

## SPECTRAL AND PSEUDOSPECTRAL APPROXIMATIONS IN TIME FOR PARABOLIC EQUATIONS<sup>\*1)</sup>

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### Abstract

In this paper, spectral and pseudospectral methods are applied to both time and space variables for parabolic equations. Spectral and pseudospectral schemes are given, and error estimates are obtained for approximate solutions.

*Key words:* Spectral approximation, pseudospectral approximation, parabolic equation, error estimate

### 1. Introduction

In recent years, it has been shown that spectral methods are very useful to solve partial differential equations. Spectral methods, in which the approximate solution is a polynomial of high degree, are known to be very accurate when the solution to be approximated is very smooth (see [2] for details). Using spectral methods to time-dependent partial differential equations, a standard scheme is done in space only, while finite difference is done in time (the same to finite element method, too). Hence, no matter how smooth the exact solution is, in general, the error order in time can not be raised. The error in time decide the global error of the approximate solution. Many efforts have been made on the discretization in time, for instance, in [6] and [7] discontinuous Galerkin method in time is studied for parabolic equations. Recently, I. Babuska and T. Janik<sup>[3]</sup> discussed the p-version of finite element method in time for parabolic equations. In [4] and [5] H.T. Ezer has proposed spectral methods in time using polynomial approximation of the evolution operator in Chebyshev least-squares sense for parabolic equations and hyperbolic equations. In this paper, for convenience we use the spectral methods in both space and time variables. If we use the finite element method in space, some parallel conclusions can also be obtained.

### 2. Variational Principle

Let  $I = (-1, 1)$ ,  $D = [0, 2\pi]$ ,  $Q = D \times I$ . For convenience we consider the following model problem

$$u_t - u_{xx} + u = f(x, t), \quad \text{in } Q \tag{2.1}$$

$$u(x, t) = u(x + 2\pi, t), \tag{2.2}$$

$$u(x, -1) = g(x). \quad \text{in } D \tag{2.3}$$

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**Remark 1.** If  $f \in H^{k, \frac{k}{2}}(Q)$ ,  $g \in H_p^{k+2}(D)$ , from regularity of solutions of parabolic equations, the solution  $u(x, t)$  of (2.1)–(2.3) is in  $H^{k+2, \frac{k}{2}+1}(Q)$ .

Let  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  and  $\|\cdot\|$  denote respectively the inner product and the norm in  $L^2(I)$ ,  $H_p^m(D)$  denote the  $m$  order periodic Sobolev space with the norm  $\|u\|_m$ ,  $X = L^2(I; H_p^1(D))$

with the norm  $\|u\|_X = \left( \int_I \|u\|_1^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ ,  $C_p^0 = \{v \in C^\infty(Q) \mid v(x, t) \in C_p^\infty(D), \forall t \in I, v(x, 1) = 0\}$ , and  $Y$  denote the complete space of  $C_p^0$  with respect to the norm  $\|v\|_Y = \left( \int_I (\|v_t\|^2 + \|v\|_1^2) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ , where

$$\|v_t\| = \sup_{z \in H_p^1(D)} \frac{|\int_D v_t z dx|}{\|z\|_1}.$$

Let us define on  $X \times Y$  the bilinear form

$$B(u, v) = \int_I \int_D (-u \bar{v}_t + u_x \bar{v}_x + u \bar{v}) dx dt, \quad \forall u \in X, \quad v \in Y.$$

Let  $F \in Y'$ . We consider the following variational problem P: find  $u_0$  in  $X$  such that

$$B(u_0, v) = F(v), \quad \forall v \in Y. \quad (2.4)$$

It is similar to problem P in [3] in proof, we obtain theorem 1 for the problem P.

**Theorem 1.** *Problem P has a unique solution  $u_0$  in  $X$  and there exists a constant  $C$  independent of  $u_0$  and  $F$  such that*

$$\|u_0\|_X \leq C \|F\|_{Y'}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\lambda_j^2 = j^2 + 1$ ,  $u_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ijx}$ ,  $j = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ , then  $\lambda_j^2$ ,  $u_j$  respectively denote eigenvalue and eigenvector of an operator  $A = -\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + I$ , and  $\text{span}\{u_j\} \subset H_p^1(D)$  is dense in  $H_p^1(D)$ . Let  $u \in X$ ,  $v \in Y$ , then  $u$  and  $v$  can be written in the form

$$u = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha_j(t) u_j, \quad v = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \beta_j(t) u_j,$$

with

$$\|u\|_X = \left( \int_I \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j(t)|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

$$\|v\|_Y = \left( \int_I \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} (\lambda_j^{-2} |\beta_j'(t)|^2 + \lambda_j^2 |\beta_j(t)|^2) dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

and  $B(u, v)$  can also be written as follows

$$B(u, v) = \int_I \left( \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} (-\alpha_j \bar{\beta}_j' + \lambda_j^2 \alpha_j \bar{\beta}_j) \right) dt = \int_I \left( \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \lambda_j \alpha_j (-\lambda_j^{-1} \bar{\beta}_j' + \lambda_j \bar{\beta}_j) \right) dt.$$

