

ON NONLINEAR DAMPED WAVE EQUATIONS FOR POSITIVE OPERATORS. I. DISCRETE SPECTRUM

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ABSTRACT. In this paper we study a Cauchy problem for the nonlinear damped wave equations for a general positive operator with discrete spectrum. We derive the exponential in time decay of solutions to the linear problem with decay rate depending on the interplay between the bottom of the operator's spectrum and the mass term. Consequently, we prove global in time well-posedness results for semilinear and for more general nonlinear equations with small data. Examples are given for nonlinear damped wave equations for the harmonic oscillator, for the twisted Laplacian (Landau Hamiltonian), and for the Laplacians on compact manifolds.

1. INTRODUCTION

This work is devoted to the analysis of nonlinear damped wave equations for positive operators acting in Hilbert spaces. More precisely, for a densely defined positive operator \mathcal{L} in a separable Hilbert space \mathcal{H} we consider the Cauchy problem

$$(1.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + b\partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = F(u, \partial_t u, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u), & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in \mathcal{H}, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in \mathcal{H}, \end{cases}$$

with the damping term determined by $b > 0$ and mass $m \in \mathbb{R}$. The main assumption in this paper is that the operator \mathcal{L} has a discrete spectrum and that the corresponding eigenvectors form an orthonormal basis in \mathcal{H} .

The main examples of interest for us would be the harmonic oscillator on $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$:

$$(1.2) \quad \mathcal{L} := -\Delta + |x|^2, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n,$$

and the Laplacians, or more general positive elliptic pseudo-differential operators, on $\mathcal{H} = L^2(M)$ for compact manifolds M , with or without boundary. Of course there are numerous other examples that are covered by this setting, for example the twisted

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Laplacian (Landau Hamiltonian) on \mathbb{C}^n given by

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{j=1}^n (Z_j \bar{Z}_j + \bar{Z}_j Z_j),$$

with $Z_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_j} + \frac{1}{2}\bar{z}_j$ and $\bar{Z}_j = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}_j} + \frac{1}{2}z_j$, see Example 3.5, where we also derive the the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality for it.

The other important situation occurs when the spectrum of \mathcal{L} is continuous. In that case the analysis relies on rather different methods and this problem will be addressed in the subsequent paper.

The analysis of linear and nonlinear damped wave equations has a long history. In papers [Mat76, Wah70] the authors first considered these kind of problems for the Laplacian on \mathbb{R}^n . We refer to papers [HKN04, HKN06, HL92, HO04, Ike04, IMN04, IT05, KU13, Kha13, Nar04, Nis03, SW07, Ono03, Ono06, Rac90] in \mathbb{R}^n dealing with damped wave equations under different assumptions, and references therein, where authors study the global solvability of the Cauchy problems for non-linear wave equations for the Laplace operator with the dissipative term. Also, see [Kar00, RTY11, Wir14] for some more abstract settings. For even more references, we refer to a recent survey [IIW17]. Time-dependent dissipation has been also considered, see e.g. [Wir06] for regular and [GR15, RT16a] for irregular dissipation in linear problems, respectively. The global framework for the Fourier analysis generated by a densely defined operator \mathcal{L} on $L^2(M)$ for manifolds M with or without boundary was developed in [RT16, RT16b].

In Section 2 we consider the linear equations and derive the exponential time decay for their solutions. This is done by using the Fourier analysis adapted to the operator \mathcal{L} , elements of which we review in the process of the proof. The exponential decay plays a crucial role in the further analysis, in particular allowing the handling of the nonlinear equations to rely mostly on the analysis in Sobolev spaces over \mathcal{L} . Such decay is achieved by the fact that the operator \mathcal{L} has a discrete positive spectrum. In the case of continuous spectrum, more delicate L^p - methods are needed, and these will appear elsewhere in the subsequent analysis for that setting.

Partial differential equations in general Hilbert (and also Banach) spaces have been considered in many papers as well, both linear and nonlinear. For example, see [EFNT94] for an extensive analysis in terms of the dynamical systems behaviour, and [Zua90] for related analysis. Linear wave equations in Hilbert spaces with irregular coefficients have been recently considered by the authors in [RT17].

In Section 3 we consider the case of semilinear damped wave equations of the form

$$(1.3) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + b\partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = f(u), & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in \mathcal{H}, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in \mathcal{H}, \end{cases}$$

under the assumption that f satisfies the properties

$$(1.4) \quad \begin{cases} f(0) = 0, \\ |f(u) - f(v)| \leq C(|u|^{p-1} + |v|^{p-1})|u - v|, \end{cases}$$

for $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$. If $\mathcal{H} = L^2$, then an example of f satisfying (1.4) is given by

$$f(u) = \mu|u|^{p-1}u,$$

for $p > 1$ and $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ or, more generally, by differentiable functions f such that

$$|f'(u)| \leq C|u|^{p-1}.$$

In Section 4 we consider a general case, namely, we deal with the nonlinear equation (1.1) for general nonlinearity

$$F = F(u, \partial_t u, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)$$

satisfying an analogue of the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequalities in the Sobolev space associated to \mathcal{L} . This condition is formulated in (4.1) and some examples for it are given in (4.3).

In Section 5 we consider more general nonlinearities of the form

$$(1.5) \quad F_l = F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2}u\}_{j=1}^l).$$

for $F_l : \mathbb{C}^{2l+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, for any $l \in \mathbb{N}$. The proof of the global in time well-posedness in this case is an extension of the proof in Section 4, so we only very briefly indicate the differences there. A different feature here is that the smallness is required in higher regularity Sobolev spaces, but only to make sense of the higher order derivatives entering the nonlinearity F_l .

From the physical point of view it is natural to assume that $b > 0$ and $m \geq 0$. However, from the point of view of the well-posedness we may allow m to be negative. In this case, there appears an interplay between b, m and the bottom λ_0 of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} . The global in time decay properties of solutions to wave equation with negative mass in \mathbb{R}^n were derived in [RS10].

