

# (Non-uniform) Stability of Coupled PDEs: A Systems Theory Approach

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# Main Objectives

## Problem

Consider different types of ***coupled PDE systems*** from the point of view of ***control theory***.

Focus on **non-uniform stability**, but exponential stability included.

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Consider different types of ***coupled PDE systems*** from the point of view of ***control theory***.

Focus on **non-uniform stability**, but exponential stability included.

## Motivation:

- Coupling of stable and unstable PDEs and ODEs often leads to rational decay of energy, i.e., polynomial stability.

## Main results:

- Discussion and a (hopefully new) viewpoint.
- New stability results for coupled PDEs.
- Disclaimer: Will not solve all your problems!

# Outline

- (1) “Passive feedback structures” in coupled PDE systems
  - Highlight parallels in coupled PDEs and linear systems
- (2) Conversion from coupled PDEs to coupled systems
  - Examples on “how to set it up”.
- (3) What do we get?
  - General conditions for polynomial and nonuniform stability of coupled PDEs and systems.

Coupled PDE-PDE and PDE-ODE systems appear in models of

- Fluid-structure interactions
- Thermo-elasticity
- Mechanical systems, e.g., beams with tip masses
- Magnetohydrodynamics
- Acoustics

Especially:

- Networks of 1D PDEs of mixed types (wave/heat/beam/transport) with coupling BCs at vertices.

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Couplings may either be

- Through the **boundary** (Fluid-structure, acoustics), or
- **inside a shared domain** (Thermo-elasticity, MHD)

We will focus on couplings that are **passive** (details later).

## Example: Coupled Wave–Heat Systems

Models for fluid–structure and heat–structure interactions:

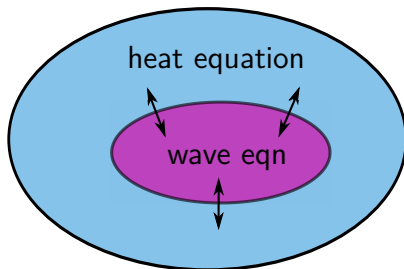
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2}(x, t) = \Delta u(x, t)$$



coupling BCs

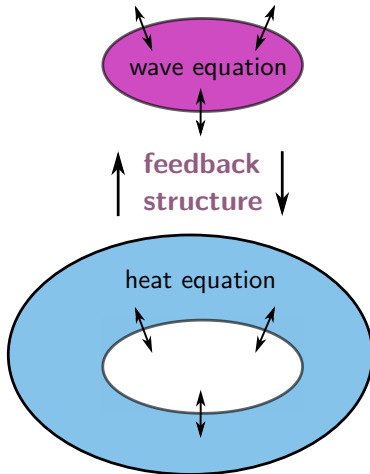


$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t}(x, t) = \Delta w(x, t)$$



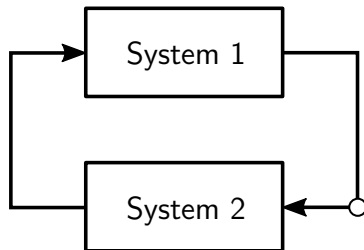
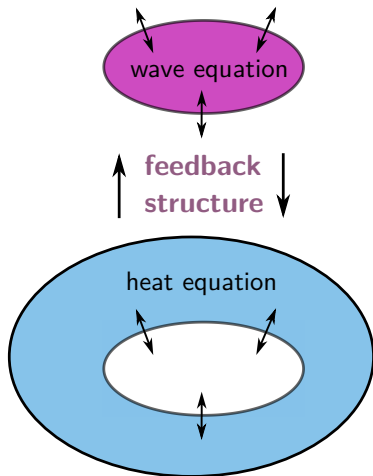
References: Avalos & Triggiani, Duyckaerts, Mercier, Nicaise, Ammari, Zuazua, Guo, Ng & Seifert, and many others.

