Stokes Resolvent Estimates in Spaces of Bounded Functions

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Abstract

We give a direct proof for the analyticity of the Stokes semigroup in spaces of bounded functions. This was recently proved by an indirect argument by the first and second authors for a class of domains called strictly admissible domains including bounded and exterior domains. Invoking the strictly admissibility, our approach is based on an adjustment of a standard resolvent estimate method for general elliptic operators introduced by K. Masuda (1972) and H. B. Stewart (1974). The resolvent approach in particular clarifies the sectorial region, \( \text{Re} \, z > 0 \) for \( z \in \mathbb{C} \) for which the Stokes semigroup has an analytic continuation in spaces of bounded functions.

Keywords Analytic semigroups; Bounded function spaces; Resolvent estimates; Stokes equations

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1 Introduction and main results

The investigation of the linear Stokes equations as well as properties and corresponding estimates are often basis for the analysis of the nonlinear Navier-Stokes

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equations. In particular, analyticity of the solution operator (called the Stokes semigroup) plays a fundamental role for studying the Navier-Stokes equations. It is well-known that the Stokes semigroup forms an analytic semigroup on $L^p_\sigma(\Omega)$ for $p \in (1, \infty)$, the space of $L^p$-solenoidal vector fields for various kind of domains $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n, n \geq 2$ including bounded and exterior domains having smooth boundaries; see e.g. [35], [20]. By now, analyticity results are known for other type unbounded domains, see [16], [17], [3] ([5], [4] with variable viscosity coefficients) and Lipschitz domains [31]. An $\bar{L}^p$-theory is developed in [12], [13], [14] for a general domain. Moreover, $L^p$-theory is investigated in [18] for unbounded domains, where the Helmholtz projection is bounded.

It is the aim of this paper to consider the case $p = \infty$. Note that the Helmholtz projection is no longer bounded in $L^\infty$ even if $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$. When $\Omega = \mathbb{R}^n$, the analyticity of the semigroup is known in $L^\infty$-type spaces including $C^{0,\sigma}_0(\Omega)$, the $L^\infty$-closure of $C^\infty_c(\Omega)$, the space of all smooth solenoidal vector fields compactly supported in $\Omega$ [10](see also [36], [25].) Their approach is based on explicit calculations of the solution operator $R(\lambda) : f \mapsto v_\lambda$ of the corresponding resolvent problem of

\[ \lambda v - \Delta v + \nabla q = f \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (1.1) \]
\[ \operatorname{div} v = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega, \quad (1.2) \]
\[ v = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega. \quad (1.3) \]

As recently shown in [1], [2] by a blow-up argument, to the non-stationary Stokes equations, the Stokes semigroup is extendable to an analytic semigroup on $C^{0,\sigma}_0$ for admissible domains including bounded and exterior domains having boundaries of class $C^3$.

In this paper, we present a direct resolvent approach to the Stokes resolvent equations (1.1)-(1.3) and establish the a priori estimate of the form

\[ M_p(v,q)(x, \lambda) = |\lambda||v(x)|+|\lambda|^{1/2}|\nabla v(x)|+|\lambda|^{p/2p}|\nabla^2 v||_{L^p(\Omega_{x,r-1/2})} + |\lambda|^{n/2p}|\nabla q||_{L^p(\Omega_{x,r-1/2})}, \]

for $p > n$ and

\[ \sup_{\lambda \in \Sigma_{\theta,\delta}} ||M_p(v,q)||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C||f||_{L^\infty(\Omega)}, \]

for some constant $C > 0$ independent of $f$. Here $\Omega_{x,r}$ denotes the intersection of $\Omega$ with an open ball $B_r(x)$ centered at $x \in \Omega$ with radius $r > 0$, i.e. $\Omega_{x,r} = B_r(x) \cap \Omega$ and $\Sigma_{\theta,\delta}$ denotes the sectorial region in the complex plane given by $\Sigma_{\theta,\delta} = \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\} | \arg \lambda < \theta, |\lambda| > \delta \}$ for $\theta \in (\pi/2, \pi)$ and $\delta > 0$. Our approach is inspired by
the corresponding approach for general elliptic operators. K. Masuda was the first to prove analyticity of the semigroup associated to general elliptic operators in $C_0(R^n)$ including the case of higher orders [27], [28] ([29].) This result was then extended by H. B. Stewart to the case for the Dirichlet problem [37] and more general boundary condition [38]. This Masuda-Stewart method was applied to many other situations [6], [24], [22], [7]. However, its application to the resolvent Stokes equations (1.1)-(1.3) was unknown.

In the sequel, we prove the estimate (1.4) by invoking the $L^p$-estimates for the Stokes resolvent equations with inhomogeneous divergence-free condition [15], [16]. We invoke strictly admissibility of a domain introduced in [2] which implies an estimate of pressure $q$ in terms of the velocity by

$$\sup_{x \in \Omega} d_\Omega(x)|\nabla q(x)| \leq C_\Omega ||W(v)||_{L^\infty(\partial\Omega)} \quad \text{with} \quad W(v) = -(\nabla v - \nabla^T v)n_{\Omega},$$

where $\nabla f$ denotes $(\partial f_i/\partial x_j)_{i \leq j \leq n}$ and $\nabla^T f = (\nabla f)^T$ for a vector field $f = (f_i)_{i \leq j \leq n}$. The estimate (1.5) plays a key role in transferring results from the elliptic situation to the situation of the Stokes system. Here $n_{\Omega}$ denotes the unit outward normal vector field on $\partial \Omega$ and $d_\Omega$ denotes the distance function from the boundary, $d_\Omega(x) = \inf_{y \in \partial \Omega} |x - y|$ for $x \in \Omega$. The estimate (1.5) can be viewed as a regularizing-type estimate for solutions to the Laplace equation $\Delta P = 0$ in $\Omega$ with the Neumann boundary condition $\partial \Omega/\partial n_{\Omega} = \text{div}_{\partial \Omega} W$ on $\partial \Omega$ for a tangential vector field $W$ where $\text{div}_{\partial \Omega} = \text{tr} \nabla_{\partial \Omega}$ denotes the surface divergence and $\nabla_{\partial \Omega} = \nabla - n_{\Omega}(n_{\Omega} \cdot \nabla)$ is the gradient on $\partial \Omega$. It is known that $P = q$ solves this Neumann problem with $W = W(v)$ given by (1.5) [2, Lemma 3.1] and the estimate (1.5) holds for bounded domains [1] and exterior domains [2]. Note that when $n = 3$, $-W(v)$ is nothing but a tangential trace of vorticity, i.e. $-W(v) = \text{curl} v \times n_{\Omega}$. We call $\Omega$ strictly admissible if there exists a constant $C = C_\Omega$ such that the a priori estimate

$$||\nabla P||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C ||W||_{L^\infty(\partial \Omega)}$$

holds for all solutions $P$ of the Neumann problem with a tangential vector field $W \in L^\infty(\partial \Omega)$. Here $L^\infty(\Omega)$ denotes the space of all locally integrable functions $f$ such that $d_\Omega f$ is essentially bounded in $\Omega$ and equipped with the norm $||f||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = \sup_{x \in \Omega} d_\Omega(x)|f(x)|$. The meaning of a solution is understood in the weak sense, i.e. we say $\nabla P \in L^\infty(\Omega)$ is a solution for the Neumann problem if $\int_\Omega P \Delta \varphi dx = -\int_{\partial \Omega} W \cdot \nabla_{\partial \Omega} \varphi d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(x)$ holds for all $\varphi \in C_c^1(\overline{\Omega})$ satisfying $\partial \varphi/\partial n_{\Omega} = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$, where $\mathcal{H}^{n-1}$ denotes the $n - 1$ dimensional Hausdorff measure.

We are now in the position to formulate the main results of this paper.
Theorem 1.1. Let \( \Omega \) be a strictly admissible, uniformly \( C^2 \)-domain in \( \mathbb{R}^n \) (with \( n \geq 2 \)). Let \( p > n \). For \( \vartheta \in (\pi/2, \pi) \) there exist constants \( \delta \) and \( C \) such that the a priori estimate (1.4) holds for all solutions \( (v, \nabla q) \in W^{1,p}_{\text{loc}}(\overline{\Omega}) \times (L^p_{\text{loc}}(\overline{\Omega}) \cap L^\infty_d(\Omega)) \) of (1.1)-(1.3) for \( f \in C_{0,\vartheta}(\Omega) \) with \( \lambda \in \Sigma_{\vartheta,\delta} \).