By Schwarz inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|B(u, v)| &\leq \int_I \left( \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta_j' + \lambda_j \beta_j|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} dt \\
&\leq \left( \int_I \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_I \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta_j' + \lambda_j \beta_j|^2 dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&\leq \sqrt{2} \|u\|_X \|v\|_Y.
\end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

Let  $T$  denote a mapping from  $X$  into  $Y$  such that for any  $u = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \alpha_j(t) u_j \in X$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
v = Tu &= \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} \beta_j(t) u_j \in Y, \beta_j(t) \text{ satisfy} \\
&-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta_j'(t) + \lambda_j \beta_j(t) = \lambda_j \alpha_j(t), \quad \beta_j(1) = 0, j = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots.
\end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\|Tu\|_Y^2 = \int_I \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} (\lambda_j^{-2} |\beta_j'|^2 + \lambda_j^2 |\beta_j|^2) dt \leq \int_I \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} |-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta_j' + \lambda_j \beta_j|^2 dt \leq \|u\|_X^2.$$

Hence  $T$  is a continuous linear operator, and

$$\inf_{\substack{u \in X \\ \|u\|_X=1}} \sup_{\substack{v \in Y \\ \|v\|_Y \leq 1}} |B(u, v)| \geq \inf_{\substack{u \in X \\ \|u\|_X=1}} |B(u, Tu)| = 1.$$

Similarly,

$$\inf_{\substack{v \in Y \\ \|v\|_Y=1}} \sup_{\substack{u \in X \\ \|u\|_X \leq 1}} |B(u, v)| \geq \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

Using now theorem 5.2.1 in [1], theorem 1 is proved.

**Remark 2.** If  $F(v) = \int_D g(x) \bar{v}(x, -1) dx + \int_I \int_D f(x, t) \bar{v}(x, t) dx dt$ , then the solution  $u_0$  of the variational problem P is a weak solution of (2.1)-(2.3).

### 3. Spectral Approximation of Variational Problem P.

Let  $V_N$  denote the set of polynomials of degree  $N$ ,  $S_M = \text{span} \left\{ u_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{ikx}, |k| \leq M \right\}$ .  $\overset{\circ}{V}_N = \{p \in V_N; p(1) = 0\}$ . We denote by  $\tilde{P}_M: L^2(D) \rightarrow S_M$  the orthogonal project operator on  $S_M$  in  $L^2(D)$  and  $P_N: L^2(I) \rightarrow V_N$  the orthogonal project operator on  $V_N$  in  $L^2(I)$ . Set  $W = V_{N-1} \times S_M$ ,  $U = \overset{\circ}{V}_N \times S_M$ . Obviously,  $W \subset X$ ,  $U \subset Y$ .

We construct the following spectral scheme for the variational problem P: find  $u_p$  in  $W$  such that

$$B(u_p, v) = F(v), \quad \forall v \in U. \tag{3.1}$$

Let  $u \in W$  and  $v \in U$ , then

$$u = \sum_{j=-M}^M \alpha_j(t)u_j, \quad v = \sum_{j=-M}^M \beta_j(t)u_j,$$

where  $\alpha_j(t) \in V_{N-1}$ ,  $\beta_j(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$ , and

$$B(u, v) = \int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M \lambda_j \alpha_j(t) (-\lambda_j^{-1} \overline{\beta}'_j(t) + \lambda_j \overline{\beta}_j(t)) dt.$$

We define a linear operator  $T_p$  from  $W$  into  $U$  which satisfies that for any  $u = \sum_{j=-M}^M \alpha_j(t)u_j \in W$ ,  $v = T_p u = \sum_{j=-M}^M \beta_j(t)u_j \in U$ ,  $\beta_j(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$  satisfy

$$\int_I (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j) z dt = \lambda_j \int_I \alpha_j z dt, \quad \forall z \in V_{N-1}, |j| \leq M. \quad (3.2)$$

Obviously, the solution of the variational problem is existent. Taking  $z = P_{N-1}(-\lambda_j^{-1} \overline{\beta}'_j(t) + \lambda_j \overline{\beta}_j(t))$  in (3.2), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_I (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j) P_{N-1}(-\lambda_j^{-1} \overline{\beta}'_j + \lambda_j \overline{\beta}_j) dt &= \lambda_j \int_I \alpha_j P_{N-1}(-\lambda_j^{-1} \overline{\beta}'_j + \lambda_j \overline{\beta}_j) dt \\ &= \lambda_j \int_I \alpha_j (-\lambda_j^{-1} \overline{\beta}'_j + \lambda_j \overline{\beta}_j) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Taking  $z = \lambda_j \overline{\alpha}_j$  in (3.2) again, we have

$$\lambda_j \int_I (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j) \overline{\alpha}_j dt = \int_I \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt. \quad (3.4)$$

Therefore, combining (3.3) and (3.4), we obtain

$$\int_I |P_{N-1}(-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j)|^2 dt = \int_I \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt. \quad (3.5)$$

