

**A LIMIT-POINT CRITERION  
FOR A CLASS OF STURM-LIOUVILLE OPERATORS  
DEFINED IN  $L^p$  SPACES**

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ABSTRACT. Using a recent result of Chernyavskaya and Shuster we show that the maximal operator determined by  $M[y] = -y'' + qy$  on  $[a, \infty)$ ,  $a > -\infty$ , where  $q \geq 0$  and the mean value of  $q$  computed over all subintervals of  $\mathbb{R}$  of a fixed length is bounded away from zero, shares several standard “limit-point at  $\infty$ ” properties of the  $L^2$  case. We also show that there is a unique solution of  $M[y] = 0$  that is in all  $L^p[a, \infty)$ ,  $p = [1, \infty]$ .

1. INTRODUCTION

In [3] Chernyavskaya and Shuster have determined necessary and sufficient conditions for the symmetric differential expression  $M[y] = -y'' + qy$  where  $q \geq 0$  and  $q$  is locally Lebesgue integrable to be “correctly solvable” in  $L^p(\mathbb{R})$ . This concept means:

- (i) for every  $f \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , there is a unique solution  $y_p \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$  of  $M[y] = f$ ;
- (ii)  $y_p$  satisfies the inequality

$$(1.1) \quad \|y_p\|_{p, \mathbb{R}} \leq c(p) \|M[y_p]\|_{p, \mathbb{R}}.$$

A main result of [3] is

**Theorem A.**  *$M$  is correctly solvable in  $L^p(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , if and only if there exists  $a \in (0, \infty)$  such that*

$$(1.2) \quad q_0(a) := \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \int_{x-a}^{x+a} q \, dt > 0.$$

Two corollaries to Theorem A are:

- (i)  $M$  is correctly solvable in  $L^p(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , if  $q \geq k > 0$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ ;
- (ii)  $M$  is not correctly solvable in  $L^p(\mathbb{R})$  for any  $p \in [1, \infty)$  if  $q \in L(-\infty, 0)$  or  $q \in L(0, \infty)$ .

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We assume throughout that  $M$  satisfies (1.2) and shall then show that the correct solvability of  $M$  implies two interesting conclusions holding for  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , one of which generalizes the fact that the restriction of  $M$  to the half-line  $I = [a, \infty)$  is limit-point at  $\infty$  in  $L^2(I_a)$ .

Before stating them however, we need some preliminaries. If  $X$  is a Banach space with norm  $\|(\cdot)\|$ , e.g.  $L^p(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , and  $T : X \rightarrow X$  is an operator with dense domain  $\mathcal{D} \subset X$  we write  $R(T)$  and  $N(T)$  for the range and null space of  $T$ . If  $X^*$  is the dual of  $X$ , e.g.  $L^{p'}(I_a)$ ,  $p' = p/p - 1$ , and  $[x, x^*]$  signifies  $\bar{x}^*(x)$  for  $x \in X$  and  $x^* \in X^*$ , we consider the set of pairs  $G(T^*) := (z, z') \in X^* \times X^*$  such that

$$(1.3) \quad [T(y), z] = [y, z'].$$

The density of  $\mathcal{D}$  implies that  $G(T^*)$  determines an operator  $T^*$  called the *adjoint* of  $T$  such that  $T^*(z) = z'$ . If  $T : X \rightarrow X$  has a domain  $\mathcal{D}^*$  that is *total* over  $X$  (i.e.,  $[x, x^*] = 0$  for all  $x \in X$  and  $x^* \in \mathcal{D}^* \implies x = 0$ ), then the set of pairs  $(z, z') \in X \times X$  satisfying (1.3) also determines an operator, which we also denote by  $T^*$ , and call the adjoint of  $T$  in  $X$ . In either case  $T^*$  is closed and

$$(1.4) \quad [T(y), z] = [y, T^*(z)]$$

for all  $y \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $z \in \mathcal{D}^*$ . Furthermore, if  $M$  is a subspace of  $X$  and  $M^*$  is a subspace of  $X^*$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} M^\perp &:= \{x^* \in X^* : [x, x^*] = 0, \quad \forall x \in M\}, \\ {}^\perp M^* &:= \{x \in X : [x, x^*] = 0, \quad \forall x^* \in M^*\}, \end{aligned}$$

and if  $X$  is reflexive, i.e., the natural mapping of  $X$  to  $(X^*)^* \equiv X^{**}$  is an isomorphism, then  $(M^*)^\perp = {}^\perp M$ . If we set  $G(T) := \{(y, T(y)) : y \in \mathcal{D}\}$  and  $G(-T) := \{(y, -T(y)) : y \in \mathcal{D}\}$ , then  $G(T^*) = G(-T)^\perp \subset X^* \times X^*$ .

