

THE SOLUTION FOR A KIRCHHOFF-TYPE BEAM  
EQUATIONS WITH NONLINEAR BOUNDARY

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**Abstract:** In this paper we establish one kind of equations of nonlinear beam subjected to axial forces and transverse load. We also prove the existence and uniqueness of global solutions.

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1. Introduction

This problem is based on the equation

$$u_{tt} + u_{xxxx} - (\alpha + \beta \int_0^l |u_x(s, t)|^2 ds) u_{xx} = 0,$$

which was proposed by Woioowsky-Krieger, see [8], as a model for vibrating beams with hinged ends. One of the first mathematical analysis for the Kirchhoff-type beam equation

$$u_{tt} + u_{xxxx} - M \left( \int_0^l |u_x|^2 dx \right) u_{xx} = 0,$$

was done by Ball [1], which was later extended to an abstract setting by

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Medeiros [6]. Tucsnaik [7] considered the beam equation

$$u_{tt} + \Delta^2 u - M(\|\nabla u\|_2^2)\Delta u = 0 \quad \text{in } \Omega \in \mathbf{R}^n$$

with clamped boundary. He obtained the exponential decay of the energy when a damping of the type  $a(x)u_t$  is effective near the boundary. The Cauchy problem and initial-boundary value problem with linear boundary condition for the Kirchhoff-type beam equation were studied, using different methods, by the Biler [2], Brito [3], Kouemou Patcheu [4], etc. T.F. Ma [5] considered the Kirchhoff-type beam which is clamped at  $x = 0$  and  $x = L$  by a bearing with nonlinear response characterized by the function  $f$ , he proved the existence and decay rates. In this paper, we are concerned with the existence and uniqueness for the solution of the nonlinear beam equation with load

$$u_{tt} + u_{xxxx} - M\left(\int_0^l |u_x|^2 dx\right)u_{xx} = Q(t), \quad (1.1)$$

with nonlinear boundary conditions

$$u(0, t) = u_x(0, t) = u_{xx}(l, t) = 0, \quad (1.2)$$

$$u_{xxx}(l, t) - M\left(\int_0^l |u_x|^2 dx\right)u_x(l, t) = f(u(l, t)) + g(u_t(l, t)), \quad (1.3)$$

and initial conditions

$$u(0, t) = u^0(x), \quad u_t(0, t) = u^1(x), \quad (1.4)$$

where  $u = u(x, t)$  is transverse deflection of nonlinear beam.

## 2. Assumptions and the Result

In this paper, we use only standard notations, sometimes, a function  $u = u(x, t)$  will simply be denoted by  $u(t)$  for the sake of simplicity. Our analysis is based on the Sobolev spaces

$$V = \{u \in H^2(0, l) | u(0) = u_x(0) = 0\},$$

equipped with the norm  $\|w\|_V = \|w_{xx}\|_2$ , and

$$W = \{u \in V \cap H^4(0, l) | u_{xx}(l) = 0\},$$

equipped with the norm  $\|w\|_W = \|w_{xxx}\|_2 + \|w_{xxxx}\|_2$ , where  $\|\cdot\|_p$  denotes the  $L^p$  norms

We assume that  $f, g : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  are continuously differentiable functions such that

$$f(s)s \geq 0 \text{ and } f(s)s - 2\hat{f}(s) \geq 0, \quad \forall s \in \mathbf{R}, \tag{2.1}$$

where  $\hat{f}(s) = \int_0^s f(z)dz$ , and

$$g(0) = 0, \quad (g(r) - g(s))(r - s) \geq \rho|r - s|^2, \quad \forall s \in \mathbf{R}, \tag{2.2}$$

for some  $\rho > 0$ .

Our result is the following theorem.

**Theorem.** *Let  $M \in C^1([0, \infty))$  be a non-negative function,  $Q \in L^2([0, \infty); L^2(0, l))$  and assume that (2.1) and (2.2) hold. Then for any  $u^0, u^1 \in W$  satisfying the compatibility condition*

$$u_{xxx}^0(l) - M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2)u_x^0(l) = f(u^0(l)) + g(u^1(l)), \tag{2.3}$$

there exists unique function

$$u \in L^2(0, \infty; W) \cap C^0([0, \infty; V) \cap W^{2,\infty}(0, \infty; L^2(0, l)) \tag{2.4}$$

satisfying (1.1)–(1.4).

