

# SPREADING SPEED OF A NONLOCAL DIFFUSIVE LOGISTIC MODEL WITH FREE BOUNDARIES IN TIME PERIODIC ENVIRONMENT\*

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**Abstract** In Zhang, Liu and Zhou [11], a nonlocal diffusion model with double free boundaries in time periodic environment was introduced and studied. A spreading-vanishing dichotomy is shown to govern the long time dynamical behavior. However, when spreading happens, the spreading speed was left open in [11]. In this paper, we answer this question. We obtain the spreading speed by solving the associated time periodic semi-wave problems and constructing new upper and lower solutions.

**Keywords** Nonlocal diffusion, time periodic, free boundary, spreading speed.

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Consider the following nonlocal diffusion model with free boundaries in the periodic environment:

$$\begin{cases} u_t = d \int_{g(t)}^{h(t)} J(x-y)u(t,y)dy - du(t,x) \\ \quad + a(t,x)u - b(t,x)u^2, & t > 0, g(t) < x < h(t), \\ h'(t) = \mu \int_{g(t)}^{h(t)} \int_{h(t)}^{+\infty} J(x-y)u(t,x)dydx, & t > 0, \\ g'(t) = -\mu \int_{g(t)}^{h(t)} \int_{-\infty}^{g(t)} J(x-y)u(t,x)dydx, & t > 0, \\ h(0) = -g(0) = h_0, \quad u(0,x) = u_0(x), & -h_0 \leq x \leq h_0, \\ u(t,x) = 0, & t \geq 0, x \leq g(t) \text{ or } x \geq h(t), \end{cases} \quad (0.1)$$

where  $g(t)$ ,  $h(t)$  are free boundaries to be determined with the population density  $u(t,x)$ ,  $d$ ,  $\mu$  and  $h_0$  are positive constants. The initial function  $u_0$  satisfies

$$u_0(x) \in C([-h_0, h_0]), \quad u_0(-h_0) = u_0(h_0) = 0, \quad u_0(x) > 0 \text{ in } (-h_0, h_0). \quad (0.2)$$

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Assume that the kernel function  $J(x)$  satisfies,

(J):  $J(x) \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$  is nonnegative and symmetric, supported on the interval  $[-r_0, r_0]$ , where  $0 < r_0 < +\infty$ , and  $J(0) > 0$ ,  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x)dx = 1$ ,  $\sup_{\mathbb{R}} J < \infty$ .

And the coefficient functions  $a(t, x)$ ,  $b(t, x)$  satisfy the following conditions:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{(A) } b \in C(\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}) \text{ and is } T\text{-periodic in } t \text{ for some } T > 0, \ a(t, x) = \alpha(t) + \beta(x), \\ \quad (t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}, \text{ where } \alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ is a continuous } T\text{-periodic function and} \\ \quad \beta : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ is a continuous function;} \\ \text{(B) there are positive constants } C_1, C_2, \text{ such that } C_1 \leq a(t, x), \ b(t, x) \leq C_2, \\ \quad \forall (t, x) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}. \end{array} \right.$$

In [11], authors gave the existence and uniqueness of the global solution to model (0.1), then established a spreading-vanishing dichotomy (see Theorem 1.1 in [11]): either

(i) Vanishing:  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (g(t), h(t)) = (g_\infty, h_\infty)$  is a finite interval and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \|u(t, x)\|_{C([g(t), h(t)])} = 0 \quad \text{or}$$

(ii) Spreading:  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (g(t), h(t)) = \mathbb{R}$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} u(t + nT, x) = w(t, x)$  in  $C_{loc}([0, T] \times \mathbb{R})$ , where  $w(t, x)$  is the unique positive time-periodic solution of the following equation

$$w_t = d \int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x-y)w(t, y)dy - dw(t, x) + a(t, x)w - b(t, x)w^2, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}, \ x \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (0.3)$$

Besides, the sharp criteria for spreading and vanishing were also obtained. However, when spreading happens, the question of spreading speed was not considered in [11]. The main purpose of this paper is to determine the spreading speed.

When the nonlocal diffusion term is replaced by the local diffusion operator  $du_{xx}$ , model (0.1) has been studied by Du et al. [1]. They not only established a spreading-vanishing dichotomy, but also determined the asymptotic spreading speed by studying the corresponding semi-wave problem. Many works studied the spreading speed for nonlocal diffusion model [4, 5, 7, 10, 12]. For the free boundary problem of nonlocal diffusive model in homogeneous environment, the semi-wave problems and spreading speed have been fully studied in [2, 3]. Inspired by their works, when spreading occurs, we study the spreading speed of (0.1) by constructing suitable upper and lower solutions based on the time periodic semi-wave problem.