It follows from these definitions and (1.3) (see, e.g., Kato, [7, Problem 5.27, p. 168], Rudin, [11, Theorem 4.7] and Goldberg, [5, Theorem IV.1.3] that when  $T$  is closed,

$$(1.5) \quad \begin{aligned} R(T)^\perp &= N(T^*), & {}^\perp R(T^*) &= N(T), \\ \overline{R(T)} &= {}^\perp N(T^*), & \overline{R(T^*)} &= N(T)^\perp. \end{aligned}$$

We are interested in the operators determined by  $M$  but on the half-line  $I_a = [a, \infty)$ ,  $-\infty < a$ , rather than on  $\mathbb{R}$ . This parallels a common situation in the Hilbert space theory of  $M$  and allows study of the  $L^p$  solutions of  $M[y] = 0$  on  $I_a$ , which obviously cannot exist on  $\mathbb{R}$  if  $M$  is correctly solvable.

If  $AC_{\text{loc}}(I_a)$  denotes the functions that are locally absolutely continuous on  $I_a$ , we set

$$\{y, z\}(t) := y'(t)\bar{z}(t) - y(t)\bar{z}'(t)$$

for  $y, z \in AC_{\text{loc}}(I_a)$  and define the following operators and domains in  $L^p(I_a)$ .

**Definition.** For  $p \in [1, \infty]$  assume that  $q \in L^\infty_{loc}(I_a) \subset L^1_{loc}(I_a)$ <sup>1</sup> and let  $T'_{0,p}$ ,  $T_p$ , and  $T_{0,p}$  be the operators determined by  $M$  on

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}'_{0,p} &:= \{y \in C^\infty_0(I_a)\}, \\ \mathcal{D}_p &:= \{y \in L^p(I_a) : y' \in AC_{loc}(I_a); M[y] \in L^p(I_a)\}, \\ \mathcal{D}_{0,p} &:= \{y \in \mathcal{D}_p : y(a) = y'(a) = 0; \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \{y, z\}(t) = 0, \forall z \in \mathcal{D}_p\}. \end{aligned}$$

We call  $T'_{0,p}$ ,  $T_{0,p}$  respectively the “preminimal” and “minimal” operators, and  $T_p$  the “maximal” operator determined by  $M$ . These operators have the following properties.

**Theorem B.** For the cases  $p \in (1, \infty)$ ,  $p = 1$ , or  $p = \infty$  set  $p' := p/(p - 1)$ ,  $p' = \infty$ , or  $p' = 1$ . Then

- (i)  $T_{0,p}$  and  $T_p$  are closed operators;
- (ii)  $[T_p(y), z] = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \{y, z\}(t) - \{y, z\}(a) + [y, T_{p'}]$ ;
- (iii)  $T_p^* = T_{0,p'}$  and  $T_{0,p}^* = T_{p'}$ ;
- (iv)  $R(T_{0,p})^\perp = N(T_{p'})$  and  ${}^\perp N(T_{p'}) = \overline{R(T_{0,p})}$ ;
- (v)  $N(T_{0,p}) = \{0\}$ .

Moreover, for  $p \in (1, \infty]$ ,  $T'_{0,p}$  is closable and  $\overline{T'_{0,p}} = T_{0,p}$ .

Proofs of (i)–(v), the last statement, as well as more general results may be found in one of [5, Chapter VI], [10], or [2]. (iv) is a consequence of the fact that solutions of  $M[y] = 0$  under prescribed initial conditions are unique. The  $L^2$  theory is thoroughly treated in [8].

We are now in a position to state our two principal results.

**Theorem 1.** If  $q \in L^\infty_{loc}$  and satisfies (1.2) and  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , then  $M$  is “ $p$  limit-point” ( $pLP$ ) at  $\infty$  in the sense that

- (i)  $\dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_p}{\mathcal{D}_{0,p}} \right) = 2$  and  $\dim \left( \frac{R(T_p)}{R(T_{0,p})} \right) = 1$ ;
- (ii)  $\dim N(T_p) = 1$ ;
- (iii) for all  $y \in \mathcal{D}_p$  and  $z \in \mathcal{D}_{p'}$  we have  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \{y, z\}(t) = 0$ .