Let  $\beta_j(t) = \sum_{i=0}^N c_{ji} L_i(t)$ , where  $L_i(t)$  is the  $i$ th Legendre polynomial. By  $\beta_j(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$ , we have

$$\sum_{i=0}^N c_{ji} = 0.$$

Hence

$$c_{jN} = - \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} c_{ji}.$$

But

$$\int_I |\beta_j(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{i=0}^N \frac{2 |c_{ji}|^2}{2i+1},$$

$$\int_I |P_{N-1}\beta_j(t)|^2 dt = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \frac{2|c_{ji}|^2}{2i+1}.$$

Thus from (3.5), we get

$$\int_I |-\lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j' + \lambda_j\beta_j|^2 dt = \int_I \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt + \frac{2\lambda_j^2 |c_{jN}|^2}{2N+1}.$$

Because

$$|c_{jN}|^2 = \left| \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} c_{ji} \right|^2 \leq \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \frac{2|c_{ji}|^2}{2i+1} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \frac{2i+1}{2} = \frac{N^2}{2} \int_I |P_{N-1}\beta_j|^2 dt$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \int_I |-\lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j' + \lambda_j\beta_j|^2 dt &\leq \int_I \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt + \frac{\lambda_j^2 N^2}{2N+1} \int_I |P_{N-1}\beta_j|^2 dt \\ &\leq \int_I \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt + \frac{N^2}{2N+1} \int_I |P_{N-1}(-\lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j' + \lambda_j\beta_j)|^2 dt \\ &= \left(1 + \frac{N^2}{2N+1}\right) \int_I \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt. \end{aligned}$$

Summing up for  $j$  from  $-M$  to  $M$  for above inequality, we have

$$\int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M |-\lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j' + \lambda_j\beta_j|^2 dt \leq \left(1 + \frac{N^2}{2N+1}\right) \int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt = \frac{(N+1)^2}{2N+1} \|u\|_X^2.$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \|T_p u\|_Y^2 &= \int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M (|-\lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j'|^2 + \lambda_j^2 |\beta_j|^2) dt \leq \int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M |-\lambda_j^{-1}\beta_j' + \lambda_j\beta_j|^2 dt \\ &\leq \frac{(N+1)^2}{2N+1} \|u\|_X^2. \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we obtain

$$\inf_{\substack{u \in W \\ \|u\|_X=1}} \sup_{\substack{v \in U \\ \|v\|_Y \leq 1}} |B(u, v)| \geq \inf_{\substack{u \in W \\ \|u\|_X=1}} \left| B\left(u, \frac{T_p u}{\|T_p u\|_Y}\right) \right| \geq \frac{\sqrt{2N+1}}{N+1}. \quad (3.6)$$

By (2.5) and (3.6), we have

$$\forall v \in U, \quad v \neq 0, \quad \sup_{u \in W} |B(u, v)| > 0. \quad (3.7)$$

Using theorem 6.2.1 in [1], we know that the spectral approximation of the problem P has a unique solution  $u_p$  and

$$\|u_0 - u_p\|_X \leq \left(1 + \frac{2(N+1)}{\sqrt{2N+1}}\right) \inf_{v \in W} \|u_0 - v\|_X.$$

Finally, taking  $v = P_{N-1} \tilde{P}_M u_0$  in (3.8), using the estimates of  $P_{N-1}$  and  $\tilde{P}_M$  in [2], we obtain

**Theorem 2.** *If  $f(x, t) \in H^{k, \frac{k}{2}}(Q)$ ,  $g(x) \in H_p^{k+2}(D)$ . Then there exists a unique solution  $u_p$  for spectral scheme and*

$$\|u_0 - u_p\|_X \leq C(N^{\frac{1}{2}} M^{-(k+1)} + N^{-\frac{k}{2}})(\|f\|_{k, \frac{k}{2}} + \|g\|_{k+2}),$$

where  $C$  is a constant independent of  $N, M, f$  and  $g$ .

#### 4. Pseudospectral Approximation of Variational Problem P.

In this section, first we consider problem (2.1)-(2.3) with homogeneous initial value  $u(x, -1) = 0$ . Let  $\overset{\circ}{V}_N = \{v \in V_N, v(-1) = v(1) = 0\}$ ,  $\overset{\circ}{V}_{N-1} = \{v \in V_{N-1}, v(-1) = 0\}$ ,  $\overset{\circ}{W} = S_M \times \overset{\circ}{V}_{N-1}$ ,  $\overset{\circ}{U} = S_M \times \overset{\circ}{V}_N$  and  $x_j = jh$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, 2M$ ,  $h = \frac{2\pi}{2M+1}$ . Then the following Gauss integration formula<sup>[2]</sup> holds

$$\int_D u(x) dx = h \sum_{j=0}^{2M} u(x_j), \quad \forall u \in S_M. \quad (4.1)$$

