

Boundary gradient exact enlarged controllability of semilinear parabolic problems

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to study the boundary enlarged gradient controllability problem governed by parabolic evolution equations. The purpose is to find and compute the control u which steers the gradient state from an initial gradient one ∇y_0 to a gradient vector supposed to be unknown between two defined bounds b_1 and b_2 , only on a subregion Γ of the boundary $\partial\Omega$ of the system evolution domain Ω . The obtained results have been proved via two approaches, The subdifferential and Lagrangian multiplier approach.

1 Introduction

The concept of controllability has been widely developed since the sixties [1,2]. Later, the notion of regional controllability was introduced by El Jai [3,4], and interesting results have been obtained, in particular, the possibility to control a state only on a subregion ω of Ω . These results have been extended to the case where ω is a part of the boundary $\partial\Omega$ of the evolution domain Ω [5,6]. Then the concept of regional gradient controllability and regional enlarged controllability were introduced and developed for linear and semilinear systems [7–11]. Here instead of steering the system to a desired gradient, we are interested in steering its gradient between two prescribed functions given only on a boundary subregion $\Gamma \subset \partial\Omega$ of system evolution domain.

Many reasons are motivating this problem: first, the mathematical models are obtained from measurements or from approximation techniques and they are very often affected by perturbations. And the solution of such system is approximately known. Second, in many real problems the target required to be between two bounds. Moreover, there are many applications of gradient modeling. For example, controlling the concentration regulation of a substrate at the upper

bottom of a bioreactor between two levels (see Figure 1).

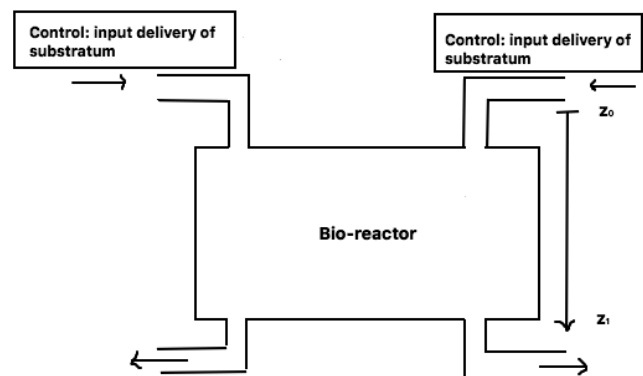


Figure 1: Regulation of the concentration flux of the substratum at the upper bottom of the bio-reactor

Motivated by the arguments above, in this paper, our goal is to study the regional boundary enlarged controllability of the gradient. For that we consider a semilinear system of parabolic equations where the control is exerted in an intern subregion ω of the system evolution domain Ω .

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Thus, let Ω be an open bounded set of $\mathbb{R}^n (n \geq 1)$ with regular boundary $\partial\Omega$. We consider the Banach spaces $L^2(\Omega)$ and $H_0^1(\Omega)$ with their corresponding norms. For a given $T > 0$, we denote $Q_T = \Omega \times]0, T[$, $\Sigma_T = \partial\Omega \times]0, T[$ and we consider the following problem :

$$\text{Minimize } J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \|u\|_U^2 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{subject to: } \begin{cases} \frac{\partial y(x, t)}{\partial t} - \mathcal{A}y(x, t) - \mathcal{N}y(x, t) = Bu(t) & \text{in } Q_T \\ y(x, 0) = y_0(x) & \text{in } \Omega \\ \frac{\partial y(\xi, t)}{\partial \nu_A} = 0 & \text{on } \Sigma_T \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where:

- χ_Γ the restriction operator defined by:

$$\chi_\Gamma : \begin{cases} (H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega))^n & \longrightarrow (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n \\ y & \longmapsto \chi_\Gamma y = y|_\Gamma, \end{cases}$$

while $\Gamma \in \partial\Omega$ is of Lebesgue positive measure and χ_Γ^* denotes its adjoint.

- ∇ is nabla operator given by the formula:

$$\nabla : H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega) \longrightarrow (L^2(\Omega))^n \\ y \longmapsto \nabla y = \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_n} \right),$$

- $\gamma : (L^2(\Omega))^n \rightarrow (H^{1/2}(\partial\Omega))^n$ is the extension of trace operator of order zero which is linear, continuous and surjective,
- $y_u(T)$ is the mild solution of (2) at the time T ($y_u(T) \in H_0^1(\Omega)$ [12]), and u is a the control function in the control space $U = L^2(0, T; \mathbb{R}^m)$ (where m is the number of actuators),
- \mathcal{A} is linear, second order operator with dense domain such that the coefficients do not depend on t and generates a C_0 -semigroup $(S(t))_{t \geq 0}$ on $L^2(\Omega)$ which we consider compact,
- $\mathcal{N} : L^2(0, T; L^2(\Omega)) \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$ is a non linear k -Lipschitz operator [13],
- $B \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{R}^m, L^2(\Omega))$ and y_0 is the initial datum in $L^2(\Omega)$.