First, we consider an associated semi-wave problem. From [6], we have the following results:

**Lemma 0.1.** *Let  $d > 0$  be a given constant. Suppose  $J(x) \in C^1(\mathbb{R})$  is nonnegative, symmetric,  $J(0) > 0$ ,  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x)dx = 1$  and satisfies a “thin-tailed” condition, namely, there exists  $\hat{\eta} > 0$  such that*

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} J(x)e^{\eta x}dx < +\infty, \quad \forall \eta \in [0, \hat{\eta}).$$

*Assume  $p(t), q(t) \in C([0, T])$  are positive  $T$ -periodic functions and  $k(t) \in C([0, T])$  is a nonnegative  $T$ -periodic function with  $0 \leq k(t) < c^*$  for  $t \in [0, T]$ , where*

$$c^* := \inf_{0 < \eta < \hat{\eta}} \frac{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T p(t)dt + d(\int_{\mathbb{R}} J(y)e^{\eta y}dy - 1)}{\eta}.$$

Then the time periodic semi-wave problem

$$\begin{cases} \phi_t = d \int_{-\infty}^0 J(\xi - y) \phi(t, y) dy - d\phi(t, \xi) + k(t)\phi_\xi \\ \quad + p(t)\phi - q(t)\phi^2, & 0 \leq t \leq T, \xi \in (-\infty, 0), \\ \phi(t, 0) = 0, & 0 \leq t \leq T, \end{cases} \quad (0.4)$$

has a unique positive  $T$ -periodic solution  $\phi^k(t, \xi) \in C([0, T] \times (-\infty, 0])$ . Furthermore, the following conclusions hold:

(i)  $\phi_\xi^k(t, \xi) < 0$  and  $\phi^k(t, \xi) \rightarrow v(t)$  uniformly on  $[0, T]$  as  $\xi \rightarrow -\infty$ , where  $v(t)$  is the unique  $T$ -periodic solution of

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = p(t)v - q(t)v^2, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T, \quad v(0) = v(T).$$

(ii) For any given nonnegative  $T$ -periodic function  $m(t) \in C([0, T])$  satisfying  $0 \leq m(t) < c^*$  for  $t \in [0, T]$ , if  $m(t) \leq, \neq k(t)$ , then  $\phi^m(t, \xi) > \phi^k(t, \xi)$  for  $t \in [0, T]$ ,  $\xi < 0$ .

(iii) For each  $\mu > 0$ , there exists a unique positive  $T$ -periodic function  $k_0(t) = k_0(\mu, p, q)(t) \in C([0, T])$  and  $0 < k_0(t) < c^*$  for  $t \in [0, T]$ , such that

$$k_0(t) = \mu \int_{-\infty}^0 \int_0^{+\infty} J(\xi - y) \phi^{k_0}(t, \xi) dy d\xi, \quad 0 \leq t \leq T. \quad (0.5)$$

By assumption (A) and (B), we have that

$$\begin{aligned} a^\infty(t) &:= \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} a(t, x) \leq C_2, & a_\infty(t) &:= \liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} a(t, x) \geq C_1, \\ b^\infty(t) &:= \limsup_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} b(t, x) \leq C_2, & b_\infty(t) &:= \liminf_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} b(t, x) \geq C_1, \end{aligned} \quad (0.6)$$

where  $a^\infty(t)$ ,  $a_\infty(t)$ ,  $b^\infty(t)$  and  $b_\infty(t)$  are  $T$ -periodic continuous functions.

**Lemma 0.2.** Let  $(u, g, h)$  be the unique solution of (0.1) and suppose that spreading happens. We have

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} \leq \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a^\infty, b_\infty)(t) dt \quad (0.7)$$

and

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} \geq \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a_\infty, b^\infty)(t) dt, \quad (0.8)$$

where  $k_0(\mu, a^\infty, b_\infty)(t)$  and  $k_0(\mu, a_\infty, b^\infty)(t)$  are given in (0.5) with  $p(t) = a^\infty(t)$ ,  $q(t) = b_\infty(t)$  and  $p(t) = a_\infty(t)$ ,  $q(t) = b^\infty(t)$ , respectively.