### 3. Proof of Theorem (Existence and Uniqueness)

*Step 1. Approximating solution.* Let us solve the variational problem associated with (1.1)–(1.4), which is given by: find  $u(t) \in W$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^l u_{tt}(t)w dx + \int_0^l u_{xx}(t)w_{xx} dx + M(\|u_x(t)\|_2^2) \int_0^l u_x(t)w_x dx \\ + f(u(l, t))w(l) + g(u_t(l, t))w(l) = \int_0^l Q(t)w dx, \end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

for all  $w \in V$ . This is done with the Galerkin approximations. Let  $\{w^j\}$  be a complete orthogonal system of  $W$  for which

$$\{u^0, u^1\} \in \text{Span} \{w^1, w^2\}.$$

For each  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ , let us put  $W_m = \text{Span} \{w^1, w^2, \dots, w^m\}$ . We search for a function

$$u^m(t) = \sum_{j=1}^m k^j(t)w^j,$$

such that for any  $w \in W_m$ , it satisfies the approximate equation

$$\int_0^l u_{tt}^m(t)w dx + \int_0^l u_{xx}^m(t)w_{xx} dx + M(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) \int_0^l u_x^m(t)w_x dx + f(u^m(l,t))w(l) + g(u_t^m(l,t))w(l) = \int_0^l Q(t)w dx, \quad (3.2)$$

with the initial conditions

$$u^m(0) = u^0, \quad u_t^m(0) = u^1, \quad (3.3)$$

which are possible since  $u^0, u^1 \in W_m$  for  $m \geq 2$ . We note that (3.2) and (3.3) are in fact an  $m \times m$  system of ODEs in the variable  $t$ , which is known to have a local solution  $u^m(t)$  in an interval  $[0, t_m)$ . After the estimate below the approximate solution  $u^m(t)$  will be extended to the interval  $[0, T]$ , for any given  $T > 0$ .

*Step 2.* A priori estimates. We define the energy of the system (1.1)–(1.4) by

$$E(t) = \frac{1}{2}\|u_t(t)\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\|u_{xx}(t)\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{2}\hat{M}(\|u_x(t)\|_2^2) + \hat{f}(u(l,t)),$$

where  $\hat{M}(s) = \int_0^s M(z)dz$ .

**Estimate 1.** *There exists  $M_1 > 0$  such that*

$$\|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \int_0^T g(u_t^m(l,t))u_t^m(l,t)dt \leq M_1, \quad (3.4)$$

for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and for all  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ .

*Proof.* By integration of (3.2) with  $w = u_t^m(t)$  we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \{ \|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \hat{M}(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) + 2\hat{f}(u^m(l,t)) \} \\ + g(u_t^m(l,t))u_t^m(l,t) = \int_0^l Q(t)u_t^m(t)dx. \end{aligned}$$

Then integrating from 0 to  $t < t_m$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \hat{M}(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) + 2\hat{f}(u^m(l,t)) \\ + 2 \int_0^t g(u_t^m(l,s))u_t^m(l,s)ds = 2E(0) + 2 \int_0^t \left( \int_0^l Q(s)u_t^m(s)dx \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Taking  $s = 0$  in (2.2), we obtain that

$$g(r)r \geq \rho r^2, \quad \forall s \in \mathbf{R}.$$

Indeed, it follows from  $g(r)r \geq \rho r^2$  that

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \hat{M}(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) + 2\hat{f}(u^m(l, t)) \\ & + 2 \int_0^t \rho(u_t^m(l, s))^2 ds \leq 2E(0) + 2 \int_0^t \left( \int_0^l Q(s)u_t^m(s) dx \right) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} & \|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 - \int_0^t \|u_t^m(s)\|_2^2 ds + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \hat{M}(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) + 2\hat{f}(u^m(l, t)) \\ & + 2 \int_0^t \rho(u_t^m(l, s))^2 ds \leq 2E(0) + \int_0^t \|Q(s)\|_2^2 ds. \end{aligned}$$

