

ON SECOND ORDER HYPERBOLIC EQUATION  
WITH TWO INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

BY

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In this paper Cauchy's problem for the equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} = f\left(x, y, z, \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\right)$$

is considered in the class of Banach space-valued functions  $z(x, y)$  having Bochner integrable partial derivatives  $\partial z/\partial x$ ,  $\partial z/\partial y$  and  $\partial^2 z/\partial x \partial y$ . The reasonings are similar to those of [2], but results are slightly farther going. Theorem 2.5 shows that a condition introduced in [3], sufficient for the existence and uniqueness of solutions with continuous derivatives in the case of continuous  $f$  and continuous boundary data, is also sufficient for the existence and uniqueness of solutions with integrable derivatives if  $f$  and boundary data are suitably less regular.

Let us mention that by establishing theorem 2.5 for Banach space-valued functions a simple deduction of theorems on continuous dependence of solutions on  $f$  and boundary data is possible, similarly to [2], § 9, p. 102-106.

1. THE FUNCTION CLASS  $W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$

**1.1. Assumptions.** Let  $g$  be a function defined on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , with values in  $(-\infty, \infty]$ , non-increasing, not equal identically to  $\infty$ , and such that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} g(x) = \infty$ . For any  $y \in (-\infty, \infty)$  put  $h_+(y) = \sup\{x: g(x) > y\}$ ,  $h_-(y) = \inf\{x: g(x) < y\}$ , under the convention that  $\inf \emptyset = +\infty$ . Let  $h$  be a function defined on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , with values in  $(-\infty, \infty]$ , and such that  $h_+(y) \leq h(y) \leq h_-(y)$  for any  $y \in (-\infty, \infty)$ .

**1.2. LEMMA.** *Under the assumptions 1.1,  $h_+$  and  $h_-$  are functions with values in  $(-\infty, \infty]$ , non-increasing on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ ,  $h_+$  is right-continuous, and  $h_-$  is left-continuous. The set*

$$D = \{y: -\infty < y < \infty, g^{-1}(\{y\}) \text{ is an interval of positive length}\}$$

is denumerable,  $h_+(y) < h_-(y)$  for  $y \in D$ ,  $h_+(y) = h(y)$  for  $y \in (-\infty, \infty) \setminus D$ . The function  $h$  is non-increasing,  $D$  is precisely the set of all points of discontinuity of  $h$ , and  $h_-(y) = h(y-0)$ ,  $h_+(y) = h(y+0)$  for any  $y \in (-\infty, \infty)$ . Furthermore, for any  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$  and  $y \in (-\infty, \infty)$  the following equivalences hold:

$$(1.2.1) \quad y > g(x-0) \Leftrightarrow x > h(y-0),$$

$$(1.2.2) \quad y < g(x+0) \Leftrightarrow x < h(y+0).$$

The proof is left to the reader.

**1.3. LEMMA.** Under the assumptions 1.1 let  $a \in (-\infty, \infty)$  and  $b \in (g(a-0), \infty)$  be fixed and suppose that  $g$  is continuous in the interval  $(h(b-0), a)$  and  $h$  is continuous in the interval  $(g(a-0), b)$ . Put

$$a' = h(g(a-0)+0), \quad b' = g(h(b-0)+0).$$

Then we have

$$(1.3.1) \quad h(b-0) < a' \leq a \quad \text{and} \quad g(a-0) < b' \leq b$$

or

$$(1.3.2) \quad h(b-0) = a' \quad \text{and} \quad g(a-0) = b'.$$

In each of these two cases if  $x \in (a', a)$ , then  $g(x) = g(a-0)$ , and if  $y \in (b', b)$ , then  $h(y) = h(b-0)$ . Furthermore, in the case (1.3.1),  $g(x)$  strictly decreases in the interval  $(h(b-0), a')$  from  $b'$  to  $g(a'-0) = g(a-0)$ , and the inverse function of  $g/(h(b-0), a')$  is  $h/(g(a-0), b')$ .

**Proof.** Putting  $x = a$  and  $y = g(a-0)$ , we have  $y \geq g(x+0)$ , which by (1.2.2) implies that  $a = x \geq h(y+0) = a'$ . Since  $g(a-0) < b$ , we have  $a' = h(g(a-0)+0) \geq h(b-0)$ . Thus

$$(1.3.3) \quad h(b-0) \leq a' \leq a.$$

Similarly,

$$(1.3.4) \quad g(a-0) \leq b' \leq b.$$

Putting  $x = a'$  and  $y = g(a-0)$ , we have  $x = h(y+0)$  and so, by (1.2.2),  $g(a-0) = y \geq g(x+0) = g(a'+0)$ . Thus

$$(1.3.5) \quad g(a'+0) \leq g(a-0)$$

and so, since  $g$  is non-increasing, if  $a' < a$ , then

$$g(x) = g(a-0) \quad \text{for } x \in (a', a).$$

Similarly,

$$h(b'+0) \leq h(b-0),$$

and if  $b' < b$ , then

$$h(y) = h(b-0) \quad \text{for } y \in (b', b).$$

If  $a' = h(b-0)$ , then  $b' = g(a'+0)$ , and so, by (1.3.4) and (1.3.5),  $b' = g(a-0)$ . Similarly,  $b' = g(a-0)$  implies  $a' = h(b-0)$ . This together with (1.3.3) and (1.3.4) shows that the alternative "(1.3.1) or (1.3.2)" is true.