Let  $\tilde{I}_M$  be an interpolation operator from  $C(D)$  to  $S_M$  such that

$$\tilde{I}_M u(x_j) = u(x_j), \quad 0 \leq j \leq 2M.$$

Let  $t_i$  and  $\omega_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ ) denote nodes and weights of the Gauss-Radau integration formula<sup>[8]</sup> respectively, then

$$\int_I p(t) dt = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \omega_i p(t_i), \quad \forall p \in V_{2N-2}, \quad (4.2)$$

where  $\omega_i = \frac{1-t_i}{N^2 L_{N-1}^2(t_i)}$ ,  $t_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N-1$ ) are zeroes of the polynomial  $L_N + L_{N-1}$ . Let  $I_{N-1}$  be an interpolation operator from  $C(\bar{I})$  to  $V_{N-1}$ , such that

$$I_{N-1} u(t_i) = u(t_i), \quad 0 \leq i \leq N-1.$$

Combining (4.1) and (4.2), we have the following Gauss integration formula on  $Q$

$$\int_I \int_D p(x, t) dx dt = h \sum_{j=0}^{2M} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} p(x_j, t_i) \omega_i, \quad \forall p \in V_{2N-2} \times S_M. \quad (4.3)$$

We construct the following pseudospectral scheme for the variational problem P: find  $u_c$  in  $\overset{\circ}{W}$  such that

$$u_{ct}(x_j, t_i) - u_{cxx}(x_j, t_i) + u_c(x_j, t_i) = f(x_j, t_i), \quad (4.4)$$

$$j = 0, 1, \dots, 2M, \quad i = 1, \dots, N - 1.$$

We define now a discrete inner product and a norm as follows

$$(u, v)_{M,N} = h \sum_{j=0}^{2M} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} u(x_j, t_i) v(x_j, t_i) \omega_i,$$

$$\|u\|_{M,N} = (u, u)_{M,N}^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \forall u, v \in C(\bar{Q}).$$

Let  $v \in \overset{\circ}{U}$ , then  $u_c$  and  $v$  can be written as

$$u_c = \sum_{j=-M}^M \alpha_j(t) u_j, \quad v = \sum_{j=-M}^M \beta_j(t) u_j,$$

where  $\alpha_j(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_{N-1}$ ,  $\beta_j(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$ ,  $|j| \leq M$ . Using (4.1), we can write (4.4) equivalently as follows find  $u_c \in \overset{\circ}{W}$  such that

$$B_d(u_c, v) = F_d(v), \quad \forall v \in \overset{\circ}{U}.$$

where

$$B_d(u_c, v) = \sum_{j=-M}^M \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \omega_i (\lambda_j \alpha_j(t_i) (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta_j'(t_i) + \lambda_j \bar{\beta}(t_i))),$$

and  $F_d(v) = (f, v)_{M,N}$ . We define a discrete norm on  $C(\bar{T})$  by

$$\|\beta\|_N = \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} |\beta(t_i)|^2 \omega_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

**Lemma 1.** *If  $\beta(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$ , then*

$$\frac{\sqrt{4N-2}}{N+1} \|\beta\| \leq \|\beta\|_N \leq 2\|\beta\|.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\beta(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$ , then

$$\beta(t) = \sum_{i=0}^N \sqrt{\frac{2i+1}{2}} a_i L_i(t),$$

with

$$\sum_{i=0}^N \sqrt{\frac{2i+1}{2}} a_i = 0, \tag{4.5}$$

Hence

$$\|\beta\|_N^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} |a_i|^2 + \frac{2N+1}{2} |a_N|^2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} L_N^2(t_i) \omega_i$$

$$+ \sqrt{\frac{2N-1}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{2N+1}{2}} (\bar{a}_{N-1} a_N + a_{N-1} \bar{a}_N) \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} L_{N-1}(t_i) L_N(t_i) \omega_i$$

Due to  $t_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ ) are zeroes of  $L_N(t) + L_{N-1}(t)$ , it implies

$$\|\beta\|_N^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} |a_i|^2 + \left| \sqrt{\frac{2N+1}{2N-1}} a_N - a_{N-1} \right|^2. \quad (4.6)$$

Therefore, from (4.5) we get

$$\sum_{i=0}^{N-2} |a_i|^2 \geq \frac{2N-1}{(N-1)^2} \left| \sqrt{\frac{2N+1}{2N-1}} a_N + a_{N-1} \right|^2.$$

Set  $\varepsilon = \frac{(N-1)^2}{(N+1)^2 - 2}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\beta\|_N^2 &\geq (1-\varepsilon) \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} |a_i|^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{(N-1)^2} \left| \sqrt{2N+1} a_N + \sqrt{2N-1} a_{N-1} \right|^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2N-1} \left| \sqrt{2N+1} a_N - \sqrt{2N-1} a_{N-1} \right|^2 \\ &\geq (1-\varepsilon) \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} |a_i|^2 + \frac{2\varepsilon}{(N-1)^2} ((2N+1) |a_N|^2 + (2N-1) |a_{N-1}|^2) \\ &\geq (1-\varepsilon) \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} |a_i|^2 + \frac{2\varepsilon(2N-1)}{(N-1)^2} (|a_N|^2 + |a_{N-1}|^2) \geq \frac{4N-2}{(N+1)^2} \|\beta\|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we have