The a priori estimate (1.4) implies the analyticity of the Stokes semigroup in \( L^\infty \)-type spaces. Let us observe the generation of an analytic semigroup in \( C_{0,\vartheta}(\Omega) \). By invoking the \( \tilde{L}^p \)-theory [12], [13], [14] we verify the existence of a solution to (1.1)-(1.3), \( (v, \nabla q) \in W^{1,p}_{\text{loc}}(\overline{\Omega}) \times (L^p_{\text{loc}}(\overline{\Omega}) \cap L^\infty_d(\Omega)) \) for \( f \in C^\omega_{c,\vartheta}(\Omega) \) in a uniformly \( C^2 \)-domain \( \Omega \). The solution operator \( R(\lambda) \) is then uniquely extendable to \( C_{0,\vartheta}(\Omega) \) by the uniform approximation together with the estimates (1.4). Here the solution operator to the pressure gradient \( f \mapsto \nabla q_\lambda \) is also uniquely extended for \( f \in C_{0,\vartheta} \). We observe that \( R(\lambda) \) is injective on \( C_{0,\vartheta} \) since the estimate (1.5) immediately implies that \( f = 0 \) for \( f \in C_{0,\vartheta} \) such that \( v_\lambda = R(\lambda)f = 0 \). The operator \( R(\lambda) \) may be regarded as a surjective operator from \( C_{0,\vartheta} \) to the range of \( R(\lambda) \). The open mapping theorem then implies the existence of a closed operator \( A \) such that \( R(\lambda) = (\lambda - A)^{-1} \); see [8, Proposition B.6]. We call \( A \) the Stokes operator in \( C_{0,\vartheta}(\Omega) \). From Theorem 1.1 we obtain

Theorem 1.2. Let \( \Omega \) be a strictly admissible, uniformly \( C^2 \)-domain in \( \mathbb{R}^n \). Then the Stokes operator \( A \) generates a \( C_0 \)-analytic semigroup on \( C_{0,\vartheta}(\Omega) \) of angle \( \pi/2 \).

We next consider the space \( L^\infty_{\vartheta}(\Omega) \) defined by

\[
L^\infty_{\vartheta}(\Omega) = \left\{ f \in L^\infty(\Omega) \mid \int_{\Omega} f \cdot \nabla \varphi dx = 0 \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in \tilde{W}^{1,1}(\Omega) \right\},
\]

where \( \tilde{W}^{1,1}(\Omega) \) denotes the homogeneous Sobolev space of the form \( \tilde{W}^{1,1}(\Omega) = \{ \varphi \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\Omega) \mid \nabla \varphi \in L^1(\Omega) \} \). Note that \( C_{0,\vartheta}(\Omega) \subset L^\infty_{\vartheta}(\Omega) \). When a domain \( \Omega \) is unbounded, the space \( L^\infty_{\vartheta}(\Omega) \) includes non-decaying solenoidal vector fields at the space infinity. Actually, the a priori estimates (1.4) is also valid for \( f \in L^\infty_{\vartheta} \). In particular, (1.4) implies the uniqueness of a solution for \( f \in L^\infty_{\vartheta} \). We verify the existence of a solution by approximating \( f \in L^\infty_{\vartheta} \) with compactly supported solenoidal vector fields \( \{ f_m \}_{m=1}^\infty \subset C^\omega_{c,\vartheta} \). Note that \( f \in L^\infty_{\vartheta} \) is no longer approximated in the uniform topology in general so we weaken the convergence topology, for example, to the pointwise convergence, i.e. \( f_m \rightarrow f \) a.e. in \( \Omega \) keeping \( \| f_m \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C \| f \|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \) with some constant \( C = C_\Omega \). When a domain \( \Omega \) is bounded, it is known that this approximation is valid [1, Lemma 6.3]. Moreover, we are able to take \( C_\Omega = 1 \) without assuming any regularity of \( \partial \Omega \) since \( L^\infty_{\vartheta} \subset L^\prime_{\vartheta} \). Although it
is unknown whether this approximation is valid for general domains, we are able to characterize the space $L^\infty_\sigma$ by this approximation at least for exterior domains [2, Lemma 5.1]. In the following, we restrict our results to bounded and exterior domains. Through the approximation argument we verify the existence of a solution to (1.1)-(1.3) for general $f \in L^\infty_\sigma$. We then define the Stokes operator on $L^\infty_\sigma$ by the same way as for $C_{0,\sigma}$. Since bounded and exterior domains are strictly admissible [1, Theorem 2.5], [2, Theorem 2.9] provided that the boundary is $C^3$, we have

**Theorem 1.3.** Assume that $\Omega$ is a bounded or an exterior domain with $C^3$-boundary. Then the Stokes operator $A$ generates a (non $C_0$-)analytic semigroup on $L^\infty_\sigma(\Omega)$ of angle $\pi/2$.

**Remarks 1.4.** (i) The direct resolvent approach clarifies the angle of the analyticity of the Stokes semigroup $e^{tA}$ on $C_{0,\sigma}$. Theorem 1.2 (and also Theorem 1.3) asserts that $e^{tA}$ is angle $\pi/2$ on $C_{0,\sigma}$ which does not follow from a priori $L^\infty$–estimates for solutions to the non-stationary Stokes equations proved by blow-up arguments [1, Theorem 1.2], [2, Theorem 1.5]; see also [19] for blow-up arguments.

(ii) We observe that our argument applies to other boundary conditions, for example, to the Robin boundary condition, i.e. $B(v) = 0$ and $v \cdot n_\Omega = 0$ on $\partial \Omega$ where

$$B(v) = \alpha v_{\text{tan}} + (D(v)n_\Omega)_{\text{tan}} \quad \text{with } \alpha \geq 0.$$  

Here $D(v) = (\nabla v + \nabla^T v)/2$ denotes the deformation tensor and $f_{\text{tan}}$ the tangential component of a vector field $f$ on $\partial \Omega$. Note that the case $\alpha = \infty$ corresponds to the Dirichlet boundary condition (1.3); see [30] for generation results subject to the Robin boundary conditions on $L^\infty$ for $\mathbb{R}^n$. The $L^p$-resolvent estimates for the Robin boundary condition was established in [21] for concerning analyticity and was later strengthened in [32] to non-divergence free vector fields. We shall use the generalized resolvent estimate in [32] to extend our result in spaces of bounded functions to the Robin boundary condition (Theorem 3.6). For a more detailed discussion, see Remark 3.5.

(iii) We observe that the domain of the Stokes operator $D(A)$ is dense in $C_{0,\sigma}$. In fact, by invoking the $L^p$-theory and using (1.4) we have

$$\|\lambda v - f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} = \|\tilde{A}_p v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq \frac{C}{|\lambda|} \|\tilde{A}_p f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0, \quad |\lambda| \rightarrow \infty$$

for $f \in C_{0,\sigma} \subset D(\tilde{A}_p)$, where $\tilde{A}_p$ is the Stokes operator in $L^p$. Thus we conclude that $D(A)$ is dense in $C_{0,\sigma}$. On the other hand, smooth functions are not dense in
and \( e^{tA}f \) is smooth for \( t > 0 \), \( e^{tA}f \to f \) as \( t \downarrow 0 \) in \( L^\infty_t \). This means \( e^{tA} \) is a non-\( C_0 \) analytic semigroup. We refer to [34, 1.1.2] for properties of the analytic semigroup generated by non-densely defined sectorial operators; see also [8, Definition 3.2.5].

(iv) For a bounded domain \( \Omega \), \( v(\cdot, t) = e^{tA}v_0 \) and \( \nabla q = (1 - P)[\Delta v] \) give a solution to the non-stationary Stokes equations, \( v_t - \Delta v + \nabla q = 0, \div v = 0 \) in \( \Omega \times (0, \infty) \) with \( v = 0 \) on \( \partial \Omega \) for initial data \( v_0 \in L^\infty_t(\Omega) \). Although for general domains the Helmholtz projection operator \( P : L^p(\Omega) \to L^p(\Omega) \) is no longer bounded on \( L^\infty_t \) even if \( \Omega = \mathbb{R}^n \), we are able to define the pressure \( \nabla q = K[W(v)] \) at least for exterior domains \( \Omega \) by the solution operator to the Neumann problem (harmonic-pressure operator) \( K : L^\infty_t(\partial \Omega) \ni \nabla P \in L^\infty_t(\Omega) \) [2, Remark 2.10]. Here \( L^\infty_t(\partial \Omega) \) denotes the closed subspace of all tangential vector fields in \( L^\infty_t(\partial \Omega) \).

(v) We observe that the Masuda-Stewart method does not imply the large time behavior for \( e^{tA} \). For a bounded domain the energy inequality implies that maximum of \( v(\cdot, t) = e^{tA}v_0 \) (and also \( v_t \)) decay exponentially as \( t \to \infty \) [1, Remark 5.4 (i)]. In particular, \( e^{tA} \) is a bounded analytic semigroup on \( L^\infty_t \). Recently, based on the \( L^\infty \)-estimates [1, Theorem 1.2] it was shown in [26] that \( e^{tA} \) is bounded semigroup on \( L^\infty_t \) for exterior domains by appealing to the maximum modulus theorem for the boundary-value problem of the stationary Stokes equations. Note that it is unknown whether \( e^{tA} \) is a bounded analytic semigroup on \( L^\infty_t \).