The inclusion of the mass term does allow us to derive certain results even in the case when the bottom of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} is zero. For example, when $\mathcal{H} = L^2(M)$ for a compact manifold M without boundary, and \mathcal{L} being the positive Laplacian on M , the operator \mathcal{L} has a zero eigenvalue. In this case, if the Cauchy data are constant, in the case of $m = 0$ the solution to the linear problem allows also constants, so that there is no decay in time and no dispersion even for $b > 0$. To avoid this kind of (trivial) problems, it will be convenient to assume that $\lambda_0 + m > 0$, with $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ and $m \in \mathbb{R}$. Otherwise, to summarise and collect our assumptions for this paper, we will be assuming throughout that

The positive operator \mathcal{L} has a discrete spectrum $\{\lambda_j\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ with $\lambda_0 := \inf_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_j \geq 0$, and

the corresponding eigenvectors form an orthonormal basis in \mathcal{H} .

Moreover, we assume that $b > 0$, $m \in \mathbb{R}$, and $\lambda_0 + m > 0$.

For example, in our setting, assuming that $\lambda_0 + m > 0$, for appropriate indices α, β , we then have the estimates

$$\|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha+2\beta}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}), \quad \text{for } 0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m},$$

$$\|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha+2\beta}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}), \quad \text{for } b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m},$$

and

$$\|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha+2\beta}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}), \quad \text{for } 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b,$$

for solutions of linear and nonlinear equations, modulo small modifications – see the exact statements later on, e.g. in Proposition 2.1.

Throughout this paper we will use the notation \lesssim to not write constants (which are not depending on the main parameters) in estimates. We also assume $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, \dots\}$ and $\mathbb{N}_0 = \mathbb{N} \cup \{0\}$.

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2. DISSIPATIVE WAVE EQUATION

In this section we derive energy estimates for the linear damped wave equation

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + b\partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = 0, & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in \mathcal{H}, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in \mathcal{H}, \end{cases}$$

for some dissipation constant $b > 0$ and some mass constant m .

The time decay rates will depend on the following parameter associated with \mathcal{L} . Let $\{\lambda_j\}_{j=1}^\infty$ be the set of eigenvalues of \mathcal{L} . Since \mathcal{L} is a positive operator, all eigenvalues are also positive. Then we call

$$(2.2) \quad \lambda_0 := \inf_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_j$$

the bottom of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} . In this paper we make the only assumption that the operator is positive, i.e. that

$$(2.3) \quad \lambda_0 \geq 0.$$

To obtain the time decay rate for solutions $u(t)$ of (2.1) we first derive the representation of solutions for (2.1) based on the suitable Fourier analysis adapted to the operator \mathcal{L} .

For this, we first recall the necessary elements of the global Fourier analysis that has been developed in [RT16] (also see [RT16b], and its applications to the spectral properties of operators in [DRT17]). Since the operator \mathcal{L} is self-adjoint, the construction of [RT16] is considerably simplified. We now give its brief review adapting it to the present setting.

Let $H_{\mathcal{L}}^\infty := \text{Dom}(\mathcal{L}^\infty)$ be the space of test functions for \mathcal{L} which we define as

$$\text{Dom}(\mathcal{L}^\infty) := \bigcap_{k=1}^\infty \text{Dom}(\mathcal{L}^k),$$

where $\text{Dom}(\mathcal{L}^k)$ is the domain of the operator \mathcal{L}^k , in turn defined as

$$\text{Dom}(\mathcal{L}^k) := \{f \in \mathcal{H} : \mathcal{L}^j f \in \text{Dom}(\mathcal{L}), \ j = 0, 1, 2, \dots, k-1\}.$$

The Fréchet topology of $H_{\mathcal{L}}^\infty$ is given by the family of semi-norms

$$(2.4) \quad \|\varphi\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^k} := \max_{j \leq k} \|\mathcal{L}^j \varphi\|_{\mathcal{H}}, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}_0, \ \varphi \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^\infty.$$

The space

$$H_{\mathcal{L}}^{-\infty} := \mathcal{L}'(H_{\mathcal{L}}^\infty, \mathbb{C})$$

of linear continuous functionals on $H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}$ is called the space of \mathcal{L} -distributions. For $w \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{-\infty}$ and $\varphi \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}$, we shall write

$$w(\varphi) = \langle w, \varphi \rangle.$$

For any $\psi \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}$, the functional

$$H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty} \ni \varphi \mapsto (\varphi, \psi)$$

is an \mathcal{L} -distribution, which gives an embedding $\psi \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty} \hookrightarrow H_{\mathcal{L}}^{-\infty}$. Let $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N})$ denote the space of rapidly decaying functions $\varphi : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. That is, $\varphi \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N})$ if for any $N < \infty$ there exists a constant $C_{\varphi, N}$ such that

$$|\varphi(\xi)| \leq C_{\varphi, N} \langle \xi \rangle^{-N}$$

holds for all $\xi \in \mathbb{N}$, where we denote

$$\langle \xi \rangle := (1 + |\lambda_{\xi}|)^{1/2},$$

where λ_{ξ} are the eigenvalues of \mathcal{H} labelled according to multiplicities. We denote by e_{ξ} the corresponding eigenvectors of \mathcal{H} .

The topology on $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N})$ is given by the seminorms p_k , where $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and

$$p_k(\varphi) := \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} \langle \xi \rangle^k |\varphi(\xi)|.$$

We now define the \mathcal{L} -Fourier transform on $H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}$ as the mapping

$$(\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}} f)(\xi) = (f \mapsto \widehat{f}) : H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N})$$

by the formula

$$(2.5) \quad \widehat{f}(\xi) := (\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}} f)(\xi) = (f, e_{\xi}).$$

The \mathcal{L} -Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}}$ is a bijective homeomorphism from $H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}$ to $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N})$. Its inverse

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}}^{-1} : \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N}) \rightarrow H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}$$

is given by

$$(2.6) \quad \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}}^{-1} h = \sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} h(\xi) e_{\xi}, \quad h \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{N}),$$

so that the Fourier inversion formula becomes

$$(2.7) \quad f = \sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} \widehat{f}(\xi) e_{\xi} \quad \text{for all } f \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\infty}.$$