$$\frac{\sqrt{4N-2}}{N+1} \|\beta\| \leq \|\beta\|_N.$$

Finally, (4.6) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \|\beta\|_N &\leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} |a_i|^2 + \frac{2N+1}{2N-1} (|a_{N-1}|^2 + |a_N|^2) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\leq \left( 1 + \frac{2N+1}{2N-1} \right) \left( \sum_{i=0}^N |a_i|^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq 2\|\beta\|. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 3.** The power of  $N$  can not be improved in the estimate of Lemma 1. In fact, consider the function

$$\beta(t) = \sum_{i=0}^{N-2} \frac{2i+1}{2} L_i(t) - \frac{(N-1)^2}{4} (L_{N-1}(t) + L_N(t)),$$

for which one has

$$\frac{4N^2 - 1}{(N^3 + 2N^2 + N - 1)} \|\beta\|^2 = \|\beta\|_N^2.$$



By Lemma 1 and (4.3), we obtain immediately.

**Lemma 2.** For any  $u \in \overset{\circ}{U}$ , we have

$$\frac{\sqrt{4N-2}}{N+1} \left( \int_Q |u|^2 dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq \|u\|_{M,N} \leq 2 \left( \int_Q |u|^2 dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

**Lemma 3.** If  $\beta \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$ ,  $d > 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , then

$$\min \left( d, \frac{\sqrt{4N-2}}{N+1} \right) \| -\lambda^{-1}\beta' + \lambda\beta \| \leq \| -d\lambda^{-1}\beta' + \lambda\beta \|_N.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\beta(t) = \sum_{i=0}^N \sqrt{\frac{2i+1}{2}} a_i L_i(t)$ , by the definition of the discrete inner product and Lemma 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \| -d\lambda^{-1}\beta' + \lambda\beta \|_N^2 &= d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 - 2d\operatorname{Re} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \beta'(t_i)\bar{\beta}(t_i)\omega_i + \lambda^2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} |\beta(t_i)|^2 \omega_i \\ &= d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 - 2d\operatorname{Re} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^N \sqrt{\frac{2k+1}{2}} \bar{a}_k L_k(t_i) \beta'(t_i) \omega_i + \lambda^2 \|\beta\|_N^2 \\ &= d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 - 2d\operatorname{Re} \int_I \beta' P_{N-1} \bar{\beta} dt \\ &\quad - 2d\operatorname{Re} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \sqrt{\frac{2N+1}{2}} \bar{a}_N L_N(t_i) \beta'(t_i) \omega_i + \lambda^2 \|\beta\|_N^2 \end{aligned}$$

since  $t_i$  ( $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ ) are the zeroes of the polynomial  $L_N(t) + L_{N-1}(t)$ , it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \| -d\lambda^{-1}\beta' + \lambda\beta \|_N^2 &= d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 - 2d\operatorname{Re} \int_I \beta' \bar{\beta} dt \\ &\quad + 2d\operatorname{Re} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \sqrt{\frac{2N+1}{2}} \bar{a}_N L_{N-1}(t_i) \beta'(t_i) \omega_i + \lambda^2 \|\beta\|_N^2 \\ &= d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 - 2d\operatorname{Re} \int_I \beta' \bar{\beta} dt \\ &\quad + d(2N+1) |a_N|^2 \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} L_{N-1}(t_i) L'_N(t_i) \omega_i + \lambda^2 \|\beta\|_N^2 \\ &= d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 + 2d(2N+1) |a_N|^2 + \lambda^2 \|\beta\|_N^2, \end{aligned}$$

by Lemma 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \| -d\lambda^{-1}\beta' + \lambda\beta \|_N &\geq (d^2\lambda^{-2}\|\beta'\|^2 + \frac{4N-2}{(N+1)^2} \lambda^2 \|\beta\|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\geq \min \left( d, \frac{\sqrt{4N-2}}{N+1} \right) \| -\lambda^{-1}\beta' + \lambda\beta \|, \end{aligned}$$

this completes the proof of Lemma 3.

For any  $u \in \overset{\circ}{W}$ ,  $v \in \overset{\circ}{U}$ ,  $u(x, t) = \sum_{j=-M}^M \alpha_j(t)u_j$ ,  $v(x, t) = \sum_{j=-M}^M \beta_j(t)u_j$ , then by Schwarz inequality, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|B_d(u, v)| &= \left| \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \omega_i \sum_{j=-M}^M \lambda_j \alpha_j(t_i) [-\lambda_j^{-1} \bar{\beta}'_j(t_i) + \lambda_j \bar{\beta}_j(t_i)] \right| \\
&\leq \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left( \sum_{j=-M}^M \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j(t_i)|^2 \omega_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \sum_{j=-M}^M |-\lambda_j^{-1} \bar{\beta}'_j(t_i) + \lambda_j \bar{\beta}_j(t_i)|^2 \omega_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&\leq \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \sum_{j=-M}^M \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j(t_i)|^2 \omega_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \sum_{j=-M}^M |-\lambda_j^{-1} \bar{\beta}'_j(t_i) + \lambda_j \bar{\beta}_j(t_i)|^2 \omega_i \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
&\leq 2\sqrt{2} \|u\|_X \|v\|_Y.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.7}$$