In the sequel, we sketch a proof for the a priori estimate (1.4). Our argument can be divided into the following three steps:

(i) (Localization) We first localize a solution \((v, q)\) of the Stokes equations (1.1)-(1.3) in a domain \( \Omega' = B_{\eta r}((\eta + 1)r) \cap \Omega \) for \( x_0 \in \Omega, r > 0 \) and parameters \( \eta \geq 1 \) by setting \( u = v \theta_0 \) and \( p = (q - q_0)\theta_0 \) with a constant \( q_0 \) and the smooth cut-off function \( \theta_0 \) around \( \Omega_{\eta r} \) satisfying \( \theta_0 \equiv 1 \) in \( B_{\eta r} \) and \( \theta_0 \equiv 0 \) in \( B_{\eta r}((\eta + 1)r) \). We then observe that \((u, p)\) solves the Stokes resolvent equations with inhomogeneous divergence-free condition in the localized domain \( \Omega' \). Applying the \( L^p \)-estimates for the localized Stokes equations we have

\[
|\lambda||u||_{L^p(\Omega')} + |\lambda|^{1/2}||\nabla u||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla^2 u||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla p||_{L^p(\Omega')}
\leq C_p \left(||h||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla g||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla^2 g||_{W^{-1,p}(\Omega')} \right),
\]

where \( W^{-1,p}_0(\Omega') \) denotes the dual space of the Sobolev space \( W^{1,p'}(\Omega') \) with \( 1/p + 1/p' = 1 \). The external forces \( h \) and \( g \) contain error terms appearing in the cut-off
procedure and are explicitly given by
\[ h = f\theta_0 - 2\nabla v \nabla \theta_0 - v \Delta \theta_0 + (q - q_c)\nabla \theta_0, \quad g = v \cdot \nabla \theta_0. \] (1.8)

(ii) (Error estimates) A key step is to estimate the error terms of the pressure such as \((q - q_c)\nabla \theta_0\). We here simplify the description by disregarding the terms related to \(g\) in order to describe the essence of the proof. We will give precise estimates for the terms related to \(g\) in Section 3. Now, the error terms related to \(h\) are estimated in the form
\[ \|h\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \leq C_{r,s}^n \left( (\eta + 1)^{n/p} \|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + (\eta + 1)^{-1} \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{-1} \|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \right). \] (1.9)

If we disregard the term \((q - q_c)\nabla \theta_0\) in \(h\), the estimates (1.8) easily follows by using the estimates of the cut-off function \(\theta_0\), i.e. \(\|\theta_0\|_{\infty} + (\eta + 1)r\|\nabla \theta_0\|_{\infty} + (\eta + 1)^2 r^2 \|\nabla^2 \theta_0\|_{\infty} \leq K\) with some constant \(K\). We invoke the estimate (1.5) in order to handle the pressure term by velocity through the Poincaré-Sobolev-type inequality:
\[ \|\varphi - (\varphi)\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\lambda,\omega})} \leq C_{r,s}^n \|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \quad \text{for all } \varphi \in \tilde{W}^{1,s}_d(\Omega), \] (1.10)
with some constant \(C\) independent of \(s > 0\), where \((\varphi)\) denotes the mean value of \(\varphi\) in \(\Omega_{\lambda,\omega}\) and \(\tilde{W}^{1,s}_d(\Omega) = \{ \varphi \in L^1_{\text{loc}}(\tilde{\Omega}) | \nabla \varphi \in L^s(\Omega) \}\). We prove the inequality (1.10) in Section 2. By taking \(q_c = (q)\) and applying (1.10) for \(\varphi = q\) and \(s = (\eta + 1)r\) we obtain the estimate (1.9) via (1.5).

(iii) (Interpolation) Once we establish the error estimates for \(h\) and \(g\), it is easy to obtain the estimate (1.4) by applying the interpolation inequality.
\[ \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\lambda,\omega})} \leq C_{r,s}^n \left( \|\varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\lambda,\omega})} + r\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\lambda,\omega})} \right) \quad \text{for } \varphi \in W^{1,p}_{\text{loc}}(\tilde{\Omega}), \] (1.11)
for \(\varphi = u\) and \(\nabla u\). Now taking \(r = |\lambda|^{-1/2}\) we obtain the estimate for \(M_p(\nu, q)(x_0, \lambda)\) with the parameters \(\eta\) of the form,
\[ M_p(\nu, q)(x_0, \lambda) \leq C \left( (\eta + 1)^{n/p} \|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + (\eta + 1)^{-1} \|M_p(\nu, q)\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \right) \] (1.12)
for some constant \(C\) independent of \(\eta\). The second term in the right-hand-side is absorbed into the left-hand-side by letting \(\eta\) sufficiently large provided \(p > n\).

Actually, in the procedure (ii) we take \(q_c\) by the mean value of \(q\) in \(\Omega_{x_0,(q+2)r}\) since we estimate \(|\lambda|\|g\|_{W^{1,p}_0}\). By using the equation (1.1) we reduce the estimate of \(|\lambda|\|g\|_{W^{1,p}_0}\) to the \(L^\infty\)-estimate for the boundary value of \(q - q_c\) on \(\partial \Omega'\). In order to
estimate \(\|q - q_c\|_{L^\infty(\Omega')}\) we use a uniformly local \(L^p\)-norm bound for \(\nabla q\) besides the sup-bound for \(\nabla v\). This is the reason why we need the norm \(\|M_p(v, q)\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)(\lambda)}\) in the right-hand-side of (1.12). For general elliptic operators, the estimate (1.12) is valid without invoking the uniformly local \(L^p\)-norm bound for second derivatives of a solution.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we prove the inequality (1.10) for uniformly \(C^2\)-domains. More precisely, we prove stronger estimates than (1.10) both interior and up to boundary \(\Omega_{\text{in},d}\) of \(\Omega\). In Section 3 we first prepare the estimates for \(h\) and \(g\) and then prove the a priori estimate (1.4) (Theorem 1.1.) After proving Theorem 1.1, we also note the estimates (1.4) subject to the Robin boundary condition.

## 2 Poincaré-Sobolev-type inequality

In this section we prove the inequality (1.10) in a uniformly \(C^2\)-domain. We start with the Poincaré-Sobolev-type inequality in a bounded domain \(D\) and observe the compactness of the embedding from \(\hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(D)\) to \(L^p(D)\) which is the key in proving the inequality (1.10) by reductio ad absurdum.

### 2.1 Curvilinear coordinates

Let \(D\) be a bounded domain in \(\mathbb{R}^n, n \geq 2\) and \(p \in [1, \infty)\). We prove an inequality of the form,

\[
\|\varphi - (\varphi)\|_{L^p(D)} \leq C\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^\infty(D)} \quad \text{for } \varphi \in \hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(D) \tag{2.1}
\]

where \((\varphi)\) denotes the mean value of \(\varphi\) in \(D\), i.e. \((\varphi) = \frac{1}{|D|} \int_D \varphi\,dx\). If we replace the norm \(\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^\infty(D)}\) by the \(L^p\)-norm \(\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^p(D)}\), the estimate (2.1) is nothing but the Poincaré inequality [11, 5.8.1]. We observe that the boundedness of \(\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^\infty(D)}\) implies \(L^p\)-integrability of \(\varphi\) in \(D\) even if \(\nabla \varphi\) is not in \(L^p(D)\). For example, when \(D = B_0(1), \varphi(x) = \log (1 - |x|)\) is in \(L^p\) although \(|\nabla \varphi(x)| = d_D(x)^{-1}\) is not for any \(p \in [1, \infty)\). Since the space \(\hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}\) is compactly embedded to the space \(C(\bar{D}')\) for each subdomain \(D'\) of \(D\) with \(\bar{D}' \subset D\), we shall show a pointwise upper bound for \(\varphi\) near \(\partial D'\) by an \(L^p\)-integrable function to conclude that the space \(\hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(D)\) is compactly embedded to \(L^p(D)\) by the dominated convergence theorem. We estimate \(\varphi \in \hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(D)\) near \(\partial D\) directly by using the curvilinear coordinates. Here for a domain \(\Omega, \partial \Omega \neq \emptyset\), we say that \(\partial \Omega\) is \(C^k\) if for each \(x_0 \in \partial \Omega\), there exist
constants $\alpha, \beta$ and $C^k$-function $h$ of $n-1$ variables $y'$ such that (up to rotation and translation if necessary) we have

$$U(x_0) \cap \Omega = \{ (y', y_n) \mid h(y') < y_n < h(y') + \beta, \ |y'| < \alpha \},$$

$$U(x_0) \cap \partial \Omega = \{ (y', y_n) \mid y_n = h(y'), |y'| < \alpha \},$$

$$\sup_{|y| \leq K, |y'| < \alpha} \left| \partial^j \phi(h(y')) \right| \leq K, \ \nabla' h(0) = 0, \ h(0) = 0,$$

with the constant $K$ and the neighborhood of $x_0$, $U(x_0) = U_{\alpha, \beta, h}(x_0)$, i.e.

