

## Optimal Control

# A weighted identity for partial differential operators of second order and its applications

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### Abstract

In this Note, a weighted identity for partial differential operators of second order is established. As its applications, one may deduce all the known controllability/observability results for the parabolic, hyperbolic, Schrödinger and plate equations that are derived via Carleman estimate. Meanwhile, a new controllability/observability result is presented for the parabolic equations with a complex principal part. **To cite this article:** *X. Fu, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 342 (2006).*

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### Résumé

**Une identité avec poids pour des opérateurs aux dérivées partielles du second ordre et ses applications.** Dans cette Note, nous établissons une identité avec poids pour des opérateurs aux dérivées partielles du second ordre. De cette égalité, découlent tous les résultats connus de contrôlabilité/observabilité pour les équations paraboliques, les équations hyperboliques, l'équation de Schrödinger et celle des plaques, tous obtenus à partir des inégalités de Carleman. Par ailleurs, un nouveau résultat de contrôlabilité/observabilité est obtenu pour les équations de type paraboliques avec des coefficients à valeur complexe. **Pour citer cet article :** *X. Fu, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 342 (2006).*

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### Version française abrégée

Nous utiliserons la notation  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f = f_j$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f = f_{tj}$ ,  $\sum_j = \sum_{j=1}^n$ ,  $\sum_{j,k} = \sum_{j,k=1}^n$ , etc., où  $x_j$  est la  $j^{\text{ième}}$  coordonnée de  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Pour tout  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , le nombre complexe conjugué de  $c$  sera noté  $\bar{c}$ .

Soit

$$\mathcal{P}w \triangleq (a + ib)w_t + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} w_j)_k, \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \quad i = \sqrt{-1}. \quad (1)$$

Le principal résultat de cette Note est décrit comme suit :

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**Théorème 0.1.** Soit  $a^{jk} \in C^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{R})$  tel que  $a^{jk} = a^{kj}$ ,  $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Soient  $w \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{C})$ ,  $\ell \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\theta = e^\ell$  et  $v = \theta w$ . Alors,

$$\begin{aligned} & \theta(\mathcal{P}w\bar{I}_1 + \overline{\mathcal{P}w}I_1) + \left\{ \left[ (a^2 + b^2)\ell_t - a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k \right] |v|^2 + a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} v_j \bar{v}_k + ib \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) \right\}_t \\ & + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} \left\{ -ib [a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_t v - \bar{v}_t v_t) + a^{jk} \ell_t (v_j \bar{v} - \bar{v}_j v)] \right. \\ & - aa^{jk} (v_j \bar{v}_t + \bar{v}_j v_t) + (2a^{jk'} a^{j'k} - a^{jk} a^{j'k'}) \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'}) \\ & \left. + (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'} a^{jk} (v_j \bar{v} + \bar{v}_j v) + a^{jk} (2a^{j'k'} \ell_j \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'} - (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'j} - 2a \ell_j \ell_t) |v|^2 \right\}_k \\ & = 2|I_1|^2 + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} \left[ 2(a^{j'k} \ell_{j'})_{k'} a^{jk'} - a_{k'}^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'} + \frac{a}{2} a_t^{jk} \right] (v_k \bar{v}_j + \bar{v}_k v_j) \\ & + ib \sum_{j,k} (a_t^{jk} \ell_j + 2a^{jk} \ell_{jt}) (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) + B|v|^2, \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

où

$$\begin{cases} I_1 \triangleq ibv_t - a\ell_t v + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} v_j)_k + \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k v, \\ B \triangleq (a^2 + b^2)\ell_{tt} - a \sum_{j,k} [(a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k)_t + 2a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_{tk}] \\ \quad + 2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} a^{jk} \ell_j (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'})_k - \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'k}]_j. \end{cases} \tag{3}$$

**Remarque 1.** En choisissant  $a = 1$  et  $b = 0$  dans Théorème 0.1, on obtient une identité à poids pour l’opérateur parabolique. On peut ainsi retrouver tous les résultats de contrôlabilité/observabilité pour les équations paraboliques dans [2] et [5], en suivant [7].