# Coupled Wave–Heat Systems

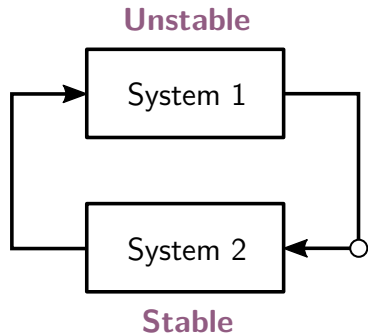
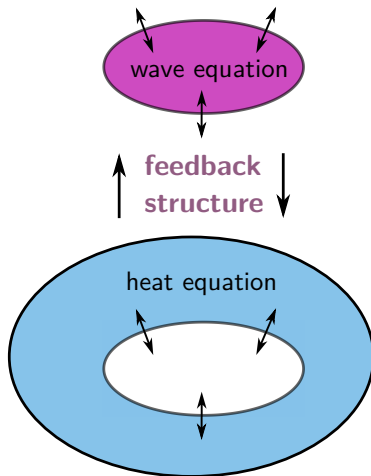




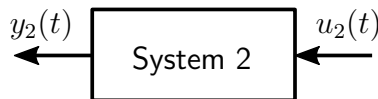
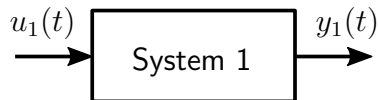
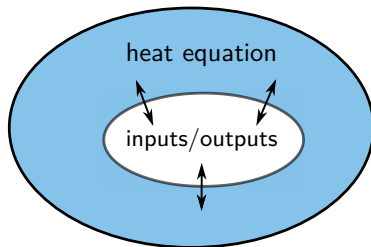
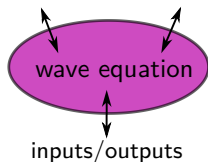
# Coupled Wave–Heat Systems



# Coupled Wave–Heat Systems

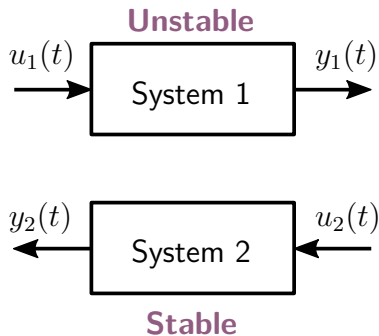


# Inputs and Outputs

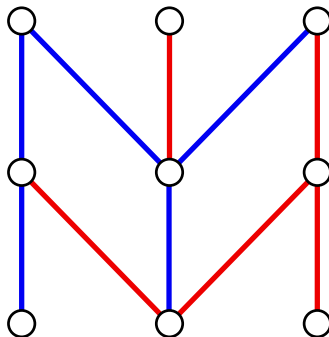


## Problem

*Use the properties of the two systems to deduce stability of the coupled PDE.*

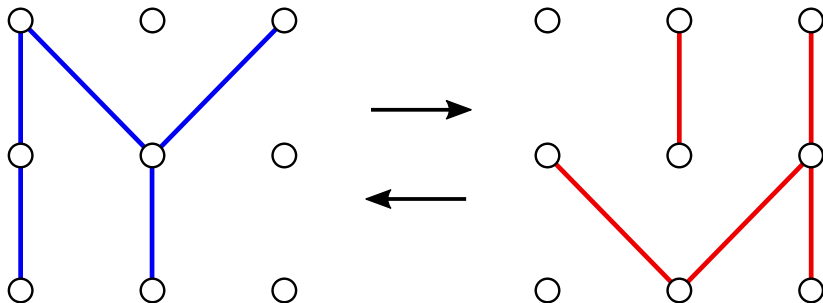


# Analysis of Networks of PDEs of mixed types



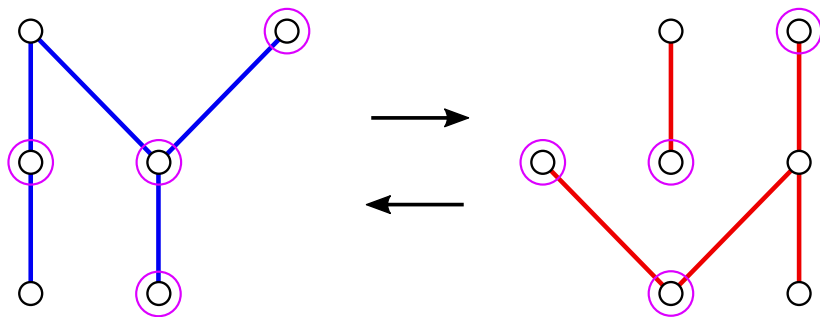
Types of PDEs: “UNSTABLE” and “STABLE”

# Analysis of Networks of PDEs of mixed types



“UNSTABLE” system vs. “STABLE” system

# Analysis of Networks of PDEs of mixed types



Inputs and outputs defined at the previously shared vertices.

