

**On Fully Discrete Galerkin
Approximations for Partial
Integro-Differential Equations
of Parabolic Type**

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Abstract. The subject of this work is the application of fully discrete Galerkin finite element methods to initial-boundary value problems for linear partial integro-differential equations of parabolic type. We investigate numerical schemes based on the Padé discretization with respect to time and associated with certain quadrature formulas to approximate the integral term. A preliminary error estimate is established, which contains a term related to the quadrature rule to be specified. In particular, we consider quadrature rules with sparse quadrature points so as to limit the storage requirements, without sacrificing the order of overall convergence. For the backward Euler, the Crank-Nicolson and a third order (1,2) Padé type schemes, the specific quadrature rules analyzed are based on the rectangular, the trapezoidal, and Simpson's rule. For all the schemes studied, optimal order error estimates are obtained in the case that the solution of the problem is smooth enough. Since this is important for our error analysis, we also discuss the regularity of the exact solutions of our equations. High order regularity results with respect to both space and time are given for the solution of problems with smooth enough data.

Keywords. initial-boundary value problem, parabolic, partial, integro-differential equation, regularity, finite element method, fully discrete, Galerkin approximation, stability, error estimate, quadrature.

1980 *Mathematics subject classifications*: Primary 65M15; secondary 65M60, 35K05

1. Introduction. The main purpose of this work is to formulate and study fully discrete Galerkin finite element approximations of solutions of initial-boundary value problems for linear partial integro-differential equations of parabolic type. The emphasis will be on discretization with respect to time.

Let Ω be a bounded domain in \mathbf{R}^d with sufficiently smooth boundary $\partial\Omega$, and let $0 < t^0 < \infty$. We shall consider equations of the form ($u_t = \partial u / \partial t$, $J = (0, t^0]$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 (1.1) \quad u_t(x, t) + Au(x, t) &= \int_0^t B(t, s)u(x, s) ds + f(x, t) \\
 &\equiv \tilde{B}u(x, t) + f(x, t), \quad (x, t) \in \Omega \times J, \\
 u(x, t) &= 0, \quad (x, t) \in \partial\Omega \times \bar{J}, \\
 u(x, 0) &= u_0(x), \quad x \in \Omega.
 \end{aligned}$$

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Here A is an elliptic operator of the form

$$A = - \sum_{i,j=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(a_{ij}(x) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \right) + a_0(x)I,$$

where the matrix $(a_{ij}(x))_{i,j=1}^d$ is symmetric and uniformly positive definite, and $a_0(x)$ is nonnegative on $\bar{\Omega}$. Further,

$$B(t, s) = \sum_{i,j=1}^d \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} \left(b_{ij}(x; t, s) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \right) + \sum_{j=1}^d b_j(x; t, s) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} + b_0(x; t, s)I$$

is a partial differential operator of at most second order. We shall assume that the coefficients $a_{ij}(x)$, $a_0(x)$, $b_{ij}(x; t, s)$, $b_j(x; t, s)$, $b_0(x; t, s)$ and $f = f(x, t)$ are real-valued functions, sufficiently smooth for our purposes.

Such problems and variants of them arise in various applications, for instance, in models for heat conduction in materials with memory, the compression of poro-viscoelastic media, reactor dynamics, the compartment model of a double-porosity system, and epidemic phenomena in biology. We refer to [12], [13] and [17] for detailed lists of references.

Denote by (\cdot, \cdot) the standard inner product in $L_2 = L_2(\Omega)$ and $A(\cdot, \cdot)$ and $B(t, s; \cdot, \cdot)$ the bilinear forms on $H_0^1 \times H_0^1 = H_0^1(\Omega) \times H_0^1(\Omega)$ corresponding to A and $B(t, s)$, respectively. We write problem (1.1) in variational form as

$$\begin{aligned} (u_t, v) + A(u, v) &= \int_0^t B(t, s; u(s), v) ds + (f, v) \equiv \tilde{B}(u(t), v) + (f, v), \quad v \in H_0^1, \quad t \in J, \\ u(0) &= u_0. \end{aligned}$$

We shall now turn to Galerkin finite element approximations of problem (1.1). Let $\{S_h\}$ be a family of finite dimensional subspaces of H_0^1 parametrized by a small positive parameter h . We first pose the analogue of the problem above on the subspace S_h to get a spatially discrete problem

$$\begin{aligned} (1.2) \quad (u_{h,t}, \chi) + A(u_h, \chi) &= \int_0^t B(t, s; u_h(s), \chi) ds + (f, \chi), \quad \chi \in S_h, \quad t \in \bar{J}, \\ u_h(0) &= u_{0h} \in S_h. \end{aligned}$$

We assume that $\{S_h\}$ possesses the standard approximation property that, for some fixed integer $r \geq 2$, we have

$$(1.3) \quad \inf_{\chi \in S_h} \{\|u - \chi\| + h\|u - \chi\|_1\} \leq Ch^s \|u\|_s, \quad u \in H_0^1 \cap H^s, \quad 1 \leq s \leq r,$$

where $\|\cdot\|$ and $\|\cdot\|_1$ are the usual norms in L_2 and H_0^1 , and $H^s = H^s(\Omega)$ is the standard L_2 Sobolev space of order s with norm $\|\cdot\|_s$.

It was shown in Thomée and Zhang [14] that, for the semidiscrete problem (1.2) with properly chosen approximate initial data u_{0h} , we have the error estimate

$$(1.4) \quad \|u_h(t) - u(t)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^t \|u_t\|_r ds \right\}, \quad t \in J,$$

which is formally the same as that for the corresponding purely parabolic problem ($B \equiv 0$).

The main purpose of this paper is to further discretize equation (1.2) with respect to time. A natural way to do this is to replace $u_{h,t}$ by a backward difference quotient and apply a quadrature rule to the integral term. We consider such a scheme first.

Let $k > 0$ be the step-size in time and $t_n = nk$. Further, let $\bar{\partial}_t U_h^n = (U_h^n - U_h^{n-1})/k$ and let $\{\omega_{nj} : 0 \leq j < n, t_n \in J\}$ be a family of quadrature weights such that, for $\phi^j = \phi(t_j)$, we have

$$\sigma^n(\phi) \equiv \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_{nj} \phi^j \approx \int_0^{t_n} \phi(s) ds, \quad t_n \in J.$$

We then obtain what we shall refer to as a *backward Euler type scheme*:

$$(1.5) \quad (\bar{\partial}_t U_h^n, \chi) + A(U_h^n, \chi) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_{nj} B(t_n, t_j; U_h^j, \chi) + (f(t_n), \chi), \quad \chi \in S_h, t_n \in J,$$

$$U_h^0 = u_{0h} \in S_h.$$

A natural candidate for the quadrature formula is the rectangular rule, whose quadrature weights are $\omega_{nj} = k$. However, to then calculate U_h^n , we must use, and thus store, all the previous values of the solution, U_h^0, \dots, U_h^{n-1} ; hence, a vast amount of memory will be needed. More precisely, to compute U_h^n , $t_n \in J$, the solution needs to be stored at t^0/k time levels. This becomes a major obstacle in practical calculations. Another disadvantage of the rectangular rule is that it requires a large amount of computation. Thus the number of time levels used in the quadrature will be one of our key criteria in choosing quadrature rules in this work. One way to reduce the storage requirement significantly is to employ quadrature formulas with high order truncation error, so that a larger step-size, or fewer quadrature points, may be used, without losing the order of accuracy of the scheme. We will propose quadrature rules based on the trapezoidal rule and on Simpson's rule. We shall therefore focus our attention on a class of quadrature rules whose quadrature weights $\{\omega_{nj}\}$ are dominated by some weights $\{\omega_j\}$, i.e., $|\omega_{nj}| \leq \omega_j$, $0 \leq j < n$, $t_n \in J$, with $\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \leq C$, $t_n \in J$. This class contains not only the rectangular rule, but also other rules with some special features.

A second way to approximate the solution of problem (1.1) is to apply higher order discretization in time, so that fewer time steps are taken in the calculation for the same accuracy. As a first example of this, we consider a *Crank-Nicolson type scheme*

$$(1.6) \quad (\bar{\partial}_t U_h^n, \chi) + A(\bar{U}_h^n, \chi) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_{nj} B(t_{n-1/2}, t_j; U_h^j, \chi) + (f(t_{n-1/2}), \chi),$$

$$\chi \in S_h, t_n \in J,$$

$$U_h^0 = u_{0h} \in S_h,$$

where $\overline{U_h^n} = (U_h^n + U_h^{n-1})/2$ and $t_{n-1/2} = (t_n + t_{n-1})/2$.

Keeping these two schemes in mind, we move the discussion to a more general setting, in which we use time discrete schemes based on Padé approximation of order p . We will establish a preliminary error estimate

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq C(u) \{h^r + k^p + \|\text{global quadrature error}\|\}, \quad t_n \in J,$$

where the so called global quadrature error is a term whose order of convergence is determined by that of the basic quadrature error $q^i(\phi) = \sigma^i(\phi) - \int_0^{t_i} \phi(s) ds$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. For schemes based on the backward Euler, Crank-Nicolson, and the third order (1,2) Padé approximations, we choose appropriate quadrature formulas so that the overall error bound reads

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq C(u) \{h^r + k^p\}, \quad t_n \in J.$$

The error estimates we obtain will demand, however, high regularity of the solution of (1.1), particularly due to the use of rules with high order truncation error. For instance, Simpson's rule requires that $\int_0^t \|u_t\|_r ds$ and $\int_0^t \|D_t^4 u\| ds$ be finite. Since the regularity of the solution is of such importance for our numerical methods, and since some of the desired high regularity results with respect to both space and time are not available in the literature, we devote some effort to showing such regularity under appropriate conditions on the prescribed data.

The first contribution to the numerical solution of integro-differential equations of parabolic type known to the author was made by Douglas and Jones [6] in the 1960's, using the finite difference method. The analysis of finite element methods for partial integro-differential equations of parabolic type has become an active research area only recently. Greenwell-Yanik and Fairweather [17] studied fully discrete Galerkin finite element approximations to the solutions of a nonlinear partial integro-differential equation, whose integral term contains at most first order derivatives in space.

Sloan and Thomée [10] considered the discretization in time of a general integro-differential equation in an abstract Hilbert space setting, where A is a self-adjoint positive definite operator and $B(t, s) = \kappa(t, s)B$. Here B is an operator satisfying $\|A^{-1}B\phi\| \leq C\|\phi\|$, $\phi \in D(B)$, independently of time, and $\kappa(t, s)$ is a scalar function. In order to reduce the memory and computational requirements of these methods, they first proposed the application of quadrature rules with relatively higher order truncation error. The backward Euler type scheme with a quadrature formula based on the trapezoidal rule, and the Crank-Nicolson type scheme based on Simpson's rule were analyzed in detail.

As we have mentioned before, time continuous spatially semidiscrete Galerkin approximations to problem (1.1) have been examined by Thomée and Zhang [14]; optimal order error estimates (1.4) were given. (An alternative proof of this result by means of a non-conventional projection can also be found in Cannon and Lin [4] and in Lin, Thomée and Wahlbin [8].)

Comprehensive surveys of the development of this subject are given by Thomée [12], [13].

The present work is based in an essential way on the ideas of Sloan and Thomée [10], and may be considered as an attempt to further develop the results obtained there, and to

carry over the results obtained in [14] for the semidiscrete problem to completely discrete schemes. The rest of this paper is organized as follows.

Section 2 is devoted to the existence, uniqueness, and regularity of solutions of integro-differential equations of parabolic type, with emphasis on results needed in our analysis of numerical schemes. We show that the solution of the initial-boundary problem (1.1) has any desired degree of regularity in both space and time, if the prescribed data satisfy the appropriate regularity and compatibility conditions.

In Section 3, as a preparation, we first introduce a concept called E_k -stability and present two sufficient conditions for this. We then give a preliminary error estimate for the fully discrete Galerkin approximation. Finally, we present a bound for the global quadrature error which appears in this estimate and will be recalled frequently afterwards.