The Plancherel's identity takes the form

$$(2.8) \quad \|f\|_{\mathcal{H}} = \left(\sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} |\widehat{f}(\xi)|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

Consequently, we can also define Sobolev spaces $H_{\mathcal{L}}^s$ associated to \mathcal{L} . Thus, for any $s \in \mathbb{R}$, we set

$$(2.9) \quad H_{\mathcal{L}}^s := \{f \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{-\infty} : \mathcal{L}^{s/2} f \in \mathcal{H}\},$$

with the norm $\|f\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^s} := \|\mathcal{L}^{s/2}f\|_{\mathcal{H}}$, which we understand as

$$\|f\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^s} := \|\mathcal{L}^{s/2}f\|_{\mathcal{H}} := \left(\sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} \lambda_{\xi}^s |\widehat{f}(\xi)|^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

In particular, for $s = 0$, we have $H_{\mathcal{L}}^0 = \mathcal{H}$.

For $f, g \in \mathcal{H}$ the convolution $(f *_{\mathcal{L}} g)$ was defined in [RT16] by the formula

$$f *_{\mathcal{L}} g := \sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} \widehat{f}(\xi) \widehat{g}(\xi) e_{\xi}.$$

This convolution and its properties in general Hilbert spaces have been analysed in [KRT17, RT16c]. In terms of this convolution, the solution of (2.1) is given as

$$u(t) = K_0(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_0 + K_1(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_1,$$

where the \mathcal{L} -Fourier transforms $R_i(t, \xi)$ of $K_i(t)$ ($i = 0, 1$) are determined from the ordinary differential equations

$$(2.10) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t^2 \widehat{u}(t, \xi) + b \partial_t \widehat{u}(t, \xi) + (\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m) \widehat{u}(t, \xi) = 0, & t > 0, \\ \widehat{u}(0, \xi) = \widehat{u}_0(\xi), \\ \partial_t \widehat{u}(0, \xi) = \widehat{u}_1(\xi), \end{cases}$$

where $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) = \lambda_{\xi}$ is the symbol of the operator \mathcal{L} . In the case $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m \neq b^2/4$ the equations (2.10) can be solved explicitly with their solutions given by

$$\widehat{u}(t, \xi) = C_0 e^{(-b/2 + i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4})t} + C_1 e^{(-b/2 - i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4})t},$$

where

$$C_0 = \left(\frac{b}{4i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \widehat{u}_0(\xi) + \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} \widehat{u}_1(\xi),$$

and

$$C_1 = \left(\frac{ib}{4\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \widehat{u}_0(\xi) + \frac{i}{2\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} \widehat{u}_1(\xi).$$

And, for the case $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m = b^2/4$ the equations (2.10) can be solved with their solutions given by

$$\widehat{u}(t, \xi) = C_0 e^{(-b/2)t} + C_1 t e^{(-b/2)t},$$

where

$$C_0 = \widehat{u}_0(\xi), \quad C_1 = \frac{b}{2} \widehat{u}_0(\xi) + \widehat{u}_1(\xi).$$

Thus, for $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m \neq b^2/4$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} R_0(t, \xi) &= \left(\frac{b}{4i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) e^{(-b/2 + i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4})t} \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{ib}{4\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) e^{(-b/2 - i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4})t}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$R_1(t, \xi) = \frac{1}{2i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} e^{(-b/2 + i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4})t} \\ + \frac{i}{2\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4}} e^{(-b/2 - i\sqrt{\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m - b^2/4})t},$$

and, for $\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}(\xi) + m = b^2/4$, we have

$$R_0(t, \xi) = \left(1 + \frac{b}{2}t\right) e^{(-b/2)t}, \quad R_1(t, \xi) = t e^{(-b/2)t}.$$

Thus, using these formulae, we get

Proposition 2.1. *Let $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ be the bottom of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} defined by (2.2). Assume that $\lambda_0 + m > 0$. Then the solution u of (2.1) satisfies the estimates*

$$(2.11) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha+2\beta}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}),$$

for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$(2.12) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t) e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha+2\beta}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}),$$

for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$(2.13) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha+2\beta}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}),$$

for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$, for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and $\beta \geq 0$.

Proof. By taking into account the equalities

$$\|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u\|_{\mathcal{H}} = \|\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}}(\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u)\|_{l^2},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}}(\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u) = \sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^\beta(\xi) \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{L}}(\partial_t^\alpha u),$$

and the representations of $R_0(t, \xi)$ and $R_1(t, \xi)$, we obtain the statement of Proposition 2.1. \square

Remark 2.2. We note that we could combine the operator \mathcal{L} and the mass term m into a new operator $\mathcal{L} + m$. Then, the statement of Proposition 2.1 would hold under the assumption that the bottom of the spectrum $\mathcal{L} + m$ is > 0 , without assuming that the operator \mathcal{L} is positive. However, we prefer to formulate it in this form since the operator $\mathcal{L}^{1/2}$ will appear later on in the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality in (3.3).

3. SEMILINEAR DAMPED WAVE EQUATION

In this section we consider the semilinear damped wave equation for the operator \mathcal{L} , taking the form:

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + b\partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = f(u), & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in \mathcal{H}, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in \mathcal{H}. \end{cases}$$

A typical example that we are interested in is $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ or $\mathcal{H} = L^2(M)$ for a compact manifold M , and

$$(3.2) \quad f(u) = \mu|u|^{p-1}u,$$

for $p > 1$ and $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$. However, we will be able to prove the global in time well-posedness for a more general class of nonlinearities $f(u)$ in abstract Hilbert spaces, satisfying the conditions (3.8) in Theorem 3.6.

We now introduce the following notion of the Gagliardo–Nirenberg index that will be important for our global in time well-posedness result for (3.1). We may identify our Hilbert space \mathcal{H} as $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\Omega)$ for a measure space Ω , so that we can also use the scale $L^p(\Omega)$ of spaces on Ω . We can write $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}} = \|\cdot\|_2$ in this notation.