**Proof.** From (0.6), for any small  $\epsilon > 0$ , there is  $R_* := R(\epsilon) > 1$ , such that for  $x \geq R_*$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} a(t, x) &\leq a_\epsilon^\infty(t) := a^\infty(t) + \epsilon, & a(t, x) &\geq a_\infty^\epsilon(t) := a_\infty(t) - \epsilon, \\ b(t, x) &\leq b_\epsilon^\infty(t) := b^\infty(t) + \epsilon, & b(t, x) &\geq b_\infty^\epsilon(t) := b_\infty(t) - \epsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Firstly, we prove that the unique solution of (0.3) satisfies

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} w(t, x) \leq \bar{v}(t), \quad \liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} w(t, x) \geq \underline{v}(t) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T], \quad (0.9)$$

where  $\bar{v}(t)$ ,  $\underline{v}(t)$  are respectively the unique positive  $T$ -periodic solutions of

$$\frac{d\bar{v}(t)}{dt} = a^\infty(t)\bar{v} - b_\infty(t)\bar{v}^2 \text{ in } [0, T], \quad \bar{v}(0) = \bar{v}(T),$$

and

$$\frac{d\underline{v}(t)}{dt} = a_\infty(t)\underline{v} - b^\infty(t)\underline{v}^2 \text{ in } [0, T], \quad \underline{v}(0) = \underline{v}(T).$$

For large  $R > R_*$ , according to [9, Theorem B], the following problem

$$\begin{cases} v_t = d \int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x-y)v(t, y)dy - dv + a(t, x)v - b(t, x)v^2, & t \in [0, T], x \in [-R, R], \\ v(0, x) = v(T, x), & x \in [-R, R] \end{cases}$$

admits a unique  $T$ -periodic solution  $v_R(t, x)$ . Then by [8, Theorem E, Proposition 3.1], we can deduce that the following problem

$$\begin{cases} z_t = d \int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x-y)z(t, y)dy - dz + a_\epsilon^\infty(t)z - b_\infty^\epsilon(t)z^2, & t \in (0, T), x \in (R_*, R), \\ z(t, R_*) = v_R(t, R_*), z(t, R) = 0, & t \in [0, T], \\ z(0, x) = z(T, x), & x \in [R_*, R] \end{cases}$$

admits a unique  $T$ -periodic solution  $z_R^\epsilon(t, x)$  and

$$v_R(t, x) \leq z_R^\epsilon(t, x) \leq \frac{C_2}{C_1} \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T], x \in [R^*, R].$$

Moreover, using [11, Theorem 3.8], we have  $v_R(t, x) \rightarrow w(t, x)$  and  $z_R^\epsilon(t, x) \rightarrow \hat{z}^\epsilon(t, x)$  locally uniformly in  $[0, T]$  as  $R \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\hat{z}^\epsilon(t, x)$  is the unique  $T$ -periodic solution of

$$\begin{cases} z_t = d \int_{\mathbb{R}} J(x-y)z(t, y)dy - dz + a_\epsilon^\infty(t)z - b_\infty^\epsilon(t)z^2, & t \in (0, T), x \in (R_*, \infty), \\ z(t, R_*) = w(t, R_*), & t \in [0, T], \\ z(0, x) = z(T, x), & x \in [R_*, \infty). \end{cases}$$

And by [9, Theorem C],  $\hat{z}^\epsilon(t, x) \rightarrow \bar{v}_\epsilon(t)$  uniformly in  $[0, T]$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $\bar{v}_\epsilon(t)$  is the unique  $T$ -periodic solution of

$$\frac{d\bar{v}_\epsilon(t)}{dt} = a_\epsilon^\infty(t)\bar{v}_\epsilon - b_\infty^\epsilon(t)\bar{v}_\epsilon^2 \text{ in } [0, T], \quad \bar{v}_\epsilon(0) = \bar{v}_\epsilon(T).$$

Then we have

$$\limsup_{x \rightarrow \infty} w(t, x) \leq \bar{v}_\epsilon(t) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T].$$

Letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the first inequality in (0.9) is proved. Similarly, we have

$$\liminf_{x \rightarrow \infty} w(t, x) \geq \underline{v}_\epsilon(t) \quad \text{for } t \in [0, T],$$

where  $v_\epsilon(t)$  is the unique  $T$ -periodic solution of

$$\frac{dv(t)}{dt} = a_\epsilon^\infty(t)v - b_\epsilon^\infty(t)v^2 \text{ in } [0, T], \quad v(0) = v(T).$$

Letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , the second inequality in (0.9) is also proved.

