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Rémi Robin. Small-time global null controllability of generalized Burgers' equations. 2022. hal-03690584v1

HAL Id: hal-03690584

<https://inria.hal.science/hal-03690584v1>

Preprint submitted on 8 Jun 2022 (v1), last revised 6 Dec 2022 (v2)

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Small-time global null controllability of generalized Burgers' equations

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June 8, 2022

Abstract

In this paper, we study the small-time global null controllability of the generalized Burgers' equations $y_t + (|y|^\gamma)_x - y_{xx} = u(t)$ on the segment $[0, 1]$. The scalar control $u(t)$ is uniform in space and plays a role similar to the pressure in higher dimension. We set a right Dirichlet boundary condition $y(t, 1) = 0$, and allow a left boundary control $y(t, 0) = v(t)$. Under the assumption $\gamma > 3/2$ we prove that the system is small-time global null controllable. Our proof relies on the return method and a careful analysis of the shape and dissipation of a boundary layer.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Description of the system

For a given $T > 0$, we are concerned with the following generalized Burgers' equations on the segment $[0, 1]$:

$$\begin{cases} y_t + (|y|^\gamma)_x - y_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = v(t) & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(0, x) = y_0(x) & \text{on } (0, 1), \end{cases} \quad (E_\gamma)$$

where $u(t)$ is an interior control which does not depend on space, and $v(t)$ is a boundary control. We are interested in the small-time global null controllability. That is, for any initial (possibly large) datum y_0 and any (possibly small) final time T , can we find some controls u and v such that the solution of Eq. (E_γ) is steered to 0 in time T ?

1.2 Motivation and existing results

The main motivation for studying system (E_γ) comes from controllability questions in fluid mechanics, in both dimensions 2 and 3. Let us briefly recall some major results obtained during the last thirty years. Coron and Glass have respectively established the two-dimensional [Cor93] and three-dimensional [Gla97] controllability of the Euler system. As for the Navier–Stokes equation, the two-dimensional case in a manifold without boundary has been tackled by Coron and Fursikov in [CF96]. Following the later result, Fursikov and Imanuvilov proved a global exact controllability result in three dimensions in [FI99] with a control acting on the whole boundary.

More recently, Coron, Marbach and Sueur proved in [CMS20] the small-time global null controllability relying on a control acting on part of the boundary and a Navier slip-with-friction condition elsewhere. The same problem with Dirichlet boundary condition, stated by Lions in [Lio91], remains open and is considered to be a major challenge in the field. Most of the difficulties come from the interaction of the inertial and viscous forces near the uncontrolled boundary, which creates a difficult-to-control boundary layer. That question has motivated the study of several models with simpler geometry in two dimensions, for example [Cha09c], [GIP06] and [GIP12].

In this work, we consider the generalized Burgers' equations (E_γ) . Those equations are a family of one-dimensional non-linear evolution partial differential equations, whose solutions exhibit a boundary layer behaviour near a Dirichlet boundary condition. From an historical point of view, the classical viscous Burgers' equation ($\gamma = 2$ in Eq. (E_γ)) has been introduced and studied by Burgers in [Bur48]. Burgers' equation naturally appears among other fields in plasma physics, fluid dynamics and traffic flow. The generalized Burgers' equations are a generalisation of the classical Burgers' equation remaining in the class of viscous conservation law. A general study of these equations as well as the physical motivations behind them can be found for example in [Mur70b; Mur70a; SN87; SW99; EVZ93].

Let us now recall some major results concerning the controllability of Burgers' equation. Fursikov and Imanuvilov in [FI96] proved the small-time local exact controllability in the vicinity of the trajectories. Their result relies on Carleman estimates, and only uses one boundary control. Its extension to generalized Burgers' equations is straightforward (see Section 5).

Global controllability in finite time toward steady states with boundary controls was established in [FI95]. Some generalisations are available: let us cite for example the work of Léautaud who found an extension for a wide class of viscous conservation laws in [Léa12].

An obstruction to the small-time global null controllability with boundary controls was found in [GI07]. Hence, the use of the internal control $u(t)$ is necessary in Eq. (E_γ) . With the help of this new control and two boundary controls, Chapouly proved the small-time global null controllability using results on the inviscid Burgers equation in [Cha09b].

Afterwards, Marbach extended the proof of the small-time global null controllability without the right boundary control, i.e. in our setting described by Eq. (E_γ) . A key feature of his proof is the Cole-Hopf transform ([Col51; Hop50]). This transformation reduces Burgers' equation to the heat equation thanks to a change of variable.

In this paper, we generalize Marbach's work to the generalized Burgers' equations. To the best of our knowledge, those equations do not have an equivalent transformation. As a consequence, deriving precise estimates on the boundary layer is a more delicate task. We hope that this work will help to prepare the way for the many challenging problems remaining in control of fluid mechanics equations. In this scope, some related open problems are listed in Section 6.1.

1.3 Rigorous statement of our main result

We have to provide a reasonable definition for the solutions of Eq. (E_γ) . Namely, let us consider the following generalisation:

$$\begin{cases} y_t + (|y|^\gamma)_x - y_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = v(t) & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(t, 1) = w(t) & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(0, x) = y_0(x) & \text{on } (0, 1), \end{cases} \quad (F_\gamma)$$

where the scalar controls are $u \in L^\infty(0, T)$ and $v, w \in H^{1/4}(0, T) \cap L^\infty(0, T)$. We also assume $\gamma \geq 1$ and $y_0 \in L^\infty(0, 1)$, then there exists a unique solution of (F_γ) in $\mathcal{C}^0([0, T]; L^2) \cap L^2(0, T; H^1) \cap L^\infty((0, T) \times (0, 1))$. We do not provide the proof here, it is based on apriori energy estimates and a fixed point argument (see [Lio69]). For the interested reader, we mention that well-posedness in less regular space is studied in [Bek96; LZZ19].

Let us now state our main contribution.

Theorem 1. *Suppose $\gamma > 3/2$, $y_0 \in L^\infty(0, 1)$ and $T > 0$. Then, there exist $u \in L^\infty(0, T)$ and $v \in H^{1/4}(0, T) \cap L^\infty(0, T)$ steering the solution y of (E_γ) to the null state in time T .*

Remark 1. *We are not able to tackle the case $\gamma \in (1, 3/2]$, and we believe that our method cannot be used to tackle this (entire) range of γ . We comment this point in Section 6.1.*

Remark 2. *If one replaces the non-linearity $(|y|^\gamma)_x$ in Eq. (E_γ) with $|y|^{\gamma-1}y_x$, Theorem 1 remains valid for $\gamma > 2$. Adaptation of the proof is straightforward except for Section 4. In that section, our proof does not extend to $\gamma \leq 2$ (there is a sign issue in Eq. (71)).*

The sketch of the proof is the following: to reach the null state in arbitrary small-time, we take advantage of the return method introduced by Coron in [Cor92] (see also [Cor09]), and more specifically, the three-stages strategy developed by Marbach in [Mar14].