Set  $\int_0^\infty \|Q(s)\|_2^2 ds = \|Q\|_{c^2([0,+\infty);L^2(0,l))}^2 = c < +\infty$ . We infer from (2.2)  $\hat{f}(s) \geq 0$ , using  $\hat{f}(s) \geq 0$  and  $M > 0$ , it follows that  $\hat{M}(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) \geq 0$ . Therefore, we deduce that

$$\|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 - \int_0^t \|u_t^m(s)\|_2^2 ds \leq 2E(0) + c.$$

Set  $Y(t) = \|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2$ , we have  $Y(t) - \int_0^t Y(s) ds \leq 2E(0) + c$ , then

$$Y(t) \leq (2E(0) + c)(1 + \exp(t)) \leq (2E(0) + c)(1 + \exp(T)),$$

hence  $\|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 \leq (2E(0) + c)(1 + \exp(T))$ . There exists  $M_1 > 0$  such that

$$\|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \int_0^T g(u_t^m(l, t))u_t^m(l, t) dt \leq M_1,$$

for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and for all  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ . □

**Estimate 2.** *There exists  $M_2 > 0$  such that*

$$\|u_{tt}^m(0)\|_2 \leq M_2, \quad \forall m \in \mathbf{N}. \tag{3.5}$$

*Proof.* Integrating by parts (3.2), with  $w = u_{tt}^m(0)$  and  $t = 0$ , we get

$$\|u_{tt}^m(0)\|_2^2 + \int_0^l u_{xx}^0 u_{xxtt}^m(0) dx + M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2) + \int_0^l u_x^0 u_{xxtt}^m(0) dx$$

$$+ (f(u^0(l) + g(u^1(l)))u_{tt}^m(l, 0) = \int_0^l Q(0)u_{tt}^m(0)dx.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^l u_{xx}^0 u_{xxtt}^m(0)dx + M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2) + \int_0^l u_x^0 u_{xxtt}^m(0)dx \\ &= -(u_{xxx}^0 - M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2)u_x^0(l))u_{tt}^m(l, 0) \\ & \quad + \int_0^l u_{xxxx}^0 u_{tt}^m(0)dx - M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2) \int_0^l u_{xx}^0 u_{tt}^m(0)dx, \end{aligned}$$

we infer from the compatibility (2.3)

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_{tt}^m(0)\|_2^2 &= - \int_0^l u_{xxxx}^0 u_{tt}^m(0)dx \\ & \quad + M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2) \int_0^l u_{xx}^0 u_{tt}^m(0)dx + \int_0^l Q(0)u_{tt}^m(0)dx \\ & \leq (\|u_{xxxx}^0\|_2 + M(\|u_x^0\|_2^2)\|u_{xx}^0\|_2 + \|Q(0)\|_2)\|u_{tt}^m(0)\|_2, \end{aligned}$$

and there exists  $M_2 > 0$  such that

$$\|u_{tt}^m(0)\| \leq M_2, \quad \forall m \in \mathbf{N}. \quad \square$$

**Estimate 3.** *There exists  $c > 0$  such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_t^m(t)\|_2, \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2, \|u_{txx}^m(t)\|_2, \|u_{tt}^m(t)\|_2 &\leq c, \\ \forall m \in \mathbf{N}, t \in [0, T], \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

for all  $t \in [0, T]$  and for all  $m \in \mathbf{N}$ .

*Proof.* Let us fix  $t, \xi > 0$  such that  $\xi < T - t$ . Taking the difference of (3.2)  $t = t + \xi$  and  $t = t$ , and replacing  $w$  by  $u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \{ \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 \} + (g(u_t^m(l, t + \xi)) \\ & - g(u_t^m(l, t)))(u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)) + (f(u^m(l, t + \xi)) - f(u^m(l, t)))(u_t^m(l, t + \xi) \\ & - u_t^m(l, t)) + I_1 = \int_0^l (Q(t + \xi) - Q(t))(u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t))dx \\ & \leq c \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2, \quad (3.7) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\|Q(t + \xi) - Q(t)\|_2 \leq c.$$