# Linear Control Systems

Consider the **linear control system**:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t), & x(0) &= x_0 \in X \\ y(t) &= Cx(t) + Du(t)\end{aligned}$$

where  $X$  is Hilbert,  $A$  generates a semigroup, and  $B$  and  $C$  are either bounded or unbounded.



## “Passive” Systems

To keep things simple, we only focus on systems

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}(t) &= Ax(t) + Bu(t), & x(0) &= x_0 \in X \\ y(t) &= B^*x(t)\end{aligned}$$

where  $X$  is Hilbert,  $A$  generates a **contraction semigroup**, and  $B \in \mathcal{L}(U, V^*)$  for some suitable spaces  $U$  and  $V^* \supseteq X$ .

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Such systems are “**impedance passive**”, which in particular means they have “**no internal sources of energy**”,

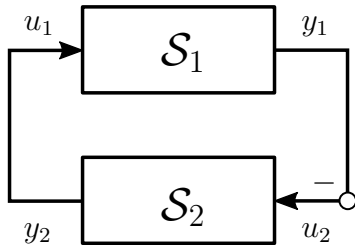
$$\frac{d}{dt} \|x(t)\|^2 \leq 2 \operatorname{Re} \langle u(t), y(t) \rangle_Y$$

Examples:

- Many mechanical systems, RLC circuits, ...

# Feedback Theory of Passive Systems

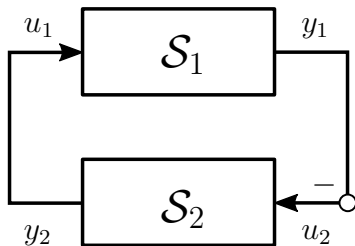
**Property:** “Power-preserving interconnection” preserves passivity!



$\Rightarrow$  Closed-loop semigroup contractive on Hilbert  $X_1 \times X_2$ .

# Feedback Theory of Passive Systems

**Property:** “Power-preserving interconnection” preserves passivity!



$\Rightarrow$  Closed-loop semigroup contractive on Hilbert  $X_1 \times X_2$ .

Some results exist on exponential stability, here we focus on **non-uniform stability**  $\rightarrow$  decay rates for total energy.

## Coupled Passive Systems

If for  $k = 1, 2$  we let

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{x}_k(t) &= A_k x_k(t) + B_k u_k(t), & x_k(0) &\in X_k \\ y_k(t) &= B_k^* x_k(t),\end{aligned}$$

then the “**power-preserving interconnection**” leads to

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}}_{=: A} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

### Question

*How to choose  $U$ ,  $B_1$ , and  $B_2$ ?*

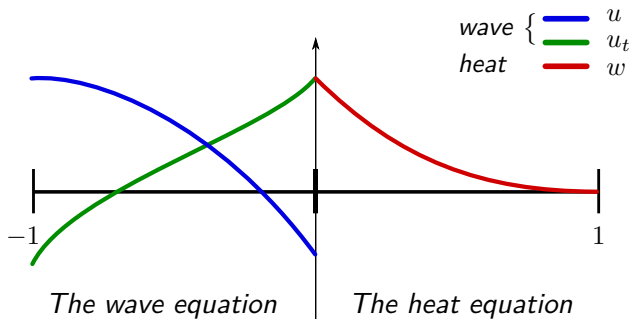
## Example: 1D Wave–Heat Model

$$\begin{cases} v_{tt}(\xi, t) = v_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t), & \xi \in (-1, 0), \ t > 0, \\ w_t(\xi, t) = w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t), & \xi \in (0, 1), \ t > 0, \\ v_\xi(0, t) = w_\xi(0, t), \quad v_t(0, t) = w(0, t), & t > 0, \end{cases}$$

- [Xu Zhang & Zuazua, Batty, Paunonen & Seifert, (2D version: Avalos, Triggiani & Lasiecka)]
- Known: Non-uniform stability with  $\alpha = 1/2$ .

