

Polynomial Stability of Coupled PDEs

Lassi Paunonen

Tampere University, Finland

Joint work with Charles Batty, David Seifert and Filippo Dell'Oro

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Main Objectives

Problem

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

Focus on **polynomial/non-uniform stability**, where

$$\|T(t)x\| \sim \frac{1}{t^\beta}, \quad x \in \mathcal{D}(A), \quad t \geq t_0.$$

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Motivation:

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

Main results:

- New stability results for coupled PDEs.
- Disclaimer: Won't solve all problems (just the important ones)

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

Couplings may either be

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

Outline

(1) “Feedback structures” in coupled PDE systems

- Motivating examples

(2) Basic properties and conversion

- Examples on how to identify feedback structures

(3) Benefits

- General tools for proving non-uniform stability of coupled PDEs.

Part I

Motivating examples

Example class: Coupled Wave–Heat Systems

Models for fluid–structure and heat–structure interactions:

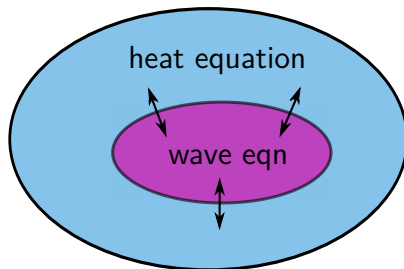
$$\frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial t^2}(x, t) = \Delta v(x, t)$$



coupling BCs



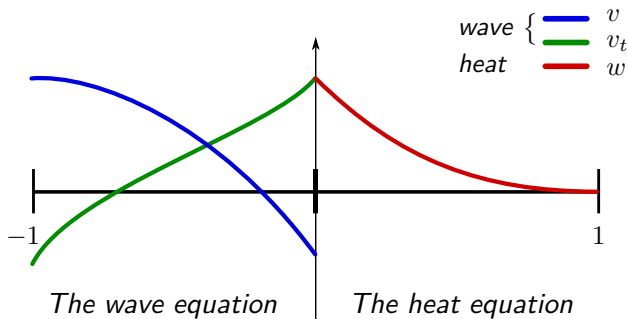
$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial t}(x, t) = \Delta w(x, t)$$



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

1D Wave-Heat Model

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



1D Wave–Heat Model

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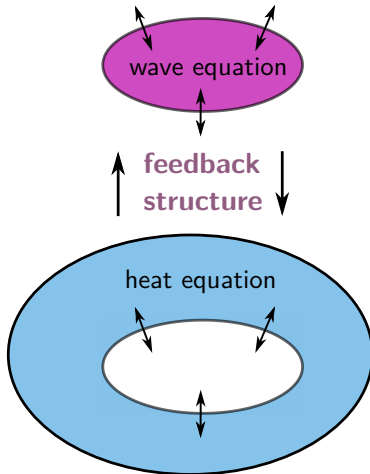
Total energy:

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^0 |u_\xi(\xi, t)|^2 + |u_t(\xi, t)|^2 d\xi + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 |w(\xi, t)|^2 d\xi$$

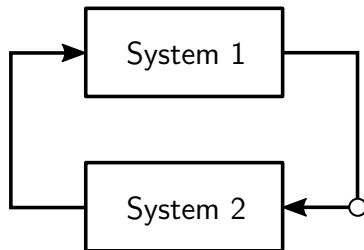
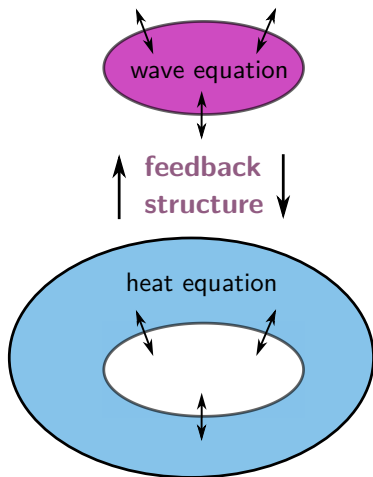
Theorem (Zhang–Zuazua '04, Batty–P–Seifert '16)

Total energy $E(t)$ of every classical solution decays at the rate t^{-4} .