**Theorem 2.** If  $y_1$  denotes the principal or “small” solution of  $M[y] = 0$ , then  $y_1 \in L^p(I_a)$  for all  $p \in [1, \infty]$ .

*Remarks.* (i) Theorem 1 is an extension to all  $p \in [1, \infty]$  and to a more general  $q$  of the fact that  $M$  is  $LP$  at  $\infty$  when  $q \geq k > 0$  and  $p = 2$ .

(ii) In the case when  $q \geq k > 0$  a direct argument can be given to show that  $M[y] = 0$  has exponentially growing and exponentially decaying solutions. Read [9] has extended this by showing that the same is true if

$$(1.6) \quad \liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} \int_x^{x+a} q^{1/2} dt > aL$$

for positive constants  $a$  and  $L$ . Clearly (1.6) implies (1.2) of Theorem A for the extension  $\hat{q}_1$  of  $q$  obtained by setting  $\hat{q}_1(t) = 1$  for  $t < a$ . In this case or if  $q$

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<sup>1</sup>By extending the procedure of Naimark [8, §17], used to define maximal and minimal operators in the  $L^2$  case, it is almost certain that  $q$  need only be locally integrable. However, in this case,  $\mathcal{D}'_{0,p}$  need not contain any member of  $C^\infty_0(I_a)$  and has to be redefined as the subspace of  $\mathcal{D}$  having compact support on  $I_a$ . The density of  $\mathcal{D}'_{0,p}$  must then be shown by an independent argument. Because of its technical complications we will not pursue this approach here.

is bounded away from zero, Theorem 2 is trivially true since  $y_1$  is exponentially decreasing. Under the condition (1.2), however, Theorem 2 seems to be new.

(iii) In the  $L^2$  theory  $M$  is said to be *strong limit-point (SLP)* or *Dirichlet (D)* at  $\infty$  if  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y' \bar{z} = 0$  for all  $y, z \in \mathcal{D}_2$ , or if  $y'$  and  $q^{1/2}y \in L^2(I_a)$  for all  $y \in \mathcal{D}_2$ . It is known [1] that  $D \Rightarrow SLP$  and that both  $SLP$  and  $D$  hold if  $q \geq k > 0$ . It would be interesting to see if either  $SLP$  or  $D$  might be profitably extended to the  $L^p$  setting.

## 2. PROOFS OF THEOREMS 1 AND 2

**Lemma 1.** For  $p \in [1, \infty]$ ,  $R(T_p) = L^p(I_a)$  and  $T_{0,p}$  has closed range.

*Proof.* Since  $q$  is defined only on  $I_a$ , to apply Theorem A we consider the extension  $\hat{q}_1$ . Similarly if  $f \in L^p(I_a)$ , we construct an extension  $\hat{f}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  by setting  $\hat{f}(t) = 0$  for  $t < a$ . By Theorem A there is a unique  $\hat{y} \in L^p(\mathbb{R})$  such that  $M[y] = \hat{f}$ . The restriction  $y$  of  $\hat{y}$  to  $I_a$  is evidently in  $\mathcal{D}_p$  and satisfies  $M[y] = f$ , showing that  $T_p$  is onto  $L^p(I_a)$ . If  $R(T_{0,p})$  is not closed, by the Closed Range Theorem the inverse of  $T_{0,p}$  is unbounded. Therefore there are sequences  $\{y_n\} \subset \mathcal{D}_{0,p}$ ,  $\{f_n\} \subset R(T_{0,p})$  such that  $f_n \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\|y_n\| = 1$ , and  $M[y_n] = f_n$ . Let  $\hat{y}_n$  and  $\hat{f}_n$  be the extensions of  $y_n$  and  $f_n$  to  $\mathbb{R}$  defined as above. Applying Theorem A again there is a unique  $\hat{z}_n$  for each  $\hat{f}_n$  such that  $M[\hat{z}_n] = \hat{f}_n$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \|\hat{z}_n\|_{p,\mathbb{R}} &\leq c_p \|\hat{f}_n\|_{p,\mathbb{R}} \\ &\leq c_p \|f_n\|_{p,\mathbb{R}}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore if  $z_n$  is the restriction of  $\hat{z}_n$  to  $I_a$  we have also that  $\|z_n\|_{p,I_a} \leq c_p \|f_n\|_{p,I_a}$ . Hence since  $f_n \rightarrow 0$ , so does  $z_n$ . Because  $M[z_n] = f_n = M[y_n]$  we have that  $z_n - y_n \in N(T_p)$ . Moreover,  $1/2 \leq \|z_n - y_n\|_{p,I_a} \leq 3/2$  for sufficiently large  $n$  because  $\|y_n\|_{p,I_a} = 1$  and  $z_n \rightarrow 0$ . If  $N(T_p) = \{0\}$ , then  $z_n = y_n$ , which is impossible. If  $N(T_p) = \text{span}\{u\}$  where  $\|u\| = 1$ , then  $z_n - y_n = k_n u$ . Since the  $k_n$  lie in the bounded interval  $[1/2, 3/2]$  for sufficiently large  $n$ , there must be a subsequence  $k_{n_i} \rightarrow k \neq 0$ . It follows that  $y_{n_i} \rightarrow -ku$ . Because  $T_{0,p}$  is closed,  $u \in \mathcal{D}_{0,p}$ . But since the null space of  $T_{0,p}$  is trivial,  $u = 0$ , contradicting our assumption. The case  $N(T_p) = \text{span}\{u_1, u_2\}$  is handled by a similar argument.  $\square$