According to (0.9), there exists  $R^* > R_* > 1$  such that  $\underline{v}_{\frac{\epsilon}{2}}(t) \leq w(t, x) \leq \bar{v}_{\frac{\epsilon}{2}}(t)$  for  $t \in [0, T]$ ,  $x \in [R^*, +\infty)$ . Since  $\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} u(t + nT, x) = w(t, x)$ , combined the fact that  $-g_\infty = h_\infty = +\infty$ , there exists a large  $N > 0$ , such that

$$g(NT) < -3R^*, \quad h(NT) > 3R^* \text{ and } u(t + NT, 2R^*) < \bar{v}_\epsilon(t), \quad \forall t \geq 0.$$

Setting  $\tilde{u}(t, x) = u(t + NT, x + 2R^*)$ ,  $\tilde{h}(t) = h(t + NT) - 2R^*$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{u}_t = d \int_{\tilde{g}(t)}^{\tilde{h}(t)} J(x-y)\tilde{u}(t, y)dy - d\tilde{u}(t, x) \\ \quad + a(t, x + 2R^*)\tilde{u} - b(t, x + 2R^*)\tilde{u}^2, & t > 0, \tilde{g}(t) < x < \tilde{h}(t), \\ \tilde{h}'(t) = \mu \int_{\tilde{g}(t)}^{\tilde{h}(t)} \int_{\tilde{h}(t)}^{+\infty} J(x-y)\tilde{u}(t, x)dydx, & t > 0, \\ \tilde{g}'(t) = -\mu \int_{\tilde{g}(t)}^{\tilde{h}(t)} \int_{-\infty}^{\tilde{g}(t)} J(x-y)\tilde{u}(t, x)dydx, & t > 0, \\ \tilde{u}(0, x) = u(NT, x + 2R^*), & -\tilde{h}_0 \leq x \leq \tilde{h}_0, \\ \tilde{u}(t, x) = 0, & t \geq 0, x \leq \tilde{g}(t) \text{ or } x \geq \tilde{h}(t). \end{cases}$$

Let  $U(t)$  be the unique solution of the problem:

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = a_\epsilon^\infty(t)U - b_\epsilon^\infty(t)U^2 \text{ for } t > 0, \quad \|U(0)\| = \max\{\bar{v}_\epsilon, \|\tilde{u}(t, \cdot)\|_\infty\}.$$

Then  $U(t) \geq \bar{v}_\epsilon$  for  $t > 0$  and  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} U(t + nT) = \bar{v}_\epsilon(t)$ . Since  $a(t, x + 2R^*) \leq a_\epsilon^\infty(t)$ ,  $b(t, x + 2R^*) \geq b_\epsilon^\infty(t)$  for  $x > 0$  by the choice of  $R^*$ , we can use comparison principle to deduce that  $\tilde{u}(t, x) \leq U(t)$  for  $t > 0$ ,  $\tilde{g}(t) < x < \tilde{h}(t)$ . Hence, there exists  $\tilde{N} > N$  such that

$$\tilde{u}(t, x) \leq (1 + \epsilon/2)\bar{v}(t), \quad \forall t \geq \tilde{N}T, \quad \tilde{g}(t) < x < \tilde{h}(t).$$

Let  $\phi^{k^\epsilon}$  denote the unique solution in Lemma 0.1 with  $p(t) = a_\epsilon^\infty(t)$ ,  $q(t) = b_\epsilon^\infty(t)$  and  $k^\epsilon(t) := k_0(\mu, a_\epsilon^\infty, b_\epsilon^\infty)(t)$ . Recall that  $\phi^{k^\epsilon}(t, -\infty) = \bar{v}_\epsilon(t)$ , then there exists  $R_0^* > 2R^*$  such that

$$\phi^{k^\epsilon}(t, x) \geq (1 + \epsilon/2)^{-1}\bar{v}(t), \quad t \in [0, T], \quad x \in (-\infty, R_0^*].$$

Define

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{h}(t) &= (1 + 2\epsilon) \int_0^t k^\epsilon(s)ds + R_0^* + \tilde{h}(\tilde{N}T), \\ \bar{u}(t, x) &= (1 + \epsilon)\phi^{k^\epsilon}(t, x - \bar{h}(t)). \end{aligned}$$

By direct calculation (see [2, 6]), we have

$$\tilde{h}(t + \tilde{N}T) < \bar{h}(t) \text{ and } \tilde{u}(t + \tilde{N}T, x) < \bar{u}(t, x) \text{ for } t > 0, \quad x \in [\tilde{g}(t + \tilde{N}T), \tilde{h}(t + \tilde{N}T)],$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned}\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} &= \limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\tilde{h}(t - NT) + 2R^*}{t} \\ &\leq \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\bar{h}(t - NT - \tilde{N}T) + 2R^*}{t} \\ &= (1 + 2\epsilon) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k^\epsilon(t) dt.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,  $k^\epsilon(t) \rightarrow k_0(\mu, a^\infty, b_\infty)(t)$ , (0.7) holds.