Suppose now that  $h(b-0) < a' \leq a$ . In this case we have

$$(1.3.6) \quad g(a'-0) = g(a-0).$$

Indeed, if  $a' = a$ , then there is nothing to prove. If  $h(b-0) < a' < a$ , then  $g$  is continuous at  $x = a'$ , and so, by (1.3.5),  $g(a'-0) = g(a'+0) \leq g(a-0)$  and, on the other hand,  $g(a'-0) \geq g(a-0)$  since  $a' < a$  and  $g$  is non-increasing. Furthermore, if  $h(b-0) < a' \leq a$  and  $h(b-0) < x < a'$ , then, by (1.2.1),  $h(b-0) < x$  implies  $g(x-0) < b$ , and  $x < a' = h(g(a-0)+0)$  implies  $g(a-0) < g(x+0)$ , so that

$$(1.3.7) \quad g(h(b-0), a') \subset (g(a-0), b).$$

According to (1.2.1) and (1.2.2),  $g(x) \leq g(x-0)$  implies  $x \leq h(g(x)-0)$  and  $g(x) \geq g(x+0)$  implies  $x \geq h(g(x)+0)$  so that

$$h(g(x)+0) \leq x \leq h(g(x)-0)$$

for every  $x$ . If  $x \in (h(b-0), a')$ , then, by (1.3.7),  $g(x) \in (g(a-0), b)$  and since  $h$  is continuous in  $(g(a-0), b)$ , we have  $h(g(x)-0) = h(g(x)+0) = h(g(x))$ . Consequently,

$$(1.3.8) \quad h(g(x)) = x \quad \text{for } x \in (h(b-0), a').$$

This implies that  $g$  strictly decreases in  $(h(b-0), a')$  and since  $g$  is continuous in this interval, we have by (1.3.6)

$$(1.3.9) \quad g(h(b-0), a') = (g(a'-0), g(h(b-0)+0)) = (g(a-0), b').$$

From (1.3.8) and (1.3.9) it follows that the inverse function of  $g/(h(b-0), a')$  is  $h/(g(a-0), b')$ .

**1.4. Definition.** Under the assumptions 1.1 we put, for any  $a \in (-\infty, \infty)$  and  $b \in (g(a-0), \infty)$ ,

$$\Delta_{a,b} = \{(x, y): -\infty < x < a, g(x-0) < y < b\},$$

$$\varphi_{a,b} = \{(x, y): -\infty < x < a, g(x+0) \leq y \leq g(x-0), y < b\}.$$

According to (1.2.1) and (1.2.2), we then have

$$\Delta_{a,b} = \{(x, y): -\infty < y < b, h(y-0) < x < a\},$$

$$\varphi_{a,b} = \{(x, y): -\infty < y < b, h(y+0) \leq x \leq h(y-0), x < a\}.$$

**1.5. Convention.** Everywhere in the sequel, if the notation  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , or  $\varphi_{a,b}$ , will be used, then it will be supposed (without writing this explicitly) that the assumption 1.1 holds and that  $b > g(a-0)$ .

**1.6. Definition.** Let  $E$  be a Banach space. We denote by  $W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  the class of all the  $E$ -valued distributions  $z$  on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , which distributional partial derivatives  $\partial z/\partial x$ ,  $\partial z/\partial y$  and  $\partial^2 z/\partial x \partial y$  are represented by  $E$ -valued functions Bochner integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

**1.7. THEOREM.** *Every distribution  $z \in W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  is represented by an  $E$ -valued function strongly continuous on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  and having strongly continuous extension onto  $\Delta_{a,b} \cup \varphi_{a,b}$ . For every  $z \in W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  there are  $E$ -valued functions  $\sigma$  and  $\tau$  of one real variable, strongly measurable on  $(h(b-0), a)$  or  $(g(a-0), b)$ , respectively, and such that*

$$(1.7.1) \quad \int_{h(b-0)}^a (b-g(x)) \|\sigma(x)\| dx < \infty,$$

$$(1.7.2) \quad \int_{g(a-0)}^b (a-h(y)) \|\tau(y)\| dy < \infty,$$

and that for every  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  and every  $(x_0, y_0) \in \varphi_{a,b}$  we have

$$(1.7.3) \quad z(x, y) = z(x_0, y_0) + \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} \frac{\partial^2 z(u, v)}{\partial u \partial v} du dv.$$

Here  $z(x, y)$  and  $z(x_0, y_0)$  denote the values at  $(x, y)$  and  $(x_0, y_0)$  of the function strongly continuous on  $\Delta_{a,b} \cup \varphi_{a,b}$  and representing the given distribution  $z$ , and the integrals are taken in the Bochner sense.

