# Exponential stability of the system of transmission of the wave equation with a delay term in the boundary feedback

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Abstract. We consider a system of transmission of the wave equation with Neumann feedback control that contains a delay term and that acts on the exterior boundary. First, we prove under some assumptions that the closed-loop system generates a  $C_0$ -semigroup of contractions on an appropriate Hilbert space. Then, under further assumptions, we show that the closed-loop system is exponentially stable. To establish this result, we introduce a suitable energy function and use multiplier method together with an estimate taken from [3] (Lemma 7.2) and compactnessuniqueness arguments.

**Keywords:** Wave equation, transmission problem, time delays, boundary stabilization, exponential stability.

### 1 Introduction

It is by now well-known that certain infinite-dimensional second-order systems are not robust with respect to arbitarily small delays in the damping. This lack of stability robustness was first shown to hold for the one-dimensional wave equation ([2]). Later, further examples illustrating this phenomenon were considered in [1]: the two-dimensional wave equation with damping introduced through Neumann-type boundary conditions on one edge of a square boundary and the Euler-Bernoulli beam equation in one dimension with damping introduced through a specific set of boundary conditions on the right end point.

Recently, Xu et al [9] established sufficient conditions that guarantee the exponential stability of the one-dimensional wave equation with a delay term in the boundary feedback. Nicaise and Pignotti [5] extended this result to the multi-dimensional wave equation with a delay term in the boundary or internal feedbacks. The same type of result was obtained by Nicaise and Rebiai [6] for the Schrödinger equation.

Motivated by the references [9], [5] and [6]; we investigate in this paper the problem of exponential stability for the system of transmission of the wave equation with a delay term in the boundary feedback.

Let  $\Omega$  be an open bounded domain of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  with a boundary  $\Gamma$  of class  $C^2$ which consists of two non-empty parts  $\Gamma_1$  and  $\Gamma_2$  such that  $\overline{\Gamma_1} \cap \overline{\Gamma_2} = \emptyset$ . Let  $\Gamma_0$ 

with  $\overline{\Gamma_0} \cap \overline{\Gamma_1} = \overline{\Gamma_0} \cap \overline{\Gamma_2} = \emptyset$  be a regular hypersurface of class  $C^2$  which separates  $\Omega$  into two domains  $\Omega_1$  and  $\Omega_2$  such that  $\Gamma_1 \subset \partial \Omega_1$  and  $\Gamma_2 \subset \partial \Omega_2$ . Furthermore, we assume that there exists a real vector field  $h \in (C^2(\overline{\Omega}))^n$  such that: (H.1) The Jacobian matrix J of h satisfies

$$\int_{\Omega} J(x)\zeta(x).\zeta(x)d\Omega \ge \alpha \int_{\Omega} |\zeta(x)|^2 \, d\Omega,$$

for some constant  $\alpha > 0$  and for all  $\zeta \in L^2(\Omega; \mathbb{R}^n)$ ; (H.2)  $h(x).\nu(x) \leq 0$  on  $\Gamma_1$ ;

## (*H*.3) $h(x).\nu(x) \ge 0$ on $\Gamma_0$ .

where  $\nu$  is the unit normal on  $\Gamma$  or  $\Gamma_0$  pointing towrds the exterior of  $\Omega$  or  $\Omega_1$ . Let  $a_1, a_2 > 0$  be given. Consider the system of transmission of the wave equation with a delay term in the boundary conditions:

$$y''(x,t) - a(x)\Delta y(x,t) = 0 \qquad \qquad \text{in } \Omega \times (0,+\infty), \tag{1}$$

$$y(x,0) = y^0(x), y'(x,0) = y^1(x,0)$$
 in  $\Omega$ , (2)

$$y_1(x,t) = 0 \qquad \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_1 \times (0,+\infty), \qquad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial y_2(x,t)}{\partial \nu} = -\mu_1 y_2'(x,t) - \mu_2 y_2'(x,t-\tau) \quad \text{on } \Gamma_2 \times (0,+\infty), \tag{4}$$

$$y_1(x,t) = y_2(x,t),$$
 on  $\Gamma_0 \times (0,+\infty),$  (5)