The following three results are standard, but since some are difficult to find in the literature in the form stated we include proofs.

**Lemma 2.** If  $X$  is a Banach space,  $X^*$  is its dual, and  $M$  is a finite-dimensional subspace of  $X$ , then

$$\dim \left( \frac{X^*}{M^\perp} \right) = \dim M.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\{m_i\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , be a basis for  $M$ . By the Hahn-Banach theorem we can find  $f_i \in X^*$  such that  $f_i(m_j) = \delta_{ij}$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ . We claim that  $\{f_i\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , is a linearly independent set mod  $M^\perp$ . For if  $c_1 f_1 + \dots + c_n f_n \in M^\perp$  where not all the  $c_i$  are zero we have that for any particular (and therefore all)  $c_j$  that

$$c_j = c_j f_j(m_j) = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n c_i f_i \right) (m_j) = 0,$$

which is a contradiction. It follows that

$$\dim M \leq \dim \left( \frac{X^*}{M^\perp} \right).$$

If the inequality is strict we can find  $f \in X^*$  such that  $S = \{f_1, \dots, f_n, f\}$  is linearly independent mod  $M^\perp$ . Consider

$$\psi := f - \sum_{i=1}^m f(m_i)f_i.$$

Since  $f \notin M^\perp$ , not all the  $f(m_i) = 0$ . However,  $\psi(m_i) = 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , showing that  $\psi \in M^\perp$  so that  $S$  is linearly dependent mod  $M^\perp$  and thus contradicting our assumption.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *Suppose that  $X$  and its dual  $X^*$  are Banach spaces, and let  $T_2 \subset T_1$  be densely defined operators  $X \rightarrow X$  with domains  $\mathcal{D}_1$  and  $\mathcal{D}_2$ , and let  $T_1^* \subset T_2^*$  be their adjoints with domains  $\mathcal{D}_1^*$  and  $\mathcal{D}_2^*$ . If  $\dim(\mathcal{D}_1/\mathcal{D}_2) = n < \infty$ , then*

$$\dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_1}{\mathcal{D}_2} \right) = \dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_2^*}{\mathcal{D}_1^*} \right).$$

*Proof.* The technique is similar to that of Lemma 2. First note that

$$\dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_1}{\mathcal{D}_2} \right) = \dim \left( \frac{G(-T_1)}{G(-T_2)} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_2^*}{\mathcal{D}_1^*} \right) = \dim \left( \frac{G(T_2^*)}{G(T_1^*)} \right).$$