Set

$$I_1 = \int_0^l (M(\|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2)u_x^m(t + \xi) - M(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2)u_x^m(t))(u_{xt}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xt}^m(t))dx.$$

Let us estimate  $|I_1|$ . Since  $u(0) = u_x(0) = u_{xx}(l) = 0$  for  $u \in W$ , we have

$$\|u\|_\infty \leq \sqrt{l}\|u_x\|_2, \quad \|u_x\|_\infty \leq \sqrt{l}\|u_{xx}\|_2, \quad \|u_x\|_2 \leq l\|u_{xx}\|_2. \quad (3.8)$$

Noting that

$$I_1 = M(\|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2) \int_0^l (u_x^m(t + \xi) - u_x^m(t))(u_{xt}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xt}^m(t))dx + \Delta M \int_0^l u_x^m(t)(u_{xt}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xt}^m(t))dx,$$

where

$$\Delta M = M(\|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2) - M(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2),$$

integrating by parts we have that

$$I_1 = M(\|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2)(u_x^m(l, t + \xi) - u_x^m(l, t))(u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)) - M(\|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2) \int_0^l (u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t))(u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t))dx + \Delta M u_x^m(l, t)(u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)) - \Delta M \int_0^l u_{xx}^m(t)(u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t))dx.$$

Since  $M \in C^1([0, \infty))$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} |\Delta M| &\leq |M'(\eta)| \cdot \left| \|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2 - \|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2 \right| \\ &= |M'(\eta)| \cdot \left| \int_0^l ((u_x^m(t + \xi))^2 - (u_x^m(t))^2)dx \right| \\ &\leq |M'(\eta)| \cdot \|u_x^m(t + \xi) + u_x^m(t)\|_2 \cdot \|u_x^m(t + \xi) - u_x^m(t)\|_2, \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.8), we deduce that  $\|u_x^m(t)\|_2 \leq l\|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2$ . From (3.4) it follows that  $\|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 \leq \sqrt{M_1}$ . So  $\|u_x^m(t)\|_2 \leq l\sqrt{M_1}$ , hence

$$|\Delta M| \leq 2c_0 l \sqrt{M_1} \|u_x^m(t + \xi) - u_x^m(t)\|_2.$$

There exists  $c_1 > 0$  such that

$$|\Delta M| \leq c_1 \|u_x^m(t + \xi) - u_x^m(t)\|_2 \leq c_1 l \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2.$$

Using  $M(\|u_x^m(t + \xi)\|_2^2) \leq c$ , we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} |I_1| &\leq c \left| \int_0^l (u_{xx}^m(s, t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(s, t)) ds \right| \cdot |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| \\ &\quad + c \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \cdot \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2 \\ &\quad + c_1 l \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \cdot \left| \int_0^l u_{xx}^m(s, t) ds \right| \cdot |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| \\ &\quad + c_1 l \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \cdot \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \cdot \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2 \\ &\leq D \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \cdot (|u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| + \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2), \end{aligned}$$

where  $D = (\sqrt{l} + 1)(c + c_1 l \sqrt{M_1})$ . Since

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2 \\ \leq \frac{D}{4} \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \frac{1}{D} \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2^2, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| \\ \leq \frac{D}{2\rho} \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2D} |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)|^2, \end{aligned}$$

so there exists  $c_2 > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} |I_1| &\leq c_2 \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\rho}{2} |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)|^2, \quad (3.9) \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_2 = \frac{D^2}{4} + \frac{D^2}{2\rho}$ . Since  $f : \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$  is continuous differentiable function, therefore, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} |f(u^m(l, t + \xi)) - f(u^m(l, t))| &|u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| \\ &\leq |f'(\eta)| |u^m(l, t + \xi) - u^m(l, t)| |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)|, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta$  is between  $u^m(l, t + \xi)$  and  $u^m(l, t)$ . Since  $u^m(l, t) = \int_0^l u_x^m(s, t) ds$ , we have

$$|u^m(l, t)| \leq \sqrt{l} \|u_x^m(t)\|_2 \leq l \sqrt{l} \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 \leq l \sqrt{l M_1},$$