$$a_1 \frac{\partial y_1(x,t)}{\partial \nu} = a_2 \frac{\partial y_2(x,t)}{\partial \nu} \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_0 \times (0,+\infty), \tag{6}$$

$$y'_{2}(x,t-\tau) = f_{0}(x,t-\tau)$$
 on  $\Gamma_{2} \times (0,\tau)$ . (7)

where:

$$- a(x) = \begin{cases} a_1, \ x \in \Omega_1 \\ a_2, \ x \in \Omega_2 \end{cases}$$
$$- y(x,t) = \begin{cases} y_1(x,t), (x,t) \in \Omega_1 \times (0,+\infty) \\ y_1(x,t), (x,t) \in \Omega_2 \times (0,+\infty) \end{cases}$$
$$- \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \text{ is the normal derivative.}$$

 $-\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  are positive real numbers.

 $-\tau$  is the time delay

 $-y^0, y^1, f_0$  are the initial data which belong to suitable spaces.

In the absence of delay, that is  $\mu_2 = 0$ , Liu and Williams [4] have shown that the solution of (1)-(6) decays exponentially to zero in the energy space  $H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega)$  provided that

$$a_1 > a_2 \tag{8}$$

and  $\{\Omega, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2\}$  satisfies (H.1), (H.2), (H.3), and  $(H.4) \ h(x).\nu(x) \ge \gamma > 0.$ 

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the stability of problem (1) - (7) in the case where both  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  are different from zero. To this end, assume as in [5] that

$$\mu_1 > \mu_2. \tag{9}$$

and define the energy of a solution of (1) - (7) by

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \left[ \left| y'(x,t) \right|^2 + a(x) \left| \nabla(y(x,t) \right|^2 \right] dx + \frac{\xi}{2} \int_{\Gamma_2} \int_0^1 \left| y(x,t-\tau\rho) \right|^2 d\rho \, d\sigma(x),$$
(10)

where

$$a_2\tau\mu_2 < \xi < a_2\tau(2\mu_1 - \mu_2), \tag{11}$$

We show that if  $\{\Omega, \Gamma_0, \Gamma_1, \Gamma_2\}$  satisfies (H.1), (H.2) and (H.3), then there is an exponential decay rate for E(t). The proof of this result combines multipliers technique and compactness-uniqueness arguments.

The main result of this paper can be stated as follows.

**Theorem 1.** Assume (H1), (H.2), (H.3), (8) and (9). Then there exist constants  $M \ge 1$  and  $\omega > 0$  such that

$$E(t) \le M e^{-\omega t} E(0)$$

Theorem 1 is proved in Section 3. In Section 2, we investigate the well-posedness of system (1) - (7) using semigroup theory.

## 2 Well-poseness of problem (1) - (7)

Inspired from [5] and [6], we introduce the auxilliary variable  $z(x, \rho, t) = y(x, t - \tau \rho)$ . With this new unknown, problem (1) - (7) is equivalent to

$$y''(x,t) - a(x)\Delta y(x,t) = 0 \qquad \text{in } \Omega \times (0,+\infty), \tag{12}$$

$$y(x, 0) = y^{\circ}(x), y'(x, 0) = y^{*}(x) \qquad \text{in } \Omega,$$

$$y(x, t) = 0 \qquad \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_{1} \times (0, +\infty).$$
(13)

$$\frac{\partial z(x,\rho,t)}{\partial t} = 0 \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_1 \times (0, +\infty), \qquad (11)$$
$$\frac{\partial z(x,\rho,t)}{\partial t} = 0 \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_2 \times (0, +\infty) \qquad (15)$$

$$\frac{\partial y_2(x,t)}{\partial \nu} = -\mu_1 y_2'(x,t) - \mu_2 z(x,1,t) \text{ on } \Gamma_2 \times (0,+\infty),$$
(16)

$$y_1(x,t) = y_2(x,t)$$
 on  $\Gamma_0 \times (0,+\infty)$ , (17)

$$a_1 \frac{\partial y_1(x,t)}{\partial \nu} = a_2 \frac{\partial y_2(x,t)}{\partial \nu} \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_0 \times (0,+\infty), \tag{18}$$

$$z(x,0,t) = y'(x,t) \qquad \qquad \text{on } \Gamma_2 \times (0,+\infty) \tag{19}$$

$$z(x, \rho, 0) = f_0(x, -\tau\rho)$$
 on  $\Gamma_2 \times (0, 1)$  (20)