Based on these results, we study in the last three sections some concrete quadrature formulas. In Section 4 we analyze backward Euler type schemes. We concentrate on quadrature rules with dominated weights. Several quadrature formulas are presented and analyzed, with emphasis on how to reduce the storage requirement. Section 5 contains our discussion of Crank-Nicolson type schemes. This time a class of quadrature rules using so called persistent dominated weights is considered. Two quadrature rules are given as examples. Section 6 discusses the third order subdiagonal Padé discretization. An overall error estimate with a third order convergence rate in time is obtained for a scheme that employs a modified Simpson's rule to approximate the integral term and uses a starting procedure to calculate the first two time steps of the solution.

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2. Existence, uniqueness and regularity. The purpose of this section is to show existence, uniqueness and regularity of the solutions of integro-differential equations of parabolic type, primarily as groundwork for our analysis of numerical methods. A review of the references considering problem (1.1) can be found in [1].

2.1. Existence and uniqueness. Let us first define some notations and recall some results for the purely parabolic case ($B \equiv 0$) of (1.1) (cf., e.g., Pazy [9]).

Let X be a Banach space. We introduce the Banach space $C(X) = \{u : \bar{J} \rightarrow X, u \text{ is continuous}\}$ with norm $\|u\|_{C(X)} = \sup_{t \in \bar{J}} \|u(t)\|_X$. For $\delta \in (0, 1)$, we let $C^\delta(X) = \{u : \bar{J} \rightarrow X, u \text{ is Hölder continuous with exponent } \delta\}$ with norm

$$\|u\|_{C^\delta(X)} = \|u\|_{C(X)} + \sup_{t \neq s, s, t \in \bar{J}} \frac{\|u(t) - u(s)\|_X}{|t - s|^\delta}.$$

We also let $C^1(X) = \{u : \bar{J} \rightarrow X : u \text{ is differentiable and } u_t \in C(X)\}$ with norm $\|u\|_{C^1(X)} = \|u\|_{C(X)} + \|u_t\|_{C(X)}$.

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In addition to H^s , we shall use the space $\dot{H}^s = \dot{H}^s(\Omega) = \{v \in H^s : A^j v = 0 \text{ on } \partial\Omega \text{ for } j < s/2\}$ with norm $|v|_s = \|A^{s/2} v\|$. We recall the fact that $|\cdot|_s$ and $\|\cdot\|_s$ are equivalent on \dot{H}^s .

We know that the homogeneous ($f \equiv 0$) purely parabolic ($B \equiv 0$) case of (1.1) has a unique solution $u(t) = E(t)u_0$ for $u_0 \in L_2$. Furthermore, given $s \geq 0$, we know that, for all $u_0 \in \dot{H}^s$, we have $E(t)u_0 \in C(\dot{H}^s)$ and

$$(2.1) \quad |E(t)u_0|_s \leq C|u_0|_s, \quad t \geq 0.$$

The following lemma gives a standard existence and regularity result for the purely parabolic case of (1.1).

Lemma 2.1. *Let $0 < \delta < 1$. If $f \in C^\delta(L_2)$ and $u_0 \in \dot{H}^2$, then the initial-boundary value problem (1.1) with $B \equiv 0$ has a unique solution*

$$u(t) = E(t)u_0 + \int_0^t E(t-s)f(s) ds \equiv E(t)u_0 + \tilde{E}f(t),$$

such that $u \in C^1(L_2) \cap C(\dot{H}^2)$ and

$$(2.2) \quad \|u_t(t)\| + |u(t)|_2 \leq C(|u_0|_2 + \|f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)}), \quad t \in \bar{J}.$$

The proof follows Section 4.3 of Pazy [9].

We now carry the above result over to the integro-differential equation (1.1). For problem (1.1), by the well-known regularity result for elliptic problems that

$$(2.3) \quad \|\phi\|_{H^2} \leq C\|A\phi\|, \quad \forall \phi \in \dot{H}^2,$$

we have

$$\|B(t,s)\phi\| + \|B^*(t,s)\phi\| \leq C\|A\phi\|, \quad \forall \phi \in \dot{H}^2, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0,$$

where B^* is the adjoint of B with respect to L_2 . A direct consequence is $\|B(t,s)A^{-1}\| \leq C$ and $\|A^{-1}B(t,s)\phi\| \leq C\|\phi\|$, $\forall \phi \in H^2$, $0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0$. The above is also true if we replace $B(t,s)$ by its time derivatives.

Theorem 2.2. *If $u_0 \in \dot{H}^2$ and $f \in C^\delta(L_2)$ for some $\delta \in (0,1)$, then the problem (1.1) has a unique solution $u \in C^1(L_2) \cap C(\dot{H}^2)$. Furthermore,*

$$(2.4) \quad \|u_t(t)\| + |u(t)|_2 \leq C(|u_0|_2 + \|f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)}), \quad t \in \bar{J}.$$

PROOF: By Duhamel's principle, we may write (1.1) formally as

$$(2.5) \quad \begin{aligned} u(t) &= \int_0^t E(t-s)\tilde{B}u(s) ds + \left(E(t)u_0 + \int_0^t E(t-s)f(s) ds \right) \\ &\equiv Ku(t) + F(t). \end{aligned}$$

If we can prove that (2.5) has a solution $u \in C(\dot{H}^2)$, then $\tilde{B}u + f \in C^\delta(L_2)$, and hence, by Lemma 2.1, u is the unique solution of a purely parabolic equation that has $\tilde{B}u + f$ as the right-hand side and $u \in C^1(L_2) \cap C(\dot{H}^2)$. Hence u is also the unique solution of (1.1). Thus we shall prove that (2.5) has a unique solution $u \in C(\dot{H}^2)$ and that (2.4) holds. This will be verified by showing that (2.5) is a well-posed Volterra type equation in the Banach space $C(\dot{H}^2)$.

First we notice that, by Lemma 2.1, we have $F \in C^1(L_2) \cap C(\dot{H}^2)$ and

$$(2.6) \quad |F(t)|_2 \leq C(|u_0|_2 + \|f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)}), \quad t \in \bar{J}.$$

Next we quote from Thomée and Zhang [14] that the operator K is bounded in $C(\dot{H}^2)$ and

$$|Ku(t)|_2 \leq C \int_0^t |u(s)|_2 ds, \quad t \in \bar{J}.$$

Therefore, by the standard argument for the existence of a unique solution of a Volterra integral equation, we conclude that (2.5) has a unique solution $u \in C(\dot{H}^2)$ and, in view of (2.6), that

$$|u(t)|_2 \leq C\|F\|_{C(\dot{H}^2)} \leq C(|u_0|_2 + \|f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)}), \quad t \in \bar{J}.$$

Using the integro-differential equation (1.1) we obtain also that, for $t \in \bar{J}$,

$$\|u_t(t)\| \leq \|Au(t)\| + \|\tilde{B}u(t)\| + \|f(t)\| \leq C\|u\|_{C(\dot{H}^2)} + \|f\|_{C(L_2)} \leq C(|u_0|_2 + \|f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)}). \quad \blacksquare$$

2.2. Higher order regularity. Later in the numerical analysis, we will need higher order regularity results for the solution. If we assume that, for some $m > 2$, $B(t, s) : \dot{H}^{i+2} \rightarrow \dot{H}^i$, $0 \leq i \leq m - 2$, is bounded together with a certain number of its derivatives, then by modifying the technique used in the proof of Theorem 2.2, we can conclude that $u \in C(\dot{H}^{i+2})$ provided that the data u_0 and f possess certain regularity properties. However, this condition is unnatural, since these spaces involve boundary conditions. In general, we can only expect $B(t, s) : H^{i+2} \rightarrow H^i$. Therefore, we shall derive a higher order regularity result, which basically only requires the boundedness of $B(t, s)$ in Sobolev spaces without boundary conditions associated with A .

Theorem 2.3. *Let u be the solution of the initial-boundary value problem of (1.1) and let $n \geq 1$, $0 < \delta \leq 1$. Assume that*

$$(2.7a) \quad D_t^j u(0) \in \dot{H}^2 \cap H^{2(n-j)}, \quad 0 \leq j \leq n - 1,$$

and

$$(2.7b) \quad D_t^j f \in C^\delta(L_2) \cap C(H^{2(n-j-1)}), \quad 0 \leq j \leq n - 1.$$

Then

$$D_t^j u \in C(H^{2(n-j)}), \quad 0 \leq j \leq n$$

and

$$D_t^j u \in C(\dot{H}^2), \quad 0 \leq j \leq n-1.$$

Furthermore,

$$(2.8) \quad \sum_{j=0}^n \|D_t^j u\|_{C(H^{2(n-j)})} \leq C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|D_t^j u(0)\|_{H^{2(n-j)}} \\ + C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|D_t^j f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)} + C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|D_t^j f\|_{C(H^{2(n-j-1)})}.$$

PROOF: We shall prove this by induction on n . By Theorem 2.2, we know that the theorem holds for $n = 1$. We now assume that it holds for $n = m$, $m \geq 1$. We shall prove that the theorem is true for $n = m + 1$. Thus we assume that

$$(2.9a) \quad D_t^j u(0) \in \dot{H}^2 \cap H^{2(m+1-j)}, \quad 0 \leq j \leq m,$$

and

$$(2.9b) \quad D_t^j f \in C^\delta(L_2) \cap C(H^{2(m-j)}), \quad 0 \leq j \leq m.$$

Differentiating equation (1.1) formally, we obtain

$$(2.10) \quad (u_t)_t + Au_t = B(t, t)u + \widetilde{B}_t u + f_t.$$

We shall write this in the same form as equation (1.1), so that we may use the induction hypothesis.

We easily obtain

$$B(t, t)u(t) = \int_0^t B(t, t)u_t(s) ds + B(t, t)u_0.$$

Similarly, after changing the order of integration, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{B}_t u(t) &= \int_0^t B_t(t, s) \int_0^s u_t(\tau) d\tau ds + \int_0^t B_t(t, s)u_0 ds \\ &= \int_0^t \int_s^t B_t(t, \tau) d\tau u_t(s) ds + \int_0^t B_t(t, s)u_0 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Using the above facts, we find

$$\begin{aligned} (u_t)_t + Au_t &= \int_0^t \left(B(t, t) + \int_s^t B_t(t, \tau) d\tau \right) u_t(s) ds + \left(B(t, t) + \int_0^t B_t(t, s) ds \right) u_0 + f_t \\ &\equiv \widetilde{B}_1 u_t + B_2 u_0 + f_t \equiv \widetilde{B}_1 u_t + F. \end{aligned}$$

Let us thus consider the integro-differential equation

$$(2.11) \quad \begin{aligned} v_t + Av &= \widetilde{B}_1 v + F, & t \in \bar{J}, \\ v(0) &= u_t(0). \end{aligned}$$

Since the operator $B_1 = B(t, t) + \int_s^t B_t(t, \tau) d\tau$ is a second-order partial differential operator, and since, by our assumption, $u_t(0) \in \dot{H}^2$ and $F \in C^\delta(L_2)$, we conclude by Theorem 2.2 that (2.11) has a unique solution $v \in C(\dot{H}^2) \cap C^1(L_2)$. Let $U(t) = \int_0^t v(s) ds - u_0$. We find by integrating (2.11) that U is the unique solution of (1.1). Thus we obtain immediately that $U = u$ and $v = u_t$, and hence, by (2.9), we have

$$D_t^j v(0) = D_t^{j+1} u(0) \in \dot{H}^2 \cap H^{2(m-j)}, \quad 0 \leq j \leq m-1.$$

Moreover, by the definition of F and (2.9), we have,

$$\begin{aligned} \|D_t^j F\|_{C^\delta(L_2)} &\leq \|D_t^j B_2 u_0\|_{C^\delta(L_2)} + \|D_t^{j+1} f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)} \\ &\leq C\|u_0\|_{\dot{H}^2} + \|D_t^{j+1} f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)}, \quad 0 \leq j \leq m-1, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\|D_t^j F\|_{C(H^{2(m-j-1)})} \leq C\|u_0\|_{H^{2(m-j)}} + C\|D_t^{j+1} f\|_{C(H^{2(m-j-1)})}, \quad 0 \leq j \leq m-1.$$

