

**ON SOME ROBUST CONTROL PROBLEMS  
FOR NONLINEAR PARABOLIC EQUATIONS**

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we study a robust control problem for a class of systems governed by nonlinear parabolic equations. Firstly the control is the forcing. We formulate the robust control problem, we prove the existence and the uniqueness of the solution and we give the necessary conditions of optimality. Secondly an initial perturbation problem is considered. A robust control problem is reformulated and the existence and the conditions of the uniqueness of the optimal solution are derived. First order necessary conditions of optimality are obtained.

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## 1. Introduction and Mathematical Setting of the Problem

### 1.1. Motivation

This paper is devoted to the study of the robust control problem for a class of nonlinear parabolic systems with disturbances (perturbation or noise) and controls. The objective of a robust control is to compensate the undesirable effects of system disturbances through control actions such that a cost function achieves its minimum for the worst disturbances, i.e. to find the best control

which takes into account the worst-case disturbance.

A solution of a robust control problems was proposed at first for finite-dimensional linear time-invariant systems in terms of the so-called gap-metric by Zames et al [25]. More recently a robust control framework has been object of numerous studies either from a theoretical or from a numerical point of view: to some classes of infinite (or finite)-dimensional linear systems (see, e.g. [10, 11, 13, 16, 23, 26] and the references therein) and to the case of nonlinear systems (see, e.g. [14, 15, 17] and the references therein). The objective of our study is to develop a robust control problem, for some nonlinear parabolic equations, in order to take into account the influence of noise in data.

## 1.2. The Study Equations and the Outline of the Paper

In this paper we will consider the nonlinear parabolic partial differential equations of the form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} + AU + F(U) + K(V, U) &= f \text{ on } \mathcal{Q} = (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ U(t = 0) &= U_0 \text{ on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\Omega$  is a bounded subset of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ ,  $m \geq 1$ ,  $A$  is an elliptic, selfadjoint operator,  $K(V, \cdot)$  is a linear operator,  $V$  is given sufficiently regular and  $F : \mathcal{Q} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a Nemytsky operator on  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ . We state the following hypothesis for the operator  $F$ :

- 1)  $F(\cdot, 0) = 0$ .
- 2)  $F$  satisfies Carathodory conditions and a one-sided Lipschitz condition :
 
$$-2(F(\cdot, u) - F(\cdot, v))(u - v) \leq \gamma_0 |u - v|^2 \quad \forall (u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2. \quad (1.2)$$
- 3)  $F$  is differentiable with  $G(\cdot, u) = F'(\cdot, u)$ ,  
Lipschitz continuous :
 
$$|G(\cdot, u) - G(\cdot, v)| \leq \lambda |u - v| \quad \forall (u, v) \in \mathbb{R}^2.$$

**Remark 1.1.** According to (1.2) we have then  $-2G(\cdot, u) \leq \gamma_0 \forall u \in \mathbb{R}$ .

We assume that we can introduce a Banach space  $\mathcal{D}$  of functions on  $\Omega$  satisfying the boundary conditions such that  $\mathcal{D} \subset L^2(\Omega) \subset \mathcal{D}'$  and the operator  $A : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{D}'$  with  $\langle Av, v \rangle \geq \nu \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{D}$  ( $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  is the duality pairing on  $\mathcal{D}'$  and  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{\mathcal{D}}$  is the norm on  $\mathcal{D}$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_*$  is the dual norm on  $\mathcal{D}'$  and  $\nu > 0$  is

a constant). Moreover we impose the condition that  $\mathcal{D}$  is embeds in  $L^4(\Omega)$ , i.e.

$\mathcal{D} \subset L^4(\Omega)$  and there exists  $c_e > 0$  such that

$$\| v \|_{L^4(\Omega)} \leq c_e \| v \|_{\mathcal{D}} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (1.3)$$

We introduce the following spaces:  $\mathcal{H} = L^\infty(0, T, L^2(\Omega))$ ,  $\mathcal{V} = L^2(0, T, \mathcal{D})$ ,  $\mathcal{W} = \mathcal{H} \cap \mathcal{V}$  and we denote  $\| \cdot \|_{\mathcal{W}} = \max(\| \cdot \|_{\mathcal{H}}, \| \cdot \|_{\mathcal{V}})$  and by  $c_I$  the constant of the embedding map:  $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow L^2(\Omega)$ , i.e.

$$\| v \|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq c_I \| v \|_{\mathcal{D}} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (1.4)$$

Moreover we assume that there exists a constant  $\gamma_\infty \geq 0$  such that:

$$\| K(V, v) \|_{L^2(\Omega)} \leq \sqrt{\nu \gamma_\infty} \| v \|_{\mathcal{D}} \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (1.5)$$

- Remark 1.2.** (i)  $\gamma_\infty$  is depending on the norm of a given function  $V$ .  
 (ii) we denote by  $\gamma$  the value of the sum:  $\gamma_0 + \gamma_\infty$ .  
 (iii) we denote by  $K^*$  the adjoint of  $K$ , i.e.
- $$\langle K^*(V, u), v \rangle = \langle K(V, v), u \rangle, \quad \forall (u, v) \in \mathcal{D}^2.$$

In the present paper, the cost function  $J$  describing the control problem is depending on the disturbance  $\psi$ , the control  $\phi$  and the perturbation  $u(\phi, \psi)$  in the domain  $\Omega$  over the time interval under consideration  $[0, T]$ . The robust control is to obtain the saddle point of the  $J$  which measures the distance between the pronostic variables  $u$  and the observation  $(u_{obs}, v_{obs})$ . Precisely we will study the following robust control problem: find  $(u, \phi, \psi)$  such that the cost function

$$J(\phi, \psi) = \frac{1}{2} \| \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \| u(T) - v_{obs} \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \| \phi \|_{Rh}^2 - \frac{\beta}{2} \| \psi \|_{Rs}^2$$

is minimized with respect to  $\phi$  and maximized with respect to  $\psi$  subject to the perturbation of the problem (1.1), where the spaces  $Rs$  and  $Rh$  are two subsets of some Banach spaces and  $\mathcal{C}$  is unbounded operator on  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

The main result of the paper includes the existence, the uniqueness and the first order necessary conditions of optimality for the worst disturbance and optimal controllers. Our approach is a generalization of the work of Seidman et al [24] (the authors studied the optimal control for a class of quasilinear parabolic equations) to the robust control problems.

The plan of the paper is as follows: in the next section we prove the existence and the uniqueness of the problem (1.1) and obtain some a priori estimates. In Section 3 we formulate the robust control problem in the case when the forcing  $f$  is decomposed into a disturbance  $\psi$  and a control  $\phi$ . We prove the existence, the uniqueness and we give the appropriate optimality system. The optimality system is corresponding to identify the gradient of the cost function that is necessary to develop a numerical scheme (for example gradient method, quasi-Newton method) in order to solve the robust control problem. In Section 4 we consider an initial perturbation problem because in many situations (for example in data assimilation) the initial condition is not well-know. We reformulate the robust control problem in two cases: firstly the control is the initial condition and the disturbance is the forcing  $f$ , secondly the initial condition is decomposed into a disturbance  $\psi$  and a control  $\phi$ . As in previous section we study the existence, the uniqueness and we give the optimality conditions. In Section 5 we present an example of convection-diffusion in the case of the pollutant in the liquid or atmospheric system (this type of model has been presented for example by Ahmed et al [2]).

The notations, the functional spaces and some definitions are basically standard; see for example [1], [19] and [22]. Recall that  $\mathcal{L}^*$  always denotes the adjoint operator of a linear operator  $\mathcal{L}$  between Banach spaces.

## 2. Existence and Uniqueness Solution

**Proposition 2.1.** *Assume that  $U_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$  and  $f \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ . Then the problem (1.1) admits an unique solution  $U$  such that  $U \in \mathcal{W}$  and  $\|U\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T)(\|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|f\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)$ .*

*Proof.* We will just sketch the proof based on suitable a priori estimates. Multiplying (1.1) by  $U$  and integrating over  $\Omega$  give

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial \|U\|_{L^2}^2}{\partial t} + \langle AU, U \rangle + \langle F(U), U \rangle + \langle K(V, U), U \rangle = \langle f, U \rangle .$$

Since  $U \in \mathcal{D}$  and, by using the definition of the norm in  $\mathcal{D}$  and the assumption (1.2.1), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \|U\|_{L^2}^2}{\partial t} + 2 \langle AU, U \rangle \\ = -2 \langle F(U) - F(0), U - 0 \rangle - 2 \langle K(V, U), U \rangle + 2 \langle f, U \rangle . \end{aligned}$$

According to the assumptions (1.2.2) and (1.5) we have

$$\frac{\partial \|U\|_{L^2}^2}{\partial t} + \nu \|U\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \leq \gamma \|U\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \|f\|_{L^2} \|U\|_{L^2} .$$

Integrating over  $(0, t)$ , it gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|U\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \|U\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\ \leq \gamma \int_0^t \|U\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \|f\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} \left( \int_0^t \|U\|_{L^2}^2 \right)^{1/2} + \|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 , \end{aligned}$$

and then (according to Corollary of Lemman of Gronwall, see Appendix)

$$\|U\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T) (\|U_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|f\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2). \tag{2.1}$$

The proof of Theorem can be completed by implementing the Galerkin method and by taking advantage of the above estimate.