The problem (1-2) is well-posed and has a unique solution.

The remainder contents of this paper are structured as follows. Some preliminary results are introduced in the next section. In section 3 we give the definitions of the gradient enlarged controllability on the boundary. Two approaches steering the system (2) from the initial gradient vector to a target gradient function between two bounds with minimum energy control is presented in section 4.

2 Preliminary results

In this section, we introduce some preliminary results to be used there after.

Let D be an open subset of $L^2(\Omega)$, we consider the system in (2), where $y_0 \in D$ and $y : [0, T] \rightarrow D$.

A continuous function $u : [0, T] \rightarrow D$ is said to be a classical solution of (2) if $u(0) = y_0(x)$, u is differentiable on $[0, T]$. and $u(t) \in D$ for $t \in [0, T]$ and y satisfies (2) on $[0, T]$.

It is well known that if y is a classical solution of (2), then it satisfies the following:

$$y_u(t) = S(t)y_0 + \int_0^t S(t-s)\mathcal{N}y(s)ds + \int_0^t S(t-s)Bu(s)ds. \quad (3)$$

Definition 1 (14) A continuous function y from $[0, T]$ into D is called a mild solution of (2) if y satisfies the integral equation (3) on $[0, T]$.

Let $\Gamma \subseteq \partial\Omega$ a part of the boundary with $y(x, t)$ satisfies (3), then the regional enlarged controllability on the boundary problem is concerned whether there exists a control u to steer the system (2) from the initial gradient vector ∇y_0 to a gradient vector between two functions in $(H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$.

By [15], the adjoint of the gradient operator on a connected, open bounded subset Ω with a Lipschitz continuous boundary $\partial\Omega$ is the minus of the divergence operator. Then $\nabla^* : (L^2(\Omega))^n \rightarrow H^{-1}(\Omega)$ is given by

$$\xi \rightarrow \nabla^* \xi := v, \quad (4)$$

and v solves the following Dirichlet problem

$$\begin{cases} v = -div(\xi) & \text{in } \Omega \\ v = 0 & \text{on } \partial\Omega. \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

We recall the following definitions

Definition 2 (16) The system (2) is exactly (resp. weakly) gradient controllable on Γ if for every desired gradient $g_d \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$ (resp. for every $\epsilon > 0$), there exists a control $u \in U$ such that $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) = g_d$ (resp. $\|\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) - g_d\| \leq \epsilon$)

We recall that an actuator is conventionally defined by a couple (D, f) , where D is a nonempty closed part of Ω , and it represents the geometric support of the actuator. And $f \in L^2(D)$ defines the spatial distribution of the action on the support D . For more details about the notion of actuators we refer the readers to [3,17].

We need also to recall this important result:

Theorem 1 Let $(X, (\cdot, \cdot)_X, \|\cdot\|_X)$, $(Y, (\cdot, \cdot)_Y, \|\cdot\|_Y)$ be two Hilbert spaces and let $A \subseteq X$, $B \subseteq Y$ be non-empty, closed, convex subsets. Assume that a real functional $L : A \times B \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ satisfies the following conditions

$\forall \mu \in B, v \rightarrow L(v, \mu)$ is convex and lower semicontinuous;

$\forall v \in A, \mu \rightarrow L(v, \mu)$, is concave and upper semicontinuous.

Moreover,

$$A \text{ is bounded or } \lim_{\substack{\|v\|_X \rightarrow \infty \\ v \in A}} L(v, \mu_0) = +\infty \quad \forall \mu_0 \in B$$

$$B \text{ is bounded or } \lim_{\substack{\|\mu\|_Y \rightarrow \infty \\ \mu \in B}} \inf_{v \in A} L(v, \mu) = -\infty$$

Then, the functional L has at least one saddle point.

Demonstration: For the proof of this theorem see [18].