Now by using the induction hypothesis, we obtain

$$D_t^j v \in C(H^{2(m-j)}), \quad 0 \leq j \leq m, \text{ and } D_t^j v \in C(\dot{H}^2), \quad 0 \leq j \leq m-1,$$

and further

$$(2.12) \quad \begin{aligned} \sum_{j=0}^m \|D_t^{j+1} u\|_{C(H^{2(m-j)})} &= \sum_{j=0}^m \|D_t^j v\|_{C(H^{2(m-j)})} \\ &\leq C \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \|D_t^j v(0)\|_{H^{2(m-j)}} + C \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \|D_t^j F\|_{C^\delta(L_2)} + C \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \|D_t^j F\|_{C(H^{2(m-j-1)})} \\ &\leq C \sum_{j=0}^m \|D_t^j u(0)\|_{H^{2(m-j)}} + C \sum_{j=1}^m \|D_t^j f\|_{C^\delta(L_2)} + C \sum_{j=1}^m \|D_t^j f\|_{C(H^{2(m-j)})}. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to show that $u \in C(H^{2(m+1)})$ and to estimate $\|u\|_{C(H^{2(m+1)})}$. We shall accomplish this by showing that u is the solution of a Volterra equation that is well-posed on $C(H^{2(m+1)})$. We write the original equation as

$$(2.13) \quad u = A^{-1} \tilde{B} u + A^{-1}(f - u_t).$$

By the regularity result for elliptic problems, we know that $A^{-1} : H^{2m} \rightarrow H^{2(m+1)}$ is bounded. Thus $A^{-1}B(t, s)$ is an operator bounded in $H^{2(m+1)}$, uniformly for $0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0$. Hence the operator $A^{-1}\tilde{B}$ defined by $A^{-1}\tilde{B}u(t) = \int_0^t A^{-1}B(t, s)u(s)ds$ is a Volterra operator in $C(H^{2(m+1)})$.

By (2.12), we have $u_t \in C(H^{2m})$ and by (2.9), $f \in C(H^{2m})$, and hence $A^{-1}u_t \in C(H^{2(m+1)})$ and $A^{-1}f \in C(H^{2(m+1)})$. Therefore (2.13) is a Volterra equation in $C(H^{2(m+1)})$ and hence

$$\|u\|_{C(H^{2(m+1)})} \leq C\|A^{-1}(u_t - f)\|_{C(H^{2(m+1)})} \leq C\|u_t\|_{C(H^{2m})} + C\|f\|_{C(H^{2m})}.$$

In view of (2.12) this implies that (2.8) holds for $n = m + 1$. ■

From equation (1.1) we obtain $D_t u(0) = -Au_0 + f(0)$. Differentiating (1.1), we obtain (2.10) and hence

$$D_t^2 u(0) = -AD_t u(0) + B(0, 0)u_0 + f_t(0) = A^2 u_0 - Af(0) + B(0, 0)u_0 + f_t(0).$$

Repeating this process, we can express $D_t^j u(0)$ in terms of the prescribed data. In doing so, we see that the conditions required by Theorem 2.3 also implicitly contain certain compatibility conditions for the given data at $t = 0$.

3. Time discretization, stability and a preliminary error estimate. This section is devoted to time discretization of integro-differential equations of parabolic type. Since we are primarily interested in the discretization of the time variable, we first discuss an abstract parabolic integro-differential equation in a Hilbert space, and then turn to the concrete situation of a partial integro-differential equation of parabolic type in space and time.

3.1. Discretization in time. Let A_h and $B_h(t, s) : S_h \rightarrow S_h$ be defined by

$$(A_h \mu, \chi) = A(\mu, \chi), \quad \text{and} \quad (B_h(t, s)\mu, \chi) = B(t, s; \mu, \chi), \quad \mu, \chi \in S_h.$$

We can thus rewrite the spatially discrete problem (1.2) as

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{aligned} u_{h,t} + A_h u_h &= \int_0^t B_h(t, s)u_h(s)ds + f_h \equiv \widetilde{B}_h u_h(t) + f_h, \quad t \in \bar{J}, \\ u_h(0) &= u_{0h}, \end{aligned}$$

where $f_h = P_h f$ with $P_h : L_2 \rightarrow S_h$ being the L_2 -projector.

In regard to both (1.1) and (3.1), we shall thus consider the time discretization of the following problem on a Hilbert space H :

$$(3.2) \quad \begin{aligned} u_t + Au &= \int_0^t B(t, s)u(s)ds + f(t) \equiv \tilde{B}u(t) + f(t), \quad t \in J, \\ u(0) &= u_0, \end{aligned}$$

where A is a self-adjoint, positive definite linear (unbounded) operator in H with dense domain $D(A) \subset H$. We shall assume that A has a compact inverse. It follows that $-A$ generates an analytic semigroup $E(t) = e^{-At}$.

For our later discussion, it is convenient to introduce the following concept: we say that *the doubly parameterized operator $B(t, s)$ is dominated by the operator A* if $D(A) \subset D(B(t, s)) = D(B^*(t, s)) \subset H$, for all $0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0$, and if there exists a constant C such that

$$(3.3) \quad \|B(t, s)\phi\| + \|B^*(t, s)\phi\| \leq C\|A\phi\|, \quad \forall \phi \in D(A), \text{ for all } 0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0,$$

where $B^*(t, s)$ is the adjoint operator of $B(t, s)$ with respect to the inner product of H . If $B(t, s)$ is dominated by A , one can easily show that

$$\|B(t, s)A^{-1}\| \leq C, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0,$$

and

$$\|A^{-1}B(t, s)\phi\| \leq C\|\phi\|, \quad \forall \phi \in D(B(t, s)), \quad 0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0.$$

We shall assume that $B(t, s)$ in (3.2) is dominated by A , together with its certain derivatives with respect to t and s .

For problem (1.1), we have already shown that the partial differential operator $B(t, s)$ and its derivatives with respect to t and s are dominated by A . For the spatially discrete equation (3.1), we have families of operators $\{A_h\}$ and $\{B_h(t, s)\}$. We thus say that a family of operators $\{B_h(t, s)\}$ is dominated by $\{A_h\}$ if there exists a constant C independent of h such that

$$\|B_h(t, s)\chi\| + \|B_h^*(t, s)\chi\| \leq C\|A_h\chi\|, \quad \forall \chi \in S_h, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0,$$

and similarly for time derivatives of B_h . This implies

$$\|B_h(t, s)A_h^{-1}\| \leq C \quad \text{and} \quad \|A_h^{-1}B_h(t, s)\| \leq C, \quad 0 \leq s \leq t \leq t^0.$$

When $B(t, s) = \gamma(t, s)A$, where $\gamma(t, s)$ is a bounded scalar function, we have that $B_h(t, s) = \gamma(t, s)A_h$; trivially $\{B_h\}$ is dominated by A_h . Further, when $B = B(t, s)$ is a first order partial differential operator, then since

$$\|\chi\|_1^2 \leq C A(\chi, \chi) = C (A_h\chi, \chi) \leq C\|A_h\chi\| \|\chi\|_1,$$

we have

$$(B_h\chi, \mu) = B(\chi, \mu) \leq C\|\chi\|_1 \|\mu\| \leq C\|A_h\chi\| \|\mu\|,$$

and hence

$$\|B_h\chi\| \leq C\|A_h\chi\|, \quad \chi \in S_h.$$

Similarly,

$$\|B_h^*\chi\| \leq C\|A_h\chi\|, \quad \chi \in S_h.$$

It is now obvious that a family of operators of the form

$$B_h(t, s) = \gamma(t, s)A_h + \text{a discrete first order operator}$$

is dominated by $\{A_h\}$.

When B is a general second order partial differential operator, it is more difficult to verify that $\{B_h\}$ is dominated by $\{A_h\}$. However, we claim that this is so as long as the standard inverse inequality

$$(3.4) \quad \|\chi\|_1 \leq Ch^{-1}\|\chi\|, \quad \chi \in S_h,$$

holds for the finite element space S_h . To show this, we first recall a lemma of Thomée and Zhang [14; Lemma 2.1.]

Lemma 3.1. *Let $B(t, s; \cdot, \cdot)$ be a bilinear form on $H_0^1 \times H_0^1$ corresponding to a second order partial differential operator $B(t, s)$. Then*

$$\|B(t, s; g, A_h^{-1}f)\| \leq C\{\|g\| + h\|g\|_1\}\|f\|, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq s \leq t \leq \bar{J}, \quad \forall f \in L_2, g \in H_0^1.$$

With $\mu, \chi \in S_h$, the above lemma and (3.4) yield

$$(B_h\chi, \mu) = B(\chi, \mu) \leq C(\|\mu\| + h\|\mu\|_1)\|A_h\chi\| \leq C\|\mu\|\|A_h\chi\|.$$

Since the same argument works for B_h^* , we conclude that $\{B_h\}$ is dominated by $\{A_h\}$.

Let us recall a time discretization procedure for the corresponding purely parabolic problem of (3.2), i.e., with $B \equiv 0$. More details can be found in [2], [3] and [11]. Let $r(z)$ be a rational function approximating the exponential e^{-z} to order $p \geq 1$, i.e., such that

$$(3.5) \quad r(z) = e^{-z} + O(z^{p+1}) \quad \text{for } z \rightarrow 0,$$

and such that

$$(3.6) \quad |r(z)| \leq 1 \quad \text{for } z \geq 0.$$

Let $\tau_i = \tau_{n,i} \in [0, t_n]$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, be distinct real numbers, and let $\{g_i(z)\}_{i=1}^m = \{g_{n,i}(z)\}_{i=1}^m$ be rational functions which are bounded on $z > 0$. We consider a scheme of the form

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{aligned} U^n &= r(kA)U^{n-1} + k \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(kA)f(t_n - \tau_i k), \quad t_n \in J, \\ U^0 &= u_0. \end{aligned}$$

By defining $E_k = r(kA)$ and $G_k f(t_n) = \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(kA)f(t_n - \tau_i k)$, we write (3.7) in short form as

$$(3.8) \quad \begin{aligned} U^n &= E_k U^{n-1} + k G_k f(t_n), \quad t_n \in J, \\ U^0 &= u_0. \end{aligned}$$

We shall apply the above time discretization to the integro-differential equation and use various quadrature formulas to approximate the integral term. Let $t_n^i = t_n - \tau_i k$ and let σ^{n,τ_i} be a quadrature rule with weights $\{\omega_{nj}^{(i)}\}$ such that, for $\phi \in C([0, t^0])$ and with $\phi^j = \phi(t_j)$,

$$(3.9) \quad \sigma^{n,\tau_i}(\phi) \equiv \sigma^{n,\tau}(\phi) = \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_{nj}^{(i)} \phi^j \approx \int_0^{t_n - \tau_i k} \phi(s) ds.$$

We shall consider the time discrete scheme

$$(3.10) \quad \begin{aligned} U^n &= E_k U^{n-1} + k G_k \sigma^n(BU) + k G_k f(t_n), & t_n \in J, \\ U^0 &= u_0, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$G_k \sigma^n(BU) \equiv G_k \sigma^n(B(t_n, \cdot)U) = \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(kA) \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_{nj}^{(i)} B(t_n^i, t_j) U^j.$$

Note that (3.10) is explicit with respect to the quadrature term.

Now we finally turn to our main consideration, the full discretization of problem (1.1). Applying discretization (3.10) to the semidiscrete equation (3.1), we obtain the following fully discrete Galerkin scheme:

$$(3.11) \quad \begin{aligned} U_h^n &= E_{kh} U_h^{n-1} + k G_{kh} \sigma^n(B_h U) + k G_{kh} P_h f(t_n), & t_n \in J, \\ U_h^0 &= u_{0h}, \end{aligned}$$

where E_{kh} and G_{kh} are defined by replacing A by A_h in the definitions of E_k and G_k , respectively, and $\sigma^n(B_h U)$ is defined by replacing B by B_h in $\sigma^n(BU)$.