We define a linear operator  $G: \overset{\circ}{V}_N \rightarrow \overset{\circ}{V}_{N-1}$  by

$$\forall \beta \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N, \quad (G\beta, z) = (\beta', z), \quad \forall z \in \overset{\circ}{V}_{N-1}.$$

Then taking  $z = G\beta$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
(G\beta, G\beta) &= (\beta', G\beta) = (\beta' - \beta'(-1), G\beta) + \beta'(-1)(1, G\beta) \\
&= (\beta' - \beta'(-1), \beta) + \beta'(-1)(1, G\beta) = (\beta', \beta) + \beta'(-1)(1, G\beta) \\
&\geq \|\beta'\|^2 - \sqrt{2} \|\beta'\|_{L^\infty(I)} \|G\beta\| \\
&\geq \|\beta'\|^2 - \frac{N}{\sqrt{2}} \|\beta'\| \|G\beta\| \quad (\text{by inverse inequality}^{[2]}) \\
&\geq \|\beta'\|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \|\beta'\|^2 - \frac{N^2}{4} \|G\beta\|^2,
\end{aligned}$$

hence, we obtain

$$\|G\beta\|^2 \geq \frac{2}{4 + N^2} \|\beta'\|^2. \tag{4.8}$$

We define again a linear operator  $T_c$  which maps  $\overset{\circ}{W}$  into  $\overset{\circ}{U}$ , by for any  $u = \sum_{j=-M}^M \alpha_j(t)u_j$

$\in \overset{\circ}{W}$ ,  $v = T_c u = \sum_{j=-M}^M \beta_j(t)u_j$ ,  $\beta_j(t) \in \overset{\circ}{V}_N$  satisfy

$$\begin{aligned}
&\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j(t_i) + \lambda_j \beta_j(t_i)) \psi(t_i) \omega_i \\
&= \lambda_j \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \alpha_j(t_i) \psi(t_i) \omega_i, \quad \forall \psi \in \overset{\circ}{V}_{N-1}, \quad j = 0, \pm 1, \dots, \pm M.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.9}$$

Taking  $\psi = \lambda_j \bar{\alpha}_j$  in (4.9), we have

$$\lambda_j \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \bar{\alpha}_j(t_i) (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j(t_i) + \lambda_j \beta_j(t_i)) \omega_i = \lambda_j^2 \|\alpha_j\|^2 \quad (4.10)$$

Taking  $\psi = -\lambda_j^{-1} G \bar{\beta}'_j + \lambda_j P_c \bar{\beta}_j$  in (4.9) again, by (4.10), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j, -\lambda_j^{-1} G \beta_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) &= \lambda_j (\alpha_j, -\lambda_j^{-1} G \beta_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) \\ &= \lambda_j (\alpha_j, -\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) = \lambda_j^2 \|\alpha_j\|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

Let  $\beta_j(t) = \sum_{i=0}^N a_{ij} L_i(t)$ . Because

$$\begin{aligned} -\operatorname{Re}(P_c \beta_j, \beta'_j) &= -\operatorname{Re}(P_{N-1} \beta_j + a_{Nj} P_c L_N(t), \beta'_j) = -\operatorname{Re}(\beta_j, \beta'_j) - \operatorname{Re} a_{Nj} (L_N, \beta'_j)_N \\ &= \operatorname{Re} a_{Nj} (L_{N-1}, \beta'_j)_N = |a_{Nj}|^2 (L_{N-1}, L'_N) = 2 |a_{Nj}|^2 \geq 0, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned} &(-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j, -\lambda_j^{-1} G \beta_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) \\ &= \lambda_j^{-2} (\beta'_j, G \beta_j) - (P_c \beta_j, G \beta_j) + (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j, \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) \\ &= \lambda_j^{-2} (G \beta_j, G \beta_j) - (P_c \beta_j, \beta'_j) + (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j, \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) \\ &\geq \frac{2}{\lambda_j^2 (4 + N^2)} (\beta'_j, \beta'_j) - (P_c \beta_j, \beta'_j) + (-\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j, \lambda_j P_c \beta_j) \\ &\geq \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda_j \sqrt{4 + N^2}} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda_j \sqrt{4 + N^2}} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j \right) \\ &= \left\| -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda_j \sqrt{4 + N^2}} \beta'_j + \lambda_j P_c \beta_j \right\|^2 = \left\| -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{\lambda_j \sqrt{4 + N^2}} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j \right\|_N^2 \\ &\geq \frac{2}{4 + N^2} \left\| -\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j \right\|^2 \quad (\text{by Lemma 3}) \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

Combining (4.10), (4.11) and (4.12), we obtain

$$\frac{2}{4 + N^2} \left\| -\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j \right\|^2 \leq \lambda_j^2 \|\alpha_j\|^2,$$

Summing up for  $j$  from  $-M$  to  $M$  in above inequality, we obtain

$$\frac{2}{4 + N^2} \int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M \left| -\lambda_j^{-1} \beta'_j + \lambda_j \beta_j \right|^2 dt \leq \int_I \sum_{j=-M}^M \lambda_j^2 |\alpha_j|^2 dt$$