**Remarque 2.** En choisissant  $a^{jk}(t, x) \equiv a^{jk}(x)$  et  $a = b = 0$  dans Théorème 0.1, on obtient l’identité décrite dans [4] qui implique des résultats de contrôlabilité/observabilité pour les équations hyperboliques.

**Remarque 3.** En choisissant  $(a^{jk})_{1 \leq j,k \leq n}$  comme étant la matrice identité,  $a = 0$  et  $b = 1$  dans Théorème 0.1, on obtient l’identité décrite dans [6] qui implique des résultats d’observabilité pour les équations de type Schrödinger. Aussi, ceci amène les résultats de contrôlabilité/observabilité pour les équations des plaques dans [8] et les résultats pour le problème inverse des équations de Schrödinger dans [1].

**Remarque 4.** En choisissant  $a < 0$  et  $(a^{jk})_{1 \leq j,k \leq n}$  comme étant une matrice définie positive dans Théorème 0.1, il en découle une identité à poids pour les opérateurs paraboliques avec un coefficient complexe devant  $\partial_t$ . Ceci implique un nouveau résultat de contrôlabilité/observabilité pour les équations paraboliques de ce type.

Théorème 0.1 permet une approche globale pour les problèmes de contrôlabilité/observabilité des équations aux dérivées partielles du second ordre.

### 1. Introduction and main results

The study of controllability/observability problem for partial differential equations (PDEs for short) began in the 1960s, for which various techniques have been developed in the last decades [9,10]. In this respect, Carleman estimate is one of the most powerful tools, for both parabolic and hyperbolic-type equations [2,5,4,6,8]. However, the Carleman estimate that has been developed up to now to establish observability inequalities of PDEs depend heavily

on the nature of the equations. In this Note, we present a point-wise weighted identity for partial differential operators of second order, by which we develop a unified approach, based on global Carleman estimate, to treat the controllability/observability problems for PDEs of second order.

In the following, we will use the notation  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} f = f_j$ ,  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} f = f_{tj}$ ,  $\sum_j = \sum_{j=1}^n$ ,  $\sum_{j,k} = \sum_{j,k=1}^n$ , etc., where  $x_j$  is the  $j$ th coordinate of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For any  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , denote its complex conjugate by  $\bar{c}$ .

We introduce the following formal partial differential operator of second order:

$$\mathcal{P}w \triangleq (a + ib)w_t + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} w_j)_k, \quad \forall a, b \in \mathbb{R}, \quad i = \sqrt{-1}. \tag{4}$$

The main result of this Note is as follows:

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $a^{jk} \in C^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{R})$  satisfy  $a^{jk} = a^{kj}$ ,  $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $w \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{C})$ ,  $\ell \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\theta = e^\ell$  and  $v = \theta w$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \theta(\mathcal{P}w\bar{I}_1 + \overline{\mathcal{P}w}I_1) + \left\{ \left[ (a^2 + b^2)\ell_t - a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k \right] |v|^2 + a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} v_j \bar{v}_k + ib \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) \right\}_t \\ & + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} \left\{ -ib [a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_t v - \bar{v}_t v_t) + a^{jk} \ell_t (v_j \bar{v} - \bar{v}_j v)] \right. \\ & - aa^{jk} (v_j \bar{v}_t + \bar{v}_j v_t) + (2a^{jk'} a^{j'k} - a^{jk} a^{j'k'}) \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'}) \\ & \left. + (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'} a^{jk} (v_j \bar{v} + \bar{v}_j v) + a^{jk} (2a^{j'k'} \ell_j \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'} - (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'j} - 2a \ell_j \ell_t) |v|^2 \right\}_k \\ & = 2|I_1|^2 + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} \left[ 2(a^{j'k} \ell_{j'})_{k'} a^{jk'} - a_{k'}^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'} + \frac{a}{2} a_t^{jk} \right] (v_k \bar{v}_j + \bar{v}_k v_j) \\ & + ib \sum_{j,k} (a_t^{jk} \ell_j + 2a^{jk} \ell_{jt}) (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) + B|v|^2, \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where