Let  $\nu_i = (\alpha_i, -T_1(\alpha_i))$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , be a linearly independent set mod  $G(-T_2)$ . By the Hahn-Banach Theorem we can find

$$\psi_j = (u_j, v_j) \in (G(-T_2))^\perp \equiv G(T_2^*) \subset X^* \times X^*, \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

such that  $\psi_j(\nu_i) \equiv u_j(\alpha_i) + v_j(-T_1(\alpha_i)) = \delta_{ij}$ . Now  $\{\psi_j\}$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$ , is a linearly independent set mod  $G(T_1^*)$ , for if

$$\eta = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j \psi_j \in G(T_1^*),$$

then  $\eta(\nu_i) = 0 = c_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . This shows that  $\dim(\mathcal{D}_1/\mathcal{D}_2) \leq \dim(\mathcal{D}_2^*/\mathcal{D}_1^*)$ . But if  $\{\psi_1, \dots, \psi_n, \psi\}$ ,  $\psi \in G(T_2^*)$  is linearly independent mod  $G(T_1^*)$ , this contradicts the fact that  $\psi - \sum_{i=1}^n d_i \psi_i \in G(T_1^*)$  where  $d_i = \psi(\nu_i)$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 4.** *Suppose that  $X$  is a Banach space and  $X^*$  is its dual, and let  $T_1 : X^* \rightarrow X^*$  be an operator with domain  $\mathcal{D}_1$  and  $T_2$  be a one-to-one restriction of  $T_1$  with closed range having domain  $\mathcal{D}_2 \subset \mathcal{D}_1$ . If  $\dim N(T_1) < \infty$  and  $\dim {}^\perp R(T_2) \subseteq X < \infty$ , then*

$$\dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_1}{\mathcal{D}_2} \right) = \dim N(T_1) + \dim {}^\perp R(T_2).$$

*Proof.* In Lemma 2 we identify  $M$  with  ${}^\perp R(T_2)$ . Since  $R(T_2)$  is closed,  $M^\perp = R(T_2)$ . We can conclude that

$$\dim \left( \frac{R(T_1)}{R(T_2)} \right) = \dim {}^\perp R(T_2).$$

If  $k = \dim {}^\perp R(T_2)$ , we can find nonzero elements  $f_1, \dots, f_k$  in  $R(T_1)$  that are linearly independent mod  $R(T_2)$ . Suppose  $y_i \in \mathcal{D}_1$  and  $M[y_i] = f_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, k$ .

Then it is easily verified that  $S_1 = \{y_1, \dots, y_k\}$  is a linearly independent set mod  $\mathcal{D}_2$  (for otherwise a linear combination of the  $f_i$  would be in  $R(T_2)$ ). Let  $S_2 = \{z_1, \dots, z_m\}$  be a basis of  $N(T_1)$ . We claim that  $S_1 \cup S_2$  is linearly independent mod  $\mathcal{D}_2$ . For assume that  $\eta = \eta_1 + \eta_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2$  where

$$\eta_1 = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i y_i, \quad \eta_2 = \sum_{i=1}^m d_i z_i$$

and not all the coefficients vanish. In particular, under this assumption, since  $N(T_1) \cap \mathcal{D}_2 = \{0\}$ , not all the  $c_i = 0$  vanish, for otherwise  $\eta_2 \neq 0$  and  $\eta_2 \in \mathcal{D}_2 \cap N(T_1)$ . But then

$$T_1(\eta) = T_1(\eta_1) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i f_i \in R(T_2),$$

contradicting the linear independence of the  $f_i$  mod  $R(T_2)$ . It follows that

$$\dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_1}{\mathcal{D}_2} \right) \geq \dim N(T_1) + \dim^\perp R(T_2) = m + k.$$

Suppose that we can adjoin an element  $u \in \mathcal{D}_1$  to  $S_1 \cup S_2$  so that  $S_3 = (S_1 \cup S_2) \cup \{u\}$  is linearly independent mod  $\mathcal{D}_2$ . Since  $N(T_1)$  is finite dimensional, it is complemented in  $X$ , and so  $u$  can be written uniquely as a sum  $u_1 + u_2$  where  $u_1 \in N(T_1)$  and  $u_2 \in (\mathcal{D}_1 \setminus N(T_1)) \cup \{0\}$ . If  $\eta_3$  is an arbitrary linear combination of elements of  $S_3$  with a nonzero coefficient  $d$  of  $u$ , then