hence  $|f'(\eta)| \leq c$ . Therefore, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} &|f(u^m(l, t + \xi)) - f(u^m(l, t))| |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| \\ &\leq cl\sqrt{l} \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2 |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)| \\ &\leq c_3 \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \frac{\rho}{2} |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (3.10)$$

where  $c_3 = \frac{c^2 l^3}{2\rho}$ . Set

$$\phi^m(t, \xi) = \|u_{xx}^m(t + \xi) - u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_t^m(t + \xi) - u_t^m(t)\|_2^2, \quad \forall t \in [0, T],$$

without loss of generality, we can take assumption  $c_2 + c_3 \geq 1$ . Taking into account (3.9) and (3.10), we deduce from (3.6) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} \phi^m(t, \xi) + (g(u_t^m(l, t + \xi)) - g(u_t^m(l, t)))(u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)) \\ &\leq (c_2 + c_3) \phi^m(t, \xi) + \rho |u_t^m(l, t + \xi) - u_t^m(l, t)|^2. \end{aligned}$$

Then from (2.2) we get  $\frac{d}{dt} \phi^m(t, \xi) \leq 2(c_2 + c_3) \phi^m(t, \xi)$  and there

$$\phi^m(t, \xi) \leq \phi^m(0, \xi) \exp((2(c_2 + c_3)T)), \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

Dividing the above inequality by  $\xi^2$  and let  $\xi \rightarrow 0$  gives

$$\|u_{txx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{tt}^m(t)\|_2^2 \leq (\|u_{xx}^1\|_2^2 + \|u_{tt}^m(0)\|_2^2) \exp(2(c_2 + c_3)T).$$

From Estimate 1 and Estimate 2 we find a constant  $M_3 > 0$  depending only in  $T$ , such that

$$\|u_{txx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{tt}^m(t)\|_2^2 \leq M_3, \quad \forall m \in \mathbf{N}, \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \quad (3.11)$$

It follows from (3.4) and (3.11) that

$$\|u_t^m(t)\|_2, \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2, \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2, \|u_{tt}^m(t)\|_2 \leq c, \quad \forall m \in \mathbf{N}, \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

From (3.8) it follows that

$$\|u_{tx}^m(t)\|_2, \|u_x^m(t)\|_2, \|u^m(t)\|_2 \leq c, \quad \forall m \in \mathbf{N}, \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

It follows from Estimates 1-3 that

$$\|u_t^m(t)\|_2^2 + \|u_{xx}^m(t)\|_2^2 + \int_0^T g(u_t^m(l, t)) u_t^m(l, t) dt \leq M_1,$$

$$\|u_{tt}^m(0)\|_2 \leq M_2, \quad \forall m \in \mathbf{N}.$$

Therefore  $u^m(t)$  will be extended to the interval  $[0, T]$ , for any given  $T > 0$ .

*Step 3. Convergence.* We can use Lions-Aubin Lemma to get the necessary compactness in order to pass (3.2) to the limit. Then it is a matter of routine to conclude the existence of global solution in  $[0, T]$

*Step 4. Uniqueness.* Let  $u$  and  $v$  be two solution of (1.1)-(1.4) with the same initial data. Then writing  $z = u - v$ , we see that  $z(0) = z_t(0) = 0$  and from (3.1)

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & \int_0^l z_{tt}(t)w dx + \int_0^l z_{tt}(t)w_{xx} dx + M(\|u_x^m(t)\|_2^2) \int_0^l u_x(t)w_x dx \\ & - M(\|v_x(t)\|_2^2) \int_0^l (v_x(t)w_x dx + (f(u(l, t)) - f(v(l, t)))w(l, t) \\ & + (g(u_t(l, t)) - g(v_t(l, t)))w(l, t). \end{aligned}$$

Putting  $w = z_t$  and using Mean Value Theorem, (3.4), (3.7) and Young inequalities as in Estimate 3, we deduce that for some constant  $c > 0$

$$\frac{d}{dt}(\|z_t(t)\|_2^2 + \|z_{xt}\|_2^2) \leq c(\|z_t(t)\|_2^2 + \|z_{xt}\|_2^2), \quad \forall t \in (0, T).$$

Then from Gronwall's Lemma we see that  $u = v$ .

The proof is now complete. □

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