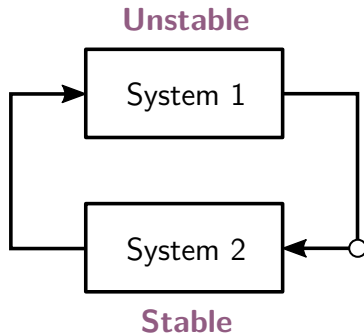
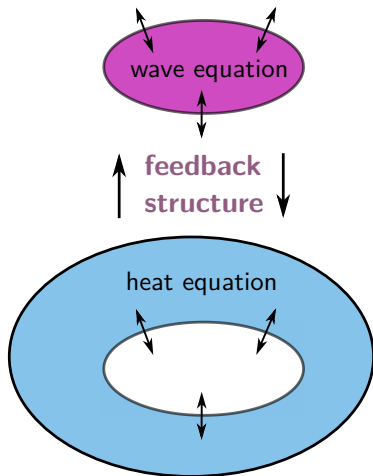
Coupled Wave–Heat Systems



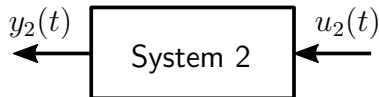
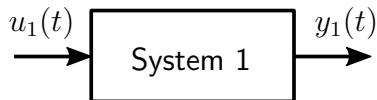
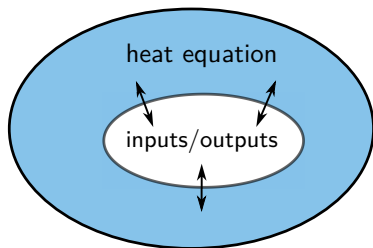
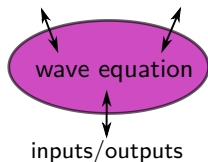
Coupled Wave–Heat Systems



Coupled Wave–Heat Systems

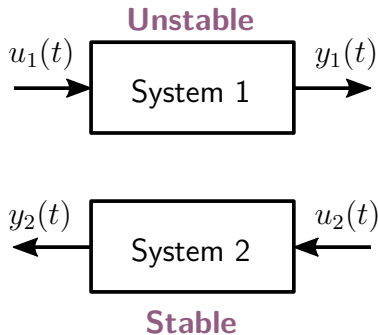


Inputs and Outputs



Problem

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



Benefits:

- “Divide and conquer”
- Reduce to well-known parts
- Modularity

“Impedance Passive” Systems

We focus on systems of the form

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

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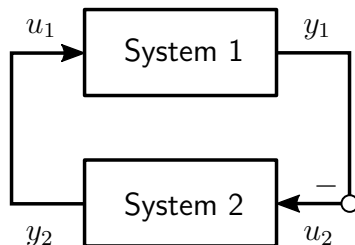
Such systems are “**impedance passive**”, which in particular means they have “**no internal sources of energy**”,

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

- This class contains models with “collocated” input and output
- Examples: Many mechanical systems, RLC circuits, ...

Feedback Theory of Passive Systems

Property: “Power-preserving interconnection” preserves passivity!



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

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

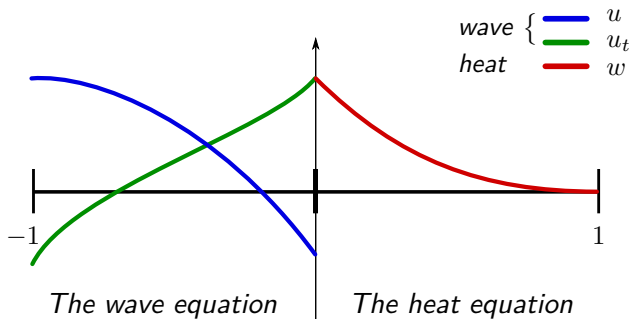
$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}}_{=: A} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

Question

How to choose U , B_1 , and B_2 ?

