## **Daniel Wachsmuth**

The regularity of the positive part of functions in  $L^2(I; H^1(\Omega)) \cap H^1(I; H^1(\Omega)^*)$  with applications to parabolic equations

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**Abstract:** Let  $u \in L^2(I; H^1(\Omega))$  with  $\partial_t u \in L^2(I; H^1(\Omega)^*)$  be given. Then we show by means of a counter-example that the positive part  $u^+$  of u has less regularity, in particular it holds  $\partial_t u^+ \notin L^1(I; H^1(\Omega)^*)$  in general. Nevertheless,  $u^+$  satisfies an integration-by-parts formula, which can be used to prove non-negativity of weak solutions of parabolic equations.

 ${\bf Keywords:}$  Bochner integrable function; projection onto non-negative functions; parabolic equation

AMS Subject Classification: 46E35, 35K10

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