p},p}$, we have

$$K_2 = \varphi_3 - M\varphi_1 + \mathcal{R}_2 \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p},p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p},p},$$

and

$$K_4 = -M\varphi_2 - \varphi_4 + \mathcal{R}_4 \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p},p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p},p}.$$

From Proposition 4.2, $v_{K_2} : x \mapsto (x - a)e^{(x-a)M}K_2$ satisfies

$$v_{K_2} \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad v_{K_2}'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A)), \quad (41)$$

and $v_{K_4} : x \mapsto (b - x)e^{(b-x)M}K_4$ satisfies

$$v_{K_4} \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad v_{K_4}'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (42)$$

Since $F_{0,f}$ is a classical solution of (4), from (40), (41) and (42), we deduce that u is a classical solution of (4)-(BC3). \square

5.3 Proof of statement 3. (Boundary Conditions (BC4))

We proceed as in the previous proof and we also assume that (H_1) , (H_2) , (H_3) and (H_4) hold. We only point out the differences between the two proofs.

Proof. Assume that (14) holds.

First step: Uniqueness.

If u is a classical solution of (4)-(BC4), then from Proposition 4.1, u is given by (30). Since $F_{0,f}$ satisfies (16), by using $M^{-2}u'(x)$ and $M^{-2}u''(x)$ and following the same computations as done before to make explicit the boundary conditions, we obtain the two following uncoupled sub-systems:

$$\begin{cases} (I + e^{cM})\alpha_1 + (I + (I + cM)e^{cM})M^{-1}\alpha_2 = M^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_1 \\ 2\alpha_1 + (3I - e^{cM})M^{-1}\alpha_2 = M^{-1}\left(M^{-1}\left(\frac{\varphi_3 - \varphi_4}{2}\right) + \tilde{\varphi}_1\right), \end{cases} \quad (43)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} (I - e^{cM})\alpha_3 + (I - (I + cM)e^{cM})M^{-1}\alpha_4 = M^{-1}\tilde{\varphi}_2 \\ 2\alpha_3 + (3I + e^{cM})M^{-1}\alpha_4 = M^{-1}\left(M^{-1}\left(\frac{\varphi_3 + \varphi_4}{2}\right) + \tilde{\varphi}_2\right), \end{cases} \quad (44)$$

where

$$\tilde{\varphi}_1 := \frac{\varphi_1 + \varphi_2 - F'_{0,f}(a) - F'_{0,f}(b)}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\varphi}_2 := \frac{\varphi_1 - \varphi_2 + F'_{0,f}(b) - F'_{0,f}(a)}{2}. \quad (45)$$

We calculate the determinant of the associated matrix of system (43) called Λ_1 ,

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\Lambda_1) &= (I + e^{cM})(3I - e^{cM})M^{-1} - 2(I + (I + cM)e^{cM})M^{-1} \\ &= M^{-1}(I - e^{2cM} - 2cMe^{cM}) \\ &= M^{-1}V, \end{aligned}$$

where V is defined by (20). Then, we do the same for Λ_2 , the associated matrix of system (44),

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\Lambda_2) &= (I - e^{cM})(3I + e^{cM})M^{-1} - 2(I - (I + cM)e^{cM})M^{-1} \\ &= M^{-1}(I - e^{2cM} + 2cMe^{cM}) \\ &= M^{-1}U, \end{aligned}$$

where U is defined by (20).

