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# A Note on Asymptotic Expansion for a Periodic Boundary Condition

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Abstract. The aim of this contribution is to present a new result concerning asymptotic expansion of solutions of the heat equation with periodic Dirichlet–Neuman boundary conditions with the period going to zero in 3D.

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### 1 Introduction

In the recent paper [3, Filo–Luckhaus] we have determined the first two terms in the asymptotic expansion (with respect to a small parameter  $\varepsilon$ ) of the solution  $u_{\varepsilon} = u_{\varepsilon}(x, t)$  to the following problem:

$$\frac{\partial u_{\varepsilon}}{\partial t} = \Delta u_{\varepsilon} + f(x,t) \quad \text{in } \Omega \times (0,T),$$

$$\frac{\partial u_{\varepsilon}}{\partial \nu} = \vartheta(x,t) - \sigma(x,t)u_{\varepsilon} \quad \text{on } n^{\varepsilon} \times (0,T),$$

$$u_{\varepsilon} = 0 \quad \text{on } d^{\varepsilon} \times (0,T),$$

$$u_{\varepsilon} = \varphi \quad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t=0\}.$$
(1)

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Here  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  is a bounded domain whose boundary is given by a  $C^3$  simple closed curve  $\Gamma$ ,

$$\Gamma = \{ (p(\tau), q(\tau)); \ 0 \le \tau \le \pi \}, \quad (p'(\tau))^2 + (q'(\tau))^2 = 1,$$

a is  $2\pi$  periodic function such that

$$a(\sigma) = \begin{cases} 0 & : \quad \sigma \in [\pi - \delta, \pi + \delta] \\ 1 & : \quad \sigma \in [0, \pi - \delta) \cup (\pi + \delta, 2\pi] \end{cases}$$

for some  $\delta \in (0, \pi)$ ,

$$n^{\varepsilon} = \left\{ x \in \Gamma; \ x = (p(\tau), q(\tau)), \ a\left(\frac{\tau}{\varepsilon}\right) = 1, \ 0 \le \tau \le \pi \right\},$$
$$d^{\varepsilon} = \left\{ x \in \Gamma; \ x = (p(\tau), q(\tau)), \ a\left(\frac{\tau}{\varepsilon}\right) = 0, \ 0 \le \tau \le \pi \right\}$$

and

 $\varepsilon^{-1}$  is an even integer .

We have shown, under certain smoothness assumptions on the data  $f,\,\sigma,\,\vartheta$  and  $\varphi,\,{\rm that}$ 

$$u_{\varepsilon} = u + \varepsilon u^1 + \varepsilon \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) , \qquad (2)$$

where

$$\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \longrightarrow 0$$
 strongly in  $L_p(\Omega \times (0,T))$  if  $\varepsilon \to 0$ 

for any  $p, 1 \le p < 4$  and

$$\frac{u_{\varepsilon} - u}{\varepsilon} \rightharpoonup \omega_0(\vartheta - \partial_{\nu} u) \quad \text{weakly in } L_2(\Gamma \times (0, T)) .$$
(3)

The functions u and  $u^1$  are solutions of the problems

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = \Delta u + f(x, t) \qquad \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T), 
u = 0 \qquad \text{on } \Gamma \times (0, T), 
u = \varphi \qquad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t = 0\},$$
(4)

and

$$\frac{\partial u^{1}}{\partial t} = \Delta u^{1} \qquad \text{in } \Omega \times (0, T), 
u^{1} = \omega_{0} \left( \vartheta - \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} \right) \qquad \text{on } \Gamma \times (0, T), 
u^{1} = 0 \qquad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t = 0\},$$
(5)

Asymptotic Expansion

respectively. Here

$$\omega_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \omega(x_1, 0) \, dx_1 \, \, ,$$

where  $\omega = \omega(x_1, x_2)$  is the unique nonnegative  $2\pi$  periodic (in the  $x_1$  variable) solution of the following boundary value problem

$$\Delta \omega = 0 \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2_+,$$
  
$$a(x_1) \left( \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial x_2}(x_1, 0) + 1 \right) + (1 - a(x_1))\omega(x_1, 0) = 0 \qquad \text{for } x_1 \in \mathbb{R},$$

satisfying

$$\|\omega\|_{L^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}^{2}_{+})} + \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{\pi} |\nabla \omega|^{2}(x_{1}, x_{2}) \, dx_{1} dx_{2} < \infty$$