$$U_{\alpha, \beta, h}(x_0) = \{ (y', y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid h(y') - \beta < y_n < h(y') + \beta, |y'| < \alpha \}.$$

Here $\partial^j = \partial^h_{x_1} \cdots \partial^h_{x_n}$ for a multi-index $l = (l_1, \ldots, l_n)$ and $\partial_{x_j} = \partial / \partial x_j$ as usual and $\nabla'$ denotes the gradient in $\mathbb{R}^{n-1}$. Moreover, if we are able to take uniform constants $\alpha, \beta, K$ independent of each $x_0 \in \partial \Omega$, we call $\Omega$ uniformly $C^k$-domain of type $(\alpha, \beta, K)$ as defined in [33, I.3.2].

We estimate $\phi \in \hat{W}^{1,1}_d(\Omega)$ along the boundary using the curvilinear coordinates.

**Proposition 2.1.** Let $D$ be a bounded domain with $C^k$-boundary $(k \geq 2)$. Let $\Gamma = \{ x \in \partial D \mid x = (x', h(x'))), |x'| < \alpha' \}$ be a neighborhood of $x_0 \in \partial D$.

(i) There exist positive constants $\mu$ and $\alpha'$ such that $(\gamma, d) \mapsto X(\gamma, d) = \gamma + d\nu(\gamma)$ is a $C^{k-1}$ homeomorphism from $\Gamma \times (0, \mu)$ onto

$$N^\mu(\Gamma) = \{ X(\gamma, d) \in U(x_0) \mid (\gamma, d) \in \Gamma \times (0, \mu) \},$$

i.e. $x \in N^\mu(\Gamma)$ has a unique projection to $\partial D$ denoted by $\gamma(x) \in \partial D$ such that

$$(\gamma(x), d_D(x)) = X^{-1}(x) \quad \text{for } x \in N^\mu(\Gamma).$$

(ii) There exists a constant $C_1$ such that for any $x_1 \in \overline{N^\mu(\Gamma)}$ and $r_1 > 0$ satisfying $D_{x_1, r_1} = B_{x_1}(r_1) \cap D \subset N^\mu(\Gamma)$,

$$|\phi(x) - \phi(y)| \leq C_1 \left( \log \frac{d_D(x)}{d_D(y)} + \frac{|\gamma(x) - \gamma(y)|}{\max\{d_D(x), d_D(y)\}} \right) \sup_{z \in D_{x_1, r_1}} d_D(z) |\nabla \phi(z)| \quad \text{for } x, y \in D_{x_1, r_1}$$

and $\phi \in \hat{W}^{1, \alpha'}_d(D)$.

**Proof.** The assertion (i) is based on the inverse function theorem [23, Lemma 4.4.7]. We shall prove the second assertion (ii). We take points $x, y \in D_{x_1, r_1}$ for
$x_1 \in \overline{N^\mu(\Gamma)}$ and $r_1 > 0$ satisfying $D_{x_1, r_1} \subset N^\mu(\Gamma)$. We may assume $d_D(y) = d(y) > d(x)$. By setting $z = (y, d(y))$ we estimate

$$|\varphi(x) - \varphi(y)| \leq |\varphi(x) - \varphi(z)| + |\varphi(z) - \varphi(y)|.$$  

We connect $x$ and $z$ by the straight line to estimate

$$|\varphi(x) - \varphi(z)| = \left| \int_0^1 \frac{d}{dt} \varphi(X(\gamma(t), t\varphi(x) + (1-t)d(\varphi(y)))) dt \right|$$

$$= \left| \int_0^1 (d(y) - d(x))\lambda(X(\gamma(t), t\varphi(x) + (1-t)d(\varphi(y)))) \cdot n_D(\varphi(y)) dt \right|$$

$$\leq (d(y) - d(x)) \int_0^1 \sup_{z \in D_{x_1, r}} d(z)|\nabla \varphi(z)| dt$$

$$= \left| \log \frac{d(y)}{d(x)} \sup_{z \in D_{x_1, r}} d(z)|\nabla \varphi(z)|. \right|$$

It remains to estimate $|\varphi(z) - \varphi(y)|$. We connect $z$ and $y$ by the curve

$C_{z, y} = \{X(\gamma(t), d(y)) | \gamma(t) = (\gamma'(t), h(\gamma'(t))) \}, \gamma'(t) = \gamma'(x)+(1-t)\gamma'(y), 0 \leq t \leq 1$,  

where $\gamma'$ denotes the $n-1$ variables of $\gamma$. We then estimate

$$|\varphi(z) - \varphi(y)| = \left| \int_0^1 \frac{d}{dt} \varphi(X(\gamma(t), d(y))) dt \right|$$

$$= \left| \int_0^1 \frac{dy}{dt}(1 + d(y)\nabla_{\partial\partial n_D(\gamma(t))})\nabla \varphi(X(\gamma(t), d(y))) dt \right|$$

$$\geq C(1 + K_M)|\gamma(x) - \gamma(y)| d(y) \sup_{z \in D_{x_1, r}} d(z)|\nabla \varphi(z)|,$$

since $|d\gamma(t)/dt| \leq C|\gamma(x) - \gamma(y)|$ and $|\nabla_{\partial\partial n_D}| \leq K$ with a constant $C$ depending on $K$. The assertion (ii) thus follows. \hfill \Box

**Remarks 2.2.** (i) We observe from the second assertion that $\varphi \in \hat{W}^1_{\infty}(D)$ is bounded from above by an $L^p$-integrable function for all $p \in [1, \infty)$ near $\partial D$, i.e. for each fixed $y \in D_{x_1, r_1}$ such that $d_D(y) \geq \delta$ we have

$$|\varphi(x)| \leq C_2(|\log d_D(x)| + 1) \sup_{z \in D_{x_1, r_1}} d_D(z)|\nabla \varphi(z)| + |\varphi(y)| \text{ for } x \in D_{x_1, r_1} \quad (2.2)$$
with a constant $C_2$ depending on $\mu, \delta$.

(ii) Note that Proposition 2.1 is also valid for a uniformly $C^k$-domain $\Omega$ of type $(\alpha, \beta, K)$, i.e. there exist constants $\mu, \alpha'$, depending only on $\alpha, \beta, K$, such that for each $x_0 \in \partial \Omega$ the assertions (i) and (ii) hold. The above constants $C_1$ and $C_2$ are depending only on $\alpha, \beta, K$ and $\delta$. In the sequel, we will apply Proposition 2.1 to a uniformly $C^2$-domain to prove the inequality (1.10).

The estimate (2.2) implies the compactness from $\hat{W}^{1,\infty}_d(D)$ to $L^p(D)$.

Lemma 2.3. Let $D$ be a bounded domain in $\mathbb{R}^n, n \geq 2$ with $C^2$-boundary. Then there exists a constant $C_D$ such that the estimate (2.1) holds for all $\varphi \in \hat{W}^{1,\infty}_d(D)$. Moreover, the space $\hat{W}^{1,\infty}_d(D)$ is compactly embedded into $L^p(D)$.

Proof. We argue by contradiction. Suppose that the estimate (2.1) were false for any choice of the constant $C$. Then there would exist a sequence of functions $\{\varphi_n\} \subset \hat{W}^{1,\infty}_d(D)$ such that

$$||\varphi_n - (\varphi_n)\||_{L^p(D)} > m||\nabla \varphi_n\||_{L^\infty_d(D)}, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

We may assume $\varphi_n = 0$ by replacing $\varphi_n$ to $\varphi_n - (\varphi_n)$. We divide $\varphi_n$ by $M_n = ||\varphi_n||_{L^p(D)}$ to get a sequence of functions $\{\phi_n\}_{n=1}^\infty, \phi_n = \varphi_n/M_n$ such that

$$||\nabla \phi_n\||_{L^\infty_d(D)} < 1/m,$$

$$||\phi_n||_{L^p(D)} = 1 \quad \text{with} \quad (\phi_n) = 0.$$

We now prove the compactness of $\{\phi_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ in $L^p(D)$. Since $||\nabla \phi_n\||_{L^\infty_d(D)}$ is bounded, $\{\phi_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ subsequently converges to a limit $\bar{\phi}$ locally uniformly in $D$. By Proposition 2.1, in particular, the estimate (2.2) implies that $\phi_n$ is uniformly bounded from above by an $L^p$-integrable function near $\partial D$. The dominated convergence theorem implies that

$$\phi_n \to \bar{\phi} \quad \text{in} \quad L^p(D) \quad \text{as} \quad m \to \infty.$$

Since $\nabla \phi_n(x) \to 0$ as $m \to \infty$ for each $x \in D$ and $||\bar{\phi}\||_{L^p(D)} = 1$, $\bar{\phi}$ is a non-zero constant which contradicts the fact that $(\bar{\phi}) = 0$. We reached a contradiction.