Definition 3.1 (Gagliardo–Nirenberg index). We say that $p \geq 1$ is Gagliardo–Nirenberg admissible for the operator \mathcal{L} if the Gagliardo–Nirenberg type inequality

$$(3.3) \quad \|u\|_{2p} \leq C \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}u\|_2^\theta \|u\|_2^{1-\theta}$$

holds for some $\theta = \theta(p) \in [0, 1]$.

Example 3.2 (Harmonic oscillator). Note that for the harmonic oscillator $\mathcal{L} = -\Delta + |x|^2$ in \mathbb{R}^n , the following indices are Gagliardo–Nirenberg admissible, i.e. we have that (3.3) holds for

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{cases} n = 1 \text{ and } n = 2 : 1 \leq p < \infty; \\ n \geq 3 : 1 \leq p \leq \frac{n}{n-2}. \end{cases}$$

These properties follow from the corresponding properties of the Laplacian, see the results of Nirenberg’s paper [Nir59]. In this case we also have the bottom of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} given by $\lambda_0 = n$, see Appendix A.

Example 3.3 (Laplacian on spheres). For \mathcal{L} being the Laplacian on the sphere \mathbb{S}^n , with $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{S}^n)$, the Gagliardo–Nirenberg admissible indices are also given by (3.4), see e.g. [Dol14].

Example 3.4 (Laplacian on compact Riemannian manifolds). More generally, for \mathcal{L} being the Laplacian on the compact Riemannian manifold \mathcal{M} , with $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathcal{M})$, the Gagliardo–Nirenberg admissible indices are given by

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{cases} n = 2 : 1 \leq p < \infty; \\ n \geq 3 : 1 \leq p \leq \frac{n}{n-2}. \end{cases}$$

For this, we refer to the papers of Ceccon and Montenegro [CM08, CM13]. For more references, see e.g. [Bro03, ACM15, CD16] and references therein.

Example 3.5 (Landau Hamiltonian). If we take the twisted Laplacian on \mathbb{C}^n

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{j=1}^n (Z_j \bar{Z}_j + \bar{Z}_j Z_j),$$

with $Z_j = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_j} + \frac{1}{2}\bar{z}_j$, and $\bar{Z}_j = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}_j} + \frac{1}{2}z_j$, then the Gagliardo-Nirenberg admissible indices for the twisted Laplacian (Landau Hamiltonian) \mathcal{L} are given by

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{cases} n = 1 : 1 \leq p < \infty; \\ n \geq 2 : 1 \leq p \leq \frac{n}{n-1}. \end{cases}$$

Moreover, we have $\lambda_0 = n$. The spectrum of \mathcal{L} is discrete but the eigenvalues have infinite multiplicities, see e.g. [RS15] or [RT16a]. However, as we do not make any assumption on multiplicities, this situation is covered by our setting.

Proof of (3.6). It follows from the Hölder inequality that

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |u|^{2p} dz = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |u|^{2ps} |u|^{2p(1-s)} dz \leq \left(\int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |u|^{\frac{2n}{n-1}} dz \right)^{ps \frac{n-1}{n}} \left(\int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |u|^2 dz \right)^{p(1-s)},$$

for any $s \in [0, 1]$ such that

$$(3.7) \quad ps \frac{n-1}{n} + p(1-s) = 1.$$

Then by using the Sobolev embedding from [RS15, Lemma 2.3], we obtain

$$\|u\|_{L^{2p}(\mathbb{C}^n)} \lesssim \|u\|_{L^2_1(\mathbb{C}^n)}^s \|u\|_{L^2(\mathbb{C}^n)}^{1-s}.$$

Finally, (3.7) yields (3.6). \square

For the convenience of the reader we recall the definition of the Sobolev spaces $H_{\mathcal{L}}^s$, $s \in \mathbb{R}$, associated to \mathcal{L} :

$$H_{\mathcal{L}}^s := \{f \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{-\infty} : \mathcal{L}^{s/2} f \in L^2\},$$

with the norm $\|f\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^s} := \|\mathcal{L}^{s/2} f\|_{L^2}$. We also recall that $\lambda_0 = \lambda_0(\mathcal{L})$ denotes the bottom of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} defined by (2.2).

Theorem 3.6. *Let $p > 1$ be Gagliardo-Nirenberg admissible for \mathcal{L} , i.e. assume that (3.3) holds. Suppose that $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ and $\lambda_0 + m > 0$. Assume that f satisfies the properties*

$$(3.8) \quad \begin{cases} f(0) = 0, \\ |f(u) - f(v)| \leq C(|u|^{p-1} + |v|^{p-1})|u - v|, \end{cases}$$

for $u, v \in \mathbb{R}$. Assume that the Cauchy data $u_0 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^1$ and $u_1 \in \mathcal{H}$ satisfy

$$(3.9) \quad \|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} + \|u_1\|_{\mathcal{H}} \leq \varepsilon.$$

Then, there exists a small positive constant $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that the Cauchy problem

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + b\partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = f(u), & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^1, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in \mathcal{H}, \end{cases}$$

has a unique global solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^1) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}_+; \mathcal{H})$ for all $0 < \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0$.

Moreover, when $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(3.10) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{1/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t},$$

and when $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(3.11) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t},$$

and when $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$ we have

$$(3.12) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{1/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t},$$

for $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 0)$ and $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 1/2)$, and $(\alpha, \beta) = (1, 0)$.