$$\begin{cases} I_1 \triangleq ibv_t - a\ell_t v + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} v_j)_k + \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k v, \\ B \triangleq (a^2 + b^2)\ell_{tt} - a \sum_{j,k} [(a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k)_t + 2a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_{tk}] \\ \quad + 2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} a^{jk} \ell_j (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'})_k - \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'k}]_j. \end{cases} \tag{6}$$

**Remark 1.** By choosing  $a = 1$  and  $b = 0$  in Theorem 1.1, one obtains a weighted identity for the parabolic operator. By this and following [7], one may recover all the controllability/observability results for the parabolic equations in [2] and [5].

**Remark 2.** By choosing  $a^{jk}(t, x) \equiv a^{jk}(x)$  and  $a = b = 0$  in Theorem 1.1 (and noting that only the symmetry condition is assumed for  $a^{jk}$  in the above), one obtains the identity derived in [4] for the controllability/observability results for the general hyperbolic equations.

**Remark 3.** By choosing  $(a^{jk})_{1 \leq j,k \leq n}$  to be the identity matrix,  $a = 0$  and  $b = 1$  in Theorem 1.1, one obtains the pointwise identity derived in [6] for the observability results for the nonconservative Schrödinger equations. Also, this yields the controllability/observability results in [8] for the plate equations and the results for inverse problem for the Schrödinger equations in [1].

A consequence of Theorem 1.1 is the following point-wise weighted inequality for the parabolic operator  $(a + ib)\partial_t + \sum_{j,k} \partial_k (a^{jk} \partial_j)$  (with a complex principal part).

**Theorem 1.2.** Let  $a < 0$ ,  $a^{jk} \in C^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{R})$  satisfy  $a^{jk} = a^{kj}$ ,  $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ . Let  $w \in C^2(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{C})$ ,  $\ell \in C^3(\mathbb{R}^{1+n}; \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\theta = e^\ell$  and  $v = \theta w$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 2 \int_Q \theta^2 \left| (a + ib)w_t + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk}w_j)_k \right|^2 dt dx + \int_Q M_t dt dx + \sum_k \int_Q V_k dt dx \\
 & \geq \sum_{j,k} \int_Q c^{jk} (v_k \bar{v}_j + \bar{v}_k v_j) dt dx + \int_Q B |v|^2 dt dx + ib \int_Q \sum_{j,k} (a_t^{jk} \ell_j + 2a^{jk} \ell_{jt}) (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) dt dx, \tag{7}
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $B$  is defined as in (6) and

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & M \triangleq (a^2 + b^2) \ell_t |v|^2 - a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k |v|^2 + a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} v_j \bar{v}_k + ib \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) = \text{real-valued}, \\
 & V_k \triangleq \sum_{j,j',k'} \{ -ib [a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_t v - \bar{v}_t v_t) + a^{jk} \ell_t (v_j \bar{v} - \bar{v}_j v)] - a a^{jk} (v_j \bar{v}_t + \bar{v}_j v_t) \\
 & \quad + (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_k a^{jk} (v_j \bar{v} + \bar{v}_j v) + (2a^{j'k'} a^{j'k} - a^{jk} a^{j'k'}) \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'}) \\
 & \quad + a^{jk} (2a^{j'k'} \ell_j \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'} - (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'} - 2a \ell_j \ell_t) |v|^2 \} = \text{real-valued}, \\
 & c^{jk} \triangleq \sum_{j',k'} \left[ 2(a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_k a^{jk'} - a_{k'}^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'} + \frac{a}{2} a_t^{jk} \right] = \text{real-valued}.
 \end{aligned} \right. \tag{8}$$