For the compactness of $\{\phi_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ in $L^p(D)$ we here only invoke the boundedness of $||\nabla \phi_n\||_{L^\infty_d(D)}$. This means that the embedding from $\hat{W}^{1,\infty}_d(D)$ into $L^p(D)$ is compact. The proof is now complete. \qed
2.2 Estimates near the boundary

We now prove the inequality (1.10) for uniformly $C^2$-domains $\Omega$. When the ball $B_{x_0}(r)$ locates interior of $\Omega$, i.e. $\Omega_{x_0,r} = B_{x_0}(r)$, applying (2.1) to $\varphi_r(x) = \varphi(x_0 + rx)$ in $D = \text{int } B_{0}(1)$ implies the estimate

$$
\|\varphi - (\varphi)\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0,r})} \leq C r^{n/p} \sup_{z \in \Omega_{x_0,r}} d_{\Omega_{x_0,r}}(z)|\nabla \varphi(z)|, \quad r > 0.
$$

(2.3)

Since $d_{\Omega_{x_0,r}}(x) \leq d_{\Omega}(x)$ for $x \in \Omega_{x_0,r}$, the assertion (1.10) follows. However, if $B_{x_0}(r)$ involves $\partial \Omega$, the boundary of $\Omega_{x_0,r}$ may not have $C^1$-regularity. We thus prove

$$
\|\varphi - (\varphi)\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0,r})} \leq C r^{n/p} \sup_{z \in \Omega_{x_0,r}} d_{\Omega}(z)|\nabla \varphi(z)| \quad \text{for } \varphi \in \hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(\Omega)
$$

(2.4)

for $x_0 \in \Omega$ and $r > 0$ satisfying $d_{\Omega}(x_0) < r$, which is weaker than (2.3).

**Proposition 2.4.** Let $\Omega$ be a uniformly $C^2$-domain. There exist constants $r_0$ and $C$ such that for $x_0 \in \Omega$ and $r < r_0$ satisfying $d_{\Omega}(x_0) < r$, the estimate (2.4) holds for all $\varphi \in \hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ with a constant $C$ independent of $x_0$ and $r$.

The inequality (1.10) easily follows from Proposition 2.4.

**Lemma 2.5.** The inequality (1.10) holds for $\varphi \in \hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ for all $x_0 \in \Omega$ and $r < r_0$ with a constant $C$ independent of $x_0$ and $r$.

**Proof.** For $r < r_0$, combining (2.3) for $d_{\Omega}(x_0) > r$ with (2.4) for $d_{\Omega}(x_0) < r$, the assertion (1.10) follows. \hfill $\Box$

**Proof of Proposition 2.4.** We argue by contradiction. Suppose that the estimate (2.4) were false for any choice of constants $r_0$ and $C$. Then, there would exist a sequence of functions $\{\varphi_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset \hat{W}_d^{1,\infty}(\Omega)$ and a sequence of points $\{x_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty} \subset \Omega$ satisfying $d_{\Omega}(x_m) < r_m \downarrow 0$ such that

$$
\|\varphi_m - (\varphi_m)\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_m,r_m})} \geq m r_m^{n/p} \sup_{z \in \Omega_{x_m,r_m}} d_{\Omega}(z)|\nabla \varphi_m(z)|, \quad m \in \mathbb{N}.
$$

Replacing $\varphi_m$ by $\varphi_m - (\varphi_m)$ and dividing $\varphi_m$ by $r_m^{-n/p}\|\varphi_m\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_m,r_m})}$ (still denoted by $\varphi_m$) we observe that $\varphi_m$ satisfies $r_m^{-n/p}\|\varphi_m\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_m,r_m})} = 1$ with $(\varphi_m) = 0$ and $\sup_{z \in \Omega_{x_m,r_m}} d_{\Omega}(z)|\nabla \varphi_m(z)| < 1/m$. Since the points $\{x_m\}_{m=1}^{\infty}$ accumulates at the boundary $\partial \Omega$, we may assume by rotation and translation of $\Omega$ that $x_m = (0, d_m)$ with...
d_m = d_{\Omega}(x_m) which subsequently converges to the origin located on the boundary \( \partial \Omega \). Here the neighborhood of the origin is denoted by \( \Omega_{\text{loc}} = U(0) \cap \Omega \) with constants \( \alpha, \beta \) and \( C^2 \)-function \( h \), i.e.

\[
\Omega_{\text{loc}} = \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}_+^n \mid h(x') < x_n < h(x') + \beta, \ |x'| < \alpha \}.
\]

We rescale \( \varphi_m \) around the point \( x_m \) by setting

\[
\phi_m(x) = \varphi_m(x_m + r_m x) \quad \text{for} \ x \in \Omega_m,
\]

where \( \Omega_m = \{x \in \Omega \mid x = (y - x_m)/r_m, y \in \Omega \} \) is the rescaled domain. Since \( c_m = d_m/r_m < 1 \), by taking a subsequence we may assume \( \lim_{m \to \infty} c_m = c_0 \leq 1 \).

We then observe that the rescaled domain \( \Omega_m \) expands to a half space \( \mathbb{R}_m^{n-c_0} = \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid x_n > -c_0 \} \). In fact, the neighborhood \( \Omega_{\text{loc}} \subset \Omega \) is rescaled to the domain,

\[
\Omega_{\text{loc}}^m = \{(x', x_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n \mid \frac{1}{r_m} h(r_m x') - c_m < x_n < \frac{1}{r_m} h(r_m x') + \frac{\beta}{r_m}, \ |x'| < \alpha \}
\]

which converges to \( \mathbb{R}_m^{n-c_0} \) by letting \( m \to \infty \). Note that constants of uniformly regularity of \( \partial \Omega_m \) are uniformly bounded under this rescaling procedure. Moreover, for any constants \( \mu \) and \( \alpha' \), the curvilinear neighborhood of the origin \( N^{\mu}(\Gamma) \) is in \( \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m \) for sufficiently large \( m \geq 1 \), where \( \Gamma = \Gamma_{\alpha'}(0) \) is the neighborhood of the origin on \( \partial \Omega^m \). Then the estimates for \( \varphi_m \) are inherited to the estimates for \( \phi_m \), i.e.

\[
\sup_{z \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m} d_{\Omega^m}(z) |\nabla \phi_m(z)| < 1/m, \quad m \in \mathbb{N},
\]

\[
\|\phi_m\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\text{loc}}^m)} = 1 \quad \text{with} \ (\phi_m) = \int_{\Omega_{\text{loc}}^m} \phi_m = 0,
\]

where \( \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m = B_0(1) \cap \Omega^m \). From above bound for \( \phi_m \) the sequence \( \{\phi_m\}_{m=1}^\infty \) subsequently converges to a limit \( \bar{\phi} \) locally uniformly in \( (\mathbb{R}_m^{n-c_0})_{0,1} \). We now observe the compactness of the sequence \( \{\phi_m\}_{m=1}^\infty \) in \( L^p((\mathbb{R}_m^{n-c_0})_{0,1}) \). By Remark 2.2 (ii) applying Proposition 2.1 to \( \Omega^m \), the estimate (2.2) with \( x_1 = 0 \), \( r = 1 \) and a fixed \( y \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m \) satisfying \( d_{\Omega^m}(y) \geq \delta \) yield

\[
|\varphi_m(x)| \leq C(|\log d_{\Omega^m}(x)| + 1) \left( \sup_{z \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m} d_{\Omega^m}(z) |\nabla \phi_m(z)| \right) + |\phi_m(y)| \quad \text{for} \ x \in \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m,
\]

for sufficiently large \( m \geq 1 \). Here the constant \( C \) is independent of \( m \geq 1 \). Since \( \phi_m \) is uniformly bounded from above by an \( L^p \)-integrable function in \( \Omega_{\text{loc}}^m \), the dominated convergence theorem implies that \( \phi_m \) converges to a limit \( \bar{\phi} \) in \( L^p((\mathbb{R}_m^{n-c_0})_{0,1}) \).
Since $\nabla \phi_m(x) \to 0$ as $m \to \infty$ for each $x \in (\mathbb{R}^n_{+,-c_0})_{0,1}$ and $||\tilde{\phi}||_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^n_{+,-c_0})_{0,1}} = 1$, $\tilde{\phi}$ is a non-zero constant which contradicts the fact that $(\tilde{\phi}) = 0$. We reached a contradiction and the proof is now complete.