3 Gradient enlarged controllability on the boundary

In this section, we give the definition of the concept of the gradient enlarged controllability on the boundary. To do so, we need to introduce the closed sub-vectorial space G of $H_0^1(\Omega)$. Hence, we have the following definition:

Definition 3 Given $T > 0$. We say that there is gradient enlarged controllability on Γ , if, for every y_0 (in a suitable functional space), we can find a control u such that

$$\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in G$$

Remark 1 • This notion depends of course on the choice of the functional space G .

- If $G = \{0\}$, we retrieve the classical notion of the exact controllability.
- if G is the space skimmed by $y_u(T)$, the notion is empty.

For the particular case, we will study the boundary gradient enlarged controllability in $[a_i(\cdot), b_i(\cdot)] \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. For that let's consider $(a(\cdot))_i$ and $(b(\cdot))_i$ be two given functions in $(H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$ such that $(a(\cdot))_i \leq (b(\cdot))_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$ a.e on Γ , and we set:

$$\Theta = [a_i(\cdot), b_i(\cdot)] = \{(y_1, \dots, y_n) \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n \mid a_i(\cdot) \leq y_i(\cdot) \leq b_i(\cdot) \text{ a.e on } \Gamma\}$$

for all $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

So the definition of the boundary gradient enlarged controllability in Θ is the following:

Definition 4 We say that (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ at time T if there exist a command $u \in U$ such that:

$$\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in \Theta.$$

Let us define the following operators:

- The Duhamel operator H from U to $H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$ such that for $u \in U$:

$$Hu = \int_0^T S(T-s)Bu(s)ds,$$

- and the operator G_Θ given by:

$$G_\Theta : L^2(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega)) \longrightarrow H_0^1(\Omega) \cap H^2(\Omega)$$

$$y(\cdot) \longmapsto \int_0^T S(T-\tau) \mathcal{N}y(\tau) d\tau. \tag{6}$$

Finally, the solution of the system (2) at the time T could be written as follow:

$$y_u(T) = S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y + Hu.$$

And we have the following proposition:

Proposition 1 We say that system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ at time T if and only if:

$$(Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta + Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H) \cap \Theta \neq \emptyset.$$

Demonstration: We suppose that the system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ at time T which is equivalent to write: $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in \Theta$.

Hence we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) &= \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla (S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y + Hu) \\ &= \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla S(T)y_0 + \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta y + \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla Hu. \end{aligned}$$

And we have $\nabla S(T)y_0 = 0$, furthermore, let's denote by: $z_1 = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta y$, $z_2 = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla Hu$ and $z = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T)$. Which leads to: $z_1 \in Im(\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta)$ and $z_2 \in Im(\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)$. Thus, $z \in Im(\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta) + Im(\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)$ and $z \in \Theta$ which gives:

$$(Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta + Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H) \cap \Theta \neq \emptyset.$$

Conversely, we suppose that the following expression is verified:

$$(Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta + Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H) \cap \Theta \neq \emptyset,$$

then, there exists $z \in \Theta$ such that $z \in (Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta + Im \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)$. So $z = z_1 + z_2$ where $z_1 = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta y$ with $y \in L^2(0, T; H_0^1(\Omega))$ and $\exists u \in U$ such that $z_2 = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla Hu$. Then $z = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta y + \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla Hu$. While $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla S(T)y_0 = 0$, one can write:

$$\begin{aligned} z &= \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla S(T)y_0 + \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla G_\Theta y + \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla Hu \\ &= \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla (S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y + Hu) \\ &= \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T). \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $z = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in \Theta$, and we prove the equivalence.

Remark 2 1. The above definition means that we are interested in the transfer of the system (2) to an unknown state just in Θ .

2. If $\Theta = \{0\}$ or $a_i(\cdot) = b_i(\cdot) \forall i \in \{0, 1\}$ we retrieve the regional exact controllability. So, for $a_i(\cdot) \neq b_i(\cdot)$ the Θ -gradient controllability on Γ constitutes an extension of the regional controllability.

We can also characterize the enlarged controllability by using the notion of strategic actuators. And we can say:

Definition 5 The actuator (D, f) is said to be Θ -strategic on Γ if the excited system is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ .

4 Computation of the control

In order to compute the control subject to our problem (1-2), we will use two approaches. The first one relies on the subdifferential techniques and convex analysis and the second one on the Lagrangian multiplier approach.

4.1 Subdifferential approach

In this sub-section we are using the subdifferential techniques to compute the control steering the system from an initial gradient state to a final one between two functions on the boundary [19,20]. For that, we consider the optimization problem in (1).

$$\begin{cases} \inf J(u) = \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 \\ u \in U_{ad}, \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where $U_{ad} = \{u \in U \mid \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in \Theta\}$.