Moreover, we have demonstrated, that

$$\left\|\frac{u_{\varepsilon}-u}{\varepsilon}-w_{\varepsilon}(\vartheta-\partial_{\nu}u)\right\|_{L_{2}(\Gamma\times(0,T))}\leq C\,\sqrt{\varepsilon}$$

for

$$w_{\varepsilon}(x) \equiv \omega\left(\frac{\tau(x)}{\varepsilon}, \frac{\delta(x)}{\varepsilon}\right)$$

where the functions  $\tau, \delta$  are defined for  $x \in \overline{\Omega}$  sufficiently close to  $\Gamma$  such that  $\delta(x) = dist(x, \Gamma)$  and

$$p'(\tau(x))(x_1 - p(\tau(x))) + q'(\tau(x))(x_2 - q(\tau(x))) = 0.$$

In addition,

$$\frac{u_{\varepsilon} - u}{\varepsilon} - w_{\varepsilon} \mathcal{G} \rightharpoonup u^1 - \omega_0 \mathcal{G}$$

weakly in  $V_2^{1,0}(\Omega \times (0,T))$ , where

$$\mathcal{G}(x,t) \equiv \vartheta(x,t) - \xi(x)\partial_{\nu}u(p(\tau(x)),q(\tau(x)),t)$$

and  $\xi$  is a cutoff function that equals 1 in a neighbourhood of  $\Gamma$  and  $\xi(x) = 0$  for any  $x \in \Omega$ ,  $dist(x, \Gamma) \ge \delta_0$  for some positive  $\delta_0$ .

For definitions of function spaces we refer to [5, Ladyzenskaja at al.].

It is the aim of this contribution to present a generalization of the previous result to the case of more space dimensions developed in [4, Luckhaus–Filo].

### 2 Motivation

Our original goal was to study flow problems in porous media with a part of the boundary covered by a fluid. For one incompressible fluid in porous medium one has to solve the equation

$$\frac{\partial \theta(p)}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (k(\theta(p))(\nabla p + e)), \tag{6}$$

where p is the unknown pressure,  $\theta$  the water content, k the conductivity of the porous medium, and -e the direction of gravity (see [1, Bear], for mathematical treatment of (6) [2, Alt - Luckhaus], for example).

The part of the boundary, which is covered by the fluid and where the infiltration takes place is supposed to behave like a impervious layer with many small holes. It is assumed that the holes are distributed uniformly and create a periodic structure with period  $\varepsilon$ . The pressure is supposed to be 0 on the holes, where the fluid infiltrates into the porous medium, and the condition  $(k(\theta(p))(\nabla p+e)) \cdot \nu = 0$ is assumed to be satisfied on the impervious part of the boundary. As the period and the diameter of the hole is of order  $\varepsilon$  and the domain occupied by the porous medium is large, it is natural to let  $\varepsilon \to 0$  and to ask on the behaviour of solutions to (6).

However, since this nonlinear problem was not yet treatable, we have studied the heat equation, i.e. equation (6) with

$$\theta(p) \equiv p, \ k(\theta(p)) \equiv 1 \text{ and } e = 0.$$

## 3 Model Problem in $\mathbb{R}^3$

Let  $\Lambda$  be the square in  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , i.e.  $\Lambda \equiv (0, 2\ell) \times (0, 2\ell)$  for some positive  $\ell$  and  $\theta \colon \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}_+, \mathbb{R}_+ \equiv (0, \infty)$  be a smooth function, say,  $C^3(\mathbb{R}^2)$ , even and  $2\ell$ -periodic in each of its variable. Points in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  are denoted by  $x = (\bar{x}, x_3) \ \bar{x} = (x_1, x_2)$  and we define

$$\Omega \equiv \{ x \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid \bar{x} \in \Lambda, \ \theta(\bar{x}) < x_3 < d \}$$

for some positive d greater than the maximum of the function  $\theta$  and define

$$\Gamma \equiv \{ x \in \partial \Omega \mid x_3 = \theta(\bar{x}), \ \bar{x} \in \Lambda \}.$$

Now let  $\mathcal{F} = \{ \bar{x} \in \Lambda \mid |\bar{x} - \bar{\ell}| \le \delta \}, \ \bar{\ell} = (\ell, \ell) \text{ for some } 0 < \delta < \ell \text{ and set}$ 

$$\overline{a}(\overline{x}) = \begin{cases} 0 & : & \overline{x} \in \mathcal{F} \\ 1 & : & \overline{x} \in \Lambda \setminus \mathcal{F}. \end{cases}$$