As an application of Theorem 1.2, we show the null controllability of the following parabolic equations with a complex principal part:

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 & (a + ib)y_t + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk}y_j)_k = \chi_\omega(x)u(t, x) \quad \text{in } Q \triangleq (0, T) \times \Omega, \\
 & y = 0 \quad \text{on } \Sigma \triangleq (0, T) \times \Gamma, \\
 & y(0) = y_0 \quad \text{in } \Omega,
 \end{aligned} \right. \tag{9}$$

where  $T > 0$ ,  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is a given bounded domain with a  $C^2$  boundary  $\Gamma$ , and  $\omega \neq \emptyset$  is a given subdomain of  $\Omega$ . In system (9),  $a < 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $a^{jk} \in C^{1,2}(\bar{Q}; \mathbb{R})$  is assumed to satisfy  $a^{jk} = a^{kj}$  ( $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) and for some constant  $\beta > 0$ ,

$$\sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \xi_j \bar{\xi}_k \geq \beta |\xi|^2, \quad \forall (t, x, \xi) \equiv (t, x, \xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) \in \bar{Q} \times \mathbb{C}^n. \tag{10}$$

The null controllability of system (9) with  $b = 0$  is well-known (e.g., [5]). However, to the author’s best knowledge, the same problem but with  $b \neq 0$  is not solved in the previous literature.

By [5], one can find a function  $\psi \in C^2(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{R})$  such that  $\psi > 0$  in  $\Omega$ ,  $\psi = 0$  on  $\Gamma$ , and  $\nabla \psi \neq 0$  in  $\Omega \setminus \bar{\omega}$ . For any parameters  $\lambda > 1$  and  $\mu > 1$ , choose

$$\ell = \lambda \alpha, \quad \alpha(t, x) = t^{-1} (T - t)^{-1} (e^{\mu \psi(x)} - e^{2\mu |\psi|_{C(\bar{\Omega}; \mathbb{R})}}), \quad \varphi(t, x) = t^{-1} (T - t)^{-1} e^{\mu \psi(x)}. \tag{11}$$

From Theorem 1.2, one obtains the following Carleman estimate for the operator  $(a + ib)\partial_t + \sum_{j,k} \partial_k (a^{jk} \partial_j)$ :

**Theorem 1.3.** Let  $a < 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $a^{jk} \in C^{1,2}(\bar{Q}; \mathbb{R})$  satisfy  $a^{jk} = a^{kj}$  ( $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) and (10). Then there is a  $\mu_0 > 0$  such that for all  $\mu \geq \mu_0$ , one can find two constants  $C = C(\mu) > 0$  and  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_1(\mu)$  so that for all  $w \in C([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega))$  and  $f \in L^2(\bar{Q}; \mathbb{C})$  with  $(a + ib)w_t + \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk}w_j)_k = f$ , and for all  $\lambda \geq \lambda_1$ , it holds

$$\lambda^3 \mu^4 \int_Q \varphi^3 \theta^2 |w|^2 dt dx + \lambda \mu^2 \int_Q \varphi \theta^2 |\nabla w|^2 dt dx \leq C \left[ \int_Q \theta^2 |f|^2 dt dx + \lambda^3 \mu^4 \int_{(0,T) \times \omega} \varphi^3 \theta^2 |w|^2 dt dx \right]. \tag{12}$$

As an immediate consequence of Theorem 1.3, one obtains the null controllability of system (9):

**Theorem 1.4.** *Let  $a < 0$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{R}$ , and  $a^{jk} \in C^{1,2}(\overline{Q}; \mathbb{R})$  satisfy  $a^{jk} = a^{kj}$  ( $j, k = 1, 2, \dots, n$ ) and (10). Then for any given  $y_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$ , there is a control  $u \in L^2((0, T) \times \omega)$  such that the weak solution*

$$y(\cdot) \in C([0, T]; L^2(\Omega)) \cap L^2(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega))$$

of system (9) satisfies  $y(T) = 0$  in  $\Omega$ .