In this paper, we shall assume that $g_i(z)$, $i = 1, \dots, m$, are real fractions. The backward Euler discretization (1.5) is of this form with

$$m = 1, \quad \tau = 0, \quad r(z) = \frac{1}{1+z}, \quad \text{and} \quad g(z) = \frac{1}{1+z},$$

which has order $p = 1$. If we choose

$$m = 1, \quad \tau = 1/2, \quad r(z) = \frac{1-z/2}{1+z/2}, \quad \text{and} \quad g(z) = \frac{1}{1+z/2},$$

we obtain the Crank-Nicolson discretization (1.6), for which $p = 2$.

3.2. Stability and E_k -stability. To study the stability of (3.11), we introduce a concept which we will call E_k -stability. Let $\{V^j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$, $t_n \in J$ be a sequence in $D(A)$ and define $W^n = F_k^n(V)$ iteratively by

$$\begin{aligned} W^n &= E_k W^{n-1} + k G_k \sigma^n(BV), & t_n \in J, \\ W^0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

A quadrature formula is called E_k -stable if there exist nonnegative $\{\omega_j\}_{j=0}^{n-1}$, $t_n \in J$, such that $\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \leq C$ and, for any $\{V^j\} \subset D(A)$,

$$\|F_k^n(V)\| \leq C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \|V^j\|, \quad t_n \in J.$$

Moreover, we define F_{kh}^n and E_{kh} -stability, respectively, when problem (3.11) is under consideration, with constant C independent of h . The following theorem shows the importance of E_k -stability.

Theorem 3.2. *If the quadrature formula defined by (3.9) is E_k -stable, then scheme (3.10) is stable; that is,*

$$\|U^n\| \leq C\|u_0\| + Ck \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \|f(t_j^i)\|, \quad t_n \in J.$$

In the proof we need the known discrete version of Gronwall's Lemma.

Lemma 3.3. *Let $\{\eta_n\}$ be a sequence of nonnegative real numbers satisfying*

$$(3.12) \quad \eta_n \leq \beta_n + \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \eta_j \quad \text{for } n \geq 0,$$

where $\omega_j \geq 0$ and $\{\beta_n\}$ is a nondecreasing sequence of nonnegative numbers. Then

$$\eta_n \leq \beta_n \exp \left(\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \right) \quad \text{for } n \geq 1.$$

We give a proof here for readers' convenience.

PROOF: Let $S_n = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \eta_i$. It is sufficient to show that

$$(3.13) \quad S_n \leq \beta_n \left(\exp \left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \right) - 1 \right), \quad n \geq 1.$$

We shall use induction to prove this. For $n = 1$, we have, since $\eta_0 \leq \beta_0$, that

$$S_1 = \omega_0 \eta_0 \leq \omega_0 \beta_0 \leq \beta_0 (e^{\omega_0} - 1) \leq \beta_1 (e^{\omega_0} - 1).$$

Assume now that (3.13) holds for S_i , $1 \leq i \leq n$. To complete the proof we shall prove that it holds for S_{n+1} . By definition of S_n and (3.12), we have

$$S_{n+1} - S_n = \omega_n \eta_n \leq \omega_n (\beta_n + S_n),$$

and hence

$$S_{n+1} \leq \omega_n \beta_n + (1 + \omega_n) S_n.$$

By our induction assumption and the monotonicity of β_n we then obtain

$$\begin{aligned} S_{n+1} &\leq \beta_n \left\{ \omega_n + (1 + \omega_n) \left(\exp\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i\right) - 1 \right) \right\} = \beta_n \left\{ (1 + \omega_n) \exp\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i\right) - 1 \right\} \\ &\leq \beta_n \left\{ e^{\omega_n} \exp\left(\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i\right) - 1 \right\} \leq \beta_{n+1} \left(\exp\left(\sum_{i=0}^n \omega_i\right) - 1 \right), \end{aligned}$$

and hence the proof is complete. ■

PROOF OF THEOREM 3.2: The proof is quite straightforward. Let $U^n = U_1^n + U_2^n$, where we define $U_1^n, U_2^n \in D(A)$ by

$$U_1^n = E_k U_1^{n-1} + k G_k \sigma^n(BU), \quad t_n \in J, \text{ subject to } U_1^0 = 0,$$

and

$$U_2^n = E_k U_2^{n-1} + k G_k f(t_n), \quad t_n \in J, \text{ subject to } U_2^0 = U^0.$$

By (3.6) and some spectral analysis, we have $\|E_k\| = \|r(kA)\| = \sup_{\lambda > 0} |r(k\lambda)| \leq 1$, and similarly, $\|G_k f(t_n)\| \leq C \sum_{i=1}^m \|f(t_n^i)\|$; hence,

$$\|U_2^n\| \leq \|U_2^{n-1}\| + Ck \|f(t_n^i)\| \leq \dots \leq \|U_0\| + Ck \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \|f(t_j^i)\|, \quad t_n \in J.$$

Therefore, by $U_1^n = F^n(U)$ and the E_k -stability of this scheme, we obtain

$$\|U^n\| \leq \|U_1^n\| + \|U_2^n\| \leq \|U_0\| + Ck \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^n \|f(t_j^i)\| + C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \|U^j\|, \quad t_n \in J,$$

which leads to the conclusion by using Lemma 3.3. ■

3.3. Some sufficient conditions for E_k -stability. The E_k -stability of a scheme is important not only to prove the stability of the time discretization but also to obtain error estimates. We now give some sufficient conditions for a quadrature formula to be E_k -stable.

We say that a quadrature rule has *dominated quadrature weights* $\{\omega_{ji}\}$ if there are weights $\{\omega_i\}$ such that

$$|\omega_{ji}| \leq \omega_i, \quad 0 \leq t_i \leq t_j \leq t^0$$

and

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \leq C, \quad t_n \in J.$$

If the time-stepping is based on the subdiagonal Padé approximation, i.e.,

$$r(z) = \frac{p(z)}{q(z)},$$

where both $p(z)$ and $q(z)$ are real polynomials with $\deg p < \deg q$, our first theorem shows that the domination of the quadrature weights is sufficient for E_k -stability.

Theorem 3.4. *Let the time-stepping be based on the subdiagonal Padé approximation and accurate of order $p = 1$. Assume that $B(t, s)$ is an operator such that $D_t^i B$, $i = 0, 1$, are dominated by A . If the quadrature rule defined by (3.9) has dominated weights $\{\omega_{ni}\}$, then the quadrature rule is E_k -stable.*

A fact we shall use in the proof is that, in this case, it is known that the generated time-stepping procedure has the smoothing property [11], i.e.,

$$(3.14) \quad \|AE_k^n\| \leq Ct_n^{-1}, \quad t_n \in J.$$

PROOF OF THEOREM 3.4: Without the loss of generality, we assume $m = 1$. Denote $g(kA)$ by \overline{G}_k and $t_j - \tau k$ by t'_j for short. To estimate $F_k^n(V)$, we split it as

$$\begin{aligned} F_k^n &= k \sum_{j=1}^n E_k^{n-j} \overline{G}_k \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_{j,i} (B(t'_j, t_i) - B(t'_n, t_i)) V^i \\ &\quad + k \sum_{j=1}^n E_k^{n-j} \overline{G}_k A \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_{j,i} A^{-1} B(t'_n, t_i) V^i \equiv I + II. \end{aligned}$$

Since B_t is dominated by A , we have

$$\|A^{-1}(B(t'_j, t_i) - B(t'_n, t_i))\phi\| \leq C(t_n - t_j)\|\phi\|, \quad \phi \in D(A),$$

and hence, by the smoothing property (3.14) of E_k , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|II\| &\leq Ck \sum_{j=1}^n (t_n - t_j)^{-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_i \|A^{-1}(B(t'_j, t_i) - B(t'_n, t_i))V^i\| \\ &\leq Ck \sum_{j=1}^n (t_n - t_j)^{-1} (t_n - t_j) \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_i \|V^i\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|V^i\|. \end{aligned}$$

It remains to estimate II . Changing the order of summation, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (3.15) \quad II &= \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left(k \sum_{j=i+1}^n \omega_{j,i} \overline{G}_k E_k^{n-j} A \right) A^{-1} B(t'_n, t_i) V^i \\ &\equiv \sum_{i=1}^n G_{ni} A^{-1} B(t'_n, t_i) V^i. \end{aligned}$$

By spectral analysis, we obtain

$$\|G_{ni}\| \leq C\omega_i \sup_{\lambda>0} \sum_{j=0}^n k\lambda |r(k\lambda)|^{n-j} |g(k\lambda)| \leq C\omega_i \sup_{\lambda>0} \frac{\lambda |g(\lambda)|}{1 - |r(\lambda)|}.$$

Set $s(\lambda) = \lambda |g(\lambda)| / (1 - |r(\lambda)|)$. Since $|r(\lambda)| < 1$ for $\lambda > 0$, we need only bound $s(\lambda)$ as $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ and $\lambda \rightarrow +\infty$. Easily by (3.5), $|s(\lambda)| \leq C$ as $\lambda \rightarrow +\infty$. Furthermore, since $\deg(p) < \deg(q)$ and $|\lambda g(\lambda)|$ is bounded, we obtain $|s(\lambda)| \leq C$ as $\lambda \rightarrow 0$. Altogether we obtain $\|G_{ni}\| \leq C\omega_i$, and so

$$\|II\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|A^{-1} B(t_n, t_i) V^i\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|V^i\|. \quad \blacksquare$$

Besides what has been discussed above, there are other time-stepping procedures that do not have the smoothing property, for instance, the Crank-Nicolson discretization. Let us consider the class of time discretizations of *strictly accurate of order $p = 1$* , i.e.,

$$(3.16) \quad r(z) - 1 = -z \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(z).$$

For more discussion on this, we refer to Thomée [11; Chapter 7 and Chapter 8] and the references therein. For simplicity, we shall restrict to the case of $m = 1$.

For a quadrature formula with dominated weights $\{\omega_i\}$, if the dominated weights satisfy

$$(3.17) \quad \sum_{j=i+1}^{n-1} |\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{ji}| \leq C\omega_i, \quad 0 \leq i < n-1, \quad t_n \in J,$$

we say that the quadrature rule has *persistent dominated quadrature weights*.