Uniqueness of the solution of (1.1) follows easily in view of the assumption (1.2.2). □

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $U_0, V_0$  be two functions of  $L^2(\Omega)$  and let  $f_1, f_2$  be two functions of  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ . If  $U_1$  (resp.  $U_2$ ) is solution of (1.1), where the forcing-initial condition is  $(f_1, U_0)$  (resp.  $(f_2, V_0)$ ) then*

$$\|U_1 - U_2\|_{\mathcal{W}} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2) (\|U_0 - V_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|f_1 - f_2\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2}.$$

*Proof.* By using the same way to obtain the estimation (2.1), we obtain the result of the proposition.

In the following, this solution  $U$  will be treated as the target function. We are then interesting in the robust regulation of the deviation of the problem from the desired targeted  $U$ . We analyse the full nonlinear equation which models large perturbations  $u$  to the target  $U$ . Hence we consider the equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + Au + F(u + U) - F(U) + K(V, u) &= g \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ u(t = 0) &= u_0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

If we set  $\tilde{F}(\cdot, y) = F(\cdot, y + U) - F(\cdot, U)$  then (2.2) reduce to

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + Au + \tilde{F}(u) + K(V, u) &= g \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ u(t = 0) &= u_0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

**Remark 2.1.** (i) We verify easily that  $\tilde{F}$  satisfies the same hypothesis that  $F$ , i.e. (1.2).

(ii) For simplicity of future reference, we omit the “ $\sim$ ” on  $\tilde{F}$  for (2.3).

The problem (2.3) is the same that (1.1) so we have then the following proposition.

**Proposition 2.3.** (i) Assume that  $g \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  and  $u_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$ . Then the problem (2.3) admits a unique solution  $u$  such that  $u \in \mathcal{W}$  and  $\|u\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T)(\|u_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|g\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)$ .

(ii) Let  $u_0, v_0$  be two functions of  $L^2(\Omega)$  and let  $g_1, g_2$  be two functions of  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ . If  $u_1$  (resp.  $u_2$ ) is solution of (2.3), where the forcing-initial condition is  $(g_1, u_0)$  (resp.  $(g_2, v_0)$ ) then

$$\|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{W}} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)(\|u_0 - v_0\|_{L^2}^2 + \|g_1 - g_2\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2}.$$

### 3. Study of the Control Framework

In the control framework, the value  $g$  is decomposed into the disturbance  $\psi \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  and the control  $\phi \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ , i.e.  $g = B_1\phi + B_2\psi$ , where  $B_i, i = 1, 2$  are given (linear) bounded operators on  $L^2(\Omega)$ :

there exists  $b_i > 0$  such that  $\forall h_i \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,

$$\|B_i h_i\|_{L^2}^2 \leq b_i^2 \|h_i\|_{L^2}^2, \quad i = 1, 2. \quad (3.1)$$

**Remark 3.1.** If we put  $b = \max(b_1, b_2)$  and  $\mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2)$  then  $b_1^2 \|h_1\|_{L^2}^2 + b_2^2 \|h_2\|_{L^2}^2 \leq b^2 \|\mathbf{h}\|_{L^2}^2$ , where  $\|\mathbf{h}\|_{L^2}^2 = \|h_1\|_{L^2}^2 + \|h_2\|_{L^2}^2$ .

The objective in the robust control problem is to find the best control  $\phi$  in the presence of the disturbance  $\psi$  which maximally spoils the control objective. The function  $u$  is assumed to be related to the disturbance  $\psi$  and control  $\phi$  through the problem (2.3):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + Au + F(u) + K(V, u) &= B_1\phi + B_2\psi \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ u(t=0) &= u_0 \quad (\text{given}) \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (3.2)$$

To obtain the regularity of Proposition 2.3, we suppose the following hypothesis:  $u_0 \in L^2(\Omega)$ ,  $(\phi, \psi) \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})^2$  and  $U \in \mathcal{W}$ . Let  $\mathbf{U} : (\phi, \psi) \rightarrow u =$

$\mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  be the map:  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  defined by (3.2). We introduce the cost function defined by

$$J(\phi, \psi) = \frac{1}{2} \| \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \| u(T) - v_{obs} \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \| \phi \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 - \frac{\beta}{2} \| \psi \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $\mu, \alpha, \beta > 0$  are fixed,  $(u_{obs}, v_{obs}) \in \mathcal{V} \times L^2(\Omega)$  is the observation (given) and  $\mathcal{C}$  is unbounded, linear operator on  $L^2(\Omega)$  satisfying:

$$\| \mathcal{C}v \|_{L^2}^2 \leq \delta_1 \| v \|_{L^2}^2 + \delta_2 \| v \|_{\mathcal{D}}^2, \quad \forall v \in \mathcal{D}. \quad (3.4)$$

The robust control problem then is to minimize the fonctionnal  $J$  with respect to  $\phi$  and maximalize  $J$  with respect to  $\psi$ , i.e., to find  $(\phi^*, \psi^*) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  such that

$$J(\phi^*, \psi) \leq J(\phi^*, \psi^*) \leq J(\phi, \psi^*), \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}, \quad (3.5)$$

with  $\mathcal{U}_{ad}$  and  $\mathcal{V}_{ad}$  are (given) nonempty, closed, convex, bounded subsets of  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ .

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then the function  $\mathbf{U} : (\phi, \psi) \rightarrow u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  solution of (3.2) is continuously Fréchet differentiable from  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  to  $\mathcal{W}$  with the derivative  $\mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi) : (h_1, h_2) \rightarrow w$  given by the linear parabolic problem*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(\mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi))w + K(V, w) &= B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ w(t=0) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

and satisfies the following estimates ( $\forall \Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, i = 1, 2$ ):

- (i)  $\| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, \mathcal{W})} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b,$
- (ii)  $\| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{U}'(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, \mathcal{W})} \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}.$

*Proof.* Let  $(\phi, \psi, h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^4$ , let  $u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  and  $u_h = \mathbf{U}(\phi + h_1, \psi + h_2) = u + w_h$ . Let  $v_h$  be the solution of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v_h}{\partial t} + Av_h + G(u)v_h + K(V, v_h) &= B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ v_h(t=0) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

Multiplying (3.7) by  $v_h$  and integrating over  $(0, t) \times \Omega$  we obtain (according to  $-2G(u) \leq \gamma_0$ )

$$\|v_h\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \|v_h\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \leq \gamma \int_0^t \|v_h\|_{L^2}^2 + 2(\|B_1 h_1\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} + \|B_2 h_2\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}) \left( \int_0^t \|v_h\|_{L^2}^2 \right)^{1/2}.$$

By using Gronwall formula we have then (according to (3.1)):

$$\|v_h\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T) b^2 \|\mathbf{h}\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \quad \text{where } \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2). \quad (3.8)$$

This shows that the map:  $\mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \longrightarrow v_h$  solution of (3.7) is continuous. Moreover by using Proposition 2.3 and (3.1) we deduce easily that:

$$\|w_h\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T) b^2 \|\mathbf{h}\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \quad \text{where } \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2). \quad (3.9)$$

Let  $v = w_h - v_h$  and according to the equations satisfy by  $u$ ,  $u_h$  and  $v_h$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + Av + G(u)v + K(V, v) &= g \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ v(t=0) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

where  $g = -(F(u + w_h) - F(u)) + G(u)w_h$ . Multiplying (3.10) by  $v$  and integrating over  $(0, t) \times \Omega$  we obtain (according to  $-2G(u) \leq \gamma_0$ )

$$\|v\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \leq \gamma \int_0^t \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + 2 \int_0^t \langle g, v \rangle (s) ds. \quad (3.11)$$

We are now to estimate the term  $2 \int_0^t \langle g, v \rangle (s) ds$ .

By using a simple manipulation we obtain that  $g = \int_0^1 (G(u) - G(u + sw_h)) w_h ds$ . Applying the assumption (1.2.3) we have then  $2 |g| \leq \lambda |w_h|^2$ . So  $2 \int_0^t \langle g, v \rangle (s) ds \leq \lambda \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} |w_h|^2 |v| d\Omega ds$  and then  $2 \int_0^t \langle g, v \rangle (s) ds \leq \lambda \|w_h\|_{L^2(0, T, L^4(\Omega))}^2 \|v\|_{L^\infty(0, T, L^2(\Omega))}$ .