**Proof.** Let  $z \in W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  and let  $\partial z/\partial x$ ,  $\partial z/\partial y$  and  $\partial^2 z/\partial x \partial y$  be Bochner integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  representants of corresponding distributional derivatives of  $z$ . Assume  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Delta_{a,b})$  and consider the integral

$$I(\varphi) = - \iint_{\Delta_{a,b}} \left( \int_{g(x)}^y \frac{\partial^2 z(x, v)}{\partial x \partial v} dv \right) \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial y}(x, y) dx dy.$$

By Fubini's theorem,

$$I(\varphi) = - \int_D \int \frac{\partial^2 z(x, v)}{\partial x \partial v} \frac{\partial \varphi(x, y)}{\partial y} dv dx dy,$$

where

$$D = \{(v, x, y) : g(x-0) < v < y, (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}\}.$$

But  $\Delta_{a,b} = \{(x, y): -\infty < y < b, h(y-0) < x < a\}$  and the inequality  $g(x-0) < y$  implies  $h(y-0) < x$ , so that

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \{(v, x, y): x < a, g(x-0) < v < y < b\} \\ &= \{(v, x, y): (x, v) \in \Delta_{a,b}, v < y < b\} \end{aligned}$$

and, by changing the roles of  $v$  and  $y$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} I(\varphi) &= - \int \int_{\Delta_{a,b}} \frac{\partial^2 z(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y} \left( \int_y^b \frac{\partial \varphi(x, v)}{\partial v} dv \right) dx dy \\ &= \int \int_{\Delta_{a,b}} \frac{\partial^2 z(x, y)}{\partial x \partial y} \varphi(x, y) dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

It means that the distributional derivative

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \int_{g(x)}^y \frac{\partial^2 z(x, v)}{\partial x \partial v} dv \right)$$

is represented by the Bochner integrable function  $\partial^2 z(x, y)/\partial x \partial y$ . But this implies that the distributional partial derivative with respect to  $y$  of the function

$$\frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial x} - \int_{g(x)}^y \frac{\partial^2 z(x, v)}{\partial x \partial v} dv$$

vanishes on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  and so this function is equal almost everywhere on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  to a function depending only on  $x$ . Denote the former function by  $\sigma$ . Then  $\sigma$  is strongly measurable on  $(h(b-0), a)$  and

$$\int_{h(b-0)}^a (b - g(x)) \|\sigma(x)\| dx = \int \int_{\Delta_{a,b}} \|\sigma(x)\| dx dy < \infty.$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial y} - \int_{h(v)}^x \frac{\partial^2 z(u, y)}{\partial u \partial y} du$$

is equal almost everywhere on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  to a function  $\tau$  depending only on  $y$ , strongly measurable on  $(g(a-0), b)$ , and satisfying (1.7.2). Now fix an arbitrary point  $(x_0, y_0) \in \varphi_{a,b}$  and consider the  $E$ -valued function  $z_{x_0, y_0}$  strongly continuous on  $\Delta_{a,b} \cup \varphi_{a,b}$  defined by the equality

$$z_{x_0, y_0}(x, y) = \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \int \int_{\Delta_{x,y}} \frac{\partial^2 z(u, v)}{\partial u \partial v} du dv.$$

Let  $\varphi \in C_0^\infty(\Delta_{a,b})$ . By Fubini's theorem we have

$$\begin{aligned} & - \iint_{\Delta_{a,b}} z_{x_0, y_0}(x, y) \frac{\partial \varphi(x, y)}{\partial y} dx dy \\ = & - \iint_{\Delta_{a,b}} \left[ \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \int_{g(x)}^x \left( \int_{h(v)}^x \frac{\partial^2 z(u, v)}{\partial u \partial v} du \right) dv \right] \frac{\partial \varphi(x, y)}{\partial y} dx dy \\ = & - \iint_{\Delta_{a,b}} \left[ \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^x \frac{\partial^2 z(u, v)}{\partial u \partial v} du \right] \left[ \int_v^b \frac{\partial \varphi(x, y)}{\partial y} dy \right] dx dy \\ = & \iint_{\Delta_{a,b}} \left[ \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^x \frac{\partial^2 z(u, y)}{\partial u \partial y} du \right] \varphi(x, y) dx dy = \iint_{\Delta_{a,b}} \frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial y} \varphi(x, y) dx dy. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that the distributional derivative  $\partial(z - z_{x_0, y_0})/\partial y$  vanishes on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Similarly, the distributional derivative  $\partial(z - z_{x_0, y_0})/\partial x$  vanishes on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . It follows that  $z$  is represented by a function strongly continuous on  $\Delta_{a,b} \cup \varphi_{a,b}$ , equal to  $z_{x_0, y_0}$  plus a constant. Since  $z_{x_0, y_0}(x_0, y_0) = 0$ , this constant equals  $z(x_0, y_0)$  and so (1.7.3) follows.

**1.8. THEOREM.** *An  $E$ -valued function  $z$  strongly continuous on  $\Delta_{a,b} \cup \varphi_{a,b}$  belongs to  $W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  if and only if there are  $E$ -valued functions  $\sigma, \tau$  and  $s$  with the following properties:*

- 1°  $\sigma$  is strongly measurable on  $(h(b-0), a)$  and satisfies (1.7.1),
- 2°  $\tau$  is strongly measurable on  $(g(a-0), b)$  and satisfies (1.7.2),
- 3°  $s$  is Bochner integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ ,
- 4° for every  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  and  $(x_0, y_0) \in \varphi_{a,b}$  we have

$$(1.8.1) \quad z(x, y) = z(x_0, y_0) + \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \iint_{\Delta_{xy}} s(u, v) du dv.$$

If  $z \in W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  is given by formula (1.8.1) with  $\sigma, \tau$  and  $s$  satisfying 1°-3°, then the distributional derivatives  $\partial z/\partial x, \partial z/\partial y$  and  $\partial^2 z/\partial x \partial y$  are  $E$ -valued functions Bochner integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  defined by the equalities

$$(1.8.2) \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}(x, y) = \sigma(x) + \int_{g(x)}^y s(x, v) dv$$

and

$$(1.8.3) \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}(x, y) = \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^x s(u, y) du,$$

and

$$(1.8.4) \quad \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} = s(x, y)$$

almost everywhere on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

**Proof.** The “only if” part follows from theorem 1.7. The “if” part may be proved by arguments based on Fubini’s theorem, similar to those used in the proof of theorem 1.7.