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## Example: 1D Wave-Heat — Open-Loop Splitting

Wave system on  $(-1, 0)$ :

$$v_{tt}(\xi, t) = v_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t)$$

$$y_1(t) = v_\xi(0, t)$$

$$u_1(t) = v_t(0, t)$$

**Unstable**

Heat system on  $(0, 1)$ :

$$w_t(\xi, t) = w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t)$$

$$y_2(t) = w(0, t)$$

$$u_2(t) = -w_\xi(0, t)$$

**Stable**

The systems **are** impedance passive. We have  $U = \mathbb{C}$  and  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  are unbounded.



# Polynomial and Non-Uniform Stability

## Theorem (Borichev & Tomilov '10)

*Let  $T(t)$  be a uniformly bounded  $C_0$ -semigroup on a Hilbert space  $X$ . Let  $A$  be the generator of  $T(t)$  and  $\sigma(A) \cap i\mathbb{R} = \emptyset$ .*

*For any constant  $\alpha > 0$ , the following are equivalent:*

$$\|T(t)x_0\| \leq \frac{M}{t^{1/\alpha}} \|Ax_0\| \quad \text{for some } M > 0$$

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \leq M_R(1 + |s|^\alpha), \quad \text{for some } M_R > 0$$

**General:** Batty & Duyckaerts '08, Rozendaal, Seifert & Stahn '17.

Application:  $E(t) \sim \|T(t)x_0\|^2$  for many PDE systems.

## Polynomial and Non-Uniform Stability

Since our coupled systems are contractive by default,

*“Non-uniform stability **only** requires a resolvent estimate”*

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Limit case: Bounded resolvent

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \leq M_R, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$$

implies **exponential stability**, i.e.,  $\exists M, \omega > 0$  such that

$$\|T(t)x_0\| \leq Me^{-\omega t}\|x_0\|, \quad x_0 \in X.$$

## Problem

*Derive a resolvent estimate for*

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

*in terms of the properties of*

- $(A_1, B_1, B_1^*)$  [**Unstable**]
- $(A_2, B_2, B_2^*)$  [**Stable**]

## Problem

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$$A := \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $(A_1, B_1, B_1^*)$  [**Unstable**] and  $(A_2, B_2, B_2^*)$  [**Stable**]

Summary of results:

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim M_1(|s|)M_2(|s|)$$

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$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim M_1(|s|)M_2(|s|)$$

- $M_1(\cdot)$  increasing when  $(B_1^*, A_1)$  is not “exactly observable”  
(limit case  $M_1(\cdot) \equiv \text{const.}$  if exactly observable)

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$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim M_1(|s|)M_2(|s|)$$

- $M_1(\cdot)$  increasing when  $(B_1^*, A_1)$  is not “exactly observable” (limit case  $M_1(\cdot) \equiv \text{const.}$  if exactly observable)
- When  $P_2(is) = B_2^*(is - A_2)^{-1}B_2$  is the “transfer function”,

$$M_2(s) \sim \|[\operatorname{Re} P_2(is)]^{-1}\| \quad \left( M_2(s) \sim \frac{1}{\operatorname{Re} P_2(is)} \right)$$

## Important Special Case

Consider  $T(t)$  generated by

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

### Proposition

- Assume  $(B_1^*, A_1)$  is exactly observable
- Assume there exists  $\alpha \geq 0$  such that

$$\operatorname{Re} P_2(is) \gtrsim \frac{1}{1 + |s|^\alpha}$$

Then  $T(t)$  is polynomially stable,  $\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim 1 + |s|^\alpha$ ,

$$\|T(t)x_0\| \leq \frac{M}{t^{1/\alpha}} \|Ax_0\|, \quad x_0 \in \mathcal{D}(A).$$



# The Observability Condition on $(B_1^*, A_1)$

## Proposition

- Assume  $(B_1^*, A_1)$  is exactly observable

Technical definition:  $\exists \tau, \kappa > 0$  such that

$$\int_0^\tau \|B_1^* T_1(t)x\|^2 dt \geq \kappa \|x\|^2, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}(A).$$

**Skew-adjointness of  $A_1$ :** Equivalent to

$A_1 - B_1 B_1^*$  generates an exponentially stable semigroup

and the system  $(A_1, B_1, B_1^*)$  is “*stabilized exponentially by negative output feedback  $u(t) = -y(t)$* ”.