As noted in the introduction, if $\mathcal{H} = L^2$, then an example of f satisfying (3.8) is given by (3.2), i.e. by

$$f(u) = \mu|u|^{p-1}u, \quad p > 1, \quad \mu \in \mathbb{R},$$

or by a differentiable function f such that

$$|f'(u)| \leq C|u|^{p-1}.$$

Proof of Theorem 3.6. Let us consider the closed subsets Z_j of the space $C^1(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^1)$ defined as

$$Z_j := \{u \in C^1(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^1); \|u\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j\}, \quad j = 1, 2, 3,$$

with

$$\|u\|_{Z_1} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{(1+t)^{-1/2} e^{\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2} u(t, \cdot)\|_2)\},$$

if $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$\|u\|_{Z_2} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{(1+t)^{-3/2} e^{\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2} u(t, \cdot)\|_2)\},$$

if $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$\|u\|_{Z_3} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{(1+t)^{-1/2} e^{(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} (\|u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2} u(t, \cdot)\|_2)\},$$

if $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$, where $L_j > 0$ ($j = 1, 2, 3$) will be specified later. Now we define the mapping Γ on Z_j by

$$(3.13) \quad \Gamma[u](t) := K_0(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_0 + K_1(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_1 + \int_0^t K_1(t-\tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} f(u(\tau)) d\tau,$$

where K_0, K_1 , and the convolution $*_{\mathcal{L}}$ are as defined in Section 2.

We claim that

$$(3.14) \quad \|\Gamma[u]\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$$

for all $u \in Z_j$ and

$$(3.15) \quad \|\Gamma[u] - \Gamma[v]\|_{Z_j} \leq \frac{1}{r_j} \|u - v\|_{Z_j}$$

for all $u, v \in Z_j$ with $r_j > 1$ and $j = 1, 2, 3$. Once we proved (3.14) and (3.15), we get that Γ is a contraction mapping on Z_j . The Banach fixed point theorem then implies that Γ has a unique fixed point on Z_j with $j = 1, 2, 3$. It means that there exists a unique global solution u of the equation

$$u = \Gamma[u] \text{ in } Z_j,$$

which also gives the solution to (3.1). So, we now concentrate on proving (3.14) and (3.15).

As we noted before we may identify our Hilbert space \mathcal{H} as a measure space $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\Omega)$, so that we can also use the scale of L^p spaces on Ω . We can write $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{H}} = \|\cdot\|_2$ in this notation. Recalling the second assumption in (3.8) on f , namely,

$$|f(u) - f(v)| \leq C(|u|^{p-1} + |v|^{p-1})|u - v|,$$

applying it to functions $u = u(t)$ and $v = v(t)$ we get

$$\|(f(u) - f(v))(t, \cdot)\|_2^2 \leq C \int_{\Omega} (|u(t)|^{p-1} + |v(t)|^{p-1})^2 |u(t) - v(t)|^2.$$

Consequently, by the Hölder inequality, we get

$$\|(f(u) - f(v))(t, \cdot)\|_2^2 \leq C(\|u(t, \cdot)\|_{2p}^{p-1} + \|v(t, \cdot)\|_{2p}^{p-1})^2 \|(u - v)(t, \cdot)\|_{2p}^2$$

since

$$\frac{1}{\frac{p}{p-1}} + \frac{1}{p} = 1.$$

By the Gagliardo–Nirenberg-type inequality (3.3) which holds for p by the assumption, and by Young's inequality

$$a^\theta b^{1-\theta} \leq \theta a + (1 - \theta)b$$

for $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$, $a, b \geq 0$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|(f(u) - f(v))(t, \cdot)\|_2 &\leq C \left[(\|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|u(t, \cdot)\|_2)^{p-1} \right. \\ (3.16) \quad &\quad \left. + (\|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}v(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|v(t, \cdot)\|_2)^{p-1} \right] \\ &\quad \times (\|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}(u - v)(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|(u - v)(t, \cdot)\|_2). \end{aligned}$$

Recalling that $\|u\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$ and $\|v\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$ for $j = 1, 2, 3$, from (3.16) we get

$$(3.17) \quad \|(f(u) - f(v))(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C(1 + t)^{p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_1^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_1},$$

for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$(3.18) \quad \|(f(u) - f(v))(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C(1 + t)^{3p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_2^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_2},$$

for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$(3.19) \quad \|(f(u) - f(v))(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C(1 + t)^{p/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})pt} L_3^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_3},$$

for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$.

By putting $v = 0$ in (3.17)–(3.19), and using that $f(0) = 0$, we also have

$$(3.20) \quad \|f(u)(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C(1 + t)^{p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_1^p, \quad \text{for } 0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m},$$

and

$$(3.21) \quad \|f(u)(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C(1 + t)^{3p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_2^p, \quad \text{for } b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m},$$

and

$$(3.22) \quad \|f(u)(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C(1 + t)^{p/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})pt} L_3^p, \quad \text{for } 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b.$$

Now, let us estimate the integral operator

$$(3.23) \quad J[u](t, x) := \int_0^t K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} f(u(\tau, x)) d\tau.$$

More precisely, for $\alpha = 0, 1$ and for all $\beta \geq 0$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, x)|^2 &\leq \left| \int_0^t \partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} f(u(\tau, x)) d\tau \right|^2 \\ &\leq \left(\int_0^t \left| \partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} f(u(\tau, x)) \right| d\tau \right)^2 \\ &\leq t \int_0^t \left| \partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} f(u(\tau, x)) \right|^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Then for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, by using Proposition 2.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 &\leq t \int_0^t \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_2^2 d\tau \\ (3.24) \quad &\leq Ct \int_0^t e^{-2\frac{b}{2}(t-\tau)} \|f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau \\ &= Cte^{-bt} \int_0^t e^{b\tau} \|f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 &\leq Cte^{-bt} \int_0^t (1 + t - \tau)^2 e^{b\tau} \|f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau \\ (3.25) \quad &\leq Ct(1 + t)^2 e^{-bt} \int_0^t e^{b\tau} \|f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Also, for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 &\leq Cte^{-2(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} \\ (3.26) \quad &\times \int_0^t e^{2(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})\tau} \|f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Now we have to control the norm $\|f(u(\tau, \cdot))\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2$. We notice that for $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 1/2)$ and $(\alpha, \beta) = (1, 0)$ we have $\alpha - 1 + 2\beta \leq 0$.

Thus, using (3.17) and (3.20), we obtain from (3.24) that

$$(3.27) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta (J[u] - J[v])(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq Ct^{1/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} L_1^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_1},$$

and

$$(3.28) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq Ct^{1/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} L_1^p,$$

with the estimates (3.27)–(3.28) holding for $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 1/2)$ and $(\alpha, \beta) = (1, 0)$.