**1.9. THEOREM.** *If an  $E$ -valued function  $z$  strongly continuous on  $\Delta_{a,b} \cup \varphi_{a,b}$  is defined by formula (1.8.1) with  $\sigma, \tau$  and  $s$  satisfying 1°-3°, then*

$$(1.9.1) \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \int_{h(b-0)+\varepsilon}^{a-\varepsilon} \left\| \frac{z(x+\delta, g(x)) - z(x, g(x))}{\delta} - \sigma(x) \right\| dx = 0$$

for every  $\varepsilon \in \left(0, \frac{a-h(b-0)}{2}\right)$ , and

$$(1.9.2) \quad \lim_{\delta \downarrow 0} \int_{\sigma(a-0)+\varepsilon}^{b-\varepsilon} \left\| \frac{z(h(y), y+\delta) - z(h(y), y)}{\delta} - \tau(y) \right\| dy = 0$$

for every  $\varepsilon \in \left(0, \frac{b-g(a-0)}{2}\right)$ .

**Proof.** Fixed  $\varepsilon \in \left(0, \frac{1}{2}(a-h(b-0))\right)$ , for  $x \in (h(b-0)+\varepsilon, a-\varepsilon)$  and  $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon)$  we have

$$\frac{1}{\delta} (z(x+\delta, g(x)) - z(x, g(x))) = \frac{1}{\delta} \int_x^{x+\delta} \sigma(u) du + \iint_{\Delta_{x+\delta, g(x)}} s(u, v) du dv.$$

Since

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow +0} \int_{h(b-0)+\varepsilon}^{a-\varepsilon} \left\| \frac{1}{\delta} \int_x^{x+\delta} \sigma(u) du - \sigma(x) \right\| dx = 0,$$

equality (1.9.1) will be proved if we show that

$$(1.9.3) \quad \lim_{\delta \rightarrow +0} \int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} \left( \frac{1}{\delta} \iint_{\Delta_{x+\delta, g(x)}} \|s(u, v)\| du dv \right) dx = 0.$$

To prove (1.9.3) put

$$\lambda_\eta(u) = \int_{\sigma(u)}^{\min(b, g(u)+\eta)} \|s(u, v)\| dv, \quad N(u) = \int_{\sigma(u)}^b \|s(u, v)\| dv$$

for almost every  $u \in (h(b-0), a)$  and any  $\eta > 0$ , and

$$\lambda_{\eta, \delta}(x) = \frac{1}{\delta} \int_x^{x+\delta} \lambda_\eta(u) du, \quad N_\delta(x) = \frac{1}{\delta} \int_x^{x+\delta} N(u) du$$

for  $x \in (h(b-0), a-\varepsilon)$ ,  $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon)$  and  $\eta > 0$ . Then

$$(1.9.4) \quad \lim_{\delta \rightarrow +0} \int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} |N_\delta(x) - N(x)| dx = 0$$

and, for any  $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon)$ ,

$$(1.9.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} \lambda_{\eta, \delta}(x) dx &= \frac{1}{\delta} \int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} \left( \int_0^\delta \lambda_\eta(x+u) du \right) dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\delta} \int_0^\delta \left( \int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} \lambda_\eta(x+u) dx \right) du \leq \int_{h(b-0)}^a \lambda_\eta(x) dx \\ &= \int_{\pi_\eta} \|s(u, v)\| dx dy, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\pi_\eta = \{(x, y) : h(b-0) < x < a, g(x-0) < y < \min(b, g(x-0) + \eta)\}.$$

At last, for  $\eta > 0$  and  $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon)$ , put

$$e_{\eta, \delta} = \{x : h(b-0) < x < a-\varepsilon, g(x+\delta) > g(x) - \eta\}.$$

Then for any  $\eta > 0$ ,

$$(1.9.6) \quad \lim_{\delta \rightarrow +0} \text{meas}((h(b-0), a-\varepsilon) \setminus e_{\eta, \delta}) = 0.$$

For any  $\eta > 0$ ,  $\delta \in (0, \varepsilon)$  and  $x \in (h(b-0), a-\varepsilon)$  we have

$$\frac{1}{\delta} \int \int_{\Delta_{x+\delta, g(x)}} \|s(u, v)\| du dv \leq \begin{cases} \lambda_{\eta, \delta}(x), & \text{if } x \in e_{\eta, \delta}, \\ N_\delta(x), & \text{if } x \notin e_{\eta, \delta}, \end{cases}$$

and so, by (1.9.5),

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} \left( \frac{1}{\delta} \int \int_{\Delta_{x+\delta, g(x)}} \|s(u, v)\| du dv \right) dx \\ &\leq \int_{\pi_\eta} \|s(x, y)\| dx dy + \int_{h(b-0)}^{a-\varepsilon} |N_\delta(x) - N(x)| dx + \int_{(h(b-0), a-\varepsilon) \setminus e_{\eta, \delta}} N(x) dx, \end{aligned}$$

from where, by (1.9.4) and (1.9.6), equality (1.9.3) follows. Hence (1.9.1) is proved.

The proof of (1.9.2) is analogous.