- Hyperbolic stage, first part: we introduce the steady state ϑ of (E_γ) with $u = 0$ and $v = \theta \gg 1$:

$$\begin{cases} \vartheta_{xx} = (\vartheta^\gamma)_x, \\ \vartheta(0) = \theta, \quad \vartheta(1) = 0. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Note that ϑ exhibits a boundary layer near the right endpoint. Using the hyperbolic nature of the equation when it is governed by the non-linear term, we prove that we can approximate ϑ in small-time.

- Hyperbolic stage, second part: we use the pressure-like term to drive our system to a neighborhood of the null state up to a boundary residue around $x = 1$.
- Passive stage: we do not apply any control and wait for the dissipation of the boundary residue in small-time. The assumption $\gamma > 3/2$ is crucial for this stage.
- Parabolic stage: we provide a local exact controllability result around zero using a fixed point method.

The proof of Theorem 1 is then obtained by the combination of these stages resumed in Propositions 4 and 6 and Lemmas 5 and 7.

1.4 Preliminaries

1.4.1 Comparison principle

Let us recall the comparison principle for semi-linear parabolic equations. Let us suppose that y (resp. \tilde{y}) is a solution of (F_γ) with controls u, v, w (resp. $\tilde{u}, \tilde{v}, \tilde{w}$) and initial condition y_0 (resp. \tilde{y}_0), such that a.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} u &\leq \tilde{u}, & v &\leq \tilde{v}, \\ w &\leq \tilde{w}, & y_0 &\leq \tilde{y}_0. \end{aligned}$$

Then,

$$y \leq \tilde{y}.$$

We refer to [PS07]. One can also easily extend the proof given by Marbach in [Mar14].

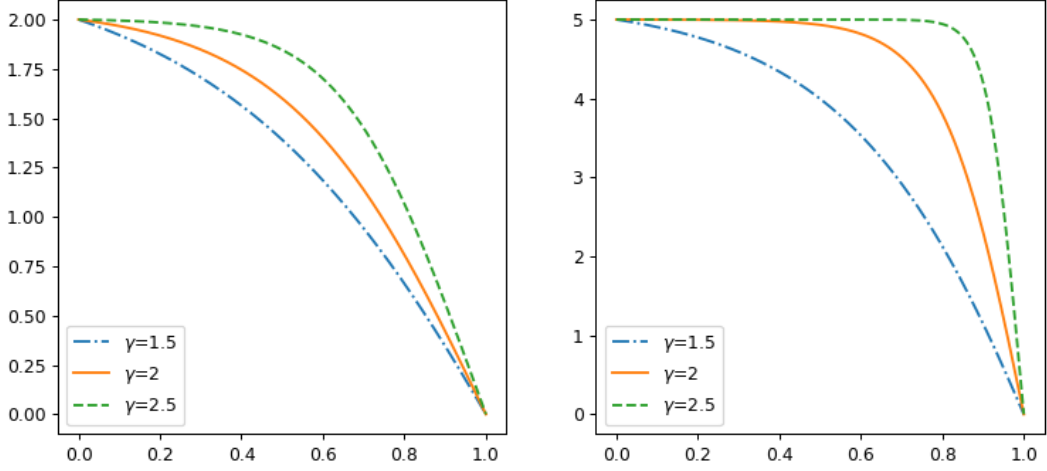


Figure 1: Steady states ϑ with $\theta = 2$ and $\theta = 5$ for different values of γ .

1.4.2 Study of the steady states

It is crucial in our proof to have a reasonable description of the steady states ϑ defined by Eq. (1).

Lemma 2. *Let $\theta > 0$, then Eq. (1) admits a unique solution. Besides,*

$$\vartheta_x = |\vartheta|^\gamma + \vartheta_x(1) \quad \text{with} \quad -\theta^\gamma - \theta < \vartheta_x(1) < -\theta^\gamma \quad (2)$$

and $\theta \mapsto \vartheta_x(1)$ is decreasing.

Proof. To prove the existence, let us consider the application given as follows: for any $(\theta, C) \in \mathbb{R}^2$, we associate the (local) solution y of

$$y(0) = \theta, \quad y_x = |y|^\gamma + C. \quad (3)$$

If $C = -\theta^\gamma$, then y is the constant function θ . Conversely, if $C \leq -\theta^\gamma - \theta$, y reaches 0 in $(0, 1)$. Hence, by the intermediate value theorem, there exists C such that $y(1) = 0$. Besides, as $C \mapsto y(1)$ is an increasing function, we proved the uniqueness of the solution of Eq. (1).

Moreover, if one consider the solutions (y_1, y_2) of Eq. (3) for $\theta_1 < \theta_2$ with the same C , then $\forall x \in [0, 1]$, $y_1(x) \leq y_2(x)$. Hence, $\theta \mapsto \vartheta_x(1)$ is increasing. \square

Note that Eq. (2) also shows that ϑ is a non-negative, decreasing and concave function.

Remark 3.

- In the case of the usual Burgers' equation,

$$\vartheta(x) = \hat{\theta} \tanh(\hat{\theta}(1-x)), \quad (4)$$

where $\hat{\theta}$ is the unique solution of $\hat{\theta} \tanh(\hat{\theta}) = \theta$.

- For the linear case, i.e. with $\gamma = 1$ (which is not included in the assumption of Theorem 1), we have

$$\vartheta(x) = \frac{(e - e^x)}{e - 1} \theta. \quad (5)$$

For a general γ , we are not aware of an explicit expression for ϑ . If $\gamma > 1$, ϑ presents a boundary layer at the right endpoint (see Fig. 1) which is characterized in the next lemma.

Lemma 3. *Let $\gamma > 1$ and ϑ the solution of Eq. (1). Then ϑ exhibits a boundary layer of size $\frac{1}{\theta^{\gamma-1}}$ around $x = 1$. More precisely, the following estimates hold:*

1. Let $a \in (0, 1)$, then for all $\theta > 0$,

$$\vartheta(x) \geq a\theta, \quad \forall x \in [0, 1 - \frac{a}{1-a^\gamma}\theta^{1-\gamma}]. \quad (6)$$

2. Let $\epsilon > 0$ and $\alpha < \gamma - 1$, then there exists $C_{\epsilon, \alpha} > 0$ such that

$$\vartheta(x) \geq \theta - \epsilon, \quad \forall x \in [0, 1 - C_{\epsilon, \alpha}\theta^{-\alpha}]. \quad (7)$$

Proof. For $x \in [0, 1]$, according to Eq. (2),

$$\vartheta_x(x) = \vartheta(x)^\gamma + \vartheta_x(1) \leq \vartheta(x)^\gamma - \theta^\gamma < 0.$$