According to the assumption (1.3) we obtain

$$2 \int_0^t \langle g, v \rangle (s) ds \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|w_h\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \|v\|_{\mathcal{W}}. \quad (3.12)$$

From (3.11) and (3.12), we deduce that

$$\|v\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \leq \gamma \int_0^t \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + \lambda c_e^2 \|w_h\|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \|v\|_{\mathcal{W}}.$$



Using the Gronwall formula we have then

$$\| v \|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 \| w_h \|_{\mathcal{W}}^2 \| v \|_{\mathcal{W}} .$$

According to (3.9) we can deduce that  $\| v \|_{\mathcal{W}} \leq \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \mathbf{h} \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2$  and then

$$\| v \|_{\mathcal{W}} = o(\| \mathbf{h} \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}) .$$

Therefore  $\mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi)$  defined by (3.6), is the Fréchet derivative of  $\mathbf{U}$  at point  $(\phi, \psi)$  and verifies  $\| \mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, \mathcal{W})} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b$ .

Let  $\Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  (given) and  $(w_i = \mathbf{U}'(\phi_i, \psi_i)\mathbf{h}$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ ) solution of the problem (3.6) (we denote by  $u_i = \mathbf{U}(\phi_i, \psi_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2$  and by  $\mathbf{h}(h_1, h_2)$ ).

Set  $w = w_1 - w_2$  and according to the equations satisfy by  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(u_1)w + K(V, w) &= (G(u_2) - G(u_1))w_2 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ w(t = 0) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

Multiplying (3.13) by  $w$  and integrating over  $(0, t) \times \Omega$  we obtain (according to  $-2G(u) \leq \gamma_0$  and (1.2))

$$\begin{aligned} \| w \|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \| w \|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\ \leq \gamma \int_0^t \| w \|_{L^2}^2 + 2\lambda \int_0^t \int_{\Omega} | u_2 - u_1 | \| w_2 \| \| w | \, d\Omega ds. \end{aligned}$$

By using Hölder inequality and the relationship (1.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \| w \|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^t \| w \|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\ \leq \gamma \int_0^t \| w \|_{L^2}^2 + 2\lambda c_e^2 \| u_2 - u_1 \|_{\mathcal{W}} \| w_2 \|_{\mathcal{W}} \| w \|_{\mathcal{W}} . \end{aligned}$$

Using the Gronwall formula we have then

$$\| w \|_{\mathcal{W}} \leq 2 \exp((\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 \| u_2 - u_1 \|_{\mathcal{W}} \| w_2 \|_{\mathcal{W}} .$$

According to Proposition 2.3 and (3.8) we can deduce that

$$\| w \|_{\mathcal{W}} \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2} \| \mathbf{h} \|_{(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2} .$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{U}'(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, \mathcal{W})} \\ & \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T) \lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2} . \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 3.2.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then for each  $t \in [0, T]$ , the function  $\mathbf{V}_t : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u(t) = \mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi)$  solution of (3.2) is continuously Fréchet differentiable from  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  to  $L^2(\Omega)$  with the derivative  $\mathbf{V}'_t(\phi, \psi) : (h_1, h_2) \longrightarrow w(t)$  given by the linear parabolic problem*

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(\mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi))w + K(V, w) = B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ & w(t = 0) = 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

and satisfies the estimates  $(\forall \Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, i = 1, 2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (i) & \| \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_1, \psi_1) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, L^2(\Omega))} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b, \\ (ii) & \| \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, L^2(\Omega))} \\ & \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T) \lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* The fonctionnal  $(\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u(t)$  is continuous from  $L^2(0, T, L^2(\Omega))$  to  $L^2(\Omega)$  (corollary of Proposition 2.3). The rest of the proposition is a corollary of Proposition 3.1.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $F$  satisfies the assumptions (1.2). Then the maps  $\mathbf{U}$  and  $\mathbf{V}_t$  defined by (3.2) are continuous from the weak topology of  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  to the strong topology of  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  and the weak topology of  $L^2(\Omega)$ , respectively.*

*Proof.* Let  $\Phi = (\phi, \psi)$  be given in  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  and let the sequence  $\Phi_k = (\phi_k, \psi_k)$  such that  $\Phi_k$  is weakly convergent in  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  to  $\Phi$ .

Set  $u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$ ,  $u_k = \mathbf{U}(\phi_k, \psi_k)$  and  $v_k = u - u_k$ . Since  $\Phi_k \rightharpoonup \Phi$  weakly in  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  then the sequence  $\Phi_k$  is uniformly bounded in  $(L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  and therefore (according to Proposition 2.3)  $u_k$  is uniformly bounded in  $\mathcal{W}$ . By using the assumption (1.2.2) we deduce that  $F(u_k)$  is uniformly bounded in  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ .

Using this result and the equation (3.2) we obtain easily that  $\frac{\partial u_k}{\partial t}$  is uniformly bounded in  $L^1(0, T, \mathcal{D}')$ . Let us introduce the space  $\mathcal{Y} = \{v \in L^2(0, T, \mathcal{D}), \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} \in L^1(0, T, \mathcal{D}')\}$ . According to Lions [18] (for example), the injection of  $\mathcal{Y}$  into  $L^2(0, T, L^2(\Omega))$  is compact. Therefore  $u_k$  is uniformly bounded in  $\mathcal{Y}$ . This result makes it possible to extract from  $(u_k, \phi_k, \psi_k, F(u_k))$  a subsequence also denoted by  $(u_k, \phi_k, \psi_k, F(u_k))$  and such that:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\phi_k, \psi_k) \rightharpoonup (\phi, \psi) \quad \text{weakly in } (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, \\ & u_k \rightharpoonup \tilde{u} \quad \text{weakly in } L^2(0, T, \mathcal{D}), \\ & u_k \longrightarrow \tilde{u} \quad \text{weakly in } L^2(\mathcal{Q}), \\ & F(u_k) \longrightarrow F(\tilde{u}) \quad \text{strongly in } L^2(\mathcal{Q})^{(1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

We proof easily that  $\tilde{u}$  is solution of (3.2) with a forcing  $(\phi, \psi)$  and according to the uniqueness of the solution of (3.2), we have then  $\tilde{u} = u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$ .

In the same way we prove that for each  $t \in [0, T]$ ,  $\mathbf{V}_t(\phi_k, \psi_k) \rightharpoonup \mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi)$  weakly in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then, for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  sufficiently large, there exists  $(\phi^*, \psi^*) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2$  and  $u^* \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (3.5) and  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  solution of (3.2).*

*Proof.* Let  $P_\psi$  be the map:  $\phi \longrightarrow J(\phi, \psi)$  and  $Q_\phi$  be the map:  $\psi \longrightarrow J(\phi, \psi)$ . To obtain the existence of the robust control problem we prove that  $P_\psi$  is convex and lower semicontinuous for all  $\psi \in \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ , and  $P_\phi$  is concave and upper semicontinuous for all  $\phi \in \mathcal{U}_{ad}$  and we use the classical minimax theorem in infinite dimensions (see, e.g., [3] and [12]).

Firstly we prove that for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  sufficiently large we have the convexity of the map  $P_\psi$  and the concavity of the map  $Q_\phi$ . In order to prove the convexity, it is sufficient to show that for all  $(\phi_1, \phi_2) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad}$  we have:  $(P'_\psi(\phi_1) - P'_\psi(\phi_2)) \cdot \phi \geq 0$ , where  $\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2$ . According to the definition of  $J$ , we have that:

$$\begin{aligned} & (P'_\psi(\phi_1) - P'_\psi(\phi_2)) \cdot \phi \\ &= \int_0^T \langle C(u_1 - u_2), Cw_2 \rangle dt + \mu \langle u_1(T) - u_2(T), w_{2T} \rangle \\ &+ \int_0^T \langle C(u_1 - u_{obs}), C(w_1 - w_2) \rangle dt + \mu \langle u_1(T) - v_{obs}, w_{1T} - w_{2T} \rangle \\ &+ \alpha \|\phi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2, \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

where  $u_i = U(\phi_i, \psi)$ ,  $w_i = U'(\phi_i, \psi) \cdot (\phi, 0)$  and  $w_{iT} = V'_T(\phi_i, \psi) \cdot (\phi, 0)$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ . According to (1.4), (3.4) and the result of Proposition 2.3 and Proposition 3.1 we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^T \langle C(u_1 - u_2), Cw_2 \rangle dt + \mu \langle u_1(T) - u_2(T), w_{2T} \rangle dt \\ & \leq \|C(u_1 - u_2)\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} \|Cw_2\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} + \mu \|u_1(T) - u_2(T)\|_{L^2} \|w_{2T}\|_{L^2} \\ & \leq (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) \|u_1 - u_2\|_{\mathcal{V}} \|w_2\|_{\mathcal{V}} + \mu \|u_1(T) - u_2(T)\|_{L^2} \|w_{2T}\|_{L^2} \\ & \leq (\mu + \delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) \exp((\gamma + 1)T)b \|\phi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \\ & \leq C_0(\mu, \delta_1, c_1, \delta_2, \gamma, T, b) \|\phi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (3.17)$$