Now, we endow the Hilbert space

$$\mathcal{H} = H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega) \times L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\Gamma_2; L^2(0, 1))$$

with the inner product

$$\left\langle \begin{pmatrix} u\\v\\z \end{pmatrix}; \begin{pmatrix} \overline{u}\\\overline{v}\\\overline{z} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle = \int_{\Omega} (a(x)\nabla u(x)\nabla \overline{u}(x) + v(x)\overline{v}(x)) \, dx + \xi \int_{\Gamma_2} \int_0^1 z(x,\rho)\overline{z}(x,\rho)d\rho \, d\sigma(x)$$

and define a linear operator in  ${\mathcal H}$  by

$$D(A) = \{ (u, v, z)^T \in H^2(\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Gamma_1) \times H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega) \times L^2(\Gamma_2; H^1(0, 1); 
\frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} = -\mu_1 v - \mu_2 z(., 1), v = z(., 0) \text{ on } \Gamma_2 \}$$
(21)

$$A \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ a(x) \Delta u \\ -\tau^{-1} \frac{\partial z}{\partial \rho} \end{pmatrix}$$
(22)

The spaces used for the definition of  ${\mathcal H}$  and D(A) are

$$\begin{aligned} H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega) &= \{ u \in H^1(\Omega) : u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_1 \} \\ H^2(\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \Gamma_1) &= \{ u_i \in H^2(\Omega_i) : u = 0 \text{ on } \Gamma_1, \ u_1 = u_2 \text{ and } a_1 \frac{\partial u_1}{\partial \nu} = a_2 \frac{\partial u_2}{\partial \nu} \text{ on } \Gamma_0 \} \end{aligned}$$

Then we can rewrite (12) - (20) as an abstract Cauchy problem in  $\mathcal{H}$ 

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d}{dt}Y(t) = AY(t) \\ Y(0) = Y_0 \end{cases}$$
(23)

where

$$Y(t) = (y, y', z)^T$$
 and  $Y_0 = (y_0, y_1, f_0(., -.\tau))^T$ 

**Proposition 1.** The operator A defined by (21) and (22) generates a strongly continuous semigroup on  $\mathcal{H}$ . Thus, for every  $Y_0 \in \mathcal{H}$ , problem (23) has a unique solution Y whose regularity depends on the the initial datum  $Y_0$  as follows:

$$Y(.) \in C([0, +\infty); \mathcal{H}) \text{ if } Y_0 \in \mathcal{H},$$
  

$$Y(.) \in C([0, +\infty); D(A)) \cap C^1([0, +\infty); \mathcal{H}) \text{ if } Y_0 \in D(A).$$
  
Proof. Let  $Y = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \\ z \end{pmatrix} \in D(A).$  Then  

$$\langle AY, Y \rangle = \int_{\Omega} a(x) \nabla u(x) \cdot \nabla v(x) dx + \int_{\Omega} (a(x) \Delta u(x)) v(x) dx - \frac{\xi}{\tau} \int_{\Gamma_2} \int_0^1 z_{\rho}(x, \rho) z(x, \rho) d\rho d\Gamma$$
(24)

Applying Green's first theorem, we obtain

$$\int_{\Omega} (a(x)\Delta u(x))v(x)dx = a_1 \int_{\Gamma_1} v(x)\frac{\partial u(x)}{\partial \nu}d\Gamma - a_1 \int_{\Omega_1} \nabla u(x).\nabla v(x)dx + a_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} v(x)\frac{\partial u(x)}{\partial \nu}d\Gamma - a_2 \int_{\Omega_2} \nabla u(x).\nabla v(x)dx = a_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} v(x)\{-\mu_1 v(x) - \mu_2 z(x,1)\}d\Gamma - \int_{\Omega} a(x)\nabla u(x).\nabla v(x)dx$$
(25)

Integrating by parts in  $\rho$ , we get

$$\int_{\Gamma_2} \int_0^1 z_{\rho}(x,\rho) z(x,\rho) d\rho d\Gamma = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma_2} \{ z^2(x,1) - z^2(x,0) \} d\Gamma$$
(26)