Denote by  $a(\bar{x})$  for  $\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  the  $2\ell$ -periodic extension of the function  $\bar{a}$  on the whole  $\mathbb{R}^2$ . Let  $\varepsilon^{-1} = 2^k$  for  $k \in \{0, 1, 2, \cdots\}$ , define

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}^{\varepsilon} &\equiv \{ x \in \Gamma \mid \ a(\varepsilon^{-1}\bar{x}) = 0 \}, \\ \mathcal{N}^{\varepsilon} &\equiv \{ x \in \Gamma \mid \ a(\varepsilon^{-1}\bar{x}) = 1 \}, \\ D &\equiv \{ \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \ a(\bar{x}) = 0 \}, \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{array}{ll} \mathcal{D}^{\varepsilon}_T &\equiv \mathcal{D}^{\varepsilon} \times (0, T), \\ \mathcal{N}^{\varepsilon}_T &\equiv \mathcal{N}^{\varepsilon} \times (0, T), \\ N &\equiv \{ \bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \ a(\bar{x}) = 1 \}. \end{aligned}$$

and for simplicity of notation we put  $\partial_t u \equiv \partial u / \partial t$ ,  $\partial_{\nu} u \equiv \partial u / \partial \nu$  etc. Consider now the problem

$$\partial_t u_{\varepsilon} = \Delta u_{\varepsilon} + f_{\varepsilon}(x, t) \qquad \text{in } \Omega_T,$$

$$\partial_{\nu} u_{\varepsilon} = \vartheta_{\varepsilon}(x, t) - \sigma_{\varepsilon}(x, t) u_{\varepsilon} \qquad \text{on } \mathcal{N}_T^{\varepsilon},$$

$$u_{\varepsilon} = 0 \qquad \text{on } \mathcal{D}_T^{\varepsilon}, \qquad (7)$$

$$\partial_{\nu} u_{\varepsilon} = 0 \qquad \text{on } (\partial \Omega \setminus \Gamma)_T,$$

$$u_{\varepsilon} = u_0^{\varepsilon} \qquad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t = 0\}$$

under the following assumptions:

(A)  $f_{\varepsilon}, f, f^1 \in L_2(\Omega_T)$  and such that

$$\frac{f_{\varepsilon} - f}{\varepsilon} \rightharpoonup f^1 \qquad \text{in} \quad L_2(\Omega_T);$$

(B)  $\sigma_{\varepsilon}, \partial_t \sigma_{\varepsilon} \in L_{\infty}(\Gamma_T)$  for any  $\varepsilon$  and there exists a positive constant C independent of  $\varepsilon$  such that  $\|\sigma_{\varepsilon}\|_{L_{\infty}(\Gamma_T)} \leq C$ ;

(C)  $\vartheta_{\varepsilon}, \vartheta, \partial_t \vartheta_{\varepsilon} \in L_2(\Gamma_T)$  and such that

$$\vartheta_{\varepsilon} \rightharpoonup \vartheta$$
 in  $L_2(\Gamma_T);$ 

(D)  $u_0^{\varepsilon}, u_0 \in W_2^1(\Omega), u_0 = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma, u_0^{\varepsilon} = 0 \text{ on } \mathcal{D}^{\varepsilon}, u^1 \in L_2(\Omega) \text{ and such that}$ 

$$\frac{u_0^{\varepsilon} - u_0}{\varepsilon} \rightharpoonup u_0^1 \qquad \text{in} \quad L_2(\Omega).$$

We prove that asymptotic expansion (2) holds in the sense that

 $\mathcal{O}(\varepsilon) \longrightarrow 0$ 

weakly in  $L_2(\Omega_T)$  and strongly in  $L_2(\Omega_T^*)$  for any subdomain  $\Omega^* \subset \Omega$  with a positive distance from  $\Gamma$ , and, comparing to (3),

$$\frac{u_{\varepsilon} - u}{\varepsilon}(x, t) \rightharpoonup \omega_0(x) \left(\vartheta(x, t) - \partial_{\nu} u(x, t)\right)$$
(8)

