

Controllability of second-order partial differential equations in time

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Consider the following Cauchy problem

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 w(x, t)}{\partial t^2} + P \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \frac{\partial w(x, t)}{\partial t} + Q \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) w(x, t) &= u(x)v(t), \\ w(x, 0) = \varphi(x), \quad w'_t(x, 0) &= \psi(x), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $P \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)$ and $Q \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right)$ — differential operators with constant coefficients, $v(t)$ — piecewise continuous function on a segment $[0; T]$ and functions $u(x)$, $\varphi(x)$, $\psi(x)$ belong to the Schwartz space S . We seek for a control $u(x)v(t)$ such that for all $t \in [0; T]$ the solution $w(x, t)$ belongs to S and condition $w(x, T) = 0$ is fulfilled.

Suppose $\lambda_1(s)$ and $\lambda_2(s)$ are roots of the characteristic equation $\lambda^2 + P(is)\lambda + Q(is) = 0$.

Then the Cauchy function for the Fourier transformed equation $\tilde{w}''_{tt}(s, t) + P(is)\tilde{w}'_t(s, t) + Q(is)\tilde{w}(s, t) = \tilde{u}(s)v(t)$ is as follows:

$$K(s, t, \tau) = \frac{(e^{\lambda_1(s)(t-\tau)} - e^{\lambda_2(s)(t-\tau)})}{\lambda_1(s) - \lambda_2(s)}.$$

The controllability condition of equation (1) will look like this $R(s, T) = \int_0^T K(s, T, \tau)v(\tau)d\tau \neq 0, \forall s \in \mathbb{R}^n$. The following results are valid.

Theorem 1. *If the roots of the characteristic equation $\lambda_j(s)$ are real and at least one of them is bounded from above, then a control with $v(t) = 1$ and $u(x) \in S$ such that equation (1) is controllable in the space S exists.*

Theorem 2. *If the roots of the characteristic equation $\lambda_j(s)$ are imaginary, then a control of the form $e^{\gamma(T-t)}u(x)$, where $u(x) \in S$, such that equation (1) is controllable in the space S with some $\gamma > 0$ exists.*

Theorem 3. *If conditions $Q(is) = 0$ and $ReP(is) \leq c \forall s \in \mathbb{R}^n$ are satisfied, then equation (1) is controllable in the space S with $v(t) = 1$.*

Example. Equation $\frac{\partial^2 w(x, t)}{\partial t^2} - a^2 \Delta w(x, t) - kw(x, t) = u(x)v(t)$ is controllable in the space S with control of the form $e^{\gamma(T-t)}u(x)$ with some $\gamma > 0$.