

## WELL-POSEDNESS OF A QUASILINEAR PARABOLIC OPTIMAL CONTROL PROBLEM

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**Abstract:** In this paper we investigate the existence and uniqueness for the solution of the problem of determining the  $v = (v_0, v_1, v_2)$  in the quasilinear parabolic equation  $\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [\lambda_i(y, v_0) \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}] + \sum_{i=1}^n B_i(y, v_1) \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} = f(x, t, v_2)$ . For the objective functional  $J_\beta(v) = \int_S [y(\zeta, t) - f_0(\zeta, t)]^2 d\zeta dt + \beta \sum_{m=0}^2 \|v_m - \omega_m\|_{L_2}^2$ , it is proven that the problem has at least one solution for  $\beta \geq 0$ , and has a unique solution for  $\beta > 0$ .

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**Key Words:** optimal control, quasilinear parabolic equation, existence and uniqueness theorems

### 1. Introduction

Optimal control problems for partial differential equations are currently of much interest. A large amount of the theoretical concept which governed by quasilinear parabolic equations [1-5] has been investigated in the field of optimal control problems. These problems have dealt with the processes of hydro- and gasdynamics, heatphysics, filtration, the physics of plasma and others [6-8]. The study and determination of the optimal regimes of heat conduction processes at a long interval of the change of temperature gives rise to optimal control

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problems with respect to a quasilinear equation of parabolic type. In this work, we consider a constrained optimal control problem with respect to a quasilinear parabolic equation with controls in the coefficients of the equation. The existence and uniqueness of the optimal control problem is proved.

### 2. Formulation of the Problem

Let  $D$  is a bounded domain of the  $N$ -dimensional Euclidean space  $E_N$ ;  $\Gamma$  be the boundary of  $D$ , assumed to be sufficiently smooth;  $\nu$  is the exterior unit normal of  $\Gamma$ ;  $T > 0$  be a fixed time ;  $\Omega = D \times (0, T]$  ;  $S = \Gamma \times (0, T]$ .

Now we consider a class of optimal control problems governed by the following quasilinear parabolic system.

$$L(v)y(x, t) = f(x, t, v_2), (x, t) \in \Omega,$$

$$y(x, 0) = \phi(x), x \in D,$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i(y, v_0) \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \cos(\nu, x_i)|_S = g(\zeta, t), (\zeta, t) \in S \tag{1}$$

where  $\phi \in L_2(D), g(\zeta, t) \in L_2(S)$  are given functions and the differential operator  $L$  takes the following form:

$$L(v)z(x, t) = \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} [\lambda_i(z, v_0) \frac{\partial z}{\partial x_i}] + \sum_{i=1}^n B_i(z, v_1) \frac{\partial z}{\partial x_i} \tag{2}$$

$y(x, t), v = (v_0, v_1, v_2)$  are the state and the controls respectively for the system (1).

Furthermore, we consider the functional of the form

$$J_\beta(v) = \int_S [y(\zeta, t) - f_0(\zeta, t)]^2 d\zeta dt + \beta \sum_{m=0}^2 \|v_m - \omega_m\|_{l_2}^2, \tag{3}$$

which is to minimized under condition (1) and additional restrictions

$$\nu_0 \leq \lambda_i(y, v_0) \leq \mu_0, \nu_1 \leq B_i(y, v_1) \leq \mu_1, r_1 \leq y(x, t) \leq r_2, i = \overline{1, n} \tag{4}$$

on  $V = \{v = (v_0, v_1, v_2) : v_m = (v_{0m}, v_{1m}, \dots, v_{im}, \dots) \in l_2, \|v_m\|_{l_2} \leq R_m, m = \overline{0, 2}, \omega_m = (\omega_{0m}, \omega_{1m}, \dots, \omega_{im}, \dots) \in l_2, m = \overline{0, 2}$  are given numbers,  $\beta \geq$

$0, R_m > 0, \nu_j, \mu_j, j = 1, 2, r_1, r_2$  are positive numbers and  $f_0(\zeta, t) \in L_2(S)$  is a given function.

Throughout this paper, we adopt the following assumptions.

**Assumption 2.1.**  $V$  is closed and bonded subset of  $l_2$ .

**Assumption 2.2.** The function  $f(x, t, v_2)$  is given function continuous in  $v_2$  on  $l_2$  for almost all  $(x, t) \in \Omega$ , bounded and measurable in  $x, t$  on  $\Omega \forall v_2 \in l_2$ .