Thus, for any $x^* \in (0, 1)$,

$$\int_{x^*}^1 \frac{-\vartheta_x(x)dx}{\theta^\gamma - \vartheta^\gamma(x)} \geq 1 - x^*.$$

By the change of variable formula with $z = \vartheta(x)$,

$$\int_0^{\vartheta(x^*)} \frac{dz}{\theta^\gamma - z^\gamma} \geq 1 - x^*. \quad (8)$$

To prove the first point, let $x^* \in (0, 1)$ be the unique solution to the equation $\vartheta(x^*) = a$. Injecting into Equation (8), we get

$$a\theta \frac{1}{\theta^\gamma(1-a^\gamma)} \geq \int_0^{\vartheta(x^*)} \frac{dz}{\theta^\gamma - z^\gamma} \geq 1 - x^*.$$

Thus,

$$x^* \geq 1 - \frac{a}{1-a^\gamma}\theta^{1-\gamma}.$$

For the second point, let $x^* \in (0, 1)$ be the unique solution to the equation $\vartheta(x^*) = \theta - \epsilon$. Let us use (8) again, and apply the change of variable $s = \theta z$,

$$\int_0^{\vartheta(x^*)} \frac{dz}{\theta^\gamma - z^\gamma} = \theta^{1-\gamma} \int_0^{1-\epsilon/\theta} \frac{ds}{1-s^\gamma}.$$

For $\gamma > 1$, we have $\frac{1}{1-s} > \frac{1}{1-s^\gamma}$. Thus,

$$-\theta^{1-\gamma} \ln\left(\frac{\epsilon}{\theta}\right) > 1 - x^*.$$

Using $-\theta^{1-\gamma} \ln\left(\frac{\epsilon}{\theta}\right) = o(\theta^{-\alpha})$, for a given couple (α, ϵ) , there exists $C_{\epsilon, \alpha}$ such that

$$x^* \geq 1 - C_{\epsilon, \alpha}\theta^{-\alpha}.$$

□

2 Hyperbolic stage, first part: toward a very stable steady state

2.1 The control strategy

The goal of this section is to prove the following proposition.

Proposition 4. For a given $y_0 \in L^\infty(0, 1)$, $\eta > 0$ and $T > 0$, one can find $\theta_0 > 0$ such that the following holds: for any $\theta \geq \theta_0$, there exist $u, v \in L^\infty(0, T) \times (L^\infty(0, T) \cap H^{1/4}(0, T))$ such that the solution y of (E_γ) satisfies

$$\vartheta(x) \leq y(T, x), \quad (9)$$

and

$$y(T, x) \leq \theta + \eta. \quad (10)$$

For the proof of Proposition 4, we use the following controls on $[0, T]$

$$u(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{\theta + 2\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}}{T'} & \text{for } t \leq T', \\ 0 & \text{for } t > T', \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

and

$$v(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{(\theta + \|y_0\|_{L^\infty})t}{T'} & \text{for } t \leq T', \\ \theta + \frac{\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}(\frac{T}{2} - t)}{\frac{T}{2} - T'} & \text{for } T' < t \leq T/2, \\ \theta & \text{for } t > T/2, \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

where $T' < \frac{T}{2}$ will be chosen small enough later. We denote y the solution of (E_γ) associated with these controls. We prove separately the lowerbound (9) and the upperbound (10).

Remark 4. In what follows, we use C for a constant which is independent of θ and may be different from one line to the next.

2.2 Lowerbound

The idea to handle the lowerbound is to use a very small time T' . Let us introduce

$$\underline{v}(t) = \frac{(\theta + 2\|y_0\|_{L^\infty})t}{T'} - \|y_0\|_{L^\infty} \leq v(t) \text{ for all } t \leq T', \quad (13)$$

and set

$$T'_0 = \frac{T'\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}}{(\theta + 2\|y_0\|_{L^\infty})}. \quad (14)$$

Leading to, $\forall t \leq T'_0, \underline{v}(t) \leq 0$.

We define the following subsolution \underline{y} of y on $(0, T'_0)$:

$$\begin{cases} \underline{y}_t + (|\underline{y}|^\gamma)_x - \underline{y}_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (0, T'_0) \times (0, 1), \\ \underline{y}(t, 0) = \underline{v}(t) & \text{on } (0, T'_0), \\ \underline{y}(t, 1) = \underline{v}(t) & \text{on } (0, T'_0), \\ \underline{y}(0, x) = -\|y_0\|_{L^\infty} & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

We easily check that $\underline{y}(t) = \underline{v}(t)$ for all $t \leq T'_0$, which means in particular that $\underline{y}(T'_0) = 0$.

Let us now study the solution $\underline{y}^{\text{lin}}$ of the following heat equation on the semi-infinite space domain $(-\infty, 1)$ with Dirichlet boundary condition on $x = 1$:

$$\begin{cases} \underline{y}_t^{\text{lin}} - \underline{y}_{xx}^{\text{lin}} = u(t) & \text{on } (T'_0, T') \times (-\infty, 1), \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \underline{y}^{\text{lin}}(t, x) = \underline{v}(t) & \text{on } (T'_0, T'), \\ \underline{y}^{\text{lin}}(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (T'_0, T'), \\ \underline{y}^{\text{lin}}(0, x) = 0 & \text{on } (-\infty, 1). \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

Using the usual representation formula, we introduce $\text{erf}(z) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^z e^{-x^2} dx$, and compute

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{y}^{\text{lin}}(t, x_1) &= \int_{T'_0}^t \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi(t-s)}} \int_{-\infty}^1 (e^{-\frac{(x_1-x_2)^2}{4(t-s)}} - e^{-\frac{(x_1+x_2-2)^2}{4(t-s)}}) u(s) dx_2 ds \\ &= \int_{T'_0}^t \frac{\theta + 2\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}}{T'} \text{erf}\left(\frac{1-x}{\sqrt{t-s}}\right) ds. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Note that for $t \in [T'_0, T']$,

$$\underline{y}_x^{\text{lin}}(t, x) \leq 0, \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq \underline{y}^{\text{lin}}(t, x) \leq \underline{v}(t). \quad (18)$$

Besides, using that erf is an increasing function,

$$(\theta + \|y_0\|_{L^\infty}) \text{erf}\left(\frac{1-x}{\sqrt{T'}}\right) \leq \underline{y}^{\text{lin}}(T', x). \quad (19)$$

Using the upperbound

$$\vartheta(x) \leq \min [M, \vartheta_x(1)(1-x)], \quad x \in [0, 1] \quad (20)$$

combined with the fact that $\lim_{z \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{erf}(z) = 1$, we can find T' small enough so that

$$\vartheta(x) \leq \underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}}(T', x), \quad \text{for all } x \in [0, 1]. \quad (21)$$