The rest of this Note is to outline the proof of Theorem 1.1. We refer to [3] for a detailed proof of the results in this Note and other related results.

## 2. Sketch of the proof of Theorem 1.1

**Proof.** Recalling (6) for  $I_1$ , a direct computation shows that  $\theta \mathcal{P}w = I_1 + I_2$ , where

$$I_2 \triangleq av_t - ib\ell_t v - 2 \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j v_k - \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} \ell_j)_k v.$$

Hence

$$\theta(\mathcal{P}w\overline{I_1} + \overline{\mathcal{P}w}I_1) = 2|I_1|^2 + (I_1\overline{I_2} + I_2\overline{I_1}). \tag{13}$$

By the definitions of  $I_1$  and  $I_2$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_1\overline{I_2} + I_2\overline{I_1} = & -b^2(\ell_t|v|^2)_t + b^2\ell_{tt}|v|^2 - ib \sum_{j,k} [a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v})]_t \\ & + ib \sum_{j,k} [a^{jk} \ell_j (\bar{v}_t v - v_t \bar{v})]_k + ib \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} \ell_j)_t (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) - a^2(\ell_t|v|^2)_t + a^2\ell_{tt}|v|^2 \\ & + 2a \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_t |v|^2)_k - 2a \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_{tk} |v|^2 + a \sum_{j,k} [a^{jk} (v_j \bar{v}_t + \bar{v}_j v_t)]_k \\ & - a \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} v_j \bar{v}_k)_t + \frac{a}{2} \sum_{j,k} a_t^{jk} (v_j \bar{v}_k + v_k \bar{v}_j) + ib \sum_{j,k} [a^{jk} \ell_t (v_j \bar{v} - \bar{v}_j v)]_k \\ & + ib \sum_{j,k} a^{jk} \ell_{jt} (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}) - 2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_k + \bar{v}_{j'} v_k)]_{k'} \\ & + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'})]_k - \sum_{j,k,j',k'} (a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j)_k (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'}) \\ & + 2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} (a^{jk} \ell_j)_{k'} a^{j'k'} (v_{j'} \bar{v}_k + \bar{v}_{j'} v_k) - \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [(a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'} a^{jk} (v_j \bar{v} + \bar{v}_j v)]_k \\ & + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'k} |v|^2]_j - \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'k}]_j |v|^2 \\ & + \sum_{j,k,j',k'} a^{jk} (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'})_{k'} (v_j \bar{v}_k + \bar{v}_j v_k) + a \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k |v|^2)_t - a \sum_{j,k} (a^{jk} \ell_j \ell_k)_t |v|^2 \\ & - 2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} (a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'} |v|^2)_k + 2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} a^{jk} \ell_j (a^{j'k'} \ell_{j'} \ell_{k'})_k |v|^2, \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

where we have used the following facts

$$2v\bar{v}_t = (|v|^2)_t - (v_t \bar{v} - \bar{v}_t v),$$

$$2\bar{v}v_k = (|v|^2)_k - (\bar{v}_k v - v_k \bar{v}),$$

and

$$2 \sum_{j,k,j',k'} a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{kk'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{kk'}) = \sum_{j,k,j',k'} [a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'})]_k \\ - \sum_{j,k,j',k'} (a^{jk} a^{j'k'} \ell_j)_k (v_{j'} \bar{v}_{k'} + \bar{v}_{j'} v_{k'}).$$

Finally, combining all ‘ $\frac{\partial}{\partial t}$ -terms’ and all ‘ $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k}$ -terms’ in (14), and noting (13), we arrive at (5).  $\square$

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