Theorem 3.5. *Let the time discretization be strictly accurate of order $p = 1$ and $m = 1$. Assume that B and B_t are dominated by A . If the quadrature rule defined by (3.9) has persistent dominated weights $\{\omega_{nj}\}$, then the quadrature rule is E_k -stable.*

PROOF: In this proof, let us denote $\sigma^{j,\tau}$ by $\sigma^{j'}$, and $t_j - \tau k$ by t'_j for short. Since the time discretization is strictly of order 1, we have $\overline{G}_k = g(kA) = -(E_k - I)A^{-1}/k$, and therefore, by summation by parts, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} F_k^n(V) &= k \sum_{j=1}^n E_k^{n-j} \overline{G}_k \sigma^{j'}(BV) = - \sum_{j=1}^n \left(E_k^{n-j+1} - E_k^{n-j} \right) A^{-1} \sigma^{j'}(BV) \\ &= - \sum_{j=1}^n E_k^{n-j} \left(\sigma^{j+1'} - \sigma^{j'} \right) (A^{-1}BV) + \left(E_k^n \sigma^{n'}(A^{-1}BV) - \sigma^{1'}(A^{-1}BV) \right) \\ &\equiv I + II. \end{aligned}$$

By the stability of E_k^n , since B is dominated by A , and since the quadrature formula has dominated weights, we obtain immediately

$$\|II\| \leq \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|A^{-1} B(t'_n, t_i) V^i\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|V^i\|.$$

It remains to estimate I. We split I into three terms as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} I &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} E_k^{n-j} A^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=0}^j \omega_{j+1,i} B(t'_{j+1}, t_i) V^i - \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_{ji} B(t'_j, t_i) V^i \right) \\ &= - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} E_k^{n-j} A^{-1} \omega_{j+1,j} B(t'_{j+1}, t_j) V^j - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} E_k^{n-j} A^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{j-1} (\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{ji}) B(t'_{j+1}, t_i) V^i \right) \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} E_k^{n-j} A^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_{ji} (B(t'_{j+1}, t_i) - B(t'_j, t_i)) V^i \right) \equiv I_1 + I_2 + I_3. \end{aligned}$$

In a manner similar to the estimate of II , we obtain

$$\|I_1\| \leq C \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \omega_j \|V^j\|.$$

Since B_t is also dominated by A , we have, for $\phi \in D(A)$, that

$$\|A^{-1} (B(t'_{j+1}, t_i) - B(t'_j, t_i)) \phi\| = \left\| \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} A^{-1} B_t(\tau, t_i) d\tau \phi \right\| \leq Ck \|\phi\|, \quad t'_{j+1} \in J, \quad t_i \in J,$$

and hence

$$\|I_3\| \leq Ck \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \sum_{i=0}^{j-1} \omega_i \|V^i\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \omega_i \|V^i\|.$$

Changing the order of summation, and using our assumption that the quadrature rule has persistent dominated weights, and that B is dominated by A , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|I_2\| &= \left\| \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n-1} E_k^{n-j} (\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{ji}) A^{-1} B(t'_{j+1}, t_i) V^i \right\| \\ &\leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \left(\sum_{j=i+1}^{n-1} |\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{ji}| \right) \|V^i\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-2} \omega_i \|V^i\|. \end{aligned}$$

These estimates lead to

$$\|I\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|V^i\|. \quad \blacksquare$$

Clearly, the above results hold also for E_{kh} -stability.

3.4. A preliminary error estimate. This subsection will prepare us for our later discussion of the error estimate for fully discrete Galerkin approximations. Let us introduce an auxiliary approximate solution $\hat{U}_h^n \in S_h$ obtained by applying the discretization method (3.8) to a purely parabolic equation with right-hand side $(\tilde{B}u + f)(t)$, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{U}_h^n &= E_{kh} \hat{U}_h^{n-1} + k G_{kh} P_h (\tilde{B}u + f)(t_n), \quad t_n \in J, \\ \hat{U}_h^0 &= u_{0h}.\end{aligned}$$

We shall call

$$(3.18) \quad \hat{e}^n = \hat{U}_h^n - u(t_n)$$

the *basic time-stepping error* which has been well studied in the literature, see Thomée [11] and the references therein.

Denote by $q^{n,i}(\phi)$ the *basic quadrature error*, i.e.,

$$q^n(\phi) = q^{n,\tau_i}(\phi) = q^{n,\tau}(\phi) = \sigma^{n,\tau_i}(\phi) - \int_0^{t_n^i} \phi(s) ds.$$

We define the local quadrature error

$$q^n(B_h \phi) = q^{n,\tau_i}(B_h \phi) = \sigma^{n,\tau_i}(B_h \phi) - \int_0^{t_n^i} B_h(t_n^i, s) \phi(s) ds$$

and the global quadrature error

$$(3.19) \quad Q_{kh}^n(\phi) = k \sum_{j=1}^n E_{kh}^{n-j} G_{kh} q^j(B_h \phi) = k \sum_{j=1}^n E_{kh}^{n-j} \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(kA) q^{j,\tau_i}(B_h \phi).$$

We shall frequently make use of the elliptic projector $R_h : H_0^1 \rightarrow S_h$ defined by

$$A(R_h \phi, \chi) = A(\phi, \chi), \quad \phi \in H_0^1, \chi \in S_h,$$

which has the wellknown approximation property

$$(3.20) \quad \|(R_h - I)u\| + h\|(R_h - I)u\|_1 \leq Ch^s \|u\|_s, \quad 1 \leq s \leq r.$$

For $\{\phi^j\}_{j=0}^n$, we write $|||\phi^n||| = \max_{0 \leq j \leq n} \|\phi^j\|$.

We shall now give a preliminary error estimate, in which only the basic time-stepping error and the global quadrature error remain to be specified.

Theorem 3.6. Let u be the solution of the initial-boundary value problem in (1.1) and U_h^n the approximate solution given by scheme (3.11) using a time-stepping strictly accurate of order $p = 1$ and a quadrature formula defined by (3.9). Let \hat{e}^n be the basic time-stepping error and Q_{kh}^n the global quadrature error defined by (3.18) and (3.19), respectively. Assume B_h and $B_{h,t}$ are dominated by A_h . If the quadrature rule is E_{kh} -stable, and if

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t(s)\|_r ds \right\} + C \|\hat{e}^n\| + C \|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\|.$$

PROOF: We write

$$(3.21) \quad e^n = (U_h^n - \hat{U}_h^n) + (\hat{U}_h^n - u(t_n)) \equiv Z^n + \hat{e}^n,$$

where $Z^n \in S_h$ is the only term that needs to be estimated. Following Wheeler [16], let $\theta^n = U_h^n - R_h u(t_n)$. Then by definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} Z^n &= E_{kh} Z^{n-1} + kG_{kh} \sigma^n(B_h U) - kG_{kh} P_h \tilde{B}u(t_n) \\ &= E_{kh} Z^{n-1} + kG_{kh} \sigma^n(B_h \theta) + kG_{kh} \left(\sigma^n(B_h R_h u) - \tilde{B}_h R_h u(t_n) \right) \\ &\quad + kG_{kh} \left(\tilde{B}_h R_h u(t_n) - P_h \tilde{B}u(t_n) \right) \equiv E_{kh} Z^{n-1} + \sum_{j=1}^3 I_j, \quad t_n \in J, \\ Z^0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

We now split Z^n further into $Z^n = Z_1^n + Z_2^n + Z_3^n$, where

$$\begin{aligned} Z_i^n &= E_{kh} Z_i^{n-1} + I_i, \quad t_n \in J, \\ Z_i^0 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

By the E_{kh} -stability of the quadrature rule, we have

$$(3.22) \quad \|Z_1^n\| = \|F_{kh}^n(\theta)\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|\theta^i\|, \quad t_n \in J.$$

By the definition of the global quadrature error, we have

$$Z_2^n = Q_{kh}^n(R_h u), \quad t_n \in J.$$

Assuming for a moment that

$$(3.23) \quad \|Z_3^n\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\}, \quad t_n \in J,$$

we obtain that

$$\|Z^n\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + \|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\| + C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \|\theta^j\|,$$

and hence, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|\theta^n\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t(s)\|_r ds \right\} + \|\hat{e}^n\| + \|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\| + C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j \|\theta^j\|.$$

The proof will be completed by applying the discrete Gronwall Lemma 3.3.

It remains to prove (3.23). Denote $\sum_{i=1}^m g_i(kA_h)$ by \overline{G}_{kh} . We further split Z_3^n into $Z_3^n = Z_{31}^n + Z_{32}^n$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{31}^n &= E_{kh} Z_{31}^{n-1} + k \overline{G}_{kh} \left(\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(t_n) - P_h \tilde{B} u(t_n) \right), \\ Z_{32}^n &= E_{kh} Z_{32}^{n-1} + k (G_{kh} - \overline{G}_{kh}) \left(\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(t_n) - P_h \tilde{B} u(t_n) \right), \\ Z_{31}^0 &= Z_{32}^0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

To simplify the notation, henceforth in the proof a prime will indicate the corresponding summations for the index replaced by it from 1 to m , when it is clear according to the context. Let us first estimate Z_{31}^n . By iteration we have

$$Z_{31}^n = k \sum_{j=1}^n E_{kh}^{n-j} \overline{G}_{kh} \left(\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(t_j) - P_h \tilde{B} u(t_j) \right).$$

Let $\tilde{B}(\phi(t), \psi) = \int_0^t B(t, s; \phi(s), \psi) ds$. For $\chi \in S_h$, we have then

$$(Z_{31}^n, \chi) = k \sum_{j=1}^n (\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(t'_j) - \tilde{B} u(t'_j), E_{kh}^{n-j} \overline{G}_{kh} \chi) = k \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{B}(\rho(t'_j), E_{kh}^{n-j} \overline{G}_{kh} \chi).$$

Since the discretization is strictly accurate of order $p = 1$, we have $\overline{G}_{kh} = k^{-1} A_h^{-1} (E_{kh} - I)$; hence, summation by parts yields

$$\begin{aligned} (Z_{31}^n, \chi) &= \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{B}(\rho(t'_j), (E_{kh}^{n-j+1} - E_{kh}^{n-j}) A_h^{-1} \chi) \\ &= -\tilde{B}(\rho(t'_n), A_h^{-1} \chi) + \tilde{B}(\rho(t'_1), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^n \chi) + \sum_{j=2}^{n-1} \tilde{B}(\rho(t'_{j+1}) - \rho(t'_j), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi). \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.1 and (3.20), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |\tilde{B}(\rho(t'_n), A_h^{-1} \chi)| + |\tilde{B}(\rho(t'_1), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^n \chi)| &\leq C \int_0^{t_n} (\|\rho\| + h \|\rho\|_1) ds \|\chi\| \\ &\leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} \|\chi\|. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
\left| \sum_{j=2}^{n-1} \tilde{B}(\rho(t'_{j+1}) - \rho(t'_j), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi) \right| &\leq \sum_{j=2}^{n-1} \left| \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} \frac{d}{ds} \tilde{B}(\rho(s), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi) ds \right| \\
&\leq \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \left| \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} B(s, s; \rho(s), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi) ds \right| + \left| \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} \tilde{B}(\rho(s), A_h^{-1} E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi) ds \right| \right\} \\
&\leq \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \left\{ \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} (\|\rho(\tau)\| + h\|\rho(\tau)\|_1) d\tau \|E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi\| \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} \int_0^s (\|\rho(\tau)\| + h\|\rho(\tau)\|_1) d\tau ds \|E_{kh}^{n-j} \chi\| \right\} \\
&\leq Ch^r \int_0^{t_n} \|u\|_r d\tau \|\chi\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} \|\chi\|.
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore we obtain

$$(3.24) \quad |(Z_{31}^n, \chi)| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} \|\chi\|,$$

which leads to the required bound for Z_{31}^n .

We now bound Z_{32}^n . By our definitions, we have

$$(G_{kh} - \overline{G}_{kh})\phi(t_j) = - \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(kA_h) \int_{t_j^i}^{t_j} D_s \phi(s) ds,$$

and hence, since $k\|A_h g_i(kA_h)\| \leq C$ and denoting $T_h = A_h^{-1}$,

$$\|(G_{kh} - \overline{G}_{kh})\phi(t_j)\| \leq Ck^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^m \int_{t_j^i}^{t_j} \|T_h D_s \phi(s)\| ds \leq C \max_{0 \leq s \leq t_j} \|T_h D_s \phi(s)\|.$$

By the stability of E_{kh} , using the above inequality with $\phi = \widetilde{B}_h R_h u - P_h \tilde{B}u$, we obtain

$$(3.25) \quad \|Z_{32}^n\| \leq C \max_{0 \leq s \leq t_n} \left\| T_h D_s \left(\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(s) - P_h \tilde{B}u(s) \right) \right\|.$$

For any $\chi \in S_h$, we have

$$(A_h^{-1} D_s (\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(s) - P_h \tilde{B}u(s)), \chi) = B(s, s; \rho(s), A_h^{-1} \chi) + \widetilde{B}_t(\rho(s), A_h^{-1} \chi),$$

which yields, by Lemma 3.1 and (3.20), that

$$\begin{aligned}
|(T_h D_s (\widetilde{B}_h R_h u(s) - P_h \tilde{B}u(s)), \chi)| &\leq C \left\{ \|\rho(s)\| + h\|\rho(s)\|_1 + \int_0^s (\|\rho\| + h\|\rho\|_1) d\tau \right\} \|\chi\| \\
&\leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^s \|u_t\|_r d\tau \right\} \|\chi\|.
\end{aligned}$$

This and (3.25) lead to the desired bound for Z_{32}^n . ■

3.5. A bound for the global quadrature error. To estimate the global quadrature error, we could use the fact that, by the stability of E_{kh} ,

$$\|Q_{kh}^n\| \leq \sum_{i=1}^m \|q^{n,\tau_i}(B_h R_h u)\|,$$

and then estimate the local quadrature error instead. For instance, for the rectangular rule $\|q^n(\phi)\| \leq Ck \int_0^{t_n} \|D_s \phi(s)\| ds$. This implies, since $R_h = A_h^{-1}A$ and B_h is dominated by A_h , that

$$\|Q_{kh}^n\| \leq Ck \int_0^{t_n} (\|Au\| + \|Au_t\|) ds.$$

However, the regularity of the solution with respect to space required by the above error bound is unnecessarily high. In the following lemma we present a bound for the global quadrature error which leads to an error estimate demanding less regularity of the solution.