2. CAUCHY'S PROBLEM IN THE CLASS  $W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$

**2.1. Assumptions.** Let  $E$  be a Banach space. Let  $f(x, y, z, p, q)$  be an  $E$ -valued function defined for  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  and  $z, p, q \in E$ , which for every fixed point  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  is strongly continuous with respect to  $(z, p, q)$  on  $E^3$  and for every fixed triple  $(z, p, q) \in E^3$  is Bochner integrable with respect to  $(x, y)$  on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Let  $\sigma(x)$  and  $\tau(y)$  be  $E$ -valued functions Bochner integrable on  $(h(b-0), a)$  or  $(g(a-0), b)$ , respectively. At last let  $(x_0, y_0) \in \varphi_{a,b}$  and  $z_0 \in E$  be given.

**2.2. Definition.** Under assumptions 2.1 we ask about a function,  $z \in W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  satisfying the equation

$$(2.2.1) \quad \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} = f\left(x, y, z, \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}\right)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , such that

$$(2.2.2) \quad z(x_0, y_0) = z_0$$

and that, furthermore,

$$(2.2.3) \quad \frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial x} = \sigma(x) + \int_{g(x)}^y \frac{\partial^2 z(x, v)}{\partial x \partial v} dv$$

and

$$(2.2.4) \quad \frac{\partial z(x, y)}{\partial y} = \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^x \frac{\partial^2 z(u, y)}{\partial u \partial y} du$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , the integrals taken in Bochner sense. Such a function  $z$ , if it exists, will be called a *solution of the class  $W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$*  of the Cauchy's problem for equation (2.2.1) under boundary conditions (2.2.2)-(2.2.4).

**2.3. Connection with a problem considered in [2].** It follows from Lemma 1.3 and theorems 1.7-1.9 that under assumptions of continuity of  $g(x)$  and  $h(y)$  in open intervals  $h(b-0) < x < a$  and  $g(a-0) < y < b$  the Cauchy's problem defined above reduces to Cauchy's problem in the class  $L_1^*(\Delta)$  considered in [2].

**2.4. Assumptions.** Let  $t_0 = \inf \{x+y : (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}\}$  and let  $\omega(t, r)$  be a function defined for  $t \in [t_0, a+b)$  and  $r \geq 0$ , non-negative, for every fixed  $t \in [t_0, a+b)$  continuous and non-decreasing in  $r$  on  $[0, \infty)$ , for every fixed  $r \geq 0$  Lebesgue integrable in  $t$  on  $[t_0, a+b)$ , and such that

$$(2.4.1) \quad \omega(t, r) \leq L(t)(1+r) \quad \text{for } t \in [t_0, a+b) \text{ and } r \geq 0,$$

where  $L(t)$  is a non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $[t_0, a+b)$ ,

$$(2.4.2) \quad \omega(t, 0) = 0 \quad \text{for a.e. } t \in [t_0, a+b),$$

and for every  $\varepsilon \in (0, a+b-t_0]$  the unique non-negative function  $R(t)$ , continuous and satisfying the equation

$$R(t) = \int_{t_0}^t \omega(\tau, R(\tau)) d\tau \quad \text{on } [t_0, t_0 + \varepsilon),$$

is  $R(t) \equiv 0$  for  $t \in [t_0, t_0 + \varepsilon)$ .

**2.5. THEOREM.** *Under assumptions 2.1 suppose that*

$$(2.5.1) \quad \|f(x, y, z, p, q) - f(x, y, \tilde{z}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{q})\| \\ \leq \omega(x+y, \max(K\|z-\tilde{z}\|, \|p-\tilde{p}\|, \|q-\tilde{q}\|))$$

for every  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  and all  $z, p, q, \tilde{z}, \tilde{p}, \tilde{q} \in E$ , where  $K = \text{const} \geq 0$  and the function  $\omega(t, r)$  satisfies assumptions 2.4. Then the Cauchy's problem (2.2.1)-(2.2.4) has one and only one solution of the class  $W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$ .

The following Lemmas 2.6-2.8 are needed for the proof of this theorem.

**2.6. LEMMA.** *Let  $B(x, y)$  be a non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  and  $L(t)$  a non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $[t_0, a+b)$ , where  $t_0 = \inf\{x+y: (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}\}$ . Let  $K$  be the linear operator of the space  $L_1(\Delta_{a,b})$  of functions Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  into itself defined by the equality*

$$(\mathcal{K}s)(x, y) = B(x, y) \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} s(u, v) du dv + \\ + L(x+y) \left( \int_{g(x)}^y s(x, v) dv + \int_{h(y)}^x s(u, y) du \right)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  for every  $s \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b})$ . Then the spectral radius of  $\mathcal{K}$  equals zero.

*Proof.* Assuming that  $B(x, y) = 0$  for  $(x, y) \notin \Delta_{a,b}$  put

$$\mathcal{L}(t) = 2L(t) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} B\left(\frac{t+\tau}{2}, \frac{t-\tau}{2}\right) d\tau, \quad t \in [t_0, a+b),$$

and for every  $\lambda > 0$  define in  $L_1(\Delta_{a,b})$  the norm  $\|\cdot\|_\lambda$ , equivalent to the usual one, putting

$$\|s\|_\lambda = \sup_{t \in [t_0, a+b)} e^{-\lambda \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\omega) d\omega} \iint_{\substack{(x,y) \in \Delta_{a,b} \\ x+y \leq t}} |s(x, y)| dx dy.$$

We shall show that for every  $\lambda > 0$

$$(2.6.1) \quad \|\mathcal{K}_s\|_\lambda \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \|s\|_\lambda, \quad s \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b}),$$

whence the theorem follows immediately.