(weakly in) in  $L_2(\Gamma_T)$ . Here, similarly as above (see (4) and (5) above) u is the unique solution of the problem

$$\partial_t u = \Delta u + f(x, t) \qquad \text{in } \Omega_T,$$

$$u = 0 \qquad \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_T,$$

$$\partial_\nu u = 0 \qquad \qquad \text{on } (\partial \Omega \setminus \Gamma)_T,$$

$$u = u_0 \qquad \qquad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t = 0\},$$
(9)

 $u^1$  is the unique very weak solution of the problem

$$\partial_{t}u^{1} = \Delta u^{1} + f^{1}(x, t) \qquad \text{in } \Omega_{T},$$

$$u^{1} = \omega_{0}(x) \left(\vartheta(x, t) - \partial_{\nu}u(x, t)\right) \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_{T},$$

$$\partial_{\nu}u^{1} = 0 \qquad \text{on } (\partial\Omega \setminus \Gamma)_{T},$$

$$u^{1} = 0 \qquad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t = 0\},$$
(10)

and the function  $\omega_0(x)$  is defined for  $x \in \Gamma$  as follows:

$$\omega_0(x) \equiv \frac{1}{\ell^2} \int_0^\ell \int_0^\ell \varpi(x; \bar{y}, 0) \ d\bar{y} \ ,$$

 $\varpi = \varpi(x; y)$  is the unique bounded nonnegative solution of the problem

$$\sum_{k=1}^{3} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_k} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{3} \gamma_{jk}(x) \frac{\partial \varpi}{\partial y_j}(x; y) \right) = 0 \qquad y \in \mathbb{R}^3_+ ,$$
  
$$\varpi(x; \bar{y}, 0) = 0 \qquad \bar{y} \in D , \qquad (11)$$
  
$$-\frac{\partial \varpi}{\partial y_3}(x; \bar{y}, 0) = 1 \qquad \bar{y} \in N ,$$

where

$$\mathbf{C}(x) = (\gamma_{jk})_{j,k=1,2,3} ,$$

$$\mathbf{C}(x) \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+a_1^2+a_2^2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1+a_2^2 & -a_1a_2 & 0\\ -a_2a_1 & 1+a_1^2 & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} ,$$

and

$$a_j \equiv \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x_j}(\bar{x})$$

The function  $\, \varpi \,$  is  $2\ell\mbox{-periodic}$  in each of its variables  $y_1,y_2 \,$  and it is demonstrated that

$$\varpi(x;y) = \omega(x; \mathbf{E}^{-1}(x)y),$$

where  $\omega(x; z)$  is for each  $x \in \Gamma$  the harmonic function in  $z \in \mathbb{R}^2_+$  such that

$$a(\widehat{\mathbf{E}}(x)\bar{z})\left(\frac{\partial\omega}{\partial z_3}(x;\bar{z},0)+\lambda\right) + \left(1 - a(\widehat{\mathbf{E}}(x)\bar{z})\right)\omega(x;\bar{z},0) = 0 \qquad (12)$$

and

$$\mathbf{E}^{-1}(x) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^{-1} & 0 & 0\\ 0 & \lambda & 0\\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_2}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} & -\frac{a_1}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} & 0\\ \frac{a_1}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} & \frac{a_2}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{E}}(x) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \frac{a_2}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} & \frac{a_1}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} \\ -\frac{a_1}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} & \frac{a_2}{\sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda^{-1} \end{pmatrix} ,$$

$$\lambda(x) = \left(1 + a_1^2 + a_2^2\right)^{1/4}.$$

## 4 A priori estimates

The first and basic step to prove the validity of the expansion (2) consists of a priori estimates, that can be summarized in the following

**Theorem 1.** Assume that (A)–(D) are satisfied. Then there exists a positive constant C, independent of  $\varepsilon$ , such that

$$\begin{split} \max_{0 \le t \le T} \int_{\Omega} |u_{\varepsilon} - u|^2(x,t) \, dx + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u_{\varepsilon} - u)|^2(x,t) \, dx \, dt \le C\varepsilon \ , \\ \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma} |u_{\varepsilon} - u|^2(x,t) \, dH^2(x) \, dt + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |u_{\varepsilon} - u|^2(x,t) \, dx \, dt \le C\varepsilon^2 \ , \\ \max_{0 \le t \le T} \int_{\Omega} |u_{\varepsilon} - u|^2(x,t) \phi(x) \, dx \end{split}$$