**Assumption 2.3.** The functions  $B_i(y, v_1), \lambda_i(y, v_0), i = \overline{1, n}$  are continuous on  $(y, v) \in [r_1, r_2] \times l_2$  have continuous derivatives in  $y$  at  $\forall (y, v) \in [r_1, r_2] \times l_2$  and  $\frac{\partial B_i}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial \lambda_i}{\partial y}, i = \overline{1, n}$  are bounded.

**Assumption 2.4.** The functions  $B_i(y, v_1), \lambda_i(y, v_0), i = \overline{1, n}, f(x, t, v_2)$  satisfy a Lipschitz condition for  $v_1, v_0, v_2$ , then

$$|B_i(y(x, t), v_1 + \delta v_1) - B_i(y(x, t), v_1)| \leq S_0(x, t) \|\delta v_1\|_{l_2}, i = \overline{1, n}$$

$$|\lambda_i(y(x, t), v_0 + \delta v_0) - \lambda_i(y(x, t), v_0)| \leq S_1(x, t) \|\delta v_0\|_{l_2}, i = \overline{1, n}$$

$$|f(x, t, v_2 + \delta v_2) - f(x, t, v_2)| \leq S_2(x, t) \|\delta v_2\|_{l_2}$$

for almost all  $(x, t) \in \Omega, \forall y \in [r_1, r_2], \forall v_m, v_m + \delta v_m \in l_2$  such that  $\|v_m\|_{l_2}, \|v_m + \delta v_m\|_{l_2} \leq R_m$  where  $S_m(x, t) \in L_\infty, m = \overline{0, 2}$ .

**Assumption 2.5.** The first derivatives of the functions  $B_i(y, v_0), \lambda_i(y, v_0), i = \overline{1, n}$  and  $f(x, t, v_2)$  with respect to  $v$  are continuous functions in  $[r_1, r_2] \times l_2$  and for any  $v_m \in l_2$  such that  $\|v_m\|_{l_2} \leq R_m, m = \overline{0, 2}$ .

**Definition 2.1.** The problem of finding the function  $y = y(x, t) \in V_2^{0,1}(\Omega)$  from condition (1)-(2) at given  $v \in V$  is called the reduced problem.

**Definition 2.2.** A function  $y = y(x, t) \in V_2^{1,0}(\Omega)$  is said to be a solution of the problem (1)-(2), if for all  $\eta = \eta(x, t) \in W_2^{1,1}(\Omega)$  the equation

$$\int_{\Omega} [-y \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i(y, v_0) \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x_i} + \sum_{i=1}^n B_i(y, v_1) (\frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}) \eta(x, t) - f(x, t, v_2) \eta(x, t)] dx dt = \int_D \phi(x) \eta(x, 0) dx + \int_S g(\zeta, t) \eta(\zeta, t) d\zeta dt, \quad (5)$$

is valid and  $\eta(x, T) = 0$ .

It is proved in [8] that, under the foregoing assumptions, a reduced problem (1)-(2) has a unique solution and  $|\frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}| \leq C_1, i = \overline{1, n}$  almost at all  $(x, t) \in \Omega, \forall v \in V$ , where  $C_1$  is a certain constant.

### 3. The Existence Theorem

Optimal control problems of the coefficients of differential equations do not always have solution [9]. Examples in [10] and elsewhere of problems of the type (1)-(4) having no solution for  $\beta = 0$ . A problem of minimization of a functional is said to be unstable, when a minimizing square does not converge to an element minimizing the functional [6].

To begin with, we need

**Theorem 3.1.** *Under the above assumptions for every solution of the reduced problem (1)-(2) the following estimate is valid:*

$$\|\delta y\|_{V_2^{1,0}(\Omega)} \leq C_2 [\|\sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}\|_{L_2(\Omega)} + \|\Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}\|_{L_2(\Omega)}], \quad (6)$$

where  $\delta y(x, t) = y(x, t; v + \delta v) - y(x, t; v)$ ,  $\delta y(x, t) \in W_2^{1,1}(\Omega)$ ,  $\Delta \lambda_i = \lambda_i(u, v_0 + \delta v_0) - \lambda_i(u, v_0)$ ,  $\Delta B_i = B_i(u, v_1 + \delta v_1) - B_i(u, v_1)$ ,  $\Delta f = f(x, t, v_2 + \delta v_2) - f(x, t, v_2)$  and  $C_2 \geq 0$  is a constant not dependent on  $\delta v = (\delta v_0, \delta v_1, \delta v_2)$ ,  $\delta v_m \in l_2$ ,  $m = \overline{0, 2}$ .