Inserting (25) and (26) into (24) results in

$$\langle AY, Y \rangle = -a_2 \mu_1 \int_{\Gamma_2} v^2(x) d\Gamma - a_2 \mu_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} v(x) z(x, 1) d\Gamma - \frac{\xi}{2\tau} \int_{\Gamma_2} z^2(x, 1) d\Gamma + \frac{\xi}{2\tau} \int_{\Gamma_2} v^2(x) d\Gamma$$

from which follows using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$\langle AY, Y \rangle \le -(a_2\mu_1 - \frac{a_2\mu_2}{2} + \frac{\xi}{2\tau}) \int_{\Gamma_2} v^2(x) d\Gamma - (\frac{\xi}{2\tau} - \frac{a_2\mu_2}{2}) \int_{\Gamma_2} z^2(x, 1) d\Gamma$$
(27)

(27) implies that

$$\langle AY, Y \rangle \leq 0$$

Thus A is dissipative.

Now we show that for a fixed  $\lambda > 0$  and  $(g, h, k)^T \in \mathcal{H}$ , there exists  $Y = (u, v, z)^T \in D(A)$  such that

$$(\lambda I - A)Y = (g, h, k)^T$$

or equivalently

$$\lambda u - v = g \tag{28}$$

$$\lambda v - a(x)\Delta u = h \tag{29}$$

$$\lambda z + \frac{1}{\tau} z_{\rho} = k \tag{30}$$

Suppose that we have found u with the appropriate regularity, then we can determine z. Indeed, from (21) and (30) we have

$$\begin{cases} z_{\rho}(x,\rho) = -\lambda \tau z(x,\rho) + \tau k(x,\rho) \\ z(x,0) = v(x) \end{cases}$$

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The unique solution of the above initial value problem is

$$z(x,\rho) = e^{-\lambda\tau\rho}v(x) + \tau e^{-\lambda\tau\rho} \int_0^\rho e^{\lambda\tau s} k(x,s) ds$$

and in particular

$$z(x,1) = \lambda e^{-\lambda \tau} u(x) + z_0(x), \quad x \in \Gamma_2$$

where

$$z_0(x) = -e^{-\lambda\tau}g(x) + \tau e^{-\lambda\tau} \int_0^1 e^{\lambda\tau s} k(x,s) ds$$

By (28) and (29), the function u satisfies

$$\lambda^2 u - a(x)\Delta u = h + \lambda g \tag{31}$$

Problem (31) can be reformulated as

$$\int_{\Omega} (\lambda^2 u - a(x)\Delta u) w dx = \int_{\Omega} (h + \lambda g) w dx, \quad w \in H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega)$$
(32)

Using Green's first theorem and recalling (21), we express the right-hand side of (32) as follows

$$\begin{split} &\int_{\Omega} (\lambda^2 u - a(x)\Delta u)wdx = \int_{\Omega} (\lambda^2 uw + a(x)\nabla u \cdot \nabla w)dx + a_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} \{\mu_1(\lambda u - g)w \\ &+ \mu_2(\lambda e^{-\lambda\tau}u(x) + z_0(x))w\}d\Gamma \end{split}$$

Therefore (32), can be rewritten as

$$\int_{\Omega} (\lambda^2 uw + a(x)\nabla u.\nabla w) dx + a_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} (\mu_1 + \mu_2 e^{-\lambda\tau}) \lambda uw d\Gamma = \int_{\Omega} (h + \lambda g) w d\Gamma + a_2 \mu_1 \int_{\Gamma_2} gw d\Gamma - a_2 \mu_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} z_0 w d\Gamma, \quad \forall w \in H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega).$$
(33)

Since the left-hand side of (33) is coercive on  $H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega)$ , the Lax-Milgram Theorem guarantees the existence and uniqueness of a solution  $y \in H^1_{\Gamma_1}(\Omega)$  of (31). If we consider  $w \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  in (28), then y is a solution in  $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$  of

$$\lambda^2 u - a(x)\Delta u = h + \lambda g \tag{34}$$

and thus  $\Delta u \in L^2(\Omega)$ .