Let $\Phi_h(t, s) = A_h^{-1}B_h P_h$. If B_h is dominated by A_h , then $\|\Phi_h\| \leq C$. We shall use frequently the boundedness of this operator and its derivatives.

Lemma 3.7. *Let the time-stepping be strictly accurate of order $p = 1$ and $m = 1$, and let $Q_{kh}^n(\phi)$ be the global quadrature error defined by (3.19). Assume B_h and $B_{h,t}$ are dominated by A_h . If the quadrature formula is E_{kh} -stable, then, for $t_n \in J$,*

$$\|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \| (q^{j+1,\tau} - q^{j,\tau}) (\Phi_h u) \|,$$

where q^j is the basic quadrature error and $q^{0,\tau} = 0$.

PROOF: By the definition of $Q_{kh}^n(\phi)$, after changing the order of summation, we obtain that

(3.26)

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{kh}^n(\phi) &= k \sum_{i=1}^n E_{kh}^{n-i} G_{kh} q^i(B_h \phi) = k \sum_{i=1}^n E_{kh}^{n-i} \bar{G}_{kh} \sum_{j=0}^{i-1} (q^{j+1,\tau} - q^{j,\tau})(B_h \phi) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \left(k \sum_{i=j+1}^n E_{kh}^{n-i} \bar{G}_{kh} A_h \right) (q^{j+1,\tau} - q^{j,\tau})(\Phi_h \phi), \end{aligned}$$

where we have defined for convenience that $q^{0,\tau} = 0$. Since the discretization is strictly accurate of order 1, we have that

$$\left\| k \sum_{i=j+1}^n E_{kh}^{n-i} \bar{G}_{kh} A_h \right\| = \left\| \sum_{i=j+1}^n (E_{kh}^{n-i} - E_{kh}^{n-i+1}) \right\| = \|I - E_{kh}^{n-j}\| \leq C,$$

and hence

$$(3.27) \quad \|Q_{kh}^n(\phi)\| \leq C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \| (q^{j+1,\tau} - q^{j,\tau}) (\Phi_h \phi) \|.$$

It therefore suffices to show

$$(3.28) \quad \|Q_{kh}^n((R_h - P_h)u)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\}, \quad t_n \in J.$$

Denote $(R_h - P_h)u(t)$ by $\epsilon(t)$; we have

$$\|\epsilon(t)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^t \|u_t(s)\|_r ds \right\}.$$

Note that by our definitions, we have

$$(3.29) \quad Q_{kh}^n(\epsilon) \equiv F_{kh}^n(\epsilon) - k \sum_{j=1}^n E_{kh}^{n-j} G_{kh} \widetilde{B}_h \epsilon(t_j).$$

Since the quadrature rule is E_{kh} -stable, we obtain that

$$(3.30) \quad \|F_{kh}^n(\epsilon)\| \leq C \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \omega_i \|\epsilon(t_i)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t(s)\|_r ds \right\}.$$

Similarly to the proof of (3.27), denoting $t_j - \tau k$ by t'_j , we have

$$(3.31) \quad \left\| k \sum_{j=1}^n E_k^{n-j} G_{kh} \widetilde{B}_h \epsilon(t_j) \right\| \leq C \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|\widetilde{\Phi}_h \epsilon(t'_{j+1}) - \widetilde{\Phi}_h \epsilon(t'_j)\|.$$

Since

$$(3.32) \quad \begin{aligned} & \widetilde{\Phi}_h \epsilon(t'_{j+1}) - \widetilde{\Phi}_h \epsilon(t'_j) \\ &= \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} \Phi_h(t'_{j+1}, s) \epsilon(s) ds + \int_0^{t'_j} (\Phi_h(t'_{j+1}, s) - \Phi_h(t'_j, s)) \epsilon(s) ds, \end{aligned}$$

we obtain immediately

$$\|\widetilde{\Phi}_h \epsilon(t'_{j+1}) - \widetilde{\Phi}_h \epsilon(t'_j)\| \leq C \int_{t'_j}^{t'_{j+1}} \|\epsilon(s)\| ds + Ck \int_0^{t'_j} \|\epsilon(s)\| ds,$$

and hence, by (3.31) and (3.32),

$$(3.33) \quad \left\| k \sum_{j=1}^n E_k^{n-j} G_{kh} \widetilde{B}_h \epsilon(t_j) \right\| \leq C \int_0^{t_n} \|\epsilon(s)\| ds \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\}.$$

Taking (3.29), (3.30), and (3.33) together completes the proof. \blacksquare

4. Backward Euler type schemes. The purpose of this section is to analyze the backward Euler type scheme (1.5) in detail. Various quadrature formulas are presented, with the emphasis on reducing the memory storage requirement.

Let $S(n)$ be the number of non-zero quadrature weights $\{\omega_{ni}\}_{i=0}^{n-1}$ used in the quadrature rule $\sigma^n(\phi)$. For each rule discussed, we shall give an upper bound of $S(n)$ for $0 \leq t_n \leq t^0$, denoted by S_{\max} . This is also the upper bound for the number of the levels at which the solution needs to be stored in calculating the numerical solution U_h^n on the whole interval $[0, t^0]$.

The backward Euler time discretization is strictly accurate of order $p = 1$ and the basic time-stepping error is bounded by (see Thomée [11])

$$(4.1) \quad \|\hat{e}^n\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t(s)\|_r ds \right\} + Ck \int_0^{t_n} \|u_{tt}(s)\| ds, \quad t_n \in J.$$

In this section, we shall refer to BE-stability when we mean E_k -stability for the backward Euler type scheme. Thus we have

Theorem 4.1. *Let u be the solution of (1.1) and U_h^n that of the backward Euler type scheme (1.5). Assume that the quadrature rule is BE-stable. If*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + Ck \int_0^{t_n} \|u_{tt}\| ds + C \|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\|.$$

Since the smoothing property holds, by Theorem 3.4, we shall give quadrature formulas with dominated weights in order to keep the BE-stability.

4.1. The rectangular rule. The simplest quadrature rule that we shall discuss is the *rectangular rule*, i.e.,

$$(4.2) \quad \sigma^n(\phi) = k \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \phi^j.$$

Obviously this rule has dominated weights, and hence is *BE*-stable.

Theorem 4.2. *Let u be the solution of (1.1) and U_h^n that of the backward Euler type scheme (1.5) using the rectangular rule (4.2). Assume B_h , $B_{h,t}^{(1)}$, $B_{h,s}^{(1)}$, and $B_{h,ts}^{(2)}$ are dominated by A_h . If*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + Ck \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} (\|u_t\| + \|u_{tt}\|) ds \right\}.$$

PROOF: By Theorem 4.1 and Lemma 3.7, we need only estimate the quadrature related term $\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|(q^{j+1} - q^j)(\Phi_h u)\|$. We have

$$(4.3) \quad \begin{aligned} (q^{j+1} - q^j)(\Phi_h u) &= (q^{j+1} - q^j)(\Phi_h(t_{j+1}, \cdot)u(\cdot)) \\ &\quad + q^j((\Phi_h(t_{j+1}, \cdot) - \Phi_h(t_j, \cdot))u(\cdot)) \equiv I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$(q^{j+1} - q^j)(\phi) = \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} (t_{j+1} - s) D_s \phi(s) ds$$

and B_h and $B_{h,s}^{(1)}$ are dominated by A_h , we obtain

$$\|I_1\| \leq Ck \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} (\|u(s)\| + \|u_t(s)\|) ds \leq Ck^2 \|u_0\| + Ck \int_{t_j}^{t_{j+1}} \|u_t(s)\| ds.$$

Similarly, since $B_{h,t}^{(1)}$ and $B_{h,ts}^{(2)}$ are dominated by A_h , we obtain

$$\|I_2\| \leq Ck^2 \int_0^{t_j} (\|u(s)\| + \|u_t(s)\|) ds \leq Ck^2 \|u_0\| + Ck^2 \int_0^{t_j} \|u_t(s)\| ds.$$

Therefore we get

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|(q^{j+1} - q^j)(\Phi_h u)\| \leq Ck \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t(s)\| ds \right\}. \quad \blacksquare$$

4.2. Modified trapezoidal rule. As we have mentioned before, we may reduce the memory requirement by using a trapezoidal rule based on longer subintervals. We shall discuss a modified trapezoidal rule which is similar to a quadrature formula introduced by Sloan and Thomée [10].

Let $m_1 = \lfloor k^{-1/2} \rfloor$, where $\lfloor x \rfloor$ denotes the largest integer less than or equal to x , and set $k_1 = m_1 k$ and $\bar{t}_j = j k_1$. We define j_n to be the largest integer such that $\bar{t}_{j_n} < t_n$. We apply the trapezoidal rule with stepsize k_1 on $[0, \bar{t}_{j_n}]$ and then the rectangular rule with stepsize k on the remaining part $[\bar{t}_{j_n}, t_n]$. More precisely, we introduce the following *modified trapezoidal rule I*:

$$(4.4) \quad \sigma^n(\phi) = \frac{k_1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{j_n} (\phi(\bar{t}_j) + \phi(\bar{t}_{j-1})) + k \sum_{j=j_n m_1}^{n-1} \phi(t_j) \equiv \sigma_2^n(\phi) + \sigma_1^n(\phi).$$

An upper bound of the storage for this rule is given by $S_{\max} = t^0/m_1 k + m_1$. Since $m_1 = O(k^{-1/2})$, we have $S_{\max} = O(k^{-1/2})$.

Let $\omega_j^1 = k$ and

$$\omega_j^2 = \begin{cases} \bar{t}_{j+1} - \bar{t}_{j-1}, & j = i^2, i \geq 0, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We define $\omega_j = \omega_j^2 + \omega_j^1$, and find easily that $\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j^1 \leq t^0$ and

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j^2 \leq \sum_{j=1}^{j_n} (\bar{t}_{j+1} - \bar{t}_{j-1}) \leq 2\bar{t}_{j_n+1} \leq Ct^0.$$

Therefore ω_j are dominating weights and hence rule I is BE-stable.

We now give an error estimate for the backward Euler type scheme using these trapezoidal rules. The regularity requirement of this scheme is the same as that for the purely parabolic problem.