*Proof.* Set  $\delta y(x, t) = y(x, t, v + \delta v) - y(x, t; v)$ ,  $y = y(x, t; v)$ ,  $\bar{y} = y(x, t; v + \delta v)$ . From (5) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} [-\delta y \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{\lambda}_i \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x_i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \lambda_i(y + \theta_1 \delta y, v_0 + \delta v_0)}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x_i} \delta y \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \eta}{\partial x_i} + \sum_{i=1}^n \bar{B}_i \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \eta + \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i (\frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i}) \eta \\ & + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial B_i(y + \theta_2 \delta y, v_1 + \delta v_1)}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \delta y \eta - \Delta f \eta] dx dt = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

for all  $\eta = \eta(x, t) \in W_2^{1,1}(\Omega)$  and  $\eta(x, T) = 0$ .

Here  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in (0, 1)$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$  is some number,  $\bar{\lambda}_i \equiv \lambda_i(y + \delta y, v_0 + \delta v_0)$ ,  $\Delta \lambda_i \equiv \lambda_i(y, v_0 + \delta v_0) - \lambda_i(y, v_0)$ ,  $\bar{B}_i \equiv B_i(y + \delta y, v_1 + \delta v_1)$ ,  $\Delta B_i \equiv B_i(y, v_1 + \delta v_1) - B_i(y, v_1)$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$ ,  $i = \overline{1, n}$ ,  $\Delta f \equiv f(x, t, v_2 + \delta v_2) - f(x, t, v_2)$ .

Let  $\eta_h(x, t) = \frac{1}{h} \int_{t-h}^t \bar{\eta}(x, \tau) d\tau$ ,  $0 < h < \tau$  where  $\bar{\eta} = \delta y(x, t)$  at  $(x, t) \in \Omega_{t_1}$ , zero at  $t > t_1$  ( $t_1 \leq T - h$ ) and  $\Omega_{t_1} = D \times (0, t_1]$ . In identity (5) put  $\eta(x, t)$  instead of  $\eta_h(x, t)$ , and following the method in [11, p. 166-168] we obtain

$$\frac{1}{2} \int_D (\delta y)^2 dx + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} [\sum_{i=1}^n \bar{\lambda}_i (\frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i})^2 + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \lambda_i(y + \theta_1 \delta y, v_0 + \delta v_0)}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \delta y] dx dt$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} dx dt + \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial B_i(y+\theta_2 \delta y, v_1+\delta v_1)}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} (\delta y)^2 dx dt \\
& + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \overline{B}_i \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \delta y + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \delta y dx dt - \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \Delta f \delta y dx dt = 0 \quad (8)
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, from the above assumptions and applying Cauchy Bunyakoviskii inequality, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} \int_D (\delta y(x, t_1))^2 dx + \nu_0 \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \\
& \leq (C_3 + C_4) \left( \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} (\delta y(x, t))^2 dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& + \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C_5 \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} (\delta y(x, t))^2 dx dt \\
& + \int_0^{t_1} \left\{ \int_D \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx \left( \int_D \delta y dx \right) \right\} dt, \quad (9)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C_3, C_4, C_5$  are positive constants not depending on  $\delta v$ .

Applying Cauchy's inequality with  $\varepsilon$  and combine similar terms, then multiply both sides by two, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \|\delta y(x, t_1)\|_{L_2(D)}^2 + \frac{\nu_0}{2} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_{t_1})}^2 \leq C_6 \|\delta y(x, t)\|_{L_2(\Omega_{t_1})}^2 \\
& + \frac{2}{\nu_0} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{2}{\nu_0} \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx dt, \quad (10)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C_6$  is positive constant not depending on  $\delta v$ .