$$t \leq T \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u_{\varepsilon} - u)|^{2} (x, t) \phi(x) \, dx \, dt \leq C \varepsilon^{2}$$

and

$$\operatorname{ess\,sup}_{0 \le t \le T} \int_{\Omega} |\nabla(u_{\varepsilon} - u)|^2(x, t)\phi^3(x) \, dx \\ + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |\partial_t(u_{\varepsilon} - u)|^2(x, t)\phi^3(x) \, dx \, dt \le C\varepsilon^2 \, ,$$

where  $\phi$  is the principal eigenfunction of the problem

$$\begin{array}{lll} \Delta \phi + \mu \phi = 0 & & in & \Omega, \\ \phi = 0 & & on & \Gamma, \\ \partial_{\nu} \phi = 0 & & on & \partial \Omega \setminus \Gamma, \end{array}$$

with the corresponding principal eigenvalue  $\mu = \mu_1 > 0$ .

In the proof of Theorem 1 the following proposition plays an important role.

**Proposition 2.** Let  $v \in W_2^{1,0}(\Omega_T)$  be such that v = 0 on  $\mathcal{D}_T^{\varepsilon}$ . Then

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Gamma} |v(x,t)|^2 dH^2(x) dt \le C\varepsilon \int_0^T \|v\|_{W_2^{1/2}(\Gamma)}^2(t) dt$$

and

$$\|v\|_{L_2(\Gamma_T)} \le c \|v\|_{W_2^{1,0}(\Omega_T)} \sqrt{\varepsilon} ,$$

where the positive constants C, c do not depend on  $\varepsilon$  and v.

Proof (of Proposition 2). We set

$$V(y,t) \equiv v(x(y),t), \ x(y) = (y_1, y_2, \theta(\bar{y}) + (d - \theta(\bar{y}))y_3/(d - \theta_0))$$

for  $\bar{y} = (y_1, y_2) \in \Lambda$ ,  $y_3 \in (0, d - \theta_0)$  and  $\theta_0 = \max_{\bar{x} \in \overline{\Lambda}} \theta(\bar{x})$ . Note that

$$v(x,t) = V(y(x),t),$$
  $y(x) = (x_1, x_2, (d - \theta_0)(x_3 - \theta(\bar{x}))/(d - \theta(\bar{x})))$ 

and  $V(\bar{y},0,t) = 0$  for any  $\bar{y} \in \Lambda$  such that  $a(\varepsilon^{-1}\bar{y}) = 0$ . Then it is not difficult to see that

$$\int_0^T \int_A |V(\bar{y}, 0, t)|^2 d\bar{y} \, dt \le \frac{\varepsilon \ell^3}{\delta^2 \pi} \int_0^T \int_A \int_A \frac{|V(\bar{y}, 0, t) - V(\bar{z}, 0, t)|^2}{|\bar{y} - \bar{z}|^3} \, d\bar{y} \, d\bar{z} \, dt \; .$$

As

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Gamma} |v(x,t)|^2 dH^2(x) \, dt = \int_0^T \int_{\Lambda} |V(\bar{y},0,t)|^2 \sqrt{1 + |\overline{\nabla}\theta(\bar{y})|^2} \, d\bar{y} \, dt$$

and  $\|V\|^2_{W^{1/2}_2(\Lambda)} \le c \|v\|^2_{W^{1/2}_2(\Gamma)} \le C \|v\|^2_{W^{1}_2(\Omega)}$ , the assertion of Proposition 2 follows.

Proof (of Theorem 1). Note first that  $u_{\varepsilon} - u$  is a solution of the problem

$$\partial_t (u_{\varepsilon} - u) = \Delta (u_{\varepsilon} - u) + (f_{\varepsilon} - f)(x, t) \qquad \text{in } \Omega_T,$$

$$\partial_{\nu} (u_{\varepsilon} - u) = g_{\varepsilon}(x, t) \qquad \text{on } \mathcal{N}_T^{\varepsilon},$$

$$u_{\varepsilon} - u = 0 \qquad \text{on } \mathcal{D}_T^{\varepsilon}, \qquad (13)$$

$$\partial_{\nu} (u_{\varepsilon} - u) = 0 \qquad \text{on } (\partial \Omega \setminus \Gamma)_T,$$

$$u_{\varepsilon} - u = u_0^{\varepsilon} - u_0 \qquad \text{on } \Omega \times \{t = 0\},$$