- Let f be a nontrivial, lower semi-continuous, proper and convex function from a Hilbert space W to $\bar{R} =]-\infty, +\infty[$. We denote $\mathcal{F}(W)$ the set of the functions f and $\|\cdot\|$ is the Hilbert norm of W .
- For $f \in \mathcal{F}(W)$, the polar function f^* of f is given by

$$f^*(v^*) = \sup_{v \in \text{dom}(f)} \{\langle v^*, v \rangle - f(v)\} \quad \forall v^* \in W$$

where $\text{dom}(f) = \{v \in W \mid f(v) < +\infty\}$.

- For $v_0 \in \text{dom}(f)$, the set:

$$\partial f(v_0) = \{v^* \in W \mid f(v) \geq f(v_0) + \langle v^*, v - v_0 \rangle \quad \forall v \in W\}$$

denotes the subdifferential of f at v_0 , then we have $v_1 \in \partial f(v^*)$ if and only if

$$f(v^*) + f^*(v_1) = \langle v^*, v_1 \rangle$$

With all these notations, the problem (7) is equivalent to:

$$\begin{cases} \inf (\sigma + \Psi_{U_{ad}})(u) \\ u \in U_{ad}, \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where:

- $\Psi_{U_{ad}}(u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } u \in U_{ad} \\ +\infty & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ denotes the indicator functional of U_{ad} (U_{ad} a non empty subset of U).
- $\sigma(u) = \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2$.

Hence the solution of (8) is characterized by the following result.

Theorem 2 u^* is a solution of (7) if and only if the system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ and:

$$u^* \in U_{ad} \quad \text{and} \quad \Psi_{U_{ad}}^*(-u^*) = -\|u^*\|^2. \quad (9)$$

Demonstration: The system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ , then $U_{ad} \neq \emptyset$. Using Fermat's rule, we have u^* is a minimum of (7) if and only if $0 \in \partial(\sigma + \Psi_{U_{ad}})(u^*)$.

We prove that U_{ad} is convex, for that we consider u and v two elements of U_{ad} . So $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in \Theta$ and $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{tu+(1-t)v}(T) \in \Theta$ for $t \in [0, 1]$ which prove the convexity.

And we have $\sigma \in \mathcal{F}(U)$ and since U_{ad} is closed, convex and non empty, then $\Psi_{U_{ad}} \in \mathcal{F}(U)$

Moreover, $\text{dom } \sigma \cap \text{dom } \Psi_{U_{ad}} \neq \emptyset$ because the system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ .

Furthermore, $\partial(\sigma + \Psi_{U_{ad}})(u^*) = \partial\sigma(u^*) + \partial\Psi_{U_{ad}}(u^*)$ (σ is continuous). It follows that u^* is a solution of (7) if and only if

$$0 \in \partial\sigma(u^*) + \partial\Psi_{U_{ad}}(u^*).$$

Besides we have σ is Frechet-Differentiable, hence $\partial\sigma(u^*) = \{u^*\}$. Furthermore, u^* is the solution of (7) if and only if $-u^* \in \partial\Psi_{U_{ad}}(u^*)$ which is equivalent to $\Psi_{U_{ad}}(u^*) + \Psi_{U_{ad}}^*(-u^*) = -\|u^*\|^2$. And which gives $u^* \in U_{ad}$ and $\Psi_{U_{ad}}^*(-u^*) = -\|u^*\|^2$.

4.2 Lagrangian approach

We consider the problem (1) when the system (2) is excited by one actuator (D, f). The following result gives a useful characterization of the solution of the problem.

Theorem 3 If the system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ then the solution of (1-2) is given by:

$$u^* = -(\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)^* \lambda^*, \quad (10)$$

where $\lambda^* \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$ satisfies:

$$\begin{cases} z^* = P_\Theta(\rho \lambda^* + z^*) \\ R_\Theta \lambda^* + z^* = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla [S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y], \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

while $P_\Theta : (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n \rightarrow \Theta$ denotes the projection operator, $\rho > 0$ and $R_\Theta = (\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)(\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)^*$.

Demonstration: If the system (2) is Θ -gradient controllable on Γ then $U_{ad} \neq \emptyset$ and the problem (1-2) has a unique solution.

The minimization problem (1) is equivalent to the following saddle point problem:

$$\begin{cases} \inf \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 \\ (u, z) \in Z, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

where $Z = \{(u, z) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta \mid \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) - z = 0\}$.