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<sup>1</sup>The operator  $F$  is continuous then  $F(u_k) \longrightarrow F(\tilde{u})$  strongly in  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  (according to (3.15.3)).

and

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^T \langle C(u_1 - u_{obs}), C(w_1 - w_2) \rangle dt + \mu \langle u_1(T) - v_{obs}, w_{1T} - w_{2T} \rangle \\
& \leq \|C(u_1 - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} \|C(w_1 - w_2)\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} \\
& \quad + \mu \|u_1(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2} \|w_{1T} - w_{2T}\|_{L^2} \\
& \leq (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) \|u_1 - u_{obs}\|_{\mathcal{V}} \|w_1 - w_2\|_{\mathcal{V}} \\
& \quad + \mu \|u_1(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2} \|w_{1T} - w_{2T}\|_{L^2} \\
& \leq 2((\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) \|u_1 - u_{obs}\|_{\mathcal{V}} \\
& \quad + \mu \|u_1(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}) \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T) \lambda c_e^2 b^2 \|\phi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \\
& \leq C_1(\mu, \delta_1, c_I, c_e, \lambda, \delta_2, \gamma, T, b) C_2(u_{obs}, v_{obs}, u_0) \|\phi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \quad (3.18)
\end{aligned}$$

From (3.16)-(3.18) we deduce that for  $\alpha \geq \alpha_l = C_0 + C_1 C_2$  we have  $(P'_\psi(\phi_1) - P'_\psi(\phi_2)) \cdot \phi \geq 0$  and then the convexity of  $P_\psi$ . In the same way, we can find  $\beta_l$  such that for  $\beta \geq \beta_l$  we have the concavity of  $Q_\phi$ .

We prove now that  $P_\psi$  is lower semicontinuous for all  $\psi \in \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ , and  $P_\phi$  is upper semicontinuous for all  $\phi \in \mathcal{U}_{ad}$ .

Let  $\phi_k$  be a minimizing sequence of  $J$ , i.e.

$$\liminf_k J(\phi_k, \psi) = \min_{\phi \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})} J(\phi, \psi) \quad (\forall \psi \in \mathcal{V}_{ad}).$$

Then  $\phi_k$  is uniformly bounded in  $\mathcal{U}_{ad}$  and we can extract from  $\phi_k$  a subsequence also denoted by  $\phi_k$  such that  $\phi_k \rightharpoonup \phi_\psi$  weakly in  $\mathcal{U}_{ad}$ . By using Proposition 3.3 we have then

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{U}(\phi_k, \psi) \rightharpoonup u_\psi = \mathbf{U}(\phi_\psi, \psi) \text{ weakly in } L^2(0, T, \mathcal{D}), \\
& \mathbf{U}(\phi_k, \psi) \longrightarrow u_\psi \text{ strongly in } L^2(\mathcal{Q}), \\
& \mathbf{V}_t(\phi_k, \psi) \rightharpoonup u_\psi(t) = \mathbf{V}_t(\phi_\psi, \psi) \text{ weakly in } L^2(\Omega), \forall t \in [0, T].
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since the norm is lower semicontinuous we have that the map  $P_\psi : \phi \longrightarrow J(\phi, \psi)$  is lower semicontinuous for all  $\psi \in \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ . By using the same technique we obtain then  $P_\phi$  is upper semicontinuous for all  $\phi \in \mathcal{U}_{ad}$ .  $\square$

In order to characterize the solution of the robust control problem, we introduce the ‘‘adjoint’’ problem corresponding to the primal problem (3.2) (we denote by  $u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  the solution of problem (3.2) with the forcing is  $(\phi, \psi)$ ):

$$\begin{aligned}
& -\frac{\partial \tilde{u}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{u} + (G(u))^* \tilde{u} + K^*(V, \tilde{u}) = \mathcal{C}^* \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \text{ on } \mathcal{Q}, \\
& \tilde{u}(t = T) = \mu(u(t = T) - v_{obs}) \text{ on } \Omega,
\end{aligned} \quad (3.19)$$

where  $\mathcal{C}^*$  (resp.  $(G(u))^*$ ) is the adjoint of the operator  $\mathcal{C}$  (resp.  $G(u)$ ).

**Proposition 3.4.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2),  $u \in \mathcal{W}$  and  $\nu > \delta_2$  then the solution of (3.19) is in  $\mathcal{W}$  and satisfies the following estimate:  $\|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}_t}^2 + (\nu - \delta_2) \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T)(\mu^2 \|u(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)$ .*

*Proof.* Multiplying (3.19) by  $\tilde{u}$  and integrating over  $(t, T) \times \Omega$ , we obtain (according to  $-2G(u) \leq \gamma_0$ )

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 &\leq \mu^2 \|u(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \gamma \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\quad + \int_t^T \|\mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs})\|_{L^2}^2 + \int_t^T \|\mathcal{C}\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

According to (3.4) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 &\leq \mu^2 \|u(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + (\delta_1 + \gamma) \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\quad + \delta_2 \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2, \end{aligned}$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2 + (\nu - \delta_2) \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 &\leq \mu^2 \|u(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\quad + \|\mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 + (\delta_1 + \gamma) \int_t^T \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

By using Gronwall formula we have then:

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}_t}^2 + (\nu - \delta_2) \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \\ \leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T)(\mu^2 \|u(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

We will denote in the sequel by  $\tilde{\mathbf{U}} : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow \tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi, \psi)$  the map defined by (3.19).

We can now give the optimality system for the robust control problem (3.5).

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2),  $\nu > \delta_2$ , and  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2 \times \mathcal{W}$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (3.5) and  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (3.2). Then (for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  sufficiently large)  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^* + B_1^* \tilde{u})(\phi - \phi^*) d\Omega dt \geq 0$ , and  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi^* + B_2^* \tilde{u})(\psi - \psi^*) d\Omega dt \leq 0 \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ , where  $\tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of adjoint problem (3.19).*

*Proof.* The cost fonctionnal  $J$  is a composition of Fréchet differentiable maps then  $J$  is Fréchet differentiable and we have  $(\forall \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} J'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} &= \int_0^T \langle C(u - u_{obs}), C\mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle + \langle \mu(u(T) - v_{obs}), \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle \\ &\quad + \int_0^T (\langle \alpha\phi, h_1 \rangle - \langle \beta\psi, h_2 \rangle), \end{aligned}$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} J'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} &= \int_0^T \langle \mathcal{C}^*\mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}), \mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle + \langle \mu(u(T) - v_{obs}), \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle \\ &\quad + \int_0^T (\langle \alpha\phi, h_1 \rangle - \langle \beta\psi, h_2 \rangle). \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying (3.6) by  $\tilde{u}$ , integrating over  $\mathcal{Q}$  and (integrating) by parts in time  $t$ , we obtain  $(\forall \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T (\langle B_1^*\tilde{u}, h_1 \rangle + \langle B_2^*\tilde{u}, h_2 \rangle) &= \langle \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi^*, \psi^*)\mathbf{h}, \tilde{u}(T) \rangle \\ &\quad + \int_0^T \langle -\frac{\partial \tilde{u}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{u} + (G(u))^*\tilde{u} + K^*(V, \tilde{u}), \mathbf{U}'(\phi^*, \psi^*)\mathbf{h} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\tilde{u}$  is solution of adjoint problem (3.19) we obtain then  $(\forall \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T (\langle B_1^*\tilde{u}, h_1 \rangle + \langle B_2^*\tilde{u}, h_2 \rangle) &= \langle \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi^*, \psi^*)\mathbf{h}, \mu(u^*(T) - v_{obs}) \rangle \\ &\quad + \int_0^T \langle \mathcal{C}^*\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs}), \mathbf{U}'(\phi^*, \psi^*)\mathbf{h} \rangle. \quad (3.20) \end{aligned}$$

As  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (3.5) then  $J'(\phi^*, \psi^*)(\phi - \phi^*, 0) \geq 0$  and  $J'(\phi^*, \psi^*)(0, \psi - \psi^*) \leq 0, \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ , and therefore (according to (3.20) and to the expression of  $J'$ ) we deduce that  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (\alpha\phi^* + B_1^*\tilde{u})(\phi - \phi^*)d\Omega dt \geq 0$ , and  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta\psi^* + B_2^*\tilde{u})(\psi - \psi^*)d\Omega dt \leq 0 \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ . So the proof is complete.  $\square$

We will assume in the sequel that there exists  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*)$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (3.5),  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (3.2) and  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^* + B_1^* \tilde{u})(\phi - \phi^*) d\Omega dt \geq 0$ ,  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi^* + B_2^* \tilde{u})(\psi - \psi^*) d\Omega dt \leq 0 \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  (where  $\tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (3.19)). We give now some conditions to obtain the uniqueness of the solution  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$ .

