

On a Moving Boundary Problem in the Case of Anomalous Diffusion

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Some problems in solid and fluid mechanics, heat conduction, molecular diffusion are typical moving boundary problems (free boundary problems). In a free boundary problem one or more of the domain boundaries is an unknown function of time.

One of an important application of the free boundary problem is to describe the diffusional release of a solute from a polymeric matrix in which the initial drug loading is greater than the solubility limit which is a problem of interest in controlled release drug delivery. Liu and Xu [2] were the first who introduced the time-fractional diffusion equation to the drug release process in the case of 1-dimensional space. As was shown [2], [3], the mathematical model of this process is the fractional Stefan problem (free boundary problem for subdiffusion equation). This problem was studied in [1], [3], [2] and some exact solutions were constructed.

In the case of slow diffusion, the fractional Stefan problem tends to the fractional Hele-Shaw problem (see [4]) which has been studied numerically by Voller [4] only in the one dimensional case.

We prove the classical solvability locally in time of the fractional Hele-Shaw problem for enough smooth initial data in the case of the 2-dimensional fluid domain.

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