Theorem 4.3. *Let u be the solution of (1.1) and U_h^n that of the backward Euler type scheme (1.5) using the trapezoidal rule I defined by (4.4). Assume $B_{h,t}$ and $B_{h,s}^{(i)}$, $0 \leq i \leq 2$, are dominated by A_h . If*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + Ck \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} (\|u_t\| + \|u_{tt}\|) ds \right\}.$$

PROOF: We know that rule I is BE-stable. By the preliminary error estimate in Theorem 3.6 and Lemma 3.7, we need only prove that

$$(4.5) \quad \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|(q^{j+1} - q^j)(\Phi_h u)\| \leq Ck \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} (\|u_t\| + \|u_{tt}\|) ds \right\}.$$

We consider (4.3) again. Since the step-length of the trapezoidal part is bounded by Ck , we obtain easily that

$$\|q^n(\phi)\| \leq Ck \int_0^{t_n} (\|D_s^2 \phi(s)\| + \|D_s \phi(s)\|) ds, \quad t_n \in J.$$

Thus I_2 of (4.3) is bounded by

$$\|I_2\| \leq Ck^2 \int_0^{t_j} (\|u(s)\| + \|u_t(s)\| + \|u_{tt}(s)\|) ds.$$

We further define

$$q^n(\phi) = \left(\sigma_2^n(\phi) - \int_0^{\bar{t}_{j_n}} \phi(s) ds \right) + \left(\sigma_1^n(\phi) - \int_{\bar{t}_{j_n}}^{t_n} \phi(s) ds \right) \equiv q_2^n(\phi) + q_1^n(\phi).$$

Let

$$\psi_2(s) = \begin{cases} (s - \bar{t}_{j-1})(s - \bar{t}_{j-\frac{1}{2}}), & s \in [\bar{t}_{j-1}, \bar{t}_{j-\frac{1}{2}}], j \geq 1, \\ (s - \bar{t}_j)(s - \bar{t}_{j-\frac{1}{2}}), & s \in [\bar{t}_{j-\frac{1}{2}}, \bar{t}_j], j \geq 1, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\psi_1(s) = -(s - t_{j+1}), \quad s \in (t_j, t_{j+1}], j \geq 0;$$

we have

$$q_2^n(\phi) = \int_0^{\bar{t}_{j_n}} \psi_2(s) D_s^2 \phi(s) ds$$

and

$$q_1^n(\phi) = \int_{\bar{t}_{j_n}}^{t_n} \psi_1(s) D_s \phi(s) ds.$$

Since

$$(q_2^{n+1} - q_2^n)(\phi) = \int_{\bar{t}_{j_n}}^{\bar{t}_{j_{n+1}}} \psi_2(s) D_s^2 \phi(s) ds$$

and

$$(q_1^{n+1} - q_1^n)(\phi) = \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} \psi_1(s) D_s \phi(s) ds - \int_{\bar{t}_{j_n}}^{\bar{t}_{j_{n+1}}} \psi_1(s) D_s \phi(s) ds,$$

we obtain

$$\|I_1\| \leq Ck \int_{t_n}^{t_{n+1}} (\|u(s)\| + \|D_s u(s)\|) ds + Ck \int_{\bar{t}_{j_n}}^{\bar{t}_{j_{n+1}}} (\|u(s)\| + \|D_s u(s)\| + \|D_s^2 u(s)\|) ds.$$

Now (4.5) is a direct consequence of the bounds for I_1 and I_2 . ■

4.3. A modified Simpson's rule. In the last subsection, in order to reduce the storage requirement without the loss of overall accuracy, we used the trapezoidal rule with a larger mesh-size to approximate the main part of the integral term. Pursuing this idea one step further, we now propose a quadrature formula based on Simpson's rule in order to reduce the number of quadrature nodes even further.

This will be done by first using Simpson's rule on subintervals of length $O(k^{1/4})$. The number of such subintervals of $[0, t_n]$ is $O(k^{-1/4})$. The length of the remaining subinterval is at most $O(k^{1/4})$. On this remainder, we apply the trapezoidal rules with mesh-sizes first $O(k^{1/2})$ and then $O(k^{3/4})$. The remaining subinterval is now of length $O(k^{3/4})$ and here we use the rectangular rule with mesh-size k . The quadrature error of this combined rule is then $O(k)$ and the storage requirement is $O(k^{-1/4})$.

We now make the above precise. Let $m_0 = \lfloor k^{-1/4} \rfloor$ and define $k_i = m_0^{i-1} k, 1 \leq i \leq 4$. We shall now describe the choice of the quadrature points $\{\bar{t}_{n,j}\}$ in $[0, t_n]$. We shall often denote these by $\{\bar{t}_j\}$ for short since the dependence on n will be clear. First define $\bar{t}_j = j k_4, 0 \leq j \leq p_{4n}$, where p_{4n} is the largest even integer such that $\bar{t}_{p_{4n}} < t_n$. Next, on the remaining subinterval $[\bar{t}_{p_{4n}}, t_n]$, whose length is at most k_4 , we use quadrature points

with mesh-size k_3 , and thus define $\bar{t}_j = \bar{t}_{p_{4n}} + (j - p_{4n})k_3$, $p_{4n} < j \leq p_{3n}$, where p_{3n} is the largest integer such that $\bar{t}_{p_{3n}} < t_n$. We then define the remaining quadrature points in $[0, t_n]$ by using mesh-size k_2 and k_1 in turn. In this way, we can write the quadrature points by

$$\bar{t}_j = \begin{cases} j k_4, & 0 \leq j \leq p_{4n}, \\ \bar{t}_{p_{4n}} + (j - p_{4n})k_3, & p_{4n} < j \leq p_{3n}, \\ \bar{t}_{p_{3n}} + (j - p_{3n})k_2, & p_{3n} < j \leq p_{2n}, \\ \bar{t}_{p_{2n}} + (j - p_{2n})k_1, & p_{2n} < j \leq p_{1n}, \end{cases}$$

where p_{2n} and p_{1n} are the largest integers such that $\bar{t}_{p_{2n}} < t_n$ and $\bar{t}_{p_{1n}} \leq t_n$. Thus we divide $[0, t_n]$ as

$$\begin{aligned} [0, t_n] &= \left(\bigcup_{j=1}^{p_{4n}} [\bar{t}_{j-1}, \bar{t}_j] \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=p_{4n}+1}^{p_{3n}} [\bar{t}_{j-1}, \bar{t}_j] \right) \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=p_{3n}+1}^{p_{2n}} [\bar{t}_{j-1}, \bar{t}_j] \right) \\ &\quad \cup \left(\bigcup_{j=p_{2n}+1}^{p_{1n}} [\bar{t}_{j-1}, \bar{t}_j] \right) \equiv I_4 \cup I_3 \cup I_2 \cup I_1. \end{aligned}$$

We shall use Simpson's rule with step-size k_4 on I_4 , the trapezoidal rule with step-size k_3 on I_3 , and with step-size of k_2 on I_2 . On I_1 we shall use the rectangular rule with step-size $k_1 = k$. Thus, the *modified Simpson's rule* is defined by

(4.6)

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^n(\phi) &= \frac{k_4}{3} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ is odd}}}^{p_{4n}-1} \{ \phi(\bar{t}_{j-1}) + 4\phi(\bar{t}_j) + \phi(\bar{t}_{j+1}) \} + \frac{k_3}{2} \sum_{j=p_{4n}+1}^{p_{3n}} \{ \phi(\bar{t}_{j-1}) + \phi(\bar{t}_j) \} \\ &\quad + \frac{k_2}{2} \sum_{j=p_{3n}+1}^{p_{2n}} \{ \phi(\bar{t}_{j-1}) + \phi(\bar{t}_j) \} + k \sum_{j=p_{2n}}^{p_{1n}-1} \phi(\bar{t}_j) \\ &\equiv \sigma_4^n(\phi) + \sigma_3^n(\phi) + \sigma_2^n(\phi) + \sigma_1^n(\phi). \end{aligned}$$

To give an upper bound of the number of the levels that need to be stored, we first notice that the number of quadrature points in I_4 is bounded by t^0/k_4 . Since the length of I_3 is less than k_4 , the number of quadrature points in I_3 is bounded by k_4/k_3 , etc. Thus, we have

$$S_{\max} = t^0/k_4 + k_4/k_3 + k_3/k_2 + k_2/k_1 = t^0/k_4 + 3m_0 = O(k^{-1/4}).$$

The analysis of Simpson's rule is similar to that of the rectangular and trapezoidal rules. We first note that this rule is BE-stable by showing that it has dominated quadrature weights. For $1 \leq i \leq 4$, we define

$$\omega_j^i = \begin{cases} k_i, & j \equiv 0 \pmod{m_0^{i-1}}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Since we have

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \omega_j^i \leq k_i \frac{n}{m_0^{i-1}} \leq k_i \frac{t^0}{k_i} = t^0$$

and

$$|\omega_{nj}| \leq \sum_{i=1}^4 \omega_j^i \equiv \omega_j,$$

we can choose the ω_j thus defined as the dominating weights.

Moreover, since the difference of $q^{j+1}(\phi)$ and $q^j(\phi)$ occurs only on $\cup_{i=1}^4 [\bar{t}_{p_{i,j}}, \bar{t}_{p_{i,j+1}}]$, we can obtain that

$$\|(q^{j+1} - q^j)(\phi)\| \leq Ck \sum_{i=1}^4 \int_{\bar{t}_{p_{i,j}}}^{\bar{t}_{p_{i,j+1}}} \|D_s^i \phi(s)\| ds.$$

On the other hand, we obtain easily that

$$\|q^j(\phi)\| \leq Ck^2 \int_0^{t_j} \sum_{i=1}^4 \|D_s^i u(s)\| ds.$$

Therefore, similarly to the proof of Theorem 4.2, we obtain

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|(q^{j+1} - q^j)(\Phi_h u)\| \leq Ck \int_0^{t_n} \sum_{i=0}^4 \|D_s^i u(s)\| ds \leq Ck \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} \sum_{i=1}^4 \|D_s^i u(s)\| ds \right\}.$$

Hence, by Theorem 3.6 and Lemma 3.7, we obtain

Theorem 4.4. *Let u be the solution of (1.1) and U_h^n that of the backward Euler type scheme (1.5) using the modified Simpson's rule defined by (4.6). Assume $B_{h,t}$ and $B_{h,s}^{(i)}$, $0 \leq i \leq 4$, are dominated by A_h . If*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + Ck \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} \sum_{i=1}^4 \|D_s^i u(s)\| ds \right\}.$$

Note that the application of Simpson's rule requires higher regularity with respect to time than the last two quadrature formulas.

5. Crank-Nicolson type schemes. In this section we discuss the fully discrete Crank-Nicolson type schemes of (1.6). By Thomée [11], for $t_n \in J$, the basic time-stepping error is bounded by

$$\|\hat{e}^n\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + Ck^2 \int_0^{t_n} (\|u_{ttt}\| + \|Au_{tt}\|) ds.$$

This time, we shall use the term CN-stability to refer to E_k -stability. Since the Crank-Nicolson time discretization is strictly accurate of order $p = 1$, we obtain immediately from Theorem 3.6 the following result.

Theorem 5.1. *Let u be the solution of the initial-boundary value problem in (1.1) and U_h^n the Crank-Nicolson approximate solution defined by (1.6). Let $Q_{kh}^n(\phi)$ be defined by (3.19). Assume that B_h and $B_{h,t}$ are dominated by A_h . If the quadrature rule is CN-stable, and if*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| &\leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} \\ &\quad + Ck^2 \int_0^{t_n} (\|u_{ttt}\| + \|Au_{tt}\|) ds + C \|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\|, \quad t_n \in J. \end{aligned}$$

We shall give two quadrature formulas below; both of them have persistent dominated quadrature weights and hence are CN-stable.

5.2. A modified trapezoidal rule. The simplest second order quadrature formula is the trapezoidal rule. We shall apply the standard trapezoidal rule with mesh-size k on $[0, t_{n-1}]$ and the rectangular rule on $[t_{n-1}, t_{n-1/2}]$ to define a *modified trapezoidal rule*:

$$(5.1) \quad \sigma^n(\phi) = \frac{k}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (\phi(t_j) + \phi(t_{j-1})) + \frac{k}{2} \phi(t_{n-1}) \equiv \sigma_2^n(\phi) + \sigma_1^n(\phi).$$

Obviously, the storage requirement for this rule is $S_{\max} \leq t^0/k = O(k^{-1})$. In the previous section we have seen that the storage requirement of the backward Euler type scheme using the trapezoidal rule is $O(k^{-1/2})$. We shall prove that the Crank-Nicolson type scheme using the trapezoidal rule (5.1) is second-order with respect to time, so that a larger time step-size may be used for the same overall accuracy. Hence, in this respect the storage requirements for these two schemes are of the same order.