## Comments:

- Theorem requires some admissibility and well-posedness assumptions (swept under the carpet here). Limits 2D- $n$ D BC.
- The more general version details the effect of the lack of exact observability of  $(B_1^*, A_1)$ .

## Optimality

- Obtained rate is not always optimal, especially if
  - $A_1$  has no spectral gap (2D,  $n$ D waves)
- A nice way of getting (possibly) suboptimal rates easily.

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## References:

- Paunonen (SIAM J. Control Optim. 2019)

## Example: 1D Wave-Heat

Wave system on  $(-1, 0)$ :

$$\rho(\xi)v_{tt}(\xi, t) = (T(\xi)v_\xi)_\xi(\xi, t)$$

$$u_1(t) = v_t(0, t)$$

$$y_1(t) = T(0)v_\xi(0, t)$$

Heat system on  $(0, 1)$ :

$$w_t(\xi, t) = w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t)$$

$$y_2(t) = w(0, t)$$

$$u_2(t) = -w_\xi(0, t)$$

- $A_1$  skew-adjoint,  $(B_1^*, A_1)$  exactly observable.
- $P_2(is) = B_2^*(is - A_2)^{-1}B_2$  satisfies  $\operatorname{Re} P_2(is) \sim |s|^{-1/2}$ .

Thus the closed-loop system is polynomially stable,

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim 1 + |s|^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \|T(t)x_0\| \leq \frac{M}{t^2} \|Ax_0\|.$$

Generalises results of [Zhang-Zuazua, Batty-Paunonen-Seifert].

## Example: Wave equation with an Acoustic BC

Consider a wave equation with a dynamic BC at  $\xi = 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\xi)v_{tt}(\xi, t) &= (T(\xi)v_{\xi}(\xi, t))_{\xi}, & 0 < \xi < 1, \\ m\delta_{tt}(t) &= -d\delta_t(t) - k\delta(t) - \beta v_t(1, t) \\ v_{\xi}(1, t) &= \delta_t(t), & v_t(0, t) = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Studied by Beale, and Muños Rivera & Qin.

## Example: Wave equation with an Acoustic BC

Wave system on  $(0, 1)$ :

$$\rho(\xi)v_{tt}(\xi, t) = (T(\xi)v_\xi)_\xi(\xi, t)$$

$$y_1(t) = T(1)v_\xi(1, t)$$

$$u_1(t) = v_t(1, t)$$

The ODE part

$$m\ddot{\delta}(t) + k\delta(t) + d\dot{\delta}(t) = \beta u_c(t)$$

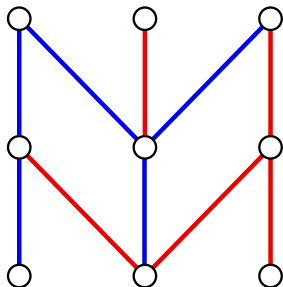
$$y_c(t) = T(1)\dot{\delta}(t).$$

- $A_1$  skew-adjoint,  $(B_1^*, A_1)$  exactly observable.
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Thus the closed-loop system is polynomially stable,

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim 1 + s^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \|T(t)x_0\| \leq \frac{M}{\sqrt{t}} \|Ax_0\|.$$

# Networks of PDEs of mixed types



## TODO:

Results should be applicable for wave and heat equations on networks.

# Conclusions

In this presentation:

- Discussion of coupled PDE and PDE-ODE systems from the viewpoint of systems theory
- General conditions for non-uniform and polynomial stability of coupled systems.



LP, “Stability and Robust Regulation of Passive Linear Systems” SIAM J. Control Optim. 2019,  
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1706.03224>



LP, “On polynomial stability of coupled partial differential equations in 1D” Proceedings of SOTA 2018  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1911.06715>