Example: 1D Wave–Heat Model

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



The Feedback Structure Based on the Coupling

Coupling BCs:

$$\begin{cases} v_t(0, t) = w(0, t) \\ v_\xi(0, t) = w_\xi(0, t) \end{cases}$$

vs.

Power-preserving Feedback:

$$\begin{cases} u_1(t) = y_2(t) \\ u_2(t) = -y_1(t) \end{cases}$$

The Feedback Structure Based on the Coupling

Coupling BCs:

$$\begin{cases} \alpha v_t(0, t) = \alpha w(0, t) \\ \beta v_\xi(0, t) = \beta w_\xi(0, t) \end{cases}$$

 $\longleftrightarrow$
 $\longleftrightarrow$

Power-preserving Feedback:

$$u_1(t) = y_2(t)$$

$$u_2(t) = -y_1(t)$$

or

$$\begin{cases} \alpha v_t(0, t) = \alpha w(0, t) \\ \beta v_\xi(0, t) = \beta w_\xi(0, t) \end{cases}$$

 $\nwarrow \nearrow$
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The Feedback Structure Based on the Coupling

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Power-preserving Feedback:

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$$u_1(t) = y_2(t)$$

$$u_2(t) = -y_1(t)$$

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

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

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

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

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

Unstable

Heat system on $(0, 1)$:

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

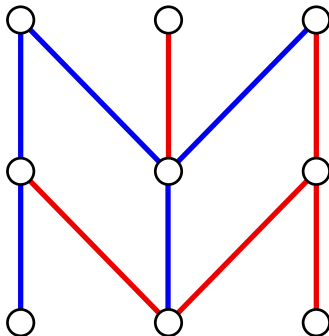
$$u_2(t) = -w_\xi(0, t)$$

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

Stable

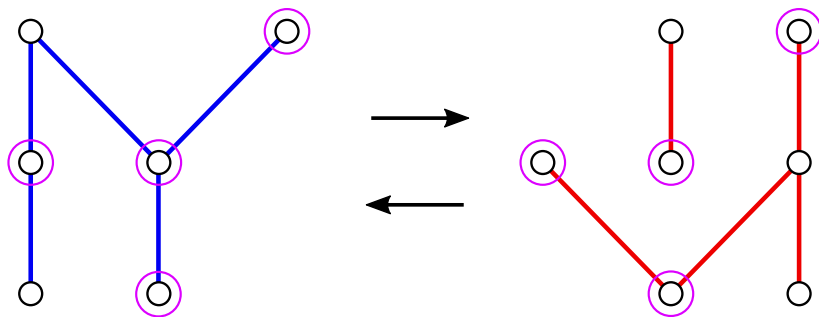
The systems **are** impedance passive. We have $U = \mathbb{C}$ and B_1 and B_2 are unbounded.

Networks of Wave and Heat Equations



Wave equations and heat equations

Networks of Wave and Heat Equations



Power-preserving interconnection $\longleftrightarrow$ Kirchhoff-type couplings

Part II

Stability Analysis

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,

*“Polynomial stability **only** requires a resolvent estimate”*

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

Problem

Derive a resolvent estimate of the form $\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \leq M(s)$ 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^*) [**Exp. Stable**]

Assumption

- A_1 is skew-adjoint and has compact resolvent.
- A_2 generates an exponentially stable semigroup.

Problem

Derive a resolvent estimate for

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

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

Overview of results:

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

Problem

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Overview of results:

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

- $M_1(\cdot)$ from “observability properties” of (B_1^*, A_1) (next slide)

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Overview of results:

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

- $M_1(\cdot)$ from “observability properties” of (B_1^*, A_1) (next slide)
- When $P_2(is) = B_2^*(is - A_2)^{-1}B_2$ is the “transfer function”,

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

Observability-Type Conditions on (B_1^*, A_1)

Goal

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

Assumed: $\sigma_p(A_1) = \{is_k\}$ has no finite accumulation points and

$$A_1 = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} is_k \langle \cdot, \phi_k \rangle \phi_k.$$

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

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$$A_1 = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} is_k \langle \cdot, \phi_k \rangle \phi_k.$$

Proposition (Simple version)

If $d_{gap} := \inf_{k \neq l} |s_k - s_l| > 0$ and if there exists $\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, 1)$ s.t.

$$\|B_1^* \phi_k\| \geq \gamma(s_k) \|\phi_k\|, \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{Z},$$

then $M_1(s) \lesssim \gamma(s)^{-2}$.