3 A priori estimates for the Stokes equations

The goal of this section is to prove the a priori estimate (1.4) by using the inequality (1.10). A key step is to establish the estimates for $h$ and $g$ in the procedure (ii) as explained in the introduction. We first recall the $L^p$-estimates to the Stokes equations (1.7) and the interpolation inequality (1.11). Note that the constants $C_p$ and $C_I$ in (1.7) and (1.11) respectively are independent of the volume of domains $\Omega'$, $\Omega_{x_0,r}$.

3.1 $L^p$-estimates for localized equations

Let $\Omega'$ be a bounded domain with $C^2$-boundary. For the a priori estimate (1.4) we invoke the $L^p$-estimates (1.7) to the Stokes resolvent equations with inhomogeneous divergence-free condition,

\[
\lambda u - \Delta u + \nabla p = h \quad \text{in } \Omega', \\
\text{div } u = g \quad \text{in } \Omega', \\
u = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega',
\]

for $h \in L^p(\Omega')$, $g \in W^{1,p}(\Omega') \cap L^p_{av}(\Omega')$ and $\lambda \in \sum_{\theta,0}$ with $\theta \in (\pi/2, \pi)$. Here $L^p_{av}(\Omega')$ denotes the space of all functions $g$ in $L^p(\Omega')$ satisfying average zero, i.e. $\int_{\Omega'} g dx = 0$. The estimate (1.7) is proved by a perturbation argument [15], [16] with the constant $C_p$ independent of the volume of $\Omega'$.

**Proposition 3.1.** ([15], [16]) Let $\theta \in (\pi/2, \pi)$ and $\lambda \in \sum_{\theta,0}$. For $h \in L^p(\Omega')$ and $g \in W^{1,p}(\Omega') \cap L^p_{av}(\Omega')$ there exists a unique solution of (3.1)-(3.3) satisfying the estimates (1.7) with the constant $C_p$ independent of the volume of $\Omega'$ and depending on $\theta$, $p$, $n$ and the $C^2$-regularity of $\partial \Omega'$.

We estimate the $L^\infty$-norms of a solution up to first derivatives via the Sobolev embeddings together with the $L^p$-estimates (1.7) for $p > n$. In order to estimate the $L^\infty$-norms of a solution we apply the interpolation inequality (1.11) [24, Chapter 3. Lemma 3.1.4] in $\Omega_{x_0,r} = B_{x_0}(r) \cap \Omega$ for $x_0 \in \bar{\Omega}$ and $r < r_0$ with a constant $r_0$. In what follows, we fix the constant $r_0$ by taking the same constant $r_0$ given by Lemma 2.5. The constant $C_I$ is also independent of the radius $r$. 14
3.2 Estimates in the localization procedure

We prepare the estimates for \( h \) and \( g \) in the procedure (ii). The estimate for \( \|\lambda\|_{W_0^{1,\nu}} \) is different from that of \( \|h\|_{L^p} \). In order to estimate \( \|\lambda\|_{W_0^{1,\nu}} \), we use the uniformly local \( L^p \)-norm bound for \( \nabla q \) besides the sup-bound of \( \nabla v \) as in (3.8). After establishing these estimates, we will put the procedures (i)-(iii) together in the next subsection.

Let \( \Omega \) be a uniformly \( C^2 \)-domain. Let \( \theta \) be a smooth cut-off function satisfying \( \theta \equiv 1 \) in \([0, 1/2]\) and \( \theta \equiv 0 \) in \([1, \infty)\). For \( x_0 \in \Omega \) and \( r > 0 \) we set \( \theta_0(x) = \theta(|x - x_0|/(\eta + 1)r) \) with parameters \( \eta \geq 1 \) and observe that \( \theta_0 \equiv 1 \) in \( B_{x_0}(r) \) and \( \theta_0 \equiv 0 \) in \( B_{x_0}((\eta + 1)r)^c \). The cut-off function \( \theta_0 \) is uniformly bounded by a constant \( K \), i.e.

\[
\|\theta_0\|_{\infty} + (\eta + 1)r\|\nabla \theta_0\|_{\infty} + (\eta + 1)^2 r^2 \|\nabla^2 \theta_0\|_{\infty} \leq K, \quad \eta \geq 1
\]  

(3.4)

Let \((v, \nabla q) \in W_{\text{loc}}^{2,p}(\tilde{\Omega}) \times L_{\text{loc}}^{p}(\tilde{\Omega}) \) be a solution of (1.1)-(1.3) for \( f \in L_{\infty}^\nu(\Omega) \) and \( \lambda \in \Sigma_{\theta,0} \). We localize a solution \((v, \nabla q) \) in a domain \( \Omega' = \Omega_{x_0,(\eta+1)r} \) by setting \( u = v\theta_0 \) and \( p = \hat{q}\theta_0 \) with \( \hat{q} = q - q_c \) and a constant \( q_c \). We then observe that \((u, \nabla p) \) solves the localized equation (3.1)-(3.3) in the domain \( \Omega' \) with \( h \) and \( g \) given by (1.8). We shall show the following estimates for \( h \) and \( g \),

\[
\|\nabla g\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \leq C_1 r^{\nu/p}(\eta + 1)^{-(1-n/p)} \left( r^{-1}\|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{-2}\|v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \right),
\]  

(3.5)

\[
\|h\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \leq C_2 r^{\nu/p} \left( (\eta + 1)^{n/p}\|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} ight.
\]  

\[
+ (\eta + 1)^{-(1-n/p)} \left( r^{-1}\|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{-2}\|v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \right),
\]  

(3.6)

\[
\|\lambda\|_{W_0^{1,\nu}(\Omega')} \leq C_3 r^{\nu/p} \left( (\eta + 1)^{n/p}\|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} ight.
\]  

\[
+ (\eta + 1)^{-(1-2n/p)} \left( r^{-1}\|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{-n/p}\sup_{\zeta \in \Omega}\|\nabla q\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \right),
\]  

(3.7)

with constants \( C_1, C_2 \) and \( C_3 \) independent of \( r \) and \( \eta \geq 1 \). For the estimates of the terms of \( f, v \) and \( \nabla v \) we use the estimates

\[
\|f\theta_0\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \leq KC_n^{1/p} r^{\nu/p}(\eta + 1)^{n/p}\|f\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)},
\]  

(3.8)

\[
\|\nabla v\nabla \theta_0\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \leq KC_n^{1/p} r^{\nu/p}(\eta + 1)^{-(1-n/p)} r^{-1}\|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)},
\]  

(3.9)

\[
\|v\nabla^2 \theta_0\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \leq KC_n^{1/p} r^{\nu/p}(\eta + 1)^{-(1-n/p)} r^{-2}\|v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)},
\]  

(3.10)

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for all $r > 0$ and $\eta \geq 1$, where the constant $C_n$ denotes the volume of the $n$-dimensional unit ball. Since $\nabla g = \nabla v \nabla \theta_0 + v \nabla^2 \theta_0$ does not contain the pressure, the estimate (3.5) easily follows from the estimates (3.9) and (3.10).

For the estimates (3.6) and (3.7) we apply the inequality (1.10). We choose a constant $q_c$ by a mean value of $q$ in $\Omega_{x_0,q+2r}$, i.e.

$$q_c = \frac{1}{\Omega_{x_0,q+2r}} \int_{\Omega_{x_0,q+2r}} q(x) dx. \quad (3.11)$$

We then observe that the inequality (1.10) implies the estimate

$$\|\hat{q}\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0,q+2r})} \leq C r^{n/p}(\eta + 2)^{n/p}\|\nabla q\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \quad (3.12)$$

for $r > 0$ and $\eta \geq 1$ satisfying $(\eta + 2)r \leq r_0$, where $\hat{q} = q - q_c$.

In order to estimate (3.7) we estimate the $L^\infty$-norm of $\hat{q}$ on $\Omega'$ since by using the equation $\lambda v = f + \Delta v - \nabla q$ we reduce (3.7) to the estimate of the boundary value of $\hat{q}$ on $\partial \Omega'$. This is the reason why we take $q_c$ by (3.11). We apply the inequality (1.11) in $\Omega_{x_1,r} \subset \Omega_{x_0,q+2r}$ for $x_1 \in \Omega'$ and $r > 0$ with $p > n$ to estimate

$$\|\hat{q}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{x_1,r})} \leq C_1 r^{-n/p}\left(\|\hat{q}\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_1,r})} + r\|\nabla q\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_1,r})}\right) \leq C_1 r^{-n/p}\left(\|\hat{q}\|_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0,q+2r})} + r \sup_{z \in \Omega} \|\nabla q\|_{L^p(z)}\right). \quad (3.13)$$

Combining the estimate (3.13) with (3.12) and taking a supremum for $x_1 \in \Omega'$, we have

$$\|\hat{q}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega')} \leq C\left((\eta + 2)^{n/p}\|\nabla q\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{1-n/p} \sup_{z \in \Omega} \|\nabla q\|_{L^p(z)}\right). \quad (3.14)$$

We now invoke the strictly admissibility of a domain $\Omega$ to estimate the norm $\|\nabla q\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)}$ by the sup-norm of $\nabla v$ in $\Omega$ via (1.5).