**Theorem 3.3.** *Suppose that  $F$  satisfies the assumptions (1.2),  $\nu > \gamma_2$  and  $\mu < 1$  holds. Then if:*

- (i)  $\theta = (\nu - \delta_2 - c_I^2(\gamma + \delta_1)) - 2b^2 c_I^2(\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}) > 0$ ,
- (ii)  $\lambda c_e^2 \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T/2)(\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2} < \theta$ ,

then, the solution  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*)$  is unique.

*Proof.* Suppose  $(\phi_1^*, \psi_1^*, u_1^*)$  is another solution, then  $(\phi_1^*, \psi_1^*)$  satisfies (3.5),  $u_1^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi_1^*, \psi_1^*)$  solution of (3.2) and  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi_1^* + B_1^* \tilde{u}_1)(\phi - \phi_1^*) d\Omega dt \geq 0$ ,  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi_1^* + B_2^* \tilde{u}_1)(\psi - \psi_1^*) d\Omega dt \leq 0 \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  (where  $\tilde{u}_1 = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi_1^*, \psi_1^*)$  is solution of (3.19)).

Set  $\phi = \phi^* - \phi_1^*$ ,  $\psi = \psi^* - \psi_1^*$ ,  $v = u^* - u_1^*$  and  $\tilde{v} = \tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_1$  we then have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + Av + (F(u^*) - F(u_1^*)) + K(V, v) &= B_1 \phi + B_2 \psi \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ v(t=0) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{v} + (G(u^*))^* \tilde{v} + K^*(V, \tilde{v}) &= \mathcal{C}^* \mathcal{C} v - (G(u^*) - G(u_1^*))^* \tilde{u} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ \tilde{v}(t=T) &= \mu v(t=T) \quad \text{on } \Omega \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \|\phi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 + \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} B_1^* \tilde{v} \phi d\Omega dt &\leq 0, \quad \beta \|\psi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 \\ &\quad - \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} B_2^* \tilde{v} \psi d\Omega dt \leq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

According to the assumptions (1.2) and (1.4) we have

$$\begin{aligned} -2 < F(u^*) - F(u_1^*), v > &\leq \gamma_0 c_I^2 \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2, \\ -2 < (G(u^*))^* \tilde{v}, \tilde{v} > &\leq \gamma_0 c_I^2 \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2, \\ | < (G(u^*) - G(u_1^*))^* \tilde{u}, \tilde{v} > | &\leq \lambda \int_{\Omega} |v| |\tilde{v}| |\tilde{u}|. \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

By multiplying (3.21) by  $v$ , (3.22) by  $\tilde{v}$  and integrating over  $\mathcal{Q}$  gives (according to (3.23), (3.24) and (3.4))

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^T \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\
& \leq \gamma c_I^2 \int_0^T \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \frac{2}{\alpha} \|B_1^* \tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{Q}} \|B_1^* v\|_{\mathcal{Q}} + \frac{2}{\beta} \|B_2^* \tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{Q}} \|B_2^* v\|_{\mathcal{Q}}, \\
& \quad - \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|\tilde{v}\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^T \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \leq \gamma c_I^2 \int_0^T \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\
& \quad + (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2) + 2\lambda \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |\tilde{u}| |\tilde{v}| |v|, \\
& \quad \tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

By using Hölder inequality and the relationship (1.3) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + (\nu - \gamma c_I^2) \int_0^T \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\
& \leq 2\left(\frac{1}{\alpha} + \frac{1}{\beta}\right) b^2 c_I^2 \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2), \\
& \quad - \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|\tilde{v}\|_{L^2}^2 + (\nu - \gamma c_I^2) \int_0^T \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\
& \leq (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2 + \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}}) \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2), \quad (3.25) \\
& \quad \tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

Adding (3.25.1) and (3.25.2) (according to  $\nu > \delta_2$ ) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\|v\|_{L^2}^2 - \|\tilde{v}\|_{L^2}^2) + \theta \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2) \\
& \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2), \quad (3.26)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\theta = \nu - \delta_2 - c_I^2(\gamma + \frac{2b^2}{\alpha} + \frac{2b^2}{\beta} + \delta_1) > 0$  (according to the assumption (i)).

According to (3.25.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& (1 - \mu^2) \|v(T)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\tilde{v}(0)\|_{L^2}^2 + \theta (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \\
& \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2).
\end{aligned}$$



Since  $1 - \mu^2 > 0$  then  $\theta(\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2)$ .

By applying Proposition 3.4 and  $\mu < 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^\infty(0,T,L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\ & \leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2) \end{aligned}$$

and then  $\theta^*(\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \leq 0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^* = \theta - \lambda c_e^2 \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T/2) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\theta^* > 0$  (according to the assumption (i)), we have  $\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 = 0$  and then  $v = 0$  and  $\tilde{v} = 0$ . We obtain then the uniqueness result.  $\square$

#### 4. Study the Initial Condition Control

In this section the objective of the robust control problem is to find the best estimate of the initial state  $u_0$  in the presence of the disturbance which maximally spoils the control objective. For this, we study two problems: firstly the case of the worst disturbance is in the initial condition and secondly the case, where the worst disturbance is in the forcing.

##### 4.1. Distributed Disturbance in the Initial Condition

We suppose now that the value  $u_0$  is decomposed into the disturbance  $\psi \in L^2(\Omega)$  and the control  $\phi \in L^2(\Omega)$ , i.e.  $u_0 = B_1\psi + B_2\phi$ , where  $B_i, i = 1, 2$  are given bounded operators on  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

So the function  $u$  is assumed to be related to the disturbance  $\psi$  and control  $\phi$  through the problem (2.3):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + Au + F(u) + K(V, u) &= g \quad (\text{given}) \text{ on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ u(t=0) &= B_1\psi + B_2\phi \text{ on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{4.1}$$

To obtain the regularity of Proposition 2.3, we suppose the following hypothesis:  $g \in L^2(\mathcal{Q})$ ,  $(\phi, \psi) \in L^2(\Omega)^2$  and  $U \in \mathcal{W}$ . Let  $\mathbf{U} : (\phi, \psi) \rightarrow u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  be the map:  $(L^2(\Omega))^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  defined by (4.1) and introduce the cost function defined

by

$$J(\phi, \psi) = \frac{1}{2} \| \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \| u(T) - v_{obs} \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \| \phi \|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{\beta}{2} \| \psi \|_{L^2}^2, \quad (4.2)$$

where  $\mu, \alpha, \beta > 0$  are fixed,  $(u_{obs}, v_{obs}) \in \mathcal{V} \times L^2(\Omega)$  is the observation and  $\mathcal{C}$  is unbounded, linear operator on  $L^2(\Omega)$  satisfying the hypothesis (3.4).

We want to minimize the fonctionnal  $J$  with respect to  $\phi$  and maximize  $J$  with respect to  $\psi$ , i.e., to find  $(\phi^*, \psi^*) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  such that

$$J(\phi^*, \psi) \leq J(\phi^*, \psi^*) \leq J(\phi, \psi^*), \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}, \quad (4.3)$$

with  $\mathcal{U}_{ad}$  and  $\mathcal{V}_{ad}$  are (given) nonempty, closed, convex, bounded subsets of  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

By using the same technique to obtain Proposition 2.3, Proposition 3.1 and the Theorem 3.1, we have the following results (with no further estimates required):

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then the function  $\mathbf{U} : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  solution of (4.1) is continuously Fréchet differentiable from  $(L^2(\Omega))^2$  to  $\mathcal{W}$  with the derivative  $\mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi) : (h_1, h_2) \longrightarrow w$  given by the linear parabolic problem*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(\mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi))w + K(V, w) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ w(t=0) &= B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

and satisfies the estimates  $(\forall \Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in (L^2(\Omega))^2, i = 1, 2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} (i) \quad & \| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\Omega))^2, \mathcal{W})} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b, \\ (ii) \quad & \| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{U}'(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\Omega))^2, \mathcal{W})} \\ & \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T) \lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2. \end{aligned}$$

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then for each  $t \in [0, T]$ , the function  $\mathbf{V}_t : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u(t) = \mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi)$  solution of (4.1) is continuously Fréchet differentiable from  $(L^2(\Omega))^2$  to  $L^2(\Omega)$  with the derivative  $\mathbf{V}'_t(\phi, \psi) : (h_1, h_2) \longrightarrow w(t)$  given by the linear parabolic problem*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(\mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi))w + K(V, w) &= 0 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ w(t=0) &= B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

and satisfies the estimates  $(\forall \Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2, i = 1, 2)$ :

- (i)  $\| \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_1, \psi_1) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\Omega))^2, L^2(\Omega))} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b,$   
(ii)  $\| \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}((L^2(\Omega))^2, L^2(\Omega))} \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2.$

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then, for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  sufficiently large, there exists  $(\phi^*, \psi^*) \in (L^2(\Omega))^2$  and  $u^* \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (4.3) and  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.1).*

In order to characterize the solution of the robust control problem, we introduce the “adjoint” problem corresponding to the primal problem (4.1) (we denote by  $u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  the solution of problem (4.1), where the initial condition is  $(\phi, \psi)$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial \tilde{u}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{u} + (G(u))^* \tilde{u} + K^*(V, \tilde{u}) &= \mathcal{C}^* \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ \tilde{u}(T) &= \mu(u(T) - v_{obs}) \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

where  $\mathcal{C}^*$  (resp.  $(G(u))^*$ ) is the adjoint of the operator  $\mathcal{C}$  (resp.  $G(u)$ ).