This inequality implies

$$\|T_c u\|_Y \leq \sqrt{\frac{4 + N^2}{2}} \|u\|_X.$$

Finally, we get

$$\inf_{\substack{u \in \overset{\circ}{W} \\ \|u\|_X=1}} \sup_{\substack{v \in \overset{\circ}{U} \\ \|v\|_Y \leq 1}} |B(u, v)| \geq \inf_{\substack{u \in \overset{\circ}{W} \\ \|u\|_X=1}} |B_d\left(u, \frac{T_c u}{\|T_c u\|_Y}\right)| \geq \sqrt{\frac{2}{4+N^2}}. \quad (4.13)$$

From (4.7) and (4.13), we have

$$\forall v \in \overset{\circ}{U}, \quad v \neq 0, \quad \sup_{u \in \overset{\circ}{W}} |B_d(u, v)| > 0.$$

By theorem 5.2.1 in [1], we know that the solution of pseudospectral scheme is existent and unique. From now on, we estimate the error of the pseudospectral scheme. For any  $\tilde{u} \in \overset{\circ}{W}$ ,  $v \in \overset{\circ}{U}$ , by (2.4), we have

$$\begin{aligned} |B_d(\tilde{u} - u_c, v)| &= |B_d(\tilde{u}, v) - B(u_0, v) + F(v) - F_d(v)| \\ &\leq \left( \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|B_d(\tilde{u}, z) - B(u_0, z)|}{\|z\|_Y} + \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|F(z) - F_d(z)|}{\|z\|_Y} \right) \|v\|_Y \end{aligned} \quad (4.14)$$

Taking  $v = T_c(\tilde{u} - u_c)$  in (4.14), by definition of  $T_c$  and (4.13), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u} - u_c\|_X^2 &= B_d(\tilde{u} - u_c, T_c(\tilde{u} - u_c)) \\ &\leq \left( \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|B_d(\tilde{u}, z) - B(u_0, z)|}{\|z\|_Y} + \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|F(z) - F_d(z)|}{\|z\|_Y} \right) \|T_c(\tilde{u} - u_c)\|_Y \\ &\leq \sqrt{\frac{4+N^2}{2}} \left( \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|B_d(\tilde{u}, z) - B(u_0, z)|}{\|z\|_Y} + \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|F(z) - F_d(z)|}{\|z\|_Y} \right) \|\tilde{u} - u_c\|_X \end{aligned}$$

Then by the triangular inequality

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_0 - u_c\|_X &\leq \sqrt{\frac{4+N^2}{2}} \left( \inf_{\tilde{u} \in \overset{\circ}{W}} \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|B_d(\tilde{u}, z) - B(u_0, z)|}{\|z\|_Y} + \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|F(z) - F_d(z)|}{\|z\|_Y} \right) \\ &\quad + \inf_{\tilde{u} \in \overset{\circ}{W}} \|u_0 - \tilde{u}\|_X \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Taking  $\tilde{u} = I_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M u_0$  in (4.15), thanks to (4.1), we have

$$B_d(I_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M u_0, z) = B(I_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M u_0, z), \quad \forall z \in \overset{\circ}{U},$$

hence, from (2.5), we obtain

$$\inf_{\tilde{u} \in \overset{\circ}{W}} \sup_{z \in \overset{\circ}{U}} \frac{|B_d(\tilde{u}, z) - B(u_0, z)|}{\|z\|_Y} \leq \sqrt{2} \|u_0 - I_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M u_0\|_X.$$

Finally, we estimate the last term in (4.15). By definition of  $F$  and  $F_d$ , thanks to (4.2) and Lemma 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
|F(z) - F_d(z)| &\leq \left| \int_Q (f \bar{z} dx dt - h \sum_{j=-M}^M \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} f(x_j, t_i) \bar{z}(x_j, t_i) \omega_i) \right| \\
&\leq \left| \int_Q (f - P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f) \bar{z} dx dt \right| + \left| (P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f - I_{N-1} \tilde{I}_M f, z)_{M,N} \right| \\
&\leq \|f - P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)} \|z\|_{L^2(Q)} \\
&\quad + \|P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f - I_{N-1} \tilde{I}_M f\|_{M,N} \|z\|_{M,N} \\
&\leq (\|f - P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)} + 2\|P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f - I_{N-1} \tilde{I}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)}) \|z\|_Y
\end{aligned}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\sup_{z \in \mathring{U}} \frac{|F(z) - F_d(z)|}{\|z\|_Y} &\leq \|f - P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)} + 2\|P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f - I_{N-1} \tilde{I}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)} \\
&\leq 3\|f - P_{N-2} \tilde{P}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)} + 2\|f - I_{N-1} \tilde{I}_M f\|_{L^2(Q)}.
\end{aligned}$$

By the error estimates of the project operator and the interpolation operator in [2], we obtain

**Theorem 3.** *If conditions of theorem 2 are satisfied, and  $k > \frac{3}{2}$ ,  $u_0$  and  $u_c$  are solutions of problem  $P$  and pseudospectral scheme respectively. Then we have the following error estimate*

$$\|u_0 - u_c\|_X \leq C(NM^{-(k+1)} + N^{-\frac{k-1}{2}}) \|f\|_{k, \frac{k}{2}},$$

where constant  $C$  is independent of  $N$ ,  $M$  and  $f$ .