Similarly, using (3.18) and (3.21), we get from (3.25):

$$(3.29) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta (J[u] - J[v])(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq Ct^{1/2} (1 + t) e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} L_2^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_2},$$

and

$$(3.30) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C t^{1/2} (1+t) e^{-\frac{b}{2}t} L_2^p,$$

with the estimates (3.27)–(3.28) holding for $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 1/2)$ and $(\alpha, \beta) = (1, 0)$.

Also, from (3.26) by using (3.19) and (3.22), we get

$$(3.31) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta (J[u] - J[v])(t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C t^{1/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} L_3^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_3},$$

$$(3.32) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2 \leq C t^{1/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} L_3^p,$$

for $(\alpha, \beta) = (0, 1/2)$ and $(\alpha, \beta) = (1, 0)$.

Consequently, by the definition of $\Gamma[u]$ in (3.13) and using Proposition 2.1 for the first term and estimates for $\|J[u]\|_{Z_j}$ for the second term below, we obtain

$$(3.33) \quad \begin{aligned} \|\Gamma[u]\|_{Z_j} &\leq \|K_0(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_0 + K_1(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_1\|_{Z_j} + \|J[u]\|_{Z_j} \\ &\leq C_{1j}(\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} + \|u_1\|_{L^2}) + C_{2j} L_j^p, \end{aligned}$$

for some $C_{1j} > 0$ and $C_{2j} > 0$, $j = 1, 2, 3$.

Moreover, in the similar way, we can estimate

$$(3.34) \quad \|\Gamma[u] - \Gamma[v]\|_{Z_j} \leq \|J[u] - J[v]\|_{Z_j} \leq C_{3j} L_j^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_j},$$

for some $C_{3j} > 0$, $j = 1, 2, 3$. Taking some $r_j > 1$, we choose

$$L_j := r_j C_{1j} (\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} + \|u_1\|_{L^2})$$

with sufficiently small $\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} + \|u_1\|_{L^2} < \varepsilon$ so that

$$(3.35) \quad C_{2j} L_j^p \leq \frac{1}{r_j} L_j, \quad C_{3j} L_j^{p-1} \leq \frac{1}{r_j}.$$

Then estimates (3.33)–(3.35) imply the desired estimates (3.14) and (3.15). This means that we can apply the fixed point theorem for the existence of solutions.

The estimates (3.11) and (3.12) follow from (3.24)–(3.26). Theorem 3.6 is now proved. \square

4. NONLINEAR DAMPED WAVE EQUATION

In this section we deal with the general nonlinearity by considering the nonlinear term of the form $F(u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)$, for some function $F : \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. Now, let us suppose that the following property holds.

Denoting

$$U := (u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)$$

for $u \in C^1(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^1)$, we assume that $F(U) \in C(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^1)$ and we call the index $p > 1$ to be (F, \mathcal{L}) -admissible if we have the estimate

$$(4.1) \quad \|F(U) - F(V)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \lesssim (\|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^{p-1} + \|V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^{p-1}) \|U - V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}.$$

We note that using the definition of Sobolev spaces in (2.9), in this notation we have

$$(4.2) \quad \|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \simeq \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}u\|_{\mathcal{H}} + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}\partial_t u\|_{\mathcal{H}} + \|\mathcal{L}u\|_{\mathcal{H}}.$$

An example of F satisfying (4.1) may be given by nonlinearities of the form

$$(4.3) \quad F(U) = \varphi \|U\|_{\mathcal{H}}^p \quad \text{or} \quad F(U) = \varphi \|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^p,$$

for some $\varphi \in \text{Dom}(\mathcal{L})$.

We now give the global in time well-posedness statement.

Theorem 4.1. *Let $p > 1$ be (F, \mathcal{L}) -admissible, i.e. assume that $F = F(u, \partial_t u, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)$ satisfies the condition (4.1). Suppose that $F(0) = 0$, and that $u_0 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^2$ and $u_1 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^1$ are such that*

$$\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^2} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq \varepsilon.$$

Assume that $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ and $\lambda_0 + m > 0$. Then, there exists a small positive constant $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that the Cauchy problem

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + b\partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = F(u, \partial_t u, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u), & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^2, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^1, \end{cases}$$

has a unique global solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^2) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^1)$ for all $0 < \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0$.

Moreover, for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(4.4) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{1/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t},$$

and for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(4.5) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t},$$

and for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$ we have

$$(4.6) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{1/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t},$$

for any $(\alpha, \beta) \in \{(0, 0), (0, 1/2), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1/2), (2, 0)\}$.

Proof. The proof of Theorem 4.1 is similar to that of Theorem 3.6 except that we aim at using the assumption (4.1) instead of the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality. First, we define the closed subsets Z_j of the space $C^2(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^2)$ by

$$Z_j := \{u \in C^2(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^2); \|u\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j\}, \quad j = 4, 5, 6,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{Z_4} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{ & (1+t)^{-1/2} e^{\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 \\ & + \|\partial_t \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t^2 u(t, \cdot)\|_2) \}, \quad \text{if } 0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{Z_5} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{ & (1+t)^{-3/2} e^{\frac{b}{2}t} (\|u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 \\ & + \|\partial_t \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t^2 u(t, \cdot)\|_2) \}, \quad \text{if } b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|u\|_{Z_6} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{ & (1+t)^{-1/2} e^{(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} (\|u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 \\ & + \|\partial_t \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\mathcal{L}u(t, \cdot)\|_2 + \|\partial_t^2 u(t, \cdot)\|_2) \}, \quad \text{if } 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b, \end{aligned}$$

where $L_j > 0$ ($j = 4, 5, 6$) are to be specified later.