**Proposition 4.3.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2),  $u \in \mathcal{W}$  and  $\nu > \delta_2$  then the solution of (4.6) is in  $\mathcal{W}$  and satisfies the following estimate:  $\| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + (\nu - \delta_2) \| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 \leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T)(\mu^2 \| u(T) - v_{obs} \|_{L^2}^2 + \| \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2).$*

*Proof.* We use the same technique that to obtain Proposition 3.4. So we omit the details.  $\square$

We can now give the optimality system for the robust control problem (4.3).

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2),  $\nu > \delta_2$  and  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad} \times \mathcal{W}$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (4.3) and  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.1). Then  $\int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^* + B_1^* \tilde{u}(0))(\phi - \phi^*) d\Omega \geq 0$ , and  $\int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi^* + B_2^* \tilde{u})(\psi - \psi^*) d\Omega \leq 0 \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ , where  $\tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of the adjoint problem (4.6).*

*Proof.* The cost fonctionnal  $J$  is a composition of Fréchet differentiable maps then  $J$  is Fréchet differentiable and we have  $(\forall \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\Omega))^2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} J'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} &= \int_0^T \langle C(u - u_{obs}), C\mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle \mu(u(T) - v_{obs}), \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle + \langle \alpha \phi, h_1 \rangle - \langle \beta \psi, h_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

and then

$$\begin{aligned} J'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} &= \int_0^T \langle \mathcal{C}^* \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}), \mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle \\ &\quad + \langle \mu(u(T) - v_{obs}), \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi, \psi)\mathbf{h} \rangle + \langle \alpha \phi, h_1 \rangle - \langle \beta \psi, h_2 \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying (4.4) by  $\tilde{u}$ , integrating over  $\mathcal{Q}$  and integrating by parts in time  $t$ , we obtain  $(\forall \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\mathcal{Q}))^2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2, \tilde{u}(0) \rangle &= \langle \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi^*, \psi^*) \mathbf{h}, \tilde{u}(T) \rangle \\ &+ \int_0^T \langle -\frac{\partial \tilde{u}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{u} + (G(u))^* \tilde{u} + K^*(V, \tilde{u}), \mathbf{U}'(\phi^*, \psi^*) \mathbf{h} \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\tilde{u}$  is solution of adjoint problem we obtain then  $(\forall \mathbf{h} = (h_1, h_2) \in (L^2(\Omega))^2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \langle B_1 h_1 + B_2 h_2, \tilde{u}(0) \rangle &= \langle \mathbf{V}'_T(\phi^*, \psi^*) \mathbf{h}, \mu(u^*(T) - v_{obs}) \rangle \\ &+ \int_0^T \langle \mathcal{C}^* \mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs}), \mathbf{U}'(\phi^*, \psi^*) \mathbf{h} \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

As  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.3) then  $J'(\phi^*, \psi^*)(\phi - \phi^*, 0) \geq 0$  and  $J'(\phi^*, \psi^*)(0, \psi - \psi^*) \leq 0$ ,  $\forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  and we can then deduce the result of the theorem (according to the expression of  $J'$ ). So the proof is complete.  $\square$

We will assume in the sequel that there exists  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*)$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (4.3),  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.1) and  $\int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^* + B_1^* \tilde{u}(0)) (\phi - \phi^*) d\Omega \geq 0$ ,  $\int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi^* + B_2^* \tilde{u})(\psi - \psi^*) d\Omega \leq 0$   $\forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  (where  $\tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.6)). We are now given some conditions to obtain the uniqueness of the solution  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$ .

**Theorem 4.3.** *Suppose that  $F$  satisfies the assumptions (1.2),  $\nu > \gamma_2$  and  $\mu < 1$  holds. Then if:*

$$(i) \theta = (\nu - \delta_2 - c_I^2(\gamma + \delta_1)) > 0 \text{ and } 1 - \frac{b^4}{\alpha^2} - \frac{b^4}{\beta^2} \geq 0,$$

$$(ii) \lambda c_e^2 \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T/2) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2} < \theta,$$

then, the solution  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*)$  is unique.

*Proof.* Suppose  $(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1, u^*_1)$  is another solution, then  $(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1)$  satisfies (4.3),  $u^*_1 = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1)$  is solution of (4.1) and  $\int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^*_1 + B_1^* \tilde{u}_1(0)) (\phi - \phi^*_1) d\Omega \geq 0$ ,  $\int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi^*_1 + B_2^* \tilde{u}_1)(\psi - \psi^*_1) d\Omega \leq 0$   $\forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  (where  $\tilde{u}_1 = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1)$  is solution of (4.6)).

Set  $\phi = \phi^* - \phi^*_1$ ,  $\psi = \psi^* - \psi^*_1$ ,  $v = u^* - u^*_1$  and  $\tilde{v} = \tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_1$  we then have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + Av + (F(u^*) - F(u^*_1)) + K(V, v) &= 0 \text{ on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ v(t=0) &= B_1 \phi + B_2 \psi \text{ on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &-\frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{v} + (G(u^*))^* \tilde{v} + K^*(V, \tilde{v}) = C^* C v - (G(u^*) - G(u_1^*))^* \tilde{u} \text{ on } \mathcal{Q}, \\
 &\tilde{v}(t = T) = \mu v(t = T) \text{ on } \Omega
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.9}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha \| \phi \|^2_{(\Omega)} + \int_{\Omega} B_1^* \tilde{v}(0) \phi d\Omega \leq 0, \quad \beta \| \psi \|^2_{(\Omega)} \\
 - \int_{\Omega} B_2^* \tilde{v}(0) \psi d\Omega dt \leq 0.
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.10}$$

By multiplying (4.8) by  $v$ , (4.9) by  $\tilde{v}$  and integrating over  $\Omega$  give (according to (4.10), (3.4) and (3.24))

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \| v \|^2_{L^2} + \nu \| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} \leq \gamma c_I^2 \| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}},$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{L^2} + \nu \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} \leq \gamma c_I^2 \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} + (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) (\| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} + \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}}) \\
 + 2\lambda \int_{\Omega} | \tilde{u} | | \tilde{v} | | v |,
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = B_1 \phi + B_2 \psi.$$

By using Hölder inequality and the relationship (1.3) we obtain

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \| v \|^2_{L^2} + (\nu - \gamma c_I^2) \| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} \leq 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 - \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{L^2} + (\nu - \gamma c_I^2) \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} \\
 \leq (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2 + \lambda c_e^2 \| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{H}}) (\| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} + \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}}),
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.11}$$

$$\tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = B_1 \phi + B_2 \psi.$$

Adding (4.11.1) and (4.11.2) (according to  $\nu > \delta_2$ ) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\| v \|^2_{L^2} - \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{L^2}) \\
 + \theta (\| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} + \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}}) \leq \lambda c_e^2 \| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{H}} (\| v \|^2_{\mathcal{D}} + \| \tilde{v} \|^2_{\mathcal{D}}),
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.12}$$

$$\tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = B_1 \phi + B_2 \psi,$$

where  $\theta = \nu - \delta_2 - c_1^2(2\gamma + \delta_1) > 0$  (according to the assumption (i)).

By integrating over  $[0, T]$  and according to (4.11.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \mu^2) \|v(T)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\tilde{v}(0)\|_{L^2}^2 + \theta(\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \\ \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) + \left(\frac{b^4}{\alpha^2} + \frac{b^4}{\beta^2}\right) \|\tilde{v}(0)\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $1 - \mu^2 > 0$  and  $1 - \frac{b^4}{\alpha^2} - \frac{b^4}{\beta^2} \geq 0$  then

$$\theta(\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2).$$

By applying Proposition 4.3 and that  $\mu < 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u}\|_{L^\infty(0, T, L^2(\Omega))}^2 \\ \leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2) \end{aligned}$$

and then  $\theta^*(\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \leq 0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^* = \theta - \lambda c_e^2 \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T/2) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\theta^* > 0$  (according to the assumption (i)), we have  $\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 = 0$  and then  $v = 0$  and  $\tilde{v} = 0$ . So the uniqueness result.  $\square$

## 4.2. Distributed Disturbance in the Forcing

In this section, the value  $g$  is the disturbance  $\psi \in L^2(\Omega)$  and the initial condition  $u_0$  is the control  $\phi \in L^2(\Omega)$ , i.e.  $g = B_2\psi, u_0 = B_1\phi$ , where  $B_i, i = 1, 2$  are given bounded operators on  $L^2(\Omega)$ .