Going back to the non-linear equation, we extend \underline{y} to (T'_0, T') by

$$\begin{cases} \underline{y}_t + (\underline{y}^\gamma)_x - \underline{y}_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (T'_0, T') \times (0, 1), \\ \underline{y}(t, 0) = \underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}}(t, 0) & \text{on } (T'_0, T'), \\ \underline{y}(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (T'_0, T'), \\ \underline{y}(0, x) = 0 & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

Note that \underline{y} is non-negative on $(T'_0, T') \times (0, 1)$. We consider $\delta = \underline{y} - \underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}}$, which is solution of

$$\begin{cases} \delta_t - \delta_{xx} = -((\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}} + \delta)^\gamma)_x & \text{on } (T'_0, T') \times (0, 1), \\ \delta(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (T'_0, T'), \\ \delta(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (T'_0, T'), \\ \delta(0, x) = 0 & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

Let us prove that $\delta \geq 0$ thanks to an energy estimate. We multiply Eq. (23) by $w = \min(\delta, 0)$, the negative part of δ , and we integrate in space to get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|w(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|w_x(t)\|_{L^2}^2 &= - \int_0^1 w((\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}} + w)^\gamma)_x \\ &= - \int_0^1 w((\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}} + w)^\gamma - (\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}})^\gamma + (\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}})^\gamma)_x \\ &= - \int_0^1 \gamma w \underline{y}_x^{\operatorname{lin}} (\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}})^{\gamma-1} + \int_0^1 w_x((\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}} + w)^\gamma - (\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}})^\gamma). \end{aligned}$$

The first term of the last line is non-positive, hence using Cauchy-Schwartz and Young inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|w(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|w_x(t)\|_{L^2}^2 &\leq \|w_x(t)\|_{L^2} \|(\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}} + w)^\gamma - (\underline{y}^{\operatorname{lin}})^\gamma\|_{L^2} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} \|w_x(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{\gamma^2}{2} (\theta + \|y_0\|_{L^\infty})^2 \|w\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

By applying Gronwall inequality, we get

$$\|w(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq \|w(0)\|_{L^2}^2 e^{\gamma^2(\theta + \|y_0\|_{L^\infty})^2 t}, \quad (24)$$

which implies $w = 0$.

Hence, we proved that for T' small enough, $y(T') \geq \vartheta$. Besides, ϑ is a subsolution for the controls defined in Eqs. (11) and (12) on (T', T) . As a consequence, for all $t \geq T'$, $y(t, x) \geq \vartheta(x)$, which concludes the proof of the lowerbound (9) of Proposition 4.

2.3 Upperbound

We set

$$\bar{v}(t) = \begin{cases} \|y_0\|_{L^\infty} + \frac{(\theta+2\|y_0\|_{L^\infty})t}{T'} & \geq v(t) \quad \text{for } t \leq T', \\ v(t) & \text{for } t > T'. \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

Let us consider the supersolution \bar{y} on $(0, T)$ ¹

$$\begin{cases} \bar{y}_t + (\bar{y}^\gamma)_x - \bar{y}_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ \bar{y}(t, 0) = \bar{v}(t) & \text{on } (0, T), \\ \bar{y}(t, 1) = \bar{v}(t) & \text{on } (0, T), \\ \bar{y}(0, x) = \|y_0\|_\infty & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

¹As \bar{v} is not in $H^{1/4}(0, T)$, we formally define \bar{y} on both time intervals $(0, T')$ and (T', T) .

Note that $\forall t \in [0, T']$, $\bar{y}(t) = \bar{v}(t)$. Using the comparison principle, we obtain

$$\theta \leq \bar{y}(t) \leq \theta + 3\|y_0\|_{L^\infty} \text{ for all } t \geq T'. \quad (27)$$

Let us now denote by $\delta(t, x)$ the solution of

$$\begin{cases} \delta_t + \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta_x - \delta_{xx} = -((\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta)_x & \text{on } (\frac{T}{2}, T) \times (0, 1), \\ \delta(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (\frac{T}{2}, T), \\ \delta(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (\frac{T}{2}, T), \\ \delta(\frac{T}{2}, x) = 3\|y_0\|_{L^\infty} & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

Using the comparison principle, we observe that, for $t \in [\frac{T}{2}, T]$, $\delta(t, x) \geq \bar{y}(t, x) - \theta$. To study the evolution of δ , we introduce the weight

$$A(x) = e^{\frac{\gamma}{2}\theta^{\gamma-1}(1-x)}. \quad (29)$$

Thus,

$$A_x = -\frac{\gamma}{2}\theta^{\gamma-1}A. \quad (30)$$

We multiply the first line of (28) by $A\delta$ and we integrate on space. The terms of the left-hand side are

$$\int_0^1 \delta_t A \delta dx = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\delta\|_{L^2(A dx)}^2, \quad (31)$$

$$\int_0^1 \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta_x A \delta dx = \int_0^1 (\gamma\theta^{\gamma-1})^2 \delta^2 A, \quad (32)$$

$$- \int_0^1 \delta_{xx} A \delta dx = \int_0^1 (\delta_x)^2 A dx - \int_0^1 \frac{\gamma}{2}\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta\delta_x A dx. \quad (33)$$

Hence, the left-hand side of Equation (28) becomes

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\delta\|_{L^2(A dx)}^2 + \frac{\gamma^2 \theta^{2(\gamma-1)}}{2} \|\delta\|_{L^2(A dx)}^2 + \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(A dx)}^2. \quad (34)$$

We multiply the right-hand side of Eq. (28) by $A\delta$ and integrate in space to get

$$- \int_0^1 A \delta ((\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta)_x = \int_0^1 A_x \delta ((\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta) \quad (35)$$

$$+ \int_0^1 A \delta_x ((\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta). \quad (36)$$

As $z \mapsto z^\gamma$ is convex, $(\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta \geq 0$. As a consequence, the right-hand side integral in line (35) is non-positive. Besides,

$$\int_0^1 A \delta_x ((\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta) \leq \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(A dx)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|(\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta\|_{L^2(A dx)}^2. \quad (37)$$

Let us estimate the second term of the right-hand side. For $\gamma \geq 2$, we can use the fact that the second derivative of $z \mapsto z^\gamma$ is increasing to get

$$(\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta \leq \frac{\delta^2}{2} \gamma(\gamma-1)(\theta + 3\|y_0\|_{L^\infty})^{\gamma-2}. \quad (38)$$

Whereas, for $\gamma \leq 2$, we get

$$(\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \gamma\theta^{\gamma-1}\delta \leq \frac{\delta^2}{2} \gamma(\gamma-1)\theta^{\gamma-2}. \quad (39)$$