To study this constraints, we will use a Lagrangian functional and steer the problem (12) to a saddle point problem.

We associate to the problem (12) the Lagrangian functional defined by:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall (u, z, \lambda) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta \times (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n \\ L(u, z, \lambda) = \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2 + \langle \lambda, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) - z \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

► We prove that L admits a saddle point:

The set $U_{ad} \times \Theta$ is non empty, closed and convex. The functional L satisfies these conditions:

- $(u, z) \mapsto L(u, z, \lambda)$ is convex and lower semi-continuous for all $\lambda \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$.

- $\lambda \mapsto L(u, z, \lambda)$ is concave and upper semi-continuous for all $(u, z) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta$.

Moreover, there exists $\lambda_0 \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$ such that:

$$\lim_{\|(u, z)\| \rightarrow +\infty} L(u, z, \lambda_0) = +\infty, \quad (14)$$

and there exists $(u_0, z_0) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta$ such that

$$\lim_{\|\lambda\| \rightarrow +\infty} L(u_0, z_0, \lambda) = -\infty. \quad (15)$$

Then, the functional L admits a saddle point. For more details we refer to [21].

► We prove then that u^* is a solution of (1) and it is the minimum one:

Let (u^*, z^*, λ^*) be a saddle point of L . Hence, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} L(u^*, z^*, \lambda) \leq L(u^*, z^*, \lambda^*) \leq L(u, z, \lambda^*) \\ \forall (u, z, \lambda) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta \times (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

From the first inequality of (16) we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \lambda, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) - z^* \rangle \leq \langle \lambda^*, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) - z^* \rangle \\ \forall \lambda \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n, \end{aligned}$$

which implies $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) = z^*$ and hence $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) \in \Theta$.

The second inequality of (16) means that for all $u \in U_{ad}$ and $z \in \Theta$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \|u^*\|^2 + \langle \lambda^*, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) - z^* \rangle \leq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2 \\ + \langle \lambda^*, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) - z \rangle \quad \forall (u, z) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta. \end{aligned}$$

Since $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) = z^*$, it follows that:

$$\frac{1}{2} \|u^*\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2 + \langle \lambda^*, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) - z \rangle \quad \forall (u, z) \in U_{ad} \times \Theta.$$

Taking $z = \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_u(T) \in \Theta$, we obtain:

$$\frac{1}{2} \|u^*\|^2 \leq \frac{1}{2} \|u\|^2,$$

which implies that u^* is of minimum energy.

► (u^*, z^*) is an optimal solution of (12), then there exists a Lagrange multiplier $\lambda^* \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n$ such that the following optimality conditions hold:

$$\langle u^*, u - u^* \rangle + \langle \lambda^*, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H(u - u^*) \rangle = 0 \quad \forall u \in U_{ad}, \quad (17)$$

$$-\langle \lambda^*, z - z^* \rangle \geq 0 \quad \forall z \in \Theta, \quad (18)$$

$$\langle \lambda - \lambda^*, \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) - z^* \rangle = 0 \quad \forall \lambda \in (H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n. \quad (19)$$

For more details about the saddle point and its theory, we refer to [22–24].

From (17) we deduce (10).

The equation (19) is equivalent to:

$$\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla y_{u^*}(T) = z^*$$

And since $y_{u^*}(T) = S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y(\cdot) + H u^*$, we have:

$$\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla [S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y(\cdot) + H u^*] - z^* = 0.$$

Then $\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla [S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y(\cdot)] + \chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H u^* = z^*$. And with (10), we have:

$$\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla [S(T)y_0 + G_\Theta y(\cdot)] - (\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H) (\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)^* \lambda^* = z^*,$$

with $R_\Theta = (\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H) (\chi_\Gamma \gamma \nabla H)^*$, we obtain the first equation of (11).

And from inequality (18), we obtain:

$$\langle (\rho \lambda^* + z^*) - z^*, z - z^* \rangle_{(H^{1/2}(\Gamma))^n} \leq 0 \quad \forall z \in \Theta, \rho > 0,$$

which is equivalent to the second equation of (11).

5 Conclusion

This paper is concerned with the regional gradient controllability, which is motivated by many real applications where the objective is to explore the minimum energy control to steer the system under consideration from the initial gradient vector ∇y_0 to any gradient vector in an interested subregion of the whole domain. The presented results here can provide some insight into the control theory analysis of such systems. They can also be extended to complex fractional order distributed parameter systems and various open questions are still under consideration.

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