**Proposition 3.2.** Let $\Omega$ be a uniformly $C^2$-domain. Assume that $\Omega$ is strictly admissible, then the estimate

$$\|\hat{q}\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \leq C_4 r^{n/p}(\eta + 2)^{n/p}\|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \quad (3.15)$$

holds for all $r > 0$ and $\eta \geq 1$ satisfying $(\eta + 2)r \leq r_0$ and $p \in [1, \infty)$. If in addition $p > n$, then the estimate

$$\|\hat{q}\|_{L^\infty(\Omega')} \leq C_5\left((\eta + 2)^{n/p}\|\nabla v\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{1-n/p} \sup_{z \in \Omega} \|\nabla q\|_{L^p(z)}\right) \quad (3.16)$$

holds. The constants $C_4$ and $C_5$ are independent of $r$ and $\eta$.  

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Lemma 3.3. Let $\Omega$ be a strictly admissible, uniformly $C^2$-domain. Let $(v, \nabla q) \in W^{2,p}_0(\bar{\Omega}) \times (L^p_0(\bar{\Omega}) \cap L^\infty_0(\Omega))$ be a solution of (1.1)-(1.3) for $f \in L^\infty_0(\Omega)$ and $\lambda \in \sum_{\theta,0}$ with $p > n$. Then the estimates (3.5)-(3.7) hold for $\Omega' = \text{int} \, B_{x_0}((\eta + 1)r) \cap \Omega$ with $x_0 \in \Omega$, $r > 0$ and $\eta \geq 1$ satisfying $(\eta + 2)r \leq r_0$ with the constants $C_1$, $C_2$ and $C_3$ independent of $x_0$, $r$ and $\eta$.

Proof. As mentioned before, (3.5) follows from (3.9) and (3.10). The estimate (3.6) follows from the estimates (3.8)-(3.10) and (3.15). We shall show the estimate (3.7). By using the equation $\lambda g = \lambda v \cdot \nabla \theta_0 = (f + \Delta v - \nabla q) \cdot \nabla \theta_0$, we estimate

$$||g||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} \leq ||f \cdot \nabla \theta_0||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} + ||\Delta v \cdot \nabla \theta_0||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} + ||\nabla q \cdot \nabla \theta_0||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')}.$$  

Since $||f \cdot \nabla \theta_0||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} = ||f \theta_0||_{L^p(\Omega')}$ for $f \in L^\infty_0(\Omega)$, it suffices to show the estimates

$$||\Delta v \cdot \nabla \theta_0||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} \leq C_6 r^{n/p}(\eta + 1)^{-(1-n/p)} r^{-1} ||\nabla v||_{L^\infty(\Omega)}, \quad \text{(3.17)}$$

$$||\nabla q \cdot \nabla \theta_0||_{W_0^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} \leq C_7 r^{n/p}(\eta + 1)^{-(1-2n/p)} r^{-1} ||\nabla v||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{-n/p} \sup_{z \in \Omega} ||\nabla q||_{L^p(\Omega,z)}. \quad \text{(3.18)}$$

We first show (3.17). Take $\varphi \in W^{1,\eta}(\Omega')$ satisfying $||\varphi||_{W^{1,\eta}(\Omega')} \leq 1$. By using $\text{div } v = 0$ integration by parts yields that

$$\sum_{i,j=1}^n \int_{\Omega'} \partial_i^2 v^i \partial_j \theta_0 \varphi d x = \sum_{i,j=1}^n \int_{\partial \Omega'} (\partial_j v^i - \partial_i v^j) \partial_j \theta_0 \varphi d x - \int_{\partial \Omega'} (\partial_j v^i - \partial_i v^j) \partial_j \theta_0 \varphi n^i_\theta d H^{n-1}(x).$$

We estimate the second term in the right-hand side by the $W^{1,1}$-norm of $\varphi$ in $\Omega$ [11, 5.5 Theorem 1.1] to estimate

$$||\varphi||_{L^1(\partial \Omega)} \leq C_T ||\varphi||_{W^{1,1}(\Omega')} \leq 2C_T ||\Omega'||^{1/p} \quad \text{(3.19)}$$

with the constant $C_T$ depending on the $C^1$-regularity of the boundary $\partial \Omega$ but independent of $||\Omega'||$, the volume of $\Omega'$. We thus obtain

$$\left|\int_{\Omega'} \partial_i^2 v^i \partial_j \theta_0 \varphi d x\right| \leq (1 + 2C_T) ||(\partial_j v^i - \partial_i v^j) \partial_j \theta_0||_{L^\infty(\Omega')} ||\Omega'||^{1/p} \leq 2(1 + 2C_T) KC_n^{1/p} r^{n/p}(\eta + 1)^{-(1-n/p)} r^{-1} ||\nabla v||_{L^\infty(\Omega)}.$$
Thus the estimate (3.17) holds with the constant $C_6$ independent of $r$ and $\eta$. It remains to show the estimate (3.18). Since $\nabla q = \nabla \hat{q}$, integration by parts yields that

$$
\int_{\Omega'} \nabla q \cdot \nabla \theta \varphi dx = - \int_{\Omega'} \hat{q} (\Delta \theta \varphi + \nabla \theta \cdot \nabla \varphi) dx + \int_{\partial \Omega} \hat{q} \varphi \nabla \theta_0 \cdot n_{\Omega'} d\mathcal{H}^{n-1}(x)
$$

$$
= I + II + III.
$$

Combining (3.4), (3.19) with (3.16), we obtain

$$
II + III \leq (1 + 2C_T)\|\nabla \theta_0\|_{L^n(\Omega')} |\Omega'|^{1/p}
$$

$$
\leq (1 + 2C_T)KC_n^{1/p}p^n(p)(\eta + 1)^{-\frac{1-\eta}{p}}r^{-1}\|\hat{q}\|_{L^n(\Omega')}
$$

$$
\leq Cr^n(\eta + 1)^{-\frac{1-2n}{p}}\left(r^{-1}\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + r^{-n/p}\sup_{z \in \Omega} \|\nabla \hat{q}\|_{L^p(\Omega, z)}\right),
$$

with the constant $C$ depending on $C_T, K, C_n, p, C_4$ and $C_5$ but independent of $r$ and $\eta$. We complete the proof by showing the estimate for $I$. Applying the Hölder inequality, for $s, s' \in (1, \infty)$ with $1/s + 1/s' = 1$ we have

$$
I \leq K(\eta + 1)^{-2}r^{-2}\|\varphi\|_{L^s(\Omega')}\|\hat{q}\|_{L^{s'}(\Omega')}.
$$

Since $p > n$, the conjugate exponent $p'$ is strictly smaller than $n/(n-1)$ for $n \geq 2$. By setting $1/s = 1/p' + 1/n$ we apply the Sobolev inequality [11, 5.6 Theorem 2] to estimate $\|\varphi\|_{L^s(\Omega')} \leq C_s\|\varphi\|_{W^{1,p'}(\Omega')} \leq C_s$ with the constant $C_s$ independent of $|\Omega|$. Applying the estimate (3.15) to $\hat{q}$ yields

$$
I \leq Cr^{n/s'-2}(\eta + 2)^{n/s'-2}\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^n(\Omega)}
$$

$$
\leq Cr^n(\eta + 2)^{-\frac{1-n}{p}}r^{-1}\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^n(\Omega)},
$$

since $1/s' = 1 - 1/s = 1/p + 1/n$. The constant $C$ is independent of $r$ and $\eta$. The proof is now complete. \qed

**Remark 3.4.** From the estimate (3.7) we observe that the exponent $-(1 - 2n/p)$ of $(\eta + 1)$ in front of the term $r^{-1}\|\nabla \varphi\|_{L^n(\Omega)} + r^{-n/p}\sup_{z \in \Omega} \|\nabla \hat{q}\|_{L^p(\Omega, z)}$ is negative provided that $p > 2n$. We thus first prove the a priori estimate (1.4) for $p > 2n$. Once we obtain the estimate $|\lambda||v|_{L^n(\Omega)} \leq C||f|_{L^n(\Omega)}$ it is easy to replace the estimate (3.7) to

$$
|\lambda||g|_{W_0^{1,n}(\Omega)} \leq CKC_n^{1/n}p^{n/p}(\eta + 1)^{n/p}\|f\|_{L^n(\Omega)}
$$
for \( p > n \) since
\[
|\lambda| \|v \cdot \nabla \theta_0\|_{W^{-1,p}(\Omega')} = |\lambda| \|v \theta_0\|_{L^p(\Omega)} \\
\leq C \|\theta_0\|_{L^p(\Omega')} \|f\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} \\
\leq CKC_n^{1/p}r_{n/p}(\eta + 1)^{n/p} \|f\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)}.
\]

3.3 Interpolation

We now prove the a priori estimate (1.4) for \( p > n \). The size of the parameter \( \eta \) and the constant \( \delta \) are determined only through the constants \( C_p, C_I \) and \( C_1-C_3 \).