Combining Eqs. (34) and (37) to (39), we obtain the weighted energy estimate

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\delta(t)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 + \frac{\gamma^2 \theta^{2(\gamma-1)}}{2} \|\delta(t)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 \leq \gamma^2 (\gamma-1)^2 \tilde{\theta}^{2(\gamma-2)} \|\delta(t)\|_{L^\infty}^2 \|\delta(t)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2, \quad (40)$$

where

$$\tilde{\theta} = \begin{cases} \theta + 3\|y_0\|_{L^\infty} & \text{if } 3/2 < \gamma < 2, \\ \theta & \text{if } \gamma \geq 2. \end{cases} \quad (41)$$

We obtain an L^∞ norm estimate for δ with Eq. (27)

$$\|\delta(t)\|_{L^\infty}^2 \leq 9\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}^2. \quad (42)$$

Hence, there exists θ_0 (depending on $\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}$ and γ) which together with Eq. (40) implies that for any $\theta \geq \theta_0$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \|\delta(t)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 \leq -\frac{\gamma^2 \theta^{2(\gamma-1)}}{4} \|\delta(t)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2. \quad (43)$$

Using the expression of A (29), we estimate the initial condition

$$\|\delta(\frac{T}{2})\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 \leq \|\delta(\frac{T}{2})^2 A\|_{L^\infty} \leq 9\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}^2 e^{\frac{3}{2}\theta^{\gamma-1}}. \quad (44)$$

Gronwall inequality applied to Eqs. (43) and (44) gives

$$\|\delta(t)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 \leq 9\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}^2 e^{\frac{3}{2}\theta^{\gamma-1}} e^{-\frac{\gamma^2 \theta^{2(\gamma-1)}}{4}(t-T)}. \quad (45)$$

Integrating Eq. (43) on $(\frac{3T}{4}, T)$, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(\frac{3T}{4}, T; L^2(Adx))}^2 &\leq \|\delta(3T/4)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 \\ &\leq 9\|y_0\|_{L^\infty}^2 e^{\frac{3}{2}\theta^{\gamma-1}} e^{-\frac{\gamma^2 \theta^{2(\gamma-1)}}{4}(T/4)} \xrightarrow{\theta \rightarrow \infty} 0. \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

Hence, there exists $t^* \in [\frac{3T}{4}, T]$ such that

$$\|\delta(t^*)\|_{H^1}^2 \leq C \|\delta_x(t^*)\|_{L^2(Adx)}^2 \leq \frac{4C}{T} \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(\frac{3T}{4}, T; L^2(Adx))}^2. \quad (47)$$

Using a classical parabolic estimate on the heat equation (see Appendix A), we get

$$\|\delta(T)\|_{H_0^1} \leq \|\delta(t^*)\|_{H_0^1} + \|((\theta + \delta)^\gamma - \theta^\gamma)_x\|_{L^2(t^*, T; L^2(dx))}^2 \quad (48)$$

$$\leq \frac{4C}{T} \|\delta_x\|_{L^2(\frac{3T}{4}, T; L^2(Adx))}^2 + \gamma^2 (\theta + 3\|y_0\|_{L^\infty})^{2(\gamma-1)} \|\delta\|_{L^2(t^*, T; H_0^1)}^2. \quad (49)$$

Thanks to the exponential decrease in θ of Eq. (46), we obtain that

$$\|\delta(T)\|_{H_0^1} \xrightarrow{\theta \rightarrow \infty} 0, \quad (50)$$

which proves Eq. (10) and conclude the proof of Proposition 4.

3 Hyperbolic stage, second part: toward a neighborhood of zero up to a boundary layer

Thanks to the previous part, we reduced our problem to the case where the initial condition y_0 satisfies for some $\theta, \eta > 0$,

$$\vartheta(x) \leq y_0(x) \leq \theta + \eta. \quad (51)$$

In this section we prove that we can steer the solution of the system (E_γ) to a small neighborhood of the null state up to a boundary residue near the right endpoint.

Lemma 5. *Let $T > 0$ and $\theta > 0$. There exists $T' \leq T$, $u, v \in L^\infty(0, T') \times (L^\infty(0, T') \cap H^{1/4}(0, T'))$ such that for any y_0 satisfying Eq. (51), we have*

$$\vartheta(x) - \theta - \eta < y(T', x) < \eta. \quad (52)$$

Proof. Let us consider the controls $u(t) = -\frac{\theta}{T'}$ and $v(t) = \theta(1 - \frac{t}{T'})$ on $[0, T']$ for some $T' \leq T$ which will be chosen later. We denote by y the corresponding solution of Eq. (E_γ) with any initial condition satisfying Eq. (51). Then, we define a subsolution \underline{y} and a supersolution \bar{y} by

$$\begin{cases} \underline{y}_t + (|\underline{y}|^\gamma)_x - \underline{y}_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (0, T') \times (0, 1), \\ \underline{y}(t, 0) = v(t) & \text{on } (0, T'), \\ \underline{y}(t, 1) = -\frac{\theta t}{T'} & \text{on } (0, T'), \\ \underline{y}(0, x) = \vartheta & \text{on } (0, 1), \end{cases} \quad (53)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} \bar{y}_t + (|\bar{y}|^\gamma)_x - \bar{y}_{xx} = u(t) & \text{on } (0, T') \times (0, 1), \\ \bar{y}(t, 0) = v(t) + \eta & \text{on } (0, T'), \\ \bar{y}(t, 1) = v(t) + \eta & \text{on } (0, T'), \\ \bar{y}(0, x) = \theta + \eta & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (54)$$

We easily check that $\bar{y}(t) = v(t) + \eta$, thus $\bar{y}(T') = \eta$. This concludes the proof of the upperbound.

Let us now focus on the subsolution. We define $\delta(t, x) = \underline{y}(t, x) - \vartheta(x) - \frac{\theta t}{T'}$. Then, δ is solution of

$$\begin{cases} \delta_t - \delta_{xx} = -(|\vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} + \delta|^\gamma)_x & \text{on } (0, T') \times (0, 1), \\ \delta(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T'), \\ \delta(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T'), \\ \delta(0, x) = 0 & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (55)$$

The $H^{-1}(0, 1)$ norm of the source term can be estimated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \left(\left| \vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} + \delta(t) \right|^\gamma \right)_x \right\|_{H^{-1}} &= \left\| \left(\left| \vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} + \delta(t) \right|^\gamma \right)_x - \left(\left| \vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} \right|^\gamma \right)_x + \left(\left| \vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} \right|^\gamma \right)_x \right\|_{H^{-1}} \\ &\leq \left\| \left(\left| \vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} + \delta(t) \right|^\gamma \right)_x - \left(\left| \vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} \right|^\gamma \right)_x \right\|_{L^2} + C(\theta, \gamma) \\ &\leq C(\theta, \gamma) \|\delta(t)\|_{L^2} + C(\theta, \gamma). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, applying a regularity estimate for the heat equation reproduced in Appendix A,

$$\|\delta(t)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\delta\|_{L^2(0, t; H_0^1)}^2 \leq \int_0^t C(\theta, \gamma) (\|\delta(s)\|_{L^2}^2 + 1) ds. \quad (56)$$