Now, we begin by repeating several steps from the proof of Theorem 3.6, namely, we define the mapping Γ on Z_4 , Z_5 and Z_6 by

$$(4.7) \quad \begin{aligned} \Gamma[u](t) &:= K_0(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_0 + K_1(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_1 \\ &\quad + \int_0^t K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} F(u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)(\tau) d\tau, \end{aligned}$$

and we show that Γ is a contraction mapping on Z_4 , Z_5 and Z_6 . By (4.1) we have

$$(4.8) \quad \|F(U) - F(V)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \lesssim (\|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^{p-1} + \|V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^{p-1}) \|U - V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}.$$

We take u and v satisfying $\|u\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$ and $\|v\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$ for $j = 4, 5, 6$. Recalling (4.2) for $U = (u, \partial_t u, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)$, from (4.8) we get

$$(4.9) \quad \|(F(U) - F(V))(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_4^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_4},$$

and

$$(4.10) \quad \|(F(U) - F(V))(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq C(1+t)^{3p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_5^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_5},$$

and

$$(4.11) \quad \|(F(U) - F(V))(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})pt} L_6^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_6},$$

respectively. Since $F(0) = 0$, by putting $v = 0$ and $V = 0$ in (4.9)–(4.11), we obtain

$$(4.12) \quad \|F(U)(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_4^p,$$

and

$$(4.13) \quad \|F(U)(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq C(1+t)^{3p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_5^p,$$

and

$$(4.14) \quad \|F(U)(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})pt} L_6^p,$$

respectively. As in the proof of Theorem 3.6, in view of Proposition 2.1, for the integral operator

$$(4.15) \quad J[u](t, x) := \int_0^t K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} F(u(\tau, x), u_t(\tau, x), \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u(\tau, x)) d\tau,$$

for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(4.16) \quad \begin{aligned} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 &\leq t \int_0^t \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} F(u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)(\tau, \cdot)\|_2^2 d\tau \\ &\leq C t e^{-bt} \int_0^t e^{b\tau} \|F(u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we get

$$(4.17) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 \leq C t (1+t)^2 e^{-bt} \int_0^t e^{b\tau} \|F(u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau.$$

Also, for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$ we obtain

$$(4.18) \quad \begin{aligned} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 &\leq Cte^{-2(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} \\ &\times \int_0^t e^{2(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})\tau} \|F(u, u_t, \mathcal{L}^{1/2}u)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau \end{aligned}$$

for $(\alpha, \beta) \in \{(0, 0), (0, 1/2), (1, 0), (0, 1), (1, 1/2), (2, 0)\}$.

Now, combining the previous discussions with the estimates (4.9)–(4.14), we complete the proof of Theorem 4.1. \square

5. HIGHER ORDER NONLINEARITIES

In this section we briefly indicate how the obtained results can be extended to higher order nonlinearities $F_l : \mathbb{C}^{2l+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $l \in \mathbb{N}$, in the form

$$(5.1) \quad F_l = F_l(u, \{\partial_t^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2}u\}_{j=1}^l).$$

Denoting

$$U := (u, \{\partial_t^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2}u\}_{j=1}^l)$$

for $u \in C^l(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^l)$, we assume that $F_l(U) \in C(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^l)$ and we say that the index $p > 1$ is (F_l, \mathcal{L}) -admissible if we have the inequality

$$(5.2) \quad \|F_l(U) - F_l(V)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \lesssim (\|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l}^{p-1} + \|V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l}^{p-1})\|U - V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l}.$$

An example of $F = F_l$ satisfying (5.2) may be given by nonlinearities of the form

$$(5.3) \quad F(U) = \varphi\|U\|_{\mathcal{H}}^p \quad \text{or} \quad F(U) = \varphi\|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^p,$$

for some $\varphi \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^1$.

Theorem 5.1. *Let $l \in \mathbb{N}$. Assume that $\lambda_0 \geq 0$ and $\lambda_0 + m > 0$, where $\lambda_0 = \lambda_0(\mathcal{L})$ is the bottom of the spectrum of \mathcal{L} . Let $p > 1$ be such that F_l as in (5.1) satisfies the condition (5.2). Suppose that $F(0) = 0$, and that $u_0 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{l+1}$ and $u_1 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^l$ are such that*

$$\|u_0\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{l+1}} + \|u_1\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq \varepsilon.$$

Then, there exists a small positive constant $\varepsilon_0 > 0$ such that the Cauchy problem

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t^2 u(t) + \mathcal{L}u(t) + \partial_t u(t) + mu(t) = F_l(u, \{\partial_t^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2}u\}_{j=1}^l), & t > 0, \\ u(0) = u_0 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^{l+1}, \\ \partial_t u(0) = u_1 \in H_{\mathcal{L}}^l, \end{cases}$$

has a unique global solution $u \in C(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^{l+1}) \cap C^1(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^l)$ for all $0 < \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_0$.

Moreover, for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(5.4) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{1/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t},$$

for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(5.5) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{3/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}t},$$

and for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$ we have

$$(5.6) \quad \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}} \lesssim (1+t)^{1/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t},$$

for any $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{N}_0 \times \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{N}_0$ with $\alpha + 2\beta \leq l + 1$.

Proof. The proof of Theorem 5.1 is similar to that of Theorem 4.1 except that we aim at using more general assumption (5.2) instead of the assumption (4.1). Analogously, define the closed subsets Z_j of the space $C^{l+1}(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^{l+1})$ by

$$Z_j := \{u \in C^{l+1}(\mathbb{R}_+; H_{\mathcal{L}}^{l+1}); \|u\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j\}, \quad j = 3l + 1, 3l + 2, 3l + 3$$

with

$$\|u\|_{Z_{3l+1}} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{(1+t)^{-1/2} e^{\frac{b}{2}t} \left(\sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{N}_0 \times \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{N}_0}^{\alpha+2\beta \leq l+1} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t, \cdot)\|_2 \right)\},$$

if $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$\|u\|_{Z_{3l+2}} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{(1+t)^{-3/2} e^{\frac{b}{2}t} \left(\sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{N}_0 \times \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{N}_0}^{\alpha+2\beta \leq l+1} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t, \cdot)\|_2 \right)\},$$

if $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$, and

$$\|u\|_{Z_{3l+3}} := \sup_{t \geq 0} \{(1+t)^{-1/2} e^{(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})t} \left(\sum_{(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{N}_0 \times \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{N}_0}^{\alpha+2\beta \leq l+1} \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta u(t, \cdot)\|_2 \right)\},$$

if $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$, where $L_j > 0$ ($j = 3l + 1, 3l + 2, 3l + 3$) are to be defined.