Combining (33) together with (34), we obtain after using Green's first theorem c e 0 c

$$a_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} (\mu_1 + \mu_2 e^{-\lambda\tau}) \lambda u w d\Gamma + a_2 \int_{\Omega} \frac{\partial u}{\partial \nu} w d\Gamma = a_2 \mu_1 \int_{\Gamma_2} g w d\Gamma - a_2 \mu_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} z_0 w d\Gamma$$
  
which implies that

$$\frac{\partial u(x)}{\partial \nu} = -\mu_1 v(x) - \mu_2 z(x,1)$$

So, we have found  $(u, v, z)^T \in D(A)$  which satisfies (28) - (30). Thus, by the Lumer-Phillips Theorem (see for instance [8], Theorem 1.4.3), generates a strongly continuous semigroup of contractions on  $\mathcal{H}$ .

## 3 Proof of Theorem 1

We prove Theorem 1 for smooth initial data. The general case follows by a standard density argument.

We proceed in several steps. **Step 1.** 

Since

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2} \|(y, y', z)\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2$$

Then, we deduce from the proof of Proposition 1 that E(t) is non-increasing and

$$\frac{d}{dt}E(t) \le -C \int_{\Gamma_2} \{y^2(x,t) + y'^2(x,t)\} d\Gamma$$
(35)

where

$$C = \min\{a_2\mu_1 - \frac{a_2\mu_2}{2} + \frac{\xi}{2\tau}, \frac{\xi}{2\tau} - \frac{a_2\mu_2}{2}\}\$$

Step 2. Set

$$E(t) = \mathcal{E}(t) + E_d(t)$$

where

$$\mathcal{E}(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} \{a(x) |\nabla y(x,t)|^2 + |y'(x,t)|^2 \} dx$$

and

$$E_d(t) = \frac{\xi}{2\tau} \int_{\Gamma_2} \int_0^1 \left| y'(x, t - \tau \rho) \right|^2 d\rho d\Gamma$$

 $E_d(t)$  can be rewritten via a change of variable as

$$E_d(t) = \frac{\xi}{2\tau^2} \int_t^{t+\tau} \int_{\Gamma_2} y^{\prime 2}(x, s-\tau) d\Gamma ds$$
(36)

From (36), we obtain

$$E_d(t) \le C_1 \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} y^{\prime 2}(x, s-\tau) d\Gamma ds$$
(37)

for  $0 \le t \le T$  and T large enough.

Step 3.

By applying energy methods (multiplier  $2h \cdot \nabla y + (divh - \alpha)y$ ) (see the appendix) to problem (1) - (7), we obtain for all T > 0.

$$\int_{0}^{T} \mathcal{E}(t)dt \leq C_{2}(\mathcal{E}(0) + \mathcal{E}(T)) + C_{3} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Gamma_{2}} \{ (\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu})^{2} + y^{\prime 2}(x,t) \} d\Gamma dt + C_{4} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Gamma_{2}} |\nabla_{\sigma} y(x,t)|^{2} d\Gamma dt + C_{5} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Omega} |y(x,t)|^{2} d\Omega dt$$

$$(38)$$

where  $\nabla_{\sigma} y$  is the tangential gradient of y. Step 4.

We eliminate the tangential gradient from (38) by using the following estimate due to Lasiecka and Triggiani (Lemma 7.2 in [3])

$$\begin{split} \int_{\epsilon}^{T-\epsilon} \int_{\Gamma_2} \left| \nabla_{\sigma} y(x,t) \right|^2 d\Gamma dt &\leq C_6 \{ \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} \{ (\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu})^2 + y'^2(x,t) \} d\Gamma dt + \\ & \|y\|_{L^2(0,T;H^{1/2+\delta}(\Omega))}^2 \} \end{split}$$

where  $\epsilon$  and  $\delta$  are arbitrary positive constants. We obtain

$$\int_{0}^{T} \mathcal{E}(t)dt \leq C_{2}(\mathcal{E}(0) + \mathcal{E}(T)) + C_{7} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Gamma_{2}} \{ (\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu})^{2} + y'^{2}(x,t) \} d\Gamma dt + C_{8} \|y\|_{L^{2}(0,T;H^{1/2+\delta}(\Omega))}^{2}$$
(39)

Step 5.