The function  $u$  is assumed to be related to the disturbance  $\psi$  and control  $\phi$  through the problem (2.3):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + Au + F(u) + K(V, u) &= B_2\psi \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ u(0) &= B_1\phi \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{4.13}$$

To obtain the regularity of Proposition 2.3, we suppose the following hypothesis:  $(\phi, \psi) \in L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  and  $U \in \mathcal{W}$ . Let  $\mathbf{U} : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  be the

map:  $L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{W}$  defined by (4.13) and introduce the cost function defined by

$$J(\phi, \psi) = \frac{1}{2} \| \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 + \frac{\mu}{2} \| u(T) - v_{obs} \|_{L^2}^2 + \frac{\alpha}{2} \| \phi \|_{L^2}^2 - \frac{\beta}{2} \| \psi \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2, \quad (4.14)$$

where  $\mu, \alpha, \beta > 0$  are fixed,  $(u_{obs}, v_{obs}) \in \mathcal{V} \times L^2(\Omega)$  is the observation (given) and  $\mathcal{C}$  is unbounded, linear operator on  $L^2(\Omega)$  satisfying the hypothesis (3.4).

We want to minimize the fonctionnal  $J$  with respect to  $\phi$  and maximalize  $J$  with respect to  $\psi$ , i.e., to find  $(\phi^*, \psi^*) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  such that

$$J(\phi^*, \psi) \leq J(\phi^*, \psi^*) \leq J(\phi, \psi^*), \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}, \quad (4.15)$$

with  $\mathcal{U}_{ad}$  and  $\mathcal{V}_{ad}$  are (given) nonempty, closed, convex, bounded subsets of  $L^2(\Omega)$  and  $L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  respectively.

The arguments of the previous sections extend directly to the present case without further estimates. We have then the following results.

**Proposition 4.4.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then the function  $\mathbf{U} : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  solution of (4.13) is continuously Fréchet differentiable from  $L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q})$  to  $\mathcal{W}$  with the derivative  $\mathbf{U}'(\phi, \psi) : (h_1, h_2) \longrightarrow w$  given by the linear parabolic problem*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(\mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi))w + K(V, w) &= B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ w(t = 0) &= B_1 h_1 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.16)$$

and satisfies the estimates  $(\forall \Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}), i = 1, 2)$ :

- (i)  $\| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}), \mathcal{W})} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b$
- (ii)  $\| \mathbf{U}'(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{U}'(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}), \mathcal{W})} \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T)\lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2$ .

**Proposition 4.5.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then for each  $t \in [0, T]$ , the function  $\mathbf{V}_t : (\phi, \psi) \longrightarrow u(t) = \mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi)$  solution of (4.13) is continuously Fréchet differentiable from  $(L^2(\Omega))^2$  to  $L^2(\Omega)$  with the derivative  $\mathbf{V}'_t(\phi, \psi) : (h_1, h_2) \longrightarrow w(t)$  given by the linear parabolic problem*

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial t} + Aw + G(\mathbf{V}_t(\phi, \psi))w + K(V, w) &= B_2 h_2 \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ w(t = 0) &= B_1 h_1 \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.17)$$

and satisfies the estimates  $(\forall \Phi_i = (\phi_i, \psi_i) \in L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}), i = 1, 2)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
(i) \quad & \| \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_1, \psi_1) \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}), L^2(\Omega))} \leq \exp((\gamma + 1)T/2)b, \\
(ii) \quad & \| \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_1, \psi_1) - \mathbf{V}'_t(\phi_2, \psi_2) \|_{\mathcal{L}(L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q}), L^2(\Omega))} \\
& \leq 2 \exp(2(\gamma + 1)T) \lambda c_e^2 b^2 \| \Phi_1 - \Phi_2 \|_{L^2(\Omega) \times L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2.
\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 4.4.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2). Then, for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  sufficiently large, there exists  $(\phi^*, \psi^*) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$  and  $u^* \in \mathcal{W}$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (4.15) and  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.13).*

In order to characterize to solution of the robust control problem, we introduce the ‘‘adjoint’’ problem corresponding to the primal problem (4.13) (we denote by  $u = \mathbf{U}(\phi, \psi)$  the solution of problem (4.13), where the forcing-initial condition is  $(\phi, \psi)$ ):

$$\begin{aligned}
-\frac{\partial \tilde{u}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{u} + (G(u))^* \tilde{u} + K^*(V, \tilde{u}) &= \mathcal{C}^* \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\
\tilde{u}(T) &= \mu(u(T) - v_{obs}) \quad \text{on } \Omega,
\end{aligned} \tag{4.18}$$

where  $\mathcal{C}^*$  (resp.  $(G(u))^*$ ) is the adjoint of the operator  $\mathcal{C}$  (resp.  $G(u)$ ).

**Proposition 4.6.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2),  $u \in \mathcal{W}$  and  $\nu > \delta_2$  then the solution of (4.18) is in  $\mathcal{W}$  and satisfies the following estimate:*

$$\begin{aligned}
& \| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 + (\nu - \delta_2) \| \tilde{u} \|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\
& \leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T) (\mu^2 \| u(T) - v_{obs} \|_{L^2}^2 + \| \mathcal{C}(u - u_{obs}) \|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2).
\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We use the same technique to obtain Proposition 4.3. So we omit the details.  $\square$

We can now give the optimality system for the robust control problem (4.15).

**Theorem 4.5.** *Let  $F$  satisfy the assumptions (1.2),  $\nu > \delta_2$  and  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad} \times \mathcal{W}$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (4.15) and  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  solution of (4.13). Then (for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  sufficiently large)*

*$\int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^* + B_1^* \tilde{u}(0)) (\phi - \phi^*) d\Omega dt \geq 0$ , and*

$$\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta \psi^* + B_2^* \tilde{u}) (\psi - \psi^*) d\Omega dt \leq 0, \quad \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad},$$

where  $\tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of the adjoint problem (4.18).

*Proof.* We use the same technique as in Theorem 4.2. We skip the details.  $\square$

We will assume in the sequel that there exists  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*)$  such that  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is defined by (4.15),  $u^* = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.13) and  $\int_{\Omega} (\alpha \phi^* + B_1^* \tilde{u}(0)) (\phi -$



$\phi^*)d\Omega dt \geq 0$ ,  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta\psi^* + B_2^*\tilde{u})(\psi - \psi^*)d\Omega dt \leq 0$  (where  $\tilde{u} = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*, \psi^*)$  is solution of (4.18)). We are now given some conditions to obtain the uniqueness of the solution  $(\phi^*, \psi^*)$ .

**Theorem 4.6.** *Suppose that  $F$  satisfies the assumptions (1.2),  $\nu > \gamma_2$ ,  $\mu < 1$  and  $\alpha \geq b^2$  holds. Then if:*

- (i)  $\theta = (\nu - \delta_2 - c_I^2(\gamma + \delta_1) - \frac{b^2 c_I^2}{\alpha}) > 0$ ,
- (ii)  $\lambda c_e^2 \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T/2) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2} < \theta$ ,

then, the solution  $(\phi^*, \psi^*, u^*)$  is unique.

*Proof.* Suppose  $(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1, u^*_1)$  is another solution, then  $(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1)$  satisfies (4.3),  $u^*_1 = \mathbf{U}(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1)$  is solution of (4.13) and  $\int_{\Omega} (\alpha\phi^* + B_1^*\tilde{u}_1(0))(\phi - \phi^*_1)d\Omega dt \geq 0$ ,  $\int_0^T \int_{\Omega} (-\beta\psi^*_1 + B_2^*\tilde{u}_1)(\psi - \psi^*_1)d\Omega dt \leq 0 \forall (\phi, \psi) \in \mathcal{U}_{ad} \times \mathcal{V}_{ad}$ , (where  $\tilde{u}_1 = \tilde{\mathbf{U}}(\phi^*_1, \psi^*_1)$  is solution of (4.18)).