As in the proof of Theorem 4.1, we define the mapping Γ_l on Z_{3l+1} , Z_{3l+2} and Z_{3l+3} by

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_l[u](t) &:= K_0(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_0 + K_1(t) *_{\mathcal{L}} u_1 \\ (5.7) \quad &+ \int_0^t K_1(t - \tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)(\tau) d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

In addition, we establish that Γ_l is a contraction mapping on Z_{3l+1} , Z_{3l+2} and Z_{3l+3} . By (5.2) we have

$$(5.8) \quad \|F_l(U) - F_l(V)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \lesssim (\|U\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^{p-1} + \|V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}^{p-1}) \|U - V\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^1}.$$

Take u and v such that $\|u\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$ and $\|v\|_{Z_j} \leq L_j$ for $j = 3l + 1, 3l + 2, 3l + 3$. Then for $U = (u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)$, from (5.8) we have

$$(5.9) \quad \|(F(U) - F(V))(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_{3l+1}^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_{3l+1}},$$

and

$$(5.10) \quad \|(F(U) - F(V))(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq C(1+t)^{3p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_{3l+2}^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_{3l+2}},$$

and

$$(5.11) \quad \|(F(U) - F(V))(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4} - \lambda_0 - m})pt} L_{3l+3}^{p-1} \|u - v\|_{Z_{3l+3}},$$

respectively. Due to $F(0) = 0$, by substituting $V = 0$ in (5.9)–(5.11), we get

$$(5.12) \quad \|F(U)(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_{3l+1}^p,$$

and

$$(5.13) \quad \|F(U)(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq C(1+t)^{3p/2} e^{-\frac{b}{2}pt} L_{3l+2}^p,$$

and

$$(5.14) \quad \|F(U)(t, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^l} \leq C(1+t)^{p/2} e^{-(\frac{b}{2}-\sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4}-\lambda_0-m})pt} L_{3l+3}^p,$$

respectively. Repeating the proof of the above theorem, from the point of view of Proposition 2.1, for the operator

$$(5.15) \quad J_l[u](t, x) := \int_0^t K_1(t-\tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)(\tau, x) d\tau,$$

for $0 < b < 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we obtain

$$(5.16) \quad \begin{aligned} & \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J_l[u](t, \cdot)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 \\ & \leq t \int_0^t \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta K_1(t-\tau) *_{\mathcal{L}} F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 d\tau \\ & \leq Cte^{-bt} \int_0^t e^{b\tau} \|F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, for $b = 2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m}$ we have

$$(5.17) \quad \begin{aligned} & \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J_l[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 \\ & \leq Ct(1+t)^2 e^{-bt} \int_0^t e^{b\tau} \|F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau. \end{aligned}$$

Also, for $2\sqrt{\lambda_0 + m} < b$ we get

$$(5.18) \quad \begin{aligned} & \|\partial_t^\alpha \mathcal{L}^\beta J_l[u](t, \cdot)\|_2^2 \leq Cte^{-2(\frac{b}{2}-\sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4}-\lambda_0-m})t} \\ & \times \int_0^t e^{2(\frac{b}{2}-\sqrt{\frac{b^2}{4}-\lambda_0-m})\tau} \|F_l(u, \{\partial^j u\}_{j=1}^l, \{\mathcal{L}^{j/2} u\}_{j=1}^l)(\tau, \cdot)\|_{H_{\mathcal{L}}^{\alpha-1+2\beta}}^2 d\tau \end{aligned}$$

for $(\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{N}_0 \times \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{N}_0$ with $\alpha + 2\beta \leq l + 1$.

Now, repeating the proof of Theorem 3.6 step by step and, taking into account the assumption (5.2), we can finish to prove Theorem 5.1. \square

APPENDIX A. HARMONIC OSCILLATOR

In this appendix we briefly illustrate some constructions of this paper related to the Fourier analysis in the example of the harmonic oscillator (1.2), i.e. for $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$ and

$$(A.1) \quad \mathcal{L} := -\Delta + |x|^2, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}^n.$$

In this case we have the bottom of the spectrum $\lambda_0 = n$. The operator \mathcal{L} in (A.1) is essentially self-adjoint on $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with eigenvalues

$$\lambda_k = \sum_{j=1}^n (2k_j + 1), \quad k = (k_1, \dots, k_n) \in \mathbb{N}_0^n,$$

and with eigenfunctions

$$e_k(x) = \prod_{j=1}^n P_{k_j}(x_j) e^{-\frac{|x|^2}{2}},$$

which form an orthogonal system in $\mathcal{H} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$. Here, $P_m(\cdot)$ is the m -th order Hermite polynomial, and

$$P_m(t) = c_m e^{\frac{|t|^2}{2}} \left(t - \frac{d}{dt} \right)^m e^{-\frac{|t|^2}{2}},$$

where $t \in \mathbb{R}$, and

$$c_m = 2^{-m/2} (m!)^{-1/2} \pi^{-1/4}.$$

For more details on the derivation of these formulae see e.g. [NR10].

Let us also calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |(f *_{\mathcal{L}} g)(x)| dx &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} \sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} |\widehat{f}(\xi) \widehat{g}(\xi)| |e_{\xi}(x)| dx \\ &\leq \sum_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} |\widehat{f}(\xi)| |\widehat{g}(\xi)| \|e_{\xi}\|_{L^1} \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{L^2} \|g\|_{L^2} \sup_{\xi \in \mathbb{N}} \|e_{\xi}\|_{L^1} \\ &\leq C \|f\|_{L^2} \|g\|_{L^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence we obtain the following estimate for the convolution: if $f, g \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^n)$, then $f *_{\mathcal{L}} g \in L^1(\mathbb{R}^n)$ with

$$(A.2) \quad \|f *_{\mathcal{L}} g\|_{L^1} \leq C \|f\|_{L^2} \|g\|_{L^2},$$

for some constant C .

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