$$T_1(\eta_3) = \sum_{i=1}^k c_i f_i + dT_1(u_2) \notin R(T_2),$$

implying that  $\dim(R(T_1)/R(T_2)) = k + 1$ , which is false.  $\square$

**Lemma 5.** For  $p \in [1, \infty]$ ,

$$\dim N(T_p) = \dim \left( \frac{R(T_p)}{R(T_{0,p})} \right) = 1,$$

$$\dim \left( \frac{\mathcal{D}_p}{\mathcal{D}_{0,p}} \right) = 2.$$

*Proof.* Since  $M$  is disconjugate on  $I_a$  and since  $q > 0$ , it follows by Corollary 6.4 and Theorem 6.4 of Hartman [6] that there is a fundamental set of positive linearly independent solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  of  $M[y] = 0$ , called respectively the principal and nonprincipal solutions, such that  $y_1' \leq 0$  and  $y_2' > 0$  on  $I_a$ . Additionally,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y_1/y_2 = 0$ . Suppose  $y_p \in N(T_p)$  for  $p \in [1, \infty)$ . We claim that  $y_p$  must be a multiple of  $y_1$ . For if  $y_p = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  with  $c_2 \neq 0$ , then

$$(2.1) \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |y_p(t)| = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} |y_2(c_1 y_1/y_2 + c_2)| = |c_2| y_2.$$

Since  $|y_p(t)|$  becomes arbitrarily close to a nondecreasing positive function, it cannot be in  $L^p(I_a)$ . This shows that  $\dim N(T_p) \leq 1$ , for  $p \in [1, \infty]$ , and if nontrivial,  $N(T_p)$  is spanned by  $\{y_1\}$ .

We next show that  $N(T_p) \neq \{0\}$ . If  $r \in (1, \infty]$ , then  $R(T_{0,r})$  is closed by Lemma 1, and from Theorem B (iv) and the fact that  $L^r(I_a) = L^{r'}(I_a)^*$ ,

$$(2.2) \quad R(T_{0,r}) = {}^\perp N(T_{r'}) = N(T_{r'})^\perp,$$

$$(2.3) \quad {}^\perp R(T_{0,r}) = N(T_{r'}).$$

Also, by Lemma 1 (again),  $R(T_r) = L^r(I_a)$ . We now identify  $M$  with  $N(T_{r'})$ ,  $X$  with  $L^{r'}(I_a)$ , and  $X^*$  with  $L^r(I_a)$ . (2.2) and Lemma 2 then give that

$$(2.4) \quad \dim \left( \frac{R(T_r)}{R(T_{0,r})} \right) = \dim N(T_{r'}) \leq 1.$$

Hence if  $\dim(R(T_r)/R(T_{0,r})) = 0$ , then  $N(T_{r'}) = \{0\}$ , and by (2.3) and Lemma 4,  $\dim(\mathcal{D}_r/\mathcal{D}_{0,r}) = \dim N(T_r)$ . However, since we can find  $C_0^\infty$  linearly independent functions  $\phi_1, \phi_2$  with support in  $I_a$  such that  $\phi_1(a) = 1 = \phi_2'(a)$  and  $\phi_1'(a) = 0 = \phi_2(a)$  it must be the case that  $\dim(\mathcal{D}_r/\mathcal{D}_{0,r}) \geq 2$ . So  $\dim N(T_r) = 2$ , which as we have seen from (2.1) is not possible given the properties of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ . This contradiction shows that  $\dim N(T_{r'}) = 1$  for  $r' \in [1, \infty)$ . If  $p = r \in (1, \infty]$  by (2.4), then  $\dim(R(T_p)/R(T_{0,p})) = 1$  and if we choose  $r' = p$ , then  $\dim N(T_p) = 1$  for  $p \in [1, \infty)$ . If  $p = \infty$ , then  $y_1 \in N(T_\infty)$  since  $y_1 > 0$  and  $y' \leq 0$ , and so  $\dim N(T_\infty) = 1$ . Since we have now established that  $\dim N(T_p) = \dim N(T_{p'})$  for  $p \in (1, \infty]$  by Lemma 4 and (2.3),  $\dim(\mathcal{D}_p/\mathcal{D}_{0,p}) = 2$ . By Lemma 3,  $\dim(\mathcal{D}_1/\mathcal{D}_{0,1}) = 2$ . Since  $T_1$  is one-to-one on  $\mathcal{D}_1 \ominus N(T_1)$  we conclude that  $\dim(R(T_1)/R(T_{0,1})) = 1$ . The lemma is now established in all cases.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 1.* (i) and (ii) is the assertion of Lemma 5. It follows that  $\mathcal{D}_p = \mathcal{D}_{0,p} \oplus \text{span}\{\phi_1, \phi_2\}$ . Since  $\phi_1, \phi_2$  vanish at  $\infty$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \{y, z\}(t) = 0$ , which proves (iii).  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.* This is also obvious from (2.1) and the proof of Lemma 5.  $\square$

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