Set  $\phi = \phi^* - \phi^*_1$ ,  $\psi = \psi^* - \psi^*_1$ ,  $v = u^* - u^*_1$  and  $\tilde{v} = \tilde{u} - \tilde{u}_1$  we then have:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + Av + (F(u^*) - F(u^*_1)) &= B_2\psi \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ v(0) &= B_1\phi \quad \text{on } \Omega, \end{aligned} \quad (4.19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{\partial \tilde{v}}{\partial t} + A\tilde{v} + (G(u^*))^*\tilde{v} &= \mathcal{C}^*\mathcal{C}v - (G(u^*) - G(u^*_1))^*\tilde{u} \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q}, \\ \tilde{v}(T) &= \mu v(T) \quad \text{on } \Omega \end{aligned} \quad (4.20)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha \|\phi\|_{L^2(\Omega)}^2 + \int_{\Omega} B_1^*\tilde{v}(0)\phi d\Omega &\leq 0, \\ \beta \|\psi\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2 - \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} B_2^*\tilde{v}\phi d\Omega dt &\leq 0. \end{aligned} \quad (4.21)$$

By multiplying (4.19) by  $v$ , (4.20) by  $\tilde{v}$  and integrating over  $\mathcal{Q}$  give (according to (4.21), (3.24) and (3.4))

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^T \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 &\leq \gamma c_I^2 \int_0^T \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \frac{2}{\beta} \|B_2^*\tilde{v}\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})} \|B_2^*v\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}, \\ -\int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|\tilde{v}\|_{L^2}^2 + \nu \int_0^T \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 &\leq \gamma c_I^2 \int_0^T \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 \\ &+ (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2) \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2) + 2\lambda \int_0^T \int_{\Omega} |\tilde{u}| |\tilde{v}| |v|, \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = B_1 \phi.$$

By using Hölder inequality and the relationship (1.3) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|v\|_{L^2}^2 + (\nu - \gamma c_I^2) \int_0^T \|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 &\leq \frac{1}{\beta} b^2 c_I^2 \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2), \\ - \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \|\tilde{v}\|_{L^2}^2 + (\nu - \gamma c_I^2) \int_0^T \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 & \\ &\leq (\delta_1 c_I^2 + \delta_2 + \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}}) \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2), \end{aligned} \quad (4.22)$$

$$\tilde{v}(T) = \mu v(T) \text{ and } v(0) = B_1 \phi.$$

Adding (4.22.1) and (4.22.2) (according to  $\nu > \delta_2$ ) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^T \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\|v\|_{L^2}^2 - \|\tilde{v}\|_{L^2}^2) + \theta \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2) & \\ \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} \int_0^T (\|v\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{D}}^2), \end{aligned} \quad (4.23)$$

where  $\theta = \nu - \delta_2 - c_I^2(\gamma + \delta_1 + \frac{b^2}{\alpha}) > 0$  (according to the assumption (i)).

According to (4.22.3) we have

$$\begin{aligned} (1 - \mu^2) \|v(T)\|_{L^2}^2 + \|\tilde{v}(0)\|_{L^2}^2 + \theta (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) & \\ \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) + \frac{b^4}{\alpha^2} \|\tilde{v}(0)\|_{L^2}^2. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $1 - \mu^2 > 0$  and  $1 - \frac{b^4}{\alpha^2} > 0$  then

$$\theta (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \leq \lambda c_e^2 \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}} (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2).$$

By applying Proposition 4.6 and that  $\mu < 1$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|\tilde{u}\|_{\mathcal{H}}^2 &\leq \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\quad + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2), \end{aligned}$$

and then  $\theta^* (\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2) \leq 0$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^* &= \theta - \lambda c_e^2 \exp((\delta_1 + \gamma + 1)T/2) (\|u^*(T) - v_{obs}\|_{L^2}^2 \\ &\quad + \|\mathcal{C}(u^* - u_{obs})\|_{L^2(\mathcal{Q})}^2)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\theta^* > 0$  (according to the assumption (i)), we have  $\|v\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 + \|\tilde{v}\|_{\mathcal{V}}^2 = 0$  and then  $v = 0$  and  $\tilde{v} = 0$ . So the uniqueness result.  $\square$

### 5. Example

We present here a more practical example dealing with a reaction-diffusion-transport system. The system is governed by:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(D\nabla U) + V \cdot \nabla U + F(U) &= f \quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q} = (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ U(\cdot, t) &= 0 \quad \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ U(t = 0) &= U_0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

Here,  $\Omega$  is an open bounded in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  with the boundary  $\partial\Omega$  is sufficiently regular, for example the liquid (or atmospheric) domain:  $U$  represents the concentration of some biochemical pollutant in the studied domain  $\Omega$ ,  $D$  denotes the coefficient of eddy diffusivity,  $V$  is the 3-dimensional velocity field of the fluid or the air. The second term in the equation accounts for pollutant movement by diffusion and the third term represents the transport of the pollutant by the flow field. The right-hand side of the equation  $f$  may consist of agents (for example biological agents capable of producing biodegradation of the pollutant), chemicals extraction or physical extraction.

For the mathematical setting, we take  $\mathcal{D} = H_0^1(\Omega)$  and  $\mathcal{D}' = H^{-1}(\Omega)$ . According to Sobolev Embedding Theorem [1] we have that  $\mathcal{D}$  embed in  $L^4(\Omega)$ . The operator  $A$  is  $-\operatorname{div}(D\nabla \cdot)$  with Dirichlet boundary condition and  $K$  is the operator  $V \cdot \nabla$ . For the nonlinear operators we suppose that they satisfies the hypothesis (1.2).

If we assume that the coefficient  $D$  is positive and bounded function, then the operator  $A$  is continuous and coercive and we denote by  $\nu = \min_{\Omega}(D)$  the coercivity constant.

Assume now that the velocity field  $V$  is known and satisfies  $V \in L^\infty(Q)$  and  $\operatorname{div}(V) = 0$ , so we have easily the estimate (1.5), where  $\gamma_\infty = \frac{\|V\|_{L^\infty(Q)}^2}{\nu}$  and that  $K^* = -K$ .

If we suppose that  $U$  is the target function, the equation satisfies the large perturbation  $u$  to the target  $U$  is:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \operatorname{div}(D\nabla u) + V \cdot \nabla u + F(u + U) - F(U) &= g \\ &\quad \text{on } \mathcal{Q} = (0, T) \times \Omega, \\ u(\cdot, t) &= 0 \quad \text{on } (0, T) \times \partial\Omega, \\ u(t = 0) &= u_0 \quad \text{on } \Omega. \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

In the cost function the operator  $\mathcal{C}$  represent the regional and temporal variation in the cost of pollutant extraction. The observation denotes the acceptable pollution level in the studied region. Since all the assumptions of our

abstract result are satisfied by the example in this particular case, so our study applies.

## 6. Conclusion

We have developed a robust control method for problems governed by non-linear parabolic equations. Our purpose is to calculate the pronostic variables corresponding to some observation taking into account the influence of the disturbance (noise) in data.

The robust control problem has been studied for two sets of distributed controls: firstly the disturbance and the control in the forcing, secondly the control in the initial condition and the disturbance in the initial condition or in the forcing. Under suitable hypothesis, it is shown that one has existence of solution to a corresponding “minimax” problem, and we obtain the appropriate necessary optimality conditions. Further, for small data or large coefficient  $\nu$ ,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , one has uniqueness.

It will be interesting to extend this study to others problems. In the future, we want to apply the robust control to oceanographic and atmospheric problems. For example in the tropical Atlantic or Pacific oceans, the initial condition (velocity, pressure, temperature and salinity) is known for each tropical season but the external forcing (for example the windstress) is not well-known (in the realistic case). This problem corresponds to a modelization of tropical instability waves which are illustrated by the El Nino phenomenon. In this case the control problem studied in [4]-[9] consider the external forcing as the control in order to reconstitute the observed situation (for example the surface pressure) or to minimize the turbulence within the flow. It is interesting to consider this problem with a distributed control and a disturbance in the external forcing.

In the case of meteorology, the control problem is the adjustment of the initial condition (the initial condition is not well known) in order to obtain the circulation which agrees with observations in situ (see e.g. [20, 21]). It will be desirable to study the robust control with a distributed control and a disturbance in the initial condition.

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## 7. Appendix

**Lemma of Gronwall.** *Let  $A \geq 0$  and  $B \geq 0$  be constants and  $f$  be integrable and positive such that:*

$$f(t) \leq A + B \int_0^t f(s) ds, \quad \text{for } t \geq 0.$$

*Then  $\sup_{t \in [0, T]} f(t) \leq A \exp(BT)$ .*

**Corollary.** *Let  $\alpha \geq 0$ ,  $\beta \geq 0$  and  $\gamma \geq -1$  be constants and  $f$  be integrable and positive such that:*

$$f(t) \leq \alpha^2 + 2\beta \left( \int_0^t f(s) ds \right)^{1/2} + \gamma \int_0^t f(s) ds, \quad \text{for } t \geq 0.$$

*Then  $\sup_{t \in [0, T]} f(t) \leq (\alpha^2 + \beta^2) \exp((\gamma + 1)T)$ .*

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