In order to prove (2.6.1) let  $s \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b})$  and  $\lambda > 0$  be arbitrarily fixed. Assuming that  $s(x, y) = 0$  and  $(\mathcal{K}_s)(x, y) = 0$  for  $(x, y) \notin \Delta_{a,b}$ , we have for every  $T \geq t_0$

$$\begin{aligned} \iint_{x+y \leq T} |(\mathcal{K}_s)(x, y)| dx dy &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\mathcal{K}_s) \left( \frac{t+\tau}{2}, \frac{t-\tau}{2} \right) d\tau dt \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^T \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left| B \left( \frac{t+\tau}{2}, \frac{t-\tau}{2} \right) \int \int_{\Delta(t+\tau/2, (t-\tau)/2)} s(u, v) du dv + L(t) \times \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \int_{g(t+\tau/2)}^{(t-\tau)/2} s \left( \frac{t+\tau}{2}, v \right) dv + L(t) \int_{h(t-\tau/2)}^{(t+\tau)/2} s \left( u, \frac{t-\tau}{2} \right) du \right| d\tau dt \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \int_{t_0}^T \left[ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} B \left( \frac{t+\tau}{2}, \frac{t-\tau}{2} \right) d\tau \|s\|_\lambda e^{\lambda \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\sigma) d\sigma} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + L(t) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{(t-\tau)/2} \left| s \left( \frac{t+\tau}{2}, v \right) \right| dv d\tau + L(t) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{(t+\tau)/2} \left| s \left( u, \frac{t-\tau}{2} \right) \right| du d\tau \right] dt. \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{(t-\tau)/2} \left| s \left( \frac{t+\tau}{2}, v \right) \right| dv d\tau &= 2 \int \int_{u+v \leq t/2} \left| s \left( \frac{t}{2} + u, v \right) \right| du dv \\ &= 2 \iint_{x+y \leq t} |s(x, y)| dx dy \leq 2 \|s\|_\lambda e^{\lambda \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\sigma) d\sigma} \end{aligned}$$

and, similarly,

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{(t+\tau)/2} \left| s \left( u, \frac{t-\tau}{2} \right) \right| du d\tau \leq 2 \|s\|_\lambda e^{\lambda \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\sigma) d\sigma}.$$

Consequently,

$$\iint_{x+y \leq T} |(\mathcal{K}_s)(x, y)| dx dy \leq \|s\|_\lambda \int_{t_0}^T \mathcal{L}(t) e^{\lambda \int_{t_0}^t \mathcal{L}(\sigma) d\sigma} dt = \frac{1}{\lambda} \|s\|_\lambda (e^{\lambda \int_{t_0}^T \mathcal{L}(\sigma) d\sigma} - 1)$$

for every  $T \geq t_0$ , which implies (2.6.1).

**2.7. LEMMA.** Let  $t_0 = \inf\{x+y: (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}\}$ ,  $k = \text{const} \geq 0$ , and let  $L(t)$  be a non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $[t_0, a+b]$ .

Put

$$c = \exp\left((a+b-t_0+2) \int_{t_0}^{a+b} L(t) dt\right).$$

If a function  $s(x, y)$  Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  satisfies almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  the inequality

$$s(x, y) \leq L(x+y) \left( k + \int_{\Delta_{x,y}} s(u, v) du dv + \int_{\sigma(x)}^y s(x, v) dv + \int_{h(y)}^x s(u, y) du \right),$$

then

$$s(x, y) \leq kcL(x+y)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

Proof. Put

$$r(t) = kL(t) \exp\left((a+b-t_0+2) \int_{t_0}^t L(\tau) d\tau\right);$$

$$d(x, y) = \max(0, s(x, y) - r(x+y)).$$

We need only to prove that  $d(x, y) = 0$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . In this order observe that

$$\begin{aligned} & L(x+y) \left( k + \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} r(u+v) du dv + \int_{\sigma(x)}^y r(x+v) dv + \int_{h(y)}^x r(u+y) du \right) \\ & \leq L(x+y) \left( k + \int_{t_0-y}^x \int_{t_0-u}^y r(u+v) du dv + \int_{t_0-x}^y r(x+v) dv + \int_{t_0-y}^x r(u+y) du \right) \\ & = L(x+y) \left( k + \int_{t_0}^{x+y} \int_{t_0}^u r(v) dv du + 2 \int_{t_0}^{x+y} r(v) dv \right) \\ & \leq L(x+y) \left( k + (a+b-t_0+2) \int_{t_0}^{x+y} r(t) dt \right) = r(x+y) \end{aligned}$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , whence

$$0 \leq d(x, y) \leq L(x+y) \left( \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} d(u, v) du dv + \int_{\sigma(x)}^y d(x, v) dv + \int_{h(y)}^x d(u, y) du \right)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . The former inequality may be written as

$$(2.7.1) \quad 0 \leq d(x, y) \leq (\mathcal{K}d)(x, y)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , where  $\mathcal{K}$  is the operator considered in Lemma 2.6 with  $B(x, y) = L(x+y)$ .