From Proposition 4.6, U and V are invertible with bounded inverse. Thus, from (43), (44) and (45), we obtain

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_1 = \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}V^{-1} \left((3I - e^{cM}) (\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) - (M^{-1}(\varphi_3 - \varphi_4) + \varphi_1 + \varphi_2) \right) \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}V^{-1} (I + cM) \left(M^{-1}(\varphi_3 - \varphi_4) + \varphi_1 + \varphi_2 \right) e^{cM} \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}V^{-1} \left(3I - e^{cM} - (I + (I + cM) e^{cM}) \right) (F'_{0,f}(a) + F'_{0,f}(b)) \\ \alpha_2 = -\frac{1}{2}V^{-1} \left(2(\varphi_1 + \varphi_2) - (I + e^{cM}) (M^{-1}(\varphi_3 - \varphi_4) + \varphi_1 + \varphi_2) \right) \\ \quad + \frac{1}{2}V^{-1} (I - e^{cM}) (F'_{0,f}(a) + F'_{0,f}(b)) \end{array} \right. \quad (46)$$

and

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \alpha_3 = \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}U^{-1} \left((2I + (2I + cM) e^{cM}) (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) - M^{-1}(\varphi_3 + \varphi_4) \right) \\ \quad + \frac{1}{2}M^{-2}U^{-1} (I + cM) (\varphi_3 + \varphi_4) e^{cM} \\ \quad + \frac{1}{2}M^{-1}U^{-1} \left(2I + (2I + cM) e^{cM} \right) (F'_{0,f}(b) - F'_{0,f}(a)) \\ \alpha_4 = -\frac{1}{2}U^{-1} \left((I + e^{cM}) (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) - (I - e^{cM}) M^{-1}(\varphi_3 + \varphi_4) \right) \\ \quad - \frac{1}{2}U^{-1} (I + e^{cM}) (F'_{0,f}(b) - F'_{0,f}(a)) \end{array} \right. \quad (47)$$

Therefore, u is a classical solution of (4)-(BC4), then u is uniquely determined by (30), where coefficients α_i , $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, are given by (46) and (47).

Second step: Existence.

From the previous step, if the solution u exists, it is unique and it is given by (30), (43) and (44). From (25), (29) and Lemma 3.3, we deduce that there exist $R_i \in D(M^\infty)$, $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$, such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} K_1 = 2M^{-1}\varphi_1 - M^{-2}\varphi_3 - 2M^{-1}F'_{0,f}(a) + R_1 \\ K_2 = -\varphi_1 + M^{-1}\varphi_3 + F'_{0,f}(a) + R_2 \\ K_3 = -2M^{-1}\varphi_2 - M^{-2}\varphi_4 + 2M^{-1}F'_{0,f}(b) + R_3 \\ K_4 = \varphi_2 + M^{-1}\varphi_4 - F'_{0,f}(b) + R_4. \end{array} \right.$$

Then, from (14), (19) and (24), we have

$$K_1, K_3 \in (D(M), X)_{3+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2p}, p}.$$

From Lemma 3.2, $u_1 : x \mapsto e^{(x-a)M}K_1$ and $u_3 : x \mapsto e^{(b-x)M}K_3$, satisfy

$$u_1, u_3 \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad u_1'', u_3'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (48)$$

In the same way, from (14), (19) and (24), we deduce

$$K_2, K_4 \in (D(M), X)_{2+\frac{1}{p}, p} = (D(A), X)_{1+\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2p}, p}.$$

From Proposition 4.2, $v_2 : x \mapsto (x-a)e^{(x-a)M}K_2$ and $v_4 : x \mapsto (b-x)e^{(b-x)M}K_4$ satisfy

$$v_2, v_4 \in W^{4,p}(a, b; X) \cap L^p(a, b; D(A^2)) \quad \text{and} \quad v_2'', v_4'' \in L^p(a, b; D(A)). \quad (49)$$

Therefore, since $F_{0,f}$ is a classical solution of (4), from (48) and (49), we deduce that u is a classical solution of (4)-(BC4). \square

Conclusion

In this work, the biharmonic equation with boundary conditions is studied. This model which is described by a fourth order operational equation, within a cylindrical n -dimensional spatial region Ω of \mathbb{R}^n is analysed using mathematical tools borrowed from interpolation spaces and Dore-Venni sums theory. The main result could be applied, for instance, to study a transmission problem in two juxtaposed habitats. In the next important step, we will focus on the nonlinear case.

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