**Remark 4.** When we consider problem (2.1)-(2.3) with inhomogenous initial value  $g(x)$ , and  $g(x) \in H_p^{k+2}(D)$ , we construct the following pseudospectral scheme: find  $u_c \in W$ , such that

$$\begin{aligned}
u_{ct}(x_j, t_i) - u_{cxx}(x_j, t_i) + u_c(x_j, t_i) &= f(x_j, t_i), \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, 2M, \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, N-1, \\
u_c(x_j, -1) &= g(x_j), \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, 2M.
\end{aligned}$$

It is similar to proof in Theorem 3, we have

$$\|u_0 - u_c\|_X \leq C(NM^{-(k+1)} + N^{-\frac{k-2}{2}}) (\|f\|_{k, \frac{k}{2}} + \|g\|_{k+2}).$$

**Remark 5.** It can be seen from theorem 2 and theorem 3, the orders of convergence are equal in bath time and space when  $M = N^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $M = N^{\frac{k}{2(k+1)}}$  respectively. If the considered problem is in the domain  $[T_0, T] \times D$ , the collocation points in time are  $(T - T_0)(t_i - 1)/2 + T$ ,  $i = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ , then the results of Theorem 3 also are valid.

## 5. Numerical Results

In this section, we consider the pseudospectral scheme (4.4), the text function is the exact solution of problem p, i.e.  $u_0 = e^{1-t} - e^{-2(t+1)} \cos x$ .

Let  $N = 9$ ,  $M = 4$ ;  $N = 16$ ,  $M = 4$  and  $N = 18$ ,  $M = 4$ ,  $x(j) = \frac{2j\pi}{1+2M}$ ,  $j = 0, 1, \dots, 2M$ . The computed results are listed in table 1, 2 and 3 on  $t = 1$ .

**Table 1**  $N = 9, M = 4$

$x(j)$	$u_c$	$u_0$	$\frac{(u_c - u_0)10^8}{u_0}$
$x(0)$	0.9816843076884547	0.9816843611112658	-5.441953970145995
$x(1)$	0.9859693667184228	0.9859694066071113	-4.045631456319635
$x(2)$	0.9968195241458999	0.9968195226841657	0.1466398023793764
$x(3)$	1.0091578722055620	1.0091578194443670	5.2282401949339110
$x(4)$	1.0172111586409040	1.0172110707087230	8.6444380524420870
$x(5)$	1.0172111637552210	1.0172110707087230	9.1472163958157720
$x(6)$	1.0091578824173790	1.0091578194443670	6.2401550450218620
$x(7)$	0.9968195369963077	0.9968195226841656	1.4357806705605410
$x(8)$	0.9859693743660365	0.9859694066071112	-3.269987332553165

The Table 1-3 show that the error between the approximate solution  $u_c$  and the exact solution  $u_0$  will monotone decrease with increasing of  $N$  when  $M$  do not changed. From above tables we also can see that the error are very small when the exact solution of the model problem is very smooth. I believe that this algorithm can be used to more complicated problems.

**Table 2**  $N = 12, M = 4$

$x(j)$	$u_c$	$u_0$	$\frac{(u_c - u_0)10^9}{u_0}$
$x(0)$	0.9816843611112644	0.9816843611112658	-0.000001357124227
$x(1)$	0.9859694030150431	0.9859694066071113	-3.643184235101693
$x(2)$	0.9968195172242356	0.9968195226841657	-5.477350764502334
$x(3)$	1.0091578146863220	1.0091578194443670	-4.714866946805532
$x(4)$	1.0172110688408600	1.0172110707087230	-1.836258555475101
$x(5)$	1.0172110725765890	1.0172110707087230	1.8362616115020740
$x(6)$	1.0091578242024130	1.0091578194443670	4.7148684870128270
$x(7)$	0.9968195281440949	0.9968195226841656	5.4773698734900710
$x(8)$	0.9859693743660365	0.9859694066071112	3.6431814200472470

**Table 3**  $N = 18, M = 4$

$x(j)$	$u_c$	$u_0$	$\frac{(u_c - u_0)10^9}{u_0}$
$x(0)$	0.9816843611112627	0.9816843611112658	-0.000003166623196
$x(1)$	0.9859694035333920	0.9859694066071113	-3.117459079869445
$x(2)$	0.9968195179881529	0.9968195226841657	-4.710996016808643
$x(3)$	1.0091578153279600	1.0091578194443670	-4.079052213462996
$x(4)$	1.0172110690864240	1.0172110707087230	-1.594849451072798
$x(5)$	1.0172110723310150	1.0172110707087230	1.5948431207312120
$x(6)$	1.0091578235607690	1.0091578194443670	4.0790471527818880
$x(7)$	0.9968195273801735	0.9968195226841656	4.7109911162411910
$x(8)$	0.9859694096808249	0.9859694066071112	3.1174534497605540

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