We differentiate  $\mathcal{E}(t)$  with respect to t and apply Green's first theorem. We obtain

$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{E}(t) = a_2 \int_{\Gamma_2} y'(x,t) \frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu} d\Gamma dt$$
(40)

From (40), we get via the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality

$$\mathcal{E}(0) \le \mathcal{E}(T) + \frac{a_2}{2} \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} \{y'^2(x,t) + (\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu})^2\} d\Gamma dt \tag{41}$$

Insertion of (41) into (39) yields

$$\int_{0}^{T} \mathcal{E}(t)dt \leq 2C_{2}\mathcal{E}(T) + C_{9} \int_{0}^{T} \int_{\Gamma_{2}} \{ (\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu})^{2} + y'^{2}(x,t) \} d\Gamma dt + C_{8} \|y\|_{L^{2}(0,T;H^{1/2+\delta}(\Omega))}^{2}$$
(42)

Step 6.

Since E(t) is non-increasing and  $E(t) = \mathcal{E}(t) + E_d(t)$ , then (42) together with (37) implies that

$$TE(T) \leq 2C_2 \mathcal{E}(T) + C_9 \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} \{ (\frac{\partial y(x,t)}{\partial \nu})^2 + y'^2(x,t) \} d\Gamma dt + C_8 \|y\|_{L^2(0,T;H^{1/2+\delta}(\Omega))}^2 + TC_1 \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} y'^2(x,t-\tau) d\Gamma dt$$
(43)

Thus invoking again the identity  $E(t) = \mathcal{E}(t) + E_d(t)$  and recalling the boundary condition (4), we obtain from (43)

$$E(T) \le C_{10} \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} \{ y'^2(x,t) + y'^2(x,t-\tau) \} d\Gamma dt + C_{11} \|y\|_{L^2(0,T;H^{1/2+\delta}(\Omega))}^2$$
(44)

for T large enough.

Step 7.

We drop the lower order term on the right-hand side of (44) by a compactnessuniqueness argument to obtain

$$E(T) \le C_{12} \int_0^T \int_{\Gamma_2} \{ y'^2(x,t) + y'^2(x,t-\tau) \} d\Gamma dt$$
(45)

#### Step 8.

The estimate (45) together with (35) yields

$$E(T) \le \frac{C_{13}}{1 + C_{13}} E(0) \tag{46}$$

The desired conclusion follows now from (46) since the system (1) - (7) is invariant by translation.

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# Appendix: Sketch of Proof of (38)

We multiply both sides of (1) by  $2h \cdot \nabla y + (divh - \alpha)y$  and integrate over  $(0, T) \times \Omega$ . We obtain

$$2\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Omega}a(x)J\nabla y.\nabla yd\Omega dt + \alpha\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Omega}\{y'^{2} - a(x) |\nabla y|^{2}\}d\Omega dt = -\int_{\Omega}\{2y'h.\nabla y + (divh - \alpha)y'y\}_{0}^{T}d\Omega - \int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Omega}a(x)y\nabla y.\nabla(divh - \alpha)d\Omega dt + a_{1}\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{1}}\left|\frac{\partial y_{1}}{\partial\nu}\right|^{2}h.\nu d\Gamma dt - (a_{1} - a_{2})\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{0}}|\nabla y_{1}|^{2}h.\nu d\Gamma dt - 
$$\frac{(a_{1} - a_{2})^{2}}{a_{2}}\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{0}}\left|\frac{\partial y_{1}}{\partial\nu}\right|^{2}h.\nu d\Gamma dt + \int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{2}}|y_{2}'|^{2}h.\nu d\Gamma dt + 2a_{2}\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{2}}\left|\frac{\partial y_{2}}{\partial\nu}\right|^{2}h.\nabla y_{2}d\Gamma dt - a_{2}\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{2}}|\nabla y_{2}|^{2}h.\nu d\Gamma dt + a_{2}\int_{0}^{T}\int_{\Gamma_{2}}\left|\frac{\partial y_{2}}{\partial\nu}\right|^{2}(divh - \alpha)d\Gamma dt$$

$$(47)$$$$

after using the boundary conditions (3) and (5). Identity (47) is used together with (H.1), (H.2), (H.3) and (8) to obtain estimate (38).