It follows from Lemma 2.6 that  $\text{l.i.m. } \mathcal{K}^n d = 0$  on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . On the other hand, it follows from (2.7.1) and from the monotonicity of  $\mathcal{K}$  that

$$0 \leq d(x, y) \leq (\mathcal{K}^n d)(x, y)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . Consequently,  $d(x, y) = 0$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

**2.8. LEMMA.** *Under assumptions 2.4, if a non-negative function  $d(x, y)$  Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  satisfies almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  the inequality (2.8.1)*

$$d(x, y) \leq \omega \left( x+y, \max \left( K \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} d(u, v) du dv, \int_{g(x)}^y d(x, v) dv, \int_{h(y)}^x d(u, y) du \right) \right),$$

where  $K = \text{const} \geq 0$ , then  $d(x, y) = 0$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

*Proof.* Since by (2.4.1), (2.8.1) and Lemma 2.7 we have

$$d(x, y) \leq \text{const} \cdot L(x+y)$$

for almost every  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$ , the set

$$Z = \{f: f \in L_1(t_0, a+b), f(x+y) \geq d(x, y) \text{ for almost every } (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}\}$$

is non-void. Define the function  $r \in L_1(t_0, a+b)$  as the infimum of the set  $Z$  with respect to the relation of inequality almost everywhere in  $(t_0, a+b)$ . Since  $Z$  contains the infimum of every its countable subset, it follows that  $r \in Z$  (namely, it is easy to see that if  $f_n \in Z$  for  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n\| = \inf \{\|f\|: f \in Z\}$ , then  $r = \inf \{f_n: n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ ). Thus  $r$  has following properties:

$$(2.8.2) \quad r(x+y) \geq d(x, y) \text{ for almost every } (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b},$$

$$(2.8.3) \quad \text{if } \varrho \in L_1(t_0, a+b) \text{ and } \varrho(x+y) \geq d(x, y) \text{ for almost every } (x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}, \\ \text{then } \varrho(t) \geq r(t) \text{ for almost every } t \in [t_0, a+b).$$

In view of (2.8.2), our lemma will be proved if we show that  $r(t) = 0$  for-almost every  $t \in [t_0, a+b)$ . By (2.8.1) and (2.8.2) we have

$$d(x, y) \leq \omega \left( x+y, \max \left( K \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} r(u+v) du dv, \int_{g(x)}^y r(x+v) dv, \int_{h(y)}^x r(u+y) du \right) \right) \\ \leq \omega \left( x+y, \max \left( K \int_{t_0}^{x+y} \int_{t_0}^n r(v) dv du, \int_{t_0}^{x+y} r(v) dv \right) \right)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , whence by (2.8.3) it follows that

$$(2.8.4) \quad 0 \leq r(t) \leq \omega \left( t, \max \left( K \int_{t_0}^t \int_{t_0}^u r(\tau) d\tau du, \int_{t_0}^t r(\tau) d\tau \right) \right)$$

for almost every  $t \in [t_0, a+b]$ . Put

$$R(t) = \int_{t_0}^t r(\tau) d\tau,$$

$$t_1 = \max\{t: t \in [t_0, a+b], R(\tau) \equiv 0 \text{ for } \tau \in [t_0, t]\}.$$

The former definition is correct, since  $R(t_0) = 0$ . The proof will be complete if we show that  $R(t) \equiv 0$  for  $t \in [t_0, a+b]$ , i.e. if we show that  $t_1 = a+b$ . Suppose that this is not true, so that  $t_0 \leq t_1 < a+b$ , and let  $t_2 = \min(a+b, t_1 + 1/K)$ . We then have

$$R(t_1) = 0$$

and, by (2.8.4),

$$\frac{dR(t)}{dt} \leq \omega(t, R(t)) \quad \text{for almost every } t \in [t_1, t_2].$$

By a theorem on differential inequalities [1] it follows that  $R(t)$  is not greater than the maximal absolutely continuous solution  $\bar{R}(t)$  of the Cauchy's problem

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\bar{R}(t)}{dt} = \omega(t, R(t)) & \text{for almost every } t \in [t_1, t_1 + \varepsilon], \\ \bar{R}(t_1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

in every interval  $[t_0, t_1 + \varepsilon]$ ,  $0 < \varepsilon \leq t_2 - t_1$ , in which  $\bar{R}(t)$  exists.

Since, by (2.4.2),  $\bar{R}(t)$  exists and equals zero in the whole  $[t_1, t_2]$ , we infer, that  $R(t) \equiv 0$  for  $t \in [t_1, t_2]$  in contradiction to the definition of  $t_1$ . The proof is completed.

**2.9. Proof of theorem 2.5.** It follows from Theorem 1.8 that a function  $z \in W_1^{1,*}(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  is a solution of the Cauchy's problem (2.2.1)-(2.2.4) if and only if it is given by formula (1.8.1), where  $s$  belongs to the space  $L_1(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  of  $E$ -valued functions Bochner integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  and satisfies almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  the equality

$$(2.9.1) \quad s(x, y) = f\left(x, y, z_0 + \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \int_{\Delta_{x,y}} s(u, v) du dv, \sigma(x) + \int_{g(x)}^y s(x, v) dv, \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^x s(u, y) du\right).$$

Hence we have to prove that there exists an  $s \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  satisfying (2.9.1) almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  and that it is determined uniquely up to the equality almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

The uniqueness of  $\tilde{s}$  follows at once from Lemma 2.8. Indeed, if  $s$  and  $\tilde{s}$  belong to  $L_1(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  and satisfy (2.9.1), then  $d(x, y) = \|s(x, y) - \tilde{s}(x, y)\|$  is a real non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , which, by (2.5.1), satisfies inequality (2.8.1) almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , and so, by Lemma 2.8,  $d(x, y) = 0$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