Thanks to Gronwall inequality,

$$\|\delta(t)\|_{L^2}^2 \leq C(\theta, \gamma) t e^{C(\theta, \gamma)t}. \quad (57)$$

After an integration in time, we obtain

$$\|\delta\|_{L^2(0, t; H_0^1)}^2 \leq \frac{1}{C(\theta, \gamma)} \left(e^{C(\theta, \gamma)t} (C(\theta, \gamma)t - 1) + 1 \right) = O_{t \rightarrow 0}(t^2). \quad (58)$$

Now, using that there exists a constant $C(\theta, \gamma)$ such that

$$\|(|\vartheta + \frac{\theta t}{T'} + \delta(t)|^\gamma)_x\|_{L^2} \leq C(\theta, \gamma) \|\delta(t)\|_{H^1} + C(\theta, \gamma), \quad (59)$$

together with Appendix A again, we get

$$\|\delta(t)\|_{H_0^1}^2 \leq C(\theta, \gamma) \|\delta\|_{L^2(0, t; H_0^1)}^2 + C(\theta, \gamma)t. \quad (60)$$

As those estimates are uniform in T' , we have

$$\|\delta(T')\|_{H_0^1}^2 = O_{T' \rightarrow 0}(T'). \quad (61)$$

This implies that there exists $T' < T$ such that

$$\|\delta(T')\|_{L^\infty} < \eta. \quad (62)$$

This concludes the proof of Lemma 5. \square

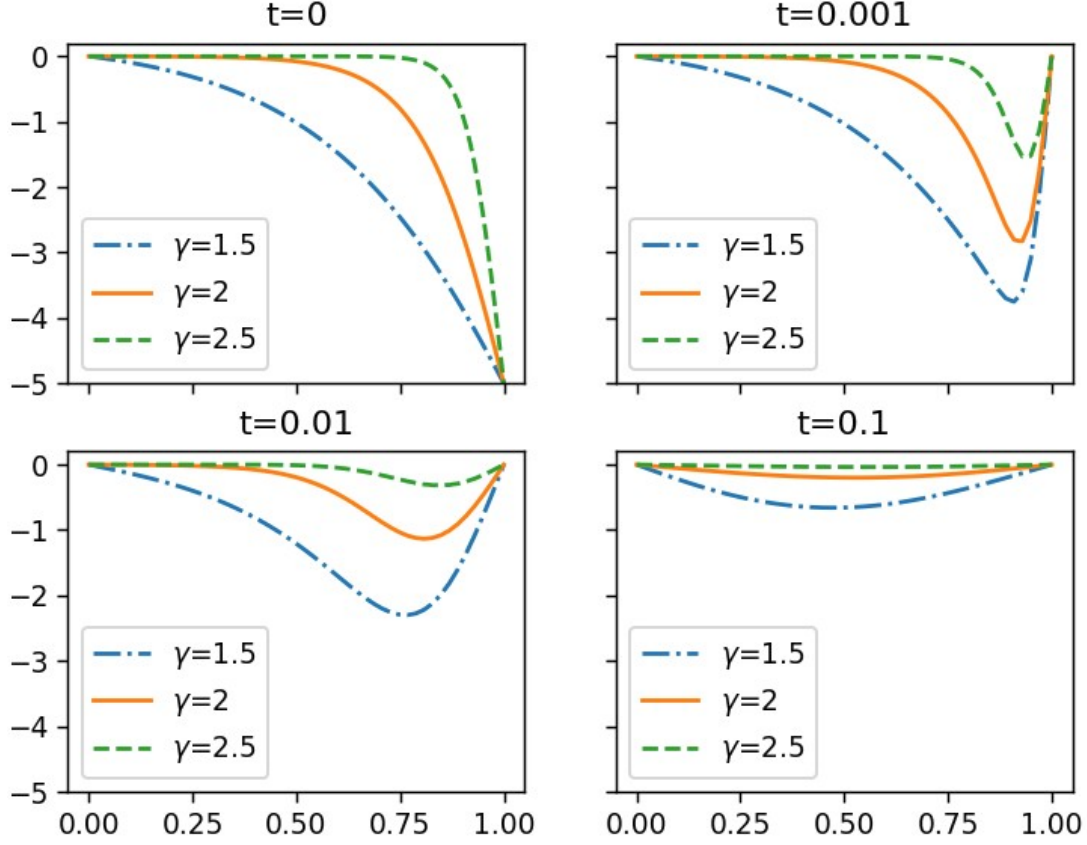


Figure 2: Simulation of the dissipation of the boundary layer residue for different values γ .

4 Passive stage: dissipation of the boundary residue

In this stage, we start with an initial condition satisfying

$$\vartheta(x) - \theta - \eta < y(T', x) < \eta, \quad x \in [0, 1] \quad (63)$$

and we prove the dissipation of the residue $\vartheta(x) - \theta$.

Proposition 6. *For a given $T > 0$, there exist $C(T)$ and θ_0 such that for every $\theta \geq \theta_0$, every $\eta > 0$ in a neighborhood of zero and every initial condition y_0 satisfying Eq. (63), the solution of Eq. (E_γ) with null controls satisfies*

$$C(T)\eta \leq y(T) \leq \eta, \quad y(T) \in H_0^1(0, 1). \quad (64)$$

The upperbound is just a consequence of the comparison principle. Let us thus focus on the lowerbound. If γ is smaller, the boundary layer is larger and the time needed for the dissipation increases. Fig. 2 illustrates this phenomenon. If $\gamma \leq 3/2$, our estimates are not sufficient to prove Proposition 6. In order to estimate the size of the boundary layer, we use the second point of Lemma 3. That is, for $\frac{1}{2} < \alpha < \gamma - 1$, there exists \tilde{C} such that

$$-2\eta - \theta \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1 - \tilde{C}\theta^{-\alpha}} \leq \vartheta(x) - \theta - \eta. \quad (65)$$

We also set $\epsilon_1 = \gamma - 1 - \alpha > 0$ as we will need later to take α close enough to $\gamma - 1$.