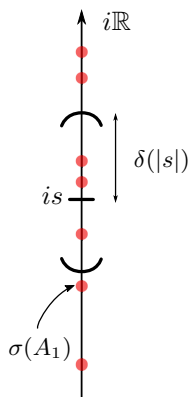
Classical: (B_1^*, A_1) is **exactly observable** iff $\sup_k \|B_1^* \phi_k\| > 0$.

Observability-Type Conditions on (B_1^*, A_1)

A_1 has spectral projections $P_{(a,b)}$ (for $i(a,b) \subset i\mathbb{R}$)

$$(*) \quad \|B_1^* x\| \geq \gamma(|s|)\|x\|, \quad x \in \mathcal{R}(P_{(s-\delta(|s|), s+\delta(|s|))}), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$$

for some non-increasing $\delta, \gamma: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow (0, 1)$.



Observability-Type Conditions on (B_1^*, A_1)

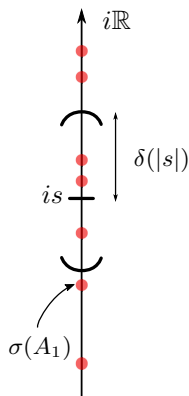
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$$(*) \quad \|B_1^* x\| \geq \gamma(|s|)\|x\|, \quad x \in \mathcal{R}(P_{(s-\delta(|s|), s+\delta(|s|))}), \quad s \in \mathbb{R}$$

for some non-increasing $\delta, \gamma: \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow (0, 1)$.

Proposition (Full version)

If $(*)$ holds, then $M_1(s) \lesssim \delta(s)^{-2} \gamma(s)^{-2}$.



Main Result

Consider $T(t)$ generated by A , where

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad P_2(\lambda) = B_2^*(\lambda - A_2)^{-1} B_2$$

Theorem (P. 2019)

Let $\delta, \gamma, \eta : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow (0, 1)$ be decreasing so that

$$\|B_1^* x\| \geq \gamma(|s|) \|x\|, \quad x \in \mathcal{R}(P_{(s-\delta(|s|), s+\delta(|s|))})$$

$$\operatorname{Re} P_2(is) \geq \eta(|s|) I \quad \text{for } s \approx s_k.$$

Then

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim \frac{1}{\delta(|s|)^2 \gamma(|s|)^2 \eta(|s|)}, \quad s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Important Special Case

Consider $T(t)$ generated by

$$A := \begin{bmatrix} A_1 & B_1 B_2^* \\ -B_2 B_1^* & A_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad P_2(\lambda) = B_2^*(\lambda - A_2)^{-1} B_2$$

Proposition

Assume

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

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

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

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

Comments:

- Philosophy in line with “Dissipativity Theory” of Willems:
Deducing closed-loop properties from properties of component systems.
- Theorem requires some admissibility and well-posedness assumptions (swept under the carpet here). Limits 2D- n D BC.

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.

Example: 1D Wave-Heat System

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 $(0, 1)$:

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

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

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

- 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,

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

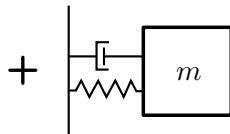
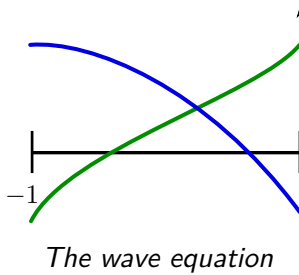
A mild generalisation of [Zhang–Zuazua, Batty–P–Seifert].