Although we eventually obtain the estimate (1.12) for all \( p > n \), firstly we prove the case \( p > 2n \) as observed by Remark 3.4. The case \( p > 2n \) is enough for analyticity but for the completeness we prove the estimate (1.4) for all \( p > n \).

Proof of Theorem 1.1. We set \( \delta = \delta_1 = (\eta + 2)/r_0 \) and now take \( r = 1/|\lambda|^{1/2} \) for \( \lambda \in \Sigma_{\theta,\delta} \). We then observe that \( r = 1/|\lambda|^{1/2} \) and \( \eta \geq 1 \) automatically satisfy \( r(\eta + 2) \leq r_0 \) for \( \lambda \in \Sigma_{\theta,\delta} \). We may assume that the boundary of \( \Omega' = B_{r_0}((\eta + 1)r) \cap \Omega \) is \( C^2 \) because the localized equations (3.1)-(3.3) can be regarded as the equation in a subdomain \( \Omega'' \) of \( \Omega \) by taking \( \Omega'' \) with \( C^2 \)-boundary so that \( \Omega' \subset \Omega'' \) and \( \Omega'' \) preserves an order of the volume of \( \Omega' \), i.e. \( |\Omega''| \) is bounded from above by \( C(\eta + 1)^{\eta}r^\eta \) with a constant \( C \) independent of \( r > 0 \) and \( \eta \geq 1 \). We first prove

Case (I) \( p > 2n \). By applying the \( L^p \)-estimates (1.7) to \( u = v \theta_0 \) and \( p = \hat{q} \theta_0 \) in \( \Omega' \) and combining the estimates (3.5)-(3.7) with (1.7), we obtain
\[
|\lambda| \|u\|_{L^p(\Omega')} + |\lambda|^{1/2} \|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega')} + \|\nabla^2 u\|_{L^p(\Omega')} + \|\nabla p\|_{L^p(\Omega')}
\leq C_8 |\lambda|^{n/2}p(\eta + 1)^{n/p} \|f\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)} + (\eta + 1)^{-(1-2n/p)} \|M_p(\theta, q)\|_{L^{\infty}(\Omega)}(\lambda),
\]
with the constant \( C_8 \) independent of \( r = 1/|\lambda|^{1/2} \) and \( \eta \geq 1 \). We next estimate the \( L^\infty \)-norms of \( u \) and \( \nabla u \) in \( \Omega \) by interpolation. Applying the interpolation inequality (1.11) for \( \varphi = u \) and \( \nabla u \) implies the estimates
\[
\|u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)} \leq C_1 r^{-n/p}(\|u\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)} + r\|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)}),
\]
\[
\|\nabla u\|_{L^\infty(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)} \leq C_1 r^{-n/p}(\|\nabla u\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)} + r\|\nabla^2 u\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)}).
\]

Summing up these norms together with \( |\lambda|^{n/2} \|\nabla^2 u\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)} \) and \( |\lambda|^{n/2} \|\nabla p\|_{L^p(\Omega_{\varphi}, \varphi)} \),
we have

\[ M_p(u, p)(x_0, \lambda) \]
\[ \leq C_9 r^{-n/p} \left( |\lambda||u||_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0, r})} + |\lambda|^{1/2}||\nabla u||_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0, r})} + ||\nabla^2 u||_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0, r})} + ||\nabla p||_{L^p(\Omega_{x_0, r})} \right) \]

(3.21)

with the constant \( C_9 \) independent of \( r \) and \( \eta \geq 1 \). Since \((u, \nabla p)\) agrees with \((v, \nabla q)\) in \( \Omega_{x_0, r} \), combining (3.20) with (3.21) yields

\[ M_p(v, q)(x_0, \lambda) \leq C_{10} \left( |\eta + 1|^{n/p}||f||_{L^p(\Omega)} + (\eta + 1)^{n/2(1-2n/p)}|M_p(v, q)||_{L^p(\Omega)}(\lambda) \right) \]

(3.22)

with \( C_{10} = C_8 C_9 \). By taking a supremum for \( x_0 \in \Omega \) and letting \( \eta \geq 1 \) large so that \( C_{10}(\eta + 1)^{-n/2(1-2n/p)} < 1/2 \) we obtain (1.4) with \( p > 2n \).

We shall complete the proof by showing the uniformly local \( L^p \)-bound for second derivatives of \((v, q)\) for all \( p > n \).

**Case (II) \( p > n \).** Since \(|\lambda||g||_{W^{1,p}_0(\Omega)}\) is bounded for \( p > 2n \), we may assume \((v, \nabla q)\) \( \in W^{2,p}_\infty(\bar{\Omega}) \times L^p(\bar{\Omega}) \) with \( p > 2n \). By using \(|\lambda||v||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \leq C||f||_{L^\infty(\Omega)}\) for \( \lambda \in \Sigma_{\delta,0} \) with \( \delta = \delta_p \) we replace the estimate (3.7) to

\[ |\lambda||g||_{W^{1,p}(\Omega)} \leq C K C_n^{1/p} \rho^{1/p}(\eta + 1)^{n/p}||f||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} \]

by Remark 3.4. Then we are able to replace the estimate (3.22) to

\[ ||M_p(v, q)||_{L^\infty(\Omega)}(\lambda) \leq C_{11} \left( \eta + 1 \right)^{n/p}||f||_{L^\infty(\Omega)} + (\eta + 1)^{-n/p}||M_p(v, q)||_{L^\infty(\Omega)}(\lambda) \cdot \]

Letting \( \eta \geq 1 \) large so that \( C_{11}(\eta + 1)^{n/p} < 1/2 \), we obtain (1.4) for all \( p > n \). The proof is now complete.

**Remark 3.5.** (Robin boundary condition) Concerning the Robin boundary condition we replace the Dirichlet boundary condition for the localized equations (3.3) to the inhomogeneous boundary condition with a tangential vector field \( k \),

\[ B(u) = k, \quad u \cdot n_{\Omega'} = 0 \quad \text{on } \partial \Omega'. \]

Instead of the estimate (1.7) we apply the \( L^p \)-estimate of the form,

\[ |\lambda||u||_{L^p(\Omega')} + |\lambda|^{1/2}||\nabla u||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla^2 u||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla p||_{L^p(\Omega')} \]
\[ \leq C(||h||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla g||_{L^p(\Omega')} + |\lambda||g||_{W^{1,p}_0(\Omega')} + |\lambda|^{1/2}||k||_{L^p(\Omega')} + ||\nabla k||_{L^p(\Omega')}), \]
where $k$ is identified with its arbitrary extension to $\Omega'$. Since $k = v_{\tan} \partial \theta_0 / \partial n_{\Omega'}$ for $u = v \theta_0$ and $p = \hat{q} \theta_0$, we observe that the norms of $k$ in the right-hand-side are estimated by the same way with $\|\nabla g\|_{L^p}$ where $g = v \cdot \nabla \theta_0$. The $L^p$-estimates for the Robin boundary condition is proved by [32] for bounded and exterior domains by generalizing the perturbation argument to the Dirichlet boundary condition [16]. We thus observe that the constant $C$ is also independent of the volume $\Omega'$. After proving the a priori estimate (1.4) for $f \in L^\infty_\sigma$ subject to the Robin boundary condition, we verify the existence of a solution of (1.1) and (1.2). In particular, $v \in L^\infty_\sigma$ (not in $C_0_{\sigma\cdot}$.) Then we are able to define the Stokes operator $A = A_R$ in $L^\infty_\sigma$ in the same way as we did for the Dirichlet boundary condition. Our observations may be summarized as following

**Theorem 3.6.** Assume that $\Omega$ is a bounded or an exterior domain with $C^3$-boundary in $\mathbb{R}^n$. Then the Stokes operator $A = A_R$ subject to the Robin boundary condition generates an analytic semigroup on $L^\infty_\sigma(\Omega)$ of angle $\pi/2$.

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**References**