For the proof of the existence of  $s$  let  $A$  be an arbitrary but fixed real non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  satisfying almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  the inequality

$$(2.9.2) \quad A(x, y) \geq \|f(x, y, 0, 0, 0)\| + L(x+y) \left( 1 + K\|z_0\| + \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv \right) + \|\sigma(x)\| + \|\tau(y)\|,$$

and let  $M$  be a real non-negative function Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , satisfying almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  the equality

$$(2.9.3) \quad M(x, y) = A(x, y) + KL(x+y) \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} M(u, v) du dv + L(x+y) \left( \int_{g(x)}^y M(x, v) dv + \int_{h(y)}^x M(u, y) du \right).$$

The existence of  $M$  follows from Lemma 2.6. Namely,  $M = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{K}^n A$ , where  $\mathcal{K}$  is the operator considered in Lemma 2.6 with  $B(x, y) = KL(x+y)$ . For any  $s \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  let  $F_s$  be the  $E$ -valued function defined by the equality

$$(2.9.4) \quad (Fs)(x, y) = f\left(x, y, z_0 + \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} s(u, v) du dv, \sigma(x) + \int_{g(x)}^y s(x, v) dv, \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^x s(u, y) du\right)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Then, as follows from assumption 2.1,  $Fs$  is strongly measurable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Furthermore, it follows from (2.5.1), (2.4.1), (2.9.2) and (2.9.3) that if  $\|s(x, y)\| \leq M(x, y)$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ , then  $\|(Fs)(x, y)\| \leq M(x, y)$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

Let  $s_0 \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  satisfy the inequality  $\|s_0(x, y)\| \leq M(x, y)$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . For every  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  put  $s_n = Fs_{n-1}$ . Then by the preceding remark we have

$$(2.9.5) \quad \|s_n(x, y)\| \leq M(x, y)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  for every  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . We shall show that the sequence  $s_n(x, y)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , converges almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Put

$$d(x, y) = \limsup_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} \|s_n(x, y) - s_m(x, y)\|.$$

Then, by (2.9.5),  $d$  is Lebesgue integrable on  $\Delta_{a,b}$  and, by (2.9.5) and the Fatou Lemma,

$$(2.9.6) \quad \limsup_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} \|s_n(u, v) - s_m(u, v)\| du dv \leq \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} d(u, v) du dv$$

for  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  and, furthermore,

$$(2.9.7) \quad \limsup_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{g(x)}^y \|s_n(x, v) - s_m(x, v)\| dv \leq \int_{g(x)}^y d(x, v) dv$$

and

$$(2.9.8) \quad \limsup_{n, m \rightarrow \infty} \int_{h(y)}^x \|s_n(u, y) - s_m(u, y)\| du \leq \int_{h(y)}^x d(u, y) du$$

for almost every  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$ . By (2.9.4) and (2.5.1) for every  $n, m = 1, 2, \dots$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|s_n(x, y) - s_m(x, y)\| &= \|(Fs_{n-1})(x, y) - (Fs_{m-1})(x, y)\| \\ &\leq \omega\left(x + y, \max\left(K \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} \|s_{n-1}(u, v) - s_{m-1}(u, v)\| du dv, \right.\right. \\ &\quad \left.\left. \int_{g(x)}^y \|s_{n-1}(x, v) - s_{m-1}(x, v)\| dv, \int_{h(y)}^x \|s_{n-1}(u, y) - s_{m-1}(u, y)\| du\right)\right) \end{aligned}$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Since  $\omega(t, r)$  is non-decreasing and continuous in  $r$ , it follows from (2.9.6)-(2.9.9) that  $d$  satisfies almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  inequality (2.8.1), and thus, by Lemma 2.8,  $d(x, y) = 0$  almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . This shows that the sequence  $s_n(x, y)$ ,  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , strongly converges almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ .

Put

$$(2.9.10) \quad s(x, y) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_n(x, y).$$

Then, by (2.9.5),  $s \in L_1(\Delta_{a,b}; E)$  and by the Lebesgue bounded convergence theorem we have

$$(2.9.11) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} s_n(u, v) du dv = \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} s(u, v) du dv$$

for  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$  and

$$(2.9.12) \quad \begin{cases} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{g(x)}^y s_n(x, v) dv = \int_{g(x)}^y s(x, v) dv, \\ \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{h(y)}^x s_n(u, y) du = \int_{h(y)}^x s(u, y) du \end{cases}$$

for almost every  $(x, y) \in \Delta_{a,b}$ . By (2.9.4) for every  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  we have

$$(2.9.13) \quad s_n(x, y) = f\left(x, y, z_0 + \int_{x_0}^x \sigma(u) du + \int_{y_0}^y \tau(v) dv + \iint_{\Delta_{x,y}} s_{n-1}(u, v) du dv, \sigma(x) + \int_{g(x)}^x s_{n-1}(x, v) dv, \tau(y) + \int_{h(y)}^y s_{n-1}(u, y) du\right)$$

almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$ . Since  $f(x, y, z, p, q)$  is continuous with respect to  $(z, p, q)$ , equalities (2.9.10)-(2.9.13) imply that  $s$  satisfies almost everywhere in  $\Delta_{a,b}$  equality (2.9.1), which completes the proof.

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