Example: Wave equation with an Acoustic BC

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

1D Wave with an Acoustic Boundary Condition

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



Mass-spring-damper

Example: Wave equation with an Acoustic BC

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

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

$$u_1(t) = T(0)v_{\xi}(0, t)$$

$$y_1(t) = v_t(0, t)$$

The ODE part

$$m\ddot{\delta}(t) + k\delta(t) + d\dot{\delta}(t) = \beta u_2(t)$$

$$y_2(t) = T(0)\dot{\delta}(t).$$

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

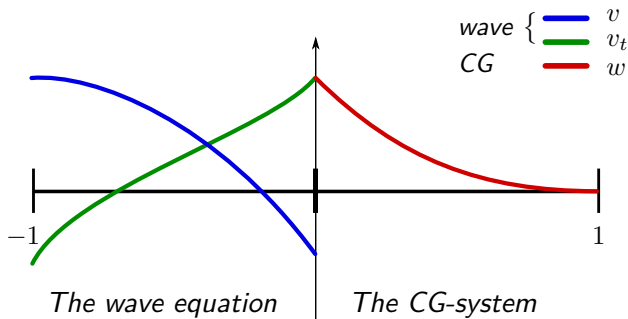
Thus the closed-loop system is polynomially stable,

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

Reproduces results of [Muños Rivera–Qin '03, Abbas–Nicaise '13]

Result: Wave-Coleman-Gurtin System

$$\begin{cases} v_{tt}(\xi, t) = v_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t), & -1 < \xi < 0, \\ w_t(\xi, t) = w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t) + \int_0^\infty g(s)w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t-s)ds, & 0 < \xi < 1, \\ v_\xi(0, t) = w_\xi(0, t) + \int_0^\infty g(s)w_\xi(0, t-s)ds, \quad v_t(0, t) = w(0, t) \end{cases}$$



Result: Wave-Coleman-Gurtin System

$$\begin{cases} v_{tt}(\xi, t) = v_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t), & -1 < \xi < 0, \\ w_t(\xi, t) = w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t) + \int_0^\infty g(s)w_{\xi\xi}(\xi, t-s)ds, & 0 < \xi < 1, \\ v_\xi(0, t) = w_\xi(0, t) + \int_0^\infty g(s)w_\xi(0, t-s)ds, \quad v_t(0, t) = w(0, t) \end{cases}$$

- Decomposition into two passive systems: Wave + CG
- Analyse CG-part using the Dafermos history space formulation

Theorem (Dell'Oro–P–Seifert '21)

Under a mild condition on the kernel g , we have $\operatorname{Re} P_2(is) \sim s^{-1/2}$ and the coupled system is polynomially stable

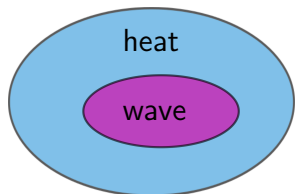
$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim 1 + |s|^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \|T(t)x_0\| \leq \frac{M}{t^2} \|Ax_0\|.$$

Coupled PDEs on 2-Dimensional Domains

Comments on 2D wave-heat systems:

- Studied in detail by Duyckaerts, Zhang–Zuazua, Avalos–Lasiecka–Triggiani.
- In the general results, the well-posedness conditions limit applicability to boundary coupled systems in 2D (and n D), but same principles hold.
- The “observability” in the wave equation is related to the Geometric Control Condition.

2D Wave–Heat Systems

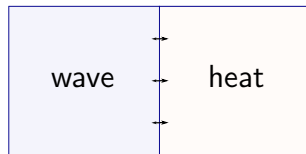


Optimal: $\alpha = 1$

Polynomial stability:

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

[Avalos–Lasiecka–Triggiani 2016, ...]



Optimal: $\alpha = 3$

$$\|(is - A)^{-1}\| \lesssim 1 + |s|^3$$

[Batty–P–Seifert 2019]

Conclusions

In this presentation:

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



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