Finally, let  $v(t, x)$  be the unique  $T$ -periodic solution of the following problem:

$$\begin{cases} v_t = d \int_{\tilde{g}(t)}^{\tilde{h}(t)} J(x - y)v(t, y)dy - dv(t, x) \\ \quad + a_\infty^\epsilon(t)v - b_\infty^\epsilon(t)v^2, & t > 0, \tilde{g}(t) < x < \tilde{h}(t), \\ v(t, 0) = \tilde{u}(t, 0), \quad v(t, \tilde{g}(t)) = v(t, \tilde{h}(t)) = 0, & t > 0, \\ v(0, x) = \tilde{u}(0, x), & -\tilde{h}_0 \leq x \leq \tilde{h}_0. \end{cases}$$

Since  $\tilde{u}(t + nT, 0) \rightarrow w(t, 2R^*) > \underline{v}_{\epsilon/2}(t)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} v(t + nT, x) \geq \underline{v}_\epsilon(t)$  locally uniformly for  $t \in [0, T]$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Because  $a(t, x + 2R^*) \geq a_\infty^\epsilon(t)$ ,  $b(t, x + 2R^*) \leq b_\infty^\epsilon(t)$  for  $x > 0$ , we can use comparison principle to deduce that  $\tilde{u}(t, x) \leq v(t, x)$  for  $t > 0$ ,  $-\tilde{h}(t) < x < \tilde{h}(t)$ . Hence

$$\liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{u}(t + nT, x) \geq \underline{v}_\epsilon(t), \quad \forall t \in [0, T], \quad \tilde{g}(t) < x < \tilde{h}(t).$$

Let  $\phi^{k_\epsilon}$  denote the unique solution in Lemma 0.1 with  $p(t) = a_\infty^\epsilon(t)$ ,  $q(t) = b_\infty^\epsilon(t)$  and  $k_\epsilon(t) := k_0(\mu, a_\infty^\epsilon, b_\infty^\epsilon)(t)$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned}\underline{h}(t) &= (1 - 2\epsilon) \int_0^t k_\epsilon(s)ds + \tilde{h}(0) + 2R^*, \\ \underline{u}(t, x) &= (1 - \epsilon)[\phi^{k_\epsilon}(t, x - \underline{h}(t)) + \phi^{k_\epsilon}(t, -x - \underline{h}(t)) - \underline{v}_\epsilon(t)].\end{aligned}$$

By direct calculation (see [2, 6]), we can prove  $(\underline{u}, -\underline{h}, \underline{h})$  is a lower solution of the problem (0.1), which implies

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} \geq (1 - 2\epsilon) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_\epsilon(t) dt.$$

Therefore, letting  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ,  $k_\epsilon(t) \rightarrow k_0(\mu, a_\infty, b_\infty)(t)$ , (0.8) holds. Proof completed.  $\square$

Now we are ready to prove the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 0.1.** *Suppose that*

$$\lim_{|x| \rightarrow +\infty} a(t, x) = a^*(t), \quad \lim_{|x| \rightarrow +\infty} b(t, x) = b^*(t)$$

*uniformly in  $[0, T]$ . Then when spreading happens to the solution  $(u, g, h)$  of problem (0.1), we have*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} = - \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{g(t)}{t} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(t) dt,$$

*where  $k_0(t) = k_0(\mu, a^*, b^*)(t)$  is given in (0.5) with  $p(t) = a^*(t)$ ,  $q(t) = b^*(t)$ .*

**Proof.** Since  $-g_\infty = h_\infty = +\infty$  and

$$a(t, x) \rightarrow a^*(t), \quad b(t, x) \rightarrow b^*(t)$$

uniformly in  $[0, T]$  as  $|x| \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\liminf_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} \geq \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a^*(t), b^*(t))(t) dt$$

and

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} \leq \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a^*(t), b^*(t))(t) dt,$$

i.e.

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{h(t)}{t} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a^*(t), b^*(t))(t) dt.$$

It remains to show that

$$-\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{g(t)}{t} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a^*(t), b^*(t))(t) dt.$$

Let  $\tilde{u}(t, x) := u(t, -x)$ ,  $\tilde{h}(t) := -g(t)$ ,  $\tilde{g}(t) := -h(t)$ . Then  $(\tilde{u}, \tilde{g}, \tilde{h})$  satisfies (0.1) with initial value function  $\tilde{u}_0(x) := u_0(-x)$  and spreading happens. Hence we can conclude that

$$-\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{g(t)}{t} = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\tilde{h}(t)}{t} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T k_0(\mu, a^*(t), b^*(t))(t) dt.$$

Proof completed. □

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