We introduce the following subsolution:

$$\begin{cases} \underline{y}_t + (|\underline{y}|^\gamma)_x - \underline{y}_{xx} = 0 & \text{on } (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ \underline{y}(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ \underline{y}(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ \underline{y}(0) = -2\eta - \theta \mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1 - \tilde{C}\theta^{-\alpha}} & \text{on } (0, 1). \end{cases} \quad (66)$$

Note that \underline{y} is a non-positive solution. Besides

$$\|\underline{y}(0)\|_{L^1} = 2\eta + \tilde{C}\theta^{2-\gamma+\epsilon_1}. \quad (67)$$

Hence, if $\gamma > 2$, we have

$$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow \infty} \|\underline{y}(0)\|_{L^1} = 2\eta. \quad (68)$$

We use a smoothing result by Carlen and Loss [CL95, Theorem 1] for strictly convex conservation laws to deduce

$$\|\underline{y}(t)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \frac{\|\underline{y}(0)\|_{L^1}}{\sqrt{4\pi t}}. \quad (69)$$

As a consequence, there exists θ_0 such that, for any $\theta \geq \theta_0$,

$$\|\underline{y}(T)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \frac{3\eta}{\sqrt{4\pi T}}, \quad (70)$$

which concludes the proof for $\gamma > 2$.

In the case $\gamma < 2$, the boundary layer grows with θ . The smoothing property of Eq. (69) does not exploit the initial localisation near the boundary. Hence, to handle γ small, we use instead a weighted estimate.

We multiply Eq. (66) by $(x-1)$ and integrate on space to get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_0^1 (x-1)\underline{y}(t,x)dx + \int_0^1 |\underline{y}(t,x)|^\gamma dx - \underline{y}_x(0) = 0. \quad (71)$$

Note that $\int_0^1 (x-1)\underline{y}(t,x)dx$ and $-\underline{y}_x(0)$ are both non-negative as $\underline{y} \leq 0$. Besides,

$$\int_0^1 (x-1)(-2\eta\mathbb{1}_{x \geq 0} - \theta\mathbb{1}_{x \geq 1-\tilde{C}\theta^{-\alpha}})dx = \frac{\tilde{C}^2\theta^{1-2\alpha}}{2} + \eta. \quad (72)$$

We integrate Eq. (71) on $(0, \frac{T}{2})$ and use Eq. (72) to get the estimate

$$\|\underline{y}\|_{L^\gamma((0, \frac{T}{2}) \times (0,1))}^\gamma \leq \frac{\tilde{C}^2\theta^{1-2\alpha}}{2} + \eta. \quad (73)$$

Note that $\theta^{1-2\alpha}$ goes to 0 as θ goes to ∞ . This is the case because we assumed $\gamma > 3/2$.

Using Eq. (73), there exists C such that for θ large enough, there exist $t^* \in (0, \frac{T}{2})$ satisfying

$$\|\underline{y}(t^*)\|_{L^1(0,1)} < C\eta. \quad (74)$$

We cannot use the smoothing result from Carlen and Loss as it requires the flux function to be strongly convex (hence $\gamma \geq 2$), but a similar result (without an explicit expression for the constant) is available in [FL99, Lemma 3.1] or [BBS20, Lemma 4.2]. Finally, we get

$$\|\underline{y}(T)\|_{L^\infty} \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{T-t^*}} \|\underline{y}(t^*)\|_{L^1} \leq C'\eta. \quad (75)$$

This concludes the proof of Proposition 6

5 Parabolic stage: local null exact controllability

The local null exact controllability of semi-linear parabolic equations has been established for a wide variety of cases. For completeness, we provide a sketch of proof based on [FG07, Lemma 2].

Lemma 7. *There exists $C^* > 0$ such that for every $y_0 \in H_0^1$ satisfying $\|y_0\|_{L^\infty} < \frac{1}{2}$ and $\|y_0\|_{L^2} \leq \frac{1}{2T}e^{-C^*/T}$, there exists a control $v \in H^{1/4}(0, T) \cap L^\infty(0, T)$ such that the solution of (E_γ) with controls $u = 0$ and v satisfies $y(T) = 0$.*

Sketch of the proof. First, we transform the boundary control problem into an internal control one. Namely, we consider the wider space domain $[-1, 1]$ and a domain of the internal control $\omega \subset (-1, 0)$ with non-empty interior. We denote $Q = (0, T) \times [-1, 1]$. Let w be an internal control acting on $(0, T) \times \omega$. We are interested in the local null exact controllability of

$$\begin{cases} y_t + (|y|^\gamma)_x - y_{xx} = w(t, x)\mathbb{1}_{(0, T) \times \omega} & \text{on } (0, T) \times (-1, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(0, x) = \tilde{y}_0(x) & \text{on } (-1, 1), \end{cases} \quad (76)$$

where $\tilde{y}_0 \in H_0^1(0, 1)$ is the extension of y_0 by 0 on $(-1, 1)$.

We set $s \in (0, 1)$ and introduce the closed convex set

$$K = \{z \in H^s(Q) \mid \|z\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \leq 1\} \quad (77)$$

and the following set of admissible controls

$$\mathcal{A}_0 = \{w \in L^\infty((0, T) \times \omega) \mid \|w\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \leq \|y_0\|_{L^2} e^{C^*/T}\}, \quad (78)$$

where C^* will be defined later. Let us define φ for $z \in K$ by

$$\varphi(z) = \text{sign}(z)|z|^{\gamma-1} \quad (79)$$

Note that $\|\varphi(z)\|_{L^\infty} \leq 1$. Let $\mathcal{A} : H^s(Q) \rightarrow H^s(Q)$ be the set-value mapping associating with $z \in H^s(Q)$ the set of solutions y of the linear equation

$$\begin{cases} y_t + \varphi(z)y_x - y_{xx} = w(t, x) & \text{on } (0, T) \times (-1, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(0, x) = \tilde{y}_0(x) & \text{on } (-1, 1), \end{cases} \quad (80)$$

with $w \in \mathcal{A}_0$ and satisfying $y(T) = 0$.

According to [FG07; FZ00], there exists $C^* > 0$ such that for any function $\varphi(z)$ with $\|\varphi(z)\|_{L^\infty} \leq 1$, there exists $w \in \mathcal{A}_0$ steering the solution of Eq. (80) to zero, i.e., $\mathcal{A}(z)$ is not empty.

Let us now assume that y_0 satisfies the assumption of Lemma 7 with C^* . We want to check that \mathcal{A} satisfies the hypotheses of Kakutani's fixed point theorem ([GD03, Chapter 2]).

Using [LSU68, Chapter 3], the solutions y of Eq. (80) belong to

$$X = L^2(0, T; H^2(-1, 1)) \cap H^1(0, T; L^2(-1, 1))$$

and thus to $H^1(Q)$. Moreover, the maximum principle implies

$$\|y\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \leq \|y_0\|_{L^\infty(Q)} + T\|w\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \leq 1. \quad (81)$$

Hence, \mathcal{A} maps K into K and, for any $z \in K$, $\mathcal{A}(z)$ is a non-empty convex compact subset of $H^s(Q)$.

Let us now check that \mathcal{A} is upper hemicontinuous on K . In pursuite of this goal, we set $\mu \in (H^s(Q))'$. We have to check that

$$z \mapsto \sup_{y \in \mathcal{A}(z)} \langle \mu, y \rangle \quad (82)$$

is upper semi-continuous.