We find immediately that this rule has dominating weights $\omega_j = k$ and

$$\sum_{j=i+1}^{n-1} |\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{ji}| = 0, \quad 0 \leq i \leq n-1, \quad t_n \in J.$$

Hence the quadrature rule (5.1) has persistent dominated weights, which shows the CN-stability of this rule by Theorem 3.5.

We now give the error estimate for the fully discrete Crank-Nicolson type scheme using the modified trapezoidal rule.

Theorem 5.2. *Let u be the solution of (1.1) and U_h^n that of the Crank-Nicolson type scheme (1.6), using the modified trapezoidal rule (5.1). Assume that B_h , $B_{h,t}$, and $B_{h,s}^{(i)}$, $i = 1, 2$, are dominated by A_h . If*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} + Ck^2 \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} (\|u_t\| + \|u_{ttt}\| + \|Au_{tt}\|) ds \right\}.$$

PROOF: By Theorem 5.1 and Lemma 3.7 we need only prove that

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|(q^{j,1/2} - q^{j,-1/2})(\Phi_h u)\| \leq Ck^2 \int_0^{t_n} (\|u(s)\| + \|u_t(s)\| + \|u_{tt}(s)\|) ds.$$

We shall start from (4.3). Since this time

$$(q^{j,1/2} - q^{j,-1/2})(\phi) = k\phi(t_j) - \int_{t_{j-1/2}}^{t_{j+1/2}} \phi(s) ds,$$

we obtain

$$\|(q^{j,1/2} - q^{j,-1/2})(\phi)\| \leq Ck^2 \int_{t_{j-1/2}}^{t_{j+1/2}} \|D_s^2 \phi(s)\| ds,$$

and hence

$$\|I_1\| \leq Ck^2 \int_{t_{j-1/2}}^{t_{j+1/2}} (\|u(s)\| + \|D_s u(s)\| + \|D_s^2 u(s)\|) ds.$$

Easily, we have

$$\|I_2\| \leq Ck^3 \int_0^{t_{j-1}} (\|u(s)\| + \|D_s u(s)\| + \|D_s^2 u(s)\|) ds + Ck^2 \int_{t_{j-1}}^{t_{j-1/2}} (\|u(s)\| + \|D_s u(s)\|) ds.$$

These bounds for I_1 and I_2 lead to the desired conclusion. ■

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5.3. A modified Simpson's rule. The storage requirement for the modified trapezoidal rule defined by (5.1) is $O(k^{-1})$. As we did before for the backward Euler type scheme, we may use a quadrature rule with higher order truncation error on fewer quadrature points to reduce the memory requirement without sacrificing the accuracy. We now present such a quadrature formula based on Simpson's rule.

Let $m_1 = \lfloor k^{-1/2} \rfloor$ and $k_1 = m_1 k$. Define j_n to be the largest even integer such that $j_n k_1 < t_n$. We introduce the quadrature points

$$\bar{t}_j = \bar{t}_{n_j} = \begin{cases} j k_1, & 0 \leq j \leq j_n, \\ j_n k_1 + (j - j_n)k, & j_n < j \leq l_n, \end{cases}$$

where $\bar{t}_{l_n} = t_{n-1}$. We now apply Simpson's rule with step-size k_1 on $[0, \bar{t}_{j_n}]$, the trapezoidal rule with step-size k on $[\bar{t}_{j_n}, t_{n-1}]$, and the rectangular rule with step-size $k/2$ on $[t_{n-1}, t_{n-1/2}]$, i.e., we set

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma^n(\phi) &= \frac{k_1}{3} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \text{ odd}}}^{j_n-1} \{ \phi(\bar{t}_{j-1}) + 4\phi(\bar{t}_j) + \phi(\bar{t}_{j+1}) \} + \frac{k}{2} \sum_{j=j_n}^{l_n-1} (\phi(\bar{t}_j) + \phi(\bar{t}_{j+1})) + \frac{k}{2} \phi(\bar{t}_{l_n}) \\ &\equiv \sigma_3^n(\phi) + \sigma_2^n(\phi) + \sigma_1^n(\phi). \end{aligned}$$

The storage requirement for this rule is

$$S_{\max} \leq t^0/k_1 + k_1/k \leq t^0/m_1 k + m_1 = O(k^{-1/2}).$$

We now show that this quadrature formula has persistent dominated weights and therefore is CN -stable. It is easy to see that the quadrature rule has dominating weights of the form

$$\omega_j = \begin{cases} C k_1, & j \equiv 0 \pmod{m_1}, \\ C k, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

We thus need only prove the validity of (3.17). Consider a fixed $i = 2lm_1 + i_0$, where $0 \leq i_0 < 2m_1$. By the definition of $\omega_{j,i}$, when $j \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2m_1}$, we have $\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{j,i} = 0$, for $j > i$. Now let $j \equiv 0 \pmod{2m_1}$. If $j > 2(l+1)m_1$, both $\omega_{j+1,i}$ and $\omega_{j,i}$ are quadrature weights corresponding to the part of $\sigma^n(\phi)$ determined by Simpson's rule and hence $\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{j,i} = 0$. Since the only remaining $j > i$ is $j = j_0 = 2(l+1)m_1$, and since the quadrature weights are dominated by ω_i , we obtain that

$$\sum_{j=i+1}^{n-2} |\omega_{j+1,i} - \omega_{j,i}| = |\omega_{j_0+1,i} - \omega_{j_0,i}| \leq 2\omega_i.$$

Following the outline of the proof of Theorem 4.3 and Theorem 4.4, we may conclude that

$$\sum_{j=0}^{n-1} \|(q^{j,1/2} - q^{j,-1/2})(\Phi u)\| \leq C k^2 \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} \sum_{i=1}^4 \|D_t^i u\| ds \right\}.$$

and therefore, we obtain the following.

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Theorem 5.3. Let u be the solution of (1.1) and U_h^n that of the Crank-Nicolson type scheme (1.6) using the modified Simpson's rule (5.2). Assume that $B_h, B_{h,t}$, and $B_{h,s}^{(i)}$, $i = 1, \dots, 4$, are dominated by A_h . If

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then, for $t_n \in J$,

$$\begin{aligned} \|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| &\leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t\|_r ds \right\} \\ &\quad + Ck^2 \left\{ \|u_0\| + \int_0^{t_n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^4 \|D_t^i u\| + \|Au_{tt}\| \right) ds \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

6. A third order Padé approxamation. In this section, we consider higher order Padé approximations, in particular, a third-order case.

6.1. Higher order Padé type scheme. Following common practice, we shall call a time discretization *accurate of order p* if, in addition to (3.5), we have, for $l = 0, \dots, p-1$,

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \tau_i^l g_i(\lambda) = \frac{l!}{(-\lambda)^{l+1}} \left(e^{-\lambda} - \sum_{j=0}^l \frac{(-\lambda)^j}{j!} \right) + O(\lambda^{p-l}), \quad \lambda \rightarrow 0,$$

Setting

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_l(\lambda) &= \frac{l!}{(-\lambda)^{l+1}} \left(r(\lambda) - \sum_{j=0}^l \frac{(-\lambda)^j}{j!} \right) - \sum_{i=1}^m \tau_i^l g_i(\lambda), \quad l = 0, \dots, p-1, \\ \gamma_p(\lambda) &= \frac{p!}{(-\lambda)^{p+1}} \left(r(\lambda) - \sum_{j=0}^p \frac{(-\lambda)^j}{j!} \right), \end{aligned} \tag{6.1}$$

we shall say that it is *strictly accurate of order p* if

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_l(\lambda) &= 0, \quad l = 0, \dots, p-1, \\ \gamma_p(\lambda) &= O(1), \quad \lambda \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned} \tag{6.2}$$

For instance, the backward Euler and Crank-Nicolson discretizations are strictly accurate of order $p = 1$ and $p = 2$, respectively.

Let us consider the subdiagonal Padé discretization of strictly accurate of order p , $p \geq 1$. By Brenner, Crouzeix, and Thomée [3], if $\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r$, we have the error estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{e}^n\| &\leq Ch^r \left\{ \|u_0\|_r + t_n \sup_{0 \leq s \leq t_n} \|u_t(s)\|_r \right\} \\ &\quad + Ck^p \left\{ t_n \|u_t^{(p)}(0)\|_2 + (1 + t_n) \int_0^{t_n} \|u_t^{(p+1)}(s)\|_2 ds \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for a scheme using an E_{kh} -stable quadrature formula, we have by Theorem 3.6 that

$$\|U^n - u(t_n)\| \leq C(u) \{h^r + k^p\} + C \|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\|.$$

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6.2. Third order (1,2) Padé approximation. For simplicity, we shall only give a Padé type scheme based on the third order (1,2) Padé approximation

$$r(z) = -\frac{2z - 6}{z^2 + 4z + 6}.$$

When $n \leq 2$, we shall choose $\tau_1 = 0$, $\tau_2 = 1/2$ and $\tau_3 = 1$, and further

$$g_1(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 6}, \quad g_2(\lambda) = \frac{4}{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 6}, \quad g_3(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda + 1}{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 6}.$$

When $n \geq 3$, we set $\tau_i = i$, $1 \leq i \leq 3$, and let

$$g_1(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda + 23/2}{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 6}, \quad g_2(\lambda) = \frac{-8}{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 6}, \quad g_3(\lambda) = \frac{5/2}{\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 6}.$$

Thus we obtain a time-stepping procedure strictly accurate of order 3.

Since the subdiagonal Padé approximation has the smoothing property, quadrature formulas with dominated weights are E_k -stable with respect to the above time discretization. Now we shall construct a third order quadrature formula by means of Simpson's rule. More specifically, denote the largest even integer less than or equal to n by j_n . When $n < 3$, we use the rectangular rule on $[0, t_{n-\tau_i}]$, i.e.,

$$(6.3a) \quad \sigma^{n, \tau_i}(\phi) = k(n - \tau_i)\phi(0).$$

When $n \geq 3$, we apply Simpson's rule on $[0, t_{j_n-i}]$ and the trapezoidal rule on $[t_{j_n-i}, t_{n-i}]$, i.e.,

$$(6.3b) \quad \sigma^{n, \tau_i}(\phi) = \frac{k}{3} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ j \text{ even}}}^{j_n-i-2} (\phi(t_j) + 4\phi(t_{j+1}) + \phi(t_{j+2})) + \frac{k}{2}(n - i - j_n)(\phi(t_{j_n}) + \phi(t_{n-i})).$$

Since, clearly, the quadrature weights of (6.3) are dominated by Ck , the quadrature formula is E_k -stable. Furthermore, we have

$$\|q_i^{n, \tau_j}(\phi)\| \leq \begin{cases} C(\phi)k^2, & n \leq 2, \\ C(\phi)k^3, & n \geq 3, \end{cases}$$

and, by the stability of E_{kh} , we have

$$\|Q_{kh}^n(\phi)\| \leq C \max_{1 \leq i \leq m} \left\{ k \max_{1 \leq j \leq 2} \|q_i^{n, \tau_j}(B_h \phi)\| + \max_{3 \leq j \leq n} \|q_i^{n, \tau_j}(B_h \phi)\| \right\}.$$

By $R_h = A_h^{-1}A$ and since B_h and its derivatives are dominated by A_h , we obtain further

$$\|Q_{kh}^n(R_h u)\| \leq C(u)k^3, \quad t_n \in J.$$

This leads to the following theorem.

Theorem 6.1. *Let u be the solution of the initial-boundary value problem in (1.1) and U_h^n the approximate solution generated by the third order (1,2) subdiagonal Padé type scheme described above using the modified Simpson's rule given by (6.3). Assume that $B_{h,t}$ and $D_s^i B_h(t, s)$, $0 \leq i \leq 3$, are dominated by A_h . If*

$$\|u_{0h} - u_0\| \leq Ch^r \|u_0\|_r,$$

then

$$\|U_h^n - u(t_n)\| \leq C(u)\{h^r + k^3\}, \quad t_n \in J.$$

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