where  $g_{\varepsilon}(x,t) = \vartheta_{\varepsilon}(x,t) - \sigma_{\varepsilon}(x,t)u_{\varepsilon} - \partial_{\nu}u$ . Testing the problem (13) by  $u_{\varepsilon} - u$ and applying Proposition 2 we arrive at

$$\begin{aligned} |u_{\varepsilon} - u| &\equiv \max_{0 \leq t \leq T} \|(u_{\varepsilon} - u)(t)\|_{L_{2}(\Omega)} + \|\nabla(u_{\varepsilon} - u)\|_{L_{2}(\Omega_{T})} \leq \\ \|u_{0}^{\varepsilon} - u_{0}\|_{L_{2}(\Omega)} + 2\|f_{\varepsilon} - f\|_{L_{2}(\Omega_{T})} + C\|g_{\varepsilon}\|_{L_{2}(\Gamma_{T})}\sqrt{\varepsilon} \ . \end{aligned}$$

As, however,  $\|u_{\varepsilon} - u\|_{L_2(\Gamma_T)} \leq C |u_{\varepsilon} - u| \sqrt{\varepsilon}$ , due to our assumptions (A) and (D) we get  $\|u_{\varepsilon} - u\|_{L_2(\Gamma_T)} \leq C\varepsilon$ .

Multiplying now the equation in the problem (13) by  $(u_{\varepsilon} - u)\phi$  and integrating over  $\Omega$  one easily gets the third estimate of Theorem 1. Denote next

$$U(y,t) \equiv (u_{\varepsilon} - u)(x(y),t)$$
 for  $y \in \Omega^* \equiv \Lambda \times (0, d - \theta_0)$ .

Then we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega^*} |U(y,t)|^2 dy \le C_\eta \int_\Lambda \int_\eta^{d-\theta_0} |U(\bar{y},y_3,t)|^2 y_3 \, dy_3 \, d\bar{y} + C \int_{\Omega^*} |\partial_{y_3} U(y,t)|^2 y_3 \, dy$$

for any  $t \in (0,T)$  and fixed  $\eta \in (0, d - \theta_0)$ . It is very well known that there exist positive constants c, C such that  $c \leq -\partial_{\nu}\phi \leq C$  on  $\Gamma$ . This together with the above estimate yield the estimate  $||u_{\varepsilon} - u||_{L_2(\Omega_T)} \leq C\varepsilon$ . The last estimate we obtain by multiplying the equation in the problem (13) by  $\phi^3 \partial_t (u_{\varepsilon} - u)$  and by integrating.

The essential part of the proof of the convergence (8) is the uniqueness of the problem

$$\Delta_z \omega(x; z) = 0 \qquad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3_+ \tag{14}$$

with the boundary condition (12) in the following class of solutions.

**Definition 3.** By a solution of Problem (14), (12) we mean a function  $\omega \in W^{1,2}_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^3_+)$  satisfying

$$\int_{0}^{R} \int_{B_{2}(\bar{y},L)} |\nabla \omega|^{2}(\bar{x},x_{3}) \, d\bar{x} dx_{3} \leq CL^{2},$$

$$\int_{0}^{R} \int_{B_{2}(\bar{y},L)} |\omega|^{2}(\bar{x},x_{3}) \, d\bar{x} dx_{3} \leq CL^{2}(R^{2}+R),$$

$$\int_{B_{2}(\bar{y},L)} |\omega|^{2}(\bar{x},0) \, dx' \leq CL^{2}$$
(15)

for any  $\bar{y} \in \mathbb{R}^2$  (the positive constant C does not depend on  $\bar{y}, L, R$ ), and the integral identity

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3_+} \nabla \omega(x) \nabla \psi(x) \, dx = \mu \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \psi(\bar{x}, 0) \, d\bar{x}$$

for any  $\psi \in W_{2,loc}^1(\mathbb{R}^3_+)$ ,  $\psi = 0$  on  $\Gamma_D \equiv \{x = (\bar{x}, 0) \mid a(\widehat{\mathbf{E}}(\bar{x})) = 0\}$  with compact support in  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}^3_+$ . Note that  $B_2(\bar{y}, L) = \{\bar{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid |\bar{x} - \bar{y}| < L\}$ .

This problem was obtained as a limit as  $\varepsilon \to 0$  after applying rescaling arguments for  $(u_{\varepsilon} - u)/\varepsilon$  in any point  $x \in \Gamma$ .

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