Now we replace  $\|\delta y(x, t)\|_{L_2(\Omega_{t_1})}^2 = t_1 (y(t_1))^2$ . This gives us the inequality (10) yields the two inequalities

$$\begin{aligned}
y(t_1) & \leq C_6 \int_0^{t_1} y(t) dt \\
& + \frac{2}{\nu_0} \left[ \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx dt \right] \quad (11)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_{t_1})}^2 & \leq \frac{2C_6}{\nu_0} \|\delta y\|_{L_2(\Omega_{t_1})}^2 + \frac{4}{\nu_0^2} \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\
& + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx dt \quad (12)
\end{aligned}$$

From the known estimate [12,pp. 117-118] it follows that

$$y(t_1) \leq C_7 \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx dt \quad (13)$$

where  $C_7$  is positive constant not depending on  $\delta v$ . Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{0 \leq t \leq t_1} \|\delta y\|_{L_2(D)} &\leq C_7 \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial \delta y}{\partial x_i} \right\|_{L_2(\Omega_{t_1})} &\leq C_8 \left\{ \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta \lambda_i \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right]^2 dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ &\quad + \int_{\Omega_{t_1}} \left[ \Delta f - \sum_{i=1}^n \Delta B_i \left( \frac{\partial y}{\partial x_i} \right) \right] dx dt \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

where  $C_8$  is positive constant not depending on  $\delta v$ .

If we combine the last two estimates, this proves the estimate (6). This completes the proof of the theorem.

**Corollary 3.1.** *Under the above assumptions, the right part of estimate (6) converges to zero at  $\sum_{m=0}^2 \|\delta v\|_{l_2} \rightarrow 0$ , therefore*

$$\|\delta y\|_{V_2^{1,0}(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{at} \quad \sum_{m=0}^2 \|\delta v\|_{l_2} \rightarrow 0. \quad (16)$$

Hence from the theorem on trace, see [13], we get

$$\|\delta y\|_{L_2(\Omega)} \rightarrow 0, \|\delta y\|_{L_2(S)} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{at} \quad \sum_{m=0}^2 \|\delta v_m\|_{l_2} \rightarrow 0. \quad (17)$$

Now we consider the functional  $J_0(v) = \int_S [y(\zeta, t) - f_0(\zeta, t)]^2 d\zeta dt$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *The functional  $J_0(v)$  is continuous on  $V$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\delta v = (\delta v_0, \delta v_1, \delta v_2), \delta v_m \in l_2, m = \overline{0, 2}$  be an increment of control on an element  $v \in V$  such that  $v + \delta v \in V$ . For the increment of  $J_0(v)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta J_0(v) &= J_0(v + \delta v) - J_0(v) \\ &= 2 \int_S [y(\zeta, t) f_0(\zeta, t)] \delta y(\zeta, t) d\zeta dt + \int_S \delta y(\zeta, t) d\zeta dt \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Applying the Cauchy-Bunyakovskii inequality, we obtain

$$|\Delta J_0(v)| \leq 2 \|y(\zeta, t) - f_0(\zeta, t)\|_{L_2(S)} \|\delta y(\zeta, t)\|_{L_2(S)} + \|\delta y(\zeta, t)\|_{L_2(S)}^2 \quad (19)$$

An application of the Corollary 3.1 completes the proof.

**Theorem 3.3.** *For any  $\beta \geq 0$  the problem (1)-(4) has a least one solution.*

*Proof.* The set of  $V$  is closed and bounded in  $l_2$ . Since  $J_0(v)$  is continuous on  $V$  by Theorem 3.2, so is

$$J_\beta(v) = J_0(v) + \beta \sum_{m=0}^2 \|v_m - w_m\|_{l_2}^2. \quad (20)$$

Then from the Weierstrass theorem [14] it follows that the problem (1)-(4) has a least one solution. This completes the proof of the theorem.

#### 4. The Uniqueness Theorem

According to the above discussions, we can easily obtain a theorem concerning solution uniqueness for the considering optimal control problem (1)-(4).

**Theorem 4.1.** *There exists a dense set  $K$  of  $l_2$  such that for any  $\omega_m \in K, m = \overline{0, 2}$  the problem (1)-(4) for  $\beta > 0$  has a unique solution.*

*Proof.* The functional  $J_0(v)$  is bounded below, and the foregoing establishes that it is continuous on  $V$ . Furthermore,  $l_2$  is uniformly convex [12]. It thus follows from a theorem in [16] that the space  $l_2$  contains an everywhere-dense subset  $K$  such that the problem (1)-(4) has a unique solution when  $\omega_m \in K, m = \overline{0, 2}$  and  $\beta > 0$ . This completes the proof of the theorem.

#### 5. Conclusion

We have investigated a constrained optimal control problem governed by quasilinear parabolic equations with controls in the coefficients of the equation. The existence and uniqueness of the optimal control problem is proved.

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