Let $(z_n)_n \in K^\mathbb{N}$ be a converging sequence toward z_∞ in $H^s(Q)$. Let us first observe that $\varphi : K \rightarrow L^2(Q)$ is continuous. Indeed, for $\gamma \geq 2$ we use the uniform boundedness of K

$$\|\varphi(z_a) - \varphi(z_b)\|_{L^2(Q)} \leq \|z_a - z_b\|_{L^2(Q)}.$$

On the other-hand, for $\gamma < 2$, $x \mapsto \varphi(x)$ is $\gamma - 1$ Hölder continuous:

$$\|\varphi(z_a) - \varphi(z_b)\|_{L^2(Q)} \leq \|(z_a - z_b)^{\gamma-1}\|_{L^2(Q)} \leq (2T)^{2-\gamma} \|z_a - z_b\|_{L^2(Q)}^{\gamma-1}.$$

Hence, $\varphi(z_n) \rightarrow \varphi(z_\infty)$ in $L^2(Q)$.

By compactness of $\mathcal{A}(z_n)$, there exists $y_n \in \mathcal{A}(z_n)$ such that

$$\sup_{y \in \mathcal{A}(z_n)} \langle \mu, y \rangle = \langle \mu, y_n \rangle. \quad (83)$$

Using energy estimates ([LSU68, Chapter 3]), $(y_n)_n$ is uniformly bounded in X . Thanks to Aubin-Lions Lemma [Aub63], up to a subsequence, there exists $y_\infty \in X$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} y_{n,t} &\rightharpoonup y_{\infty,t} && \text{weakly } L^2(Q), && (84) \\ y_n &\rightarrow y_\infty && \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{weakly in } L^2(0, T; H^2(-1, 1)), \\ \text{strongly in } L^2(0, T; H_0^1(-1, 1)), \\ \text{in } C^0(0, T; L^2(-1, 1)). \end{array} \right. && (85) \end{aligned}$$

As $\|\varphi(z_n)\|_{L^\infty(Q)} \leq 1$, up to subsequence, there exists $g \in L^\infty(Q)$ such that we have the weak star convergence $\varphi(z_n) \overset{*}{\rightharpoonup} g$. By uniqueness of the limit in the sense of distribution, $g = \varphi(z)$. Thus, $\varphi(z_n)y_n \rightharpoonup \varphi(z_\infty)y_{\infty,x}$ in $L^2(Q)$.

As a consequence, y_∞ is solution of Eq. (80) with $\varphi(z_\infty)$ as coefficient. This shows that $y_\infty \in \mathcal{A}(z_\infty)$, i.e.,

$$\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sup_{y \in \mathcal{A}(z_n)} \langle \mu, y \rangle \leq \sup_{y \in \mathcal{A}(z_\infty)} \langle \mu, y \rangle. \quad (86)$$

Hence, by Kakutani's fixed point theorem, there exists $\hat{z} \in K$ such that $\hat{z} \in \mathcal{A}(\hat{z})$.

Let us now take the trace of \hat{z} on $(0, T) \times \{0\}$. As $\hat{z} \in X$, by [LM72, Theorem 2.1], $\hat{z}(\cdot, 0) \in H^{3/4}(0, T)$. This ensures that the restriction of \hat{z} to $(0, T) \times (0, 1)$ is an admissible trajectory of the system (E_γ) and proves Lemma 7. \square

6 Conclusion and open problems

6.1 A few open problems

Let us now present some open problems in one space dimension related to this work.

Does the small-time global null controllability hold for Eq. (E_γ) with $1 < \gamma \leq 3/2$? Our entire control strategy is based on using the hyperbolicity of the evolution equation to dissipate the initial condition at the cost of a boundary layer. Then, for this non-small boundary layer to disappear, we use the fact that the moment $\int (1-x)|y|$ is small. A generalisation of this idea was used in [CMS20] where the preparation of the dissipation of boundary layer plays a crucial role. In our case, the return method with ϑ ensures the dissipation in the case $\gamma > 3/2$ (the limiting step is Section 4). In the linear case $\gamma = 1$, there is no boundary layer. As a consequence, we believe that our method cannot be extended to $[1, 3/2)$. Another approach would be to use some highly oscillating controls to ensure a better preparation of the boundary residue.

We can also ask if the small-time global null controllability holds for more general flux functions $(f(u)_x)$ instead of $(|u|^\gamma)_x$. The extension of our proof to strictly convex viscous conservation laws should be possible. For more general functions, a precise study of the solutions of Eq. (1) would be necessary.

Another interesting direction would be to consider a dispersive model like the Korteweg–De Vries equation. With the help of two boundary controls and a uniform in space internal control, Chapouly proved in [Cha09a] that the small-time global null controllability holds. To the best of the author knowledge, whether the small-time global null controllability holds without the use of the right Dirichlet boundary control (and possibly with the help of a right control on the derivative) remains an open question.

6.2 Acknowledgement

The author would like to thank Jean-Michel Coron for having attracted his attention to this control problem and for extremely pertinent advice he provided.

A Parabolic regularity estimates for the heat equation

We recall here a well-known result on the regularity of the heat equation reproduced for example in [Léa12, Appendix 4.1].

Let $\mathcal{H}^m = D((-\Delta)^{m/2})$, $m \geq 0$, be the domain of the fractional Dirichlet Laplacian on $L^2(0, 1)$, and \mathcal{H}^{-m} the dual of \mathcal{H}^m with pivot space $L^2(0, 1)$. In particular $\mathcal{H}^1 = H_0^1(0, 1)$, $\mathcal{H}^0 = L^2(0, 1)$ and $\mathcal{H}^{-1} = H^{-1}(0, 1)$. Let y be a classical solution of

$$\begin{cases} y_t - y_{xx} = f(t, x) & \text{on } (0, T) \times (0, 1), \\ y(t, 0) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(t, 1) = 0 & \text{on } (0, T), \\ y(0, \cdot) = y_0 & \text{on } (0, 1), \end{cases} \quad (87)$$

with $m \in \mathbb{R}$, $y_0 \in \mathcal{H}^m(0, 1)$ and $f \in L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H}^{m-1}(0, 1))$. Then,

$$y \in \mathcal{C}^0(0, T; \mathcal{H}^m(0, 1)) \cap L^2(0, T; \mathcal{H}^{m+1}(0, 1)) \cap H^1(0, T; \mathcal{H}^{m-1}(0, 1)), \quad (88)$$

and, for $t \leq T$,

$$\|y(t)\|_{\mathcal{H}^m}^2 + \int_0^t \|y(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}^{m+1}}^2 ds + \int_0^t \|y_t(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}^{m-1}}^2 ds = \|y_0\|_{\mathcal{H}^m}^2 + \int_0^t \|f(s)\|_{\mathcal{H}^{m-1}}^2 ds. \quad (89)$$

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